

PH laws on women lack teeth

THE PHILIPPINES MAY all be good in terms of legislation, but laws on women do not implement themselves.

This was according to Dr. Connie Dacuycuy, senior research fellow at the state think tank Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS), as she summarized the studies presented during a policy dialogue at PIDS recently.

The PIDS gender focal person lamented the current situation, wherein women still have to hurdle numerous challenges, such as gendered division of labor, violence, and human trafficking, despite the presence of the country's laws on women's rights and welfare.

Currently, the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) lists at least 15 laws that advocate for the rights of women in the country, including the Magna Carta of Women (MCW), Anti-Violence Against Women and Children Act, and the Anti-Sexual Harassment Act. Aside from these enactments, several constitutional provisions also uphold their rights as development actors.



Philippine laws protecting women, while in place, require stronger and better enforcement.

Editor's Notes

Through this DRN issue, PIDS joins the country in the celebration of the 2018 National Women's Month. According to the Philippine Commission on Women, this year's event aims to create platforms to discuss the gaps and challenges in the promotion of gender and development in the country. The Institute, as the country's chief policy think tank, contributed to this goal by spearheading a policy dialogue and studies that can help strengthen our laws on women.

The banner story presents the highlights of the event, Making Change Work for Women: A Policy Dialogue, which gathered representatives from the academe,

➔ p. 20

What's Inside

- 4 Human Security Act must promote women empowerment – advocate
- 6 Women sorely underrepresented at top levels of government, industry
- 8 Poor *Pinays* more prone to STDs
- 9 Increase decentralization to address fiscal deficits, gaps – PIDS
- 10 'Manufactured controversy' hits PH economy
- 12 Poverty expert is first female chief of PIDS
- 13 PIDS climbs up global think tank rankings
- 14 PIDS pays tribute to 'Pado'
- 15 Calamba City as a growth corridor in CALABARZON

Despite these laws, Dacuycuy said societal trends on women's low labor participation, their increasing involvement in vulnerable employment, and nondeclining rates of violence against women and children have remained intact.

She added that violence arising from extremism worsens the situation, as it results in women's displacement and increased vulnerability to human trafficking.

Gendered appointments in government

The gendered division of labor, for instance, is obvious even in the highest ranks of the government, according to Dr. Clarissa David, a PIDS consultant who has researched on women leadership in both the government and industry.

Such division of labor runs against the spirit of the MCW, which advocates for the equitable representation of women “in all spheres” of the decisionmaking and policymaking processes of the government and the private sector. The 1987 Constitution also upholds the equality of women and men and recognizes their equal role in nationbuilding.

In the Philippine Congress alone, however, David said women still tend to be constrained in “traditionally female” spheres of health, nutrition, education, youth protection, children, women's health, family planning, and housing. They are rarely assigned in finance, economy, trade, and infrastructure.

David also noted the absence of female chairs in the Congressional committees on public accountability, banks and financial institutions, civil service and government reorganization, ethics and

privileges, labor and employment, local government, urban reorganization, public works, rules, and science and technology. Instead, women in both chambers tend to be leaders only in the areas of cultural communities, women, and gender equality.

“By not having enough women in Congress, both in the House of Representatives and the Senate, the issues women tend to care about, which are human capital issues, tend not to have as much attention as infrastructure,” David explained.

The same situation can be observed in the executive department, where women still tend to assume traditionally female positions, such as social welfare. Meanwhile, no woman has ever assumed the headship of the departments that handle agriculture, defense, public works, and interior and local government.

On the other hand, David commended the rapid increase in the proportion of women judges in last 15 years, tagging the judiciary as the “model” in this aspect.

From merely 19.7 percent in 2000, the judiciary managed to increase the share of women to 43.8 percent in 2015.

As in the case of Cabinet secretaries, judges in the Philippines are appointed by the president, upon the recommendation of the Judicial and Bar Council.

However, according to Prof. Aurora Javate-De Dios, director at the Miriam College Women and Gender Institute, the meager salary of judges can partly explain the declining number of men in the judiciary.

Moreover, “there is so much vacancies at the local level because of the threat to anyone who will defend a rape victim



According to Dr. Clarissa David, a PIDS consultant, issues that women care about tend to take the back seat in the legislation because there is not enough women policymakers. (Photo by PIDS)

and a victim of domestic violence—cases which are normally dismissed by the courts because the perpetrators are almost always powerful,” she added.

VAW, harassment persist despite laws on women

David also raised concerns regarding the persistent high incidence of violence against women (VAW) in the Philippines, despite the presence of the Anti-Violence Against Women and Children Act.

She revealed the country has experienced only a slight decline in VAW cases in recent years, from 20.1 percent in 2008 to 19.6 percent in 2013, or a mere 0.5-percent reduction in five years.

“I would not even officially consider it a decrease as it is almost the same,” said David, who is also a professor at the University of the Philippines (UP).

According to David, most of these cases happen at the hands of closest family members, partners, or parents. Worse, more than 1 in every 10 women believe that violence can be justified, mostly for neglect of their children.

The PIDS consultant added the country also has one of the highest incidences and the fastest growing cases of human trafficking in the world.

Meanwhile, the Anti-Sexual Harassment Act also seems to be toothless as harassment against women still persists, especially in the private sector, according to David.

“The current legal environment is simply enabling on some issues while constraining on others,” David said, adding that laws are currently more focused on punitive actions than preventive measures.



More than 1 in every 10 women experiencing violence believe that such act against them is acceptable. (Photo by one-in-three.org)

Intriguingly, “some laws still penalize the victims of prostitution and trafficking,” she added.

“These issues—VAW, human trafficking, and prostitution—are all interconnected issues stemming from sexist beliefs of men, the same beliefs that make it difficult to fix the problem through enforcement and legislation,” David explained.

‘Women’ laws fail women

Meanwhile, Maria Kristine Josefina Balmes, PCW deputy executive director, revealed that several laws that are supposedly protecting women fail the latter given their legal flaws.

The Anti-Rape Law, for instance, still requires the rape victims to present a proof of penetration and the perpetrator’s use of force. It also extinguishes the

criminal liability of the offender upon a subsequent valid marriage with and forgiveness by the offended party.

In terms of maternity leave, only women with regular employment status in both the government and private sectors usually enjoy the leave benefits.

On the other hand, the Family Code demands “repeated” physical violence and “grossly” abusive conduct directed against women to allow the legal separation of spouses.

Instead of focusing on the severity and instances of violence and abusive conduct, Balmes said the Code’s focus should be shifted to the acts committed.

She added all these concerns are currently part of their priority legislative agenda for the 17th Congress.



A loss for men, too

According to Dr. Nathalie Verceles, director of the UP Center for Women’s and Gender Studies, the country’s failure to implement and enforce its laws on women can also be attributed to the public’s lack of awareness about the laws and the continuing lack of concern about gender issues.

During the event itself, several participants questioned the lack of participation of men, despite their crucial role in the advancements of laws on women.

Official attendance records of the event showed that only 15 out of the 90 participants were men, or merely one in every six.

“This lack of concern only shows that gender, unfortunately, is still equated as purely women’s issue; we know it is not,” said Dr. Jose Ramon Albert, a PIDS senior research fellow who also sat as one of the panelists during the event.

Maricel Aguilar, national project officer of the United Nations Women Philippines, backed the statement of Albert, saying the advancement of women’s rights “is not only a work of women, but also of men”, citing the HeForShe campaign of their organization.

Aguilar also encouraged men to contribute to the discourse to reduce the societal expectations and burdens being placed on them to become breadwinners and leaders of their communities.

Meanwhile, David clarified that “by raising the status of women, we are not necessarily taking down the status of men.”

She added that the current setup denies men of human interaction and bonding with family that they do not get to enjoy because of the divide.

“The absence of men in the home is also a loss for them because they do not have time for their children; they do not have the same relationship with their parents because they do not do care work,” she explained.

The said dialogue, Making Change Work for Women, was organized by PIDS in partnership with the PCW in

⇒ p. 18



Human Security Act must promote women empowerment – advocate



The current Philippine Human Security Act does not include provisions on protecting women against extremist violence. (Photo by Jeff Pioquinto/flickr)

WITH THE RECENT security threats and acts of terrorism in the country, the government needs to review policies protecting women, especially the marginalized, from violence and extremism.

This was according to Maricel Aguilar, a project officer of the United Nations (UN) Women Philippines, during a forum organized by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) in celebration of the National Women’s Month.

Highlighting the role of women in the fight against terrorism, Aguilar lamented



the lack of provisions in the Human Security Act of 2007 that can protect them from and empower them against extremists and terrorist groups.

“In societies where gender equality indicators are low, vulnerabilities to violent extremism are high,” Aguilar said.

Realities

At present, socioeconomic opportunities for women in terms of education, livelihood, and employment are lacking, according to Aguilar, making them easy tools that extremist groups can use to lure for women’s support.

Terrorists also take advantage of women’s lack of leadership and participation in the local level by using them as an “entry point to repress democracy” in communities.

In terms of rehabilitation, Aguilar also claimed that “programs to support women and girls who would want to exit the path to radicalization, leave extremist groups, and reintegrate into their families and communities are nonexistent.”

Among others, these realities should prompt the government to revisit the law to make it more responsive to the needs and capabilities of women, according to Aguilar.

Empowering women

For one, Aguilar said the law should include elements that will provide socioeconomic opportunities and promote entrepreneurship for women.

“If women have incomes, livelihoods, and employment, they have the resources to bring their children to school and prevent



Socioeconomic opportunities provided to women in conflict areas prevent them from getting involved in violent extremist activities, says United Nations Women Philippines Project Officer Maricel Aguilar. (Photo by PIDS)

them from being recruited or lured by violent extremist groups,” she explained.

One challenge, however, is making these opportunities prosper when actual conflicts arise.

Aguilar said one approach is for the local government units to recognize their role in ensuring the safety of women in the community while engaging them in livelihood opportunities.

Unfortunately, she said current approaches to livelihood are band-aid and dole out solutions that lack sustainability plans.

Furthermore, she also urged the government to recognize that women in vulnerable areas have the ability to detect early signs of threats in their communities given that they are usually home and community based, and thus, should be provided venue for dialogue.

“In the case of Marawi City, women respondents in the listening processes

conducted by UN Women recounted various signs in the years, months, and weeks leading to the siege—from escalating violence against lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgenders, text messages of an impending occupation of violent extremist groups to movements of foreign nationals,” she explained.

Aguilar also urged the government to craft rehabilitation and counseling programs for women who want to leave extremist groups, warning that failure to recognize their motivations may “create gaps in prevention, rehabilitation, and reintegration measures”.

She also raised the need to gather data to analyze how radicalization, violent extremism, and terrorism work and use those for creating measures to address and prevent them.

While the Magna Carta of Women already provides women protection from all sorts of violence, including in conflict and militarization, data on sexual and gender-based violence during conflicts are still insufficient, Aguilar said. **GBDC**

Women sorely underrepresented at top levels of government, industry

FILIPINO WOMEN REMAIN sorely underrepresented in the highest positions in both the government and industry, where most important policies are decided.

This was according to a study by state think tank Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) that looked at current statistics on female representation in key leadership positions in the Philippine government and industry.

Top-level positions include elective and appointive positions across the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government. Meanwhile, in the industry, these positions include chief-level positions, board memberships, and director positions.

The PIDS study authored by Jose Ramon Albert, Clarissa David, and Jana Flor Vizmanos, PIDS senior research fellow, consultant, and research analyst, respectively, maintained that women should have a voice in the decisionmaking process, especially for policies that concern their welfare, such as family leave policies and equity in recruitment and promotion.

Likewise, they stressed that greater female representation in the top levels of governance and business is critical



In 2018, women legislators only occupy 6 out of the 24 seats in the Philippine Senate. (Photo from senate.gov.ph)

to sustain any developments in gender equality in the Philippines.

Achieving gender equality is part of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that the Philippines and other United Nations member-states have committed to achieve.

Despite the increase in the share of positions held by women in the Philippine Congress over the years, the authors claimed the female proportion is still below parity.

In the Philippine Senate, the number of female senators has only from 3 to 6 out of the 24 since 2001.

“Only Loren Legarda has ever served in a leadership position within the Senate as the majority leader of the 12th Senate in 2001. No female has ever assumed the rank of Senate President or House Speaker,” they stated.

Gender inequality is even worse among local elective officials, such as in the positions of governor, mayor, and lower elected positions.

“In 2013, only 11 percent of elected local officials were female, a sharp decline from 20 percent in 2010, 18 percent in 2007, and 17 percent in 2004. At the barangay level, specifically, women only occupied 19 percent and 27 percent of all barangay captain and councilperson



posts, respectively,” the PIDS paper indicated.

The low number of women in elective office, according to the study, is due to the fact that few women are entering electoral politics and not because the voting public is not inclined to elect women candidates.

Citing 2017 data from the Commission on Elections, the authors noted that only 17 percent of the national and local candidates from 2004 to 2016 were women. As a result, women only hold roughly one in every five national and local elective positions.

In the executive branch, the cabinet posts have been dominated by men,

with women cabinet officials usually holding traditionally female-associated areas such as health, tourism, and social welfare. Women have been less represented in the areas of economics, budget and management, finance, and foreign affairs.

“A target of 40-percent representation across all high-level offices is reasonable given that half of the population are women and assuming that voters do not discriminate by sex,” the authors maintained.

Likewise, the authors noted that the presence of political dynasties, which occupy the majority of the highest-level local offices in the Philippines, makes it more difficult for women to enter politics without dynastic connections.

Female representation in leadership positions in industry

Gender inequality at the top-level positions—chief-level positions, board memberships, and director positions—also exists in the business sector.

Data from the World Bank suggest that women hold only 32 percent and 11 percent of the corporate executive and board member positions in the Philippines, respectively.

“Filipino women at the top executive positions usually hold positions as treasurers, corporate secretaries, and finance managers. Philippine firms that have women as chair or president are also usually in the retail, food, and pharmacy sectors,” the authors explained.

⇒ p. 18

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Poor *Pinays* more prone to STDs



Poor female young adults in the country are at a high risk of getting infected with sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) due to their low level of awareness on STDs. (Photo by Frisno/flickr.com)

POOR FILIPINAS ARE more vulnerable to sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), such as HIV/AIDS, than their rich counterparts, according to a study released by state think tank Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS).

HIV/AIDS stands for human immunodeficiency virus infection and acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

Using data from the 2008 Philippine National Demographic and Health Survey, PIDS Research Fellow Michael Abrigo found that about 4 in every 10 poor females aged 15–24 are at risk of getting infected with STDs. The said figure is roughly twice the number of females from well-off families facing the same issue.

Abrigo said this can be attributed to the low level of awareness on STDs among poor female young adults in the country.

Contrary to claims that the mandatory comprehensive sex education in school is likely to lead to earlier sexual initiation and higher rate of sexual activity among young adults, his study showed that implementing the program results in better sexual behaviors.

Specifically, it delays sexual initiation, limits sexual activity, and increases the use of condoms.

Also, the study found that increasing knowledge on HIV/AIDS may rake in substantial savings for the government in the long run. Specifically, Abrigo said the

government can save as much as PHP 294.13 million by merely improving the poor's awareness on the said disease.

To prevent and minimize the spread of STDs, the author urged the government to make sexuality and reproductive health information more accessible, especially to the young adult population, through social and mainstream media.

Abrigo also encouraged the Duterte administration to support the family planning programs under the country's Reproductive Health (RH) Law.

Last year, the Supreme Court lifted the temporary restraining order (TRO) that covered several contraceptive products, following the findings of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) declaring these drugs as nonabortifacient.

“The reclassifying of these contraceptives as nonabortive products by the FDA and the lifting of the TRO by the Supreme Court are welcome developments in the full implementation of the RH law,” said Abrigo.

Recent records from the Department of Health list 9,217 cases of HIV/AIDS from January to October 2017. Meanwhile, the total reported cases of HIV/AIDS in the country from January 2010 to May 2017 is at 40,388. **RTT**

Increase decentralization to address fiscal deficits, gaps – PIDS

ADDRESSING THE UNEQUAL allocation of resources between the national and local governments does not require a shift to federalism, according to Dr. Rosario Manasan, senior research fellow at the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS).

Instead, the lawmakers should push for fiscal decentralization as the current highly centralized system of governance fosters huge fiscal gaps and deficits, Manasan said during a recent congressional forum jointly organized by PIDS and the Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department (CPBRD).

Dr. Romulo Miral Jr., director-general of CPBRD, shared the view of Manasan and revealed that the national government controls a huge chunk of fiscal resources.

Currently, the national government holds 83 percent of the total government expenditure, leaving the local governments with merely 17 percent share, according to Miral.

The Congress official added that one can observe a higher degree of centralization when it comes to the share in the total government revenues.

In terms of tax revenues alone, “we can see that the national government accounts

for 94 percent of the total government revenues collected while the local government units (LGUs) only account for 6 percent,” Miral explained.

According to Manasan, this setup has resulted in “patronage politics”, unwarranted creation of LGUs, lack of spatial coordination and planning, and large budget deficits.

To resolve these issues, she urged the government to strengthen the regional development councils, which can help in addressing coordination lapses and ensuring an integrated planning and budgeting at the provincial levels. She also favored the adoption of electoral and party system reforms and the amendment of the Local Government Code of 1991 over a shift to federalism.

Fiscal features of a federal system

Should the government still decide to shift to federalism, Manasan stressed that four pillars should be taken into consideration in crafting the fiscal constitution, namely, expenditure assignment, tax assignment, intergovernmental transfers, and subnational borrowing and debt management. These pillars, she said, should all fit together, and not to be designed in isolation.

While “no single best assignment” of expenditure responsibilities exists, the fiscal expert urged the government to ensure utmost clarity in the assignment of functional responsibilities to establish accountability. She said ambiguity in assignment is likely to result in either the duplication of efforts or the underprovision of some services.

Under a federal system, “functions and competencies whose benefits are national in scope should be assigned to the federal government,” Manasan explained. These functions, she said, usually include the national defense, foreign affairs, economic stabilization and macroeconomic management, and functions related to the preservation of internal common market.

Meanwhile, she argued that public services whose benefits are local in scope, such as basic education, health, and social insurance, are best administered and financed by lower-level governments.

The same principle, Manasan claimed, applies to assigning taxing powers to the different levels of government. As such, the subnational governments should be given a significant degree of revenue autonomy to be able to raise their own income and be less dependent on the national government, she explained.

“Again, as with the assignment of expenditure responsibilities, greater clarity in the distribution of taxing powers between the central government and the subnational governments is critical,” she said.

Vertical, horizontal fiscal gaps possible

Moreover, Manasan warned a vertical fiscal gap is evident in many decentralized economies.

A vertical fiscal gap happens when the revenue capacity of subnational governments falls short of their

expenditure responsibilities. Such gaps have been attributed to inappropriate assignment of responsibilities, centralization of taxing powers, and subnational governments’ pursuit of wasteful tax competition policies.

These issues, she noted, may be addressed through revenue-sharing arrangements, where subnational governments are given a share in the taxes collected by the federal government.

The internal revenue allotment, the current share of the LGUs in the taxes collected by the Bureau of Internal

Revenue, is an example of a revenue-sharing arrangement.

Intergovernmental transfers may also be used to address horizontal fiscal imbalances, which are largely driven by changes in the economic bases of the regions as a result of their uneven development. These equalization transfers are critical in ensuring that the adoption of a federal system will not widen the gaps among them.

Manasan said equalization transfers should take into account the disparities in the revenue-raising capacity of LGUs in line with their expenditure needs.

⇒ p. 18

‘Manufactured controversy’ hits PH economy

MANUFACTURED CONTROVERSIES ARE threatening the economic growth of the Philippines, a leading policy expert on global market warned recently.

During a seminar at the Philippine Institute for Development Studies, Dr. Dan Steinbock, a research director at the India, China, and America Institute, revealed that the Philippines has become a victim of serious international misunderstandings, which have prevented its prospective investors from getting the real picture of its economy.

“There simply is a gap between the international perception of the Philippine economy and the realities in the country,” Steinbock explained,

blaming the bias in the media coverage of the country’s economic matters.

“This does not mean that all that media is doing is wrong but there is a certain bias,” he said.

Apparently, “most of the news stories that I have seen that claim to be neutral came from so-called think tanks which are funded by other governments,” he added.

Government urged to be critical

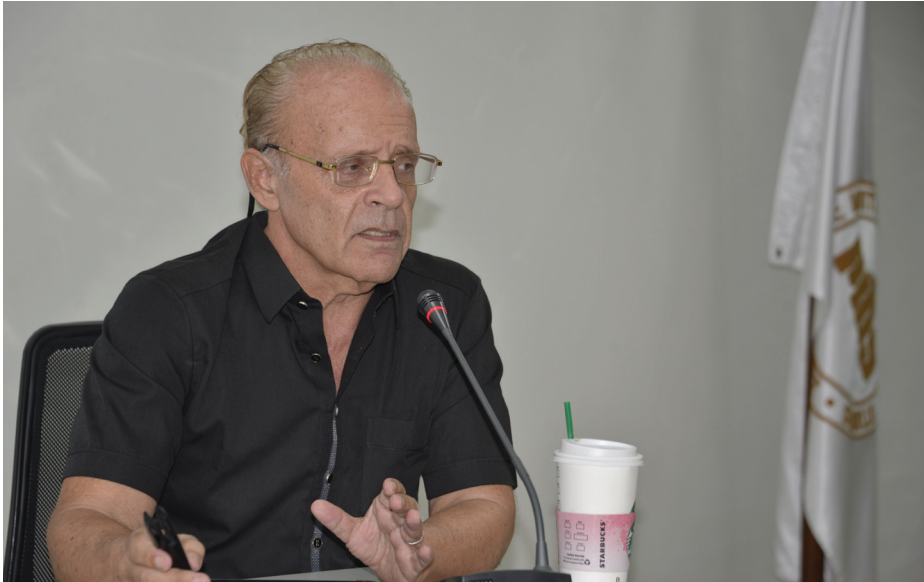
Steinbock specifically cited the case of analyst Anders Corr, a former Forbes contributor who allegedly made “gross misrepresentations” in his threat

assessments of the Philippine economy mid last year.

In May 2017, Corr, in a Forbes article, claimed that the Duterte administration’s PHP 8.2 trillion infrastructure program may sink the Philippines into deeper debt and “will put [it] into virtual debt bondage if allowed to proceed”.

He also alleged that the president and “his influential friends and business associates” would likely benefit from the program with “hundreds of millions of dollars in finder’s fees”.

Both Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno and Trade Secretary Ramon Lopez have



According to Dr. Dan Steinbock, research director at the India, China, and America Institute, the wrong impressions of the global community on the Philippine economy can be attributed to the local media's portrayal of some of the country's economic issues. (Photo by PIDS)

since denied these issues, claiming that the tax reform will help defray the bulk of the needed funds internally. In a text message to *BusinessWorld*, Diokno even went on saying that Corr's statements were "based on a lot of ridiculous assumptions".

Meanwhile, Steinbock described Corr's claims as "outrageously flawed" and "wrong by any standard". Contrary to the latter's claim, he said he also expects the debt position of the country to remain sustainable, despite the deficit spending for infrastructure.

"He is claiming that things in the Philippines are going so bad when that is not the case," Steinbock asserted.

Given these controversies, the policy expert advised the Philippine government to be critical in assessing the interests of those who want to

get involved in the discussion of the country's economic concerns.

In the case of Corr, for instance, Steinbock said he is being used by "colluding parties" to express his views in the media "in an effort to destabilize" the Philippine economy.

He explained that these parties are associated with the different departments of the United States (US) Department of Defense, which "prefer to have a different kind of administration for the convenience of the US policy in the area".

To counter these manufactured controversies, Steinbock also urged the government to keep the conversations open to rectify the misconceptions of foreign investors regarding the Philippine economy. He likewise recommended for it to organize more

investor conferences to attract more foreign companies to invest in the country.

'Quadruple recalibration' pushed

Aside from these recommendations, the policy expert also prodded the government to adopt a "quadruple recalibration" of its economy, which entails refining its economic, political, regional, and international measures.

In terms of the recalibration of the economic measures, Steinbock urged the government to create jobs and opportunities that will allow the poor to become part of the "official economy". He likewise egged the Philippines to continue its *Build, Build, Build* infrastructure program.

He also commended the country for its tax reforms, which he said, will allow the poor to "benefit more from [the] government's programs and services".

For the regional recalibrations, Steinbock raised concerns regarding the absence of development within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations region. He said the Philippines, on its part, should prioritize the Mindanao corridor and push for federalization to redistribute the powers long concentrated in Manila.

In the case of international recalibrations, he urged the government to address potential trade obstacles, such as tariff and nontariff measures, which include import and export licenses.

Meanwhile, he warned that the "Philippines cannot live forever exporting its people." **RGV**



Poverty expert is first female chief of PIDS



Dr. Celia M. Reyes, the first female president of the Philippine Institute for Development Studies, took her oath before PIDS Board Chairperson and Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Ernesto M. Pernia at the National Economic and Development Authority office in Pasig City. (Photo by PIDS)

STATE THINK TANK Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) welcomed its new and first female president, Dr. Celia M. Reyes.

Reyes took her oath on March 1 before PIDS Board Chairperson and Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Ernesto M. Pernia at the NEDA head office in Pasig City.

A senior research fellow at PIDS for over two decades, she succeeded Gilberto M. Llanto, who served as president from July 1, 2013 to February 28, 2018. Llanto has been appointed to the PIDS Board as a trustee.

Major thrusts, directions for PIDS

As new president, Reyes is determined to focus on promoting global partnerships and enhancing the Institute's research process.

“In particular, I would like to promote global partnerships. This means working with international research institutions outside the Philippines and doing collaborative research,” Reyes said.

“As there has been a big demand for PIDS research outputs, we should also ensure that we provide very good policy recommendations and we can do this by

enhancing the research process,” she added.

The newly appointed official also urges PIDS officials and staff to continue their commitment to the agency's vision of providing evidence-based inputs to policymaking.

“Their commitment has not wavered and I would like to see that commitment grow even stronger over the next few years. We all have our own strengths and I would like to tap into these strengths so that PIDS can continue to deliver what it has set out to do,” she said.



Professional portfolio and contributions

Reyes specializes in the field of econometrics and has conducted and published numerous research and policy papers on poverty assessments and evaluations of social protection programs.

She is also the network leader of the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS), providing free technical assistance to local government units in the country in the implementation of the CBMS. The CBMS is a local poverty monitoring tool she developed under

the Micro Impacts of Macroeconomic Adjustment Policies project.

As a poverty expert, Reyes has been a project leader and resource person in various consultancy projects of international organizations, such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Secretariat, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Development Programme, Australian Agency for International Development, Canadian International Development Agency, Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, International Development

Research Centre, and World Bank, among others.

She has also served as president of the Philippine Economic Society in 2011 and has been an adviser to various national government technical working groups on poverty monitoring and indicator systems in the country since the early 1990s.

Currently, she sits as the chairperson of the interagency committee on poverty statistics convened by the Philippine Statistics Authority, as well as the editor-in-chief of the *Philippine Journal*

⇒ p. 18

PIDS climbs up global think tank rankings

THE PHILIPPINE INSTITUTE for Development Studies (PIDS) has improved its ranking in the list of the best think tanks in the world, according to a report released by the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) of the University of Pennsylvania.

Based on the *2017 Global Go To Think Tank Index (GGTTI) Report*, PIDS secured the 37th spot, a notch higher than its 2016 ranking, in the list of top 100 think tanks in Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

According to PIDS President Gilberto Llanto, this feat recognizes the unwavering dedication and commitment of PIDS researchers and employees in producing high-quality policy studies that guide policymaking in the country. Likewise, "it highlights the strong culture

of credible, independent, and data-driven policy research that PIDS has become known for," Llanto added.

Aside from the said ranking, PIDS also placed in various categories of the GGTTI, namely, education policy (33rd), social policy (38th), and international development (72nd). It also landed in the 70th spot in the list of best government-affiliated think tanks and the 77th spot among think tanks with the best public engagement program.

Meanwhile, the East Asian Development Network, a PIDS-led network of institutes and centers in developing countries of East Asia, ranked 78th in the list of best think tank networks.

According to the TTCSP, the global rankings are based on the quality

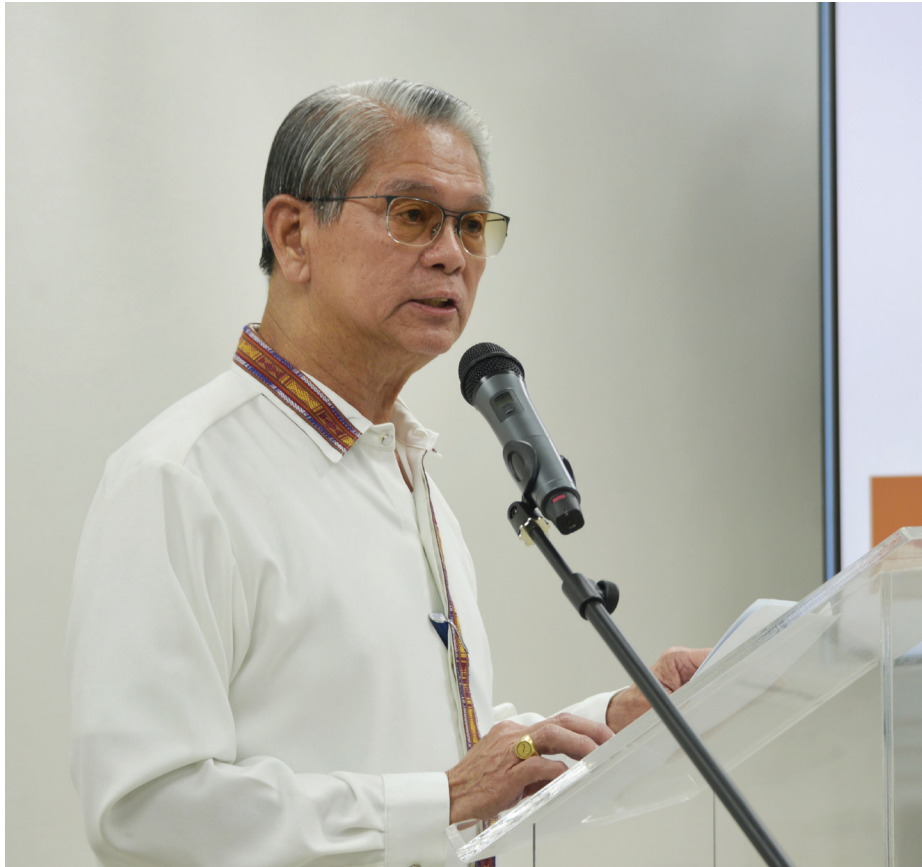
and commitment of the think tank's leadership, the quality and reputation of its staff, and the quality and reputation of the research and analysis it produces.

Aside from these criteria, TTCSP also considered the quality, number, and reach of the think tank's publications, the impact of its research and programs on policymakers and other policy actors, its demonstrated commitment to produce independent research and analysis, and its ability to convene key policy actors and to develop effective networks and partnerships with other think tanks.

The organization also looked at the think tank's ability to use electronic, print, and the new media to communicate research and reach key audiences, its media reputation, and its positive impact to society, among others. **RTT**



PIDS pays tribute to ‘Pado’



Dr. William Padolina served the PIDS Board of Trustees for nearly 18 years. (Photo by PIDS)

A GREAT MAN.

That was how colleagues and friends described Dr. William Padolina, an outgoing trustee of the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS), during a testimonial dinner organized for him recently.

Joining PIDS in March 2000, Padolina had served nearly 18 years as a member of its Board of Trustees.

In his speech, ‘Pado’, as he is fondly called at the University of the Philippines (UP) Los Banos, where he taught for many years, recalled his early days at PIDS and thanked the presidents and board members whom he had a chance to work with. He said he was able to witness the rise of PIDS as a respected institute in the world’s community of think tanks and in the areas of policy research and development.

“I have not been able to get an inventory of the number of fellows that I had the privilege of rubbing elbows with and being enlightened on the value of the social sciences, especially economics, in understanding development and governance issues,” Padolina said.

PIDS President Gilberto Llanto, who led the testimonial dinner, said Padolina came to the Institute at a particularly challenging time in the Philippines’ history.

“All of us at PIDS knew then that he would bring along, and he did bring along with him, his expertise and experience honed by years of unselfish service to the country and the academe to help guide PIDS in fulfilling its mandate to undertake policy research studies that will serve as inputs to policymaking,” he said.

The PIDS official also recognized Padolina’s work not only in the Institute but also during his stint in various academic and government institutions.

Most people would know him as the former secretary of the Department of Science and Technology, deputy director-general for partnerships of the International Rice Research Institute, and as an academician and president of the National Academy of Science and Technology. He has also received numerous awards for his valuable contributions to science and technology in the country.

⇒ p. 18





Calamba City as a growth corridor in CALABARZON

Christopher C. Mantillas

GLOBALIZATION, TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS, and continuous economic development efforts in the countryside have resulted in the rise of new economic centers. This is particularly true in the case of the CALABARZON Region, which has become a favored destination of migrants from Metro Manila.

CALABARZON stands for Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, and Quezon, which constitute the region.

According to the City Planning Development Office of Calamba City, CALABARZON currently enjoys the favor of those migrants as it offers several economic opportunities, such as export

manufacturing, business development, housing, and employment. This has resulted in a rapid increase in the region's population, particularly in its growth centers, such as Calamba City. In 2017, for instance, the city has already become one of the most populous local government units (LGUs) in Laguna, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority.

From a largely rural community, Calamba City has then transitioned into an urban area. Currently, it houses 10 economic zones, which employ thousands of factory workers coming from within the city and its neighboring cities and municipalities, according to the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA). The National Competitiveness Council also named it as one of the region's most competitive LGUs in its 2017 Cities and Municipalities Competitiveness Index report.

Drivers of transformation

Behind these successes are major regional development policies introduced between 1960s and 1970s, when Metro Manila was about to reach its spilling level.

In 1974, for instance, Ferdinand Marcos established the Human Settlements and Planning Commission that prohibited the setting up of new establishments within the 50-kilometer radius of Manila in an attempt to decongest the city. Alongside this prohibition, he pursued major infrastructure projects, such as the South Superhighway extension, to

Major government policies on regional development

FERDINAND E. MARCOS
 Creation of the Human Settlements and Planning Commission
 Extension of the South Superhighway (1976–1977)
 Inauguration of Project CALABARZON

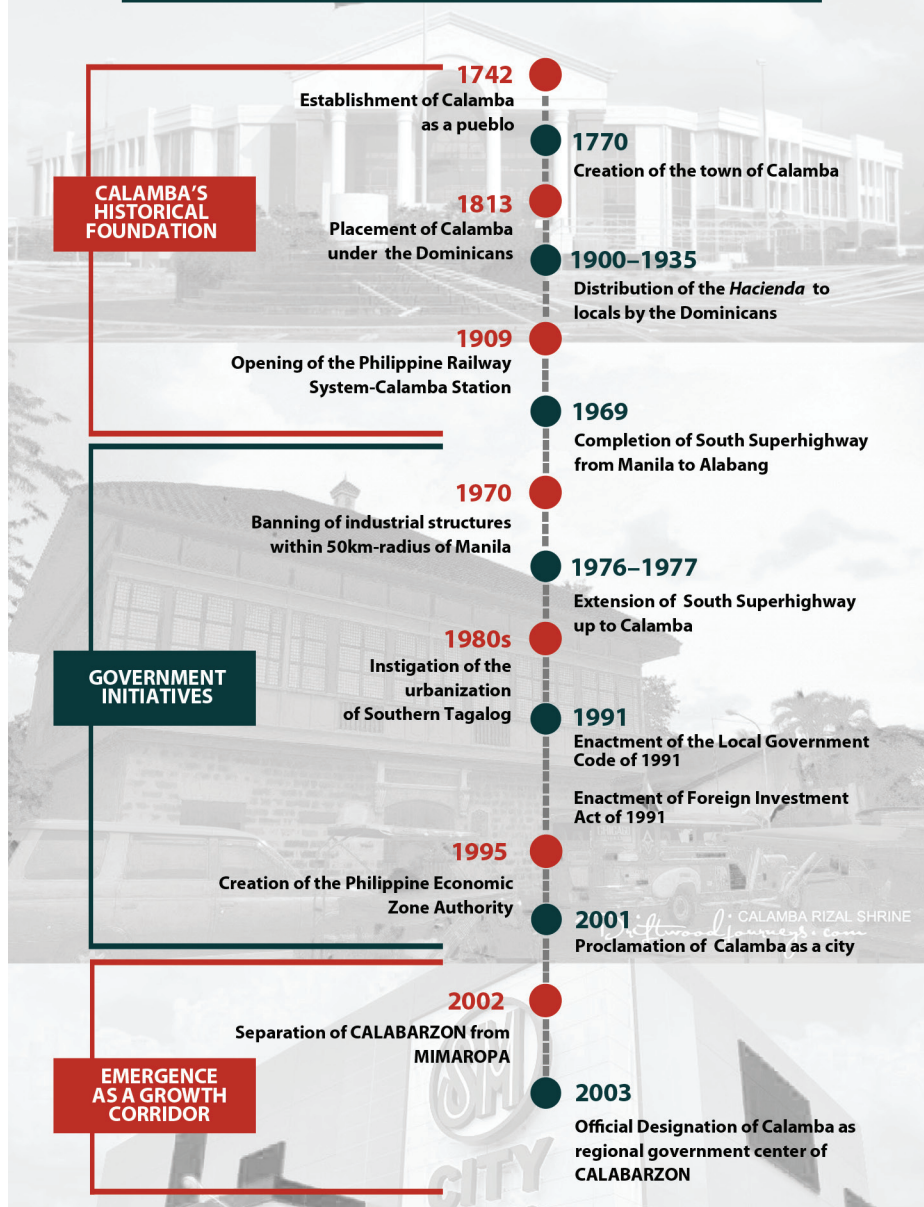
CORAZON C. AQUINO
 Enactment of the Local Government Code of 1991
 Enactment of Foreign Investments Act of 1991

FIDEL V. RAMOS
 Creation of the Philippine Economic Zone Authority

GLORIA M. ARROYO
 Separation of CALABARZON from MIMAROPA
 Designation of Calamba City as the regional government center of CALABARZON



Historical timeline of Calamba City divided into development phases



improve access to CALABARZON. He also launched the Project CALABARZON to prepare the eventual industrialization of its provinces.

Succeeding government policies focused on sustaining the institutional aspect of the countryside development strategy. The

creation of the PEZA and its participation in encouraging private investments into economic zones operations became significant as the private sector engaged in large-scale land conversion in the region.

Political institutions were also strengthened with the passing of the

Local Government Code of 1991 under Corazon Aquino. The code transferred vast authorities to the local government, where leaders are mandated to ensure local economic development. These policies played significant roles in the emergence and growth of new urban centers outside Metro Manila, such as Calamba City.

On top of these policies, several factors and historical events have also contributed to Calamba City's transformation. These include city's strategic location and land area, including the fact that it is the hometown of the national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal, the rich marine resources from Laguna de Bay, and the existence of hot spring resorts of Barangays Pansol and Bucal as major tourist destinations.

Perceptions of the residents

A focus group discussion (FGD) among the residents of Calamba City was conducted to identify their issues and concerns on their city's transition. During the FGD, several themes emerged, including economic activity as the main theme, governance, and biophysical landscape, among others.

In terms of economic activity, the residents confirmed that Calamba City was once dominated by agricultural activities. Under this theme, agriculture, land ownership, and land conversion emerged as the subthemes. They served as key elements in the power dynamics in the general economic landscape of the city throughout the 20th century.

On the other hand, the governance theme came mainly from certain initiatives of both the national and local governments to address urbanization and industrialization challenges.

As stated earlier, Calamba City's transformations in terms of physical condition, economic growth, and competitiveness resulted from a series of regional development-related policies initiated by the national government and, lately, by the city's local leadership.

The looming urban decay in the 1980s and the overconcentration of industries and economic activities in Metro Manila led to a paradigm shift—from having a highly centralized form of government to dispersing development in the countryside. These development initiatives—to disperse, decentralize, and devolve—were able to complement with the built-in characteristics of the city.

The residents also cited improvements in terms of local governance. For one, public service delivery by the LGU improved. The city government became more open and accessible, while being systematic, in their system of distributing services to their constituents. The barangay, the smallest administrative unit, has greater participation than before, particularly in health and education services.

Meanwhile, the biophysical landscape theme reflected the residents' recollection of the wide-open spaces and livable environment during the bygone era.

Other themes that emerged were industrialization, urbanization, development perception, and development dilemmas. In terms of industrialization, for instance, the city had already an existing and thriving local economy prior to the arrival of the first wave of external investors.

During the initial period of industrialization, the local economy, along

with its natives, ensured the availability of a capable workforce to provide human resource to manufacturing and service-oriented businesses established in the city.

The FGD revealed that the residents were appreciative of the city's economic development, which resulted in several physical transformations, such as the emergence of industries, commercial areas, residential subdivisions, infrastructure improvements, and other development manifestations.

However, amid these developments, the residents also pointed out several drawbacks, such as heavy vehicular traffic, social capital issues, proliferation of crimes, and the perceived increase of drug-related cases in the city.

They were also concerned about the city's current biophysical condition given the deteriorating state of its bodies of water, as confirmed by the Laguna Lake Development Authority and the City Environment and Natural Resources Office.

Complementing the strengths of other CALABARZON cities

Aside from Calamba City, the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), in its CALABARZON Regional Development Plan, also named the cities of Batangas, Lucena, Antipolo, and Dasmariñas as established growth areas with specific roles in the region's overall development.

For instance, NEDA named Batangas City as an industrial port city. Currently, it serves as the location of the Batangas Container Terminal and the Port of

Batangas, which link the CALABARZON industrial region to other Asian regional hubs, such as Singapore, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Japan.

On the other hand, Lucena City, another port city, serves as an entry and exit point to and from the Bicol Region. Meanwhile, the cities of Antipolo and Dasmariñas are major residential areas and among the most populous component cities in CALABARZON.

With its present economic landscape, Calamba City may complement the strengths of its neighboring growth centers in the areas of human resource development, labor market, interconnectivity, business networks, and government linkages. It also has enough space for other forms of industries, is highly accessible from all points of Metro Manila and its surrounding provinces, and has always been connected through an established transportation and road network expandable for future growth.

Having been able to sustain two periods of industrialization, Calamba City should prepare for the impending third wave of its industrialization and urbanization stages. For this, it should take advantage of its strategic location, its designation as the regional government center, and the presence of 10 economic zones within its jurisdiction to establish itself as a major investment site in CALABARZON.

Christopher Mantillas is a thesis grantee of the Philippine APEC Study Center Network under its Thesis and Dissertation Program. This article was culled from his dissertation at the University of the Philippines–Los Baños.

PH laws... from p. 4

support of the National Women's Month. It convened representatives from the academe, government, civil society, and international organizations to discuss what the country has done to advance the gender and development agenda and discuss solutions to obstacles that threaten the well-being of women in the Philippines. **RGV**

Women sorely... from p. 7

On the other hand, the authors noted that Filipino women's share in senior and middle management is close to proportional against women in the population. In the past 15 years, for instance, 40–43 percent of management positions have been occupied by women, a larger proportion than their overall current labor participation rate.

"A greater participation of women in all industry levels is good for business since female managers and decisionmakers see additional aspects of problems and solutions in the daily operations of their companies. Women are informed by their own challenges and experiences, which are different from those of men," the authors concluded. **GGM**

Poverty expert... from p. 13

of Development, PIDS' multidisciplinary social science journal that publishes policy-oriented studies and researches on development issues in the Asia-Pacific region.

Reyes is a cum laude graduate of Bachelor of Science in Statistics at the University of the Philippines and has a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Economics from the University of Pennsylvania. **RTT**

Increase decentralization... from p. 10

Meanwhile, the subnational government borrowing is a "primary source of finance for local infrastructure critical for the delivery of local services".

However, Manasan said the government should set the parameters in terms of how much the subnational government can borrow and if national government should bail them out in case they fail to pay their debts.

Moreover, she urged federalism proponents to include provisions urging the federal governments not to guarantee the payment of local government debt, and limiting the purpose of their borrowing to financing capital investments only.

She also encouraged the Congress to enact a Fiscal Responsibility Law and a law addressing bankruptcy policy and insolvency mechanisms for regional and local governments. **RTT**

***PIDS pays... from p. 14***

True to the unselfish public servant image he is known for, Padolina did not forget to share some insights and reminders for those tasked to continue the work he had started.

As an advocate of technology-based development agenda, he emphasized the integral role PIDS will play in creating synergy between governance and technology, pointing out that "the utilization of new technologies is heavily influenced by the governance structure and policies."

He added that more attention should be given to the agricultural and rural development agenda if the country wants to attain inclusive development. He lamented the current state of talent deficit especially in the science and technology sector and called on the government to look for ways to develop and retain

talented and skilled workers in the country.

Finally, Padolina urged PIDS to continue doing its mandate of helping policymakers make informed decisions "before we become victims in a world that does not look kindly on those who are left behind".

Present in the gathering were big names in the development and policy research world, such as economic planner and PIDS founder Gerardo Sicat, former Commission on Higher Education Chairperson Patricia Licuanan, former Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Arsenio Balicacan, former PIDS President Josef Yap, former UP President Alfredo Pascual, National Economic and Development Authority Undersecretary Adoracion M. Navarro, and UP Vice President for Academic Affairs Cynthia Bautista, among others. **GBDC**

Research Digests

PIDS Book 2018-01

From Evidence to Policy: Celebrating 40 Years of Policy Research

edited by *Gilberto M. Llanto, Vicente B. Paqueo, and Aniceto C. Orbeta Jr.*

From Evidence to Policy: Celebrating 40 Years of Policy Research is a volume intended for a wide audience with the intent to highlight the role of research in evidence-based policymaking process. This collection of essays will show the readers the rich history of the Philippine Institute for Development Studies from the moment it was founded to its more recent triumphs as one of the top-ranking think tanks in the world. Celebratory yet sober, this volume will serve as a good introduction to aspiring policy researchers and a sentimental trip down memory lane for the veterans of the policy process. A gripping volume of many characters, written by various personalities, this is quite unlike the usual technical papers written about public policy.

PJD 2016 Vol. 43 No. 2

Philippine Journal of Development 2016, No. 2

by *Various Authors*

The second semester issue of the *Philippine Journal of Development* features articles on Typhoon Ondoy and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement. The first article estimates the economic impact of Typhoon *Ondoy* in the cities of Pasig and Marikina, based on the business sector's perceptions on their periods of adjustment in the aftermath of the disaster. Three articles, meanwhile, analyze the Philippines' readiness to join the TPP and other new-generation free trade agreements, focusing on policy implications on three significant aspects: (1) intellectual property, (2) government procurement, and (3) investor-state dispute settlement.

PN 2018-01

Regulatory Challenges in the Philippine Logistics Industry

by *Jose L. Tongzon*

According to the World Bank, the Philippine logistics sector currently has a low logistics performance index (LPI). The organization imputed this weak performance to the country's inadequate infrastructure, inefficient customs, and poor competency of its logistics providers. This *Policy Note* assesses the local logistics sector by looking at its LPI. Among others, it finds the current centralized administration of Philippine ports problematic because it stifles interport competition. As such, it recommends the separation of the regulatory and operational functions and the establishment of one separate entity in charge solely of port regulation. It also encourages the government to improve competition among ports by allowing more private sector participation by way of concessions through build-operate-transfer or lease agreements.

PN 2018-02

Administrative Legislation in the Philippine Contractors' Industry

by *Lai-Lynn B. Barcenas*

Despite the country's efforts to open its markets and promote greater productivity and market efficiency, firms in the contractors' industry continue to face challenges that hamper their entry into the Philippine market. Among these challenges is the foreign equity limitation, which, despite the absence of justifications under existing laws, remains in the legislations and creates an environment of unpredictability in the interpretation of the Philippine laws. Know more about the challenges as well as some recommendations to improve the Philippine contractors' industry in this *Policy Note*.

DP 2018-01

Urban and Rural Households' Energy Use: Sets, Shocks, and Strategies in the Philippines

by *Connie B. Dacuycuy and Lawrence B. Dacuycuy*

The paper aims to analyze the determinants of household energy portfolio in urban and rural areas and to determine how price shocks and weather variabilities affect energy use in the Philippines. It confirms that energy switching is observed among high-income urban and rural households while energy stacking is observed among rural households—a response to heat index deviation and LPG price shock. The paper also finds that households' energy portfolios have components comprising of modern sources as energy anchors and a component that is most likely to adjust in response to price and other weather-related shocks.

DP 2018-02

A Probe into the Filipino Migration Culture: What Is There to Learn for Policy Intervention?

by *Aubrey D. Tabuga*

Among the 1.4 million land-based migrants in 2015, two-thirds comprise of re-hires. The number of new hires has been increasing as well. From a public policy standpoint, this requires constant vigilance and informed decisionmaking in designing policies and programs that look after the welfare of migrant workers. Some argue that while the government administers the deployment and implements strategies to promote the welfare of migrant workers, it also needs to design a more comprehensive long-term thrust for labor migration. This paper provides a deeper understanding of the migration intentions of individuals from a high-emigration rural village in the Philippines and some policy recommendations to address migration issues.

Editor's ... from p. 1

government, civil society, and international organizations to discuss the government's thrusts in advancing the gender and development agenda. The said gathering also tackled solutions to obstacles that threaten the well-being of women in the Philippines.

During the event, PIDS President Celia Reyes raised concerns on the decline of the country's ranking in the latest Global Gender Gap index, from 7th in 2016 to 10th in 2017. The said report attributed this dip to the worsening performance of the country in terms of wage and health and survival gender equality. It mirrors the situation on the ground as revealed by the studies of PIDS in terms of women's poor representation in leadership positions in government and industry, the persistent violence against women and children, and the high vulnerability of women, especially the poor, to sexually transmitted diseases. Amid the presence of country's laws

on women, these gender issues persist due to Filipinos' lack of awareness about these laws and the continuing lack of concern on women's welfare, according to Dr. Connie Dacuycuy, PIDS gender focal person.

Aside from women's issues, this DRN also revisits the fiscal issues of the administration's proposal to shift to federalism. Specifically, Dr. Rosario Manasan, resident fiscal expert of PIDS, reminded the policymakers that addressing the unequal allocation of resources between the national and local governments does not require a shift to federalism. Instead, she urged them to push for fiscal decentralization as the current highly centralized system of governance fosters huge fiscal gaps and deficits. She also mentioned the things to consider when shifting to a federal government, such as the revenue-sharing arrangement and the assignment of expenditure responsibilities, among others.

Completing this issue is a case study of Calamba City, which demonstrates the relevance of crafting good policies in instigating a city's industrial transformation.

Throughout the first quarter of 2018, the Institute has witnessed several milestones also worth mentioning. These include the assumption into office of Dr. Reyes as first PIDS female president. During her oath taking, the PIDS poverty expert said the Institute can expect enhanced international collaborations and policy research process under her administration. Last February, PIDS also climbed up the global think tank rankings, while continuously rating among the best in the world in various categories, such as education policy, social policy, and international development. These achievements would not have been possible without the leadership of the PIDS presidents and the guidance of its board of trustees, such as Dr. William Padolina who served as a trustee for almost 18 years.

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