

# Workshop Reports

## REPORT OF THE ALIPOROS GROUP

Paper: "The Development of Eastern Visayas: Issues and Concerns"

Chairman: Mayor Hospicio Rivera

Vice-Chairman: Ms. Aida J. Capucion

Secretary: Ms. Grace Marie H. Tiopes

### Critique:

1. Issues and concerns should be enumerated as promised by the title.
2. There is an absence of a categorization of poverty.
3. It focuses on only one problem of Region 8—poverty—identifying Region 8 as a very depressed and very underdeveloped region when in fact, not all parts of the region are underdeveloped or depressed.
4. Analysis of the issues and concerns is in general terms.
5. Lacks bases for observations and assumptions made.

### Recommendations:

1. There should have been an enumeration of the issues and concerns and development of these issues and concerns which impinge upon regional development.
2. The focus of regional development should be on the depressed and underdeveloped places of the region, especially the Samar provinces because not all of Region 8 is very depressed or very underdeveloped.

### Analysis:

The problems faced by Region 8, preventing the region from being developed:

- 1) lack of capital (mentioned in the abstract)
- 2) lack of energy
- 3) lack of peace and order
- 4) value system
- 5) alien domination of local economy
- 6) population (unskilled labor—also mentioned)
- 7) rationality of the politico-administrative sector, with respect to:
  - a) coordinative function of the line agencies operating within the region, and

b) leadership capabilities

8) lack of technological know-how

Based on the following aspects, Region 8 is not really an underdeveloped and depressed region in comparison with the other regions:

1) agricultural economy:

a) copra—the region produces 1/7 of the total copra export of the country

b) rice—1 to 2 million excess production and we have already exported rice to foreign countries (Laos)

2) political:

Administrative and managerial capabilities of the local executives are greatly improved through the training programs given to them.

### **Scenario:**

By the year 2000, we expect Region 8 to move up from a depressed area to one of the most progressive regions of the country.

Tacloban would be a center of commerce and trade. It would be humming with industrial activities including the nearby towns. The Geothermal Plant at Kananga will be providing electricity and small-scale industries will be developed as a consequence.

The copper-smelter plant at Isabel, Leyte will generate employment and will thus raise the per capita income of the region to a higher level.

The massive road network especially in Samar will encourage the opening up of new area for agricultural development and facilitate the transportation of goods and services to and from the trading centers.

The Blue revolution will provide an adequate supply of fish to the inhabitants of the region.

The local economy has been taken over by marketing cooperatives run and owned by the majority of the people.

The Leyte Sab-a Basin Authority would have completed its various prospects such as eradication of schistosomiasis, construction of road network within the Basin, establishment of Philippine Institute of Agriculture.

The Government Center will improve the services of the various agencies responsible for regional development.

## **REPORT OF THE KANAWAY GROUP**

Paper: "Cultural Dimensions of Development of Eastern Visayas"

Chairman: Dr. Jose Y. Bantigue

Vice-Chairman: Mayor Policarpio Cruzada

Secretary: Miss Sara Q. Caballes

This group was lucky to have Prof. Petronilo Daroy as resource person to start off the deliberations. Following his suggestions, the group discussions centered on two general points:

1. An assessment of the existing cultural media in the Eastern Visayas
2. A projection of the group's vision of what the region will be in the year 2000 along cultural dimensions

The group recognized the following as the existing media:

1. Drama, which in times past but to a dwindling degree now has been in the form of moro-moro and comedias. The group felt that this art form should be revived in such a way that it would serve as a vehicle for regional development — that is, adopting themes or subjects that would stimulate or contribute to development.
2. Music, which is an integral part of Eastern Visayas daily life. The group recommended that folk music be preserved and that new songs/music be produced especially to enhance development.
3. Dance, which goes hand in hand with music should be similarly preserved and encouraged to grow.
4. Other art forms: painting, sculpture, architecture, etc. They are an expression of Filipino artistry and aspirations and should be recognized as such and given freedom.
5. Languages, which right now is in several dialects in the region. An integration of these multiple dialects into one common tongue is foreseen with the improvement of communication and transportation and the interaction of the different sectors of the region with one another.

Underpinning all the media are the religious aspirations and beliefs of the people and also their value system. Only when these factors are duly considered in any development planning will such plans succeed.

By 2000, the group envisioned the Eastern Visayas as an integrated, modernized, semi-industrialized region. To achieve this state, the following proposals were advanced:

1. To utilize the existing media such that they serve development purposes—that is, that their themes or subjects be conducive to development.
2. To make the barangay the center for developing the arts with the assistance of the school system. This means, of course, that all sectors including bigger political units, namely, the town, the province, the city, the region, and perhaps, the national government would also be involved in this effort.
3. To encourage productions at the baranggay level, inter-baranggay assemblies, contests, festivals, etc. could be instituted on a regular basis.
4. To set up cultural foundations subsidized not only by private entities but also by the government, to fund the activities of the media group.

5. To constantly impress upon the minds of the people the need for all productions to jibe with the people's values.

As an added consideration, all the media forms should be such that they can exist in the face of changes in the community. In other words, the media should be a living part of the community that they serve.

## REPORT OF THE TIMOG GROUP

Paper: "Political Development: The Current Philippine Experience"

Chairman: Mayor Erlinda T. Reyes

Secretary: Mrs. Adelaida L. Regala

### Critique:

The group concluded that Prof. Tadena did not describe the Philippine political system which would have provided the framework in assessing the role of the region in the developmental process. Because such a framework is lacking, there is difficulty in ascertaining a meaning of regional political development acceptable to all members of the group. Thus the group members resorted to individual definitions of political development for Region VIII.

The group believes that the operationalization of political development in terms of the following issues would help in diagnosing the problem of underdevelopment in Region 8:

1. The relation of the regional political system to the national political system.
2. The professionalization of the bureaucratic structures in the region.
3. State of political participation in Region 8.
4. Political development as a process emanating from the grassroot level—emphasis on local activities.
5. Selection of political leaders, e.g., IBP elections, need for an honest COMELEC.
6. Issue on the effectivity of developmental planning: there is a need for technocrats to operate on the grassroot level if developmental plans are to be attuned to the needs of the people. The observed implementation gap in plans is, in part, a result of the disparity of developmental goals as set by technocrats and the changing needs of the local residents. The basis of developmental planning must be on the
7. Attitudinal problems on the part of the citizens.

### Recommendations

1. Information drive to the grassroot levels as regards to present system of government.

2. Activities on political development should be geared towards the social and economic needs of the particular community or baranggay.
3. More political participation of the people with the proper sincere attitude in order that they can put everything into action.
4. We should analyze the present political system so we can have the basis for futuristic dimensions on political development as well as modifications of existing experiments.

### **REPORT OF THE AMIHAN GROUP**

Paper: "Some Insights into the Bureaucratic Culture in Eastern Visayas"

Chairman: Mayor Rufilo L. Tan

Vice-Chairman: Ms. Emperatriz Heruela

Secretary: Ms. Corazon C. Mayo

Miss May Susan Flores, group rapporteur, read the important issues taken during the deliberations on the paper read by Mr. Go-Soco. She elaborated on the reactions presented by the discussants as well as the reactions of the various participants.

The group unanimously lauded the efforts of Mr. Go-Soco and his team in the NEDA, coming up with his data-laden paper presented to the conferees yesterday notwithstanding the limited time afforded his team. However, in view of this major constraints faced by research undertaking, the group was able to identify some minor problems and issues. They are identified as follows:

1. The objectives are overly "ambitious."
2. The universe is too narrow and limited. It is not "adequate" to resolve the issues identified in the objectives.

In view of these, the following suggestions were given by the members of the group. It was suggested that NEDA should conduct:

1. Separate studies, one focusing on the local government units, and another on the national government units represented at the regional level.
2. Follow-up studies on the degree of service given to the clientele by the respondents (regional directors) in this study to evaluate the responses given by the regional directors. It was also suggested that the universe should include the lower tiers of government within the same agency.

### **REPORT OF THE HABAGAT GROUP**

Paper: "The RDC: Its Role in Regional Development"

Chairman: Mr. Agapito C. Tauro

**Highlights:**

The group recognizes the important role of the RDC in regional development. This is especially true in Region 8 which the group felt is acutely in need of an effective and efficient administrative machinery to formulate, coordinate and implement plans and programs based on the region's political, social, cultural and economic situation or variables.

The group perceives that the RDC is a dynamic and innovative instrument in translating and carrying out national policies, goals and plans to the countryside.

**Group Reactions:**

**A. Organizational Structure**

The group feels that the existing membership of the RDC do not represent the cross-section of the various sectors whose participation is required in a wholly integrated approach to the development of Region 8. Seventy-five per cent of the line agencies are not directly involved. Likewise, local administrators (municipality mayors) and the vital components in the private sector such as, financing, marketing, trading, producers and labor groups should be represented.

This should be remedied by:

1. Increase in the membership of line agencies to 50 per cent maximum level, considering their role and degree of importance in the RDC structure.
2. Representation from the Eastern Visayas Mayors' League.
3. Adequate representation of the private sector.

**B. Functional Relationship**

1. Inter-agency functional relationship must be clearly defined and delineated.
2. Improve the working relationship among the cooperating agencies.
3. LOI 447 and 448 must be operationalized in all agencies soonest.
4. RDC must lend technical assistance to the municipal planning and administrative units without additional cost—these assistance are in the form of Planning and Strategies for Development formulation.

**C. Financing**

The financing scheme of the RDF (P30 million) must be modified to suit the problems and needs of the local government regional plans/projects.

**D. Operational Problem— Course of Action**

Representatives designated to attend RDC meetings should be automatically clothed with authority to decide for his agency.

**Concluding statement:**

In view of the above reactions/observations, the group recommends that PD 955 should be implemented. The RDC in its role as the instrument

in developing Region 8, it should not fail to consider the political, social, economic and cultural background of the region. Outside models should be used as point references rather than replicas of development models for the region.

## REPORT OF THE BUHAWI GROUP

Paper: "The Role of Elites in Developing Societies"

Chairman: Mr. Josefino N. Naval

Secretary: Ms. Margarita P. Parrocho

It was unfortunate for the members of the group not to be able to come up with a common definition of the term "elite." The discussion showed that the members of the group viewed the term "elite" in different contexts:

1. Elite was defined as a social class which is composed of a group of people who possess extra-influential power.
2. Elite was defined in terms of a common denominator, i.e., the economic context to mobilize political, social, cultural and intellectual activities of the societies.

Although the group was not able to come up with a common definition of the term, it was able to identify the role of the elite in a developing society. First is to identify whether the elite is being destructive or of help to the society. It was agreed that if the elites are of help to developing societies, they should be encouraged by proper authorities to share their resources with the masses. The government should also design a program that will encourage the poor to participate in the discussion-making of the society.

Secondly, there must be a level of agreement between elites and the non-elites in the society.

As a finale, the group is optimistic that in order to achieve the needed level of development by the year 2001, the elites should share the aspirations for development of the masses.

### Role of Elites

#### A. Development Aspect

1. Relationship between capital and labor: Elites allow labor group to play more vital roles in policy-determining activities of firms.
2. Profit-sharing: Elites support 50-50 per cent net profit-sharing between capital and labor.
3. Relationship between capitalist and consumer: Elites encourage development of cooperatives.
4. Industrial development: Elites concentrate their capital investments in industrial developments.

5. Agricultural development: Elites support the implementation of land reform program by sharing their landholdings with tenants in equitable arrangements.

#### B. Education Development

1. Research: Elites lead in the development of research through the establishment of research foundations.

2. Scholarships: Elites support and lead in promoting scholarship programs by providing more opportunities to qualified poor students through the establishment of scholarship grants.

3. Educational Policies: Elites lead in the innovative developments of educational policies toward more nationalistic and development-oriented curriculum.

#### C. Political System

1. Government: Elites support the government system which promotes best justice and equity. They also lead political revolution in case political exigencies require a radical change of the government system.

2. Political Opportunists: Elites lead in supporting well-meaning politicians who do not belong to any specific interest group for the greater interests of the people.

#### D. Social Development

1. Social Welfare: Elites lead and support the development of a social welfare-oriented society.

2. Social Services: Elites support the establishment of institutions for the aged, disabled and the like.

#### E. Cultural Development

1. Arts and Humanities: Elites lead in supporting the development of arts and humanities in the country through establishment of grants and foundations for artists and humanists.

2. Cultural Policies: Elites lead in sharing the cultural policies and directions of the government.

#### F. Bureaucratic Development

1. Bureaucratic Structure and Procedures: Elite lead in the establishment of bureaucratic structure and procedures which insure fast and efficient running of the government machinery.

2. Bureaucratic Policies: Elites help shape direction of bureaucratic policies of the government.