

Usec. Dennis Mapa, Officials from CO, PSA 7 Officials and employees together with the participants in different venues pose during the virtual photo op

## PSA 7 holds Briefing-Workshop with Stakeholders towards the Compilation of Provincial Product

Central Visayas is chosen as one of the three pilot regions to implement the Provincial Product Accounts (PPA) starting 2021. To mark its first step, the PSA Region 7 conducted a briefing/workshop with stakeholders towards the compilation of the Provincial Product Account on 29-30 March 2021. It was a blended-type of workshop wherein some participants were present at the provincial venue while others were through virtual. A total of 193 participants attended the briefing/workshop. It was the PPA Briefing/Workshop with the most number of participants among the three pilot regions.

Engr. Ariel Florendo, Regional Director of PSA 7, opened his message expressing his gratitude to all participants who attended the briefing/workshop despite the pandemic. He mentioned how this PPA will answer the clamour for data disaggregation in the provincial level. He also believed that with collective efforts and shared information, we can overcome any challenges and move the region forward.

Undersecretary Claire Dennis Mapa, National Statistician and Civil Registrar General of PSA, congratulated Region 7 – Central Visayas to be one of the three pilot regions for PPA. In his message, he emphasized the importance of PPA. He highlighted that the PSA is committed to deliver quality, relevant and reliable statistics for equitable development towards improved quality of life for all. Usec. Mapa requested for the

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## RSSO 7 celebrates 31<sup>st</sup> CRM in the New Normal



PSA Personnel together with the Brgy. Officials of Brgy. Tag-ube, Compostela, Cebu and Ms. Fe Estrella Lawas, MCR Compostela, Cebu during the conduct of Mobile Registration

The Philippine Statistics Authority Regional Statistical Services Office 7 (PSA RSSO 7) celebrated the 31st Civil Registration Month (CRM) with the theme "Strengthening Civil Registration and Vital Statistics' Digital Information: The Ways to Manage the New Normal." In line with this celebration, PSA RSSO 7 spearheaded various activities to continually carry out the provisions of Civil Registry Laws amidst the challenges of

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# Statistical Operations

## PSA Central Visayas actively Participates in the 2021 Operational Training on Fisheries Survey

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) - Fishery Statistics Division (FSD), conducted the Operational Training on Fisheries last 1 – 3 March, 2021 through virtual platform. PSA Region 7 joined the nationwide training together with the four (4) provinces in the region namely: Bohol, Cebu, Negros Oriental and Siquijor. This was conducted in order to orient and re-orient the personnel involved on the different concepts and definitions, procedures, responsibilities and timetable of the quarterly survey as well as the reasons why PSA conducts the quarterly fisheries survey.

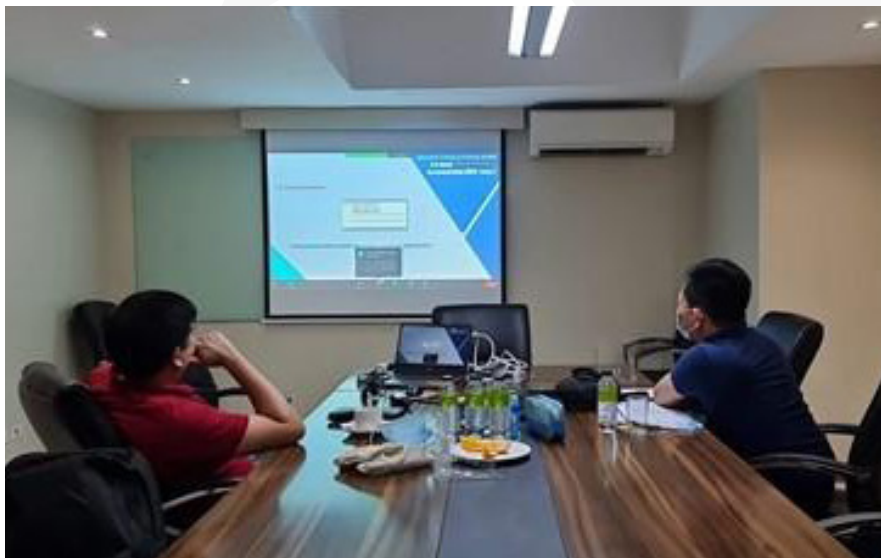
Agricultural statistics is one of the inputs in the compilation of national accounts. Data sets are also used for policy making and program implementation on the agricultural sector. One of the subsectors in agriculture is fisheries. It is further subdivided into three more areas namely: commercial, municipal and aquaculture. There are four (4) quarterly surveys that generate volume and value of production by species at the national, regional and provincial level. Statistics generated through the conduct of surveys serves as input to the following: compilation of national accounts, estimation of performance of agriculture, policy making and program implementation, researches and studies.

Commercial Fisheries covers fishing operations in marine waters beyond 15 kilometers from the shoreline by fishing boats with more than three (3) gross tons. It serves as the activity that gathers information on volume and price of species unloaded in the landing center. It aims to generate volume and value of commercial fisheries production by species by quarter at the provincial, regional and national levels.

Municipal Fisheries covers fishing operations performed in marine waters within 15 kilometers from the shoreline using fishing vessels of three (3) gross tons or less, or fishing not requiring the use of fishing vessels. It also covers fishing operations performed in inland bodies of water using fishing vessels of three (3) gross tons or less, or fishing not requiring the use of fishing vessels. The municipal fisheries gather volume and value of production and value of marine municipal and inland fisheries production by species per quarter at the provincial, regional and national levels. It is in 2021 that the redesigned Inland Fisheries survey will be fully implemented nationwide and will be using a new data processing system to aid in the processing of estimates for every province.

Aquaculture involves the propagation and culturing of fish and other fishery species in farming facility such as fishpond, fish pen, and fish cage. It also includes oyster, mussel and seaweed culture. It gathers information on volume and price of species harvested in the aquafarms. It aims to generate volume and value of production by aquafarm, type, species per quarter at the provincial, regional and national levels.

As mandated under Republic Act No. 10625 or the "Philippine Statistical Act of 2013", the PSA shall primarily be responsible for the implementation of the objectives and provisions of R.A. 10625. It shall plan, develop, prescribe, disseminate and enforce policies, rules and regulations and coordinate government-wide programs governing the production of official statistics, general-purpose statistics, and civil registration services. It is also primarily responsible for all national censuses and surveys, sectoral statistics, consolidation of selected administrative recording systems and compilation of national accounts of which fishery surveys plays a vital role. (J.J. Abadingo)



*SS II Joseph Jim D. Abadingo of the Regional Office and SA Rogelio Perez, Jr. of Cebu Provincial Office during the training.*



# Statistical Operations

## 2020 ASPBI Second Level Training goes Virtual

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) conducted the 2020 Annual Survey of Philippine Business and Industry (ASPBI)/ 2020 Survey of Tourism Establishments in the Philippines (STEP) Second Level Training last 8 - 12 March 2021 at a venue outside the office in Cebu City. The clustered virtual training is participated in by the focal persons of the Visayas Regions.



*SS II Leslie Zuasula discussed ASPBI forms*

The Central Visayas participants includes, RD Engr. Ariel E. Florendo with CSS Leopoldo P. Alfanta, Jr., CSS Firmo C. Diputado of Cebu, and SuSS Felixberto Sato, Jr. with some of the staff from the Statistical Operations and Coordination Division (SOCD), namely, SSII Leslie Zuasula, SSII Caylord Niala, SA Jean Villacensio, and COSW John Lorenz P. Ygoña, and the Cebu Provincial Focal Person Vernie Minguito and Asst. Provincial Focal Person Walter Buaya. The participants from Bohol, Negros Oriental and Siquijor were attending virtually.

ASPBI is conducted annually and is one of the designated statistical activities of PSA. It generates essential statistics for economic planning and analysis and is specifically designed to collect and generate information on the levels, structure performance, and trends of economic activities of the formal sector of the country's economy.

The main trainers are the focal persons of each region, and they are assigned with different topics or chapters to discuss. Central Office personnel are also present during the training. Some of the topics that were highlighted were the challenges encountered by every region reported by their respective Statistical Researchers



*SS II Caylord D. Niala administered pre-test exam at DPC*

during the distribution / collection and data processing, and how they can improve and address these challenges moving forward. The rider survey for this year is the conduct of 2020 STEP (Survey of Tourism Establishment of the Philippines) which aims to conduct survey on major tourism industries namely Accommodation, Food and Beverages Service Activities, Transport Operators Tour and Travel agencies, Health and Wellness and other tourism activities and how they implemented safety measures during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Third level training at the provinces was held on the following week. For Cebu Province, it was done on 23-27 March 2021. On 23rd of March, SSII Caylord D. Niala conducted Pre-Test at DPC Cebu, for the hired Statistical Researchers to assess their knowledge of the 2020 ASPBI and familiarity of the terms and concept during the third level training. After the 5-day training. SSII Caylord D. Niala also conducted a Post-Test with the same interchanged sequence of questions which aims to identify how much they have learned during this 5 day training and also to acknowledge those who have improved based on the scores they got from the pre-test and post-test. Also, SRs who have re-applied for the survey and who were able to finish the collection of questionnaires before the deadline, were asked to give advice and strategies on how to effectively handle their task and how they can inspire others to follow and learn as well. As a token for the job well done, they were given Certificate of Recognition signed by our Region Director Ariel E. Florendo, CSS Leopoldo P. Alfanta, Jr of SOCD and CSS Firmo C. Diputado of Cebu. (*J.L. Ygoña*)

## Livestock and Poultry Regional and Provincial Focal Persons immerse virtually for the conduct of 2021 Operational Training



The Livestock and Poultry Statistics Division (LPSD) under the Economic Sector Statistics Service of the Philippine Statistics Authority (ESSS) initiated the conduct of the 2021 Operational Training for Livestock and Poultry Surveys. The first level training or Task Force Training was conducted last 22-24 February 2021. The purpose of this undertaking is to capacitate L&P Regional Focal Persons with regards to the concepts and definitions, survey operations, processing systems and other arising matters relative to the conduct of the L&P surveys.

On 16-18 March 2021, the 2nd Level Training was conducted together with the Focal and Assistant Focal Persons of each province.

This was to introduce the Enhanced Backyard Livestock and Poultry Survey (BLPS) questionnaires. This is the first time to include in the quarterly surveys the large animals such as cattle, carabao, goat and duck/ duck eggs for BLPS while for Commercial Livestock and Poultry Survey (CLPS) is remained on the status quo.

Questions on average farmgate price was also integrated in the questionnaire. The purpose of BLPS and CLPS is to generate estimates on livestock and poultry inventory, production in liveweight equivalent, number of animals slaughtered/dressed and other production related data. The data generated from the surveys are inputs to the Performance of Agriculture Report (PAR) and accordingly to the preparation of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Moreover, the survey supports the data needs of planners, policy and decision makers, and other stakeholders in the agriculture sector particularly the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), the Department of Agriculture (DA) and its attached agencies such as the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), Philippine Carabao Center (PCC), the National Dairy Authority (NDA), the National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS), the Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries (PCAF), and the general public. (*C. Niala*)



# Statistical Operations

## PSA Central Visayas participates in the Task Force Training on Scanning of Post Census Maps

The Philippine Statistics Authority – Regional Statistical Services Office 7 (PSA – RSSO 7) participates in the conduct of the Task Force Training on Scanning of Post-Census maps from the conduct of the 2020 Census of Population and Housing (2020 CPH). It was a two-day training conducted last 18 – 19 March 2021.

On the first day of the training ANS Florante Varona gave a short briefer on the importance and relevance of the scanning operation as to the whole census operation. Immediately after his message follows the discussion of the Scanning Center Operation of the Regional Office. Map Scan Operators (MSOs) were hired by the office to smoothly conduct the scanning activity of the whole Region. For Region 7, two MSOs were hired, they were Mr. Jonard Cosmo and Ms. Jocery Ilaran. Both of the MSOs were experienced 2020 CPH personnel. An in-depth lecture on their responsibilities and roles were laid out by the speakers from PSA Central Office. Part of their responsibility as MSOs of the region are: They are responsible for the actual scanning of the paper maps; to conduct completeness check of the scanned City/Municipality, Barangay, EA, and Block maps using the 2020 Enumeration Area Reference File (EARF) attached to the Excel Macro file for Scanning or by using the number of sheets (EA + Block) indicated in the block maps template to check the completeness of Block maps; conduct a quality check of the scanned maps by verifying the clarity and readability of the map updates on the scanned map files and whether the map updates will suffice for digitization; re-scans the paper maps that did not pass the quality check; informs the RFP and or ARFP that both the completeness and quality check of the scanned maps had been conducted; coordinates with the RFP and or ARFP if there are any problems concerning the paper maps to be scanned or the scanned map files produced; uploads the scanned map files to the PSA cloud submission facility; archives the scanned map files in the RSSO and informs the RFP and or ARFP if the archiving was done; re-bundles the paper maps by City/Municipality for transmittal to PSO; and accomplishes the CPH transmittal form for the shipping of re-bundled paper maps back to the PSO.

On the second day of the training, the discussion focused more on the responsibilities of the different Provincial Offices particularly their Map Data Processors (MDPs) who will then further process or evaluate the maps against the CPH Form 1 during the 2020 CPH operation. This is to ensure that proper coverage during the enumeration was conducted. Then an actual scanning operation as part of the training followed. Together with the two MSOs in the Region, during the training they were joined by RD Ariel E. Florendo, CSS Leopoldo P. Alfanta of SOCD, SrSS Myrna Trinidad T. Cataluña, SS II Joseph Jim D. Abadingo and COSW Beverly Medalle. While in the Provincial Offices of the Region, MDPs were joined by their respective Provincial Focal Persons (PFPs) and Assistant Provincial Focal Persons (APFPs) they were: Bohol: SA Venus P. Gloria (PFP) and SS II Emmanuel B. Galab (APFP); Cebu: SA April Aglan Mifil Gocela (PFP) and SA Ralph Gaviola (APFP); Negros Oriental: SS II Harold Roy Infante (PFP) and SS II Alberto Girasol; Siquijor: SS II Joselito Maghanoy (PFP). (*J.J. Abadingo*)



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# Statistical Planning and Coordination

## PSA 7 holds Briefing-Workshop...



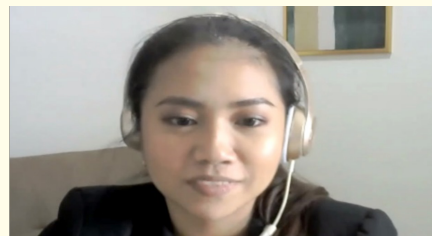
*RD Ariel Florendo delivers his opening remarks*

Statistical Specialist of PSA RSO 7 – SOCD, presented the Objectives and Expectations for the two - day briefing/workshop. a.) Brief the participants/stakeholders on the System of National Accounts (SNA), and the implementation of the PPA; b.) Brief the stakeholders on the data requirements for the compilation of PPA, estimation and methodology of Gross Value Added (GVA) by Industry; c.) Consult stakeholders and gather feedback on the economic situation of the Provinces for Central Visayas Region; and d.) Conduct a rapid assessment of available data vis-à-vis required data.



*Usec. Dennis Mapa shares that the PSA have been pressured to be proactive in terms of fast tracking its products and services to the people despite the challenges*

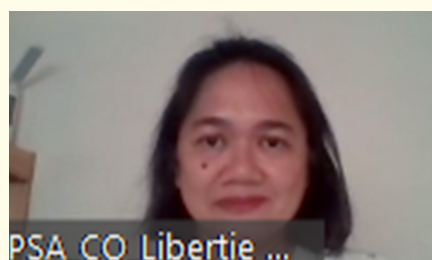
The first day was spent in knowing more about the System of National Accounts, Provincial Product Accounts and its importance. There were four (4) facilitators from Production Accounts Division (PAD) and Integrated Accounts Division (IAD) who discussed the three (3) industries: Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (AFF), Industry and Services. Mr. Florande S. Polistico, Chief Statistical Specialist of PAD, discussed the AFF. Industry was presented by Ms. Faith Hyacinth M. Balisacan, Senior Statistical Specialist of PAD. The third industry which is Services was discussed by Ms. Elgie A. Gulane, Senior Statistical Specialist of PAD. Scope and coverage, data and data sources and sub industries were included in the discussion. Open forum was then followed. The participants were given chance to raise questions/concerns and was answered by Mr. Polistico. After which, Ms. Ma. Libertie Masculino, Supervising Statistical Specialist of IAD, introduced the workshop proper. There were two workshops, the first Workshop had two parts. First part was the initial assessment on the economic structure and situation of the provinces of the Region. The second part was the planning and evaluation of the Provincial Product Accounts in the form of SWOT (Strength, Weakness, Opportunity, Threats) Analysis. The second Workshop was the Data Assessment by Industry. She also presented the objectives, the mechanics of workshop 1 and 2 and the expected outcome.



*SrSS Balisacan discusses the scope and coverage, data and data sources of Industry*

On the second day, four breakout rooms were created for each province which was facilitated by four (4) facilitators, together with the provincial focal person. Each participant was tasked to evaluate the economic situation of their province in Central Visayas Region and examine the availability of data requirements of PPA. This was to see if the stakeholders are able to provide additional data sources that would contribute to the accuracy of the reports that will be made by the PPA. Right after the workshop, the representative from each province was asked to present and discuss their output.

The closing remarks was delivered by Ms. Jessamyn Anne Alcazaren, Chief Statistical Specialist of PSA-Bohol, she thanked the core team of PPA which is headed by ANS Vivian Ilarina of the Macroeconomic Accounts Service (MAS) and the lead facilitator. She also appreciated the collaborative participation of the stakeholders. She compared the PPA to a puzzle that if the different stakeholders provide the data needed and collaborates with PSA, the complete picture of a timely and accurate product accounts in each province will be presented easily. She concluded, "What gets measured gets improved".



*SuSS Masculino introduces the workshop proper*

full cooperation of its partners and fellow data providers in the conduct of activities for the provincial product accounts especially in the provision of data requirements. He ended his message by thanking everyone for allotting their time and effort in this activity and for their continuous support towards the compilation of the Gross Domestic Products in all the provinces of Central Visayas.



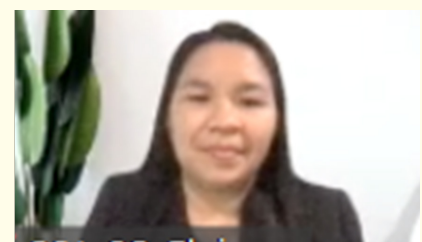
*CSS Alfanta presents the objectives and expectations*

Engr. Leopoldo P. Alfanta Jr., Chief



*CSS Florande introduces the System of National Accounts and Provincial Product Accounts*

Ms. Elgie A. Gulane, Senior Statistical Specialist of PAD. Scope and coverage, data and data sources and sub industries were included in the discussion. Open forum was then followed. The participants were given chance to raise questions/concerns and was answered by Mr. Polistico. After which, Ms. Ma. Libertie Masculino, Supervising Statistical Specialist of IAD, introduced the workshop proper. There were two workshops, the first Workshop had two parts. First part was the initial assessment on the economic structure and situation of the provinces of the Region. The second part was the planning and evaluation of the Provincial Product Accounts in the form of SWOT (Strength, Weakness, Opportunity, Threats) Analysis. The second Workshop was the Data Assessment by Industry. She also presented the objectives, the mechanics of workshop 1 and 2 and the expected outcome.



*SrSS Gulane discusses the third industry which is Services*

This 2021, only three (3) regions are selected as PPA pilot regions namely: Region VII (Central Visayas), MIMAROPA and Region X (Northern Mindanao). All the provinces in these regions will be covered and will compile the results of the PPA to be released in December 2021. PPA will be institutionalized in the 17 regions and all provinces of the country by 2025.

The PPA is an opportunity to assess the economic performance of provinces for better planning, monitoring and decision-making. It is important in order for us to gauge the development of each province, improve our society and achieve a better and more sustainable quality of life to all Filipinos. (V.C. Sabal)

# Civil Registration

## RSSO 7 celebrates...

the global COVID-19 pandemic. Most activities were conducted virtually and the minimum health and safety protocols were observed.

To raise the level of awareness of the public on the celebration and as one of the information dissemination advocacies of the office, an official streamer of the 31st Civil Registration Month was displayed at the PSA Cebu City CRS Outlet in the whole month of February 2021.

In connection with the CRM celebration, RSSO 7 provided support to the Local Civil Registrars of the two Municipalities; Compostela and Tabogon, Cebu during their conduct of mobile registration. A total of eight (8) mobile registrations were attended by the selected RSSO 7 staff, in selected barangays of the aforementioned municipalities. The mobile registration aims to address the concern on non-registration of civil registry documents.

Another activity conducted by the office is a refresher course on Civil Registration memorandum circulars on February 10 and 11, 2021 from 8:00 am until 12:00 pm thru online platform as the office adopts to the new normal. This aims to refresh the participants on the various issued memorandum circulars in regards to Civil Registration and to ensure uniform interpretation and application on these memoranda. The refresher course was conducted in two batches wherein Local Civil Registrars and selected LCRO staff in the provinces of Cebu and Siquijor attended the batch 1 on February 10, 2021 and Local Civil Registrars and LCRO staff in the provinces of Negros Oriental and Bohol attended the batch 2 on February 11, 2021.



PSA Personnel together with the Brgy. Officials of Brgy. Magay, Compostela, Cebu and Ms. Fe Estrella Lawas, MCR Compostela,



PSA RSSO 7 together with the participants during the virtual photo ops during the conduct of Online Refresher Course on Civil Registration Memorandum Circulars.

## CRM Culminating Activity on 27 February 2021



SS II Evelyn Patriarca hand over the prizes to winner Mr. Bernard Aventajado

As part of the culminating activity for the Civil Registration Month, a coastal clean-up drive was conducted by office in Canton Beach, Barangay Cansojong in Talisay City, Cebu on 27 February 2021. This was attended by PSA employees who volunteered to attend the clean-up drive. The activity helps promote environmental awareness and contribute in the reduction of garbage in the ocean.

On the same day, the office also conducted a Civil Registration Quiz Bee to the CRS Staff in the PSA Cebu City CRS Outlet as part of the culminating activity for the Civil Registration Month last 27 February 2021 which started at 3:00 PM until 5: 00 PM. The quiz bee was facilitated by SS II Evelyn L. Patriarca as quiz master. Seventeen (17) CRS associates participated during the quiz bee. The strategy used for the quiz bee was the pen and paper test in which they will answer only 15 questions in their answer sheets: 5 questions each for easy, medium, and hard round. The winner during the Civil Registration Quiz bee was Mr. Bernard Aventajado and was given prizes.

Among other activities conducted for the 31st CRM celebration were the display of infographics about Civil Registration, PSA personnel immersion at the CRS Outlet, attendance to mass weddings, Civil Registration month trivia quiz, distribution of civil registration brochures and wellness activity Zumba. (R. Hermoso)



Picture together with the couples who tied the knot together with PSA personnel during the Mass Wedding in Santander, Cebu



Picture of the PSA Personnel who actively participated the coastal clean-up drive



# Budget and Finance

## PSA RSSO VII Conducts Forum on 2022 Budget Proposal

Prior to the attendance of Regional Director, Chief Administrative Officer and Budget Officer to the Budget Forum called by Central Office in preparation for the submission of the 2022 Budget, the Civil Registration and Administrative Support Division (CRASD) gathered representatives from its provincial offices in a forum on Budget Proposal Presentation on 16 February 2021 via online.

The forum was an initiative of the region as it aims to guide key officials & budget officers in the preparation of budget proposals which should include projects that complement the organization's mandate. The activity was driven with the objectives to equip the regional and provincial key officials with the knowledge to understand the process of budget preparation and to come up with a more realistic, sufficient and sustainable budget for 2022.

Chief Administrative Officer, Edwina M. Carriaga emphasized during her welcome remarks the significance of organizing the said forum and encouraged all present to take part in every planning, decision-making and implementation of strategies. "In order to achieve the above objectives, we need to prepare the work program and from work program we can come up with our Project Procurement Management Plan (PPMP) and from that PPMP we can have our Annual Procurement Plan (APP)", she added. She also explained that for 2022 budget proposal, it will only cover the General Administration, the LFS, Agricultural Statistics Operations, Statistical Coordination and Civil Registration, the five regular activities in line with the mandate. Outputs prepared will be submitted to DBM through Central Office and these are the funds that will be directly downloaded in the regional offices. She concluded that any increase made on the items of expenditures, a note stating the intention to increase shall be provided.

Engr. Ariel E. Florendo, the Regional Director of PSA VII, expressed during his inspirational message how grateful he was for conducting the said forum. Developing the organization including leaders and individuals to deliver relevant and reliable statistics, efficient civil registration and inclusive identification system are one of the objectives he desired for the division and provinces to accomplish this year for an improved service delivery as a word-class PSA. He further explained that proposed budget should also support the core values of the organization measuring transparency and integrity so that it can be presented to any agencies as well as to the public. "I just want to remind everyone about our core values and hopefully this activity serves as an eye opener to all of us, that we are not just here for the budget but to represent the Filipino people", he added. In his conclusion, he encouraged the leaders to be strong and to stand firm in the core values since they will be representing the public.

Prior to the presentation of the provinces, Miss Xina Ixora Aranas, the Administrative Officer IV of PSA VII administered a short review on the budget cycle. Discussions focused on the definition of government budgeting and revenues, how the annual budget prepared and process of budget preparation. It aims to equip the participants with the basic knowledge and skills on identifying things to consider before making a budget proposal. Highlights of the 2020 budget were also presented to transpire allotment received, total CMI received, comparative budget (proposed vs approved) and modification of funds from MOOE to PS to finance the CNI and SRI. In addition, a presentation of outputs was demonstrated by each province. Key discussions revolved around the proposed budget for 2022, comparative disbursements incurred between 2020 and 2021 and the challenges encountered and actions taken from the previous year.

A closing remark was delivered by Miss Jessamyn Anne Alcazaren, the Chief Statistical Specialist of PSA Bohol. In her message, she emphasized how helpful the activity was especially in giving prioritization to other projects.

The said forum aims to facilitate the timely submissions of the said budget. As such, a number of concluding points for the way forward distilled from the discussions were presented to inspire new solutions and development pathways that stimulate change and reforms.  
(R. Guirit)



*Regional and provincial key officials in attendance to 2022 Budget Proposal Presentation*



*Engr. Ariel Florendo delivers his inspirational message during the 2022 Budget Proposal Forum*

# Administrative Support

## PSA 7 organizes virtual training on procurement

The Philippine Statistics Authority – Regional Statistical Services Office 7 (PSA-RSSO 7) conducted a virtual training on Republic Act No. 9184 and its Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations on 28 January 2021 with the Theme “Better Understanding of the Procurement Process for an Efficient Service Delivery under the New Normal.” This is in line with Section 16 of the 2016 Revised Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR) of the RA 9184 which states that “The Head of Procuring Entity (HoPE) shall ensure that the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), its Secretariat and Technical Working Group (TWG) members, including other relevant procurement personnel are sent to attend procurement training or capacity development program within six (6) months upon designation.” Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB) recognized Trainer and Procurement Specialist Atty. Zenaida Beting served as the resource person.

In his welcome remarks, Chief Statistical Specialist (CSS) and the Vice-Chairperson of the PSA 7 BAC, Leopoldo P. Alfanta, Jr. underscored the importance of procurement work to the operations of the office. “We need to learn from this [training] so that all of our activities and procedures in relation to doing our BAC duties will be in accordance with the law...”, he added.

PSA 7 Regional Director Ariel E. Florendo thanked Atty. Zenaida Beting for accepting the invitation to be the resource person. In his message, Director Ariel Florendo emphasized the importance of attending the procurement training of the personnel involved to avoid the risks of incurring penalties associated with the procurement law. He said that if everyone is knowledgeable and implements the learnings in this training, the office will be blessed, problems in procurement will be prevented, and eventually achieve its goal towards improved quality of life for all.

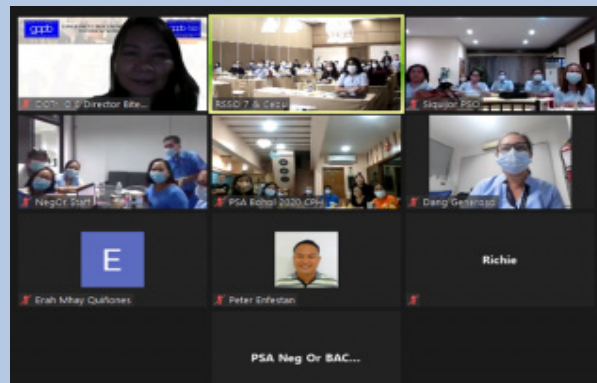
PSA 7 BAC Chairperson and Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), Edwina M. Carriaga discussed the rationale of the training. She said that the training is anchored on the theme “Better Understanding of the Procurement Process for an Efficient Service Delivery under the New Normal.” She acknowledged that in the context of procurement under the new normal, this has brought some changes or modifications in the implementation of RA 9184. There were several resolutions already released by GPPB regarding some modifications in the requirements.

Atty. Zenaida Beting started the training with discussions on the general overview of RA 9184 and its revised IRR and procurement organizations. In history, according to Atty. Beting, the country’s practice of public bidding was first introduced in the year 1900 by the Americans based on American Laws on Procurement in which no contract shall be entered into without public bidding. Prior to the enactment of the Government Procurement Reform Act, there were already several laws in procurement passed such as the 1917 Administrative Code of the Philippines, NEDA Guidelines on Procurement of Consulting Services, Presidential Decree (PD) 1594 on Procurement of Civil Works, and Executive Order (EO) 262 on Procurement of Goods. Atty. Beting discussed the different methods of procurement, compositions of the TWG, members, and secretariat of BAC including their roles and responsibilities, procurement requirements and standards, and penalties.

During the discussion and open forum, the participants were given the chance to ask questions and/or clarifications on the procurement practices. In fact, many questions and clarifications were being raised which were all answered by Atty. Beting. Surprisingly, there were previous practices that were corrected and cleared. It became an eye-opener to beginners and those who have taken part in the procurement process.

In his closing remarks, PSA 7 BAC member and Supervising Statistical Specialist Felixberto M. Sato, Jr. is hopeful that the participants are ready to implement their learnings from the training especially those who were first-timers or just recently designated as members of the procurement process. He reminded everyone to be serious about exercising their roles in the procurement activity following the procedures and standards set by the revised IRR.

The training was participated by designated personnel involved in the procurement process including the Designated Budget Officer and selected personnel from the regional and provincial offices. Participants from the regional and Cebu provincial offices were made to attend physically at a venue in Cebu City while participants from other provinces attended the training via online platform at their respective training venues. Moreover, participants were made to take the pre-test and should pass the post-test to receive their certificate of completion. (*P. Enfestan*)



Atty. Zenaida Beting (uppermost left) together with the training participants in different venues of the region pose during the virtual photo op

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