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Pursuing
Swift and Fair
Administration of
Justice

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Providing justice is a crucial element in enhancing the social fabric. It serves as a deterrent to those intending to violate the law, provides recompense and closure to the victims of those who violate the law, and gives a chance to those convicted of violating the law to face the consequence of their action and redeem themselves in society. Providing justice is the role of government, therefore, the administration of justice must be swift and fair so that people trust government.

Following the PDP, the traditional institutions-based method of justice administration will be shifted to a more sector-based approach. It highlights coordination among the justice sector institutions, agencies, and actors to ensure a swift and fair administration of justice. This historic shift will deliver justice in a way that is responsive to the demands of its constituents.

Assessment

Enhance access to justice system

Parole and probation promote the reformation of criminal offenders, reduction of the incidence of recidivism and provision of cheaper alternative to the institutional confinement of first-time offenders who are likely to respond to individualized, community-based treatment programs. In SOCCSKSARGEN (Region XII), this mandate is given to the Parole and Probation Administration-Department of Justice (PPA-DOJ) XII which espouses the advocacy of “Redeeming Lives, Restoring Relationships.”

The region has successfully implemented the 3-pronged harmonized rehabilitation programs namely: Therapeutic Community (TC) Treatment Modality, Restorative Justice and Volunteer Probation Aides

(VPAs) Program in view of the reformation and reintegration into the mainstream of society of probationers, parolees and conditional donees.

In view of transforming clients to have well-integrated personality and to be able to make appropriate adjustment to the environment, officers, staff and VPAs work hand-in-hand in integrating all the rehabilitation programs.

One hundred percent (100%) of the field offices in the region’s four (4) provinces and five (5) cities, sustained the implementation of the Therapeutic Community Ladderized Program (TCLP) for all clients under active supervision with focus on the Preparatory Phase to Phases I, II, III and IV, respectively. The table below presents the 3-Pronged Harmonized Rehabilitation Program implemented in Region XII:

Table 8: The 3-Pronged Harmonized Rehabilitation Program, Region XII

PAPS/INDICATOR	2013		2014		2015		2016	
	TARGET	ACTUAL	TARGET	ACTUAL	TARGET	ACTUAL	TARGET	ACTUAL
Therapeutic Community Modality								
▪ No. of clients participated	800	887	800	891	880	1,051	930	621
Restorative Justice								
▪ No. of clients assisted	173	222	186	248	200	800	216	272
Volunteerism (Volunteer Probation Assistance Programs)								
▪ Total number of VPAS	250	287	250	259	250	257	250	180
▪ Jail Visitation	120	144	120	144	120	144	120	144

Source of data: DOJ-BJMP XII

Jail management

Interventions to improve jail management focused on uplifting the quality of services rendered for the benefit and welfare of all inmates. Among the major activities were the provision of basic needs, such as quality food intake, medical services, hygienic materials, educational programs and livelihood seminars and workshops which were essential and worthy for inmates’ personal growth and reformation. The programs were introduced to prepare the inmates upon their return to the mainstream of society as developed, well-rounded individuals transformed from being a liability to an asset who could contribute to nation-building. As of March 2016, the population of inmates in jail facilities in the region reached 4,841.

Jail security is also one of the important aspects in the safekeeping of inmates. This was implemented through constant conduct of security surveys, security inspections, intensive intelligence gathering and construction/repair of perimeter fence, partition walls and barriers.

An essential component of the security aspect is the transportation of inmates from jail facilities to the courts of justice for the hearing of cases. Seven (7) vehicles of BJMP

of have been repaired which were deployed in the district jails of the provinces of Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat and the cities of Cotabato, General Santos and Tacurong.

In the different jail facilities across the region, various projects were implemented to uplift the welfare of prisoners that included: a) medical and dental missions; b) livelihood assistance and training; and c) strengthening of Alternative Learning System and Therapeutic Community Modality Programs.

The accomplishments in promoting the humanitarian aspect of the inmates were achieved under the Jails First Program which stands for Jail Management Services; Acquisition Retention and Development of Human Resources; Innovations and Good Practices; Logistics Support; and Support from the Top.

The various programs and activities were aimed at attaining the specific strategies in the Plan to address jail decongestion, safeguard the welfare of inmates, support the rehabilitation/improvement/expansion and construction of jail and other related facilities, and increase the subsistence allocation for inmates according to the prevailing price of food commodities measured in terms of the public funds spent for this purpose.

Challenges

There is a need to improve access to justice system due to the following:

Inadequate manpower to improve the delivery of justice system

With an annual increase of 26 percent in the number of inmates, the workload of Probation and Parole officers has increased. The Dangerous Drugs Board tapped the services of DOJ-PPA through a MOA to assist drug dependents through Voluntary Submission Program. The responsibilities of the officers have further increased as the clients under the Release on Recognizance and Good Conduct Time Allowance Provisions are expected to increase under the present Administration.

Lack of logistics support and resources

Along with inadequate manpower support, logistics support is lacking in terms of transportation, firearms and ammunitions

for use of BJMP personnel in the performance of their duties.

The allocation for daily meal allowance of inmates remains low at PhP60.00 per day despite the recommendation of the Regional Development Council XII to increase the amount.

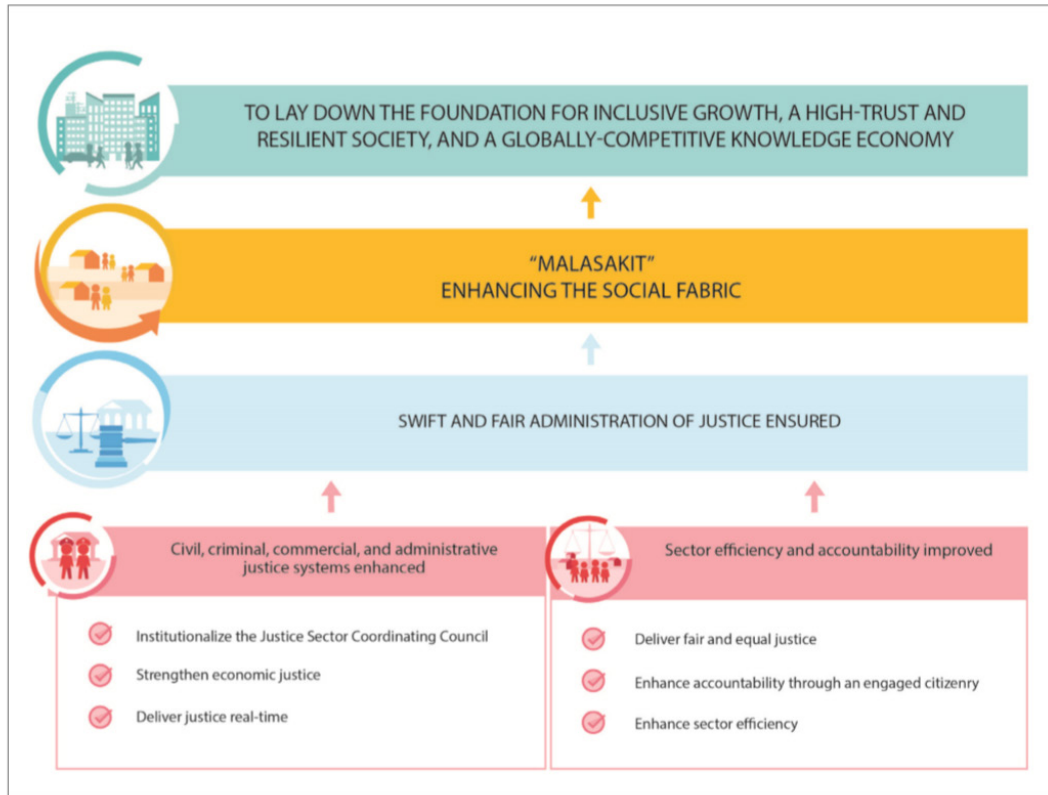
Congested jail facilities

Jail facilities in the region are highly congested. The efficiency of the government in putting the criminals behind bars adds pressure on jail facilities with a congestion rate reaching 600 percent. With facilities that are deteriorating and in decrepit condition, these are vulnerable to jail breaks and attacks particularly for high-risk, high-profile and violent extremist offenders.

Presence of children in conflict with the law

There are children who are repeat offenders but are merely turned over to the DSWD because they are considered minors.

Figure 5: Strategic Framework for a Swift and Fair Administration of Justice, 2017-2022



Priority Strategy

Achieving swift and fair administration of justice is one of the foundations for enhancing the social fabric by upholding the country’s justice system through strengthening institutions to prevent crimes and lawlessness. Among the priority strategies are the following:

- Therapeutic Community Program into Therapeutic Community Ladderized Program.
- Institutionalize the Restorative Justice Program.
- Revitalize the Volunteer Probation Assistance (VPA) Program with Volunteer Probation Assistant

On Parole and Probation Services –

- Continue implementing programs to improve systems and administrative operations to be able to provide effective and efficient services not only to its direct clients but also to the community.
- Enhance the 3-Pronged harmonized rehabilitation program, such as the

On Jail Management –

- Provide adequate manpower complement (jail wardens and guards).
- Provide logistics support to properly respond to the needs of the population and the community.
- Ease the congestion of jail facilities to safeguard the welfare of inmates.

- Support the rehabilitation/improvement/expansion and construction of jail and other related facilities.
- Increase the subsistence allocation for inmates according to the prevailing price of food commodities.
- Provide a special cell for children in conflict with the law, particularly those who are recidivists or repeat offenders.

Priority Legislative Agenda

To support the sound administration of justice, the following legal issuances have to be reviewed and enhanced:

- PD 968 (as amended by RA 10707), that provided rules on convicts who are eligible for pardon under the old statute.
- RA 4103 (Indeterminate Sentence Law), is an old law, dating back to the American period. It affects all criminal laws, whether from the Revised Penal Code or not so long as they do not fall into the instances enumerated by the indeterminate sentence law itself. The purposes of this law are the following: a) promote the prisoner's reformation by allowing him to serve sentence under a parole officer; b) decongest the jails by allowing prisoners to be admitted into parole; c) allow the government to save money on maintaining the jails; and d) prevent the prisoners' economic usefulness from going to waste.
- RA 9344 (Juvenile Justice Welfare Act) which seeks to reduce to 10 years old from the current 15 years old the age of offenders.
- RA 10389 (Recognizance Act of 2012), an Act providing for the reparation and recognition of victims of human rights violations during the Marcos regime, documentation of said violations, appropriating funds therefor and for other purposes.
- RA 10592 (Good Conduct Time Allowance), otherwise known as an Act amending Articles 29, 94, 97, 98 and 99 of Act no. 3815 authorizes the credit of preventive imprisonment and a revised schedule of good conduct time allowance in the initial computation should a penalty is handed down. The law further allows the Director of Corrections, Chief of BJMP, Warden (provincial, district, municipal or city jail to grant allowances for good conduct. Previously, it is the Director of Corrections who is the only one authorized to grant such reduction scheme.

Results Matrix

The RDP, 2017-2022 aims to ensure that justice is administered fairly and swiftly. In order to address the pervasive and persisting issues of the justice system, there will be an overhaul of existing mechanisms. At

the core of the methodological shift is a streamlined interdependence among the justice sector institutions, a process that recognizes their respective jurisdictions and mandates.

Table 9: Results Matrix for Pursuing Swift and Fair Administration of Justice, Region XII, 2017-2022

INDICATOR	BASELINE		YEAR					
	YEAR	VALUE	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Societal Goal: To lay down the foundation for inclusive growth, a high trust and resilient society, and a globally-competitive knowledge economy								
Intermediate Goal: Swift and fair administration of justice ensured								
Sector Outcome 1: Civil, criminal, commercial and administrative justice systems enhanced								
Sub-sector Outcome 1: Security management of inmates								
K9 units created (narcotics/contraband detection dogs) sustained	2016	--	14	3	3	3	4	4
Sub-sector Outcome 2: Maintenance and improvement of jail facilities and equipment								
Jail congestion rate improved (%)	2016	600	Decreasing					
No. of jails improved	2016	--	-	3	1	1	1	-
No. of jail buildings constructed	2016	--	3	5	5	1	1	1
Percentage of inmates secured maintained (%)	2016	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Sub-sector Outcome 3: Welfare and development program thru percentage of inmates benefitted sustained/maintained by:								
Health care services (medical, dental, health education)	2016	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Spiritual services	2016	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Livelihood services	2016	22	22	22	22	22	22	22
Educational services	2016	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
Guidance and counselling	2016	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Physical fitness services	2016	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Therapeutic Community Modality Program	2016	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
Clients rehabilitated increased	2016	621	650	675	700	725	750	775
Cases investigated and disposed increased	2016	490	515	540	565	590	620	650

Source of data: BJMP XII/DOJ-Parole and Probation Administration (PPA) XII