



One of the mandates of the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) is to strengthen the local government units so they can incorporate the Social Reform Agenda (SRA) in their local development efforts. It is also tasked to coordinate and serve as an advisory body to ensure that the SRA is also incorporated into the formulation not only of the local but also of national, regional, and sub-regional development plans.

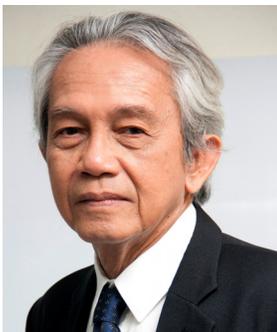
For these reasons, NAPC, in partnership with the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the CBMS Network, and various local government units (LGUS), embarked in the implementation of the community-based monitoring system (CBMS) in select areas in the country. The results were beneficial not only to the LGUS but also to key national government agencies because CBMS provided data and information necessary for diagnosing the extent of poverty at the local level, for developing evidence-based policy-making, and for program monitoring and assessment. In addition, the CBMS process also provided opportunities for community members to participate in data generation and validation thereby creating a culture of empowerment.

Because of these gains, the NAPC, with the guidance of our partners particularly the CBMS Network, has spearheaded the development of Rapid CBMS which will utilize either cell phones or android tablets in data

gathering. This will reduce the cost of, and the time for, implementation as some steps like data encoding will be automated. Computer programs with friendly users' interface were also developed to ensure that data utilization and management will be easier. Secondly, NAPC is also advocating to national government and other funding partners to finance the nationwide implementation of CBMS so that LGUs, rich or poor, will both enjoy the gains that may be provided by the system. NAPC was able to show that the rapid CBMS technology is feasible and, with the stories that our CBMS-implementing LGUs will share, we have high hopes that the nationwide implementation will also be realized.

This CBMS National Conference will provide an avenue for our CBMS implementing-LGUs to tell their stories.

May we be inspired by them and, to use the oft-quoted line: May their tribe increase!



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