

**INDUSTRY ROADMAPS AND THE AEC GAMEPLAN:
ROADMAP LOCALIZATION FOR COMPETITIVENESS**
THE LEGEND HOTEL, PUERTO PRINCESA, PALAWAN
OCTOBER 15, 2015

WAY FORWARD & CLOSING REMARKS

NESTOR ARCANSALIN
DIRECTOR, BOARD OF INVESTMENTS

Good afternoon. It is my pleasure to wrap up our localization conference here in Region IV-B.

Our distinguished speakers today have pointed out the vast opportunities for our country in the ASEAN Economic Community, or the AEC. We heard that in order to take advantage of these, we need to constantly improve our competitiveness and help our industries move up their value chains through the effective implementation of our new industrial policy.

As presented by Asec. Aldaba, our new industrial policy focuses on a more pro-active government that acts as an enabler, coordinator and facilitator in addressing the most binding constraints to the development of our industries and MSMEs. The private sector remains to be the primary driver of economic growth through investment and entrepreneurship; the major role of government is to create an environment conducive to doing business and to enable our firms to become more productive and competitive.

Today's discussions have shown that an industrial strategy is critical to maintain the growth momentum of our economy. We in DTI and BOI, together with our partners in the private sector, have embarked on the formulation and implementation of national roadmaps for our industries. The challenge now is to encourage our regions to adopt the same approach and harmonize regional plans with our national strategies.

In doing this, among the concerns we have to keep in mind are the following: How do we position our industries in the light of ASEAN integration and a highly globalized environment? How do we upgrade our industries and better capacitate our MSMEs? And how can manufacturing be the engine of growth in order to create more and better jobs for our people and reduce poverty in our country?

Taking all these into account, the next step is for our stakeholders in the regions – those of you here in MIMAROPA – to formulate regional roadmaps that will provide a clear picture of where the region and its industries are at the moment, define where you want to go, and strategize how you want to get there.

Other regions have begun taking these steps. Region 11 has planned to have 17 industry roadmaps, 11 of which have already been shared with us in DTI. Region 6 has

already identified its own priority sectors to transform their economy. After our localization conference in their regions, the regional directors of CAR, CALABARZON, and Central Luzon have also expressed their willingness in pursuing their own road mapping activities.

Let me reassure you, our stakeholders here in Region IV-B, that we in the national office are ready to provide you with the support that you would need.

In concluding our fruitful conference, allow me to thank the DTI Regional Operations Group (ROG) led by Undersecretary Zeny Maglaya. Our series of localization conferences in the regions is a convergence activity between the DTI ROG and our Industry Development Group (IDG). Our thanks as well to our speakers: PD Marcelina Alcantara, NEDA Asst. RD Jose Romeo Escandor, Ms. Anne Robeniol, Ms. Elpe Canoog, Ms. Agnes Legaspi, Ms. Florence Sevilla, and Mr. Pedro Cruz. And of course,

our special thanks to the team of DTI IV-B Regional Office, headed by RD Joel Valera.

To all of our distinguished participants, thank you and please remember that this conference is just the initial step. The way forward is the formulation of your regional roadmaps, to be led by the private sector with the support of the DTI, BOI, NEDA, and the RDC.

Again, implementing our new industrial policy is the best way to improve our competitiveness, upgrade industries, move up the value chain, create more and better jobs, achieve economic transformation, and attain sustainable and inclusive growth.

Thank you and good afternoon.