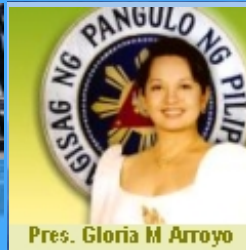




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### Samar LGU LRED clusters conduct stakeholders forum

Tacloban City (March 1) -- A Stakeholders Forum for the South Maqueda Bay and South Samar municipalities LRED Clusters is set to be conducted on March 4, from 8:00 o'clock in the morning to 5:00 o'clock in the afternoon at the Conference Room of the DTI Regional Office 8 at Pawing, Palo, Leyte.

This was learned from Department of Trade and Industry Samar Provincial Director Asisclo T. Belena who said that the activity will be graced by no less than His Excellency the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Philippines.

Director Belena said that the overall objective of the Stakeholders Forum is to conduct a Focus Group Discussion that would identify the common problems of the clusters through the Rapid Economic Appraisal System.

Specifically, the Stakeholders Forum hopes to provide a venue for interaction with the German Ambassador to the Philippines; to present the updates and status of LRED implementation in Samar province; and to come up with an Action Plan on Maqueda Bay Development of the South Maqueda Bay Municipalities LRED Cluster and the Agricultural Production and Development of the South Samar Municipalities LRED Clusters.

Director Belena said that LRED stands for Local Regional Economic Development, a participatory planning and implementation process aimed at mobilizing local resources resulting towards greater economic activity and inevitably, development. In short, LRED is a strategic path towards economic development.

LRED is one of the major interventions in the Small and Medium Enterprise Development for Sustainable Employment Program (SMEDSEP), a development cooperation project between the Philippines and Germany which aims to improve the business and investment climate for SME in the Philippines, especially in the Visayas.

SMEDSEP contributes to the efforts of the Philippine government to improve the framework conditions for private sector development in the country. It is implemented in partnership with the Department of Trade and Industry at the national, regional and provincial levels on behalf of the Philippine government and the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

GTZ is an international cooperation enterprise for sustainable development with worldwide operations owned by the German Government. For 30 years, it has been providing forward looking contributions to political, economic, ecological and social development in partner countries.

GTZ supports reform and change processes in an increasingly globalized world, often working under difficult conditions. Its major approach to facilitate change is promoting capacity development of people and partner organizations as well as improving institutions and frame conditions in partner countries. The joint projects and programs are outcome and impact oriented and contributes towards socioeconomic progress. (PIA 8)

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