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### Local entrepreneurs urged to get involved in LRED

Kalinga (8 August) -- Congressman Manuel Agyao of the Lone District of Kalinga is encouraging the active participation and involvement of local entrepreneurs in the Local and Regional Economic Development (LRED) "to bring progress and development" in the province.

In his keynote speech during the LRED validation and action planning in the province, the solon said that this project is one way of "bringing the government to the people."

"This is people empowerment. It enhances private sector participation and it affords the people the right to partake an active role in the formulation of public policies that affect their lives directly," he said.

Expressing appreciation for the selection of Kalinga to pilot LRED in the Cordillera Region, Agyao said that this will definitely improve the business and investment climate of Kalinga as long as the people are united and supportive to meet the goals of said endeavor.

Through the Rapid Economic Appraisal (REA) Survey of LRED, the people he said are given a voice to avail of government services to improve their economic situations towards a holistic economic development of the country.

He underscored the significant contribution of the people as the major stakeholders, urging concerned government agencies to give priority to their concerns stressing that "ordinary citizens will always be the object and purpose of development."

"Let us remember that our people need a government that listens more than it speaks," he said. "I urge each and every one of you to reflect and be keen about what you can do to help bring progress into our communities," he added.

As a result of the REA survey, the 224 respondents have identified at least 16 vital concerns in the province to be taken into consideration in the LRED Planning. The top three points include the attitude of people, high cost of power, water and farm inputs and management of services and utilities.

LRED is a participatory, action oriented and holistic approach wherein the public and private stakeholders in a locality jointly improve conditions for economic growth and employment generation with the objective to improve and enhance investment climate in certain localities.

In line with the government's development support to local entrepreneurs, said program was instigated in 2004 with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) as lead agency through the support of the German Technical Cooperation - GTZ. (ggd/PIA-Kalinga) [\[top\]](#)

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