

## Chapter 5

# Ensuring People-Centered, Clean and Efficient Governance

The development of Central Visayas is underpinned by the region's adherence to good governance and sound institutions. Institutions provide the rules, organizations, social norms and the system for their enforcement, which are necessary for economic growth and long-run development.

Institutional and governance issues, including corruption, red tape, weak enforcements of contracts and laws, need to be addressed to improve not only the investment climate of the region, but more importantly to ensure that the development of the region becomes socially inclusive.

## Assessment and Challenges

Central Visayas pursued programs aimed at promoting good governance and further strengthening the development institutions in the region. In line with the region's pursuit of bureaucratic reform for better governance, a total of 161 government offices had approved and already have functional strategic performance management system (SPMS) from 2012 to 2016. The compliance with the SPMS provided the concrete linkage between the agencies' organizational performance and the Philippine and Regional Development Plans.

The region likewise continued to promote and strengthen decentralization among the LGUs through the implementation of the Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG). The SGLG assessed the LGUs in the region on three core areas of governance, namely: good financial housekeeping; disaster preparedness; and social protection. It

also assessed LGUs on three other essential areas such as business friendliness and competitiveness, peace and order, and environmental management. To be considered for the SGLG Award, the LGUs needed to pass the three core areas, and at least one of the three essential areas.

In CY 2015, the provinces of Bohol, Cebu, Negros Oriental and Siquijor were conferred the SGLG award by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG). Twenty-three cities and municipalities in the regions were also conferred the SGLG awards as enumerated in Table 5.1.

The region's development councils continued to provide for greater collaboration between the government and the private sectors in promoting inclusive growth. At the barangay level, all barangays in the region had operationalized their respective local development councils.

The region also intensified the implementation of Republic Act No. 9485, otherwise known as the

**Table 5.1 Seal of Good Local Governance Awardees, Central Visayas, 2015**

PROVINCE	AWARDEES
Bohol	Bohol Province, Alicia, Danao, Loboc, Loon, Maribojoc, Panglao, San Miguel, Sierra Bullones, Talibon
Cebu	Cebu Province, Argao, Bantayan, Dalaguete, Dumanjug, Malabuyoc, Medellin, Oslob, San Remigio
Negros Oriental	Negros Oriental Province, Bais City, Dumaguete City, Mabinay, San Jose, Sibulan, Zamboanguita
Siquijor	Siquijor Province, Maria, Siquijor

*Source: Department of Interior and Local Government*

Anti-Red Tape Act of 2007 (ARTA). Based on the Report Card Survey for 2015 covering 65 government offices, 13 offices were rated Excellent; 43 offices were rated Good; five offices were rated Acceptable; and only four offices failed.

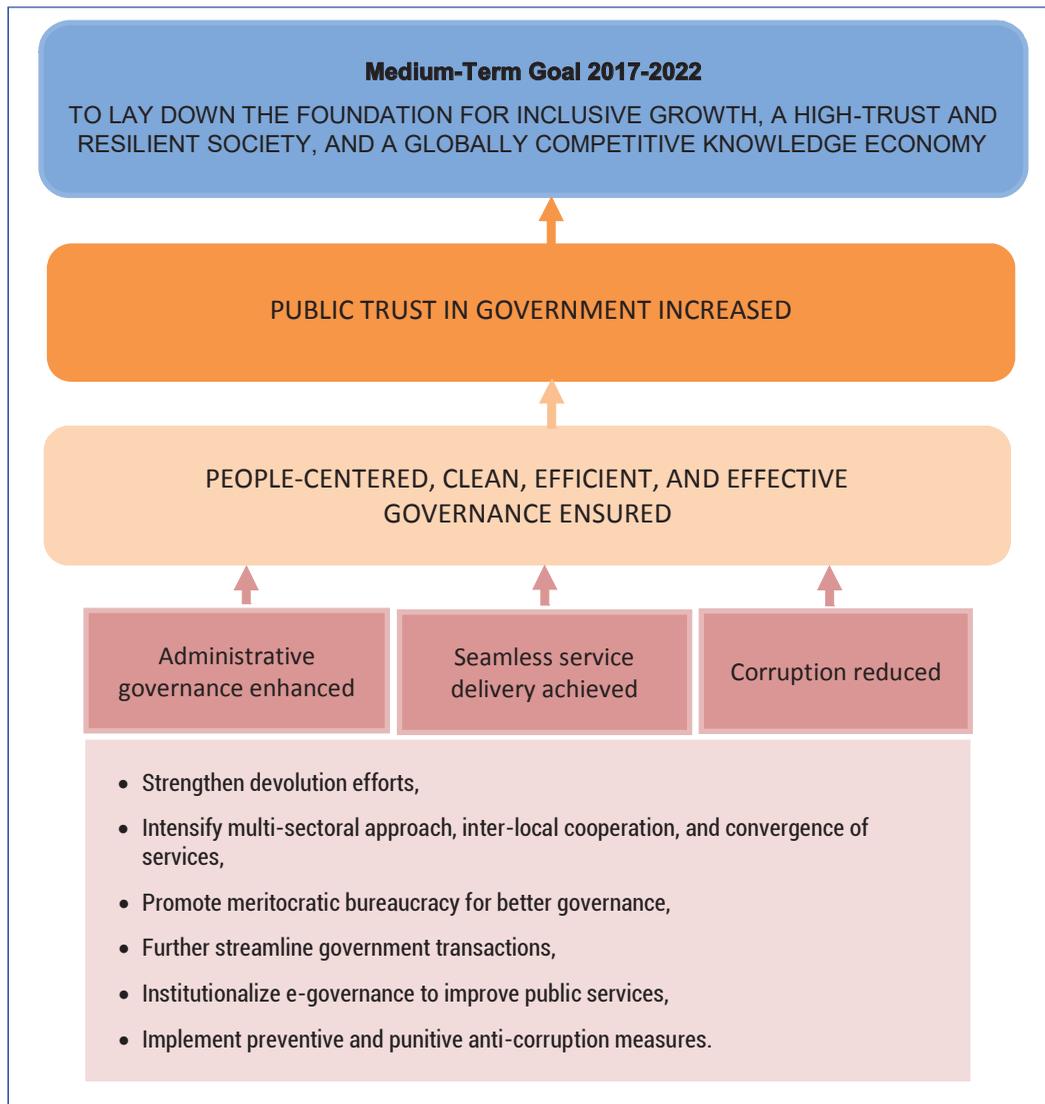
Formal institutions in the form of laws, rules and regulations have been in place in the region, e.g. Local Government Code (LGC) of 1991, Local Development Councils (LDC), the Regional Development Council (RDC). The major challenge facing the region in terms of governance is not the absence of laws, regulations, plans and programs; but rather, the lack of good implementation and/or enforcement system.

A case in point is the preparation of the comprehensive land use plans (CLUPs) by the LGUs as required in the LGC. Based on the records of the HLURB, almost all CLUPs in Central Visayas are not compliant with the enhanced guidelines on mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in the CLUPs. While 95 percent of the LGUs in the region have existing CLUPs, these land use plans have not been updated. The oldest CLUP on record was approved in 31 July 1980. Further, five LGUs in Central Visayas have not yet prepared their respective CLUPs.

Another legal mandate that needs to be fully maximized is the power of the LGUs to generate local revenues. In 2015, the region posted a rate of dependency on the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) of 86 percent, which was an improvement of the 88 percent IRA dependency in the previous year. However, many LGUs in the region are still highly dependent on the IRA, indicating that these LGUs have not capitalized on fiscal decentralization that was accorded to them by the LGC. (*see Chapter 15*)

A good indicator of the level of public trust on clean and efficient governance is the number of complaints lodged with the Office of the Ombudsman against erring public officials. In 2015, the Office of the Deputy Ombudsman for the Visayas received a total of 3,327 complaints covering the four regions of the Visayas. Most of the cases filed with the Office of the Ombudsman involved personnel from the LGUs and other government offices performing frontline services. These frontline personnel are in constant contact with the people thereby allowing the public to observe and scrutinize their conduct in the delivery of public services. The most common charge against public officials is the violation of Republic Act No. 3019, otherwise known as the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

**Figure 5.1 Strategic Framework to Ensure People-Centered, Clean, Efficient, and Effective Governance, 2017-2022**



## Strategic Framework

The socio-economic development of Central Visayas rests on the pillars of good governance and sound public institutions, peace and security, and ecological integrity. Good governance and sound institutions in particular enable the region to produce the intended outcomes of inclusive growth and improved quality of life as enunciated in its development plans and programs.

## Strategies

**Strengthen devolution efforts.** The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and DILG will continue to assist LGUs in enhancing their capacity on development planning, project development, and resource mobilization to enable them to effectively and efficiently manage the development of their localities. Strengthening decentralization among LGUs requires the implementation and

continuous monitoring of the LGUs' adherence to the NEDA-DILG-DBM-DOF Joint Memorandum Circular No. 1, s. 2007. This also requires providing incentives for LGUs to become less dependent on the Internal Revenue Allotment, and to mobilize own resource revenues and innovative financing. (*See Chapter 15*)

Strengthening administrative decentralization likewise requires the LGUs to pursue inter-LGU cooperation/collaboration in the management of concerns that cut across territorial/political boundaries of a number or cluster of LGUs. These concerns include flood control, traffic, mass transport system and aqua-fisheries development.

The local development councils including the Regional Development Council (RDC) shall be strengthened as venues/fora for government-private sector collaboration and partnerships.

**Promote meritocratic bureaucracy for better governance.** The professionalization of the government workforce shall be pursued and sustained through the promotion of meritocracy in the hiring and promotion of employees. Further, moral recovery shall be the centerpiece in the efforts to professionalize the public sector.

The Civil Service Commission (CSC) will continue to promote meritocracy in the hiring and promotion of employees to depoliticize the civil service. Agencies and LGUS will be required to implement courses on good governance for their workers to enhance their capacities in the performance of their work.

The provision of incentives, in the form of rewards, and team building exercises will be

continued to be undertaken to encourage the government workforce to strive for excellence in their work.

**Further streamline government transactions.** Agencies and LGUs will work at further streamlining and simplifying their administrative and regulatory systems and procedures under the anti-red tape program.

The ARTA will be vigorously implemented and compliance by government agencies and LGUs will be strictly monitored, with appropriate sanctions to be handed out for non-compliance. Front line agencies will also establish one-stop shops to service their clientele more efficiently.

E-Governance will be institutionalized in the region as all regional line agencies and LGUs take advantage of the E-Commerce Act and start using information and communication technology (ICT) to improve public services.

**Implement preventive and punitive anti-corruption measures.** The anti-corruption campaign shall employ the multi-sectoral approach that would engage the participation not only of the government offices but also the church, civil society organizations, the academe and the business sector. In the context of this multi-sectoral approach, the corruption prevention shall be given equal, if not more, focus with the investigation and prosecution of cases.

Given the limited resources of the government to fight corruption, the prevention component through effective education and advocacy has to be intensively pursued.

## Legislative Agenda

To complement and support the actions of the executive branch, the legislations outlined in Table 5.2 will be required.

*Table 5.2 Legislative Agenda to Ensure People-centered, Clean, Efficient, and Effective Governance, 2017-2022*

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA	RATIONALE
<b>Strengthen devolution efforts</b>	
Amendment of the Local Government Code of 1991 (Republic Act No. 7610)	The Local Government Code of 1991, which took effect more than 25 years ago on 01 January 1992, needs to be reviewed and amended to provide for a more responsive and accountable local government structure.
<b>Implementation of preventive and punitive anti-corruption measures</b>	
Amendment of the Ombudsman Act of 1989 (Republic Act No. 6770)	The review and amendment of the Ombudsman Act of 1989 shall be pursued in order to strengthen the powers of the Ombudsman, particularly in the conduct of investigation.
Amendment of the Law on Secrecy of Bank Deposits (Republic Act 1405)	The Law on Secrecy of Bank Deposits shall be amended to allow the Office of the Ombudsman to gain access into deposit accounts of government officials under investigation by the Ombudsman.