

THE RLA AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT IN ARMM

Options on Exercising Regional
Legislative Authority for Health
and Education Outcomes

RLA As Regional Policy Maker

- May “exercise legislative power of the autonomous government for the benefit of the people and the development of the region” (up to political will of RLA)
- Unique in Philippine law and politics
- Relatively young institution
- Full role and impact yet to be realized in actual practice and implementation

HD Issues Amenable to Legislative Solutions (1)

- Revenue generation from regional sources and regional spending for HD financed by regional revenues
- Greater scope for autonomously legislated HD activities if financed by regional revenues
- Effective in topping-off, supplementing, or complementing NG spending for HD in ARMM

HD Issues Amenable to Legislative Solutions (2)

- Mandate provincial, city and municipal contribution and participation in regional delivery of HD services (“ARMM version of devolution”)
- Important to convince, induce or require LGUs to co-finance and co-manage health, education and social welfare services provided by ARG

HD Issues Amenable to Legislative Solutions (3)

- Re-structuring of regional delivery network and organization for HD services, provided such is expenditure neutral
- Wide scope for streamlining, deconcentration, community participation, LGU involvement, and private sector involvement in health and education

HD Issues Amenable to Legislative Solutions (4)

- Re-definition of program content of regional HD services, provided such is expenditure neutral
- Wide scope for priority-setting, more appropriate technical approaches, and more cost-effective measures in ARMM conditions

HD Issues Amenable to Legislative Solutions (5)

- Stronger accountability to ARMM residents of regional HD service delivery performance
- Wide scope of monitoring, performance assessment, and operational (as opposed to financial) audit under legislative authority

Political Influence of RLA on NG Policies Affecting HD in ARMM

- RLA could strengthen policy influence of Regional Governor relative to key national agencies
- Critical to influence DepEd, DOH, DSWD, Philhealth and formulation of national budget provisions for ARMM in national executive and Congress
- Important to focus on key target indicators rather than on project “crumbs”