AUSTRALIA’S DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION PROGRAM IN THE PHILIPPINES

- Background
- How we work
- Our investment priorities
- Opportunities for engagement
BACKGROUND: AUSTRALIA IN THE PHILIPPINES

• Longstanding, comprehensive partnership
  o Over 70 years of diplomatic relations
  o Longstanding development program; Second largest grant donor
  o Strong people-to-people links
  o Shared economic & security interests in world’s fastest growing region

• Strong growth; enormous potential, but AMIC transitions fraught with risk
  o Domestic: rising inequality, regional disparity, instability
  o Global: climate change, automation and AI

• How can Australia help navigate these challenges?

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HOW WE WORK

• Alignment with Philippine Government priorities – PDP; SDGs
  • Focus on Mindanao, especially Bangsamoro Autonomous Region
  • Focus on Australia’s comparative advantages

• Seek to strengthen Philippine institutions; leverage Philippine resources
  • Targeted technical assistance to improve policies and systems
  • Support reforms essential for continued inclusive growth
  • Focus on gender equality and social inclusion

• We deliver through a range of partners: multilateral, managing contractors and civil society organisations
AUSTRALIA’S INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

• Our overarching goal is a **stable, prosperous and resilient Philippines**

➢ 3 pillars

1. Foundations for economic growth
   o Infrastructure (PPPs);
   o Economic reform (e.g. PFM; biz enabling environment)
   o Improving women’s economic participation
   o Education (workforce development)
   o Agricultural research partnerships to improve productivity
   o Social protection

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INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

2. **Stronger institutions for transparent, accountable governance**
   - Targeted policy reforms to unlock binding constraints
     - Bringing together government, private sector, civil society in coalitions for change
   - Scholarships; alumni engagement

3. **Improving conditions for peace & stability**
   - Bangsamoro political transition
   - Community resilience and cohesion
   - Promoting peace through education
   - Humanitarian response – including Marawi response
   - Climate and disaster resilience
OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT

• Commercial contracting, sub-contracting and job opportunities forecast on new, searchable DFAT portal: http://ausconnect.dfat.gov.au

  o Eager to work with new partners, including private sector partners
  o Advisory services registers

• Business Partnerships Platform to accelerate private sector collaboration

• Long planning and implementation cycles: Philippines pipeline fairly full

• Not only for program/project delivery but broader collaboration, e.g.
  ▪ joint education reform advocacy,
  ▪ promoting gender quality in the workplace
  ▪ collaboration on disaster resilience & response
  ▪ tackling child online exploitation
Thank you