

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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In line with Bohol's Development Path and the National Government's development thrusts as embodied in the 10-point Agenda of Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, the Provincial Medium-Term Development Plan CY 2004-2009 reflects concerns related to poverty reduction and sustainable development in the plan formulation, including project identification for each of the sectors. The objective is to put in place projects which can expand the outreach of basic services to socio-economically disadvantaged households and groups, as well as ensure pro-poor and sustainable economic growth.

In the **Social Development Sector**, the MTDP aims to

- reduce the number of households living below the poverty line to 38%;
- reduce population growth rate from 2.9% to 2.6%;
- reduce school dropout rate and illiteracy;
- improve access to education through construction of new school buildings and at least 540 new classrooms as well as provide desks/armchairs to 50 public schools in addition to books and computers;
- provide scholarships to at least 2,850 deserving high school graduates and students of poor families;
- reduce the number of households without sanitary toilets by 75% (28,168 households);
- reduce the number of households with doubtful sources of drinking water to 10%;
- reduce the number of malnourished children and Infant Mortality Rate by 1% a year and Maternal Mortality Rate by 2% a year;
- reduce housing backlog especially in critical areas such as in Tagbilaran City, in the twelve rapidly urbanizing municipalities and/or the municipalities identified under the Bohol Poverty Reduction Program.

Public investments for the plan period under the various sub-sectors of the Social Development Sector are as follows: education and human resources development, 45 programs/projects (PhP 5.1B); health, nutrition and population development, 8 programs/projects (PhP 66.2M); social welfare and development, 11 programs/projects (PhP 3.1B); housing and community development, 25 programs/projects (PhP 4.6 B); cultural enrichment and preservation, 51 programs/projects (PhP 3.98 B).

Total public investments under the sector amount to Php 16.85 Billion for the five-year period.

In the **Economic Development Sector**, the MTDP aims to

- increase to 4.0 metric tons per hectare the average production of rice and increase production of high value commercial crops such as mango, vegetable, cutflower and ubi;
- increase livestock population (cattle, 2%; carabao, 2%; small ruminants, 20%; poultry and swine, 3%), as well as fisheries by an average of 25%;
- create a total of 6,000 jobs through micro-enterprises by 2006;
- promote micro-enterprise development by making available ₱341.0 million to microentrepreneurs/small business owners;
- develop 10,000 hectares of land for agricultural business;

- improve the database on unemployment;
- enhance technology support to livelihood development;
- involve LGUs and local communities in the identification, development and promotion of priority eco-cultural tourism sites;
- promote complementation of livelihood activities undertaken by various agencies and offices and provide poverty focus to livelihood activities;
- provide micro-finance support to livelihood activities of poverty groups.

Total public investments under the sector total Php 1.976 Billion.

In the **Environment and Natural Resources Management Sector**, the MTDP aims to

- conduct an inventory of idle land, both privately and publicly owned, and formulate/implement a project to make it productive through the engagement of unemployed youth (15-30 age group);
- rehabilitate 3,400 hectares of open and denuded areas within the watershed and forest reserves;
- implement community-based reforestation program;
- ensure the immediate formulation and implementation of Initial Protected Area Management Plans as well as enforcement of laws related to the protection of watersheds and wildlife habitats;
- map and create biodiversity corridors to connect forest fragments;
- reduce soil erosion and sedimentation in the critical watershed areas;
- develop and implement a karst landscape management program;
- promote organic and diversified farming to improve soil fertility and structure;
- institutionalize innovative and appropriate monitoring and evaluation systems for biodiversity conservation;
- protect and rehabilitate small watersheds that are potential sources of local water supply;
- organize a water quality monitoring body;
- implement the Provincial Water Supply, Sewerage and Sanitation Sector Plan;
- integrate concerns about mineral resource development or impact of mining on the environment in local plans or development agenda;
- ensure the conduct of poverty profiling and the preparation of Local Poverty Reduction Plans (LPRAPs) in coastal communities and other barangays in small islands, watersheds and the uplands;
- reduce the negative impact of garbage on health and environment;
- implement the Integrated Ecological Solid Waste Management Act with the involvement of barangays, puroks or sitios;
- enhance the promotion of recycled products to protect the environment and augment household income;
- conduct a comprehensive hydrological study for the whole province;
- establish buffer zones around air and noise polluting establishments;
- implement laws and proposed measures in support of the campaign against water and air pollution; and
- establish a global warming monitoring and prediction system;

- provide safety nets for poverty groups that will be potentially marginalized by conservation activities.

Total public investments in this sector amount to Php 392 Million.

In the **Development Administration Sector**, the MTDP aims to

- support peace and order initiatives as incorporated in the Bohol Agenda for Poverty Reduction, Peace and Development;
- decrease crime rate by 25%;
- increase revenue collection by 80% and explore non-tax sources of revenues;
- implement electronic bidding for bulk purchases to improve efficiency and ensure transparency in transactions;
- cut down bureaucratic red tape to facilitate access of people to services;
- establish a Financial Management Information System;
- decongest municipal jails by hastening trials of pending court cases;
- maintain a Geographic Information System for land use mapping, poverty mapping, environmental monitoring and monitoring socio-economic data;
- address the multiplicity of mandated local councils and improve their effectivity;
- organize and/or reactivate puroks in all 47 municipalities of the province;
- formulate and implement a long-term staff development plan for provincial and municipal government officers directly involved with poverty reduction programs;
- organize and train Local Poverty Reduction Action Teams (LPRATs) at municipal and barangay levels;
- prepare 3-Year Municipal/Barangay Local Poverty Reduction Action Plans (LPRAPs);
- Support the LPRAPs through the Annual Development Plan and the Annual Investment Plan;
- Establish and strengthen the Project Development and Monitoring Unit (PDMU) of the PPDO to keep track of poverty reduction projects implemented at all levels;
- Establish a Community-based Reporting and Monitoring System (CBRMS) linking all levels of governance;
- Involve the Provincial Development Council (PDC) and its sectoral committees in providing policy and other support especially to the poverty reduction efforts of the Government;
- upgrade 85% of all obsolete facilities and equipment in LGU offices;

Total public investments in this sector amount to Php 115 Million.

In the **Infrastructure Development Sector**, the MTDP aims to

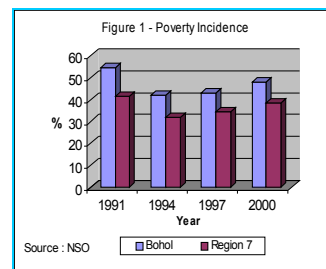
- improve existing air and sea transport facilities;
- construct 3.978 kilometers of drainage facilities in Tagbilaran City;
- concrete 394.551 kilometers of roads;

- prepare a provincewide masterplan and detailed engineering studies for water, wastewater treatment plants and sewerage using the surface water of Loboc, Abatan and Inabanga Rivers;
- expand the service coverage for water supply in urban areas, 60% to 95%; water supply in rural areas, 59% to 93%; urban household toilets, 83% to 98%; rural household toilets, 77% to 98%; school toilets, 82% to 95%; public toilets, 98% to 100%; urban area sewerage, 42% to 90%;
- provide irrigation facilities to 85% of irrigable areas;
- improve the Information Technology (IT) infrastructures of the province to increase its global connectivity and access;
- expand service coverage of telephone and cell sites in the province; and
- energize 100% of barangays in the province and all puroks in Tagbilaran City.

Total public investments for this sector amounts to Php 10,026.66 Billion.

### **Integrating GMA's 10-Point Agenda & the Millenium Development Goals in Addressing Local Poverty** *Poverty Reduction As Focus Of The Medium-term Development Plan for CY 2004-2009*

In support of the Millennium Development Goals set during the Millennium Summit held at the United Nations in September 2000 and, also, in line with the national thrust of poverty reduction, the Bohol Provincial Government embark on a program to fight poverty on a number of fronts. The alarming increase in the percentage of families living below the poverty level in Bohol from 1994 to 2000 (Figure 1) posed an enormous challenge to Bohol's leaders. Based on official figures released by the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB, 2000), Bohol has 47.3% of its households below the poverty line in Year 2000. The province ranked number 16 among the country's top 20 provinces in terms of poverty incidence. Some of the factors cited for the high poverty incidence in Bohol have to do with seasonal employment, particularly in agriculture; minimal opportunities for off-farm employment compared to the tremendous growth in labor force; decrease in the purchasing power of the peso; and rapid population growth.



Based on official figures released by the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB, 2000), Bohol has 47.3% of its households below the poverty line in Year 2000. The province ranked number 16 among the country's top 20 provinces in terms of poverty incidence. Some of the factors cited for the high poverty incidence in Bohol have to do with seasonal employment, particularly in agriculture; minimal opportunities for off-farm employment compared to the tremendous growth in labor force; decrease in the purchasing power of the peso; and rapid population growth.

In response to this situation, the Provincial Government, through the Provincial Planning and Development Office (PPDO), prepared the Bohol Program Framework on Poverty Reduction to ensure a common basis for formulating poverty-focused policies, plans, programs and projects.

As a whole, the MTDP seeks to contribute to the overall provincial goal of reducing poverty incidence, in terms of households, from the current 47.3% to 23% by 2015.

### **The Role of the Different Sectors in Poverty Reduction**

For the current MTDP, efforts have been made to integrate poverty reduction concerns in each of the sectors. The objective is ultimately to put in place poverty reduction projects which can be implemented and monitored as to their contribution to pro-poor and sustainable economic growth, as well as projects designed to increase the outreach of basic services to socio-economically disadvantaged households and groups. The MTDP 2004-2009 seeks to contribute to this goal through a two-pronged strategy: to identify specific poverty groups and increase the outreach of development information and services to

them; and, to stimulate pro-poor and sustainable economic growth in preferred areas which benefit most of these target groups.

#### a. In Social Development

- **Role of the Education Sub-sector in Poverty Reduction**

Basic education and human resources development are key concerns in the campaign against human poverty. Literacy and employable skills ensure that young people can cope with problems encountered in life situations and provide the socio-economically disadvantaged families with broad options to take advantage of opportunities to improve their development status. In Bohol, the sub-sector itself is affected by poverty as shown by high dropout rate; low enrolments; poor performance of schools caused by inadequate facilities and/or unmotivated teachers and pupils; poor attendance due to children being engaged in income-generating and livelihood activities; poor learning environments and lack of opportunities for acquiring more skills; and emergence of illiteracy. Without basic education, without the basic skills and knowledge, the poor lack the tools essential for breaking the poverty cycle.

- **Role of the Health, Nutrition & Population Development Sub-sector in Poverty Reduction**

The sub-sector is central to the entire process of poverty reduction and human development. Good health allows poor people to work. Poor people have only their able and healthy bodies as their most precious assets. A weak and disabled body is a liability to the persons affected and those who support them. It is a fact that bad health leads to further impoverishment of the poor.

Meeting the health needs of the poor prevents the increase in poverty. Being sick affects adversely the economic situation of the poor. Poverty is linked also to poor health; poor people find it more difficult than the rich to meet basic needs. They have less access to social and health services. In addition, infant, child and mortality rates are higher in poor communities. Investments in social programs such as health, education and other interventions will result in greater productivity among the poor.

Poverty has contributed to malnutrition, particularly among young children. Malnutrition, in turn, contributes to poverty. It has negative effects on human and socio-economic development. Poor nutrition results in stunted mental and physical growth and development, poor health, reduced productivity and potential and increased risk of poverty. Poor people, in general, suffer from malnutrition. Productivity depends on the nutritional status of the people. Hence, in the final analysis, good nutrition is linked to economic growth.

Gains, however, in economic growth, as well as in delivery of basic services, are negated by constraints brought about by rapid population growth. Hence, health, nutrition and population development are key concerns in poverty reduction.

- **Role of the Social Welfare & Development Sub-Sector in Poverty Reduction**

The sub-sector facilitates the advocacy and actual service delivery to population groups marginalized by limited access to social and economic opportunities. It directly implements projects to provide interventions for the disadvantaged, such as the poor, women and youth, the elderly and the disabled. The sub-sector also responds directly to the needs, aspirations and welfare of the cultural minorities in the province, namely, the Eskaya, who live in the mountain barangays of three municipalities (Guindulman, Duero and Sierra Bullones); the Badjao settlements

and Muslim communities, composed mostly of refugees fleeing war-torn Mindanao starting in the 1970s; and the Ati Tribe in Brgy. Calvario in Loay composed of settlers from Panay Island.

- **Role of the Housing & Community Development Sub-sector in Poverty Reduction**

Housing quality is a core indicator of poverty reduction. In poverty surveys, the type of housing materials is documented, whether these materials are for makeshift, temporary or permanent shelter. Poor housing, as well as congestion whether within the house itself or the settlement, gives rise to health and other social problems.

- **Role of the Cultural Enrichment & Preservation Sub-Sector in Poverty Reduction**

The sub-sector complements the overall poverty reduction efforts spearheaded by the Government in two ways: mobilizing people around positive values embedded in local culture and the arts; and preserving cultural artifacts and heritage sites. Enriching and preserving culture reinforces values that contribute to building up social capital, namely: mutual trust and cooperation; deep regard for family and other institutions which contribute to social justice and cohesiveness; and compassion for the weak, the elderly and the disabled.

These social benefits far outweigh the economic returns that may come from those who appreciate social values and cultural traditions and crafts, such as academicians and tourists.

## **b. In Economic Development**

- **Role of the Agriculture and Rural Development Sub-sector in Poverty Reduction**

Despite opportunities and potentials, the sub-sector has not been fully exploited to contribute substantially to overall development and the poverty reduction agenda of the province. Low productivity in agriculture and fisheries continues to dampen economic growth. Majority of the farmers and fisherfolk have not been reached with basic services and extension programs to improve productivity and gain more access to an expanding market.

Majority of the target groups for poverty reduction in the province are found in this sub-sector. These include the following: farm and non-farm laborers; tenants and/or part-time farmers; and the marginal and/or part-time fishers.

The farm and non-farm laborers depend on seasonal employment in the sub-sector for their subsistence and livelihood. They are paid low wages on account of abundant labor supply vis-à-vis demand, and their low level of skills. On account of their lack of skills and assets, they are more vulnerable than other poverty groups to risks associated with social instability and economic downturn.

The tenants and/or part-time farmers generally cultivate farms with sizes which are too limited to produce economies of scale. Moreover, their farm productivity is hampered by limited and poor quality irrigation, low value crops, poor soil, and inadequate technical inputs. They pay high interest rates for loans from informal sources. Lack of incentives often prevents them from improving their productivity. They generally incur high production costs. This target group is adversely affected by vagaries of weather.

The marginal and/or part-time fishers experience declining fish catch due to degraded marine habitats, intrusion of commercial fishing, destructive methods and

overfishing. Municipal waters have not been delineated to indicate their specific resource base. They have inadequate skills for basic livelihood and limited options for non-fishing employment especially for those in small islands. Poor enforcement of local fishing ordinances affects their livelihood.

Expanding the assets base, as well as the productivity, of these various target groups remains a priority within the sub-sector. Programs and projects implemented through national agencies (Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Promotion Center, Department of Agrarian Reform, Agricultural Training Institute, National Irrigation Authority, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Cooperatives Development Authority, Land Bank, Bureau of Agricultural Statistics) and provincial agencies (Office of the Provincial Agriculturist, Office of the Provincial Veterinarian) seek to address these concerns within their respective mandates.

Aware that asset reform is crucial to reducing inequalities and stimulating growth, the DAR has pursued vigorously the implementation of CARP in the province with assistance from the national government and the Kingdom of Belgium. CVSCAFT and the University of Bohol continue to conduct field research on topics with potential benefit to farmers and fisherfolk.

On the other hand, several NGOs in Bohol (PROCESS, BIDEF, SEARICE, COCOFARM, Free Range Chicken Advocates) have joined CVSCAFT, ATI and OPA to organize the Bohol Initiators for Sustainable Agriculture and Development (BISAD) to better coordinate efforts towards environment-friendly agricultural practices. The two biggest corporations in the province, Bohol Quality and Alturas, have expanded their operations in recent years to include fish production and processing; feed manufacture; and contract growing which increase employment and livelihood opportunities to families in rural communities outside Tagbilaran City.

On account of its crucial role in the overall poverty reduction efforts, the sub-sector requires a comprehensive framework to facilitate a more detailed and systematic appraisal of needs, resources and opportunities in relation to the poverty-focused development agenda of the province and thus ensure more effective strategies and interventions.

- **Role of the Economy & Enterprise Development Sub-sector in Poverty Reduction**

The global economic downturn limits the capacities of major industries and business concerns to provide employment to the hundreds of young people added to the labor force each year, in addition to the vast numbers that have not been provided jobs from year to year. The development of micro-enterprises or small-scale businesses has the potential to close the gap between the employable labor force and actual jobs.

Enterprise development expands the opportunity base for the underutilized labor force to get involved in gainful employment and thus contribute to reducing overall poverty incidence in the province over time.

- **Role of the Tourism Development Sub-Sector in Poverty Reduction**

With its current focus on eco-cultural tourism, the sub-sector has the potential to provide cash benefits to more people which can, in turn, be channeled to improve nutrition and food security, housing, health and , on the whole, to an increase in the standard of living in the rural areas. Eco-cultural tourism also promotes the conservation, protection and further development of the environment by the rural people themselves. With the emphasis on heritage sites, the new thrust can also lead to more effective preservation of centuries-old churches and towers, as well as other historical landmarks.

Eco-cultural tourism can complement large-scale investments in tourism in the province.

### **c. In Environment & Natural Resources Management**

- **Role of the Sector in Poverty Reduction**

The rural poor depend on ecological resources for livelihood. In turn, their resource base is affected by destructive practices perpetrated by themselves or other interest groups. Population pressure, as well as the resulting market demand, further drives all interests to use up these resources and threaten the long-term sustainability of the natural environment. Rapid population increase combined with excessive exploitation of ecological resources will negate gains achieved in poverty reduction. The urban poor, on the other hand, are especially affected by environment-related problems, such as substandard housing, inadequate or polluted water, lack of sanitation and solid waste systems, and air pollution. These problems need to be addressed by improving the environment or people's use of natural resources. Population migration to rapidly urbanizing areas contributes to ecological degradation and, consequently, to poverty.

Breakthroughs are needed to overcome this vicious poverty-environment-population cycle. Plans and programs have to address the day-to-day conflict between the short-term economic gains and the long-term interest to conserve and protect the ecological resource base.

### **d. In Development Administration or Governance**

- **Role in Poverty Reduction**

Governance refers to processes by which Government and civil society institutions (NGOs, POs, churches, private sector and other interest groups) manage economic, social, political and other resources for the integration and well-being of diverse groups in local communities. From the point of view of governance, poverty is not only about lack of income, employment and other entitlements linked to economic resources and consumption. It is also about lack of participation in institutions and processes that govern everyday life. Improving governance, therefore, means the exercise of political and administrative authority by both the Government and civil society institutions towards sustainable economic growth as well as effective service delivery with focus on the participation of socio-economically disadvantaged households and groups.

It is generally acknowledged that poverty prevents the participation of vast sections of the population in development and political decision-making. This situation leads to weak governance in both the public sector and civil society institutions. The Government is expected to mobilize and harness capacities towards participation, transparency and accountability in the exercise of overall governance in society.

In an environment characterized by resource scarcities, the test of governance will be how both the government and civil society will direct scarce resources towards those services vital to poverty reduction, namely: education, health and nutrition, social welfare, water supply and sanitation, support to agrarian reform, livelihood development and basic infrastructure. Poverty-sensitive governance will mean ultimately improving the lives of those who are relatively more burdened by development constraints, such as the landless, tenants, small-scale farmers; fisher-folks; settlers in the upland, watershed communities, coastal and small island

communities; the unemployed; vulnerable groups, which include women, children, youth, the disabled and the elderly.

In the context of poverty reduction, the strategic goal in development administration is to transform all private and public institutions into instruments for good governance. Even with adequate resources, poverty reduction will not be achieved without good norms and practices related to pro-poor processes, systems and procedures at all levels and in all institutions. The exercise of governance for poverty reduction will necessarily require addressing the following:

- o the need to have regular consultations between the government and the citizenry through mechanisms that allow the poor to articulate their opinions, needs and aspirations;
- o the need to ensure efficient, equitable and transparent management of scarce public resources; and
- o the need to provide for social justice regarding ownership and productive use of assets, such as land and natural resources.

#### **e. In Infrastructure Development**

- **Role in Poverty Reduction**

Infrastructure development is vital to poverty reduction. Transport and communication provide critical inputs to improve the status of the poor, but if they are inappropriately designed, they result in services that worsen their condition, harm the environment and waste public funds. Good transport facilitates trade and increases access to services. It can lower costs of agricultural production for the benefit of both farmers and consumers. Access to markets leads to the development of the non-agricultural economy and tourism. In rural areas where poverty is more widespread, inadequate transport contributes to high levels of deprivation. In the urban areas, transport services influence the location of commercial centers and human settlements. Inefficient transport and communication will make it harder and more costly to move goods and services and thus it will lessen competitiveness and hinders economic growth. In the provision of water resources both for domestic use and irrigation of farmlands, the emphasis will be on sustainability or the continuous functioning or utilization of facilities and services. The strategy is to forge broad-based stakeholder collaboration to build linkages for addressing all aspects of poverty, enhance economic growth, and minimize wastage in resources. Stakeholder participation is a necessary precondition for making water resources benefit the poor.

Increasing access to efficient and affordable energy sources will lead to improvements in living conditions in both rural and urban areas. Providing power and energy in a sustainable manner can generate resources and new investments that will in turn benefit poor households.

#### **In Support of The Millennium Development Goals**

To reduce poverty and hunger, disease and early death, inequality and inequity, the MTDP 2004-2009 identified the following targets in support of the Millennium Development Goals:

- **Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger**
  - Targets : - Reduce the number of households living below the poverty line to 38%;
  - Reduce the number of families living on US\$1.00/day from 99,000 to 49,550;

- Reduce the number of malnourished children by 2,000 a year.
- Achieve Universal Primary Education  
Target : Improve access to education through construction of new school buildings and at least 540 new classrooms as well as provide desks/armchairs to 50 public schools in addition to books and computers.
- Achieve Gender Equality and Empower Women  
Target : Provision of 5% annual budgetary allocation for Gender and Development.
- Reduce Child Mortality  
Target : Reduce Infant Mortality Rate by 1% a year.
- Improve Maternal Health  
Target : Reduce maternal mortality rate by 2% a year.
- Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other Diseases  
Targets : - Implementation of Preventive Health Program for STDs/AIDs prevention;  
- Reduce morbidity and mortality rates of prevailing diseases such as diarrhea/acute gastro-enteritis, pneumonia/Acute Respiratory Infections, heart diseases and tuberculosis.
- Ensure Environmental Sustainability  
Targets : - Rehabilitate 3,400 hectares of open and denuded areas within the watershed and forest reserves;  
- Ensure immediate formulation and implementation of Initial Protected Area Management Plans as well as enforcement of laws;  
- Protect and rehabilitate watersheds that are potential sources of local water supply;  
- Reduce the number of households with doubtful sources of drinking water by 10%.
- Develop a Global Partnership for Development  
Targets : - Active partnership with the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) and International Global Change Institute;  
- Partnership and cooperation with international organizations such as the USAID, AusAID, Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), Volunteer Service Overseas (VSO) of the United Kingdom, and GTZ, the International Organization of Germany.

#### **In Support of Pres. Arroyo's 10-Point Agenda**

The Provincial Medium-term Development Plan: CY 2004-2009 also incorporates GMA's 10-point Development Agenda. The MTDP identified priorities and targets in support of the Agenda by focusing on the following strategic measures:

- **Stabilizing the Economy and Promoting Growth through Fiscal and Financial Strength**
  - o increase revenue collection by 80% and explore non-tax sources of revenues.
- **Job generation and Global Competitiveness**
  - o create a total of 6,000 jobs through micro-enterprises;
  - o promote micro-enterprise development by making available ₱341.0 million to micro-entrepreneurs/small business owners;
  - o enhance technology support to livelihood development;

- o develop 25,000 hectares of land for agricultural business.
  - o increase to 4.0 metric tons (mt) per hectare the average production of rice and increase production of high value commercial crops such as mango, vegetable, cutflower and ubi;
- **Social Development and Direct Anti-Poverty Measures**
    - o reduce the number of households living below the poverty line to 38%;
    - o reduce population growth rate from 2.9% to 2.6%;
    - o reduce school dropout rate and illiteracy;
    - o improve access to education through construction of new school buildings and at least 540 new classrooms as well as provide desks/armchairs to 50 public schools in addition to books and computers;
    - o reduce the number of malnourished children and Infant Mortality Rate by 1% a year and Maternal Mortality Rate by 2% a year;
    - o reduce housing backlog in critical areas such as in Tagbilaran City and in the 12 rapidly urbanizing municipalities.
- **Decentralizing Development**
    - o improve air and sea transport facilities;
    - o concrete 394.551 kilometers of roads;
    - o expand the service coverage for water supply in urban areas, 60% to 95%; water supply in rural areas, 59% to 93%; urban household toilets, 83% to 98%; rural household toilets, 77% to 98%; school toilets, 82% to 95%; public toilets, 98% to 100%; urban area sewerage, 42% to 90%;
    - o improve the Information Technology (IT) infrastructures of the province to increase its global connectivity and access;
    - o energize 100% of barangays in the province and all puroks in Tagbilaran City;
    - o provide facilities to 85% of irrigable areas;
    - o establishment of Panglao Tourism Economic Zone and Ubay Economic Zone;
    - o rehabilitate 3,400 hectares of open and denuded areas within the watershed and forest reserves;
    - o promote sustainable development of coastal and marine resources.
- **Good Governance**
    - o support peace and order initiatives as incorporated in the Bohol Agenda for Poverty Reduction, Peace and Development;
    - o decrease crime rate by 25%;
    - o cut down bureaucratic red tape to facilitate access of people to services.

Bohol's main human development objective is to reduce poverty given that the main indicator for improvement in quality of life in the Philippines is poverty incidence. But, "experience has shown that there cannot be any reduction in poverty without significant economic growth. However, failure to address the problem of poverty will constrain the potential for sustained growth and development."<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Edillon, Rosemarie, Poverty Alleviation & Economic Growth, November 2003