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Leonardo N. Quito¹, Jr., Nestor G. Rillon², and Irene B. Ubungen³

I. Situationer

Statistics continue to play a major role as the country relentlessly pursues its development goals for the improvement of the quality of life of all Filipinos. In a knowledge-based economy, statistics prove to be an indispensable tool of both the government and private sectors in the crafting of appropriate programs, projects and activities to meet development objectives. Planners, decision-makers, program implementers, entrepreneurs, researchers and monitoring bodies rely on statistics for the objective discharge of their functions. Meanwhile, current global and national programs such as those related to the Millennium Development Goals, gender and development, sustainable development, agricultural modernization and poverty alleviation require the availability of data that will serve as benchmarks and barometers of success of program implementation.

The importance of statistics at the subnational level can not be overemphasized as regional, provincial and local entities do their share to contribute in the development agenda. Subnational entities, particularly local government units (LGUs), are expected to implement national programs at their levels, and at the same time, initiate other local programs to respond to their needs. The successful implementation of these programs would depend a lot on the availability of quality data with lower level of disaggregation.

The Philippine Statistical System (PSS) has been in the forefront in addressing the data requirements of all stakeholders in the various governmental levels.

However, with the limited budget of the national government, statistical activities are being prioritized such that most statistical activities support mainly the data requirements of national stakeholders. This puts pressure to the subnational statistical system as the availability, quality and accessibility of data at the level is affected. Statistical issues and concerns at the subnational level continue to exist amidst the increasing demand for data with lower level disaggregation to support varied activities at the local level.

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This paper aims to present the statistical issues and concerns at the subnational level to serve as basis in the formulation of recommendations to improve the subnational statistical system. Inputs to the paper were based on the results of the survey conducted by the Regional Statistical Coordination Committee (RSCC) Region 1 in August 2007 using a structured questionnaire on the statistical issues and concerns at the subnational level. The bulk of the questions requested the regions to comment whether the identified issues exist in their areas. The inputs of the regions were summarized by taking note of the number of regions which identified the issues.

The survey covered the different regions of the country and administered through the Regional Offices of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), with the assistance of the Regional Divisions of the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) in regions where these exist. Fourteen regions submitted the accomplished questionnaires, namely: Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), Regions 1, 2, 3, 4A, 4B, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13. Some regions requested selected local government units to provide inputs to the survey while others based their responses on their past records as statistical issues and concerns are regularly discussed during RSCC meetings and in other related fora.

The statistical issues and concerns were grouped into four major areas of concern, namely: 1) statistical planning and coordination; 2) statistical data production and dissemination; 3) statistical human resource and development; and 4) statistical research and development.

II. Statistical Problems, Issues and Concerns

A. Statistical Planning and Coordination

Two major issues were identified under statistical planning and coordination. These are : 1) insufficient statistical coordination structure; and 2) lack of awareness and appreciation of the significance of statistics. Table 1 shows the perception of the responding regions on its existence at the regional, provincial/city and municipal levels.

Table 1. Statistical Planning and Coordination Issues

Issues	Regional	Provincial/ City	Municipal
• Insufficient stat coordination structure	2	11	13
• Lack of awareness and appreciation of the importance of statistics	5	8	13
• No available organizational structure			1
• Difficulty in coordination esp with LGUs			1
• Statistical activities low priority among LCEs			1
• Quality of data dependent on capability of designated statistician summarizing and disseminating the statistical reports	1		
• Lack of awareness of private sectors and partner organizations	1		

The problem on Insufficient statistical coordination structure is present in all levels but it was more evident at the provincial/city and municipal levels. At the regional level, the RSCC serves as the highest policy making and coordinating body on statistical matters in the region. Out of the 14 regions which responded to the survey, 13 have functional RSCC while one had no functional RSCC. The secretariat services are being provided by the NSCB Regional Divisions in 10 regions, by NEDA Regional Offices in two regions and by the NSO Regional Office in one region.

At the provincial/city and municipal levels, the Provincial/City/Municipal Statistical Coordination Committees are the counterpart structures. To date, very few LGUs have such committees. In some LGUs, these were organized but they are not functional while in other areas, they become active only during the NSM celebration.

The lack of awareness and appreciation of the significance of statistics also exists in all levels but it is also more evident at the provincial/city and municipal levels.

B. Statistical Data Production and Dissemination

Table 2 summarizes the issues identified by the regions along data production and dissemination.

Table 2. Issues on Data Production and Dissemination

Issues
1. Common to Regions
• Low quality of available data
• Existence of data gaps
• Existing priority data lack desired disaggregation
• Untimely release of data
• Data not accessible
• Inadequate resources to conduct data generation activities
2. Other Issues Identified
• Lack of awareness at municipal level on statistical data of NGAs
• Majority of general public not aware which government agencies produces which data
• Long interval of data series, eg. CAF, CPH, FLEMMS
• Too long lag time of data release
• Delayed publication of census results
• No disaggregation for highly urbanized cities
• Cannot generate data from the private sector
• Lack of proper validation, and analysis/interpretation of data
• Lack of comparability to other data
• Lack of coordination among statistical agencies, thus, the inconsistency of data standards used by various agencies

While there were common issues identified, the regions also have varied experiences as to which data were affected as can be gleaned from the succeeding supporting tables. Additional issues specific to the regions were likewise listed and this was based on priority sectors in the concerned regions.

Table 2a listed two common major issues on low quality such as duplicating/inconsistent data across data sources and inaccurate data which affected one to four regions. The century-old problem on conflicting agriculture data of the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS) and the LGUs ranked 1st. Hopefully, this problem would already be eliminated with the recent directives from the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA) for the conduct of joint data reviews by BAS, LGUs and the DA.

Table 2a. Identified Priority Data With Low Quality

Data	No. of Affected Regions
1. Duplicating/inconsistent data across data sources	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture data between BAS and LGUs/DA 	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land area between NAMRIA and NSO vs LMB; LMB, DENR and LGUs 	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data between regional and provincial offices 	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data between municipal and provincial health offices 	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abaca data between BAS and FIDA 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COA and DPWH data 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOH and LGU data 	1
2. Inaccurate data	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism statistics 	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher education data 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment data 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GNP 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GRDP 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income classification of barangay as to classification whether urban or rural 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land area 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data on social services 	1

Table 2b contains the identified priority data with data gaps which were identified by at least two regions. It could be noted that most of the indicators with data gaps could also be found in Table 2c which lists the data which are lacking in desired disaggregation. The data gaps were mostly on the inavailability of lower level of disaggregation such as provincial/city, and municipal.

Table 2b. Identified Priority Data With Data Gaps

Data	No. of Affected Regions
• Family income and expenditure	9
• Gross Domestic Product estimates	7
• Poverty statistics	6
• Labor and employment statistics	6
• Agricultural statistics/agri production	6
• Population	4
• Tourist arrival/tourism statistics	3
• Establishment/business statistics	3
• Land area	2
• Health statistics	2
• No. of farmers	2

Majority of the data in Tables 2b and 2c are generated from censuses/surveys of national line agencies which are affected by the limited resources of the government. Thus, the data sources could not expand their sample sizes to allow the generation of data with lower level disaggregation.

Table 2c. Identified Priority Data Which Lack Desired Disaggregation

Data	No. of Affected Regions
No Provincial Disaggregation	
• Family income and expenditure	8
• Labor and employment statistics	8
• Gross Domestic Product estimates	4
No City Disaggregation	
• Family income and expenditure	8
• Labor and employment statistics	6
• Poverty statistics	5
• Gross Domestic Product estimates	2
• Agricultural statistics	2
No Annual Disaggregation	
• Family income and expenditure	4
• Poverty incidence	4
No Sex Disaggregation	
• Education statistics	2
• Health statistics	2

The unavailable data above were also rated by most of the regions as the data which are not accessible especially at the local level. Other data identified as not accessible at the subnational level are: housing statistics, exports, investment, insurance data, banking statistics, input-output table, food balance sheet, number of mobile users, number of overseas contract workers, tourist arrivals, traffic volume, age-earnings by occupation, electrification data, number of HIV and AIDs victims, number of PHIC beneficiaries, etc.

Meanwhile, the regions noted the untimely release of some data as listed in Table 2d which were identified by two to seven regions.

Table 2d. Identified Priority Data Which are Not Released On Time

Data	No. of Affected Regions
• Population	7
• Establishment surveys/industry-related data	6
• Family income and expenditures	6
• Education statistics	5
• Population projections	4
• Agricultural production	4
• Data on social welfare/social services	3
• Poverty statistics	3
• Employment statistics	3
• Vital/health statistics	2
• Tourism data	2
• Investment	2
• Housing	2
• GRDP	2
• Export	2

B. Statistical Human Resource and Development

Problems on statistical human resource development were present in all regions as can be seen in Table 3. The situation in the three government levels at the subnational level was not significantly different. The most evident problems at the municipal level were limited statistical manpower, lack of capability of statistical manpower, and absence of permanent staff handling statistical activities. At the provincial/city level, limited budget to enhance capability of statistical manpower and lack of capability of statistical manpower stood out. On the other hand, fast turn-over of personnel was prevalent at the regional level.

Table 3. Statistical Human Resource Development Issues

Issues	Regional	Provincial/ City	Municipal
• Statistical manpower lack capability to undertake statistical activities	9	11	11
• Limited statistical manpower	10	10	12
• Limited budget to enhance capability of statistical manpower	11	12	11
• No permanent staff handling statistical activities	5	7	11
• Fast turn-over of statistical manpower	9	7	6
• Low Compensation of statistical personnel	10	10	10
• Others			
- No statistical item in LGU/RLA	1	1	4
- Statistical positions occupied by non-professional statisticians	1		
- Personnel handling stat positions not undertaking statistical activities			1

C. Statistical Research and Development

The regions were one in saying that in all levels at the subnational level, the problem on limited budget to undertake statistical research and development (R & D) exist. This was coupled by the lack of capability to undertake R & D activities especially at the provincial/city and municipal levels.

Table 4. Statistical Research and Development Issues

Issues	Regional	Provincial/ City	Municipal
• Limited budget to undertake statistical research and development	11	11	11
• Lack of capability to undertake statistical research and development	9	11	11
• Absence of separate unit to undertake statistical research and development	1		

III. Current Initiatives

The regions were also asked on their current initiatives to address the problems/issues obtaining in their regions. Below is the summary of the initiatives identified. A number of regions addressed the issues on statistical human resource.

Table 5. Initiatives to Address Issues and Concerns

Initiatives	No. of Regions
• Participation of personnel in statistical trainings	10
• Designation of statistical personnel to undertake statistical activities	8
• Sourcing of funds from outside sources to support statistical activities	7
• Conduct of local surveys to address data gaps	5
• Formulation of policies by RSCC to address statistical issues and concerns/conduct of problem solving sessions/passage of resolutions	3
• Conduct of CBMS thru partnership arrangement	1
• Creation of PSA Regional Chapter	1
• Creation of TWGs to respond to specific concerns	1
• Evaluation of database systems, eg CBMS, Devinfo	1
• Preparation of literacy and skills mapping report	1
• Reiterated request to OP to put up NSCB Office in region	1
• Sourcing of funds from city level	1
• Strengthening of coordination thru RSCC	1

IV. Recommendations

Several recommendations were provided by the regions on how to resolve the statistical issues and concerns as listed below. The recommendations address the four areas of concern on statistical planning and coordination, data production and dissemination, human resource development, and statistical research and development. Other recommendations were also identified to further develop the statistical system at the subnational level.

A. Statistical Planning and Coordination

a. On lack of statistical planning and coordination structure

- Strengthen RSCC in the region
- Strengthen/establish Provincial/City/Municipal Statistical Coordination Committees
- Enhance statistical coordination at the municipal level
- Capacitate local governments along statistical development thru the RSCC

- Establish statistical units at the municipal level
- b. On lack of statistical awareness/appreciation
- Conduct strong advocacy activities on importance of statistics in local development; increase statistical awareness at the local level
 - Implement program to advocate the importance of statistics among chief executives; include statistical appreciation module in the DILG training of incoming LCEs
 - Orient LGUs on benefits of activity before the conduct of any statistical activity
- B. Data Production and Dissemination
- a. On data quality problems
- Conduct actual survey at the barangay level in coordination with the MPDO
 - Generate statistics based on EO 352 on Designated Statistics. Agencies other than the designated ones should be barred from generating/giving-out to users the said designated statistics
 - Use uniform statistical forms in the conduct of surveys from regional down to barangay level
 - Design standard tools for data gathering
 - Resolve inconsistencies in data amongst data sources
 - Conduct trainings on statistical issues and concerns
- b. On existence of data gaps/absence of data with desired disaggregation
- Fast track generation of data needs
 - Process administrative forms to generate unavailable data; maximize utilization of admin -based data at the local level
 - Conduct local surveys to be funded by LGUs
 - Consider as official the data collected from surveys at the LGU level
 - Adopt CBMS by the LGUs nationwide
 - Develop and install the Provincial Product Accounts (PPA) in the statistical system; institutionalize PPA estimation
 - Allocate budget (by the Office of the President) for statistical activities esp. for the disaggregation of all official censuses, surveys and other data sets up to provincial/city and municipal levels
 - Prioritize APIS funding and make it an integral part of regular annual NSO budget
 - Prioritize census budget allocation for the CAF and CPH preferably at annual intervals
 - Expand the sampling frame of all surveys/censuses to fairly reflect provincial/municipal situations and estimate statistics/parameters at these levels
 - Revive the provincial and/or city estimates of the data generated in surveys (eg LFS, FIES, etc) to increase the relevance and utility of the results of these surveys to data users
 - Expand the scope and coverage of the census questionnaires to include critical data currently not collected, ie. ethnicity, etc
 - Update the sampling and indicator lists of the official statistical offices to conform to emerging development paradigms/systems, eg. GAD, poverty,

POPDEV, etc

- Undertake the estimation of urban and rural population from the data generated in each census
- Disaggregate city data from provincial data

c. On data dissemination/accessibility

- Create venue for statistical dissemination such as fora, conferences, lecture series
- Improve/establish/harmonize databank
- Designate an office at the provincial level where statistics and databank can be accessible to municipalities

C. Statistical Human Resource Development

- Create plantilla/mandatory statistical positions at provincial/city and municipal levels
- Create statistical positions with just compensation to be filled-up by professional statisticians
- Provide additional manpower and equipment
- Designate permanent staff in-charge of statistical activities
- Provide capability building thru trainings on statistics to include those with electronic applications, if applicable
- Conduct regular trainings on statistics exclusively for LGUs to address fast turn-over of LGU statisticians
- Strengthen statistical manpower development program
- Organize pool of statisticians who could serve technical assistance
- Capacitate LGUs to generate data needed for planning and decision-making

D. Statistical Research and Development

- Undertake fund sourcing for statistical research and development
- Conduct statistical R & D capability building activities
- Undertake and provide funding support for more R & D on statistics

E. Others

- Ensure full implementation of EO 135
- Designate NSCB personnel to be assigned per province/city to fast track implementation of statistical agenda
- Establish link of NSCB with LGUs
- Strengthen NSCB by increasing its number of personnel and provision of more budget to be able to expand its coverage up to the municipal level
- Establish satellite NSIC at local levels
- Establish NSCB offices in regions with no NSCB offices
- Assist LGUs in sourcing out funds
- Provide LA funds to support joint LA-LGU activities
- Provide sufficient budget to statistical agencies and other RLAs at the subnational level to support statistical activities
- Prioritize support to statistical activities

- Provide additional equipment/software to LGUs such GIS, GPS and computers
- Strengthen private organizations such as PSA Regional Chapter with adequate funding

It was noted though that most of the recommendations would require the allocation of additional budget from the national government. This strategy may not be feasible at present considering the financial standing of the government. This would require more lobbying by concerned offices so as to get a bigger amount from the government financial pie. The local government units could play a major role along this line as they have a direct contact with the legislators. But this would depend a lot on the appreciation of the local chief executives (LCEs) on the importance of statistics in their everyday functions. The Philippine Statistical Association (PSA) should take the lead along this concern as the sole association in the country which is concerned with the promotion of the statistics as an indispensable tool in all human endeavors.

The subnational statistical system will continue to experience statistical issues and concerns as more sectors recognize the importance of statistics in their activities. Hence, the subnational statistical system should be at a proactive stance to be able to effectively address emerging concerns. Considering the limited resources available at the subnational level, national entities should be ready to reprogram their funds to be able to give support to subnational statistical activities.

The lower level of the government bureaucracy is where the action is, hence, more funds should be channeled from the national down to the local level. The resolution of local statistical problems and issues should be given priority focusing on the functions and services devolved from the national to local level such as those on agriculture, health, nutrition, etc. Adequate financial resources should be provided not only for the implementation of devolved programs and projects but also for the generation of statistical information relative to the devolved functions and services.

Furthermore, the case of depressed municipalities should be given special attention. These municipalities do not have the necessary resources and capability to implement statistical activities. Hence, they should be the priority in statistical trainings, other statistical human resource development activities, and data generation activities.

Moreover, the development of the local statistical system should be synchronized with the requirements of local development planning. The purpose of data collection should not be for data sake but it should be linked with existing spatial, sectoral and program planning

endeavors at subregional level. The LGUs should piggy back their statistical activities with existing development plans or monitoring systems at the local level such as the Provincial and Local Planning and Expenditure Management (PLPEM) and Disaster Risk Reduction Management Plan (DRRMP) of the NEDA, and the Rationalized Planning System (RPS), Community-based Monitoring System (CBMS), MDG Monitoring System and Local Governance Performance Monitoring System (LGPMS) which are being coordinated at the local level by the DILG. Statistical activities at the local level should include the generation of historical, geographical and sectoral data that will support the statistical information requirements of the PLPEM, DRRMP, RPS, CBMS, MDG and LGPMS.

Tables 5 and 6 show us that while the locus of planning is local, “scarce” information from the provincial, city and municipal levels (and even barangay, in some cases) are of equal importance and significance as that from the “more available” data at the regional and national levels.

Table 5. PLPEM Core Elements and Sectors

Core element	Sector
Population	Population
Economic activity	Agriculture, fishery, forestry
	Trade, industry, services, Tourism
Physical resources	Environment, natural resources
	Transportation and communication
Income/access to services	Health, Education, Housing
	Social welfare, security
	Public works (water supply, drainage), Energy
	Other sectors (children, elderly, indigenous peoples, etc.)
Land use	(Physical integration of all sectors)

Source: PLPEM Guidebook (2006 Revision)

Table 6. Data Requirements of the PLPEM

Core Element/ Sector	Data	Geographical unit	Period	Source
Population				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Size, Density, Growth rate If available: age-sex distribution; migration; U-R distribution Map 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Philippines, Region, Province If available: other provinces in region, cities/mun in province, barangays 	Latest, previous census	NSO
Physical Resources				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environment, natural resources, protection forestry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land area Characteristics of land resources Land classification, land suitability, Land use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Province If available: region, other provinces in region, cities/mun in province 	Latest census	Sectoral agencies

Core Element/ Sector	Data	Geographical unit	Period	Source
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Map 			
By transport mode or industry if available: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport and communication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing and proposed facilities, routes, levels of service Map 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Province If available: region, other provinces in region, cities/mun in province 	Latest census	Sectoral agencies
Economic Activity By subsector or industry if available: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture, fishery, production forestry Manufacturing Trade, industry, services Tourism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employment, income, or value of production by sector Export products, markets, volumes by sector (if available) Existing, proposed support infra Map 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Philippines, Region, Province If available: other provinces in region, cities/mun in province 	Latest, previous census	NSO Sectoral agencies
Income and Services				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employment/ Unemployment rates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Philippines, Region, Province 	Latest, previous census	NSO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Income and poverty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Average family income Poverty indicators Map (if available) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Philippines, Region, Province If available: other provinces in region, cities/mun in province 	Latest, previous census	NSO, NSCB, LGUs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing, Health, Education, Sanitation, Security Public works: roads, water supply, solid waste, drainage, Power Other sectors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing and proposed facilities Levels of service of basic social services (health, education, sanitation, security) and public works Map 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Region, Province If available: other provinces in region, cities/mun in province 	Latest census	Sectoral agencies
Land Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location/maps of above sectors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Province If available: cities/mun in province 	Latest available, previous	LGUs, sectoral agencies

Source: PLPEM Guidebook (2006 Revision)

The above systems could also be considered as the sources of statistical information at the local level. Once the systems are put in place, the data that they generate could be considered as the supply of data at the local level. Table 7 shows the major data items that could be generated from the RPS, MDG Monitoring System, CBMS and LGPMS.

Table 7. Data Requirements of Existing Monitoring/Indicator Systems at the Local Level

Systems	Data Requirements					
	Environment	Poverty	Health and Nutrition	Education	General/Others	Remarks
MDG Indicator System	Proportion of land covered by forest, ratio of area protected to maintain biological diversity to surface area, proportion of urban population with access to improved sanitation, proportion of population with access to improved water source, proportion of household with access to secure tenure, proportion of population using solid fuels, energy use, carbon dioxide emissions per capita and consumption of ozone-depleting CFCs	Proportion of population with income below poverty threshold, poverty gap ratio, share of poorest quintile in national consumption, proportion of underweight children, proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption	Maternal mortality rate, infant mortality rate, under-five mortality, prevalence and death rates of major diseases, proportion of 1 year-old children immunized against measles, proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel, condom use rate of the contraceptive prevalence rate, proportion of underweight children, proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption	Net enrollment ratio, proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 5. Literacy rate of 15-24 year-olds, ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education, ratio of literate females to males	Proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs, telephone lines and cellular subscribers per 100 population, personal computers in use per 100 population and internet users per 100 population, share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector, proportion of seats held by women in national parliament	Data should be disaggregated by sex to address Goal 3 on gender equality and women empowerment
RPS	Indicators on bio-physical base, available supply of land and water resources, demand for land and water resources based on sectoral developments	Indicators on population, social services, local economy, existing infrastructure support and institutional capability of LGU			Considers ecological profile to give due recognition and proper space for bio-physical or ecological dimensions; calls for database which considers the following dimensions: topical or sectoral, temporal, and geographical or spatial.	

Sources : www.nscb.gov.ph, www.dilg.gov.ph, www.blgs.gov.ph, www.pdf.ph, www.pep-net.org

Table 7. Data Requirements of Existing Monitoring/Indicator Systems at the Local Level (Cont.)

Systems	Data Requirements					
	CBMS	Proportion of households with no access to safe water supply, proportion of households with no access to sanitary toilet facility	Proportion of households with income below poverty threshold, proportion of households with income	Proportion of child deaths, proportion of women deaths due to pregnancy-related causes, proportion of malnourished children	Proportion of children who are not in elementary and secondary schools	Proportion of households living in makeshift housing, proportion of households who are squatters, proportion of persons who are unemployed, proportion of persons who were victims of crime

		income below subsistence threshold, proportion of households who experienced food shortage				basic needs of enabling, survival and security to assess poverty in the barangay, municipal, city and provincial level.
LGPMS	Input, output and outcome indicators on environmental management (quality of environmental ordinances, percentage of barangays reached by IEC conservation campaigns, conservation of mangroves, quality of LGU-community partnerships in the management of natural resources, percentage of forest cover in forestland, rate of annual reforestation of forestland, tree parks and/or greenbelts, percentage of live coral reef remaining, effectiveness of the Solid Waste Management Board, quality of Solid Waste Management Plan, percentage of solid waste reduction, percentage of industries with functional pollution control facilities, absence of smog, dust, odor, noise and garbage)		Input, output and outcome indicators on health and nutrition (effectiveness of Local Health Board, percentage of barangays with functioning barangay health centers, ratio of public health workers to population, percentage of women provided with pre-natal care, percentage of immunized children, percentage of malnourished children, infant mortality rate, mortality rate of children, mortality rate, morbidity rate)	Input, output and outcome indicators on education (effectiveness of the Local School Board, percentage of barangays with functioning day care or pre-school centers, ratio of extension classrooms to pupils, quality of non-formal and extension program, enrollment rate, graduation rate)	Input, output and outcome indicators on governance (legislation, transparency, participation), administration (development planning, revenue generation, resource allocation and utilization, financial accountability, customer service and human resource management and development), other social services (housing and basic utilities, peace, security and disaster preparedness), economic development (agriculture and fisheries development, entrepreneurship, business and industry promotion)	It is a self-assessment, management and development tool that enables provincial, city and municipal governments to determine their capabilities and limitations in the delivery of essential public services.

Sources : www.nscb.gov.ph, www.dilg.gov.ph, www.blgs.gov.ph, www.pdf.ph, www.pep-net.org

It is recommended though that the LGPMS, which generates a number of indicators, should be continuously evaluated to ensure the inclusion of relevant statistical information that will reflect the realistic performance of the LGUs along key performance and service areas as seen in Table 8 vis-à-vis emerging development concerns. In addition, a system must be instituted to ensure the reliability of the data generated from the LGPMS considering that it is a self-assessment being accomplished by the LGUs themselves.

Table 8. LGPMS Rating Areas

Performance Areas	Weight	Service Areas
Governance	20%	Local Legislation Transparency Participation
Administration	35%	Development Planning Revenue Generation Rev Allocation & Utilization Financial Accountability Customer Service HRMD
Social Services	25%	Health & Nutrition Education Housing & Basic Utilities Peace, Security & Disaster Preparedness
Economic Development	10%	Agriculture & Fisheries Entrepreneurship, Business & Industry Promotion
Environmental Management	10%	Natural Resources Mgmt Solid Waste Mgmt Control

Source: LGPMS Users Manual (2005)

Matching the data gaps identified in the survey of problems and issues, which could represent the unavailable data demand, which were discussed in Part II of the paper, it was noted (Table 9) that most of the data could be addressed by the existing systems. Considering that the CBMS and LGPMS could be administered at the municipal level, these tools could be used to address the need for data with lower level disaggregation. The LGPMS makes use of administrative-based data aggregated at the municipal level. Meanwhile, the CBMS could generate data at the household level. Depending on the data needs and the available resources of the LGUs, the LGPMS or the CBMS could be utilized instead of relying on statistical surveys funded by the national government.

Table 9. Identified Priority Data With Data Gaps* visà-vis Existing Data Generation Systems at Local Level

Data Gaps	PLPEM	MDG	RPS	CBMS	LGPMS	Remarks
1. Economic Indicators						
<i>Gross Domestic Product estimates</i>						
Agricultural production/agriculture statistics	/		/		/	
Land area	/		/		/	
<i>Investment</i>						
Labor and employment statistics	/		/		/	Number of SMEs only
<i>Establishment/industry-related data</i>					/	
Export	/					
Tourist arrival/tourism statistics	/					
Family income and expenditure	/			/	/	Income only
2. Social Indicators						
Education statistics	/	/	/	/	/	
Vital and health statistics	/	/	/	/	/	
Housing statistics	/	/	/	/	/	
Indicators on social welfare/social services	/		/	/	/	
Population	/		/	/	/	
<i>Population projections</i>						
Poverty statistics		/		/		

* Not available, not released on time or no desired disaggregation (by sex or lower level disaggregation)

The data which cannot be addressed by existing systems include GRDP estimates, population projections, investment data and establishment-related data. The first two items are derived statistics which make use of a number of indicators. The computation of these should be left to the concerned official sources of the estimates but what is needed is the generation of data inputs for the estimation of the indicators particularly the data with subregional disaggregation. Investment and establishment-related, on the other hand, could be generated direct from establishments. However, with the limited resources of the national government, existing national government could not be expanded in terms of coverage, frequency and disaggregation to generate the lacking data. It is therefore recommended that the existing local systems be enhanced to include the generation of the unavailable. The LGUs utilize a number of administrative forms in the discharge of their functions covering persons and establishments. The forms should be processed or revised to address unavailable data needs.

Addressing the statistical problems and issues at the subnational level is a big challenge to the subnational statistical system. It is not an easy task considering the extent of the problems and issues existing therein and the magnitude of the areas affected amid

competing priorities and limited resources. It will be a long and continuous process that will require concerted efforts of both national and subnational entities on statistical advocacy, prioritization of activities, and programming of resources. But the development of the subnational statistical system should be given more priority than before considering the critical role of subnational entities in achieving the government's development goals.

The above recommendations are just starting points. With the varied level of statistical development across regions, provinces/cities and municipalities, compounded with the different capabilities of the subnational entities, one recommendation may not apply to all. The recommendations could be considered as shopping lists which the subnational entities could further evaluate as to their relevance to their needs and their applicability to their situations. Best practices could be replicated without limiting the subnational offices to initiate new strategies or interventions that could solve the statistical problems/issues obtaining in their areas. In the end, what is important is the ability to surmount the problems/issues in order to contribute to the government's development goal.