



The News Around Eastern Visayas

Leyte Samar Daily Express

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NEDA exec sees an improved result of FIES in E. Visayas

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TACLOBAN CITY- A regional socio economic planning official is eyeing an improved result of the 2012 Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES) in Eastern Visayas, which would help the region raise figures to somehow meet poverty reduction targets under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Regional Director Buenaventura Go-Soco said that with only three years left in the timetable to hit the target, there's still a chance for the region to improve with increasing poor income through the conditional cash transfer and improved national roads in Samar Island.

He told Leyte Samar Daily Express(LSDE) that looking at the 2009 FIES result, the region "suffered much" from bad roads in Samar areas coupled with destructive natural calamities between 2006 to 2009. The foreign-funded Samar road upgrading was completed late 2009 after the survey was conducted.

"The Samar road has improved over the last two years and people are travelling more. This will create a significant improvement in the poverty incidence plus the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), which put more money in the rural areas since 2010," the official claimed.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development has listed about 200,000 families in the region benefitting 4Ps.



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Under the program, the government gives P6,000 a year or P500 per month for health and nutrition expenses and P3,000 for one school year or P300 a month per child for educational expenses is given to households who have been pre-determined by the DSWD to be among the poorest of the poor

The National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) regional office reported last year that poverty incidence has worsened in the region from 2006 to 2009 with nearly half of the region's population have remained poor.

From 1.56 million (39%) poor individuals in 2006, it rose to 1.73 million in 2009, which accounts 41.4% of Region 8 population. The data is way up than the 26.5% poverty incidence in the national level.

The latest poverty incidence data is worse than the 37.6% in 2003 but better than the 45.1% figure in 1991.

In terms of the magnitude of the poor families, there was an increase of about 33,809 from 253,347 in 2006 to 287,156 in 2009.

Under MDGs, the region should have a 22.6% poverty incidence by 2015 or a reduction of 18.8% between 2009 to 2015.

The 2012 FIES will be conducted on the second quarter of this year. Its official result will be released in 2014, a year before the timetable set by the United Nations for 189 countries to meet MDG targets.

The MDGs is comprised of eight goals with 21 targets and 58 indicators to be monitored from 1990 and to be achieved in 2015. It is a set of clearly-defined, time-bound and measurable goals and targets geared toward poverty reduction and ensuring that globalization benefits all the world's people. **(Sarwell Q. Meniano)**