

Foreword

The Senate Economic Planning Office (SEPO), created through Senate Resolution is mandated to provide technical support to the Senate President and Members of the Senate in their task to enact relevant and timely legislation and review proposed policies on national economic and social development. While SEPO focuses on the conduct of policy research and technical analyses of key legislative proposals, the Office also aims to help strengthen the research capability of the Senate and improve the legislative process. *The Final Report on the SEPO Economic and Social Development Framework: Pillars of Growth* presents the major results of a short term research project identifying major areas of reforms deemed pivotal in pursuing sustained economic growth and reducing poverty for Filipinos. These major areas of reforms are macroeconomic stability, climate, governance, social reforms and environment management.

The preparation of this report has provided the SEPO staff a unique opportunity to work with a diverse group of local and international experts from research institutions, the academe and government agencies to discuss emerging economic and social issues, to review policies that have not worked over the past 30 years, to identify the gaps and to recommend approaches in solving the pressing problems of the country. The preparation process included consultative meetings, briefings and a workshop made possible through the financial support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

This SEPO ESDF was prepared in order to present a menu of research and legislative proposals for the consideration of the Members of the Senate. Guided by the human development goal in the 2015 Millennium Development Goals, this document includes proposals from a number of sectoral and sector specific assessment reports and sector specific policy papers.

We, in SEPO, recognize that the struggle for national development and nation building is not fought only through technical means, or through laws and position papers but also through consensus-building and collaboration among individuals and groups, within and outside of government, who can mobilize people and institutions to action.

Much has been done in this recent endeavor, yet much more remains to be accomplished. This Final Report is only the beginning of the long crusade to produce and promote relevant policy proposals that are truly reflective of and responsive to the needs of the majority of Filipinos. We hope this report will stimulate interest and debate and help create a momentum for a people-oriented legislative agenda.


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