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DTI, NCC recognize most competitive cities and municipalities



DTI-TIPG Undersecretary Nora K. Terrado (center) presents the Overall Most Competitive Highly Urbanized City to Quezon City, led by Mayor Herbert M. Bautista (tenth from left), together with the members of the City administration during the 5th Regional Competitiveness Summit on 16 August 2017.

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the National Competitiveness Council (NCC) awarded the most competitive cities, municipalities, and provinces in the country during the 5th Regional Competitiveness Summit and Awards Ceremony held on 16 August 2017 at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC), Pasay City.

The awardees were determined based on the results of the Cities and Municipalities Index (CMCI) for 2016-2017. A total of 1,482 local government units (LGUs), including 145 cities and 1,342 municipalities, participated in the survey. This is 6% higher than the 1,389 LGUs (144 cities and 1,245 municipalities) who took part in the initiative last year. They were divided into four categories namely, third to fourth class municipalities, first to second class municipalities, component and independent cities, and highly urbanized cities.

CMCI is a yearly survey adopted from a local competitiveness framework used in global competitiveness surveys. It measures the performance of the country's cities and municipalities on four main areas namely, economic dynamism, government efficiency, infrastructure, and resiliency.

It intends to make the Philippines more competitive by empowering LGUs evaluate their performance based on global standards, determine areas for improvement and growth, and implement reforms and initiatives to climb the competitiveness ladder.

CMCI also intends to make doing business easier in the country and promote development of small entrepreneurs. It encourages LGUs to ensure efficient business registration processes, compliance to Business Permits and Licensing System (BPLS) standards, and presence of investments promotion units, which are some of the indicators of the index.

Gracing the awarding ceremony were **DTI-Competitiveness and Ease of Doing Business Group (CEODBG) Undersecretary Ruth B. Castelo**, **Consumer Protection Group (CPG) Undersecretary Teodoro C. Pascua**, **Trade and Investments Promotion Group (TIPG) Undersecretary Nora K. Terrado**, as well as DTI Regional and Provincial Directors. Members of Regional Competitiveness Councils (RCCs), representatives from various LGUs, national government agencies (NGAs), and partners from the private sector also attended the said event.

Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) Secretary Rodolfo A. Salalima served as the keynote speaker, who emphasized the essence of mechanization and automation in boosting the growth of the country. For the previous years, NCC has been advocating the automation of the government’s primary frontline services as means of increasing the country’s competitiveness.

On his part, **NCC Private Sector Co-Chair Guillermo M. Luz** said, *“I challenge you to get most of our government processes online. That’s how we want to transact with you—fast and efficient.”*

MOST COMPETITIVE CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES				
Cities and Municipalities Competitiveness Index 2017				
Competitiveness Index Pillar	Type of City/Municipality			
	3 rd to 4 th Class Municipality	1 st to 2 nd Class Municipality	Component and Independent Cities	Highly Urbanized Cities
Economic Dynamism	Mambajao, Camiguin	Cainta, Rizal	General Trias, Cavite	Pasay, Metro Manila
Government Efficiency	Cardona, Rizal	Cainta, Rizal	Naga, Camarines Sur	Manila, Metro Manila
Infrastructure	Baler, Aurora	Taytay, Rizal	Antipolo, Rizal	Quezon, Metro Manila
Resiliency	Mambajao, Camiguin	Cainta, Rizal	Bayawan, Negros Oriental	Davao, Davao del Sur
OVERALL	Baler, Aurora	Cainta, Rizal	Antipolo, Rizal	Quezon City, Metro Manila
MOST IMPROVED	Ivisan, Capiz	Bongabon, Nueva Ecija	Bago, Negros Occidental	Tacloban, Leyte
MOST COMPETITIVE PROVINCES	Rizal South Cotabato Cavite			

Bagging the Overall Most Competitiveness Award are Baler, Aurora (3rd to 4th class municipality), Taytay, Rizal (1st to 2nd class municipality), Antipolo City, Rizal (Component and Independent City), and Quezon City (Highly Urbanized City). These LGUs gained the highest overall index, exhibiting excellent performance in CMCI’s four pillars.

For more information on the CMCI, please visit <http://cmcindex.org.ph>.