



PRESS RELEASE

EC and NEDA launch second phase of Trade-Related Technical Assistance Project

The European Commission (EC) and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) launch today an approximately P420 million trade development assistance package intended to support efforts in reducing poverty incidence in the country.

Ambassador Alistair MacDonald of the Delegation of the European Commission to the Philippines and Deputy Director-General Margarita Songco of the National Economic and Development Authority will launch TRTA 2.

The development package, officially known as the Trade Related Technical Assistance (TRTA) project 2, aims to support sustainable poverty reduction in the Philippines through further integration into the international trade system.

The TRTA 2 aims to enhance the capacity of selected government agencies and non-state actors in the Philippines to implement deeper integration into the international trading systems in particular through the support to the ongoing- EU-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations. TRTA 2 will focus on the following components:

- 1) supporting the formulation and implementation of appropriate trade policies and commitments in particular the made in the framework of the ongoing EU-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement negotiations;
- 2) Facilitating the adoption of and compliance with international standards and regulations for selected product and service exports; and
- 3) Enhancing the competitive, transparent, and efficient movement of traded products within the international and regional trade facilitation systems.

Ambassador MacDonald said in an earlier release that the TRTA 2 is intended to assist Philippine authorities and the private sector to enhance conditions for international trade and investment.

The private sector and civil society will be encouraged to participate in the programme actions with particular attention to small and medium enterprises. The Rapid Response Facility (RRF) of TRTA 2 amounting to over 42 million pesos of the total TRTA2 development package could be used by the government to address unforeseen short-term technical assistance needs.



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The European Commission is the EU's executive body.

“The European Union is made up of 27 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders”.

TRTA 2 expands its food safety portfolio to additionally cover the Bureau of Plant Industry, National Meat Inspection Service, and Bureau of Animal Industry of the Philippine Department of Agriculture (DA). The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) and Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) of the Philippine Department of Agriculture (DA) were earlier assisted under the initial phase of TRTA.

Further, TRTA 2 seeks to formulate Philippine trade policies that will allow the Philippines to maximize the benefits from its bilateral, regional and international trade agreements and align its export safety standards and certification practices to internationally recognized systems.

It will assist the Philippine Accreditation Office to establish an accreditation system for industry operations in accordance to international safety standards and relevant EC directives.

To assist the Philippines in meeting her commitments in FTA and facilitate developing a unified ASEAN market, TRTA 2 will follow through the integration of 35 Philippine agencies concerned with the customs clearance process into the National Single Window (NSW).

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