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3 WAY FORWARD
INTRODUCTION

WHAT IS THE NATIONAL URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING FRAMEWORK?
The National Urban Development and Housing Framework (NUDHF) is the development framework for urban and urbanizing areas aimed at achieving the objectives of the Urban Development And Housing Act.

The NUDHF provides an overarching framework for urban development and housing, consisting of a vision, policy statements, and strategies, encompassing core development sectors and spatial elements. It is intended to guide the efforts of the Philippine government, private sector, and other stakeholders in improving the performance and efficiency of the country’s urban systems.

Who is it for?
The NUDHF is intended to be used primarily to guide the formulation and implementation of plans, programmes, and activities (PPAs) of national government agencies and local government units. It provides the private sector, academe, nongovernment organizations, professional organizations, people’s organizations, and other stakeholders with information and possible avenues of collaboration.

1.1 RATIONALE
The NUDHF, first crafted in 1993, addresses the need for an overall framework for policy and strategy, based on a clear urban development vision. The NUDHF contains a set of policy statements, strategies, and implementation measures intended to guide public and private sector efforts towards sustainable urban development and housing. Since 1993, there have been two updates (1999 and 2009) leading up to this current iteration.
1.2 LEGAL BASIS
The Urban Development and Housing Act of 1992 mandates the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB), under the direction of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) and pursuant to Article III, Sec. 6, to formulate the NUDHF in coordination with all local government units and other concerned public and private sectors.

The Climate Change Act of 2009 (CCA) and its amending law seeks to build national and local resilience to climate change-related disasters and protect and advance the people's right to a healthy and sustainable ecology. It compels the government to stabilize greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations at a level that prevents dangerous human interference with the climate system. This is to ensure that food production is not threatened and that economic development proceeds in a sustainable manner.

Meanwhile, the Disaster Risk Reduction Management Act of 2010, in response to the country’s vulnerability to natural disasters as well as climate change impacts, “provides for the development of policies and plans and the implementation of actions and measures pertaining to all aspects of disaster risk reduction and management, including good governance, risk assessment and early warning, knowledge building and awareness raising, reducing underlying risk factors, and preparedness for effective response and early recovery.”

Finally, Section 16 of the Local Government Code (Rep. Act No. 7160) directs local government units (LGUs) to exercise their powers for efficient and effective governance and to promote general welfare. LGUs shall ensure and support the “preservation and enrichment of culture, promote health and safety, enhance the right of the people to a balanced ecology, encourage and support the development of appropriate and self-reliant scientific and technological capabilities, improve public morals, enhance economic prosperity and social justice, promote full employment among their residents, maintain peace and order, and preserve the comfort and convenience of their inhabitants.”

1.3 ANCHORS
a. Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): The 17 SDGs set the course for the global effort to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities, and tackle climate change, while ensuring that no one is left behind. Specifically, SDG 11 aims to “make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.” Within this goal are targets that constitute the built environment agenda, and ensure that issues are addressed through the spatial lens.

b. The New Urban Agenda aims to address urban poverty and social exclusion, enhance and extend human rights perspectives in their application to cities and human settlements, and embrace a shift in the predominant urban pattern to minimize socio-spatial injustices and enhance equity, socio-spatial inclusion, political participation, and a decent life for all inhabitants.

c. AmBisyon Natin 2040 represents the long-term vision and aspirations of the Filipino people for themselves and for the country. It describes the kind of life that people want to live and how the country
will be by 2040. The long-term vision serves as an anchor for development planning for the next 25 years. Part of this is the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017–2022.

1.4 THE NEW NUDHF
The current realities and anticipated impacts of urbanization now require an updating of the country’s urban development and housing framework. The NUDHF, by constant evolution of the spaces and systems it encompasses, now seeks to usher in a new urban development paradigm, one that simultaneously enhances and departs from previous policies.

Recognizing lessons from the past two decades, the 2017–2022 NUDHF moves forward with emphasis on making urban spaces more inclusive, and creating more open, connected, and collectively resilient communities. It focuses on the role of urbanization in creating equitable growth, and will endeavor to describe and promote uniquely Filipino cities, municipalities, and urban areas.

### URBANIZATION LEVEL, PHILIPPINES, 2007–2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Censal Year</th>
<th>Total Population</th>
<th>Urban Population</th>
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<td>92,335,113</td>
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</table>

Source of Data: Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) New Definition
THE FRAMEWORK

2.1 VISION AND PRINCIPLES
The NUDHF adopts the country vision on urban development, as articulated in the Philippine New Urban Agenda: BETTER, GREENER, SMARTER URBAN SYSTEMS IN A MORE INCLUSIVE PHILIPPINES

The vision reflects the aspirations of millions of Filipinos for the future of Philippine cities. Better urban systems are globally competitive, economically vibrant, and livable. Greener urban systems are environmentally sustainable, climate resilient, and safe. Smarter urban systems are connected physically, spatially, and digitally. An inclusive Philippines is equitable, participatory, and provides universal access to political, economic, and basic social services. It safeguards children, women, elderly people, and persons with disability. It equalizes access to livelihood opportunities and social protection programmes. And it enables informal settler families to transform in the metropolises, living their lives with more security, pride, and dignity. It also recognizes the importance of rural–urban linkages and integration.

2.2 KEY FRAMEWORK PRINCIPLES
The NUDHF aligns itself along the above vision, and translates it into key principles that will frame urban development and housing strategies.
1. Urbanization as catalyst for inclusive growth
   - Urbanization must drive and influence the creation of and transformation towards culturally, socially, economically, and politically inclusive development.
   - Citizenship and equal rights for all inhabitants whether permanent or transient, with added focus on the right to housing and urban services; this includes women, those living in poverty or situations of environmental risk, informal economy workers, ethnic and religious groups, LGBT persons, differently abled persons, children, youth, elderly, migrants, and refugees

2. Climate change resilience as a base for spatial structuring and sectoral development
   - Resilience as the ability of a locality and its citizens to withstand impacts and shocks, and to rebuild, reorganize, or transform itself when necessary
   - Resilience as the foundation in planning and decision-making for spaces (neighborhoods, settlements, development areas, cities, municipalities, provinces, regions) and for addressing sectoral and/or cross-sectoral challenges (environment, social, economic, infrastructure, institutional, including cultural practices or expression)

3. Spatially and thematically integrated settlements within coherent and efficient urban systems and forms across scales
   - Urban design that aids in the integration and efficient function of urban elements and ensures social and economic inclusion
   - Efficient urban planning and design should be considered across scales from the smallest to the largest unit or element
   - Physically, spatially, functionally connected and accessible systems

The NUDHF endeavors to confront the challenge of inefficient density and unfettered urbanization.
4. Urban areas as accessible platforms for social and economic opportunity, cultural expression, and innovation

- Spaces for all inhabitants, with mechanisms that promote and facilitate activity and interaction
- Spaces that allow for shelter, decent work and secure livelihoods, formal and informal economic activities
- Spaces that promote identity and pride of place and support tangible and intangible cultural assets and creative practices and expressions
- Spaces that support and facilitate new technologies, organization models, and social, economic, and physical facilities

5. People’s participation and empowerment as foundations of urban governance, facilitating sustainable resource use, planning, management, and finance

- Equal and substantive participation of all stakeholders in the critique, implementation, and monitoring of urban development policies, legislation, and actions
- Involvement of marginalized sectors in decision-making for programmes that affect their quality of life, enabling socially responsible private sector participation and responsibility
- Support for the development of human capacity, promote integrated governance and capacity building for government staff, and promote deliberative urban processes
- Embedded participatory and sustainable urban development processes, structures, and mechanisms

6. Sustainable urban environment

- Protects ecosystems and urban biodiversity
- Promotes efficient, affordable, and clean energy
- Promotes sustainable use of air, water, land, and resources in urban development
- Promotes responsible production and consumption

These key framework principles are interpreted and expressed in more specific terms as thematic strategies. Together, they are intended to realize the vision for sustainable urban development in the Philippines.

2.3 STRATEGIES

2.3.1 Population

a. Enforce a sound population management policy that focuses on the well-being of the family, especially women and youth. The Philippines will benefit from the full implementation of the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Law, which assists couples in achieving their fertility goals through safe, legal, and affordable means consistent with their customs and religious beliefs. The Philippine government should adopt population strategies that advocate the advantages of a small family size, prevention of early marriages, and proper timing and spacing of childbirths as part of responsible parenthood.

b. Transform youth bulge into a demographic dividend or window of opportunity. There are more than 30 million Filipinos aged 10–24 years old. Comprising almost a third of the Philippine population, this young age group’s potential must be developed. A greater proportion of the gross domestic product (GDP) should be invested in education, including formal education and vocational–technical training, so that the youth will be prepared to enter the workforce as employable and globally competitive.

c. Offer and implement better incentives for more efficient urban densities. Increasing densities in urban areas is essential to accommodate projected population increases, address urban sprawl, and sustain economic growth. Apart from zoning regulations,
context-based development guidelines are an effective tool to encourage efficient densities, especially in prime urban areas, and regulate the nature, intensity, and direction of development.

d. Support vulnerable sectors and minimize displacement. Urbanization should provide all members of Philippine society opportunities for development. A culturally sensitive social mix in urban areas, especially one that supports vulnerable sectors such as women, youth, indigenous peoples, persons with disability, the poor, and migrants, will contribute to inclusive growth.

e. Support policy on prioritizing onsite and in-city resettlement with off-site resettlement as a last option as a spatial planning tool and a risk reduction approach. Where resettlement of households is unavoidable, such as informal settler families located in danger areas or unsuitable sites, government must ensure that the resettlement site has access to livelihood or income opportunities, and that the resettlement site is complete with basic utilities such as power and water supply. Encroachment along roadways should be prevented to control urban sprawl. Cities should consider resettlement sites in planning their expansion areas or growth nodes.

f. Prioritize allocation of land for utilities and critical infrastructure in an archipelagic setting. National and local governments should be more proactive in identifying, acquiring, safeguarding, and developing land for critical infrastructure such as mass transport, roads and bridges, ports, airports, water distribution, power, and communications. Moreover, infrastructure planning should consider both land and water uses, and aim to increase connectivity between islands. Doing so would improve access to services, support inclusive mobility, and encourage sustainable urban development in more areas in the country.

g. Develop the urban development database. Strategies and policies dealing with urban development and housing need to be based on evidence. Planning and managing cities and urban areas require the use of updated, valid, and reliable data including maps and spatial information.

2.3.2 Urban Planning and Design

a. Fully operationalize ridge-to-reef and/or integrated ecosystems planning. The “ridge-to-reef or integrated ecosystems planning framework” was adopted by the HLURB for the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) Guidebooks 2013–2014, which utilizes system-based tools such as the ecological transect and other tools.

The NUDHF prioritizes the identification and protection of open spaces as a first step in designing urban areas, with built-up spaces planned around and in consideration of this network. LGUs must establish the primacy and connectivity of public spaces, and provide resources for their development.
HIERARCHY OF SETTLEMENTS
According to populations of Philippine municipalities and cities in 2015
**STRATEGIES**

**THE FRAMEWORK**

b. Strengthen the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) planning and climate change adaptation/mitigation (CCAM) planning with spatial and sectoral development planning. The mainstreaming of DRRM and CCAM in the CLUP and Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP) need to be ensured. Areas for improvement, harmonization, and rationalization, where possible, must also be identified. This includes streamlining and harmonizing processes on CCAM-DRR and capacity building for planning offices, professionalization, and ethical accountability in the planning process and documentation.

c. Design barangays and neighborhoods in terms of human scale and walkability. The NUDHF proposes a return to human-scaled proportions and to design barangays in terms of human scale and walkability, with the necessary infrastructure and services within walking distance of residents. This may be incorporated in the local development planning process following the CLUP Guidebook, specifically under the Special Studies on Urban Design and Development.

d. Promote adequate networks of public open spaces. The NUDHF prioritizes the identification and protection of open spaces as a first step in designing urban areas, with built-up spaces planned around and in consideration of this network. LGUs must establish the primacy and connectivity of public spaces, and provide resources for their development. This also includes locating and establishing public buildings in strategic areas, and designing public spaces in a way that supports disaster risk reduction and climate change action (e.g., escape routes and evacuation plans).

e. Consider the water cycle in urban planning and design. The water cycle should be considered as a key element at all levels of planning and design. Plans must support watershed improvement. Subsequently, they must include, where possible, the development of alternative water sources other than groundwater. In line with this, the collection of rainwater and the recycling of domestic water for domestic use must be considered. Cities and municipalities must ensure adequate water domestic supply without encroaching on the recharge areas of adjacent areas. Land developments must be reviewed to ensure adequate water supply both for the development and adjacent communities.

f. Promote compact development. Compact development entails the promotion of efficient densities at all scales of urban planning, which maintains the balance between urban demand and available resources. Areas with efficient densities tend to cut back the cost of public services such as police and emergency response, infrastructure maintenance, school transport, water, and sewage. This will promote the holistic management of the urban area and reduce urban sprawl.

g. Promote mixed use. Following the principle of spatial and sectoral integration within coherent and efficient urban systems, local government and development partners are urged to plan areas for mixed uses and minimize highly specialized land zoning where possible. Mixing land uses allows for the integration of complementing activities, and also supports compact development. Land use specialization to limit single function blocks or neighborhoods is discouraged.

h. Promote social mix. Urban design at the local level should maximize the use of spaces to promote social equality and spatial justice. Urban spaces, including buildings and residential areas, should espouse social integration and diversity of social as well as income groups. Diversity
and social inclusion should be encouraged consciously by local authorities and planners especially in designing public spaces, including streets, markets, schools and universities, parks and plazas, beaches and waterfront zones.

i. Integrate mobility and transport planning in land use planning. The NUDHF advocates the shift from car-oriented to people-oriented mobility. A new hierarchy of transportation and mobility is introduced, prioritizing pedestrians first, then non-motorized vehicles such as bicycles, followed by public transport, commercial vehicles, taxis, and single occupancy vehicles.

j. Optimize use of existing spaces and structures in the built-up area through adaptive reuse, urban redevelopment, and urban infill. To ensure the preservation of these heritage areas, the NUDHF adopts the more sustainable policy of adaptive reuse for existing structures, urban infill, or the use of vacant lands or underutilized property for urban revitalization rather than city extension or land reclamation.

k. Control urban sprawl by promoting planned urban expansion. Compact, mixed use development can be complemented and made more effective by promoting planned urban expansion. Anticipating urban growth, setting boundaries to existing areas, and providing for rational expansion in selected areas will control urban sprawl and manage urban resources better. It will also aid in food security, maintenance of protected areas, and the integration and linkage cities and municipalities in a coherent manner.
1. Extend capacity development programmes and projects to integrate the reduction of GHG emissions at the local planning level: CLUP, CDP, and LCCAP. Urban planning and design must integrate low emission development principles and strategies. Building national and local planners’ capacity to understand GHG mitigation options along with the adaptation elements of urban plans and designs is now more essential to ensure that people will indeed live in economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable communities.

2.3.3 Housing

a. Develop inclusive, integrated housing. Housing development should be culturally sensitive and must adhere to appropriate standards and design. It should pay special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, including indigenous peoples (IPs), persons with disabilities (PWDs), the elderly, informal settler families (ISFs), internally displaced populations from disaster-stricken or internal-conflict areas, women, and children. Mixed-income housing is encouraged to promote inclusive communities.

b. Operationalize the National Informal Settlements Upgrading Strategy. The NUDHF recognizes the value of providing security of tenure for urban settlers, both formal and informal. As policy reforms move toward improving land management and land valuation, rights-based instruments (RBIs) or other forms of secure tenure instruments—such as usufruct, other lease variants, and right to occupy or build—are now recognized as secure tenure instruments and collateral substitutes. RBIs offer a less costly approach to providing secure tenure to segments of society unable to secure freehold titles, particularly the urban poor.

c. Improve affordability of housing programmes and projects. Government must seek to improve, enhance, expand, and sustain financing programmes for government housing projects, especially those that focus on community-based
housing and self-help such as the Community Mortgage Programme. More importantly, improving affordability through housing finance must be coupled with initiatives to increase families’ capacity to pay. This means fully integrating sustainable livelihood and employment into the housing process, and looking at economic development as a function of shelter delivery. Operationally, this translates to the implementation of an integrated housing strategy requiring the collaboration of shelter, economic, and social welfare agencies beyond their current or traditional mandates.

d. **Promote resilient housing.** The framework promotes the development of climate resilient, affordable housing. This can be achieved through the adoption of appropriate housing standards or building codes, technologies, and innovations, incorporating conditions for resilience and resource efficiency. These new standards and technologies must be in accordance with the thrust toward affordability and social equity. For instance, retrofitting of existing housing structures based on climate change vulnerability and disaster risk can be explored, addressing the conditions of resilience, affordability, and rights-based housing.

e. **Enforce the balanced housing provision of the UDHA.** Rep. Act No. 10884, which amends the UDHA, requires owners and developers of proposed subdivision and condominium projects to develop an area for socialized housing equivalent to at least 15% of the total subdivision area or total subdivision project cost and at least 5% of the condominium area or project cost. Significant in this amendment is the inclusion of vertical housing developments in socialized housing compliance. It must be noted that these are minimum requirements, and developers may opt to increase the percentages.

f. **Update appropriate housing unit size requirements based on local context.** Local governments and developers are encouraged to further assess the needs of end users with regard to their space requirements, without income discrimination and considering various factors such as location, culture, economic linkages, and livelihood opportunities, among others. People-centered planning processes can address this gap, and allow stakeholders to determine appropriate unit sizes.

g. **Make land available and accessible for housing.** There are several ways to increase the supply and reduce the cost of urban land,
thereby addressing physical and artificial shortage of land for development:
- Unlocking unused or underused government-owned land
- Land pooling/readjustment
- Land banking
- Land cost adjustment for affordable housing
- Reducing land speculation through fiscal measures
- Making land information accessible to the land market

h. Promote local shelter planning to encourage broad-based participation and ensure implementation of housing and land strategies. Citizen participation and localized capacity serve as foundations for effective and efficient shelter provision. Empowering communities also increases accountability and transparency in the implementation and monitoring of housing strategies. Local shelter planning enables LGUs to determine housing needs, conduct inventory of resources, identify priority housing programmes and projects, and initiate needed partnerships for housing projects.

2.3.4 Urban Infrastructure and Basic Services

Water and Sanitation

a. Streamline policies and improve the regulatory framework to ensure sustainable water security in urban areas. Water and sanitation infrastructure must be harmonized with legislation, policies, and organizational development plans. Simplifying the regulatory framework from the approval of water and sanitation plans to maintenance will enable proponents to protect, explore, develop, and expand water and sanitation services for the larger urban system. Implement programmes and initiatives on watershed protection.

b. Promote and support innovative water and sanitation technologies. Cost-efficient, alternative technologies in water and sanitation, including water recycling should be supported. This entails investment in research, prototyping and fully developing technologies, especially localized solutions.

c. Support financing for climate and disaster-resilient water and sanitation infrastructure. Mobilizing resources, including those from the private sector, would allow government flexibility in developing and implementing high capital outlay infrastructure projects. Replicating and improving on the successes of privately managed water utilities will further strengthen resilience of urban water infrastructure.

d. Strengthen local government capacity on water and sanitation governance. Capacity building programmes should be in place for national, regional, and local water and sanitation personnel in critical areas like...
coordination with national government agencies (NGAs) and other government entities, planning, project development, decision-making, budgeting, and private sector engagement.

**Public Health**

*Mainstreaming of health impact assessments (HIAs).* Energy infrastructure projects should mainstream HIAs to supplement environmental impact assessments. This provides additional information for resilience-building, including climate change vulnerability and disaster risk assessments, renewable energy programming, and planning and urban design in consideration of public health targets.

**Energy (Sustainable/Renewable)**

1. *Streamline procedures for the development of renewable energy projects, to improve ease of doing business.* This would entail reducing requirements and processing times, revisiting investment and business application procedures, and making adjustments to ease start-up and operations cost, thereby boosting the number of domestic and foreign investments in the sector.

2. *Increase energy sourcing from low-carbon and other clean energy technologies.* Government must adopt measures that promote better energy mix, thereby increasing energy sourcing from low-carbon and other clean energy technologies.
technologies. Identifying and mapping renewable energy resources becomes a key technical concern for LGUs. With technical support, local governments can pursue proper identification of land use and other requirements for renewable energy investments.

c. Promote energy efficiency. LGUs can also adopt measures that promote more efficient energy consumption, for instance in work areas, public buildings, and settlement sites. Energy efficiency should be considered in settlements planning, building design and construction, and transportation.

d. Explore and implement technology research and funding mechanisms that support small-scale renewable energy projects. It is necessary to develop appropriate technology and financing in support of renewable energy for use of micro- and small and medium-sized enterprises, cooperatives, as well as housing and settlements development. This will help reduce the demand for fossil fuel and empower communities to produce, supply, and manage renewable energy. Encourage development of alternative domestic power sources to augment existing supply sourced from the grid.

Drainage

a. Comprehensive mapping of natural waterways, drainage and sewerage systems, including waterways that have been built over. Mapping natural waterways would assist planners in identifying blue and green spaces for land use planning, and urban renewal and systems upgrading programmes.

b. Improve public investment in infrastructure for drainage networks, sewerage systems, and water treatment plants, taking into consideration sound analysis on population growth and infrastructure demand, climate change, and disaster risk. Ensure sustainable financial investment by designing and implementing long-term drainage infrastructure projects.

c. Ensure use of local climate change projections and disaster risks in designing drainage networks and related infrastructure.

Waste Management

a. Encourage community-based waste management programmes. As successful waste management is about influencing human behavior to respect rules and to protect the environment and the community’s welfare, local governments will benefit most from community-based solid waste management programmes in
accordance with applicable legislation and policies. This could also involve providing incentives to community stakeholders in using material recovery facilities, or limiting garbage volume at source. This is possible through advocacy and education. Cities should also explore and develop composting and vermiculture as waste byproducts, which can be used for urban agriculture.

b. Adopt modern technology and systems in monitoring solid waste management programmes. Government must welcome the use of better technology to make waste management more efficient, for instance in monitoring of waste disposal activity, scheduling, and volume tracking. Cities are also encouraged to invest in alternative green filtration systems, natural filters to cleanse waterways, which can be part of the spatial strategy and urban design, as in the case of endemic grass-wetland species used for grey wastewater treatment systems in riverfront development. This also complements resilience measures and raises public appreciation for better and more appropriate infrastructure systems.

c. Develop inter-LGU coordinated waste management plans for efficient regional mobilization of resources. Metropolitanization and similar aggregations can act as catalysts in maximizing resources for public infrastructure and services, particularly in urban waste management. Coordinated site planning for sanitary landfills is cost-efficient and effective given land constraints in urban areas.

Information and Communications Technology
a. Open up Investments in ICT. The NUDHF recommends a review of competition laws to open up investments in the telecommunications sector and allow more service providers. This will address constraints arising from the current duopoly set-up, which has hindered the entry of alternative service providers.
A NATIONAL BROADBAND NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE WILL ENHANCE PUBLIC ACCESS TO STATE SERVICES AND GLOBAL INFORMATION THAT IS FREE AND OPEN.
b. Establish a national broadband network infrastructure. A national broadband network infrastructure will enhance public access to state services and global information that is free and open. It will help provide access to areas that have not yet been penetrated. Internet access will no longer be a luxury for the few, but a basic right of citizens. It will also encourage greater community participation through communication and connectivity.

c. Ensure access to government-owned data, including geospatial data, in order to improve planning and ensure transparency and accountability in government services.

Efficient urban transportation infrastructure in support of enhanced mobility
To ensure efficiency, sustainability, and resilience of urban transportation infrastructure, the NUDHF urges government to:

a. Improve the linkage between land use and transportation systems
b. Maintain a balance between transportation-related energy use and clean air
c. Encourage alternative modes of transportation that enhance energy efficiency while providing high levels of mobility and safety

2.3.5 Urban Economy and Finance

Economy
a. Promote connectivity of economic activities. The NUDHF advocates an integrated urban economy, one that incorporates sustainable growth strategies as generally suggested in the CLUP Guidebook. To this end, systems-based economic models can be adopted to enhance forward and backward economic linkages between and among key cities or metropolitan areas, and smaller cities and municipalities. Practical applications for the economy would be value chain development of local economic activities, or cluster-based industrial development approaches, which considerably influence urban form.

b. Provide key infrastructure to support economic growth and development. The provision of infrastructure within the city is necessary to its efficient and equitable functioning. Infrastructure development is a necessary condition to make cities competitive. Physical infrastructure needs to be in place to provide basic urban services such as electricity, water, communication, and waste management facilities. Roads and bridges, airports, and seaports should promote connectivity in the movement of people, goods, and services. Social infrastructure and social services such as schools, hospitals, shops, public
transportation, police and fire stations, and recreational facilities are necessary to address the needs of all people toward creating sustainable communities.

c. Enhance competitiveness of the workforce. This includes expanding the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Program; addressing job and skill mismatch; enhancing the Alternative Learning System (ALS); and implementing the Philippine Qualifications Framework.

d. Provide support to the informal sector. An enabling environment that recognizes and supports the working poor in the informal economy as legitimate actors in the economic development process should be promoted. Urban economic growth and development should enable, not destroy, informal livelihoods. Strategies aimed at mainstreaming the informal sector focus on inclusion of the sector in the business operations recognition system; organization of informal sector operators to serve as participatory mechanism for government support and other forms of engagement; expansion of microfinance and entrepreneurship support; and provision of support for those who intend to transition from informal to formal sector.

e. Increase Investments by:
   • Making lands available for new investors and locators in identified growth centers or town centers, as delineated in the CLUP;
   • Creating a special unit such as an investment promotion office within the LGU to focus on economic promotion;
   • Simplifying and streamlining of rules and regulations to decrease time spent on processing business registration, as well as business entry and exit;
   • Providing incentives for new investors; and
   • Maintaining a healthy, peaceful, and orderly situation in the area.

f. Strengthen key economic sectors:
   • Manufacturing: Strictly implement environmental laws; review education curriculum to determine compatibility with the demand for manufacturing activities; establish and strengthen rural–urban linkages and value chains.
   • Tourism: Increase accessibility and connectivity; build capacities of LGU personnel to optimize the strategic position of cities as transit hubs and provide suitable facilities and amenities; improve telecommunications infrastructure.

The provision of infrastructure within the city is necessary to its efficient and equitable functioning. Infrastructure development is a necessary condition to make cities competitive.
• Business Process Outsourcing (BPO): Implement the Philippine Digital Strategy developed by the ICT sector; train the workforce to take on higher value BPO activities such as software publishing and motion picture, television, and video programmes; develop relevant curriculum; and strictly implement labor laws.

• Urban Agriculture: Support rural agricultural development to ensure sustained production of the country’s basic agricultural and fisheries commodities coupled with the promotion of urban agriculture; promote urban agriculture to help ensure food security in cities, noting that consumption is considerably highest in urban areas.

g. Support Micro-, Small, and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs). Strengthen support for current programmes for MSME development focusing on funding and equipment provision, ease of doing business, capacity-building, product design and development, and industry prioritization.

h. Promote and support green industries. The government recognizes certain advantages that a changing climate brings, including a more active pursuit of a green, low-carbon, and resource-efficient economy. The Green Jobs Act of 2016 must be expanded on, with further support in the form of incentives to business enterprises that generate and sustain green jobs, goods and services, and technologies, or engage in low emission development. Local governments can also prioritize green industries in land use allocation and urban design, by incorporating appropriate performance standards for business enterprises in the CLUP and Zoning Ordinance. These can include requirements and guidelines on energy and water use, employment, as well sustainable building design and construction.

Finance

a. Improve the tax collection system and structure. Measures to improve tax collection systems by LGUs may include preparing and maintaining a good database on real properties, and aggressive information on the need of paying real property taxes and online services and outsourcing on tax collection services.

b. Update the land valuation system as basis for real property taxation. Updating the land values of real properties is another measure to increase tax collection among LGUs. Updating the market values would require a comprehensive database of real property taxpayers and GIS-enabled real property maps or cadastral maps.

c. Implement idle lands tax. The objectives of this special levy are to promote efficient and optimum utilization of land for the overall benefit of society, and to prevent the practice of speculative holding of land. It also serves as a regulatory device to influence the pattern and direction of development in accordance with the desired urban form. It is inevitable to strictly impose idle lands tax and special assessment tax and appropriate sanctions based on applicable laws.

d. Adopt and implement land-based financing mechanisms. Municipalities can use a host of land-based revenue-generating mechanisms to meet expenditures and direct spatial growth. Land value capture tools enable local officials to mobilize for public benefit all or part of the increases in land value that result from community investments rather than the actions of landowners.

e. Enhance public–private partnerships (PPPs). PPPs encompass a range of possible relationships among public and private entities in the context of infrastructure and other services. The partnerships come in various forms to include the build-operate-transfer (BOT) scheme and its variations, and joint venture agreements between the government (national and/or local) with
private entities, among other modalities, in the implementation of key infrastructure projects of the government.

d. **Institutionalize participatory budgeting.** Grassroots participatory budgeting is an approach to budget proposal preparation of national line agencies. It considers the development needs of cities and municipalities based on consultations with the basic sector and other civil society organizations, as identified in their respective local poverty reduction action plans. This is a strategy to ensure the inclusion of the development needs as identified in the budget proposal of participating government line agencies.

2.3.6 Public Administration, Urban Governance and Management

a. **Harmonize legal frameworks and administrative hierarchies to improve policy implementation, government service administration, and development opportunities.** Some overlaps may occur in implementing policies, administering government services, and extending development opportunities. This is not necessarily to be avoided, as some degree of redundancy is always necessary. Nevertheless, since the passage of the Local Government Code, there has been a strong impetus towards empowering LGUs to self-govern. Hence, this framework suggests the protocols for such cases.

b. **Institutionalize the review, monitoring, and evaluation of urban development policies, plans, and programmes.** Both national and local government must conduct a continuous review of legislation, policies, and programmes on urban development and housing. This requires output and outcome monitoring and ground validation, as well as employing quantitative and qualitative assessments. Support must be given to LGUs in acquiring technologies for improved knowledge management.

c. **Clarify, review, and update institutional mandates.** The HUDCC, along with its key shelter agencies (KSAs), must broaden its scope to coordinate urban development management in order to meet the objectives and goals outlined in the updated NUDHF. In the absence of budget control and resource allocation powers, however, HUDCC is inherently weak as the coordinative mechanism at the national level, and presents a strong case for the formation of a Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development. The proposed Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development is a positive move toward a Cabinet level department. This will provide a clearer mandate, not only on housing, but more importantly on urban development, which is often lost in the slew of priority policies.

d. **Formalize LGU associations, functional clusters, or other supra-local administrative authorities or arrangement.** In rapidly urbanizing cities and regions, it is sometimes necessary to reconfigure present governance structures or form new administrative arrangements, especially where two or more adjacent LGUs have grown to form a physically agglomerated mass, to address cross-border problems such as traffic, flooding, crime, and garbage in the de facto metropolis. This administrative solution can either be the result of consensus from LGU peers, or legislated. The intention is to plan urban growth in a manner that generates sustained benefits for all.

e. **Manage public spaces as venues for participatory governance.** As aligned with strategies under planning and design, infrastructure, and following the principle of inclusiveness, urban management should ensure that public spaces are well-maintained (i.e., adequately funded and managed) so that they perform their functions. Public spaces should cater to collective political and democratic expression as an input to urban governance.
Social inclusion is enhanced through community participation especially of vulnerable groups. Public spaces facilitate this interaction, extending community participation even to action planning, housing decisions, and neighborhood connectivity.

f. Operationalize people–public–private partnerships. Formal government cannot take on the complex tasks of nation-building alone. In order to build and respond comprehensively to the needs of the populace, the private sector and civil society should be co-opted as partners at the local, subnational, and national levels. Consistent with the strategies on economic development, people–public–private partnerships should be part of the governance mechanism to promote sustainable economic activity, encourage continuous research and technology transfer to the community, and strengthen transparent collaboration between private and public sector organizations.

g. Ensure urban safety and security. Man-made hazards, risks, and crime, usually resolved through police presence and emergency response, can also be addressed through greater community participation and awareness of safety and security issues. Better urban planning and urban design will also provide tangible solutions to urban risks, from the household and street level up to citywide safety and security measures.

h. Enforce delineation and protection of special areas such as protected areas, prime agriculture areas, key biodiversity areas, critical habitats, heritage areas, ancestral domains. Consistent with the strategy on
urban planning and design, government must clearly delineate, map, and protect special areas such as critical habitats and prime agricultural and heritage areas. Enforcing protection helps government and stakeholders manage urban growth within the bounds of the ecosystem. It will also benefit the urban system by helping achieve food security, increase biodiversity, and contribute to climate change action and disaster risk reduction.

i. Capacitate staff at all levels of government. It is essential to build capacities of LGU staff in the following aspects: (a) plan preparation, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation; (b) project planning, development, and management; (c) planning-programming-budgeting linkage, and (d) public financial management, among other concerns.

j. Strengthen local/decentralized governance mechanisms as the core of urban governance and management. Maintaining the decentralized governance structure will allow local governments to assume accountability and responsibility for pursuing general welfare, delivering services to the community, and achieving sustainable urban development, all of which fall within the jurisdiction of an LGU. This entails policy reforms to address structural deficiencies, improve local financial management, and sustain capacity development programmes. Vertical and horizontal integration will facilitate and encourage actions consistent with LGU plans and higher-level plans and programmes.

k. Ensure ethical and effective local leadership for safe, resilient, sustainable, and inclusive cities. Government leaders should be
competent, ethical, and able to demonstrate innovative and effective urban governance. They must adhere to applicable codes of conduct and emulate good practices. Local chief executives should be accountable for developing and implementing plans, considering their power to implement laws and public policies.

1. Improve coordination and collaboration among agencies concerned with urban development and housing. While there is already a higher level of coordination than in past years, agencies such as the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council and key shelter agencies, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture, Department of Agrarian Reform, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, Department of Justice, and Philippine Economic Zone Authority will need closer engagement. One significant step to do this is to begin constructing and unifying essential databases on land and land-based resources, among other possible actions that tackle problematic areas such as informal settlements, lands still subject to agrarian reform, mining areas versus indigenous peoples’ claims, and disputed lands and waters. Possible restructuring of shelter agencies must be seriously considered, such as the creation of the Department of Human Settlements and Housing.

2.3.7 Prospects for Integration in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Economic Community

The opening and integration of ASEAN markets can be seen as a call to wider inclusiveness and integration, consistent with the principles of this framework. To capture the opportunities related to ASEAN integration, the NUDHF proposes the following broad strategies,

for implementation in urban areas and urbanizing rural areas, which local plans should resonate with:

a. Focus on investment climate improvements, geospatial preparations as well as social and health safeguards in strategic nodes of trade.

b. Invest in post-production facilities such as waste management and support services for locators.

c. Improve in-city internal systems and other infrastructure necessary for integration, including ICT, utilities, transportation, and quality control (product safety, substance control, labeling, etc).
WAY FORWARD

TO ACHIEVE THE NUDHF VISION, ITS PRINCIPLES AND STRATEGIES SHOULD BE INTEGRATED INTO THE PLANS AND PROGRAMMES OF THE GOVERNMENT AND ITS PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT.

HLURB sees the NUDHF as the main guiding framework in land use planning, real estate management, and other related HLURB mandates. It will also serve as a guide for the review of the CLUP, particularly how the framework’s principles and strategies are reflected in the plans of cities and municipalities. It will also serve as a main reference document in the conduct of technical assistance and training for local government. The NUDHF supports both the long-term and medium-term development plans of the government. It was designed to complement the Philippine Development Plan (PDP), support AmBisyon Natin 2040, and provide a clear policy direction and strategy for the implementation of the Philippine New Urban Agenda (NUA 2016–2036).

Finally, the NUDHF will substantively guide the development of policies concerning urban development and housing, and provide inputs to policies of related sectors. The following mainstreaming strategies will ensure that the NUDHF is fully realized:

- Formulation of a communications plan and support for capacity development;
- Integration of applicable and appropriate policies and strategies identified in the NUDHF in the formulation of CLUPs, zoning ordinances, and Comprehensive Development Plans;
- Development of an urban management database; and
- Updating of current policies and legislations.

The NUDHF will guide and provide inputs to the development of policies concerning urban development and housing and related sectors.