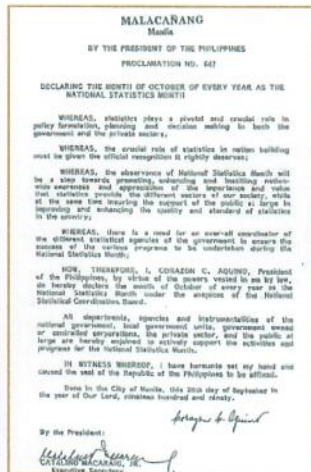
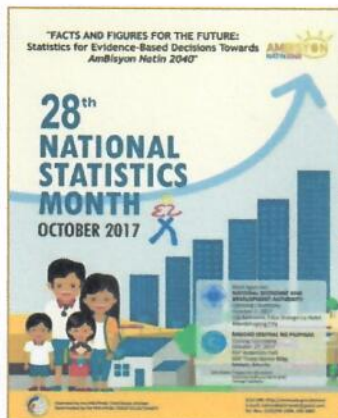


# Highlights of the 28<sup>th</sup> National Statistics Month



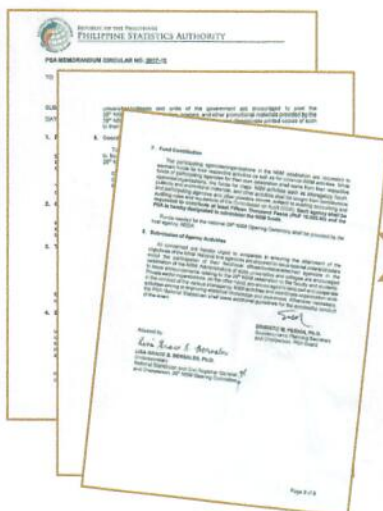
## Presidential Proclamation No. 647

Pursuant to Presidential Proclamation No. 647, "Declaring the Month of October of Every Year as the National Statistics Month (NSM)", the Philippine Statistical System (PSS), with its partners, celebrate the NSM to: (1) promote, enhance, and instill awareness and appreciation of the importance and value of statistics to the different sectors of society; and (2) elicit the cooperation and support of the general public in upgrading the quality and standards of statistics in the country. The NSM is organized by the PSS and spearheaded by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).



## 28<sup>th</sup> NSM Theme

In October 2017, the 28<sup>th</sup> NSM carried the theme "FACTS AND FIGURES FOR THE FUTURE: Statistics for Evidence-Based Decisions Towards *AmBisyon Natin 2040*." The theme highlighted the important role of reliable statistics and factual information in determining appropriate strategies in tracking our progress towards *AmBisyon Natin 2040* where all Filipinos are envisioned to enjoy a *matatag, maginhawa, at panatag na buhay*.



## PSA Memorandum Circular No. 2017-12

PSA Memorandum Circular No. 2017-12, dated 04 September 2017 and signed by Secretary Ernesto M. Pernia of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and Undersecretary Lisa Grace S. Bersales of the PSA, enjoins all agencies of the government, local government units, academic institutions, state universities and colleges, and the private sector at the national and subnational levels to actively participate in and support the 28<sup>th</sup> NSM celebration.



## 28<sup>th</sup> NSM Opening Ceremony

A total of 273 participants from various government agencies, international organizations, private sector, media, and academe attended the 28<sup>th</sup> NSM Opening Ceremony which was held at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City, on 02 October 2017.

The 28<sup>th</sup> NSM Opening Ceremony, hosted by the NEDA, aimed to:

- continue the awareness campaign of *AmBisyon Natin 2040* and its link to the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022, among government agencies, the academe, media, and the private sector;
- promote strategies towards developing a society that is smart and innovative, using current technology and information; and
- encourage the youth more to formulate solutions to society's everyday problems in the near and short-term.

Formally opening the 28<sup>th</sup> NSM Opening Ceremony, Undersecretary Bersales and Secretary Pernia delivered the welcome remarks and keynote speech, respectively. They both underscored the vital role of statistics in tracking the country's progress towards the achievement of the long-term vision, *AmBisyon Natin 2040*.



Photo courtesy of NEDA

Undersecretary Bersales opening the ceremony with her welcome remarks.



Photo courtesy of NEDA

Secretary Pernia delivering his keynote speech.

With its main objective to showcase the significance of official statistics in the advocacy of news integrity, innovation, creativity, and intellect of Filipinos, one of the highlights of the ceremony is the discussion on the "Importance of Official Statistics in Data Journalism" by Mr. John Nery of the Philippine Daily Inquirer. He emphasized in his presentation the three elements of fake news, i.e., "1) a deliberate act of fabrication or manipulation, 2) disguised to look, sound, feel like the news, and 3) designed to deceive."

Various audio-visual presentations (AVPs), i.e., *AmBisyon Natin 2040*, PDP 2017-2022, and *Tunog ng Progreso*, were shown during the ceremony.



Photo courtesy of NEDA

Mr. Nery discussing the important role of official statistics in data journalism.



Secretary Pernia, Undersecretary Bersales, and Mr. Nery, with Dr. Johannes Jütting of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (PARIS21), and Mr. Thyro Alfaro and Mr. Allan Feliciano, composers of *Tunog ng Progreso*, served as panelists during the discussion on the “Importance of Official Statistics in Data Journalism.”



Panelists with the moderator during panel discussion.



The National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) performed a cultural presentation. They tackled some current challenges in information, education, and communication through dancing, singing, and acting.

After the presentation of the NCCA, two (2) parallel breakout sessions were held simultaneously, as follows:



#### Session 1:

CULTIVATING INNOVATIVE YOUNG MINDS THROUGH PUBLIC POLICY INTEGRATION AND USE OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS IN THE ACADEME

- Speakers:
  - ✓ Assistant Secretary Paul Anthony M. Pangilinan of the National Youth Commission
  - ✓ Director Maria Teresita M. Semana of the Commission on Higher Education
  - ✓ Mr. Adrian Briones and Ms. Joanna Ramos of the De La Salle University School of Economics

#### Session 2:

EMPOWERING CITIZENS TO BE CRITICAL IN PROCESSING INFORMATION IN THE AGE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

- Speakers:
  - ✓ Mr. Jefferson S. Lizardo of the Department of Information and Communications Technology
  - ✓ Mr. Jose Francisco Endrinal of Transparency.ph

Session 1 emphasized the importance of the relationship of academic teachings and evidence-based public policy solutions. Session 2, meanwhile, discussed the responsibility of Filipinos in spreading intellectual discussions online and utilization of available information and statistical resources.

## 27<sup>th</sup> NSM Awards

The annual NSM Awards has been part of NSM celebrations since 2002. The Awards serves as an instrument to recognize and provide incentives for the outstanding participation of agencies, regional offices, and private entities in NSM celebrations, and to further encourage them to be more active in their participation in future NSM celebrations.

The winners of the 27<sup>th</sup> NSM Awards who received cash prizes and plaques of recognition were:



**Negros Island Region** as the **Best NSM Region** for the successful conduct of various statistical activities in the region in October 2016.

**“Promoting Statistics in Measuring SDGs through NSM Activities” of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)** held on 11-13 October 2016 as the **Best Statistical Activity Conducted by a Government Organization.**



**“Environmental Accounting and Human Development Index Symposium” of the Saint Louis University (SLU)** held on 21 October 2016 as the **Best Statistical Activity Conducted by a Private Organization.**



**UPLB Statistical Society** as the **Best Youth Advocate for Statistics** for the successful conduct of various statistical activities for the youth in October 2016.

## 7<sup>th</sup> NSM Media Awards

The NSM Media Awards were instituted in 2008 to recognize the important role of media practitioners in the advocacy of statistics especially through broadcast (TV and radio), print, and/or online media. The winners of the 27<sup>th</sup> NSM Awards who received cash prizes and plaques of recognition were:



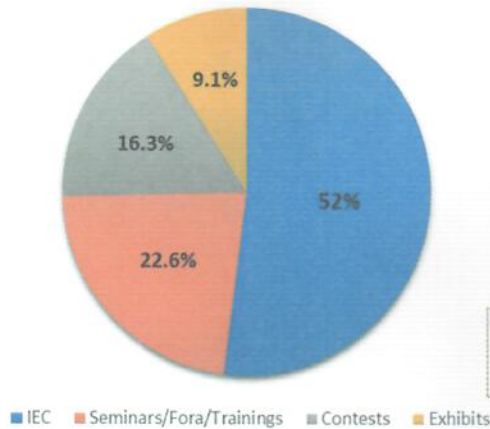
**Ms. Chrisee Dela Paz**, business reporter from Rappler as the **Best Individual for Online Category.**

**Ms. Gabrielle Binaday**, former business reporter from Manila Standard as the **Best Individual for Print Category.**



## 28<sup>th</sup> NSM Activities

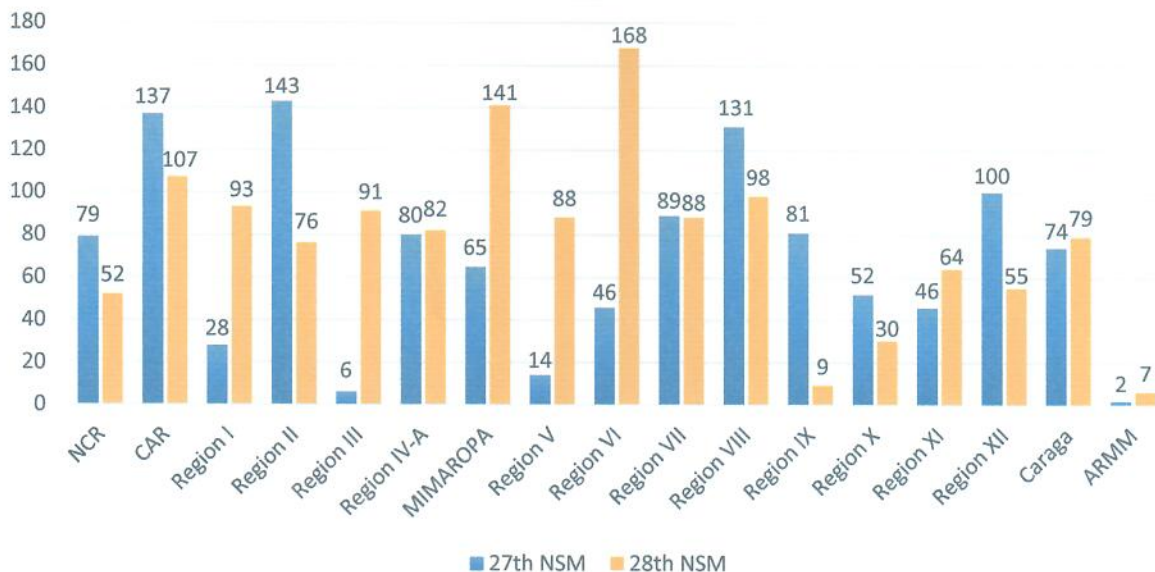
A total of 1,328 NSM activities were conducted nationwide in 2017. This is 10.2% higher than the 1,193 NSM activities held during the 27<sup>th</sup> NSM celebration in 2016.



Information, Education, and Communication (IEC)-related activities (e.g., hanging of streamers, TV/radio guesting, motorcade) comprised 52% of the total 28<sup>th</sup> NSM activities, while 22.6% were seminars/fora/trainings, 16.3% were contests, and 9.1% were comprised of exhibits.

Distribution of 28th NSM activities, by type

Among the 17 regions in the country, Region VI had the most number of activities with 168 activities, followed by MIMAROPA with 141 activities, and CAR with 107 activities.



Number of statistical activities conducted during the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> NSM celebrations, by region

From 2016 to 2017, Regions I, III, Region IV-A, MIMAROPA, V, VI, XI, Caraga, and ARMM posted increases in the number of NSM activities conducted during NSM. Among these regions, Region III had the highest rate of increase at 93.4%, followed by Regions V and VI, at 84.1% and 72.6%, respectively. Though ARMM had an increase in the number of activities conducted from 2016 to 2017, they had the lowest number of activities conducted in 2017 with only 7 activities.

On the other hand, Region IX posted the largest drop at 88.9%, from 81 in 2016 to 9 in 2017, in the number of activities they conducted.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> PSA Says

The PSA Says is patterned after the gameshow "Family Feud" with questions derived from the results of PSA censuses and surveys. The 2<sup>nd</sup> PSA Says was held right after the 28<sup>th</sup> NSM Opening Ceremony on 02 October 2017. Each of the four (4) participating groups was comprised of representatives from various government agencies and academe.

The 1<sup>st</sup> placer, comprised of representatives from the Department of Justice (DOJ), UPLB Institute of Statistics (INSTAT), and various colleges and universities, received PhP 10,000.00. The 2<sup>nd</sup> placer received PhP 5,000.00 and a consolation prize of PhP 2,500.00, was given to the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> placers.



3<sup>rd</sup> Place



4<sup>th</sup> Place

## 1<sup>st</sup> PSS Bowling Tournament

The 1<sup>st</sup> PSS Bowling Tournament was held at the SM Bowling Center, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City, on 26 October 2017. There were 63 participants from PSA, NEDA, DENR, Senate Economic Planning Office (SEPO), Tariff Commission (TC), Department of National Defense (DND), Philippine Statistical Research and Training Institute (PSRTI), and DICT.

There were eight (8) teams that competed in the first round. Each team included an NSM Steering Committee member and/or one director. After two (2) rounds, the top three scorers, who received cash prizes and trophies, were awarded as the first, second, and third place, as follows:







**2** TC with 679 points



**3** SEPO with 639 points

### 28<sup>th</sup> NSM Closing Ceremony

The 28<sup>th</sup> NSM Closing Ceremony was held on 27 October 2017 at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Assembly Hall, BSP Complex, Manila, and was attended by 333 participants.

Since 2001, it has been hosted by the BSP and is highlighted by the BSP-DepEd Oratorical Contest. For 2017, the oratorical contest, which was participated in by Grade 10 students, adopted the theme "Figures for the Future: Realizing *Ambisyon Natin* 2040 Through Statistics".



Photo courtesy of BSP  
Board of Judges with Governor Espenilla and Deputy Governor Guinigundo

The Board of Judges was composed of:

- Undersecretary Lisa Grace S. Bersales (PSA)
- Dr. Jocelyn DR. Andaya (DepEd)
- Mr. Richard Medina Rillo (Centro Escolar University)
- Mr. Arnold A. Clavio (GMA Network, Inc.)
- Monetary Board Member Antonio S. Abacan, Jr. (BSP)



The winners of the 2017 BSP-DepEd Oratorical Contest were:



**1** PLACE  
Julia Amber Mae C. Zuluaga  
Benigno Aquino High School,  
Division of Makati



**2** PLACE  
Jhiro Zearreh H. Joloc  
Taguig Science High School,  
Division of Taguig City and Pateros



**3** PLACE  
Alliah Linel D. Santos  
Malabon National High School,  
Division of Malabon

## Acknowledgement

On behalf of the PSS, the PSA would like to thank the 28<sup>th</sup> NSM Steering Committee members for the guidance and unceasing support that made the 28<sup>th</sup> NSM a success:

Chair: Undersecretary Lisa Grace S. Bersales (PSA)

Co-Chair: Undersecretary Jose Miguel R. Dela Rosa (NEDA)

Members: Director Rosabel B. Guerrero (BSP)  
Director Maria Teresita M. Semana (CHED)  
Director Carmencita P. Mahinay (DBM)  
Assistant Secretary Bresilda M. Gervacio (DENR)  
Director Roger B. Masapol (DepEd)  
Director Patricia V. Barrera (DFA)  
Director Maria Teresa M. Garcia (DICT)  
Director Francisco R. Cruz (DILG)  
Director Peter Paul Reuben G. Galvez (DND)  
Director Kenneth C. Ronquillo (DOH)  
Director Ryan C. Thomas (DOJ)  
Director Maridon O. Sahagun (DOST)  
Director Milagros Y. Say (DOT)  
Undersecretary Florita R. Villar (DSWD)  
Ms. Virginia C. Velasco (KBP)  
Assistant Secretary Rachel Queenie D. Rodulfo (PCOO)  
Ms. Teresita Negrillo (PIA)  
Dr. Celia M. Reyes (PIDS)  
Executive Director Joselito C. De Vera (PNVSCA)  
Director Jeffrey I. Manalo (PPP Center)  
Dr. Dennis S. Mapa (PSAI/UPSS)  
Executive Director Josefina V. Almeda (PSRTI)  
Director Xerxes S. Nitafan (SEPO)  
Chairperson Marilou P. Mendoza (TC)  
Deputy Director General Rosanna A. Urdaneta (TESDA)  
Dr. Consorcia E. Reaño (UPLB INSTAT)

## Organizing Committee

Chair: Undersecretary Lisa Grace S. Bersales

Co-Chair: Assistant Secretary Josie B. Perez  
Assistant Secretary Romeo S. Recide

Overall Coordinator:  
Assistant National Statistician Candido J. Astrologo, Jr.



### **Overall Secretariat**

Chair: Ms. Lotis I. Ira

Co-Chair: Ms. Severa B. De Costo

Members: Ms. Patricia Anne R. San Buenaventura  
Ms. Gina A. Perido  
Mr. Jomar B. Cariaga  
Ms. Sardis M. Catalan  
Ms. Emalyn P. Pineda  
Mr. Roel Victor T. Cruz  
Ms. Rubelyn Q. Atienza  
Ms. Willi Krizzia May G. Oracion  
Mr. Joshua Allan B. Sugpatan  
Mr. Dennis E. San Diego  
Mr. Billy C. Llorico

In 2018, the PSS is once again inviting all agencies and the general public to actively participate and support the celebration of the 29<sup>th</sup> NSM in October. We look forward to another successful celebration of the NSM and let us work together toward the improvement of life for all through statistics.

