



Office of the President of the Philippines  
**NATIONAL ANTI-POVERTY COMMISSION**  
2F/3F Philippine Coconut Authority Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City

## **ASEAN Conference on Prosperity through Solidarity: Accelerating the ASEAN SSE-SDG Roadmap** (Social Solidarity Economy-Sustainable Development Goal)

A Flagship ASEAN 2026 Economic Pillar Event

### **Theme:**

*Navigating the Future: The Social and Solidarity Economy as a Driver of ASEAN Prosperity*

**Online Forum:** May 20–21, 2026 | **Provisional Follow-up Conference:** October 2026

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*“The world faces a historic opportunity. Not only to end poverty – but also to tackle the challenges to people and planet so that we can end extreme poverty in all its forms irreversibly in the context of sustainable development. The destination is clear: a world in 2030 that is more equal, more prosperous, more peaceful, and more just. A world where development is sustainable. Making this vision a reality must be a universal endeavor.”*

### **United Nations' High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons (2015)**

*"A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development"*

## **I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

As the Philippines assumes the Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2026, the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) faces a strategic imperative: to transition the narrative of poverty alleviation from "social welfare" to "inclusive economic integration." This Concept Note proposes a two-phase engagement in 2026 titled *"Prosperity through Solidarity: Accelerating the ASEAN SSE-SDG Roadmap."* This initiative will serve as the Philippines' official launchpad for the ASEAN Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) SDG Roadmap (2026-2030), in line with UN resolutions (A/RES/77/281 and A/C.2/79/L.22/Rev.1) recognizing SSE as a key driver for inclusive and sustainable development.

In compliance with the President's directive on energy austerity measures – pursuant to Executive Order No. 110 (s. 2026), Memorandum Circular No. 114 (s. 2026), and ASEAN NOC Advisory Circular No. 003-2026 – the initiative has been recalibrated into two distinct but interconnected events:

1. **An Online Executive Forum (May 20-21, 2026):** A virtual, high-level gathering designed for top executives and policy leaders to deliver immediate learning outcomes, align regional stakeholders on the SDG-SSE Roadmap, and mobilize key partners.



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2. **A Provisional Onsite Conference (October 2026):** A full-scale, three-day gathering in Quezon City (modality subject to adjustment based on the national energy situation) to launch the functional ecosystem of the People's Bayanihan Fund and host deep-dive workshops and networking.

This recalibrated approach ensures the Philippines maintains its diplomatic leadership and momentum on SSE while strictly adhering to the "bare bones" and virtual modality directives for ASEAN events below the Summit level. It repositions the May event as a strategic precursor – building consensus and commitment – that culminates in the tangible, ecosystem-launching October conference.

The centerpiece remains the People's Bayanihan Fund, a pioneering "Public - Private - Community" partnership model that operationalizes Republic Act No. 8425 and enhances microfinance access for the 14 basic sectors. NAPC remains the Lead Convenor, working within the Prosperity Corridors pillar led by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), with the Quezon City Local Government Unit, Asian Solidarity Economy Council (ASEC), and Bayan Family of Foundations (BFF) as co-convenors.

## II. STRATEGIC RATIONALE: PHILIPPINES IN THE ASEAN ECONOMIC PILLAR

The Philippines' ASEAN 2026 hosting is anchored on three pillars: Peace, Prosperity, and People. While NAPC traditionally operates within the "People" pillar, the 2026 agenda demands a "Whole-of-Government" approach to the Prosperity Corridors (Economic Pillar).

**The "Prosperity" Gap.** The ASEAN Economic Community aims for a resilient, integrated economy. However, Social Enterprises (SEs) and SSE organizations remain underserved by traditional financing, perpetuating the "Missing Middle" phenomenon. NAPC represents the 14 basic sectors that comprise the backbone of this potential SSE sector.

**The Diplomatic Mandate:** ASEAN SDG-SSE Roadmap. In 2025, ASEAN stakeholders drafted the SDG-SSE Roadmap (2026-2030). As Chair, the Philippines is expected to lead Phase 1 implementation. NAPC, as the representative to the ASEAN Senior Officials on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (SOMRDPE), is the rightful custodian of this roadmap.

**The Local Blueprint: "Tatak SE."** The Philippines is uniquely positioned to lead, possessing a functioning sector-led Philippine SE Development Roadmap governed by a multi-stakeholder council. The October conference will showcase the Philippine model as a blueprint for the region.

**Strategic Adaptation to Energy Emergency.** The recalibration of the May event to a virtual format demonstrates the government's commitment to efficient, adaptive governance. It aligns with the President's directive that all meetings below the Summit-level adopt virtual modality to conserve energy, while ensuring that the substantive work of advancing the SSE agenda continues uninterrupted.



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### III. THE CORE INNOVATION: THE PEOPLE'S BAYANIHAN FUND ECOSYSTEM

The centerpiece of the overall 2026 initiative remains the launch of the People's Bayanihan Fund, a systemic solution to the "Missing Middle" financing gap. While the full ecosystem launch is targeted for the October onsite conference, the May online forum will introduce the concept to top executives and secure preliminary commitments from key partners (Rural Banks, LGUs, basic sector representatives, etc.). The framework utilizes a "Hardware - Software - System" approach:

#### ***A. The Software: Capacity Building via NAPC-PDTF***

- **The Constraint:** RA 8425 prohibits the People's Development Trust Fund (PDTF) from direct lending.
- **The Solution:** We utilize PDTF strictly for its legal mandate: capability building.
- **Implementation:** Eligible ecosystem actors will utilize PDTF grants to conduct "Social and Financial Preparation" for SE and SSE organizations. This includes feasibility studies, financial literacy training, and impact measurement.
- **Outcome:** Beneficiaries from the 14 basic sectors are transformed from "beneficiaries" into "bankable borrowers" and financing institutions become more confident to unlock their capital for the benefit of the basic sectors.

#### ***B. The Hardware: Capital Mobilization via Rural Banks and Micro Finance Institutions***

- **The Constraint:** Rural Banks and Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) are risk-averse regarding SEs and SSE organizations.
- **The Solution:** The People's Bayanihan Fund acts as a conduit. Rural Banks' and MFIs' existing financing tools are guaranteed by Social Impact Bonds that may be issued through LGUs that would have the impetus for co-developing NAPC's 14 basic sectors.
- **Implementation and Outcome:** Because the borrowers and financing institutions have been "prepared" (via the Software phase), the credit risk is significantly lowered. The Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines (RBAP) and the Microfinance MBA Association of the Philippines, Inc., with their member organizations, will serve as the primary partners for capital deployment.

#### ***C. The System: Market Creation via the Community Wealth Building Model (LGU)***

- **The Constraint:** SEs often fail due to lack of market access and a full ecosystem of support.
- **The Solution: Community Wealth Building (CWB)**, inspired by the Preston Model.
- **Implementation:** The **Quezon City Government** (Pilot LGU) acts as the "Anchor Institution" as the mayor has expressed her interest to adopt the model. It implements **Progressive Procurement** not just from the LGU but also in partnership with large institutions in the local economy (e.g. government, universities, large corporations,



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etc.), directing a percentage of city spending (e.g., catering, uniforms, construction materials, etc.) to local SEs and SSE organizations.

- **Outcome:** This creates a *guaranteed market*, ensuring SEs have the cash flow to repay loans to the Rural Banks and other partner financing institutions.

#### **D. The Multiplier: Grassroots Equity**

- **The Innovation:** To ensure shared prosperity, we introduce the Community-based Fund Mobilization and Investment Model.
- **Implementation:** Members of NAPC's basic sector organizations (e.g., Workers in the Informal Sector) can co-invest small amounts (minimum ₱100) into these vetted SEs or even in the Social Impact Bonds that can be issued by the LGUs.
- **Outcome:** The poor become investors, earning dividends from the economic growth of their own community.

#### **IV. PROGRAM DESIGN: A TWO-PHASE APPROACH**

In response to the ASEAN NOC directives, the initiative is restructured to maximize impact while adhering to austerity measures.

##### **Phase 1: Online Executive Forum (May 20-21, 2026)**

**Format:** Fully Virtual (Utilizing NOC-ODGO Virtual Meeting Rooms, PICC)

**Audience:** Top Executives, Policy Leaders, ASEAN Sectoral Body Representatives

**Objectives:**

1. Deliver immediate learning outcomes on the ASEAN SDG-SSE Roadmap and regional best practices.
2. Mobilize key stakeholders and secure high-level buy-in for the People's Bayanihan Fund.
3. Set the substantive agenda and identify participants for the October onsite conference.

*Provisional Program Highlights (Refer to Annex A for full details):*

- **Day 1:** Keynote Addresses (Mayor Belmonte, President Marcos, Sec. Santos); Panel Discussions on Public-Private-Civil Society Partnerships in ASEAN, the ASEAN SDG-SSE Roadmap, and Poverty Reduction Impact.
- **Day 2:** Panels on Innovations in SE Financing, Conducive Public Policies, the Care Economy, Social Impact Assessment, and the Way Forward for the October Conference.

##### **Phase 2: Provisional Follow-up Conference (October 2026)**

**Format:** In-Person (Flexible to shift to Hybrid or Virtual depending on energy situation)

**Venue:** Quezon City M.I.C.E. Center (or PICC if conditions warrant)



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**Audience:** 500-1,000 delegates including basic sector representatives, international SSE practitioners, financiers, and local government units.

**Design:** The October conference will adopt the comprehensive 3-day program structure previously outlined (including self-organized workshops, a Cultural Gala, and the formal MOU signing ceremony), culminating in the official launch of the People's Bayanihan Fund operational mechanics.

## V. GOVERNANCE & IMPLEMENTATION STRUCTURE

The following Convenor Group will oversee both the May online forum and the October onsite conference:

1. **Lead Convenor: National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) in partnership with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)**
  - a. *Roles:* Official host agency; liaison with ASEAN Secretariat; oversight of basic sector participation.
2. **Co-Convenor: Quezon City Local Government Unit**
  - a. *Roles:* Official host LGU (virtual host for May; physical host for October); pilot city for the People's Bayanihan Fund.
3. **Co-Convenor (Technical): Asian Solidarity Economy Council (ASEC)**
  - a. *Roles:* Regional content management; invitation of ASEAN delegates; alignment with SDG-SSE Roadmap.
4. **Co-Convenor (Operational): Bayan Family of Foundations (BFF)**
  - a. *Roles:* Secretariat and logistics (virtual platform management for May; onsite logistics for October); private sector resource mobilization; management of People's Bayanihan Fund mechanics.

## VI. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION STRATEGY

The recalibration necessitates a revised, leaner budget for the May event while retaining the projected budget for the October conference (subject to final venue and energy conditions).

### **Phase 1 (May Online Forum) Budget Considerations:**

- **Platform & Technical Support:** To be provided by ASEAN NOC-ODGO via PICC Virtual Meeting Rooms.
- **Secretariat & Coordination:** Core secretariat costs for BFF to manage online registration, tech rehearsals, and virtual facilitation.
- **Participant Costs:** Zero travel cost. This modality significantly reduces the financial burden on NAPC and international partners, allowing for broader ASEAN participation.

### **Phase 2 (October Onsite Conference) Resource Strategy:**

- **NAPC and Member Agencies:** Core funding for event management and basic sector travel.
- **QC LGU:** Venue support (QC M.I.C.E. Center).



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- **GSEF & International Partners:** Grant proposals for ASEAN speaker logistics.
- **Private Sector Sponsorship:** Leveraging Corporate and Cooperative partners for meals, kits, and production (BFF to co-mobilize funds).

## VII. IMMEDIATE NEXT STEPS

To secure the Philippines' leadership in this sector under the new directives, we recommend the following updated timeline:

1. **Approval of Revised Concept (April):** NAPC to sign off on this recalibrated document and secure cooperation of partner agencies for the two-phase plan.
2. **DTI/DFA Submission (April):** Formal transmission of the Revised Concept Note to DTI/DFA for inclusion of both the May online forum and the October onsite conference in the official ASEAN Economic Pillar Calendar.
3. **Organization of the TWG (April onwards):** Operationalize pre-conference committees to deliver the May online forum immediately, while parallel planning for the October conference commences.

**SEC. LOPE B. SANTOS III**  
*Secretary*  
National Anti-Poverty Commission

**DR. BENJAMIN R. QUIÑONES, JR.**  
*Founder*  
Asian Solidarity Economy Council

**PROF. CARLO S. SAGUN**  
*President and CEO*  
Bayan Family of Foundations