PROVINCIAL COUNCIL FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

GOOD GOVERNANCE IN CHILD PROTECTION AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT:
The 2015 South Cotabato Children’s Welfare Code

GOVERNOR DAISY P. AVANCE FUENTES
**LOCATION**

- Pat of SOCCSKSARGEN (Region XII) in the Southern Part of Mindanao

**LAND AREA**

- 3,705.89 sq.km.

**POLITICAL SUBDIVISION**

- 1 Component City and 10 Municipalities

**PROVINCIAL CAPITAL**

- Koronadal City

**TOTAL POPULATION (2015 Census-PSA)**

- 915,289
## Quick Stats on Children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Data 2015</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Population (aged 0-17) (2015)</td>
<td>379,015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infant Mortality (2015)</td>
<td>11.15 per 1,000 LB</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maternal Mortality (2015)</td>
<td>50.90 per 100,000 LB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Enrolment Ratio (Elem) SY 2013-2014</td>
<td>96.35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Enrolment Ratio (High School) SY 2013-2014</td>
<td>54.72%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Malnutrition Prevalence Rate (2015)</td>
<td>5.67% (pre-schoolers)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of CICL (2015)</td>
<td>752</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Reported Cases of Violence against Women and Children (2015)</td>
<td>1,146 (Women and Children)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teenage Pregnancy Rate (2015)</td>
<td>Timely Registration: 5.04%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Including Late Reg: 11.64%</td>
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</table>
OUR VISION:
A Caring, Resilient, Functionally-integrated and Equitably Growing Settlement Highly Responsive to the Socio-Economic and Environmental Concerns of Every Self-reliant South Cotabateño

OUR MISSION:
Promote participatory, transparent and accountable GOVERNANCE in building livable and safe human settlements

At the CORE of South Cotabato’s Development Framework is GOOD GOVERNANCE.
Governance is the interaction among structures, processes and traditions that determine *how power and responsibilities are exercised, how decisions are taken, and how citizens and other stakeholders have their say.*


**GOOD GOVERNANCE** is epitomized by predictable, open and enlightened policy-making, a bureaucracy imbued with a professional ethos acting in furtherance of the public good, the rule of law, transparent processes, and a **strong civil society participating in public affairs.**

Poor governance (on the other hand) is characterized by arbitrary policy making, unaccountable bureaucracies, unenforced or unjust legal systems, the abuse of executive power, a civil society unengaged in public life, and widespread corruption.

- World Bank
SOUTH COTABATO’S FRAMEWORK FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE
PROMOTING CHILD PARTICIPATION, BUILDING PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP in Child Protection and Policy Development!

PROVINCIAL COUNCIL FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN (PCPC)

Save the Children®

SALIGAN
SENTRO NG ALTERNATIBONG LINGAP PANLIGAL

SOUTH COTABATO OFFICIAL SEAL

PROVINCIAL COUNCIL FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN (PCPC)
THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN (PCPC)

• Composed of 36 members: 14 CSOs (min. requirement of only 3), 2 child representatives, SK Federation President, SP members, pillars of the justice system, and provincial government offices.

Convergence at Work in Child Protection and Development!
CRAFTING OF THE 2015 SOUTH COTABATO CHILDREN’S WELFARE CODE & IRR

Building Partnership & Promoting Child Participation in Child Policy Development

August 2013:

- Initial review of the provisions of the 2001 Code by the PCPC Secretariat (Some provisions were found outdated while new laws, policies and principles on children were not integrated into the old Code.)
- Expression of desire by Save the Children International, an NGO-member of the PCPC, to take a bigger role in the review and revision of the Children’s Code.
- Commitment from Save the Children International to fully finance the participatory revision/drafting processes.
September 2013:

- Two non-profit groups – **Save the Children** and **SALIGAN** – partnered in the crafting through their project “Kasama ang mga Bata sa Pamamahala” piloted in the Province of South Cotabato, Davao City and Quezon City. It aims to increase children’s participation in governance.

- **SALIGAN** serves as the technical arm in the drafting process while **Save the Children** bankrolled all the activities.

- **PCPC** Members, children representatives and Muslim /IP leaders provided the technical and indigenous inputs, knowledge and information.
Conduct of Series of Consultations and Workshops

October 2013
• Assessment of the implementation of the 2001 Code as springboard for the succeeding undertakings

November 22, 2013
• Consultation with youth, women and elders of indigenous peoples, Muslim communities and other sectors

Timeline of the Code Crafting
Nov. 20-21, 2013

- Consultation with children representing various sectors was conducted as a way of further assessing the 2001 Children’s Code and gathering inputs for the New Children’s Code.
December 3-6, 2013
- Conduct of writeshop on the new Children’s Code with PCPC members and men, women and youth leaders of the Muslim, B’laan, T’boli and Tagakaulo people groups as participants

Feb. 5, 2014
- Select PCPC members met for the final polishing of the draft Code

Feb. 10, 2014
- PCPC members met for the sign-off of the final draft

Timeline of the Code Crafting
February 10, 2014

About 30 in-school and out-of-school children representatives, PCPC members, Save the Children and SALIGAN turned-over the final draft to Governor Daisy P. Avance Fuentes.

Timeline of the Code Crafting
Reaping the Fruits of Partnership

Public Hearing of the 2015 South Cotabato Children's Welfare Code on September 8, 2015


Approval of Resolution No. 257 Enacting Ordinance No. 26, s. 2015 on November 13, 2015 by the Provincial Governor

Timeline of the Code Crafting
OUTLINE OF THE 2015 CHILDREN’S WELFARE CODE OF SOUTH COTABATO

Article I  General Provisions
Article II  Protection of the Rights of Children
Article III  Survival and Development Rights of Children
Article IV  Participation Rights of Children
Article V  Implementing and Mainstreaming Mechanism
Article VI  Penal Provision
Article VII  Final Provisions
## Timeline of the IRR Drafting

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>September 5-6, 2016</td>
<td>Conduct of two (2) consultations with a total of 38 participants (Muslim, IP, Community Leaders and Children) and presentation of initial draft IRR</td>
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| September 29, 2016 | Conduct of IRR consultation with VAWC Desk Officers  
* Current Status: Submitted to the Provincial Legal Office for Review                                                                                   |
LANDMARKS in Child Policy Development

Greater participation of children in the IRR drafting!
The PCPC opened opportunities for the Provincial Tribal Council and the Provincial Federation of Muslim Leaders of South Cotabato to further explore partnerships to better protect and care for children in their respective communities.
With the PCPC guiding the process, the indigenous leaders came up with a 9-point IP Declaration of Policy on Child Protection.

The Muslim Convention on the Rights of the Child was also held on April 21-23, 2014 which brought forth the 12-point Muslim Declaration of Policy on Child Protection.
Hence, the birth of two (2) landmark declaration of policies for children!

- The South Cotabato INDIGENOUS PEOPLES 9-POINT DECLARATION OF POLICY ON CHILD PROTECTION

- The South Cotabato MUSLIM 12-POINT DECLARATION OF POLICY ON CHILD PROTECTION

LANDMARKS in Child Policy Development
The South Cotabato INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DECLARATION OF POLICY ON CHILD PROTECTION

Sustaining and Expanding the Partnership for Children
We declare to:

1. Gradually stop the practice of pre-arranged/early/poorly-planned marriages.
2. Modify the dowry system.
3. Stop child labor.
4. Stop corporal punishment.
5. Ensure that all children ages 3 to below 18 years old are in school.
We declare to:

6. Prevent the recruitment of indigenous minors for armed struggle and criminality.

7. Regulate the participation of indigenous minors to benefit dances and other forms of socialization.

8. Model abstinence from all vices.

9. Champion family planning and family management.
The South Cotabato MUSLIM DECLARATION OF POLICY ON CHILD PROTECTION

Sustaining and Expanding the Partnership for Children
We declare to:

1. Stop forced marriages among Muslim children.

2. Minimize the practice of pre-arranged/early/poorly-planned marriages among Muslims.

3. Work on minimizing the impact of pre-arranged/early/poorly-planned marriage by IEC- Advocacy on family planning in the context of Islam.

4. Strengthen childcare in Islam (Tarbiyyatul Awlad).
We declare to:

5. Ensure that the dowry system will not redound to the disadvantage of Muslim children.

6. Ensure that all Muslim children 3 to below 18 years old are educated through the secular and Arabic systems.

7. Stop the recruitment of Muslim minors for armed struggle and criminality.

8. Stop the participation of Muslim minors in all forms of non-Muslim entertainment and activities.
We declare to:

9. Prevent the engagement of Muslim children in any form of vice by modeling strict observance of the Islamic way of life.

10. Stop child labor among Muslim minors.

11. Create a culture of unlimited affirmation and love.

12. Mainstream continuing IEC-Advocacy on child protection and welfare to all stakeholders.
THE STATE OF THE CHILDREN ADDRESS: Increasing Transparency and Accountability in Child Governance

November 23, 2015 at the Provincial Capitol Compound

- 76 Schools (Elementary and Secondary) or about 17,000 children, teachers and parents participated
- Livestreamed to elementary and secondary schools
- Live radio coverage (6 radio stations)
SOUTH COTABATO’S FRAMEWORK FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE
Awarded as the 2015 Most Functional Local Council for the Protection of Children in Region XII

November 23, 2015 at the Provincial Capitol Compound, City of Koronadal, Province of South Cotabato
With increased stakeholder engagement, transparency and children’s participation in governance, dreams do come true for our children in the Land of the Dreamweavers --- South Cotabato!

Thank you!