



## UPSS Dean as Plenary Speaker at the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022 Expo

The National Economic and Development Authority invited UPSS Dean and Professor Dr. Dennis S. Mapa to be a plenary speaker at the recently concluded Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022 Expo and Public Launch at the SMX Convention Center in Pasay City last 02 June 2017. He gave an inspirational message on reaching the full potential of the country's demographic dividend in relation to one of the three pillars of the PDP 2017-2022 – *Patuloy sa Pag-unlad (increasing growth potential)*. In his message, he emphasized the importance of harvesting the demographic dividend fast to increase the country's growth potential. He also cited that in order to harvest such benefits immediate implementation of key policy reforms would be needed. The other pillars are *Malasakit (enhancing the social fabric)*, discussed by Senator Loren B. Legarda, and *Pagbabago (inequality-reducing transformation)*, discussed by Guillermo B. Luz of the National Competitiveness Council.

The Vice-President of the Philippines, Hon. Maria Leonor Gerona Robredo, was also present during the plenary and delivered the Keynote Message highlighting the need to continuously find ways to help the poor especially those with limited to no access to resources. Likewise, Cabinet Secretary Leoncio B. Evasco, Jr delivered the message of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte expressing the support of the president in implementing the comprehensive plan.

The PDP public launch is spearheaded by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and was attended by more than 500 participants from government agencies, academe, development partners and civil society organization.

(photo courtesy of the NEDA and the Office of the Cabinet Secretary)