

Procurement in Action: From Contracts to Societal Impact

How procurement serves as a strategic tool and policy driver in achieving critical social mandates including SMEs, Jobs and Gender

ATTY. ROWENA CANDICE M. RUIZ, LLM, CESO I

Executive Director V, Government Procurement Policy Board - Technical Support Office

Undersecretary-designate for Procurement and Finance Oversight, Department of Education



Public Procurement: An Imperative to National Development

20%
of GDP in Asia

18%
of GDP in MENA region

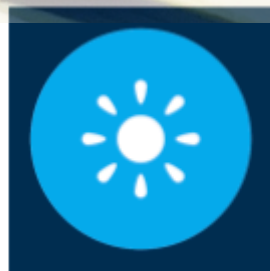
12%
of GDP in OECD countries

15%
of GDP in Africa

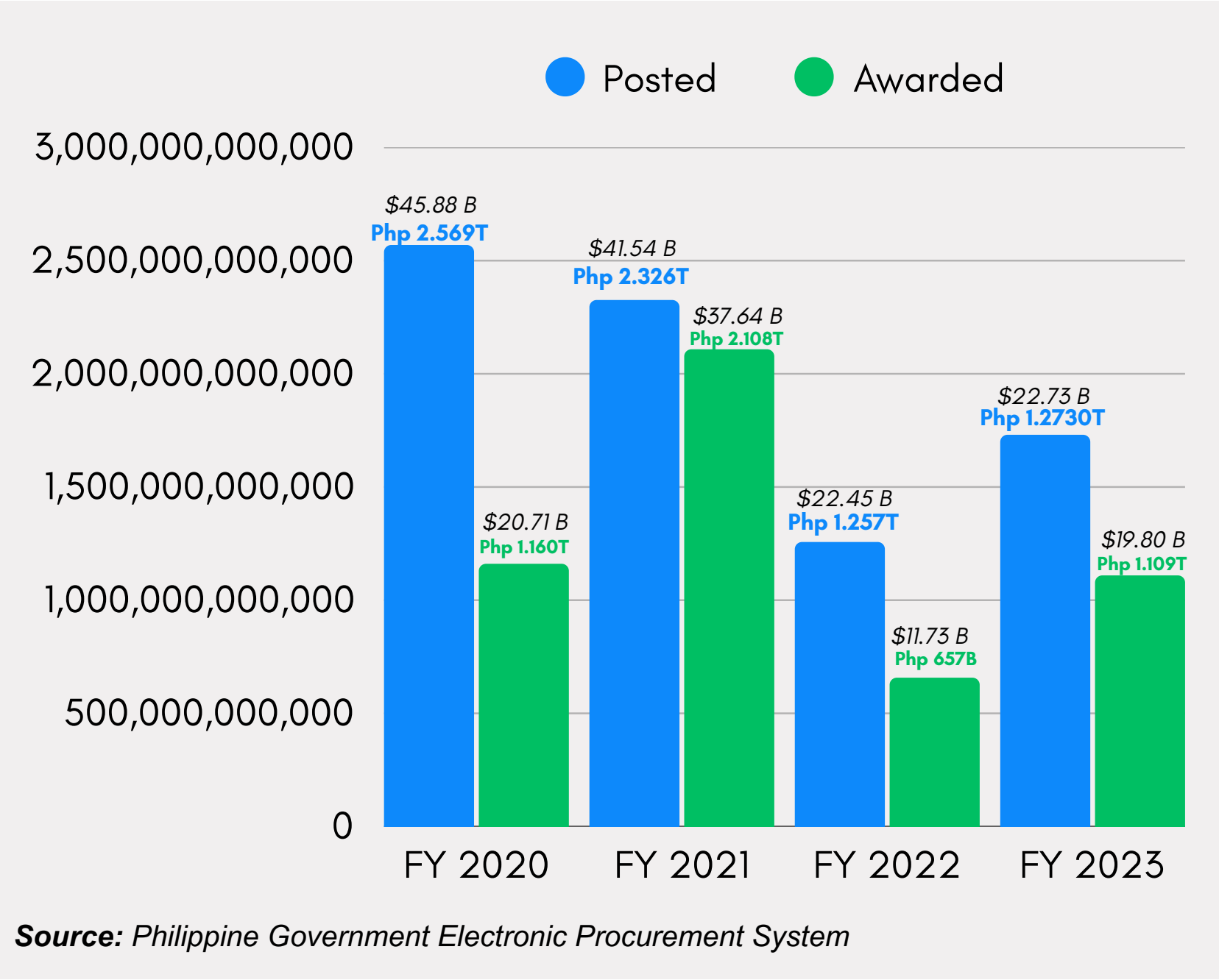
6%
of GDP in Latin America and
the Caribbean

15%
of GDP in the European Union

Source: 2023 Methodology for Assessing Procurement Systems Initiative



Bilions (\$) Transferred and Posted, But Who Benefits?



GAPS IN EQUITY, ACCESS, AND IMPACT



Complex procurement process; burdensome documentation and lengthy processing times hinder SME participation in public procurement (NEDA, 2023)



While women own a significant portion of SMEs, there is **no formal tracking of contracts awarded to women-owned businesses, and no gender-specific targets under current regulations** (WB, 2022)



Procurement projects **rarely include job generation** as an evaluation metrics, despite unemployment challenges, particularly among youth and women (PSA Labor Force Survey, 2023)

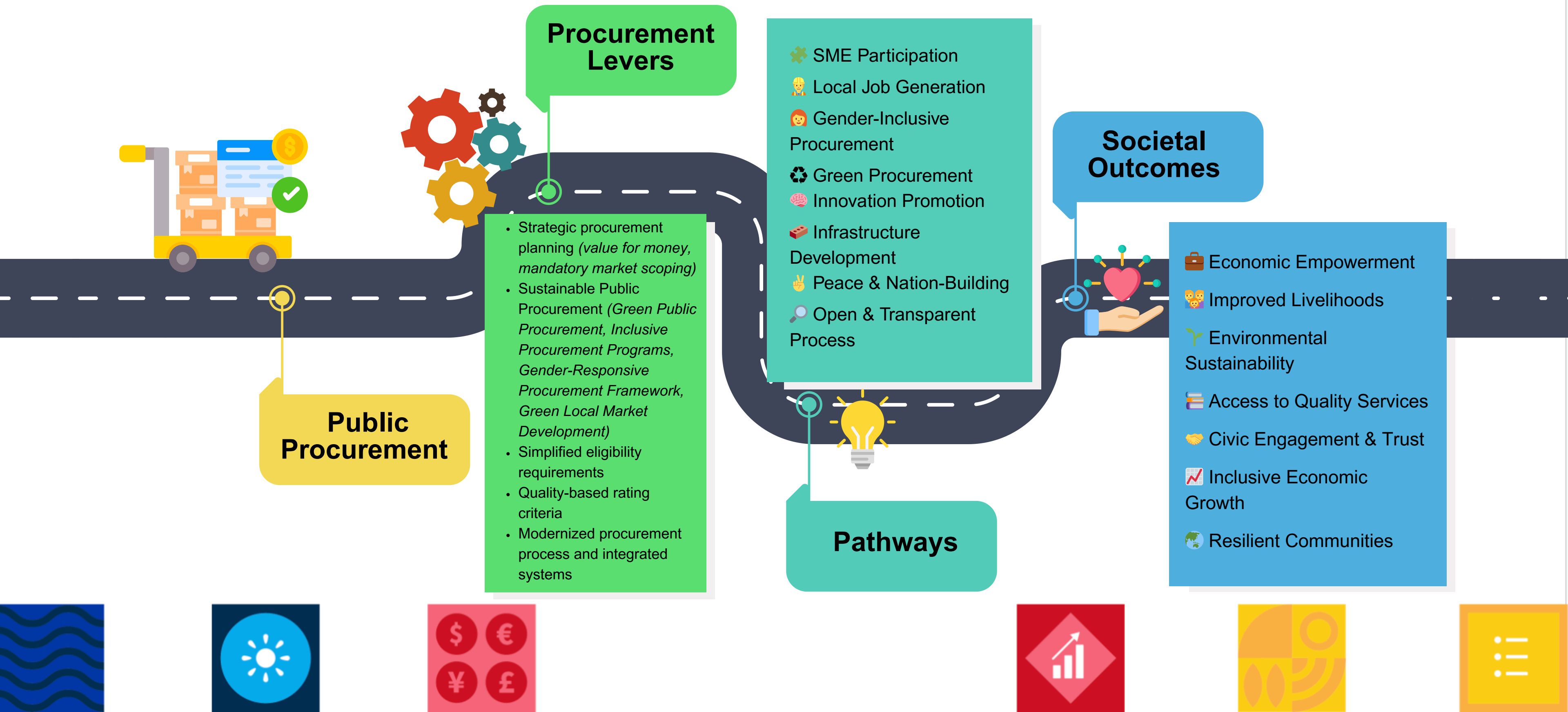


This is not just about figures. This is about who gets left behind in our systems.

We can't keep spending billions and still be asking: *“why haven't things changed?”*



Strategic Spending as a Procurement Roadmap





How We've Made it Happen in the Philippines





Launched in the early 2000s, **Textbook Count** was a collaborative effort between the **Department of Education**, **Civil Society Organizations**, and **private sector partners**. Supported by **World Bank**, the initiative aimed to address issues such as ghost deliveries, under-deliveries, and corruption in textbook procurement. Notably, the **Ateneo School of Government's Government Watch** served as the national coordinator for civil society participation in the program.



“CSO engagement supported reformist officials by providing evidence to constrain corrupt officials and collaborating to solve distribution problems”

Joy Aceron,
 Convenor-Director of
 G-Watch



Other Key Initiatives in the Philippines

Job Creation–Oriented Procurement Projects	Pathway	Key Outputs	Societal Outcomes
Livelihood and Employment Assistance Program (Pasig City) City-funded livelihood kits (e.g., carts, sewing machines) sourced from or given to local beneficiaries tied to micro-projects <small>Source: PESO Pasig Official Facebook Page</small>	Supporting Small Businesses/ Creating Local Employment	Distribution of city-funded livelihood kits (e.g., carts, sewing machines) to local microproject beneficiaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved Livelihoods Economic Empowerment
Labor-Intensive Infrastructure Maintenance (DPWH & LGU) Uses local labor (including unskilled) through small-scale contracts awarded via community procurement methods <small>Source: DPWH</small>	Building Public Infrastructure / Creating Local Employment	Employment of local (including unskilled) workers through small-scale contracts awarded via community procurement methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusive Economic Growth Resilient Communities
Green Jobs Procurement Program (DENR, DOLE & LGU) Projects like solar installations or waste recovery centers require hiring youth and women from the community <small>Source: Republic Act 10771</small>	Advancing Sustainability / Promoting Social Inclusion	Hiring of youth and women for solar installation and waste recovery projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Sustainability Access to Quality Services
Manipulative Toys (DepEd) Toys manufactured from kiln-dried solid wood such as Gmelina, Pine, Bass, Juniper, Bamboo, and/or other wood materials that are not listed in the DENR endangered trees <small>Source: DepEd Procurement Reports</small>	Supporting Sustainable Procurement / Promoting Inclusive Education	Toys made from kiln-dried, non-endangered wood for use in education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to Quality Services Environmental Sustainability

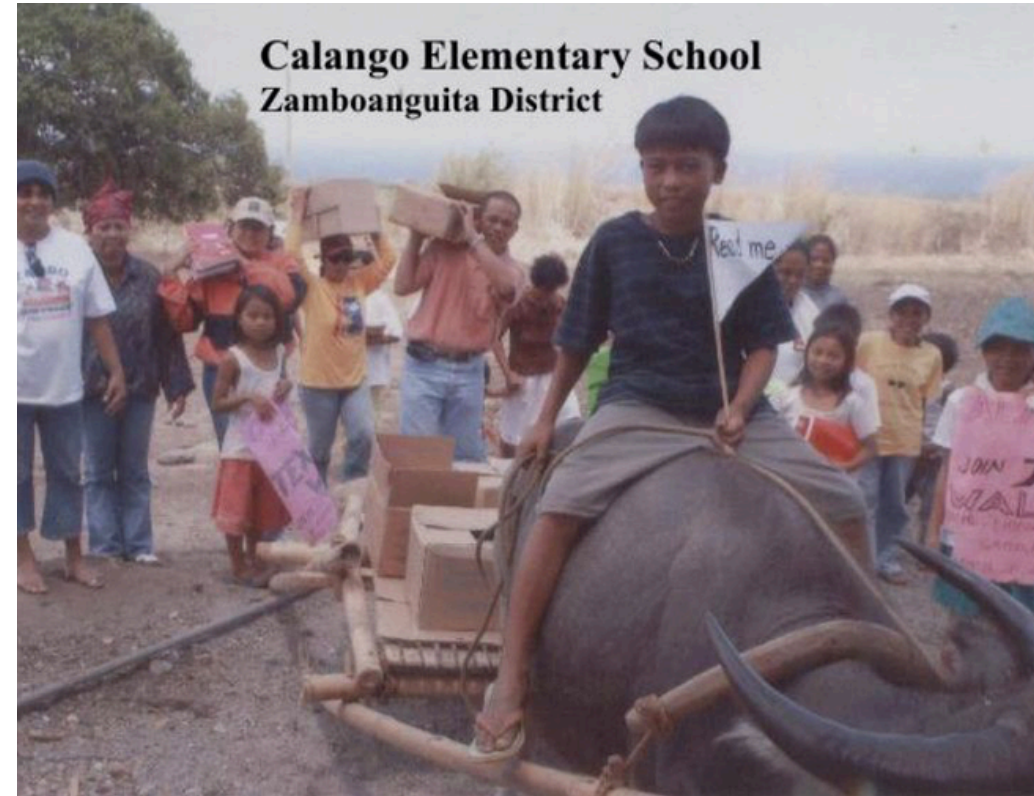
Other Key Initiatives in the Philippines

SME-Focused Procurement Projects	Pathway	Key Outputs	Societal Outcomes
<p>KAPATID Mentor ME (DTI)</p> <p>Enables SMEs contract-ready and increase their ability to bid for government procurement</p> <p><small>Source: DTI</small></p>	Building SME Capacity / Increasing Access to Public Contracts	Trained SMEs that are contract-ready and capable of participating in government procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inclusive Economic Growth• Improved Livelihoods
<p>Reserved Lots for Local SMEs (DTI & LGU)</p> <p>Packaging large projects into SME-manageable components (e.g., uniforms, hygiene kits)</p> <p><small>Source: DTI</small></p>	Improving SME Access / Unbundling Contracts	Large projects broken into SME-manageable lots (e.g., uniforms, hygiene kits)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Economic Empowerment• Strengthened Local Enterprises
<p>“Buy Local, Serve Local” Procurement Fairs</p> <p>Directly sourced from SME exhibitors</p> <p><small>Source: DTI Regional Reports</small></p>	Promoting Local Sourcing / Direct SME Engagement	Direct procurement from SMEs through local trade fairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strengthened Local Enterprises• Resilient Communities

Other Key Initiatives in the Philippines

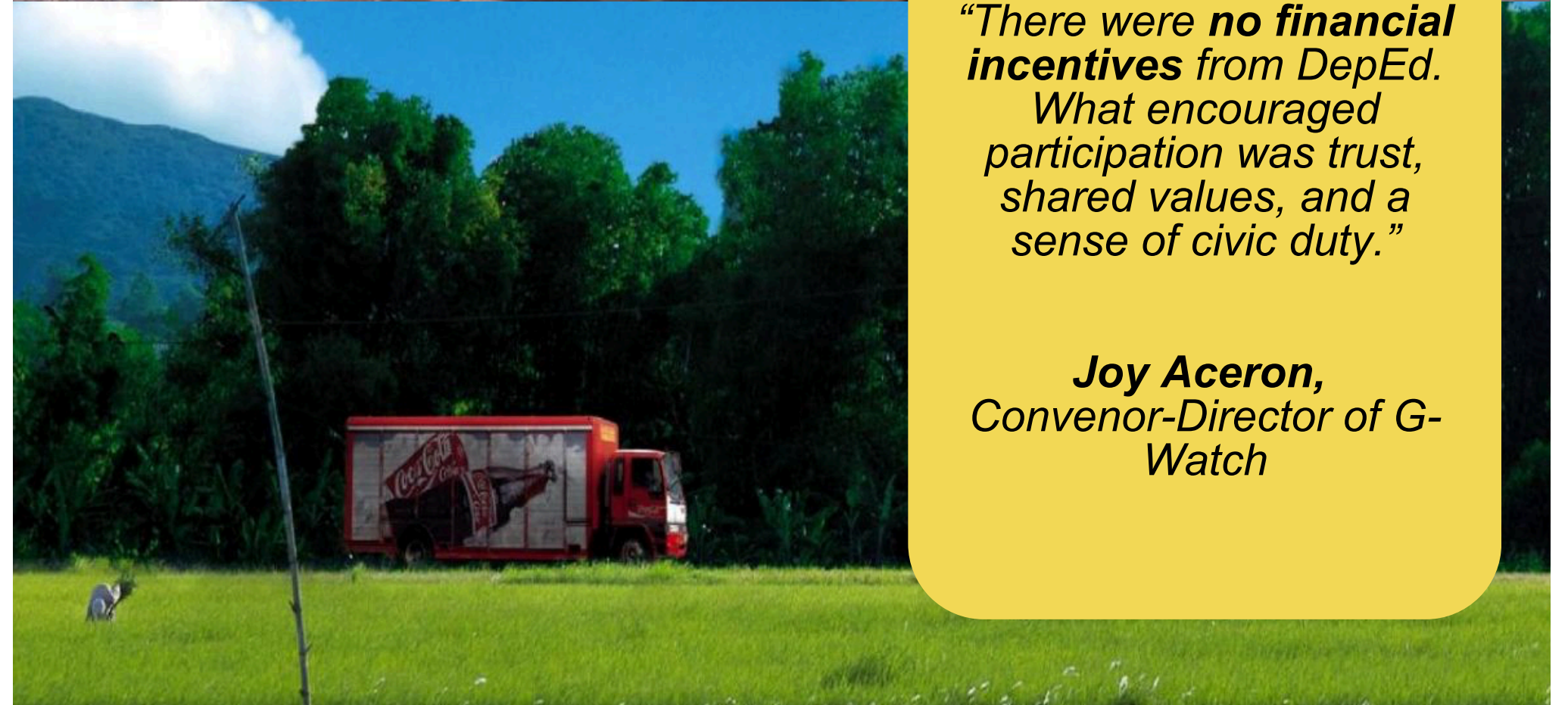
Women-Led Business— Inclusive Procurement	Pathway	Key Outputs	Societal Outcomes
<p>GAD Fund (Cebu)</p> <p>Women’s cooperatives prepped and given priority to supply school uniforms, food packs, etc</p> <p><small>Source: Cebu City GAD Plan and Budget Reports (2023)</small></p>	Gender-Responsive Procurement / Preferential Sourcing	Women’s cooperatives given contracts for goods like school uniforms and food packs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Women’s Economic Empowerment• Inclusive Development
<p>Women Helping Women: Innovating Social Enterprises (DOST)</p> <p>Tech/social solutions developed by women-led enterprises are procured for public use (e.g., apps, services)</p> <p><small>Source: DOST-PCIEERD</small></p>	Innovation-Based Procurement / Gender-Responsive Procurement	Tech/social enterprise solutions (e.g., apps, services) by women-led teams procured for public services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gender-Inclusive Innovation• Digital Inclusion
<p>Women’s Associations (Marikina, Iloilo)</p> <p>Maintenance and janitorial services in public markets awarded directly to women cooperatives</p> <p><small>Source: LGU Annual Reports, City BAC Reports, and Regional DTI-Negosyo Center documents</small></p>	Direct Award to Women’s Groups / Targeted Contracting	Market maintenance and janitorial service contracts awarded to women’s cooperatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improved Livelihoods for Women• Stronger Local Economies

If procurement
aims to deliver our
societal goals,
who's accountable
when it doesn't?



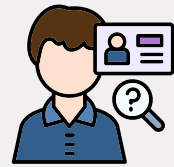
*"There were **no financial incentives** from DepEd. What encouraged participation was trust, shared values, and a sense of civic duty."*

Joy Acheron,
Convenor-Director of G-Watch



Professionalization Towards Institutionalizing Accountability

Accountability Mechanisms



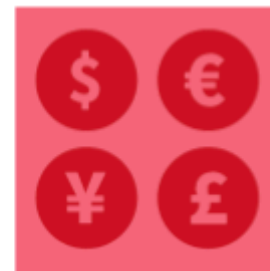
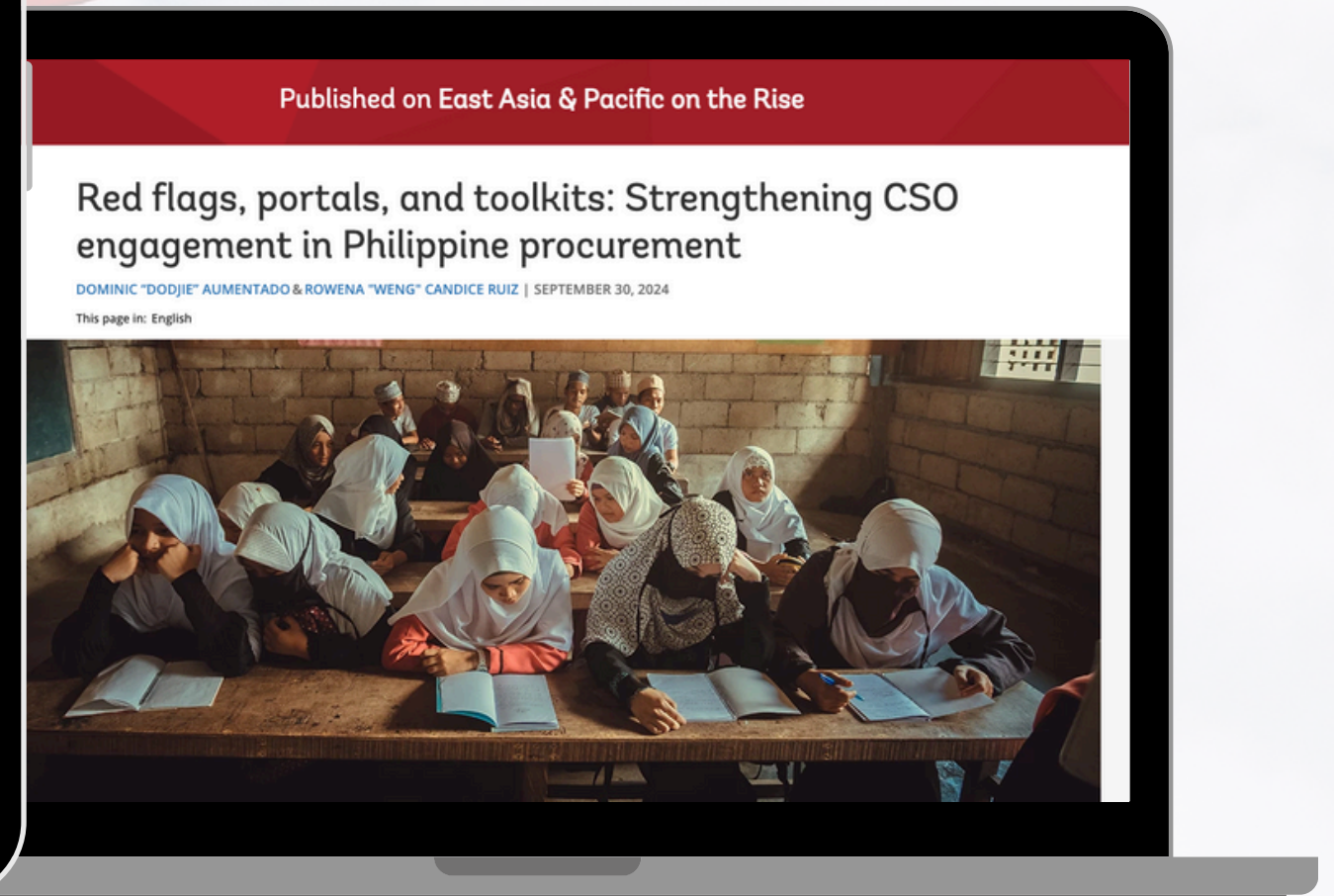
Use of Beneficial Ownership



Participation of Third Party Observers



Professionalization of Public Procurement

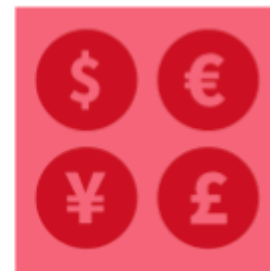


Professionalization Towards Institutionalizing Accountability: Use of Beneficial Ownership

“The inclusion of beneficial ownership declaration in the New Government Procurement Law through Republic Act No. 12009 represents a significant step towards enhancing transparency and accountability in public procurement. By identifying the true owners of companies participating in government contracts, we are not only promoting integrity within the procurement process but also strengthening safeguards against corruption, ensuring that public resources are managed responsibly and effectively for the benefit of all Filipinos.”

**Atty. Rowena Candice M. Ruiz,
LLM, CESO I**

- Use of Beneficial Ownership Information in Public Procurement
- Establishment of a Beneficial Ownership Transparency Portal
- Strengthens Procurement Integrity
- Learning from Global Experiences



Professionalization Towards Institutionalizing Accountability: Participation of Third Party Observers

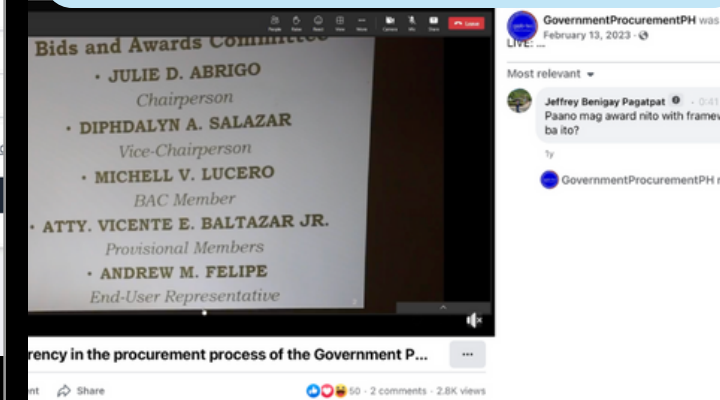
GPPB Procurement Observers Portal



Email
Password
☐ Remember me
[Forgot your password](#)
[Register](#) [LOG IN](#)



Video Recording



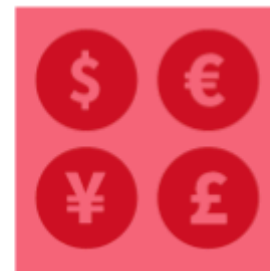
- Recognizing Civil Society Organization participation in monitoring the procurement process (legal framework)
- Digitalizing Access to Procurement Monitoring
- Using Video Recording for Transparency
- Building on Proven Models of Civic Engagement



Professionalization Towards Institutionalizing Accountability: Professionalization of Public Procurement



- Creation of Dedicated Procurement Positions
- Competency Framework for Public Procurement Practitioners
- Certification and Licensing of Procurement Officials
- Code of Ethics and Continuing Education
- Support Systems for Procurement Officers (*Access to portals, updated guides, digital monitoring tools, and capacity-building programs*)



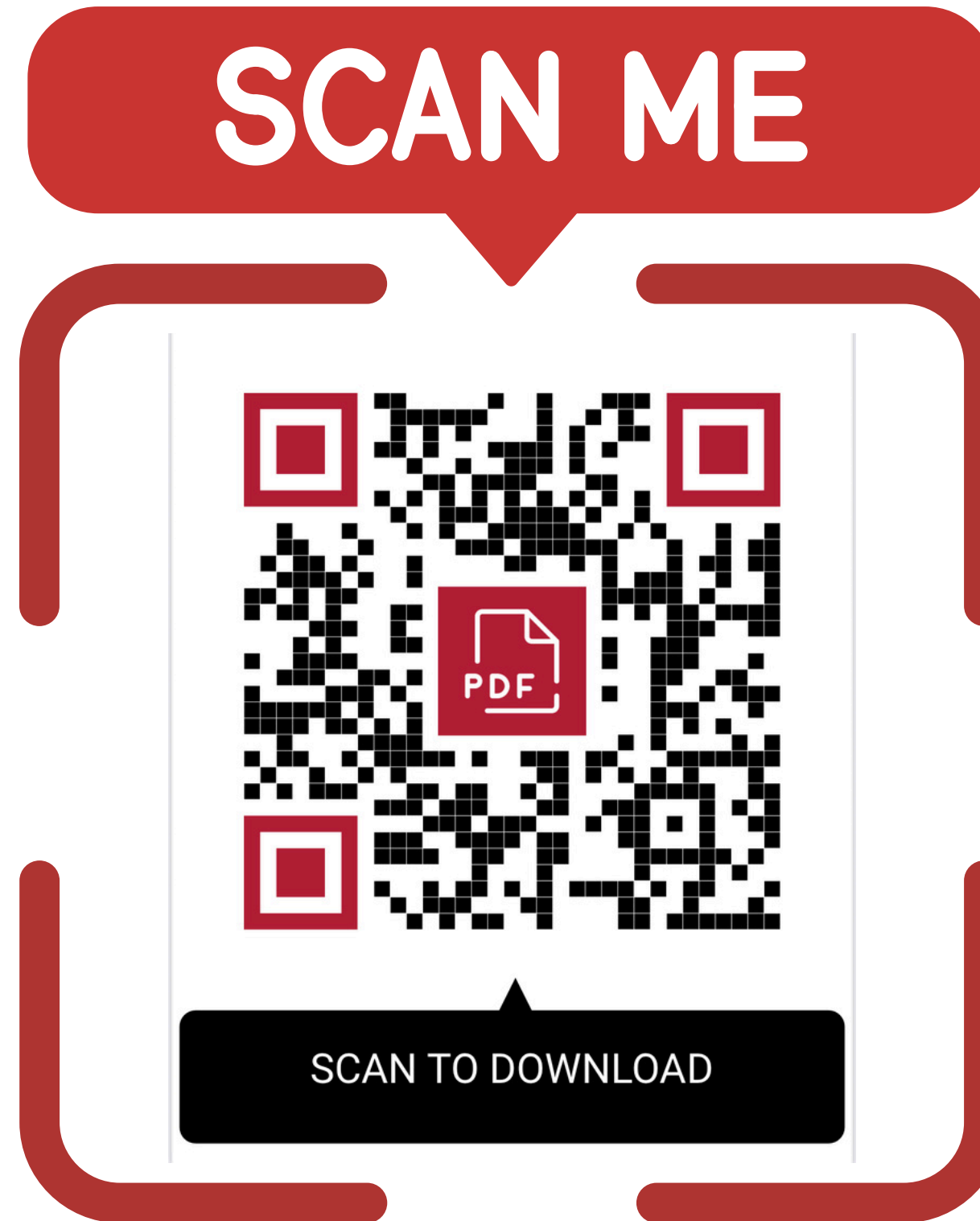
“

It's [2025 EAP IPPC] not about bureaucracy or box-ticking. It's about using procurement to respond to real needs.. creating jobs, supporting small businesses, empowering women, and building public trust. **It's about making sure that in the EAP, and especially here in the Philippines, procurement truly works for the people.**

Atty. Rowena Candice M. Ruiz, LLM, CESO I



Let's Connect!



Thank You