

## i-budget.mo

**i-budget.mo** (IBM) is a participatory budgeting initiative involving the use of information and communication technology to promote budget transparency and literacy, broaden citizen participation in generating project ideas, facilitate voting on proposed projects, and provide a platform for subsequent citizen monitoring of funded PB project.

### *Our Partners*



ANSA-EAP



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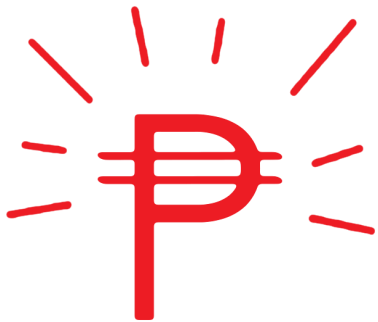
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## Participatory Budgeting in the Philippines



**i-budget.mo**

A participatory budgeting  
initiative



## Background

**Participatory budgeting (PB)** is a different way to manage public money, and to engage people in government. It is a democratic process in which community members directly decide how to spend part of a public budget.

The process was first developed in Brazil in 1989, and there are now over 1,500 participatory budgets around the world. PB has also been used, however, for counties, states, housing authorities, schools and school systems, universities, coalitions, and other public agencies. Here in the Philippines, there are two notable examples of PB implementation: Naga City and the province of Sorsogon.

### Naga City

In 1995, a city ordinance invited all NGOs that met minimum accreditation standards to join a new Naga City People's Council (NCPC). This body had the exclusive right to appoint representatives to comprise up to 25 percent of all city government bodies (excluding the city council itself). The NCPC representatives were entitled to participate, vote and introduce legislation in all committees. The system gradually expanded so that by 2004, the NCPC consisted of 105 accredited organizations in 13 sectors that ranged from transport workers and the urban poor to senior citizens, business people and academics. Each of the city's 27 barangays also has a people's council, modeled on the NCPC.

The NCPC has been involved in budget planning and decisions, most prominently in allocating resources to meet the Millennium Development Goals, an effort in which Naga City has done exceedingly well. The Naga model has been emulated in a few places, such as Quezon City (PAT Ordinance, SP-1942, S-2009), but after more than 15 years it continues to represent the best example of how indirect participatory budgeting can work in the Philippines.

### Province of Sorsogon

The Philippine Center for Civic Education and Democracy (PCCED) partnered with several local government units in the province of Sorsogon to implement local version of PB. These include Sorsogon City, the municipalities of Gubat and Pilar, as well as several barangays in Bulan.

Orientation seminars with the NGOs and POs are held for them to mobilize the public, who then divide themselves into sectors with particular concerns. A Participatory Budget Council (PBC) is elected amongst the assembly. Community research is done to determine the problems which can be overcome with projects from the PB program, and the PBC writes the proposals with a technical working group from the LGU. These proposals are then submitted and approved to the respective offices.

Currently, 19 projects were written and submitted to the LGUs through the course of the program. These range from rehabilitation of seawalls, water sources and parks, as well as provision of musical instruments to the youth.

### NEXT STEPS

**i-budget mo** aims to implement pilot cases of PB with the use of ICT in the metro areas. The ICT platform uses an online website where people can view, suggest and vote for projects, and mobile technology.



Sources:

[http://www.icld.se/eng/pdf/ICLD-Workingpaper\\_10-tryck-low.pdf](http://www.icld.se/eng/pdf/ICLD-Workingpaper_10-tryck-low.pdf)  
<http://www.pcced.org.ph/#!participatory-budgeting/c1go1>