



Opportunities and Challenges in Adult Education and Life Long Learning: The Philippine Experience

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Chairman/Minister

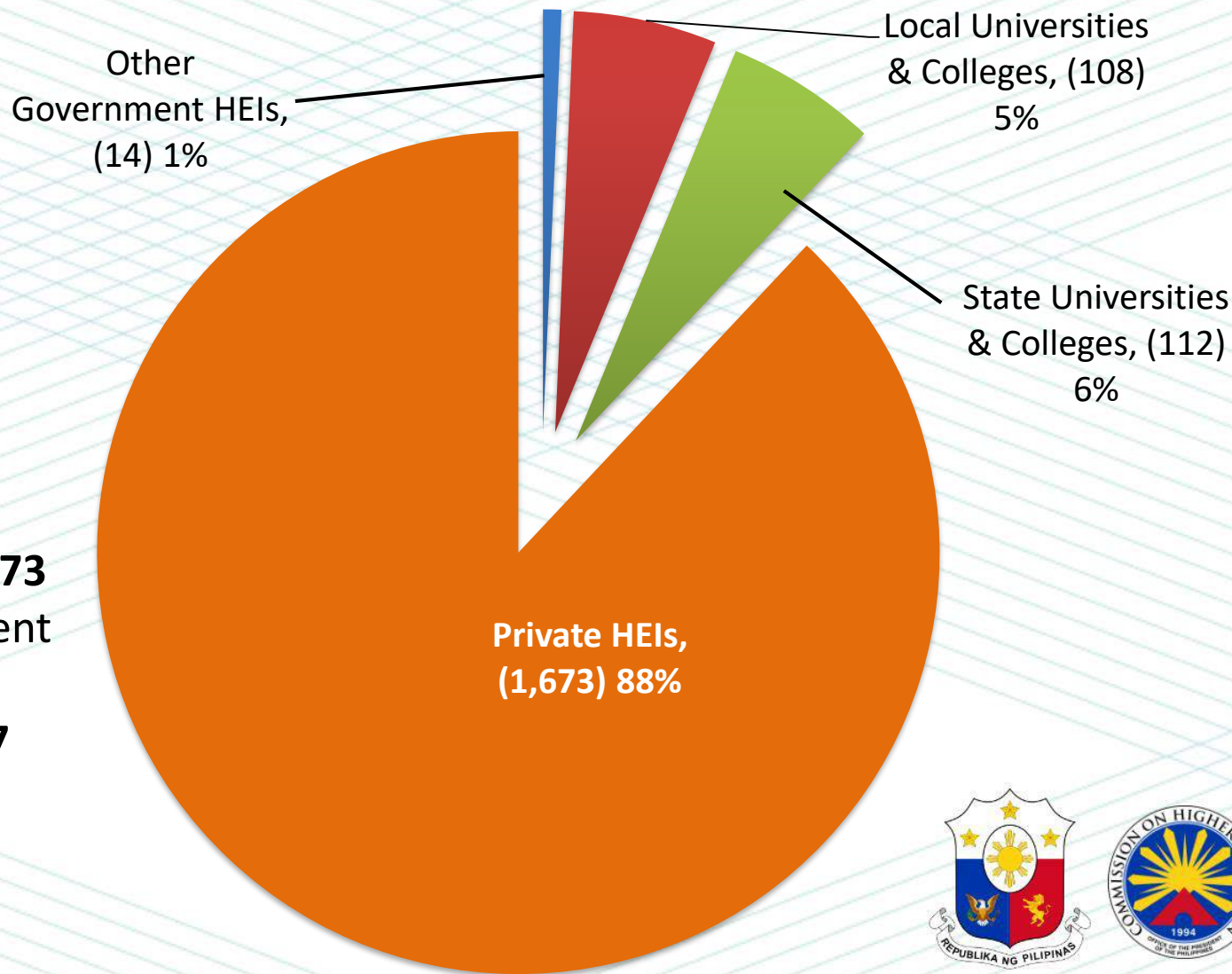
Commission on Higher Education

Philippines

- Archipelago of 7,100 islands (land area 298,170 km²)
- Population: 108,274,300
- Poverty Incidence Families: 16.5%
- Functional Literacy Rate (10-64 years old): 90.3%



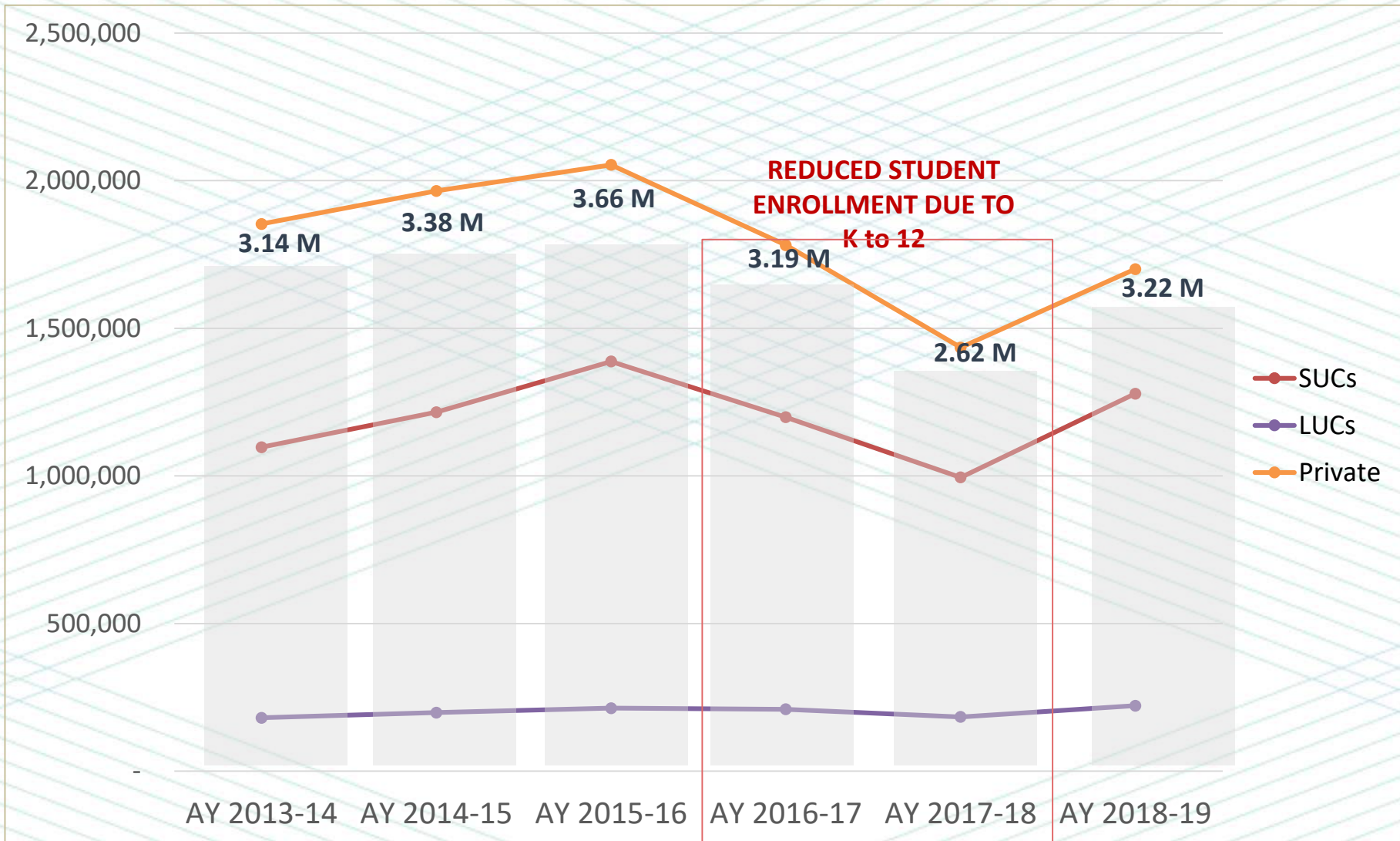
Distribution of Higher Education Institutions AY 2017 – 2018



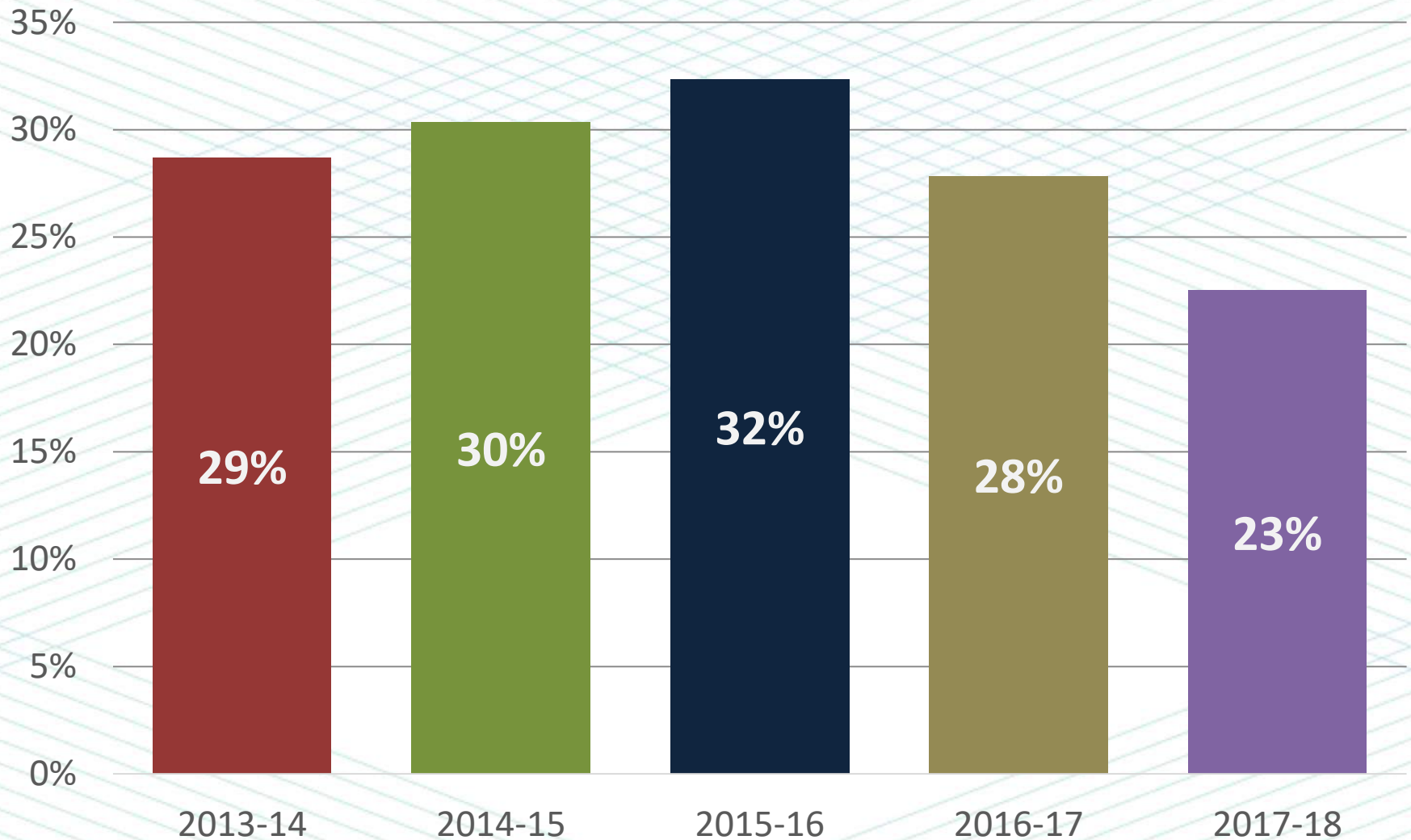
SUCs: **112**
LUCs: **108**
Private HEIs: **1,673**
Other Government
Schools: **14**
Total HEIs: 1,907



Distribution of Undergraduate Enrollment (AY 2013 – 2017)



Participation Rate of College Going Age 16-21 Years Old



Opportunities

1. Legal and policy framework is in place
 - The Philippine 1987 Constitution mandates highest priority to education in the national budget



Opportunities



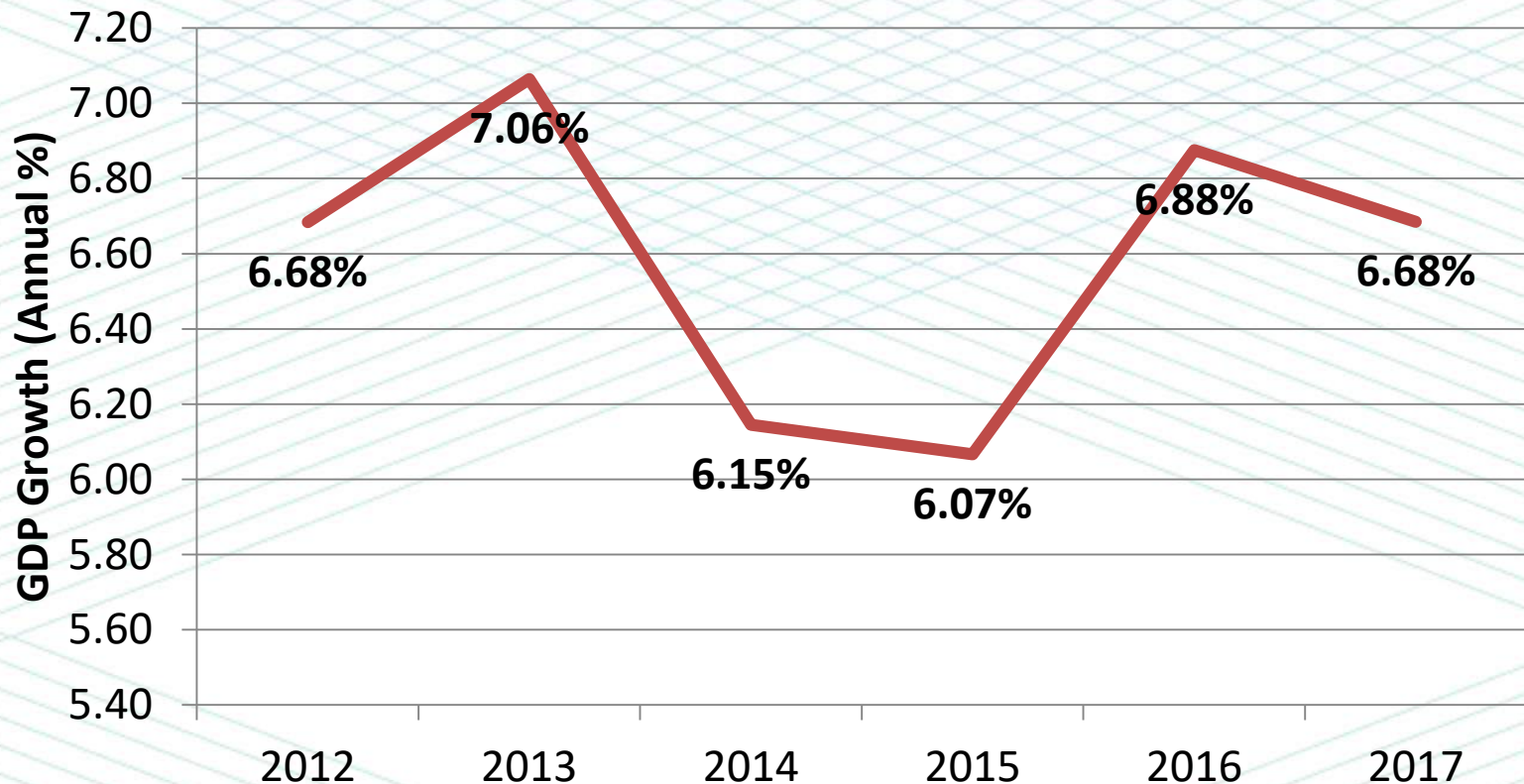
2. Increased public investment in education, in general, and higher education, in particular, has increased

	2016	2017	2018
National Budget for Education	490.6 Bn	648.2 Bn	672.4 Bn

Opportunities



- Increased public investment aided by strong economic growth over the past years



Source: PSA, 2019

Opportunities

3. Duterte administration committed to promote sustainable human capital development in national development plan



Opportunities

4. Enabling legislation and policies in place

- Executive Order No. 483, s.2005 (Establishing a UNESCO Lifelong Learning Center for Sustainable Development of the Philippines)
- Executive Order No. 330, s.1996 (Expanded Tertiary Education, Equivalency and Accreditation Program (ETEEAP))
- Republic Act 10968 (Institutionalization of the Philippine Qualifications Framework (PQF))
- Republic Act 10650 (Open Distance Learning Act)
- Republic Act 10647 (Ladderized Education Act of 2014)
- Republic Act 11037 (National Feeding Program for Undernourished Filipino Children)



Opportunities

5. Broad and extensive delivery system for adult education & lifelong learning
 - Close to 2,000 public and private higher education spread across the archipelago
6. While the national population is relatively young, there is an increasing number of adults (49M of 108M population) who have the means to pay for education programs
7. Many public universities and colleges started as trade schools and still have facilities and faculty for adult education



Challenges



1. Education financing remains problematic

- Increased budgetary allocation is for new K-12 law and free higher education law
- Public higher education is big and costly
- Spending as percentage of GDP is still low

As % of Total Government Budget	3.37%	3.99%	3.95%
As % of Total Education Budget	12.69%	16.47%	17.57%

ASEAN Countries (as percentage of total government expenditures)
3.25%- Indonesia (2015) 7.04% Singapore (2013)
4.82 %- Malaysia (2016)

Source: data.worldbank.org & data.uis.unesco.org

Challenges

2. Education programs and funding has been framed in the context of formal school system
 - International standards and commitments
 - Easy to monitor and track progress (literacy rate, participation rate, cohort survival rate)
 - Adult education is labeled as “non-formal program” and seen as an intervention to mainstream individuals back to the formal education system



Moving Forward

1. Re-frame lifelong learning (and adult education) as a strategic program for upskilling, reskilling, and cross skilling
2. Create incentives for private and public HEIs to offer adult education programs
3. Develop the legal framework to promote lifelong learning/adult education
4. Mobilize resources





THANK YOU.