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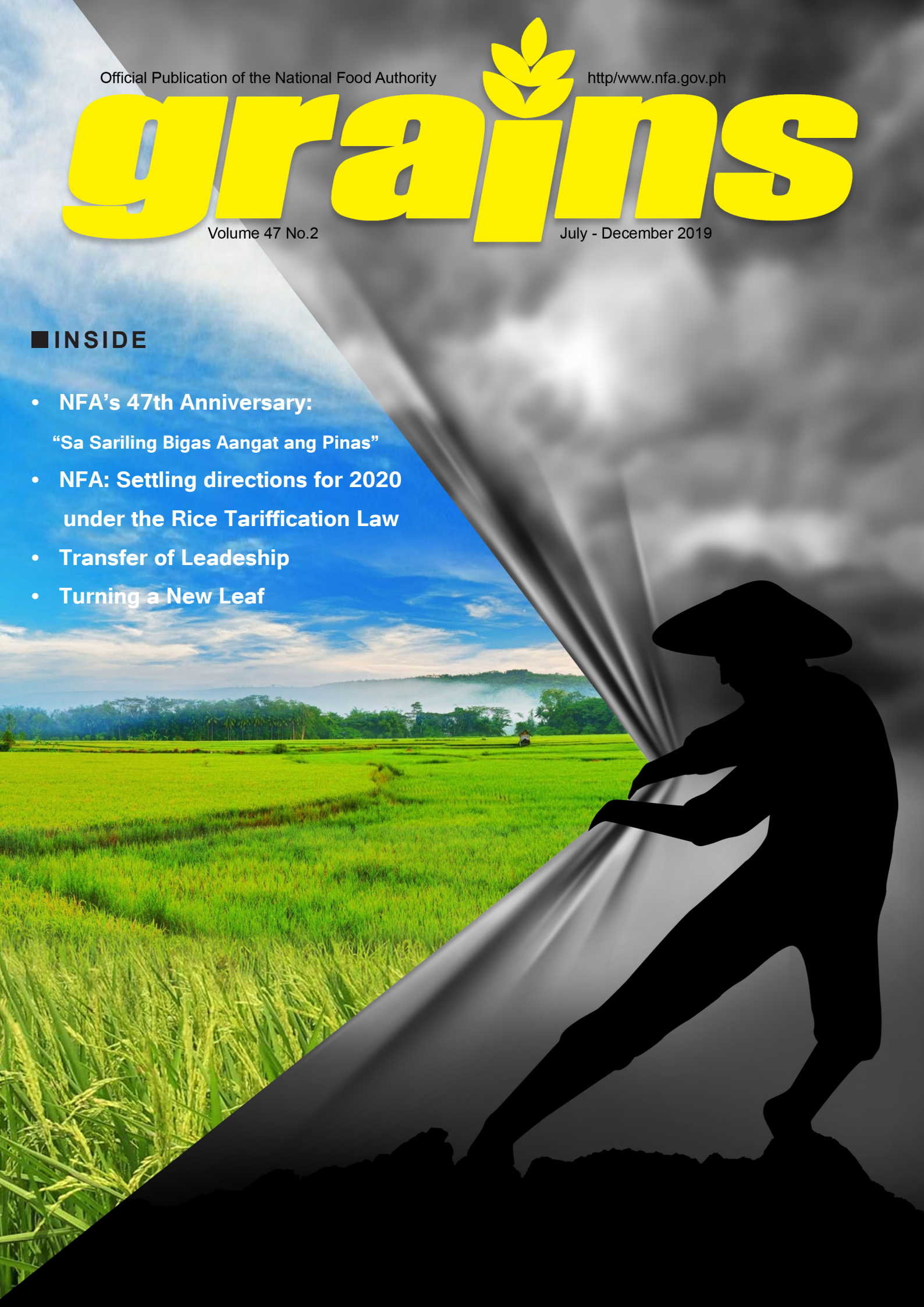
grains

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A period of transition is sure to happen with the passage of Republic Act 11203 or the Rice Liberalization Law. This is a delicate process where there will be a great change or transformation from the old to the new NFA as envisioned by the new law that dictates operational and manpower adjustment, relinquishing and realignment of jobs and positions, transfer of resources and accountabilities – so much conversion and adaptation in the offing – a passage that is hoped to lay upon a new beginning for everyone in the NFA and in the industry as a whole.

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GOING BEYOND 47

AND SO IT WAS that the National Food Authority (NFA) celebrated its 47th anniversary as the government's premier food marketing arm, albeit not on a grand scale but meaningful and positive just the same – amid all the dins and clamors surrounding its already unsteady existence.

The first semester edition of *Grains* carried stories and notes about Republic Act 11203 or the Rice Liberalization Law. As of presstime, employees were still awaiting updates as to the real score about the reorganization or restructuring of NFA (as one of the offshoots of the law). Resilient and pragmatic as they are, NFA employees had easily succumbed to the fact that NFA will never be the same again after the signing of RA 11203 last February 14, 2019, and all they want now is to reap the benefits of the reorganization process with the promise of a special retirement incentive package for those leaving and a career growth for those staying.

Administrator Judy Carol L. Dansal had since emphasized that her moves as far as the reorganization of NFA is concerned would be for the best interest of employees or the NFA as a whole. Her decisions, too, would be attuned to the requirements of the law, and to the needs and demands of the food industry. Really nothing final can be seen or heard about the future of NFA yet. And so the agency is on a status quo, doing its duties and functions wholeheartedly as usual while closely keeping tabs on the orders from the higher-ups.

Throwback forty seven years ago: NFA then NGA confronting (or braving) graft and corruption, ballooning debts, subsidy and budget deficit, rice shortage and price increase, etc. These issues

pertaining to rice were all too familiar, happening all over again and as far as employees could remember.

The NFA Employees Association shared this information: from 1960 to 1972, the government could only think of one solution to the rice crises brought about by insufficient production. That is, to import rice. In the years 1963 to 1967, more than a billion pesos worth of rice was imported (at the rate of Php2.00 to US\$1.00) that eventually discouraged the farmers and worsened the rice shortage problem.

The government veered away from rice importation and started exporting rice from 1968 to 1970. The country then attained self-sufficiency in rice, the very first time in the country's history since 1903, according to the *Philippine Free Press* in its report on December 18, 1971.

Yet, from 1971 to 1972, the rice self-sufficiency program, per reports furnished by the NFAEA in 2013, the rice self-sufficiency program failed because of these factors: collapse of the palay procurement program due to anomalies that spelled the bankruptcy of the Rice and Corn Administration (RCA); inadequate credit and financing assistance to farmers; substantial increase in the prices of fertilizers and pesticides; spread of tungro infestation; natural calamities that destroyed crops; and worsening peace and order condition in Central Luzon and Mindanao.

Truly, so many lessons can be learned from the NFA's past and present -- lessons that will steer the agency's journey to the future – lessons that will linger in the minds and hearts of employees as they leave NFA or as they choose to stay to take part in the reconstruction and recovery process.

NEW BEGINNINGS

When we were kids, we trusted everything adults told us. We believed there are monsters lurking under our beds. We waited secretly for a tree to spring to life from our mouths out of the seeds we accidentally swallowed. And we believed in tooth fairies who'll give us a new tooth that'll grow from that hollow space the next morning.

In the midst of NFA's restructuring process, I'd like to carry the same faith as that kid. There's going to be a brand new NFA that will emerge out of these 'uncertainties' we are currently in. I have to admit, lately I've been staying up late worrying whether I will keep my job. I don't share this thought to my family because I don't want them to worry. I'll try to keep this little secret between you and me for as long as I can handle.

What makes matters worst is my status in the organization. Along with 275 others, I hold what you call co-terminus to the incumbents (CTI). There are talks that we will be the first to automatically get kicked out once the restructuring starts rolling. And the most tragic part is that allegedly we won't be getting any separation incentive package (SIP) because we are no longer part of this agency when EO 366 was implemented. Insert crying emojis.

Then again there's a flicker of hope inside me that refuses to die. I know things will turn out for the better and the NFA will be 'reborn'. I know CTIs will receive similar SIPs. And yes, I believe we will continue to be relevant despite changes in our mandates. Mark my word.

This issue of Grains Magazine is significant in a way. We'll be treading different roads. We might be down to just a few, younger, meaner workforce. So for now, let's continue learning new ways from the veterans before they bid the agency goodbye.

Lina^{!!}



NFA assures good quality rice sold in markets



The National Food Authority (NFA) assures the public that the agency releases only good quality rice stocks for sale at P27/kilogram in public markets.

NFA Administrator Judy Carol L. Dansal said the agency takes good care of its stocks through good warehouse-keeping protocols, and it is NFA's policy to release only rice stocks that are safe and in good condition.

This assurance comes in the wake of a news report where a retailer in the Pasig mega market allegedly complained about the poor quality of NFA rice they are selling.

An official of NFA's East District Office, which has jurisdiction over the Pasig area, immediately checked on the quality of NFA rice sold in the area. But no such "poor quality" stocks with "bad odor and even worms" were presented as the retailer said she had already sold all her stocks.

"How was she able to sell all her NFA rice stocks if it was rotten? This only means there is ill will in the act of this particular retailer, because all our accredited retailers know that we have a standing policy to replace bad stocks or if the quality is unacceptable," Dansal said.

NFA-NCR Director Carlito Co also assured that all rice stocks being distributed nationwide undergoes regular quality audit and pest control measures. He said they always stress during their regular "Ugnayan" meetings with accredited retailers that they can only sell good quality NFA rice and they can always ask for a replacement if ever they receive bad quality stocks.

"As shown in the news report, that complaint from the single Pasig market retailer was an isolated case. Other NFA rice retailers and buyers interviewed in the area attested to the good quality of NFA rice they sell and buy, respectively," Dansal explained.

Dansal explained that while NFA's regulatory functions have been removed under RA 11203 or the Rice Tariffication Law, the agency continues to make an effort to monitor and ensure the safety and good quality of NFA rice sold at the prescribed price of P27/kg, in response to President Rodrigo Duterte's directive to continuously maintain its presence in the market as an option for low-income consumers. **(RCO)**

NFA buys 11.52 million bags from local farmers

The National Food Authority (NFA) continues to buy palay from local farmers nationwide as the main harvest continues. As of November 20, the food agency has already procured a total of 11.52 million bags of palay from local farmers nationwide, mostly from Central Luzon, Southern Tagalog and Cagayan Valley regions.

According to NFA Administrator Judy Carol Dansal, the agency has never stopped buying palay. "We try to accommodate all farmers who sell their harvest. We have 642 buying stations which are strategically located across the country to accept their produce," Dansal said.

Aside from the stationary buying stations, the NFA deploys mobile procurement in areas such as Ilocos Sur, Kalinga, Cagayan, Nueva Vizcaya, Batangas, Camarines Norte, Masbate, Sorsogon, Antique, Southern Leyte, Zamboanga City, Zamboanga del Sur, Pagadian, Ipil, Sibugay, Zamboanga del Norte, Dipolog, Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Misamis Oriental, Misamis Occidental, Lanao del Norte, and Maguindanao to cater to farmers in far-flung areas.

The NFA administrator is confident that the NFA will be able to achieve its target of 14.46 million bags before the main harvest ends this year. "As of November 20, we have already achieved 80% of our target. The main crop traditionally yields 70% of the total annual production. Normally, we buy more from farmers during the last quarter of the year. We are hopeful, our target will be attainable," Dansal said.

The daily average procurement rate is recorded at 125,754 bags per day.

Since the start of the main cropping season last September, more farmers have taken advantage of NFA's support price of P19 per kilogram of palay. Based on NFA's monitoring, the prevailing ex-farm prices of palay is recorded at P16.69 to P16.71. The NFA buys palay based on the Equivalent Net Weight Factor (ENWF) such as moisture content, purity and discoloration and damage of the palay.

Previously, the NFA buys palay from farmers at P17 per kilogram with additional incentives including incentives the P3/kg buffer stocking incentive (BSI) and additional incentives of P0.20 to P0.50 delivery incentive; P0.20 drying incentive and P0.30 Cooperative Development Incentive Fund (CDIF) for cooperatives or farmers' organizations.

During last year's main crop procurement, the agency was able to buy a total of 1.15 million bags from October to December 2018. So far, the agency has purchased a total of 4.67 million bags from October to November alone.

The NFA has relaxed its requirements so more farmers will be able to sell to the agency. Individual farmers can sell a maximum of 200 bags on their first walk-in transaction with the NFA. They only need to fill up a Farmer's Information Sheet (FIS) for records purposes.

Due to the high volume of palay deliveries in NFA warehouses and buying stations, the food agency has opted to lease private warehouses for extra storage. This is the case in Abra, Ilocos Sur, La Union, Eastern and Western Pangasinan. **(LINA REYES)**

Japan donates 560 metric tons thru APTERR for typhoon victims

Japan continues to be an ally of the Philippines through the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR), a regional cooperation scheme among ASEAN Countries, China, Japan and Republic of Korea (ASEAN+3) aimed at strengthening food security and reducing poverty in East Asia.

Japan's donation of 560 metric tons of rice to the Philippines through its Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF-Japan) last October, 2019 was the sixth time since 2006. The rice donation was made in response to the request of the National Food Authority (NFA) to the APTERR Secretariat on August 30, 2019 for the immediate release of the 560 MT pre-positioned emergency rice reserve under the APTERR Tier 3 Program. The rice donation benefitted families in the provinces of Ilocos Norte and Pangasinan hardest hit by Typhoons Ineng and Jenny on August 22-24, 2019. The APTERR Council approved the NFA's request through its letter dated September 12, 2019.

Under the Tier 3 program of the APTERR, a stockpiled rice reserve is released to a country-beneficiary for poverty alleviation and/or malnourishment eradication program

Since 2006, Japan has already donated a total of 2,787.5 MT to the Philippine government which was distributed to an estimated 2,047,627 families in areas affected by Typhoons Pablo, Yolanda and Nona including the eruption of Mount Mayon in Bicol and the Marawi Siege.

On September 16, 2019, a ceremonial turn-over of the rice donations between the officials of MAFF-Japan headed by Mr. Takashi Amo, Director General for Crop Production Bureau, and the Philippine government through NFA Administrator Judy Carol Dansal was held at the NFA- National Capital Region. The event was also witnessed by Mr. Chanpithya Shimpalee, APTERR General Manager.



Mr. Chanpithya Shimpalee, APTERR General Manager (left) and Mr. Takashi Amo, Director General for Crop Production Bureau, Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (center) hand over a pack of rice to National Food Authority Administrator Judy Carol Dansal (right) representing Japan government's donation of 560 metric tons of rice to the Philippine government during the ceremonial turn over ceremonies held at NFA-NCR.

A total of 16, 667 families from seven municipalities of Ilocos Norte and one municipality of Pangasinan affected by typhoons Ineng and Jenny received a 30/kg bag of rice. The ceremonial distribution of the 560 MT rice donations was held at PCV-Socio-Civic and Cultural Center, Poblacion, Bacarra, Ilocos Norte on October 5, 2019. The family-beneficiaries were identified by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). The event was attended by key officials from various concerned government agencies, local government units and international organizations headed by Mr. Masahiro Nakata - Minister for Economic Affairs from the Japan Embassy in the Philippines representing MAFF-Japan; Mr. Chanpithya Shimpalee – General Manager of the APTERR Secretariat; NFA Administrator Judy Carol L. Dansal; and Mr. Danilo G. Pamong - Undersecretary of DSWD. **(MA. CYNTHIA DL. SUAREZ)**

NFA trains employees as grains classifiers



The National Food Authority (NFA) trains its employees to become part of its pool of grains classifiers. At least 30 employees from the different NFA Central Office departments were acquainted on the various aspects of grains classification during a two-day Quality Assurance Officers' Pool Training and Refresher Course on Grains Classification held at the Agriculture Training Institute.

With the implementation of the Rice Liberalization Law or Republic Act 11203, the participants were introduced to the revised SOP on palay procurement.

During the training, participants were given practical and written tests to measure their learning abilities. Successful participants will become part of the food agency's pool of grains classifiers and will be sent to the field offices to help in the palay procurement operations. **(LINA REYES)**



BRIEFING ON WAREHOUSING. A joint seminar was conducted last October 16, 2019 by DA-CAR and NFA Abra to apprise farmers and farmer leaders on grains classification, good warehousekeeping and pest control measures. Provincial Standards Quality Assurance Officer (PSQAO) Ferdinand Macusi and Pest Control Officer (PCO) Gabriel Damo of Ilocos Norte acted as resource speakers while John Marc Catura of NFA-Abra was the field facilitator on grains classification. Lectures were conducted at Origines Hotel, Bangued Abra, after which the group proceeded to NFA-Abra warehouse for hands-on classification, and to witness the piling system and other warehousing activities. **(CRISELDA P. BERSAMIN, correspondent)**

MOBILE PROCUREMENT. NFA Ilocos Sur conducted mobile procurement at Salcedo, Ilocos Sur on November 7 & 14, 2019 in response to the request of Mayor Leopoldo Gironella Jr. The procurement team was headed by Provincial Operations Officer (POO) Nenita Remolona together with Cashier II Linglingay Acapuyan, (Grains Operations Assistant II (GOA) Pedro Panod and truck driver Elmer Cahanap. A total of 611 bags of palay were procured from individual farmers. **(JACQUELYN R. MADALIPAY, correspondent)**



COURTESY CALLS IN REGION 1



Western Pangasinan Provincial Manager Ramon B. Cuaresma and staff paid a courtesy call on Congressman Christopher "Toff" De Venecia of the 4th District of Pangasinan. The meeting was held at the local official's office in Bonuan Binloc, Dagupan City on November 22, 2019. The discussion was focused on NFA programs particularly on the on-going palay procurement at the province. **(JEAN ANN TICMAN, correspondent)**



Provincial Manager Ramon B. Cuaresma confers with Vice-Governor Mark DG. Lambino on matters taken during the Stakeholder's Forum with DA Secretary William D. Dar as guest/resource speaker. The discussion was focused on the NFA's procurement program in participation with the local government units (LGUs) and the creation of the Food Security Council in the province. With PM Ramon B. Cuaresma is Assistant Provincial Manager Chona DG. Maramba. **(JEAN ANN TICMAN, correspondent)**



Regional Director Genaro S. Nuñez Jr. with Assistant Regional Director Chona E. Brijuega and NFA La Union Provincial Manager Fortunato B. Bulao paid a courtesy visit to La Union 2nd District Representative Sandra Y. Eriguel, M.D. and to Agoo town mayor Stefanie Ann Eriguel on September 12, 2019. They discussed the new mandate of the NFA, effects of RA 11203 (Rice Tariffication Law), NFA La Union's procurement and distribution accomplishment, and the NFA leased warehouses located in Agoo and in its nearby towns, among others. RD Nuñez assured Congresswoman Eriguel that NFA La Union has sufficient stock inventory that may be released in times of emergencies and calamities. **(SONNY REY RIVERA, correspondent)**

PROCUREMENT BRIEFING. In anticipation of the massive palay procurement operations during the main cropping season, NFA Eastern Pangasinan conducted a palay procurement briefing for its employees last August 28, and a refresher course on palay grains classification, quality assurance and control for its classifiers' last September 23. A meeting for the provincial accreditation/revalidation committee as well as for the members/representatives of PFAC Eastern Pangasinan Chapter were likewise held to discuss and review the accreditation/revalidation process and guidelines for farmers' passbooks and other matters pertaining to the institutionalized procurement program. **(MAEZLE M. FERRER, correspondent)**



REROOFING OF THE PROVL OFFICE. So-called the "Spidermen" of NFA, these male employees strike once more with a new project. This time it is the reroofing of the provincial office building. The reroofing was made with the use of indigenous/used materials from Alaminos GID Warehouse. This project is being done with minimal expenses, saving labor cost for the agency and relying on good team work. Provincial Manager Ramon B. Cuaresma expressed appreciation for the efforts of the "Spidermen" to improve and beautify the provincial office. Good job "GAGAMBOYS: PSQAO Caesar B. Roberonta, GOO I Goldwin T. De Leon, MPO III Charlie T. Arboleda, TD Jonathan Domantay and TD Jonathan Tandoc". **(JEAN ANN TICMAN, correspondent)**

STAKEHOLDERS' FORUM. NFA Ilocos Sur headed by OIC-Provincial Manager Lolita O. Sanedrin attended the second round of the stakeholders forum on grain/palay industry and mitigation on the effects of Rice Tarrification Law in the province of Ilocos Sur held on September 11, 2019 at the Provincial Capitol, Vigan City. The provincial government of Ilocos Sur (PGIS) vowed to address the clamors and concerns of the local farmers. Governor Ryan Luis Singson pledged the use of provincial government trucks to deliver farmers' produce to NFA due to lack of transportation. PGIS will also provide driers (solar, mechanical) to the farmer organizations. Another commitment of the PGIS is to provide warehouses/buying stations to be utilized by NFA free of charge to accommodate farmers' produce. **(JACQUELYN R. MADALIPAY, correspondent)**



REFRESHER COURSE. NFA Western Pangasinan conducted a refresher course on palay grains classification, quality assurance and control last September 4, 2019, with Provincial Standards Quality Assurance Officer (PSQAO) Caesar B. Roberonta as the lecturer/trainer. This is to completely prepare its classifiers' pool for the massive palay procurement during the main cropping season. **(JEAN ANN TICMAN, correspondent)**

CLUSTER-WIDE CONSULTATION. NFA-Abra, represented by PIO designate Criselda P. Bersamin, together with two farmer leaders of Provincial Farmers Action Council (PFAC) and Municipal Agriculture and Fishery Council (MAFCI), attended the cluster-wide consultation of the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) for "Sagip Saka" Act, or an act instituting the farmers and fisherfolk enterprise development program of the Department of Agriculture, which aims to achieve sustainable modern agriculture and food security by helping the agricultural and fishing communities to reach their full potential, increase their incomes and bridge the gaps through public-private partnerships thereby improving their quality of life.

The event's special guest Senator Francisco "KIKO" Pangilinan shared how he was inspired to "author" the Sagip Saka Act. The consultation aims to present the draft of the IRR to different stakeholders and solicit their inputs and recommendations. **(CRISELDA P. BERSAMIN, correspondent)**





STAKEHOLDERS' FORUM. A Stakeholder's Forum was held at the Sison Auditorium, Lingayen, Pangasinan last August 31, 2019. It was attended by stakeholders from the agriculture sector of the province with Department of Agriculture Secretary William D. Dar as the Guest/Resource Speaker. NFA Western Pangasinan Provincial Manager Ramon B. Cuaresma attended the event with the local government headed by Gov. Amado I. Espino III, Vice Governor Mark Ronald DG. Lambino, municipal mayors, board members, and other heads of attached agencies of the DA. Secretary Dar discussed the issues and concerns affecting farmers, quoting the vision of the DA which is "A food secure Philippines with prosperous farmers and fisherfolks". With this vision, the Secretary emphasized to help farmers achieve success in the face of the drastic decrease in the buying price of palay. **(JEAN ANN TICMAN, correspondent)**

PDRRMC. The provincial office of Abra headed by Manager Elizabeth T. Kai attended the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (PDRRMC) meeting last August 14, 2019 at the Governor's Gallery Hall of the Provincial Capitol. It aimed to assess the extent of damages caused by inclement weather and areas that need quick response. Also tackled was the suspension of tourism activities until the weather normalized. Manager Kai assured the body that the agency is always ready to respond to any eventualities. **(CRISELDA P. BERSAMIN, correspondent)**



SB SESSION. Per invitation of the committee of Sangguniang Bayan of Aguilar, Provincial Industry Services Officer (PISO) Marissa Jacinto and Grains Operations Officer I (GOO) Goldwin de Leon attended their session on September 9, 2019 at the Conference Hall of Aguilar, Pangasinan. The two discussed the NFA's palay procurement program, mode of payment and the requirements in the accreditation of farmers. GOO1 De Leon informed the farmers on the parameters including the Equivalent Net Weight factor being considered in palay classification. Issues and concerns of the Irrigators Associations of Aguilar were tackled and answered immediately to the satisfaction of the audience. **(JEAN ANN TICMAN, correspondent)**

QUARTERLY MEETING. Abra Provincial Manager Elizabeth T. Kai, together with PIO designate Criselda P. Bersamin, attended the second quarter accomplishment report conducted by the Department of Agriculture – Cordillera Administrative Region (DA-CAR). The purpose of the quarterly meeting is to create awareness of DA programs and projects and to have a good working relationship with its attached agencies and local chief executives. Each head of agency was given ten minutes to report and Mgr. Kai presented the 2nd quarter accomplishment of the branch with regard to procurement and distribution. She also replied to queries on procurement which is a continuing activity of the NFA. **(CRISELDA P. BERSAMIN, correspondent)**



ORIENTATION OF NEW EMPLOYEES. NFA Eastern Pangasinan conducted a Briefing/Orientation for its newly hired employees last September 30. **(MAEZLE M. FERRER, correspondent)**





TREE PLANTING. As part of its clean and green program/advocacy, and in preparation for the procurement this main cropping season, NFA Eastern Pangasinan held a clean-up drive and tree-planting activity inside the NFA compound in Carmay, Rosales, Pangasinan last August 20. **(MAEZLE M. FERRER, correspondent)**

DANSAL IN REGION I. Administrator Judy Carol L. Dansal with Grains Marketing Operations Department (GMOD) Director Lemuel R. Pagayunan visited NFA La Union on November 29, 2019. They were warmly welcomed by Regional Director Genaro S. Nuñez Jr., Assistant Regional Director Chona E. Brijuega, provincial managers, and employees of NFA La Union regional and provincial offices.



Administrator Dansal had a short meeting with the Region I Regional Management Council (RMC) to discuss operational matters. She also held a dialogue with the employees to apprise them on NFA restructuring. The Administrator accommodated a wrap-up meeting with the DSWD Region I represented by Mr. Frederick Jaramilla and Mr. Landino Galvez, relative to the ceremonial and actual distribution of the 560MT Rice Donation from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

(MAFF-Japan) thru the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) Tier 3 Program held on October 5, 2019 in Bacarra, Ilocos Norte. **(SONNY REY RIVERA, correspondent)**



DIALOGUE. A short dialogue between Regional Director Genaro S. Nuñez Jr. and NFA-Ilocos Sur employees was conducted on July 25 during RD Nuñez' first visit in the province upon his assumption as regional director. RD Nuñez advised the employees to continue to love their work and render the best service to the agency despite the impending restructuring of NFA with the implementation of RA 11203. **(JACQUELYN R. MADALIPAY, correspondent)**

WAREHOUSE VISIT. Regional Manager Genaro S. Nuñez Jr. conducts warehouse inspection and checks the status of driers in GID Alaminos and GID Mangatarem Warehouses together with Regional Mechanic John Mc Clein Valdez, Provincial Standards Quality Assurance Officer (PSQAO) Caesar B. Roberonta and Mechanical Plant Operator (MPO) III Charlie T. Arboleda. **(JEAN ANN TICMAN, correspondent)**



NFA in Farmers and Fishermen's Summit 2019

National Food Authority Bataan employees, headed by Provincial Manager Antonio A. Puno and former NFA PM Adelaida C. Nuestro, were invited by Cong. Geraldine B. Roman to attend the 2019 Summit for Farmers and Fishermen held on October 21, 2019 at Orani, Bataan. Heads of other government sectors were also present.

Launched in 2018, the summit aims to support and empower farmers and fishermen in dealing with problems in agriculture and fisheries.

One of the highlights of the event is a film showing featuring Cong. Roman discussing the issues and concerns in agriculture that need further solution. During the summit, there were inquiries regarding NFA's palay procurement. PM Puno made some clarifications on the agency's procurement process. He explained that NFA



(PM Puno (extreme left) together with Cong. Roman and representatives of concerned government agencies

does not only buy clean and dry palay but also accepts wet palay subject to the agency's drying capacity. He encouraged farmers to dry their produce first before selling them to NFA for a better price. (ROMALYN G. VILLAR, correspondent)



NFA Region III starts IMR dispersal

The National Food Authority Region III thru the Bataan provincial office started port operations at Seafront Shipyard, Lucanin, Mariveles, Bataan to facilitate transfer of rice stocks to other regions.

As part of distribution strategies of NFA, 160,000 bags of IMR will be transferred to regions V and VI specifically to the provinces of Iloilo, Catanduanes and Masbate to augment their rice inventories.

On September 23, 2019, during the pre-port operations meeting at Balanga City Bataan, Regional Director Piolito C. Santos instructed the immediate transfer of stocks to the destination regions for local distribution.

The loading operation officially started on September 27, 2019 with the arrival of MV Ligaya NV at the Seafront Port Terminal in Mariveles, Bataan. After a thorough inspection of the vessel, loading of IMR started on September 28. IMR stocks sourced from Region III provinces (Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga and Bataan), were directly loaded to the vessel.

MV Ligaya NV left the port terminal last October 4, 2019 for Iloilo with a load of 41,003 bags. (ROMALYN G. VILLAR, correspondent)

Bataan braces for intensive palay procurement

The National Food Authority Bataan continued its intensive palay procurement for the main crop harvest that started last September until November 2019. The procurement team encouraged the local farmers to continue selling their produce to the agency for a higher price.

As palay farm gate price continues to drop, NFA released a new buying price for palay on September 11, 2019. NFA now offers P19.00/kg of palay.

As of October, NFA Bataan procured a total of 12,848 bags of palay at P19.00/kg price from different parts of Bataan.

Cummulative total of palay procured from January 2019 up to October is 89,819 bags. (ROMALYN G. VILLAR, correspondent)



Adm. Dansal leads inauguration of new NFA Bataan office building

A new provincial office building was constructed by NFA Bataan within the GID warehouse compound along Roman Highway, Balanga City to better serve local farmers and rice retailers all over Bataan. The blessing of the building took place last October 10, 2019 followed by the unveiling of the building marker.

The blessing of the building was performed by Rev. Fr. Jersey Prepose of the St. Joseph's Cathedral Parish and the simple occasion was graced by Administrator Judy Carol L. Dansal and NFA Region 3 executives led by Director Piolito C. Santos.

Administrator Dansal gave a very inspiring message enjoining everyone to continue giving their best effort to fulfill NFA's mandate of buffer stocking and other services to the farmers. **(ROMALYN G. VILLAR, correspondent)**



Admin. Dansal leading the ribbon cutting at the new provincial office building



NFA Mamburao for "Alay Linis para sa Kalayaan"

One of the most significant dates in Philippine history is Independence Day because it marks the nation's independence from the Spanish rule on June 12, 1898. It is a public holiday and it is a day off for the general population, as schools and most businesses are closed. It is a day when many people, including government officials, employees and students, participate in nationwide parades.

In line with this, the NFA Mamburao provincial office participated in Mamburao's activity for Independence Day with a theme "Alay Linis para sa Kalayaan". The program started with a flag ceremony to commemorate the hoisting of the first Philippine flag followed by a holy mass, a kapehan para sa kalayaan and the coastal clean-up.

The main purpose of the program is to clean the coastal areas of Mamburao, Occidental Mindoro. The LGU Mamburao assigned areas to different agencies aside from the NFA such as (Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO), City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO), Department of Education (DepEd) and some barangay officials. **(GLAZE ANN V. VILLABESA, correspondent)**

Diskwento Caravan

Diskwento Caravan is a regular annual program of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) which aims to provide opportunity for consumers to access basic and prime commodities, including school supplies, medicines and other products at discounted or reduced prices. It is a venue for private and public partnerships that provides non-wage benefits to the general public. Likewise, it provides the opportunity for partner businesses to exercise their corporate social responsibility projects.

As a staple food, rice is a basic necessity. NFA Mamburao Provincial Office, through Acting Assistant Provincial Manager Kathlyn M. Gonzales, participated in the Diskwento Caravan with the theme "Presyong Panalo para sa Mamimiling Pilipino" on May 28-29, 2019 at Sablayan Astrodome, Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro. It was sponsored by the DTI and in partnership with LGU Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro and the business communities.



NFA Mamburao participates in Diskwento Caravan

NFA Mamburao Provincial Office, in cooperation with GRECON Sablayan, took the opportunity to conduct Tagpuan Rice Response Delivery (TRRD) or Tagpuan Day to sell NFA rice at P27.00/kg to the marginalized residents of Sablayan. **(GLAZE ANN V. VILLABESA, correspondent)**

Courtesy Call

Provincial Manager Roberto Gonzales (second from left) on his courtesy call to Quezon Governor Danilo Suarez (3rd from left) assisted by Provincial Industry Services Officer Christine Marie Turgo (second from right) last September 24. PM Gonzales discussed the agency's palay procurement program and the buffer stocking mandate under RA 11203 or the Rice Liberalization Law.

He said the provincial office is working hard to reach local farmers for palay procurement through continuous information campaign and ugnayan. Presently, NFA Quezon has nine (9) buying stations in strategic locations to cater and serve palay deliveries from farmers.

The provincial governor ensured the accountability of the local government to support the programs of national agencies within their area of jurisdiction. **(CHRISTINE MARIE M. TURGO, correspondent)**



Arrival of palay stocks

Opening of barge Martam 5 at Talao Talao Port Lucena City loaded with 27,000 bags of palay from NFA San Jose, Occidental Mindoro witnessed by the Dispersal Committee headed by Asst. Provincial Manager Cesar Gonda, as directed by Provincial Manager Roberto Gonzales. The unloading operations immediately commenced after the opening.

From hatches to designated warehouses, transfer of stocks was completed on September 17, 2019. **(CHRISTINE MARIE M. TURGO, correspondent)**



Enhancing Skills and Knowledge for Security and Safety

Bessang Pass Security Agency Inc. (BPSAI) represented by Mr. Eric Fantastico, overall coordinator, conducted security protocol and firing proficiency training seminar for the security guards of NFA Romblon. PM Redentor Arciaga and Acting (Senior Enforcement and Investigation Officer (SEIO) Rowena Maduro graced and supported the seminar. Mr. Sonny Boy C. Anonat, training instructor of BPSAI facilitated the seminar including the firing training held at PNP Romblon Provincial Command. Mr. Anonat discussed the 11 general orders and emphasized on the proper gestures and behaviours of the security guards to maintain safety and security of NFA employees and clients.

PM visited PNP Romblon Deputy Director for Operations, P/Lt. Col. Rexton S. Sawi during the firing proficiency training.



Certificates of attendance were awarded to 11 security guards while certificates of appreciation were given to PM Arciaga, Acting SEIO Rowena Maduro and Acting PIO Czarina Loren Quinio for the support given to BPSAI for the success of the activity. **(CZARINA QUINIO, correspondent)**



RD HADLOCON VISITS QUEZON:

Regional Director Jaime Hadlocon, Assistant Regional Director Miguel Tecson and Regional Information Officer Azela Infantado visited NFA Quezon on July 18, 2019.

Provincial Manager Roberto Gonzales and the rest of the staff accorded a warm welcome for them. A briefing was conducted regarding administrative, operational and financial matters.

RD Hadlocon informed the employees about the agency's status with regard to RA 11203. He addressed issues and concerns raised by the employees.

"Relax, enjoy and work with unity" he said, assuring all employees that the agency as a whole is fighting a good fight. **(CHRISTINE MARIE M. TURGO, correspondent)**

NFA's woman in action visits Mamburao

NFA Mamburao employees had a “meet and greet” with one of the highest officials of the agency May 29, 2019. Deputy Administrator for Marketing Operations Maria Mercedes G. Yacapin arrived in Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro at exactly 10:00 in the morning. OIC PM Joseph M. Candava and staff welcomed her as she arrived from San Jose, Occidental Mindoro. The Deputy Administrator was accompanied by then Chief Grains Operations Officer (GOO) I Maria Lewina A. Tolentino, ARD Miguel S. Tecson, PM Osmundo R. Guinto Jr., Regional Standard Quality Assurance Officer (RSQAO) Melita T. Sevilla, and Regional Information Officer (RIO) Asela P. Infantado.

Deputy Yacapin visited the various warehouses of NFA Mamburao to inspect and witness actual procurement operations. She noticed the uniform and proper piling of palay and rice stocks and commended the accountable officer. She also met some farmer leaders for a short dialogue to discuss their issues and concerns about the agency. Deputy Yacapin saluted all the field officers for their hard work in order to meet the agency’s goals and objectives.

Deputy Yacapin thanked the personnel for the warm welcome accorded to her. She also commended them that in spite of the very hot weather condition, they continue to work hard for the agency. Deputy Yacapin updated the employees regarding the NFA restructuring.

“We will rise up and we will rise again” was one of the phrases she said to uplift the faith of employees during these trying times. She advised employees to always believe in themselves to reach their goals. She saluted NFA Mamburao for being Top 7 in the Philippines in palay procurement during the main and summer crop seasons. **(GLAZE ANN V. VILLABESA, correspondent)**



Service with Dedication and Concern Deputy Yacapin meets with Farmer-Leaders and have a short dialogue with them regarding their issues and concerns about the agency



Because of the noticeable piling of palay and rice stocks at GID Sablayan warehouse, Deputy Yacapin happily asked to take a photo of her at the pile as a souvenir



Warehouse Inspections Conducted

After the occurrence of Typhoon “Tisoy” in Southern Tagalog particularly in the Island of Mindoro Oriental and Occidental Mindoro, Regional Director Jaime S. Hadlocon and Assistant Regional Director Miguel S. Tecson immediately conducted warehouse inspection in affected warehouses in the areas. The two officials responded to the scene to evaluate the extent of the damages to NFA properties and stocks. The top management committed their support for the early and immediate repairs of NFA damaged properties. **(CHEL P. INFANTADO, correspondent)**



PROCUREMENT. This lady farmer patiently waits for her palay to be weighed. The warehouse is following the policy on the schedule of delivery of palay. **(CHEL P. INFANTADO, correspondent)**



CLASSIFICATION. A laborer carries a sack of palay while Regional Standards Quality Assurance Officer (RSQAO) Melita Sevilla inspects the rebagged palay and verifies the classification of palay in Magsaysay, Occidental Mindoro. **(CHEL P. INFANTADO, correspondent)**

Additional warehouse

NFA Camarines Sur announced the good news to all the farmers of Partido Area that the provincial office will now be accepting palay deliveries at RPC Tigaon warehouse located at Bgy. Caraycayon, Tigaon, Camarines Sur starting October 16, 2019. The warehouse is in addition to the NFA – owned warehouses which can hardly accommodate all palay deliveries due to massive procurement operations in the province. Utilization of the RPC warehouse was made possible thru the assistance of Mayor Pamela Rinah B. Fuentesbella who shared NFA's mission to extend all the necessary support to improve the lives of farmers.

The signing of the memorandum of agreement for the utilization of the RPC warehouse was held at LGU Tigaon on October 15, 2019. The NFA was duly represented by Regional Director Henry H. Tristeza and NFA Camarines Sur Provincial Manager Alan S. Sabaybay. LGU Tigaon department heads and Sanggunian Bayan members were also present as witnesses during the activity. **(CARREN S. ARRIOLA, correspondent)**



from left to right, PM Alan S. Sabaybay of Camarines Sur, RM Henry H. Tristeza of NFA RV and Mayor Pamela Rinah Fuentesbella of LGU Tigaon

Catanduanes enters MOA with NFA

Both public servants by heart and prioritizing the disaster preparedness program for the benefit of their constituents, Acting Provincial Governor of Catanduanes Hon. Shirley A. Abundo and NFA Catanduanes Provincial Manager Rodrigo O. Embate Jr. signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) on rice loan with LGU last October 10, 2019.

Economist III Jose F. Lim and Provincial Administrator Ireneo Panti witnessed the signing of MOA held at the Provincial Capitol of Catanduanes. **(JASMIN JAY M. BENAVIDEZ, correspondent)**



GFAL II Catanduanes



NFA Catanduanes employees pose with speakers from GSIS Virac after the seminar

To help improve the financial capability of GSIS members and ensure the preservation of their benefits, the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) Virac extension office thru its EO Head Mr. Johnson V. Dating informed their new loan program to NFA Catanduanes employees called GSIS Financial Assistance Loan II (GFAL II) last August 13, 2019.

Mr. Levi S. Olivar Jr., branch manager of GSIS Legazpi branch and the resource speaker discussed the salient features of GFAL II and other GSIS updates such as the updating of loan in default and its effect on their retirement benefits.

GFAL II aims to facilitate and help the GSIS members settle their loans with various NFA accredited private lending institutions (PLI) at lower interest rates resulting to a larger take home pay. **(JASMIN JAY M. BENAVIDEZ, correspondent)**

Labanan ang Dengue



NFA Catanduanes headed by PM Rodrigo O. Embate Jr. conducted a clean-up drive on August 16, 2019, adopting the DOH's Sabayang 4-O'clock Habit para Dengue-Get Out focusing on search and destroy of mosquito breeding sites, being one of the primary interventions to prevent and control dengue in the entire province.

This initiative was in compliance with the instructions from the NFA Regional Office V and memorandum from the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (RDRRMC) placing dengue outbreak on blue alert status and identifying Bicol as one of the regions with the most number of dengue cases.

The clean-up drive was done on all Fridays of August and September. **(JASMIN JAY M. BENAVIDEZ, correspondent)**

Consultation meeting with Rep. Escudero

Regional Manager Henry H. Tristeza, together with Sorsogon Provincial Manager Noemi A. Morfe paid a courtesy visit to 1st District Representative Evelina “Nanay” G. Escudero.

RM Tristeza and PM Morfe attended the consultation meeting last July 15, 2019 per invitation by Rep. Escudero to discuss matters pertaining to NFA Region V’s ongoing and proposed projects and programs for the 1st District of Sorsogon and other related matters. The meeting was held at the district office and official residence of Rep. Escudero in Buhatan, Sorsogon City.

Topics discussed during the meeting were the NFA restructuring, importation, distribution and focused distribution.

Relative to importation, RM Tristeza informed that NFA will not be importing rice anymore under RA No. 11203. He explained that importation is now being handled by private entities/individuals. As for NFA rice distribution, Rep. Escudero mentioned about putting up NFA satellite offices particularly in areas where there is clamor for NFA rice. RM Tristeza said it will be costly on the agency’s part since manpower and other logistics will be necessary. However, he assured that NFA management already instructed the field offices to continue selling NFA rice at P27.00/kg.

Focused distribution was also discussed by RM Tristeza assuring that the office will put up accredited outlets that will cater to the poorest of the poor in the province. According to the data of the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), Sorsogon ranks number 18 among the provinces with high incidence of poverty. Corollary to this, Escudero raised the issue on the plight of farmers. She said farmers’ income is not increasing despite government’s support and intervention. Problems on



PM Noemi A. Morfe (left), RM Henry H. Tristeza (center) and Sorsogon 1st District Representative, Hon. Evelina G. Escudero during the Consultation Meeting.

irrigation; conversion of farmlands into commercial and/or residential lots; the inverse proportion of population and agricultural growth are among the issues facing the farmers. Escudero added that the Department of Agriculture should prohibit the conversion of farmlands especially if these are not idle lands.

RM Tristeza presented some concerns and stressed the need to educate the farmers on production, extension or on the post-production aspects of palay farming. He said cooperatives should focus first on the production side before focusing on the post-production aspect.

PM Morfe took the opportunity to discuss with Escudero the present status of the lot being occupied by NFA Sorsogon. PM Morfe sought the representative’s support for the extension of NFA’s occupation of the lot; or for possible grant or donation of the lot to NFA by the Department of Agriculture (DA). Escudero promised her support to the NFA and even assured for the possible grant by the DA considering that NFA is one of its attached agencies. **(MICHELLE L. CASTUERA, correspondent)**



COURTESY CALL. Mayor Salvadora O. Sanchez of Uson expressed support to NFA’s programs during the visit of NFA Masbate Provincial Manager Julie B. Llanareas and Senior Grains Operations Officer Haydee C. Floresta. Mayor Sanchez requested for flyers and info materials to be distributed during farmers’ assembly. The municipality of Uson has two organized farmer associations, namely, MAQUEBA Irrigators’ Association and MAGFARAS Farmers’ Association that are high contributors to NFA Masbate’s procurement accomplishments. **(HAYDEE FLORESTA, correspondent)**

FARMERS’ FORUM. Provincial Manager Alan S. Sabaybay attended a Farmers’ Forum in Libmanan, Camarines Sur on July 19, 2019. PM Sabaybay apprised the farmers on NFA’s programs giving emphasis on palay procurement. He encouraged the farmers to sell their palay to the NFA to be able to avail of a higher buying price for their produce as well as the other incentives being offered by the agency. He likewise gave the farmers an overview of the recently enacted RA 11203 otherwise known as the Rice Trade Liberalization Law (RA 11203). Joining PM Sabaybay was Senior Enforcement and Investigation Officer (SEIO) Jonathan R. Cabrillas. **(CAREN S. ARRIOLA, correspondent)**



National Rice Awareness Month

The NFA Camarines Norte supported and joined the 2019 National Rice Awareness Month celebration of the provincial government of Camarines Norte through the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist with the theme “Buy Local, Eat Local, Support our Rice Farmers”.

The kick-off/opening ceremony was observed on November 4, 2019 where NFA together with the employees of different municipalities and other stakeholders attended the flag raising ceremony.

On November 22, 2019 Provincial Manager Noemi A. Morfe was invited as one of the resource speakers during the rice forum and skills olympics held at the Little Theater of the Provincial Government. Farmers, farmer leaders, stakeholders and students were among the participants in the said forum.

Engineer Almirante A. Abad, provincial agriculturist welcomed the participants while the Committee Chair on Agriculture Provincial Board Member Reynoir “Bong Quibral” gave the opening remarks.

PM Noemi said the theme of the celebration is in line with NFA’s function to focus on rice buffer stocking



to be sourced solely from local farmers for calamities and emergencies. She updated everyone that rice releases will be made in response to emergencies and in support of disaster relief programs of the government. A power point presentation on NFA procurement program was presented by PM Noemi to further update the participants on NFA’s palay procurement standards and the available drying services of the agency. **(HAYDEE FLORESTA, correspondent)**

NFA Sorsogon joins DSWD’s partnership forum



PM Rodrigo O. Embate Jr. (2nd from left) joins other agencies during the ceremonial signing.

Provincial Manager Rodrigo O. Embate Jr. attended the partnership and collaboration forum conducted by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) held at the Castilla Municipal Hall last November 20, 2019 where NFA Sorsogon was one of the agencies invited for the ceremonial signing.

The partnership forum with the different government agencies, private organizations and duly recognized local associations was conducted to ensure efficiency and effectiveness of the Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) of the DSWD.

The NFA, thru PM Rodrigo O. Embate Jr. and the provincial government of Sorsogon, Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), and other private institutions, signed the following Memoranda of Agreement: i) Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP); ii) Specific Implementation Agreement (SIA) of LGU-Castilla; iii) World Vision; and iv) Public-Private Memorandum of Understanding.

The forum aimed to streamline existing projects in the various municipalities and to identify the areas for collaboration among public-private and people’s organizations specifically along technical assistance, capability-building, tools and equipment, existing infrastructure and facility. **(MICHELLE L. CASTUERA, correspondent)**

PROCUREMENT ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN THROUGH LGUs

Given the new mandated role for NFA, Provincial Manager Julie B. Llenares met the municipal mayors in the province of Masbate and discussed the programs and services of NFA.

PM Llenares attended the session of Liga ng mga Barangay of Mandaon on August 16, 2019 and conducted advocacy on palay procurement. Vice-Mayor Romeo Villanueva instructed the chair of the Committee on Agriculture to coordinate with NFA to get the necessary requirements in securing NFA passbook and present what transpired during his coordination in their next session. **(HAYDEE FLORESTA, correspondent)**



NFA Capiz marks highest palay procurement record in 10 years

NFA Capiz procured a total of 278,907 bags of palay from January 1 to December 31, 2019 and spent more than P273M which is 76% accomplishment in view of its 368,000 bags target for the year.

NFA Capiz Officer-in-Charge Herrielle V. Jumagbas disclosed that for the year 2019, NFA Capiz marked the highest palay procurement record in 10 years.

Revitalized by NFA's buying price of P19/kg and farm gate price that ranged from P11.59 to P13.90 for clean and dry palay, many farmer organizations and individual rice farmers opted to sell their palay produce to NFA for a better return on their investment.

As a ready and alternative market for both individual and group rice farmers, NFA Capiz served 739 individual rice farmers and 37 farmer cooperatives/groups/associations in palay procurement in 2019.

The farmer organization that has the highest palay delivery in NFA Capiz for 2019 is the Consolacion Farmers and Irrigators Multi-Purpose Cooperative chaired by Mr. Angel Funtinilla of Dumalag, Capiz. NFA Capiz procured 22,072 bags from this cooperative which was able to avail farm machineries like hand tractor and harvester under the Machinery for Agricultural Needs Incentives (MANI) Program of the Department of Agriculture.



Mr. Funtinilla and his members thanked the NFA for its procurement program that helped more rice farmers. The farm machineries granted to them will help their cooperative gain more profit and at the same time, will lessen their burden in farming. They pledged to sell their palay produce in the next harvest season.

OIC Jumagbas recognized the continuing efforts of NFA Capiz employees despite the fact that the food agency runs short of its operating fund. **(MARY CHRISTIE M. HARI-ON, correspondent)**



NFA Capiz released rice for calamity victims

NFA Bolo Warehouse in Capiz released 50 bags of good quality NFA rice to the provincial government of Capiz last December 26, 2019.

From December 26 to December 31, 2019, a total of 4,676 bags of NFA rice were issued to the Office of Civil Defense (OCD), Local Government Units (LGUs), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and private organizations intended for victims of typhoon Ursula in the province of Capiz.

During the visit of Capiz Governor Esteban Evan Contreras to NFA Capiz provincial office to check on the availability of rice, he is expressed gratitude to the food agency for its support especially during calamities. NFA Capiz OIC Herrielle Jumagbas assured the governor that NFA Capiz has sufficient supply of rice for the Capizeños. **(MARY CHRISTIE M. HARI-ON, correspondent)**

FUN RUN. NFA-Negros Oriental joins the Dumaguete City's Race to Serve: Family Fun Run as part of the 119th Philippine Civil Service Anniversary Celebration. There were two categories: 3 kilometers and 5 kilometers. Selected NFA-Negros Oriental employees with their family members pose at the stage of the starting point of the Family Fun Run. **(CAMILO C. KEBITE JR., correspondent)**



Briefing-workshop on agri info system and CSS

NFA Cebu hosted a briefing-workshop on National Agri-Food Information System and Commercial Stock Survey (NAIS-CSS) participated in by the regional and provincial economists and designated CSS field personnel of Regions VI,VII,VIII,IX and XIV. The activity aimed to train the participants with the overall mechanics relative to the utilization of the CSS web based system and seven-inch mobile tablet equipped with CSS application.

Director Fioretta Estoperez of Corporate Planning and Management Services Department explained the overview of the NAIS Program. Director Estoperez said the Government of Korea through the Korea Agency of Education, Promotion and Information Service in Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (EPIS) has granted the Philippines through NFA with technological aid/support under the 2nd Phase of the NAIS. The NFA's

CSS has been selected as the banner project for the 2nd Phase of NAIS implementation in the Philippines for CY 2019. Director Estoperez emphasized that pursuant to Rule 3-5 of Article III of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of RA 11203, the NFA shall continue to perform its CSS until December 31, 2019. By the first quarter of 2020, the PSA and NFA shall jointly undertake the CSS and the final turnover of CSS from NFA to PSA shall be on July 01, 2020.

During the workshop, CPMSD personnel distributed the mobile tablets to the participants with pre-paid local internet provider and introduced the 2nd Phase NAIS-CSS Web System and CSS Mobile Application. The application shall replace the CSS pre-constructed questionnaire as a tool in the conduct of CSS Survey.

Regional Director Yolanda Navarro expressed gratitude to NFA Central Office for having chosen Cebu as the venue for the workshop. **(OLMA MARIE M. BAYNO, correspondent)**



Negros Oriental attends agri info caravan and palay letting

Negros Oriental Provincial Manager Ma. Belen Barbanida, Provincial Operations Officer (POO) Emily Diputado, and Grains Operations Officer (GOO II) Camilo Kebite Jr. attended the agri-info caravan and palay-letting activity conducted by the Department of Agriculture (Region VII) at the Plaza Maria Suites Inn, Dumaguete City. Farmers from the different municipalities and cities were invited to the event. Acting PIO Kebite presented the palay procurement program of NFA. The palay-letting followed. This activity was conceptualized by the Department of Agriculture - Provincial Agriculture Technology Coordinating Office (DA-PATCO), DA Provincial Office, and NFA Negros Oriental where rice farmers and farmer-cooperatives who sold their produce to NFA were honored and given certificates of appreciation. DA-7 Regional Executive Director



POO Emily Diputado (rightmost) handing the certificates of appreciation to DA-APCO Sarah Perocho, while PM Ma. Belen Barbanida (3rd from right) waits for her turn to forward the certificates to DA-7 Regional Executive Director Salvador Diputado (4th from right) for him to award same to the farmers who attended.

Atty. Salvador Diputado, Agriculture Program Coordinator Officer (APCO) Sarah Perocho, and NFA Provincial Manager Ma. Belen Barbanida handed the certificates, including the cash payments for the three farmers who sold their palay to NFA

that day. The activity's host, Mr. Bernard Limbaga presented the rice farmers to the audience as modern heroes because of their efforts and contribution to the buffer stocks of NFA. **(CAMILO KEBITE JR., correspondent)**

NFA joins CSC R.A.C.E. to Serve Fun Run

The National Food Authority joined other government agencies in the R.A.C.E. to Serve Fun Run on September 01, 2019 at the UP Cebu Grounds, Gorordo Avenue, Cebu City. The Fun Run was part of the celebration of the 119th Philippine Civil Service Anniversary (PCSA) every September. The annual PCSA seeks to commemorate the birth of the Philippine civil service system in 1900, as well as to celebrate the contributions and hard work of state workers. CSC Region VII Director Ariel B. Bacatan (in photo, 5th from left) emphasized that the PCSA is not just the anniversary of the CSC but of the whole bureaucracy as well. This year's theme, Civil Service at 119: Upholding Integrity and Building a High-Trust Society, is anchored on one of Ambisyon Natin 2040's key areas for development planning, which is building a high-trust society, and aims to remind government workers of their significant role in realizing the Filipino nation's collective goals and aspirations.

Moreover, the Fun Run aims to promote the importance of having a healthy lifestyle among public



servants and to raise awareness on holistic wellness. It is also a venue for them to interact with each other and foster camaraderie. Proceeds from the fun run will go to Pamanang Lingkod Bayani Program which honors public servants who sacrificed their lives in the service of the Filipino people. **(OLMA MARIE M. BAYNO, correspondent)**



NFA participates in nationwide simultaneous earthquake drill

Employees of NFA Cebu regional and provincial offices joined the 4th Quarter Nationwide Simultaneous Earthquake Drill (NSED) and Observance of World Tsunami Day on November 14, 2019 at 9am with invited observer from the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP)-Cebu City. The employees as well as the agency's clients performed the basic "duck, cover and hold" maneuver.

After the simulation, Fire Officer I Noel M. Abarquez of BFP Cebu City provided his comments and insights on the exercise performed by the employees. The activity aimed to capacitate the employees with the right action to prepare, respond and protect themselves during an earthquake and tsunami. **(OLMA MARIE M. BAYNO, correspondent)**



PALAY PROCUREMENT. Cash Clerk/Classifier Kim Prestin inspects the palay delivered by a farmer of Brgy. Magatas, Sibulan, Negros Oriental at the GID I Warehouse in Dumaguete City. **(CAMILO C. KEBITE JR., correspondent)**

ASD and BTFMD conduct Accountants Workshop

The Accounting Services Department (ASD) and the Budget Treasury and Fund Management Department (BTFMD) conducted the Accountants Forum-Workshop last September 2-5, 2019 with the theme: Reconciling the Past for a Clearer Future, Today. The four-day workshop was participated in by the Regional and Provincial Accountants and the Regional Budget Officers and Accountants II. The Central Office Finance Team was composed of Tomas R. Escarez, Deputy Administrator for Finance and Administration; Gerry J. Ambrosio, Asst. Administrator for Finance and Administration; Dir. Evelyn M. Barroga, Accounting AServices Department (ASD); Dir. Erlinda E. Balderas, Budget, Treasury and Fund Management Department (BTFMD); Tarcila C. Pasicolan, Asst. Division Chief, ASD-National Accounting Division; and Anita O. Manuel, Accountant III, ASD-NAD.



Deputy Administrator for Finance and Administration Tomas R. Escarez during the Opening Program of Accountants Forum/Workshop (Day 1) last September 2, 2019.

Deputy Administrator Escarez was given a surprise birthday celebration by RD Procopio B. Trabajo II and the NFA IX family. Escarez visited the provincial offices of Region IX and witnessed palay procurement activities, conducted warehouse inspections, and checked the



Photo Opportunity after the Accountants Forum/Workshop. DM Evelyn M. Barroga, ASD (wearing red dress), RD Procopio B. Trabajo II (right, 2nd row), ARD Rafael V. Marasigan (left, 2nd row) with the participants.

quality of the rice/palay stocks. He was escorted by RD Trabajo to NFA Basilan and met with employees. He paid courtesy call on Isabela City Mayor Sitti Djalia Hataman and discussed the NFA's palay procurement program and new mandate under RA 11203 or the Rice Tariffication Law.

Ambrosio discussed the effects of RA 11203 on the financial transactions/reports and transitory activities prior to merging. Director Balderas talked about the budgetary processes while Director Barroga focused on the reconciliation of inter-branch accounts.

During the workshop, the accountants discussed, verified and reconciled inter-branch accounts. RD Trabajo, ARD Rafael V. Marasigan and Zamboanga City PM Elimar C. Regindin listened to their presentation of outputs and gave their comments or observations. The workshop, which was the first of a series conducted nationwide, resulted to a 100% reconciliation of all inter-branch accounts in NFA Region IX. Happy with the results, RD Trabajo awarded the participants with certificates of commendation and thanked the Central Office finance for their guidance which led to the excellent performance of Region IX's accountants. **(MARGARETTE F. RIDAD, correspondent)**

Dansal discusses NFA's new role during visit to Zamboanga City

NFA Administrator Judy Carol Layus Dansal visited Zamboanga City last August 29, 2019 together with her Special Assistant, Atty. Raul E. Canon Jr. and NFA-NCR Regional Director Carlito G. Co.

Administrator Dansal led the Region IX executives and employees and NFA ARMM executives to a tree-planting activity. Seedlings of lanzones and rambutan were planted in the Zamboanga City compound to raise awareness on the conservation of our environment. She said that "tree planting is the best thing that we can do to help mitigate the impact of climate change and that our actions now will save our future generations."

In the general assembly with the staff, Administrator Dansal explained NFA's new mandate under RA 11203 or Rice Tarrification Law and urged the employees to work as one and do the best to be able to attain procurement target and dispose imported rice stocks. She assured the employees that nobody will be displaced under the NFA restructuring and retirement package will be given to those

who would opt to leave the agency. She also discussed the national operational and financial situations of the agency. Having answered the employees' apprehensions and concerns, everybody was in high spirits thanking the Administrator for her visit. **(MARGARETTE F. RIDAD, correspondent)**



NFA-10 braces for COA audit

National Food Authority Region 10 headed by Regional Director John Robert R. Hermano welcomed the conduct of “Entrance Conference” held on December 12, 2019 at NFA-10 training center, Baloy, Cagayan de Oro.

The forum, spearheaded by COA-10 led by Regional Supervising Auditor V Rogelio M. Tero, intended to precede a thorough audit covering transactions and operations of the NFA Regional Office 10 in Cagayan de Oro City, and its provincial offices for the period January 1 to December 31, 2019.



L-R: NFA-10 Dir. John Robert R. Hermano, State Auditor V Rogelio M. Tero, regional supervising auditor, and State Auditor IV Maria Evelyn Q. Lagria, regional supervising auditor

This is pursuant to the Philippine Constitution of 1987, Article IX-D, Section 2, which tasked Commission on Audit (COA) to examine, audit, and settle all accounts pertaining to the revenue and receipts of, and expenditures or uses of funds and property, owned or held in trust by, or pertaining to, the Government or any of its subdivisions, agencies, or instrumentalities”.

RSA Tero assured the management of Region 10 of impartiality, objectivity and professionalism of his team in the conduct of audit.

In response, Director Hermano committed cooperation in the conduct of audit which includes accounts and financial reporting, compliance review, review of financial accounting control for selected process/transaction streams, follow up prior year’s audit recommendation.

“I am instructing all provincial managers to cooperate, provide necessary documents of our transactions for transparency, review the previous recommendations made by your auditor, manage your compliance accordingly,” Hermano told his managers as well as the accountants who were present during the conference.

Further, he explained, “I always advise managers to seek clearance from their respective auditor for transactions and operations that require COA verifications to avoid audit reports.” (HAZEL B. BELACHO, correspondent)

NFA attends Info Caravan with media partners

The Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) program was the focus in the information caravan forum launched by the Agricultural Training Institute -10 (ATI-10) held at Jocel’s, Valencia, Bukidnon.

Manager Beverly M. Navarro of NFA Bukidnon answered questions and issues raised by reporters from broadcast, print and social media outlets about the ongoing palay buying. She explained NFA’s policies and procedures on palay procurement program.

Manager Navarro said that NFA procurement teams are doing the best they can to accommodate palay deliveries but at the same time observe quality standard management of palay stocks as these will be stored as buffer stocks.

On warehouse space, Manager Navarro said they will be bringing out some stocks from Aglayan and Valencia for milling to accommodate more palay deliveries. (HAZEL B. BELACHO, correspondent)



JOINT BRIEFING. NFA regional engineers from Visayas and Mindanao met for the proposed design improvements of existing warehouses and post harvest facilities during the joint briefing-workshop on capital outlay project proposal and implementation held at the NFA-10 training center in Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City on November 19 and 20, 2019. (HAZEL B. BELACHO, correspondent)

NFA improves procedure on capital outlay projects

A two-day joint briefing-workshop on capital outlay project proposal and implementation was held at the National Food Authority Regional Office-10 training center in Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City on November 19 and 20, 2019.

Participants to the joint briefing are regional engineers, regional accountants, and chairpersons of Regional Bids and Awards Committee (RBAC) from regions 6 (Iloilo), 7 (Cebu), 8 (Tacloban), 9 (Zamboanga), 10 (Cagayan de Oro), 11 (General Santos), 12 (Tacurong), 14 (Cotabato) and Caraga.

This joint briefing-workshop was conceptualized to address delays in the process of capital outlay project implementation, which was based on an output of a situational analysis made by a team of executives from NFA Cental Office. The team was composed of Engr. Ma. Elvira M. Martinez, director for Technical Research Services Department (TRSD); Erlinda E. Balderas, director for Budget, Treasury and Fund Management (DTFMB); and Evelyn M. Barroga, director for Accounting Services Department (ASD).

The team came up with a standardized template to make the process easier and faster. The workshop was aimed at strengthening the link of regional engineers with the regional accountants and RBAC

to harmoniously facilitate their submission of requirements.

NFA Administrator Judy Carol L. Dansal graced the two-day joint briefing-workshop. In her message to the participants, she said, "given the directions from our national government, we focus on infrastructure projects i top 10 rice-producing provinces. It does not mean that we will no longer work on infra projects in other provinces, but we will just have to work within our budget."

Administrator Dansal gave instruction to the regional engineers to evaluate warehouse requirements of their region in light of the marching order to the directors to increase buying stations.

As to payment to contractors, she reminded the regional accountants not to cause any delay when fund remittance is made to their region.

Director Martinez reminded the regional engineers to be on top of the implementation of all capital outlay projects which cover infrastructure projects on post-harvest facilities including meteorological equipment.

"Once the budget of the project has been approved by the Department Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC), regional engineers no longer need to request for authority from TRSD. We in TRSD will only monitor the physical

implementation of your projects," Director Martinez clarified.

BTFMB Director Balderas emphasized that remittance shall be made "just in time". She stressed that the absorption of capital outlay project implementation must be accomplished on or before December 31, 2020 only.

Director Barroga defined the role of the accounting department, and emphasized that as long as the requirements mentioned in the contract are completely attached, and the guidelines on accounting and auditing rules manual are strictly followed, the accounting department will approve the release of fund, just in time.

Administrator Dansal mentioned about NFA's distribution of rice worth P600 which is equivalent to 20 kilograms per Pantawid Familyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) beneficiary per month which is still being pilot tested in six (6) regions. She said this is one of the reasons the NFA will be focusing on infrastructure projects on post-harvest facilities as the agency has been eyed to serve the more than four million 4Ps beneficiaries.

"This will make NFA personnel busier in the next few months," Administrator Dansal said. **(HAZEL B. BELANCHO, correspondent)**



Participants to the Joint Briefing-Workshop on Capital Outlay Project Proposal and Implementation posed with the team of executives from NFA Cental Office composed of (L-R/front row) Evelyn M. Barroga (4th), Director for Accounting Services Department (ASD); Engr. Ma. Elvira M. Martinez (5th), Director for Technical Research Services Department (TRSD); and Erlinda E. Balderas (6th), Director for Budget, Treasury and Fund Management (DTFMB). Participants were composed of regional engineers, regional accountants, and chairs of Regional Bids and Awards Committee (RBAC) coming from all regions in Visayas and Mindanao.

NFA-10 joins RCEF Fora

With the passage of the Rice Tariffication Law that has shifted the NFA's mandate to buffer stocking, NFA Region 10 headed by Regional Director John Robert R. Hermano has been actively participating in all activities on Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) Program launched by the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office-10 and Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) held all over the region.

The Rice Tariffication Law under Republic Act 11203 lifted the quantitative restrictions (QR) on rice and replaced with import tariffs. An annual tariff from rice importation of P10B in six-year time is allotted to several RCEF-implementing government agencies for the benefit of rice farmers: annual allocation of P5 billion for rice farm machinery and equipment for the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PHilMech); P3 billion for rice seed development,

propagation and promotion under the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice); P1 billion for expanded rice credit assistance being handled by the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) and the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP); P1 billion for rice extension services implemented by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), PHilMech, PhilRice, and ATI.

Under this banner program of DA, the NFA's participation is to help ensure palay farmers of a ready market for their produce through the agency (NFA).

Director Hermano attended several information caravans on



Director John Robert R. Hermano during an Information Caravan on Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) program conducted by Department of Agriculture-10 & Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) in region 10.

RCEF. He served as resource person to RCEF fora and other speaking engagements on related subjects in ATI's Training of Trainers on Modernized Production of High Quality Inbred Rice and Seeds.

NFA's "then and now" mandate under RA11203 implementation and palay procurement program were among the topics during the RCEF fora. **(HAZEL B. BELACHO, correspondent)**

Rice assistance for Davao del Sur quake victims

The NFA Council, headed by DA Secretary William D. Dar, through the National Food Authority, extended 3,000 bags of 25kg rice assistance to the earthquake victims of Davao del Sur that were turned over to Administrator Judy Carol L. Dansal on December 7, 2019 at the BIR Evacuation Camp, Digos City.

Administrator Dansal thanked the NFA Council for the rice assistance and expressed hope and encouragement to the earthquake victims as she graced the turnover ceremony witnessed by the affected families, local government units, barangay workers, Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the City Disaster Risk Reduction Management Committee (CDRRMC).

The camp is presently the home of 348 families or 1,291 individuals who evacuated from Brgy. Dawis, Digos City, a seaside community severely affected by the calamity.



Administrator Judy Carol L. Dansal (2nd, right) with NFA XI Regional Manager Lester Romeo E. Malana (far right) turn over NFA rice to Mr. Samuel Miralles of CDRRMC (2nd, left) and Mr. Osias Remullo Jr. of DSWD (far left)

A bag of 25kg was given to each of the 348 affected families duly certified and validated by DSWD and CDRRMC.

NFA Region XI, through Davao del Sur provincial office and in coordination with DSWD, CDRRMC and LGUs, will schedule rice assistance distribution to different evacuation camps in Digos City which are Balabag, Talisay and Sitio Palan, Binaton and in the municipalities of Magsaysay, Hagonoy and Bansalan. The said areas will be the recipients of the remaining 2,652 bags of 25kg rice.

Rice donation from Korea with a volume of 600 MT or 24,000 bags of 25kg through the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) is expected to arrive in General Santos City port for distribution to earthquake victims in Davao del Sur and North Cotabato. **(CHERYL ANYA C. BUGHAO, correspondent)**



Earthquake victims queue for NFA rice assistance

Seminar-workshop on newswriting and social media reporting

In a bid to capacitate its personnel on basic newswriting and proper reporting using social media, the National Food Authority region 10 initiated the holding of 20 consecutive seminar-workshops.

This is in partnership with the Philippine Information Agency (PIA) spearheaded by Director Erlinda Olivia P. Tiu and Information Officer Recthie T. Paculba.

The first leg, attended by some 20 employees of the provinces of Bukidnon, Camiguin and Misamis Oriental, was held on August 23, 2019 at the NFA-10 training center.

The second batch, with 11 participants from NFA Lanao del Norte and Misamis Occidental, was conducted on December 3 at the NFA multi-purpose hall in Iligan City.

Resource speaker Elaine O. Ratunil, a former information officer of PIA-10 who was designated as Information Center Manager for Misamis Occidental and Misamis Oriental, and project manager in Iligan-Marawi Communication Command Center, shared her expertise in news writing and social media reporting.

Regional Director John Robert R. Hermano expressed hopes that the participants can serve as the agency's guardians of information in making proper documentation especially highlighting what the NFA is doing.



(Front L-R) Dir. John Robert R. Hermano, PIA-10 Director Erlinda Olivia P. Tiu, and PM Ma. Celeste R. Gaabucayan (NFA Mis. Or) together with participants from NFA Bukidnon, Camiguin, Misamis Oriental, and Regional Office-10.

"I had attended several hearings on rice issues, and it is sad to note 'na bugbog tayo sa mga' negative feedbacks despite the efforts we have made. During calamities like typhoons Sendong and Yolanda, and sieges in Zamboanga and Marawi, 'NFA lang nagbebenta ng bigas sa merkado kahit biktima rin ang mga kasamahan natin sa nasabing kalamidad...pero wala yatang nakakaalam sa mga accomplishments natin kasi wala man lang nakapag-post sa' social media,'" Hermano shared in his opening message.

Ratunil put emphasis on the significance of giving information especially those shared through social media.

"Social media is a powerful tool nowadays. In fact, terrorists find recruits through social media such as Facebook! As government communicators, we should be responsive in sharing information. It must be factual, concise, and well-verified," she said.

The participants were tasked to write and submit news article of their preferred topic in connection with NFA activities applying what they have learned during the workshop to the office of the regional director before they receive their certificate of participation.

"Pagkatapos nito, I expect you to put into practice what you have learned in this seminar to develop your craft. Every procurement team t must have at least one member who knows how to capture photos and make a story out of the operational activities we do," Dir. Hermano told the participants. **(HAZEL B. BELACHO, correspondent)**

NFA donates rice to quake victims

"One of the most important things you can do on this earth is to let people know they are not alone." This is mirrored by NFA Council's immediate response after a series of strong earthquakes struck Mindanao in October that resulted to damaged properties and loss of lives. In an effort to reach out and extend aid, the NFA Council headed by DA Secretary William D. Dar approved the donation of 26,404 bags of 25kg NFA rice assistance to the affected families of North Cotabato.

On December 11, 2019, after several arrangements and coordination with NFA provincial offices and LGUs,



NFA Administrator Judy Carol L. Dansal travelled to Kidapawan City for the scheduled ceremonial turnover of rice assistance to the displaced and affected earthquake victims in various evacuation centers of North Cotabato. Governor Nancy A. Catamco teamed up with Administrator Dansal for the initial turnover of 1,340 bags and 125 bags of 25 kg NFA rice to Brgy. Ilomavis, Kidapawan City and Brgy. Concepcion, Makilala, Cotabato, respectively. Administrator Dansal stressed that the NFA never donates rice but sells affordable and good quality rice. "It's a unique decision and first of its kind," she added.

The event was graced by NFA R12 Regional Director Nestor Rey E. Alcoseba, NFA R11 Regional Director Lester Romeo E. Malana, R12 Asst. Regional Director Arthur A. Aller, Provincial Managers Lucille P. Taypin of Sultan Kudarat, Teresa V. Herrera of North Cotabato and Nelson P. Sañada of South Cotabato. Kidapawan City officials, representatives of the Provincial Social Welfare and Development, CSWD, barangay officials, PNP personnel and NFA North Cotabato employees witnessed the activity.

A simple "Daghang Salamat" (Thank You) and a smile from the evacuees is more than enough to melt our hearts. Indeed, NFA's act of charity brought so much joy in this time of torment. **(SHERRYL V. POLO, correspondent)**

PRRD distributes 58M agri assistance to R12 farmers



Administrator Judy Carol L. Dansal together with NFA Region XII and XIV executives attended the distribution of farm inputs and other agricultural assistance to various organizations in Region 12 amounting to P58 million by Pres. Rodrigo Roa Duterte, assisted by Department of Agriculture Sec. William D. Dar and Sen. Christopher Lawrence “Bong” Go, last January 10, 2020 at the Pigcawayan Municipal Gymnasium, Pigcawayan, Cotabato.

Pres. Duterte assured the farmers that no rice importation will be allowed when harvest season begins. This is to ensure that the government, through the NFA,

can procure the palay of farmers. “Magpalugi kayo kung kinakailangan. Ang importante mabali ang palay ng mga magsasaka,” he added. He stressed the importance of after-delivery services, eliminate corruption and give Rice Tariffication a chance, for the agricultural sector to take off.

A briefing was conducted with DA Sec. William D. Dar, Mindanao Development Authority chairperson Emmanuel “Manny” F. Piñol, NFA Administrator Judy Carol L. Dansal, North Cotabato Gov. Nancy A. Catamco and other personalities prior to the arrival of the President. They discussed

actions taken to issues raised during the Pulung-Pulong with farmers last November 16, 2019 in Pigcawayan. Accomplishments and programs for implementation in connection with the plight of farmers were also included for Secretary Dar’s report to the President.

Heads of various line agencies, legislators, LGU officials of North Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat, PNP personnel, farmer leaders and their members flocked the gymnasium to witness the historical event in the lives of the Pigcawayanons, who were visited by the President for the first time. **(SHERRYL V. POLO, correspondent)**



TREE PLANTING. RD Nestor Rey E. Alcoseba poses with NFA-North Cotabato employees headed by PM Teresa V. Herrera (in stripes) and APM Robelito R. Campued (standing 6th from left) after the planting of coconut inside the NFA Baguer compound last July 25, 2019. **(SHERRYL V. POLO, correspondent)**

WAREHOUSE INSPECTION. To ensure NFA South Cotabato’s readiness to accept influx of deliveries for the main harvest season, Regional Director Nestor Rey E. Alcoseba joined the group of Provincial Manager Nelson P. Sañada, Asst. Provincial Manager Maximo B. Masa, Regional Monitoring team and some NFA South Cotabato staff in the inspection of FLGC and MLGC warehouses in the municipality of Norala, Surallah and Banga in South Cotabato. **(SHERRYL V. POLO, correspondent)**





AGRI PANTAWID. NFA NCR Assistant Regional Director Evelyn Medalla ((4th from right) during the successful launching of Agri-Pantawid: Katuwang ang Magsasaka, Kalinga sa Pamilya at Pagkain sa Mesa at NFA-NCR compound serving the beneficiaries of DSWD's Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) from various districts of Manila. (SAMAIRAH DATU, correspondent)



COURTESY CALL TO YORME. NFA officials led by Assistant Administrator Rex Estoperez, NCR Director Carlito Co, ARD Evelyn Medalla and former NFA administrator Lito Banayo paid a courtesy visit to Manila Mayor Francisco "Isko" Domagoso last September 2, 2019. (SAMAIRAH DATU, correspondent)



NFA'S READINESS. Amidst heavy rains and strong winds brought by typhoon Tisoy, the NFA-NCR-Central District Office delivered NFA rice at the Commonwealth Market to ensure availability of NFA rice in the market during the typhoon. (SAMAIRAH DATU, correspondent)



ACCOUNTANTS' AND BUDGET OFFICERS' CONFERENCE. RD Diocano D. Alojado Jr. (6th from left) and ARD Beverlyn P. Peralta, Ph.D. (9th from left) together with the facilitators and participants, pose for posterity during the culminating activity of Accountants' and Budget Officers' Conference on November 15 at Almont Inland Resort, Butuan City. (AMIELOU JANE G. MENDOZA, correspondent)



LGU SUPPORT. Deputy Administrator for Finance and Administration Tomas R. Escarez shakes hands with Isabela City Mayor Sitti Djalia Turabin-Hataman during a courtesy visit to the mayor. The deputy administrator is joined by Regional Director Procopio Trabajo II (extreme right) and Assistant Regional Director Rafael V. Marasigan (extreme left) of Region IX. Mayor Turabin-Hataman expressed her support to NFA's palay procurement program. (JELLA MAE L. SALVADOR, correspondent)



ORIENTATION. Provincial Operations Officer (POO) Ma. Teresa Valentina C. Espejo (holding microphone) discusses the SOP on warehousing policies and procedures to NFA Basilan employees during the orientation at NFA Basilan Provincial Office Conference Room on November 20, 2019. (JELLA MAE L. SALVADOR, correspondent)



The National Food Authority is going through tough times with an impending restructuring in the air. But this did not stop NFA employees to celebrate the agency's 47th year. This year's theme, "Sa Sariling Bigas Aangat ang Pinas" basically sums up NFA's new mandate of procuring local rice from farmers.

In the Central Office, the celebration was held at the Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM) on September 26. Fr. Jerry Orbos officiated the thanksgiving mass to kick off the celebration. Senator Juan Edgardo "Sonny" Angara is this year's special guest who readily accepted the invite of Special Assistant Atty. Raul Canon Jr. to grace the anniversary. NFA Administrator Judy Carol Dansal, in her speech, reminded everyone that the NFA will remain relevant even with the removal of its commercial functions under the Rice Tariffication Law. She said the NFA will still be relied upon to stabilize rice prices in the market by selling P27 per kilogram NFA rice.

A medley of Spanish dance presentation entertained employees courtesy of our friends from PAGCOR. Not to be outdone, a selected group of young NFA employees delighted the audience with their rendition of modern dance moves.

The event was also an occasion to honor employees and offices of this year's PRAISE and service Awards.

The celebration resonated across the country with field offices commemorating the anniversary in various ways such as feeding activity, blood-letting, sportsfest, and other special activities.

Let's enjoy these celebrations from these various photographs taken during the NFA's 47th anniversary. **(LINA REYES)**



Administrator Dansal with Senator Sonny Angara



Special guest Senator Sonny Angara



Administrator Dansal reminds employees of NFA's new role under the RA 11203



Assistant Administrator Gerry Ambrosio delivering the closing remarks



Fr. Gerry Orbos officiated the thanksgiving mass to start the program



Special Assistant to the Administrator Raul Canon Jr. introduced the guest of honor



Senator Angara was greeted by Administrator Dansal and SA Canon and the welcoming team from HRMD



Selected NFA employees performed to a mix of dance medleys



Performers from PAGCOR entertaining the delighted NFA crowd



Senator Angara poses with NFA executives and the event's hosts



The NFA Chorale gets a chance to a photo opportunity with Senator Angara and NFA executives



Award-winning performers from PAGCOR left the audience in awe

NFA CELEBRATES 2019 NATIONAL GRAINS INDUSTRY WEEK

The National Food Authority (NFA) leads this year's observance of the 22nd National Grains Industry Week (NGIW) from September 20 to 26, 2019 with simple ceremonies. This year's theme, "Sa Sariling Bigas Aangat ang Pinas" signifies NFA's unwavering support and commitment to the Filipino farmers.

The week-long NGIW culminates with the celebration of the 47th anniversary of NFA on September 26, 2019 to be held at the Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM) Auditorium in Quezon City. Agriculture Secretary William Dar will be this year's special guest.

The simple celebration, spearheaded by the NFA's Industry Services Department, will include the display of NGIW streamers at the NFA Central Office in Quezon City and in the field offices nationwide. The NFA will also put up similar streamers on NFA rice delivery trucks to remind the public of the significance of the event. Different varieties of local rice and palay samples will also be on display at the NFA anniversary venue.



The NGIW was promulgated in 1997 by then President Fidel V. Ramos under Proclamation 1058. The week-long Grains Industry Week was institutionalized primarily to "give emphasis on the enhancement of national food security, promotion of food safety and quality consciousness among the people and promote fair trade practices in the grains market as well as the development of farmers' cooperatives into self-reliant and competitive economic entities." (LINA)

FEATURES

NFA Region I headed by RD Genaro S. Nuñez Jr. and ARD Chona E. Brijuega conferred plaques of recognition and tokens to the region's service awardees during the regional celebration of the NFA's 47th anniversary held on September 24, 2019 at the SR Paradise Beach Resort, Bauang, La Union.

Special awards under the NFA-PRAISE were also conferred on deserving officials and employees, as follows: NFA Ilocos Norte Provincial Office - 2018 PRAISE Awardee for Field Office with Best Managed Warehouse (1st Place - Category C); NFA Western Pangasinan Provincial Office - 2018 PRAISE Awardee for Best Office in Number of Registrants/Licensees (2nd Place-Category A); MAAGAP Awardees - Ms. Peachie P. Tayoto, Clerk III of NFA Ilocos Sur and Mr. Larry A. Acosta, Utility Worker II of NFA Regional Office. Other highlights were the presentation per province/office, and the Search for Best Dressed. Mr. Sulpicio A. Terrado, Jr., Regional Economist, and Ms. Roshel G. Ilacas, Sr. Accounting Specialist of NFA Ilocos Norte bagged the Best Dressed Award for Male and Female Category, respectively. **(SONNY REY RIVERA, correspondent)**



NFA Region I's Top Brass in their cowboy attire during the celebration. (L-R) PM Veralew DG. De Vera of East Pangasinan, PM Fortunato B. Bulao of La Union, RD Genaro S. Nuñez Jr., ARD Chona E. Brijuega, PM Cecilia A. Concubierto of Benguet, PM Ramon B. Cuaresma of West Pangasinan, PM Eleonor A. Andres of Ilocos Norte, PM Lolita O. Sanedrin of Ilocos Sur, and PM Elizabeth T. Kai of Abra.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

NFA Eastern Pangasinan held a community outreach/feeding program with the pupils of Poblacion Child Development Center in Binalonan, Pangasinan. One hundred twenty nine pre-schoolers, with their guardians, joined and participated in the joy and fun of the anniversary spirit.

The provincial office also had a three-day rice/anniversary sale under the Tagpuan-Day Rice Response Delivery (T-RRD) program through NFA accredited retailer Ms. Rosalinda Servitillo last September 25 – 27 benefiting consumers from neighbouring barangays and municipalities.

The anniversary celebration ended with reminiscing colourful and joyful childhood memories through the Laro ng Lahi games participated in by employees and stakeholders. **(MAEZLE M. FERRER, correspondent)**



CELEBRATING WITH THE ELDERLY

Mahatma Gandhi says, 'The best way to find oneself is to lose yourself in the service of others.'

Quezon employees headed by Provincial Manager Roberto Gonzales on the 2nd day of the 47th NFA anniversary celebration involved themselves in a community service.

They chose the Sinag Kalinga Foundation in Lucban, Quezon with 25 lolos and lolas. They came together to visit and assist older adults and support their caregivers/volunteers.

The program allowed the employees to enjoy ministering with the elderly people. The companionship shared made the seniors active and happy that day.

When you are serving others you learn about yourself in the process. You learn to love and have compassion, you learn humility and gratitude. Life in service is a mark of being a public servant, and not a goal in and of itself. **(CHRISTINE MARIE M. TURGO, correspondent)**



Manager Gonzales (in Red shirt) and Quezon employees spending time with the elderly

HADLOCON GRACES ROMBLON'S ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

NFA Romblon's celebration of the 47th NFA anniversary became more meaningful as Regional Director Jaime Hadlocon graced the occasion with Regional Engineer Domingo Tamesis and Regional Information Officer (RIO) Asela Infantado on September 20, 2019.

A staff meeting was conducted. The celebration commenced in the afternoon attended by other agencies and GRECON members of Romblon. A welcome dance was performed by selected employees to start the program. Both employees and GRECON members of Tablas and Sibuyan Island prepared an intermission number.

OIC Redentor Arciaga thanked RD Hadlocon for his visit and Administrator Judy Carol Dansal and Deputy Administrator Tomas Escarez who made his transfer to Romblon possible. He said that the current situation of the agency will make its people more motivated to prove that NFA remains relevant.



RD Hadlocon expressed support and appreciation to NFA Romblon. He encouraged everyone to keep on working to serve the people and never let the issue of RA 11203 bring them down.

The program ended with employees receiving awards such as Service Award given to Johannie Marie Leyba, Czarina Loren Quinio, Al Martin Menes, Alea Ramilo, Adrienne Marron, and Mae Felia; Self-Development Award for Czarina Loren Quinio and Best Employee Award for Rowena Maduro. (CZARINA QUINIO, correspondent)

NFA RO 5 AND ALBAY PO CELEBRATES 47th ANNIVERSARY

The National Food Authority Regional Office 5 and Albay Provincial Office employees had a simple yet meaningful celebration of the NFA's 47th year anniversary on September 26th. The theme of this year's celebration was "Sa sariling Bigas Aangat ang Pinas". A Holy mass was offered at 8:30 in the morning followed by a meeting with the employees headed by the coolest, congenial and one of the best leaders of NFA Region V, Regional Manager Henry H. Tristeza. Lectures on financial wellness were given by resource persons from the Central Bank of the Philippines and the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS). In the afternoon, there were parlor games, bingo social and videoke singing. The affair was austere but undoubtedly a memorable one.

During the meeting, RM Tristeza talked about his experiences and the memory of the golden era when everything was abundant. He encouraged the employees to work together to attain the agency's new mandate. "We have to bring back the spirit of the early years when employees happily served



the organization even beyond the working hours without thinking of monetary value. Let us go hand in hand to help our Agency especially now that we are hounded with pressing concerns like the full implementation of RA 11203, the new structure wherein six provinces will be merged to three branches where some employees will be affected," Tristeza said. Amid the alleged issues of corruption within the organization, he urged every employee to work with dedication and honesty so as to bring back the good image of NFA.

ARM Arlene F. Tanseco shared her memoirs with the NFA. She expressed gratefulness for both her professional and spiritual growth and the learnings she has acquired from the day she joined the Agency in 1978.

PM Alexander C. Parrera assured that the young ones will carry on the good deeds of their predecessors. This can only be realized by working together in harmony with perseverance, effectiveness and efficiency in bringing NFA at the forefront in providing excellent services to the Filipinos. (NELSIE E. ALCANTARA, correspondent)





CAM SUR CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY WITH FEEDING ACTIVITY

What a blessing to belong to the NFA Family. But a greater blessing is to be part of its 47th anniversary celebration. And because we are blessed, we want to be a blessing to others, too.

To make our 47th anniversary more meaningful, we, employees of the NFA Camarines Sur headed by PM Alan S. Sabaybay and APM Nora A. Follosco, shared our blessings as a way of giving back to our community. We chose Palestina Elementary School as our beneficiary. We sponsored the school's feeding activity on September 25, 2019 and fed at least 400 elementary students. We also facilitated fun games for them to enjoy. We ended the activity by distributing various school supplies and 1- kilo NFA rice to all the students.

Indeed, nothing compares to the joy we feel when we do good to others. And nothing is more beautiful than the smiles on the faces of these children. **(CAREN S. ARRIOLA, correspondent)**

NFA CATANDUANES AWARDS TRUCK DRIVER

One of the highlights of the 47th NFA anniversary celebration in NFA Catanduanes last September 26, 2019 was the awarding of certificate of appreciation to Mr. Nestor N. Samson in grateful recognition of his valuable contribution for the repair and maintenance of NFA facilities done with sincere concern and dedication, characteristics of an ideal public servant.

A truck driver of NFA Tarlac for almost 44 years, he assisted in the hauling of IMR stocks from NFA Tabaco warehouse to NFA Catanduanes from September 13-27, 2019.

Mr. Samson received the award with a joyful heart.

PM Rodrigo O. Embate Jr. encouraged everybody to emulate the example of Mr. Samson for sharing his knowledge and skills in repairing the GID

1 warehouse's main door beyond his duties and responsibilities without expecting anything in return.

Thank you Mr. Samson for having a resolute and a passionate heart to serve! **(JASMIN JAY M. BENAVIDEZ, correspondent)**



Truck driver Samson receives his certificate from Manager Embate

FEEDING IN CAPIZ

More than 350 pupils of Sta. Cruz Elementary School benefitted from the feeding activity led by NFA Capiz OIC Herrielle Jumagbas during the celebration of NFA's 47th anniversary last September 20, 2019.

The theme "Sa Sariling Bigas Aangat ang Pinas" envisions that with the existence of NFA, the Filipino nation will continue to soar towards rice sufficiency.

NFA Capiz OIC Herrielle Jumagbas taught the children not to waste rice. She said rice is a blessing and that every Filipino should be grateful to the rice farmers who are working hard to produce the staple food.

The feeding activity aimed to share blessings from the food agency in its 47 years of existence with the hope for more years to serve the Filipinos. **(MARY CHRISTIE M. HARI-ON, correspondent)**



BURNING RITUAL IN ANTIQUE

Antique provincial office celebrated NFA's 47th anniversary with a simple but meaningful set of activities. This year's theme, "Sa Sariling Bigas Aangat ang Pinas" signifies the agency's continuous support to the Filipino farmers.

As a kick-off activity for the celebration of the 22nd National Grains Industry Week, NFA Antique employees led by Provincial Manager Marianito B. Bejemino, planted fruit bearing trees within NFA Antique compound on September 25, 2019. It was followed by a simple "salu-salo" among the employees, laborers and farmers who were selling their palay to NFA during the activity.

On September 26, 2019, the provincial office conducted a seminar on Gender and Development: Violence against Women and Children and Drug Education to promote a better understanding of the nature, scope and impact of violence and drug addiction on women and society.

A thanksgiving mass and awarding of plaques of appreciation and certificates of recognition to service awardees for their continuous service and selfless dedication to the agency added meaning to the celebration.

Another highlight was a solemn "burning ritual" where everyone wrote out their wishes/dreams and burdens/negative things on pieces of papers, and then burned and dropped onto allotted pots. A blue paper was prepared for the burdens and negative things the employees want to forget and a yellow paper for the wishes and dreams the employees want to pray for. The activity aimed to give new hopes and lighten the hearts of the participants.



Despite the trials the agency is facing right now, the employees of NFA Antique remained hopeful and positive that NFA will continue to rise with a stronger determination in promoting the welfare of its stakeholders. **(LORELYN A. BAYOG, correspondent)**

FARM IMMERSION

As part of NFA's 47th anniversary celebration, NFA Negros Oriental employees headed by PM Mayang Barbanida traveled to Brgy. Sumaliring, Siaton (50 km south of Dumaguete) to experience harvesting and manual threshing of palay right from the rice field. **(CAMILO C. KEBITE JR., correspondent)**



GRECON DAY

The Negros Oriental Confederation of Grains Retailers (GRECON) officers and members pose with RD Yolly Navarro (front row, 5th from the left), PM Ma. Belen Barbanida (front row, 3rd from the right), and PM Babie Ganzon (front row, 4th from the left) at the Bethel Guest House, Dumaguete City. **(CAMILO C. KEBITE JR., correspondent)**

NFA-GRECON JOINT ANNIVERSARY

In celebration of NFA's 47th anniversary celebration, NFA Bohol, together with Grecon Bohol chapter, conducted a joint anniversary celebration held at the Metrocentre Hotel. Prior to the activity, a thanksgiving mass was offered. (JHOEL J. LIM, correspondent)



NFA CEBU CELEBRATES 47th ANNIVERSARY

NFA Cebu regional and provincial offices celebrated the food agency's 47th anniversary with meaningful activities commencing with a zumba dance workout to perk up the event. After the aerobic exercise, a thanksgiving mass attended by NFA employees and stakeholders was held for the blessings given to the agency in particular and to the employees in general who spent most of their lives with the agency.

Regional Director Yolanda R. Navarro and Cebu Provincial Manager Hilaria E. Gazon led the employees and stakeholders for a short Ugnayan followed by a luncheon-fellowship.

The gathering provided an avenue to reach out to stakeholders especially the grains retailers and to strengthen further the ties between them and the NFA.

Invited to the gathering dubbed as Monthly Employees Gathering (MEG) were former Deputy Administrator Ludovico J. Jarina, some retired employees of Region VII headed by former Regional Director Flo Pascual, GRECON-Cebu Chapter, service providers and other partners in the industry. One of the highlights of the gathering was the awarding of certificate of appreciation to the employees who have served the

agency for the last five, ten and 15 years., the anniversary celebration was capped with a fun-filled fellowship held at NFA Cebu Training Center.

A multi-media presentation tracing the history and significant achievements of NFA for the past 47 years was shown. The celebration ended with the community singing of the Happy Birthday Song to the Agency that has become the gem that continuously sparks passion and dynamism, warmth and sense of responsibility in the food industry. (OLMA MARIE M. BAYNO, correspondent)



BLOOD-LETTING IN REGION IX

The NFA Regional Office IX and NFA Zamboanga City Office celebrated the 47th NFA anniversary in a simple but meaningful way. RD Procopio B. Trabajo II, Assistant Regional Director Rafael V. Marasigan and Provincial Manager Elimar C. Regindin and staff offered a thanksgiving mass for graces received and for blessings yet to come.

RD Trabajo thanked everybody for jobs well done. He urged the employees to continue working with honesty and integrity and not be dismayed with the negative issues facing the food agency. He concluded his message by uplifting the employees' spirit saying "your good work today, will give a better future for the NFA."

A bloodletting activity followed, in cooperation with the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) Zamboanga City Chapter, where executives, employees, retailers and security officers donated blood. Dr. Milagros L. Fernandez, chairperson of the PRC was very grateful for the voluntary act. After the "boodle fight" lunch, an Ugnayan with retailers and farmers followed. Discussed were palay procurement and distribution programs of imported rice from General Santos City. The afternoon ended with bingo socials where some retired NFA employees joined.

Simultaneously, NFA Zamboanga Sibugay headed by Provincial Manager Juliet C. Sali, conducted a feeding activity and donated food and school supplies to 47 kinder students at Moreno Tadeo Memorial Elementary School. The school principal, Mr. Ricardo G. Gaco and the teaching staff of the school were very thankful for the community outreach activity.



RD Procopio B. Trabajo II (4th from left, 1st row) together with the Loyalty Service Awardees and other employees who received Recognition and Appreciation during the Awards Night last September 26, 2019.



ARD Rafael V. Marasigan (right) and PM Elimar C. Regindin (left) with an employee beams with smile while doing the blood extraction during the Bloodletting Activity, 47th NFA Anniversary Celebration.



Reg'l Director, Procopio B. Trabajo II delivering his Anniversary Message during the Opening Program, NFA 47th Anniversary



RFAC IX Chairman Alonto M. Marcaban expressing his thanks and gratitude for the support accorded by NFA to the farmers

In NFA Zamboanga del Sur, OIC Samuel A. Nataivo and staff celebrated the anniversary with some farmers/stakeholders. Regional Farmers' Action Council (RFAC) IX Chairman Alonto M. Marcaban recognized the agency's efforts in supporting them through its palay procurement program at the buying price of P 19.00/kg for clean and dry palay against traders' prices ranging from P 16.00/kg to P 18.00/kg, by putting up buying stations in far flung barangays, making known to public of NFA contact numbers/persons ready to pick up their palay stocks and for allowing them to use the agency's drying pavements for palay drying free of charge.

PM Umisalam D. Sarip of NFA Zamboanga del Norte also organized bingo socials as part of the celebration. Lucky employees won cash prizes, kitchen utensils, bags of rice and other surprises. Some of the prizes were sponsored by the executives and some were proceeds from sale of the Bingo cards.

The whole day celebration in Zamboanga City and the other provincial offices of the region culminated with an Awards Night where service awardees received their plaques of appreciation while employees with exemplary performance got special awards and recognitions. (MARGARETTE F. RIDAD, correspondent)

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47 YEARS AND COUNTING

This year's anniversary theme, "Sa Sariling Bigas Aangat ang Pinas", reflected the NFA's quests to achieve self-sufficiency amidst the undeniably challenging effects of RA 11203.

NFA's celebration in Region 12 is simple yet memorable starting with a thanksgiving mass. More than ever, the agency always finds time to give thanks. God continues to bless the agency that continuously helps the government feed the nation.

Rev. Fr. Dharyl Dan L. Bilbao officiated the thanksgiving mass held at NFA Farmers' Training Center in Tacurong City. Fr. Bilbao said thhe NFA stands for "Notable, Fellowship and Altruism". It is a government institution that possesses selfless concern for the well-being of others. He expressed appreciation to NFA for not getting tired of strengthening its relationship with the people responsible for its existence – the farmers and the grains businessmen.

The scheduled Ugnayan with stakeholders, in line with the anniversary celebration of NFA North Cotabato, South Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat also highlighted the celebration last September 23, 24 and 25 respectively. This is to ensure effective and efficient performance of what is mandated to the NFA - buffer stocking good for 15-30 days to be sourced out from local farmers for calamities and emergencies only. The scheduled dialogues showed how much the NFA acknowledged the contribution and support of its stakeholders to NFA's overwhelming achievements. Regional Director Nestor Rey E. Alcosoba and Asst. Regional Director Arthur A. Aller attended the events.

The discussion focused on the present situation of the farm gate prices of palay and scarcity of drying facilities. Both parties were emotional. The NFA, whose credibility and capacity to fulfill its mandate



RD Nestor Rey E. Alcosoba, ARD Arthur A. Aller and NFA Regional Office Staff with Rev. Fr. Dharyl Dan L. Bilbao, DCC



With PM Teresa V. Herrera and North employees and retirees

was questioned and was flogged by baseless accusations. On the other hand, the stakeholders felt the government took them for granted. In the end, several issues and concerns were identified and gained clear understanding as to the real problem or area of concern that needs to be mitigated by both parties.

NFA's 47th anniversary reminded each one that we can be victorious if we work with passion and resiliency plus having strong faith in God for always sustaining us amidst the trials that the agency continues to face. (SHERRYL V. POLO, correspondent)

SPORTSFEST

Champion	NCR	Volleyball
Champion	NCR	Badminton
Champion	NCR	luksong tinik/ Shooting
Champion	NCR	Patintero
Champion	C.O	Basketball



NFA Central Office invited NCR into a friendly games competition as part of the celebration of NFA 47th anniversary held at DA-PCAF Gym. NCR employees enjoyed as much as remained competitive in the games as evident by the awards they received except for basketball to wit. (SAMAIRAH DATU, correspondent)



NFA-NCR celebrated its 47th anniversary thru a week-long inter-color sportsfest to enhance camaraderie, teamwork, active and healthy body among employees for a more productive workforce. (SAMAIRAH DATU, correspondent)

Usang Masaganang Pasko sa Lahat

It's the most wonderful time of the year. Christmas is almost always everyone's favorite holiday. We look forward to Christmas parties and exchange of gifts.

While the country was recently ravaged by a series of disasters brought by earthquakes and typhoons, a simple and austere celebration was expected to sympathize with our affected kababayans. Last December 18, 2019, the NFA Central Office held its modest Christmas party at the auditorium of the Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA) along Katipunan Avenue in Quezon City.

This occasion might be the last for some executives and employees who will opt for retirement from the service either mandatory or possibly as an aftermath of the restructuring. This makes the atmosphere both celebratory and melancholy. But whatever the current mood of each employee is, no one can really dampen the spirit of Christmas in our hearts.

A meaningful play was provided by employees of the Food Development Center (FDC) depicting the scenes and episodes of the tremors experienced by the people of Mindanao during the last quarter of the year and rising above these challenges together as a nation. Incidentally, this was FDC's last time to celebrate Christmas as part of the NFA family as the center will now be directly under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture (DA) starting January 2020.

Here's a glimpse of the various Christmas celebrations from the Central Office to the field offices. Happy holidays! **(LINA REYES)**



The NFA Chorale singing cheerful Christmas songs



Mary Rose Abaño and Atty. Irwin Peña hosted the Christmas event



NFA executives with LWUA Administrator Jeci A. Lapus (center)



Admin Dansal delivering her special Christmas message



Fr. Mata blesses Administrator Dansal and Assistant Administrator Ambrosio during the offertory





FDC employees pose with Administrator Dansal after the program



Atty. Angelique Balisang (second from left) proudly shows her ceremonial cheque worth P15,000. She was the grand prize winner of the Christmas raffle. With her are, from her left, Deputy Administrator Tomas Escarez, Administrator Judy Dansal, Legal Affairs Director Tess Villafuerte, Assistant Administrator Gerry Ambrosio



PAD Photographer Manuel Sadsad beams with his ceremonial cheque worth P10,000 with Deputy Administrator Escarez

NFA Western Pangasinan celebrated a simple Christmas party with parlor games and dance presentation of "Boys vs Girls" last December 23, 2019 at Ramoncito's Garden, Lingayen, Pangasinan. (JEAN ANN TICMAN, correspondent)



NFA Region I held its Regional Christmas celebration with a Bohemian theme on December 17, 2019 at the Diamond Hall, Hotel Supreme Convention Plaza, Baguio City. Regional Director Genaro S. Nuñez Jr. expressed his heartfelt gratitude to ARD Chona E. Brijuega, all provincial managers, staff and employees of the region for their relentless support extended to him and to all undertakings of the agency. RD Nuñez and ARD Brijuega conferred various awards on the top performers for the year. (SONNY REY RIVERA, correspondent)



BEST DRESSED (BOHEMIAN ATTIRE): RD Genaro S. Nuñez, Jr. (left), and ARD Chona E. Brijuega (right) strike a pose with the Best Dressed winners Mr. Louie Valenzuela and Ms. Maria Flor Rojas



GLAMOROUS CHRISTMAS PARTY IN REGION IV. The prosperity pose with the men and women of Southern Tagalog Regional Office together with Regional Director Jaime S. Hadlocon, Assistant Regional Director Miguel S. Tecson and provincial managers of the region. The party was celebrated in a glamorous yet simple way. The program was highlighted with employees' commendation awards and gift giving. The party was graced by Deputy Administrator Tomas R. Escarez, Asst. Adm for Marketing Operations Rex Estoperez and Asst Administrator for Finance Gerry Ambrosio. **(CHEL P. INFANTADO, correspondent)**

WHITE CHRISTMAS IN REGION 5. Purity, honesty, simplicity, and new beginnings. All these are associated to this year's Christmas party with the theme, "Everything's gonna be alright, NFA Regional Office will paint the Christmas white". The Regional Office held its 2019 Christmas Party last December 11, 2019 at the Albay Oriental Hotel, Legazpi City.

Each employee glammed in their fashionably white outfits and showed their astounding poses as they charmed in the Regional Office's catwalk tradition. Laughters filled the hall as the employees mimicked their Manitos and Manitas using statements and actions that truly described them.

The messages of Assistant Regional Manager Arlene F. Tanseco and Regional Manager Henry H. Tristeza gave emphasis on the true essence of Christmas, which is the birth of Jesus Christ who symbolizes love, unity and sharing.

The presence of Provincial Managers Remedios V. Dumawal (Albay), Julie B. Llenaresas (Catanduanes), Alan S. Sabaybay (Camarines Sur), Rodrigo O. Embate Jr. (Sorsogon) and Allan Joseph P. Abapo (Masbate) who were also clad in their stunning white outfits added joy to the occasion.

Employees' Association President, Laboratory Technician I Huberto C. Collamar delivered a message of gratitude to the management on behalf of the Regional Office employees.



It was indeed a night full of fun, hope and assurance that no matter the season, no matter the trials, the Regional Office will stand firm the agency's mandates and purpose of existence. **(JAHARAH SHYRRA R. PAVILANDO, correspondent)**



BLACK THEMED CHRISTMAS NFA. Catanduanes Provincial Manager Julie B. Llenaresas and her staff opted to have a black themed Christmas Party held last December 18, 2019 at Terrazas de Ponti Mansion with special guest Regional Director Henry H. Tristeza who travelled all the way from Legazpi City, Albay. Clad in their best black outfits, as black is associated with power, mystery, strength, authority and elegance, employees enjoyed the night with good food and good music. Retired employees were also invited during the special occasion. **(JASMIN JAY M. BENAVIDEZ, correspondent)**

YULETIDE THANKSGIVING. In the spirit of thanksgiving, NFA Cebu regional and provincial offices together joined the annual Christmas celebration held on December 19, 2019 at Montebello Villa Hotel. All dressed-up in glitz and glam, the employees were treated to a delightful mix of fun and entertainment. Regional Director Yolanda R. Navarro and Assistant Regional Director Rafael V. Marasigan expressed profound appreciation to the employees for their hard work and dedication shown during the entire year. What gave excitement to the event were the Christmas gifts and the much anticipated raffle draws where everybody went home with something. NFA Cebu family ended its colorful year with a blast and plenty of surprises for the employees who play major roles in helping the agency perform its function. **(OLMA MARIE M. BAYNO, correspondent)**



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GRECON CHRISTMAS PARTY. Provincial Manager Maria Fe H. Evasco delivered her Christmas message to all retailers during the Grecon Christmas party held at the Metrocentre Hotel. PM Evasco expressed her gratitude to the Grecon officers and members for the strong partnership with NFA forged thru the years. PM Evasco encouraged all retailers to continually exercise their social responsibility by ensuring that NFA rice is available and accessible to the public at all times. Photo shows PM Evasco (seated, second row, 4th from left) with GRECON officials. **(JHOEL J. LIM, correspondent)**



SIQUIJOR'S CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY. Dubbed as "Pasigarbo sa Pasko: Season 2", Regional Director Yolanda R. Navarro and Siquijor Provincial Manager Carlos S. Cortes led the inter-agency cluster Christmas tree lighting ceremony in NFA Siquijor to amp up the holiday spirit.

Led by Larena Mayor Dean S. Villa & Team, the lighting countdown of NFA's Christmas tree started at 8:00 pm and was witnessed by some residents of Larena, Siquijor. Mayor Villa, along with RD Navarro and PM Cortes, capped the ceremonial Christmas tree lighting with a photo opportunity under the newly-lit NFA Christmas tree adorned with recyclable materials and sparkling Christmas lights. The stunning and well-crafted Christmas tree came into fruition through the collaborative efforts of NFA Siquijor personnel, labor workforce, security guards and the support provided by the cluster-members. **(OLMA MARIE M. BAYNO, correspondent)**

Paskong Pinoy sa NCR. The 2019 Christmas celebration at the NFA National Capital Region (NCR) was the biggest the biggest and the brightest party ever in NCR. Categorically, the biggest since all the district offices under NCR attended and required to wear their prettiest Filipiniana attire for the girls and Barong/kamiso tsino for the boys. Ms. Joseline Marfil and Daniel Erning Paul M. Zulueta bagged the Best Dressed of the Night for Ms. Marfil's stunning red Filipiniana dress while Mr. Zulueta portrayed Andres Bonifacio with his magsasaka attire with bolo. The celebration was graced by NFA Administrator Atty. Judy Carol L. Dansal, Special Assistant to the Administrator Atty. Raul E. Canon Jr., and HRMD Director Atty. Anna Karina A. Coronel. **(SAMAIRAH DATU, correspondent)**



NFA CARAGA HOLDS REGION-WIDE CHRISTMAS PARTY IN BUTUAN CITY. The NFA Caraga Region officials and employees celebrated the Christmas season with a get-together party held on 13 December 2019 at Oasis Hotel, Butuan City. A number of NFA retirees and invited guests were also present.

RD Diocano Alojado Jr. recognized the performance and the great work that the NFA Caraga Region had done and achieved in 2019. He then reminded everyone about the value of giving and sharing – as these are important virtues which bring happiness in life. ARD Beverlyn Peralta expressed that the activity is a time for the NFA Caraga family to unwind from all the year's work.

This year's celebration carried the 'Pista sa NFA' theme. Provincial offices' entries to the Christmas carol and cultural dance competitions added to the festive ambience of the evening. The merriment continued with the recognition of NFA Caraga awardees for CY 2019, parlor games and raffling of prizes, which included free round-trip tickets to Cebu [for two] for five days courtesy of RD Alojado. Cash awards were given to winners of the competitions, while RO's Charlie Cagampang and SDS' Mary Ann Frias were selected as the Best Dressed awardees who received sash and cash. **(AMIELOU JANE G. MENDOZA, correspondent)**

Transfer of LEADERSHIP



Regional Manager Nestor Rey E. Alcoseba receives the symbolic key of responsibility from outgoing Regional Manager Dianne A. Silva during the turnover ceremony in Region 12 conducted at the Farmers Training Center, SPGC Compound, Tacurong City last July 17, 2019.

RM Silva expressed her gratitude for her service in the regional office as she was able to reconnect with old friends and fulfill her dream of serving her home region. She thanked everyone for giving their best effort which made Region XII the top procuring region in the country for the first quarter of 2019.

RM Alcoseba believed he still has unfinished business to attend to for his re-assignment at Region XII, less than a year after he left as Asst. Regional Director when he was transferred to Region 6.

Executives from neighbouring Regions XI and XII were present to show their support to the new management. Employees from the field offices of North Cotabato, South Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat headed by their respective provincial managers were in attendance to witness the event. **(SHERRYL V. POLO, correspondent)**



NFA Antique outgoing Provincial Manager Marianito B. Bejemino (right) turns over the key of responsibility to incoming Provincial Manager Josephine Venus D. Castillo (left) during the turnover ceremony held at NFA Antique Provincial Office on November 29, 2019. PM Bejemino has retired from service. PM Castillo was from NFA Aklan. **(LORELYN A. BAYOG, correspondent)**



Assistant Regional Director Roland S. Rufo in a well-attended turnover ceremonies held last September 27, 2019 at the NFA Central Luzon regional office staffhouse, Cabanatuan City hands over the symbolic key of responsibility to incoming Acting Assistant Regional Director Elvira C. Obaña. Witnessing the turnover were NFA Administrator Judy Carol Layus Dansal and Central Luzon Regional Director Piolito C. Santos.

Several musical numbers performed by selected employees served as the highlights of the occasion. **(JOSEPHINE C. BACUNGAN, correspondent)**



Engr. Diocano D. Alojado Jr. (extreme right) accepts the symbolic key of responsibility from outgoing NFA Caraga regional director Edna R. de Guzman (extreme left) during a ceremonial turnover of leadership at the VCDU Grand Convention, Butuan City on September 13. With them are NFA administrator Judy Carol L. Dansal (2nd from left) and Atty. Raul E. Canon Jr. (3rd from left), special assistant to the administrator. **(AMIELOU JANE G. MENDOZA, correspondent)**



With the compulsory retirement of Provincial Manager Adelaida C. Nuestro, the NFA designated a new competent official to lead NFA-Bataan in the person of Manager Antonio A. Puno.

Puno, a native of Tarlac, is the assistant provincial manager of NFA-Tarlac prior to his assignment in NFA-Bataan. He has a remarkable work performance and leadership qualities that made him qualify to become a provincial manager.

Manager Puno was officially introduced during the turnover ceremony last October 9, 2019 at the new provincial office building of NFA-Bataan. The turnover of the symbolic key of responsibility between Manager Nuestro and Manager Puno was witnessed by top executives headed by Administrator Judy Carol L. Dansal. (ROMALYN G. VILLAR, correspondent)



Turnover of responsibility. The ceremonial turnover of the symbolic key of responsibility between outgoing acting Assistant Regional Director Lolita V. Paz and incoming Assistant Regional Director Ruben M. Manatad was held on July 16, 2019 at the NFA RO8 Training Center, Palo, Leyte. Outgoing Officer-In-Charge Redentor E. Arciaga hands over the stewardship of NFA Southern Leyte Provincial Office to incoming Officer-In-Charge Allan Joseph B. Abapo. Such movements became effective pursuant to Special Order AO-2019-07-013 and Special Order AO-2019-07-015 dated July 02, 2019, respectively, and signed by NFA Administrator Atty. Judy Carol L. Dansal. (ELLA VIRCELLE E. EGUILLOS, correspondent)



Turnover rites. RD Jaime S. Hadlocon (left), who has been the Regional Director of Region I since August 3, 2018, passes the symbolic key of responsibility to RD Genaro S. Nuñez, Jr. (right) during a simple ceremony on July 15, 2019. RD Nuñez was previously assigned at the region from January 10, 2017 to September 8, 2017. The turnover ceremony was witnessed by AA Rex C. Estoperez and Deputy Administrator Ma. Mercedes G. Yacapin. (SONNY REY RIVERA, correspondent)

Outgoing Regional Director Raymond U. Tafalla turns over the symbolic key of responsibility to incoming Regional Director Edna R. De Guzman in simple rites last September 06, 2019. The turnover, held at the NFA Regional Office 8 training room, Palo, Leyte and is made effective pursuant to Special Order AO-2019-08-009 dated August 23, 2019 signed by Administrator Atty. Judy Carol L. Dansal. (ELLA VIRCELLE E. EGUILLOS, correspondent)

Outgoing Assistant Regional Director Diocano D. Alojado Jr. relinquished his duties and responsibilities as the ARD of Region VII to incoming Assistant Regional Director Rafael V. Marasigan last September 19, 2019. ARD Alojado served as the ARD of NFA Region VII for over a year prior to his recent promotion as Acting Regional Director of NFA CARAGA Region by virtue of Special Order AO-2019-08-010 issued on August 23, 2019.

Regional Director Yolanda R. Navarro, together with Region VII Provincial Managers, led and witnessed the formal turnover ceremony where the highlight included the handing over of the symbolic key of duties and responsibilities. RD Navarro lauded the accomplishments of ARD Alojado most especially for introducing the LINK (Leading, Inspiring & Nurturing Keepers) program during the time of former RD Fernando Nuñez. The LINK program has greatly helped to harness the innate talents and skills of the employees.

ARD Alojado assured that Region VII will be in good hands under the leadership of RD Navarro and incoming ARD Marasigan, whom he described as equally qualified and competent. In acknowledging ARD Marasigan's contributions to the agency, ARD Alojado recalled "Doc Raffy" as a cooperative czar who believes that the employee cooperative can really be considered as partner of NFA management in providing services to the



employees. He thanked Region VII managers and employees for their countless support as well as valuable share in the overall operational activities of the Region. He said, leaving the Region and the people whom he has learned to like is a difficult experience. Nevertheless, he accepted his new place of assignment with utmost humility keeping in mind to always give the best for the agency.

ARD Marasigan said he was overwhelmed by the warm welcome accorded him by the employees, just like the ardent send-off given to outgoing ARD Alojado. He expressed hope that the officials and employees of Region VII will extend their full support to him. **(OLMA MARIE M. BAYNO, correspondent)**



NFA Region IV changes leadership. NFA officials headed by Administrator Judy Carol L. Dansal, attended the turnover of NFA Region IV leadership from outgoing OIC-Regional Director Miguel S. Tecson to incoming Regional Director Jaime S. Hadlocon. The simple ceremony was held at the ground floor of the Regional Office IV in Barangay Balagtas, Batangas City on July 11, 2019. Other officials from NFA Central Office, provincial managers and employees of Region IV were present.

Batangas Provincial Manager Ferlie C. Ancheta delivered the welcome remarks emphasizing that working

with both officials will be easy because they have been in Region IV for some time.

Outgoing OIC-Regional Director Tecson said it has been an honor and privilege to have been tasked as OIC even for only two months. He thanked the top management and the regional management for their support to the programs and services of NFA Region IV during his stewardship.

Incoming Regional Director Jaime S. Hadlocon said that his assignment in Region IV somewhat caught him by surprise. However, Region IV is very close to his heart since he was previously assigned in the region where he got his Pag-Asa Award for his accomplishments in procurement operations. Addressing everyone, Hadlocon said "we'll do our best to work in one direction, one vision for the good of our agency."

The mass turnover of provincial managers followed. The reshuffle of NFA executives of Region IV was under Special Order No. AO- 2019-07-015 dated July 2, 2019.

The celebration continued with special numbers from the mainland and island provinces of the region which added fun to the event. **(CHEL P. INFANTADO, correspondent)**

Aldueza to Arciaga. NFA Romblon employees paid tribute to PM Romulo O. Aldueza who transferred to NFA Mamburao for his new assignment last July 10, 2019. Employees thanked him for the three years of being the provincial manager. PM Aldueza did not just become a leader from 2016-2019 but he also served as guide for employees toto become closer to the Lord.

On July 12, 2019, OIC Redentor E. Arciaga who was previously assigned in NFA Maasin, Southern Leyte assumed his duties and responsibilities as the Officer-in-Charge of NFA Romblon. A warm welcome was given to OIC Arciaga as he introduced himself, likewise the employees, during the short orientation. Everyone expressed hope for a more productive and harmonious work relationship under the new management. **(CZARINA QUINIO, correspondent)**





NFA 10 has new Director. A simple ceremonial turnover of responsibilities was held last July 12 at the NFA training center in Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City between outgoing director Genaro S. Nuñez Jr. and incoming director John Robert R. Hermanto. Nuñez was reassigned to Region 1 while Hermanto just came in from NFA Region 6.

In his six months assignment in Region 10, Dir. Nuñez, a mechanical engineer, was very keen on the functionality and product specifications of post-harvest

facilities, especially now that the focus of government is local palay procurement to attain the agency's lone mandate of buffer stocking with particular attention to adherence to stock quality management. RD Jun Nuñez' significant contribution to the region was the revival to normal function of the NFA-owned mechanical dryer in NFA-GID Lala warehouse in Lanao del Norte.

Dir. Hermanto, who is also an engineer, is likewise particularly serious in attaining the region's procurement goal. In his brief message, he told employees, "Problema? h'wag pag-usapan, bagkus solusyunan." (Problem? Let's not talk of it, but let's work on it.) RD Hermanto is not new to the employees of NFA Region 10 as he once served as provincial manager of NFA Misamis Oriental from 2010-2012.

RD Hermanto was once assigned as director of Technical Research Services Department (TRSD) and General Services Department (GSD) at the Central Office, assignments that have reinforced his competence.

The event was graced by Deputy Administrator Maria Mercedes Guerra Yacapin, who took the chance to apprise the employees on the NFA restructuring. The Deputy Administrator, who hails from Cagayan de Oro City, assured employees that the Change Management Team (CMT) is doing its best to have the best outcome for the agency and its employees. **(HAZEL B. BELACHO, correspondent)**



NFA-Bataan welcomes new PM. With the compulsory retirement of Provincial Manager Adelaida C. Nuestro, the NFA designated a new competent official to lead NFA-Bataan in the person of Manager Antonio A. Puno.

Puno, a native of Tarlac, is the assistant provincial manager of NFA-Tarlac prior to his assignment in NFA-Bataan. He has a remarkable work performance and leadership qualities that made him qualify to become a provincial manager.

Manager Puno was officially introduced during the turnover ceremony last October 9, 2019 at the new provincial office building of NFA-Bataan. The turnover of the symbolic key of responsibility between Manager Nuestro and Manager Puno was witnessed by top executives headed by Administrator Judy Carol L. Dansal. **(ROMALYN G. VILLAR, correspondent)**



Candava is now Mamburao PM. NFA Mamburao happily accepted Joseph M. Candava as its new OIC provincial manager during a simple turnover ceremony held at the NFA Mamburao provincial office, Balansay, Mamburao, Occidental Mindoro on April 23, 2019. He replaced PM Rosie M. Igno who is now the acting Assistant Director of the Accounting Services Department in NFA Central Office. Candava was replaced by Administrative Officer Kathlyn M. Gonzales as OIC-Assistant Provincial Manager.

Igno thanked Candava and the whole staff of the NFA Mamburao provincial office for their full support and cooperation during her time as manager. AD Igno said it's not "goodbye" but "until we meet again".

OIC Candava said he is honored and excited to perform his duties and responsibilities as OIC provincial manager. He said he will continue to serve with the highest degree of responsibility, integrity and efficiency. **(GLAZE ANN V. VILLABESA, correspondent)**



GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

FINANCIAL LITERACY SEMINAR. NFA Ilocos Sur Office conducted a one day gender and development (GAD) activity titled “Financial Literacy Seminar Part II: GSIS, Pag-ibig, Philhealth and RA 11210 Seminar” last September 6, 2019. It was attended by one resource speaker from GSIS, two from Pag-ibig, three from Philhealth and 23 NFA regular employees, three Metro Vigan Water District employees, ten retailers and one security guard as participants.

With the theme “Financial Literacy”, the activity aimed to keep employees updated on the flagship programs of GSIS, Pag-Ibig and Philhealth.

Resource speakers were Mr. Lord A. Bico from GSIS, Mr Jeffrey Q. Geronimo and Ms. Joy Sheryll Duldulao from Philhealth and Ms. Mia Monique Suniega and Mr. Jonathan Aquino from Pag-ibig.

Mr. Bico discussed the mandate of GSIS and introduced their new program, the GFAL II (GSIS Financial Assistance Loan II). Mr. Geronimo and Ms. Duldulao presented the



mandate and functions of Philhealth particularly its health insurance coverage for affordable, acceptable, available and accessible health care services for the Filipinos. Ms. Suniega and Mr. Aquino presented the mandate and functions of Pag-ibig (Pagtutulungan sa Kinabukasan: Ikaw, Bangko, Industria, at Gobyerno) in providing low-cost and socialized house and lot. Mr. Rhyan A. Arquelada,

AO III of NFA-ILS discussed the salient provisions of RA 11210 or the “105 Day Expanded Maternity Leave Law”.

A certificate of appreciation was awarded to the resource speakers.

PM Lolita Sanedrin advised the participants to be aware of the government’s policies and programs that can be useful to them. (JACQUELYN R. MADALIPAY, correspondent)



BASIC SELF DEFENSE. Aimed at strengthening their abilities to defend themselves against potential attacks and harassment, NFA Eastern Pangasinan employees were taught basic self-defense by taekwondo masters John-John M. Gutierrez and Jay Lexter L. Lachica as part of the province’s Gender and Development activity last July 30. For the second part of the activity, the province also conducted a health and wellness program through a back reflexology training led by Ms. Janette N. Jovellanos of TESDA Urdaneta City. (MAEZLE M. FERRER, correspondent)

FEATURES

ORIENTATION ON EXPANDED MATERNITY LEAVE. NFA Cebu held an orientation on Republic Act 11210 or the Expanded Maternity Leave on September 06, 2019 with CSC Special Investigator III Archimedes L. Medado from the Civil Service Commission Field Office VII as the resource person.

A gender and development (GAD) matter, the orientation recognized women's maternal functions and their significant contribution to the labor force. Assistant Regional Director Diocano D. Alojado Jr. stressed that the passage of the law is a triumph for working mothers. "It will provide them with ample transition time to regain health and overall wellness, and nurture the child prior to assuming work responsibilities," ARD Alojado said.



RA 11210 grants 105 days of paid maternity leave for live childbirth, regardless of the mode of delivery, and an additional 15 days if the female worker qualifies as a solo parent under Republic Act No. 8972 or the Solo Parents' Welfare Act of 2000 and 60 days of paid leave in case of miscarriage or emergency termination of pregnancy. He also stressed that under the law, a total of seven out of the 105 days of leave may be transferred to fathers. This would expand fathers' paid paternity leave to 14 days. Queries and clarifications raised by the employees were properly addressed by the resource person. **(OLMA MARIE M. BAYNO, correspondent)**

FOOD SAFETY. A seminar on food safety was conducted as part of the Gender and Development (GAD) initiatives of NFA Western Pangasinan. Ms. Ligene P. Telin, registered dietician nutritionist of the provincial health office was the lecturer. Mr. Benson Untalan discussed the benefits of using of Enagic Kangen Water especially when one is acidic. The seminar was participated in by employees and stakeholders of the NFA. **(JEAN ANN TICMAN, correspondent)**



FEEDING ACTIVITY. NFA Western Pangasinan headed by Provincial Manager Ramon B. Cuaresma conducted a feeding activity in Libsong Elementary School at Brgy. Libsong, Lingayen, Pangasinan. The Gender and Development activity coincided with the celebration of Nutrition Month with the theme "Kumain nang wasto at maging aktibo....push natin to". The feeding was in cooperation with the Pangasinan Provincial Health Office represented by Ms. Ligene P. Telin, registered dietician nutritionist. **(JEAN ANN TICMAN, correspondent)**

GAD ACTIVITY IN BOHOL. NFA Bohol employees participated in the Livelihood Training in Baking as this year's Gender and Development (GAD) activity held at the NFA Tagbilaran provincial office. The activity, facilitated by TESDA Bohol, provided employees with a first-hand opportunity in preparing various pastry products to include bread and cakes, while enjoying quality time bonding with family members. **(JHOEL J. LIM, correspondent)**



GAD ACTIVITY IN ROMBLON. NFA Romblon provincial office conducted two Gender and Development (GAD) activities and accomplished three projects for this year spearheaded by OIC Redentor Arciaga. These activities were the Oplan Linis Bayan which challenges the employees to maintain the cleanliness of the office compound and the Zumba Dance which encourages them to have fit and healthy bodies. Oplan Linis Bayan is being conducted every Friday while Zumba Dance happens twice or thrice every week. Employees, both men and women, participate actively on the said activities.

On the other hand, the accomplished GAD projects were the renovation of the *bahay kubo* which serves as venue for Tagpuan Rice Response Delivery (TRRD) in Romblon and relaxation/waiting area for both employees and clients of the office; repainting of perimeter fence for the beautification of the working place; repainting of Badminton Court for recreational activities and the Vegetable and Herbal Medicine Garden where employees may enjoy its harvests and share them with their families.



Senior Accounts Specialist (SAS) Al Martin Menes and other male employees showed unity to renovate the Kubo. Grains Operations Assistant (GOA) II Gina Lanting heads the planting and development of the garden while Provincial Standards Quality Assurance Officer (PSQAO) and GAD Chairman Johannie Marie Leyba facilitated the zumba dance and Oplan Linis Bayan. These GAD activities and projects will not be successful without the cooperation of all employees. **(CZARINA QUINIO, correspondent)**



GAD ACTIVITY IN ILOCOS SUR. The National Food Authority Ilocos Sur conducted gender and development (GAD) activity on September 26, 2019 which was participated in by regular employees and members of the Provincial Farmers Action Council

(PFAC) and Confederation of Grains Retailers (GRECON).

The seminar titled Waste Management with the theme “Be Part of the Solution not Part of the Pollution” aimed to educate participants on reliable, responsible

and sustainable waste management solutions for home and business.

Forester Eduardo Malasig from Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) was the resource speaker. A Certificate of appreciation was given to Mr. Malasig after his lecture.

PM Lolita Sanedrin said that simple action can lead to destruction to environment. She said that public servants have the duty to help protect the environment through information dissemination, supporting organizations dealing on environmental protection and preservation and having the will to exert own initiatives as savers of Mother Earth. **(JACQUELYN R. MADALIPAY, correspondent)**

GAD ACTIVITY IN ANTIQUE. NFA Antique conducted Seminar on Gender and Development: Violence against Women and Children and Drug Education during the celebration of NFA’s 47th anniversary on September 26, 2019 at NFA Antique Provincial Office, San Jose, Antique.

Police Master Sergeant Maritess C. Sabay and Police Corporal Jenny M. Camus of the Philippine National Police, San Jose Municipal Police Station were the invited speakers to lecture on Drug Education and R.A. 9262 or the Anti-Violence Against Women and Children Act of 2004.

Police forces were trained to respond sensitively to violence against women and drug addiction. Partnership between police officers and ordinary employees in spreading awareness could intensify urgent actions to help the government address drug addiction and to prevent, punish, and eliminate violence against women.

Women and girls continue to be plagued by violence. They experience forms of physical, economic, emotional or sexual violence in their lifetime. This



activity aimed to spread awareness and to promote women empowerment and better understanding of the nature, scope and impact of violence and drug addiction. Addiction to gateway drugs such as tobacco, alcohol and cocaine fuels various crimes and violence against women and children that has become a serious public concern. **(LORELYN A. BAYOG, correspondent)**

THEY MAKE NFA PROUD

A S E R I E S

This special section is for outstanding NFA employees and their children making significant mark in their respective fields. Email your contributions at nfapublicaffairs@gmail.com



Melca “Mikay” Rojas

Senior Grains Operations Officer
NFA Romblon

Everyone calls Melca Rojas “Mikay” . She’s 58 years old from Agnipa, Romblon, Romblon and a Senior Grains Operations Officer (SGOO) currently assigned at Tablas Island. She has interesting stories about her service in NFA for the past years and after hearing them, I can say she’s really a fighter.

I witnessed her working until night during sales and unloading or dispersal operations of the branch to finish her reports . She always obeys instructions and makes rounds in the island if she’s told to. When her children were still small, she would them to Tablas Island just to be able to play her part as a mother and an employee at the same time.

Tita Mikay is not afraid of the raging sea. She still rides a boat just to do her job even if there is a problem with the weather. She always says that NFA rice should be available in eight municipalities of Tablas Island especially during calamities. After the passage of RA 11203, people started saying that our agency is inexistent anymore. Tita Mikay encountered this kind of embarrassment during her trip back to NFA Romblon but she defended the NFA and said it is still doing public service and she is one of the living proofs. Whenever she encounters people saying negative things about the quality of NFA rice, she always defends the agency and encourages them to try NFA rice.

Aside from those experiences, Tita Mikay also dreamed to be a college graduate but she prioritized first the needs of her family. When she entered NFA, she was inspired and encouraged by her co-workers to study again and in 2009 she started her studies at Romblon State University. Changing office uniform to school uniform



in the afternoon on weekdays was unforgettable but the three years of working, studying and taking care of her children at the same time were even more unforgettable. On March 2012 she finally received her diploma for a degree in Bachelor of Science in Business Administration major in Management at the age of 52. That did not end there, she got promoted a year after she graduated.

Tita has been with NFA for 37 years. She may look weak and old but never underestimate a small woman like her because you may never know how she’s going to amaze you with her strong will and dedication. (CZARINA QUINIO, correspondent)



Mark Ian D. Francisco

2019 Electrical Engineering Licensure Exam Passer

An achiever since his elementary and high school days, it is not surprising that Mark Ian D. Francisco, son of Max Francisco, Communication Equipment Operator assigned at the General Services Department and Lolita dela Cruz passed the Licensure Exam for Electrical Engineers which he took last August 31-September 1, 2019.

Macky graduated with a degree in Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering at the Bulacan State University last June, 2019. He lost no time to enroll at a review center and took up the licensure examination.

What inspired Macky to become an achiever was seeing the joy manifested by his parents the first time they came up on stage to pin a medal for his being an honor student. Since then, his hard work paid off. He was a salutatorian when he graduated in the elementary and valedictorian in high school.

After passing the licensure exam, he gave himself a much needed respite and started looking for a job that would best suit not only his qualifications and interests but would offer a good salary as well.

Luckily, he was hired as a Shift Engineer at SM Prime Holdings, Inc. located at the MOA Complex. After completing all the pre-employment requirements, he is expected to report to his new job this February 6, 2020. His new job will require him to supervise engineering works particularly in the areas of electrical, mechanical and civil in the building construction. He is also expected to work in shifts to maintain a 24-hour supervision.

He is optimistic that his first job will be both an enjoyable and rewarding experience as he prepares himself for the future. He also wants to give his parents a comfortable life especially now that his father will be retiring from government service this 2019 after serving the NFA for 45 years.

Like his elder brother Michael, a Software Support Specialist who works in Clark Pampanga, an achiever in his own right, Macky can also prove his worth in his chosen field. **(MA. CYNTHIA SUAREZ)**



Jaydawn Faye H. Evasco, Rpm

Holy Name University

Psychometrician Board Examination
Professional Regulatory Commission
October 2019

PM Maria Fe Evasco & Mr. Florentino Evasco



Kent Chadric H. Evasco

Holy Name University

Basic Competency on Local Treasury Examination October 2018
Intermediate Competency on Local Treasury Examination (ICLTE)
October 2019

Bureau of Local Government Finance / Civil Service Commission
PM Maria Fe Evasco & Mr. Florentino Evasco

FEATURES

NFA: Setting directions for 2020 under the Rice Tariffication Law

By MA. CYNTHIA DL. SUAREZ

The passage of Republic Act 11203 or the Rice Liberalization Law on February 14, 2019 has drastically changed the scenario where the National Food Authority operates for more than four decades.

Among the major changes were the repeal of the NFA's regulatory functions : registration, licensing and supervision of the persons/entities engaged in the rice business; the capacity to incur loans/borrowings, as a government corporation to effectively implement its governmental and social functions; monitoring and supervision of rice and corn businesses to generate industry information necessary for policy and decision-making; monitoring the grains business; enforcement of grain trading rules and regulations; establishment of rules and regulations for the importation and exportation of rice and corn; and the authority to import rice for food security buffer stocks.

With these changes in tow, a reorganization/restructuring is expected to be implemented anytime soon upon the approval of the Governance Commission on GOCCs (GCG) and approval of the Separation Incentive Package (SIP) for affected employees by the Office of the President.

The current reorganization/restructuring will be the fourth move to streamline the NFA since its creation more than 40 years ago to suit the new vision, mission, mandate and thrusts of the agency under a rice tariffied regime.

As part of the on-going transition towards the limited role that the food agency will be performing under the RTL, NFA top management headed by Administrator Judy Carol L. Dansal had issued policies and directives during the National Planning Conference held in Nasugbu, Batangas last October 21-23, 2019; setting the directions of the food agency for distribution, procurement and other major activities for 2020.

MARKETING OPERATIONS

A. Buffer Stocking/Inventory Management

1. Continued adoption of 15 to 30 days optimal level of national rice consumption requirement until such time that the optimal level of buffer stocks is established by an independent body to be commissioned by the NFA Council (per RA 11203).
2. Continued distribution of rice, not as a stabilization function, but for conversion of stocks into cash.
3. Continued implementation of the First-In-First-Out (FIFO) warehousing policy, existing good warehouse keeping practices, and existing quality management protocols.

B. Palay Procurement

1. The buying price for palay is set at P19.00/kg subject to existing Equivalent Net Weight Factor (ENWF) Table; with no additional incentives.
2. Continued purchase of palay from legitimate farmers/farmer organizations (FOs).
3. To encourage more local farmers to sell their produce to NFA and in compliance to RA 11032 or "Ease of Doing Business," individual farmers shall no longer be required to secure/present Farmer's Passbook. However, FOs shall still be required to present NFA-issued Master Passbook.
4. Procurement shall be focused on the top rice-producing provinces. In so doing, the following strategies shall be applied :
 - a. Increase NFA buying stations in these provinces.
 - b. Review of existing buying stations and identify new ones
 - c. Re-deployment of trucks to priority areas/provinces
5. Procurement of PD1 and PD3 palay varieties with purity A and B
6. Continued conduct of "ugnayan" with farmers/farmer organizations

C. Palay Milling

1. Standard milling recovery is set at 63% for well-milled rice (WMR).
2. Adoption of payment-in-kind (PIK) scheme for test milling.
3. Maximization on the use of NFA's existing rice milling facilities before tapping private rice millers.
4. NFA milling supervisor should always be present during milling operations.



D. Rice Distribution/Disposition

1. Selling prices for imported and local rice (Php/kg) are as follows :

VARIETY	GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS	WHOLESALE PRICE FOR ACCREDITED RETAILERS	CONSUMERS' SELLING PRICE
Imported Rice, 25% broken (WMR)	P 25.00	P 23.00	P 27.00
Local Rice	P 25.00	P 25.00	P 27.00

2. Selling price for local rice applies only to palay bought at P20.70/kg.

3. Complete disposition of imported rice (IMR) inventories through the adoption of the following distribution strategies :

- a. Mill and buy scheme with IMR tie-up;
 - b. Tie-up of local rice with IMR;
 - c. Conduct of mobile sales to various markets for both accredited and non-accredited retailers;
 - d. Conduct of sales advocacy to local government units, parishes and other religious organizations;
 - e. Withdrawal of FAIR and CDIF incentives of farmer organizations in rice form;
 - f. Installation of stationary outlets in various NFA compounds to make rice available to end consumers;
 - g. Acceleration of institutional sales to (BUCOR, BJMP, DSWD, etc.);
 - h. Payment-in-kind for NFA service providers and suppliers;
 - i. Inter and intra-regional sales.
4. Implementation of "free delivery" as a strategy in the distribution of rice within the area of jurisdiction of the region.
5. Continued conduct of "Tagpuan" activities.
6. Establishment of Kadiwa stores nationwide, starting with the National Capital Region.
7. Conduct a study on the establishment of Bigasang Bayan outlets to include strategic locations (e.g. markets, public transport terminals, etc), operator (NFA or accredited retailer), etc.
8. Identification of 4Ps beneficiaries particularly in the six identified regions (1,2,3,4B or MIMAROPA, 6 and 9) including the warehouse requirements needed for its implementation. This is in anticipation of the inclusion of the budget for the 4Ps program in the GAA for 2020, part of which will be given in the form of rice.

E. Dispersal

1. Just-in-time (JIT) strategy in the inflow-outflow of stock movement, from source to destination province, for cost-efficient operation.
2. Close coordination with Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) regarding berthing problems and prioritization of rice in the queuing at the ports

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

1. Implementation of catch up plans to obtain the required 90% average score in the agency's Performance Scorecard.
2. Ensure 100% compliance with all the requirements for Good Governance Conditions including COA findings and recommendations.
3. Continued computerization program.
4. Preparation of training development plan to address the identified competency gaps across all positions.
5. Prioritization in the divestment of assets for disposition. CPMSD shall review the list of properties for divestment vis-à-vis the agency's requirements. This is a means to improve the agency's financial condition, which is part of the requirement of the Department of Finance in the conversion of NFA Debt to Subsidy.
6. Proper management of NFA's debt level, not to exceed the debt cap of P120B.
7. Submission of monthly Regional Financial Performance Ratios. This should be presented during REMANCOMs.
8. Convene concerned committees on the updating of Citizen's Charter and compliance to report requirements on Corporate Governance, No Gift Policy, Whistle-Blowing Policy as directed by GCG.
9. Updating of the Agency Review and Compliance Procedure of Statements and Financial Disclosures.
10. Only projects awarded by December 31, 2019 shall be included as carry over projects for 2020. All other projects confirmed, approved for implementation, but not awarded, shall be included in the 2020 Capital Outlay under new projects.

Turning a New Leaf

A S E R I E S

Hats off to the three noble men of NFA Zamboanga

Retirement is a wonderful milestone in the life of someone who has spent many years working and contributing time and talent to the office in which he/she lives. When your finances and health are good, retirement is great!

Life can be absolutely wonderful. You have more freedom, and if your income is adequate, you can do some of the things you might not have been able to do in the past, such as travel or live in an active adult community.

Health and cooking time is pretty good. Do voluntary works and watch your grandchildren several times a week. It is a very satisfying lifestyle for a family quality time. These are the words of RD Procopio B. Trabajo II during the retirement tribute for the three noble men of NFA Zamboanga who had been an inspiration to their co-employees.

Hats off to Assistant Provincial Manager Manuel G. Cuevas who retired last August 19, 2019 after 38 years in NFA; Regional Engineer Nicanor A. Aragoncillo, 37 years in service, retired June 1, 2019; and Grains Operations Assistant I Antonio I. Ibanez who retired on June 6, 2019 after 38 years in NFA.

The NFA Zamboanga family will miss them but realizing they can now be in their respective lovely homes, mingle with great friends and own their time to be with families and spoil their grandchildren is enough reason for us to be happy for them. **(MARGARETTE F. RIDAD, correspondent)**



APM Manuel G. Cuevas during his Retirement Tribute.



Regional Engineer Nicanor A. Aragoncillo (right) and GOA I Antonio I. Ibanez (left) during the Retirement Tribute.



Don Ramon on his Newfound Freedom

RAMON A. GABIOLA is “Don Ramon” to his colleagues at NFA who fondly gave him the monicker because he loves to wear **sombrero** that made him look like an haciennero.

He started as casual truck driver on November 17, 1988 at NFA Quezon provincial office. His employment status became permanent on July 1, 1989 and has since then been designated in various office works while also attending to the needs of the office clientele.

Being a truck driver, he took his everyday driving seriously, because for him it could be a matter of life and death. He knew very well that driving is being fully aware of the surroundings, focused on the road and nothing else, being sober, alert, experienced and responsible.

Retirement is a chance to rest and spend time with the family especially the grandkids. It is considered by some as an opportunity to thank their colleagues and everyone who has contributed to their professional growth and personal success. But for others, it’s a transition made harder.

But real retirement is when you can really enjoy life to the fullest.

In his 30 years of being on the road for public service, Don Ramon made his journey worthwhile and fulfilling. He retired at the age of 60 due to health condition, but luckily and presently he is on the road to full recovery. **(CHRISTINE MARIE M. TURGO, correspondent)**

Learning Flexibility the Positive Way

HIS GENEROSITY is akin to the gifts of the Three T's (time-talent-treasure). His readiness to give more than what is usual is a distinguishing, admirable trait, according to his friends and associates. He never shuns from helping in whatever way he can and in his own special way. He does it wholeheartedly – making time for others needing his attention or assistance in whatever shapes and forms. But what endears him the most to his friends inside and out of the General Services Department (GSD) is his penchant for giving or sharing foods at any time or occasion as he pleases or feels doing -- at a colleague's birthday, an office event or party, on ordinary days even. The generosity comes out naturally, without a tinge or trace of self-praise and affectation.

MAXIMO HIPOLITO FRANCISCO retired last December 27, 2019 after serving the NFA for 45 years. His first assignment was at the Directorate for Administrative and General Services (DAGS) as messenger which he held for nearly one year. Promotions came easy, almost every year: from messenger in 1974, to clerk I in 1975, to senior clerk from 1975 to 1979 and to radiophone operator for 12 years. He was transferred to the General Services Department during his last two years as radiophone operator. Then he became senior radiophone operator from 1986 to 1989. He went on to become communication equipment operator IV. In 2001, he had his first shot at field assignment. He was called for a special designation as special disbursing officer (SDO) at NFA Camarines Sur, then back to GSD a year after. In 2003, he got an order to go back to Cam Sur as acting quality assurance officer (QAO), again, on special designation.

He entered NFA through the encouragement of then section chief of GSD Radio Communication, Romeo Santiago who was a former co-employee of Max's father. As Communication Equipment Operator, Max's main tasks were to receive and send messages thru: single side band, VHF, telex, hand held radios/walkie talkies – no cellular phones yet but what they were using considered advance communication at that time.

One special assignment that Max remembers with fondness was the wedding of Irene Marcos in Batac, Ilocos Norte. Their team was commissioned to assist in terms of mobilizing and organizing people as to specific roles in the preparations, calling on his men here and there for instructions so that nothing would go astray using all their radios or walkie talkies most effectively. Their good performance went as far as covering the Sangyaw fiesta in Tacloban and inauguration of the Sto. Niño Shrine.

In between his regular duties and responsibilities at GSD, Max tasted being a special disbursing officer (SDO) during procurement season – he spent six years as SDO covering Cotabato City, Isulan, Kidapawan and Southern Philippines Grains Complex (SPGC). He saw how a “bodegero”, a classifier or a milling supervisor work and somehow took a dip at their fields of expertise. He did well in his attempts to learn their functions. He attended trainings and gained support from the field officers. “Halos naikot ko buong Pilipinas,” he shares with pride as he also recalls that “nanganib din ang buhay ko” while performing these duties. He said he had the scare of his life during an ambush “sa sinasakyan naming truck – kasama ko isang bodegero at classifier.” This, however, did not deter him from doing his jobs. He even relishes the fact that all these had been a life-changing experience that taught him valuable lessons, both in his career and personal life.

Max's last assignment is NFA ACA in Valenzuela. There, he scanned the agency's records from RICOB to the present NFA. The records or documents were quite difficult to leaf through and scan as these are already faded and brittle. But Max carefully did his job to save the documents in the external drive for posterity or future use.

He will be forever grateful to NFA, Max assures. He was 19 years old and second year in college when he joined the agency. Through NFA, “napag-aral ko ang dalawa kong anak and thank God they are doing well in their careers.”

Max said he will miss Marlene Brillantes, Bong Cunanan, Romeo Santiago, Ding Ramirez and Lito de Ocampo - “ilan sa mga taong umalalay sa akin.”

Max will be occupied as a private citizen. His retirement will not be that relaxing as he has envisioned it to be. He said he will have his hands full attending to friends who are just waiting for his availability to accommodate their job offers. But one thing is for sure: a great part of his precious time is family time – that is, wife Lolita, sons Michael and Mark, grandchildren, Mico and Mica. Whatever concerns he will be getting into in the days ahead, one thing will remain constant: his generosity that explains his flexibility and positivism, ever willing to learn new things especially for career advancement.

(CORA ABIO)



“Letty-ing Go”

It was sometime in January 2007 when I first met this fine and stern-looking lady as I started my first day of work in NFA- Baguio City. She was then the Senior Enforcement and Investigation Officer (SEIO) of the province. First impression lasts, they often say. Once a first impression is made, it takes some time to change it. But as the days passed by while I get along to work with her, my last impression about her, I think, is more lasting and matters the most. I find her soft-spoken with her stern look. She’s very jolly, approachable and likeable.

Her name is LETICIA M. PALABAY, or “Manang Letty” as she is fondly called. She is an Ilocana, born on December 1, 1954 at Sto. Rosario, San Juan, La Union. She is married to Manong Dante while Isabelle, 25, is their “unica hija”.

Manang Letty graduated with a bachelor’s degree in Agricultural Administration major in Agricultural Economics at the Araneta University Foundation in 1976. She also finished a master’s degree in Business Administration at the International Academy of Management and Economics (IAME) in 2004.

She started her career with the then National Grains Authority-Regional Office I, La Union as a casual Statistical Aide on January 3, 1978. She got a permanent position when she was assigned as Senior Disbursement Officer in NFA-Western Pangasinan in 1984. She was promoted as Provincial Economist of NFA Ilocos Sur in 1987 and returned to NFA Regional Office I in 1992 as SEIO, where she was again assigned for 14 years. In 2006, she was reassigned to NFA-Baguio City; it was there when I first met her in 2007 and had the chance to work with her for almost four years before I left for NFA-La Union in 2011.

I was ecstatic when I got the chance to work with her again when she was assigned as our Regional Investigator in July 2018, after serving NFA-Baguio City for 12 years. She was over the moon to be back in La Union where she first started; but what made her more joyous is the chance that she could finally go home every afternoon after office hours.

During the retirement tribute tendered for Manang Letty on November 28, 2019, the kind words shared by our colleagues in NFA Regional Office I and her daughter Isabelle vouched for her good character as a public servant, a comrade, and a mother.

Isabelle recounted in her very touching message, “Naalala ko nuong bata ako, lagi ko hinahanap si Mama kasi lagi siyang wala sa tabi ko because she was assigned to various provinces. Nagkikita lang kami once or twice a week. My aunts stood as my second mother during the times when she was away. Pero nuong nagkaisip na ako, naintindihan ko na that she has to work for our family and her assignment to different provinces is part of her job.”

“I will forever be grateful with the NFA because it served as the bread and butter for my family for over 41 years. I will also forever cherish all the memories we have shared together. To the young ones, what I could impart is for you to love your work. My formula to success is learning the military rule, Obey first before you complain,” Manang Letty said in her parting message.

To Manang Letty, thank you for the fruitful years you have contributed to our beloved agency. We wish you all the best and good luck to your new journey. (**SONNY REY RIVERA**, *correspondent*)



Muntik na Paalam

Ating balikan ng iilang taon
 Bagong dating sa isang mayamang nayon
 Lubos na kaligayahan siyang nadarama
 Panalanging makapasok sa wakas nandito na
 Sa unang araw batid ang saya
 Puno ng ngiti at pasasalamat sa Kanya
 Aniyay nasa aming tahanan lang
 Pagkat ang turing sa amin ay kapamilya na
 Sa di inaasahang pagkakataon
 Biglang bumulaga ang masamang panahon
 Tirik man ang araw, katamtamang pag-ulan
 Di pa rin mawari ang sama ng kalooban
 Mahina man ang bawat galaw ng relo
 Tila mabilis pa rin patungong dulo
 Mawawalan ng kabuhayan,
 di na makikitang mga kaibigan
 Siyang dumudurog sa aming kaisipan
 Sa lahat ba ito'y makakabuti
 O para lamang sa interes ninyong pansarili?
 Di na iniisip kaming maliliit
 Paglisan sa trabaho nami'y inyong pinipilit
 Ano ba ang aming nagawa sa daan-daan?
 Misyon ba namin ay aming pinabayaan?
 Mandato ba ay aming kinalimutan?
 Kung hindi, di namin kayo pagbibigyan
 Karunungan ninyo'y gamitin sana
 Sa katwiran at tama, hindi sa kasakiman
 Sa araw at gabi, sa bawat hakbang
 Dasal namin ito sana'y muntik na paalam lang

SHELOU T. TACMO

Accounts Analyst
 NFA Misamis Occidental
 Ozamiz City

ANG LAYUNIN NG MAGSASAKA

Ang layunin ng magsasaka'y tinitingala.
 Bigay niya'y pagkain sa hapag kainan,
 Dinaranas papalit-palit na timpla ng panahon,
 Ngunit di umaayaw sa anumang hamon.
 O, kay sarap tingnan ang masaganang ani.
 Pumapawi sa pagod at lugmok mong katawan.
 Sadyang biyaya ng Maykapal ay kay rami,
 Alay Niya sa ating sangkatauhan.
 Nakakapanghinayang kakarampot niyang kita,
 Na nagmula sa palay na kanyang pinaghirapan.
 Dugo't pawis ang kanyang pinuhunan,
 Mapupunta nga lang ba sa wala?
 Salamat sa gobyernong mapagmalasakit.
 Kanino mo pa ba idudulog mga gumugulo sa iyong isipan?
 Iyong mga hinaing at hinanakit?
 'Di ba't kung saan ipaglalaman iyong karapatan?
 Pambansang Pangasiwaan sa Pagkain, kumilos ka!
 Ibuhos mo iyong pag-aaruga sa mga magsasaka.
 'Wag mong hayaang sila'y mawalan ng pag-asa.
 Nakasalalay sa'yo ang magandang kinabukasan nila.
 Pambansang Pangasiwaan sa Pagkain, manindigan ka!
 Mga paninirang binabato sa'yo,
 Isa-isang pakasinungalingan ito.
 Humayo at ipaglaban ang adhikaing walang kasing dakila!

MEIKO D. BARRIL

Accounts Analyst
 NFA Mati, Davao Oriental

Even if everyone is telling you that something wrong is something right. Even if the whole world is telling you to move, it is your duty to plant yourself like a tree, look them in the eye, and say 'No, you move'."

-Sharon Carter-



The Philippine Serpent Eagle

Davao City, Philippines

Photo by: Manuel A. Sadsad