



# GRANO DE NOTICIAS

11th Issue | January - June 2023

## Admin. Bioco Leads NFA's Transformation Program:

- Food Infrastructure Modernization
- Digital Transformation through SARAI
- Sustainability Program
- Distribution Function
- NFA Restructuring

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NFA-IX Welcomes New Executives/ Get to Know NFA RIX's Executives p. 17

Year 2023 started fruitful for NFA Region IX as it successfully entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on Palay Marketing Assistance Program for the Legislators and Local Government Unit (PALLGU) with three Local Government Units (LGUs) in Region IX.

The PALLGU aims to provide opportunities to rice farmers to maximize their income and the local government units to serve their constituents. Under the program, the legislator or LGU enters into a marketing agreement with NFA where the former shall provide a premium amount to be added to the existing government palay buying price of P19.00/Kg.

Last March 8, 2023 was a remarkable day for the Zamboanga City Rice Farmers as the NFA Zamboanga City Branch Office received the 10 Million Cheque from the City Government of Zamboanga at the NFA Zamboanga City Compound.

The City Treasurer's Office turned over

## NFA Region IX Successfully Enters into PALLGU Contracts with 3 LGUs



(L-R) ARM Valente, RM Machutes, Zamboanga Sibugay Governor Hofer, BM Velasquez, ABM Bernardo and Provincial Administrator Atty. Jay Millenia after the Ceremonial MOA Signing on June 14, 2023

the cheque to Branch Manager Rixon T. Velasquez and ABM Joann B. Bernardo with the presence of ARM Jordan L. Valente. Earlier in February 2023, Mayor John M. Dalipe in his capacity as City Mayor of Zamboanga City entered into a Memorandum of Agreement on PALLGU with the NFA to grant an additional premium of P 5.00/Kg on top of NFA's palay buying price of P 19.00/Kg for farmers who will sell their palay to NFA. This gives Zamboanga City farmers a Maximun of Php 24.00/Kg palay buying price. The Php 5.00 /Kg is the first and highest premium in the nation and the first PALLGU in Zamboanga Peninsula. turn to page 2

## Message from the Regional Manager

Welcome to the 11th Issue of Grano de Noticias!

In this issue, we will look at the accomplishments and activities of NFA Region IX which became possible through the efforts and dedication of the men and women of this office.

The success of each endeavor was brought by the determination of our dedicated employees to be able to perform our mandate: to secure rice buffer stocks for our country. As NFA Region IX and the entire NFA nationwide assumed new Administration, we seek to continuously improve and double our efforts in the service of the Filipino People.

**Rosita M. Machutes**  
Regional Manager II



## PALLGU CONTRACTS WITH 3 LGUs



(L-R) ARM Valente, RM Machutes and BM Rixon (right) present the Plaque of Appreciation to Zamboanga City Mayor Dalipe for the demonstration of support to NFA's PALLGU



RM Machutes together with BM Onde and Staff join Municipal Mayor Molina as he signs the MOA on PALLGU on March 27, 2023

**“Ta rindi iyo gracias con el NFA pati con Mayor Dalipe, ya dale ele con amun subsidia de cinco pesos kada kilo, grande ayuda este con amun. Ta rindi tambien iyo gracias con el NFA kay ya dale ustedes kamino con amun mga Farmers para pwede kame bende di amun producto aqui directa con ustedes, hindi ya kame pasa na rice millers kien ta paga con amun bien barato gayot.”**

**—Mr. Orlando Esperat, Officer of the Rice Farmers' Association of Brgy. Quiniput, Zamboanga City**

In a bid to support the Kumalarang rice farmers, the Municipal Government through the NFA Zamboanga del Sur Branch Office headed by Branch Manager Rejorie R. Onde also signed a MOA on PALLGU with Regional Manager Rosita M. Machutes on March 27, 2023. The Municipality turned over an initial fund of Php 2,000,000.0 to provide a premium of Php 3.00/Kg to NFA's buying price. This gives the farmers upto Php 22.00/Kg palay buying price.

The NFA Zamboanga City Branch Office in the person of RM Machutes and Hon. Governor Dulce Ann K. Hofer in her capacity as Provincial Governor officially signed the MOA on PALLGU at the Office of Provincial Governor, Ipil on June 14, 2023. The Provincial Government of Zamboanga Sibugay has allocated Php 1,400,000.00 for an additional premium of Php 2.00/Kg on top of NFA's buying price. The Zamboanga Sibugay rice farmers can now enjoy as much as Php 21.00/Kg palay buying price.

Regional Manager Rosita M. Machutes and Assistant Regional Manager Jordan L. Valente together with the Branch Offices continuously seek out for more PALLGU Programs in Region IX. RM Machutes strongly advocates for the importance of this program in ensuring food security in the country and providing support to the nation's rice farmers. (RIO Thea Angelie G. Alavar)



# General Assembly with NFA Administrator Roderico R. Bioco



NFA Administrator Roderico R. Bioco discusses his plans and visions for NFA during the General Assembly with NFA Regional Office and Zamboanga City Branch Office Employees at NFA Atrium, Zamboanga City

No Less than NFA Administrator Roderico Rayo Bioco graced the General Assembly with the Employees of NFA Regional Office and Zamboanga City Branch Office in the afternoon of April 28, 2023.

Meeting the Administrator for the first time, the employees excitedly gathered at NFA Atrium, Zamboanga City along with RM Rosita M. Machutes and ARM Jordan L. Valente together with NFA ZCBO BM Rixon T. Velasquez and ABM Joann B. Bernado.

During the Assembly, Administrator Bioco shared his plans and visions for NFA under his leadership. Under the directive of President Ferdinand

Marcos, Jr., he vowed to increase NFA's inventory of palay and rice to be able to sustain 15 to 30 days' worth of rice buffer stocks nationwide in case of emergencies and calamities.

He also discussed strategies on how to make NFA more relevant in the country especially in the digital age, mentioning about Smarter Approaches to Reinvigorate Agricultural Industries of the Philippines (SARAI). The main objective of SARAI is to recommend science-based crops and cropping system technologies, protocols and long-term strategies geared towards maximizing crop yield and minimizing adverse environmental

and climate impacts on six priority crops: rice, corn, banana, coconut, coffee and cacao.

Administrator Bioco also empathized the need for an organized and strengthened manpower as he tackled the ongoing NFA Restructuring.

Taking heed of employees' issues and concern, he also opened the floor for questions from the employees.

Lastly, Administrator Bioco thanked the employees for the warm welcome and assured everyone he continues to work for the best interest of NFA. *(RIO Thea Angelie G. Alavar)*



NFA Regional Office and Zamboanga City Branch Office welcome NFA Administrator Bioco in the entrance lobby of NFA Zamboanga City Compound



Administrator Bioco discusses with NFA-IX Executives his plans for the Agency



# NFA REGION IX JOINS KADIWA ON WHEELS

NFA Zamboanga City Branch Office participated in the Kadiwa on Wheels on May 29, 2023 and on June 19, 22, and 23, 2023 at different areas in Zamboanga City.

The Kadiwa Pop-Up Store and Kadiwa on Wheels are part of the Kadiwa Program initiated by the Department of Agriculture (DA). The NFA as one of the attached agencies of the DA, regularly participates in the Kadiwa Program of DA-IX.

NFA sells well-milled rice at Php 25.00/ Kg in its Kadiwa store which are much patronized by the locals.



Acting Warehouse Assistant Dolino and Acting Warehouse Assistant Presto sell NFA Rice at Php25.00/ Kilo in Putik, Zamboanga City on June 19, 2023



## What is Kadiwa Program?

The program is a direct marketing scheme of the DA where producers (farmers/fisherfolk) are directly linked with the consuming public, making available food commodities at reasonable prices to consumers through accessible Kadiwa retail stores in strategic locations.

Kadiwa is loosely translated as “one idea, one thought”.

The financial grants aim to enhance the capacities of farmers and fisherfolk organizations to become reliable food commodity suppliers to consumers and for community based-organizations to sustainably operate the Kadiwa retail stores (C. Cudis, 2021, PNA )

As a show of support to its goals, DA's attached agencies like the NFA participate in this program.



RM Machutes with ARM Valente and ZCBO BM Velasquez met with DA IX's Marketing Specialist III Gilma A. Amores during monitoring of the Kadiwa on Wheels at Pettit Barracks on April 26, 2023





# INFORMATION DISSEMINATION EFFORTS



Branch Manager Rixon T. Velasquez in an interview with GBPI TV-11 on March 15, 2023 and with GMA Regional TV One Mindanao on April 20, 2023 explained NFA's mandate under Republic Act 11203. He also discussed NFA's Palay Procurement Program most especially NFA's PALLGU Program with the City Government of Zamboanga. Both interviews were held at the Branch Manager's Office, NFA Compound, Zamboanga City.

BM Velasquez called out to Zamboanga City farmers to sell their palay to NFA. He stressed that farmers can enjoy as much as Php 24.00/Kilo (clean and dry) palay buying price under NFA's Palay Marketing Assistance Program for Legislators and Local Government Units (PALLGU), this after the City Government of Zamboanga entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with NFA. The PALLGU granted an additional Php 5.00/Kilo premium to NFA's Palay buying price of Php 19.00/Kilo.

During the interviews, he also mentioned that NFA allows rice farmers to use its solar pavement for drying, free of charge. This is for them to attain the quality of palay that is priced at a maximum of Php 24.00/Kilo. (BAO Jerald B. Briones & QAO Maribeth N. Celicious)

## NFA-IX Reaches Out to more Farmers & LGUs Through Media Interviews



Interview with GMA Regional TV One Mindanao



Interview with GBPI TV-11

## NFA Joins DA's Information Caravan



March 13, 2023 - Tungawan, Zamboanga Sibugay



March 14, 2023 - Imelda, Zamboanga Sibugay



Continuation



May 27, 2023 - Barangay Ayala, Zamboanga City



June 22, 2023 - Acting Warehouse Supervisor Aranas discusses NFA's Palay Procurement Program to the local farmers of Guipos, Zamboanga Sibugay



June 27, 2023 - Acting Warehouse Supervisor Redillas explains NFA's Quality Standards in Palay Procurement during the Information Caravan in the Municipality of Manukan, Zamboanga del Norte

NFA Region IX Branch Offices joined the Department of Agriculture IX (DA IX) in the conduct of Rice Information Caravan on March 13-14, 2023 in the Municipalities of Tungawan and Imelda, Zamboanga Sibugay , May 27 and 29, 2023 at Brgy. Ayala and Brgy. Manichan, Zamboanga City, and on June 22, 23, and 27 in the Municipalities of Guipos, Dumalinao, and Molave.

ZCBO BSQAO Melky C. Bagalanon, Acting Warehouse Supervisor Rosemarie S. Miro and Acting QAO Maribeth N. Celicious joined the Caravan in Zamboanga Sibugay while Acting SGO Christine O. Burlasa and also Acting QAO Celicious in Zamboanga City.

Acting Warehouse Supervisors Ernesto Aranas, Jr. and Jonathan Redillas respresented ZDSBO in the Information Caravans in the Municipalities of Guipos and Dumalinao, Zamboanga del Sur on June 22- 23, 2023 and Municipalities of Manukan and Jose Dalman, Zamboanga del Norte on June 27, 2023 All teams discussed the NFA Palay Procurement Programa and the Quality Standards in Palay Procurement. The teams also took the opportunity to tackle about NFA's Palay Marketing Assistance Program for the Legislators and Local Government Unit (LGU).

The said caravan aimed to provide farmers with updates on the rice program of the DA and its attached agencies. The agencies also used this as an avenue to further educate farmers of the different Government agriculture-related programs which they can avail of. (QAO Maribeth N. Celicious & MPO Aissa Abegail Dael)

**Call for Farmers to Sell their Palay to NFA**

NFA Offices in Region IX hung information and campaign tarpaulins in conspicuous places to further reach out to farmers to sell their palay to the nearest NFA buying station.







**Employees of NFA ZCBO together with Branch Manager Rixon T. Velasquez (3rd from L-R) hung ZCBO's campaign tarpaulin at the gate entrance of NFA Taway, Zamboanga Sibugay**



**NFA ZDSBO Trucks**

## Other Information Dissemination Efforts

### 1st Quarter Meeting of Olingan Farmers Association

In efforts to reach out to more farmers, NFA ZDSBO Team led by Acting Senior Grains Officer Mary Anavelle B. Castano and Dipolog Team Leader/Warehouse Supervisor Acting Alemar D. Celicious attended the 1st Quarterly Meeting of the Olingan Farmers Association on March 3, 2023 at the Gymnasium of Barangay Olingan, Dipolog City.

The team discussed about NFA's Palay Procurement Program, NFA's Quality Standards for palay and rice and the process of availing such program. (MPO Aissa Abegail Dael)



**Acting Warehouse Supervisor Celicious discusses NFA's Palay Procurement Program**

### ZDSBO Orients Kumalarang Farmers on NFA's Palay Procurement and PALLGU



**BSQAO Arajo demonstrates the process on drawing out the palay's moisture content using the moisture meter**

On April 20, 2023, Acting Warehouse Supervisor Mario Cabrestante and BSQAO Kristine S. Arajo attended the meeting with farmers of Kumalarang, Zamboanga del Sur held in Barangay Diplo in the morning and in Barangay Poblacion in the afternoon.

As the Municipal Government of Kumalarang entered into a PALLGU contract with NFA, the farmers were oriented on Kumalarang's top-up of Php 3.00/ kg. The meeting also provided an excellent opportunity for farmers to voice their concerns and feedback regarding the program.

Present during the meeting were Kumalarang Mayor Ruel G. Molina, Municipal Agriculturist Officer OIC Gerald Glen S. Vicente, and Sangguniang Bayan Members. (MPO Aissa Abegail Dael)



## BM Velasquez Presents NFA PALLGU in ZSP SB Plenary Sessions



May 3, 2023 - BM Velasquez introduces NFA's PALLGU during the SB Plenary Session of the Municipality of Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay



May 8, 2023 - BM Velasquez talks about NFA's Palay Procurement Program and PALLGU during the SB Plenary Session of the Municipality of Payao, Zamboanga Sibugay

In hopes to enter into PALLGU contract with LGUs in Zamboanga Sibugay, Zamboanga City Branch Manager Rixon T. Velasquez together with Acting Quality Assurance Officer Maribeth Nueva attended the Regular Session of Sangguniang Bayan of the Municipalities of Ipil and Payao, Zamboanga Sibugay on May 3, 2023 and May 8, 2023.

BM Velasquez personally presented and discussed to the Sangguniang Bayan members NFA's Palay Procurement Program and Palay Marketing Assistance Program for Legislators and Local Government Units. BM Velasquez emphasized the importance of PALLGU in helping farmers maximize their income and the vital role Local Government Units and Legislators play in aiding their farmer constituents through NFA's PALLGU. (QAO Maribeth N. Celicious)

## ZCBO Team Visits Farm Areas in Zamboanga City and Zamboanga Sibugay Province in Preparation for the Procurement Season



(L-R) ABM Bernardo, Acting Warehouse Supervisor Lim, BM Velasquez (in grey), and Acting Warehouse Supervisor Catis (in blue) explains to Rice Farmers from Zamboanga City NFA's Palay Procurement Program and PALLGU



ABM Bernardo (2nd to the right) meets Rice Farmer Engano (in white) from the Municipality of Buug

Zamboanga City Branch Office Teams went to far flung areas during harvest season in Zamboanga City and Zamboanga Sibugay on May 3 to 5, 2023 to entice farmers to sell their palay to NFA. Zamboanga City Team was composed of Branch Manager Rixon T. Velasquez, ABM Joann B. Bernardo, & Acting Warehouse Supervisors Jason Lim and Glen Catis. BM Velasquez and ABM Bernardo also joined the Zamboanga Sibugay Team together with Acting Warehouse Supervisors Rosemarie S. Miro and Maria Catleya B. Daño. (BAO Jerald B. Briones & QAO Maribeth N. Celicious)



*NFA's Mission: The NFA shall procure palay locally and maintain the optimal level of buffer stock at all times strategically located across the country across the country. It shall manage efficiently and effectively the acquisition, quality maintenance, and disposition of the buffer stock during emergencies and calamities.*

## NFA-IX's Prompt Response to Call for Relief Assistance



A total of 700 bags of 50 kilograms NFA Rice were released by NFA Zamboanga del Sur Branch Office to the Office of the Vice-President represented by Ms. Rowella Binobo on January 20, 2023. In photos (L-R): BSQAO Arajo, WS Arenas, Ms. Binobo and other OVP Staff

The National Food Authority (NFA) as mandated by Republic Act No. 11203 otherwise known as the "Rice Tariffication Law" is tasked to maintain sufficient rice buffer stocks intended for emergencies and calamities, the palay being sourced solely from the local farmers. Correspondingly, the NFA Region IX also as a member of the Committee on Disaster Response of the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council IX (RDRRMC IX) had successfully distributed a total of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Seventy Nine (7,579) bags of rice in 50 kilograms to partnered agencies and offices on Disaster, Relief and Calamity Response.

NFA Region IX released a total of 200 bags to the Office of the Civil Defense IX (OCD IX), the Chair for the Committee on Disaster Response.

Additionally, Department of Social Welfare and Development IX (DSWD IX), Vice-Chair of the said committee also purchased a total of 4,742 bags of rice.

The said releases were intended as food reliefs to be distributed to communities affected by natural and man-made calamities and emergencies. One of which was during the flooding incident brought by the typhoon that struck Zamboanga City in January 2023 leaving 2,540 persons from 13 Barangays affected. Two private institutions also requested a total of 75 bags for the same reason. This semester, the NFA Region IX also released to Local Government Units (LGUs) in Region IX a total of 1,232 bags of rice. In one of these releases, the City Government of Zamboanga purchased 500 bags from NFA Zamboanga City Branch Office which were intended for the victims of the fire incident in Barangay Baliwasan, Zamboanga City. The Office of the Vice President also purchased a total of 1,300 bags used as part of relief goods for communities affected by other calamities.

The NFA Region IX has always been committed to serving the people of Zamboanga Peninsula especially during crisis.



NFA Region IX together with the Committee on Disaster Response of RDRRMC-IX and other partnered offices ensure to continuously provide the people sufficient rice buffer stocks and quality services in times of adversities. (RIO Thea Angelie Alavar)



The Municipal Government of Kumalarang purchased a total of 200 bags of NFA Rice on January 11 to 12, 2023 for their relief assistance for the victims of flooding of neighboring province, Misamis Occidental. The Rice were withdrawn from Tiguma A Warehouse, Pagadian City.

In photo: (l-r) Kumalarang representative and Acting Warehouse Supervisor Arenas.



## NFA-IX CONDUCTS REFRESHER COURSE ON GRAINS CLASSIFICATION AND QUALITY CONTROL

By: RIO Thea Angelie G. Alavar



NFA Region IX's Quality Assurance Officers successfully completed the two-day Refresher Course on Grains Classification and Quality Control on March 15 - 16, 2023 at the NFA Molave, Zamboanga del Sur Office.

RM Rosita M. Machutes and ARM Jordan L. Valente reminded the QAOs of the vital role they play in ensuring that NFA procures and maintains good quality stocks. They also encouraged them to be proactive and to work together to attain the Agency's policy directions and targets.

Among the topics discussed by the Resource Speakers RSQAO Lloyd Q. Son, SGO Anavelle Castaño, BSQAO Kristine S. Araojao and BSQAO Melky Bagalanon were NFA's Palay Procurement Program, Variety Codes & Principles of Drying & Milling, Physical Analysis for Palay & Staining Method, Operation & Care of Moisture Meter, Good Warehouse Keeping, and SOP on Palay & Corn Classification Coding System.

The Refresher Course on Grains Classification and Quality Control was conducted in preparation for the upcoming harvest season. NFA-IX made sure that the QAO, being NFA's first line of defense against off spec stocks should be equipped enough to perform their important functions.

Participants of the Refresher Course on Grains Classification and Quality Control together with RM Machutes, ARM Valente and BM Onde during the 1st day of the Refresher Course at NFA Molave Office, Zamboanga del Sur

## PALLGU Accomplishment as of June 30, 2023

BRANCH/ PROVINCE	NAME OF LGU LEGISLATOR	PREMIUM ADDED TO NFA BUYING PRICE (IN PESO/KG)	ACTUAL VOLUME PROCURED (IN 50 KG BAGS)
ZAMBOANGA CITY BRANCH OFFICE	LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF ZAMBOANGA CITY	PHP 5.00/KG	12,662
ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR BRANCH OFFICE	MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT OF KUMALARANG	PHP 3.00/KG	431
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>13,093</b>





RM Machutes meets Hon. Secretary Director General Ernesto V. Perez before the inauguration



(l-R) RM Machutes, Zamboanga City Mayor Dalipe, Secretary Director General Perez, ARTA Chief Delgado, and USEC Fernandez during the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

## RM Machutes Attends the Inauguration of ARTA-IX Field Office

RM Rosita M. Machutes gave her message of support to the Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) during the official launch and inauguration of the ARTA-Western Mindanao Regional Field Office at NFA Zamboanga City Compound. The Office launch was held on February 15, 2023 at NFA Atrium, inside the compound.

During her message, she acknowledged the important role of ARTA whose primary objective is to improve efficiency and delivery of services to the public.

Present during the said event were no other than Hon. Secretary Director General Ernesto V. Perez of ARTA, Hon. Undersecretary Grace L. Fernandez- OIC Deputy General for Operations, and Zenaida V. Mataverde- OIC- Director. Hon. Mayor John M. Dalipe, City Mayor of Zamboanga City also graced the occasion.

A ribbon cutting ceremony and office blessing were held afterwards. NFA Zamboanga City Compound houses the ARTA-Western Mindanao Regional Field Office- IX. (RIO Thea Angelie G. Alavar)

## ARM Valente Represents NFA IX in 1st Quarter DA-RMC Meeting



RED Arpia discusses with ARM Valente on how to strengthen DA-NFA relationship



NFA Region IX represented by Asst. Regional Manager Jordan L. Valente attended the 1st Quarter Department of Agriculture- Regional Management Committee (RMC) meeting on February 23, 2023 held at Phillippine Coconut Authority, San Ramon, Zamboanga City.

Among the topics discussed were the Palay Procurement program and activities of NFA Region IX. The said meeting was spearheaded by the Department of Agriculture RFU IX headed by Regional Executive Director Dennis R. Arpia. Representatives from different DA-attached agencies were also present in the meeting. (RIO Thea Angelie G. Alavar)



## 1st Quarter Inter-Agency Meeting on Disaster Response Committee

ARM Jordan L. Valente attended the 1st Quarter Inter-agency Meeting on Disaster Response Committee on March 20, 2023 via google meet.

the meeting was spearheaded by the Department of Social Welfare (DSWD) and chaired by Regional Director Riduan P. Hadjimuddin being the Vice-Chair for Disaster Response of the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council IX (RDRRMC).

Response Cluster Member Agencies including NFA, presented their 2023 Programs/Projects and Activities on Disaster Response. (RIO Thea Angelie G. Alavar)



ARM Valente attends the meeting via Google Meet

## DA Cluster-Wide Meeting and Consultation on Rice Industry Development

RM Rosita M. Machutes attends the Cluster-Wide Meeting and Consultation on Rice Industry Development being held in Koronadal City, South Cotabato starting March 23, 2023 until March 24, 2023.

The meeting is spearheaded by the Department of Agriculture- National Rice Program, which aims to thoroughly discuss the situations, issues and strategies in the complete rice value chain to realize the goal of increasing farm productivity and farmer's income.

(RIO Thea Angelie G. Alavar)



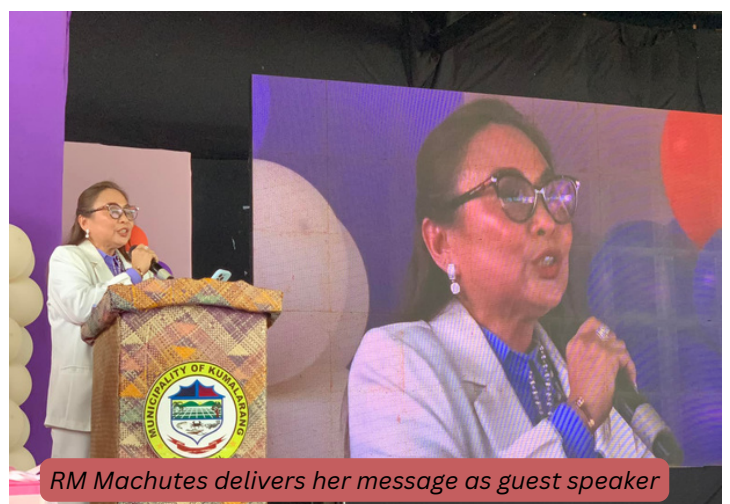
Aside from RM Machutes, other representatives from NFA also attended the said event including NFA CARAGA RM Sara May A. Sabarre, NFA Misamis Oriental BM Maria Chere M. Buyante, NFA Region XI RM Oliver L. Cambas and NFA RXII RM Elimar C. Regindin.

## RM Machutes Graces Kumalarang Women's Month Celebration

As the 2023 National Women's Month Celebration (NWMC) comes to a close, the women of LGU Kumalarang were delighted to have NFA IX Regional Manager Rose Machutes as the guest speaker at the culminating event on March 27, 2023 at the Kumalarang gymnasium

RM Machutes, known for her unwavering support for women's rights and empowerment, shared her insights on how women can break barriers and succeed in their chosen careers. opened her speech by recognizing the importance of Women's Month and the role that women play in the society and in the agriculture sector. She ended her speech by quoting Michelle Obama's "There is no limit to what we, as women, can accomplish".

Overall, the event was a fitting end to NWMC. RM



RM Machutes delivers her message as guest speaker

Machutes thanked Municipal Mayor Ruel G. Molina, along with a Juana Leader herself Vice Mayor Pinky Molina, for the invitation and for empowering not just men, but women farmers of the municipality thru NFA's PALLGU Program. (RIO Thea Angelie G. Alavar & MPO Aissa Abegail A. Dael)





Actng SGO Castaño represents NFA Zamboanga del Sur Branch Office



Actng SGO Burlasa represents NFA Zamboanga City Branch Office

## NFA TAKES PART IN PAFES PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT

NFA-IX Branch Offices participated in the PAFES Planning and Assessment spearheaded by the Agricultural Training Institute- Regional Training Center IX of the Department of Agriculture last April 25, 2023 at Springland Resort, Pagadian City, April 27, 2023 held at Sibugay Hotel, Ipil and on April 28, 2023 in Dipolog City. Zamboanga City Branch Office was represented by Acting Senior Grains Officer (SGO) Christine O. Burlasa and Zamboanga del Sur Branch Office by Acting SGO Mary Anavelle B. Castaño.

The meeting was intended to strengthen the capability of Provincial Local Government Units (LGUs) to plan and implement multiple Agricultural and Fisheries programs to be granted, co-funded, and co-invested by DA's partnered agencies. (MPO Aissa Abegail A. Dael)

## INCEPTION MEETING AND CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP FOR ZAMPEN WHITE CORN VALUE

Assistant Branch Manager Rogelio Antonio B. Lumo and BSQAO Kristine S. Araojo attended the Inception Meeting and Consultative Workshop for the Zamboanga Peninsula White Corn Value Chain Analysis on May 18-19, 2023 at Hotel Guillermo, Pagadian City.

The activity was spearheaded by the Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP) Regional Project Coordination Office 9 IPLAN Component which aims to create synergy and engage the national government agencies and private stakeholders in the formation of the Zamboanga Peninsula White Corn Value Chain Analysis (VCA) and Competitiveness Strategy. (MPO Aissa Abegail A. Dael)



ABM Lumo and BSQAO Araojo with other participants of the Zamboanga Peninsula White Corn Value Chain Analysis



ABM Lumo during the Seed Distribution Kick-Off Ceremony and Technical Briefing

## ABM LUMO ATTENDS SEED DISTRIBUTION KICK-OFF CEREMONY

Assistant Branch Manager Rogelio Antonio B. Lumo, on behalf of NFA IX Regional Manager Rosita M. Machutes, attended the Seed Distribution Kick-Off Ceremony and Technical Briefing at Upper Salug Daku Gymnasium, Mahayag, Zamboanga del Sur spearheaded by the DA-PhilRice Midsayap on April 28, 2023.

Continuation, Next Page



## Continuation

The activity was part of the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund- Seed Component Program which aims to present the seed allocation for the Wet Season of 2023, targeting the cities/municipalities of Zamboanga del Sur. The benefits of proper use, timing, and quantity of fertilizer to achieve high yields at low cost became the center of discussion.

Ceremonial distribution of seeds to 70 farmers was later conducted along with Mahayag Mayor Manuel T. Saladalaga, SB Member Antipaz Colcol, Head of Agriculture, including co-operative agencies in the implementation of the RCEF Program such as the Agricultural Training Institute Regional Training Center IX, Bureau of Plant Industry-National Seed Quality Control Services, Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office IX, Philippine Center for Post Harvest Development and Mechanization, Philippine Rice Research Institute, Provincial Local Government Unit, and Local Government Unit. (MPO Aissa Abegail A. Dael)

## ABM Bernardo Participates in Farmers and Fisherfolk Month Culminating Activity

Regional Manager II Rosita M. Machutes represented by Acting Assistant Branch Manager Joann B. Bernardo attended the culminating activity of the Farmers and Fisherfolk Month 2023 on May 31, 2023 spearheaded by the Local Government Unit of Zamboanga thru the City Agriculture's Office (OCA) dubbed as "Junta: Dia de Agradecimiento y Reconocicion con el maga Siembradores y Pescadores na Ciudad de Zamboanga" which highlighted the important contributions of the local farmers and fisherfolks of Zamboanga City in the City's Food Security.

ABM Joann B. Bernardo presented the accomplishments, plans and programs in relation to the mandate of the agency as well as the PALLGU Program in partnership with the LGU of Zamboanga City. Also present during the activity is the City Vice Mayor Hon. Josephine Pareja, Agricultural & Fishery Council, The Fishery and Aquatic Resources Management Council, and the partner agencies of the City Agriculturist in implementing the sustainability of the city in its food security. (BAO Jerald B. Briones)



ABM Bernardo presents NFA's report



Information Officers of DA and its Attached Agencies

## 1st DA Information Officers Meeting

Regional Information Officer Thea Angelie G. Alavar attended the first Information Officers Meeting of the Department of Agriculture held at Roderick's Resort, Ipil on March 15, 2023.

The meeting was initiated by the DA to strengthen DA and its attached agencies' promotional initiatives in delivering its programs and projects in Zamboanga Peninsula.

DA RIO Yvette Avellaneda mentioned that the meeting also served as an avenue for the different agencies to strengthen communication and relationship with each other. (RIO Thea Angelie G. Alavar)





**NFA-RIX RELEASES 42,005 BAGS OF RICE TO OTRA BENEFICIARIES**

“ As directed by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., we shall ensure the welfare of our government workers by giving them assistance for their household needs and, at the same time, boosting the production of our rice farmers ”

- Amenah F. Pangandaman,  
DBM Secretary

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. signed Administrative Order No. 2 which authorizes the grant of one-time assistance at a uniform quantity of 25 kilograms of rice to all qualified government workers/employees. The rice assistance shall be granted to beneficiaries who are still in the government service and/or engaged by government agencies as of November 30, 2022.

NFA Region IX released a total of 42,005 bags of rice in 50 kilos to 85,640 beneficiaries regionwide, giving NFA-IX a total accomplishment of 98% as of June 30, 2023.

The One-Time Rice Assistance (OTRA) program shall be extended to cater more qualified beneficiaries. *(Thea Angelie G. Alavar)*

The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) has already released a total of P1,182,905,000 for the said program to the National Food Authority (NFA).

“ **Maganda ang kalidad ng bigas nila, pwedeng pwede i-kumpara sa mga commercial rice sa mercado. Laking pasasalamat namin sa NFA at nabigyan kame ng magandang bigas.** ”

- Clarivy Mae Taup,  
DSWD Employee- Beneficiary,  
Zamboanga City



BSQAO Araojo shows the rice samples to Mines and Geosciences (MGB) -DENR focal person Reo S. Torres before releasing it to their office



To ensure the right quality of rice will be received by the Bureau of Fire, Acting Warehouse Supervisor Miro weighs the bags of rice before releasing it to BFP Focal Person

**OTRA Accomplishment as of June 2023**

Branch Office	No. of Agency Issued	No. of Beneficiaries	Bags Issued (in 50kg) by NFA-IX
Zamboanga City	73	40,651	19,954.00
Zamboanga del Sur	66	44,989	22,051.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>85,640.00</b>	<b>42,005.00</b>





(L-R) AA Hermanto, DA RED Arpia, RM Machutes, and DA ASEC Estoperez

## AA HERMANTO REPRESENTS NFA IN DA-NATIONAL MANCOM IN ZAMBOANGA CITY

Assistant Administrator for Operations Engr. John Robert R. Hermanto represented the NFA in the Department of Agriculture - National Management Committee Meeting held at Garden Orchid Hotel, Zamboanga City on June 7-8, 2023.

During the said meeting, AA Hermanto presented NFA's accomplishment, plans and programs to the attendees including DA Senior Undersecretary Domingo Panganiban, Assistant Secretaries and heads of DA-attached agencies and Regional Directors.

On the last day of the 2-day event, NFA Region IX Regional Manager Rosita M. Machutes and Assistant Regional Manager Jordan L. Valente together with DA RMC IX members attended an exclusive meeting with Sr. USEC Panganiban where the different attached agencies in Region IX pledged their support to DA's plans and programs. (RIO Thea Angelie G. Alavar)



AA Hermanto presents of NFA's Accomplishment, Plans and Programs during the DA-National MANCOM



ARM Valente (3rd to the left) together with DA Undersecretary Panganiban (in white, middle) and other Heads of DA-IX Attached Agencies in the region.

## Buffer Stock Management Accomplishment Report as of June 30, 2023

Branch Office	Palay Procurement	Milling	Distribution
	<i>In bags of 50 kg</i>	<i>In bags of 50 kg</i>	<i>In bags of 50 kg</i>
<b>Region IX- Western Mindanao</b>	<b>33,027</b>	<b>58,465</b>	<b>55,087</b>
Zamboanga City Branch Office	14,369	24,138	28,680
Zamboanga del Sur Branch Office	18,658	34,327	26,407



# NFA REGION IX WELCOMES NEW EXECUTIVES

The National Food Authority (NFA) started 2023 welcoming a new management under the leadership of Administrator Roderico R. Bioco. Correspondingly, NFA Region IX also welcomed new executives with Rosita M. Machutes as the

Regional Manager and Jordan L. Valente as the Assistant Regional Manager. Interestingly, both leaders have special linkage to NFA Region IX which make them adeptly familiar with the Region by heart.

Regional Manager Rosita M. Machutes, fondly called as "RM Rose" by many, is a Certified Public Accountant and a Bachelor of Law graduate.

She started as an Office Clerk at NFA Region IX, Zamboanga City on May 18, 1983. Over the years, she has climbed up the career ladder becoming an Accountant III in 1989 and Senior Accountant Specialist in 1991 in NFA Maguindanao Provincial Office, she was promoted to Regional Accountant in 2015 in NFA BARMM, reassigned to NFA Basilan as Officer-in-Charge in 2017 and a year later became a full-pledged Provincial Manager of NFA Maguindanao Provincial Office. In 2019, she was subsequently designated as Acting Regional Manager of NFA BARMM.



Doctor of Public Administration.

He has been with NFA for more than 13 years, 11 years of which holding Supervisory/ Managerial positions such as Regional Industry Services Officer from 2017

Now with 40 years of vast experience in NFA service, she has found her way back to where she has started as she is currently designated as Regional Manager II of NFA Region IX.

Aside from her wit and natural charm, RM Rose has always been described by her associates as a Visionary Leader. Her style of leadership is centered on establishing goals and empowering people to achieve them. She is able to establish a strong organizational bond by fostering confidence among her colleagues and employees. Early this year, during the Women's Month Celebration, the Municipality of Kumalarang also awarded her a Plaque of Appreciation for her dedication and contribution in making PALLGU happen and for empowering women farmers.

Assistant Regional Manager Jordan L. Valente on the other hand is a graduate of Bachelor of Science in Physics (Cum Laude), with a Masters Degree in Public Administration and has completed the academic units for

to 2018, OIC - Provincial Manager of Zamboanga Sibugay Provincial Office in 2019 to 2020, Branch Manager of Zamboanga City Branch Office from 2021 to 2022, Assistant Regional Manager of Region XII and presently as Assistant Regional Manager II of NFA Regional Office IX.

ARM Valente is a leader with an innate ability to effectively and efficiently manage and motivate people to achieve organizational goals. In fact, he was chosen to be one of the 24 Filipino Youth leaders who represented our country during the 2013 ASEAN-Indian Students Exchange Program held in Chennai, Pune and New Delhi, India.

With RM Rose's vast experience and knowledge on NFA services along with ARM Jordan's brilliance and innovative ideas, NFA Region IX will surely be taken to new heights and achievements. (RIO Thea Angelie G. Alavar)



On February 17, 2023, Regional Manager Rosita M. Machutes and Assistant Regional Manager Jordan L. Valente convened the Regional Management Committee members for the very 1st Regional Management Committee meeting with the newly installed Executives.



# GRANO DE NOTICIAS

The official newsletter of NFA Region IX made its debut in 2017 and was called “Grano de Noticias,” a name given by then RISO and former RIO, now Asst. Regional Manager Jordan L. Valente. During that time on its maiden issue, then RIO Margarette F. Ridad served as the Editor-in-chief with then ARM Rolando S. Rufo as its Editorial Consultant under the leadership of then Regional Manager and now Asst. Administrator for Operations, Engr. John Robert R. Hermano.

“Grano de Noticias” which is written in Chavacano means “Grains of News” to signify that every grain of rice has a story to tell and these stories must then be amplified across the region and the whole country. Up until now, “Grano de Noticias” remains to be a source of credible and factual information highlighting the plans, programs, activities and accomplishments of NFA Region IX.

This year on its 11th issue, “Grano de Noticias,” unveils its new logo designed by RIO Thea Angelie G. Alavar. This logo has three dominant colors, green, blue and red. Green represents NFA’s mother agency, the Department of Agriculture with green as its dominant brand color. Blue and red on the other hand represent the colors of NFA. The letter “A” in the word Grano is illustrated as a golden yellow paddy / “palay” which resonates with NFA’s mandate: to procure palay from the local farmers which shall form part of the country’s rice buffer stock. The mirrored letter “N” in green and red represents transparency; Grano de Noticias is a reflection of the true events in NFA Region IX as employees continuously work to achieve NFA’s mandate. Lastly, the “A” in “Noticias” is illustrated with a signal icon above the letter “A” which means transmitting information by means of gesture, action, or sound.

Today, “Grano de Noticias” continues to disseminate vital information among NFA employees and to its Stakeholders especially the farmers with the aim to showcase inspirational stories and to promote government services under the NFA.

## NFA REGION IX MANAGEMENT

**Rosita M. Machutes**  
Regional Manager

**Jordan L. Valente**  
Assistant Regional Manager/  
Editorial Consultant

### Zamboanga City Branch Office

**Rixon T. Velasquez**  
Branch Manager

**Joann B. Bernardo**  
Assistant Branch Manager

### Zamboanga del Sur Branch Office

**Rejorie R. Onde**  
Branch Manager

**Rogelio Antonio B. Lumo**  
Assistant Branch Manager

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