



NFA BICOL REGION



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PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF CAMARINES NORTE SIGNS MOA ON PALLGU

"It always seems impossible until it's done" -Nelson Mandela

Finally, after several months of waiting, the MOA on the PALLGU (Palay Marketing Assistance Program for Legislators and Local Governments Units) between the NFA Camarines Sur Branch, the Provincial Government of Camarines Norte and selected farmers' / irrigators association was signed on January 11, 2023 at the Provincial Capitol of Camarines Norte. Present during the MOA signing were then Regional Manager Allan Joseph P. Abapo



of NFA Bicol Region, Governor Ricarte Padilla of the Provincial Government of Camarines Norte, Assistant Branch Manager Edgar G. Gadbilao of NFA Camarines Sur Branch, Branch Manager Domingo N. Pura of NFA Albay Branch, Camarines Norte

Provincial Agriculturist Almirante Abad and the Chairpersons of the eleven (11) farmer groups who are the initial beneficiaries of the pilot implementation of the said program. . . (Turn to page 4)

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Ceremonial Signing of MOA on PALLGU with LGU Barcelona . Page 3

RM ABAPO PASSES STEWARDSHIP OF NFA BICOL TO RM GUINTO



Outgoing RM Allan Joseph P. Abapo (left) hands over the symbolic key of responsibility to incoming RM Osmundo R. Guinto Jr. (right).

The turnover ceremony of the symbolic key of responsibility for the Regional Manager of NFA Bicol Region was relinquished on January 30, 2023 by outgoing Regional Manager Allan Joseph P. Abapo to incoming Regional Manager Osmundo R. Guinto Jr.

In his message, RM Allan thanked the employees of NFA Bicol Region for giving him unparalleled support throughout his stint as their Regional Manager. He likewise encouraged the personnel to give that same support to newly installed RM Jhun.

Meanwhile, RM Jhun expressed his thanks for the warm welcome and excitement of working with the Bicolanos. . (► Page 2)

RM ABAPO PASSES STEWARDSHIP OF NFA BICOL TO RM GUINTO

(From page 1) and appealed to continue in performing their jobs with passion especially in delivering the mandate of the agency, focusing on palay procurement.

Moreover, the ceremony was witnessed by BM Julie B. Llenaresas of Sorsogon Branch Office, the personnel of Albay Branch Office headed by BM Domingo P. Pura, staff of Camarines Sur Branch Office led by ABM Edgar G. Gadbilao as well as the Regional Staff Heads and Regional Office employees.

NFA Bicol Region will always be proud and thankful to have the opportunity to be once led by an adept leader in RM Allan whose very selfless in imparting knowledge and offers untiring motivation and support! We are also looking forward for the chance of working with another equally qualified and capable boss in RM Jhun! Again, Dios mabalos RM Allan and Dagos po sa samong rona, RM Jhun! **(JAHARAH SHYRRA R. PAVILANDO)**

GET TO KNOW THE NEW REGIONAL MANAGER



RM Osmundo Reyes Guinto Jr. hails from Calapan, Oriental Mindoro and a proud son of Osmundo and Adelaida. He finished his Master's Degree in Public Administration at the Divine Word College of Calapan and Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy in Christ the King Mission Seminary. Meanwhile, he completed his High School and Primary Education in Divine Word College of Calapan and Holy Infant Academy-Calapan, respectively.

RM Jhun as he is fondly called started working in the Agency as an Enforcement and Investigation Officer II at NFA Mamburao Provincial Office in 1997, a Warehouse Supervisor at Marinduque Provincial Office in 2005 and the Supervising Enforcement and Investigation Officer at the Batangas Regional Office in 2012. Known for his potential and dedication for work, he was promoted as the Provincial Manager of Kalinga Provincial Office in 2017. Thereafter, because of his great leadership skills, RM Jhun became the Assistant Regional Manager of CARAGA Region in 2020, its Officer-In-Charge in 2021 and at present, the Regional Manager of the Bicol Region.

Apart from being an astounding NFA Executive who is known for his rapport to employees, RM Jhun is a loving father to Cyril Ivann and Reimund Mikael. He is also a devoted husband to Ma'am Reina Liz. **(JAHARAH SHYRRA R. PAVILANDO)**

NFA Bicol Region



OSMUNDO R. GUINTO JR.
Regional Manager II



HERRIELLE V. JUMAGBAS
Assistant Regional
Manager II



DOMINGO N. PURA
Branch Manager,
Albay Branch Office



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The official publication bears the name "Sabwag" which means to scatter. Just like the local farmers spreading seeds sown directly in the field which is one of the methods in planting palay, the publication's purpose is to spread and convey relevant information to the NFA employees as well as to the stakeholders and the public as a whole.

CEREMONIAL SIGNING OF THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (MOA) FOR PALLGU BETWEEN LGU BARCELONA, SORSOGON AND NFA BICOL REGION

To help and support the local farmers of Barcelona, Sorsogon increasing their income during harvest season, its local government headed by Honorable Mayor Cynthia Falcotelo-Fortes agreed to enter into Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with National Food Authority Bicol Region on Palay Marketing Assistance for Legislators and Local Government Units (PALLGU) program.



PALLGU is one of NFA's programs wherein the Legislators or heads of LGUs enter into an agreement with NFA where the participating LGUs shall provide a premium amount of at least Php1.00/kg or an amount determined by the Legislator/LGU using as reference the prevailing market price, to be added to the existing NFA support price for the purchase of palay from Individual Farmers / Farmers Organizations /Farmers' Cooperative (IF/FOs/FCs) in their area of jurisdiction.

Mayor Fortes knowing the plight of farmers during planting, harvesting, and selling their palay, agreed to offer a premium price of Php 1.00 per kg in addition to the existing buying price of Php19.00/kg for the purchase of palay from individual palay farmers, palay farmers' organizations/ Cooperatives (FOs/FCs) in their area. LGU Barcelona was the first municipality in Sorsogon that participated in the said program.

On March 22, 2023, the ceremonial activity for the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between LGU Barcelona and NFA was held at the Municipal Hall of Barcelona. Present were Regional Manager Osmundo Guinto, Jr. of NFA Bicol Region, Honorable Mayor Cynthia Falcotelo-Fortes, NFA Sorsogon Branch, BM Julie B. Llenareas and ABM Arvin B. Lazaro and the Leaders/ Chairpersons of different Farmers Associations/Organization in Barcelona.

RM Guinto expressed his gratitude to Mayor Fortes for her full support to the local farmers and for being the first Municipality in Sorsogon to enter PALLGU program with NFA. He assured that in return for their trust to NFA, the Branch will do their best effort to cater the palay deliveries of farmers from Barcelona. This will be used as rice buffer stocks which will be distributed during calamities and emergencies.



Farmer leaders who participated in the said activity also expressed their appreciation to Mayor Fortes and to the NFA Bicol Region for the support and effort they have given to them.

The ceremonial activity ended with a picture taking with the local farmers in front of the Municipal Hall. (CHARLYN D. ESTARRES)

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF CAMARINES NORTE SIGNS MOA ON PALLGU WITH NFA BICOL REGION

(From page 1) Under the said program, the provincial government will add a maximum of PhP5.00 per kilogram to the current NFA Palay Buying Price of PhP19.00. This is to encourage farmers to deliver their palay harvest to the NFA to assist the latter in securing sufficient rice buffer stock. This will bring the palay buying price to a maximum of PhP24.00 per kilogram (for clean and dry palay). Breakdown of the PhP5.00 is as follows: Premium: PhP3.00, Drying Incentive: PhP1.00, Handling / Delivery Incentive: PhP1.00 (maximum depending on the distance).

The Provincial Government will initially download a total of PhP3,300,000.00 to the NFA Camarines Sur Branch to fund the pilot implementation of the program.

Aside from the PhP5.00 increment to the palay buying price, the Provincial Government will also grant non-interest bearing loans (in kind) to further help the farmers. To assure loan repayment, the NFA shall deduct loan payables from the proceeds of their palay sales to the NFA. Loan repayment will assure continuity of the program and the possibility of identifying additional farmer beneficiaries should the pilot implementation be a success.

As for the Provincial Government, they will be assured of the availability of NFA Rice for distribution to their constituents in times of emergencies and calamities.

After the MOA signing, RM Abapo expressed his gratitude to the good governor for his full support to the PALLGU program of the NFA. He is hopeful that the effort will be a precedent which will encourage other LGUs and legislators to do the same. Likewise, Governor Padilla thanked the NFA for partnering with the local government in extending assistance to the farmers. He said that it has been his vision to help the farmers and he is happy that finally it is now realized. Most delighted were the farmers who will most benefit from the concerted efforts of the two institution. They conveyed their gratitude that ultimately, their clamor for support has been heard.

Also present to witness the MOA signing were Camarines Sur Branch employees: Camarines Norte GID Warehouse Supervisor Ryan R. Lozano, Statistician II Francia B. San Miguel, MPO Romeo Sarcedo and IO Designate Caren S. Arriola. **(CAREN S. ARRIOLA)**

NFA BICOL REGION SIGNS MOA WITH BJMP R5



“The best collaborations create something bigger than the sum of what each person can create on his own.”

A ceremonial signing of the Memorandum of Agreement between the Bureau of Jail Management

and Penology of Bicol headed by Jail Chief Superintendent Joel S. Superficial and National Food Authority Bicol Region under the flagship of Regional Manager Allan Joseph P. Abapo on the partnership of rice supply of the BJMPs clientele, the Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) on January 19, 2023 at the New Blossoms Function Hall, Legazpi City.

The mentioned MOA which will take effect this year was in line with the mandate of the BJMP of enhancing public safety by providing humane safekeeping and development of the PDLs.

In their dialogue, RM Abapo commended and congratulated RD Superficial in effectively upholding their bureau’s mandate and on achieving great triumphs such as turning the partnership of the BJMP R5 and NFA Bicol Region into a reality. He likewise assured the support of the agency in aiding the bureau (► Page 5)

LGU TIGAON DONATES LOT TO NFA CAMARINES SUR



Regional Manager Allan Joseph P. Abapo and Assistant Branch Manager Edgar G. Gadbilao together with Statistician II Francia San Miguel and IO Designate Caren S. Arriola paid a Courtesy Visit to Honorable Mayor Pamela Rinah B. Fuentebella of LGU Tigaon on January 18, 2023. RM Abapo personally expressed gratitude for the lot donation of the LGU to the National Food Authority. Said lot donation is finally subject for transfer of title to the agency. The LGU only wishes to be assured that a warehouse will be constructed on the donated lot the soonest time possible. RM Abapo assured that he will do his best to realize this objective. RM Abapo likewise expressed his thanks to Municipal Agriculturist Lea M. Beltran for untiringly facilitating this lot donation.

NFA Camarines Sur aspires to construct a warehouse in the said municipality to cater to the needs of the farmers in the area, being identified as one of the palay-producing municipality in the 4th District of Camarines Sur. Pending its realization, the NFA expressed its intention to occupy the RPC Warehouse of the LGU as buying station of the former during the peak of palay harvest season to which the LGU readily agreed.

RM Abapo also presented to the good mayor the PALLGU program (Palay Marketing Assistance Program for Legislators and Local Government Units) of the NFA. Thankfully, Mayor Fuentebella shares our vision of helping our farmers earn higher returns on their investments. She promised to look into the details of the program and interposed no objection in allocating funds for the said program.

The NFA wishes to express its sincerest thanks to the LGU under the leadership of Mayor Fuentebella for its unrelenting support to the programs of the NFA. **(CAREN S. ARRIOLA)**

(◀ From page 4) steady and quality supply of rice in all district, city and municipal jails in the region.

Meanwhile, RD Superficial in return thanked RM Abapo for the support and commitment to the collaboration.

Present also during the event were Assistant Regional Manager Herrielle V. Jumagbas, Acting Economist IV Menna C. Endaya, Information Officer III Jaharah Shyrra R. Pavilando along with Jail C/Insp Rex B. Siano, Chief, Legal/Hearing Officer and executives of BJMP R5. **(JAHARAH SHYRRA R. PAVILANDO)**



WELCOMING 2023!

YEAR 2023 STARTS WITH A BANG!

By: JAHARAH SHYRRA R. PAVILANDO



It is indeed real when they say that the beginning of every year is also the start of great things, endless possibilities and new opportunities. And in the case of every NFA employee, with a BANG as everyone including personnel of NFA Bicol Regional Office and Albay Branch Office led by Regional Manager Osmundo R. Guinto Jr., Assistant Regional Manager Herrielle V. Jumagbas and Branch Manager Domingo N. Pura, respectively attended on February 20, 2023 the nationwide simultaneous Flag Ceremony hosted by NFA Central Office through Facebook live streaming by Bigas NFA



A short program was held afterwards where every employee beamed with joyful and victorious smiles as Administrator Bioco blissfully announced the signing of the Collective Negotiation Agreements for the year 2020 and 2021. He commended the people behind it especially Assistant Administrator Gerry J. Ambrosio of the Office of the Assistant Administrator for Finance and Administration (OAAFA) who led the battle cry as well as Mr. Maximo Torda NFAEA National President and the members of the committee undertaking the negotiation and coming up with a very good agreement.

Admin. Bioco, in addition thanked His Excellency, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. who has been very supportive and gives special attention to NFA since he recognizes the key role of the agency in nation building towards food security. Hence, the management and employees must perform their part.

According to Admin. Bioco, the negotiation was guided by the basic principles of mutual respect and compassion, recognizing the rights of each parties. He likewise noted to the management and the employees that these guiding principles would be the reason why issues must be resolved together. There shall be no hurdles that we cannot overcome if we work together and trust each other especially for the benefits of the employees.

In response, Mr. Torda thanked the management headed by the Admin. Bioco and agreed that if we apply the basic principles mentioned by the latter adding fairness and divine guidance all will continue to succeed for the agency and for the country.

Meanwhile, AA Ambrosio gave importance on the aspect of association and union. He then encouraged all to improve efficiency during this organizational reform, become responsible and accountable and to render excellent service at all times. AA Ambrosio further gave emphasis to interpersonal relationship and positive environment among the personnel.

Further, the Assistant Administrator for Marketing Operations, AA John Robert Hermano thanked Admin Bioco for recognizing the needs of the employees as well as the committees for their efforts.

After the ceremony, RM Guinto in his speech thanked the dedication of the management and NFAEA in promoting unity and achieving positive results. He then recognized and expressed gratefulness to the members of the Management-Union Consultative Council from NFA Bicol Region particularly, SEIO Jonathan R. Cabrillas, WS II Criselda C. Dela Torre and BSQAO Marlon U. Mateum. (►Page 7)

NEW YEAR, NEW BEGINNINGS

By: CHARLYN D. ESTARES



NFA Sorsogon Branch Office employees along with RM Osmundo R. Guinto (1st row, center), BM Julie B. Llenaresas (2nd from left) and ABM Arvin B. Lazaro (2nd from right) beam with their brightest smiles as they welcome the new year.

Every year has a story to tell, good and bad; forgettable and unforgettable experiences. Despite of this, a new year always brings new beginnings and new hope for everyone.

This year brings new hope to NFA employees as new leaders were appointed to lead and help the agency achieve its new mandate and to recognize the efforts and hard work of every employee.

During the visit of newly installed Bicol Regional Manager Osmundo Guinto, Jr in NFA Sorsogon on February 2, 2023, he shared his experiences working in the agency in which he said that aside from good experiences, there are other life and work experiences worth to share for that brings lesson to his life and made him more capable as a leader.

For RM Guinto, the most important lesson is to learn how to forgive but not to forget the lesson from those experiences, and always see the good in bad times for it will lead you to a better place and wonderful beginnings.

Without any words, NFA SSG employees were enlightened and touched for what RM Guinto said, knowing that this past year has been difficult for the agency.

Through RM Guinto's word of wisdom and the good news he shared to the body, the personnel regained hope and trust to the agency. Believing and hoping that the new administration will bring the best for the agency.

YEAR 2023 STARTS WITH A BANG!

(◀Page 6)Conclusively, RM Guinto hoped that this good news will inspire everyone to continue to work efficiently and look for opportunities in every adversities. **(JAHARAH SHYRRA R. PAVILANDO)**

"The most important lesson is to learn to forgive but not to forget the lesson learned from those experiences and always see the good in bad times for it will lead you to a better place and wonderful beginnings."
-RM Guinto



NFA CAMARINES SUR BRANCH WELCOMES BM JEFFREY GAMBOA BALUYOT



After two months of waiting, a new Branch Manager was finally designated for NFA Camarines Sur Branch Office in the person of Sir Jeffrey Gamboa Baluyot. He was warmly welcomed by the employees on February 27, 2023.

Sir Jeff is a tenured employee who actually rose from the ranks. He started his journey with the National Food Authority as Clerk IV in April 2002. From then he handled various positions until he was finally promoted to Senior Grains Operation Officer in 2016. His hard work, commitment and dedication to his job stood out which earned him managerial posts since 2021. Undoubtedly, Sir Jeff, armed with all his experiences and long list of credentials is the newest addition to the assets of NFA Camarines Sur Branch Office.

Sir Jeff started his first working day by joining the employees for the Flag Raising Ceremony. A sort of “meet and greet” immediately followed where the employees expressed their welcome messages to Sir Jeff. In response, Sir Jeff thanked the employees for their warm reception. He also shared his humble beginnings to serve as inspiration to everyone. He assured them that his office is always ready to accommodate the employees and they can approach him anytime should they have issues that need to be addressed. In conclusion, Sir Jeff requested for everyone’s cooperation so that the branch may carry out its functions effectively and provide outstanding service to the public.

With Sir Jeff on the lead, NFA Camarines Sur Branch Office will surely continue to deliver results and stand out. **(CAREN S. ARRIOLA)**

UPHOLDING THE MANDATE

SORSOGON

UGNAYAN WITH FARMERS



Ugnayan with farmers has been held every onset of harvest season. This activity is very important in NFA's mission to procure palay from our local farmers. This is the time to campaign for the agency's programs especially on palay procurement activities. Likewise, this is a good opportunity to learn about the farmer's issues and concerns regarding NFA's programs considering that they are the source of the agency's buffer stocks.

The agency ensures that through Ugnayans, our local farmers will be able to understand and access NFA's programs. Moreover, this is also an avenue to inform them of the importance of the agency's buffer stocking mandate in times of calamities or emergencies.

For this year, the Branch has conducted various ugnayans in the provinces of Sorsogon and Masbate.

UGNAYAN WITH STAKEHOLDERS



February 3, 2023 | Assistant Branch Manager Arvin B. Lazaro coordinated with the Municipal Agriculturist Office (MAO) of Sorsogon City, Pilar and Castilla in preparation for the summer cropping season. He encouraged the MAOs to support the Palay Marketing Assistance Program for Legislators and Local Government Units (PALLGU) to possibly add premium to NFA's buying price for palay.



February 10, 14 & 15, 2023 | Acting AO III Haidee Floresta coordinated with Municipal Agriculture Office (MAO) in the Province of Masbate to seek assistance and support in preparation for the upcoming summer cropping season. Tarpaulins were also displayed in conspicuous areas in Masbate to inform the public especially the local farmers of the agency's palay procurement program.



FEBRUARY 15, 2023 | BM Julie B. Llenaresas attended Ugnayan with the Municipal Agriculture and Fisheries Council (MAFC) Meeting in the Municipality of Casiguran. She discussed the procurement program of the agency and encouraged the local farmers to deliver their palay harvest to NFA.



February 20, 2023 | BM Julie Llenaresas and BSQAO Maria Theresa Estavillo attended the City Agricultural and Fishery Council (CAFC) Meeting held at the Sorsogon City Hall along with PCA and NIA. Agenda of the meeting are the Election of CAFC officers and to discuss updates, programs and other projects of the respective aforementioned agencies.

UPHOLDING THE MANDATE

SORSOGON

CAMPAIGN ON PALAY PROCUREMENT



The NFA Sorsogon Branch, under the leadership of Branch Manager Julie B. Llenaresas conducted different platforms for information dissemination of agency's palay procurement program.

BM Llenaresas conducted radio guesting with BRIGADA News FM Sorsogon to inform the public of NFA's new mandate; its procurement programs; and the steps that the agency is doing to make sure that its services are accessible to the public such as putting up of palay buying/pick-up stations near or in palay producing areas to help local farmers to lessen their travel expenses.

Also, procurement teams with the assistance of BM Llenaresas and Assistant Branch Manager Arvin B. Lazaro conducted the hanging of tarpaulins in the different municipalities in Masbate and Sorsogon in coordination with MAOs and farmers associations' leaders.

COURTESY MEETINGS WITH LOCAL EXECUTIVES



Mayor Isagani B. Mendoza of Castilla



Vice Mayor Avon D. Domalaon of Sorsogon



Mayor Cynthia G. Fortes of Barcelona



Mayor Cattleya M. So of Matnog

NFA Sorsogon's close coordination with Local Executives is a way of seeking assistance and support in making the agency's program accessible to the public. Through the help and assistance of LGUs and Local Executives, the agency has given an opportunity for wider information dissemination and establishes strong relationship with the public especially with the local farmers.

Local government officials also helped the agency in promoting its program and develop strategies to make it visible, effective and efficient to its clients especially to those who lived in far-flung areas. They also served as the agency's partner in providing resources to help local farmers in marketing their palay harvest.

Through the effort of LGUs the agency has been able to cater palay deliveries from different palay producing areas.

BM Llenaresas in behalf of NFA Sorsogon extended its warmest gratitude to the local officials of Sorsogon for all the support they have given to the agency, most especially to the local farmers.

UPHOLDING THE MANDATE

ALBAY



FARMERS' UGNAYAN

In order to ensure a productive and respectful dialogue between the farmers and NFA, a Farmers' Ugnayan was conducted on March 24, 2023 at Libon, Albay.

Headed by BM Domingo N. Pura and in partnership with the UNAHCO, the Ugnayan was attended by various farmers' representative, with OIC-MAO Mr. Winston Dycoco of LGU-Libon, Farmers' Coordinator Mr. Norberto S. Quite, and MAFC Chair Mr. Ernie Madrid.

Topics discussed were Procurement Process, Palay Classification and UNAHCO products.



Branch Manager Domingo N. Pura attended the 24th General Assembly of Albay Seed Producers Multi-Purpose Cooperative on March 30, 2023 at Albay Seed Producers MPC Compound, Mendez, Polangui, Albay.

BM Pura emphasized the continuous Palay Procurement Program of the agency and the Palay Marketing Assistance Program for Legislators and Local Government Units (PALLGU).

Ms. Marilyn A. Salceda is the chairperson of the said Cooperative.



In an interview with Mr. Noris Mingoy of Brigada News Legazpi, Branch Manager Domingo N. Pura apprised the public with updates about the Memorandum of Agreement between the NFA and the Provincial Government of Albay (PGA) relative to PALLGU.

BM Pura thanked the PGA led by Governor Edcel Greco Lagman and Board Member Gerardo Palmiano for aiding NFA in procuring palay from the local farmers of the province with the proposal of P3.00 premium per kilogram on top of the buying price of NFA at P19.00 (clean and dry palay).

BM Pura also assured that NFA Albay has sufficient buffer stocks and thanked Sir Hernie Napuca, the Station Manager of Brigada News Legazpi.



Branch Manager Domingo N. Pura together with Acting Senior Grains Officer Aireen A. Poyatos attended the Hearing of Sangguniang Panlalawigan ng Albay - Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries last February 21, 2023.

Chaired by Honorable Board Member Gerardo M. Palmiano, the agendum of the said hearing was the Revised Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the National Food Authority (NFA) and the Provincial Government of Albay (PGA) relative to the Palay Marketing Assistance Program for Legislators and Local Government Units (PALLGU).

The said hearing seeks clarifications to finalize the MOA on PALLGU.

UPHOLDING THE MANDATE

UGNAYAN WITH LGUs

ALBAY



Assistant Branch Manager Jennilyn B. Celestial attended the MAOs/Mas/CAOs/Cas Meeting on January 12, 2023 that was conducted by the Albay Provincial Agricultural Office and held at the Farmers' Auditorium, AFB Ville, Cabangan, Camalig, Albay.

ABM Celestial discussed the Palay Marketing Assistance for Legislators and Local Government Units (PALLGU) and Palay Procurement Program of the agency.

Acting SGO Aireen A. Poyatos was also present during the said meeting.



In preparation for the onset of harvest season, coordination was made with Provincial Agriculturist Che Rebeta on Palay Procurement activity of NFA Albay Branch Office.

Likewise, emphasis of the Palay Marketing Assistance Program for Legislators and Local Government Units (PALLGU) and Inventory of Post-Harvest Facilities were also sought by Acting SGO Aireen A. Poyatos, Engineer III Edsel C. Benavides and BSQAO Paolo Amar B. Valdez during the said meeting.



Assistant Branch Manager Jennilyn B. Celestial together with Acting Senior Grains Officer Aireen A. Poyatos coordinated with the LGU Municipal Administrator and concurrent Municipal Agriculturist of Libon Albay, Mr. Alejo S. Serrano on March 10, 2023 to solicit the latter's cooperation and support for PALLGU, as well as the conduct of a Farmers Ugnayan and Capstone Project (NFA Mobile Application) research activities.

RM ABAPO URGES SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN OF CAMARINES SUR TO JOIN PALLGU

CAMARINES SUR



Regional Manager Allan Joseph P. Abapo together with Assistant Branch Manager Edgar Gadbilao and RFAC Chairman Joel Trinidad attended on January 18, 2023 the Regular Session of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Camarines Sur presided by Vice Governor Sal Fortuno, Jr. with the presence of the Board Members. RM Abapo presented to the body the PALLGU (Palay Marketing Assistance Program for Legislators

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MORE ACTIVITIES AROUND THE REGION!

PILOT TESTING OF NFA PALAY APP!



A Pilot/Beta Testing of the NFA Mobile Application was conducted on March 24, 2023 to selected farmer representatives at Libon, Albay.

The NFA Mobile Software Application: Procurement Access and Linkages App for You (PALAY) is a capstone project of Assistant Branch Manager Jennilyn B.

Celestial in connection to her Development Academy of the Philippines' Scholarship.

With ARM Roy Q. Untiveros as Institutional Partner, made and developed by BS Information Technology and BS Computer Engineering students/On-the-Job Trainees from the Systems Technology Institute (STI) College - Legazpi, the NFA Mobile App would help the agency's Palay Procurement Program's objective to develop a user-friendly mobile application that is easily accessed by the farmers and will provide a faster transaction.

The said activity was also attended by NFA Project Team headed by Branch Manager Domingo N. Pura and STI Legazpi IT Team. **(JASMIN JAY M. BENAVIDEZ)**

RM ABAPO URGES SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN OF CAMARINES SUR TO JOIN PALLGU

. . . and Local Government Units). He explained to the body the rationale of the program and how it is beneficial to the farmers, the provincial government as well as the National Food Authority. His presentation was afterwards subjected to interpellation by Board Members John Apollo S. Manaog, Romulo Hernandez and Wilfredo Julio B. Oliva.

Although there was no conclusive decision from the body, the NFA Camarines Sur Branch Office extended its gratitude to the honorable Vice Governor and Board Members for allowing the National Food Authority to present its program during the session. The NFA Camarines Sur Branch is thankful for their commitment to inform their farmer – constituents of our palay procurement program which will greatly contribute to the attainment of our mandate of ensuring sufficient rice buffer stocks in times of calamities and emergencies.

With RM Abapo and ABM Gadbilao were Statistician II Francia San Miguel and IO Designate Caren S. Arriola. **(CAREN S. ARRIOLA)**

CAMARINES SUR



CLASSIFIER'S POOL MEMBERS UNDERGOES REFRESHER BRIEFING AND WORKSHOP



Aimed to equip and upgrade the knowledge of the Quality Assurance Officers and Classifiers Pool Members, NFA Bicol Region headed by Regional Manager Osmundo R. Guinto Jr. spearheaded the Refresher Briefing and Workshop for Quality Assurance Officers and Classifier Pool Members of NFA Bicol Region on February 22-23, 2023.

During the opening ceremony on February 22, 2023, RM Guinto reminded the thirty-eight (38) participants on how important and crucial role they all perform in achieving the mandate of the agency. He likewise emphasized to not sacrifice the quality of palay and be earnest and serious in doing their jobs.

Topics discussed during the 1st day of the seminar were Values Orientation by SAO Lilibeth A. Jacob, Grains Procurement Policies and Procedures by Acting SGO Aileen A. Poyatos, The Roles of QA in the flowchart of NFA Activities and SOP on Palay and Corn Classification and Coding System during Procurement by RSQAO Shalimar M. Samson, Variety Codes, Procurement Specifications for Palay and Corn by GOO II Karen Vargas, Guidelines on the Inspection and Sampling of Grains by BSQAO Theresa Estavillo and Reminders on the Operation, Care and Maintenance of Moisture Meters.

Meanwhile, on the 2nd day of the training, workshops were held on the Classification of Paddy Grains and Classification of Milled Rice. Afterwards, the participants had a Post Test and were assessed on their workshop output wherein Members of the Classifier Pool, Acting Classifiers John Michael Ortega and Junjay ►

CLASSIFIER'S POOL MEMBERS UNDERGOES REFRESHER BRIEFING AND WORKSHOP



Martirez of the Camarines Sur Branch Office topped the results.

Messages of appreciation to the management led by RM Guinto and facilitators from QA were relayed by the participants during the closing program and the distribution of the certificates to the participants ensued.

Furthermore, Branch Manager Domingo N. Pura of Albay Branch Office in his closing remarks thanked all the attendees for actively joining the seminar and highlighted the efforts made by the management in improving the skills of the employees. BM Pura also reiterated that they, being the frontliners of the agency should always be persistent, focus to their responsibilities and help NFA achieve its mandate without sacrificing the quality standards being required.

Branch Manager Julie B. Llenareas of Sorsogon Branch Office and Assistant Branch Manager Edgar G. Gadbilao of Camarines Sur Branch Office were also present during the mentioned activity. **(JAHARAH SHYRRA R. PAVILANDO)**





Our birth is our beginning. It is the starting point of our journey in life. It is much more than an occasion to receive gifts but a chance to remember the day that a major event occurred. A birthday is also a good reason to celebrate and a momentous occasion to be commemorated just as a nation commemorates its birth, or as an organization celebrates its founding.

To give thanks and recognize the birth of the head of NFA Bicol Region, Regional Manager Osmundo R. Guinto Jr., a simple celebration was held on March 20, 2023 at the NEA Social Hall, Legazpi City.

The festivity kicked off with a vibe setting mob dance of chosen employees and Branch Managers and Assistant Branch Managers of the region. After the jaw dropper on-the-spot performance, a solemn and earnest prayer was accorded to the Birthday Celebrator. Blissful greetings and wishes were

then relayed by the Branch Managers who also joined their employees in giving their best during their presentations for RM Guinto. Meanwhile, the On-the-Job Trainees from Divine Word College of Legazpi and STI Legazpi wowed the crowd as their energy went over the roof during their dance number. A video presentation encapsulating the moments of RM Guinto upon his arrival to Bicol then ensued.

In his response, RM Guinto thanked all the employees, Job Order Personnel and OJTs for their efforts, birthday greetings and wishes. He likewise reminded the everyone to be always thankful to the Lord for all the blessings and the lessons and struggles that comes with it.

Capping off the event was the photo ops with RM Guinto whose perspective towards life and attitude for every adversity make everyone conclude that he was truly born to rock! **(JAHARAH SHYRRA R. PAVILANDO)**



PAYING TRIBUTE TO ARM YENG



“Great colleagues are those who make work seem like play.”



An epitome of the saying that great colleagues are those who make work seem like play. These words truly define the outgoing Assistant Regional Manager Herrielle V. Jumagbas whose enthusiasm and energy for work inspires and influence everyone around her. Being grateful of her stint as the ARM of the region, tributes were held on February 17 and February 20, 2023 for ARMYeng as she is dotingly called.

everyone including Regional Manager Osmundo R. Guinto Jr. for all the knowledge imparted to her and for all the kindness shown to her.

Right after the Regional Management Committee Meeting on February 17, 2023, the Regional Bids and Awards Committee of NFA Bicol Region expressed their gratitude to their Chairperson, Assistant Regional Manager Herrielle V. Jumagbas.

On February 20, 2023, another tribute was spearheaded by Regional Manager Osmundo R. Guinto Jr. along with the employees of the Albay Branch Office led by Branch Manager Domingo N. Pura for ARMYeng.

A message of appreciation was relayed by Vice Chairperson, Branch Manager Julie B. Llenaresas for the learnings and for the opportunity to be working with ARM Jumagbas.

During the activity, employees shared their words of affirmations to ARM Jumagbas whose enthusiasm for work truly inspires everyone around her. Meanwhile, words of gratitude were uttered by ARM Jumagbas to RM Guinto, BM Pura and all NFA Bicol Region personnel for the support they have extended to her during her stint in the region.

In response, ARM Jumagbas thanked the Bicol RBAC Family including the Technical Working Group and Secretariat for performing their duties effectively. She likewise thanked

Again, ARM Yeng thank you for making the workplace a fun place to be. It has been both a pleasure and honor to work with you. Farewell and we wish you all the best in your new place of assignment. Good luck ARM Yeng and see you around! *(JAHARAHSHYRRAR PAVILANDO)*



(Above) ARM Herrielle V. Jumagbas with RM Osmundo R. Guinto Jr. and BM Domingo N. Pura (Right) Group photo of Bicol Regional Office and Albay Branch Office employees with ARM Yheng, RM Jhun and BM Doming.





JUANA, IKAW NA!

JENNILYN B. CELESTIAL

Assistant Branch Manager, NFA Albay Branch

March is Women's Month.

A month to celebrate the contributions and achievements of women throughout history and in contemporary society. It is a perfect opportunity to honor the struggles and progress of women in the fight for gender equality and to highlight the need for continued efforts to promote women's empowerment and advancement.

As Women's Month is celebrated around the world, it's important to acknowledge the stories of women who have overcome significant barriers to achieving gender equality in areas such as education, employment, and political representation and made a difference in their workplace. One such woman is the Assistant Branch Manager of NFA Albay, Ms. Jennilyn Balina-Celestial or Ma'am Jen as she is fondly called by her peers.

A Batangueña, Ma'am Jen started her career as Accountant II at NFA Southern Tagalog Regional Office on November 23, 2009. She was then assigned at various provinces of Region IV such as the island provinces of Marinduque and Palawan. She was then promoted as Senior Accounting Specialist and was assigned at Palawan and Quezon Province. At present, she is the Acting Assistant Branch Manager of NFA Albay since June 9, 2021.

In today's fast-paced world, it's becoming increasingly common for people to juggle multiple

responsibilities at once. Aside from being a loving wife to her husband, Mr. Jason Celestial and caring mother to her two equally beautiful daughters, Summer Gabrielle and Winter Amelie, Ma'am Jen is simultaneously pursuing her career while also continuing her studies. This is not an easy feat to Ma'am Jen, but it is rewarding for her as it enables her to expand her skill set, improve her career prospects and ultimately achieve her goals.

Ma'am Jen is currently a scholar of Development Academy of the Philippines and her capstone project is the NFA Mobile Software Application: Procurement Access and Linkages App for You (PALAY). The said NFA Mobile Application would help the agency's Palay Procurement Program's objective to develop a user-friendly mobile application that is easily accessed by the farmers and will provide a faster transaction.

Despite facing challenges and setbacks along the way, Ma'am Jen has never wavered in her commitment as Public Servant and pursuing her dreams. Ma'am Jen's story is a perfect example of the famous phrase, "Babae ka, hindi Babae lang" as she continues to inspire others with her dedication and passion, reminding us the power of perseverance and recognizing that education is key to career success and personal fulfilment. **(JASMIN JAY M. BENAVIDEZ)**



JUANA, IKAW NA!

LOURDES T. BEA

Assistant Branch Manager, NFA Camarines Sur Branch

"I raise up my voice – not so that I can shout, but so that those without a voice can be heard. We cannot all succeed when half of us are held back" – Malala Yousafzai

One woman comes across my mind when I read this quote – Ma'am Lourdes Toledana – Bea, or simply Ma'am Malou. To many, she is known as the glitzy Cashier III of NFA Camarines Sur Branch Office, with all her accessories and colorful outfits. But to those who have been her friend or had the chance to really get to know her, she is way beyond what meets the eye.

Ma'am Malou, Ate Malou or Mommy Lou, is often mistaken as "mataray" especially when she raises her voice and exudes that "I don't care" stare. But it won't take long for people to know that behind that "mataray" look is a woman with a golden heart. Yes, she does raise her voice, but most of the time, to be a voice for others. She is always willing to speak up for other people, especially for those who do not have the guts to stand and air their side. People can always count on her support unconditionally and she surely got their back.

Not only is she a voice to many, she is also someone with a compassionate and generous heart. You'll never have to say it twice if you need her help (particularly financial). She willingly shells out money from her own pocket to help people in need. Regular employees, job orders even security guards can do vouch for that.

Ma'am Malou is also loved for her accommodating and caring nature. She welcomes everyone in her office. If you're feeling hungry or just need a breather from work, you can come to her and she definitely has something to offer – simple snacks, a cup of coffee, a short chitchat and a hearty laugh. Travelling employees and visitors also love her. She really goes out of her way to assist them. No wonder, she often gets pasalubong from them.

If you happen to visit our office and find identical pillows in our seats, know that they are from Mommy Lou. Yes, she gives all of us gifts during Christmas (and mostly throw pillows). And if you are wondering why pillows, your guess may be as good as mine. Because she loves us dearly that she wants us all to be comfortable even while we work. How motherly!

I could not quite put into words all the things that we appreciate about her because they are too many to mention. But definitely, we are grateful to have her in the office.

And so, as we celebrate Women's Month, it is only but fitting that we appreciate Mommy Lou for the things she does for us. They may be simple and little things, but as they say, it's always the little things in life that matter. We don't actually need elaborate efforts. Just having someone who, in one way or another, puts a smile on our faces, that's when we know we got someone special. **(CAREN S. ARRIOLA)**



JUANA, IKAW NA!

BERNADETTE B. AMPONGAN
Accountant II, NFA Sorsogon Branch

Mam Bads as she is fondly called by her peers was known for being a silent type of person. When it comes to office work, she is accommodating to all the financial concerns inside the office. She handled challenging situations with calmness and provides immediate action to solve the problem.

As a boss, she is very simple and down-to-earth. Instead of being an authoritarian, she prefers to lend a hand and help her staff learn and grow. She is someone, whom you enjoy working with even though most of the time she is silent at her table working on her computer.

Working with a boss like her can change your point of view working in an accounting office for she treated everyone with respect and kindness. She treats her staff as a family, but when it comes to work, she demand commitment. Thus, her staff were encouraged to do their best to be on Top 1 in the submission of Monthly Trial Balance in the Bicol Region.

Bernadette B. Ampongan "Ma'am Bads" started her career in NFA on September 7, 2015, as Accountant II. Showing competence as an Accountant, she was promoted as Senior Accounting Specialist at NFA Sorsogon Provincial Office on October 20, 2017. At present, she is the Accountant III of the NFA Sorsogon Branch.

Her knowledge and skills in accounting and finances contributed to the improvement of the agency for the past eight years. The agency is truly lucky having an employee like her.

Aside from being an inspiring boss, she is a good wife and a loving mother to her son. No matter how busy she is, she always finds time to be with her family. She makes sure that everything is in balance. As the head of the accounting department of the Sorsogon Branch, her exemplary effort and attitude as a public servant are inspirations to others.

Having a heart for public service, Ma'am Bads is blueprint of admirable career woman in the government. Guided by her principles in life and perseverance to serve the people, she embraces challenges and shows willingness to learn more.

Just like Ma'am Bads, all other female workers who dedicated their time and effort in providing services for other people deserve to be recognized and be an inspiration.

*To all the female employees, THANK YOU for showing compassion in public service. Mabuhay ang mga Kababaihan! **(CHARLYN D. ESTARRES)***



JUANA, IKAW NA!

JAENA T. VALDEZ
Engineer III, NFA Bicol Regional Office

Employees who are considered as exemplary are people who end up with jobs that are proactive, they are the solutions to problems and not the problems themselves. They seize to do whatever is necessary, consistent with correct principles to get the job done.

The designation of Engr. Jaena T. Valdez as Engineer III of NFA Bicol Regional Office from January 2021 to present created an avenue for commendable ways worthy as a public servant who deserves an accolade of an exemplary award. With her assignment to the Regional Office, she paved ways in the immediate repair and rehabilitation of various infrastructures not only in the RO but the whole Region as well. Along this line, and in the performance of her duties and responsibilities, tests and challenges were visible in the delivery of such accomplishment.

In the duration of the implementation of various infrastructure projects that she spearheaded, Engr. Valdez showed an exemplary behavior in the delivery of the task and responsibilities assigned to her. Even on weekends when she was supposed to spend her time with family, she was in the office supervising overtime work just to get things done even causing her health to deteriorate in many occasions. Her commitment to public interest, to respond immediately to the needs of the stakeholders, employees and clientele

manifests a true spirit of a dedicated public servant. In the daily task assigned to her despite an ailing body she showed professionalism to her peers and constituents to exemplify delegation of assigned tasks and as well as getting things done outright and accordingly. Thus, the consistency in the delivery of her performance has never wane and seemed to falter.

In her almost 16 years of service with NFA, she received various commendations from stakeholders including the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office – Catanduanes when she exerted effort for a prompt, safe and complete disposition of the spoiled rice damaged during the height of Typhoon Rolly in 2020. In January 2022, she was also the first recipient of the Best Employee Awardee of NFA Bicol Region.

With the attitude and behavior Engr. Valdez has so far shown, she exuded her commitment, love for her work, in dealing with various stakeholders and contractors which created a commendable rapport to them while still maintaining her principles and integrity. She possesses a positive attitude which gave her an upright sense of direction and great example to fellow employees in managing their “worst” days in delivering their job for the best.
(SAO LILIBETH A. JACOB)

NFA BICOL REGION LOGO

Spearheaded by Regional Manager Osmundo R. Guinto, NFA Bicol Region launched the region wide NFA Bicol Region logo contest on March 30, 2023. Among the astounding entries submitted, the attached logo was judged as the winning logo by Mr. Christian Manreal of NFA Bicol Regional Office.

DESCRIPTION:

Bicol Region has been one of the centers of tourism, food industrialization, and agricultural industry. Some provinces known for these considerations are Albay - known for its majestic Mt. Mayon, Sorsogon - where Donsol Whale Sharks and Pili Nut are famously known, and lastly, Camarines Sur - which is prominent for its vibrant festivities, culture and faith to Mahal na Ina. Food delicacies in Bicol are also notably spicy because of the Siling Labuyo. Furthermore, in connection to the NFA Bicol Region, given that these provinces play a vital role in the holistic progress of the region in terms of agriculture food industrialization, and tourism, these provinces also represent the 3 main branches of the National Food Authority – Bicol Region, namely, Albay, Sorsogon and Camarines Sur. Some may not be familiar but these 3 provinces are very rich considering what it can offer in the agricultural landscape of Bicol Region given its broad agricultural land areas and desirable weather for planting native crops, most especially rice or what we call in bicol as “paray” that is considered as one of the major crops in the region. Lastly, this logo depicts all the aforementioned pointers to justify the value and role of agriculture in the region, but in addition to that, this logo also signifies that as stewards of the institution, it is important to manifest the following values: Accountability, Professionalism, Service Excellence, Interpersonal Relations, and Organizational Awareness and Commitment for an empowered and progressive services, geared towards to primarily serve the Filipino people.



BICOL R E G I O N

ALBAY | CAMSUR | SORSOGON

