



SARUSAR ITI ILOKO



The Official Newsletter of NFA Ilocos Region

Volume I Issue No. 1 January-June 2023



Branch Manager Frederick B. Dulay receives the P8 million cheque from Governor Ruffy Ortega-David on January 20, 2023 at the Provincial Governor's Office, San Fernando City, La Union

NFA La Union and La Union Provincial Government enter into PALLGU Memorandum

La Union - The Provincial Government of La Union under the leadership of Governor Rhapselle Veronica "Rafy" Ortega-David and the National Food Authority La Union Branch Office entered into a Memorandum of Agreement for the implementation of the Palay Assistance for Legislators and Local Government Units (PALLGU) in the province. Dir. Piolito C. Santos, Regional Manager II, of NFA Region I represented the Agency in the MOA Signing witnessed by Branch Manager Frederick B. Dulay.

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NFA Region 1 among the Top Performers in One Time Rice Assistance (OTRA) Implementation

As of May 30, 2023, NFA Region 1 topped the nationwide ranking on One Time Rice Assistance (OTRA) implementation with an accomplishment rate of 58.64%.

Based on the submitted masterlist in NFA Central Office, NFA Region 1 has a total of 82,382 OTRA beneficiaries which translates to 41,191 bags of rice requirement. The region has already issued 24,156 bags or has served 48,312 beneficiaries.

Meanwhile, Region VII with an accomplishment rate of 52.09% and ARMM with 30.52 accomplishment rate ranked second and third, respectively.
/MARICRIS A. MERCADO,
Correspondent

NFA Region 1 welcomes new Regional Manager

In March 2023, NFA Administrator Roderico Bioco signed Special Order Nos. AO-2023-03-048 and AO-2023-03-050 stating the Reassignment of Regional Managers Miguel S. Tecson and Veralew DG De Vera effective immediately.

Accordingly, on March 16, 2023, NFA Region I conducted a ceremonial Turnover of Regional Leadership where outgoing Regional Manager Tecson officially handed down his duties and responsibilities to the incoming Regional Manager De Vera.

Both leaders have been serving

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Acting RM Veralew DG De Vera accepts the symbolic Key Of Responsibility of NFA Region 1 from RM Miguel S. Tecson during the Regional Leadership Turnover held on March 16, 2023

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highlights:

- NFA La Union and La Union Provincial Government enter into PALLGU Memorandum
- NFA Region 1 among the Top Performers in One Time Rice Assistance (OTRA) Implementation
- NFA Region 1 welcomes new Regional Manager
- Over 200 Farmers get P24/kg buying price of palay
- DOST - RML upsills NFA R1 Technical Personnel
- NFA ROI spearheads Procurement Briefing in Branch Offices
- NFA La Union Branch Office Bolsters Disaster Preparedness
- Spotlight!
- Turning Point: Ma'am Mercy: A Sweet Adieu @ 42 years government service

ABOUT: SARUSAR

SARUSAR (sa-roo-sar) is a word in Ilocano that means storage place. It is a separate area in the Ilocano home where the daily or future provisions of a family are stored. Usually one can find here agricultural products such as rice, corn, beans, and among others. Other references translates it to "warehouse" or "granary".

NEWSLETTER LOGO:

The blue and red color of Sarusar Ti Iloko logo is inspired by the NFA logo. The rice paddy represents the NFA's mandate of ensuring optimal level of rice buffer stock and its role as an indispensable arm of this new era of agricultural revolution.

"Our story milled into Grains"

SARUSAR ITI ILOKO 

is the Official Newsletter of National Food Authority Region 1 with editorial office at Barangay Urbiztondo, San Juan, La Union.

from page 1:

NFA La Union and La Union Provincial Government enters into PALLGU Memorandum

PALLGU is a marketing strategy designed by the NFA to increase farmers income through collaborative efforts from LGUs or legislators through the provision of an additional premium price from NFA's buying price. It also helps NFA accumulate buffer stocks to meet the requirements of relief agencies and the LGUs in times of calamities or disasters.

The MOA signed by the PGLU and the NFA provides a premium price of P 1.00 per kilogram of palay bought from farmers which was eventually increased to P 5.00 per kilogram. In effect, this translates to a P 24.00 palay buying price for the province with a total budget of P 8.3 million.

Gov. Ortega -David in her speech during the MOA signing said that the program would not only benefit in augmenting the income of the farmers in the province but would also be a step forward for her vision of making La Union as an agri-tourism hub by the year 2025. She commended the NFA for such noble program and committed to support the Agency in its future endeavors that would help uplift the economic status of the farmers.

Regional Manager Santos, meanwhile, thanked the Provincial Government through the Governor for their support to the program citing that the premium price granted is one of the highest nationwide. He assured Gov. Ortega-David that the NFA will be an active



Palay Procurement at Benemerito Warehouse, Agoo, La Union



Procurement Team Member of NFA La Union Branch Office checking the moisture content of palay procured through mobile procurement

partner of the Provincial Government in its program relative to food security and improving the lives of the farmers in the province.

The successful implementation of the PALLGU is the result of a strong partnership between the NFA and the PGLU. It underscores the shared vision of both entities and its leaders to create sustainable change and uplift the agricultural sector in the province.

/RHYAN A. ARQUELADA, Correspondent

Over 200 farmers get P24/kg buying price of Palay

La Union - The Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU), led by Governor *Rafy* Ortega-David, released on January 20, 2023 the amount of P8.3 million to NFA La Union Branch Office (NFA LUBO), headed by Branch Manager Frederick B. Dulay, for the implementation of MOA on *Palay Marketing Assistance Program for Legislators and Local Government Units (PALLGU)*.

Out of the P8.3 million , P7,803,600.92 or 97.90% was used for the procurement of 30,485 bags of clean and dry palay.

The increase of premium price from P1/kg to P5/kg to be added to NFA's buying Price of P19/kg have helped encouraged more farmers to sell their palay to NFA. A total of 221 farmers from the Province of La Union benefited from the program.

/ MARICRIS A. MERCADO, Correspondent



Palay Mobile Procurement at Luna, La Union

High Ex-Farm Price hampers NFA's Palay Procurement

Region 1 - The high farmgate prices of palay in Region 1 continue to rise and hampers NFA's objective of reaching its procurement target. Despite the implementation of pro-active measures such as deployment of mobile procurement teams and among others, NFA Region 1's procurement accomplishment has only achieved 3.28% of the 1,050,000 2023 target as of June 30, 2023.

The provinces comprising NFA Region 1 recorded the following ex-farm price on June 2023: La Union P23.63/kg, Pangasinan P22.38/kg, Abra P21.50/kg, Ilocos Norte P21.94/kg and Ilocos Sur P21.50/kg.

RM Veralew De Vera, since his assumption to regional leadership, strongly encouraged the LGUs to engage in procurement partnership with NFA through PALLGU to help mitigate the plight of our farmers and ensure food security and sufficiency in times of calamities or emergency.
/MARICRIS A. MERCADO, Correspondent
PHOTOS from ILNBO and LUBO



LA UNION - RM Veralew DG De Vera joined by BM Frederick B. Dulay inspects the procured palay stored at Benemerito Warehouse, Agoo, La Union.



ABRA - Quality Assurance Officer Krizzhia Marie Santos from NFA Abra evaluates the moisture content of freshly procured palay.

from page 1:

NFA Region 1 welcomes new Regional Manager

NFA for decades with an impressive background in NFA operational management.

RM Tecson, in his message, expressed his gratitude to the leaders and employees of NFA Region 1 for their hard work, dedication and commitment toward achieving the NFA's mandate. He also expressed his confidence that RM De Vera will continue to uphold the flame of service and bring NFA Region 1 to greater heights.

Unknown to many, RM De Vera is the first ever Regional Manager from Region 1 to be reassigned in a home region. He said that he felt privileged to have the honor of serving his home region – NFA Region 1. As he serves the region in a new chapter of resilience, growth and development, he hopes to uphold the standards of excellence set by his predecessors.

Further, he applauded the achievements and leadership competence of RM Tecson and thanked him for his unfeigned support.

With their expertise, enthusiasm, and commitment to public service, indeed, both NFA



Region 1 and Region 2 are set to thrive under their leadership.

Aside from the display of talents presented in every intermission numbers, organizers of the event included a heart-warming video presentation with messages from various branch offices and colleagues who expressed their appreciation for their exemplary leadership and well-wishes for future endeavours.

The ceremony capped off with the traditional photo opportunities with the two strong and competent Regional Managers, visitors from NFA Region 2 and employees of NFA Region 1.
/MARICRIS A. MERCADO, Correspondent

ONE TIME RICE ASSISTANCE (OTRA) : Coordination Meeting with Agency-Beneficiaries



Eastern Pangasinan Branch Office - On April 19, 2023, a meeting regarding the issuance of one-time rice assistance at a uniform quantity of twenty-five (25) kilograms to qualified government employees was spearheaded by Branch Manager Jay Mark M. Malvar. Representatives from various government offices of the province participated and actively gave their insights to effectively address the smooth implementation of the program.
/KEVIN M. HILARIO, Correspondent



LA UNION, OTRA Focal Person from TESDA checks the rice sample presented during the coordination meeting.



BAGUIO CITY - BM Frederick B. Dulay answers queries from agency-beneficiaries' focal persons during the coordination meeting on OTRA held in NFA Loakan, Baguio City on April 25, 2023.

La Union Branch Office - On April 14, 2023 La Union Branch Office, headed by BM Frederick B. Dulay called the Focal Persons of OTRA agency-beneficiaries from La Union was called for a meeting to discuss the guidelines of Administrative Order No. 2 and to have an open forum. This is to ensure a smooth and efficient process in issuing the rice assistance to all eligible government employees.

A similar meeting was also held on April 25, 2023 in NFA Baguio City.
/RHYAN A. ARQUELADA, Correspondent



ILOCOS NORTE - April 26, 2023. OTRA Coordination meeting with the agency-beneficiaries from Ilocos Norte held at NFA Ilocos Norte Branch Office, Laoag City.
/RUBY JEAN C. PAMBID, Correspondent



ILOCOS SUR - April 27, 2023. OTRA Coordination meeting with the agency-beneficiaries from Ilocos Sur and Abra held at NFA Ilocos Sur, Bantay, Ilocos Sur.
/RUBY JEAN C. PAMBID, Correspondent

A Cascade of Leadership Turnover

BY : MARICRIS A. MERCADO

FEBRUARY 2, 2023

A Shift of Regional Leadership - RM Miguel S. Tecson received from RM Piolito C. Santos, the symbolic key of responsibility of the Office of the Regional Manager, Region 1 during a turnover ceremony held on February 2, 2023, at NFA Ilocos Region Hall, San Juan, La Union. The simple yet meaningful ceremony was attended by employees of NFA Region I and Region XII. RM Santos was reassigned at NFA Region IV.



FEBRUARY 15, 2023

ARM Turnover Ceremony: From Engineer to Accountant ARM Me-Ann C. Villaflor, an Accountant, was officially welcomed as the new Assistant Regional Manager (ARM) of NFA Region 1 in a ceremonial turnover activity held on February 15, 2023, at NFA Ilocos Region Hall, San Juan, La Union. ARM Jeffrey Paraton, an Electrical Engineer, was reassigned as ARM of NFA Region VI pursuant to Special Order No. AO-2023-07-027.



MARCH 16, 2023

A Leader to Home Region - Pursuant to Special Order No. AO-2023-03-048 RM Miguel S. Tecson turned over the Symbolic Key of Responsibility of NFA Region 1 to RM Veralew DG De Vera in a ceremony held on March 16, 2023 at NFA Ilocos Region Hall, San Juan, La Union. This turnover of leadership translates to an opportunity for both leaders to have the privilege of serving their respective home region.

Selected employees from NFA Region XII gladly flew to Region 1 to witness the turnover ceremony and experience a glimpse of Ilocano hospitality.



JUNE 7, 2023

Eastern Pangasinan Marks New Leadership - Outgoing Branch Manager Jay Mark M. Malvar turned over the symbolic key of responsibility of the Office of the Branch Manager of Eastern Pangasinan Branch Office to Incoming Branch Manager Rodolfo W. Corpuz, former RSQAO, on June 7, 2023 at NFA Ilocos Region Hall, San Juan, La Union. BM Malvar expressed his utmost gratitude to NFA Region 1 for the worthwhile experience. Meanwhile, BM Corpuz expressed his appreciation to all the people who have been instrumental in reaching this career achievement.





Courtesy Call to Governor Manotoc

Ilocos Norte, June 15, 2023 - To further strengthen the partnership between Provincial Government of Ilocos Norte and NFA Region 1, Regional Manager Veralew DG De Vera together with Branch Manager Jonathan U. Corpuz paid a courtesy visit to Hon. Governor Matthew Marcos Manotoc at the Provincial Capitol of Ilocos Norte.

During the meeting, BM Corpuz presented a brief information on the status of the distribution of the *One - Time Grant of Rice Assistance (OTRA) to Government Employees pursuant to Administrative Order No. 02* in Ilocos Norte. As of June 8, 2023, Ilocos Norte has served 97% of the qualified beneficiaries in the province.

Furthermore, RM De Vera took the opportunity to discuss the expiring lease of the Provincial Government of Ilocos Norte (PGIN) lot at Laoag City which NFA Ilocos Norte Branch Office leases. They have proposed the execution of Deed of Usufruct instead of a Lease Contract.

In line with NFA's advocacy campaign on PALLGU, BM Corpuz solicited the support of the Provincial Government of Ilocos Norte to enter in a Marketing Agreement with NFA through PALLGU. He informed Governor Manotoc that presently, NFA could hardly procure palay due to existing high ex-farm price in Ilocos Region. In order for NFA to be able to compete with private traders that offer a much higher price compared to NFA's buying price of P19/kg,



Governor Matthew Marcos Manotoc with NFA Regional Manager Veralew DG De Vera and NFA Ilocos Norte Branch Office Management

the agency has intensified its campaign to encourage the LGUs to engage in PALLGU.

Governor Manotoc said that he will request the Sangguniang Panlalawigan to review NFA's proposal.

Towards the end, Governor Manotoc thanked NFA for the kind visit.

Also present during the visit were ABM Emely Bato, BSQAO Ferdinand Macusi, Warehouse Supervisor Marlon Martin and Statistician II Diana Marie Agustin.

*/MARICRIS A. MERCADO, Correspondent
PHOTOS from ILNBO*

Courtesy Call to Governor Ortega-David

La Union - La Union Provincial Governor Ruffy Ortega-David warmly welcomed NFA Region I, led by RM Veralew DG De Vera, during a courtesy visit on April 12, 2023 at the La Union Provincial Capitol.

Their discussions focused on mutual interest aimed at supporting local farmers and strengthening partnership on palay procurement through PALLGU.

RM De Vera also apprised Governor Ortega-David about the vision and plan of NFA Administrator Roderico Bioco in modernizing NFA. He mentioned that, presently, NFA Region 1 is looking for available lot in La Union for the construction of NFA Rice Mill and, hopefully the PGLU can assist the agency.

Governor Ortega-David expressed her commitment to review the matter and is



From left to right: BM Frederick Dulay, ARM Me-Ann C. Villafior, Gov. Ortega-David, RM Veralew DG De Vera and ABM Jeffrey Felipe

looking toward for continued partnership with NFA.

RM De Vera was joined by ARM Me-Ann C. Villafior, BM Frederick Dulay, and ABM Jeffrey B. Felipe.

/MARICRIS A. MERCADO, Correspondent

DOST - RML upskills NFA R1 Technical Personnel

The Facility Management Section of NFA Regional Office I, headed by Engr. Alexis J. Cachero, initiated the conduct of Training on Calibration, Verification of Laboratory and Metrological Equipment in NFA Region 1 on June 1, 2023. The training aimed to standardize the procedures, scientific method, and computations of data on the calibration of weighing scale and balances currently used in the operation of the agency.

Calibration Officer Marlon R. Orpilla and Julius R. Alvir from Regional Metrology Laboratory (RML) of the Department of Science and Technology Regional Office 1 (DOST-RO1) were invited as trainers for the fourteen (14) participants.

This training is part of the intensified efforts of the agency to equip the field personnel of the region with enhanced technical knowledge and skills on NFA operations.

After this training, participants are expected to increase its productivity and efficiency in the operation of Laboratory and Metrological Equipment

RML caters to services for mass, volume, temperature, and pressure calibration while using state-of-the-art calibration equipment and instruments as well as methods that conform to national and international standards.

/MARICRIS A. MERCADO, Correspondent



ARM Me-Ann C. Villafior, with Calibration Officer Marlon R. Orpilla and Julius R. Alvir of RML - DOST-RO1 and NFA Region 1 trainees.



Engr. Alexis Cachero welcomes the participants and trainers during the opening of the training.



NFA training participants during their hands-on exercise

NFA RO1 spearheads Procurement Briefing in Branch Offices

"Training can't be understated."

To capacitate the workforce of NFA Region 1 on NFA Operations, NFA Regional Office 1 through the leadership of RM Veralew DG Vera and ARM Me-Ann C. Villaflor conducted a 2-day Procurement Briefing in all branch offices of the region.

Regional Sections Heads RSQAO Rodolfo W. Corpuz, Regional Economist Liza R. Balagot, Supervising Administrative Officer Sonny Rey R. Rivera and Regional Accountant Lovelyn M. Picardal served as resource speakers for the briefing.

RM De Vera informed the participants of the latest updates on NFA Operations and NFA Restructuring Plan. He also keenly explained the vision of our Administrator Roderico Bioco on establishing an upgraded NFA.

The topics covered under the briefing included General Guidelines on NFA Mobile Procurement, Grains Procurement Policies and Procedures, Warehouse Handling Services, Implementation of the PALLGU, Warehouse Policies and Procedures including Good Warehouse Keeping Practices, Stock Classification Control System, Implementing Guidelines on the Designation, Fielding, Reassignment, and Relief of Warehouse Supervisors, Warehouse Stock and MTS Documentation and Reporting System, Cash Distribution Through Procurement Disbursing Officers, New Computerized Stock Examination and TOLA Computation and Filing of Cases and Payment of Shortages.

Participants appreciated the insightful and practical course content of the briefing and hoped that they would be able to implement their learnings in the agency.
/MARICRIS A. MERCADO, Correspondent
PHOTOS from R1 BOs

An organization's ability to learn, and translate that learning into action rapidly is the ultimate competitive advantage.

-Jack Welch



Tribute to Leaders

BY : MARICRIS A. MERCADO



Employees of Regional Office 1 and La Union Branch Office paid tribute to the generous and handsome RM Piolito C. Santos, or "Papa P" on February 1, 2023. He will always be missed and loved by Region 1 Family for his unmatched friendship and humbleness. Undoubtedly, he is our favorite *hello* and hardest *farewell*.

After over a month of leadership in NFA Region 1 and prior to his formal assumption in NFA Region 2, a tribute was paid to RM Miguel S. Tecson on the morning of March 16, 2023. Despite a very occupied schedule, employees and leaders of NFA Region 1 pulled a simple yet sentimental tribute to RM Tecson which made his departure in Region 1 more emotional.



Though his presence will be highly missed, the NFA Region 1 family is proud and happy for his achievements.

Before taking his flight to Cebu or NFA Region VI, NFA Region 1 family paid tribute to ARM Jeffrey S. Paraton and sent him well wishes on February 14, 2023. His wife, Administrative Officer V Jennifer Paraton, also attended the program and delivered a hearty farewell message.



from page 10:

Tribute to Leaders



Former RSQAO Rodolfo W. Corpuz's hard work and commitment will always be worthy of admiration. Regional Office I employees, headed by RM Veralew DG De Vera and ARM Me-ann C. Villaflor, and Quality Control Personnel of Region 1 held a simple yet meaningful tribute prior to his assumption as Acting Branch Manager of Eastern Pangasinan Branch Office. The years he spent in the Regional Office maybe just a number but once pondered upon, it is the time and moment we spent as a family.



The tribute program for Acting BM Jay Mark M. Malvar paid by Eastern Pangasinan Branch Office on June 5, 2023 is not exactly to say as farewell, so long nor good-bye. That's because he will always be there assisting us and all the NFA regions specially in the Accounting and Finance Section. This hardworking young Ilocano leader, with incomparable social intelligence and impressive problem-solving skills, indeed, has more to offer to NFA and the best is yet to come.

NFA RO1 and LUBO joint Women's Month Celebration

Baguio City - In observance of the Women's Month Celebration, NFA Regional Office I and La Union Branch Office held 2-day activity in NFA Baguio City on March 29-30, 2023.

This year's theme: We for Gender Equality and Inclusive Society, in solidarity with the Philippine Commission on Women's (PCW), aims to give due recognition to the contribution of Filipino women in our society and to signify support for women's empowerment and gender equality.

On the morning of March 29th, ARM Me-Ann C. Villaflor lectured about Women Empowerment and Women's Rights. Meanwhile, RM Veralew DG De Vera on his inspirational message mentioned the importance of women's rights and the significance of gender equality in our society and its impact on economic development.



For the afternoon activity, the employees had a seminar on Stress Management, Mental Health and Work-Life Balance with Ms. Lorielainne Mae S. Romero (Instructor and Program Head of Lorma Colleges) as resource speaker. The following day, the employees held a zumba dance and tree planting activity.

/MARICRIS A. MERCADO, Correspondent

"Donate Blood, Save a Life": NFA RO1 holds Bloodletting Activity

It is very saddening that many patients nowadays experience an inequitable access to safe blood and other blood products. A patient's family will usually end seeking help not only from friends, relatives but also to people they barely knew.

To help raise awareness about the need for regular blood donations and to help augment the supply of safe blood of Philippine Red Cross' blood bank, Regional Manager Veralew DG De Vera instructed the conduct of a bloodletting activity.

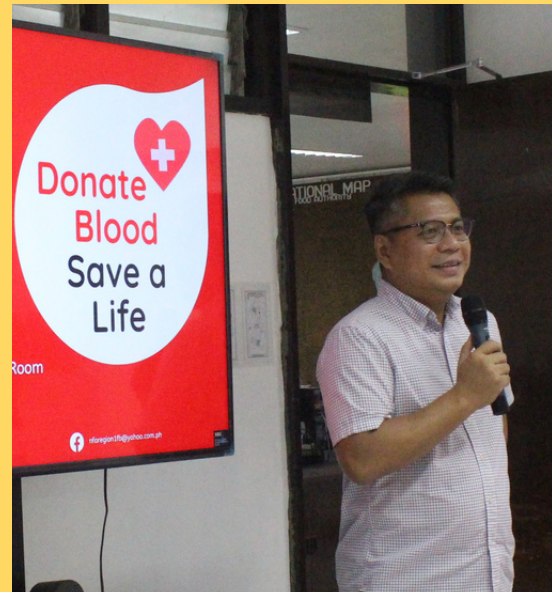
NFA Regional Office I in coordination with Philippine Red Cross successfully conducted a Blood Letting Activity on May 16, 2023 held at the Conference Room of Regional Office I. RM Veralew DG De Vera and BM Fredrick Dulay along with the fifteen brave volunteer-employees from Regional Office I, La Union Branch Office and security guards from Easternforce Security Agency, Corporation (ESAC) donated their own blood to help save a life. The activity started with a simple opening program followed by registration and initial assessment screening. Volunteers underwent a blood and medical evaluation to ensure the employee's health and capability for blood donation.

"Every blood donated has the power to save a life. This activity demonstrates NFA family's compassion and commitment to community welfare and health especially in this time of pandemic," said RM De Vera I in his opening speech. He also expressed his appreciation for the generosity and selfless act of blood donors in saving a valuable life.

Further, RM De Vera thanked the Philippine Red Cross La Union Chapter, headed by PRC Chapter Service Representative (CSR) Ms. Katrina S. Nares, for their help for without them the activity would not be possible. Further, he is looking toward that blood-letting activity with the PRC will be a part of the agency's annual undertaking.

Ms. Nares said in her message, "A unit of blood can save the lives of multiple people. The blood units collected in this activity will surely be a big help especially to the vulnerable members of our community."

/MARICRIS A. MERCADO, Correspondent



"Every blood donated has the power to save a life. This activity demonstrates NFA family's compassion and commitment to community welfare and health especially in this time of pandemic."





RM De Vera and NFA LUBO paid courtesy call to Congressman Go

Baguio City June 19, 2023 - Regional Manager Veralew DG De Vera together with Acting Branch Manager Frederick Dulay and Acting Supervising Grains Officer Kareen Kris Hernal paid courtesy visit to Congressman Mark Go of the Lone District of Baguio City. RM De Vera and Branch Manager Dulay discussed NFA's palay procurement program and the buffer stocking mandate of NFA. Congressman Go said that he will study how to help the NFA in attaining its buffer stocking mandate.

NFA La Union Branch Bolsters Disaster Preparedness

La Union - In an effort to strengthen disaster response capabilities, employees from the National Food Authority La Union Branch attended two significant workshops focused on earthquake preparedness and communication strategies.

Acting ABM Jeffrey Felipe and AO V Rhyan A. Arquelada of NFA La Union Branch actively participated in the Cluster Writeshop: Review & Updating of the Cordillera Regional Disaster Response Plan for Earthquake, held on January 26-27, 2023. The event was sponsored by the Cordillera Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (RDRRMC) through the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) - CAR.

The workshop aimed to review and update the disaster response plan specific to earthquakes, with a particular focus on the Cordillera Region. Earthquakes pose a significant threat to the region due to its geographical location and tectonic activity.

Moreover, on June 26, 2023, AO V Arquelada attended another key event titled "Understanding and Communicating the 'Big One' Scenario in Cordillera Administrative Region." This workshop was sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology - Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (DOST-PHIVOLCS) and the Philippine Information Agency (PIA).

The workshop focused on raising awareness and improving communication strategies related to the "Big One" scenario—a major earthquake that scientists predict could strike the Philippines in the future. By equipping participants with knowledge about the potential impacts of such an event and effective communication techniques, the workshop aimed to enhance the region's ability to respond, recover, and mitigate the effects of a catastrophic earthquake.

AO V Arquelada's attendance at this workshop demonstrates NFA La Union Branch' dedication to staying informed about potential disasters and their commitment to disseminating vital information to the public. As a prominent government agency responsible for food security, the NFA plays a crucial role in disaster response, ensuring the availability and distribution of food during emergency situations.

The active participation of NFA La Union Branch employees in both workshops underscores the Branch's proactive approach to disaster preparedness and response. By collaborating with various government organizations and agencies, the Branch continues to contribute to the overall resilience and safety of the Region.

/RHYAN A. ARQUELADA, Correspondent



La Union - Student trainees from Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU), with Branch Manger Frederick Dulay (center), Engr. Norvin Rapin, Engr. Silver Paul Madalipay and Acting Supervising Grains Officer Karen Kris Hernal, on their last day of internship at NFA La Union Branch Office.

NFA LUBO's Student Internship Program: A Valuable Opportunity for Future Agricultural Professionals

La Union - The National Food Authority (NFA) La Union Branch Office (LUBO) has opened its doors to student trainees from Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) to provide them with hands-on training and exposure to the Branch" operations.

Through the NFA's Student Internship Program (SIP), selected students are given the opportunity to gain practical experience and enhance their skills in various fields. The program aims to prepare the students for their future careers by providing them with valuable knowledge and skills in a real-world setting.

The NFA LUBO team believes that the student internship program is a valuable initiative that not only benefits the students but also the Branch. The program provides an opportunity for the NFA to share its expertise and knowledge with the next generation of professionals in the industry, and also helps to promote the Branch as a

potential employer for the students after they graduate.

The student trainees from MMSU have expressed their gratitude to the NFA LUBO team for the opportunity to learn and gain experience in a government agency. They believe that the program has given them a deeper understanding of the operations and functions of the NFA, and has also helped them develop their skills and confidence in their respective fields.

The NFA LUBO's Student Internship Program is a commendable effort towards promoting knowledge sharing and skills development in the agricultural sector. The program is a win-win situation for both the Branch and the students, as it provides valuable learning opportunities and also helps to build a strong future workforce for the industry. The NFA's commitment to supporting the development of young professionals is a testament to its dedication to the growth and sustainability of the agricultural industry.

/RHYAN A. ARQUELADA, Correspondent

My advice for young people is, study what you love and intern in what you want to do. And I think it's okay to pivot as many times as you need to.

-Eva Chen

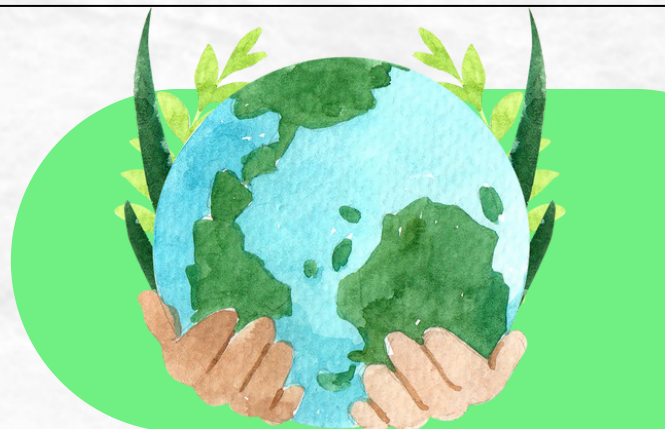
NFA Eastern Pangasinan conducts Solid Waste Management Seminar

Pangasinan - One of the most concerning problems of the world that needs to be addressed is the lack of awareness on environmental issues. In order to keep as much material out of the landfill as possible, it's important for each of us to do our part. Solid waste management is an essential practice for protecting human health and the environment by exploring the three (3) Rs of Waste Management – Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.

In connection to Gender and Development Activity and to increase awareness of environmental issues, a seminar on Solid Waste Management was conducted on March 23, 2023 in Burgos, Pangasinan with the help of the Burgos Local Government Unit (LGU).

As part of the seminar, a Coastal Clean-Up Drive was undertaken and actively participated by the branch employees and the staff from the Local Government Unit. This is also one of the projects of the LGU.

The success of the activity was made possible by the help of Mr. John R. Asuncion and Ms. Sharon Lapes as the Resource Speakers from Burgos LGU – Solid Waste Management Office.



Eastern Pangasinan Branch Office, headed by BM Jay Mark M. Malvar, photo-ops with Mr. John R. Asuncion and Ms. Sharon Lapes after the seminar.

Solid wastes are the discarded leftovers of our advanced consumer society. This growing mountain of garbage and trash represents not only an attitude of indifference toward valuable natural resources, but also a serious economic and public health problem.

– Jimmy Carter

Seminar Workshop on Urban Gardening and Organic Concoction

Pangasinan - One of the main goals of conducting Gender and Development Activities is to promote income-generating projects and seminars for additional skills and income for everyone, especially women.

In connection, the branch office through the help of speakers from the Agricultural Training Institute, Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan, conducted a Seminar-Workshop on Urban Gardening and Organic Concoctions on May 03, 2023, held at the NFA Eastern Pangasinan Branch office.

The following are the Resource Speakers with their respective topics: (a) Basic Urban Gardening by Ms. Alyssa Caryl L. Vallo (Development Management Officer II) and (b) *Organic Concoctions* by Mr. Nathaniel A. Fabia (Technical Support Staff)

An activity on how to prepare different kinds of natural farming inputs like fertilizers has been



Eastern Pangasinan Branch Office with Ms. Alyssa Caryl L. Vallo and Mr. Nathaniel A. Fabia (center) photo-ops after the seminar-workshop.

taught by the speakers.

They have also distributed free seedlings and garden materials which will serve as starter kits in performing Basic Urban Gardening.

/KEVIN HILARIO, Correspondent

Support To Government Agencies

Pangasinan – On April 18, 2023, Supervising Grains Officer Shoreen B. Manglinong participated in the Orientation Briefing and Presentation of MOA on the Corporate Farming Program of the Provincial Government of Pangasinan held at Farmers Pavillion, Provincial Agriculture Office Compound, Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan.

The NFA, along with other National Government Agencies and Lending Institutions were identified as Program Partners that will collectively address the gaps in the food value chain thru agency convergence leading to corporate farming and consolidating the provision of production inputs, logistical support, and technical assistance to optimize use and access to farm machinery and equipment.

To ensure the success of this government program, they pledged to share and support



this noble aspiration of the Provincial Government thru the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). This will create greater benefits for our farmers and will help them uplift their standard of living.



March 29, 2023 – Regional Agriculture and Fishery Extension Network 1 First Quarter Meeting attended by Supervising Grains Officer Shoreen B. Manglinong held at Reotutar Institute of Science, Arts, and Trades Inc., Lipay, Villasis, Pangasinan.



March 27-29, 2023 – Cluster-wide Meeting and Consultation on Rice Industry Development attended by Assistant Branch Manager Virginia S. Mariano and Accounts Analyst Margie F. Evio held at Monarch Hotel, Calasiao, Pangasinan.

NFA Eastern Pangasinan joins Farmers' Festival 2023

Pangasinan – On June 13, 2023, SGO Shoreen B. Manglinong, as the representative of BM Rodolfo W. Corpuz, attended the Farmers' Festival 2023 at the Urdaneta City Convention and Sports Center.

The event was sponsored by the City Government of Urdaneta in collaboration with the City Agricultural and Fishery Council of Urdaneta in which the objectives of the event are to recognize the importance and contribution of farmers in Urdaneta City's economy; to foster identity, provide an exchange of information and experiences to local farmers and fisher folk with new agricultural information, and to showcase various agricultural products and services.



National Food Authority, as one of the indispensable partners, represented by SGO Manglinong (one of the panelists) has discussed the relevant programs of the agency. The event was attended by the City's local farmers and various stakeholders.

/KEVIN HILARIO, Correspondent

NFA Ilocos Norte intensifies PALLGU Campaign



Ilocos Norte - Dialogue with Local Executives of the Municipality of Burgos, Ilocos Norte re: possible implementation of the PALLGU program in their locality on January 31, 2023 held at the Municipal Sangguniang Bayan Session Hall, Municipal Hall of Burgos, Ilocos Norte.



Ilocos Sur - Dialogue with the Legislators of the City of Vigan headed by City Mayor Hon. Bonito C. Singson at the Sangguniang Panlungsod Session Hall, Vigan City Hall on April 14, 2023. The Ilocos Sur PALLGU team led by Acting SGO Eunice T. Abalos presented the PALLGU Program, discussed its objectives and how it will be able to be of great help to the farmers in their locality.



Abra - On February 7, 2023 Acting BM Corpuz and team headed to the Municipality of Sallapadan, Abra and presented the PALLGU to the Local Legislators headed by Hon. Mayor Fernando Alafritz Semanero Jr.

/RUBY JEAN C. PAMBID, Correspondent

Filipino Food Month Celebration



NFA Ilocos Norte Branch Office joins the nation and the whole DA Family in the simultaneous launching of the Filipino Food Month on April 3, 2023.

Activities related to said celebration such as the hanging of the tarpaulin and the serving of local/traditional ilokano food such as tupig, bananacue, tinudok, suman, patupat, kutsinta, and palitaw were done after the flag raising ceremony.

Strengthening NFA Palay Procurement through UGNAYAN

"Ugnayan" is an activity conducted by NFA to communicate with its stakeholders the programs, activities and projects and recent developments in the NFA. It also provides an avenue for its stakeholders to raise their issues and concerns with the NFA.



Ilocos Norte - Ugnayan with the Farmer-Leaders of the Municipalities of Marcos and Nueva Era, Ilocos Norte on March 30, 2023. Acting WSII Ferdinand S. Macusi presented the programs of NFA focusing on the Institutionalized Palay Procurement (IPP) Program that benefits the farmers.



Ilocos Norte - Ugnayan Activity with the Farmer Leaders and Representatives of the Different Farmer-Cooperatives in the municipality of Dingras, Ilocos Norte held at Brgy. San Marcelino, Dingras, Ilocos Norte on January 26, 2023.



Ilocos Norte - Ugnayan with the Farmer-Leaders of the Municipality of Nueva Era at the Municipal Agriculture Office, Nueva Era, Ilocos Norte on March 29, 2023.

Ilocos Norte Branch Office ahead on OTRA Implementation

After its simultaneous soft launching on April 19, 2023 the branch now heads to conclusion the distribution of One Time Rice Assistance to qualified beneficiaries. As of June 8, 2023 the branch has achieved 95% accomplishment.

NFA Abra has issued 3,425 bags or 92% of the 3,721 bags target.

NFA Ilocos Sur has issued 6,558 bags or 97% of the 6,773 bags target

NFA Ilocos Norte has issued 7,230 bags or 96% of the 7,370 bags target

NFA Central Office has instructed the field offices to accomplish the distribution until June 30, 2023.



ILOCOS SUR



ABRA



ILOCOS NORTE

/RUBY JEAN C. PAMBID, Correspondent



Abra - Representatives from the three provinces of the Branch participates in the Civic-Military Parade in line with Bangued's **Dapil Festival** of the Municipality of Bangued, Abra, on February 23, 2023.



Ilocos Norte - NFA Ilocos Norte Employees participates in the Civic-Military Parade in line with Laoag City's **Pamulinawen Festival** on February 1, 2023.

/RUBY JEAN C. PAMBID, Correspondent



RM De Vera visits Ilocos Norte Branch Office

The visit of the newly installed Regional Manager RM Veralew DG de Vera in the provinces under NFA Ilocos Norte Branch on March 27, 2023. He attended the flag raising ceremony at NFA Abra and had a brief meeting with the employees of the said office. He also conducted an ocular inspection at the Bangued GID Warehouse. He also visited the provinces of Ilocos Sur and Ilocos Norte, conducted meetings with the employees and inspected the warehouses.



Ilocos Norte - In line with **Women's Month Celebration**, NFA ILN BRANCH conducted Health & Wellness activity in coordination with Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) Laoag City on March 24, 2023 at the NFA ILN Branch Office, Brgy. 2, Laoag City, Ilocos Norte. The employees were able to learn basic massage and manicure/pedicure.



Spotlight!

BY: MARICRIS A. MERCADO



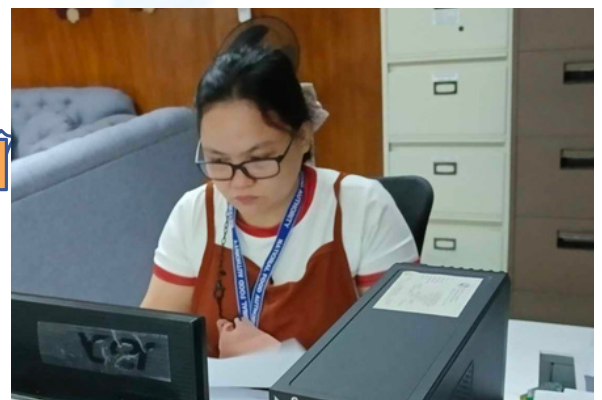
JAIME LARDIZABAL

Jaime Lardizabal or Manong Jimmy started his career in NFA on March 18, 2004. He's one of the remaining pioneers of NFA La Union since the implementation of NFA Restructuring Plan. Manong Jimmy exerts his best efforts to contribute to the agency even beyond official time. Although his primary responsibility is to drive the NFA Truck or Hino Van, he does not hesitate doing ground works around the NFA compound in San Juan, La Union. It is not enough for him to just do his job, he oftentimes indulge himself in helping others and step-in when needed. He is an integral asset to NFA La Union Branch Office and his skills help the branch office meet the changing logistical needs.



RIZZALYN PADILLA

Ms. "Rizza" is a job order employee of NFA Regional Office 1 assigned as Secretary under the Office of the Regional Manager (ORM). Rizza's dedication to work is a significant contribution in keeping the stability and consistency of NFA REGION 1's communication system. She carries her responsibility with determination and confidence. She extends her exemptional clerical skills with a reliable meal planning and coordination for regional meetings.



"Ma'am Mercy / Mameng": A sweet adieu @ 42 years government service

"Siya ang laging nag-aadvise sa akin dito sa office. Ngayong mag-reretire na siya, wala ng magtatanggol sa akin. Si Mameng kase ang palaging nagtatanggol sa akin..." said Accounts Analyst Krissalyn O. Don who was deeply emotional during the tribute program for Mercedita Cueva.

Budget Officer III Mercedita Cueva, stamped her mandatory retirement on February 12, 2023 with a remarkable 42 years in government service. She's fondly called as "Ma'am Mercy" or "Mameng" by her colleagues in NFA Region 1 who find her very kind, hardworking, patient and understanding.

In February 1981, Ma'am Mercy joined the agency as Casual Teller of NFA Pangasinan and later on as Corporate Bookkeeper of NFA Benguet in 1984. With the implementation of NFA Reorganization, she was reassigned as Regional Corporate Bookkeeper in 1986. The position was later retitled to Accountant II which she incredibly held for almost thirty-four (34) years. Eventually, in 2018 she was promoted as Budget Officer III of NFA Regional Office I.

Senior Personnel Specialist (SPS) Mary Grace D. Esbeg in her introduction said, *"Kaya kahit nakapikit sya expert na nya mag reconcile ng mga accounts most especially the intra agency accounts receivable and payable. Siya lang naman ang bukod tanging masipag maghanap ng mga variances per province bago mag consolidate ng Trial Balance per month. Just imagine na seven provinces pa noon ang chinecheck nya for the reconciling items. Kaya kapag reporting period meron yung time na dito na sya natutulog sa office. Lalo nung mga panahon na meron pa tayong mga dispersal outside the region, dispersal within the region, at importation"*.

"The kind of person like Ma'am Mercy is extinct. She is a rare kind of worker", described by Branch Manager Rodolfo W. Corpuz.

Ma'am Mercy will always be remembered who always put the interest of the agency above anything else. More often, she can be seen working overtime or even during Saturdays and Sundays just to accomplished the workloads and meet deadlines. Complaining to a task was never her cup of tea.

She is greatly respected by many as she is willing to share her vast knowledge and experiences in the Accounting Section. Many have said that despite the absence of her colleagues for several days, the Accounting Section have survived in her lone presence. Undoubtedly, she is a natural,



Photo taken after Ma'am Mercy's last flag ceremony in NFA.



Ma'am Mercy with NFA Regional Office I family during her retirement tribute held at Ilocos Region Hall, San Juan, La Union

calm under pressure, she could handle just about anything thrown at her.

We wish the Cueva family well, thanks Ma'am Mercy for the excellent service of 42 years. Our fond farewell to you and happy retirement! See you around!

/MARICRIS A. MERCADO, Correspondent

Catalino "Manong Lino" Mabalot: Farewell to a Skilled Operator

On January 6, 2023, the National Food Authority's (NFA) La Union branch bid farewell to a true stalwart of their team, Catalino Mabalot. After dedicating decades of his life to NFA operations, Mabalot's retirement marks the end of an era for the NFA. His contributions and expertise have left an indelible mark on the Branch, and his absence will undoubtedly be felt by his colleagues and the community at large.

His retirement signifies the conclusion of a remarkable career that spanned over thirty years. As a mechanical plant operator and alternate classifier, Mabalot played an integral role in ensuring the smooth operation of the NFA facilities. His commitment to excellence and unwavering work ethic made him an invaluable asset to the Branch.

Throughout his tenure, Mabalot demonstrated exceptional skill and proficiency in NFA operation. Mabalot's ability to troubleshoot issues efficiently, preventing delays and minimizing downtime, earned him the respect and admiration of his colleagues.

Mabalot's retirement leaves behind not only a void in terms of his technical prowess but also a loss of his guidance and mentorship. As an employee, he actively shared his knowledge and experiences with his colleagues, nurturing the growth of future generations of mechanical plant operators. Mabalot's patience, willingness to assist, and willingness to go the extra mile to ensure the success of his team made him an exemplary employee.

As Catalino Mabalot embarks on a new chapter in his life, the NFA La Union and the entire community express their heartfelt appreciation for his invaluable contributions. His dedication, commitment, and unwavering service have left an indelible mark on the Branch and the lives of those he has worked with.

To honor his illustrious career, the NFA La Union organized a farewell celebration where colleagues, friends, and family gathered to express their gratitude and bid him a fond farewell. They celebrated his achievements, shared memorable anecdotes, and wished him the very best in his well-deserved retirement.



For sure his legacy as a skilled operator and a mentor will continue to inspire future generations of mechanical plant operators. The NFA La Union and the local community express their deepest gratitude for his service and wish him a fulfilling and joyous retirement.

/RHYAN A. ARQUELADA, Correspondent

Thanks To Your Service

BY: MARICRIS A. MERCADO



Bernadette T. Figueroa : 34 years in service

The years spent in NFA was indeed above and beyond in excellence and dedication to public service. It is humbling to note that Ms. Figueroa started as Operations Assistant (Casual Employee) of NFA Eastern Pangasinan. In 1991, she was appointed as Clerk III with Permanent Status. Her drive to contribute to agency's success paved her way to be promoted to Grains Operations Officer III then to Senior Grains Operation Officer. In 2022, she was designated as Acting Warehouse Supervisor. She opted to avail of the Service Incentive Package and officially said farewell to NFA on January 1, 2023.

Ruben B. Distor : 25 years in service

Mr. Distor, or "Manong Ruben", continue to exemplify as a reliable NFA employee since his appointment on October 1, 1997 as Truck Driver of NFA Eastern Pangasinan. His commitment to public service and pursuit of contributing to NFA's operational activities have helped put his career to new heights. In 2017, he was promoted as Mechanical Plant Operator III. *Manong Ruben* filed for a Voluntary Retirement and bid adieu to NFA on January 1, 2023.



Bea G. Bagsao : 7 years in service

She is an Accountant, dancer, dance-choreographer, an embodiment of beauty, a loving daughter and sister and a devoted wife. Notably, she never fail to exude energy, and confidence as she conquers the stage. Bea is not only famous for her superb stage performances but she is also known for her excellent performance in the Accounting Section. She started her career in NFA as Accounts Analyst of Regional Office on September 8, 2015. Later on, she successfully navigated on promotional positions in Region 1 such as Accountant II and Senior Grains Operations Officer. Nevertheless, early this year, January 3, 2023, Bea decided to resign in NFA to start a career in her home town LGU Natonin, Mountain Province.



Christian C. Ang : 4 years in service

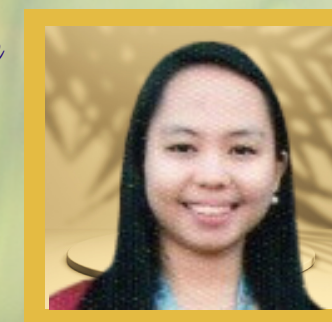
This young lad entered NFA on April 16, 2018 as a Mechanical Plant Supervisor II of NFA Eastern Pangasinan Branch Office and later on was promoted to Engineer II. He is a Mechanical Engineer who puts passion in visualizing things and tries to correlate the theory with practical applications. He has been instrumental to impressive accomplishments of various infrastructure projects of the Facility Management Section. With his skills and notable work ethics he was also designated as Milling Supervisor of the branch. Engr. Ang resigned on February 28, 2023 to pursue a greener pasture in United Kingdom with his wife.



Floradayne A. Panelo : 3 years in service

Her colleagues fondly call her "Ada". She joined NFA Regional Office I (ROI) on March 11, 2019 as Accountant II. The following year she was reassigned to La Union Branch Office (LUBO) with the same position.

Ada won Third Place in Spoken Poetry Contest initiated by NFA Central Office as part of 2022 Women's Month Celebration with the theme: "*Agenda ng Kababaihan Tungo sa Kaunlaran*". Her irrevocable resignation took effect on January 3, 2022. Ada is now working at the LGU of San Gabriel, La Union as a Municipal Accountant.



SOLITARIO

<https://tugot.blogspot.com>

Adda lamiis a nariknak,
saan a kas iti in-inumek iti baso nga addaan yelo,
agling-et, matunaw kalpaskan iti mano a kanito,
wenna ti panagsumgar dagiti dutdotko,
lam-ek a nagtaod iti uneg,
mabalin a kunaek nga espasio a di napunuan
ket serken ti akinruar nga angin,
a kas iti semento a di nasedsed,
agbirri iti kalgaw ket aggagneb iti nepnep.

Ania kadi ti imas ti maysa a kaldo a napanawan?
Di kad' agbalay ti taba iti igid ti tayab
ket mabati iti subsob apaman a maideppel.

Ti taba kasapulanna met ti pudot
a mangtunaw kenkuana.



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