

# NFA REGION IV ON NFA CHRISTMAS CONTESTS

The NFA Central Office conducted three (3) contests for the nationwide celebration the 2023 Christmas Season with a theme, "Isang Bituin, Isang Mithiin, Gabay ng NFA sa Paskong Puno ng Adhikain." All video entries of different regions per category were posted online at "Bigas NFA" facebook account.

The NFA Region IV participated and was able to submit fun and graceful video entries. Although the entries were not chosen for the top 3 entries, the Regional Management extended their gratitude and appreciation to the following branch offices for representing the region:

- NFA Office Christmas ID -Making Contest - NFA Occidental Branch Office
- Pop Group Sing and Dance Alike Contest - NFA Laguna Branch Office
- NFA Got Talent - Executive Edition - BM Mercedita A. Estrella and Quezon Branch Office



**Pop Group Sing and Dance Alike Contest**  
- NFA Laguna Branch singers impersonating Spice Girls



**NFA Got Talent - Executive Edition**  
- BM Mercedita A. Estrella and Quezon Branch employee, Allen Marvin De Leon dancing to the song The Time of My Life



**NFA Office Christmas ID -Making Contest**  
-The video was created by NFA Occidental Branch Office employees featuring the Regional Office and six (6) branch offices singing Star ng Pasko at Kwento ng Pasko

## NFA REGION IV CONTACT DETAILS

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NFA REGIONAL OFFICE IV	09065007528	region4@nfa.gov.ph

**CZARINA LOREN Q. GUTIERREZ**  
Acting Information Officer III

### BRANCH INFORMATION OFFICERS

NFA BATANGAS	Mary-Ann A. Torres, Dan Ariz Y. Agtarap
NFA LAGUNA	June Anne R. Alvarez, Robert E. Alvero
NFA OCCIDENTAL MINDORO	Engr. Joriel P. Cano
NFA ORIENTAL MINDORO	Ivy Janel A. Perez
NFA PALAWAN	Gemarie R. Asturias, Roxanne B. Cayabyab
NFA QUEZON	Geneva M. Maestro

## NFA REGION IV MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

**LEO V. DAMOLE**  
Regional Manager II

**ATTY. MARKO C. CALLANTA**  
Branch Manager - Batangas / Acting Asst. Regional Manager

**JOEWELL A. MONREAL**  
Branch Manager—Laguna

**EVELYN M. MARQUEZ**  
Branch Manager—Occ. Mindoro

**DENNIS N. MEJICO**  
Branch Manager—Or. Mindoro

**KATHLYN M. GONZALES**  
Branch Manager—Palawan

**MERCEDITA A. ESTRELLA**  
Branch Manager—Quezon

**REBECCA H. ANDAL**  
Regional Accountant

**JOHANNIE MARIE O. LEYBA**  
Regional SQAQ

**MARIA PAZ DT. DE CHAVEZ**  
Economist IV

**ENGR. BRYAN ATIENZA**  
Engineer III

**SHERRY CHRISTINE B. MILANES**  
Supervising Admin. Officer

**KRIZEL-ANN H. REYES**  
Sr. Personnel Specialist

**ROEN M. ACLAN**  
Procurement Management Officer IV

**CZARINA LOREN Q. GUTIERREZ**  
Information Officer III

**NOEL V. ALCAIN**  
NFAEA, Regional President



# SOUTHERN TAGALOG MANDALA

BATANGAS LAGUNA OCCIDENTAL MINDORO ORIENTAL MINDORO PALAWAN QUEZON

## PRES. BONGBONG MARCOS INCREASES NFA'S PALAY BUYING PRICE

With the news of the announcement of the concurrent NFA Council chairperson, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on the new buying price for palay last September 18, 2023, NFA conducted measures and preparation for the implementation of the said new buying prices.

The aforementioned decision was made in light of the improving rate of rice production in relation to harvest season, as well as the shifting market conditions brought about by parallel imports of rice, which are anticipated to augment the 7.76 million metric tons MMT) of rice that Filipino consumers currently demand

Meanwhile, the NFA Council emphasized that the goal of the new palay buying price is to guarantee that imports of rice would no longer be the main way to address the shortage of rice supplies.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) intensified the potential benefits to the local food production sector and pledged to support the project, given that the new buying price for palay will be P23 per kilogram.

Palay procurement using the new prices commenced also during the same month that it was announced.

### NEW NFA BUYING PRICE FOR PALAY

**DRY PALAY**  
P19.00 to P23.00/kilogram

**WET PALAY**  
P16.00 TO P19.00/kilogram



## CHANGES IN EQUITABLE NET WEIGHT FACTOR (ENWF) TABLE

The NFA Operations Coordination Department conducted briefing on the new Equitable Net Weight Factor Table in NFA Regional Office IV last September 24, 2023 to correspond with the new buying price range of the agency for the palay procurement program.

According to the new ENWF table, in order to determine the equivalent factor for dry palay, the moisture content of palay should range from 14% and below, while for wet palay, the range should be from 22 to 29.9% moisture content.

Mr. Christopher Alingod who was previously assigned at TRSD explained and cited sample computation for the amount of a certain volume of palay sold to NFA. He also reminded that the incentives will be based on the prevailing price of palay in an area/ province and that the branch thru the Regional Office should request approval on the incentives weekly.

With the presence of Occ. Mindoro PFAC Chairman Gemma Tabian during the briefing, she suggested NFA to have the incentives on fixed amount for all the farmers to receive same incentive on every delivery of palay to NFA.

## INCREASE IN PALAY PROCUREMENT

The NFA Region IV struggled to procure palay last January to August 2023 due to high ex-farm gate prices resulting to acquisition of 15,253 bags palay only. It was an opportunity for NFA offices when the new government palay support price was announced and right after the preparation for its implementation, the Region IV branch offices conducted several Ugnayan Meetings with farmers to inform them and explain to them the new ENWF Table.

At the end of the year or within the last four months, the NFA Region IV was able to procure 304,880 bags of palay. The said volume was 95.23% of the accomplishment for palay procurement program of the region for the year which led for the region to be the Top 2 performing region in the said category.

-CL Gutierrez (correspondent)



# NFA BATANGAS GETS ARTA COMMENDATION



## ON-SITE INSPECTION

NFA Batangas gets commendation from the Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) Compliance Monitoring and Evaluation Office in their on-site inspection last July 24, 2023. ARTA highlighted the compliance of the branch office particularly on the presence of identification cards of employees, important signages displayed, use of updated Client Satisfaction Measurement (CSM) and the initiative to revise the Citizen's Charter based on the services available in the branch.

**NFA Batangas was identified as one of the government instrumentalities to undergo the regular spot check and inspection in accordance with Rule XI Section 5 (C) of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act (R.A.) 11032, known as the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018.**

## ARTA COMPLIANT!



During the exit conference, NFA Regional Office IV Asst. Regional Manager Atty. Marko C. Callanta acknowledged ARTA for the on-site inspection conducted. NFA Batangas and Regional Office IV vowed continuous commitment to fulfilling its mandate while improving bureaucratic efficiency.

-MA Torres (correspondent)

NFA SOUTHERN TAGALOG REGION

# 2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



## BUFFERSTOCKING MANAGEMENT

**TOTAL STOCK INVENTORY AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023**

<b>PALAY</b>	<b>346,325 BAGS</b>
<b>RICE</b>	<b>167,198 BAGS</b>
<b>TOTAL RICE EQUIVALENT</b>	<b>388,805 BAGS</b>
<b>DAYS TO LAST</b>	<b>5 DAYS</b>

BRANCH	PALAY	RICE
BATANGAS	40,822 BAGS	55,767 BAGS
LAGUNA	4,342 BAGS	11,840 BAGS
OCCIDENTAL MINDORO	259,217 BAGS	30,440 BAGS
ORIENTAL MINDORO	26,521 BAGS	7,382 BAGS
PALAWAN	15,413 BAGS	13,910 BAGS
QUEZON	10 BAGS	47,859 BAGS

## PALAY PROCUREMENT PROGRAM

**TOTAL PALAY PROCUREMENT - 320,133 BAGS**

BATANGAS	22,182 BAGS
LAGUNA	6,991 BAGS
OCC. MINDORO	248,101 BAGS
OR. MINDORO	26,636 BAGS
PALAWAN	15,612 BAGS
QUEZON	10 BAGS



## RICE DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

**TOTAL RICE DISTRIBUTION - 355,566.75 BAGS**

CALAMITY/ EMERGENCY PURPOSE	91,257.20 BAGS
ONE-TIME RICE ALLOWANCE	91,776 BAGS
EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 51	6,529 BAGS
QUALITY MANAGEMENT	56,171 BAGS
NON-RELIEF (GOVT AGENCIES/LGUs)	99,154 BAGS

## STOCK DISPERSAL

**TOTAL INTRA-REGIONAL TRANSFER OF STOCKS - 232,880 BAGS**

**TOTAL INTER-REGIONAL TRANSFER OF STOCKS - 223,000 BAGS**

REGION V	20,000 BAGS OF RICE
REGION VII	98,000 BAGS OF RICE
REGION X	20,000 BAGS OF RICE
NCR REGION	85,000 BAGS OF RICE





FEATURED STORY:

# A FIGURE OF DEDICATION, HARD WORK AND DETERMINATION

AN INSPIRING STORY OF MARLITO CONCEPCION FROM PAKYAS, VICTORIA, ORIENTAL MINDORO

WRITTEN BY CZARINA LOREN GUTIERREZ



Tony Robbins, a well-known motivational speaker, once said that true fulfillment is experienced only by those who have learned the power of sincere and selfless contribution and I believe Mr. Marlito Concepcion, often called as Mar, an employee of NFA Oriental Mindoro is a proof of this statement.

To be an efficient and contributing employee, Mar took beyond the usual way. He grabbed his opportunities to improve himself. From being a utility man, he studied and trained in order to remain on his service with the agency as the restructuring started in 2019.

With over 30 years of service in the National Food Authority - Oriental Mindoro Branch Office, Marlito is truly an example of a hard working and persevering NFA employee. He was hired on 1993 as a job order and after almost 23 years, he finally became a permanent employee as Utility II on November 27, 2015. Doing maintenance of the office cleanliness and landscapes, everyone admired Mar's work. Due to his performance, he was also frequently requested at the Regional Office in Batangas City just for his self-taught skills in landscaping.

Aside from being a kind and helpful worker, providing for his family with all he has is another character that defines this man. To support his three (3) children's education and their basic needs, Mar and his wife also work also on their small sari-sari store to make ends meet. With this in mind when the NFA Restructuring started, fear never reached his motivation to keep on working. Even if his position was abolished in the new structure, Mar didn't belittled himself but he gathered his courage to take driving lessons and completed the NC II training in order to be qualified to a truck driver position. Unbothered of his age of 53, he also underwent the Alternative Learning System (ALS) just to finish highschool.

This tireless man finally held one of the fruits of his dedication and hardwork, his diploma, on July 13, 2023 at Aurelio Arago MNHS Senior High School. Another success he possesses is being a proud father of a Bachelor of Science in Criminology graduate, a soon-to-finish engineering student and a youngest son to finish high school.

Marlito maybe is a simple man or an ordinary employee in the eyes of others but his story is one of a kind. We learned from him that it's definitely up to oneself to prove that a lifetime achievement comes with hard work and determination.

A big salute to you, Sir Marlito G. Concepcion!



**TRUE FULLFILMENT IS EXPERIENCED ONLY BY THOSE WHO HAVE LEARNED THE POWER OF SINCERE AND SELFLESS CONTRIBUTION**

-TONY ROBBINS

# NFA REGION IV JOINS THE EO 39 IMPLEMENTATION

In light of the concerning rise in rice's retail prices in the market, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. has authorized the request to put mandatory price ceilings on the grain nationwide. This will ensure that Filipinos have access to a staple meal that is both competitively priced and easily available.

President Marcos accepted the joint recommendation of the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) to put price ceilings on rice in the nation,

according to Executive Order No. 39, which was signed by Executive Secretary Lucas Bersamin on August 31, 2023.

It was also released after the sectoral meeting on August 29, during which President Marcos was informed of the state of government programs aimed at guaranteeing the nation's adequate supply of rice.

For regular milled rice, the required price ceiling under EO 39 is PhP41.00 per kilogram, and for well-milled rice, the required price cap is PhP45.00 per kilogram.

## COORDINATION WITH PARTNER AGENCIES

For the implementation of the said executive order on September 5, 2023, NFA Region IV branch offices including the Regional Office IV coordinated with DTI, DA and other concerned agencies in their respective areas. The schedule of price monitoring at various public markets and reporting were tackled.



## PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENT

For the National Food Authority, the Quality Assurance Officers (QAO) are assigned to be the representatives of the agency in the monitoring of rice prices since they are trained on how to classify rice and determine its quality based on its appearance. They conducted the monitoring with DA, DTI and other concerned agency representatives and reported their findings within the scheduled date of survey.

## LIFTING OF THE EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 39

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. formally ordered the lifting of Executive Order No. 39 on October 4, 2023 by the issued Executive Order No. 42 signed by Executive Secretary Lucas O. Bersamin. It said that President Marcos has been recommended to lift EO 39 by the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) in view of the declining global rice prices, increasing supply of rice stock, and decreasing domestic rice prices." The NFA and other concerned agencies followed the executive order and halted the price monitoring right after the announcement.



-CL Gutierrez (correspondent)



# REGIONAL / BRANCH ACCOUNTANTS' AND CENTRAL OFFICE ONE-ON-ONE RECONCILIATION OF ACCOUNTS MEETING



**“UNLOCKING FINANCIAL CLARITY: NFA’S PATH TO UNQUALIFIED OPINION”**

AA Piolito C. Santos and DM Mark Jing D. Tayactac with some staff from OAAFA & Finance Department visited NFA Regional Office IV for the 2-day "Regional/ Branch Accountants' and Central Office One-on-One Reconciliation of Accounts Meeting" which was held on October 26-27, 2023.

Before the discussions started, AA Santos emphasized the importance of the reconciliation of accounts to lessen Audit Observations from COA regarding the unreconciled accounts of the agency. He thanked the accountants for their diligence and hard work on handling the finances of the agency specifically in Southern Tagalog. He also shared updates regarding human resource matters and employees' benefits.

On the other hand, DM Tayactac of the Finance Department also cited the accomplishments of NFA Region IV as of August 2023 and with those accomplishments and contributions, the executives expressed their appreciation thru presentation of certificates of appreciation.



The highlight of the 1st day of meeting was the addressing of the issues and concerns of the region regarding different financial matters including AOMs. The main agenda which was the reconciliation of accounts took place on the 2nd day, Oct. 27, 2023.

NFA Regional Office IV headed by RM Leo V. Damole and ARM/BM Atty. Marko C. Callanta appreciated the conduct of this activity and the recognition of our accountants' efforts for the financial management of the agency.

-CL Gutierrez (correspondent)

# DEFENSIVE DRIVING CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE AND THE LIVES OF OTHERS



## DEFENSIVE DRIVING SEMINAR FOR NFA REGION IV DRIVING EMPLOYEES

Selected NFA Region IV employees underwent a seminar entitled "Defensive Driving, Basic Preventive Maintenance and Trouble Shooting" on December 11-12, 2023 (Batch 1) and December 14-15, 2023 (Batch 2) at the NFA Regional Office, Batangas City.

Driving is a very useful skill for everyone, but it can also be dangerous without proper knowledge of road regulations and laws. According to statistics, road crashes are one of the major causes of deaths worldwide, and the number one source of road crashes is driver's error. To ensure the safety of oneself and passengers and to be more aware of the violations and special laws implemented, the participants attentively listened to Chief Transportation Officer Clarissa Sulit and Statistician Lovelyn Pesa of the Land Transportation Office Region IV-A.

On the other hand, to be more efficient in taking care of service vehicles, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) Regional Office & Training Center welcomed the NFA participants in their vicinity for their one-day Basic Preventive Maintenance and Troubleshooting training. Sr. TESD Specialist Jovert Cabases (resource speaker) discussed the said topics, reviewed the different parts and systems of a car and conducted an activity to test the knowledge of the participants on the actual check-up of vehicles. This test is an important task for a driver everytime before he or she proceeds to drive on the road to prevent road crashes.

The NFA Regional Office IV extended its gratitude towards LTO Region IV-A and TESDA Regional Office IV-A/Training Center for their support as well as for the resource speakers and their facilities related to the seminar.

-CL Gutierrez (correspondent)

