



NFA Region IV employees led by RM Piolito Santos and Acting ARM Atty. Marko Callanta warmly welcomed Administrator Roderico R. Bioco as he visited the NFA Regional Office IV on June 2, 2023 with SA Engr. Roger Navarro, NFA Council Secretary Atty. Shyla Joy Ramos, NFAEA National Pres. Maximo Torda, Atty. Antonio Zoilo Velez, Acting EA IV Ma. Fioretta Estoperez, Acting PRO V Carolina Bermudez-Manzano and some staff from the NFA Central Office.

A general assembly meeting followed after the welcome greetings. Administrator Bioco shared updates about the status of the agency including human resource concerns. Likewise, he explained the plans of the management to improve the services of the agency including the modernization of facilities and digital transformation.

He also updated the employees on the actions taken by the management to accomplish the said plans.

As he acknowledged NFA Region IV as a top performing region with the highest palay procurement accomplishment for many years, he also challenged the region's leaders and employees to work harder to maintain or even surpass their previous accomplishments in spite of the challenges the agency has in the present.

The Regional Management truly appreciated the dedication and efforts of the NFA Top Management for working on a better NFA providing excellent services to the public especially to the poor and local farmers. Likewise, the Southern Tagalog Region was grateful and honored for the visit of Admin. Bioco in Batangas City.

-CL Gutierrez, correspondent





## NFA REGION IV CHECKS THE VALIDITY OF "INEDIBLE RICE" ISSUED TO TEACHERS IN MINDORO

With regard to the news articles posted at Philippine Star and CNN website on May 22, 2023 and June 6, 2023 respectively on "inedible" rice stating that there were inedible NFA rice stocks issued to teachers in Mindoro, the Regional Management of National Food Authority Region IV (Southern Tagalog) clarified that all rice stocks being issued to different agencies for One-Time Rice Assistance purpose are ensured to be in good and consumable condition. The rice stocks conformed with the standard parameters of consumable condition based on the laboratory analysis and result of sensory evaluation conducted prior to the implementation of Administrative Order No. 2.

To address the said issue reported specifically in Mindoro, the NFA Oriental Mindoro Branch Office coordinated with the schools in Calapan City that already withdrawn rice stocks to respond to the alleged "inedible rice" received. However, upon coordination, there were no actual complaints raised from the teachers regarding inedible rice they received and the schools/offices acknowledged that all rice issued were in good condition to correct the said allegation.



In addition, the stocks were ordinary well-milled rice which were processed from the palay procured from our local farmers and that the odor was natural scent of rice stored for a longer period of time in NFA warehouses. As part of the NFA's procedure on the One-Time Rice Assistance implementation, the Quality Assurance Officer of the branch office draws sample of rice, explains the type and showed its quality and condition to the authorized personnel or focal person of the government office during the withdrawal of their rice assistance allocation.

As for the NFA's advice to all government offices withdrawing their one-time rice assistance, the NFA branch offices are willing to replace the rice stocks if the issued stocks are not in good or consumable condition. They just need to coordinate with the concerned NFA branch office for any complaint to be resolved immediately.

-CL Gutierrez (correspondent)



# NFA ORIENTAL MINDORO RECEIVES P2,000,000.00 PALLGU PREMIUM FROM CITY GOVERNMENT OF CALAPAN



The City Government of Calapan pledged to participate under Palay Marketing Assistance Program for Legislators and Local Government Units (PALLGU) and to provide a premium of P2,000,000.00 by signing the Memorandum of Agreement on March 23, 2023. The MOA was officially inked between Regional Manager II Piolito C. Santos and Mayor Marilou Flores-Morillo witnessed by NFA Oriental Mindoro Branch and Calapan City Hall employees at the Executive Building Main Conference, City Hall Complex, Guinobatan Calapan City.

This PALLGU Program is a voluntary provision of a certain amount from LGUs/ Legislators' office budget that would benefit local farmers in the form of an additional incentive (P1.00-3.00/kg) to NFA's buying price. It was stated in the MOA that the City Government of Calapan will contribute P2.00/kg on top of the existing government support price of P19.00/kg in buying palay from the local farmers. The amount pledged can increase the palay procurement accomplishment of the agency by 20,000 bags.

Following the MOA signing, the City Government of Calapan led by Mayor Morillo handed over the P2M check on May 9, 2023 at the same venue for the commencement of the additional P2.00/kg to support the farmers of Calapan. In behalf of NFA, Regional Manager Santos with Branch Manager Kathlyn Gonzales and some NFA Or. Mindoro employees received the said check. -/ J. Perez (correspondent)





# NFA REGION IV PARTICIPATES IN NATIONWIDE KADIWA NG PANGULO PROGRAM

On July 17, 2023, NFA Region IV branch offices joined in the nationwide simultaneous conduct of Kadiwa ng Pangulo selling NFA Rice at P25.00/ kg to fellow Filipinos at different locations/ venues established by concerned LGUs. This program of the Department of Agriculture aims to promote the local agri-products and provide consumers affordable farm produce as well as aid in the income of local farmers and small entrepreneurs nationwide.

NFA had sold local rice on the Provincial Capitol Compounds of the following provinces: Batangas, Laguna, Or. Mindoro, Quezon, Marinduque and Palawan. In Occidental Mindoro, the activity was held at three (3) different municipalities: San Jose, Mamburao and Sablayan. With the main objective of the agency to prioritize the readiness of stocks for emergencies and calamities, a total of 180 bags of NFA Rice (50kg/bag) only were sold in these areas in Southern Tagalog.   
 -C.L. Gutierrez (correspondent)

BATANGAS PROVINCIAL CAPITOL, BATANGAS CITY



OR. MINDORO PROVINCIAL CAPITOL COMPLEX, CALAPAN CITY



BELEN DRIVE CAPITOL COMPOUND, LUCENA CITY, QUEZON



PROVINCIAL CAPITOL COMPOUND, SANTOL, BOAC, MARINDUQUE



LAGUNA PROVINCIAL CAPITOL, STA. CRUZ, LAGUNA



MUNICIPAL PLAZA, SABLAYAN, OCC. MINDORO



PROVINCIAL HALL, MAMBURAO OCC. MINDORO



PALAWAN PROVINCIAL CAPITOL, PUERTO PRINCESA CITY



MUNICIPAL PLAZA, SAN JOSE OCC. MINDORO



NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY





# NFA REGION IV PARTICIPATES IN PHOTOJOURNALISM AND PUBLIC SPEAKING TRAINING & TREE PLANTING ACTIVITY OF DA CALABARZON



NFA Regional Office IV represented by Acting WS Gemini Hernandez participated the DA CALABARZON training held at Argosino Hall, Lipa Agricultural Research and Experiment Station (LARES), Lipa City on June 23, 2023 which was attended also by representatives from the municipal agriculturist offices and DA Region IVA attached agencies.

The objective of the training is to ensure that focal persons and information officers are ready and equipped with proper knowledge on how to properly disseminate informations and programs of their respective agencies specifically through photojournalism and public speaking.

Mr. Allen Jay F. Villaflor, a freelance Editor, Photographer and NFT Artist served as the resource speaker for Photojournalism elaborating fields of photojournalism, captioning and qualities of photo journalism. The other part of the training, Public Speaking was discussed by Marketing Manager of SM Cares, Mr. Von Edrian A. Villanueva.

The speaker tackled the foundation of public speaking, gave points on what makes a good public speaker and other important information such as Opening and Closing of Speech. Certain activities were also conducted wherein participants actively participated.

On the same day, the NFA Regional Office IV joined also the DA CALABARZON (DA-4A) Tree Planting Activity which was part of their 125th Anniversary Celebration with the theme, "Kagawaran ng Agrikultura: 125 Taong Naglilingkod Tungo sa Masaganang Agrikultura at Maunlad na Ekonomiya." at the same location, Lipa Agricultural Research and Experiment Station (LARES).

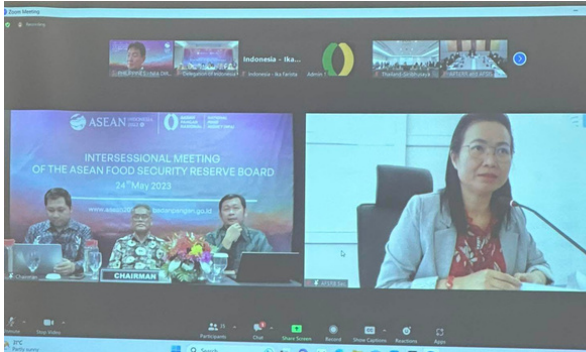
The DA-4A officials led by Regional Executive Director Milo delos Reyes with the representatives from LGUs and DA-attached agencies including NFA Region IV representatives, Ms. Gelma Queen Buenviaje and Ms. Bella Calivara, planted exotic and fruit trees. NFA NCR headed by RM Maria Lewina Tolentino and some staff also participated in the activity.

-CL Gutierrez (correspondent)





# NFA REPRESENTS PHILIPPINES IN THE ASEAN FOOD SECURITY RESERVE BOARD INTERSESSIONAL MEETING



Following the ASEAN Conference on Strengthening Food Security Integration held last April 17, 2023 in Jakarta, Indonesia, NFA Administrator Roderico R. Bioco and Region 4 Regional Manager Piolito C. Santos with Operations Planning Management Division Manager Rosalyn D. Comia attended the virtual AFSRB Inter-Sessional Meeting on May 24, 2023 facilitated by the same host country represented by the National Food Agency of the Republic of Indonesia.

The delegates from 10 ASEAN countries specifically reviewed line-by-line the draft of the “ASEAN Leaders’ Declaration on Strengthening Food Security and Nutrition in Response to Crises”. They also discussed the written feedback from the AFSRB members on the presented draft of declaration. The participating country representatives also gave their comments and recommendations to come up with the final output.

Likewise, NFA Administrator Bioco, Philippines’ representative, shared ideas and suggestions regarding inclusion of modernization of post harvest facilities. He suggested to include strengthening of the overall productivity of agri-food systems through actions that address the immediate bottlenecks in the availability of essential farm inputs, such as seeds and fertilizers, food storage and logistics facilities including cold chain and post-harvest handling.

The ASEAN countries aside from Philippines that joined the online ASEAN meeting were Brunei Darussalam, The Kingdom of Cambodia, The Republic of Indonesia, The Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar, The Republic of Singapore, The Kingdom of Thailand, and The Socialist Republic of Vietnam. -CL Gutierrez (correspondent)

Regional Manager II Leo V. Damole is the new Regional Manager II of NFA Region IV and he accepted the Symbolic Key of Responsibility from Acting AA/Outgoing RM Piolito C. Santos during the Turnover Ceremony held on August 10, 2023 at the Conference Room, NFA Regional Office IV, Balagtas, Batangas City.

RM Damole is a humble and passionate leader from Consolacion, Cebu and was the former Acting Regional Manager II of NFA Region XIV BARMM. He is a graduate of Bachelor of Science in Accountancy, Master in Public Administration and Doctor of Public Administration. He also had interest in Information Technology and took units in Master in said field.

Exhibiting excellence in his performance, RM Damole rose from being an Accounts Analyst in 1997 to various higher positions. In 2019, he became a full fledged Provincial Manager serving NFA Camiguin Provincial Office and then NFA Bukidnon P.O in 2020. Being recognized for his effective leadership, he also acted as Asst. Regional Manager of Regions 10, 7 and 6. -CL Gutierrez (correspondent)



**LEO V. DAMOLE:  
NEW LEADER  
OF NFA  
REGION IV**





## RM DAMOLE VISITED NFA OCCIDENTAL MINDORO

RM Leo V. Damole, the recently appointed Regional Manager of NFA Southern Tagalog Region, visited NFA Occidental Mindoro Branch Office together with Acting Assistant Regional Manager, Atty. Marko C. Callanta and Acting Engineer III, Engr. Bryan Atienza and visited various NFA-owned warehouses in SAMARICA and MAPSSA Areas to ensure that the branch is logistically ready for the upcoming palay procurement season.

He also took the opportunity to visit the location of the lot to be donated by the LGU Rizal where the proposed Rice Processing Center will be erected and inspected the status of the ongoing loading operations of well-milled rice intended for NFA Bicol Region at Caminawit Port, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro.

Moreover, the employees had the chance to meet him and to discuss their issues and concerns. He highlighted some of the recent undertakings of the management particularly on palay procurement operations and the ongoing restructuring of the agency during the meeting with the employees.

*-J. Cano (correspondent)*

## NFA PALAWAN SHARED BLESSINGS TO GRADE SCHOOL STUDENTS OF MAGBABADIL ABORLAN

On August 26, 2023, NFA Palawan Branch employees, led by Acting Branch Manager Jose M. Aguda, in partnership with Lapis at Papel organization conducted an Ugnayan Meeting with farmers in preparation for the upcoming palay procurement season and an outreach program at Magbabadil Elementary School, giving school supplies to incoming students in Brgy. Magbabadil Aborlan. Majority of these children were sons and daughters of farmers and indigenous people in the community.

With their main purpose to inform and encourage the farmers to sell palay to NFA on the upcoming main cropping season, they also took initiative to share love and support to young ones in the community. This “Lapis at Papel Bless Our Children Outreach Program”, wherein Acting BM Aguda is currently affiliated, was founded in 2009 by Engr. Magie Atienza with the main objective of providing assistance to underprivileged children by giving them basic school supplies. In this activity, employees assisted in giving school supplies like papers, notebooks, coloring books, pencils, crayons, and ballpens. A total of 244 children from kindergarten to grade 6 benefited from the outreach program.

*- G. Asturias (correspondent)*







NFA Palawan employees with the teachers of Magbabadil Elementary School

**“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.”**  
**- Winston Churchill**

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