

NFA R-3 WELCOMES BIOCO, UY: TWO IN THE LEAD



RODERICO R. BIOCO
NFA Administrator

As the new NFA Administrator, Roderico R. Bioco took oath of office before Executive Secretary Lucas P. Bersamin on January 18, 2023 and subsequently was appointed as vice-chairperson of the NFA Council on March 27, 2023.

Bioco, a BS Mathematics graduate of Ateneo de Manila University, established himself in the grains sector by assisting Mindanao's corn farmers. With decades of experience in the grains industry, he is renowned for assisting the nation's small farmers by promoting beneficial legislation and setting up a business with a genuine social commitment to the farmers. With this, he is challenged to do the same in the nation's rice agency.

He is an acknowledged leader in the field of agriculture with decades of experience as a farmer of corn, cassava, and livestock. He is also an industrialist who built important post-harvest facilities for corn in the nation

and an advocate for agricultural policies who upholds the welfare of our smallholder corn farmers.

Prior to his appointment by President Marcos, Bioco was the CEO of Mindanao Grains, a corn processing company based in Bukidnon. He was also the founding chairman of the Philippine Maize Federation, Inc. (PhilMaize), a national organization of corn farmers and cooperatives. His extraordinary efforts and achievements have boosted the corn business and empowered the welfare of our corn farmers.

Bioco administration intends to pursue major NFA transformation outlined in five (5) main components: 1) Masagana Food Infrastructure Modernization for Food Security and Nutrition to meet global standard for food safety, manufacturing and work place safety: HACCP, GMP and OSHA; 2) Sustainable Agri-Industrialization Program (Circular Economy); 3) Strategic Distribution System in partnership with DSWD to meet Calamity Relief, 4Ps, AICS and School Feeding fortified rice requirements; 4) SARAI Digital Transformation, and; 5) HR Restructuring Program

On the other hand, Director Alwin M. Uy officially assumed the duties and responsibilities as the Acting Regional Manager II of NFA Central Luzon effective January 30, 2023 pursuant to Special Order AO-2023-01-007 dated January 26, 2023. He was previously assigned at the Office of the Assistant Administrator for Finance and Administration at NFA Central Office.

During his first meetings with the employees NFA Central Luzon, Dir. Uy emphasized that growth,



ALWIN M. UY
Regional Manager II - NFA Region 3

progress and success are crucial elements in achieving a successful and winning goal: growth through the acquisition of new skills and knowledge, progress through their application to enhance performance and success through teamwork and the accomplishment of objectives.

As a response, the NFA Central Luzon employees expressed full support to the goals, planned reforms and directions of the new administration to bring better changes within the organization. Known as a man of action, Dir. Uy prioritized the re-evaluation and deliberation of NFA Central Luzon employees in acting capacity to find the best fit to all vacant positions to strengthen the agency's ability to deliver excellent government service. Such endeavor led the region to become a "restructured and transformed" one.



The GRANARY *inside*

MANAGEMENT

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ALWIN M. UY
Regional Manager II

ROY Q. UNTIVEROS
Assistant Regional Manager

Branch Managers

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NFA Bulacan

SHERYL G. CATOLICO
NFA Nueva Ecija

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The Granary is a semi-annual publication of the National Food Authority Region 3 with office address at Maharlika Highway, Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija.

ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE



In this modern era of digitization, artificial intelligence, and social media, it is rare to find a government institution that has an interest in and puts a premium on creating a publication as an avenue for disseminating information to its stakeholders.

The print media has always been a historical witness to what an institution like ours has contributed to the upliftment of the Filipino people throughout the turns of the pages of history.

It is with deep appreciation that I extend my warmest congratulations to the indefatigable officials and employees of NFA Region III for the rebirth of “The Granary,” the NFA Central Luzon’s official publication.

The “The Granary” will serve as a strong link among our

agency’s clients, particularly in Central Luzon, which is known as the Philippine Rice Granary as it encompasses the largest plain the Philippines and produces most of the country’s rice supply.

The “The Granary” is an effective platform to inform and update our stakeholders on NFA’s contribution towards attaining the government’s thrust of rice availability during emergencies and calamities in Central Luzon and the rest of the country.

The publication’s Editorial Board and its writers’ creative arts, designs, layouts, and write-ups mirror the public service we have given to every single Filipino who benefits from the palay produce of our local farmers, whether he be a Kapampangan, Tagalog, Pangasinan, or Sambal.

Lastly, I would like to commend the Region III management, headed by Regional Manager Alwin M. Uy, for this legacy that the NFA Region III have restarted and will continue to carry on.

Rest assured that the NFA administration full supports this endeavor. We are excited with anticipation for the stories you will bring us today and in the future.

Págmanánwan daká and Dakal a Salamat!

With this “The Granary” relaunch, let the circulation begin.


RODERICO R. BIOCO
NFA Administrator

NFA REGION 3's FIRST 100 DAYS: MOVING FORWARD WITH THE NEW LEADERS

The first 100 days in an office is usually described as “Honeymoon Days”. Let’s just say that both the new leader and the people whom he is to lead are given a period of adjustment. However, for this new management, under the leadership of Administrator Roderico R. Bioco and Regional Director Alwin M. Uy, there were no honeymoon days for they went straightaway to work.

Guided with the NFA’s core competencies of professionalism, service excellence, accountability, awareness and commitment, interpersonal relations and, Administrator Bioco's new policy directions, Director Uy led the region, equipped with his winning strategies, bringing up the hashtag #WeWillAllWin.

This hashtag was used to encourage the employees to get involved in the process, jointly envision what a team should be, understand the experiences and interactions, and collectively shape the decisions and actions to produce desired results.

Despite any difficulties, he believes that by working together in unity with commitment, harmony, understanding, meekness and consistency, the region will link the administration’s goals and vision towards one direction which is to WIN NFA.



As the region embraced changes, Director Uy guided and encouraged NFA Region III employees as they engaged to major activities such as massive palay procurement, rice distribution to relief agencies, implementation of Palay Marketing Assistance Program for Legislators and Local Government Units (PALMGU), release of One-Time grant of Rice Allowance (OTRA) pursuant to Administrative Order No. 2, series of 2022 by President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr., participation to Kadiwa ng Pangulo Program, and continuous ties/linkages to LGUs and stakeholders through conduct and attendance to ugnayan/meetings and assemblies.

We can't be sure of what the future holds, but he hoped that the so far accomplishment during his first 100 days has clearly proved the level of dedication, passion, and commitment his leadership has to deliver the kind of service that the people expect and deserve.

#WinNFA
#WeWillAllWin

The following are the highlights of NFA Region 3's first 100 days under our new leaders:

“There were no honeymoon days for they went straightaway to work.”



The NFA Central Luzon continuously procured palay from our local farmers/farmers' organizations at P19.00/kg that assured them of a fair return on production investment. It included procurement even in far-flung areas of the region thru mobile or pick-up and in-warehouse delivery scheme from individual and organized farmers.

The palay procurement program is the only means for the NFA to acquire and maintain the required buffer stock in line with the agency's function of assuring the availability of NFA rice during emergencies and calamities.

As of May 9, 2023 the region has accumulated a total of 9,320 bags of palay for the summer crop season contributed by the following branches and provinces:

| BRANCH OFFICE | SERVICE AREAS | VOLUME (IN BAGS OF 50kgs) |
|---------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nueva Ecija | Aurora and Nueva Ecija | 4,208 |
| Pampanga | Pampanga | 3,668 |
| Tarlac | Tarlac | 47 |
| Bulacan | Bulacan | 1,397 |
| TOTAL | | 9.320 |

Given all the efforts by the branch offices, the target was not attained primarily because of higher ex-farm prices offered by private traders during the period as compared with that of the NFA. These ranged from P17.50-19.00/kg for freshly harvested palay which was equivalent to P20.25-P22.00/kg converted price for dry palay. Most farmers grabbed the higher prices of private traders considering the increased prices of agricultural farm inputs.

Still, this performance enabled the agency to our local famers with the injection to the local economy of Cereal Procurement Fund (CPF) amounting to P8,854,000.00.

Nevertheless, the NFA Region III is mapping out plans and strategies to improve performance on palay procurement for the next cropping season within the region known to be as the "Rice Granary of the Philippines".



Palay Marketing Assistance Program for Legislators and Local Government Units (PALLGU) is a program of NFA since 2006 that enables the farmers to earn additional income from the palay produce they sell to NFA. The participating LGUs/Legislators shall enter into a marketing arrangement with NFA where the former provide a certain amount of premium on top of the existing NFA buying price currently set at P19 per kilogram, for the purchase of clean and dry palay from the legitimate farmers.

Among the Legislators/LGUs who entered to a marketing agreement for NFA's PALLGU Program were:

| Local Government Unit | Representative | Amount of Premium | Total Alloted Budget | Period Covered | Amount Already Utilized | %Acc. |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|----------------|-------------------------|--------|
| Provincial Government of Tarlac | Hon. Governor Susan A. Yap | P1.00/kg | P5 Million | 2022-2023 | P 783,359.94 | 15.67% |
| Municipality of Malolos, Bulacan | Hon. Mayor Christian Natividad | P3.00/kg | P1 Million | 2023 | P795,861.13 | 79.59% |

Director Uy stressed the importance of the partnership between the NFA and the Legislators/LGUs through the PALLGU to encourage farmer-constituents' support to the palay procurement program which plays a significant part in achieving the agency's mandate of buffer stocking.



BM PAOLO CRUZ MEETS WITH GOVERNOR YAP FOR PALLGU PARTNERSHIP

Mia Kristel P. Chico



Fostering a good relationship with the Provincial Government, NFA Tarlac Branch Manager, Paolo R. Cruz, together with Supervising Grains Officer, Manuel D. Rodriguez, paid a courtesy visit to Tarlac Provincial Governor, Hon. Susan A. Yap on March 3, 2023 at the Provincial Capitol Building, Macabulos Drive, Tarlac City. During the meeting, BM Cruz expressed his gratitude for the governor's continuous support to the agency, especially during the NFA Tarlac's palay procurement operations in the previous year, wherein through the tie-up of NFA and the Tarlac Provincial Government, a provision of premium amount on top of NFA's buying price through NFA's Palay Marketing Assistance Program for Legislators and Local Government Units (PALLGU) and the Yield Assistance Program (YAP) was made possible.

BM Cruz sought the approval of the Honorable Governor for the extension of the program for the year 2023 in order for the farmer-beneficiaries to continuously avail the additional incentive. Gov. Yap, ardently granted the request of the branch for a premium of P1.00/kg allocating P5M from the LGU budget. She even pledged providing additional logistics that will aid the branch during its palay procurement operations. Further, she assured BM Cruz that the provincial government shall ceaselessly support the agency in fulfilling its mandate and shall seek avenues to improve the livelihood of the province's farmer-constituents.



MALOLOS CITY GOVERNMENT SIGNS PALLGU TO SUPPORT LOCAL FARMERS

Howard Kent Reyes

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed on May 3, 2023, between the City Government of Malolos, represented by Honorable City Mayor Atty. Christian D. Natividad, Honorable Vice Mayor Miguel Tengco Bautista, and the National Food Authority Region 3, led by Regional Manager Alwin M. Uy and Bulacan Branch Manager Jimmy M. Mallari. The activity took place at the City Hall of Malolos in the Province of Bulacan.

In support of this program, Mayor Natividad allocated a total of P1 million pesos or premium of P3.00/kg for the year 2023, specifically dedicated to benefiting farmer beneficiaries in Malolos.



The ceremonial signing event was attended by key figures from NFA and local government officials. Farmer-leaders were also in attendance, highlighting the collaborative efforts between the government and the agricultural sector.

"A total of P1 million or premium of P3.00/kg for the year 2023, specifically dedicated to benefiting farmer-beneficiaries in Malolos."



UGNAYAN ACTIVITIES

It has been a practice by the NFA to prepare all the manpower and logistics requirement even before the onset of each cropping season. For this summer crop harvest of 2023, the NFA branch offices conducted Ugnayan/meetings to promote the Palay Procurement activities of the agency. In addition, other information dissemination and advocacy campaign strategies were initiated like distribution of flyers addressing the frequently asked questions with regard to the palay procurement program. Tarpaulins were also hanged in the respective warehouses/buying stations, mobile trucks and even in conspicuous/strategic places within the service areas of each branch office.

During Ugnayan/meetings with farmers, farmers' cooperative and associations, partner-agencies, the following were presented, discussed and clarified:

- A. Palay classification taking into consideration the NFA specifications and parameters as to moisture content, purity and discoloration and damage;
- B. Registry System for the Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA) identification/masterlist as the simplified requirement required by the agency;
- C. Process of procurement from delivery or mobile up to payment of palay to farmers;
- D. Warehouse/buying stations and other logistics strategically located to areas accessible to the farmers, and;
- E. Existing and proposed partnership with LGUs thru PALLGU, an additional premium provided by the LGU on top of the NFA's buying price of P19.00/kg.





MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 02

AUTHORIZING THE ONE-TIME GRANT OF RICE ASSISTANCE TO ALL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AND WORKERS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022

NFA REGION 3 RELEASES ONE-TIME GRANT OF RICE ASSISTANCE (OTRA) TO GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AND WORKERS

The NFA Region 3 started releasing the One-time Rice Assistance (OTRA) to government employees and workers, upon issuance of the approved Special Allotment Release Order (SARO) from the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), in compliance to Administrative Order No. 2 series of 2022, duly issued and approved by His Excellency, President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr.

Under Section 1 of this Order, the grant of a one-time assistance at a uniform quantity of 25 kilograms of NFA rice for each personnel of the National Government who are still in the government service and/or engaged by the government agencies as of November 30, 2022 was authorized. The rice assistance will benefit 1,892,648 government workers nationwide, including Job Orders (JOs) and Contract of Service (COS) personnel.

In accordance with the President's instructions, this will protect the welfare of government employees and workers by providing support for their

their basic household necessities while simultaneously boosting the production of the rice farmers.

As of May 9, 2023, 342 bags of NFA rice have been withdrawn by the agency-beneficiaries through the assigned focal person from the issuing warehouses of NFA Nueva Ecija, Tarlac and Bulacan. So far, actual issuance was still less than 1% of the total rice requirement of the estimated 152,000 beneficiaries in Region 3. Despite this, NFA branch offices guaranteed to comply not only to complete rice distribution within the set target date of June 30, 2023, but also to ensure that only good quality NFA rice will be issued.



President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. launched the Kadiwa ng Pangulo Program to different areas nationwide including the provinces in Region 3 in support to our local farmers. The NFA Region 3 branch offices, through the initiative of Regional Manager II Alwin M. Uy, joined and supported the program wherein selected NFA employees repacked NFA rice into 5-kilogram plastic containers, displayed and sold at P25.00/kg at the following Kadiwa stores:

| Place | Date | No. of packs (5-kg per pack) | No. of bags (in bags of 50kg) | No. of consumers served |
|--|----------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Limay, Bataan | March 31, 2023 | 300 | 30 bags | 300 |
| San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan | April 19, 2023 | 400 | 40 bags | 400 |
| Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PHilMech) in Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija | April 24, 2023 | 400 | 40 bags | 400 |
| TOTAL | | 1,100 | 110 bags | 1,100 |

The program, in partnership with the Department of Agriculture, aims to bridge the gap between farmers and consumers by establishing Kadiwa stores which will promote a well-balanced assortment of livestock and agricultural products, arts and manufactures related to agriculture, and farm-related products, as well as to encourage rural economic growth while highlighting the value of agriculture.

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. expressed his sincere gratitude to everyone who participated in the Kadiwa ng Pangulo program. He assured that the supply would not run out, pledging to open more "Kadiwa ng Pangulo" stores nationwide to support the growth of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and contribute to a healthy economy.



NFA JOINS KADIWA NG PANGULO (KNP) PROGRAM

LINKAGES WITH LGUs AND OTHER AGENCIES

CABANATUAN DREAMLAND FIA, INC., TIES UP WITH NFA UNDER ENHANCED PARTNERSHIP AGAINST HUNGER AND POVERTY(EPAHP) PROGRAM

Nataly Joy C. Venturina

Through the continuous support of National Irrigation Authority – Upper Pampanga River Integrated Irrigation Systems (NIA-UPRIIS) headed by Department Manager Rosalinda B. Bote, the signing of Memorandum of Agreement took place on March 30, 2023 between Cabanatuan Dreamland FIA, Inc. represented by President Victor A. Hernandez and National Food Authority represented by Regional Manager II Alwin M. Uy and Acting Branch Manager Jimmy M. Mallari.

The program aims to support the agency's mandate to have a sufficient rice buffer stock that is sourced solely from local farmers and well distribution during the times of calamities

With the continuous meetings and follow-ups with NIA-UPRIIS IAs, the Cabanatuan Dreamland FIA, INC agreed to enter into MOA with the agency pledging to deliver palay of not lower than ten (10) bags each hectare of farmers. On March 31, 2023, the IA initially delivered a total of 200 bags of palay. They were the second IA of NIA-UPRIIS to tie up with the NFA on EPAHP Program.

"The program aims to support the agency to achieve its buffer stocking mandate."





NIA-UPRIIS PLEDGES SUPPORT TO NFA'S PROCUREMENT PROGRAM

Howard Kent D. Reyes

The National Food Authority Region 3 and the Irrigators' Association entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on March 13, 2023 at Sta. Rita Warehouse, San Miguel, Bulacan agreeing the latter to deliver palay to NFA during procurement season with minimum of three (3) bags per hectare from each farmer-members.

The ceremonial signing was held between the NFA Region 3 represented by Regional Manager II Alwin M. Uy and Acting Branch Manager Sheryl G. Catolico, and NIA-UPRIIS headed by Department Manager Engr. Rosalinda Bote, and Engineering and Operations Division Manager Engr. Vivencia Dela Cruz. The presidents of the different Irrigators Association and NFA personnel also graced the occasion.

Director Uy highlighted the importance of ensuring a reasonable rate of return for Filipino farmers and providing an adequate supply of rice for the country. He also emphasized the agency's commitment to buy farmers' palay and ensure their income, especially when farmgate prices are low.

The MOA signing marked an important milestone for both NFA and the Irrigators' Association in efforts to support local farmers and ensure a stable food supply for the country. With this partnership, both parties are optimistic that they will be able to achieve their shared responsibilities of empowering the agriculture sector and promoting food security in the country.



NFA REGION 3 CONDUCTS PALAY PROCUREMENT BRIEFING

The NFA Region 3 branch offices conducted Palay Procurement Briefing to the procurement teams which included warehouse personnel, cash disbursing officers, classifiers and job orders in anticipation of the onset of summer cropping season.

The briefing was organized to abreast the procurement personnel on the guidelines and recent instructions to ensure smooth and efficient operations during procurement. Regional Manager II Alwin M. Uy and Acting Assistant Regional Manager Me-ann

C. Villaflor, together with the branch managers, called for an increased efforts in accomplishing the number one goal of the agency, which is maintaining its buffer stocks through palay procurement.

The discussions highlighted the following:

1. Warehouse Stock and MTS Documentation
2. Grains Procurement Policies and Procedures
3. Warehouse Policies and Procedures including Good Warehouse Keeping Practices
4. Guidelines in Designation and Fielding of Warehouse Supervisors

5. Grains Classification
6. Cash Disbursement Procedures
7. Implementation of Palay Marketing Assistance Program for Legislators and Local Government Units (PALLGU)

Through the presentations and discussions shared by competent speakers and officials, the personnel gained deeper understanding of the guidelines and procedures associated with their roles. Afterwards, a forum was opened to entertain questions and concerns of all attendees which were addressed by the concerned section heads.





STOCK ACCOUNTABLE OFFICERS' (SAO) TRAINING

Stock Accountable Officers' (SAO) Training was conducted on March 28, 2023 at the NFA Regional Office Staffhouse Main Hall, Cabanatuan City. It was spearheaded by Acting Regional Manager II Alwin M. Uy and Acting Assistant Regional Manager Roy Q. Untiveros.

The seminar was conducted to equip and fully train the Stock Accountable Officers prior to the fielding of assignment to the warehouses of the branch offices of Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, Bulacan and Pampanga.

Director Uy reminded the participants that SAOs are designated by the management to handle stocks owned and stored at NFA warehouses, hence, requiring them to remain accountable and responsible for the stocks entrusted to them by the management.



SEMINAR ON DEFENSIVE DRIVING, ONLINE LICENSE RENEWAL AND BASIC TROUBLESHOOTING SKILLS

A first ever Seminar on Defensive Driving, On-Line License Renewal And Basic Trouble-Shooting Skills for drivers was conducted on April 27, 2023, at NFA Staffhouse, Cabanatuan City. The seminar was enthusiastically initiated by Regional Manager II Alwin M. Uy and Acting Regional Manager Roy Q. Untiveros and facilitated by Mr. Gerardo A. Marte, Jr. of 817 Driving School, Cabanatuan City.

This seminar aimed to equip and enhance the driving skills of all Region 3 drivers while inculcating the importance of focus and concentration, patience and know-how on defensive driving.

Service vehicles are essential to our day-to-day operations as we deliver public service hence, safety of all in the hands of our beloved drivers is paramount.

NFA REGION 3 HOLDS GENERAL ASSEMBLY



A General Assembly was organized by Regional Manager II Alwin M. Uy and Acting Assistant Regional Manager Roy Q. Untiveros on March 7, 2023. The assembly was started with a Holy mass followed by a simple program at NFA Warehouse 3, Cabanatuan City.

Regional Manager Alwin M. Uy expressed his appreciation to all the NFA Region 3 employees who attended the event. With the initiative and good partnership between the management led by Administrator Roderico R. Bioco and the NFAEA, the much-awaited announcement of the grant of 2020–2021 CNAI and Rice Subsidy was



made. This brought about a great deal of happiness among all the employees. “This is really a good start of what we are praying and hoping for the agency,” he said.

ARD Untiveros, in his message, also acknowledged the employees and retirees who also joined and witnessed the event. He believed that showing gratitude is one of the most basic and effective way people can do to one another. He also thanked everyone who put forth effort to make the event happen.

Likewise, a simple retirement tribute was given to the Acting Branch Manager of NFA Pampanga Branch Office, Edwin Del Rosario, who retired from NFA service effective March 9, 2023.

TURN-OVER OF STEWARDSHIP

Incoming ARM Roy Q. Untiveros formally received the symbolic key of responsibility of the Office of the Assistant Regional Manager from outgoing ARM Me-ann C. Villaflor during the turn-over ceremony held on February 17, 2023 at NFA Central Luzon Staffhouse, Cabanatuan City.

Previously assigned at NFA Region 4, ARM Untiveros' transfer to NFA Region 3 was covered by Special Order No. AO-2023-02-023 dated February 07, 2023. On the other hand, ARM Villaflor was re-assigned to NFA Region 1 per Special Order No. AO-2023-02-020 approved and released on an even date.

Another batch of re-assignments came on April 25, 2023, by virtue of Special Order Number AO-2023-04-106 dated April 03, 2023. A turnover of stewardship of the following NFA Region 3 Branch Managers was held at NFA Central Luzon Staffhouse, initiated by Regional Manager II Alwin M. Uy and Acting Assistant Regional Manager Roy Q. Untiveros:

| BRANCH MANAGER | FROM | TO |
|--------------------|---|--|
| Paolo R. Cruz | Acting Branch Manager, NFA Tarlac | Acting Branch Manager, NFA Pampanga |
| Charles G. Alingod | Acting Warehouse Supervisor, NFA Tarlac | Acting Branch Manager, NFA Tarlac |
| Sheryl G. Catolico | Acting Branch Manager, NFA Bulacan | Acting Branch Manager, NFA Nueva Ecija |
| Jimmy M. Mallari | Acting Branch Manager, NFA Nueva Ecija | Acting Branch Manager, NFA Bulacan |

In his inspirational message, ARD Untiveros commended and compared the branch managers to a good soldier, ever ready to respond to the call of duty and to be where the battle is.

Also, Director Uy gave a message of encouragement and motivation for the NFA Region 3 employees to never falter in delivering the best for the agency.

Each branch manager expressed gratitude for the endless opportunities given them and humbly solicited for the same level of assistance and support from the employees towards the fulfilment of the agency's functions and mandate.



TURN-OVER CEREMONY

Pursuant to SO No. AO-2023-04-106 dated April 3, 2023

JIMMY M. MALLARI

Outgoing Acting Branch Manager
Nueva Ecija Branch Office
Incoming Acting Branch Manager
Bulacan Branch Office



SHERYL G. CATOLICO

Outgoing Acting Branch Manager
Bulacan Branch Office
Incoming Acting Branch Manager
Nueva Ecija Branch Office

PAOLO R. CRUZ

Outgoing Acting Branch Manager
Tarlac Branch Office
Incoming Acting Branch Manager
Pampanga Branch Office



CHARLES G. ALINGOD

Incoming Acting Branch Manager
Tarlac Branch Office

The NFA Central Luzon Regional Office (CLRO) together with Nueva Ecija and Branch Office (NEBO) joined this year's celebration of the Filipino Food Month – also called “Buwan ng Kalutong Pilipino” through a “boodle fight” activity on April 3, 2023. It was shared among the CLRO and NEBO employees through the initiative of Regional Manager Alwin M. Uy.

The celebration was simultaneously joined by NFA Tarlac and Bulacan Branch offices by displaying Filipino Food Month 2023 banners, posters, posting of reading materials in the social media page, and serving of local/traditional food to employees and walk-in clientele.

In accordance with Proclamation No. 469, s. 2018, the Department of Agriculture, as the lead agency, in collaboration with the Department of Tourism and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, shall direct the celebration with the theme, "Pagkaing Sariling Atin, Mahalin at Pagyamanin".

This aimed to raise awareness of Filipino food as a part of the country's cultural legacy, history, and identity in the promotion, conservation and enrich its culture. This also highlighted our strong culinary heritage, the importance of local communities, particularly farmers and fisher folks, as well as the culinary industry and national food security.



A TASTE OF FILIPINO CULTURE: CELEBRATION OF FILIPINO FOOD MONTH 2023

“WE ON ENCOMPASSING SOCIETY”: NFA PARTAKES ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY PROGRAM

The National Food Authority Region 3 participated to the month-long celebration of the 2023 National Women’s Month with the conduct of series of activities and seminars attended by its employees. The agency also made a Wednesday habit of wearing purple as support to women and gender equality.

As its renewed commitment to the advocacy, this year’s theme, “WE for gender equality and inclusive society” has since served as a venue to focus women’s accomplishments and address on-going and emerging women’s empowerment and gender equality issues and concerns, difficulties and commitments. Additionally, it emphasized the need for inclusive growth and success, which must be achieved by creating an environment where all Filipinos have equal access to opportunities and the tools necessary to fully engage in an innovative and globally competitive economy.

Some of the activities are as follows:

| BRANCH OFFICE | ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED/ PARTICIPATED | DATE/PLACE | ATTENDEES | SPONSORED/ CONDUCTED BY |
|---------------|--|--|-----------------------------|---|
| Nueva Ecija | Zumba Activity | March 7, 2023 Warehouse 3, NFA Cabanatuan City | CLRO and NEBO Employees | Central Luzon Regional Office |
| | GAD to KNOW: Training on Gender Analysis, GAD Audit, Planning and Budgeting for National GAD Focal System | March 23-24, 2023, AMCO Beach Resort, Baler, Aurora | Acting QAO Jessary S. Go | Provincial Government of Aurora thru the Accredited GAD Trainer from DILG |
| Tarlac | Seminar on Republic Act 6713 also known as "Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees". | March 16-17, 2023, Island Tropic Hotel and Restaurant, Tarlac City | Tarlac employees | Civil Service Commission |

These trainings and seminars reminded all the employees to perform well as we strengthen our commitment to serve the public with full dedication which can make, WE (Women and Everyone) gender equality a possibility.

Simply put, the biggest impact of the first 100 days of NFA Region 3 under our new leaders was the boost of the morale of every employee which triggered the drive to realize these accomplishments, move forward and continue doing good.

Director Uy said, “Being an executive leader comes with big responsibility and a lot of hard work. But with the right preparation, approach, and leading by example, together, we can accomplish our common goal. We can WIN this game!”

Laud and Proud!

The Power of Perseverance: Mang Amado's Success Story

Evelyn M. Sunglao

When equated to life, leaves on trees fall and then resprout. Just with every harvest season at the National Food Authority, farmers come and go. That is how life works....

The tree, as a magnificent creature with well-anchored roots, will flourish and endure for a very long time, just like an 85-year-old farmer, Mr. Amado R. Domingo Sr., from Macatbong, Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija, whose loyalty and commitment to the agency is immeasurable.

The journey of "Mang Amado," as the employees at the NFA Nueva Ecija Branch Office affectionately refer to him, is full of astonishment, difficulties, wonderful moments, and experiences that define him as a person, a parent, a friend, and a farmer.

Living on a farm may appear to be quite labor- and energy-intensive. He started farming when he was just 17 years old, using just one (1) hectare of available agricultural land in Macatbong, Nueva Ecija.

He has been a farmer since the dawn of time, cultivating his crops using the direct seeding technique, which involves sowing the seeds right into the ground. Due to the lack of irrigation, timing and quality of land preparation are critical factors for growth and yield of rice. By using a carabao to plow the ground, he prepares it for primary tillage, levels it, and then plants the crop. He also makes sure that bunds are tightly compacted and securely shut. For four months, he will keep an eye on the state of his crop for he believes that proper land preparation facilitates water, nutrient and pest management for him to have a good and bounty harvest.

Farming requires patience because the rewards of one's labor are sometimes delayed by drought, making it like a long waiting game. According to Mang Amado, he started selling his yields since the Rice and Corn Administration. Since then, he has consistently sold his palay to the NFA, regardless of the quantity, the price on the market at the time, or the conditions.

When asked if he had ever sold his produce to the traders, he answered, "Oo, kaso lugì sa timbang kapag sa labas nagbenta ng palay."

Mang Amado, like the other farmers, was unable to pursue his schooling due to financial restrictions, nonetheless, was able to raise his six (6) children by laboring in the fields with his own bare hands. He was in terrible pain when one of his children died, but he never loses faith and hope.

Despite the challenges, his passion for his work has propelled him to expand his agricultural area from one (1) to seven (7) hectares.

As a parent, given his advanced age, he has decided to leave his six (6) children a bequest of six (6) hectares of his farmland in the hopes that they will uphold his advocacy for farming and develop enduring values. Back where he started his farming career, he is currently cultivating just one acre of land.

"Sa pagsasaka, nabuhay ko ng maayos at marangal ang aking pamilya, nakapagpundar ng kalabaw at hand tractor..!"



Being an enthusiastic farmer, he is familiar with the programs and projects of the various government organizations that deal with agriculture. When it comes to the benefits that he gained from the government and farming, he vigorously answered, "Sa pagsasaka, nabuhay ko ng maayos at marangal ang aking pamilya, nakapagpundar ng kalabaw at hand tractor. Ang gobyerno, malaki ang naitutulong sa amin, sa DA, nakakakuha kami ng libreng punla at pataba. Ang NFA noon, nabigyan na din kami ng fertilizher na libre, nabigyan din ako ng pagkakataon na makapagbenta ng bigas."

As a friend, he never stops encouraging other farmers to sell their palay produce to the NFA. As to how he helps other farmers, he replied, "Kapag nagrenta ako ng sasakyan ng palay para magdeliver, isinasabay ko na din ang sa ibang kalapit na farmers para hindi na sila gumastos pa sa transportasyon. Sa mga kooperatiba naman, nahikayat ko sila na kumuha ng Master's Passbook sa NFA."

In 2022, his farm and other sources of income were damaged by Super Typhoon Karding, producing only 11 bags of palay. In the dazzling light of a new day, he simply walks from his home to NFA to sell his produce while taking in the vista, kissed by the sun, with nothing in his pocket.

Perhaps, though, it was a heartbreaking scenario to witness an old, tired man still smiling despite the pain he endures while walking. It was wonderful, priceless, and precious event for the NFA-NEBO, one that each employee will carry with them forever.

Mang Amado is a man who has devoted his entire life to farming with passion, patience, and perseverance.

A man who still has the stamina to stand up with pride and always lend a helping hand, like a bough that stretches up in the sky, under the sun, and has weathered the number of years.

A person whose commitment to the National Food Authority is comparable to the firmly planted roots of a tree and whose respect and trust for the organization are unfathomable.

In conclusion, as he often says, the NFA has greatly aided him to continue his farming because he is aware that the organization always supports and defends farmers constantly.



THE YOUNGEST OF THEM ALL

Mia Kristel P. Chico

Ms. Nataly Joy C. Venturina, also known as Nat, a 24-year-old young lady, is a delightful and uplifting presence among her peers. Her ability to spread joy and laughter aligns perfectly with her name, reflecting her positive and energetic nature. On the other hand, while her youthful energy may allow her to engage in light-hearted banter, **being the youngest regular employee in NFA Region 3**, brings its own set of challenges that she must navigate.

Nat, born on November 17, 1998, is the youngest child of Mr. Anthony S. Venturina and Mrs. Ruby C. Venturina. Since childhood, she has been actively involved in school activities, finding great enjoyment in engaging with others. Nat's enthusiasm and dedication have made her a constant high achiever, excelling not only in academics but also in extracurricular pursuits.

After completing her studies, Nat joined the National Food Authority (NFA) in 2018. Starting as a Job Order employee, she eventually secured a permanent position as Clerk III on March 7, 2019 at NFA Central Luzon Regional Office. However, transitioning from academic circles to the professional world proved to be a significant adjustment for her.

The sudden pressures and responsibilities of her new job overwhelmed her. Additionally, Nat struggled to find her place and adapt to the unfamiliar work environment which led to moments of uncertainty and thoughts of giving up.

In such moments, Nat draws inspiration from her mother's chosen life verse, Matthew 19:26: "With God all things are possible." This verse has been deeply ingrained in her upbringing and has shaped her personal life. It serves as her constant source of strength, driving her determination to confront life's challenges with courage and optimism. Through this unwavering faith, Nat has developed resilience and discovered her passion for serving the public.

Over time, Nat has learned to adapt in her new environment, eventually finding fulfilment and enjoyment in her work. She had to take on various assignments that allowed her to hone and develop her skills, progressing from Clerk III to positions such as Accounts Analyst, Administrative Officer II, Acting Supply Officer, and currently, Acting Quality Assurance Officer. Additionally, she also took the responsibilities as PBAC Secretariat and Acting Branch Information Officer.



Despite initial uncertainties, she embraced these responsibilities and gave her best effort. The sense of accomplishment she experienced from overcoming these challenges made her feel deeply fulfilled. Furthermore, Nat was also able to bring pride to the region by showcasing her talent during the celebration of NFA's 50th Anniversary, participating in the Agency's Ballroom competition.

Nat's current assignment as Acting Quality Assurance Officer at NFA Nueva Ecija Branch Office presents her with her greatest challenge yet. Despite her excitement about the opportunity of being able to engage more with the public through her new assignment, doubts on her abilities occasionally surface in her mind. Nevertheless, Nat has developed a profound belief that these challenging moments provide valuable opportunities for personal growth and development.

Despite being young and having the potential to explore other career paths, Nat is committed to be an instrument for the achievement of NFA's goals and missions. Her attachment to the Agency goes beyond love and extends to a sense of loyalty and a desire to contribute to its growth and success. Nat genuinely hopes for better days for the NFA and eagerly looks forward to being present to witness that day.

Looking towards the far future, Nat envisions herself into becoming an entrepreneur. Her outgoing nature leads her to dream of retiring early and eventually exploring life beyond the confines of the government and into the business world. However, she entrusts the realizations of these aspirations to fate and the Higher Power, acknowledging that the path ahead is guided by forces beyond her control. Her life verse serves as a constant reminder for Nat to lean on her faith, trust in God's plan, and remain steadfast in her pursuit of purpose and fulfilment. It encourages her to step out of her comfort zone and pursue her dreams with determination.

THE GRAPEVINE

Mia Kristel P. Chico



You would often see her in the office, quietly sitting in her chair, minding her own business, while everyone else seems busy interacting with each other about work, chatting, or simply moving around aimlessly. This would always be her imprinted image in my mind. Ms. Rowena I. Bagayas or Ma'am Weng, as I would call her, would always be seen contently working and owning her space, seemingly satisfied enough to know that she is still one of the employees who keeps NFA Tarlac Branch Office running.

Being the most senior regular employee of NFA Region 3, Ma'am Weng entered government service on September 1, 1981, as a Commission on Audit Examiner at NFA Tarlac Branch Office. From then on, her forty-two (42) years of employment comprised various positions such as Accounts Analyst, Acting Cashier, Special Disbursing and Collecting Officer, ERAP Sari-Sari Store (ESSS) Coordinator, until finally being promoted to Supply Officer II.

Being the loving mother that she is, her family has always been the reason why she lasted in the service for so long. She believes her life's purpose is to dedicate it to her offspring – providing their needs, sending them to a good school, but most importantly, to raising decent and God-fearing children. The fact that they are now flourishing in their chosen careers gives Ma'am Weng the assurance that she has succeeded in her mission. Despite her children's achievements, Ma'am Weng continued to stay humble and carried on with her everyday work.

Alongside Ma'am Weng's growth in her personal life, she also witnessed NFA's transformation with her own eyes. She is one of the remaining employees who was able to experience first-hand the vast changes that the agency has undergone throughout the years. From its employees, building structures, policies, mandates, technology, and even work ethics, she is a living testimo-

Ma'am Weng was not spared from challenges in her career. Issues and controversies would always be part of a workplace and she was no exception. Nevertheless, she never faltered in giving her best; instead, she doubled her efforts to prove herself worthy of her position. She remained silent, resolute with the fact that she knows herself better than anyone else.

Ma'am Weng would always look forward to the agency's extra-curricular activities. She would eagerly anticipate team building activities and sports fest being conducted annually. Unfortunately, because of her age, her participation to these activities have been limited as she could not endure long trips anymore and she no longer has the same stamina as before .

When she was younger, Ma'am Weng would always dream of life after retirement where she would no longer be required to report to work, weekends would be forever, and not having to deal with annoying co-employees.

However, as she now nears her compulsory retirement in September, she cannot help but wish to stay longer. Her system has become so accustomed to working that she is now dreading the idea that she would not be able to see her beloved agency daily, to which she has served for 42 years.

Asked what advice she could give young employees, Ma'am Weng says that one should always love their work. No matter what position one may hold, when things are done with love, combined with dedication, values, and good manners, one will always be successful.

Finally, if there is one trait that Ma'am Weng wants to be remembered for, it would be her humility. She has always remained grounded, treating everyone with the same respect, because she believes that one should not let success get in his head. Her co-workers can attest to her consistent humility over the years.

As the Stoic Marcus Aurelius said, "Be like a grapevine that produces grapes without looking for anything in return". Just as the grapevine's job is to produce grapes, and when it has done so, it simply moves on, not needing anything in return, the fact that one was able to perform his job well should be rewarded enough. One should not expect validation, praise, or recognition for a job they should have done in the first place. Like Ma'am Weng, may we all be like a grapevine - silently doing the work assigned to us to the best of our abilities.

FROM SCRAP TO CRAFT

A simple mobile grains collector made of locally available and scrap materials was designed, fabricated, and tested for collecting and bagging of different grains on concrete pavement (solar drier).

This innovation by Mr. Richard Joseph H. Magcalas and his wife, Ms. Catherine M. Magcalas, Acting Warehouse Supervisor of NFA Nueva Ecija Branch Office, was undertaken to help the agency on the following reasons:

1. Reduction of grains losses
2. Reduction of labor cost
3. Saving of time and energy

Initially, grains are manually loaded into a dustpan by pushing the grain bagging machine. The hand wheel is then rotated so that a gear can push the rack to move upward. Finally, the dustpan tilts to pour the grains into the empty sack. This simple machine has the following major parts: frame, wheel, long and wide funnel and an empty sack.

This innovation has provided us opportunity to use gained knowledge on helping our agency to promote such technology and be available to users with very minimal expenses.



NFA EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION'S CORNER

As with any other government agency, the NFA relies on the dedication and hard work of its employees to achieve its mandate. Given this, it is important that employees are guaranteed of protection and promotion of their rights and interests.

In 2022, the NFA Employees Association (EA) was removed from agency's organizational structure. This caused great concern among employees who felt that they had lost an important avenue through which they can advocate their purpose.

With the new management through NFA Administrator Roderico R. Bioco, the NFAEA has been re-established. This move brought new hope to the NFA employees who now feel they have

a platform to voice their concerns and advocate for their rights. The re-establishment of the NFAEA demonstrated a commitment to empowering employees and ensuring that they are being heard.

In NFA Region 3, the NFAEA is assured of the full support from the management under the stewardship of Regional Manager II Alwin M. Uy, Assistant Regional Manager Roy Q. Untiveros, and the Branch Managers from Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga and Tarlac.

Recently, the NFAEA conducted election of officers in the four (4) branches. It was a significant event that was actively participated by everyone. Elected officials from the branch offices are as follows:

| POSITION | BULACAN | NUEVA ECIJA | PAMPANGA | TARLAC |
|---------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| President | Emerson C. Adriano | Hiyasmin B. Cabacungan | Rolando C. Ramos | Alejo B. Canlas |
| Vice President | Jeannete F. Go | John Richard S. Atayde | Angelito D. Rodriguez | Princess Diane P. Valencia |
| Secretary | Rhia M. Dionisio | Anie Dl. Lucero | Eliza P. Candaza | Hanna Elaisha S. Velasco |
| Treasurer | Ma. Anamie S. Carpio | Ester Arlyn C. Cid | Aiza S. Montemayor | Regine V. Manaloto |
| Auditor | Alma P. Chua | Mayeth O. Pantalunan | Hazel Elaine N. Madia | Nida A. Rentigrado |
| P.R.O. | Ma. Cecilia Dc. Santos | Coralyn B. Punongbayan | Miriam D. De Leon | Arlene B. Guevarra |
| Business Manager | Ethel P. Bo | Venus F. Velasco | Lydia C. Mendoza | Aubrey G. Biteng |
| Board of Directors | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Hernando C. Adriano Maria Teresa S. Adriano Juanito . Macatangay Luigi Edison J. Balbin Arnold A. Pagtalunan | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Lloyd A. Caoile Emilito Capili Kay Ann C. Navarro Luzille G. Pineda Edmar Lazaro Nelson Ortiz Yolanda Matias | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Lewin D. Guillen Reynan G. Santos Sheena C. Manalili Melanie T. Buenaventura Sarah May B. Manila Lenie Lyn R. Lacasandile | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Manuel D. Rodriguez Georgina P. Sarmiento Richard S. Ildefonso Ma. Corazon D. Santos Ruel I. Non Gerardo A. Sunga Mia Kristel P. Chico |



NFA EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION'S CORNER

After the Branch Offices' election, the association went on to hold its regional election. NFA Region 3 is one of the biggest regions with the highest number of EA members. With the set of new officers, NFAEA warrants a strong partnership for continuous growth of employee-members in particular and of the agency in general.

NFA Region 3 elected officers are as follows:

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| PRESIDENT | Rolando C. Ramos |
| VICE PRESIDENT | Hiyasmin B. Cabacungan |
| SECRETARY | Emerson C. Adriano |
| TREASURER | John Richard S. Atayde |
| AUDITOR | Alejo B. Canlas |
| BOARD OF DIRECTORS | Jeanette F. Go Angelito D. Rodriguez Princess Diane P. Valencia |



RETIREES' PAGE BALIK-TANAW

Isa ko ng nakagawian ang maniwala at sumunod sa kasabihang, "WHEN U PRAY, PRAY AS IF YOU DEPENDED ONLY TO GOD FOR EVERYTHING, AND WHEN YOU WORK, WORK AS IF YOU DEPENDED ONLY TO YOUR WORK FOR A LIVING." With this attitude, talagang magdadalas ka ng taimtim at magtatrabaho ka sa NFA ng mahusay at tapat kasi gusto mong magtagal ka sa ahensiyang ito, sapagkat dito ka umaasa ng iyong ikabubuhay at maging ng iyong pamilya.

Nang ako ay pumasok sa NFA at interviewhin ni dating RAO Angel G. Imperial, tandang tanda ko pa ang tinanong niya sa akin, na kung ano ang katangian o virtue na gustong gusto ko at sinagot ko siya ng Honesty. Kasi para sa akin, Honesty is the best policy. Tinanong niya uli ako na paano mo malalaman na honest ka talaga, ang sagot ko, never in my life during my student days na lumingon o nangopya ako sa katabi ko at kung may device to gauge or measure, my being honest, I think the metrics will overflow o sobra pa sa sukat. Kaya nang ako ay mapasok na sa NFA, ay minahal ko ang ahensiya. Ipinagtatanggol ko ito kung ako ay makakarinig ng pagbatikos o puna mula sa ibang tao, kasi alam ko ang hirap na ginagawa ng mga kasamahan ko lalo na kung may procurement operation. Hindi alintana ang bagyo o kalamidad pag may procurement o distribution operation ang ahensiya.

Dito nasubukan ko ang umuwi ng gabi at makisabay sa traktora noong ako ay maassign sa Quezon, Nueva Ecija. Dito nasubukan ng isang empleyado ang kumain ng huli sa oras lalo at may pila o maraming nagpapasok ng palay sa bodega at field offices.

Ang isa pang hinding hindi ko malilimutan sa NFA ay ang pagsasamahan ng mga kawani na ang lahat ay parang isang pamilya. Pwedeng mong daingan sa kagipitan, lalo na si Ninang Codie Fos, Tita Menchie Joson at iba pa, mga katangian ng pagdadamay na bibihira sa isang opisina. Masasabi mo sa mga kasamahan mo kung may problema ka o gipit sa aspetong pinansyal at iba pang problema na bumabagabag sa iyo at handa silang tumulong na magbigay ng payo.

Itinuturing kong isang malaking pamilya ang NFA, may maganda at nakakatuwang samahan, lalo at may tinatawag na Mother Codie ang opisina noon, na isang maunawain sa kanyang mga kaopisina.

My early days in NFA (formerly NGA) was filled with enjoyable works without feeling pressured. Young then, I relished the companionship of new friends, together with the experience of backpacking with them during weekends with no plans of where to go. How good it is to reminisce such memories with friends. No neglected works, no works undone during weekdays, so we can enjoy ourselves during the weekends.

Apart from memories I had with my co-workers, were the challenges I have faced inside the office which was truly unforgettable. These tasks came with great risks that needed considerable amount of responsibility even towards the end of my career.

My experiences had molded me to become a better version of myself, as a wife and a mother.

GLORIA B. DE BELEN

Former Cashier III, NFA NEBO

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY: UPS AND DOWNS

National Food Authority – a government agency which I am not so familiar with when I applied in December 1980. I just wanted to have a job as a fresh BSBA Economics graduate. Navigating through this agency gave me a sense of pride and fulfillment while climbing up the ladder of success sans the “padrino system.” Hiring and promotion during the time of then NFA Administrator Jesus T. Tanchanco, Sr., a well-loved Administrator, was based on merit and fitness that is why they were able to recruit the best and the brightest. Those years were NFA’s glorious years.

My almost forty (40) years of service in the NFA, my first and last employer, was full of challenges, learnings, and hard work. Learning the ins and out of NFA operations, relating with NFA stakeholders – LGU’s, consumers, contractors and employees, is such a Herculean task which require a lot of patience, understanding, motivation, wit, and good leadership skills to accomplish. The training, the problems and controversies encountered, the awards reaped, the hard work invested to every task, the respect earned from the employees and stakeholders were the driving forces that inspired me to love and serve our beloved agency. However, there were times that NFA was embroiled in controversies wherein the employees’ morale was affected and dragged into the controversy. It was the time when some NFA higher ups were implicated in corporate malfeasance wherein the culture of graft and corruption permeated in the agency and questions on NFA’s relevance was brought out. NFA was able to hurdle these challenges and controversies through the concerted efforts of the employees and executives who remained honest and steadfast in their commitment to render selfless service to the Filipino people.

I am forever grateful to our beloved agency, NFA, which made me a better person and the reason why I am enjoying the fruits of my retirement. It was also during my stint at NFA when I was able to finish my MPA and Ph.D. in Public Administration degrees – thanks to my former Regional Directors for their support in my self and career development. Earning my Ph.D. degree gives me the opportunity to teach at NEUST Graduate School from 2008 to present which definitely honed my capabilities and a source of additional income. To all NFA employees and executives who are presently manning the agency, I wish that the NFA’s culture of excellence, integrity, teamwork, respect, and accountability shall remain in the hearts and minds of NFA personnel. May God bless us all.


MARIETTA J. ABLAZA

MARITR3S!

TANONG: KUNG ANG SWELDO MO AY ISANG AWIT, ANO ANG PAMAGAT NITO, AT BAKIT?

MGA SAGOT:

“Narda”: Tila ibon kung lumipad.

Luigi Edison Balbin, NFA Bulacan

“Kung mawawala ka, hindi ko makakaya, harapin ang buhay nang ng-iisa”

Ian B, NFA-NEBO

“Kisapmata: O kay bilis namang maglaho”

“Survivor: I’m a survivor, I’m not gonna give up, I’m not gonna stop, I’m gonna work harder”

Nida A. Rentigrado, NFA-Tarlac

“Memories: Here’s to the ones that we got, cheers to the wish you were here but you’re not”

Michael Dann M. Villanueva-NFA Tarlac

“Gone too soon: Like a rainbow, fading in the twinkling of an eye”

Manuel D. Rodriguez, NFA Tarlac

“Bitiw: Huwag bibitiw at kasamang maglalayag sa araw-araw na buhay”

“Beep-Beep ang sabi ng jeep, kahit anong gawin, bali-bligtarin, ganun pa rin...” *Orland B. Cunan, NFA Tarlac*

"Paano Kung Wala Ka Na?"

Rose I. Esguerra, NFA CLRO

"I Can't Say Goodbye to You"

Josephine C. Bacungan, NFA CLRO

TANONG: KUNG WALA KA SA NFA, ANO AT NASAAN KA NGAYON?

MGA SAGOT:

Artista sa ABS-CBN!

Philip C. Velayo, NFA Pampanga

Nasa abroad kasama ng asawa ko.

Rina Mae M. Sicat, NFA Pampanga

Magsasaka!

Charles G. Alingod,

NFA Tarlac

Politician!

Jose T. De Guzman, NFA Tarlac

Agricultural Worker

Alejo B. Canlas, NFA Tarlac

Farmer ng mga baby ducks!-

Richard S. Ildefonso, NFA Tarlac

Teacher

Georgina P. Sarmiento,

NFA Tarlac

Nun

Ma. Corazon D. Dantes,

NFA Tarlac



TANONG: NAMISS NYO BA ANG NFA RICE SA PALENGKE?

MGA SAGOT:

Oo namiss namin talaga. Marami po ang naghahanap ng NFA rice lalo na dito sa amin, marami ang mga katutubong (aetas) mahihirap, sila po ay umaasa sa murang bigas. Malaki po ang naging bahagi ng NFA sa buhay ko, dahil sa kita ko sa pagtitinda napagtapos ko po sa pag-aaral ang aking mga anak. Kaya kung mabigyan ng pagkakataon, kami po ay umaasa na balang araw ay ibalik ang murang bigas ng NFA sa mga palengke. Ito ay malaking tulong sa amin hindi lang sa mga retailers kundi sa lahat ng mamamayan na hirap makabili ng abot kayang bigas. -*Maribel Lennon – Capas, Tarlac, Dating NFA Accredited Retailer*

Miss na miss na po namin ang NFA, ang mga suki ko panay ang tanong kung kelan ulit magkakaroon ng NFA rice sa palengke. Sa kasalukuyan, napakataas po ng commercial rice, hirap ang mga mamimili na bumili ng bigas dahil sa presyo nito. kailangan pa rin po ng mga tao ang NFA rice dahil marami po tayong kababayang mahihirap. -*Jackielyn Inovejas – Camiling, Dating NFA Accredited Retailer*

Miss na po namin ang NFA. Noong may NFA rice pa po sa palengke meron pong pang-balanse sa presyo, nung nawala na po ito sa palengke, hindi na tumigil sa pagtaas ang presyo ng bigas. -*Anonymous – Paniqui, Dating NFA Accredited Retailer*

Sobrang namimiss na namin. Maraming nagtatanong ng NFA rice sa palengke. Hinahanap pa rin ng tao dahil ang mahal na ng mga bigas. Gayundin, malaking tulong sa aming pang-araw araw ang kinikita namin noon sa NFA. Sana po maibalik pa para makatulong tayo sa mga kapwa natin na naghihirap. -*Guy Donato Sibal – Bamban, Dating NFA Accredited Retailer*

Syempre nami-miss ko, lalo na yung pagwiwithdraw namin ng bigas sa NFA at yung kwentuhan sa opisina. Malaking bagay ang NFA rice sa palengke, kasi marami pang mahihirap na pilipino. Wala na din kaming magawa tuwing tumataas ang presyo ng commercial rice kasi wala ng kontrol ang gobyerno dito, pero kung may NFA rice hindi nila basta-bastang itataas ang presyo ng bigas.

-*Renato Fernandez – Paniqui, Dating NFA Accredited Retailer*

Oo naman. Namimiss na namin ang NFA, lalo na yung bigas, kailangan kasi ng tao yun eh, di nila masabayan yung presyo ng commercial rice. Meron nga akong suki, pa-isa-isang kilo lang ang kayang bilhin sa commercial rice, pero kung NFA rice yun dalawang kilo na sana ang mabibili nya.

-*Francisca Rodriguez - Concepcion, Dating NFA Accredited Retailer*

ANG EMPLEYADO NG GOBYERNO

By: Emerson C. Adriano, NFA Bulacan

Ang isang mabuting empleyado ng gobyerno,

Sasabihin itong nakataas ang noo,

Likas at tunay ang mga katangiang ito,

Dakila at uliran na maipagmamalaki nito.

Sa salita at gawa ang makita'y kagalakan,

Gumanap sa tungkulin na walang kapintasan,

May pag galang sa kapuwa at serbisyong tunay,

Gumawa ng tama, maging tapat sa lahat ng bagay.

Huwag kalimutan ang iyong sinumpaan,

Bilang isang empleyado ng pamahalaan,

Bawat isa sa atin may mahahalagang gampanin,

Dapat nating pagsikapan at ating balikatin.

Di lang dapat sa husay at talino ang isang empleyado,

Kailangan ay maka Diyos at may pusong maka-tao,

May dalisay na yaman, ito ang respeto't kabutihan,

Taglay sa pagkilos o pakikipagtalastasan.

Pahalagahan din natin mahal nating ahensiya,

Makiisa sa mga programa at mabuting adbokasiya,

Sa iisang layunin ay lubusang magtulongan,

Higit sa lahat, dapat nagmamalasakitan.

Bago ko wakasan ang maikling tulang ito,

Nawa ito ay lubos na nauunawaan ninyo,

Isang empleyadong masipag at disiplinado,

Kailanman ay hindi dapat maging perwisyo.

Nasa maayos na pagsunod ang tunay na kalayaan,

Nasa pagkakaisa ang talagang kapayapaan,

Kaya ang mensahing ito na aking inihanda,

Nawa'y maibahagi ito sa buong bansa.

SA AKING PAG-IISA

Ano na naman itong nararamdaman

Tila namatayan sa labis na kalungkutan

Ang aking minamahal ay nasa malapit lamang
Ngunit bakit hindi nakikita na tila hangin sa parang

Kay tagal nang panahon ang aming relasyon
Ni hindi na mabilang kung ilan na nga bang taon
Hindi ba dapat habang lumalaon
Ang pagmamahalan ay patuloy na yayabong

Subalit ano itong aming pinagdaraan
Kay tagal na pagsubok na walang katapusan
Panlalamig sa isa't-isa ang nararamdaman
Bakit hindi makapag-usap upang malampasan

Pagsubok nga lang ba, O tunay na wala na
Ang init ng pagmamahal at pananabik sa isa't-isa
San ay hindi maganap ang nasa isipan ko
At sana'y nalilibang lamang sa pagtatrabaho

Matagal ko na ring pinapangarap
Ang kami'y maglakad at sa altar ay humarap
Ngunit ang mahal ko; na aking hinahangad
Ay parang wala nang ganoong pangarap

Bakit niya magawang sa akin ay bigkasin
Kung ano nga ba ang kanyang naiisin
Ang tingin ba sa akin ay isang tigasin
Upang 'di sumunod sa bawat sasabihin

Maraming beses na, na aking napatunayan
Na walang hindi gagawin para sa kanyang kasiyahan
Subalit bakit parang kulang at kulang
At 'di maipakita na siya ay nasiyahan

Dumating na ang sandali na ako ay nakapag-isip
Bakit nga ba lagi akong nagsusumiksik
Sa kanyang lugar na walang pananabik
Sa katulad kong bihira kung sumilip

Kalungkutan o kalungkutan
Hanggang kailan ito mararamdaman
Ang panalangin ko'y sandal na lamang
Upang pintuan ng pag-asa ay muling mabuksan

Ang tanging hangad ko ay ganoon na lamang
Aming pagmamahalan ay muling magkapuwang
Sa dalawang pusong tunay ang pag-iibigan
Upang sa aking pag-iisa'y, labis na kalungkutan ay
hindi na maranasan.

LIST OF BUYING STATIONS

| WAREHOUSE | ADDRESS | CONTACT NUMBER |
|------------------------------------|---|----------------|
| NUEVA ECIJA BRANCH OFFICE | | |
| Cabanatuan Food Center | KM 114 Maharlika Highway, Cabanatuan City | 0917-566-1747 |
| Aliaga Food Center | Brgy. Bucot, Aliaga, Nueva Ecija | 0998-999-1525 |
| Guimba Food Center | Brgy. Saranay, Guimba, Nueva Ecija | 0918-368-5244 |
| Valle FLGC | Valle, Talavera, Nueva Ecija | 0917-630-8659 |
| Gapan Food Center | Brgy. San Nicolas, Gapan, Nueva Ecija | 0935-317-6833 |
| Muñoz Food Center | Poblacion, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija | 0938-228-4659 |
| Bongabon Food Center | Brgy. New Era, Bongabon, Nueva Ecija | 0927-250-9477 |
| GID-Baler Warehouse | Brgy. Suklayin Baler, Aurora | 0998-187-5482 |
| Casiguran Grains Warehouse Complex | Brgy. Calanguasan, Casiguran, Aurora | 0935-923-5871 |
| BULACAN BRANCH OFFICE | | |
| Balagtas Warehouse 1 | Burol 1st, Balagtas, Bulacan | 0925-656-8898 |
| Balagtas Warehouse 2 | Burol 1st, Balagtas, Bulacan | 0933-458-9648 |
| Balagtas Warehouse 3 | Burol 1st, Balagtas, Bulacan | 0969-397-5836 |
| San Ildefonso Warehouse 1 | Malipampang, San Ildefonso, Bulacan | 0917-110-4525 |
| San Ildefonso Warehouse 2 | Malipampang, San Ildefonso, Bulacan | 0906-400-9861 |
| Sta. Rita Warehouse 1 | Sta. Rita, Bulacan | 0945-855-0971 |
| Sta. Rita Warehouse 2 | Sta. Rita, Bulacan | 0909-339-7571 |
| PAMPANGA BRANCH OFFICE | | |
| Sindalan GID 1 Warehouse | Mac Arthur Highway, Sindalan, San Fernando Pampanga | 0998-996-1830 |
| Sindalan GID 2 Warehouse | Mac Arthur Highway, Sindalan, San Fernando Pampanga | 0933-103-0484 |
| Bataan GID 1 & 2 Warehouse | Balanga City, Bataan | 0942-477-4393 |
| GID Castillejos Warehouse | Brgy. Magsaysay, Castillejos, Zambales | 0909-708-0155 |
| GID Iba Warehouse | Balili, Palanginan, Iba, Zambales | 0912-012-2182 |
| TARLAC BRANCH OFFICE | | |
| NFA Tarlac Aguso Compound | Brgy. Aguso, Tarlac City | 0968-882-7471 |
| GID La Paz Warehouse | Brgy. San Roque, La Paz, Tarlac | 0939-606-9693 |
| GID Concepcion | Brgy. Jefmin, Concepcion, Tarlac | 0921-896-0421 |
| Sta. Ines Productivity Center | Brgy. Sta. Ines East, Sta. Ignacia, Tarlac | 0970-181-0877 |
| Camiling Productivity Center | Brgy. Palimbo Caarosipan, Camiling, Tarlac | 0970-181-0877 |



**National Food Authority
Region 3**

**SUPPORTS our Country's
FOOD SECURITY
SELL YOUR PALAY TO NFA**

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The Central Luzon

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The Official Newsletter of NFA Region 3

NFA Central Luzon all set to procure 3.4M bags palay -earmarks P289M

CABANATUAN CITY - The NFA in Central Luzon has earmarked some P289 million real fund to pump prime the agricultural sector of the region by targeting the procurement of 3.4 million bags of palay from individual farmers and farmers' organizations at a price of P17.00/kg, this harvest season from September to December, 2009. This was disclosed by Joseph Y. Dela Cruz, Regional Director of NFA Region 3, who said if ex-farm buying stations get depressed, about 68 procurement teams will be opened and fielded to expand its market accessibility to farmers.



The NFA braces for yet another busy palay procurement operations this coming main harvest season.

4M bags of rice buffer sufficient for the lean months No panic buying, no rice queuing

National Food Authority Director for Central Luzon Joseph Y. Dela Cruz reported that the food agency, as early as June 2009, positioned more than four (4) million bags of rice in preparation to the rice demand during lean months of July to September 2009. The volume stabilized the supply and prices of rice beginning July 2009, and in fact, "there was no scarcity of rice, there was no panic buying, there was no rice queuing and there was actually no lean months," Dela Cruz said.

"Unlike last year when rice queuing became prevalent because of the so-called rice and price crisis, this year the NFA was better prepared with sufficient supply of low-priced and good-quality government rice that averted any instant scarcity of supply and increase in the trend of prices of rice" Dela Cruz added.

The food agency injected in various markets thru its accredited outlets some 2,594,491 bags of rice from January to August this year in order to shield consumers from the impact of inflation and global recession.

A total of 3.6 M bags has been targeted for 2009 palay procurement and some 200,000 bags has already been procured in the first semester of this year, Dela Cruz added.

Aside from the P17.00/kg buying price, NFA will grant additional incentives of P0.30/kg as Cooperative Development Incentive Fund (CDIF) for farmers' cooperatives; P0.20/kg as Delivery Incentive and; P0.20/kg as Drying Incentive, totaling to P17.70/kg.

A selling individual farmer meanwhile, will only be entitled to the P0.20/kg Delivery Incentive

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