



The GRANARY

Official Newsletter of NFA Region 3

Volume 1 No. 2

June - December 2023

NFA at 51:

*“Sapat na Bigas,
Simbolo ng
Masaganang Bukas”*



The GRANARY *inside*



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NFA ATTENDS THE RICE INDUSTRY STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGEMENT (RISE)



The National Food Authority, headed by Administrator Roderico R. Bioco, attended the Rice Industry Stakeholders Engagement (RISE) together with the Department of Agriculture attached agencies at the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) and Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PHilMech), Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija on July 27-28, 2023.

The two-day engagement was led by DA Undersecretary Leocadio Sebastian, which focused on the rice industry's current situation, key strategies, provision of support to rice clusters to attain stable rice supply, high farm productivity, high income for rice farmers and, modern and transformed rice industry.

Mr. Jonathan D. Yazon, Acting Department Manager for Operations and Coordination Department (OCD), presented the Contract Growing Scheme between NFA and Rice clusters through the agency's specific strategies and assistance. Likewise, Administrator Bioco also discussed the modernization of food infrastructure to reach the optimal level of government rice buffer stock and further

explained the establishment of partnership between Farmer Cooperatives and Associations (FCAs) and Irrigators Associations (IAs) in the NFA Palay Procurement Program towards the enhancement of rice production and supply through technological adoption and value chain development in the rice industry.

Special Assistant Engr. Roger V. Navarro and the Regional Managers of Regions 1-15 were also in attendance.





ADMINISTRATOR BIOCO VISITS THE NUEVA ECIJA RICEMILL



Administrator Roderico R. Bioco, together with the NFA Executives, Regional Directors and Department Managers conducted a study tour/visit on July 29, 2023 to the Guimba-based Nueva Ecija Ricemill/Rice Processing Center, which is owned and operated by the Provincial Government of Nueva Ecija under the leadership of the Honorable Governor Aurelio M. Umali. OIC Provincial Agriculturist Jovita Agliam, PhD., who eagerly explained its scope of operation in the province, assisted the team. The facility operates a 10TPH Ricemill, five (5) units Recirculating Mechanical Dryer at 30TPB capacity per unit, and a newly installed four (4) Silos with 1500 metric tons capacity per silo.



This visit was substantial as the NFA is realizing its transformation and modernization plan that may assist the agency mission for buffer stocking primarily intended for calamities and emergencies.

ADMINISTRATOR BICO CHECKS PHFs IN BULACAN



Administrator Roderico Bioco undertook a Saturday morning inspection of rice mills in Bulacan, including the Golden City and Intercity, Bocaue, on October 28, 2023. Accompanying him were CPMSD Director Dr. Mario Andrada, Region III Regional Manager Engr. Alwin Uy, Acting Branch Manager Benjamin De Guzman, Acting ABM Rhona Talens, and SGO Jeanette Go.

The visit was centered on an in-depth conversation about the rice price cap, covering everything from its inception to its eventual lifting. It addressed the repercussions of rice importation, highlighting the challenges it posed to domestic rice production and the livelihood of local farmers emphasizing a

commitment to finding more streamlined and effective procedure and solutions which balance the interests of various stakeholders.

"It addressed the repercussions of rice importation, highlighting the challenges it posed..."

OATH TAKING OF NFA EXECUTIVES AND OFFICIALS

The following eight (8) newly appointed officials of the NFA took their oath of office as full-pledge Regional Managers before Administrator Roderico R. Bioco, during his visit to NFA Region 3 on July 28, 2023:

1. Maria Lewina A. Tolentino - National Capital Region
2. Lolita O. Sanderin - Region 1 (Ilocos Region)
3. Miguel S. Tecson - Region 2 (Cagayan Valley)
4. Alwin M. Uy - Region 3 (Central Luzon)
5. Leo V. Damole - Region 4 (Southern Tagalog)
6. Maria Fe H. Evasco - Region 7 (Central Visayas)
7. Jasmin C. Lintag - Region 8 (Eastern Visayas)
8. Beverly M. Navarro - Region 10 (Northeastern Mindanao)

In line with the tenet that “A Public Office is a Public Trust,” Administrator Bioco congratulated the officials, and expressed the hope that they would discharge their duties to the best of their abilities towards the fulfilment of the agency’s functions and mandate.

Likewise, Central Office executives were also appointed and took their oath, as follows:

1. Piolito C. Santos - Assistant Administrator for Finance and Administration (OAAFA)
2. Atty. Shyla Joy C. Ramos - Board Secretary V
3. Lily Beth A. Sunga - Chief Personnel Specialist, HR Dev’t & Services Division

The oath taking ceremony coincided with the announcement of re-assignment of the 15 Regional Managers per Special Order No. AO-2023-07-168 dated July 25, 2023.



ACCOMPLISHMENT HIGHLIGHTS



PALAY PROCUREMENT

The agency's transition from its previous function to its new mandate brought new experiences, challenges and opportunities from growth and transformation. On September 18, 2023, the NFA Council, per Memorandum No. AO-2023-09-014, has approved the provision of Buffer Stocking Incentive (BSI), which shall augment the NFA's palay buying price to encourage more farmers to deliver palay to NFA and assured of a fair return on their investment. With this guidelines, the buying price of palay increased from P19.00/kg to P23.00/kg for clean and dry palay with 14% moisture content (MC) and P16.00/kg to P19.00/kg for wet palay with 22%-29.9% moisture content (MC) thus, gives an opportunity to the NFA to intensify its procurement operations.

For the period July to December 2023, the region has accumulated 56,488 bags of palay for the main crop season contributed by the following branches and provinces:

BRANCH OFFICE	SERVICE AREAS	VOLUME (IN BAGS OF 50kg)
NUEVA ECIJA	AURORA AND NUEVA ECIJA	8,218
PAMPANGA	PAMPANGA, BATAAN AND ZAMBALES	9,758
TARLAC	TARLAC	28,487
BULACAN	BULACAN	10,025
TOTAL		56,488

Despite the additional premium from the PALLGU Partnership with the Provincial Government and LGUs, extra efforts put forth by the regional office, and the diligent work of the procurement teams, the struggle to secure palay persisted; hence, the target for the semester was not attained primarily because of the higher ex-farm prices offered by private traders as compared with that of the NFA. These ranged from P19.00-26.00/kg for freshly harvested palay, which was equivalent to P22.00-P30.00/kg converted price for dry palay. Farmers seized the higher rates offered by private dealers in light of the rising costs of agricultural farm supplies.

Nevertheless, the NFA Region III is mapping out plans to ensure a stable supply and continues to explore creative and innovative solutions and strategies to improve performance on palay procurement for the next cropping season.

UGNAYAN ACTIVITIES

NFA REGION 3 SETS GRAND UGNAYAN WITH STAKEHOLDERS

On September 29, 2023, the NFA Region 3 branch offices hosted the Grand Ugnayan with stakeholders as part of a series of proactive engagements aimed at fortifying relationships with local farmers. The NFA personnel headed by the Branch Managers and Assistant Branch Managers, encouraged farmers to participate in the agency's initiatives, with a special emphasis on palay procurement. The NFA's new buying price as well as other incentives like the recently approved Buffer Stock Incentive (BSI) and the Palay Marketing Assistance Program (PALLGU) were also discussed.

With the participation of DA-MAO/MAFC, NIA, cooperatives and associations in promoting the intensified procurement program of the agency, local farmers committed to deliver bags of palay for the upcoming main crop procurement season, pledging continued support for NFA's initiatives. With this collaboration, it emphasized the positive impact on the availability, affordability, and accessibility of rice in the country.

These extensive initiatives demonstrate the region's commitment to modernizing and bolstering the agriculture industry while promoting harmony and winning the unwavering support of regional partners and stakeholders. The branch offices concluded by thanking the attendees and restating the region's dedication to ongoing stakeholder collaboration.





PALAY AGREEMENT MARKETING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR LEGISLATORS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (PALLGU)

The partnership between the LGUs/legislators and NFA thru the PALLGU program continues to grow with other provinces hence, encouraging more local farmers to sell their palay produce to NFA towards the attainment of agency's mandate of buffer stocking.

As of December 2023, among the Legislators/LGUs who entered to a marketing agreement for NFA PALLGU Program were:

LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT	REPRESENTATIVE	AMOUNT OF PREMIUM	TOTAL ALLOTTED BUDGET UNDER MOA	PERIOD COVERED	AMOUNT ALREADY UTILIZED	% ACC.
Provincial Government of Tarlac	Hon. Governor Susan A. Yap	P1.00/kg	P5 Million	2022-2023	P2,023,085.44	40.46%
Municipality of Moncada, Tarlac	Hon. Mayor Estelita M. Aquino	P2.00/kg	P4 Million	2023	P503,145.93	12.58%
Municipality of Malolos, Bulacan	Hon. Mayor Christian Natividad	P3.00/kg	P1 Million	2023	P996,711.30	99.67%
Municipality of Pulilan, Bulacan	Hon. Mayor Maria Rosario Ochoa-Montejo	P3.00/kg	P500,000.00	2023	P487,541.76	97.51%

Likewise, the NFA Pampanga and Nueva Ecija Branch Offices also conducted series of coordination and courtesy visit to propose the Palay Marketing Assistance Program for Legislators and Local Government Units (PALLGU) with their respective LGUs.

This was to seek assistance by giving additional premiums per kilogram of procured palay on top of NFA's buying price to maximize the income of the local farmers.

This program was continuously conducted by the branches in different municipalities despite the continuous challenge of high ex-farm price. The high hopes to encourage the LGUs in the program will surely be a great help both in the agency's mandate to ensure the optimal level of buffer stocks and to enable our local farmers to gain additional income for their produce.

STRENGTHENING FOOD SECURITY: NFA TARLAC AND LGU MONCADA FORGE VITAL PARTNERSHIP

Joanna A. Limos

In a milestone commitment to bolster food security and elevate public service standards, the National Food Authority (NFA) Tarlac Branch Office and the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Moncada, Tarlac officially entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on the Palay Marketing Assistance Program for Legislators and Local Government Units (PALLGU).

Inked on June 19, 2023, the LGU Moncada, led by their dedicated Local Chief Executive, Hon. Estelita M. Aquino, pledged a total allocated budget of FOUR MILLION PESOS (P4,000,000.00) which equates to an additional premium of P2.00 per kilogram on top of NFA's buying price for 400 selected farmer-beneficiaries within the municipality.

"Para sa mga magsasaka ng Moncada, para sa Bayan ng Moncada," exclaimed Mayor Aquino, expressing her optimism and joy at the partnership with NFA. She emphasized that the program would not only benefit the local farmers but also contribute to the country's overall food security. This also aimed to provide additional income to local farmers and ensure a sufficient buffer stock for use during emergencies and calamities.

The ceremonial signing took place at the SB Hall, ABC Building in Moncada, Tarlac, and pictured the representation of Engr. Alwin M. Uy, Regional Director of NFA Region 3, and Hon. Estelita M. Aquino, Municipal Mayor of Moncada. Also present during the signing were NFA TBO Branch Manager Engr. Charles Alingod, OIC-MAO Mr. Eduardo Balgos Jr., and members of the Sangguniang Bayan of Moncada. This significant event solidified a vital partnership between the NFA Tarlac Branch and the local government.

This groundbreaking PALLGU initiative with the Local Government Unit of Moncada marked a first among all municipalities in Tarlac Province. Coupled with the Provincial Government of Tarlac's premium amount of P1.00 per kilogram, qualified beneficiaries of LGU Moncada may now enjoy a total premium of P3.00 per kilogram, further enhancing the economic well-being of local farmers and contributing to the province's agricultural resilience.





CEREMONIAL SIGNING OF PALLGU MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH LGU-PULILAN

Howard Kent Reyes

Through the continuous meetings and updates with the Provincial, Municipal and City Agriculturist Officers in Bulacan, a substantial event occurred on June 14, 2023, with the ceremonial signing of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on PALLGU between the National Food Authority Region 3 represented by Regional Manager II Alwin M. Uy, and LGU-Pulilan headed by Honorable Mayor Maria Rosario Ochoa-Montejo. The MOA aimed to enhance farmer-beneficiaries' income by providing an increment of P3.00 per kilo of palay procured on top of the NFA's buying price of P23.00/kg. The NFA Bulacan expressed gratitude to Mayor Montejo for piloting PALLGU and supporting their initiatives.

With this development, the branch conveyed gratitude to the elected officials, personnel, staff and working teams for supporting the approval of PALLGU in their town. Other LGUs also appreciated the exerted effort of the employees of NFA Bulacan to present the PALLGU program and seek assistance from them, hence, promised to review and further discuss such to the Sangguniang Bayan for inclusion in the budget for the succeeding year.





RICE DISTRIBUTION

AO NO. 2 : ONE-TIME GRANT OF RICE ASSISTANCE (OTRA)

In compliance to Administrative Order No. 2 issued by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., authorizing the Grant of One-Time Rice Assistance at a uniform quantity of twenty-five (25) kilogram of rice for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, the NFA Region 3 continued releasing the rice assistance to qualified employees and workers distributed as follows:

BRANCH OFFICE	TOTAL NO. OF AGENCY-BENEFICIARIES				NO. OF BAGS SERVED
	National Government Agencies (NGAs)	Uniformed Personnel	SUCs and State Colleges	Total	
Pampanga	13,300	3,270	41,265	57,835	28,917.50
Nueva Ecija	32,569	7,377	2,450	42,396	21,198.00
Bulacan	29,157	3,676	1,857	34,690	17,345.00
Tarlac	16,237	6,871	877	23,985	11,992.50
Total	91,263	21,194	46,449	158,906	79,453.00



This program directly addressed the challenges faced by government employees struggling with increasing rice prices. While the distribution presented its share of challenges, such as coordinating with large number of agency-beneficiaries and navigating logistical hurdles, the NFA Region 3 showcased their dedication and resourcefulness towards the timely and efficient distribution of the rice allowance.

Through this, the NFA Region 3 also established a strong relationship with other government agencies who pledged to support the NFA in ensuring enough rice buffer stock intended during emergencies and calamities and other projects of the Philippine government. Positive feedback and testimonials were received from various agency-beneficiaries stating that the rice being received is of good quality, exact in weight and fit for human consumption.

The One-Time Grant of Rice Allowance has been successfully implemented, demonstrating the vital role played by NFA and the government's dedication to helping its people in difficult times.



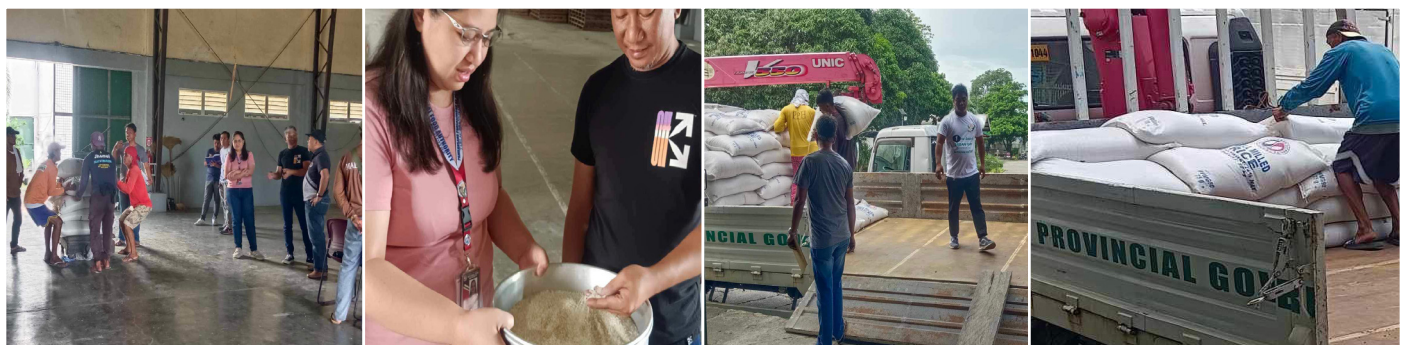
EMERGENCIES AND CALAMITIES

In fulfilling its commitment for an adequate supply of rice in times of natural calamities, emergencies and other relief operations, the NFA Region 3 distributed rice to various LGUs, DSWD and other calamity relief agencies as the country experienced severe devastation from typhoons, flooding and southwest monsoon.

For the year 2023, the region has distributed the following:

BRANCH OFFICE	RICE DISTRIBUTION		TOTAL
	Disaster/Calamity Response (DSWD, OCD, LGUs, Legislators, OVP, other government agencies)	Non-Relief Operations (DSWD programs, BJMP, LGU programs, other government agencies)	
Bulacan Branch Office	1,910 bags	5,502.20 bags	7,412.20 bags
Nueva Ecija Branch Office	1,112 bags	23,042 bags	24,154 bags
Pampanga Branch Office	8,863 bags	29,705.50 bags	38,568.50 bags
Tarlac Branch Office	2,650 bags	9,582 bags	12, 232 bags
Total	14,535 bags	67,831.70 bags	82,366.70 bags

The LGUs and other government agencies extended their gratitude to NFA as they were able to avail the rice needed for the relief operations they will be conducting. The rice withdrawn will benefit our fellow countrymen who were victims of the recent disasters and calamities being experienced within the region.





KADIWA NG PANGULO

The NFA Region 3 participated in the simultaneous conduct of Kadiwa ng Pangulo (KNP) program nationwide on July 17, 2023 and to other KNP events for the period July to December 2023. President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. applauded the National Food Authority on the success and continuous participation of the agency on Kadiwa Programs as the launch aimed to offer affordable food and non-food products to the consuming public and serves as a venue for promotion of local products and produce of farmers, fisherfolks and MSMEs.

The launch of Kadiwa Ng Pangulo (KNP) across Provincial LGUs, Cities, and Municipalities in various regions marked a significant step towards enhancing consumer access to quality yet affordable goods, particularly fresh agricultural and fishery products. This initiative aligns with the government's broader efforts to ensure a food-secure country.

Employees of the region repacked NFA rice into 2-kilograms and 5-kilogram plastic containers, displayed and labeled at P25.00/kg at the following participating Kadiwa stores:

Place	Date	No. of packs (2kg/pack)	No. of packs (5kg/pack)	No. of Bags (in bags of 50kg)	No. of Consumers served
Bulacan	July 17, 2023	-	200	20 bags	200
Aurora	July 17, 2023	-	200	20 bags	200
Nueva Ecija	July 17, 2023	-	200	20 bags	200
Bataan	July 17, 2023	-	200	20 bags	200
Pampanga	July 17, 2023	-	500	50 bags	500
Zambales	July 17, 2023	-	200	20 bags	200
Tarlac	July 17, 2023	125	200	25 bags	325
Aurora	Dec. 1, 2023	-	200	20 bags	200
Total		125	1,900	195 bags	2,025

The event drew the participation of various micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), cooperatives, local product producers, and government agencies, creating a vibrant marketplace of diverse offerings.

KADIWA Ng Pangulo is an evidence of cooperative efforts to advance accessibility, affordability and quality in the local market. This initiative not only supports local businesses and producers but also plays a crucial role in fostering a food-secure environment for the benefit of all citizens.



PGNE-NFA R3 INK TRANSFORMATIVE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT ON RICE PROCESSING CENTER

Anie DL. Lucero

Sealing the Nexus of Agricultural Empowerment, the Provincial Government of Nueva Ecija (PGNE), spearheaded by Governor Aurelio “Oyie” M. Umali and NFA Region 3 Regional Manager Alwin M. Uy orchestrated the symphony of collaboration as they penned a transformative Memorandum of Agreement on the utilization of Rice Processing Center on November 16, 2023. The Rice Processing Center, under the leadership of Nueva Ecija, became a link of innovation and efficiency as the NFA-CLRO and NEBO joined hands together as they plow the fields of sustainable agriculture, reaping a future of economic prosperity. Such MOA may be subjected for revision and shall be renewed on a semestral or yearly basis.

A progressive and continuous collaboration between PGNE and NFA-CLRO & NEBO started on July 29, 2023 when Administrator Roderico R. Bioco together with NFA Executives, Regional Managers, Department Managers conducted a study tour and visit to Guimba based Rice Processing Center owned and operated by Provincial Government of Nueva Ecija (PGNE-RPC). The team was assisted by OIC Provincial Agriculturist Jovita Agliam who eagerly explained its scope of operation in the province. RPC facilities includes, 10TPH Ricemill, 5 units Recirculating Mechanical Drier at 30TPB capacity per unit and a newly installed Silos with 1500MT capacity each. Additionally, it has a Drying and Milling Facilities designed to minimize losses,

increase farmers earnings, enhance the quality of milled rice and optimize rice mechanization and utilization. This visit was important since the NFA is implementing its modernization and transformation strategy, which might support the agency's goal of buffer stocking that is primarily meant for crises and disasters.

Immediately after the visit, Regional Manager Alwin M. Uy, Acting Assistant Branch Manager Evelyn M. Sunglao and RSQAO Amorsolo M. Gaspar engaged a courtesy call at the Provincial Government of Nueva Ecija, through Provincial Administrator Atty. Alejandro R. Abesamis and Provincial Agriculturist Jovita B Agliam Ph.D.

The visit mainly focused on discussions about the utilization of driers and ricemill for the main cropping season of 2023, emphasizing partnership between the NFA and PGNE to enhance agricultural processes and strengthen the local industry. More so, the NFA-Nueva Ecija Branch Office (NEBO) initiated the project proposal which shall be discussed evaluated by Gov. Umali prior to his approval. Upon review of the proposal, Gov. Umali extends full support to the NFA by committing the full utilization of PGNE-RPC including PHF, trucks, personnel and other private traders facilities with existing MOA with them.

This development will be a great boost to meet the palay procurement target of Region 3 especially in Nueva Ecija, being the Rice Granary of the Philippines and subsequently maintaining the buffer stock requirement of the region. Both parties engaged in a comprehensive dialogue and delving into intricate strategies for the efficient use of RPC by the NFA.

With this positive feedback, on September 30, 2023, Engr. Julius Sugue from NFA-Operation Coordination Department and Acting Branch Manager Ignacio M. Guardiano, along with Anie D. Lucero conducted data/information gathering about the operations and technical usage of the facilities of PGNE-RPC which will be included in an on-going assessment and creation of Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Nueva Ecija Branch Office potential utilization of PGNE-RPC services. From then on, series of courtesy visit and meetings were conducted with the Provincial Government to present the data gathered and to finalize the MOA between PGNE and NFA.

The partnership was even aired at the local TV network of Nueva Ecija named as TV 48. Governor Umali proved that he really wants to support the NFA's mandate and to show his belief that we can have a progressive and sustainable success in agriculture farming.

RM Alwin M. Uy expressed his heartfelt appreciation to all the members of the RPC Team for its accomplishment specially the realization of MOA signed between the NFA and the Provincial Government of Nueva Ecija.

RPC PROPOSAL TEAM

RM Alwin M. Uy
 Acting ARM Roy Q. Untiveros
 Acting BM Ignacio M. Guardiano
 RECO Rose I. Esguerra
 Acting ABM Georgina P. Sarmiento
 RSQA0 Amorsolo M. Gaspar
 SGO Cecilia L. Perez
 BSQA0 Jimmy M. Mallari
 RIO Josephine C. Bacungan
 Acting SO II Gianfranco Viterbo
 WS Christopher Chua
 WS Anie D. Lucero



NFA BULACAN PROMOTES THE BUFFER STOCKING INCENTIVE (BSI) TO PARTNER-AGENCIES AND STAKEHOLDERS

Howard Kent Reyes



Acting Branch Manager Benjamin F. De Guzman took an active role in a crucial meeting with representatives from the Provincial and Municipal Agriculture and Fisheries Council (PAFC/MAFC) in Plaridel, Bulacan on September 19, 2023 emphasizing the NFA's procurement operations and the imminent palay harvest coinciding with the NFA's price increase from Php 19 to Php 23 for clean and dry palay. BM De Guzman garnered unwavering support from both the PAFC and MAFC. SGO Jeanette Go and WS Luigi Edison Balbin also attended the reinforcing the collaborative commitment to the local agricultural industry.

Concurrently, Acting ABM Rhona P. Talens, BSQAO Marcelino Talens Jr, Acting WS Jorge Buenaventura, and QAO Maria Cecilia Santos undertook proactive visits to rice fields in San Ildefonso and San Miguel, Bulacan. Their dual objectives included scouting palay for purchase and disseminating vital information about the NFA's increased buying price. This substantial hike, from Php 19 to Php 23 for clean and dry palay, aims to fortify the agency's presence in the region, ensuring steadfast support for local farmers.

On September 20, 2023, BM Benjamin De Guzman, along with Acting ABM Rhona P. Talens, SGO Jeanette Go, and Acting WS Luigi Edison Balbin, was invited to the monthly meeting of the Barangay Agriculture and Fisheries Council (BAFC). The meeting focused on discussing the status of irrigation water and the NFA's price adjustment from Php 19 to Php 23. This gathering served as a platform to strengthen bonds within the agricultural community, fostering alliance and shared insights among its members. The implementation of Buffer Stocking Incentives was highlighted, encouraging farmers to deliver more palay to NFA, ensuring a fair return on their investments. This collective effort stands as a testament to the commitment to bolster the agricultural sector and support the hardworking farmers in the area.

"Their dual objectives included scouting palay for purchase and disseminating vital information about the NFA's increased buying price."

NFA TARLAC AND LGU MONCADA BOOST SUPPORT FOR LOCAL FARMERS WITH PALLGU PAY-OUT

Joanna A. Limos

The Local Government Unit (LGU) of Moncada, in a reaffirmation of its commitment to supporting the National Food Authority's (NFA) Palay Procurement, recently conducted the pay-out for the first batch of beneficiaries under the Palay Marketing Assistance Program for Legislators and Local Government Units (PALLGU) on November 10, 2023.

Qualified farmers were set to receive a maximum amount of P10,000.00 per beneficiary, representing an additional premium of P2.00 per kilogram on the 100 bags of palay delivered. The pay-out event took place at the Moncada Public Auditorium, marking a significant step in providing financial assistance to local farmers.

The PALLGU pay-out program was attended by NFA Tarlac Branch Office, led by Branch Manager Engr. Charles G. Alingod, the Provincial Government of Tarlac – Office of the Provincial Agriculture, represented by Ms. Alicia Cruz, and the LGU of Moncada, led by Municipal Mayor Hon. Estelita M. Aquino, Municipal Vice-Mayor Ramon Benito M. Aquino, and Sangguniang Bayan Members.

BM Alingod stated, "Ang layunin ng programa kasama ang LGU Moncada ay matulungan ang ating mga small scale farmer dito sa bayan at masuportahan ang food security ng ating bansa." He also expressed gratitude to the LGU of Moncada, particularly Mayor Estelita M. Aquino, for their continuous support to NFA, ensuring local farmers of the agency's readiness to procure palay year-round.

It was further announced that the PALLGU partnership will become a regular program for LGU Moncada, supported by an ordinance providing an annual fund allocation.

LINKAGES WITH LGUs AND OTHER AGENCIES EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 39: NFA TAKES PART IN RICE PRICE CAP MONITORING

Jessary S. Go

President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. has imposed the Mandated Price Ceiling on Rice in his Executive Order No. 39 dated August 31, 2023. There had been reports of a worrying rise in the retail pricing of necessities despite a consistent supply of rice due to a widespread practice of allegedly unlawful price manipulation. As a result, mandatory price ceilings on rice were imposed and implemented nationwide in response to the growing cost of food upon the advice of the Department of Agriculture (DA) and Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), as follows:

Rice Variety	Mandated Price Ceiling
Regular Milled Rice	P41.00 per kilogram
Well-Milled Rice	P45.00 per kilogram

The NFA, as the deputized member of the DA's Price Monitoring Team, provided assistance in monitoring rice prices in the public markets and technical support on the proper classification of rice varieties. This joint initiative reflects commitment and cooperative efforts to uphold fair pricing practices within the market, ultimately benefiting consumers and ensuring adherence to government regulations.

The price ceilings shall remain in full force and effect unless earlier lifted by the President upon the recommendation of the Price Coordinating Council or the DA and DTI.

"...imposed and implemented nationwide in response to the growing cost of food.."

CEREMONIAL RELAUNCH OF THE NFA REGION 3'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER "THE GRANARY "

After almost a decade of inexistence, the NFA Region 3 has revived its official newsletter, "The Granary" with its official relaunching on June 19, 2023 at NFA staffhouse, Cabanatuan City. This momentous event was initiated by RD Alwin M. Uy and Acting Assistant Regional Manager Roy Q. Untiveros.

ARD Untiveros rendered an opening remarks giving emphasis on the collaborative efforts extended by the branch offices specially the Information Officers and the Editorial Staff to make this newsletter a remarkable output.

RD Uy, in his message, recognized the efforts, time and talents of the editorial staff to make this newsletter possible. Through this, it will reach the employees and stakeholders, particularly farmers and partner-agencies on various updates, accomplishments, and efforts



in promoting and ensuring the manageable food security of the region.

It was then followed by the Administrator's message read by SAO Ma. Lourdes L. Mallari. Subsequently, the presentation of the Editorial Staff was done by ARD Untiveros.

The Ceremonial unveiling of "The Granary" Newsletter was signaled by RD Uy then by presentation of the featured people, stakeholders, and employees. Simple token was given to Mr. Amado R. Domingo, Sr., the featured stakeholder in the article success stories.



Unleashing HR Excellence: A power-packed seminar on the Omnibus Rules on Appointments and other Human Resource Actions captivated EA Officers and members of HRMPSB on July 18, 2023. Discussed by the Director II of CSC Field Office of Nueva Ecija Maj. Eleanor Marco Prado, a cutting-edge insights, interactive discussions, and collaborative networking set the stage for a future of optimized HR practices. A remarkable event shaping the future of organizational success!

Regional Director Alwin M. Uy and Assistant Regional Director Roy Q. Untiveros were also present in the said seminar as they share their inspirational message and welcome remarks, respectively.

Regional Manager Alwin M. Uy's Empowering Visit to Flooded Areas in Bulacan: Assessing Damage and Pioneering Progress. Not only did he extend much-needed support and relief to those affected employees of National Food Authority - Bulacan Branch Office, but he also took it upon himself to identify the extent of damage in the palay field areas, recognizing the vital role of agriculture in the province.

This is a proof to Dir. Uy's versatile leadership, showcasing his hands-on involvement in both crisis management and long-term development strategies. Witness the determination in his eyes as he paves the way for progress and resiliency in the face of natural disasters.



Seminar/Workshop on R.A. 9184 & Re-briefing on NFA Processes and Procedures was held last August 22-24, 2023 headed by RD Alwin M. Uy. ARD Roy Q. Untiveros, as one of the speakers, shared his time and expertise on the Government Procurement Reform Act (RA 9184) and Engr. Ferdinand F. Ramiterre from DPWH discussed the Detailed Unit Price Analysis (DUPA) for the Infrastructure projects of Region 3. The said seminar aimed to capacitate employees of NFA Region 3 to the various procurement activities abiding to the Procurement Reform Act.

The briefing on the provision of Buffer Stock Incentives (BSI) for NFA's palay procurement and its implementing guidelines was held on September 23, 2023 at NFA Central Luzon Staffhouse, Cabanatuan City. Acting Department Manager Jonathan D. Yazon for Operations Coordination Department (OCD), discussed the guidelines on the provision of BSI for the main cropping season.

Also present during the said activities were RM Alwin M. Uy, ARM Roy Q. Untiveros, the Branch Managers, Assistant Branch Managers, Supervising Grains Officers, Warehouse Supervisors, BSQA0's and Quality Assurance Officers of the region and RFAC Chairman Engr. Eugenio Ramirez. After such, an open forum was started where some clarifications, issues and concerns were raised and tackled.



ACROSS THE REGION - BULACAN BRANCH OFFICE

In a heartwarming display of camaraderie and unity, the National Food Authority Bulacan extended a warm welcome to its new Branch Manager, Benjamin De Guzman, following the flag-raising ceremony on September 4, 2023. Acting ABM Rhona P. Talens, SGO Jeanette Go, and EA Bul Chapter President Emerson Adriano took pride in introducing the esteemed manager to their fellow employees. To further fortify the spirit of teamwork and collaboration, the branch organized a brief General Assembly, emphasizing unity as the cornerstone of success. During this assembly, the workforce pledged full support to the newly appointed head, underscoring the collective commitment to a cohesive and empowered work environment under BM De Guzman's leadership.



On September 12, 2023, NFA Bulacan intensified its preparations for the upcoming main crop season through strategic training sessions. The initial refresher course, guided by BSQAO Marcelino A. Talens, Jr., concentrated on reviewing and reinforcing grain classification standards. BM Benjamin F. De Guzman and Acting ABM Rhona P. Talens underscored the crucial role of skilled classifiers in the impending main crop season, urging diligence in procurement choices to align with NFA quality standards.



Subsequently, on September 18, NFA Bulacan conducted an extensive briefing for Warehouse Personnel and the Procurement Team, dividing the session into two parts. SGO Jeanette Go led discussions in Part 1 on Stocks and MTS Documentation, and the Inventory Reporting System, targeting Warehouse Supervisors and Warehouse Assistants. In Part 2, titled "Palay Procurement Operations," all the procurement teams participated. The discussions included addressing the increased buying prices and strategies to support all farmers in Bulacan during the upcoming palay harvest. BM Benjamin F. De Guzman and Acting ABM Rhona P. Talens ensured that each warehouse is fully equipped to provide service to everyone, emphasizing NFA Bulacan's commitment to supporting the local community.



“A BLOOD BAG IN TIME SAVES LIFE”: NFA SUPPORTS BLOOD LETTING ACTIVITIES

Kay Ann C. Navarro

The NFA Nueva Ecija and various stakeholders participated in the Blood-letting Activities organized by DWNE Teleradyo and Kapitan Pepe Masonic Lodge No.293, Barangay Singalat, Palayan City, Nueva Ecija in the celebration of the Teleradyo's 42nd Anniversary, sponsored by the Provincial Government of Nueva Ecija and Central Luzon Media Association (CLMA) Region 3 Council of Leaders, Rotary Club of Talavera and Kiwanis International Phil. Luzon District Division IIC-1 on July 4, 2023 and December 4, 2023, respectively. Among the delegates from NFA Nueva Ecija were Emilito Capili, Romulo Velayo Jr., Arjay Tupasi, and Charles Agbayani.

This event was to raise awareness about the need for regular donations. The collected blood will be used to treat patients with various medical conditions. Before the blood-letting activity, information drive and benefits of voluntary blood-letting as well



ACROSS THE REGION - NUEVA ECIJA BRANCH OFFICE



“UNLOCKING FINANCIAL CLARITY”: A ONE-ON-ONE RECONCILIATION OF NFA CENTRAL OFFICE AND REGION 3

Kay Ann C. Navarro

The NFA Central Office through the Finance Department headed by Department Manager, Mr. Mark Jing D. Tayactac, conducted a ‘One-on-One Reconciliation’ of Accounts with Region 3 Regional and Branch Accountants which was held on Dec. 3-6,2023 at NFA Region 3 Staffhouse, Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija.

Also present during the meeting were RM Alwin M. Uy and ARM Roy Q. Untiveros who gave their warm greetings and emphasized the importance of the activity. Among the topics discussed include the Status and Action taken on Audit Observation Memorandums (AOMs), HOA-FOA accounts that need to be reconciled, and other financial reminders, issues, and concerns.

The Central Office reconciling team who joined the said activity were Jay Mark M. Malvar - Financial Analyst III, Anita O. Manuel-Budget Officer III, Kerby Ann C. Yasol-Accountant II, and Joverly Jose - Admin Assistant I.

The NFA Pampanga Branch Office conducted General Assembly on September 4, 2023 with the newly designated Acting Branch Manager Manuel D. Rodriguez and Acting Assistant Branch Manager Raul B. Balbuena. This gathering began with a flag raising ceremony, followed by a warm welcome/ introduction to the new BM and ABM, "meet and greet" with the NFA PBO staffs and discussion on issues being raised.

After which, a Branch Management Committee Meeting was also undertaken to address matters concerning each section.



Acting Branch Manager Manuel D. Rodriguez attended the PDRRMC Regular Meeting last November 9, 2023 at the Kingsborough International Convention Center, JASA, City of San Fernando, Pampanga. Matters discussed were Overview of the DREAM Assessment Validation Process and the presentation of ten(10) LGU finalists. Presentation of the new hazard, rehabilitation and recovery plan for Egay, Falcon and Southwest Monsoon, and presentation and approval of the Evacuation and Camp Management Plan were also taken up.

Duck, Cover, and Hold! The NFA Pampanga Branch Office participated the 4th Quarter Nationwide Simultaneous Earthquake Drill last November 9, 2023. This activity helps raise awareness, improve preparedness, minimize panic and targets to reduce the risk of injury. Stay safe and be always ready!



SUSTAINING TRADITION: THE CAAMPUEDS' TWO-DECADE LOYALTY TO NFA*Joanna A. Limos*

In the heart of the harvest season, a familiar sight unfolds in the grounds of NFA Tarlac Branch Office as Mr. Guiller and Mrs. Marlyn Caampued, seasoned farmers with over two decades of experience, choose to sell their precious palay exclusively to the agency. This enduring partnership, marked by trust and community commitment, exemplifies a longstanding bond that extends beyond mere transactions.

"Matagal na kaming suki ng NFA, mahigit 20 taon na, dahil alam namin na di lamang kami ang matutulungan ng NFA, ngunit maging ang ating bayan," shared Mr. Guiller during a recent conversation with NFA officials, led by the esteemed Regional Manager, Engr. Alwin M. Uy.

For two consecutive days, the Caampueds have diligently delivered a total of 400 bags of palay to NFA, an expression of their unwavering dedication to supporting the government agency. This decision comes despite enticing offers from private traders, who are currently buying palay at prices ranging from ₱26.00 to ₱28.00 per kilogram in Brgy. Care, Tarlac City.

"Hinihikayat ko rin ang mga kapwa ko magsasaka na ipagbili ang kanilang palay sa NFA para magkaroon ng sapat na stock ng bigas ang NFA na gagamitin ng Pilipinas sa panahon ng kagipitan," narrated Mr. Guiller, urging fellow farmers to consider the broader implications of their choices for the nation's rice supply.

NFA's procurement of the Caampueds' clean and dry palay is priced at ₱23.00 per kilogram. Adding to this, they benefit from an additional ₱1.00 for every kilogram through the Palay Marketing Assistance Program for Legislators and Local Government Units (PALLGU), an incentive provided by the Provincial Government of Tarlac (PGT).

In a world where agricultural landscapes are rapidly changing, the Caampueds' steadfast allegiance to NFA not only speaks to their trust in the institution but also highlights the vital role of individual farmers in contributing to national food security. Their story is a reminder that small choices by farmers matter for everyone's well-being.



CENTRAL LUZON REGIONAL OFFICE & NUEVA ECIJA BRANCH OFFICE

Five decades have passed, there have been hurdles there have been faced to make a stronger and more united team to ensure and secure the country's food staple coupled with dedication and commitment in providing excellent government service. Celebrated with burst of energy, fun games and minilympics, the NFA Regional Office and Nueva Ecija Branch Office jointly celebrated its 51st anniversary with the theme, "Sapat na Bigas, Simbolo ng Masaganang Bukas" on September 27, 2023 together with all the branch offices of the region.

Regional Manager II Alwin M. Uy, in his message, reflected on the agency's journey over the past year and encourage everyone to look on more exciting prospects ahead where the future holds even a greater promise. He also recognized the unwavering support, dedication, and hard work of the region 3 employees.

Raffle draw was initiated by the NFAEA-NEBO as part of the celebration. All the branch offices joyfully participated in the activities all throughout the day.

With a vision of digital transformation and investment, inspired by the challenges that were overcome, the proposed installation of high-capacity post-harvest facilities and the success over the long-awaited restructuring process which reappointed and promoted employees, truly, this anniversary is worth celebrating!

BULACAN BRANCH OFFICE

On September 26, 2023, the National Food Authority Bulacan Branch Office joyously commemorated its 51st Anniversary with the theme "Sapat na Bigas, Simbolo ng Masaganang Bukas." The special celebration brought all employees in a series of engaging activities. The festivities commenced with a holy mass, creating a solemn yet celebratory atmosphere. The day continued with an invigorating zumba fest, fostering a sense of health and well-being among the participants. A hearty boodle lunch brought employees together for a shared meal experience.

Enhancing the celebratory spirit, the EA-Bulacan Chapter sponsored lively rounds of Bingo, exciting games, and raffle draws, adding an element of fun and camaraderie to the occasion. This anniversary celebration not only honored NFA Bulacan's rich history but also underscored its commitment to nurturing unity among its employees. It served as a testament to the organization's enduring dedication to serving the people and ensuring food security in Bulacan.

Assistant Regional Manager Roy Untiveros joined the afternoon festivities, contributing to the collective joy of the 51st anniversary celebration. Happy 51st anniversary, beloved NFA!

TARLAC BRANCH OFFICE

The National Food Authority- Tarlac Branch Office celebrated its 51st anniversary on September 20, 2023 at the NFA-Tarlac Branch Office highlighting the seminar entitled "Strengthening Values for Government Employees" conducted by the Resource Speaker, Ms. Maria Cristina R. Gonzales, Provincial Director of the Civil Service Commission - Tarlac. This aims to provide understanding on the significance of good governance and focuses on the values and attitudes of public servants wherein she emphasized that government employees must keep a moral life to properly serve the country and extend excellent service to every Filipino people.

Through the participation of everyone, we can now fortify our team, and work together towards a common goal and WE (Women and Everyone) can make gender equality a possibility. The larong pinoy and health and wellness activity were also enjoyed by the employees such as sack race, tug of war, catch the ball, patintero and zumba.

The celebration was concluded with a meaningful message from Acting Branch Manager, Engr. Charles G. Alingod reminiscing the big role of the agency in the country prior to the creation of Republic Act 11203. He also reiterates that public employees must always be accountable to the people in consonance with the doctrine that a "Public Office is a Public Trust".



TEAM BUILDING ACTIVITIES

SUN, SEA, AND SAND....NFA PAMPANGA 2023 TEAMBUILDING!

Evelyn M. Sunglao

The NFA Pampanga Branch Office held its 2023 Team Building at Punta de Uian in San Antonio, Zambales, on November 29-30, 2023, with this year's theme, "Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success."

A fun and motivating set of team-building events is part of the branch's annual plan. Through these activities, employees can improve their communication, planning, problem-solving, and conflict-resolution abilities. Consequently, it facilitates mutual understanding of strengths, weaknesses, and interests among personnel.

Acting Branch Manager Manuel Rodriguez gave a motivational speech to kick off the event. He spoke on the importance of having a sense of belonging, a shared commitment, and that each of us has a unique and shared contribution to our beloved agency.

The settings of the various elements seen in the venue can be compared to the aforementioned event. The sun, the sand, and the sea! It is well recognized that the sun provides the energy necessary for life to exist on earth. Employees provide the agency with energy to carry out its mandate, goals, and vision, much like the sun does.

Just as the sea offers a broad variety of calm and turbulent waves based on the weather, employees are adaptable to new experiences and changes in response to the demands of the organization and the surrounding environment. Together, they dance to the rhythm of the work. Finally, trust acts as the binding agent between employees, much like the grains of sand that cling to one another to make a beautiful land.

Undoubtedly, the employees enjoyed themselves during some exciting and fun activities, which included Jump-in and Jump-out, Human Caterpillars, Don't Drop the Balls, Perfect Shape, and Take My Balls Out. Even though competition is evident, it fosters a more positive work environment and strengthens employee bonds. The facilitators were taken aback by how quickly and resolutely each team collaborated, even though they were from three distinct provinces: Zambales, Bataan, and Pampanga.

Team-building activities promote unity among employees and shed light on unpleasant work circumstances.

It is anticipated that, like the sun, sea, and sand, the NFA Pampanga employees were inspired and revitalized!



TEAM BUILDING ACTIVITIES WIN OUR TEAM!

Howard Kent Reyes

In a commendable effort to promote teamwork, collaboration, and inter-agency interaction, the National Food Authority Bulacan Branch Office orchestrated a highly successful team-building event on June 16, 2023 at Brizo, Morong, Bataan. The initiative was meticulously designed to elevate communication channels, uplift morale, and cultivate a robust sense of camaraderie among the dedicated employees of the agency. The event not only served as a platform for fostering stronger professional relationships but also contributed to the overall enhancement of the agency's working environment. The National Food Authority Bulacan's commitment to nurturing a positive and cooperative atmosphere within its team is indeed a testament to its dedication to organizational excellence.



Josephine C. Bacungan

Pay it forward! The concept is old, but the phrase may have been devised by Lily Hardy Hammond in her 1916 book *In the Garden of Delight*. This serial reciprocity describes a situation where someone who receives good deed repays others instead of returning the favor to the original benefactor.

This is how Ms. Rodora Mares Cordova, known to NFA employees as "Ate Dhors", described the lifestyle she leads while running the canteen her mother started at NFA Nueva Ecija. It was in 1976 when her mother, Mrs. Isabel Mares, popularly known as "Aling Sabel", started selling "lugaw and Pan de Carne" along the sidewalk of Warehouse No. 10.

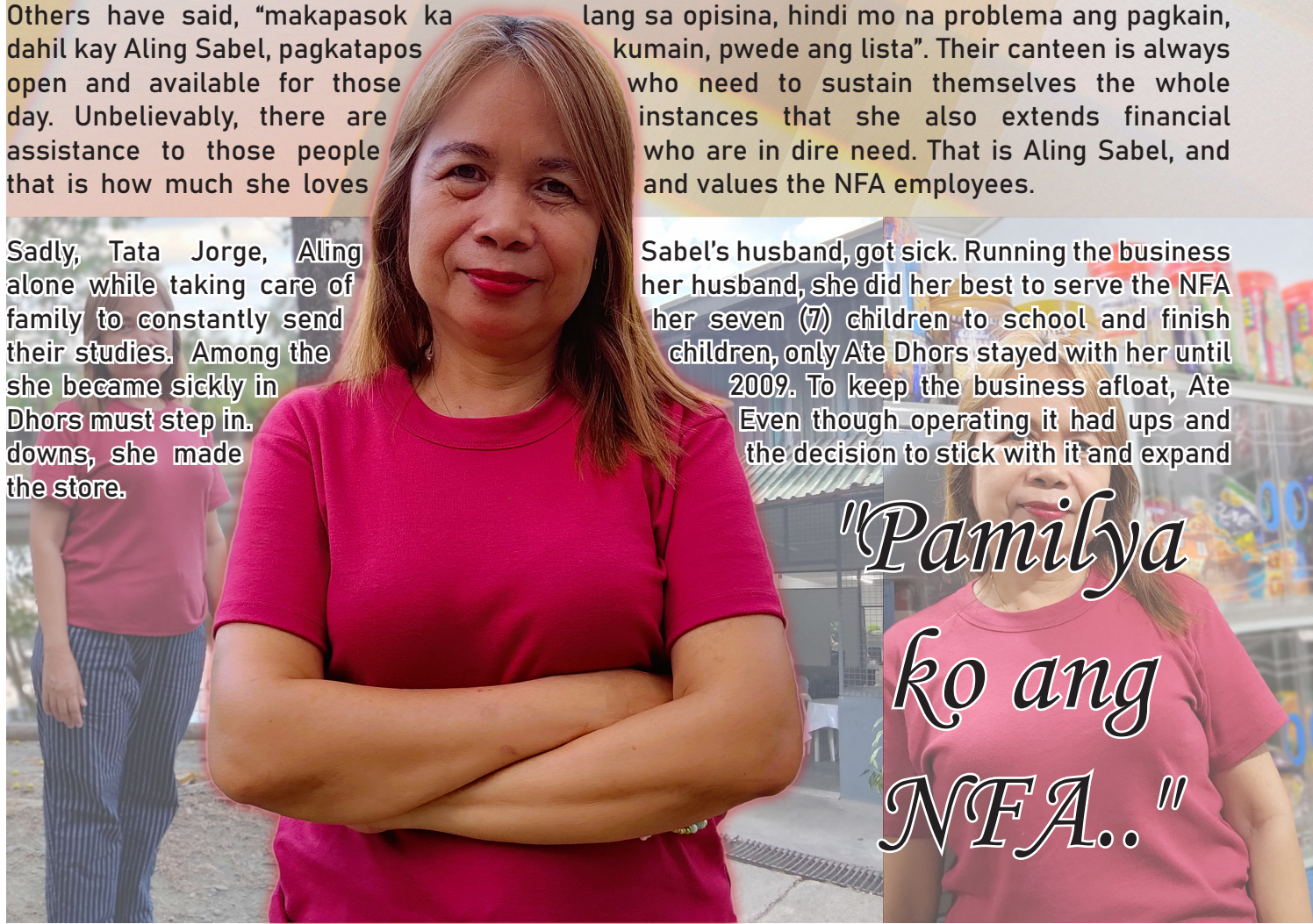
After some time, she learned that there were "Kubo" or stalls available to operate as food kiosks. However, other vendors had set up their goods to all three (3) stall units without the office's knowledge, selling nearly identical goods to those that Aling Sabel is selling. She made the decision to seek Ms. Marcelina T. Sampoleo, the regional accountant, who is acquainted with her, for permission to set up a single stand for her merchandise. She was the first to approach the management with her sincere wish to use this space for her little business, thus thankfully, her action was appreciated. Ms. Sampoleo assisted her in obtaining one (1) unit of kubo. After a number of years, the three stalls' materials were changed in 1981 as repairs were finally done.

Regretfully, in 1987 the two other kiosks gradually disappeared, leaving only Aling Sabel's kiosk standing. It evolved into a canteen from merely selling bread and lugaw, with the employees buying their products. She served all the workers and their families her undivided attention and care.

Others have said, "makapasok ka dahil kay Aling Sabel, pagkatapos open and available for those day. Unbelievably, there are assistance to those people that is how much she loves lang sa opisina, hindi mo na problema ang pagkain, kumain, pwede ang lista". Their canteen is always who need to sustain themselves the whole instances that she also extends financial who are in dire need. That is Aling Sabel, and and values the NFA employees.

Sadly, Tata Jorge, Aling alone while taking care of family to constantly send their studies. Among the she became sickly in Dhors must step in. downs, she made the store.

Sabel's husband, got sick. Running the business her husband, she did her best to serve the NFA her seven (7) children to school and finish children, only Ate Dhors stayed with her until 2009. To keep the business afloat, Ate Even though operating it had ups and the decision to stick with it and expand



"Pamilya ko ang NFA.."

The NFA showed their family compassion and generosity, and she is paying it forward to the generation of NFA employees and their families. She has no idea where she will end up without NFA at this point. In the long run, she has seen firsthand the closeness that the employees have developed with her family over time. "Ginawan ka ng mabuti, kaya gawin mo din sa kapwa mo. Kaya kahit marami na at mapuno ako ng lista, okay lang, ang mahalaga nakakatulong ako at tuloy pa rin ang serbisyo. Pamilya ko na ang NFA", she said.

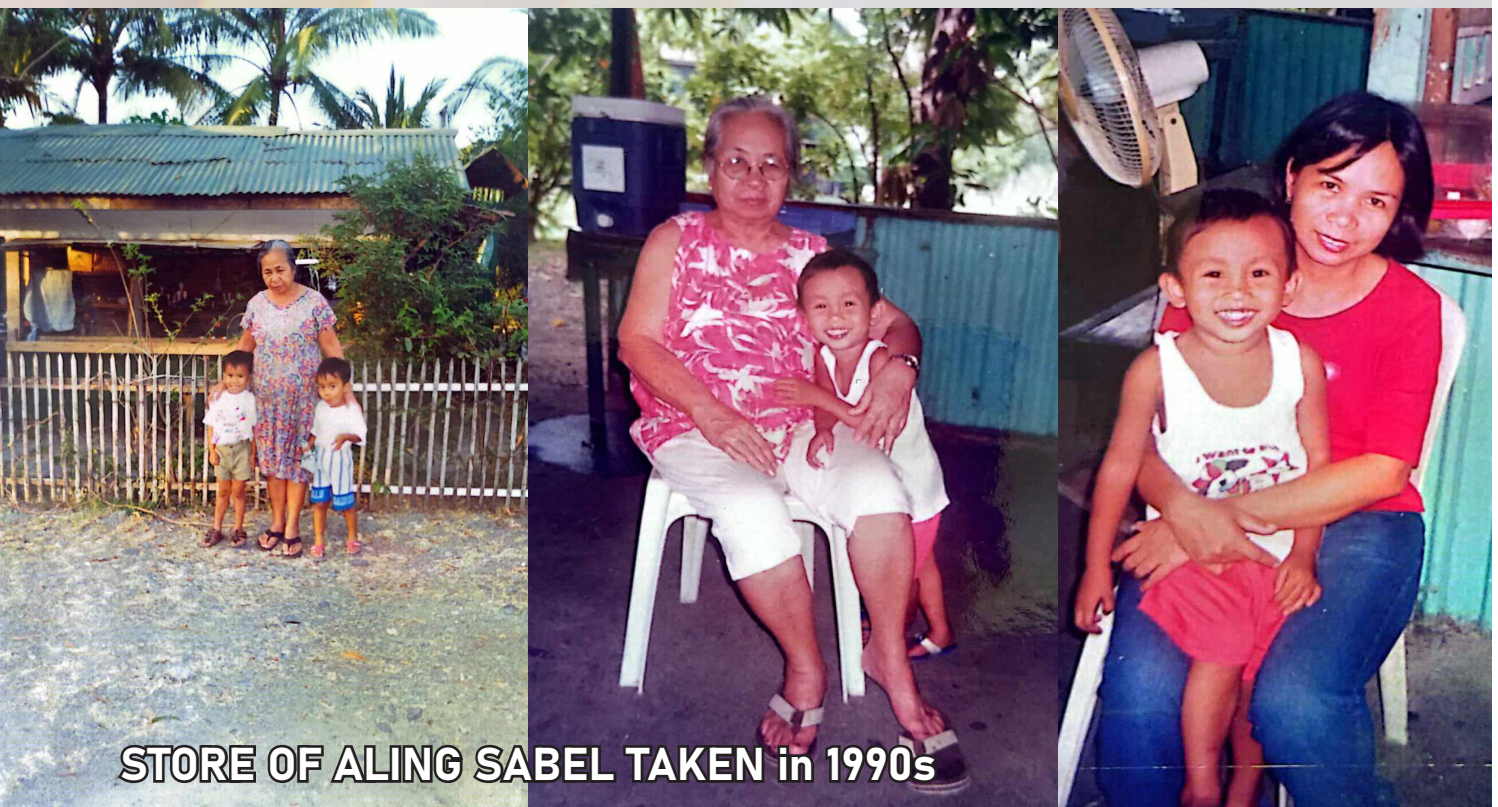
Years have passed, Ate Dhors is solely managing the canteen. She caters events for NFA CLRO and NEBO. A huge step forward to her business indeed! In business, she has learned how to be creative and adapt to changing customer preferences and market conditions while still making a name for herself.

Her unwavering will to move forward in the face of setbacks, failures, and seemingly insurmountable obstacles is what defines diligence. With this, she was able to support her two children, one of whom already owned a business, while the other is still attending tertiary school. Also, she had her home refurbished and was leading a contented life with her family.

Growing the business, NFA treats her as family, hence, she also treats all the employees and her canteen assistants as family as well. She believes that treating everyone like family—relatives or not—is essential. Ate Dhors' heart was shaped by Aling Sabel's perseverance and devotion. After managing it for 14 years of the 47 years that it has been in operation, Ate Dhors and her family have been such a blessing, for providing, loving, caring and serving the employees and workers of NFA Region 3.

Ate Dhors is now living a comfortable life but her attitude towards people remains the same. She will still be selling delicious yet reasonably priced agahan, meryenda, tanghalian and hapunan to its recently renovated canteen situated at the NFA NEBO Motorpool.

Simply put, lives can become far more meaningful and dignified when we learn to pay it forward. It is only satisfying to contribute to others, whether we receive nothing in return.



STORE OF ALING SABEL TAKEN in 1990s



THE SWEETEST SEED EVER GROWN

Hanna Elaisha S. Velasco

It is surprisingly awesome how a plant or tree grows, from being a tiny seed to the sprouting stage, to having its roots fully anchored into the ground to create a strong foundation. After the roots have developed, the nutrient-packed leaves will slowly come up and the trunk is honed: sturdy, agile, and resilient to the winds and storms.

The flowers bloom to prepare the fruits and after withstanding the test of time and the trials, the fruits will eventually follow, captivating those that witnessed the plant's growth.

Indeed, sweet fruits will be produced from a sweet seed. We can compare the season of growing and bearing fruits same with the experience of a former Utility Worker of the National Food Authority (NFA) Nueva Ecija Branch Office, Mr. Benigno Esguerra whose story created a huge impact and inspired a lot of people.

Mr. Esguerra served the NFA from 1979-2019. He is known to be a hard-working employee and a goal-oriented person whose main goal is to provide for his family. Life for him was never easy and he struggled a lot to send his six (6) children to school all at the same time. He needed to work overtime as he hoped to fulfill his dream for his family.

He worked at NFA as utility worker during the day and, to supplement his income, as a tricycle driver at night. In addition to his hard work and dedication, Mr. Esguerra obtained the sweetest return for his labors—all of his children successfully completed their college degrees—through the NFA, the family's bread and butter. This came about despite multiple difficulties and setbacks for the family. He needed to remain motivated, focused, and determined to achieve his goal.

After his faithful service to the agency for 40 years, Mr. Esguerra eventually retired, and one of his children, Engr. Bhenson Esguerra was able to work at NFA. He is currently assigned as Engineer II at NFA Tarlac Branch Office. Mr. Esguerra is consistently pleased with him as one of his crops. Through his son, Engr. Bhenson, his legacy of hard work in the agency will be continued.

Engr. Bhen, as they usually call him, is always proud to be working in the same agency where his father dedicated 40 years of his life. He was able to see and appreciate what his father had sacrificed to raise them well and give them the best gift a father can, and that is to give them a bright future and grant his greatest dream to be a civil engineer.

His father was a utility worker, but it didn't stop him from having huge dreams and bringing them to life. He may have retired as a utility worker, but the success of his son Engr. Bhen is an example of how everything is possible to accomplish your goals as long as you work hard, stay focused, and pray to the Lord for guidance. This applies to any position you may have at work.

Following his licensure as a civil engineer, Engr. Bhen pledged to honor his father's sacrifice. The most he could do was share, as a small token of his appreciation and assistance to his family. He set aside his first paycheck for his youngest sister's debut because he wanted her to have this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Apart from that, he was the one who kept covering his youngest sister's educational costs till she graduated from college. The qualities of kindness and generosity that his father had ingrained in him were qualities that he wished to impart to both his family and his coworkers.

Engr. Bhen, will forever be grateful to his father, for his dad showed him what selfless and untiring love really is. For being a good provider and for being a family man who put God at the center of all his goals in life, his father became the pillar their family needed to work hard and believe that there is a bright future waiting for them.

As Fabienne Fredrickson says "The day you plant the seed is not the day you eat the fruit". For someone to grow, you need to go through the process and different phases of life. Be patient and persevere in whatever goal you want to achieve, just like Mr. Esguerra did.

The sweetest reward doesn't come overnight, sometimes you will be like a plant. You need to be dropped in the dirt to bounce back, be in the dark to appreciate the light and struggle in the storm to stand firm and strong. The seed is your investment, the growing process is your challenge, and the fruit is your best reward.



FROM SCRAP TO CRAFT

WHEN TALENT MEETS PASSION

Anytime, anywhere, whenever you need them, they will be there, along with their tools - this is how they describe the Facility Management Team, particularly, Mr. Ruel I. Non and Mr. Benjie B. Capulong, the Mechanical Plant Operators of National Food Authority - Tarlac Branch Office.

They are currently assigned at the Aguso Compound wherein they are in-charge of the maintenance and operation of post-harvest facilities. At present, there are three existing mechanical dryers in the Compound, the Shin Hueng, Suncue, and Greenmac dryers which were acquired in 1989, 1998, and 1999, respectively. Due to their natural wear and tear, they were prone to breakdown and require frequent repair and maintenance. Other interlocking parts and electromechanical system of said dryers are outmoded and are no longer available in the market. The Facility Management Team were instructed by their then superior and now the Acting Branch Manager of Tarlac Branch Office, Engr. Charles G. Alingod to repair and maintain the dryers to ensure performance and function despite their existing condition. Moreover, instead of procuring an electronic computer system for the dryers that cost about P100,000.00, they attempted and successfully modified the systems into manual ones which resulted to same performance with that of an electronic computer system. Hence, the branch was able to continuously serve the drying needs of the farmers during its palay procurement operations.

Aside from maintaining the post-harvest facilities, Mr. Ruel and Mr. Benjie, in addition, provided assistance in minor repairs of service vehicles. In their spare time, they also do carpentry and electrical works such as repairing office and warehouse doors, installation and modification of spotlights, and replacement of worn-out parts of the filing cabinets, laboratory equipment storage, office tables and the like.

Through the years, the branch benefited and has saved immensely since they no longer hired welders, electricians, maintenance workers, and carpenters whenever Mr. Ruel and Mr. Benjie are able and available to do such works.





1. PAANO MAGPALIBRE NG HINDI MO SINASABING MAGPAPALIBRE KA?

“Baka dumating shopee ko. Pakibayaran muna. Bayaran ko later”
 “May barya ka ba dyan? Bayad mo muna ko, abot ko na lang”
 “Masarap bayan, gusto kong makatikim niyan eh”
 “Isama mo sa kainan, tapos huwag kang magdala ng pera.” –Rommel Bautista
 “Ganito ako nascam ng mga tiga NFA Pampanga:”
 Everyone: Order po tayong kape, ano pong order nyo Ma’am?
 Ma’am Evelyn: Isang Mc Café Float po
 After umorder at pagdating ng kape.
 Everyone: Sabay sabing Thank you po Ma’am Evelyn!-Evelyn Sunglao
 Mangonsensiya ka. – Engr. Charles G. Alingod, Branch Manager
 I invite the person to the place, like restaurant and grocery store, then mag “thank you” na ako agad with big smile and sweet tone of voice. – Ms. Maria Corazon D. Dantes, Admin. Officer V
 Sabihin lang na “Sana All, Baka Naman”. – Ms. Shoreen B. Manglinong, Asst. Branch Manager
 Pasuyo pabili, send ko nalang ng Gcash. – Mr. Jorge S. Sarmiento, Truck Driver
 “Uy parang masarap yung ganito” Parinig much. – Engr. Bhenson Q. Esguerra, Engineer II

2. KUNG MAGIGING HAYOP KA, ANO KA AT BAKIT?

“Ibon, para malaya akong makalipad kung saan ko gustong lugar pumunta.”
 -Angel Erasga
 “Butterfly, because I want to be beautiful and kasi maikli lang ang buhay ng butterfly. Short, live and life.” – Gerald De Guia
 “Aso, kasi kahit saan ako umihi.” -Alexander Fahad Pabustan
 PUSA. Para siyam (9) ang buhay. – Ms. Princess Dianne P. Valencia, Classifier
 LANGGAM. Small but terrible. – Engr. Bhenson Q. Esguerra, Engineer II
 PUSA. Para sa business, ako yung lucky. – Ms. Regine V. Manaloto, Statistician II

3. NGAYONG KAPASKUHAN, ANO GUSTO MONG MATANGGAP MULA KAY SANTA? AT BAKIT?

“Oven, kasi gusto kong magluto kahit hindi ako marunong. – Eliza Candaza
 “CNAI, para may pambigay ako sa mga kamag-anak ko. – Lydia Mendoza
 “Vespa, dream scooter ko po iyon.” – Sheena Manalili
 “Tatlong regalo para sa tatlong prinsesang anak ko, kasi wala pa akong bonus. – Sonny Libiran
 Tapang at Malasakit. Tapang ng pagpapahayag ng malasakit sa kapwa. – Engr. Charles G. Alingod, BM
 World Peace at 13 Billion. – Ms. Shoreen B. Manglinong, Asst. Branch Manager
 Mahabang panahon makasama ang magulang, upang maki-ta niya ang aking success. – Ms. May B. Mercurio, Secretary-Job-Order
 Pera because I am broke. – Ms. Princess Dianne P. Valencia, Classifier
 World Peace. Para magkaroon ng katahimikan at katiwasayan. – Ms. Arlene B. Guevarra, Cashier II
 Pera para sa gamot ko at ma-share sa iba. – Mr. Jorge S. Sarmiento, Truck Driver
 Good Health, because health is wealth. – Ms. Janice D. Bagayas, Accounts Analyst-Job-Order
 Plantilla Position with NFA. – Ms. Jaicy Marie C. Felipe, Warehouse Assistant-Job-Order



Dear Region 3 Employees Association Members,

As the year 2023 comes to an end, we would like to express our gratitude and appreciation for your hard work and dedication. You have also contributed to the success and growth of our Agency and Association by participating in various activities, projects, and initiatives that have enhanced our professional development, and advocacy.

To our Regional Manager Alwin Uy, Assistant Regional Manager Roy Q. Untiveros, and the Managers of Tarlac Mgr. Charles Alingod, Bulacan Mgr. Benjamin De Guzman, Nueva Ecija Mgr. Gary Guardiano, and Pampanga Mgr. Manny Rodriguez:

We, the members of the Region 3 Regional Employees Association, would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for your support and guidance throughout the year 2023. You have been instrumental in creating a positive and productive work environment for all of us. You have also been generous and compassionate in providing us with opportunities for career advancement, professional growth, and personal development. We are very thankful that almost all of our employees have achieved permanent positions and been promoted. We are honored and privileged to work with you as our leaders and mentors.

To all our NFA Region 3 Employees, we hope that you and your families are enjoying this festive season. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with happiness, health, and success. We look forward to working with you again in 2024 and beyond.

Sincerely,

Region 3 Regional Employees Association

Si Nanay*Hanna Elaisha S. Velasco*

Sa unang pagkakataong mukha mo ay nasilayan
 Hindi maipaliwanag aking naramdaman
 Pagmamahal sayo ay tunay
 Walang sinuman ang makakapantay

Mahigpit na hawak ng iyong munting kamay
 Pinawi lahat ng sakit, hapdi, at lumbay.
 Dito ka lang sa tabi ko wag kang bibitaw
 Di kita pababayaang, magsisilbing ilaw

Sa iyong pagtulog ikay minamasdan
 Sa paggising moy akin kitang hahagkan

Iyong pag-iyak sakín ay tumatatak
 Puso ko ay nadudurog parang nabibiyak
 Sabay sabing "Tahan na, tahan na anak"
 Di hahayaang sino man sayo ay may wawasak

Nais kong malaman mo
 Pagmamahal ko sayo ay totoo
 Lumipas man ang mga panahon
 Ano mang sitwasyon akin kitang iaahon

Ikaw ang aking natatanging yaman
 Pahahalagahan at pag-iingat
 Kumulubot man ang balat iyo pa ring maasahan
 Sa mundo man ay lumisan pagmamahal ko sayo
 maiwan.

TIMBANGAN*Ethel Bo*

Sa ating mga magsasaka
 Bawat sentimo'y mahalaga
 Palay na pinaghirapang ipunla
 Siguradong makikinabang ang madla

Init ng araw ay tinitiiis
 Butil ng pawis sa mukha'y namamalisbis
 Upang may maialay na butil ng uhay
 Sa masa ito'y magbibigay buhay

Empleyado ng pamahalaan
 Nakikiisa sa kanilang kadakilaan
 Pagsuporta ay maaasahan
 Upang matamo ang kasaganahan

Timbangin, suriin at alamin
 Mga magsasaka'y di dapat maliitin
 Trabahong tunay na nakakapagal
 Sila dapat ay ating ikarangal

Animo'y timbangan
 Sakto dapat, walang kulang
 Pagpupugay sa kanila
 Ito'y dapat bigyang halaga

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	0951-339-0803
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. Calanguuasan, 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	0908-888-0930
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**