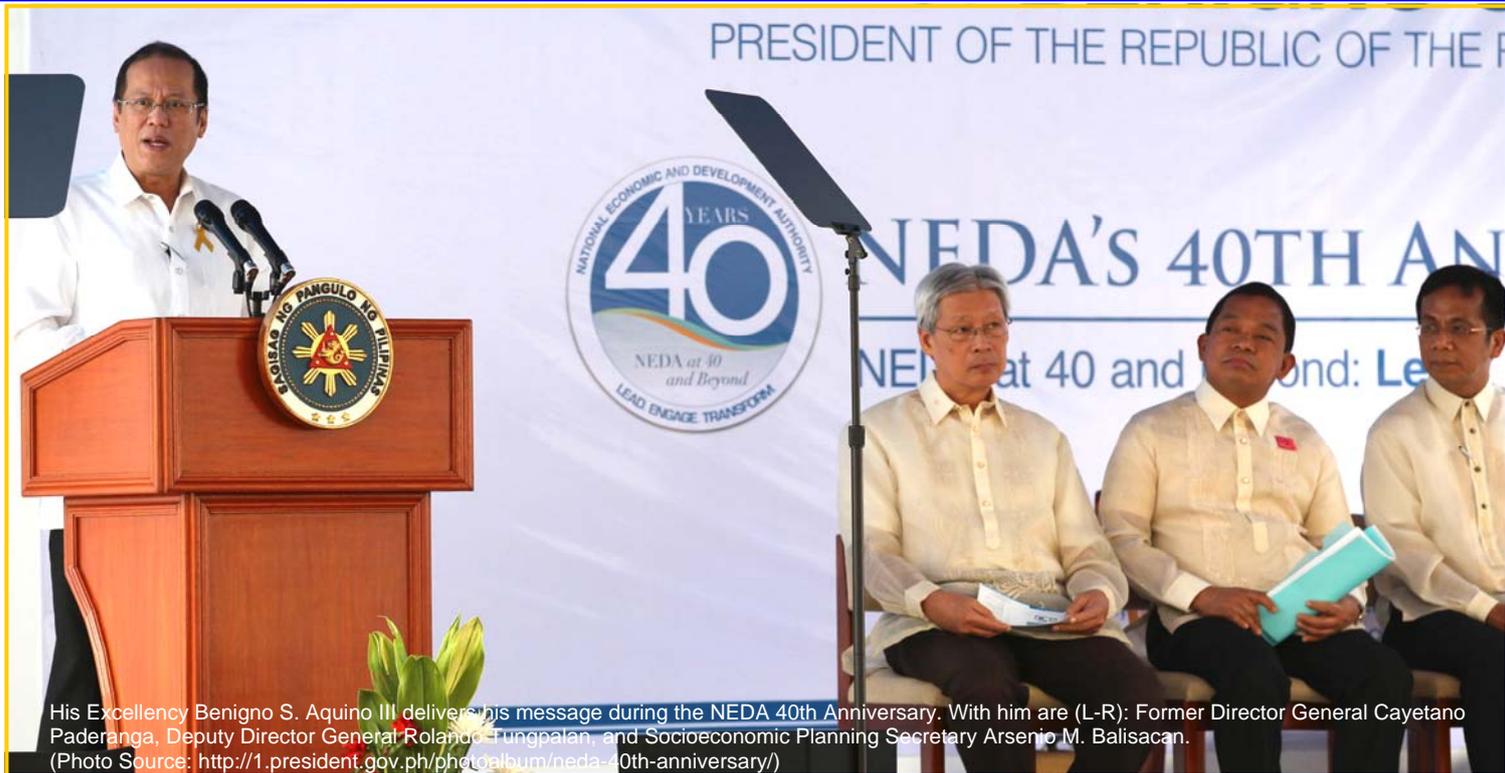




March 2013

The Official Newsletter of the Regional Development Council IV-A



His Excellency Benigno S. Aquino III delivers his message during the NEDA 40th Anniversary. With him are (L-R): Former Director General Cayetano Paderanga, Deputy Director General Rolando Fungpalan, and Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Arsenio M. Balisacan. (Photo Source: <http://1.president.gov.ph/photoalbum/neda-40th-anniversary/>)

## PNoy graces NEDA's 40th anniversary celebration

**P**resident Benigno S. Aquino graced the National Economic and Development Authority's 40th Anniversary celebration held on January 29 at the NEDA Building, Escrivá Drive, Pasig City.

The theme, "NEDA at 40 and Beyond: Lead. Engage. Transform.", according to Director General Arsenio M. Balisacan "marks an opportune time for us to look back at the past years since NEDA's establishment in 1973. NEDA has, since then, taken on the

role to lead the planning and coordination of our country's socio-economic programs and platforms."

The President, during his message, praised the NEDA for doing a great job. "Today, I am glad to see an agency truly dedicated in fulfilling their mandate and serving the Philippines. Your work is invaluable in our quest to sustain our economic development," says His Excellency. He added that, "More than chronicling the successes of the Philippine economy

through updated data and analysis, NEDA is the leader in economic planning and development for the entire country."

Director General Arsenio M. Balisacan was grateful and honoured for the President's presence to the commemoration. Also present were former Director General Cayetano Paderanga and NEDA Officials and staffs from both the central and regional offices.

The NEDA was first created under Commonwealth Act No. 2

PNoy graces/2

## RDC IV-A reviews FY 2014 budgets of AROs and SUCs

**T**he RDC IV-A on February 19 and 20, 2013 reviewed the FY 2014 budgets of 12 agency regional offices (AROs)- DA, DAR, NIA, DENR, DPWH, DOH, DOST, DOLE, DILG, DSWD, DepEd and DTI, and five SUCs in the region- SLSU, URS, CavSU, BatStateU and LSPU.

The RDC is mandated by Section 4 of Executive Order 325 to review and

endorse to the National Government the annual budgets of AROs, SUCs and special development authorities in the region. Likewise, the National Budget Memorandum No. 115 enjoined the RDC to submit feedback(s)/ recommendation(s) to Agency Central Offices (ACOs), copy fur-



From L-R: DBM ARD Ruby P. Mullo, NEDA Dir. Agnes M. Espinas, DILG RD Josefina Castilla-Go, PSR Atty. Apolinario A. Macalintal, PSR Sr. Rivkha Rogacion, RGS, and PSR Engr. Ladislao L. Andal, served as panel of reviewers during the budget presentations.

nished the AROs on the relevance, efficacy, propriety of the ongoing programs and projects, among others.

The budget review consultation focused on the programs and projects (PAPs) of AROs to be

Budget review/2



# DENR Calabarzon to re-green region's public forests

**D**ENR Region 4A Calabarzon is preparing to rehabilitate 22,326 hectares of public forest in 2013, with 900 hectares in Cavite, 1,300 hectares in Laguna, 1,000 hectares in Batangas, 8,300 hectares in Rizal, 10,800 hectares in Quezon and 26 hectares for the Regional Office.

Regional Executive Director (RED) Reynulfo A. Juan said the 2013 target will form part of the total regional target of 102,560 hectares to be accomplished by 2016. For 2012, a total of 9,712.01 hectares of degraded public forestlands in the region in 2012 have been replanted from a target of 10,031 hectares. These have been planted with 5,483,264 seedlings of assorted species of indigenous forest such as narra, molave, balitbitan; and fruit bearing trees such as langka, guayabano, lanzones and coffee. Twenty thousand volunteer planters from the local community organizations and residents, students and faculty, and other partner government agencies, the Police and the Army, helped plant the seedlings.

Pnoy's National Greening Program (NGP) aims to rehabilitate 1.5 million hectares of degraded forestlands by planting 1.5 billion trees until 2016.

"We have planted so much and we need to ensure that what we have planted should survive and grow. As we embark on the new sites for planting, protection and maintenance is also emphasized in the already planted sites," RED Juan added.

RED Juan revealed that the regional field staff implementing the greening program as well as staff who are tasked at monitoring developments, underwent training on Applied Geotagging Technology. He stressed the importance of geotagging in the implementation of the National Greening Program in the five provinces in the CALABARZON region, namely Cavite, Laguna, Batangas Rizal and Quezon, as well as in the whole Philippines. Geotagging seeks to help DENR facilitate access to and monitor the different activities of the NGP throughout the country.

RED Juan further explained that with the NGP on its third year, trees planted as early as two years ago would have grown, and the geotagging technology would help verify where these

have been planted, confirm if these trees survived, and subsequently monitor improvements and survival rates.

A total of 38,847 hectares will be subjected to geotagging areas identified for the NGP implementation until 2016. The DENR is building up an accessible and readily available geographic information database on NGP and other program areas in the region. RED Juan is optimistic on the usefulness of the database for planning, monitoring assessment of programs and projects being implemented. It will also facilitate the decision making process.

RED Juan also revealed that DENR Secretary Ramon JP Paje initiated the use of the geotagging technology. "Secretary Paje monitors the developments almost daily, logs on to the internet and checks on the progress of implementation in the field. The secretary also says President Pnoy himself also monitors the greening program, and checks on what we have done through the Internet. Hence we have to make good on really rehabilitating the forests, do an honest to goodness tagging of the trees planted," he stressed.

"The President, the DENR Secretary, and other implementors monitor what we have done. The Filipino, or anybody else who has access to the internet will be able to monitor the improvement of the planted trees," he revealed.

RED Juan further cited, "We are now in the process of preparing the areas targeted for 2013. Our field people are now conducting the Survey, Mapping and Planning of the areas. Survey involves delineation and marking of boundaries of the target sites. Contour mapping is also done. We also do identification of areas for special treatments such as enrichment planting or cover crop planting, delineating forested portions, streams, roads, and areas with occupants. The occupants could be or will be our partners in planting and maintenance. These are all in preparation for the actual planting when the first rains come after summer. We start planting as early as May and expect to be done before November." ■

(Gaudencio L. Dela Cruz, DENR IV-A)

PNoy graces...from page 1 in 1935 as National Economic Council

(NEC). It was then tasked as the economic adviser of the government. But the NEDA, as an independent planning agency, established on January 24, 1973 through Presidential Decree 107, exercised the function then of the National Economic Council, Presidential Economic Staff and other adhoc economic bodies. It was in the same year that the NEDA Regional Offices were organized to serve as technical support to the Regional Development Councils.

In 1975, the NEDA Regional Offices were fully operationalized to manage the socioeconomic development of the regions. In 1987, NEDA was reorganized as the country's economic development and planning agency. It consists of the NEDA Board and the NEDA Secretariat. The NEDA Board is the governing body that sets major development policy directions with the President as Chairperson. The NEDA Secre-

Budget review...from page 1

financed under the agency capital outlays, including bottom-up-budgeting PAPs. The aggregate amount of budget reviewed amounted to PhP153 billion.

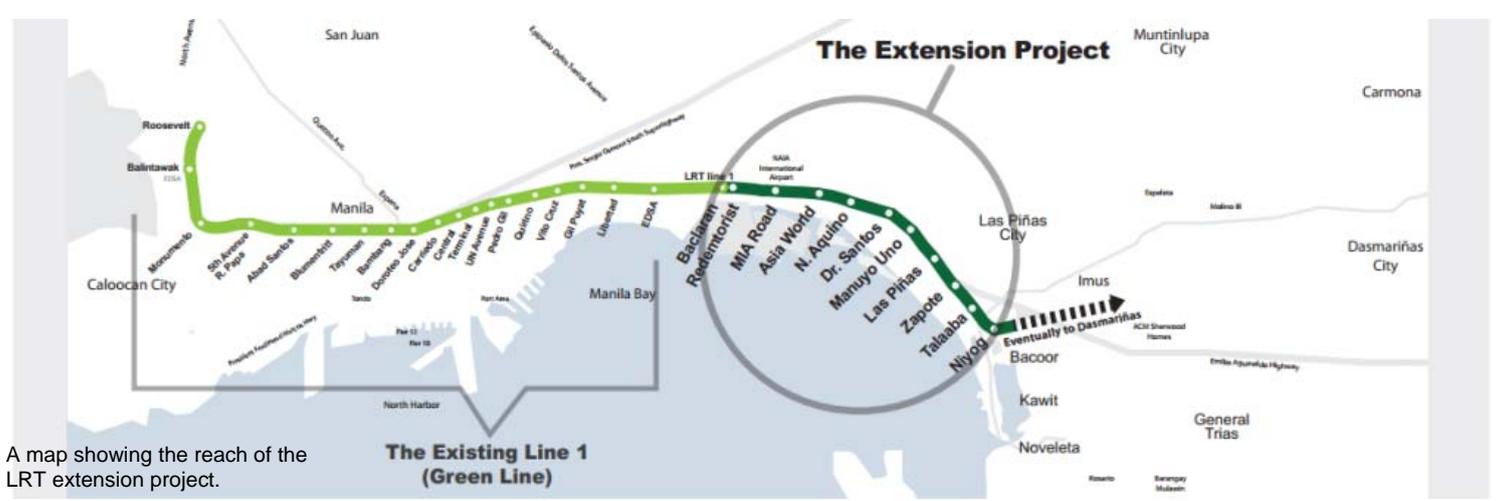
For this year, the NEDA, DBM, DILG, DPWH, DSWD, DTI, RDC Sectoral Committee Chairs and Calabarzon Provincial Planning and Development Coordinators served as panel of reviewers.

Considerations in the reviewing the agency PAPs included: (a) PNoy's Social Contract with the Filipino People; (b) Millennium Development Goals; (c) Gender and Development; (d) Agency OPIF /MFOs; (e) RDP Goals, Policies and Strategies; (f) Proposed Calabarzon Regional Government Center. Also achieved during the consultation was the identification of areas of cooperation or convergence points among agencies and SUCs to make their PAPs more relevant, and efficient and effective in implementation.

The FY 2014 Budget Review Consultation was held at the Makiling Highlands Resort. ■

## Did you know that...

Calabarzon is the second most densely populated region next to National Capital Region. It has a population of 12, 609, 803.



A map showing the reach of the LRT extension project.

## Operation of LRT Line 1 Cavite extension expected in 2015

**C**aviteños applauded President Benigno S. Aquino III when he said that the much awaited operations of LRT line 1 in Cavite is expected to start by 2015.

The President made the remarks during the launching of the program “Alay sa Mamamayan” held at the Apostle Arsenio T. Ferriol Sports Complex (formerly Maranatha Sports Complex) in Barangay Malagasang 2-D.

The expected operation of LRT line 1 by 2015 is a big boost to the economy of the province and will definitely cut the travel time from Baclaran to Bacoor by an average of 15 minutes or less. Once completed, the line will serve 250,000 passengers per day.

"At siyempre, nananabik na po tayo sa taong 2015, hindi ho dahil isang taon na lang ako manunungkulan, kung hindi mapapabilis na ang biyahe mula Baclaran hanggang Bacoor, at madadagdagan

din ng 250,000 pasahero ang maisasakay kada araw dahil sa LRT Line 1 Cavite Extension," the President said. (I am eager for the coming of the year 2015, not because I have only one year left on my term by that time, but because travel from Baclaran to Bacoor will be faster and passengers who will ride the LRT Line 1 Cavite Extension will increase to 250,000 per day.)

The project extends the rail line 12 kms from existing Baclaran terminal to Barangay Niog in Bacoor and it is to be structured along the lines of the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) which is one of the priority projects of the national government.

President Aquino likewise mentioned several infrastructure projects in the province among which are the Bangkal-GMA Bridge in Dasmariñas City, the widening of the Governor’s Drive in Trece Martires City and the Daang Hari-

SLEX link road that will connect the city of Bacoor to the South Luzon Expressway.

The Daang Hari-SLEX infrastructure project will benefit the growing rapid urbanization in the cities of Bacoor, Imus and Dasmariñas. It will also address the worsening traffic situation in areas such as Zapote-Alabang (cities of Muntinlupa and Las Piñas) road and other exit and entry points in the province.

Cavite Third District Representative Erineo “Ayong” Maliksi admired the leadership of President Aquino and his support for the development of the province.

The “Alay sa Mamamayan” project is being implemented to ensure the attainment of sustainable development in the province to address poverty reduction, food security, education, health, livelihood and other basic needs of the

## Calabarzon as pilot area for Chains 4 Change studies of the EMIT project

**T**he outputs of all these activities will be in preparation for the final Escaping Middle-Income Country Trap (EMIT) conference in 2015 where results of the research and case studies shall be presented.

The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Region IV-A led by Dir. Agnes M. Espinas together with the EMIT project team headed by Dr. Annette Pelkmans-Balaoing conducted the Chains 4 Change (C4C)



stakeholders meeting last January 10, 2013 at DTI IV-A NERBAC Conference Room, Marcelita Building, Calamba City, Laguna.

The meeting was attended by various government and private sector stakeholders in Calabarzon, as the region was chosen to be the pilot area for C4C studies. Discussions revolved around the selection of focus commodities and identification of partners who shall work on the processes and possible solutions to the hindering factors of competitive-



ness and inclusive growth.

C4C will be looking into the application of the principles of public-private partnerships in the upgrading and expansion of the manufacturing sector. Value chain workshops, stakeholder consultations and case studies will be done to ascertain and create a clearer picture of the challenges and opportunities the identified sectors are facing and determine the interventions needed to overcome the challenges identified. ■

## Cavite province earns ISO certification

Instituting a road map for development takes foresight and strong political will for its successful implementation and requires an overhaul of the whole system.

This was what Cavite Gov. Juanito Victor C. Remulla, Jr. had in mind when he was sworn to office in June 2010. He sought to do away with a system that breeds lethargy and adversely affects the delivery of essential public services to its constituency.

Governor Remulla's goal was for Cavite to become "First Class, World Class." Fueled by the nationwide results of being one of the Top Performing Provinces in the country, he initiated dialogues with concerned agencies to set in motion the steps for ISO (*International Organization for Standardization*) 9001-2008 certification for the Province.

In an unparalleled move, the Governor assigned four core offices and three support offices of the Provincial Government to undergo the ISO accreditation process. These core offices are the Treasury, Assessor's Office, Sangguniang Panlalawigan, and the Office of the Provincial Governor, and the support offices are the Human Resource Management Office, Information Technology Division and the General Services Office.

ISO Certification is a set of standards and requirements for the development of a quality management system commonly applied by private corporations and organizations to help ensure that needs and expectations of customers are adequately and consistently met. These standards also enable organizations to develop mechanisms for continual improvement of products and services.

In December of 2011, the campaign for ISO Certification commenced with an orientation for employees on the ins and outs of the certification. A Quality Policy was launched in February 2012 to signify the start of the 120-day countdown to becoming the First ISO Certified Provincial Government in the country.

A rigid 14-step process including

documentation, management review, readiness assessment, internal quality audit and 3<sup>rd</sup> party certification was conducted afterwards, followed by the hurdling of 23 ISO requirements including the conditions for a process map for each operation that are incorporated into a Quality Manual.

Finally, the Province was granted the ISO Certification by the Anglo Japanese American (AJA) Registrars, 27 days ahead of schedule on May 4, 2012.

As a result of this trailblazing initiative, Cavite Province has become a model for efficient local administration. Different LGUs have visited the province for benchmarking activities and observe first-hand the Province's endeavors such as the "paperless" legislation at the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, the RPTS System, and e-Internal Governance, among others. ■

## Province of Cavite making its way in leading ICT projects

Cavite Province, now on its way to being a world class province through the attainment of ISO 9001:2008 certification, continues to initiate programs to improve its operations and broaden the delivery of basic services, including innovations in information and communications technology (ICT).

Governor Juanito Victor C. Remulla, with his belief on technology-based solutions to organizational problems, thus established Provincial Information and Communications Technology Office (PICTO) on April 10, 2012 to manage and implement ICT projects in the province.

Headed by Ms. Camille Lauren V. Del Rosario, the PICTO is now being recognized in system development pro-



Cavite Governor JV Remulla receives the ISO certification from the Anglo-Japanese American (AJA) Registrars.

jects that aims to improve the current procedures of the provincial government to ensure efficient and effective delivery of services. Some of these projects are the Real Property Tax System (RPTS), e-Provincial Scholarship Program (ePSP), and Client's Feedback Monitoring System. Additionally, trainings and events promoting the industry were also conducted last year such as the ICT Roadshow and Training of DepEd ICT Teachers in Jeollabukdo, South Korea.

The RPTS aims to electronically connect the Treasurer's Office with the Assessor's Office for easy and fast collection of taxes. It will provide computerized assessment and computation that cuts the waiting time of clients into approximately more than half of the current procedure. The system will also connect all municipalities to the province for simple and trouble-free monitoring and collection. The Provincial System will be launched in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2013 while the Municipal System will continuously be implemented throughout the province for the rest of the year.

The e-Provincial Scholarship Program, for its part, is an online scholarship application for Caviteño college students applying for the scholarship grants offered by the province. It aims to fast track the application process and to promote transparency through the automatic sorting of highest scores with lowest income applicants. Applications are filled up and applied online for the convenience of the applicants. Furthermore, the ePSP website ([www.cavite.gov.ph/psp](http://www.cavite.gov.ph/psp)) has reduced the processing time into half which in turn resulted to faster

## Peace and Progress: Cornerstones of sustained development

Security, Peace and Order is the top priority program of Gov. George ER Ejercito to ensure steady growth and overall development of the province. For this reason, Governor ER and the Laguna Police Provincial Office (LPPO) established the Laguna Shield Emergency Response (E.R.) 911 to intensify the crime prevention and intervention campaigns of the Provincial Government.

One campaign, "OPLAN WILD-CAT", was launched to recover stolen motorcycles used in illegal activities and to serve as a disciplinary measure for motorists who continuously violate traffic laws and to reduce delinquency and negligence in registering their motorcycles and vehicles. Since its implementation in September 2011, there has been a decrease in crime incidence in the province. Because of the campaign's success, it has been regionally adopted as "OPLAN CHECKMATE".

The Laguna Police also embarked on a more intensive program, "OPLAN ANGRY BIRD" with program slogan "Walang Personalan, Trabaho Lang". Launched in November 2011, the campaign aims to maintain security, peace and order and public safety by neutralizing organized crime groups, drug personalities, and wanted persons.

The province wide anti-criminality drive operated with simultaneous raids

and searches which resulted in the arrest of hundreds of most wanted criminals, drug users and pushers and confiscation of loose firearms and deadly weapons. This program has been effective thus far, leading to its adoption as "OPLAN TROJAN WAR" in the CALABARZON Region.

Governor ER, in partnership with the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO), the Laguna Provincial Police and the Philippine Army successfully apprehended 11 people involved in illegal logging activities on April 17, 2012 during the "OPLAN BERDE", an anti-illegal logging campaign in the Province of Laguna.

The implementation of "OPLAN BERDE" is in accordance to PD No. 1559 (The Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines) and resulted in the confiscation of 200,000 board feet of various species of wood, trucks and heavy duty logging equipment such as band and chain saws in the municipalities of Cavinti, Famy and Kalayaan with a total value of over Php28 million.

To strengthen police operations in the province, the governor donated 10 brand new Laguna Shield Emergency Response 911 vehicles to the Laguna Provincial Police on November 6, 2012 at the Camp General Paciano Rizal, Sta. Cruz, Laguna. To provide responsive quality public services and improve disaster response among the Laguneños, Governor ER initiated the distribution of Emergency Response 911 and Rescue Vehicles to all 674 barangays in the province. ■

## ER Orange Card ensures best health services

Quality and affordable health care is one of the major priorities in Gov. George "E.R." Ejercito Estregan's comprehensive 15-point flagship program called the K2 *Kinse Kumpleto Serbisyo Publiko Kontra Kahirapan, Gutom, Kawalan ng Trabaho at Korapsyon*.

To address the increasing health needs of the people and lower the costs of medical services for patients, particularly families below poverty line, Governor E.R. launched the Laguna Health Access Card. Popularly known as the E.R. Orange Card, it seeks to provide access to quality health care services.

The governor launched the program on the belief that if Laguneños are healthy, they can actively contribute to the development of their province.

Provincial Laguna Executive Order



No. 16, s.2010 signed by Governor Ejercito in October 2010 serves as the legal basis for the implementation of the Laguna Health Access Program or the "ER Orange Card". The Office of the Provincial Social Welfare and Development (OPSWD) headed by Ernesto M. Montecillo, is the lead unit implementing the program which categorizes the recipient indigent families based on their monthly family income.

The ER Orange Card provides families a full range of medical services and subsidized hospitalization services for both out-patients and in-patients in the nine district hospitals owned, supervised and managed by the provincial government.

These district hospitals are: Laguna Medical Center, Laguna Provincial Hospital (LPH) -Dr. J.P. Rizal Memorial District Hospital, LPH-Luisiana District Hospital, LPH-Nagcarlan District Hospital, LPH-



Governor ER turns over to the Laguna Provincial Police Office represented by then Officer-in-Charge Police Senior Superintendent Fausto V. Manzanilla Jr., the Laguna Shield Emergency Response 911 vehicles to ensure peace and progress in all four districts of the Province.

## Batangas province holds province-wide training on LSP formulation

In order to address the housing requirements for both informal and formal sector of cities and municipalities, the Provincial Government, in cooperation with Local Housing Board; and through the Provincial Planning and Development Office (PPDO) and Housing and Homesite Affairs Division (HHAD) of Provincial Administrator's Office, Batangas Province conducted four batches of training for the Local Shelter Plan Formulation within the months of September to November 2012 at Monte Victoire, Pallocan East, Batangas City.

The training was also made possible through the technical assistance provided by a group of resource speakers, steered by Dir. Zacarias A. Abanes, from Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) under the Office of the President. The League of Local Planning and Development Coordinators of



Dir. Zacarias Abanes, HUDCC, discusses the key concepts in Local Shelter Plan during the first batch of Training for Local Shelter Plan Formulation, September 11, Batangas City, Batangas Province.

the Philippines, Inc. (LLPDCI) – Batangas Chapter also gave their support to this endeavor.

According to HUDCC, the training was designed to help the LGUs in carrying out their mandates pertaining to land use, shelter, designing disaster resilient communities and development planning in their respective localities as mandated in Republic Act 7160 or Local Government Code and Republic Act 7279 or the Urban Development and Housing Act (UDHA), Republic Act 9729 or the Climate Change Act, and Republic Act 10121 or the Disaster Risk Reduction Management Act.

To fulfill these mandates and provisions, the province utilized their data on total number of population and

households, number of informal settlers, and number of households living in makeshift housing; generated from the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS). During the training-workshops, Engr. Josephine R. Altura, Provincial Government Assistant Department Head of PPDO, emphasized, "These data will help the provincial government to achieve an evidence-based planning. We could assure that we are responding to the actual needs and housing situation in Batangas with these (data)."

At the end of the training, all municipalities were expected to finish their plans by the end of the year. The province is also currently formulating its Provincial Shelter Plan 2013-2021. ■

## Hatid-Sundo eskwela project

Pulo island is home to a complete elementary school, an annex school of Talisay Central School. Despite the physical isolation (from the mainland) of their dwelling area, children get to enjoy access to complete public elementary education. Every year, an average of 20 students complete their elementary schooling. But after that, when they have to move up to high school, they have to deal with a difficult situation: there is no high school in their area. Only in the mainland. And this presents so many pressing problems that they and their parents have to face.

To continue and sustain their secondary schooling, they have to travel by boat to attend their everyday classes in the mainland. Coming from a family with limited income, their parents find it too stressful financially to shoulder

the regular boat ride expenses. Another thing: since the students are at the mercy of the boats' availability -- the boats are not regularly available -- their attendance or class participation suffers, their academic accomplishment declines. To avoid this and to save transportation expenses, some are forced to live with their relatives in the mainland on weekdays (so that they can readily access the school). Others are forced to drop out. Most just go to school when there their parents have enough income to finance their transportation.

On the other side of Taal Lake, in Barangay Kalumayin, Cuenca, grade



schoolers are just as unlucky. Their elementary school can offer only grade 1 and grade 2 classes. They have to travel to other side of the coastal barangay to continue their elementary education.

Hatid-Sundo Eskwela Project comes into the picture with the objective of making the schools accessible to the school children living at the foot of volcano and at the remote coastal barangay. The project provides high school freshmen residing at the foot of Taal Volcano with free boat ride when they report to their school in the mainland where they attend a public highschool (Balas-buko National High School) and when they get back home.

## Rizal province launches wind energy project

**R**izal Gov. Jun Ynares III and former Energy Secretary Vince Perez, President and CEO of Alternergy Wind One Corporation recently entered into an agreement for the building of a 67.5 megaWatt wind farm project in the municipality of Pililla.

The province highly supported the commendable project as it is seen as an environment-friendly investment that will not only harness renewable energy resources, but will likewise generate meaningful employment opportunities to

its constituents.

Once established, the Pililla wind farm will be the first wind renewable energy project completed under the Renewable Energy Act of 2008 and the first within the Laguna de Bay region.

“We are greatly thankful to Alternergy Wind One Corporation for choosing Rizal province as the site for its wind farm project. This only legitimizes our conviction and call for the protection and welfare of the environment,” remarked Gov. Ynares.



**RIZAL WIND ENERGY PROJECT SIGNED** — Rizal Governor Casimiro 'Junjun' Ynares III (third from left) shares a light moment with former Energy Secretary Vince Perez (second from right) who is now the president and CEO of Alternergy Wind One Corporation which entered into an agreement with the Capitol for the building of a 67.5 megaWatt wind farm project in the municipality of Pililla. Others at the signing of the agreement recently are (from left) Vice Governor Frisco San Juan Jr., Pililla Mayor Leandro Masikip, and Alternergy EVP and COO for Business Development Knud Hedeager. (Rudy Liwanag)

Just like the windmills in Bangui Ilocos Norte, once built, the wind farm will contribute in reducing the greenhouse effect which causes global warming. ■

## DILG Awards Seal of Good Housekeeping to Rizal Province

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) recently awarded the provincial government of Rizal the Seal of Good Housekeeping for 2011.

The award is in recognition of good governance performance in internal housekeeping and compliance with the criteria of good housekeeping in key governance areas of planning, budgeting, revenue mobilization, financial management and budget execution, procurement and resource mobilization.

In a letter to Rizal Gov. Jun Ynares, DILG Regional Director Josefina Castillo-Go informed the governor that Rizal province was chosen to receive the Seal while two of its municipalities – Jalajala and Teresa – also received the good housekeeping Seal under the municipal category.

DILG has devised the Seal as a gauge to measure LGUs performance based on fiscal management and transparency and accountability which refers to the full disclosure of local budget and finances, bids and public offerings.

LGUs that passed the Seal of Good Housekeeping qualify to be recipients of the Local Government Support Fund (LGSF). This fund shall be utilized as capital expenditures to augment the LGUs' approved annual investment program (AIP) for implementation of any or



combination of the following projects only – rural electrification, local roads, farm-to-market roads and bridges, local economic enterprises, flood control and drainage.

Also, the LGSF is intended to support the following projects of the national government: the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010, and the Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

“We will continue to improve for our constituents who will benefit from our good housekeeping ways,” Governor Ynares said after receiving the award. As an LGU-awardee of the Seal and recipient of the LGSF, the province of Rizal received Php 30 million support fund to finance its various programs and projects. ■

## Rizal LRT Line 2 Extension Project

The Investment Coordinating Committee (ICC) of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)

Board recently approved the Light Railway Transit (LRT) Line 2 East Extension Project that involves the design and construction of a 4.19 kilometer extension from the existing Santolan Station (Pasig City) to Masinag Junction (Antipolo, Rizal).

The total approved cost of the project is Php9.76 billion. This also involves the construction of two additional stations located at Emerald Drive in Cainta, Rizal and Masinag Junction, aside from the existing Santolan station. With the completion of the extension project, total length of the LRT Line 2 will stand at around 16.75 kilometers.

It would be recalled that Rizal Gov. Jun Ynares personally requested then Transportation and Communication Secretary Mar Roxas during the 201<sup>st</sup> Independence Day celebration of Colombia to include the extension project in the department's priority project list. With NEDA's approval, it is expected that the LRT line extension when completed will provide rapid and reliable mode of transit traversing parts of Rizal province and various strategic commercial, industrial and educational districts in Metro Manila.

“On behalf of Rizal province's constituents, I would like to express the gratitude of Rizaleños to ..... the approval and construction of our requested LRT Line 2 East Extension Project, seen to greatly benefit us and our province's commerce,” Governor Ynares said. ■

*(Provincial Government of Rizal)*

## Quezon Province Launches Health, Computer Literacy and Mangrove Reforestation Programs

Quezon Province under the leadership of Governor David “Jayjay” C. Suarez has launched various development initiatives to broaden people’s access to health, improve computer education, and protect the coastal environment. These initiatives are expected to lead to the improvement in the quality of the lives of the people in the province.

### Lingap kalusugan para sa Quezonian

Through the Serbisyong Suarez sa Kalusugan, one of Gov. David “Jayjay” C. Suarez flagship programs, the provincial government has launched Lingap Kalusugan Para sa Quezonians in 2011. This is the first and only Health Coupon program in the Philippines with the primary objective of providing better access to health-care.

The project managed to bridge the gap that hinders access to health services in the province by properly addressing the delay in the delivery of healthcare services, a problem that has contributed to mortality as stated in the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

Prior to the implementation of the Lingap Kalusugan Para sa Quezonians, all health assistance was centralized at the Provincial Capitol. But through the

active participation of the 1,242 Punong Barangays in the province, this health coupon program was able to enrol 112,863 Quezonians in 2011.

In view of Lingap Kalusugan Para sa Quezonians’ initiatives and innovations, the Province of Quezon was chosen as one of the Grand Finalists of the 2012 Galing Pook Award conferred by President Benigno S. Aquino III. ■

### Computer literacy program

In response to the challenges posed by modernization and globalization, the Provincial Government of Quezon initiated the first province-wide Computer Literacy Program in 2011 to develop the technical and computer skills of public high school students so that they will not be left behind by their contemporaries in other places.

To efficiently implement this comprehensive program, Gov. David “Jayjay” Suarez spearheaded the construction of 55 fully air-conditioned computer laboratories in the 55 public secondary schools across the four districts in the entire province. Each of the computer laboratories houses 25 computer units and one LCD Projector.

In recognition of this program’s

contribution in the field of education, the Department of Education Secretary Armin Luistro conferred the DepEd Adopt-A-School Award to Governor



During the Blessing and inauguration of the Serbisyong Suarez Computer Literacy Program at Lucban National High School. (Photo credit: www.quezon.gov.ph)

Suarez on Sept. 27, 2012.

For 2013, the Provincial Government through Serbisyong Suarez sa Edukasyon plans to put up at least 36 additional computer classrooms and to promote a 100 percent computer literacy program in all secondary schools in the province. ■

### Quezon’s 2-in-1 mangrove planting project

In the morning of June 30, 2012, Quezonians woke up to the sight of 35,000 volunteers planting mangroves in 196 barangays of the 35 towns dotting Quezon Province’s 1,066-km coastline. A total of 2,766,342 mangrove propagules were planted on this day, surpassing the target number of 2 million by 38.3 percent.

Dubbed as Quezon’s 2-in-1 Project, this undertaking aims to plant two million mangroves in just one day to rehabilitate the province’s coastal areas devastated in the past by natural calamities and man-made destructive activities.

According to Governor David “Jayjay” Suarez, this province-wide campaign raised his fellow Quezonians’ awareness on the need to protect the environment. In fact, residents and officials of the villages where the mangroves were planted pledged to take care of them. In turn, the provincial government is offering cash incentives to villages with the most number of growing mangroves. ■

(Provincial Government of Quezon)



Quezon Gov. David Jayjay C. Suarez and House Deputy Speaker 4<sup>th</sup> Dist. Cong. Erin Tanada III and Lopez Mayor Sonny Ubana II during the Ceremonial Turn-over of Health Coupons to the Barangay Captains in Lopez, Quezon.

## DILG IV-A convenes 1<sup>st</sup> RPRAT meeting

The Department of Interior and Local Government Region IV -A CALABARZON has jumpstarted the year as it convened the 1<sup>st</sup> Regional Poverty Reduction Action Team (RPRAT) Meeting last January 15, 2013 at the DILG IV-A Conference Room, FTI Complex, Taguig City.

The meeting was led by Dir. Josefina E. Castilla-Go, CESO III, Regional Director (RD) of DILG CALABARZON, and RPRAT Chair around 1:00 PM. She also welcomed the RPRAT members and called the meeting to order.

Discussed during the meeting was the Summary Outcomes of the 2013 Bottom Up Planning and Budgeting (BUPB), and 2014 BUPB which were presented by Undersecretary Marie Labajo of the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC). The Roles and Responsibilities, as well as the Salient Features of the DBM-DILG-DSWD-NAPC Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) 2 and 3, series of 2012 on the other hand were discussed by DBM IV -A RD Julian Pacificador, the RPRAT Vice Chair.

Being the RPRAT Chair as stipulated in the JMC, RD Go called for the meeting of the RPRAT in order to address the 2013 BUB Project Implementation wherein 26 of the 595 Focus LGUs in the country are in Region IV-A. This includes 19 LGUs in Quezon as well as 7 LGUs in Rizal. Project cost for the said LGUs amounts to P317.1M. #

Based on the Salient Features of the 2013 BUB Guidelines, the projects will be implemented by the LGUs except for Household electrification projects under DOE; Sitio electrification projects under NEA; NHIP coverage of



DILG Regional Director and RPRAT Chair Josefina E. Castilla-Go presides during the meeting.

indigent families under PHIC; and all projects under DepEd. Further, project implementations by the LGUs are subject to the following conditions: Technical capabilities as determined by the agency concerned; Seal of Good Housekeeping for FY 2011 or 2012 Assessment; Completion of assessment of its PFM system; and No unliquidated cash advances from participating agencies based on existing auditing rules and regulations.

The BUPB for CY 2014 was also presented wherein the focus is 1,233 LGUs (considered "Poorest of the Poor"). Of these figure, 52 LGUs are in CALABARZON (5 in Cavite, 7 in Laguna, 7 in Batangas, 11 in Rizal, and 22 in Quezon). Budget cap on the other hand for the said LGUs in Region IV-A amounts to P786M.

Important to note is the funding for the implementation of the BUB projects which shall be incorporated by the participating agencies and DBM into the FY 2014 National Expenditure Program. Key players for the BUB include the LGU LCE, the Local Poverty Reduction Action Team (LPRAT), the Local Sanggunian, the Civil Society Organization (CSO), the RPRAT, the NAPC, and the Agency Central Offices (ACOs).

There are also ten (10) processes

for the BUB CY 2014 and these include Preparation for Poverty Reduction Planning and Budgeting; Conduct of LPRAP Workshop; Endorsement of CSOs; Adoption of the Priority projects by the Sanggunian; Submission of List of Priority Poverty Reduction Projects; Consolidation of the List of Priority Poverty Reduction Projects by Region; Validation and Review of Priority Poverty Reduction Projects by the RPRAT; Integration of the LGU projects in the budget of participating agencies; Provision of Counterpart Funds; and Project Implementation.

The activity is an offshoot of the Bottom-Up Processes (BUB) in Planning and Budgeting Regional Orientation for the DILG Field Personnel which was held last December 13, 2012 at the Great Eastern Hotel, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City wherein DILG CALABARZON played host to 163 participants from regions IV-A, IV -B, and NCR.

The RPRAT is composed of the following agencies in the CALABARZON region: the DILG, DBM, DA, DAR, DENR, DOH, DepEd, DOE, DSWD, DTI, NEDA, DOT, TESDA, DOE, NEA, and representatives of the CSOs in the five (5) provinces of the region. ■

(DILG IV-A Calabarzon)

## Atimonan: 2012 Regional Champion in Nutrition

The Municipality of Atimonan, Rizal has been awarded as the "Most Outstanding Municipality in the Province and in the Region" during the Regional Nutrition Awarding Ceremony on Dec. 4, 2012 by the National Nutrition Council (NNC) Region 4A Office.

Atimonan has been consistent in

giving quality and successful nutrition-related services to its people for years. The "Bigas para sa Mag-aaral at Pamilya" or the locality's Food for School Program, the Livelihood Projects at the municipal and *barangay* levels, and Supplemental Feedings are just a few of the various initiatives of the Atimonan Municipal Nutrition Committee (MNC) to fight hunger.

These nutrition-based initiatives included the promotion of Joemix, a locally made infant supplementary mix that aims to improve the health and

nutrition situation of Atimonan.

Earlier, on Nov. 13-15, 2012, Director Carina Z. Santiago of the NNC 4A and the Regional Evaluation Team visited Atimonan for the annual Monitoring and Evaluation of Local Level Plan and Implementation (MELLPI). The team monitored and evaluated the nutrition plan implementation in the municipality and eventually selected four barangays where program efficiency and program effectiveness were assessed. ■

(Atimonan Information Office)

## Calabarzon C-STARS Meet in Taguig to discuss Activities for the Year

The CALABARZON Southern Tagalog Association of Regional Executives (C-STARS) composed of the heads of the national agencies in Region IV-A CALABARZON recently met on January 15, 2013 at the DILG Region IV-A Conference Room in FTI Complex, Taguig City.

The meeting was presided by DILG IV-A Regional Director (RD) Josefina E. Castilla-Go, the newly elected President of the Association.

Director Go recalled what transpired during the association's meeting last year which resulted in its reorganization to address the issues faced by the group after the transfer of then President of C-STARS, NEDA IV-A RD Severino Santos, to Region III.

The group also addressed the issue of DSWD RD Naviamos' transfer to another place of assignment and agreed to install NEDA IV-A Dir. Agnes Espinas to replace Director Naviamos.

The meeting was also graced by former President Director Santos who thanked all the members of CALABARZON STARS for the support extended during his term. He said that

with his re-assignment last year, he suggested the re-organization of the association and asked for the assistance of Director Go to assemble the body for the election of officers. Director Santos said the reorganization was necessary to ensure that the CALABARZON Region was well represented during the NUCESO Convention held last November. ■

(DILG IV-A)



Dir. Josefina E. Castilla-Go, DILG, *President*  
Dir. Julian Ll. Pacificador, DBM, *Vice Pres.*  
Dir. Edgardo M. Gonzaga, DOH, *Secretary*  
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distribution of grants. In cooperation with Land Bank of the Philippines, grants were also distributed through ATM cards.

The Client's Feedback Monitoring System, another system developed by PICTO, heads the Feedback Mechanism Committee of Quality Management Office (ISO). This system automatically generates feedback reports and its ratings based on the client's feedback forms encoded online by its assigned personnel. Complaints are also addressed and investigated within 24 hours. Quarterly reports of overall ratings with complaints and commendations are reported in the Top Management Review. PGC highly recognizes the opinion and/or feedback of its clients in order to continuously improve its services and procedures.

Other than system developments, the Cavite Provincial Government also promotes opportunities in the ICT industry, particularly investments and employment. On October 23-24, 2012, the Cavite Information and Communications Technology Council and the DOST Information and Communications Technology Office conducted an ICT Roadshow with the theme, "Next Wave Cities: Harnessing ICT for Smarter Countryside." The event was attended by major stakeholders of the industry such as the academe, BPO companies, LGUs, government agencies, etc. An ICT-BPO Job Fair in the second day comprised of major BPO companies to offer job and training opportunities to Caviteños was also conducted.

The province values ICT Training and Education and establishes different programs to stimulate this objective. PGC in partnership with Jeollabukdo Office of Education sent 15 ICT Teachers to South Korea to undergo a 10-day training. The training aims to learn and develop skills and techniques applied in South Korea to effectively teach public students through ICT. Jeollabukdo Office of Education also donated ICT Equipment to the province in order to apply these trainings.

Moving forward, the Provincial Government has been partnering with different organizations to ensure its development and success. These initiatives give Cavite and its citizens an edge to the future. ■

(Karen Pangilinan & Camille Lauren V. Del Rosario)



Mayor Dahlia Loyola talks on the Sorteo Festival during the Press Conference at the Manila Southwoods.

## DOT-Calabarzon Launches Carmona Sorteo Festival

Less than a month before the opening of Carmona's Sorteo Festival 2013, the Department of Tourism-Southern Tagalog Region headed by Director Louella Jurilla briefed 30 media representatives on the tourism facilities in Carmona and what to expect from the Sorteo Festival. The media was feted with the following activities: (a) the Paragliding Fly Site in Brgy. Lantic; (b) a press conference at the Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club (Brgy.

Cabilang Baybay); (c) site inspection at the Viewfort Events Venue (Brgy. Mabuhay); (d) Karting try-out at Carmona Race Track (Brgy. Bancal); and (e) a lecture on horse-race betting at the Manila Jockey Club (Brgy. Lantic). This activity sought to enlist media assistance to draw visitors to Carmona from February 15 to 22, 2013.

Mayor Loyola talked on the Sorteo Festival during the Press Conference at the Manila Southwoods. With her are members of the Sorteo Festival Committee and DOT-STR Director Louella Jurilla. ■

# United Arab Emirates Ambassador Keynotes Adhoc Committee on Migration and Development First Quarter Meeting

**P**hilippine ambassador to the United

Arab Emirates keynotes the first quarter meeting of the Adhoc Committee on Migration and Development (ACMD) last

Monday, February 18, 2013 at Calamba City Hall in Laguna.

The ACMD is an initiative of civil society organizations in the region and the Regional Development Council to come up with a structure that will oversee all the initiatives of Migration and Development at the sub national level. Some of the drivers identified for the creation of this committee included the impact of migration in the region wherein there is a need to have a committee that will look holistically into OF



Her Excellency Grace Relucio-Princesa receives a plaque of appreciation with a miniature statue of Dr. Jose Rizal from Calamba City Mayor Joaquin M. Chipeco, Jr.

concerns and the fact that the highest percentage of OFs (16-17%) in the country originates from the region.

The meeting was attended by various stakeholders of migration and development in the region with 19 members and 17 guests present including those from the Province of Oriental Mindoro.

The ambassador presented the challenges and opportunities of successful migration. She discussed the lights and shadows of Philippine migration wherein she cited that Filipinos give

three Fs to the world as lights, these are: 1) Faith as new missionaries of the world; 2) Family since we go out of the country for the love for family; and 3) Fun, Friendship and Food. She also

reflected on the shadows which are identified as not so positive and as an unproductive integration, these are: 1) immorality; 2) intoxication; 3) indebtedness; and 4) illegal recruitment.

She imparted that the secrets of national success is by following the Japan and Germany model using 1) Love of God and Country; 2) Discipline; and 3) Focused and visionary leadership. To conclude her keynote address, she led the committee to sing "Sino Ako and Ako ay Pilipino". ■

## All systems go for the Calabarzon Regional Government Center in Calamba City

**C**onstruction of the PhP 2.5 million Calabarzon Regional Government Center (RGC) in a 3-hectare area in Barangay Mapagong, Calamba City has officially started after the signing of a Joint Venture Agreement (JVA) between the proponent Calamba City Government and the financier/contractor Alloy MTD of Malaysia last January 23, 2013. No less than PEZA Director General and DTI USec. Lila De Lima graced the occasion in behalf of President Aquino. In her speech, she stated that her mere presence in the occasion was symbolic of the strong support of the Administration to the endeavour.

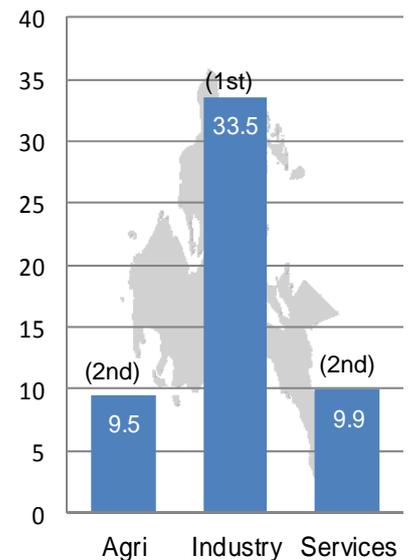
The first building would be completed and ready for occupancy by September of this year. Upon completion, the RGC is expected to accommodate the employees of 54 National Line Agencies. The project is the biggest so far at the local government level and has adapted the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) scheme. ■

### Did you know that....

#### Rank of the Region in the National Production\*

Commodity	Rank
Chicken Eggs 	1
Chicken 	2
Hog 	2
Sugarcane 	4
Coconut 	5
Palay 	15

#### Gross Regional Domestic Product 2011\*\* (at constant 2000 prices) (Calabarzon Share & National Ranking)



\*-countrystat.bas.gov.ph  
\*\*-NSCB:GRDP 2009-2011  
Photo credits:  
countrystat.bas.gov.ph  
www.interaksyon.com  
www.internationalcoconut.com  
newsinfo.inquirer.net

# RDC IV-A welcomes the new Regional Directors!



PCSUPT. Benito C. Estipona graduated from the Philippine Military Academy on 1981. He finished his Master in Management at the Philippine Christian University in 2003 and Bachelor of Laws at the Jose Rizal College in 1997.

PCSUPT Estipona is a recipient of several awards and medals. Among these include: the Medalya ng Kasanayan, Medalya ng Papuri, Medalya ng Katangi-tanging Gawa, PNP Badge of Honor, among others.

He was the Director of the National Capital Region Southern Police District (NCRPO) before he was assigned to take command at the PNP Regional Office IV-A.



Regional Director of the Department of Social Work and Community Development IV-A Leticia T. Diokno took up Bachelor of Science in Social Work (1970-1974) at the Colegio de Sta. Isabel, Naga City. She finished her Masters in Public Management in 1999 at the University of the Philippines in the Visayas, Tacloban City.

She started as a Social Worker in April 1974. She became an Assistant Regional Director in 2004 and then became a Regional Director in 2008 to present.

Director Diokno was previously the Regional Director of DSWD Field Office in Region VIII (Eastern Visayas), before her transfer to DSWD Calabarzon on January 8, 2013.



Regional Director of the Department of Education IV-A Dr. Diosdado M. San Antonio was born and raised in San Fernando, Camarines Sur. He finished his Doctor of Philosophy in Education at the University of New Castle, Australia in 2006 as a recipient of the University of Newcastle (Australia)

Research Scholarship and the International Postgraduate Research Scholarship.

He was a Student Fellow 2008-2009 of the Asia Pacific Leadership Program (APLP), Education Program in Honolulu, Hawaii, USA; and a Winner at the NSW Institute of Educational Research's Inaugural Beth Southwell Research Award in Australia, among others.

Dr. San Antonio is a prolific writer whose works have been published in different journals.



Regional Director of the Department of Agrarian Reform IV-A Erlinda Pearl V. Armada hails from San Rafael, Bulacan. She finished her MB in Public Administration at DLSU (1987), and Masters in Development Management at AIM (1997). Prior to working at DAR, she

worked as a Radio Announcer at DZRH in 1972. She also was a part-time Line Producer (35 films) at NCV Productions. She was awarded as Luzon DAR-CARP Top Implementor in 1991, and Woman of the Year of the Luzon Weekly Journal in 1994.

## HONESTY IS THE BEST POLICY

ER Orange Card...from p.5

Pagamutang Panlalawigan ng San Pablo, LPH-G. Cailles Memorial District Hospital in Pakil, LPH-Majayjay Medicare Center, LPH-Pagamutang Pangmasa ng Laguna in Bay, and the LPH-San Pedro District Hospital.

During the launching of the ER Orange Card in October 2010, the Governor initially enrolled 100 families. At present, 130,000 families are enrolled and the assessment for new applicants is ongoing. About 300, 000 or more families are expected to avail the Card this year. To date, 7,381 patients availed of the program, accumulating a total bill of PhP57.6 million. ■ (Provincial Government of Laguna)

Hatid-sundo...from p.6

This enables them to attend their classes on time, prevent or minimize absentism, encourage them to complete their secondary education and lessen their parents daily school expenditure. Grade 1 and grade 2 pupils from Kalumayin ES receive the same benefits. With Hatid Eskwela project, all these school children will have better chances of completing their education, and hopefully get a better shot in realizing their dreams. ■ (Provincial Government of Batangas)

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