

“Development Partnership with the Private Sector”

there is knowledge in news CALABARZON

The Official Newsletter of the Regional Development Council IV-A

LIST OF RDC PSRs 2010-2013

- Engr. Ladislao L. Andal**
Philippine Institute of Civil Engineers
- Dr. Felino SM. Angeles**
Higher Education Association of Rizal
- Emerson B. Atanacio**
Association of Public & Private Technical
Education & Training Providers of Cavite, Inc.
- Apolinar E. Aure**
Philippine Exporters Confederation Inc.
- Jefferson S. Bongat**
Organization of Socialized Housing
Developers of the Philippines
- Rodrigo M. Camia**
Cooperative Development Council
- Milagros L. Chavez**
Kilusan ng mga Maliliit na Mangingisda sa
Lawa ng Taal
- Teresita M. Leabres**
Philippine Chamber of Commerce & Industry
(PCCI) Cavite, Inc.
- Atty. Apolinario A. Macalintal**
Batangas Provincial Tourism Council
- Cesar Mario O. Mamon**
Employers Confederation of the Philippines
- Eduardo R. Nicolas, III**
PCCI South Luzon
- Andrew O. Nocon**
Tourism Association of Laguna
- Richard Albert I. Osmond**
Philippine Ecozone Association
- Josephine C. Parilla**
PATAMABA Workers in the Informal Sector
- Aileen C. Peñas**
Atikha Overseas Workers and Communities
Initiative, Inc.
- Sr. Mary Rebecca E. Rogacion, RGS**
Peer Counselling Foundation of the
Philippines, Inc.
- Ricardo M. Sandalo**
Human Ecology Institute of the Philippines, Inc.
- Lina Lutgarda Tanjuatco**
Federation of River Basin Foundation in the
Laguna de Bay Region, Inc.
- Gillian Joyce G. Virata**
Information Technology and Business Process
Association of the Philippines

The Private Sector has been the partner of the Regional Development Council (RDC) in pushing for the socio-economic development of the region. As provided for in Executive Order No. 325 series of 1996 on the reorganization of the RDC, one fourth (1/4) of the total membership of the Council shall come from the private sector.

Through the years, the Private Sector Representatives (PSRs) to the RDC have been instruments in articulating the concerns and perspectives of the private sector with regards to the social and economic development of the Calabarzon region.

For the period 2010-2013, the Calabarzon RDC is composed of 19 PSRs, 33 RLAs and 27 LGUs. During this term, the PSRs have been pro-active in spearheading the activities of the Council where some of them sit as Chairpersons in the Council’s major and sub-committees, namely: Atty. Apolinario Macalintal-Sectoral Committee on Economic Development; Engr. Ladislao Andal-Sectoral Committee on Infrastructure Development; Mr. Andrew Nocon-Sectoral Committee on Macro-economy and Development Administration; Sr. Mary Rebecca E. Rogacion, RGS-Sectoral Committee on Social Development; and Ms. Gillian Joyce Virata-Sub-Committee on Regional Information and Communications Technology. Mr. Richard Albert Osmond served as the convener of the PSRs.

The PSRs provided inputs on the various concerns of the Council in the area of development planning, investment programming and budgeting, as well as in monitoring and evaluation of major programs and projects in the region.

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Development Partnership with the Private Sector

The PSRs likewise, pushed for the establishment of a Regional Government Center and advocated on the policies and strategies contained in the national/regional and sectoral plans particularly on the rights of women and children, environment protection and management, cooperative and tourism development, information and communication technology, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, road network development, among others.

The PSRs initiated the following: (a) creation of Task Force Calatagan, and Task Force on Scale Insect Infestation as venues in addressing its issues and concerns; (b) conceptualization of the Calabarzon Regional Exposition as a strategy to showcase the region's accomplishments, best practices, and innovative products; (c) provi-

sion of inputs on the National Consultation in K-12; and (d) spearheaded in the problem solving session with the Toll Regulatory Boards concerning the South Luzon Expressway which resulted to the improvement and institutionalization of remedial measures to ensure safety in the expressway.

The PSRs participated in the 4th PSRs National Convention held at Clark Freeport Zone, Pampanga last June 20-22, 2012 as a way of collaborating and networking with their counterparts in other regions, who are also members of the RDCs. As one of the pioneering convener for the PSRs convention, they have significantly contributed in the successful conduct of the succeeding conventions held in various regions.



DepEd Calabarzon: Ensuring Quality Service in Education

With the promotion of DepEd Calabarzon Regional Director Lorna D. Dino as Assistant Secretary of the DepEd, Dr. Diosdado M. San Antonio, took over as officer-in-charge. He vowed to continue the good work established by his predecessor.

“Teamwork. Commitment. Feat.” This is the battle cry of DepEd Calabarzon as it continues to commit itself to excellence and quality service to its clientele as the opening of classes is about to begin this June. The quest for the Philippine Quality Award is the ultimate goal of the region for it gauges how it fares in all of its programs and projects.

Recently, the Regional Office led the implementation of National Schools Maintenance Week or the Brigada Eskwela which aims to prepare all public schools for the opening of classes. Assistant Secretary Tonisito Umali joined Dr. San Antonio

last May 20 at Tinurik NHS in Tanauan City to lead the school brigade.

Before this, DepEd Calabarzon bagged the overall championship trophy at the 2013 National Schools Press Conference held in Ormoc City last April 7-12 and was named



Dr. Beatriz G. Torno (3rd from right), DepEd Calabarzon OIC Asst. Regional Director and Ms. Pacita Q. Lungcay, (3rd from left) EPS-ESS team leader receive the 4th runner up trophy of Calabarzon during the Closing Ceremonies of the 2013 Palarong Pambansa held at Dumaguete City on April 27.

the top performing region in the country in campus journalism. Moreover, the regional office also snagged the Most Organized Delegation and the Cleanest, Greenest and Most Eco-Friendly Delegation awards at the Palarong Pambansa held in Dumaguete City on April 22-27 where it garnered 5th place overall. In an interview conducted by STCAA Express, Dr. San Antonio said, “Winning with integrity is the sweetest

victory, the greatest glory is not really in winning, it is how one plays the game.” The regional director has conducted a series of consultative meetings on School Based Management (SBM) in all divisions participated by all elementary and secondary school heads in the region. This is to bring the regional office closer to the people in the field and know their issues and concerns regarding SBM in order to design programs and projects based on their needs.

Also, Dr. San Antonio plans to put up a monthly research clinic for DepEd employees who are conducting or planning to conduct research as part of its capacity building program. Also on the planning board is the empowerment and development of future leaders through trainings and seminars among aspiring superintendents, regional directors on succession planning. DepEd Calabarzon is now a function-based team wherein different teams do different tasks so there will be no overlapping of work, leading to efficient and effective delivery of services. (Nadine Gatton, DepEd IV-A)

**Honesty
is the Best Policy;
It Begins with me**
-Sabtang, Batanes



Service Management Program by IBPAP and CHED to boost IT

This school year, college professors and instructors from selected state universities and colleges (SUCs) will be teaching the Service Management Program (SMP) as part of industry-government efforts to enhance students' knowledge and training in the information technology and business process management (IT-BPM) industry.

Developed by the Information Technology and Business Process Association of the Philippines (IBPAP) and approved by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), SMP is a specialized 21-unit minor course for students pursuing a degree in Business Administration or Information Technology in SUCs located in the Next Wave Cities. An important component of SMP is "Train the Teachers" or T3.

A total of 89 faculty members from Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP), Laguna State Polytechnic Univer-

sity, and Cavite State University completed the initial T3 batch. All of them are now better equipped to teach subjects such as business communication, BPO Fundamentals 101 and 102, computer literacy, service culture, and systems thinking. Language proficiency training was also included to strengthen the English fluency of the country's future IT-BPM workforce.

"The country's edge is our people," said Jomari Mercado, IBPAP President and CEO. "We say we produce around 450,000 graduates every year, but when they walk through our doors, only 10 out of 100 are hired. To address the competencies lacking in our graduates, the industry has partnered with the academe and CHED to create the SMP.

Earlier this year, CHED issued a memorandum allocating Php125 million for developing the components of SMP. The pilot program was conducted at the Uni-

versity of Makati, Jose Rizal University and the Lyceum of the Philippines, Laguna and Asia Pacific College. This was supported by volunteers from IT-BPM firms such as Accenture, Access Worldwide, Aegis People Support, Arvato, Cognizant, Dell, General Electric, HSBC Electronic Data Processing (Philippines) Inc., Ingram Micro, Microsourcing and VXI Global Solutions, Inc., among others. According to Penny Bongato, IBPAP Executive Director for Talent Development, SMP was designed to help achieve the industry's goal of employing 1.3 million skilled and competent IT-BPM employees by 2016.

"The Philippines is now one of the top players in the global IT-BPM industry. To maintain this position, however, we must go a step further and create a highly qualified and IT-adept pool of human resource. With SMP, we are closer to strengthening our industry's marketability," she said.

"Sutherland knows the importance of this collaboration with IBPAP and the academe to increase talent options available in the industry," says AJ Enriquez, VP and country head of Sutherland Philippines.

"Sutherland plays a key role in the development and advancement of the Filipino talent, especially in the Next Wave Cities through its College Connect program." Dr. Melinda De Guzman, a professor from the PUP, participated in the 16-day training for the BPO 101-102 track. "It was a great opportunity to be a part of this training. Before, I didn't have much knowledge in outsourcing aside from what I've read in the newspapers. Attending the training gave me a chance to learn more about the different sectors and many career possibilities in this field," said De Guzman.

(Shayne S. Gualin)



(Front row) Gillian Virata, IBPAP Senior Executive Director; Atty. Carmelita Yadao-Sison, MNSA, PhD, Director III, CHED Representative; Benedict Hernandez, CCAP President; Penny Bongato, IBPAP Executive Director for Talent Development; and teachers from selected SUCs who underwent the Train the Teachers (T3) Program.

The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) held its Innovation and Excellence on Local Governance awarding rites on March 18, 2013 at the Landbank Plaza wherein the winners of the 2012 Lupong Tagapamayapa Incentives Awards, 2012 Gawad Pamana ng Lahi, Galing Pook Awards 2012 and 1st Jesse Robredo Leadership Award were officially revealed. The National GPL award recognizes all local government units who have shown effective, transparent, accountable, innovative and excellent in governance.

DILG Sec. Mar Roxas confers the National GPL award to Carmona



DILG Secretary Mar Roxas (5th from left) and the rest of the Gawad Pamana ng Lahi Committee pose with the recipient of the Municipal Award- Carmona Mayor Dahlia Loyola, Cong. Roy Loyola, Vice Mayor Cesar Ines and Councilor Elmer Reyes after the turnover of plaque.

PNoy Inspects Kaybiang Tunnel along the Ternate-Nasugbu Road

President Benigno Simeon Aquino III inspected the 303-lineal meter tunnel that forms part of the new six-kilometer road connecting the provinces of Cavite and Batangas last April 4. This tunnel, called the 'Kaybiang Tunnel' is now considered as the country's longest underground highway tunnel.

DPWH Secretary Rogelio L. Singson briefed the President on the new road, four kilometers of which are paved, 1.4 kilometers concrete, four new bridges and the 303-lineal meter Kaybiang tunnel. The project which costs Php860 million will connect tourism resorts in Nasugbu and will reduce travel time from Manila to Nasugbu. The road, bridges and tunnel will be open to motorists on July 1, 2013 which is two months ahead of schedule. "This will complement our convergence program with the Department of Tourism.



President Benigno Simeon Aquino during the inspection of the Kaybiang Tunnel

The construction of the tunnel is locally funded and implemented by the Bureau of Construction of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) under the jurisdiction of the DPWH Region IV-A office.

This has a very scenic view as we pass through this tunnel going down to Nasugbu. And to complement this project we are continuing to widen the roads leading to the Cavite Expressway," Secretary Singson said. After the briefing, the President walked through the 303-lineal meter tunnel. (DPWH)

Coconut Scale Insect Infestation in Calabarzon: The Tree of Life in Peril

The coconut industry in Calabarzon is threatened by a pest called the Coconut Scale Insect (CSI). The infestation started in the two (2) barangays of Tanauan City in 2010 due to long dry season. Two years after, the pest spread to nine (9) other Batangas municipalities.

The dreaded pest (*Aspidiotus destructor* Signoret) directly feeds on the coconut tree's vascular system. It infests stems, branches, leaf-petioles, leaves and fruits. CSI's feeding causes the yellowing of leaves or chlorosis, wilting of leaves and frond drop, premature nutfall, and low yield. Regionwide, the magnitude of insect infestation has expanded. As of March 2013, the degree of infestation in Calabarzon reached 878,877 trees (from around 700,000 trees in 2012), involving 32 municipalities and affecting 5,171 farmers. Batangas and Laguna are the mostly affected provinces while the least affected are Cavite and Quezon. No scale insect infestation is reported in Rizal. It can be noted that the region ranked 5th in the national production of coconut.

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Calabarzon's Local Economic Development and Competitiveness Index (LEDICI) survey results have been released and will be presented to the National Competitiveness Council (NCC) summit in July this year.

The LEDICI survey result showed Sta. Rosa (Laguna) as the city with the highest level of competitiveness, followed by Antipolo City. General Trias (Cavite) on the other hand ranked first among the municipalities, and then followed by San Pedro (Laguna).

The Regional Competitiveness Committee (RCC) is composed of the heads and representatives of the Department of Interior and Local Government, National Statistics Office, Department of Trade and Industry, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, National Economic and Development Authority, and representatives from the private sector.

Calabarzon bares Survey Results on Competitiveness of Local Governments

The Calabarzon RCC was created as NCC's counterpart at the regional level to implement programs that would enhance and upgrade the level of competitiveness of the public and private sectors with the end view of improving the Philippines' ranking in the World Competitiveness Ranking.

Months earlier, the RCC commissioned the Batangas State University to lead the conduct of the survey on the following cities and municipalities piloted for the project: City of Bacoor, City of Santa Rosa, Lipa City, Antipolo City, Lucena City, and the municipalities of Carmona, General Trias, Rosario, Sta. Cruz, Los Banos, San Pedro, Calaca, Santo Tomas, Nasugbu, Cainta, San Mateo, Taytay, Candelaria, Gumaca and Pagbilao. The survey

was supported by the USAID-Invest Project through the NCC to measure the level of competitiveness of cities and municipalities in terms of economic efficiency and dynamism; efficiency in governance; and availability and quality of infrastructure.

In 2008, World Bank Doing Business Report listed the Philippines at rank 151 out of 181 countries in the area of ease of doing business. The poor ranking prompted both the government and the business sector to address competitiveness issues that will impact on the world competitiveness ranking.

As of June 2012, the Philippines climbed up 13 steps to be listed at rank 138th in the IFC-World Bank Economy Rankings.

RPMC Monitors Major Infrastructure Projects

The Regional Project Monitoring Committee (RPMC) conducted a field validation visit to the Ternate-Nasugbu Road and Silang-Indang-Aguinaldo-Magallanes-Nasugbu East West Road last May 30-31, 2013. RPMC members present were National Economic and Development Authority, Department of Budget and Management, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Office of the Pre-ident- Presidential Management Staff, and Regional Development Council Private Sector Representatives. The activity aims to validate project status, identify implementation bottlenecks/problems and appropriate intervention in response to the said problems.

The Ternate-Nasugbu Road is part of the CALABARZON Eco-Tourism Circuit that

will help boost tourism development in the area. The project entails the concreting/improvement of 1.432 kms. road, construction of 2 bridges, construction of 303 l.m. tunnel and 4.31 kms. asphalt paved road. Total project cost is PhP 860 M. To date, the project has a physical accomplishment of 99.31% for the original contract and 33% for the road realignment. Slope protection and road lighting works in the approach to the tunnel are being proposed.

The Silang-Indang-Aguinaldo-Magallanes-Nasugbu East West Road is a project that would reinforce the inadequate east-west connection in the region, ease the traffic congestion and boost socio-economic development in the area. The project entails the construction of 5.598

kms. of road amounting to PhP490M, which will traverse the 8,000 hectares SMDC property in Nasugbu, Batangas and the construction of 35.174 kms of



road amounting to PhP1.83 B that will traverse 4 municipalities in Cavite. In the Batangas side the construction of the 28 lm. pre-stressed bridge and 427 m road opening has been completed. While the widening and expansion of the road opening is ongoing. In the Cavite side it was observed that some portions of the road has steep gradient and unprotected slopes that are accident hazards. It was also observed that some portions of the pavement has collapsed due to soil erosion. The RPMC recommended safety measures like the installation of warning signages on parts of the road with steep gradient, the provision of slope protection at mountainous areas and the maintenance of unclassified roads.



Coconut Scale Insect Infestation

To combat the CSI infestation, the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) developed the Scale Insect Control Program called "SAGIP" which stands for "Sama-samang Aksyon ng Gobyerno, Industriya at Pamilyan". The Program aims to: (a) implement immediate massive CSI pest control operations which are efficient, safe and cost-effective; (b) contain the pest outbreak and decrease the level of pest infestation and prevent further spread to neighboring provinces; and (c) save more affected trees and increase the level of recovery from infestation.

The PCA also created the SICAT Scale Insect Control Action Team - composed of experts from the offices and bureaus of Department of Agriculture (DA), namely: Bureau of Plant Industry, Plant Quarantine Service, National Crop Protection Center, Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority and the Southern Tagalog Integrated Agricultural Research Center, as well as, representatives from concerned LGUs. The team will implement mitigating measures which include

pruning, spraying and fertilization of coconut trees in the affected municipalities.

In July 2012, the RDC IV-A Sectoral Committee on Economic Development (SCED) requested PCA to create an inter-agency task force (Task Force Scale Insect) to help the latter in addressing the scale insect problem. The Task Force is headed by PCA with members including DA, DAR, DILG, DOST, DSWD, PCIC, DOLE, LGUs and private sector representatives. From then on, PCA is regularly updating the SCED on the status of the scale insect infestation during its quarterly committee meetings for monitoring and facilitation purposes.

To strategically address the problem, the SICAT Team and the Task Force developed the Calabarzon Scale Insect Control Action Plan. In addition, all activities under the Action Plan are dovetailed with the initiatives of other stakeholders, such as: (a)

Multi-sectoral scale-insect control action team; (b) Multi-agency technical monitoring group; (c) Community-assisted pest surveillance program; (d) Provincial LGU-led control program caravans; (e) Barangay, Municipal and City LGU initiatives for coconut rehabilitation, and damage mitigation; (f) PCA and LGU cooperation in information dissemination; (g) PCA, DOST and academe shared research and development activities; and (g) DA-assisted intercropping program.

To date, all possible options are being tested as the situation differs in the field.



Province of Cavite

Cavite Sangguniang Panlalawigan Conducts Paperless Sessions

Modern technology gave the Cavite Provincial Council (Sangguniang Panlalawigan) a new tool to review, discuss and eventually approve necessary ordinances in their regular Monday session.

Dubbed “paperless session”, Vice Governor and Presiding Officer Recto Cantimbuhan and members of the provincial council set aside the usual ‘Agenda Folder’ during their regular session and instead used their iPad Tablet. Michelle F. Alcid, Provincial Board secretary, said the use of iPad is to save provincial government thousands of pesos in terms of expenses for office supplies such as bond paper, toners and inks, among others, every time that the provincial board conducted a session. “With the paperless session, the order of business and all attachments including minutes of the previous session need not be photocopied in multiple copies,” Alcid said. With the iPad application dropbox, which the Provincial Information and Communications Technology Office programmed, all documents needed every session will

only be up-loaded and linked with the iPads of all provincial council members for easy access.



Alcid also revealed that from January-November 2012, the Provincial Council passed 34 ordinances, among which are: (a) adopting the Manila Bay Oil Spill Contingency Plan; (b) requiring all malls and recreational facilities in the province to have first aid clinic within their premises; (c) declaring first week of December 2012 and every year thereafter as Government Employees Week in the province; (d) Anti-Trafficking in persons; (e) prohibiting animal cruelty and dog fighting; and (e) adopting the provisions of Republic Act 8485, declaring the first week of December 2012 and every year as Youth Week (Linggong Kabataan) in the province. These and other relevant ordinances were supported and approved by Governor Jonvic Remulla. (Cavite Province)

Cavite Keen on Maintaining ISO Certification

Massive campaign and thorough implementation of the Quality Management System towards pursuing excellence in governance is being pushed since Cavite was awarded as the first ISO 9001:2008 certified provincial government in the Philippines and in South East Asia.

For the past twelve months after his conferment on June 2012, Gov. Jonvic Remulla has continuously reminded employees of the provincial government to live the ISO culture and exert all efforts to maintain the certification and constantly improve service delivery to constituents. ISO 9001:2008 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 the 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.

The province adopted the principle of instituting a quality management system particularly in the four (4) core offices of the provincial government including the

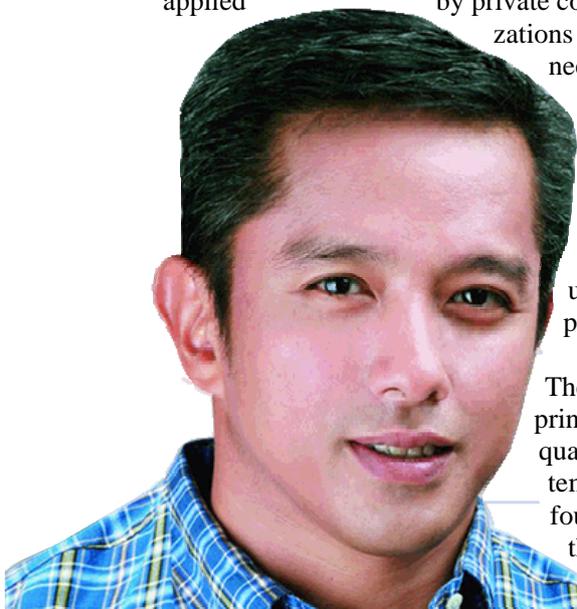
Treasury, Assessor’s Office, Sanguniang Panlalawigan and the Office of the Provincial Governor together with three support offices – the Human Resource Management Office, Information Technology Division and the General Services Office.

ISO certification process usually takes around six to eight months but with the dedication and hard work of the ISO core team and the cooperation of the entire workforce, Anglo Japanese American (AJA) Registrars granted the Certificate of Attestation to the provincial government on May 3, 2012, 27 days ahead of schedule.

As a proof of its excellence, the Provincial Government of Cavite (PGC) once again passed the surveillance audit by the AJA Registrars, and has received several praises from the external auditors.

On February 2013, PGC’s ISO Certification project Quality Management Representative (QMR) Jesus I. Barrera received the notification from AJA that there should be an annual audit to be conducted before the certification date. The first surveillance audit started on March 1, 2013.

A few weeks after the surveillance audit was conducted, PGC held a management review to fully discuss the findings cited by AJA. This management review was conducted last April 15, 2013 in the presence of the PGC ISO Certification Project Team and the Process Owners of the processes that were included in the scope of certification. This event ensured that PGC, with the positive findings, can and will still continue to hold its standing as an organization that is par with international standards. (Cavite Province)



PCPC meeting held in Sta. Cruz: Child welfare, protection measures to be intensified

Child welfare and protection is an issue that the Provincial Government of Laguna (PGL) under the administration of Governor George “E.R.” Ejercito Estregan is focusing on.

With this, the Provincial Council of Protection for Children (PCPC) held a meeting at the Provincial Health Office, Sta. Cruz, Laguna last May 31, 2013. Fourteen (14) participants attended the meeting which discussed children’s poverty, children’s protection, and children on disasters. The Council decided to submit an action plan containing important and complex planning and emergency response needs.

One major problem to be resolved is the usage of school premises as evacuation center during calamities. This results to the school’s devastation due to the wastes left by the evacuees. The school becomes prone to floods and school children are greatly affected. Specifically, PCPC aims to foster education of children in the province; report all cases of child abuse to proper authorities; and to adopt measures to promote health and nutrition of children.

PGL is continuously striving to create lasting change with improvements in policy and services that protect children in natural disaster, conflict, or development-setting. *(Jonnalyn A. Tabaco/Edward C. Aquino)*

Linggo ng mga Day Care Workers 2013 held at Laguna Cultural Center

The Laguna Day Care Workers Federation (LDCWF) headed by Ma. Marichu S. Bautista held the Linggong mga Day Care Workers 2013 Festival Extravaganza at the Cultural Center of Laguna in Sta. Cruz last June 7.

Seven hundred four (704) day care workers from 29 municipalities and cities of Laguna attended the said event with the theme: “Day Care Workers: Kaagapay ng Pamilya at Pamahalaan sa Pagpapatupad ng Early Childhood Care and Development Program (ECCD).” The said event aimed to acknowledge the hard work of each and every daycare workers in realizing the ECCD program.

ECCD is pursued to address the need of children to get the right start to learning and development and to prepare them for schooling with right attitudes and habits. The program focuses on supporting children’s development by ensuring that they are physically, cognitively, emotionally, and socially healthy.

The Provincial Social Welfare Development Office headed by Ernesto M. Montecillo, together with other government agencies will continue to provide programs and projects that will benefit Laguneños in all sectors of society. *(Jonnalyn A. Tabaco/Edward C. Aquino)*

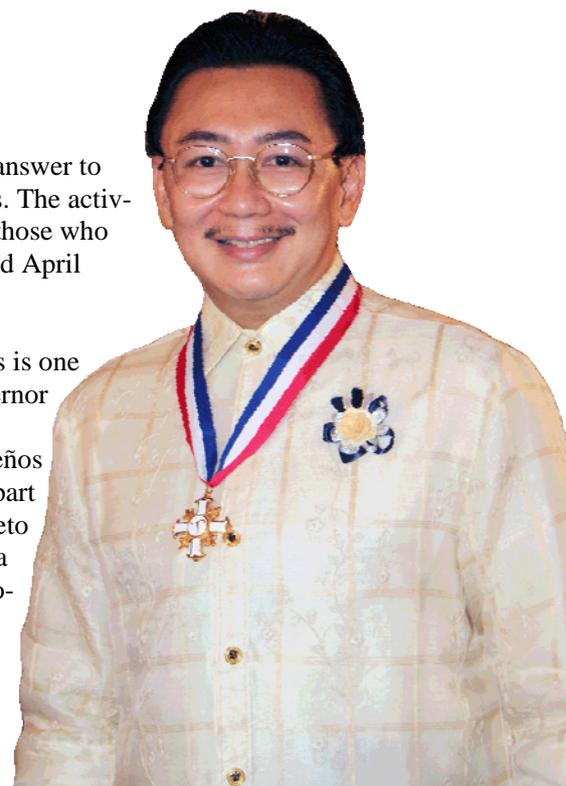
3 Companies Give Opportunities, Jobs to Laguneños

Three different companies gave job opportunities to Laguneños last June 6, 2013 in cooperation of Provincial Public Employment Service Office (PPESO) of Provincial Government of Laguna (PGL).

The said event which was held at the Cultural Center of Laguna inside the Provincial Capitol Compound was participated by Miraf Resources, Alliance Mansol, Inc., and Success International Placement, Inc. A total of 190 job-aspirants joined the said event. Eighty-three (83) out of these applicants passed the initial interview and are waiting for the final interview. On the other hand, 48 male and 46 female hopefuls were hired on-the-spot.

The event served as an answer to Laguneños needing jobs. The activity gave opportunity to those who graduated last March and April 2013.

Giving job opportunities is one of the priorities of Governor George “E.R.” Ejercito Estregan to help Laguneños fight poverty. It is also part of his K2 Kinse-Kumpleto Serbisyo Publiko Kontra Kahirapan at Gutom Program, mainly K#3 (Employment, Livelihood and Cooperative). *(Laguna Province)*



Province of Batangas

BRAVO! Batangas Province Recognizes Outstanding Coastal Areas

Coastal towns and cities in the province with programs for coastal protection and reservation were recognized during the 1st Batangas Recognition Awards for Outstanding Verde Passage's (BRAVO) Marine Protected Areas last January 23.

A total of 14 municipalities and one (1) city belong to the Batangas Marine Protected Area (MPA) Network established in 2007. The MPA aims to protect the coastal areas, particularly coral and marine sanctuaries along the Verde Island Passage, against abuse. These are the municipalities of Tingloy, Taal, Balayan, San Pascual, Bauan, San Luis, Calaca, San Juan, Calatagan, Nasugbu, Lemery, Lobo, Lian, and Batangas City.

Among these municipalities, 11 reached the finalist category after passing the evaluation process conducted by a technical committee composed of members coming from the academic and private sectors that support conservation efforts in the Verde Island Passage.

Through an audio-visual presentation, the outstanding MPAs in the province and the process through which these were selected were shown to the provincial government officials led by Batangas Governor Vilma Santos Recto and PG-ENRO Luis Awitan, other partner agencies



including Conservation International, USAID, and First Gen Power; and participants of the West Philippine Sea Forum from different provinces.

In the Level 1 Category, Brgy. Malabrigo MPA from Lobo municipality was chosen BRAVO awardee, followed by Brgy. Biga MPA also from Lobo. Barangay Hugom MPA from the Municipality of San Juan got the 3rd place.

In the Level 2 Category, the Municipality of Mabini garnered the first and second Best MPAs through Brgy. Bagalangit Marine Reserve and Arthur's Rock Marine and Coral Sanctuary, respectively. The Calatagan Artificial Reefs in the Brgy. Bagong Silang ranked third Best MPA.

The Verde Island Passage is known worldwide as the Center of Marine Life Bio Diversity in Southeast Asia and the BRAVO Awards has been established to further strengthen the protection of marine resources of the province. The BRAVO also encourages the LGUs to improve the number of designated MPAs along the Batangas Bay which is considered as the main natural resource of Batangas.

(Edwin V. Zabarte, PIO Batangas)

'Gawang Tuy' Product EXPO features products made from sugarcane leaves



The Municipality of Tuy launched new products made from basic materials found in their town, mainly sugarcane leaves. Through the launching of "Gawang Tuy" Product Expo, cooperatives in the said municipality, led by Mayor Jay Cerrado, showed their beautiful products using sugarcane leaves at the Robinson's Place, Lipa City last March 4.

Among the products shown made from the indigenous material were table mats, lamp shades, key chains, slippers, baskets, handbags and other

various home decorations – all of which can penetrate the major markets and establishments in the province. Batangas Governor Vilma Santos-Recto graced the launching event, admiring the quality and unique products made. She expressed her support to those who were behind the initiative of providing livelihood to the people of Tuy. Also, she stated that she will personally patronize the products. The governor also thanked the agencies particularly Department of Trade and Industry - Regional Office and Provincial Cooperative Development Office who were active partners of the local government of Tuy. She further emphasized to those who attended the event to support projects that are similar with "Gawang Tuy" for these will provide additional income to the local communities especially through the patronage of Batangueño products. In collaboration with the major establishments, like Robinson's Mall, showcasing the local products to wider range of consumers is meant to ensure that these gain access to the mainstream market. *(Batangas Province)*

DILG awards Rizal Provincial Government the Silver Grade SGH

The Rizal provincial government was again awarded recently the Silver Grade Seal of Good Housekeeping (SGH), one grade lower the highest recognition under the provincial category. The first time it won the award was in 2011.

Through Assistant Secretary Rolando Acosta, the Bureau of Local Government Supervision of the DILG certified the Province of Rizal as recipient for the SGH for calendar year 2012, silver grade.

Rizal province was awarded the Silver Grade Seal for its outstanding audit report by the Commission on Audit and for improving its performance based on fiscal management, transparency and accountability. 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.

Last year, the province received a Local Government Support Fund amounting to PhP30 million for garnering the bronze grade SGH. LGUs that passed the SGH qualify to be recipients of the Local Government Support Fund (LGSF). This fund shall be used to augment the LGUs' approved annual investment program for implementation of any or a combination of the following projects: rural electrification, local roads, farm-to-market roads and bridges, local economic enterprises, flood control and drainage. Also, the LGSF is intended to support national government projects such as the Millennium Development Goals, Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010, and the Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

"We will continue to improve, not for recognition but for our constituents who will benefit from our good housekeeping ways," Rizal Gov. Jun Ynares said.

(Rizal Province)

Public-Private Partnership to Benefit Schools in Rizal

The Department of Education (DepEd) has informed Rizal Gov. Jun Ynares that some 91 public schools in the province will benefit from the public-private partnership (PPP) for School Infrastructure Project (PSIP) under a Build-Lease-Transfer contractual arrangement with the private proponent.

Under the PSIP, 349 classroom packages will be built in Rizal province with 115 of such packages in Antipolo City. Compared with other provinces and cities in the Calabarzon region, Rizal province's share is relatively small at 464 classrooms. According to Rizal Gov. Jun Ynares, he would like to think that the small allocation was based on the existing inventory of classrooms in the Province of Rizal which shows sufficiency as

compared to other local government units in the Calabarzon region. Governor Ynares further noted that due to the aggressive school building program of the provincial government, some 209 additional school buildings with 962 classrooms were built last year resulting in a student-classroom ratio of 45:1 on the average.

The Calabarzon region was allocated a total of 4,283 classroom packages from the PSIP with Rizal province getting the smallest share followed by Batangas with 717, Cavite with 887, Laguna with 1,100 and Quezon with the biggest number of classroom packages at 1,215. These figures include classroom allocations for cities in the five (5) provinces of the region. *(Rizal Province)*

Rizal Folks receive Donations from Tzu Chi Foundation's Rice Relief Program

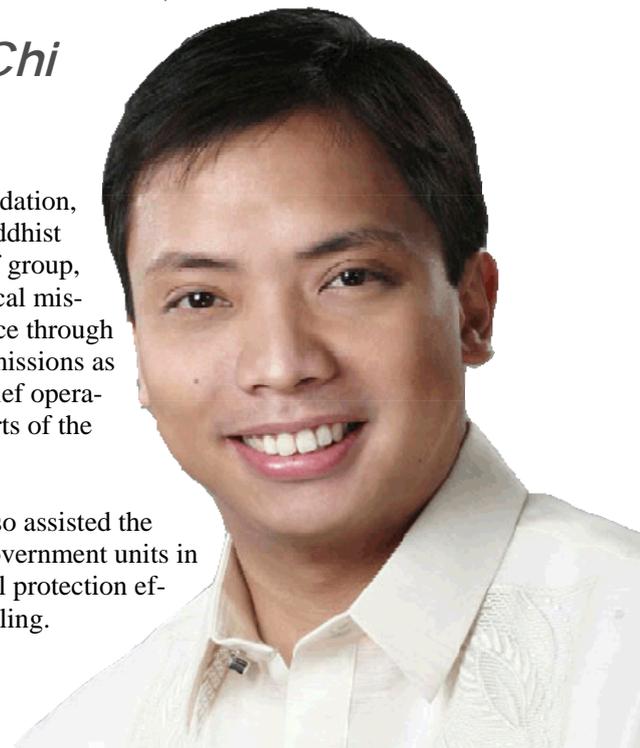
More than 14,000 families from different barangays benefited from the rice distribution program of the Tzu Chi Foundation, Philippines in coordination with the provincial government of Rizal.

Provincial officials headed by Rizal Gov. Jun Ynares, Vice-Gov. Frisco San Juan, Jr., Congressman Joel Duavit and all the barangay captains of Antipolo City joined Tzu Chi Foundation officials and volunteers in the distribution of rice to thousands of beneficiaries. The distribution lasted for days where some 130 Filipino and Chinese volunteers, assisted by Rizal capitol officials and staff, distributed 20 kilos of rice to every recipient family from depressed areas of the province. In addition,

Tzu Chi Foundation, Philippines – a Buddhist Compassion Relief group, also initiated medical missions in the province through their eye surgical missions as well as disaster relief operations in various parts of the province.

The Foundation also assisted the province's local government units in their environmental protection efforts through recycling.

(Rizal Province)



Province of Quezon

Implementing a Medicine Consignment System with Private Pharmaceutical companies

In compliance with Executive Order No. 11, Governor David “Jayjay” Suarez institutionalized the implementation of a consignment system in all local government unit hospitals owned and managed by the Provincial Government of Quezon.

By entering consignment agreements with various private pharmaceutical companies, the provincial government addresses the shortage in medicine and medical supplies experienced by the Quezon Medical Center and all other hospitals under its supervision and management. Under this agreement, patients and their indigent families are provided with better access to affordable and readily available drugs, medicines and other hospital supplies.

As of January this year, Quezon Province has 13 active consignors including Alpace Pharmaceutical Distributor, Affordacare Pharmaceutical, Corbridge Group Philippines, Gino’s Marketing, Javimed Pharmaceutical, Madecs Trading, Natrapharm Inc., Patient Care Corporation, Rite Tech Medical, Sannovex Pharmaceutical, Shooting Star Trading, Thymed Enterprises and Zyre Pharmaceutical. (*Quezon Province*)



Serbisyong Suarez ICT Program

Spearheaded by the Office of the Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator (PPDC), the provincial government partnered with the Business Processing Association of the Philippines (BPAP) in launching the Serbisyong Suarez Information, Communications and Technology (ICT) Program in the Province of Quezon recently.

With the guidance and assistance of BPAP, the ICT program aims to adequately prepare globally competitive Quezonians for career opportunities in the Information Technology-Business Process Outsourcing (IT-BPO) Industry. Under the program, the Office of the PPDC and BPAP joined hands in administering the Global Competitiveness Assessment Tool among graduating college students and in facilitating the Advanced English Proficiency Training (AdEPT) for teacher development.

On its first year of implementation, Global Competitiveness Assessment Tool was administered among a total of 1,114 fourth year college Quezonians. This tool was conceptualized and employed to assess the students’ English proficiency, cognitive ability, perceptual speed and computer literacy and service orientation. The results of such assessment were subsequently uploaded into the BPAP portal where various BPO companies and other potential employers can easily access the information. On the other hand, AdEPT is a 10-day comprehensive activity designed to train the teacher participants on the methodologies that will help them build their capacity to increase the English proficiency of students.

The first batch of AdEPT trainees included 41 faculty members from four different state universities and seven provincial government employees. (*Quezon Province*)

QNAS Tourism Sector forges MOA for OJTs with Industries

With Quezon National Agricultural School’s (QNAS) vision of producing and developing highly skilled manpower with positive work values and an entrepreneurial orientation, it has entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the private business sector for On-the-Job Training (OJT) for its graduating trainees.

As agreed, QNAS shall prepare the necessary documents to facilitate the training of the students, such as endorsement letter, waiver, performance evaluation form, trainees profile, health certificate, Police/NBI clearance and endorse the students

who will undergo training on the mutually-agreed dates. The businesses, mainly with the tourism sector, shall accommodate the endorsed students. They will provide student-trainees with the required work-related tools for the duration of training and will consider successful student-trainees for placement when in need of workers.

The different establishments that forged a MOA in the development of the students through OJT Training are: Estrellas De Mendoza Playa Resort, MJD Farm, Giuseppe Bar Y Restaurante and Quezon Premier Hotel – Lucena. At present, 19 trainees were accommodated in the above mentioned establishments. (*Ms. Erlinda E. Gatchalian*)



NEDA IV-A conducts Regional Consultation on the PDP 2011-2016 Mid-term Update

The National Economic Development Authority NEDA Region IV-A (Calabarzon) conducted a multisector Regional Consultation on the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2011-2016 Midterm Update last April 30 at the Yazaki Torres Manufacturing Incorporated (YTMI).

The regional consultation is in line with Memorandum Circular No. 43 issued by President Benigno Aquino on Feb. 4, 2013 directing NEDA to facilitate the updating of the PDP and the revalidation of Results Matrices (RM) for 2014-2016. The PDP and RM shall serve as basis for tracking the performance of critical indicators and identify strategies for the remaining period of the plan to sustain the country's high growth and finally attain inclusive growth.

Over 200 participants from regional line agencies, local government units, government financial institutions, government corporations, state universities and colleges, civil society organizations, non-government organizations and basic sector representatives attended the consultation.

Feliciano Torres, President of YTMI welcomed the participants and shared his hopes in strengthening the industries in the region especially in the export and manufacturing sector. NEDA IV-A OIC Regional Director and RDC Vice-Chairperson Agnes M. Espinas delivered

her opening message and expressed her appreciation to all the participants and to the venue host. She mentioned that Calabarzon, being the industrial corridor that is host to majority of the country's ecozones and industries, is considered a big contributor to the country's good performance over the past years.

David Keith Padua of NEDA Planning and Policy Staff presented the Inclusive Growth Framework and the plan updating process while Roberto Sario of NEDA Project Monitoring Staff presented the need to revalidate the RM.

After the plenary presentations, Donald Gawe of NEDA IV-A provided the mechanics for the workshop and the participants were divided into six working groups namely: Economic Development-Planning Committee 1 (PC1), Infrastructure Development (PC2), Security, Justice and Peace (PC3), Good Governance and Anti-Corruption (PC4), Human Development and Poverty Reduction (PC 5), and Climate Change (PC 6). The groups were chaired by: Ms Gillian Joyce Virata of BPAP (PC1), Dr. Tirso Ronquillo of Bat-StateU (PC 2), Dr. Alice Botardo of De La Salle Lipa (PC 3), Assistant Regional Di-



Dir. Agnes M. Espinas delivers the consultation synthesis, next steps and closing remarks

rector Ariel Iglesia of DILG IV-A (PC 4), Director Leticia Diokno of DSWD IV-A (PC 5), and Director Reynulfo Juan of DENR IV-A (PC 6).

Richard Osmond of SPPI served as the consultation moderator for the presentation of the workshop outputs of each working groups while Director Espinas presented the consultation synthesis, next steps and closing remarks.

The results of the regional consultation will put in place the necessary enabling policies that will sustain growth and development of the Calabarzon region in the years to come with the ultimate goal of giving every Filipino the opportunity and benefit from the country's development.

Participants during the PDP Consultation



RDC IV-A Conducts 1st Quarter 2013 Full Council Meeting



Directors and representatives of the regional line agencies strike a pose with Deputy Director General Margarita R. Songco during the 1st Quarter RDC Full Council Meeting.

National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Deputy Director General (DDG) for Regional Development Office Margarita R. Songco graced the first quarter full council meeting of the Regional Development Council (RDC) Calabarzon last March 21 at Makiling Highlands Resort, Pansol, Calamba City, Laguna.

DDG Songco delivered the message of Secretary of Socioeconomic Planning Arsenio M. Balisacan for the Council members and its participants. The Secretary commended the 17.4 percent contribution of Calabarzon to the gross domestic product and for being strong and competitive in the service sector. Secretary Balisacan said that there is a need to take advantage of the growing fiscal space and business confidence to sustain the growth momentum and achieve inclusive growth. He added that in order to sustain growth and job creation, we need to move towards increasing investments and exports. The investment climate should be continuously improved to offer profitable opportunities and to channel savings to productive uses that generate jobs.

According to the Secretary, Calabarzon region needs to continuously push for entrepreneurial ventures towards the delivery of higher value-added services in the field of education, medicine, entertainment, finance, construction, and information technology. The Secretary shared his hope of continuous positive results from the administration that is felt, sustained, and

will make difference in the lives of every Filipino. This RDC Full Council meeting with the theme “Calabarzon Nangunguna sa Pagtahak Patungo sa Pangkalahatang Pag-unlad” was attended by 10 Local Government Units (LGUs), 22 Regional Line Agencies (RLAs) and 14 Private Sector Representatives (PSRs).

The Council endorsed various resolutions which include:

- Support to the Tuberculosis-Direct Observed Treatment Short-course (TB-DOTS) Program
- Support to the Regional Nutrition Strategic Action Plan, 2012-2016
- Support to the reactivation of the Regional Sub-Committee on Housing and Urban Development
- Support to the Convergence Program Against Child Labor 2013-2016
- Support to RDC IX Resolution No. IX-047-12 Enjoining LGUs particularly their Legislative Bodies to Pass Ordinances Supporting Commodity Self-Reliance Policy and Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health and Nutrition Strategy and Providing Funds for their Implementation
- Support to the establishment of breastfeeding corners /rooms in the offices and conduct a pro-breastfeeding campaign
- Confirm action of the proposed 18 Calabarzon Industry Clusters

The Council also enjoined all RLAs, LGUs and State Universities and Colleges to:

- Integrate Human Rights Based Approach in their Development Planning, Policy and Decision-Making Process; and
- Support the implementation of the Executive Order 608 Security Clearance System by the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency

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DepEd Dir. Lorna D. Dino (represented by current Director, Dr. Diosdado M. San Antonio) received plaque from the RDC Vice-Chair NEDA Dir. Agnes M. Espinas and Sec Com Chairpersons



Former DSWD IV-A Dir. Wilma Naviamos received plaque from the RDC Vice-Chair NEDA Dir. Agnes M. Espinas and Sec Com Chairpersons.