



March 2014

there is knowledge in news CALABARZON

The Official Newsletter of the Regional Development Council IV-A

Calabarzon Region prepares for AEC 2015

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) visualizes an Economic Community in 2015 with the following characteristics: (a) a single market and production base, (b) a highly competitive economic region, (c) a region of equitable economic development, and (d) a region fully integrated into the global economy.

The ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) 2015 areas of cooperation include human resources development and capacity building; recognition of professional qualifications; closer consultation on macroeconomic and financial policies; trade financing measures; enhanced infrastructure and communications connectivity; development of electronic transactions through e-ASEAN; integrating industries across the region to promote regional sourcing; and enhancing private sector involvement for the building of the AEC. In short, the AEC will transform ASEAN into a region with free movement of goods, services, investment, skilled

labor, and freer flow of capital. (www.asean.org)

This spells a great opportunity for the Calabarzon Region, with its position having the 2nd largest contributor to the national economy after National Capital Region, accounting for 17.4% share of the Gross Domestic Product in 2011 and 2012. The region also takes advantage of its strength in the Industry and Services Sectors. In 2012, it contributed 33.3% of the total output in the Industry sector which ranked 1st among the regions. It also ranked 2nd in its contribution on the services sector with 9.9% after NCR's 51.7%. The region also contributed 9.9% of the total output of the Agriculture, Hunting, Forestry, and Fishery sector, next to Central Luzon Region's 14.0%.

Calabarzon Region's other opportunities include: high convergences of population, high family income and presence of better social service amenities; diverse tourism,

recreation, leisure facilities and infrastructure; agribusiness, manufacturing and logistics; booming IT-BPM and creative industries; new areas for housing and commercial development; completed major road infrastructures; Information and Communication Technology infrastructures and institutional support in place through Local Government Units E-Governance efforts; and investment opportunities from Overseas Filipino Workers remittances.



But the region is not resting on its laurels. The updated Regional Development Plan translates the regional framework to specific strategies that will guide stakeholders and partners to meet the changing development needs of the region and further strengthen Calabarzon's role as leading global business hub of the country.

Calabarzon RDC ExeCom holds F/Y 2015 budget review consultation

The Calabarzon Regional Development Council-Executive Committee (RDC ExeCom) reviewed and endorsed the Fiscal Year (F/Y) 2015 budget proposals of 13 Agency Regional Offices (AROs) and five State Universities (SUs) in the region on February 19, 24, 25 and March 20, 2014.

The RDC ExeCom endorsed the F/Y 2015 budgets of DA, DAR, DENR, DILG, DPWH, DOH, DOST, DOT, DSWD, DTI, DOLE, TESDA and DepEd and the five state universities, namely: CavSU, LSPU, BatSU, URS and SLSU. The aggregate budget endorsed by the RDC ExeCom was PhP136,430 million.

The RDC is mandated under the Section 4 of Executive Order 325 to review and endorse to the National Government the annual budgets of AROs, SUs and special development authorities. In addition, through the National Budget



RDC IV-Acting Chairperson Agnes M. Espinas presides during the budget consultation. With her are RDC Secretary NEDA IV-A OIC-ARD Fidel T. Udarbe, and DBM IV-A ARD Ruby Muro.

Memorandum (NBM) No. 120 dated January 6, 2014, the RDC was tasked to: (a) monitor and provide feedback on the impact and gaps of the National Government Agency's (NGA's) ongoing programs and projects (P/Ps) in their localities, as well as suggest needed improvements in the agency P/Ps; and (b) submit the feedback/recommendation to Agency Central Offices (ACOs), copy furnished the AROs on the relevance, efficacy, propriety of the ongoing P/Ps.

The activity specifically aimed to: (a) review and endorse to the respective ACOs the AROs' P/Ps for funding under the agency budget proposals for F/Y 2015;

(b) review and endorse to CHED P/Ps of the five SUs requesting national government funding; (c) ensure that AROs and SUs' P/Ps are consistent and supportive of the thrusts and priorities of the updated Philippine Development Plan (PDP) and Calabarzon Regional Development Plan (RDP)

and its Results Matrix (RM) 2011-2016; and (d) provide an interface between and among LGUs, SUs and AROs ensuring complementation/harmonization of their respective P/Ps, including P/Ps included in the Grassroots Participatory Budgeting (GPB) as validated by the Regional Poverty Reduction Team (RPRAT).

The Consultation was presided by the RDC IV-A Acting Chairperson Agnes M. Espinas, while the DBM, Calabarzon Provincial Planning and Development Coordinators (PPDCs) and concerned RDC Sectoral Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs served as the panelists.



Calabarzon RDC provides assistance to Yolanda victims

The Regional Development Council (RDC) of Calabarzon Region (Region IV-A) recently provided assistance to the 95 Typhoon Yolanda-affected families from Eastern Visayas who are now starting new life in Isla Bonita, Rosario, Cavite.

The Council, represented by Directors Agnes Espinas of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and Mylah S. Gatchalian of the Dept of Social Welfare and Development, together with the local government officials of Rosario headed by Mayor Jose 'Nonong' Ricafrente, visited the said families and distributed family food packs, bottled water, home wares, clothes and carpentry tool kits.

According to Dir. Gatchalian, the assistance provided is in line with the government's intention to ensure that the victims of Typhoon Yolanda are provided with appropriate services and opportunities to ensure that they get over the tragic experiences they had gone through and start rebuilding their lives regardless of where they have decided to

stay now. Mayor Ricafrente, on his part, shared his intention to make Isla Bonita the Rug Making Capital of Cavite and eventually help the Typhoon Yolanda relocatees in the area earn income.

"I was among the first to arrive here at Isla Bonita and we are thankful to the local government for accommodating us and helping us start a new life. We are also thankful to the different government agencies here in Calabarzon for the assistance you provided," Rhodora Abeta, President of the Yolanda survivors in Isla Bonita, said.

Aside from accommodating the relocatees, the local government of Rosario also helped the said families look for jobs locally and assist in the accommodation of school-age children in nearby schools.

Also present during the activity was DTI Cavite Provincial Director Noly Guevarra who in turn committed to assist in



DSWD IV-A Dir. Mylah S. Gatchalian and RDC Acting Chairperson and NEDA OIC-RD Agnes M. Espinas lead in giving gifts to the Yolanda victims.

marketing their rugs and engaging in other income generating opportunities.

Further, Dir. Espinas and Dir. Gatchalian also committed to raise to the RDC the possibility of adopting the area primarily for hosting / accommodating Typhoon Yolanda survivors from the Visayas, and would explore other possible assistance from the Council.

(by DSWD IV-A)

LGRRC IV- A expands to BatStateU

The Local Governance Regional Resource Center (LGRRC) expands to the Batangas State University in Batangas City last January 22, 2013 during the launching of the LGRRC extension in the said school.

This symbolic launching which was held at the university library was attended by the LGRRC Composite Team led by DILG IV-A Regional Director Josefina E. Castilla-Go, the officials of Batangas State University led by Dr. Nora L. Magnaye, DILG Batangas led by OIC-Provincial Director Noel R. Bartolabac, the Multi-Sectoral Advisory Committee (MSAC) members composed of the National Government Agencies (NGAs) in Region IV-A, the Batangas Provincial Alliance, and other stakeholders. This was followed by the 2014 First Quarterly Meeting of the MSAC which was held at the university conference room. Discussed and presented during the meeting were the Business Development of the LGRRC in partnership with the MSAC and other stakeholders.

Prior to the LGRRC launching a simple program was held in the morning at the school's state of the art auditorium wherein the guests were given a treat courtesy of a cultural presentation by the students. During the program, DILG Assistant Regional Director and LGRRC Manager Ariel O. Iglesia gave a bird's eye view of what LGRRC is all about indicating that the LGRRC is more than a physical library since it is a dynamic, interactive and virtual program which contributes in building the DILG and its partners as knowledge-centric organizations. He added that the LGRRC also builds learning communities since this pursues local governance excellence through knowledge-sharing and innovation.

RD Go also acknowledged the hardwork, dedication and commitment of Dr. Magnaye since her unwavering passion to lead and excel contributed to the gains achieved by Batangas State University. She also reiterated to Dr. Magnaye that she will promote the said school as a venue for trainings and lakbay-aral to the



BatStateU President Dr. Nora L. Magnaye (left) and DILG IV-A Regional Director Josefina E. Castilla-Go (right) led the ceremonial ribbon-cutting during the launching of the LGRRC Extension at the Batangas State University Library.

LGUs of the region.

The LGRRC was conceptualized in order to address the need to consolidate the wealth information on good local governance; the need to improve access to these knowledge and information; the need to promote a culture of learning, sharing and replication in local governance; the need to achieve synergy of efforts in working towards excellence in local governance; and the need to harness people, process, technology in knowledge and information management.

(by DILG IV-A)

Calabarzon RDC conducts special Full Council Meeting

To cap the year's activities, the Calabarzon Regional Development Council (RDC) conducted a special RDC Full Council Meeting last December 19, 2013 at Yazaki Torres, Turbina, Calamba, Laguna. Attended by the local chief executives, heads of line agencies, private sector representatives, presidents of state universities and colleges, as well as representatives from different offices, the RDC launched the Updated Calabarzon Regional Development, 2011-2016 with the objective of eliciting support and commitment from development partners to implement programs and projects consistent with the priorities contained in the Plan.

The Updated RDP is a blueprint of the region's development directions towards attaining "Rapid and Sustained Inclusive Growth." Aligned with the Updated Philippine Development Plan 2011-2016, the RDP focuses on three broad strategies of improving economic competitiveness, bridging labor supply and demand gaps and narrowing down the socioeconomic disparity for the next three years.

During the meeting, Dr. Isabelita Pabuayon, Dean of the College of Economics and Management of the University of the Philippines Los Baños, discussed the "Development Prospects for Calabarzon Region for 2014." According to her, giving priority in developing the agriculture, fishery and forestry sector

would help reduce poverty and inequity in income distribution in the region. Consistent with the Updated RDP, among the development strategies that she mentioned were: 1) improvement of the productivity of crops and livestock through enhanced adoption of technologies; 2) provision of support services and strengthening of rural institutions; 3) partnerships between local government units, farmers' groups, and private sector; 4) adoption of environmental safeguards in farming and fishing production systems; and 5) strong focus on support services for Small and Medium Enterprises.

The Calabarzon Regional Development Investment Program (RDIP) 2011-2016 which is an accompanying document of the RDP was likewise endorsed and adopted by the RDC. The RDIP is a list of priority programs and projects identified by the implementing agencies in support to the attainment of the RDP's development goals and objectives.

During the meeting, the outstanding achievers and exemplary accomplishments of groups or individuals in the region were also recognized. The RDC presented plaque of recognition to: Metro Bank Foundation Outstanding Officer in Service, SPO1 Raquel Ramos Aniwasal; Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency Regional Nominee, Mr. Monsour B. Umali; former RDC Secretary, OIC-Asst. Director Liberty A. Abellon, and the Calabarzon pilot local government units (LGUs) that have made it in the top 50 competitive LGUs nationwide.

In the spirit of sharing the Christmas season, the members brought gifts for the survivors of Typhoon Yolanda. The gifts were turned over to the Department of Social Welfare and Development IV-A. The Calabarzon RDC, together with DSWD IV-A and the Municipal Government of Rosario distributed the gifts to the evacuees in Rosario, Cavite last January 23, 2014.



Members of the RDC launches the updated Regional Development Plan 2011-2016 during the meeting.

Decentralized data processing of establishment surveys to be implemented

As the primary statistical arm of the government, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) is mandated to conduct regular surveys needed to measure the economic development of the country. Two of the establishment surveys that the agency regularly conducts to measure economic development are the Quarterly Survey of Philippine Business and Industry (QSPBI) and the Monthly Integrated Survey of Selected Industries (MISSI). The QSPBI provides quarterly data on revenue/sales, employment and compensation for each of the identified key industries considered as industry leaders with their great contribution to our country's economy. The data collected from QSPBI is used in the generation of the Quarterly National Accounts (QNA) and in the construction

of the Quarterly Economic Indicators (QEI). In addition, the quarterly total retail trade revenue data from the survey is utilized by the Department of Economic Statistics of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) for their monetary policy review. On the other hand, the MISSI provides timely flash indicators that monitor the performance of growth-oriented industries in the manufacturing sector.

Since the start of its collection in the late 60s, the machine processing of the QSPBI is done at the Central Office. However, to shorten data processing, data encoding of the 2014 first quarter questionnaires in April will be done at the provincial offices. At the same time, follow-ups will be easier in case of discrepancies in the

entries. For the MISSI, decentralization will soon follow after further enhancement of the system.

According to Regional Director Rosalinda P. Bautista, to improve collection and timeliness of the results, the agency also uses a web-based accomplishment of questionnaire since 2005. The submission of the questionnaires thru the Internet not only improves data collection but more so reduce operational costs. Establishments can send their accomplished questionnaires thru the Internet after filling-up the downloaded questionnaire. Over the years, the same system has been used to improve collection of questionnaires and other establishment surveys. For further inquiries about the survey, please visit PSA (NSO) Region IV-A located at the Ground Flr. Bldg. C Fiesta World Mall, Marauoy, Lipa City or email us at nso4lipa@pldtdsl.net.

(by PSA-NSO IV-A)

Cavite develops RPTS and CFMS

One of the basic priority areas of concern of the Provincial Government of Cavite, as defined by the Local Government Code of 1991, is the upgrading and modernization of certain services through the use of computer hardware and software. Real Property Tax Collection process is one of the top priority operations for computerization.

The Real Property Tax System (RPTS) will be owned by the province and will be distributed to municipalities at no cost. The demand in the implementation of RPTS is anchored on the following:

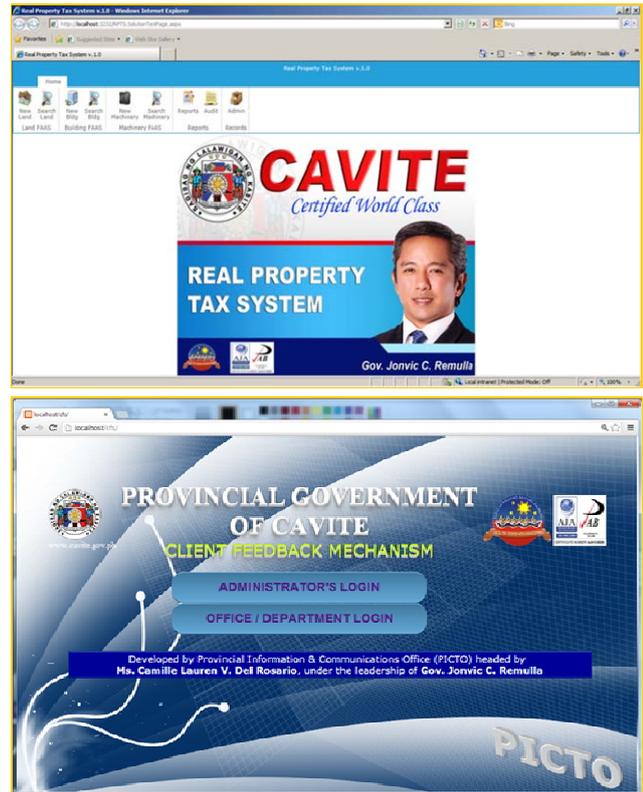
- To improve administrative efficiency and effectiveness and to maintain existing relationship with the provincial government's stakeholders through improved monitoring, transparency in government transactions, and good governance.
- To provide the Governor and department heads up-to-date information through prompt generation of reports to attain sound executive decisions for sustainable development.
- To increase revenues, to improve and enhance the delivery of basic services.

RPTS aims to establish the connectivity of the Treasurer's Office and the Assessor's Office for easy and fast collection of taxes. It will provide computerized assessment and computation to shorten the waiting time of clients into approximately more than half from the current procedure. The system will also connect all municipalities to the province for simple

and trouble-free monitoring and collection. For faster and efficient report generation and addressing of complaints regarding RPTS, the Provincial ICT Office (PICTO) developed an in-house Client's Feedback Monitoring System. PICTO heads the Feedback Mechanism Committee of the Quality Management Office (QMO).

The system automatically generates feedback reports and ratings based on the client's feedback forms encoded online by the Cavite QMO 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.

Client's Feedback Monitoring System (CFMS) is a system developed in-house by Provincial ICT Office (PICTO). PICTO heads the Feedback Mechanism Committee of Quality Management Office (ISO). The system was developed for faster and efficient report generation and for the office concern to quickly address complaints.



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(by PPDO Cavite)

Turn over of mobile patrol

Cavite Gov. Jonvic Remulla, together with Vice Governor Jolo Revilla gave ten more mobile patrol cars on January 3, 2013 at Camp Gen. Pantaleon Garcia in the City of Imus, as part of its extensive program for the Cavite Provincial Police Office (CPPO). Present during the endowment were P/SSUPT. Joselito Teodoro Esquivel Jr., Provincial Director, Cavite PPO; P/CSUPT. Jesus Tadeja Gatchalian, Acting Regional Director, PRO CALABARZON; and Engr. Redel John Dionisio, Provincial Administrator for Community Affairs.

(by PICAD)



Secretary Roxas discusses GBPBP to Laguna officials

With the objectives of making the national budget responsive to the local needs, DILG Secretary Mar Roxas (SILG) has introduced the Grassroots Participatory Budgeting Process (GBPBP) to the officials of the Liga ng mga Barangay (LnB) Laguna Chapter headed by LnB Provincial Federation President Lorenzo Zuñiga, Jr.

Held last February 22, 2014 at the San Pedro City Hall in Laguna, the activity was attended by the province's 30 City and Municipal LnB Presidents. In attendance also were Laguna Governor E.R. Ejercito, San Pedro City Mayor Lourdes Cataquiz, Laguna 1st District Congressman Dan Fernandez, LMP (League of Municipalities of the Philippines) Laguna Chapter President Girlie Ejercito, Police Regional Office (PRO) 4A Regional Director PCSupt. Jesus Gatchalian, and other guests.

In his message, Sec. Roxas shared to the Punong Barangays (PBs) and other guests that the national government will not be successful if those in the frontline service (barangay officials) will not be successful. As partners of the national government, Roxas applauded the crucial and important roles performed by the barangays. Further, he added that in the GBPBP, the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), the Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), and People's Organizations (POs) will have important roles to play since they will be the ones who will suggest what projects are needed by their local government units (LGUs). Roxas added that in the GBPBP, local funds will not be used but rather funds coming from the national government. What has been agreed upon during the consultations at the grassroots level during the People's Assembly will be funded either in the form of health centers, day care centers, or road improvements, Roxas added. For the GBPBP, approximately P15M worth of projects will be allotted per LGU and stakeholders can participate during the conduct of the People's Assembly at the LGU level. Concerned National Government Agencies (NGAs) on the other hand will implement the projects once identified. SILG Roxas later on encouraged and enjoined

LMC inaugurates imaging center

After three months of construction, the new Diagnostic and Imaging Center of the Laguna Medical Center (LMC) in Sta. Cruz Laguna was blessed and inaugurated led by Gov. George "E.R." Ejercito Estregan in January 15, 2014. The 2D Echo Room outside the center was also blessed and inaugurated.

Governor Ejercito provided LMC-Sta. Cruz (formerly known as the Laguna Provincial Hospital) new machines, which include: a Two-Dimensional Echocardiogram (2D Echo) machine, a Computed Tomography (CT) scan machine, a digital X-ray machine, and a digital mammography machine.

Governor Ejercito thanked the General Electric Company for sponsoring the new machines that were given to LMC-Sta. Cruz. He also conveyed that the new equipment in the center are very different from those found in other hospitals and medical centers in Laguna.



DILG Sec. Mar Roxas discusses the Grassroots Participatory Budgeting Process (GBPBP) to the Laguna officials during the San Pedro Cityhood celebration at the San Pedro City hall on February 22, 2014.

all the PBs to join the GBPBP program of the national government.

Formerly called, Bottom-Up Budgeting (BUB), the GBPBP is an approach in preparing the budget proposal of agencies, taking into consideration the development needs of cities and municipalities as identified in their respective local poverty reduction action plans that shall be formulated with strong participation of basic sector organizations or marginalized sectors, and other civil society organizations (CSOs).

The GBPBP also intends to provide incentives for good local governance, strengthen the devolution of basic services delivery, create a conducive environment for people's participation, and generate demand for local good governance at the local level. Covering 609 cities and municipalities in 2013, the GBPBP now covers 1,233 LGUs while for 2015, the GBPBP will now cover 1,634 cities and municipalities.

The visit of SILG Roxas to San Pedro City coincides with San Pedro's Cityhood Celebration as well as the City's Sampaguita Festival and City Fiesta wherein he was the guest of honor.

(by DILG IV-A)



Gov. Ejercito with Pagsanjan Mayor Girlie "Maita" Ejercito, Provincial Administrator Atty. Leonardo M. Ragaza Jr., LMC-Sta. Cruz Chief Dr. Rene Bagamasbad during the inauguration of the LMC imaging center.

Lastly, LMC-Sta. Cruz Chief Dr. Rene Bagamasbad thanked Governor Ejercito for making the construction of the center and the acquisition of equipment possible. He furthered that the new machines will help in giving better service for all patients of LMC-Sta. Cruz.

(by Shairadelle R. Bermudez, Clarisse B. Reyes, and Edward C. Aquino)

Balik Probinsya and the National Greening Program: People needs the forestlands, the forestlands need the people



Bright prospects for the Balik Probinsya program.

In Tagkawayan, Quezon, barangay Maguibway makes way for the urban Metro Manila’s ‘informal settlers’ to have a formal abode in the once sleepy grassland. A six thousand hectare portion of the Maguibway timberland, with moderate slope of rolling hilly to slightly steep terrain, will be developed for the ‘Balik Probinsya’ or BP program of the P-Noy administration.

The BP program complements the National Greening Program (NGP), another P-Noy initiative, which aims to grow 1.5 billion trees in 1.5 million hectares of public land from year 2011 to 2016. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Agriculture (DA) and Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) with 14 other national government agencies, converged for the implementation of the NGP.

In CALABARZON Region, P-Noy’s NGP aims to rehabilitate some 119,070 hectares of degraded forestland. As of December 31, 2013, the DENR Region 4A CALABARZON Office has reportedly planted in some 26,676 hectares region-wide, with 10,800 hectares in Quezon. The Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) in Calauag, Quezon reports rehabilitating some 2,513 hectares with no less than 1.6 million seedlings.

The Maguibway BP program started in early 2012. Synchronized with the rehabilitation activities in the NGP target areas, but done separately, was the surveying, mapping and development planning for the six thousand hectares timberland in Maguibway. Special focus was on some 2,000-hectares area planned for development with 800 hectares for timber production, 700 hectares for fuelwood plantation and 500 hectares for agroforestry farm. Some 107 hectares is being prepared for settlement area and establishment of the project management office.

The DENR office in southern Quezon, with its base in Calauag, is leading the program implementation. Ruben Mabesa, Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer, a professional forester and product of the University of the Philippines College of Forestry and Natural Resources in Los Baños, acts as the Project Management Officer of the BP Program.

DENR Region 4A CALABARZON Regional Executive Direc-

tor Reynulfo Juan explained that the program was conceptualized for the informal settlers in Metro Manila and to encourage them to “participate in P-Noy’s Program and be partners in environmental rehabilitation projects.”

He said, “Let’s make Maguibway a habitable environment and provided with livelihood opportunities. Let’s have beneficiaries that would not only enjoy living in the area but also as capacitated ones who would continue on the task of sustainably developing the area.”

He said the people, government and non-government entities will join hands to help rehabilitate the environment. “Access roads, school, health and daycare centers, with electricity and water supplies will be provided to ensure habitable environment,” he added. He also stressed that livelihood opportunities will be available such as, but not limited to, being partners in the NGP. The resettled families can help and earn their keep in forest rehabilitation efforts, fuelwood plantation and agro-forestry farm establishments.

The DENR Calabarzon chief also revealed that they also are ‘the assured recipients’ of the Department of Agrarian Reform’s infrastructure support such as the farm-to-market roads, the Department of Agriculture’s support through cash crops programs, and accommodation to the Department of Social Welfare and Development’s conditional cash transfer–cash for work programs. They are primary recipients also of the various organizational capacity and training programs of other government, local government units and similarly concerned non-government organizations.

As of December 31, 2013, Project Manager Mabesa reported that the 800 hectares allotted for timber plantation establishment had 331 hectares planted with *Batino Alstonia macrophylla*, 150 hectares planted with Kalumpit *Terminalia edulis*, 300 hectares with Yemane *Gmelina arborea* and 19 hectares with Malapapaya *Polyscias nodosa*.

He also reported that the 700 hectares allotted for fuelwood had 300 hectares planted with Ipil-ipil *Leucaena leucocephala* and 400 hectares with Kakawate *Gliricidia sepium*; and the 500 hectares agroforestry plantation has 100 hectares planted with Malunggay *Moringa oleifera*, 150 hectares planted with Coffee *Coffea Arabica*, 150 hectares with Cacao *Theobroma cacao* and

100 hectares with Rambutan *Nephelium lappaceum*.

The program, according to Mabesa, even at its establishment phase, has already helped 34 resident families of Maguibway. Some are reported to have improved living conditions, were able to send their children to school and have repaired or built homes with the assistance from their received remuneration. About 126 children have received support for educational needs.

The BP program manager also reported that the geological assessment of the site was already done, roads are being rehabilitated by the Department of Public Works and Highways,

culverts and spillways are constructed and coordination with the Quezon Electric Power is showing some bright prospects.

With another 400 hectares set aside for farmland, he also reported that the Bureau of Soil and Water Management has conducted soil sampling of the area for crop suitability.

He also shared that the DENR Calabarzon regional land evaluation party (LEP) has already parcellarized 1,871 200-square meter lots within the 107 hectares identified and classified as resettlement area.

(by Gaudencio Audie L. de la Cruz, DENR IV-A)

CONVERGENCE: A strategy for effective service delivery

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) is committed in attaining its vision of having a “decent and productive employment for every Filipino worker,” including workers in the informal sector, by providing quality services using effective strategies.

The DOLE Integrated Livelihood Program (DILP) is one of the Department’s programs which focuses in the delivery of services of different government agencies, private organizations and community-based workers associations to achieve a realistic convergence of various services and assistance for the community.

Convergence supports partnerships among government agencies, non-government organizations, and community-based organizations for the informal sectors. Through supports to informal sectors, convergence results in a comprehensive yet effective delivery of quality services that produce equitable outcomes for the beneficiaries and their families.

Based on the livelihood projects implemented under DILP in the province of Quezon, there are several factors to consider to know if a project is feasible and sustainable. These factors include but are not limited to: a) availability of raw materials; b) presence of necessary skills and knowledge of beneficiary-organization in managing the project; c) availability of sustainable market; d) probability of profit; and e) environment friendly components of the project. These could be considered in deciding whether to undertake and implement a certain project. With its holistic approach, livelihood projects are implemented with the support from other partners to achieve better results. This support includes technical

assistance, advocacy, project development, monitoring and evaluation and trainings.

Tumbaga I Bucal Irrigators Association, Inc. (TIBIA), recipient of DILP, implemented projects created through convergence between government agencies. From 2011-2012, TIBIA received two livelihood checks from DOLE IV-A for the implementation of the organizations’ two projects.

The first release was worth Php311,376.00 while the second release was Php309,000.00. The said fund releases were intended for the implementation of *Palay/Rice Trading and Charcoal Briquetting Projects*, respectively. These projects were realized not only because of the assistance given by DOLE but also because of the support provided by other agencies such as the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Department of Agriculture (DA), National Irrigation Administration, Department of Science and Technology, LandBank and local government units (LGU).

Based on the monitoring conducted by DOLE, projects implemented by TIBIA demonstrated good quality results. From September 2011 up to November 2012, the organization generated more than Php950,000.00. As of April 2, 2013, TIBIA has a total of Php151,194.49 in its bank account, while the remaining was used as revolving capital. From 2011 to 2012, the membership also increased from 168 to 223 therefore increasing the number of beneficiaries as well. These outcomes were achieved through the convergent effort of partner agencies.

Another highlight of success, TIBIA won the prestigious AgriPinoy of the DA under the Rice Achievers’ Award category. It was also awarded as the “Natatanging Irrigator’s Association 2011-2012” with an accompanying prize of a hefty One Million Pesos (Php1M) worth of projects. The organization is now planning to buy a truck to help sustain their projects particularly in hauling *palay* and raw

materials for charcoal briquetting.

According to TIBIA’s Manager Ms. Margarita Sarmiento, DOLE’s assistance forms a big part in the organization’s success.

“*Malaki po ang nagging tulong ng DOLE sa aming tagumpay dahil ang dating puhunan sa pamimili ng palay ay naging capital naming sa iba pang proyekto,*” Sarmiento shared. “*Dahil din po sa tulong ng DOLE kaya kami nanalo sa award na ito sapagkat nadagdagan ang aming income nas iyang unang tinitingnan sa mga kumpetisyon. Lahat ng ahensya po ay nakakatulong sa aming samahan. Katulad ng Landbank na nagpapahiram sa amin ng capital pag kinukulang kami. Ang DAR at DA naman po ang nagbibigay sa amin ng mga pataba at pananim. Ang LGU naman po ang tumulong para ma-bayaran naming ang pagkakautang sa pagpapagawa ng aming irrigation system. Maraming salamat po sa mga ahensya ng gobyerno lalo na sa DOLE,*” she added.

The outcomes from TIBIA’s livelihood projects show that the success of projects can be attained through convergence between government agencies in partnership with community-based organizations. This convergence also highlights the common goal and unity of purpose of government agencies, that is, to provide opportunities for every Filipino that will uplift their living conditions.

TIBIA is an active member of Federation of DOLE-Assisted Associations in Quezon.

(by DOLE IV-A)



The “Natatanging Irrigator’s Association 2011-2012” award received by the TIBIA.

Infrastructure projects, housing, and medical assistance provided to the 2 municipalities in the 3rd district

It was very remarkable that four (4) government projects were granted on February 20, 2014 to the municipalities of Mataas na kahoy and Balete which include infrastructures for health, housing and construction of bridge.

Governor Vilma Santos Recto coordinated with Mayor Jay Ilagan together with his Sanggunian Bayan Members and Barangay Chairmen to personally grant the requests in their resolutions amounting to P23,000,000.00.

Gov Vi with Mayor Leovino Hidalgo of Municipality of Balete inaugurated the newly constructed infrastructures

such as the P10,000,000.00 Balete Municipal Rural Health Building (Balete RHU) which can administer minor operations, dental procedure, pediatrics, maternity and admitting rooms and visited the P6,600,000.00 Balete - Tanauan City Road project.

Afterwards, Gov Vi went to Brgy. Kinalaglagan to visit the twenty five (25) beneficiary families of the Balay project. She gave them their house's Certificate of Ownership with the responsibility of taking care their own houses.

(by Batangas PIO)



Gov. Vi awards Certificate of Ownership to the beneficiaries of the Balay Project.



Gov Vi with Mayor Leovino Hidalgo of Municipality of Balete inaugurated the newly constructed Balete Rural Health Building

Taal Volcano Protected Landscape: Success of the environment

Protected Area Superintendent (PASU) Victor Mercado through PAMB led the annual assessment activity on January 2, 2014 in Makiling Highlands, Pansol, Calamba, Laguna.

Annual accomplishment report were presented and plans and activities for 2014 were formulated. Also included in the activity is the Legal Easement around the Taal lake or part of the private or public infrastructures. Atty Victoria Garalza of the Provincial Administrator's Office contributed her lecture on the said subject.

At present, Taal Lake had achieved the acceptable number of legal fish cages in the prescribed fish cage zones as allowed by the Protected Area management Board (PAMB). The number of fish cages attained was with accordance with the regular monitoring done by the Task Force Taal Lake (TFTL). There was a time that illegal structures numbered to 222 and were demolished from January to December 2013.

In addition, Tanauan City Government through the City Planning and Development Officer Mrs. Angelina Amat posed a concrete example of passing an ordinance through an accepted 20-meter legal easement along the barangays around Taal lake.

In connection, Atty. Ipat Luna of Tanggol Kalikasan encouraged TFTL that Tanauan City will lead the said ordinance around the areas of Taal Lake.

Waste management issues of the Taal Volcano Protected Landscape (TVPL) coming from the structures of piggery and poultry around Taal Lake were also addressed including the status of the acceptable fish cage zone according to the Global Positioning System (GPS) to ease the monitoring of the said structures around Taal Lake.

Moreover, Task Force Taal Lake (TFTL) and TVPL PAMB were very inspired, very enthusiastic and very positive to enforce and to continue implementing all their mandates for 2014 because last October 1, 2013, Taal Volcano Protected Landscape (TVPL PAMB) won the Best Protected Area Management Board Category of the Protected Area Awards and Recognition Night of the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau-DENR held in Summit Ridge Hotel in Tagaytay City, Cavite.

(by Batangas PIO)

Maintaining Rizal Province's Growth Momentum

From an “emaciated and emasculated entity,” Rizal has changed into one of the country’s richest and most progressive provinces. “Rizal, today, is no longer the bedroom community and backyard piggery area that many people once perceived it to be,” Provincial Governor Rebecca A. Ynares points out. “It is now a preferred investment destination and a community of choice where families raise up their children in a healthy and clean environment,” she explains.

The governor’s description of her province is not without proof. Today, most of the country’s most important major investors are present in Rizal: Ayala, Tan, the Gokongwei and Sy groups, the Sta. Lucia Realty and Fil-Estate Corporations, and many more. Ayala Land is competing with the likes of Filinvest and Crowne Asia in the race to transform the province’s potential residential areas into prime subdivisions. The development race has now reached even the “backdoor” towns of Teresa and Tanay.

Rizal is also the home of one of the world’s biggest car manufacturers- Mitsubishi which adopted Cainta as its Philippine manufacturing headquarters. The Japanese firm is joined by Panasonic Manufacturing Corp. and Philippine Electric Corp. which chose Taytay to host them; Teresa Marble Mining and FR Cement Corp. (La Farge) in Teresa and gravel in Angono; Global Brands and Floro Industry in Taytay; Grandspan Development Corp. in Binangonan; and, Wrigley’s, RC Cola and Cemex (Solid Cement) in Rizal’s component city Antipolo.

International retail chains Puregold and Makro (now SM Hypermart) have also found homes in Taytay and San Mateo, and Cainta and Antipolo, respectively. SM shopping malls have sprouted in Antipolo and Taytay, and soon in Angono, Robinson’s Malls in Cainta and soon to rise in Antipolo, and Sta. Lucia Grand Mall in Cainta. So have many of the country’s leading educational institutions. San Beda has opened its biggest campus in the country in Taytay, as well as Fatima University and several De la Salle-affiliated schools. Meanwhile, De la Salle, Montessori and Assumption school branches have been in Antipolo for some time now.

Gov. Ynares also points to the recent entry of information technology and higher education institutions into the province, the modern, state-of-the-art STI campus in Cainta and eight campuses of the ICCT Colleges Foundation, Inc., joining the prestigious University of Rizal System in providing “affordable and accessible quality education where it matters.”

“The decision of these establishments and institutions to be present in Rizal is a clear proof that the strategy to pursue our vision of a Rizal that can stand and thrive on its own is working,” Gov. Ynares explains. The strategy, Gov. Ynares expounds, was to create the proper environment for the entry of these entities. The environment includes maintaining a high level of peace and order, adequate infrastructure, high-quality basic services, investment incentives, the preservation of the province’s vast wealth in the form of culture and the arts, and the protection of the environment.

“True, we still benefit from our proximity to Metro Manila,” Gov. Ynares explains. “But the strategic location of Rizal is no longer the sole come-on,” she underscores. “The built-in advantages and the allure of the province have become the primary consideration,” she points out. Promoting the built-in advantages and the allure of the province has become one of the focal points of Gov. Ynares’ administration.



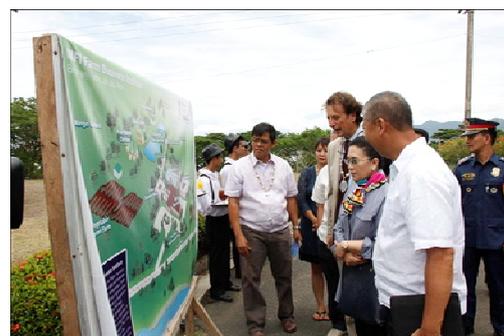
The development agenda are centered on people. “That is important,” Gov. Ynares expounds. “All growths are driven by people and all development must be for the people,” she adds. On that score, Rizal finds it in a good position to sustain its growth momentum: the province has a literacy rate of almost 100 percent. The province has also gained local and international recognition as “number one in human development.”

“This recognition is an assurance to our investors that they have access to an excellent manpower and managerial pool, and to families who chose Rizal to be their home that the provincial government is their partner in the raising up of their children,” Gov. Ynares points out.

With the growth and development momentum in place, Gov. Ynares ensures that this growth does not alter the province’s ecological balance by an efficient environmental management. This is the reason why she revived and enhanced the Ynares Eco-System (YES) Program, her flagship program, anchored on three major components – Cleaning, Greening and Recycling.

“Mine is a government which is transparent, accountable and participatory in order that we can establish a more predictable outcome and economic stability that is environment-friendly,” Gov. Ynares said.

(by Rizal PIO)



Barangays undergo DRRM and CCA capacity strengthening

Members of the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (MDRRMC) and barangay officials from the towns of Sariaya, Lucban and Tayabas went through a two-day training at the Southern Luzon State University (SLSU) Main Campus, Lucban, Quezon last February 10 – 11, 2014.

Dr. Doracie Zoleta-Nantes, fellow – Australian National University, College of Asia and the Pacific, said the training aims to integrate climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in local government units, specifically in barangays.

By broadening the participants' knowledge and understanding of the key concepts and principles of Climate Change Adaptation (CCA), Disaster Risk Reduction Management (DRRM), and the critical role of local government units, communities will be strengthened in the face of natural disasters.

According to Dr. Henry Buzar, provincial DRRM officer, the conduct of training was in compliance with the provisions of RA 10121 – which is to strengthen the capacity of all local government units through knowledge management activities, as well as to ensure its preparedness in managing the effects of hazards and disasters that may arise in their respective areas of responsibility.

Dr. Cedric Daep, executive director of Climate Change Academy in Albay, said that knowledge is the best method by which we can effectively cope with climate change. Through it, we can predict and prepare against worst case scenarios and understand why different disasters are transpiring.

Meanwhile, Governor David “Jay-Jay” C. Suarez signed an executive order mandating the attendance of all barangay officials in all DRRM and (CCA) trainings and seminars to be conducted.

Since Quezon province is highly vulnerable to disasters due to its long coastline and the presence of Mt. Banahaw, continuous information dissemination and trainings on DRRM and CCA are a must particularly at the grassroots level.

The training-seminar includes lectures and creation of action plans regarding landslides, reading and understanding geo-hazard maps, geographic information system, contingency planning for barangay DRRM committee, early warning system, communications protocols and evaluation procedures, damage assessment and needs analysis, governance in integrated DRR and CCA, community health focused CCA and DRR initiatives, training material on adaptation of residential designs and settlements planning and VCA and sustainable livelihoods.

The training is a joint project of the Provincial Government of Quezon through its Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, Australian AID, Australian National University, Climate Change Academy of Albay and SLSU.



Participants from (top-bottom) Sariaya, Lucban, Tayabas who successfully finished the DRR-CCA capacity strengthening training.

(by Quezon PIO)

Who's your outstanding Quezonian?

Nominations are now open for the highest award conferred by the Province of Quezon to its outstanding citizens – the Quezon Medalya ng Karangalan (QMK) 2014.

Seeking Quezonians who best embody the virtues and qualities of Former President Manuel L. Quezon, the annual search aims to recognize distinctive children of the province regardless of his/her status, religion, class, or creed. This time-honored event also strives to encourage the public to emulate the footsteps of the awardees and play an active role in building a better society.

There are two categories under the QMK awards program: the *Ginto ng Medalya ng Karangalan*, also known as the Life

Achievement Award, which is given to only one individual, not necessarily every year; and the *Medalya ng Karangalan*, also known as the Special Achievement Award, given to not more than 10 individuals.

Conceptualized and institutionalized by virtue of the Provincial Board Resolution No. 612 dated August 5, 1970, the conferment of awards is held every August 19, the birth anniversary of the late President Quezon. The deadline for submission of nomination ends on June 30, 2014.

Nomination forms are available at the QMK secretariat at the Quezon Provincial Gender and Development Office, or can be downloaded at www.quezon.gov.ph. For further inquiries, contact the following numbers: (042) 373-7175.

(by Quezon PIO)

Jala-Jala food and fiber processors receive grants from DTI's SSF project

Machinery and equipment consisting of dryer/dehydrator and pulverizer; fish steaming and smoking equipment; multipurpose dryer and pressing machine worth P978,000 were formally turned over by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) to three community-based enterprises in the municipality last Jan. 28, 2014.

During the shared service facilities (SSF) project briefing at the launching ceremony held Tuesday at the Jala-jala Municipal Hall, Rizal Provincial Director Mercedes Parreño said that DTI has been providing assistance to entrepreneurs via 'soft' projects. "Today, we are providing hardware to deserving enterprises," Parreño said.

The grantees were Halang Farmers Association, Inc. (HFAI) producer of ube powder; Sipsipin Multi-Purpose Cooperative (SMPC), producer of smoked fish products, and the Integrated Jala-Jala Federation of Cooperatives (INJAFEDCO), processor of water hyacinth strips.

Regional Director Marilou Quinco-Toledo said the DTI intends to sustain the SSF project to upgrade more industries and be able to contribute to the vision for inclusive growth that would be felt particularly by the marginalized sectors.

"Because of the high cost, more often than not, our enterprises can not afford to acquire production machinery and equipment, and that's where the shared service facilities project come in and fill the gap," Toledo said.

Jala-jala Mayor Narciso Villarín said his town is fortunate to be granted 4 out of the 20 SSF projects targeted for the province. "*Maganda ang hangarin ng gobyerno, ang itulak ang mga mamayan upang magsikap at umunlad,*" Villarín said. "*Sinisiguro naming hindi nagkamali ang DTI sa pagdadala ng kanilang SSF ditto sa Jala-jala, at yan ang aming pangako.*"

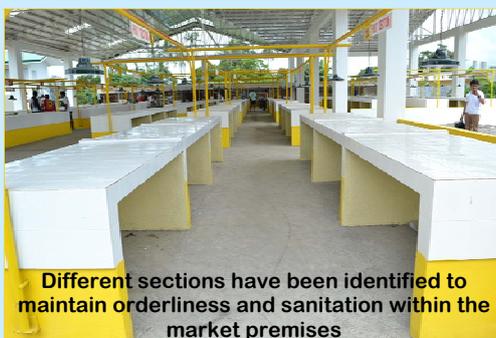
Through their leaders, the beneficiaries expressed their gratitude and commitment to operate and upkeep the equipment for their benefit. "We want our entrepreneurs to be competitive not only locally but globally as well, particularly today that the world is our market," Toledo added.

(by Charlie S. Dajao, DTI IV-A/PIA IV-A)

A satellite market in Ibabang Dupay rises up to the challenge

The City Government of Bagong Lucena under its newly elected City Mayor Roderick A. Alcala launched its first experimental Satellite Public Market in Barangay Ibabang Dupay. Home to 32,402 residents or 12.09% of the total population of the city, Barangay Ibabang Dupay is the top most populated barangay. The figures are based on the 2010 NSO survey and the city's 2.31% population growth rate.

The Satellite Market aims to: redirect both



Different sections have been identified to maintain orderliness and sanitation within the market premises

people and private vehicles from the main public market thus decongesting traffic and bottleneck areas in and around the periphery of the city public market; it also offers livelihood opportunities for income-generation to barangay residents who have business acumen or to those who, at present, have no means to earn a living;

and the barangay itself is given the source of much needed revenue through issuance of barangay business permits to market stall occupants.

If public acceptance of the project is any indication of its success, the City Government of Bagong Lucena is truly bent on putting up more Satellite Markets in other big and more populous barangays of Lucena. The most likely barangay-contenders for the 'most coveted satellite market award' are Gulang-Gulang with 29,914 residents or 11.16% of the total population of the city; Ibabang Iyam, 24,566 or 9.16%; Dalahican, 23,221 or 8.66%; and Cotta, 21,876 or 8.16%.

(by Lucena City Government)

NEDA Calabarzon plans for 2014 direction

Strengthen collaboration with stakeholders and promote the welfare of human resources to improve the delivery of the Major Final Outputs (MFOs)" were the directions shared by OIC-Director Agnes M. Espinas in her message during the opening of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)-Calabarzon Internal Planning cum team building activities on February 4-6, 2014 at 88 Resort and Spa, Calamba City, Laguna.

Among the priority activities identified for CY 2014 are: Finalization of the Calabarzon Results Matrix, Updating of

the Calabarzon Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation-Enhanced Regional Physical Framework Plan, Formulation of the Regional Development Research Agenda, Finalization of the Updated Regional Development Investment Program 2011-2016, Mainstreaming of International Migration and Development in the sub-national/local government structures, Roll-Out of Calabarzon Regional Monitoring and Evaluation System, Strengthening the Regional Development Council, Office transfer to the Regional Government Center, and Migration of NEDA website to DOST-prescribed template.

The group dynamics and teambuilding activities led by the young and energetic members of the NEDA Calabarzon family encouraged active participation in crafting

the work plan, and strengthen camaraderie and teamwork. As OIC-Assistant Regional Fidel Udarbe shared, "this year's internal planning was the most productive yet less stressful annual activity conducted, so far."



OIC-RD Agnes M. Espinas (left) and OIC-ARD Fidel T. Udarbe (right) provide insights and directions in crafting of the divisions' and NRO 4A's Work Program CY2014.

Batangas City's BOSS

January 2013 marked the start of Batangas city's innovation to significantly ease the process of business registration. This innovation was through the enhanced Business-One-Stop Shop (BOSS) put up at the People's Quadrangle. BOSS aims to make the city business-friendly in order to attract investments, promote economic growth, and generate employment.

It was conceived through the technical assistance of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) which partnered with Batangas City in implementing the United States Government's Cities Development Initiative-Project Investment Enabling Environment (INVEST).

Under the supervision of a USAID staff, several modifications were made to streamline the operation of the BOSS. The assigned individuals to man the BOSS went through a series of trainings and study tours to prepare them for their jobs. The Business Permits and Licensing Office (BPLO) of the city, crafted a new system of business registration through computerization eliminating the use of application forms.

The new system last year reduced the process of securing and renewing business permits from 22 steps to just two steps – File and Assessment and Pay and Claim. The processing time was also shortened from days to three hours and now to 1 ½ hours if submitted requirements are complete. Another reform was the use of the Enhanced Unified Application form which is downloadable from the city's official website: www.batangacity.gov.ph.

The BOSS which operates year round provides professional, friendly and efficient service as well as comfort to the public. It



The Batangas City Business-One-Stop-Shop serving clientele efficiently.

has a Public Assistance Desk, queuing or number system, multimedia provision, express lane for the elderly and persons with disabilities, a lane for multiple transactions, and a feedback and complaints box. Waiting lounges are also available where refreshments are served to the clients.

The city government already produced 7,000 copies of comics and brochures for distribution to illustrate the new business permits and licensing system.

In January this year, the BPLO conducted a survey on the effectiveness of the BOSS among 180 respondent taxpayers. The results showed a positive rating from the clientele with high marks on the following: clear instruction on the BOSS Process and Requirements Flow Signages posted on conspicuous areas; friendly and efficient staff; comfortable waiting area; and extended service on weekends in January to accommodate all the applicants. In the Pay and Claim Section, the respondents gave a high mark for the courteous employees, clarity of instructions, sufficiency of time given to applicants to review the details of their permit, and the correctness of Tax Order of Payment's computation.

(by Batangas City Government)

LSPU: One of the Philippines' fastest growing university

The Laguna State Polytechnic University (LSPU), headed by its Honorable President Nestor M. De Vera, is one of the fastest growing university in the Philippines. LSPU is ranked 4th among other state university colleges (SUC) when it comes to most numbered accredited programs (Level 1 and above) based on the AACUP Year End Report 2013. It also became the third SUC to embrace gender sensitivity, duly

supervised by no less than the Philippine Commission for Women. The State University also pioneered National Greening Program as a model site during its launch in 2011. Last November 2013, it became the newest member of IP Philippines' Innovation and Technology Supports Office (ITSO) family.

Showing deep concerns on the needs of its stakeholders, it has hosted several national events during the past few months, to wit: the National Pangasius Summit, the National Conference on Outcomes-Based Education, the National Consultative Assembly on Fisheries Curriculum, Regional Conference on K-12 Curriculum, among others.

Because of the increasing number of enrolment, the administration funded the construction of 2-storey library buildings to the four campuses in Sta. Cruz, Siniloan, San Pablo City and Los Baños (on-going) with 250 seating capacity and can house almost 30,000 volumes of

books and other references. Most of the newly constructed buildings were elevated to counter the effects of flood.

(by LSPU)

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