



Second Quarter  
June 2015

# there is knowledge in news CALABARZON

The Official Newsletter of the Regional Development Council IV-A

## 5<sup>th</sup> Calabarzon GAD Convention tackles challenges in gender mainstreaming in the context of ASEAN Integration

by Rolan B. Aldovino and Lovely S. Mores, NEDA Region IV-A



Participants listen from one of the speakers, ARD Gina T. Gacusan of NEDA Region IV-A, as she gives a background on ASEAN Integration during the 5<sup>th</sup> Calabarzon GAD Convention held on May 27-29, 2015 at the Splash Oasis Resort in Los Baños, Laguna. Inset: Gov. Ramil L. Hernandez of the Province of Laguna (left) and Dir. Luis G. Banua of the NEDA Region IV-A (right) grace the opening of the GAD Convention. (Photos: Farhad E. Ali Asgari)

The Regional Development Council (RDC) thru its Subcommittee on Gender and Development (SCGAD) conducted the 5<sup>th</sup> Calabarzon Regional GAD Convention from May 27-29, 2015 at the Splash Oasis Resort in Los Baños, Laguna. The Convention was organized by the RDC in partnership with the League of Population Officers and Workers of the Philippines Laguna Chapter and the Laguna Association of Planning and Development Coordinators.

Three hundred participants attended the convention, with 67 percent of the delegates from local government units, 24 percent from regional line agencies and 9 percent from state universities and colleges and other higher education institutions.

With the theme “Challenges on Mainstreaming Gender and Development in the Context of ASEAN Integration,” the convention aimed to understand how mainstreaming gender would situate within the economic integration framework.

Dir. Luis G. Banua of the NEDA Regional Office IV-A in his opening remarks stated, “ASEAN Integration offers opportunities that the country can work on for its benefits.”

However, he also sees that the full implementation of the integration may pose challenges in achieving the goal for greater gender equity and women empowerment not only for Calabarzon but for the whole country. Thus, it must be ensured that “the fulfilment of the requirements of the integration should not be compromising the gains of the country from the GAD initiatives,” Banua added.

The convention also introduced the Search for Outstanding GAD Implementer, which aims to recognize efforts of regional government agencies and instrumentalities in the implementation of gender mainstreaming in their regular programs and projects.

The topics during the convention include: Background of ASEAN Integration; CSO Perspective on the Implication of ASEAN Integration and its Impact on the Informal Sector, Women and GAD; Mainstreaming Gender on Disaster Risk Reduction: the case of Calabarzon, GAD Public Accountability Values Enhancement System, Gender Mainstreaming Approach and Strategies on Education; Communication and Gender; Gender Dimensions of Migration and Development; among others.

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## Laguna hosts 1st Quarter 2015 RDC Meeting

by Alvin Caesar V. Olanday, NEDA Region IV-A



L-R: Dir. Josefina E. Castilla-Go of the DILG Region IV-A, Dir. Luis G. Banua of NEDA Region IV-A, and Laguna Gov. Ramil L. Hernandez together with other partners sign the Memorandum of Understanding for the Calabarzon Strengthening, Upscaling and Mainstreaming Migration and Development Initiatives Project during the 1st Quarter 2015 RDC Full Council Meeting at Cultural Center of Laguna, Sta. Cruz, Laguna. (Photo: Farhad E. Ali Asgari)

The Provincial Government of Laguna, through the leadership of Gov. Ramil L. Hernandez hosted the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2015 Calabarzon Regional Development Council (RDC) meeting held on March 12 at the Laguna, Cultural Center, Sta. Cruz, Laguna.

Gov. Hernandez said that the main thrust of his administration is to uplift the lives of the Lagunenses, by implementing programs and projects geared towards this objective. He enjoined the members of the Council to continue working together towards the development of the Calabarzon region and to support the initiatives of the Province of Laguna.

During the meeting, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Calabarzon Strengthening, Upscaling and Mainstreaming Migration and Development Initiatives Project among local government unit (LGU) and selected regional line agencies (RLAs) was signed. The MOU spells out the roles of the LGUs and RLAs in implementing programs, projects and activities to minimize the social costs of migration and maximize the benefits from

remittances of overseas Filipinos through savings and investments.

The Council also recognized its former members and awarded plaques of commendation to Gov. David C. Suarez of Quezon Province for garnering the Galing Pook Awards for its 2-in-1 Bakawan (Mangrove Planting) and Health Coupon Programs, and to Batangas Province under the leadership of Gov. Rosa Vilma S. Recto for winning 1<sup>st</sup> place in the 4<sup>th</sup> CBMS-Philippines Special Awards, Best LGU Community Development Program Category during the 11<sup>th</sup> CBMS Philippines National Conference.

RDC Vice Chairperson and NEDA Region IV-A Dir. Luis G. Banua, administered the oath of office of Mr. Ruel G. Punzalan as the Private Sector Representative for the labor sector. Vice Chairperson Banua together with Gov. Hernandez led the turnover of low-denomination coins to Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas - Lucena Branch, as part of the Council's support to the National Coin Recirculation Program.

## 2nd Quarter 2015

*there is knowledge in news*  
**CALABARZON**

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## NEDA Region IV-A conducts Project Development Training

by Project Development, Investment Programming, and Budgeting Division, NEDA Region IV-A

The NEDA Region IV-A conducted a project development training attended by 18 LGUs to develop project proposals for funding under the DOE Energy Regulation (ER)1-94. The LGUs trained were those that do not host power plants and where poverty incidence is high. The training was conducted from May 26-28 at the Laguna State Polytechnic University-Sta. Cruz Campus.

The training aimed to capacitate the municipal planning and development coordinators on preparing project proposals and facilitate submission of quality project proposals for funding under the ER 1-94 regional share.

The training used lectures, workshops, and exercises to help the participants develop their proposals. The training generated projects on construction of FMRs, water systems, street lighting and procurement of equipment like garbage and fire trucks. As a follow through activity, NEDA will continue assisting the LGUs in finalizing their proposals.

The guidelines on the utilization of the region's regional energy share was approved by the RDC in November 2013 with agency regional offices, state universities and colleges, non-host poor LGUs and RDC as beneficiaries.

## ASAP program kicks off in Quezon

by Edwin T. Hernandez, DOLE Quezon

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) together with the regional and provincial cluster of member agencies conducted the "Salubungan" on April 28, 2015 at STI Academic Center in Lucena City, Quezon. The "Salubungan" brings together the government and private sector to kick-off the Accelerated and Sustainable Anti-Poverty (ASAP) Program.

The ASAP aims to significantly reduce poverty in the country by focusing efforts on the top 10 provinces with high magnitude of poor households.

DOLE Undersecretary Ciriaco Lagunzad, III highlighted that the way to create sustainable employment is by helping the small



Local Chief Executives and representatives from pilot areas in Quezon, national government agencies and private sector participate in the ASAP "Salubungan" workshop. Inset: Usec. Ciriaco Lagunzad, III (left) of DOLE and Dir. Luis G. Banua (right) of NEDA Region IV-A grace the opening of the workshop. (Photos: DOLE Quezon)

and medium establishments (SMEs) grow. ASAP will bring in the government programs to where these SMEs are located.

National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Region IV-A Dir. Luis G. Banua presented the socio-economic profile of Quezon province, its prospect for growth and the challenges in seizing business opportunities. National Anti-Poverty

Commission Undersecretary Jude Esguerra, III presented the ASAP framework and its design which is to connect the poor to economic opportunities with the support of government. DOLE Region IV-A Dir. Ma. Zenaida A. Angara-Campita presented the "Salubungan" process.

The DOLE and TESDA are the ASAP convenors of Quezon.

## RDC endorses formulation of reforestation guidelines

by Revy Ann Grace Z. Jolongbayan, NEDA Region IV-A

The RDC Calabarzon during its March 12 Full Council Meeting endorsed to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environment Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) the formulation of reforestation guidelines for power plants and similar companies that contribute to the country's carbon footprint. The proposal to formulate the guidelines was discussed and endorsed to the RDC by the Sectoral Committee on Economic Development.

The DENR-EMB is mandated to formulate plans and policies and set appropriate environmental quality standards for the prevention, pollution control and environment protection.

Considering that the Philippines ranks number 9 among 193 countries which are most vulnerable to climate change, there is an urgent need to mitigate these carbon dioxide emissions. The guidelines will specifically mandate the power plants and similar companies undertaking projects to emit carbon dioxide by planting trees within and outside the region. At present, Calabarzon hosts 18 power plants with a total installed capacity of 6,676 megawatts.

The proposal originally emanated from RDC VI, requesting the Climate Change Commission to formulate reforestation guidelines for powerplant companies.

## SUMMID Calabarzon conducts M&D guide workshop

by Rolan B. Aldovino, NEDA Region IV-A

The project on Strengthening, Upscaling and Mainstreaming International Migration and Development (SUMMID) in Calabarzon conducted a consultation workshop with 37 participants coming from selected planning officers and migration and development (M&D) focal persons from Calabarzon and Bicol regions to enhance the M&D Guide for Local Level Planning. The Guide,

which was developed under the Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMIDI) II, aimed at mainstreaming M&D into local policy design and planning to address issues related to migration as well as to build on opportunities it brings.

The consultation workshop, which was held in Naga City on April 21-22, identified data requirements

relevant to M&D planning at the local level which are critical for situational analysis and people-centered planning and programming.

The participation of the Bicol LGUs in the SUMMID Calabarzon project was important based on their recent experience of having undertaken the mainstreaming processes in their respective jurisdiction under the JMIDI Bicol project.



(Photo: Romer Mada)

Calabarzon and Bicol regions complete the two-day workshop to discuss, validate, and enhance M&D Guide for Local Level Planning.

## SUMMID completes school-based program for Calabarzon Provinces

by Kathleen C. Salas, SUMMID Calabarzon

SUMMID Calabarzon, in coordination with the Department of Education (DepEd) Region IV-A and the DepEd Division offices of the provinces of Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon, completed a series of training of trainers on School-based Program for all five provinces scheduled in different dates during the month of April. Atikha, a long time migrant-serving NGO based in Laguna and one of SUMMID Project partners led the conduct of the trainings.

The four-day trainers training aimed to capacitate the teachers in conducting echo seminars of school-based training program for children to enhance values formation and assist children in coping with their separation from their parents and other issues brought about by the overseas migration.

The training included the following topics: 1) life and work condition of migrants; 2) positive and negative effects of migration; 3) bridging the gap and fostering good communications relations; 4) importance of education and goal setting; 5) instilling savings



Various workshops and activities were conducted during the School-Based Program Training for Teachers for all the Calabarzon provinces.

consciousness and disavowing consumerism; and 6) gender sensitivity and feminization of migration. Discussions on financial literacy were included with topics on tracking expenses, savings and borrowing, budgeting for migrant families, and savings for investment, return and retirement were also included on the last day.

## NEDA holds consultation on the North-South Railway Project

by Nelson J. Aman, Jr., NEDA Region IV-A



Dir. Luis G. Banua of the NEDA Region IV-A heads the consultation meeting on the North-South Railway Project. With him are (from L-R): Ms. Elvira B. Gealon of the DENR Region IV-A, Mr. Jedd Ugay, Project Development of DOTC, and ARD Maylah Gatchalian of DSWD Region IV-A. (Photo: Farhad E. Ali Asgari)

The NEDA Region IV-A initiated a consultation meeting on the proposed North-South Railway Project (NSRP) under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) financing on March 25 at the Splash Mountain Resort, Los Baños, Laguna.

The meeting aimed to ensure the consistency of the NSRP with the development and physical plans of Cavite, Laguna, Batangas and Quezon and the 23 cities/municipalities affected by the proposed railway. Also discussed were the technical and social aspects of the project.

Representatives from the Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC) Central

Office presented the NSRP while the PPP Center served as a resource person on the processing of the project. Also present were the representatives from the Calabarzon offices of DENR, DILG, DSWD, HUDCC and NHA and Provincial Planning and Development Office of the four provinces.

The DOTC representatives were invited to attend the meetings of the Provincial Development Councils for the endorsement of the project.

The project was presented to the Sectoral Committee on Infrastructure Development of Calabarzon RDC in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter meeting.

## New Calabarzon LGUs join 2015 CMCI Survey

by Michael R. Lavadia, NEDA Region IV-A

Thirty-nine new local government units (LGUs) of Calabarzon have joined the Cities and Municipalities Competitiveness Index (CMCI) survey for 2015.

The RDC Calabarzon Regional Competitiveness Committee conducted a series of orientations to all provinces of Calabarzon region. The CMCI oriented the old and new participating LGUs on how to fill out the data capture sheets for the CMCI. The orientation also served as the venue for queries of LGUs regarding their concerns on the data capture sheets.

The CMCI measures competitiveness at the local government level using 28



indicators grouped into three equally-weighted pillars: Economic Dynamism, Government Efficiency, and Infrastructure. Scores on each pillar were combined to form the overall score used to rank cities and municipalities.

In 2014, General Trias, Cavite ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> and Carmona, Cavite ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in the whole country, under municipality category. The following LGUs received high

ranks in economic dynamism: Tanza, Cavite (1<sup>st</sup>); General, Trias, Cavite (2<sup>nd</sup>); San Pedro, Laguna (3<sup>rd</sup>); Carmona, Cavite (4<sup>th</sup>); and Taytay, Rizal (5<sup>th</sup>). For the infrastructure indicator, Rodriguez, Rizal placed 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Developing competitive advantages across several variables have proven successful for the top-ranked cities and municipalities in the 2014. The results highlight the importance of being competitive to attract investors.

The CMCI was designed to encourage local governments to regularly track data and eventually benchmark performance against other cities in the ASEAN regions.

## Provincial News

### Cavite launches IYRR-WQMA

by Rochelle Dones, PICAD-Cavite



Public and Private volunteers actively participate in the clean-up activity at Imus-Ylang-ylang-Rio Grande Rivers during its launching as Water Quality Management Area.

“Only when we are thirsty of clean water to drink, to swim, to propagate fish and to manufacture goods, do we will realize that management of water quality consistent with their beneficial usage and classification is at stake.”—WQMA Focal Person Michael Dapdapig.

In observance of Earth Day celebration and pursuant to the Water Quality Management Area (WQMA) Department Administrative Order 2013-02, the Provincial Government-Environment and Natural Resources Office in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources spearheaded the launching of the Imus-Ylang-ylang-Rio Grande Rivers Water Quality Management Area (IYRR-WQMA) on April 18, 2015 at the Municipal Hall of Gen. Trias.

Board Member Jango Grep, chair of the Committee on Environment, graced the activity in behalf of

Gov. Jonvic Remulla and expressed his support to every endeavor of the government on protecting and preserving natural resources, especially our waters and its quality.

As host municipality, Gen. Trias Mayor Antonio “Ony” Ferrer, was overwhelmed with the huge turn out for earth day celebration and warmly welcomed the participants to the event. Private industries operating within Gen. Trias and Cavite Economic Zones (CEZ) attended the ceremony and joined the river clean-up activities.

The IYRR-WQMA is expected to harness inter-LGU and stakeholder collaboration to improve the Imus – Ylang-ylang-Rio Grande Rivers and promote environmental awareness. Water is life and so we must ensure its quality.

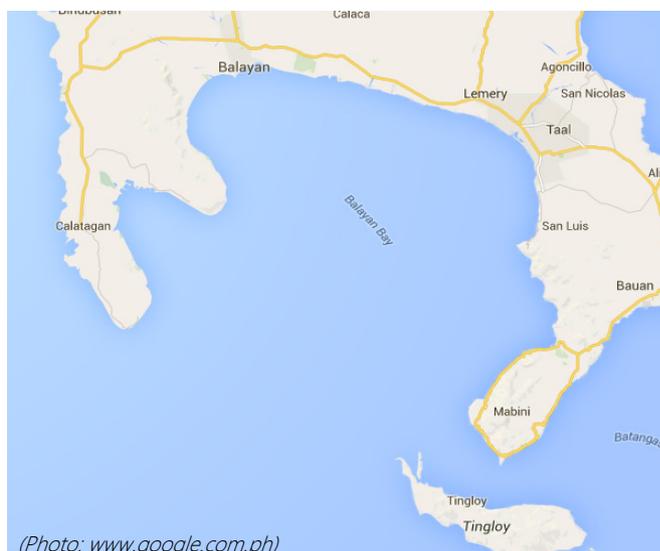
### Balayan Bay, Batangas implements seasonal closure

by Mary Princess D.R. Abante, PPDO Batangas

Destructive fishing and overfishing are the primary causes of biodiversity losses that need to be addressed.

The implementation of seasonal closure “Pagpapahinga ng Look Balayan”, by the Provincial Government of Batangas is one way of preserving biodiversity. The “Pagpapahinga ng Look Balayan” is in partnership with Ecosystems Improved for Sustainable Fisheries which conducted a series of consultations with stakeholders during Marine Protected Areas Network meetings.

Cash for Work (CFW), the innovative feature of the Balayan experiment, proved to be a key success factor of the Closed Season programme. Top-down implementation of closed seasons or no-take zones can



(Photo: [www.google.com.ph](http://www.google.com.ph))

## Construction of Rizal wind farm power project in full swing

by Rizal Provincial Planning and Development Office



The 54-megawatt Rizal Windfarm project at barangay Bugarin in Pililla, Rizal will support the energy needed in parts of the Metropolis when it become fully operational in the second quarter of this year. Under the leadership of Gov. Nini Ynares, more renewable energy projects will spring to life in the province as she continues her 'green advocacies' under the Ynares Eco System (YES) to Green Program.

Rizal Gov. Rebecca Ynares inspected recently the on-going construction in this mountain barangay of what is set to be the second wind power facility in the country.

With endorsements from the provincial, municipal and barangay sanggunian (councils) and secured clearances and registration from concerned national government agencies, Alternergy Wind One Corporation is developing the Pililla (Rizal) Wind Farm Power Project consisting of 27 wind

turbine generators grouped into three clusters with aggregate capacity of 67.5 megawatts (MW). The said project, after completion will interconnect to Meralco's Malaya-Teresa 115 kilovolts (KV) transmission line located just 10 kilometers from the project site.

According to Alternergy, at 75 percent possibility, the wind farm is expected to yield approximately 154 gigawatthours (GWh) annually based on wind measurements collected for three years.

Construction started in 2013 and is expected to be completed by 2015. The project will contribute to the economic development of the province of Rizal while preserving the environment.

Gov. Ynares, an environmental protection advocate, with her flagship program, the Ynares Eco-System (YES) is excited on the project's completion which she expects to improve the power supply and be a tourist attraction in Rizal.

hardly be enforced when people's livelihoods depend on regular fishery. The Balayan experience demonstrated that CFW greatly enhances acceptability. Balayan Bay includes municipal waters of Bauan, Balayan, San Luis, Lemery, Calaca, Calatagan, Mabini, Taal, and Tingloy.

Studies reveal that the most appropriate period for the closed season is during the last quarter moon, new moon and first quarter moon in December.

The cooperation between national and local bodies is needed to apprehend violators. The *Bantay Dagat*, the local enforcement agency, needs additional support and funding to strengthen its capability in counteracting external threats.

The up-scaling of this project could lead to an improved fishery management and create awareness about the pressures that marine ecosystems face.

# Pawikan finds home in Naic, Cavite:

## A protection and conservation project

By Evangelina P. Pangilinan, MENRO Naic, Cavite

**B**y virtue of Executive Order (EO) 42 signed on June 26, 1979, Pawikan Conservation Project was the imperative answer of the government to save the dwindling marine turtle population in the country. Its responsibility is the development and implementation of conservation and protection policies, management and propagation schemes and nationwide information and education programs to ensure the survival and growth of marine turtles. The first two years of the project was handled by the Office of the President and was later transferred to the Ministry of Natural Resources or Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) by virtue of EO 708 and was later transferred by virtue of Special Order 78 to Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau.

The influx of marine turtle in the shorelines of Naic started many years ago but the documentation was only made last September 2011 by DENR.

From the year 2011 up to present, Naic Pawikan Conservation Project became popular in the Province of

### The Naic Pawikan Conservation and Protection Project aims to:

- *Conserve and protect Marine Turtle population and their habitats in the shorelines and municipal waters of Naic;*
- *Enhance the public awareness and participation of the people as to the conservation and protection of marine turtles;*
- *Create tourism-related programs and projects thru livelihood, social enterprises and income-generating activities for the coastal communities of Naic;*
- *Experience the actual activities and hands-on management of Pawikan Hatchery from habitation and nesting to releasing of hatchlings.*

Cavite. A lot of activities, programs, and researches have been conducted/implementated for the continuation and maintenance of the program.

To date, on its 4th season of celebrating the Naic Pawikan Conservation and Protection Project which started in August 2014, the Local Government Unit of Naic in coordination with Manila Bay Coordinating Office (MBCO)

and Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) Cavite, is actively promoting the project for the benefit of Naic Tourism and Marine Protected Area. The DENR is supporting the project financially and technically thru MBCO and PENRO-Cavite.

Naic Pawikan Festival 2015 is an event staged by the Local Government Unit of Naic thru the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office which centers on the Importance of pawikan habitat in the Marine Ecosystem and at the same time to promote local tourism.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Pawikan Festival held last February 6, 2015 at the Municipality of Naic aims to serve specific needs to provide entertainment and educate the local community and expectators of Marine turtle's role in the environment. It is a seasonal festivity that is held during the nesting of Mother Pawikans.



Left Photo: Vice Mayor Rodrigo Castillo (rightmost) and Mrs. Araceli Petrasanta (2nd from right) launches the exhibit of Pawikan Life Cycle at Naic Coastal National Highschool. Right Photo: Participants release pawikan hatchlings to the sea.

# 8,588 hectares forest plantation to be established in Quezon in 2015

by RPAO-DENR Region IV-A

“More than 50 percent of DENR Calabarzon’s regional target of rehabilitating 17,164 hectares of degraded forestland under the National Greening Program (NGP) will be in Quezon Province,” Dir. Reynulfo Juan of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region IV-A Calabarzon revealed during the NGP Management Conference held recently at the regional office in Calamba City that 8,588 hectares of forest plantation in Quezon will be established.

Dir. Juan said that Rizal follows next with 5,337 hectares, Laguna with 3,019 hectares, Batangas, 200 hectares and Cavite, 20 hectares.

Now entering its fifth year of implementation, the NGP is a priority program of President Benigno S. Aquino, III which started in 2011. The NGP targets to grow 1.5 billion trees in 1.5 million hectares of public land from 2011 to 2016.

“We, in the Calabarzon region, are on target. To date, 63,038 hectares out of 119,070 hectares have been planted with 39 million seedlings. About 17,164 hectares will be planted this year, and the remaining 38,868 will be done in 2016. That is our humble contribution to the President’s target on NGP,” said Dir. Juan.

Forester Alfredo Palencia said that 9 million seedlings and mangrove propagules will be used in Quezon.

They will use indigenous species of forest trees, fruit bearing trees and will also plant fuelwood such as *kakawate*, and economically viable plants such as coffee, cacao, bamboo and rattan.

Palencia reported that from 2011-2014, PENRO-Quezon contributed to about 2.13 percent and 38.08 percent of the national and regional NGP targets, respectively. DENR Quezon established a total of 31,999 hectares NGP plantations in the four (4) years of implementation. These were planted with more than 24 million mangrove propagules, and seedlings of forest and fruit trees species.

Palencia mentioned the DENR personnel, specifically NGP implementors and extension officers, together with partner people’s organizations to join hands in conducting continuous monitoring, and maintenance and protection activities to ensure 85 percent or higher survival rate of planted seedlings in established plantations. The NGP adopts the social mobilization strategy and emphasizes that participation of all sectors of society is vital to the success of the program. The NGP also highlights that community participation is key to sustainability.

Palencia issued an invitation, “We are encouraging everyone especially those residing in the above-mentioned municipalities and its adjacent towns to be a DENR partner in this noble pursuit.”

## National Greening Program

Part of six hectares in Alitas, Infanta, Quezon planted with mangrove species. Developed in partnership with Alitas Farmers Association since 2011



## Calabarzon welcomes new heads of agencies!



**Dir. Renato L. Brion, CEO III**  
DILG Region IV-A

Dir. Brion finished his Bachelor of Arts major in AB Economics at the Ateneo de Manila University.

His field of expertise include Project Development and Management, Design and Analysis of Systems/ Procedures, Policy Development and Advocacy and General Management .

He has been with the agency for 38 years, since the DLGCD.



**PCSUPT. Richard A. Albano**  
PNP Region IV-A

PCSUPT. Albano, former District Director of QCPD, assumed command of the 11,032 strong PNP Region IV-A on April 15, 2015.

PCSUPT Albano, a member of PMA Class 1984, outlined his plans for PNP Region IV-A which include both the continuation of the programs of his predecessor and reforms for further improvement of the delivery of police services in the region.



**Atty. Tomas J. Cariño, Jr.**  
Deputy Director, BSP Lucena Branch

Deputy Director Cariño is a lawyer and Certified Public Accountant. He holds a 3<sup>rd</sup> Level Career Service Eligibility.

He graduated Bachelor of Science in Commerce –Major in Accounting and Bachelor of Laws at the University of Nueva Caceres.

He served as Deputy Director at BSP San Fernando, Pampanga from 2010 up to the early part of 2015.

## Calabarzon rules 2015 National Schools Press Conference

by Joseph U. Natanauan of Fr. Luigi Caburlotto School, Division of Cavite Province



Jennifer E. Lopez (3<sup>rd</sup>, right) proudly raises the 2015 NSPC Over-all Championship trophy with fellow DepEd Calabarzon supervisors present during the awarding at the SMX, SM Aura Premier, BGC, Taguig City on April 17, 2015. (Photo: Justo Cabuhat, Jr.)

Calabarzon proved that the region is still the home of brilliant young writers and excellent school publications after retaining the title for the third time as the Overall Champion, Best Performing Region in Campus Journalism during the 2015 National Schools Press Conference.

Region III was declared second, while National Capital Region snatched the third spot in the annual

competition held on April 13-17 which aimed to empower resilient communities through Campus Journalism.

Intensive training and cliniquing of campus journalists and school paper advisers and continuous supervision of Education Program Supervisors in-charge of Campus Journalism and all out trust and support of all our Administrators from all the 18 Divisions of Calabarzon became the

primary key in reaching our goal of being the champion for the third time.

Nothing is enough when it comes to assessing how prepared we are, but as what Louis Pasteur said, chance or fortune favors only the prepared mind,” said Ms. Jennifer E. Lopez, Education Program Supervisor II in English and Educational Media of DepEd-Calabarzon in an interview.

Region IV-A was hailed first overall top performing region both in elementary and secondary for individual and group contests.

“Since the region has successfully taken the crown of being the Overall Champion in the National Schools Press Conferences that started last 2013 NSPC in Ormoc, Leyte, then 2014 NSPC in Olongapo City, it became a challenge for every school paper adviser in Calabarzon to continue and maintain the crown in the next coming years,” Ms. Lopez added.

# Regional Economic Situationer

January-March 2015

by Policy Formulation and Planning Division, NEDA Region IV-A

## Glance at Calabarzon's economy for 1st Quarter 2015

### Same or Better than previous quarter

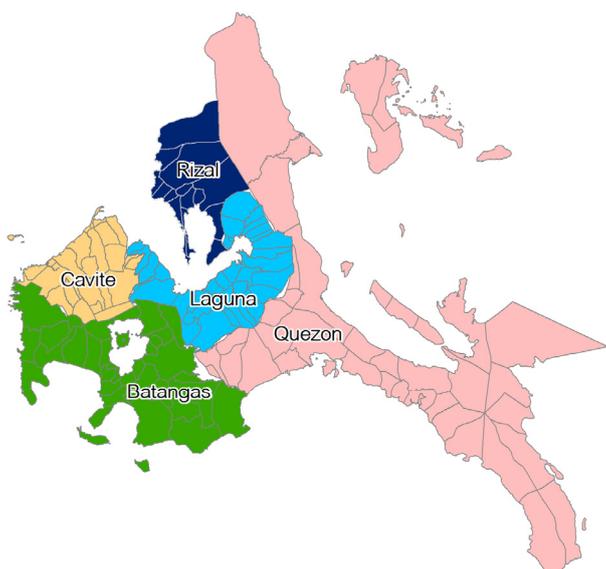
- Lower average inflation rate at 1.3
- Retained purchasing power of peso at 0.72
- Increase in production of coffee, sugarcane, carabao, commercial fisheries
- Increase in overnight tourists by 55,375 visitors

### Decline compared with previous quarter

- Higher consumer price index at 139.9
- Lower labor force participation rate at 64.4
- Lower employment rate at 91.4
- Higher unemployment rate at 8.6
- Higher underemployment rate 18.4
- Decrease in production of rice/palay, corn, coconut, pineapple, cattle, goat, hog, chicken, municipal fisheries, and aquaculture
- Decrease in same day tourists by 389,021

### Compared with 1st Qtr 2014

- Decreased average monthly crime rate at 37.27
- Decreased crime solution rate at 31.04
- Decreased clearance solution rate at 46.53



## Prices and Inflation

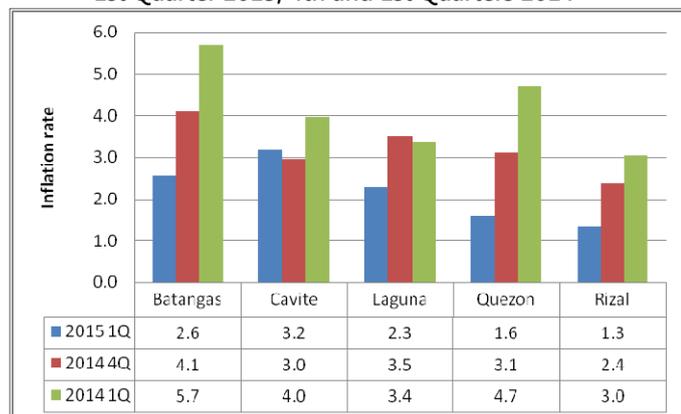
Calabarzon's average consumer price index (CPI) reflected an increasing trend during the period from 139.7 in Q4 2014 to 139.9 in Q1 2015. This is also 3.2 index points higher compared to the same period last year. All commodities registered an increase in CPI based on year-on-year and quarter-on-quarter comparisons except for housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels (123.7) and transport (123.1). CPI for education was retained at 146.0, but much higher compared to the 137.7 index recorded in the same period last year.

The average inflation rate showed a 2.0 percentage points decrease from 3.3 percent in Q4 2014 to 1.3 percent in Q1 2015. The provinces of Batangas, Cavite and Laguna registered the highest average inflation rate in the first quarter of 2015 at 2.6 percent, 3.2 percent and 2.3 percent, respectively.

Consumer Price Indices, Inflation Rate and Purchasing Power of Peso  
Calabarzon, 1st Quarter 2015, 1st and 4th Quarters 2014

Indicator	Period		
	1st Qtr 2015	4th Qtr 2014	1st Qtr 2014
Average CPI	139.9	139.7	136.7
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	157.7	156.6	149.1
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	198.4	195.5	192.0
Clothing and footwear	135.1	134.6	130.4
Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	123.7	124.8	128.0
Furnishings, HH equipment and routine maintenance	131.3	129.9	128.0
Health	139.9	139.5	136.3
Transport	123.1	124.7	124.1
Communication	95.2	95.2	95.1
Recreation and culture	112.4	112.2	111.4
Education	146.0	146.0	137.7
Restaurants and Misc. goods and services	138.5	137.8	135.3
Average Inflation Rate (%)	1.3	3.3	4.1
Average PPP (P)	0.72	0.72	0.73

Fig. 1. Inflation rate by province, Calabarzon 1st Quarter 2015, 4th and 1st Quarters 2014



Source: PSA Region IV-A

After the month of January all provinces registered inflation rates lower than 3.0 percent except for the province of Cavite that still increased during the succeeding months of the first quarter. Across provinces, Cavite registered the highest inflation rate at 3.4.

The average purchasing power of peso (PPP) remained at P 0.72 from Q4 2014 to Q1 2015. However, on a year-on-year basis, it is P 0.01 lower.

## Labor and Employment

Based on the January 2015 Labor Force Survey, the population of 15 years old and above in the region slightly increased to 8,509 in January 2015 from 8,364 recorded in the same period last year and 8,492 in Q4 2014. However, the labor force participation rate or the percentage of the 15 years old and over population who are employed or are looking for work slowed down to 64.4 percent in January 2015 from 65.6 percent in Q1 last year. This could mean that more of the population 15 years old to 21 might have opted to be out of the labor force to study.

Of the population in the labor force, 91.4 percent are employed as of January 2015, an increase by 0.3 percentage points compared to January 2014. However, compared with Q4 2014, it was much lower by 1.25 percentage points. The main reason for the decline of employment rate from Q4 2014 to Q1 2015 is the effect of the Christmas Season where more employees were needed.

**Labor and Employment Data**  
Calabarzon, January 2015, October and January 2014

Indicator	Period		
	Jan 2015	October 2014	Jan 2014
Population 15 years and above (in 000)	8,509	8,492	8,364
Labor Force Participation Rate (%)	64.4	65.0	65.6
Employment rate (%)	91.4	92.9	91.1
Unemployment rate (%)	8.6	7.1	8.9
Underemployment rate (%)	18.4	17.8	19.1

Source: PSA-Labor Force Survey/ \*Preliminary Estimates

In the first quarter of 2015, there were 328 numbers of retrenchments in the region, which affected 8,377 employees. These figures are far high compared to 10 cases of retrenched establishments and 67 affected employees recorded in the same period last year. Economic reasons such as redundancy of employees, lack of market or slump in demand, reorganization or

**Retrenchment and Shutdown Record**  
Calabarzon, 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2015, 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Quarters, 2014

Indicator	Period		
	1st Qtr 2015	4th Qtr 2014	1st Qtr 2014
<b>Retrenchment</b>			
No. of establishments	328	185	10
No. of employees affected	8,337	6,002	67
<b>Shutdown</b>			
No. of establishments	27	49	5
No. of employees affected	655	2,299	22

Source: DOLE Region IV-A

downsizing, and financial loss were cited by 48.17 percent of the retrenched establishments. Meanwhile, 45.42 percent cited non-economic reasons of retrenchment that may be due to end of contract, change in management, resignation/absence without official leave, closure due to non-compliance or illegal activities, project completion, or termination due to just cause or misconduct. Among the provinces, Cavite has the highest number of retrenched establishments with 226. This is followed by Rizal and Laguna with 50 and 46 cases, respectively.

There were also 27 cases of shutdown establishments during the period which affected 655 employees. These figures are much higher than the five cases of shutdowns affecting 22 employees, in January 2014. All cases of shutdown of establishments cited economic reasons. Laguna has the highest number of shutdowns with 13 establishments, followed closely by Cavite with 11 establishments.

Meanwhile, unemployment rate slightly declined from 8.9 percent to 8.6 percent in the same period last year. The slight decline in the estimated percentage of overseas Filipinos in the region from 18.5 in the same period last year to 17.9 in January 2015 did not affect the unemployment level.

Underemployment or those who are employed but are still looking for additional work also decreased to 18.4 percent from 19.1 percent in Q1 last year.



Photo: www.philstar.com

## Agriculture and Fishery

Calabarzon's year-on-year aggregate agriculture production data posted increasing trend. The commodities contributing to the higher aggregate production were rice, corn, carabao, goat, hog and chicken.

The year-on-year uptrend in production is due to slight recovery from black bug, more usage of hybrid seeds from Department of Agriculture Regional Office IV-A, increased fertilizer usage, sufficient amount of rainfall during vegetative and reproductive stage and recovery from effects of last year's dry spell.

**Volume of Production in Crops, Livestock, Poultry and Fishery  
Calabarzon, 1st Quarter 2015, 4th and 1st Quarters 2014**

Commodity	Period		
	1st Qtr 2015	4th Qtr 2014	1st Qtr 2014
<b>Crops (in MT)</b>			
Rice/Palay	86,875	172,887	82,904
Corn	18,073	34,124	16,270
Coconut	243,977.20	343,649.64	262,260.24
Coffee	1,996.12	180.71	4,310.40
Sugarcane	1,143,117.83	17,048.93	1,237,437.87
Pineapple	10,679.36	13,045.04	9,732.29
<b>Livestock and Poultry (in MT)</b>			
Cattle	14,138	15,907	14,534
Carabao	5,171	5,104	4,684
Goat	750	1,073	525
Hog	455,160	585,516	433,654
Chicken	19,883,419	21,833,445	17,030,041
<b>Fisheries (in MT)</b>			
Commercial	17,290.00	13,266.82	20,472.18
Municipal	30,760.38	35,456.80	31,608.51
Aquaculture	39,756.41	45,092.60	47,432.25

Source: PSA Region IV-A

Corn production improved by 11.08 percent compared to the same period last year due to increase in area harvested by 15.26 percent, availability of hybrid yellow corn seeds and four wheel tractors, provision of drying facilities and other interventions from provincial agriculturists.

Compared to the same period last year, livestock and poultry production posted better performance except for cattle which recorded a decline of 1,796 MT or 2.72 percent. The downtrend in production can be attributed



to insufficient grazing area for large animals while the increase in production of chicken and hog can be attributed to low price of day old chicks and increased farm gate price of hog fatteners and finishers.

Commercial fisheries sector exhibited a 15.54 percent decrease compared to last year's output. This can be attributed to prolonged northeast monsoon and more occurrences of low pressure area. In Batangas, operators temporarily stopped their operation due to financial constraints. Strict implementation of fishery laws by the "bantay dagat" reduced fishing days of operators in Cavite. In addition, encroachment of some commercial fishing boats from Mindoro in municipal waters contributed to the decrement.

With the recent agricultural performance, the region is looking forward to better production during the second and third quarter of the year at the onset of the harvesting season. However, production performance maybe hampered by the threat of El Nino. As per update from PAG-ASA, a weak El Niño condition is present in the tropical Pacific which will likely to continue until mid-2015 with chances of strengthening toward the end of the year.

## Tourism

The total tourist arrivals registered a decline in the first quarter of 2015 by 33 percent compared with the same period last year. Almost 84 percent of the tourists in the region are same day tourists. However, same day tourists decreased by 1,440,670 visitors in Q1 2015.

Domestic visitors comprised 96 percent of same day tourists and 93 percent of overnight tourists. Thus, more tourist destinations that would appeal to foreign visitors must be developed in the region. Most of the foreign tourists enjoyed diving activities in Nasugbu, Mabini and Pico de Loro in Batangas, while the golf courses in Cavite and Batangas also invited foreign and local golf lovers.

Tourism data collection for the region especially for day tourists remains a challenge due to irregular submission of data by the tourism offices and

**Tourist Arrivals**  
**Calabarzon, 1st Quarter 2015, 4th and 1st Quarters 2014**

Indicator	Period		
	1st Qtr 2015	4th Qtr 2014	1st Qtr 2014
Total number of overnight tourists	502,510	447,135	555,346
Domestic	468,573	423,354	519,730
Foreign	33,937	23,781	35,616
Total number of same day tourists	2,642,293	3,031,314	4,082,969
Domestic	2,540,251	2,932,775	3,939,542
Foreign	102,042	98,539	143,427
Total number of tourist arrivals	3,144,803	3,478,449	4,638,315

Source: DOT Region IV-A

establishments, and tourism attraction facilities. The problem on data collection may be one of the reasons for the 35 percent decline in same day tourists. Compared with first quarter of last year, the decline in tourist arrivals may be partly due to cheaper airfares offered by the different airline companies. This may have caused tourists, particularly domestic tourists, to visit other destinations within and outside the country. Thus, tour packages that are more inviting to local and foreign tourists must be developed in the region.

The hot spring resorts in Laguna, Tagaytay City in Cavite, the Kamay ni Hesus in Quezon, Regina Rica in Tanay, Rizal, Antipolo Church and various churches remain the top destinations in the region. The region has a lot more to offer, the sentimental visit in Corrigidor Island, organic farm experience in Costales Farm, Ato Belen Farm and Yoki Farm in the provinces of Laguna and Cavite, respectively.



Photo: www.sunrise.com.ph

### Peace and Security

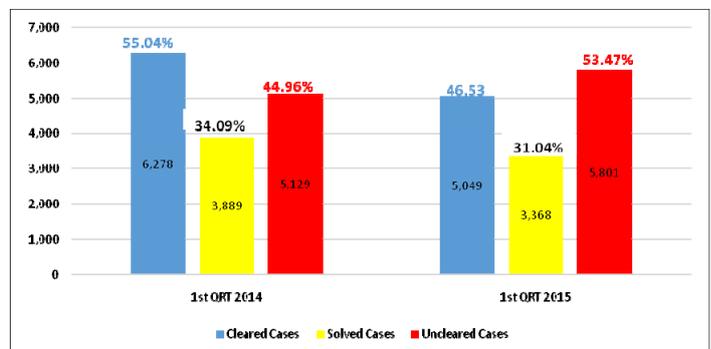
Total crime volume in Calabarzon during the first quarter of 2015 is 15,489, of which 70 percent were from PNP blotter and 28 percent from barangay cases. The 10,850 cases recorded from PNP blotter is lower by 4.88 percent compared to that in Q1 2014 with 11,407 cases. Among the provinces, Rizal recorded the highest number of cases with 3,824, followed by Laguna (3,552) and Cavite (3,341).

The crime situation during Q1 2015 shows a decrease in crime incidents as manifested by the Average Monthly Crime Rate (AMCR) of 37.27, which lowered by 31 percent compared to the AMCR during the same period last year (54.02). Statistically, there was a decrease by 24.21 percent in Index Crimes and 31.57 percent in Non-Index Crimes for this quarter.

In terms of clearance and solution efficiency, records show a decrease in clearance rating from 55.04 percent in Q1 2014 to 46.53 percent in the present quarter. Likewise, the rating for solved cases also declined to 31.04 percent in Q1 2015 from 34.09 percent in the same period last year. Consequently, uncleared cases increased during the current period with 53.47 percent compared to the 44.96 percent recorded in Q1 2014.

For this quarter, Regional Police Office in general has been effective in terms of implementation of different projects and programs that designed as a counter/preventive measures and to show the sincerity of the implementation of said various programs. However, crime statistics will expectedly shoot up due to the summer season wherein thousands of tourist are visiting different vacation spots in our region coupled with the summer vacation of all students and fiesta celebrations during the period.

Fig. 2. Clearance/Solution efficiency rating



Source: PNP Region IV-A

The implementation of anti-criminality program of the PNP consequently reflects positive crime statistics particularly in figure of Index Crimes and Non-Index Crime. These programs hopefully can have a long-standing impact on the situation even as other anti-crime programs of PNP Calabarzon are being pursued with utmost resolve.

It is, thus, recommended to continue support to the different anti-crime programs of PNP Calabarzon which needed more intensified security measures on the part of establishments and other businesses which have little or no security programs designed to preempt incursions by criminal elements/groups. The programs may have a long standing impact on the situation and institutionalization of such programs in all levels of the organization.

# RPMC BULLETIN

by Project Monitoring and Evaluation Division, NEDA Region IV-A

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter CY 2015 RPMEs Accomplishment Report

The Regional Project Monitoring Committee (RPMC) Secretariat has reviewed and consolidated various progress monitoring reports of projects implemented in the region by the national government agencies. The projects monitored were the DOT-DPWH Convergence Program, Public-Private Partnership for School Infrastructure Project (PSIP) Phase 1 of DepEd, Health Facilities Enhancement Program (HFEP) of DOH, SUMMID Calabarzon Project and Regional Government Center (RGC), among others.

The RPMC conducted its second quarter meeting on May 15, 2015. The major agenda items that were discussed by the RPMC included updates on the status of the following projects and activities:



Second quarter RPMC Meeting held on May 15, 2015 at the Calabarzon Regional Government Center, Calamba City, Laguna.

- a) Shared-Service Facility; b) Bottom-Up Budgeting projects; c) Calabarzon RGC; d) SUMMID Calabarzon project; e) Secretariat updates on LPMC Training, cPMS, and Post-Evaluation of NEDA PEP-assisted projects; f) second quarter Field Monitoring Report and third quarter field monitoring schedule; and g) PSRs Meeting.

## Field monitoring visits of various road projects in Batangas and Rizal provinces

The DOT Region IV-A, DPWH Region IV-A and NEDA Region IV-A conducted field inspection of the Taal Circumferential Road and the San Juan-Lobo-

Malabrigo Road in Batangas Province on 29 April 2015. The road projects are implemented under the DOT-DPWH Convergence Program.

### San Juan-Laiya-Lobo-Malabrigo Road

The Biga section is already completed while the concreting of Lobo-Malabrigo-San Juan section is still

ongoing. The monitoring team noted encroachment of structures on road easement, erosion of slope and shoulder and cracks along road shoulders.



(L-R): Agoncillo unclassified section 7.4 km; and Agoncillo bridge approach.

### Taal Circumferential Road

The concreting of the Talisay-Laurel-Agoncillo section is complete while the upgrading works on some portions of the Laurel-Agoncillo section are still

ongoing with overall physical accomplishment of 55-60 percent. The construction of the San Nicolas-Sta. Teresita-Alitagtag coastal road is expected to start in June 2015.



Staking out survey of road section in Bgys. Malabrigo and Balibago, Lobo.

# RPMC BULLETIN

## RPMT visits Social Infrastructure Projects in Batangas and Rizal Provinces

The Regional Project Monitoring Team (RPMT) visited the Public-Private School Infrastructure Projects (PSIP) in Rizal Province and Health Facility Enhancement Projects (HFEP) in Batangas Province on May 7-8, 2015.

### PSIP of DepEd

The PSIP Phase 1 is a P16.28 Billion project of the DepEd which involves the design, construction, maintenance, and financing of 9,300 classrooms in one and two-storey buildings in Regions I, III and IV-A

under the Build-Lease-and-Transfer scheme. The RPMT visited the Antipolo Science High School, Mayamot National High School, Marcelino Santos National High School, Sta. Cruz Elementary School, Pantay Elementary School and Jesus Cabarus Elementary School. The common challenges encountered for PSIP projects were the following: revisions on the design of the structure due to problematic project sites; delays in the construction of the school buildings; security concerns; accessibility; and delayed implementation by the subcontractors.



(Clockwise, starting from upper left): Suspended slab at Mayamot NHS (swampy location); Informal settlers at the back of Sta. Cruz Elementary School; Access issue on Marcelino Santos NHS.; and Construction suspended due to change of contractor at Jesus Cabarus Elementary School.

### HFEP of DOH

The HFEP is one of the banner programs of the Aquino Administration aimed at improving the access of people to quality health care through upgraded health facilities, improved delivery of basic and specialized health services, as well as provision of training to health professionals. DPWH handles the construction of new health facilities while DOH takes charge of the rehabilitation, renovation and extension of an existing

health facility. The RPMT visited Marasigan District Hospital and Cuenca Rural Health Unit. The following are the issues encountered in project implementation: delay in project implementation; difficulty in acquiring permits/license from the LGU/DOH; compliance to the standards of DOH; and fund constraints. The RPMT will conduct a problem solving session (PSS) to address the above-cited concerns.



L-R: Ongoing construction at Martin Marasigan District Hospital; and Unused birthing facility at the Cuenca Rural Health Unit.