there is knowledge in news
CALABARZON
Third Quarter
September 2015
The Official Newsletter of the Regional Development Council IV-A

Weaving a good life

Story on pp. 10-11

Calabarzon LGU bags most competitive municipality award /p.4

RDC checks K to 12 implementation readiness /p.5

NEDA Region IV-A adds another feather in its cap

by NEDA Region IV-A

The National Economic and Development Authority Region IV-A has been awarded as an Outstanding Partner for Report on the Regional Economic Development by the Bangko Sentral Ng Pilipinas (BSP) on August 4 during the 2015 Awards Ceremony and Appreciation Lunch for BSP Stakeholders held at the Days Hotel, Tagaytay City, Cavite.

The recognition was given to various institutions that have supported the BSP's statistical and information requirements to come-up with a comprehensive economic and financial development report.

The awardees received the "Dynamic Balance, Philippine Eagle" trophy crafted by visual artist and multi-awarded sculptor, Mr. Ferdinand Cacnio.

NEDA Region IV-A receives BSP's 2015 Outstanding Partner for Report on Regional Economic Development of the Philippines Award on August 4, 2015, Tagaytay City, Cavite. (L-R): BSP Managing Director Francisco G. Dakila, Jr.; Ms. Agnes A. Daantos and OIC-RD Luis G. Banua of NEDA Region IV-A; Monetary Board Member Juan D. De Zuniga, Jr. and Assistant Governor Gerardo S. Tison.

Monetary Board Member Juan D. De Zuniga, Jr., Managing Director Monetary Policy Sub-Sector Francisco G. Dakila, Jr. and Assistant Governor, Regional Monetary Affairs Sub-Sector Gerardo S. Tison led the recognition ceremony.

3rd Quarter 2015

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About the Cover

The cover shows one of the beneficiaries of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps). The 4Ps is one of the national government's measure to lift Filipinos out of poverty. It provides conditional cash transfers to the poorest of the poor, to improve the health, nutrition, and the education of children aged 0-18.

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On this Issue

Page 2
- NEDA Region IV-A adds another feather in its cap

Page 3
- RDC conducts 2nd Quarter Full Council Meeting

Page 4
- Calabarzon LGU bags most competitive municipality award
- TWG meets on Paete woodcarving industry

Page 5
- RDC checks K to 12 implementation readiness
- LGUs undergo Project Development Training

Page 6
- SUMMID capacitates local planners and officers on M&D
- Rizal Province gears up for mainstreaming M&D

Page 7
- The Big One: West Valley Fault
- Cavite Province launches migration and development office

Page 8-9
- Provincial News

Page 10-11
- Weaving a good life (Feature story)

Page 12
- Calabarzon welcomes new heads of agencies!
- Industry sector drives growth in Calabarzon's economy

Page 13-16
- Quarterly Regional Economic Situationer

Page 17-19
- RPMC Bulletin

Page 20
- Interview with a Volunteer Stalwart: Dr. Romulo Davide

RDC conducts 2nd Quarter Full Council Meeting

by Armina O. Espiritu, NEDA Region IV-A

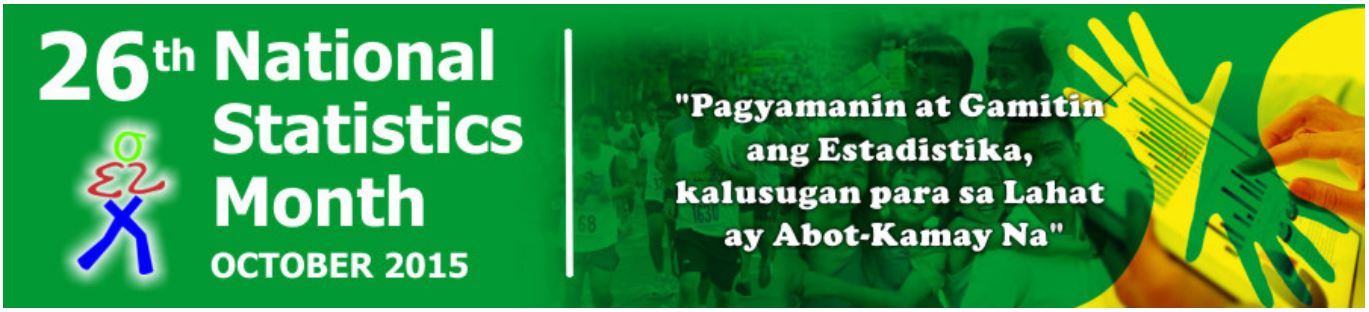
The Regional Development Council (RDC) conducted its 2nd Quarter Full Council Meeting on June 11, 2015 at the DA-STIARC, Marawoy, Lipa City.

There were 30 resolutions passed during the meeting, some are: a) Guidelines for the Regional Search for Outstanding Gender and Development Implementer; (b) DILG endorsement of Migration and Development Convergence Program to the cities and municipalities; (c) creation of a Technical Working Group on Paete Wood Carving Industry to assist the municipality of Paete in addressing the sustainability and profitability concerns of the woodcarving industry; (d) support to K to 12 program implementation; (e) Regional Nutrition Cluster for Emergencies and Disasters; and (f) Adhoc Committee on Academe-Industry Linkage.
The Council commended the City Government of Calamba for its Legislative Initiatives and Effective Implementation of Programs and Projects on Breastfeeding.

Among the projects endorsed by the Council are:
a) Marikina River Basin Masterplan;
b) Macalelon Small Reservoir Irrigation Project; and
c) Widening of Sabang and Tingga Bridges. All these are in support to the Calabarzon Regional Development Plan 2011-2016.

In support of the National Coin Recirculation Program of the Bangko Sentral Ng Pilipinas (BSP), lower denominated coins pooled by the RDC members were turned over to Dir. Tomas J. Cariño, Jr. of BSP-Lucena City Branch. The RDC members are encouraged to continue collecting denominated coins to be turned over to BSP during the succeeding RDC Full Council meetings.

The RDC recognizes the following during the meeting:
(Top, left) El Gamma Penumbra receives a plaque of recognition for bringing honor to the Calabarzon region by winning First Place in Season One of Asia's Got Talent.
(Top, right) Asec. Josefina E. Castilla-Go receives a plaque of appreciation for her valuable services and contributions to the region as former Regional Director of DILG Region IV-A and RDC member from November 2008 to May 2015.
(Bottom) Tanauan City Mustang 10 Baseball Team receives a plaque of recognition for bringing honor to the Calabarzon region as the champion in the Mustang 10-Under 2015 PONY League Asia Pacific Zone Championship.



Mayor Antonio "Ony" A. Ferrer of General Trias, Cavite (holding the red plaque) receives the top award as the most competitive municipality among the 1st and 2nd class municipalities in the Philippines in 2015 during the 3rd Regional Competitiveness Summit on July 16, 2015. With him are representatives from the local government of General Trias, Cavite, National Competitiveness Council, and regional line agencies.

Calabarzon LGU bags most competitive municipality award

by Charlie S. Dajao, DTI Region IV-A

General Trias, Cavite was awarded as the most competitive municipality among the 1st and 2nd class municipalities in the Philippines in 2015 during the 3rd Regional Competitiveness Summit held at the Philippine International Convention Center, Manila on July 16, 2015.

Four local government units from Calabarzon made it to the overall top 3.

Imus City, Cavite ranked 3rd overall among the component cities, Taytay, Rizal 3rd among 1st and 2nd class municipalities while Infanta, Quezon came 3rd place under the 3rd-6th class municipalities category.

Awards were likewise given for those in the top three in economic dynamism, government efficiency, and infrastructure facilities. Eight Calabarzon LGUs received awards in various categories during the Summit.

Under economic dynamism, Imus City, Cavite ranked 2nd among component cities while Gen. Trias ranked 1st among the 1st-2nd class municipalities.

In terms of infrastructure facilities, Dasmariñas City, Cavite ranked 2nd while Antipolo City, Rizal came in 3rd place among the component cities. Among the 1st-2nd class municipalities, Angono, Rizal was awarded as having the best infrastructure with Taytay, Rizal in 3rd place. Taal, Batangas was the most competitive in terms of infrastructure among the 3rd-6th class municipalities, Infanta, Quezon placed 3rd most competitive municipality in this category.

The National Competitiveness Council confers awards to LGUs each year to encourage them to be competitive as the foundation of being globally competitive starts with the local government.

Technical Working Group meets on Paete woodcarving industry

by Elisa I. Pandela, NEDA Region IV-A

The RDC formed a technical working group (TWG) to assist the woodcarving industry of Paete, Laguna. NEDA Region IV-A convened the first meeting on July 23, 2015 which was attended by representatives from the municipal government of Paete, DENR IV-A, DOST Laguna, DTI Laguna, Southern Luzon State Polytechnic University (SLSU) and Mr. Joselito Rodriguez, Private Sector Representative in the RDC.

The TWG agreed on the following: 1) explore bamboo as an immediate alternative raw materials and identify possible alternative wood species for woodcarving; 2) identify private lands for tree planting; 3) provide assistance on Batikulin plantation using SLSU clonal technology; 4) organize a trading and marketing office; 5) develop a website and link with other agencies or offices; 6) establish a livelihood training center; and 7) establish a tourism center to showcase local products.

Paete which was proclaimed as "The Carving Capital of the Philippines" by former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo in 2005. NEDA visited Paete on March 19, 2015 during their Tourism Circuit validation. During that visit the NEDA team interviewed members of the woodcarvers association and representatives from the local government of Paete. The Team learned that the shortage of wood due to Executive Order No. 23, "Declaring a Moratorium on the Cutting and Harvesting of Timber in the Natural and Residual Forests and Creating the Anti-Illegal Logging Task Force" has increased production cost and affected the production of woodcarvings.

These findings were reported during the second quarter meeting of the Sectoral Committee on Economic Development. The Committee recommended to the RDC that a TWG be created to look into the issues and assist the Paete Woodcarving Industry.

RDC checks K to 12 implementation readiness

by Donna Rizza Ronquillo, NEDA Region IV-A

The newly-formed RDC Ad Hoc Committee on K to 12 chaired by Dir. Diosdado M. San Antonio of DepEd Region IV-A, together with Vice-Chair Dir. Luis G. Banua of NEDA Region IV-A, conducted its organizational meeting on August 18, 2015 at the National Educators Academy of the Philippines, Malvar, Batangas. Present in the meeting were officials of 6 regional line agencies, 2 private sector representatives, 6 universities and colleges (SUCs), and 2 parents-teachers association (PTA). The LGUs were represented by Cavite Province.

Dir. San Antonio informed the body of the following: 1) updates on Senior High School preparation; 2) benefits of the SHS Voucher Program for the students and schools; 3) partnership opportunities with Higher Education Institutions and Industries; and 4) Division Action Plan on K to 12. The Division Action Plans of Quezon Province (by Dr. Tolentino Aquino) and Bacoor City (by Dr. Ruth Fuentes) were presented to gauge the readiness of the school divisions on K to 12.

Dir. San Antonio clarified the concerns of the SUCs on the deadline of filing of application for provisional permit to operate Senior High School program for school year 2016 to 2017 as well as queries on the implementation of the voucher system. He also noted the concerns of the PTA representatives as to the status of the classrooms.

Dir. Banua reported the functions of the K to 12 Committee. He also informed the body that the RDC created a technical working group (TWG) to strengthen Academe-Industry Linkages and to address the issue of mismatch of graduates with the employment demand. The TWG will likewise support the K to 12 program especially on the area of technical-vocational education.

The University of the Philippines (Los Baños) and the five state universities – Batangas State University, Cavite State University, Laguna State Polytechnic University, University of Rizal System and Southern Luzon State University as well as the representative of the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities shared their initiatives on K to 12 and expressed their support to the program.

Engr. Josephine Baquiran of the DPWH Region IV-A presented the status of the construction of classrooms in the region in response to the concerns raised by the PTAs representatives, Ms. Rowena Arellano (Division of Batangas Province) and Mr. Joseph Paluyo (Division of Antipolo City).

LGUs undergo project development training

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

NEDA Region IV-A conducted the second Project Development Training from 14 to 17 July at the Casa San Pablo, San Pablo City, Laguna. The training was attended by 17 LGUs that do not host power plants and where poverty incidence is high.

Dir. Luis G. Banua of NEDA Region IV-A (2nd row, center) with the participants and NEDA staff during the 2nd Project Development Training on July 14-17, 2015 at the Casa San Pablo, San Pablo City, Laguna. (Photo: Farhad E. Ali Asgari, NEDA Region IV-A)

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 trading center, materials recovery facility, disaster risk reduction and management facility, FMRs, river control, water systems, street lighting and procurement of equipment like backhoe. As a follow through activity, NEDA will continue assisting the LGUs in finalizing their proposals. The project proposals will be endorsed by the RDC for funding to the Department of Energy and concerned power plants in Calabarzon Region.

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.

SUMMID capacitates local planners and officers on M&D

by Rolan B. Aldovino, NEDA Region IV-A

Participants of the training of trainers on mainstreaming migration and development in local planning held in City Light Hotel, Baguio City on July 1 to 3, 2015. (Photo: Farhad E. Ali Asgari, NEDA Region IV-A)

A total of 78 local planners, budget and social welfare officers from selected local government units (LGUs) in the Calabarzon and representatives from the Committee on Migration and Development (CMD) members joined in the training of trainers (ToT) on mainstreaming migration and development (M&D) in local planning held in City Light Hotel, Baguio City on July 1 to 3, 2015.

With the objective of enhancing the capabilities of local planners and budget officers on mainstreaming M&D through the use of the M&D Local Planning Guide, the ToT aimed to increase the knowledge of participants on mainstreaming M&D into local development plans and annual investment programs, identifying the parts of development plans and investment programs where M&D policies, programs and services can be integrated, and linking LGUs with national government agencies involved in M&D initiatives.

The ToT also aimed to equip the local planners and other officers with functional adult learning techniques, and skills in facilitation and participatory methodologies in order to advocate M&D at the local level, and provide further capacity training to local government agencies and M&D stakeholders.

The training was organized and facilitated by the National Economic and Development Authority Region IV-A through the Strengthening, Upscaling and Mainstreaming International Migration and Development (SUMMID) Calabarzon Project and supported by the project's partners: UNDP Joint Migration and Development Initiative, Commission of Filipinos Overseas, Local Government Academy, Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines, and Atikha Overseas Workers and Communities Initiative, Inc.

Rizal Province gears up for mainstreaming M&D

by Lovely S. Mores, NEDA Region IV-A

The province of Rizal prepared their migration and development strategic plan on June 29, 2015 at the University of Rizal System (URS), Morong, Rizal. The activity was spearheaded by President Marita R. Canapi of URS in coordination with NEDA Region IV-A and Atikha Workers and Communities Initiatives, Inc.

A total of 50 representatives from the provincial government offices and cities and municipalities of Rizal, non-government organization and some members of the Committee on Migration and Development (CMD) Region IV-A participated in the planning workshop.

The participants prepared the M&D strategic plan of Rizal Province based on their sectoral assignments. Among the identified action plans of the province are: a) advocacy activities; b) capability building activities; c) collection of migration data; d) conduct of migration related researches; d) establishment of migration resource center; and f) development of provincial and municipal CMDs.

Several challenges were also identified during the planning workshop such as political will of the local chief executives, fund sources and availability of migration data.

The strategic planning is among the key result areas included in the implementation of the Joint Migration and Development Initiative Project in the region entitled "Strengthening, Upscaling and Mainstreaming International Migration and Development in Calabarzon."

The Big One: West Valley Fault

by OCD Region IV-A

"It is very important to instantly respond during earthquakes by practicing the duck, cover and hold approach: Hide beneath a table and hold the table during the shaking; or go to a safer position and cover the body with their hands or light objects; stay put in that position and hold on until the shaking stops before evacuating," Dir. Vicente F. Tomazar of OCD-RDRRMC IV-A explained.

Earthquake preparedness has come to the fore following the launch of the Valley Fault System (VFS) Atlas by the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology. The Atlas is a handbook that shows details of areas where the VFS runs through.

As part of the activities for the National Disaster Consciousness Month, the municipality of Carmona, Cavite has been chosen as the Calabarzon regional ceremonial venue for the 3rd Quarter National Simultaneous Earthquake Drill. Various damages, injuries, and response strategies were simulated such as collapsed structure and high angles search and rescue, rapid damage assessment and needs analysis, incident command system, hazardous materials management, camp management, and field hospital establishment, among others.

"The purpose of this exercise is to test, evaluate, and validate the disaster response plans that are in place for the local government units. These disaster response plans, when implemented properly, will go a long way in saving lives during disasters," said Dir. Tomazar.

The OCD led the earthquake drill which was participated by DSWD, DILG, DPWH, DOH, DOST, BFP, AFP, PNP, DEPED, PRC, Provincial Government of Cavite Office of Public Safety and the MDRRMC of Carmona, Cavite.

Cong. Roy M. Loyola of the 5th District of Cavite stated that, "By having this kind of drill, we increase our knowledge and familiarize ourselves with the government's emergency procedures. Through this, we can also realize the gaps in the plans and work on the things that what we need to improve on as we move forward. Based on what we've seen today, I feel that the exercise today can be considered a great success."

Cavite Province launches migration and development office

by Provincial Information and Community Affairs Department - Cavite

Some highlights during the inauguration ceremonies.

The Provincial Government of Cavite launched the Cavite Migration and Development Office on July 28, 2015 located at the ground floor of the Bahay Sanayan Bldg., Provincial Capitol Compound, Trece Martires City. The ribbon-cutting ceremony was led by Board Member Irene C. Bencito and Dir. Luis Banua of National Economic and Development Authority Region IV-A.

Mr. Alvin S. Mojica, OIC- Provincial Social Welfare Development Office gave his opening message while Mr. Jesus I. Barrera, Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator gave an overview of migration in Cavite. The launching was attended by representatives from Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, Department of Labor and Employment, department heads and employees of the provincial government, non-government organizations and local government units.

The Cavite Migration and Development Office's main objective is to address the needs of Caviteño Overseas workers and their family and to provide programs and services for them.

Provincial News

Cavite's e-Provincial Scholarship Program, an old program in a modern way

by Anne Minnette Dastas, PPDO Cavite

The mission of Gov. Juanito Victor C. Remulla is to improve the standard of living in Cavite. One way to achieve this is by enhancing the capability of the people, especially the youth. He sees quality education as a way to progress. The Provincial Scholarship Program (PSP) aims to support academically qualified tertiary students whose families are incapable of supporting their education to finish their studies.

Modernizing the mode of service delivery, the Provincial Government of Cavite incorporated online processes in the provision of scholarship, making it paperless, more systematic, transparent, effective and efficient. Information about the program can be viewed at their official website at www.cavite.gov.ph/psp.

The online registration allows the students to save time and effort in lining up for scholarship application. Qualified applicants are informed thru the website and SMS to submit required documents for further evaluation. The final list of "Isko ng Lalawigan" is recommended by the Scholarship Committee to the Provincial Governor for approval. All payments are directly given to awardees.

According to the Chairman of the PSP Secretariat, Mr. Alvin S. Mojica, "This system is almost fully electronic, client-centered, very convenient and

Cavite Governor Juanito Victor C. Remulla, together with the Provincial Scholarship Program (PSP) team headed by Mr. Alvin Mojica, awarded scholarship assistance to 1,467 qualified students in the province amounting to a total of P5.6M on March 14, 2015 at Cinema 2, SM City Dasmariñas.

demonstrates the highest degree of transparency and accountability on all processes from application to the distribution of the scholarship grants. This program is also our way of giving back directly to our fellow Caviteños, especially the youth, the taxes paid by the people in the form of scholarship. We believe that if they are able to continue their college education, equip themselves academically and become productive and contributive citizen of our province, they will be our active partners in maintaining our status as Cavite: First Class, World Class."

Since its onset in 2010, the project has already provided a total of 20,789 scholarships and educational assistance in the amount of P64.8M. The awarding of scholarship is done per semester.

Batangas Provincial Gov't, LGU launches housing project

by Elizabeth P. Dinglasan, PPDO Batangas

Gov. Vilma Santos Recto graced the ground breaking ceremony of Jowivil Crater's View Subdivision in Brgy. Makina, Balete, Batangas on August 12, 2015.

The housing project was initiated by the local government unit of Balete, Batangas headed by Mayor Leovino "Joven" Hidalgo and Vice Mayor Wilson Maralit together with the Sangguniang Bayan through the assistance of Local Housing Board and Provincial Government of Batangas to ensure the safety and security of the residents of the Barangay Calawit, an island barangay in Taal Lake. The blessing and ribbon cutting of the model house also took place.

The project is a flagship project for the residents of Barangay Calawit and one of the barangays of the Municipality of Balete which aims to provide assurance

Governor Vilma Santos Recto and Mayor Leovino Hidalgo led the ground breaking ceremony of Jowivil Crater's View Subdivision at Brgy. Makina, Balete, Batangas in August 12, 2015.
(E. Ilustre/L. Hernandez/Capitol Photo)

for their safety and security from possible Taal Volcano eruption. There are 302 housing units to be constructed in the said subdivision for 207 families. Provincial Government of Batangas funded P9.3 Million land acquisition for the project through the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council under the Calamity Fund. The local government will also provide livelihood projects to the residents.

Rizal Provincial Gov't, AFP and PNP signs MOU

by Rizal Provincial Planning and Development Office

The Provincial Government of Rizal, the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and the Philippine National Police, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) declaring Rizal Province as Conflict Manageable and Ready for Further Development Area on July 6, 2015.

In her speech, Gov. Rebecca Ynares lauded the concerted efforts of the AFP, PNP, the Provincial Government and other stakeholders in Rizal for the improvement of peace and security situation in the province. She said, "The realization of lasting peace and security in the province are true aspirations of all Rizaleños. Our deepest gratitude to the AFP, PNP and other stakeholders in the province."

She added that peace resulted to the unhampered implementation of development programs benefitting the constituents. The signing of the MOU is a milestone achievement which signifies a new era of peace and prosperity in the province. This proves the ability of the local government of Rizal to protect its territory and its people with the aid of the said government agencies, also ensuring progress in the area.

Gov. Rebecca "Nini" Ynares together with the Armed Forces of the Philippines represented by LTGEN Ricardo Visaya, SOLCOM Commander, AFP and Philippine National Police PCSUPT Rolando Felix formally signed the Memorandum of Understanding (Declaring Rizal Province as Conflict Manageable and Ready for Further Development (CMRFD) Area).

Quezon launches the First 1000 days program

by Provincial Information Office - Quezon

Quezon's First 1000 days or Q1k was launched in August 2015. Q1k is designed to fill the gaps on the implementation of national and provincial programs on maternal and child care, immunization, nutrition and sanitation focused on the antenatal, post natal, neonatal and infant care with the core approach of systematic interaction among targeted 1000 pregnant women and their consequent 1000 newborn babies in the pilot municipalities of Buenavista, Catanauan, General Nakar, Jomalig, Lopez, Mauban, San Andres, San Antonio, San Francisco, Tagkawayan, Tiaong, and Unisan.

Quezon Province has identified the challenges to be related to the family's socio-economic constraints in accessing facility-based delivery and the poor health-seeking behavior of mothers and caregivers of children under 5. The prevalence of home deliveries, especially in far-flung barangays, as well as the poor quality of skilled birth attendance and low adoption of the Essential Newborn Care (ENC) protocol also make for a high mortality rate. Moreover, poor education on the part of the parents regarding breastfeeding and proper complementary feeding results in children growing up malnourished and having irreversible physical and mental inadequacies.

Gov. David "Jay-jay" Suarez leads the ribbon-cutting of the Q1K Office on August 10, 2015. The Q1k Office is located at the Quezon Convention Center.

Weaving a good life

by DSWD Region IV-A Social Marketing Unit

Leonor Conde, 52, and daughter Rose Anne, 16, residents of Brgy. Sisilmin in Cavinti, Laguna Province, weave together a hat, which they'll sell for ten pesos each. All her life, Rose Anne experienced rushing home from school to help her mother and five other siblings in weaving hats and selling them so they'll have money for dinner and when lucky, for their school needs the following day.

As a student, Rose Anne is grateful that their family became a beneficiary of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program in 2012. According to her, it provided for their school needs, which made life easier for them. Hence, she can already allot time to read her books and study her lessons at night. This made good results in the end because last March 2015, she graduated as class salutatorian of her high school class. This, Rose Anne shared, is the start of helping her family get out of their situation and give every member a good life in the future.

At the end of every school day, Rose Anne Conde rushes home to weave hats.

Sixteen-year-old Rose Anne, a resident of Brgy. Sisilmin in Cavinti, Laguna Province, learned the art of weaving hats made of pandan leaves at an early age of seven. Weaving hats is her family's main source of income.

Instead of spending time for her schoolwork, Rose Anne together with her siblings help her parents in weaving hats so they can buy food and things needed for school. However, for the past two years, she no longer had to do this. Now, she has time to read her books and do her assignments.

"Naging masigla ako sa aking pag-aaral at dito ko natutunang mag-ambisyon at lubos pang magsumikap para mabago ang takbo ng aming buhay," Rose Anne shared.

For Rose Anne, this small change in her everyday routine opened big opportunities. Last March, she graduated as salutatorian of her high school class. And what makes her close to her dream is not just her desire to go to college but her parents' commitment towards supporting her all the way.

Change of course

Rose Anne gratefully acknowledges the change that of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program has brought to their family last December 2012.

The Pantawid Pamilya program, implemented by the Department of Social Welfare and Development, provides conditional cash subsidies to qualified poor families for the health and educational needs of children age zero to 18.

"Noong dumating ang Pantawid, napakalaking tulong nito sa pamilya namin. Napakalaking bagay na 'yung pambaon sa school naming magkakapatid ay hindi na kukunin sa aming kikitain mula sa sombrero," said Rose Anne.

Rose Anne's mother, Leonor, 52, relates how they had to work together as a family to earn enough for their needs.

"Maaga kong tinuruang maglala ng sombrero ang mga anak ko dahil iyon lang ang aming pinagkukunan ng ikabubuhay. Kadalasan, kapagtulong-tulong kami, maswerte na kaming kikita ng P130 sa isang araw. Iyon ang ginagamit naming pambili ng pagkain at pambaon na rin nila sa school," Leonor shared.

"Kung hindi sa suporta ng Pantawid at sa pagtulong nito na magkaroon kami ng ambisyon, okay na sana sa amin basta makakain lang sa isang araw. Kahit laitin kami ng mga kapitbahay, ayos lang," Leonor added.

Rose Ann is being interviewed during the recognition of Pantawid high school graduates on April 2015 in Araneta Coliseum, Quezon City.

Rose Anne recalls that whenever their stomachs would grumble, her mother would encourage them to weave faster so they can immediately sell the hats so they can buy food. And since the family struggled to keep food on the table, buying school supplies was even more difficult. She noticed how her mother became sickly because of spending day and night weaving so they can have money.

The Pantawid Pamilya program gave the whole family hope—that they can work together to get their family out of this situation. The financial assistance from the program eased their burden, and the children were given time to spend for their studies, instead of weaving hats.

For Rose Anne, however, she is more thankful that Pantawid Pamilya not only fueled her desire to study harder but also taught her parents to dream for them and support their education.

Today, Leonor is happy seeing her children determined to go to school. She is sad, however, that her eldest Roland, who is only 19, had to work after his high school graduation to help them. Still, she is proud of her son for his desire to help his siblings finish their studies and have better lives.

Rachelle, the second in the family, finished a vocational course with Roland's help. Rose Anne, being the third child, will be supported by her parents and her two elder siblings for her college education, especially after seeing her potential when she graduated as salutatorian.

"Igagapang namin s'ya sa kanyang kolehiyo. Hindi kami nawawalan ng pag-asa na sa aming pagsisikap ay makakatapos s'ya," Leonor said with conviction.

A clearer tomorrow

Rose Anne cannot control her tears when she recalls how she was bullied as a child because they were poor.

"Naranasan ko kung paano kami maliitin ng mga tao. 'Yung ibang kaklase ko sa school, dina-down ako dahil hindi kasing ganda ng porma nila ang mga damit ko," she shared, recalling how her clothes would always be 'hand-me-downs' from relatives or neighbors.
For Rose Anne, these people have become her inspiration to excel in school and help her family to finally get up.

"Sinisikap ko po talagang mag-aral nang mabuti para hindi na kami maliitin. Pag-iigihan ko pa sa kolehiyo para maging teacher ako. Kahit di sakto ang allowance ko, gagawa ako ng paraan para makatapos ako," shared Rose Anne, who plans to find a part time job to support her education.

When she becomes a teacher, Rose Anne promises to help the rest of her siblings, especially for their college education.

"Hindi ko sukat-akailain na nagka-ambisyon kaming lahat, 'yan talaga 'yung ipinagpapasalamat ko nang malaki sa Pantawid. Kami ay patuloy na magsisikap dahil wala kaming mararating kung magiging tamad kami," Leonor shared.

After finishing college, Rose Anne imagines rushing home again seeing every member of her family happy—without the burden of having to weave day and night just so they'll have something on the table. She knows that her hard work and determination in the next few years will be the key towards making this vision a reality.

Calabarzon welcomes new heads of agencies!

Dr. Milo O. Placino
Southern Luzon State University

Dr. Placino is a professional mechanical engineer with master's degree in Engineering Education and Business Administration. He obtained his PhD in Technology Education from Rizal Technological University. He has acquired administrative and leadership experience in the areas of Administration, Finance, Research, Extension, Production and to other projects initiated by the University.

Dir. Corazon I. Flores, MD, MPH, CESE
DOH Region IV-A

Dir. Flores was trained as a medical technologist. After medical school, she promptly became part of the first batch of the Doctors to the Barrios Programs as Rural Health Physician. She took up her Masters Degree in Public Health to further solidify her education, experience, and expertise in health systems development. She also equipped herself with various health leadership and technical skills.

Dir. Yogi Filemon Ruiz, CESE
PDEA Region IV-A

Dir. Ruiz is a graduate of PDEA Academy Class "Unang Sinag" in camp Castañeda, Silang, Cavite. He recently underwent the Narcotics Unit Commander's Course at the Law Enforcement Academy in Bangkok, Thailand sponsored by the US Drug Enforcement Administration. He is a recipient of various commendations and awards by the agency and the community.

Industry sector drives growth in Calabarzon's economy

by John Joseph C. Broñola, PSA Region IV-A

The industry sector, comprising 62.1 percent of the region's total output or gross value added, contributed much to the growth in the economy of the region as reported by Interim Regional Director Rosalinda P. Bautista of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) Region IV-A during the press conference held on July 30, 2015 at RSM Lutong Bahay and Garden Restaurant located at Brgy. Real, Calamba City. Dir. Bautista reported that the economy of the region as estimated by the Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) grew by 5.1 percent in 2014.

Services accounted for 32.2 percent while Agriculture, Hunting, Forestry and Fishery contributed only 5.7 percent to the region's economic performance.

The industry sector stellar performance was due to manufacturing growing from 6.7 percent in 2013 to 7.1 percent in 2014. On the other hand, Agriculture, Hunting, Forestry and Fishery pulled down the economic performance of Calabarzon by 0.1 percentage point. Typhoon Glenda, Coconut Scale Insect Infestation and the fish kills caused the decline. Dir. Bautista commented that if the region was not damaged by Typhoon Glenda, the regional economic growth would have been higher.

Interim Assistant National Statistician (IANS) for Macroeconomic Accounts Services Raymundo J. Talento shared during the open forum that in 2013 the region exhibited a high growth rate, particularly in Financial Intermediation and Real Estate, Renting and Business activities which had double-digit growth. It is hard to sustain the following year, thus, a slowdown in 2014. But he was ecstatic that "... given the slowdown of the economy of Region IV-A in 2014, most likely the (region's) economy can (will) accelerate again."

Talento also explained that based on the traditional concept of economic growth, he believes that because of the strong output of the Industry sector in Region IV-A, it is easy to jump to Services which supports industries like Manufacturing, Mining and Quarrying, Construction and even the Agricultural sector.

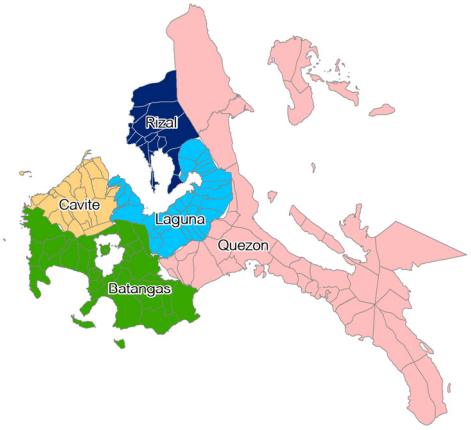
In addition, National Economic and Development Authority Region IV-A Director Luis G. Banua, mentioned during the open forum that "peace and order is very important (to attain economic growth) since chaos affects investor sentiment." Likewise, he also commented on the preparation for the ASEAN Integration, admitting that several guidelines are being prepared but the difficulty is that some of the guidelines are still being started yet the ASEAN Integration is already ongoing. He added that economies of scale can be experienced in production if we could sell our products to more people. The primary challenge is how the country can sell its products to our ASEAN counterparts.

The news conference was a simultaneous activity of the PSA in all its regional offices nationwide. The PSA is mandated to spearhead the GRDP estimation annually.

Regional Economic Situationer

April-June 2015

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



The Second Quarter of 2015 showed relatively better performance compared to the previous quarter and the same period last year. The inflation rate, employment indicators, production of rice and other prime commodities and tourist arrival are on the upward trend. Crime indices also showed marked improvement.

Prices and Inflation

Compared with the same period last year, inflation has remained stable for the past two quarters of the year. The average inflation rate showed a 0.1 percentage point decrease from 1.3 percent in the first quarter to 1.2 percent in the current period.

Prices & Inflation	2nd Qtr 2015	1st Qtr 2015	2nd Qtr 2014	Trends	
				Quarter on Quarter	Year on Year
Average Inflation Rate (%)	1.2	1.3	4.1	↓	↓
Average PPP (in Peso)	0.72	0.71	0.72	↑	=

Source: PSA

Prices & Inflation	2nd Qtr 2015	1st Qtr 2015	2nd Qtr 2014	Trends	
	(In index points)			Quarter on Quarter	Year on Year
Average Consumer Price Index (CPI)	139.7	139.9	138.0	↓	↑
• Food & non-alcoholic beverages	156.5	157.7	151.4	↓	↑
• Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	200.1	198.4	192.8	↑	↑
• Clothing and footwear	135.6	135.1	132.5	↑	↑
• Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	123.8	123.7	128.1	↑	↓
• Furnishings, HH eqpt and routine maintenance of the house	132.0	131.3	128.6	↑	↑
• Health	139.9	139.9	138.0	=	↑
• Transport	124.0	123.1	124.6	↑	↓
• Communication	95.2	95.2	95.2	=	=
• Recreation and culture	112.4	112.4	112.0	=	↑
• Education	147.3	146.0	140.1	↑	↑
• Restaurants & miscellaneous goods & services	138.6	138.5	136.4	↑	↑

Source: PSA

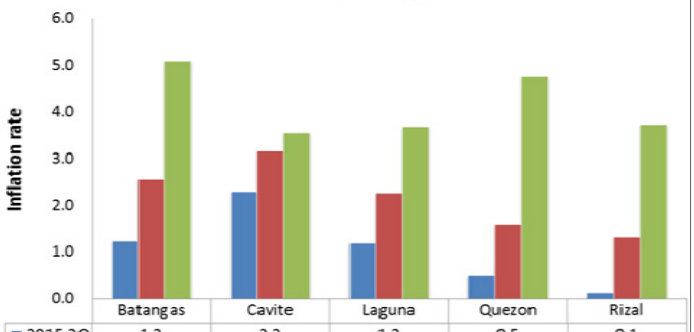
With a slight decrease in the average prices of consumer goods and services this quarter compared with the first quarter of this year, the average purchasing power of the peso slightly increased to 72 centavos from 71 centavos. On a year-on-year basis, the value is retained at 72 centavos.

Calabarzon's average consumer price index (CPI) in the second quarter of 2015 reflected a decrease of 0.2 quarter-on-quarter, but is 1.7 index points higher compared to the same period last year. The decrease in the average CPI despite the general increase of prices for almost all commodities is due to the decrease of prices of heavily weighted food and non-alcoholic beverage index.

Across provinces, Batangas, Cavite and Laguna registered the highest average inflation rate at 1.2 percent, 2.3 percent and 1.2 percent, respectively.

Cavite registered the highest inflation rate at 2.8 percent primarily due to the increases in alcoholic beverages and tobacco while Rizal recorded the lowest inflation rate at -0.4 percent contributed mainly by the decrease in communication.

Figure 1. Inflation rate by Province Calabarzon:Q2 and Q1 2015, and Q1 2014



	Batangas	Cavite	Laguna	Quezon	Rizal
2015 2Q	1.2	2.3	1.2	0.5	0.1
2015 1Q	2.6	3.2	2.3	1.6	1.3
2014 2Q	5.1	3.6	3.7	4.8	3.7

Source: PSA

Labor and Employment

Labor & Employment	2nd Qtr 2015	1st Qtr 2015	2nd Qtr 2014	Trends	
				Quarter on Quarter	Year on Year
Population 15 years and above (No.)	8,563	8,509	8,424	↑	↑
Labor Force Participation Rate (%)	65.1	64.4	65.8	↑	↓
Employment Rate (%)	92.1	91.4	91.0	↑	↑
Unemployment Rate (%)	7.9	8.6	9.0	↓	↓
Underemployment Rate (%)	16.5	18.4	17.9	↓	↓

Source: PSA

The labor force participation rate or the percentage of the 15 years old and over population who are employed or are looking for work was slightly up to 65.1 percent during the period from 64.4 percent in the first quarter. This is partly due to the end of the school season when more students have just graduated while other students are looking for summer jobs.

Employment rate improved to 92.1 percent from 91.4 percent recorded in the first quarter of 2015. Year-on-year, employment rate was also higher by 1.1 percentage points compared to the 91.0 percent in the same period last year.

The conduct of DOLE's Labor Day Job Fairs in different parts of the region which resulted to 2,460 applicants hired on the spot, as well as other job fair activities conducted during the summer period, may have contributed to the improvement in the employment rate in the second quarter of the year.

Labor & Employment	2nd Qtr 2015	1st Qtr 2015	2nd Qtr 2014	Trends	
				Quarter on Quarter	Year on Year
RETRENCHMENT					
No. of Establishments	352	328	14	↑	↑
No. of Employees Affected	13,146	8,337	45	↑	↑
SHUTDOWN					
No. of Establishments	39	27	7	↑	↑
No. of Employees Affected	1,129	655	2,306	↑	↓

Source: DOLE

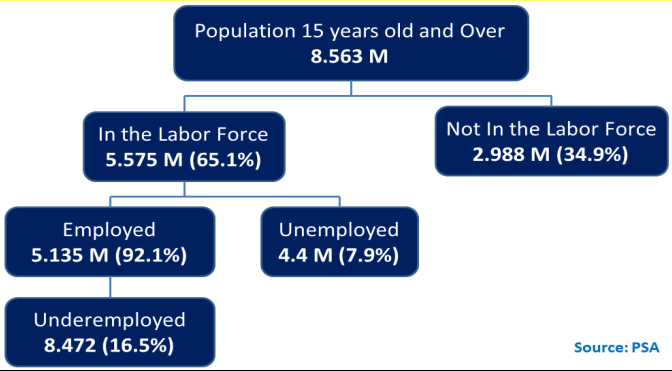
The number of retrenchments in the region increased to 352 from 328 recorded in the previous quarter. This affected 13,146 employees, more than 57 percent higher than that in the first quarter of the year. Year-on-year, the number of retrenchments for the second quarter is far higher compared to the 45 cases recorded in the same period last year. The most common economic reasons on retrenchment given by employers for termination of workers are the following: redundancy of workers (42 percent), lack of market or slump in demand (21 percent), and reorganization or downsizing (12 percent).

There were also 39 cases of shutdown establishments recorded during the second quarter of 2015, which affected 1,129 employees in the region. These figures are higher than the 27 cases of shutdowns and 655 affected employees noted in the previous quarter. However, the current number of employees affected by shutdown is lower by 51 percent from its record of 2,306 employees in the same period last year. The most common economic reasons given by employers for termination of workers include financial loss (54 percent), lack of market or slump in demand (31 percent), and change in management/merger (10 percent).

The rates of unemployment and underemployment slowed down in the second quarter of 2015. Unemployment rate decreased to 7.9 percent from 8.6 percent in the previous quarter.

Underemployment rate or those who are employed but are still looking for additional work reduced by 1.7 percentage points from 18.4 percent recorded in the first quarter to 16.5 percent in the current quarter. Year-on-year, the rates of unemployment and underemployment slowed down compared to their corresponding 9.0 percent and 17.9 percent performances in the same period last year, respectively. The reduction of underemployment rate indicates improving quality of work or more of the employed workforce are contented with their current work.

Figure 2: Distribution of Labor Force by Employment Status (2Q, 2015)



Source: PSA

Agriculture and Fishery

Rice production inched up by 46 percent on a quarter on quarter basis which is due to increase in area harvested for both irrigated and rainfed rice. The increase in rice production might have affected the general decline of prices of food commodities.

The province of Laguna contributed most of the increase in production in which the quarter on quarter harvest increased by 266.39 percent. The Provinces of Quezon and Rizal also posted positive rice production performance. The provincial performance generally posted increase in production since this quarter coincides with the harvest season.

The year on year data showed an increase of 14 percent in production, this was contributed mostly by Quezon

Agri & Fisheries	2nd Qtr 2015	1st Qtr 2015	2nd Qtr 2014	Trends	
	(Production volume in m.t.)			Quarter on Quarter	Year on Year
Rice	**126,660**	**86,875**	**111,555**	↑	↑
• Irrigated	111,694	67,778	103,082	↑	↑
• Rainfed/ Upland	14,966	19,097	8,473	↓	↓
Corn	**7,714.00**	**18,073**	**5,177**	↓	↑

Source: PSA

Agri & Fisheries	2nd Qtr 2015	1st Qtr 2015	2nd Qtr 2014	Trends	
	(Production volume in m.t.)			Quarter on Quarter	Year on Year
Calamansi	60,871.99	2,845.09	458.85	↑	↑
Coconut	249,396.20	243,977.20	263,402.94	↑	↓
Banana	37,553.49	8,522.04	47,877.42	↑	↓
Coffee	99.83	1,962.48	200.13	↓	↓
Sugarcane	452,945.94	1,143,117.83	323,589.11	↓	↓
Pineapple	4,645.03	10,679.36	58,973.32	↓	↓
Cassava	18,136.96	15,520.10	17,511.98	↑	↑
Onion	2,062.53	15,466.80	2,393.32	↓	↓
Tomato	6,631.48	11,911.47	7,188.81	↓	↓

Source: PSA

province as the largest rice producing province in the region. The year-on-year uptrend in production is due to increase in area harvested by 16 percent.

Corn posted reduced production by half from Q1 to Q2. The overall decline in production on quarter-on-quarter basis is due to decrease in area harvested also by half compared to the previous quarter. However, compared to the same period last year, corn production improved by 49 percent. The increase was contributed mostly by high production performance of yellow corn from the Province of Batangas.

The year on year decrease in coconut production is due to lower demand from coconut processing plants brought about by the declining price of coconut oil in the world market.

Cattle production inched up by 10.56 percent or 1,493 slaughtered heads in abattoirs during the quarter while carabao production declined by 5.20 percent or 269 heads. The increase in demand for cattle can be attributed to increase in demand for beef and value adding activities such as meat processing. While there was decrease in production of carabao, year on year data showed that there is sustained demand for carabao in the region.

Hog production posted more than 10 percent increment from first quarter to second quarter. Batangas remains to be the major producer of poultry products while Cavite is the leading province in cattle and hog production in the region. Chicken volume of production was lower by 16.88 percent and 6.96 percent on quarter on quarter and year-on-year, respectively.

Agri & Fisheries	2nd Qtr 2015	1st Qtr 2015	2nd Qtr 2014	Trends	
	(In number of heads)			Quarter on Quarter	Year on Year
Animals Slaughtered/ Dressed in Abattoirs					
•Cattle	15,631	15,387	16,450	↑	↓
•Carabao	4,902	5,205	4,838	↓	↑
•Goat	617	749	656	↓	↓
•Hog	503,689	463,933	434,055	↑	↑
•Chicken	16,526,906	18,639,332	17,763,306	↓	↓

Source:PSA

Agri & Fisheries	2nd Qtr 2015	1st Qtr 2015	2nd Qtr 2014	Trends	
	(Volume of production in m.t.)			Quarter on Quarter	Year on Year
Fisheries	**93,836.6**	**88,134.2**	**92,445.2**	↑	↑
• Commercial	22,617.7	17,284.4	20,221.4	↑	↑
• Marine Municipal	10,004.4	10,646.6	11,255.4	↓	↓
• Inland Municipal	19,029.7	20,446.8	18,958.0	↓	↑
• Aquaculture	42,184.9	39,756.4	42,010.4	↑	↑

Source: PSA

Fisheries sub-sector recorded a positive performance. Commercial fisheries produced a total of 22,617.70 MT in the second quarter of 2015 posting a 30.81 percent increase in production from last quarter's 17, 290 MT. A 1.51 percent increment from the last year's production of 20, 221.38 MT, was recorded. Among the contributing factors to the positive performance of commercial fisheries includes continuous fishing operation and increased fishing activities.

The region's overall aquaculture production increased by 6.11 percent on quarter on quarter basis and sustained production at 0.42 percent compared to the same period last year. The uptrend in production were attributed to abundant supply and harvest season.

On quarter-on-quarter basis, municipal fishing went down by 5.61 percent or 1,726.35 MT from the previous quarter. The decrease in fish catch was due to unfavourable weather conditions for marine and inland municipal fishing.

Tourism

Partial tourist arrival report covering the provinces of Batangas, Cavite and Rizal registered an increase by 97 percent in the second quarter of 2015 against the previous quarter, and 18 percent compared with the 2nd quarter of 2014. Almost 85 percent of the tourists in the region are same day tourists although the overnight tourists increased by 131 percent or 343,355 visitors in the

Tourism (Covers Batangas, Cavite and Rizal Only)	2nd Qtr 2015	1st Qtr 2015	2nd Qtr 2014	Trends	
	(Number of tourists)			Quarter on Quarter	Year on Year
TOTAL Tourist Arrivals	4,111,017	2,083,064	3,488,579	↑	↑
• Overnight	604,296	260,941	460,624	↑	↑
• Domestic	578,419	228,942	439,688	↑	↑
• Foreign	25,877	31,999	246,166	↓	↓
• Same day	3,506,721	1,822,123	3,027,955	↑	↑
• Domestic	3,483,069	1,777,478	2,994,937	↑	↑
• Foreign	23,652	44,645	33,018	↓	↓

Source: PSA

second quarter of 2015 compared to the previous quarter. Among the three provinces, Batangas registered the highest number of overnight tourists accounting for 355,085 or 19 percent of the total overnight tourists. Likewise, same day tourists increased by 92 percent or 1,684,598 visitors in Q2 2015 while it increased by 16 percent on the same quarter of the previous year.

Almost all or 96 percent of the tourists are domestic. Most of the foreign tourists coming from European countries enjoyed diving activities in Nasugbu, Mabini and Pico de Loro in Batangas while the golf courses in Cavite and Batangas are frequently visited by the Koreans mostly for their golf activities.

The increase in tourist arrivals may be attributed to the active participation of the local tourism offices in the Philippine travel mart. In this event, the provinces have the opportunity to showcase their tourism packages, travel care services and facilities associated with tourism industry. Likewise, the efforts of the local travel agency in coming up an affordable and attractive two-day tour package contributed in the increase of tourist arrivals.

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 although the region has a lot more to offer, the pristine white sand in Cagbalete, organic farm experience in Costales Farm, Ato Belen Farm and Yoki Farm in the provinces of Quezon, Cavite and Laguna.

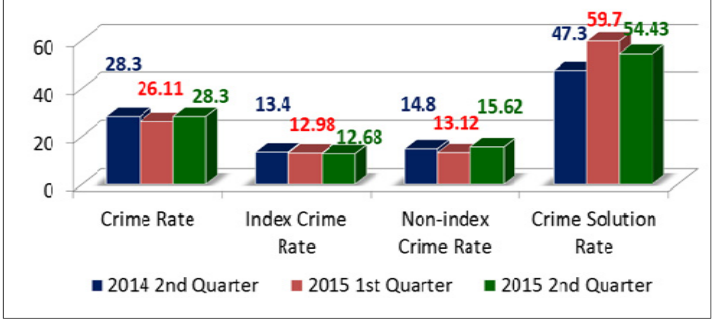
Tourism data collection for the region especially for day tourists remains a challenge. Irregular submission of tourism data by the tourism offices and establishments, and tourism attraction facilities is still a problem.

Peace and Security

The crime situation in the region during the second quarter of this year has slightly increased compared with the first quarter mainly due to the increase in non-index crime rates. The second quarter non-index crime rate was recorded at 15.62 percent, 2.5 percentage points higher than that in the first quarter while the index crime rate is slightly lower by 0.3 percentage point at 12.68 percent compared to 12.98 percent in the previous year. This may be attributed to the launching of *SOP OPLAN Lambat-Sibat* or the Philippine National Police Operating Procedures in Managing Police Operations. *OPLAN Lambat-Sibat* has intensified the police visibility in the region which might have prevented the crime incidents. It also heightened the conduct police operations thus more perpetrators of gambling, possession of firearms and other non-index crimes were halted and recorded.

On the other hand, crime solution rate for the second quarter is at 54.43 percent and has improved by 7.1 percentage points compared to the same quarter of last year. But, this is slightly lower than the 59.7 percent recorded in the first quarter of the same year. It is important to note that crime solution rate per quarter may change when a crime filed under the quarter was solved in another quarter or even in another year.

Figure 4: Crime Indeces
Calabarzon Region: First and Second Quarter 2015 and First Quarter 2014



Prospects and Challenges

The region would benefit with the improved outlook on the Philippine economy as multinational companies in the region are expected to expand their investments. The effect of the coming Christmas Season will increase spending starting third quarter to fourth quarter of the year. Remittances of oversees Filipinos are expected to rise in the next coming months in time for the Christmas Season and due to other seasonal activities such as closing and opening of school for most of the tertiary institutions.

The lower CPI for food will have positive effect on food consumption especially among the low income earners. Note, however, that prices for all other commodities are generally on the rise thus affecting the ability of households to meet their basic needs especially on education and housing.

With the PNP's initiatives, the region is expected to have lower crime rate for the next quarters adding to the attractiveness of the region as tourist and investment destination.

With the occurrence of typhoons and other natural hazards, agriculture productivity especially on crops and fisheries will likely be affected. Thus, the need for government to speed up efforts towards building a resilient agriculture sector.

RPMC Bulletin

3rd Quarter CY 2015 RPMES Accomplishment Report

The Regional Project Monitoring Committee (RPMC) conducted its third quarter meeting on August 14, 2015 at the RDC Conference Room, Calamba City, Laguna.

The major agenda items that were discussed include updates on the implementation status of the following projects and activities: a) Bottom-Up Budgeting; b) DOT- DPWH Convergence; c) Bulk Water Supply Projects of Laguna and Dasmariñas Water Districts; d) Public Market Redevelopment Project of Tanauan City; e) Imus River Flood Risk Management Project; f) Priority Projects of Rizal and Batangas provinces; and g) Regional Government Center in Calamba City.

Likewise, the Secretariat reported on the following activities: a) 3rd Quarter Field Monitoring Report and 4th Quarter Field Monitoring Schedule; b) Problem Solving Session on Health Facility Enhancement Program; and c) updates on Local Project Monitoring Committee Training, Calabarzon Project Monitoring System (cPMS), and Post-Evaluation of NEDA Productivity Enhancement Project-assisted projects.

RPMC conducts field monitoring visits in Laguna and Quezon Provinces

by Luningning D. Llames, NEDA Region IV-A

The Calabarzon Regional Project Monitoring Team (RPMT) conducted field monitoring visits of the Laguna de Bay Institutional Strengthening and Community Participation (LISCOP) Subproject in Liliw, Laguna and the Quipot Irrigation Project in Tiaong, Quezon on August 4 to 5, 2015.

The RPMT is composed of DILG IV-A, Office of the President-Presidential Manangement Staff, Laguna and Quezon Provincial Planning and Development Office, RDC-PSRs Engr. Ladislao Andal, Mr. Eduardo Nicolas and Ms. Josephine Parilla and NEDA Region IV-A.

LISCOP Subproject

The P14 million Ecotourism Enhancement Project of the Municipality of Liliw, Laguna consist of a canopy structure and 3-storey main building. The second floor of the building is used as tourism information office while the third floor is being fitted to house a museum that will showcase Liliw's historical archives on footwear and tourism industries. The municipality applied for bridge financing under the municipal development fund office to cover variation orders amounting to P1.3million.

The canopy structure.

3-storey main building.

Quipot Irrigation Project

A P999.5million project of the National Irrigation Administration IV-A was endorsed by the Calabarzon RDC on December 18, 2014. The project aims to increase agricultural production from 2.80 tons/ha to 5 tons/ha during wet season and 2.60 tons/ha to 5.2 tons/ha during dry season in order to increase farmer's income and uplift the standard of living. The project covers the municipalities of Tiaong, San Antonio, Candelaria and Sariaya in Quezon Province and Municipality of San Juan in Batangas Province. Target completion date of the project is on December 2016.

RPMC Bulletin

Ongoing construction of the diversion dam (65.37% completed).

Ongoing construction of the main canal (20.23% completed).

PSIP I Project

The RPMT, together with the Monitoring and Evaluation Staff of the NEDA Central Office, visited the Public-Private School Infrastructure Projects (PSIP) Phase I in Liliw, Laguna on 4 August 2015. The schools visited were Liliw Central Elementary School, Liliw National High School, Taykin Elementary School, and Calumpang Elementary School.

All four projects are completed and operational. Common problems noted in the schools are:

a) drainage problems and defective faucets and septic tanks of comfort rooms;
b) poor ventilation due to building orientation;
c) inadequate security; and
d) issues on warranty coverage.

(Left) Lack of space between PSIP building and existing building in Taykin Elementary School. (Right) Informal settlers beside Liliw National High School.

RPMC Bulletin

Participants to the post evaluation workshop pose for a souvenir photo.

NEDA Region IV-A conducts post evaluation of Productivity Enhancement Project

by Josephine D. Hapil, NEDA Region IV-A

The NEDA Region IV-A as the lead coordinator of the Regional Project Monitoring and Evaluation System is conducting a post evaluation of projects funded under the productivity enhancement project also known as Kennedy Round 2. The evaluation aims to determine the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of the projects after completion.

The project evaluated was "Enhancing Production and Profitability of Market-Oriented Organic Vegetables in Calabarzon". It was implemented by the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) from 2007-2010.

The first activity in post evaluation was the orientation seminar and validation workshop on June 2-4 in Lipa City. This was participated by 27 farmers project beneficiaries and 5 LGU representatives from Baras (Rizal), Tayabas (Quezon) and Bauan (Batangas), and 2 representatives from UPLB Agriculture System Cluster. NEDA Region V extended technical assistance during the said activity. The workshop outputs included validation of project outcomes, identification of challenges and recommendations. The workshop served as a venue for the reunion of the project beneficiaries with UPLB project implementors. It also paved the way for networking and sharing of best practices among the farmers, LGUs and the project implementers. The farmers, enjoyed the entire activity as they looked back on how far they have improved.

The second activity was the field validation to the three project sites on July 28-30. Courtesy call and sharing session were done with the concerned local chief executives. The Municipal Agriculture Officers, barangay captains and families of farmer beneficiaries were interviewed regarding the project.

The field validation helped the project evaluation team to gather more evidences of the project outcomes.

The team conducts interview with family of the farmer beneficiary.

The team visits one of the organic farms.

Interview with a Volunteer Stalwart: Dr. Romulo Davide

by Ray Michael Kevin H. Abuso, NEDA Region IV-A

Left: Dr. Romulo G. Davide shows a plaque he received as a National Outstanding Volunteer in 2002 . With him is wife, Clara. Right: An award he received as a Ramon Magsaysay Awardee in 2013 for his Farmer Scientist Training Program.

Dr. Romulo Gelbolingo Davide was born on March 14, 2014 to Mrs. Josefa G. Davide and Mr. Hilario P. Davide, Sr. He grew up in Colawin, Argao, Cebu with his seven siblings. This is where he grew and nurtured his strong spirit of volunteerism. Both his parents were volunteer themselves.

Dr. Davide can be cited for his major contribution to agriculture, which is the Farmer Scientist Training Program (FSTP). He said that the basic concept of the Program is that the scientists goes to the farm and trains the farmer. This in turn makes farmers scientists themselves. He believes that the approach makes the farmer more prosperous. The program also encourages experimentation in farming through the adoption of best practices and technologies that leads to improved product quality and yield. Another key success of the program is that it teaches farmers to be entrepreneurs. He stressed that farming is a business. According to him leaving out the business side of farming will surely relegate the farmer to being poor.

As lead officer of the FSTP, Dr. Davide said that they started the Program way back in 1994 with Cebu as the pilot location. The project then expanded to Siquijor, Bohol, and Negros Oriental in 2000. Currently the project is being implemented nationwide. In Calabarzon he cited Bondoc Peninsula of Quezon as part of the project area. As of 2008, the FSTP has been established as a national program under Executive Order 710 issued by the previous administration of President Arroyo. The E.O 710 created the "Nationwide Adoption of the Corn-Based Farmer-Scientists Research, Development and Extension (RDE) Training Program for Sustainable Agricultural Development to Liberate Poor Farmers from the Bondage of Poverty and Hunger". The Department of Agriculture (DA) serves as the lead agency and the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) as the lead for management and operations. The UPLB manages and operates the FSTP.

The program's main target is the 5th and 6th class municipalities of the country. He also cited example of successes of the program, one of which is in Cebu where they have established an agriculture club. Most of the club members earn higher from their products. Thus, club members generally improved the quality of their lives.

Dr. Davide believes that everything in life has its own challenges and difficulties. This is also true with the work on volunteerism. Firstly, Dr. Davide believes that politics is one and still a challenge that volunteers face. He even cited some cases that if the politician does not like the program this will not be implemented at all. This in turn causes the beneficiaries to remain poor. Logistics is also a veritable challenge for volunteers. He stated that some locations are just too far to be reached by the program. They even have cases where traveling allowance is not enough to cover the transportation costs for the local institutional partners. Lastly, changing the way farmers think served as a challenge according to Dr. Davide. He recalled of instances when they had a hard time making the farmers become more of a scientist or technician.

Longevity and effectivity of a program usually relies on its sustainability. The FSTP as mentioned before was sustained through EO 710 as a national program. He believes that funding is a key resource for sustaining volunteerism and its programs. However, he clarified that other than the needed funds, the support from the local government and manpower also plays a vital role for programs to be more effective and sustainable.

As the interview ended he quoted a parting message, "the hungry man is an angry man". This is what I believe Dr. Davide wants the world to be rid of poverty and hunger, when he conceptualized his programs for the agricultural sector. I do believe that we may yet achieve this in the future with the likes of Dr. Romulo Davide continuing the good fight.