



Fourth Quarter
December 2016

there is knowledge in news
CALABARZON

The Official Newsletter of the Regional Development Council IV-A



AMBISYON **NATIN**
2040



What do Filipinos want to be, want to have,
and want to do by 2040? Story on pp. 12-15

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BSP Lucena hosts 1st Regional Economic and Financial Forum

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

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) – Lucena Branch hosted the 1st Regional Economic and Financial Forum for the Policy Makers of Calabarzon held at the BSP Lucena Branch Building, Lucena City, Quezon on October 24, 2016. The theme, “The Philippines: Resilience amid Global and Domestic Challenges” highlights the economic resilience of the country beyond international and domestic challenges.

Deputy Governor Diwa C. Guinigundo of BSP highlighted that the Philippines has sustained its high economic growth among the Asian countries. He said that since 1999, the country has not experienced recession. The manufacturing sector was the main growth driver. He acknowledged the contribution of Calabarzon, as an industrial powerhouse to the growth of economy. He mentioned a favorable outlook for the Philippines, and

reiterated the commitment of the BSP for a stable and more inclusive financial system.

Dir. Luis G. Banua of NEDA Region IV-A, on the other hand, shared the economic performance and the development prospects of the Calabarzon Region. He said that the Calabarzon will remain a significant contributor to the national economy, as it continues to lead in the manufacturing output. The region’s priorities include: a) expand manufacturing; b) promote increase in tourists arrivals; c) improve inter-modal transport connectivity; d) ease traffic congestion; e) address pockets of poverty; f) utilize technology and innovation to increase production and value chain; and g) support micro, small, and medium enterprise.

The participants also gained

knowledge on ways to avoid bank frauds and scams. Ms. Jennifer Villena of the BSP Financial Consumer Protection Department encouraged the participants to be vigilant while withdrawing from automated teller machines, and in doing online transactions and suspicious investment schemes.

Deputy Director Tomas J. Carino, Jr. of the BSP Lucena Branch thanked the organizers and participants during his closing remarks. He assured of the continuous support of the BSP for the next forum. Dir. Charito C. Armonia of the PSA Region IV-A expressed her gratitude to everyone for their active support during the 27th National Statistics Month Celebration.

The forum gathered members of the Regional Development Council and banking sector.

4th Quarter 2016

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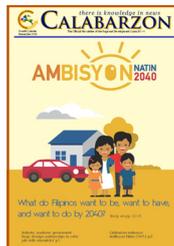
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About the Cover

AmBisyon Natin 2040 represents the collective long-term vision and aspirations of the Filipino people for themselves and for the country in the next 25 years. It describes the kind of life that people want to live, and how the country will be by 2040. As such, it is an anchor for development planning across at least four administrations.

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RDC IV-A conducts Reorganizational Meeting, 3rd Quarter Full Council Meeting

by Marlon T. Natividad , NEDA Region IV-A



The Calabarzon RDC, led by Dir. Luis G. Banua of NEDA Region IV-A and RDC Vice-Chairperson, recognizes the efforts of the data source agencies in the conduct of Cities and Municipalities Competitiveness Index (CMCI) Survey. Calabarzon Region is the most awarded region in the 2016 CMCI. (Photos by: Farhad E. Ali Asgari, NEDA Region IV-A)

The Calabarzon Regional Development Council (RDC) conducted its Reorganizational meeting and 3rd Quarter Full Council meeting last September 1 at Tandang Sora Hall, TESDA Women's Center, Taguig City.

The RDC selected from among its members two local chief executives and two private sector representatives to be nominees for the RDC Chairperson and Co-Chairperson positions. The RDC nominated Governor Hermilando I. Mandanas (Batangas province), Governor Jesus Crispin C. Remulla (Cavite province), Mr. Richard Albert I. Osmond (Philippine Industrial Estate Assn., Inc.) and Engr. Ladislao L. Andal (Philippine Institute of Civil Engineers - Batangas Chapter). The list of nominees was endorsed to the office of the President according to the RDC Vice Chairperson, Dir. Luis G. Banua.

The Laguna Lake Development Authority hosted the event and also presented the current status and their initiatives in the protection and management of Laguna Lake.

During the Full Council meeting, the RDC approved the: 1) creation of TWG and adoption of the recommendations on Traffic Management Study 2) comprehensive drainage plan as one of the RDC's banner projects; 3) support services for Calabarzon's drug rehabilitation program; and 4) creation of a TWG on

anti-illegal drugs campaign. In addition, the RDC endorsed the: 1) institutionalization of the senior high school Voucher Program to encourage private sector investment in basic education; 2) relaxing of Private Education Assistance Committee (PEAC) guidelines on SHS voucher payment; 3) night shift for specific sectors and non-minors in the dual training system; 4) the DILG Multi-Sectoral Advisory Committee; and 5) support to the continuous implementation of BUB.

The RDC also confirmed the appointment of 13 private sector representatives which include one labor sector and one basic sector representative.

An awarding ceremony was held wherein outstanding individuals and organizations who gave honor to the Calabarzon receives the Calabarzon Champion award. Among those awarded were local government units that were recognized in the 4th Annual Regional Competitiveness Summit held last July 14 including Rizal and Batangas province which bagged the 1st and 2nd place, respectively in the overall most competitive province in the country. Two kiddie baseball teams from Tanauan City, Batangas were also awarded for bringing home the championship in the Mustang 9 and Mustang 10 categories in the 2016 PONY International Asia Pacific Zone Baseball Championships held last June in Singapore.

6th GAD Convention highlights regional best practices on GAD, GAD dimensions of ASEAN Economic Integration

by Theresa Jane G. Cajarte, NEDA Region IV-A



Left: NEDA Regional Director and RDC Vice-Chairperson Luis G. Banua gives the Rationale and Objectives of the 6th GAD Convention. Right: Civil Service Commission Chairwoman Alicia dela Rosa-Bala gives the Keynote Message in the first day of the convention. (Photos by: Farhad E. Ali Asgari, NEDA Region IV-A)

The Calabarzon RDC convened the 6th Calabarzon Gender and Development (GAD) Convention with the theme “Preparing for the Effects of ASEAN Economic Integration through Stocktaking and Scaling-up of GAD Mainstreaming Initiatives in Calabarzon”. The three-day event held on September 5 to 7, gathered 375 participants from the government and the private sectors at Camp Benjamin, Barangay Taywanak-Ilaya, Alfonso, Cavite.

During the convention, best practices and strategies on GAD were shared to ensure that the ASEAN Economic Integration will benefit women and men in the region. Some of the important topics presented in the convention are: GAD dimensions of ASEAN integration; women economic empowerment in Calabarzon; GAD mainstreaming in the education sector; GAD mainstreaming process enhancement in terms of policies, people and mechanisms; and inclusion of sexual orientation and gender orientation trainings to empower the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community as a non-discriminated sector in Philippine society.

Civil Service Commission Chairwoman Alicia dela Rosa-Bala graced the 6th Calabarzon GAD Convention which also served as the regional kick-off activity of the 116th Civil Service Anniversary to underscore the government’s commitment towards gender mainstreaming. In her keynote message, Chairwoman Bala shared the highlights of the ASEAN Blueprint 2025. She emphasized the need to constantly address gender issues in the areas of development and promotion of MSMEs, use of e-based business platforms, advancement of good governance, and adoption of green technology,

among others.

In his closing message, NEDA Regional Director and RDC IV-A Vice-Chairperson Luis G. Banua called on participants to make GAD a way of life in pursuit of equality among men and women. He also emphasized the need to make policies, programs and projects responsive to gender concerns as embodied in various GAD plans. With the collective efforts from the public and private sector, he expressed hope that Calabarzon will be gender responsive to the needs of women, men, LGBT, children and the elderly.

The 2016 Search for Outstanding GAD Implementer was also launched during the convention while the inputs gathered during the event will be used in crafting the regional GAD agenda in the context of the ASEAN Economic Integration.

The participants expressed admiration on the roster of resource persons which included former NEDA Director General Cielito Habito, Dir. Marilyn Ogaya of POPCOM, Dir. Marcelina Alcantara of DTI, Engr. Pablo Del Mundo, Jr. of Laguna, Dir. James Ponce of DAR, Ms. Ofelia Palayan of Quezon, Dir. Francis Bringas of DepEd, Ms. Imee Sigua of TESDA, Dir. Emmylou Yanga of CHED, Ms. Nharleen Millar of PCW, Dir. Janet Nacion of COA, Dir. Annie Mendoza of DSWD, Ms. Victoria Wieneke of Kabisig ng Kalahi, Dir. Annaliza Bonagua of DILG, Dr. Ruby Brion of LSPU, Mr. Alberto Bay of Quezon and Atty. Jazz Tamayo of Rainbow Rights Philippines. The participants also admired the moderators composed mostly of Regional Directors and Assistant Regional Directors.

Industry, academe, government forge stronger partnerships to solve job-skills mismatch

by Theresa Jane G. Cajarte, NEDA Region IV-A

The First Calabarzon Academe-Industry Linkages Summit convened 296 participants from the academe, industry and government at De La Salle University-Dasmariñas, Dasmariñas, Cavite on October 25, 2016. The milestone activity was spearheaded by the Calabarzon Regional Development Council's Special Committee on Strengthening Academe and Industry Linkages (SCS A-IL) in partnership with the Cavite Technical Vocational Educators Association, Inc.

With the theme "Strengthening Academe-Industry Linkage towards Calabarzon's Sustainable Development and ASEAN Economic Integration", the Summit came up with policy recommendations in the form of a Manifesto to address the job-skills mismatch and other potential issues related to ASEAN integration. The Summit also provided a venue to present the industry skills and human resource requirements, current academic offerings and government support as well as experiences on academe-industry linkages.

In her keynote message, Undersecretary Adoracion Navarro of NEDA emphasized the important role of closer and sustained academe industry partnerships and enabling government framework to improve the country's economic competitiveness and human capital amidst changing development contexts such as

the ASEAN integration.

The Summit was graced by several resource persons, namely Executive Director Ma. Corazon Halili-Dichosa of the DTI Board of Investments, Atty. Allan G. Revote of DTI, Executive Director Elmer K. Talavera of the National Institute for Technical Education and Skills Development (TESDA) and Ms. Robelyn C. Revilla, DOLE-Bureau of Local Employment. The resource persons presented the following topics: Academe-Industry Partnership for Industry Development, ASEAN Economic Cooperation (AEC) Gameplan, Academe-Industry Partnerships in Technical Vocational Education and Training to maximize AEC gains and the Philippine Labor Market Information System and the Human Resource Development Roadmap Initiative. In addition, industry experts and implementing agencies served as resource persons in the five parallel breakout sessions, e.g. IT-BPM, electronics, automotive, agriculture and fisheries and tourism, which are the region's priority industries or sectors.

The Summit culminated in the signing of a Manifesto led by SCS A-IL Chairperson Emerson B. Atanacio. The Manifesto states the short, medium and long term policy recommendations as well as specific interventions to address job skills mismatch.



SCS-AIL led by Director Luis G. Banua of NEDA Region IV-A and SCS A-IL Vice-Chairperson, and PSR Emerson Atanacio SCS-AIL Chairperson, award certificate of appreciation and token to USec. Adoracion M. Navarro of NEDA as Keynote Speaker, and to De La Salle Dasmariñas, represented by Mr. Wilson Jacinto, as co-host. a) Dir. Banua signs the manifesto as a support to the improvement of the A-IL; b) Mr. Patrick Salazar of Capital One, and c) Ms. Rizza Cantre of Asurion serve as speakers during the parallel session of their respective industries. (Photos by: NEDA Region IV-A)





Caring for the environment. RDC members plant trees in the former San Mateo landfill at Sitio Baytangan, Barangay Pintong Bukawe, San Mateo, Rizal on September 23, 2016. (Photo by: Farhad E. Ali Asgari, NEDA Region IV-A)

RDC IV-A conducts tree planting in San Mateo, Rizal

by Elisa I. Pandela, NEDA Region IV-A

The members of the Regional Development Council (RDC) IV-A conducted a tree-planting activity in a two-hectare site in the former San Mateo landfill at Sitio Baytangan, Barangay Pintong Bukawe, San Mateo, Rizal on September 23. The site is part of the former 71-hectare landfill within the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape. Around 200 participants from the RDC IV-A members and partner agencies planted 1,000 seedlings of Narra, African tulip and other hardwood trees.

The activity was made successful through the collaborative efforts of 15 agencies, SUCs, LGU and private

sector organization as follows: CHED, CSC, DENR, DepEd, DPWH, LLDA, LTO, NCIP, NEDA, NIA, Batanges State University, Cavite State University, University of Rizal System, Antipolo City and Philippine Industrial Estate Association. The Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office of Rizal provided the seedlings and prepared the planting site.

DENR suggested that the 71 hectares be adopted by the RDC as area for tree planting activities and be designated as RDC forest park through a Memorandum of Agreement. An estimated 2,500 to

5,000 square meter-planting area can be allocated per agency. The agencies will be responsible for maintaining and protecting their adopted tree planting area. The RDC forest park can serve as a field trip area of students to study environment and ecology. It will also serve as a place for family day activities of the agencies.

The reforestation activity supported the greening initiatives of the DENR and contributed to the enhancement of the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape. It can contribute to disaster prevention on the Marikina River Watershed area.

RDC IV-A conducts *Harana Para Kina Lolo at Lola* at Lola

by Donna Riza P. Ronquillo, NEDA Region IV-A

The Calabarzon Regional Development Council, through the Committee on Elderly chaired by DSWD Region IV-A, celebrated the Filipino Elderly Week, with the theme *Harana Para Kina Lolo at Lola*, on October 27 and 28 at Haven for the Elderly, Tanay, Rizal and Sinag Kalinga Foundation, Inc. Lucban Quezon, respectively. The Haven for the Elderly has 216 residents while Sinag Kalinga has 30 residents.

The RDC members performed songs and dances, as well as facilitated ball and bingo games to entertain the elderly. The Lolos and Lolas sing along and dance with the RDC members.

The RDC members brought with them prizes for the games and goods such as rice, canned goods, biscuits, condiments, hygiene kit, diapers and clothing.

The *Harana para kina Lolo at Lola* was participated by representatives from regional offices of DAR, DSWD, DOT, HUDCC, LLDA, NEDA, NIA, PIA, PNP, PSA, state universities such as CvSU, LSPU, URS, representatives from the provincial government of Batangas, Laguna and Rizal, Municipality of Carmona and National Council of Women of the Philippines.

Harana aimed to serenade abandoned and neglected senior citizens and to serve as venue for RDC members to gain better understanding on the situation of older persons in home for the aged. *Harana* started in 2015 through the initiative of NEDA Region IV-A and was adopted by the RDC. The RDC is planning to regularly conduct the activity to provide care for the elderly and possibly identify policies, programs and projects for them.

RDC crafts anti-illegal drugs action plan in Calabarzon

by Marlon T. Natividad, NEDA Region IV-A

In support to the campaign against illegal drugs, the Calabarzon Regional Development Council (RDC) - Technical Working Group (TWG) on Anti-Illegal Drugs Campaign prepared an Action Plan during its meeting on September 15 at the RDC Conference Room, Barangay Real, Calamba City.

The Action Plan contains strategies to minimize drug-related influences in barangays; promote drug free work place in government offices, private establishments and education institutions; and restrict the movement of illegal drugs among the provinces and adjacent regions. To minimize drug-related influences in barangays, the following activities will be undertaken: conduct regional, provincial, city and municipal anti-drug summits; activate, strengthen and monitor Barangay Anti-Drug Councils; establish a one-stop shop or helpdesk for drug surrenderees or referrals; and provide livelihood, training, counseling and incentives to drug surrenderees. The action plan also includes strategies to address health and security issues such as the establishment of community-based rehabilitation centers and enforcement of police management operations such as the Oplan Lambat-Sibat and Oplan Double Barrel.

In the said meeting, PDEA Region IV-A reported that as of August 2016, almost 75 percent or 3,011 out of 4,018 barangays in Calabarzon were affected by illegal drugs. The PDEA defined illegal drugs affected barangays as those barangays having recorded at least one incident of illegal drug related activity wherein a user, pusher or protector is present. PDEA emphasized the need for government and the private sector to collaborate to combat illegal drugs.

The TWG on Anti-Illegal Drug is composed of Calabarzon Regional Offices of PDEA, PNP, DILG, NICA, CSC, DOLE, NEDA, and Provincial Governments of Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, and Quezon, and a private sector representative. The PDEA was elected as the Chairperson and DILG as Co-Chairperson of the TWG. The TWG also agreed to include DSWD, BJMP, TESDA and DOH as members.

The creation of the Calabarzon RDC-TWG on Anti-Illegal Drugs Campaign was approved during the 3rd Quarter 2016 RDC Full Council Meeting held on September 1, 2016 at Tandang Sora Hall, TESDA Women's Center, Taguig City.

Jamaican delegates visit NEDA Region IV-A for M&D initiatives

by Lovely S. Mores, NEDA Region IV-A

Director Luis G. Banua of NEDA Region IV-A warmly welcomed the five delegates from National Government of Jamaica namely: Ms. Stacey Clarke Callum and Ms. Alicia Bennett-Bryan of the Planning Institute, Ms. Juliet McCalla Smith of Statistical Institute, Ms. Andrea Miller-Stennett of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, and Ambassador Sharon Saunders of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade during the learning visit on October 13, 2016.

The objective of the activity is to share with the delegation the initiatives of Calabarzon region and the mechanisms developed in implementing and sustaining migration and development (M&D) programs and projects. Director Banua shared the migration history of the region and its initiatives in terms of creating local migration and development councils, one-stop migration resource centers, generation of local migration data, engaging the local actors in M&D activities and harmonization of local, regional and national plans. The delegation applauded the region for its practices and experiences in promoting and sustaining M&D initiatives. They said they have a long way to go in becoming at par with the region's initiatives but would definitely use the lessons learned and experiences gained during the visit in implementing M&D programs and projects in Jamaica. The delegation thanked Director Banua for the warm welcome and the sharing.



Director Luis G. Banua of NEDA Region IV-A shares the knowledge products developed by the SUMMID Project to Jamaican delegation. (Photo by: NEDA Region IV-A)

This is the second time that NRO IV-A was visited by another country for its M&D initiatives. The first was on April 6, 2016 by the Armenian delegation.

The implementation of the Strengthening, Upscaling, Mainstreaming International Migration and Development (SUMMID) Project enable the RDC-Regional Committee on Migration and Development to localize and scale up its existing M&D initiatives and provide increased access to M&D programs and services for overseas Filipinos and their families left behind. The region's experience on M&D initiatives serves as benchmark to other countries and other regions in the country.

Calabarzon embraces AmBisyon Natin 2040!

by Michael R. Lavadia, NEDA Region IV-A

NEDA Region IV-A launched AmBisyon Natin 2040 or the Philippine Long-Term Vision in Calabarzon on November 25, 2016 at the Tagaytay International Convention Center, Tagaytay City, Cavite. The launching of AmBisyon Natin 2040 through a Regional Summit aimed to engage the support of the government, private, academe, civil organizations and youth to fulfill the vision and aspirations of the Filipinos.

To kick-start the event, the official video presentation of Ambisyon Natin 2040 was played before the participants. NEDA Region IV-A Director Luis G. Banua welcomed the guests and participants, and stressed the importance of working together while respecting cultural differences to achieve the vision. Undersecretary Adoracion M. Navarro of NEDA graced the event with her presentation of the overview of the vision which featured the "Life We Want" and "What We Want for the Country" in 2040. She said that majority of Filipinos want a simple life, wherein they own a house, a car, a stable job, have time with family, savings and occasional trips or a middle-class lifestyle. Mr. Donald James D. Gawe of NEDA Region IV-A presented how the vision can be realized. He enlightened the participants that with the right policies and programs on human development, infrastructure, economic growth and protection, the vision can be achieved.

Representatives from the local government, entrepreneurs, agriculture, technology, and youth sectors gave their responses on how they can contribute in attaining the vision. Carmona, Cavite Mayor Dahlia A. Loyola emphasized the importance of the willingness to embrace change for the benefit of the community in public service. On entrepreneurship and technology adoption, Mr. Gilbert Barrera of Given Grace Fashion and

Mr. Enrique Mirador shared their struggles in establishing their respective businesses. With the support of government projects, they were able to pursue their dreams and succeeded in their respective products. On agriculture, Mr. Keneth de Gracia of Costales Nature Farm explained the importance of one's passion to fulfill their dreams. Ms. Jearnelle Ruth Audrey Roxas of the National Alliance of Youth Leaders thanked NEDA in involving the youth in such endeavor and expressed youth's support to the vision.

During the *Talakayan* session or mini talk-show, programs and projects to alleviate poverty were discussed. The *Talakayan* showed how the government agencies and private sectors can contribute towards the attainment the vision. Multi-sectoral collaboration, stakeholder participation, and support from all levels of the society were seen crucial in achieving the vision. The resource persons during the *Talakayan* were: Ms. Michelle Olimba of DOH Region IV-A, Dir. Leticia Diokno of DSWD Region IV-A, Engr. Melquides Sto. Domingo of DPWH Region IV-A, Dir. Julia Fabian of OWWA Region IV-A, PSupt. Chitadel Gaoiran of PNP Region IV-A, Dir. Elvis Cruz of OCD Region IV-A, Ms. Eva Pugay of DA Region IV-A, Ms. Amparo Christine Panganiban of DepEd Cavite, Dir. Alexander Madrigal of DOST Region IV-A, Dir. Malou Toledo of DTI Region IV-A, Dir. Luis Banua of NEDA Region IV-A, Dir. Rolando Dela Torre of TESDA Cavite, Engr. Ladislao Andal of PICE and Mr. Ruel Punzalan of RTIPC IV-A.

The participants from the regional line agencies, local government units, private sector, media, state universities and colleges, higher education institutions and youth groups signed the commitment wall to pledge their participation in realizing the vision.



Talakayan showcases how government agencies and private sectors can contribute the attainment of the LTV (top), while representatives from the youth, technology, agriculture, local government, and entrepreneurial sectors give their responses on how they can contribute in the attainment of the vision (above). (Photos by: Farhad E. Ali Asgari, NEDA Region IV-A)

Stakeholders gather to craft RDP, PDP

by Theresa Jane G. Cajarte, NEDA Region IV-A

The NEDA Region IV-A held back-to-back consultations for the Calabarzon Regional Development Plan (RDP) and the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022 on November 23 and 24 at NDN Grand Hotel, Sto. Tomas, Batangas. The consultations gathered around 200 participants from government, private sector and NGOs to provide inputs and recommendations to both plans which are currently being formulated.

During the Calabarzon RDP consultation, participants identified additional programs and projects, indicators and targets. The chapters were reviewed for consistency and cross cutting issues in the five parallel breakout group workshops. At the end of the consultation, the regional planning committees presented the actions to be taken to address issues on the content of the chapters from the other groups.

In the PDP consultation, Director Brenda R. Mendoza of the NEDA Central Office - Trade, Services and Industries Staff, presented the Ambisyon 2040 and framework and salient features of the PDP. During the breakout session, resource persons from national agencies presented the PDP plan chapters including the assessment of the sector in the previous administration, strategic framework, proposed strategies and key indicators. Regional stakeholders were able to provide inputs and comments on the draft chapters as well as raise regional and interregional issues and concerns that are proposed



Left: NEDA Director Brenda Mendoza of the Trade, Industry and Services Staff presents the salient features of the PDP and Ambisyon Natin 2040. Right: Mayor Fernando L. Mesa of Alabat, Quezon shares development projects in his municipality on agriculture, tourism and agri-tourism during the RDP 2017-2022 Workshop. (Photos by: NEDA Region IV-A)

to be included in the PDP and those needing national government support or interventions.

The RDP consultation was joined by Hon. Fernando L. Mesa of Alabat, Quezon while the PDP consultation was graced by the expertise of the following national agency officials: CHED Director Napoleon Juanillo Jr., Deputy Clerk of Court Atty. Renelie Mayuga, and OIC-Director Remedios S. Endencia of the NEDA Central Office – Regional Development Staff.

The PDP and RDP plan are targeted to be finalized by January 2017. Thereafter, an investment plan for translation into programs and projects and results matrix for performance monitoring will also be prepared and published.

DOLE Region IV-A provides P2M livelihood aid under ASAP

by Edwin T. Hernandez, DOLE Quezon

Coco Sugar is sweeter in Alabat! Thanks to the aid provided by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Region IV-A through the Accelerated and Sustainable Anti-Poverty Program (ASAP) to boost the coco sugar industry.

Based on interview with some of the farm workers engaged in coco sugar production, there was a remarkable increase in the individual income of the workers. Coco sugar workers are now earning as much as P10,000 far from their previous income range of P2,000 to P5,000 per month.

The DOLE Region IV-A released P2,061,900 to the Local Government of Alabat in Quezon province on November 18, 2015 in a simple ceremony held at the Multi-Purpose Building of Alabat National High School. The turn-over ceremony was led by Director Ma. Zenaida A. Angara-Campita of DOLE Region IV-A, Edwin T. Hernandez, DOLE Quezon Provincial Head and representatives of the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board (RTWPB) IV-A, Department of Science and Technology, Department of Trade and Industry and

the Philippine Information Agency of the province. Mayor Fernando L. Mesa together with the members of the Sangguniang Bayan of Alabat received the grant.

The grant was a testament of DOLE's support and commitment to ASAP. It intends to benefit 246 farmers through the production of quality coco sugar. Alabat started with the coco sugar project with only two processing areas supported by a handful of workers. Seeing the potential of the coco sugar, not only in the local but also in the international market, the local government through Mayor Mesa, encouraged the other farmers and farm workers to participate in the project. With the infusion of funds from DOLE it is envisioned that 10 to 14 more village type production areas will be set-up before the end of 2016.

Aside from the turn-over of livelihood assistance, the RTWPB and DOLE Quezon facilitated the conduct of orientation seminar on Safety and Health for Workers in the Informal Economy by QPO Livelihood Focal Ohmar Lorena and ISTIV Productivity by Mr. Gener Rivera of the RTWPB.

PROVINCIAL NEWS

DTI launches Negosyo Center in Imus City, Cavite

by Cavite PICAD

The Department of Trade and Industry, MSME's and the City of Imus held the launching of Negosyo Center and Satellite Office at the 2nd floor of The District Mall in Barangay Anabu on October 20, 2016. This aims to advance the government's efforts in encouraging entrepreneurship and providing a kickstarter program for small and medium size businesses. The ribbon cutting for the trade fair at the Promenade Area and blessing of Imus Satellite Office – District Mall and Negosyo Center were led by DTI-Regional Director Malou Toledo with Imus Mayor Emmanuel L. Maliksi and other guests. A MOA signing was held between the CASMEDC members and City of Imus officials.



The event dubbed as "Catalyzing SMEs' Potential to Grow, Compete, and Excel" is one of the many projects of DTI to help assist people develop their business. The new Negosyo Center aims to provide business registration, consultancy and other related services to new and existing businesses. It will also provide assistance, specifically in marketing and promotions,

financial advice, networking and other services that will promote business development in the city. The advocacy of the Go Negosyo Program started in 2005 and for the past decade Go Negosyo has stood by its conviction that Filipinos can address poverty by developing an entrepreneurial mindset.

Gov. Dodo promotes "Rich Batangas" in Investment Forum

by Vince Altar, Batangas Provincial Information Office

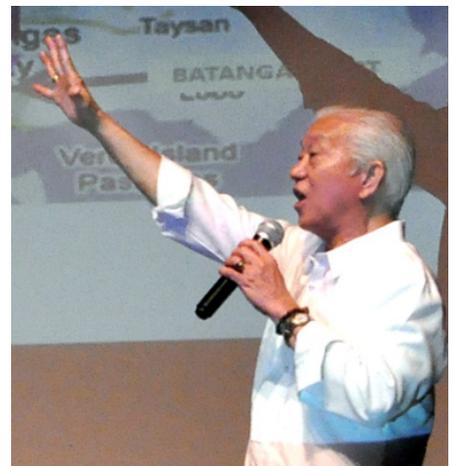
The 1st Batangas Investment Forum held at the Provincial Auditorium, Batangas Capitol in Batangas City on September 15, 2016 became the perfect venue for Governor Hermilando I. Mandanas' slogan, "Rich Batangas."

Around 300 businessmen and women from various industry sectors participated in the meeting, made possible by the partnership between the Provincial Government of Batangas, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry – Batangas and Batangas Forum.

Gov. Mandanas highlighted that Batangas Province is rich, among others, in natural resources, culture and tradition; set in a strategic location; and, gifted with talented and industrious people. Within this setting, investors have boundless potential to thrive and do well. Correspondingly, Batangas Province will benefit from the influx of investment as tourism will grow and

employment will rise. As a result, at the end of the day, the visionary governor emphasized: "Everybody can be rich in Batangas."

Tourism is on the upswing with good road networks now connecting the province's numerous beaches and diving destinations to Metro Manila and neighboring provinces. The energy sector is also a top industry in the province, as Batangas is the "most powerful province" in the Philippines, supplying 60% of the electric requirement of Metro Manila or around 40 million individuals. The Business Process Outsourcing industry is likewise booming in Batangas, with Lipa City now home to a number of call centers, which are also looking at other possible sites in Batangas City and other parts of the province. The steady increase in successful cooperatives across the province has also contributed to more employment opportunities and better lives for a lot



Batangas Governor Hermilando I. Mandanas outlines the plans and projects of the provincial government as Batangas Province hosted the 1st Batangas Investment Forum held at the Provincial Auditorium, Batangas Capitol in Batangas City last September 15, 2016, which was attended by around 300 businessmen and women from various industry sectors. (Photo by: Louie Hernandez, Batangas PIO)

of Batangueños.

Guest speakers and resource persons for the forum were Dr. Bernardo Villegas of the University of

PROVINCIAL NEWS

Asia and the Pacific; Christopher Lawrence Arnuco, President of Zamboanga City Economic Zone Authority; and Atty. Romeo Roxas, Chief Executive Officer of Green Square Property Corporation.

Gov. Mandanas, who is a key advocate for federalism to spur economic growth around the

country, also urged for the formation of a Batangas Provincial Investment Council that would protect and safeguard the interests of the investors in a fair and non-discriminatory field.

Gov. Mandanas stressed his 6 C's of governance, including Clean

governance, Capability, Compassion, Courage, Commitment and Consistency. He also declared that the provincial government will no longer allow the operation of new coal-fed electric power plants and mining undertakings in Batangas Province, as part of his administration's commitment for environmental protection.

Laguna conducts tree planting, lakeshore clean-up, fingerlings seeding

by Laguna Provincial Information Office

The Provincial Government of Laguna under the leadership of Governor Ramil L. Hernandez conducted tree planting, lakeshore clean-up, and tilapia fingerlings seeding activities in Barangay Santisima Cruz, Sta. Cruz, Laguna in the early morning of September 21, 2016.

Six clustered departments of PGL joined the activities. Assigned at the tree planting were clusters B, F and A who planted around 410 kamachile seedlings; and clusters D, C, and E for lakeshore clean-up at the Sta. Cruz river, where bunches of water hyacinth were pulled from its banks. These plants will then be used for livelihood

projects like slipper-making under the Special Livelihood Office of the provincial government. Tilapia fingerlings seeding was done by the Office of the Governor, represented by Administrator Rebanal, together with the Vice Governor's office, and department and unit heads of the provincial government.

The said activities were part of the 116th Philippine Civil Service Anniversary celebration chaired by the Civil Service Commission with the theme: *'Sigaw ng Lingkod Bayani: Malasakit Para Sa Taumbayan, Kapwa Kawani, at Kalikasan.'*

Calabarzon records 9.1% poverty incidence in 2015

by PSA Region IV-A

According to the official poverty statistics published by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), Calabarzon recorded 9.1 percent poverty incidence in 2015, lowest among the regions outside the National Capital Region (NCR), from 10.9 percent in 2012. It was lower than the national average of 21.6 percent.

Among the regions, excluding NCR, the region had the lowest proportion of population whose annual per capita income fall below the annual per capita poverty threshold (poverty line) estimated at P22,121 for the region. On average, in 2015, a family of five in the region would need at least P9,217 to meet its monthly basic food and non-food needs. The estimate was higher than the national average of P9,064.

Among the provinces in Calabarzon, Laguna and Rizal had the least poverty incidence, both estimated at 5.4 percent. The province of Quezon had the highest at 22.7 percent. The proportion of the population in provinces of Batangas and Cavite that was considered poor was estimated at 9.3 percent, and 6.8 percent, respectively.

Batangas recorded a significant decrease of 9.7 percentage points in the proportion of population that is below the poverty line, from 19.0 percent in 2012 to 9.3 percent in 2015. Quezon also recorded a decrease of 4.8 percentage points within three years though it is not statistically significant.

Annual Per Capita Poverty Threshold and Poverty Incidence among Population, by Province, Calabarzon Full Year 2012 and 2015

Province	Annual Per Capita Poverty Threshold (in Pesos)		Poverty Incidence among Population (%)			
	2012	2015	Estimate (%)		Coefficient of Variation	
			2012	2015	2012	2015
PHILIPPINES	18,935	21,753	25.2	21.6	2.1	3.5
Region IV-A	19,137	22,121	10.9	9.1	8.9	14.5
Batangas	19,437	21,767	19.0	9.3	14.4	19.1
Cavite	19,948	24,882	3.4	6.8	32.4	22.3
Laguna	19,857	21,770	6.4	5.4	25.8	28.8
Quezon	18,081	20,515	27.5	22.7	10.9	25.2
Rizal	20,306	24,198	6.1	5.4	25.7	28.6

Source: PSA Region IV-A



AMBISYON Natin 2040

About AmBisyon Natin 2040

AmBisyon Natin 2040 represents the collective long-term vision and aspirations of the Filipino people for themselves and for the country in the next 25 years. It describes the kind of life that people want to live, and how the country will be by 2040. As such, it is an anchor for development planning across at least four administrations.

AmBisyon Natin 2040 is a picture of the future, a set of life goals and goals for the country. It is different from a plan, which defines the strategies to achieve the goals. It is like a destination that answers the question “*Where do we want to be?*”. A plan describes the way to get to the destination; AmBisyon Natin 2040 is the vision that guides the future and is the anchor of the country’s plans.

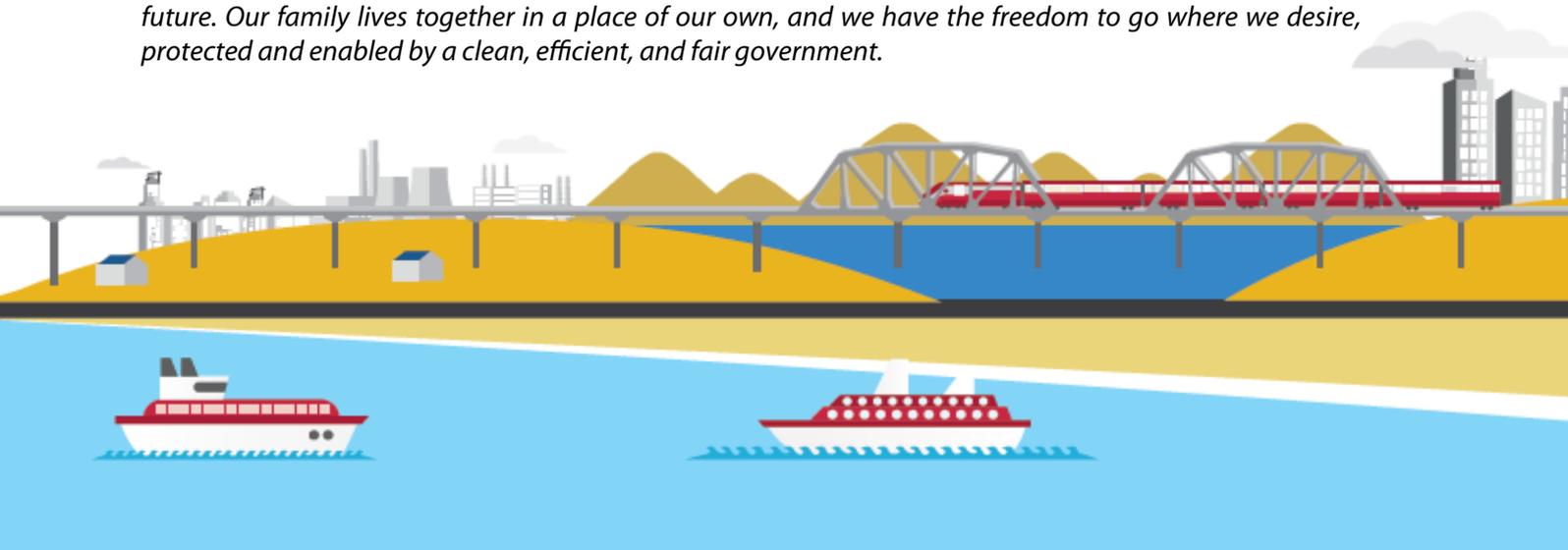
AmBisyon Natin 2040 is the result of a long-term visioning process that began in 2015. More than 300 citizens participated in focus group discussions and close to 10,000 answered the national survey. Technical studies were prepared to identify strategic options for realizing the vision articulated by citizens. The exercise benefitted from the guidance of an Advisory Committee composed of government, private sector, academe, and civil society.

The life of all Filipinos in 2040:

Matatag, Maginhawa at Panatag na buhay

By 2040, Filipinos enjoy a strongly rooted, comfortable, and secure life.

In 2040, we will all enjoy a stable and comfortable lifestyle, secure in the knowledge that we have enough for our daily needs and unexpected expenses, that we can plan and prepare for our own and our children’s future. Our family lives together in a place of our own, and we have the freedom to go where we desire, protected and enabled by a clean, efficient, and fair government.



Filipinos are strongly rooted: *matatag*. Filipino families live together; there is work-life balance so that there is time to spend with family even for members who work. On weekends, families and friends enjoy time together in parks and recreational centers. It is a high-trust society with a strong sense of community. There are volunteer opportunities, and Filipinos spend time to serve the community, help others who are in need, and contribute to various causes.

Filipinos are comfortable: *maginhawa*. No one is poor, no one is ever hungry. Filipino families live in comfortable homes with the desired amenities and secure tenure. Families and friends are within reach because transport is convenient and affordable, and they can take a vacation together within the country and abroad. Children receive quality education so that they realize their full potentials and become productive members of society. Decent jobs that bring sustainable income are available, including opportunities for entrepreneurship.

Filipinos are secure: *panatag*. Filipinos feel secure over their entire lifetime. They expect to live long and enjoy a comfortable life upon retirement. There are resources to cover unexpected expenses, and there are savings. They feel safe in all places in the country. Filipinos trust their government because it is free of corruption and provides service to all its citizens equally.

Matatag

- Family is together.
- Time with friends.
- Work-life balance.
- Volunteering.

Maginhawa

- Free from hunger and poverty.
- Secure home ownership.
- Good transport facilities.
- Travel and vacation.

Panatag

- Enough resources for day-to-day needs, unexpected expenses and savings.
- Peace and security.
- Long and healthy life.
- Comfortable retirement.

Realizing the AmBisyon

All sectors of society, whether public or private, should direct their efforts towards creating opportunities for Filipinos to enjoy a *matatag, maginhawa at panatag na buhay*. Government, in particular, must use its tools of fiscal, monetary and regulatory policies to steer the development path towards enabling Filipinos to attain their AmBisyon. This pertains to all dimensions of development: economic, human and physical capital, institutional, social and cultural.

By 2040, the Philippines is a prosperous middle class society where no one is poor. People live long and healthy lives and are smart and innovative. The country is a high-trust society where families thrive in vibrant, culturally diverse, and resilient communities.



Filipinos live in a prosperous, predominantly middle class society where no one is poor.

Economic growth must be relevant, inclusive and sustainable. Over the next 25 years (until 2040), per capita income must increase by at least three-fold. More than the increase in income, economic growth must progressively improve the quality of life of the majority of Filipinos.

AmBisyon can be partly achieved by having competitive enterprises that offer quality goods and services at affordable prices. Government must encourage investments in these sectors by improving market linkages, simplifying government procedures, and facilitating access to finance. These should be complemented by appropriate human capital development, science, technology and innovation. Following are the priority sectors that have direct impact on AmBisyon:



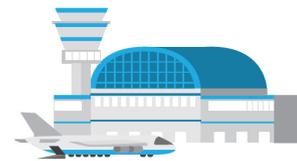
Housing and Urban Development

Construction, construction-related manufacturing, house development-related manufacturing, and utilities (electricity, gas, and water).



Manufacturing

Food processing, housing related, construction-related, transport manufacturing, and other manufacturing.



Connectivity

Roads and bridges, port, airports, vehicles, transport systems, and communication.



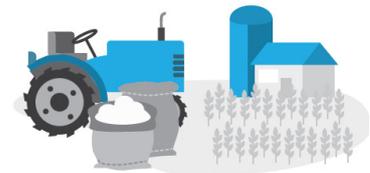
Education Services

Formal education and re-tooling services.



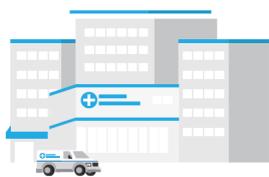
Tourism and Allied Services

Resort, rest-recreation hotels, accommodation, travel and tour cultural shows, heritage sites, etc.



Agriculture

Food production, commercial and industrial crop, agricultural biotechnology, etc.



Health and Wellness Services

Primary, secondary, and tertiary care, pharmaceuticals, wellness facilities, sports and fitness facilities, etc.



Financial Services

Consumer financing, enterprise financing, and insurance savings mobilization.

Government must also ensure that economic growth is broad-based across sectors and regions; it must result in a more equal income distribution. Moreover, there should be aggressive interventions to increase opportunities for the poor to participate in the growth process even as they are protected against the negative impact of economic and political instabilities, natural and man-made calamities. Poverty must be eradicated by 2040, if not earlier.

It must also be recognized that certain individuals cannot immediately participate in the growth process. For infants and children, there is the requisite care, guidance, health and education services until they become mature. It is important that parents and families should be able to provide these, although government should stand ready to fill the gap. A major intervention, therefore, is for parents to adequately prepare for having a family.

Filipinos live a long and healthy life.

A long and healthy life allows people to realize their full potential and to enjoy the attainment of their AmBisyon for many years. This is borne out of healthy lifestyle choices. New products and processes that are safer and cleaner, and certainly products that promote good health, are needed as well.

Policies that promote work-life balance can reduce the strain on people's health. Filipinos must also be given more affordable, clean and safe options for rest and recreation, like open spaces, nature parks and public sports and fitness facilities. In case of illness, Filipinos must have access to affordable and good quality healthcare.

Ensuring the quality of health care and health-related products and the safety of other products is the responsibility of government as well.



Filipinos are smart and innovative.

Well-educated, innovative Filipinos will continuously improve the quality of life in the Philippines. If education is the process of facilitating the "acquisition of knowledge, skills, values, beliefs and habits"¹, formal education is the structured method of facilitating the acquisition of a select set of such knowledge, skills, values, beliefs and habits. Government, therefore, must be proactive in setting the agenda for education. It is, after all, about molding the future Filipino and creating the future Philippine society.

More than ensuring that Filipino students acquire the foundational literacies (reading, numeracy, scientific literacy, ICT literacy, economic and financial literacy, cultural and civic literacy), the formal education system must also ensure that students obtain competencies (critical thinking, problem-solving, creativity, communication, collaboration) and develop character qualities (curiosity, initiative, persistence and grit, adaptability, leadership, social and cultural awareness)². This may require a revision of the curriculum content, but more importantly, the mode of delivery. At the same time, there must be access to lifelong learning opportunities so that competencies are continuously upgraded and updated.



Filipinos live in a high-trust society.

A high-trust society allows Filipinos to enjoy a *panatag na buhay* together with their families. Extending to the bigger community, a high trust society equals a *matatag na pamayanan*. A high-trust society allows people to see to their economic pursuits, secure in the knowledge that they will be able to enjoy the fruits of their labor. However, societal ties must be strengthened where every Filipino cares for the plight of his fellow Filipino. Every Filipino must feel upset if another Filipino is found hungry and poor, or unable to recover from unfortunate events. A caring society does not evolve overnight; it must be cultivated. Venues and opportunities for interpersonal interaction must be provided. But usually, it takes root from building trust in established institutions like government. Government must therefore begin the process of confidence-building by being clean, fair and citizen-centered. After all, a high-trust society is the most durable bedrock for vibrant, culturally diverse, and resilient communities of the Philippines by 2040--hopefully, sooner.



Quarterly Regional Economic Situationer:

July to September 2016

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

Calabarzon's Economy at a Glance: 3rd Quarter 2016

Consistent improvement

- Increase in production of corn, coconut and chicken from previous quarter and previous year
- Decrease in underemployment
- Increase in foreign cargo and import cargo in Batangas port

Consistent decline in performance

- Decrease in the production of pineapple, carabao, commercial and municipal fisheries and aquaculture
- Increase in number of retrenched and shut down establishments from previous quarter and previous year
- Increase in affected employees due to shut down
- Decrease in domestic cargo in Batangas port

Mixed result

- Decrease in the production of rice/palay, cattle, hog and goat from the previous quarter but increase in production from previous year
- Increase in unemployment rate from the previous quarter but decrease from the previous year
- Decrease in affected employees due to retrenchment from previous quarter but increase from previous year
- Decrease in Shipcalls (both for domestic and foreign), total cargo, export cargo and passenger traffic (both for disembarked and embarked) from previous quarter but increase from previous year

Prices & Inflation

The average inflation rate (IR) of the region increased to 1.1 percent from the 0.4 percent of the previous quarter. The quarter displayed fluctuation in its IR from the 1.0 percent in July to 0.8 percent in August and moved up to 1.4 percent in September, the highest marked IR since January of the same year.

Batangas, Laguna and Rizal reflected a rise at 0.7, 0.8 and 0.9 percent, respectively. The increase in the IR of the provinces was caused by the increase in food commodities particularly in rice and vegetables in Batangas, and fruits and vegetables commodity groups in Laguna. The province of Laguna also incurred an increase of 10 percent in the price index of its hospital services while Rizal had an increase in its water supply and related services. Cavite, on the other hand, exceeded the region's inflation with its 1.3 percent IR mainly caused by the increase in the price index of vegetables. Quezon posted the highest inflation among the provinces at 1.8 percent due to the price increase of the corn, oils and fats, and vegetables.

Year-on-year, the quarter's IR showed an increase as compared to the 0.2 deflation of the same quarter in the previous year. The increase in the inflation rate is brought by the increase in the prices of food, non-alcoholic beverages and alcoholic beverages.

On the average, the price indices of all the food and non-food commodity groups showed an increase from the previous quarter except for transport and communication which remained at 121.6 and 95.1, respectively. While the general trend for the CPI is increasing, housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels commodity group posted a markdown in their CPI as compared previous year. This

Table 1: Consumer Price Indices, Inflation Rate and Purchasing Power of Power Calabarzon, 3Q 2016, 2Q 2016 and 3Q 2015¹

Prices & Inflation	2016		2015	Trends	
	3 rd Qtr	2 nd Qtr	3 rd Qtr	Quarter-on-Quarter	Year-on-year
Indicator	(in index points)				
Average CPI	140.9	140.3	139.4	↑	↑
Average Inflation Rate (%)	1.1	0.4	-0.2	↑	↑
Average PPP (PhP)	0.71	0.71	0.72	↔	↓
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	159.1	158.1	157.0	↑	↑
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	217.8	215.8	201.2	↑	↑
Clothing and footwear	137.9	137.5	135.9	↑	↑
Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	119.8	119.5	121.0	↑	↓
Furnishings, HH equipment and routine maintenance of the house	133.6	133.0	132.2	↑	↑
Health	143.2	141.7	140.4	↑	↑
Transport	121.6	121.6	123.7	↔	↓
Communication	95.1	95.1	95.3	↔	↓
Recreation and culture	113.1	112.9	112.5	↑	↑
Education	151.7	150.6	150.0	↑	↑
Restaurants and miscellaneous goods and services	143.4	143.0	139.0	↑	↑

¹Estimates for the 2nd and 3rd Quarters 2016 are based on the average monthly data.

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority IV-A

decrease is attributed to lower prices of electricity, gas and other fuels due to the volatility of the prices of petroleum products. The transport and communication commodity group also decreased from the same quarter of the previous year. The decrease in the price index of the communication commodity group particularly in the telephone and telefax equipment and services is related to the shift in the demand of such equipment due to changing technological means.

Meanwhile, the price index of alcoholic beverages and tobacco products continue to rise due to the

implementation of the Sin Tax Bill, which can be seen from the 16.5 increase in the CPI of the said commodity compared to the third quarter of the previous year.

The Purchasing Power of Peso (PPP) in the region also remained at 0.71 centavo, despite the increase in the average IR. Quezon province posted the lowest PPP among the provinces at 0.66. This was due to the high prices of commodities in the province as reflected in its CPI of 151.8, the highest among the provinces. Rizal, on the other hand, had the highest PPP at 0.74 centavo, or the highest average CPI at 135.1.

Labor and Employment

The labor force participation rate declined to 62.3 percent in the third quarter from 64.8 percent in the previous quarter. The labor force participation has continuously declined from the first to the third quarter in 2016 that can be attributed to more working age population who decided to attend formal schooling and other learning systems during the time of the survey.

The employment rate slightly declined to 92.4 from 92.5 percent and is still lower than the national average of 94.6 percent. Thus, the unemployment rate of the region at 7.6 percent continues to be higher than the national average. The relatively high unemployment in the region is due to in-migration and persistent job skills mismatch wherein new graduates and other applicants are unable to meet the requirements of the industries.

On a positive note, the underemployment in the region has continuously decreased from the first to third quarter in 2016 at 10.7 percent in the last quarter. This implies that more employees who want to have additional working hours in their present job, an additional job or a new job with longer working hours are happy with their job.

The number of retrenchments in the third quarter of 2016 increased to 314 establishments from 260 in the previous

quarter and only 6 in the same quarter of 2015. Compared to the previous quarter, the number of affected employees due to retrenchment decreased to 6,472 individuals from 16,423 which means that the retrenched establishments in the second quarter are bigger in scale and laid off more employees.

The main economic reasons cited for retrenchment are redundancy, lack of market and financial loss. Geographically, most of the retrenched establishments are located in Cavite (113) and Quezon (106) followed by Laguna (59), Batangas (34) and Rizal (2) while majority of affected employees are from Laguna and Cavite with 2,824 and 2,166 persons, respectively.

Establishments that shut down decreased quarter on quarter and is the same year on year. Although the number of establishments decreased, the number of affected employees increased to 545 individuals implying that the establishments that shutdown had more employees. The main reason cited for shutdown is financial loss while one establishment reported fire incident as the cause. The shutdown establishments are located in Cavite (5), Laguna (4) and Batangas (1) which resulted to 419, 116 and 10 employees affected, respectively.

Table 2: Labor and Employment Data Calabarzon, 3Q 2016, 2Q 2016 and 3Q 2015

Labor & Employment	2016 ²		2015	Trends	
	3rd Qtr (July)	2 nd Qtr (April)	3rd Qtr (July)	Quarter-on-Quarter	Year-on-year
Population 15 years and above (No.)	9,522	9,497	8,617	↑	↑
Labor Force Participation Rate (%)	62.3	64.8	63.7	↓	↓
Employment Rate (%)	92.4	92.5	92.0	↓	↑
Unemployment Rate	7.6	7.5	8.0	↑	↓
Underemployment Rate	10.7	15.6	20.1	↓	↓

²Estimates for July and April 2016 are preliminary and may change.
Source: Philippine Statistics Authority Region IV-A

Table 3: Company Retrenchment and Shutdown Data Calabarzon, 3Q 2016, 2Q 2016, and 3Q 2015

Retrenchment & Shutdown	2016		2015	Trends	
	3rd Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	Quarter-on-Quarter	Year-on-year
Retrenchment					
No. of Establishments	314	260	6	↑	↑
No. of Employees Affected	6,472	16,423	275	↓	↑
Shutdown					
No. of Establishments	10	20	10	↑	↑
No. of Employees Affected	545	352	225	↑	↑

Source: Department of Labor and Employment Region IV-A

Agriculture & Fishery

Year on year, the production of major agricultural crops, livestock, and poultry increased. However, fisheries production declined.

Palay production continuously increased from 2015 to 2016, showing a 39.31 percent growth or an increase of 14,613 metric tons (MT). Corn production also showed positive performance with an increase that is almost twice as much as last year's production from 12,436 MT to 35,452 MT. Coconut likewise reported uptrend in production from 2015 to 2016 by 1.79 percent or 9230.14 MT. The general increase in production of major agricultural crops is due to interventions to overcome the long term impact of El Niño and lesser occurrence of weather disturbances. However, despite the increase in major crop commodities, declines in production of other high value crops like pineapple (7.75 percent), mango (13.67 percent), calamansi (4.74 percent) and tomato (3.12 percent) can be noted from 2015 to 2016.

Good weather conditions contributed to increased production of rice and corn. The use of quality rice seed also contributed to better performance of palay. Meanwhile, the dry spell resulted to decrease in vegetable and fruit production.

Improved production can also be noted in livestock sector. Increases in production can be noted for chicken, hog, cattle and goat while carabao production contracts both for the quarter-on-quarter and year-on-year-production. Cattle production increased by 2.81 percent or 114 MT year-on-year while hog production also increased by 6, 612 MT from 80,827 MT during the third quarter of 2015 to 87,639 MT during the third quarter of 2016. Goat production likewise registered slight increase in production from 596 MT in 2015 to 620 MT in 2016. However, cattle production declined both for quarter-on-quarter and year-on-year production. Year-on-year cattle industry in the region showed 3.44 percent or 51 MT decline in production.

The poultry sub-sector registered an uptrend in production of chicken and chicken eggs. The region as the second largest producer of chicken posted an increase of 5.51 percent or 4,350 MT compared to the same period last year. Similarly, chicken egg production also increased by 0.48 percent or 169 MT from 2015 to 2016. The increase in production of chicken and chicken egg can be attributed to increase in demand, stable input prices and favourable

Table 4. Agriculture and Fisheries Performance Calabarzon, 3Q 2016, 2Q 2016, and 3Q 2015

Agriculture & Fisheries	2016		2015	Trends	
	3rd Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	Quarter-on-Quarter	Year-on-year
Commodity	(in metric tons)				
Crops					
Rice/Palay	51,787	128,232.00	37,174	↓	↑
Corn	35,452	8,188.00	12,436	↑	↑
Coconut	523,687.88	291,708.21	514,457.74	↑	↑
Coffee	nda	98.44	nda	nda	nda
Sugarcane	nda	463,027.49	nda	nda	nda
Pineapple	3,496.20	63,572.41	3,789.98	↓	↓
Livestock and Poultry					
Cattle	4,167	10,145.00	4,053	↓	↑
Carabao	1,432	1,740.00	1,483	↓	↓
Hog	87,539	94,901.00	80,927	↓	↑
Chicken	83,276	72,672.00	78,926	↑	↑
Goat	620	1,071.00	596	↓	↑
Fisheries					
Commercial	11,925.12	15,258.69	14,005.07	↓	↓
Municipal	27,682.25	27,890.35	44,039.89	↓	↓
Aquaculture	43,471.83	40,658.97	44,557.06	↑	↓

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority Region IV-A

Notes: nda - no data available.

weather conditions.

On the other hand, the fisheries sub-sector posted a general decline in production for the commercial, municipal and aquaculture fisheries. Commercial fisheries production decreased by 14.85 percent or 2079.95 MT. Municipal fisheries declined its production from 14,005.07 MT in 2015 to 11,925.12 MT in 2016. Although aquaculture fisheries increased its production from second quarter to third quarter of 2016 by 2812.86 MT, it showed a year-on-year decrease in production by 2.44 percent or 1,085.23 MT. The overall decline in fisheries production can be attributed to hot weather condition and the lingering effect of the El Niño phenomenon.

Exports, Imports, & Port Performance

Shipcalls, cargo throughput and passenger traffic recorded a decrease on a quarter-on-quarter in Batangas.

Ship calls decreased by a total of 3,040 during the third quarter as compared to the second quarter of this year. The ship calls may be affected by the size of the vessels used, the bigger the vessels the lesser number of shipcalls required.

Despite the increasing foreign cargo, the total cargo throughput during the third quarter fell by 428,619 MT compared to the second quarter of the same year mainly because of the 21 percent decline in the domestic cargo.

In terms of passenger traffic, Batangas port has recorded a total of 1,009,411 decreased in the number passengers during the third quarter as compared to the second quarter.

Table 5: Performance of Batangas Port, 3Q 2016, 2Q 2016, and 3Q 2015

Port Performance Indicators	2016		2015	Trends	
	3rd Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	Quarter-on-Quarter	Year-on-Year
Shipcalls	9,008	12,048	8,688	↓	↑
Domestic	8,596	11,599	8,365	↓	↑
Foreign	412	449	323	↓	↑
Cargo Throughput (in MT)	5,819,607.04	6,248,225.95	5,610,690.48	↓	↑
Domestic	2,078,103.56	2,618,861.90	2,435,230.45	↓	↓
Inward	1,090,835.50	1,456,333.82	1,362,091.02	↓	↓
Outward	987,268.06	1,162,528.08	1,073,139.43	↓	↓
Foreign	3,741,503.48	3,629,364.05	3,175,460.03	↑	↑
Import	3,585,001.74	3,471,283.70	3,033,806.26	↑	↑
Export	156,501.74	158,080.35	141,653.77	↓	↑
Passenger Traffic	1,364,853	2,374,264	1,231,737	↓	↑
Disembarked	714,701	1,294,317	635,440	↓	↑
Embarked	650,152	1,079,947	596,297	↓	↑

Source: Philippine Ports Authority-Port Management Office of Batangas

The decline may be attributed to the schedules of vacation, holidays and festivities.

Year-on-year, ship calls, cargo throughput and passenger traffic increased by 320 ships, 208,917MT, and 133,116 passengers, respectively. Despite the improvement in the port performances, it is important to note that the domestic cargo declined by 15 percent compared to the same quarter of the previous year.

Quezon recorded a decline in ship calls by 8.26 percent,

Table 6: Performance of Lucena Port and private ports in Quezon Province, 3Q 2016, 2Q 2016 and 3Q 2015

Port Performance Indicators	2016		2015	Trends	
	3rd Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	Quarter-on-Quarter	Year-on-Year
Shipcalls	1,421	1,549	1,104	↓	↑
Port of Lucena	1,282	1,361	968	↓	↑
Private	139	188	136	↓	↑
Cargo Throughput (in MT)	1,016,285	1,050,385	1,106,756	↓	↓
Port of Lucena	58,171	64,686	48,103	↓	↑
Private	958,114	985,699	1,058,653	↓	↓
Domestic	42,383	53,296	41,527	↓	↑
Foreign	915,731	932,403	1,017,126	↓	↓
Passenger Traffic (Lucena Port)	146,781	210,590	114,754	↓	↑
Disembarked	78,894	125,599	68,661	↓	↑
Embarked	67,887	84,991	46,093	↓	↑

Source: Philippine Ports Authority-Port Management Office of Quezon

cargo throughput by 3.35 percent and passenger traffic by 30.30 percent during the third quarter compared to the second quarter of this year.

Cargo throughput continues to decline as it also recorded a decreased by 8.17 percent from the same quarter of the previous year. This may be attributed to the drop of foreign cargo handled by Team Energy in Pagbilao, Quezon Power in Mauban and Gonzalo Puyat in Hondagua, Quezon.

Ship calls and passenger traffic increased by 28.71 percent and 27.9 percent, respectively, as compared to third the quarter of the previous year.

Development Prospects & Challenges

While the agriculture sector is gaining its momentum in contributing for growth of the region, there is still a need for interventions to promote climate change resilience, reduce vulnerability to disasters, and strengthen agriculture backward and forward linkages. Improvement in agriculture production is expected to lower food inflation rate and thus benefiting the poor.

The increasing number of retrenched and shut down establishments, and affected employees due to shutdown needs government interventions for re-employment of laid-off workers and economic support and market linkage for businesses since reasons cited for retrenchment and shut

down include financial loss and lack of market. The declining levels of underemployment need to be sustained especially in agricultural areas where it is historically high.

The region needs to promote business continuity plans (BCP) and strategies to reduce economic impacts and facilitate fast recovery of business and industrial functions during natural disasters and emergency situations. In Calabarzon, an Area BCP has already been formulated for selected industrial areas which outlines actions to be taken in times of disaster and collaboration mechanisms between private enterprises and local governments.

RPMC BULLETIN

RPMC conducts fourth quarter meeting

by Richard P. Engasa, NEDA Region IV-A

The RPMC conducted its fourth quarter meeting on November 15, 2016 at RSM Lutong Bahay Restaurant, Barangay Bacnotan, Calamba City.

The major agenda items that were discussed include updates on the following projects and activities:

a) Confirmation of RPMC PSR; b) Calabarzon Project Monitoring System; c) Monitoring and Evaluation Fund; d) Post-Evaluation of DOLE Region IV-A Livelihood Projects; e) Technical Assistance to Quezon on Post-Evaluation; f) Gender and Development Sensitivity Indicators; g) Tourism Infrastructure Mapping;

h) Implementation of Classrooms for Senior High School; i) Bottom-Up Budgeting Project; j) Philippine Rural Development Project; k) Tanauan City Public Market Redevelopment Project; and l) Local Project Monitoring Committees (LPMCs) Reorganization/Reactivation and Migration and Development Initiatives.

The Committee approved the 2017 RPMC Work Plan and the LPMC will include monitoring of volunteers. The committee likewise adopted the field monitoring reports on DOT-DPWH Convergence and Energy Regulation 1-94 projects in Batangas and Quezon province, respectively.

RPMC joins the monitoring of ER 1-94 projects in Quezon province

by Marlo E. Chavez, NEDA Region IV-A

A team composed of representatives from the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Region IV-A led by Director Luis G. Banua, Team Energy Corporation, Electric Power Industry Management Bureau of the Department of Energy, and Quezon Provincial Planning and Development Office conducted a joint inspection of the completed projects funded under the region's share of the Energy Regulation fund (ER 1-94) in the province of Quezon on November 2 to 3, 2016.

The two projects namely: 1) Construction of Environmental (Green House) and Disaster Risk Reduction Management Center costing of PhP 2.3 million; and 2) Extension and Development of Material Recovery Facility costing PhP 1.9 million were implemented by the municipalities of Candelaria and

Gumaca, respectively. The Pagbilao Power Plant, owned by Team Energy Corporation, provided the project funds accruing to the Regional Share Fund required under the DOE ER 1-94.

The inspection team confirmed the projects were implemented based on the approved work and financial plan, and specification and design. The LGUs are now in the process of liquidating the project funds. The completed projects are the first of 28 projects endorsed by the RDC Calabarzon to the different power plants in the region for funding under the ER 1-94.

The municipalities of Candelaria and Gumaca attended the project development training conducted by NEDA Region IV-A in 2015 to facilitate access of Calabarzon Share Fund.



a) Environmental and Disaster Risk Reduction Management Center in Candelaria, Quezon and b) Material Recovery Facility in Gumaca, Quezon. (Photos by: Marlo E. Chavez, NEDA Region IV-A)

RPMC BULLETIN

RPMC joins the DOT-DPWH monitoring of tourism road projects in Batangas province

by Engr. Josephine D. Hapil, NEDA Region IV-A



c) Hugom Bridge that will connect the boundary of the municipalities of Lobo and San Juan in Batangas and d) the gabions used as slope protection along the Taal Circumferential Road. (Photos by: Engr. Josephine D. Hapil, NEDA Region IV-A)

The Department of Tourism (DOT) Region IV-A, NEDA Region IV-A, and Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Region IV-A conducted a joint monitoring of tourism road projects in Batangas on September 22 to 23. The projects inspected are the Rehabilitation of San Jose-Ibaan Road, Opening of Lobo-Malabrigo-San Juan-Laiya Road, and Taal Lake Circumferential Road San Nicolas Section. The projects were funded under the DOT-DPWH Convergence Program. The monitoring team was assisted by the DPWH district offices and Mayor Gaudioso R. Manalo of Lobo, Batangas.

The Lobo-Malabrigo-San Juan Road is 31 percent completed as of August 31. The Lobo to San Juan boundary is already passable although the bridge (Hugom Bridge) that connects the two municipalities is still ongoing construction. No major issue was reported

in the implementation of the project.

The San Juan-Ibaan Road is a provincial road which is ongoing improvement. The project is 95 percent completed as of August 31. Time suspension has been requested by the contractor due to the issue on obstructive utility posts.

The construction of San Nicolas Section of the Taal Circumferential Road is also ongoing. Gabions are being used as slope protection of the coastal road. The monitoring team take cognizance on the disposal of garbage along the coastal area of Taal Lake. The municipal mayor of San Nicolas, Batangas was informed by the monitoring team regarding the garbage issue. The mayor admitted that they don't have a dump site and they would like to seek assistance from the region.

Cavite LGUs, NEDA Region IV-A hold technical meeting on the Calabarzon Drainage Master Plan preparation

by Richard P. Engasa, NEDA Region IV-A

On October 25, 2016, a technical meeting on the preparation of Drainage Master Plan was conducted at the Provincial Planning and Development Office (PPDO) of Cavite province which was participated by PPDO Cavite, Provincial Engineering Office of Cavite, Imus City Engineering Office (EO) and Dasmaringas City EO.

During the technical meeting, several issues including coordination, standardization, structural, legal, institutional, political, and right of way issues were identified. It revealed to different ways of implementing

drainage projects and uncoordinated efforts.

Recommendations to address the challenges were identified such as: a) preparation of a regional framework plan/terms of reference; b) drainage mapping and geotagging; c) provision of climate tagging; d) preparation of road network development plan by the LGUs; e) inclusion of the drainage master plan in their respective local development plans; and f) training programs to planners and implementors of drainage projects.

RPMC BULLETIN

RDC spearheads traffic management initiatives

by Engr. Josephine D. Hapil, NEDA Region IV-A



Regional Director Eric Lenard Tabaldo of LTO Region IV-A (2nd from left) presides the Traffic Management-Technical Working Group Meeting. (Photo by: Rayner M. Jastive, NEDA Region IV-A)

The Regional Development Council through its Sectoral Committee on Infrastructure Development (SCID) has initiated the creation of the Traffic Management Technical Working Group (TM-TWG). The TM-TWG is tasked to facilitate the implementation of traffic laws, policies, programs and projects in the region. The TM-TWG is being chaired by Director Eric Lenard E. Tabaldo of the Land Transportation Office Region IV-A with members from the Department of Transportation (DOTr), Land Transportation and Franchising Regulatory Board, Department of the Interior and Local Government

Region IV-A, Department of Trade and Industry Region IV-A, Philippine National Police-Highway Patrol Group, Calabarzon Provinces, SCID Private Sector Representatives, PPA Batangas, PPA MarQuez, Lucena City, Department of Public Works and Highways Region IV-A, and National Economic and Development Authority Region IV-A.

Several activities have already been done on traffic management such as inter-agency consultation on August 3, TM-TWG meeting on October 11, and small group meeting on November 11. The TM-TWG is now working on the implementation of doable activities such as the deputation of local government personnel, advocacy to the LGUs, enforcement of tricycle ban along national highways, and illegal parking along major roads. A strategic planning workshop will be conducted in January 2017.

The discussion on traffic issues during the first quarter SCID meeting on February 12, 2016 triggered the prioritization of traffic management as one of the banner programs of the RDC. The DOTr was requested to conduct a comprehensive traffic management study in the region.

DPWH Region IV-A conducts consultation meeting on the removal of obstructions in road right-of-way

by Marlo E. Chavez, NEDA Region IV-A

One of the priority thrusts and programs of the Department of Public Works and Highways is on improving road safety. This is implemented through Department Order No. 52, series of 2003 entitled "Removal of Obstruction and Prohibited Uses Within the Right-of-Way of National Roads".

The DPWH Region IV-A regularly reports to the Sectoral Committee on Infrastructure Development on the status of utility posts within road right-of-way (RROW) of major roads in the region. The SCID during its meeting on August 12, 2016 observed the slow progress of removing obstructive utility posts. Hence, the DPWH Region IV-A was

requested to spearhead a multi-stakeholder consultation meeting with DENR, DOE, MERALCO, and other utility companies to expedite the removal of obstructions within RROW.

The consultation meeting was conducted on October 4 at the DPWH Region IV-A Conference Room, EDSA, Quezon City. Director Samson Hebra of DPWH Region IV-A presided the consultation meeting.

The representative of MERALCO presented activities highlighting the process and prioritization of relocating utility posts, namely: 1) priority list of relocation requests submitted by DPWH Regional Office;

2) hazardous in nature; and 3) with no ROW issues. Also highlighted in the presentation are the approaches used by MERALCO and DPWH resulting operational gaps.

On the part of DPWH Region IV-A, it was reported that at the district level, most obstructive utility posts and trees are yet to be relocated.

To address the identified operational gaps, a technical meeting will be conducted on December 2016 with DPWH, MERALCO, Energy Regulatory Commission, and other utilities to harmonize operational approaches/processes, including prioritization of posts to be relocated.

RPMC BULLETIN

NIA Region IV-A holds consultation meetings on quarrying activities affecting irrigation systems

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

Irrigation systems play an important role in the production of crops and rice in the region. Irrigation systems are expensive agriculture support structure that should be properly maintained to maximize its use for the benefit of the farmers.

Among the major challenge for the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) Region IV-A is to maintain the integrity and ensure the operational efficiency of irrigation facilities.

Currently, NIA Region IV-A is in the forefront of addressing issues on quarrying activities affecting major irrigation projects in Laguna and Quezon. The NIA Region IV-A in coordination with the infrastructure development and project monitoring committees of the RDC conducted coordination meetings with concerned stakeholders on September 21 and November 8, 2016. The meetings aim to validate the issues and determine mitigation measures.



General Manager William P. Ragodon of National Irrigation Administration Region IV-A facilitates the discussion on quarrying issues. (Photo by: Fred Lumanglas, NEDA Region IV-A)

It was determined that the unregulated subsistence/ small-scale quarrying activities adversely affect the following canal and dam projects: Balanac River Irrigation System (Magdalena, Laguna); Sta. Cruz River Irrigation System (Liliw, Laguna); and Tumbaga Communal Irrigation System (Sariaya, Quezon).

RPMC presents tourism infrastructure map to the regional DOT-DPWH convergence workshop

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

The Tourism Infrastructure Map is an initiative of the Calabarzon Regional Project Monitoring Committee in collaboration with DOT Region IV-A and DPWH Region IV-A to show the connectivity and accessibility of tourist spots.

The Tourism Infrastructure Map was presented to key stakeholders during the Regional DOT-DPWH Convergence Workshop held on November 10, 2016. The initial map also serves as a "proof of concept" that can be

further developed into a more functional mapping tool and online information facility for tourists.

The workshop was conducted by DOT Region IV-A to prioritize the development of tourism sites identified in the National Tourism Development Plan. Representatives of municipalities and provinces of Calabarzon, DPWH Region IV-A and the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority participated in the workshop.

RPMC provides technical assistance to Quezon province

by Engr. Josephine D. Hapil, NEDA Region IV-A

The RPMC Secretariat provided technical assistance on post-evaluation to Quezon Province. A one-day training workshop was conducted on September 30, 2016 at Ouan's Resort, Lucena City.

A total of 57 planning officers from the Provincial Planning and Development Office and city/municipal development offices attended the training. The training provided the participants with knowledge on the basic principles, legal framework and tools, and techniques in post evaluation. Two case studies on ex-post evaluation

were presented as examples.

The outputs of the workshop were prioritized list of projects for post evaluation and action plan. Selected participants were requested to give their impression on the training. The representative from Lucena City said the training is very timely and that they can apply it to their newly constructed market and city hall. Relatedly, the representative from Quezon Province during the third quarter meeting of the RPMC was advised to program their projects for ex-post evaluation in 2017.

CALABARZON BUB UPDATE

COMPLETION RATE

72%

2014



828 PROJECTS

596 Completed

117 On-Going

115 Not Yet Started

44%

2015



1,240 PROJECTS

550 Completed

372 On-Going

318 Not Yet Started

04%

2016



1,470 PROJECTS

61 Completed

152 On-Going

1,257 Not Yet Started

Physical Status as of October 18, 2016

REGIONAL AVERAGE

FISCAL YEAR	ADJUSTED TOTAL NO. OF PROJECTS	COMPLETED	ON-GOING (Physical Works on the Ground)	NOT YET STARTED
2014	828	596	117	115
		72%	14%	14%
2015	1,240	550	372	318
		44%	30%	26%
2016	1,470	61	152	1,257
		4%	10%	86%

**Dropped Projects no longer included*

Physical Status Rate as of October 18, 2016

Data from the consolidated Projects Status of RPRAT Agencies

