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CALABARZON

Second Quarter
June 2017

The Official Newsletter of the Regional Development Council IV-A

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SECURING THE FUTURE IN QUEZON THROUGH FIRST 1000 DAYS PROGRAM

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Calabarzon's economy grows by 4.8 percent

by PSA Region IV-A

The economy of Calabarzon grew by 4.8 percent in 2016, lower than its 5.8 percent growth in 2015. The deceleration was due to the slower growth of Industry, particularly Manufacturing and Construction.

Industry sustained its largest share to the region's economy at 61.4 percent. Services and Agriculture, Hunting, Forestry and Fishing (AHFF) had shares of 33.2 and 5.5 percent, respectively.

Industry grew by 3.7 percent in 2016, lower than its 5.7 percent growth in 2015. Manufacturing slowed down at 3.6 percent compared to its previous year's growth of 5.5 percent. Construction also posted a slower growth of 2.5 percent, from growth of 7.2 percent in 2015. Mining and Quarrying declined to 1.8 percent in 2016 as compared to its double-digit growth in 2015 of 17.9 percent. On the other hand, Electricity, Gas and Water Supply grew faster at 7.5 percent, from growth of 6.8 percent the previous year.

Services accelerated at 7.2 percent, from a growth rate of 6.7 percent in 2015. This was driven by the expansions in Financial Intermediation; Public Administration and Defense; Compulsory Social Security; Real Estate, Renting and Business Activities ; and Transport, Storage and Communication of 8.3, 7.5, 7.2 and 6.3 percent, respectively. Conversely, Other Services slowed down to 9.6 percent, lower than its growth of 9.7 percent in 2015. A deceleration was also posted by Trade and Repair of Motor Vehicles, Motorcycles, Personal and Household Goods at 5.7 percent in 2016 compared to 6.9 percent in 2015.

AHFF grew by 3.4 percent in 2016, faster than the 2.6 percent growth in 2015. Agriculture and Forestry triggered the growth in AHFF though it posted a deceleration of 4.7 percent in 2016 since its share in the whole AHFF is 76.8 percent. In 2015, Agriculture and Forestry sub-industry had a higher growth of 5.9 percent. Livestock industry in the region contributed much to the growth in the Agriculture and Forestry sub-industry. On the other hand, Fishing still posted a contraction but at a lower rate of 0.6 percent in 2016. The contraction in 2015 was at 6.6 percent.

Industry and Services both contributed 2.3 percentage points to the region's overall growth of 4.8 percent. The remaining 0.2 percentage point was from AHFF.

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About the Cover

Quezon is securing its future through the First 1000 Days of Life Program or the Q1K. According to the Provincial Government of Quezon, the program aims to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality, improve the quality of life through reduction of malnutrition and generate behavioral change among parents and community in child rearing through various health services and strategies.

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Quezon hosts 2017 First Quarter RDC Full Council Meeting

by Benjamin Jose G. Bautista, NEDA Region IV-A

Secretary Jose Maria Nicomedes "Dennis" F. Hernandez, Presidential Adviser for Southern Tagalog (left), and the Honorable Governor David "JayJay" C. Suarez of Quezon Province (center) give their messages during the 2017 First Quarter RDC Full Council Meeting. Secretary Dennis Hernandez administers the oath-taking of Private Sector Representative Engr. Ladislao L. Andal as RDC Calabarzon Co-Chairperson (Photos by: Farhad E. Ali Asgari, NEDA Region IV-A)

The Provincial Government of Quezon hosted the 2017 1st Quarter Calabarzon Regional Development Council (RDC) Full Council meeting last March 9, 2017 at the Queen Margarette Hotel, Domoit, Lucena City, Quezon.

Governor David "Jayjay" C. Suarez of Quezon, welcomed the RDC members and guests to his hometown. The Governor shared the development programs of his provincial government, highlighting the implementation of the "First 1,000 days of Life" program which helped in improving the health of mothers and children in Quezon.

In his message to the RDC members and guests, Secretary Jose Maria Nicomedes "Dennis" F. Hernandez, Presidential Adviser for Southern Tagalog, requested the RDC to hear out the aspirations of the people on the Council's development agenda.

The newly appointed RDC Co-Chairperson, Engr. Ladislao L. Andal of the Philippine Institute of Civil Engineers – Batangas Chapter, and Batangas geographic PSR, Executive Director Joselito B. Rodriguez of Enrique Zobel Foundation, Inc. took their oath of office to the RDC.

The RDC approved the Three-Year Rolling Infrastructure Program 2017-2019 and the Investment Program for Convergence Areas. These programs were also approved by the Council for implementation.

The RDC likewise approved the following:

a) Regional Task Force on Drug Rehabilitation Terms of Reference and 2017-2018 Action Plans;

b) Committee on Quality Education for All;
c) Calabarzon Integrated Research and Training Center; d) Calabarzon Technopark; e) Calabarzon Science and Technology, Engineering and Environment Research Hub; f) Regional Gender and Development Committee 2017 Action Plan;
g) Additional Feasibility Study Training Budget; and
h) DTI-DPWH Convergence Program.

Moreover, the following were endorsed by the Council: a) Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Proposals;
b) Support to Unified Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education Law; c) Lipa-Padre Garcia Diversion Road; d) Tourism Infrastructure Map;
e) Bacoor City Projects; f) South Luzon Expressway Toll Road Phase IV (TR-4) Memorandum of Agreement Signing; g) Expression of thanks to President Rodrigo R. Duterte for the Cooperative Development Authority's Transfer to the Office of the President; h) Makapuno Research and Development and Innovation Center; (i) Cavitex Toll Rate; and
(j) Automatic Updating of Comprehensive Land Use Plans.

The Council honored four Calabarzon Lingkod

RDC Awardees. This award is given to outgoing RDC members for their services and contribution to the development of the region. The Calabarzon Champion Award was given to Ms. Ma. Corazon A. Rubio as CSC Pag-asa Awardee 2016, and the Special Award to PSR Rodrigo M. Camia as CDA Gawad Parangal Outstanding Cooperative Leader of 2016.

Calabarzon RDC endorses FY 2018 Budgets of RLAs, SUCs, GOCCs amounting to PhP125.67 Billion

by Elisa I. Pandela, NEDA Region IV-A

The Calabarzon Regional Development Council endorsed the FY 2018 budget proposals of 18 agency regional offices and five state universities to their central offices, CHED and DBM during its 1st Quarter Full Council Meeting on March 10, 2017 at Queen Margarette Hotel, Domoit, Diversion Road, Lucena City, Quezon.

Prior to the RDC endorsement, the RDC secretariat conducted a budget briefing in January and a two-day RDC technical budget review in February 2017. The review was presided by the RDC Vice-Chairperson Luis Banua with DBM OIC-RD Ruby Muro. The Provincial Planning and Development Coordinators, DA, DILG, DOST, CHED and some Co-Chairs of the RDC Committees served as the panelists. District Representatives were also invited.

The 2018 budget proposals of agency regional offices of BFAR, DA, DAR, DENR, DENR-EMB, DENR MGB, DepEd, DILG, DPWH, DOH, DOST, DOT, DSWD, DTI, DOLE, NIA, PhilFIDA, TESDA and the state universities, namely: CavSU, LSPU, BatSU, URS and SLSU were reviewed and endorsed by the sectoral committees to the RDC. The Economic Development Committee endorsed PhP5.73 Billion, the Social Development PhP78.56 Billion, Infrastructure Development PhP41.07 Billion and Development Administration PhP307 Million, for a total of PhP125.67 Billion.

The programs and projects in the proposed budgets are included in the Calabarzon Three-year Rolling Investment Program 2017-2019 and are supportive of the President Duterte's 0 to 10 socio-economic agenda and AmBisyon Natin 2040.

Calabarzon RDC conducts joint Executive Committee and Investment Promotions Group Meeting

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

Gov. Hermilando I. Mandanas of Batangas, RDC Chairperson (second from left), presides the Joint Executive Committee and Investment Promotions Group meeting. With him are (L to R): Sec. Dennis Hernandez, Presidential Adviser for Southern Tagalog, PSR Ladislao Andal, RDC Co Chairperson, and ASec. Anton Hernandez of DSWD. (Photo by: NEDA Region IV-A)

The Calabarzon RDC convened a joint Executive Committee and Investment Promotions Group Meeting on March 25, 2017 at the Montemaria International Pilgrimage and Conference Center, Batangas City.

The meeting was presided by the newly appointed RDC Chairperson, Governor Hermilando I. Mandanas of Batangas. During the said meeting, a resolution authorizing RDC Chairperson Mandanas, to enter into and sign all Memorandum of Agreements regarding ER 1-94 projects in Calabarzon was approved. The body also passed a resolution reminding the LGUs who are members of the RDC to contribute to the RDC Trust Fund for the financing of the Council's priority thrusts and activities.

Chairperson Mandanas shared his advocacies and plans for the Region. He requested to revisit the statistics on the Gross Regional Domestic Product estimation because he believes that Calabarzon has larger than 17 percent share to the Gross Domestic Product. He also informed that the League of Provinces endorsed federalism.

The new Chairperson emphasized that all projects should be critically reviewed and endorsed by the RDC before inclusion in the General Appropriations Act. He proposed for the revival of the federation of RDCs for the complementation and convergence of inter-related programs and projects among regions. He also added that the federation will offer a unified view to basic issues of RDCs.

Calabarzon prepares R&D Agenda for 2017-2022

by Michael R. Lavadia, NEDA Region IV-A

The Calabarzon Regional Development Council – Regional Research Committee (RRC) conducted the Calabarzon Regional Development Research Agenda 2017-2022 Workshop on May 9, 2017 at the University of Rizal System (URS) Antipolo Campus. The workshop was conducted primarily to identify the research areas and subject matter to address the development challenges of Calabarzon Region.

(L-R) Dr. Freddie Bulauan of CHED Region IV-A, University of Rizal System President Marita R. Canapi, Regional Research Committee and CHED Region IV-A Regional Director Emmylou B. Yanga, and NEDA Region IV-A Assistant Director Gina T. Gacusan. (Photo by: Rayner M. Jastive, NEDA Region IV-A)

RRC Chairperson and CHED Region IV-A Regional Director Emmylou B. Yanga shared her desire for Calabarzon to be the front runner in innovations and research among the regions during her message. NEDA Region IV-A Assistant Regional Director Gina T. Gacusan emphasized the need to link the demand of knowledge from the public and private sector to the supply of research from academic and research institutions. URS President Dr. Marita R. Canapi welcomed the participants and thanked the RRC for choosing URS Antipolo Campus as the venue of the workshop.

The participants identified priority researches on the Economic, Infrastructure, Social, Governance and Environment Sectors. An Implementation Plan on how to promote these needed researches was also prepared.

Ms. Agnes A. Daantos of NEDA Region IV-A informed the participants of the next steps and timelines on the preparation of the Calabarzon RDRA 2017-2022.

DepEd okays integration of Compliance to Traffic Rules and Regulations in the basic education curriculum

by Aprille M. Suyat, NEDA Region IV-A

One of the banner projects of the Regional Development Council is the formulation of the Traffic Management Plan under its Sectoral Committee on Infrastructure Development (SCID). The plan aims to combat severe traffic problems in major road sections of Calabarzon. One of the key recommendations prepared by SCID is the inclusion of traffic rules and regulations in the basic education curriculum. In the recently concluded 2nd Quarter meeting of the Regional Committee on Quality Education for All, held on April 4 at the NEAP, Malvar, Batangas, part of the agenda was the proposal of the Infrastructure Committee on the integration of traffic rules and regulations in elementary and senior high school curriculum in Calabarzon.

Dr. Eugenia Gorgon, OIC Schools Division Superintendent of Calamba City, shared their experience in partnering with different industries to contextualize and localize a curriculum with the inclusion of mechatronics, the combination of mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, and information technology. She also presented suggestions on how to integrate traffic rules and regulations in the basic education curriculum. The incorporation of traffic management covering road safety for elementary and high school students is "possible and feasible" according to Dr. Gorgon, with inputs from traffic management experts and in consideration of the different rules and regulations on traffic and road safety.

The initiative is also aligned with House Bill No. 1614 entitled "An Act of Mandating the Department of Education to Include in the Curricula of Elementary and Senior High School a Subject on Road Safety and Traffic Education" which proposes for the education of children on the importance of road safety, proper use of roads, different laws on driving, and ensure safe road travels.

Director Diosdado M. San Antonio of DepEd Region IV-A approved the implementation of the initiative in the region. RDC Vice Chairperson and NEDA Region IV-A Director Luis G. Banua, pledged support through organizing meetings and workshops for the impact assessment to be conducted by DepEd.

RDC Calabarzon Conducts Module 2 of the Training on the Preparation of Feasibility Studies for Bypass Road Projects

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

The NEDA Region IV-A and DPWH Region IV-A, conducted Module 2 of the Training on Preparation of Feasibility Study (FS) for Bypass Road Projects on May 16 to 19, 2017 at the DPWH Region IV-A, in EDSA, Quezon City. Module 2 involved the processing of data generated from the traffic origin-destination surveys conducted in September and October 2016.

The training participants from DPWH Region IV-A, District Engineering Offices and Provincial Governments in Cavite, Laguna, Rizal, Quezon and NEDA Region IV-A. (Photo by: NEDA Region IV-A)

A total of 35 technical staff from DPWH District Engineering Offices (DEOs) in Cavite, Laguna, Rizal, Quezon, Provincial Governments of Cavite, Laguna, Rizal, Quezon, DPWH Region IV-A and NEDA Region IV-A participated in the training. Resource persons from DPWH Planning Service, NEDA Region IV-A and consultant of USAID-SURGE Project assisted the participants during the training.

Post training activities include tasks for the participants to complete the ground surveys of their respective proposed projects. The surveys will be used to prepare the technical design and estimate the project cost, which are prerequisite data for Module 3. The Module 3 is tentatively scheduled on August 22 to 25 (Tuesday to Friday).

The training is a major initiative of the Calabarzon Regional Development Council (RDC) to build capacities of technical staff of DPWH Region IV-A and DEOs, Provincial Governments of Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon and the NEDA Region IV-A in FS preparation.

Participants of DPWH Batangas DEOs have already completed the training modules in December 2016 which produced the FS for the Lipa City-Padre Garcia Diversion Road. The FS was endorsed by the RDC during its 2017 first quarter meeting on 09 March and is currently being evaluated by the DPWH Planning Service.

NEDA IV-A Holds RDIP 2017 to 2022 Consistency, Validation and Sectoral Prioritization Workshop

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

Participants discuss projects for inclusion in the Regional Development Investment Program. (Photo by: NEDA Region IV-A)

The NEDA Region IV-A conducted a consistency, validation and sectoral prioritization workshop on May 23, 2017 at the National Educators Academy of the Philippines in Malvar, Batangas. The workshop is a key activity in preparing the Regional Development Investment Plan (RDIP) 2017 to 2022.

The workshop aimed to ensure that programs and projects (PPs) of the agencies are consistent and responsive to the strategies of the Regional Development Plan (RDP) 2017 to 2022. It was attended by representatives from agency regional offices, state universities and colleges, selected government-owned controlled corporations and provincial planning offices.

The major outputs of the workshop include: a) new and priority PPs of the sectors and the region; and b) annual investment programs for 2019 up to 2022 and c) prioritized RDC banner PPs. The outputs will be finalized and consolidated into the RDIP 2017-2022 for presentation during the third quarter RDC Sectoral Committee Meetings in August 2017 for its endorsement to the RDC Full Council for approval in September 2017.

The RDIP translates the goals, objectives and strategies of the RDP 2017 to 2022 into a compendium of development PPs. The RDIP serves as an instrument to monitor government targets and ensure effective resource allocation to priority investment areas.

Calabarzon holds first Regional Women's Month celebration

by Lovely S. Mores, NEDA Region IV-A

Assistant Secretary Jose Antonio Hernandez of Department of Social Welfare and Development (left) gives his message to the participants of the first Regional Women's Month celebration. About 609 participants from academe, regional line agencies and LGUs parade around Lucban, Quezon's downtown (right) as part of the Women's month celebration. (Photo by: NEDA Region IV-A)

Every year, government institutions, schools and other organizations in the region celebrate Women's Month in the month of March in compliance to various laws. For this year, the Regional Development Council initiated the conduct of the first Calabarzon regional celebration where representatives of its members from the line regional agencies (RLAs), local government units (LGUs), state universities and colleges (SUCs), government and controlled corporations and the private sector will gather in one place at a particular time to celebrate Women's Month together as a show of genuine support and unity for women empowerment and opposition to all forms of violence and discrimination against women.

The celebration is aligned with the National Women's Month (NWM) theme, "We Make Change Work for Women". The objectives of the celebration to inform, engage, inspire, and empower not only women but other regional stakeholders in the full implementation of the Magna Carta of Women (MCW) was achieved through the conduct of various activities which were held on March 14 to 15, 2017 at Southern Luzon State University (SLSU) Main Campus, Lucban, Quezon.

Lectures on MCW, Men Opposed to Violence Everywhere and Women Economic Empowerment were held on 14 March with 479 participants comprising of RLAs, and LGUs and SLSU students, faculty and staff. The resource persons were mostly members of the Regional GAD Committee (RGADC).

The main event on March 15 was participated by 609 participants from academe, RLAs and LGUs. It commenced with a parade around Lucban, Quezon's downtown, followed by the program where key personalities shared their insights on NWM then the talk show on women inspiring women.

Also part of the program was the awarding ceremony of Outstanding Women of the Department of Education and the transfer of Chairmanship of WM Organizing Committee from NEDA to DepEd. RGADC Chair Dir. Luis G. Banua said that the Regional Women's Month Celebration will become an annual activity of Calabarzon to highlight the region's collective effort to localize the MCW.

Other activities held were the poster making contest for elementary, secondary, college and employees; setting-up of advocacy booths (SLSU) and massage clinic (TESDA); and live concert provided by Philippine National Police in Quezon.

The main event was graced by Assistant Secretary Jose Antonio Hernandez of Department of Social Welfare and Development, Ms. Ayelah B. Deveza, representative of Congresswoman Ana Marie Suarez of Alliance of Organizations, Networks and Associations Partylist, Engr. Ladislao Andal, RDC Co-Chairperson, Lucban Municipal Administrator Maria Lyncelle Dator-Macadile and SLSU President Dr. Milo Placino. The guest speakers encouraged the participants to make economic and social change benefit everyone especially women and other vulnerable sectors. They also enjoined everyone to promote and localize the MCW.

ARD Gina Gacusan of NEDA, Chairperson of the 2017 Regional Women's Month Celebration closed the activity by thanking all the participants and the host of the event – SLSU and the Provincial Government of Quezon, PNP, TESDA and the RGADC TWG members that served as the Organizing Committee for their immense contribution that led to the success of the activity.

PROVINCIAL NEWS

Cavite launches two gateways to spur its development

by Anne Minnette M. Dastas , Cavite Provincial Planning and Development Office

(L-R): ICTSI Vice President Christian R. Gonzalez, DOTr Secretary Arthur R. Tugade, ICTSI Chairman and President Enrique K. Razon Jr., former Cavite Governor Juanito Victor C. Remulla Jr., and Tanza Mayor Yuri A. Pacumio. (Photo by: Provincial Government of Cavite)

The International Container Terminal Services Inc.- (ICTSI) in partnership with the Department of Transportation launched the development of the first roll-on-roll-off barge terminal in the Philippines last April 19, 2017 at Tanza, Cavite.

The Cavite Gateway Terminal (CGT) is wholly-owned subsidiary of ICTSI. The 6-hectare terminal will facilitate off-the-road seaborn transport of containers between the port of Manila and Cavite. This will serve the industrial locators of the Province and will integrate other major Luzon port facilities for a more cost-effective access to the Cavite market.

The first phase of the barge terminal, amounting to USD 30M is expected to be operational in the first quarter of 2018. It will have an annual capacity of 115,000 20-foot equivalent units (TEUs). This project is also expected to improve the traffic condition of city roads considering that its capacity can be translated to 140,000 less truck trips each year.

On the other hand, a ground-breaking ceremony of the Light Rail Transit (LRT) 1 Cavite Extension Project was held last May 4, 2017. The project will extend the existing Baclaran station to another 8 stations ending at Niog Station in Bacoor, Cavite. It is a total additional stretch of 11.7 km.

The PhP 64.9B project is expected to accommodate 410,000 passengers per day on its opening year and approximately be completed in October 2021.

The additional eight stations will be Aseana Station, MIA Station, Asiaworld Station, Ninoy Aquino Station, Dr. Santos Station, Las Piñas Station, Zapote Station and Niog Station. This extension project and its alignment was approved by the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) Board in 2011.

With a maximum speed of 80km/h and a commercial speed of 60km/h, it is expected to cut the travel time from Bacoor to Manila from the current 2 hours to about 20 minutes.

New administrative building and MRF inauguration at GJCMDH in Pakil, Laguna

by Laguna Provincial Information Office

A new administrative building that houses the out-patient department and a Materials Recovery Facility or MRF were recently blessed and inaugurated at the General Juan Cailles Memorial District Hospital or the GJCMDH in Pakil, Laguna. A memorial statue of General Juan Cailles, from whom the hospital was named, was also unveiled. Governor Ramil L. Hernandez led the ceremonies, together with Pakil Mayor Vince A. Soriano, Provincial Administrator Atty. Dulce H. Rebanal, chief of hospital Dr. Rudolfo C.Villarin, and Mr. Peter Uckung of the Laguna Tourism, Culture, Arts & Trade Office.

(Photo by: Provincial Government of Laguna)

New Laguna elementary school inauguration

by Laguna Provincial Information Office

Governor Ramil L. Hernandez recently led the blessing and inauguration of the new 2-storey/4-classroom building in Alaminos Central Elementary School in this municipality.

In his message, Gov. Hernandez stressed his commitment to give the best quality education to his constituents, one of which is to provide students new school buildings, and to rehabilitate/ renovate existing ones for the benefit of both students and teachers to make learning and teaching a convenient, rewarding and at the same time enjoyable experience.

Vice Governor Atty. Karen C. Agapay and Alaminos Mayor Loreto M. Masa were also present in the event and assisted the Governor in the ribbon cutting ceremony.

(R-L) Gov. Ramil L. Hernandez, Vice Gov. Atty. Karen C. Agapay and Alaminos Mayor Loreto M. Masa lead the ribbon-cutting cernemony of the new 2-storey/4- classroom building in Alaminos Central Elementary School . (Photo by: Provincial Government of Laguna)

Batangas Aims to improve its Competitiveness Ranking

by Provincial Government of Batangas

Governor Hermilando I. Mandanas of Batangas Province (5th from the Left) meets with representatives from the Regional Competitiveness Committee during the orientation of the Cities and Municipalities Competitiveness Index (Photo by: DTI Region IV-A)

Ranking as the 9th Most Competitive Province in 2016, the Provincial Government of Batangas, through the Provincial Planning and Development Office (PPDO), hosted the Orientation of the Cities and Municipalities Competitiveness Index (CMCI) on March 8, 2017, the orientation aimed to improve LGU ranking in line with the Regional Development Council's directive of institutionalizing the CMCI at the provincial level.

As highlighted by Dir. Marilou Q. Toledo of DTI Region IV-A, the index is measured by four main pillars namely: economic dynamism, government efficiency, infrastructure, and resiliency. Moreover, respective local government units were also oriented on filling-up of the 2017 CMCI Data Capture Sheet. The data being gathered is essential in determining the areas where businesses can thrive, as well as formulate measures to evaluate and improve the overall competitiveness of the province.

The goal of being competitive is seen in the genuine efforts of Provincial Governor Hermilando I. Mandanas in pursuing investments that will benefit not only the Batanguenos but the whole country as well. Among the flagship programs of his administration are the expansion of the Batangas International Port, Regional Food Terminal, Revival of the Railway Transport System from Calamba City Laguna to Batangas City, and establishment of the Calabarzon International Airport.

The event was attended by the three component cities and 31 municipalities of the province together with different line agencies .

SECURING THE FUTURE IN QUEZON THROUGH 1ST 1000 DAYS PROGRAM

by Provincial Government of Quezon

The first 1000 days of life – the time spanning roughly between conception and one's second birthday is a unique period of growth that defines the future of an individual.

From pregnancy to childhood, good nutrition is considered a key to baby's health and development. Quezon's First 1000 Days of Life dubbed as Q1K aims to optimize the implementation of the national and provincial programs on maternal and child care, dental health, immunization, nutrition and sanitation. The program had undergone thorough conceptualization and planning spearheaded by Governor David C. Suarez, together with the provincial administrator, executive assistants and department heads. Under Executive Order No. 17 dated July 9, 2015, a Q1K Council and Technical Working Group were created to ensure the success and continuity of the project for the benefit of Quezonians. Q1K concentrates on three major components namely: Healthcare and Sanitation; Food and Nutrition; and Social Care. Q1K commenced immediately after the opening of its office which is located at the Quezon Convention Center, Lucena City last August 10, 2015.

The pilot municipalities of Buenavista, Catanauan, General Nakar, Jomalig, Lopez, Mauban, San Andres, San Antonio, San Francisco, Tagkawayan, Tiaong, and Unisan have undergone training-seminars focusing on antenatal, post natal, neonatal and infant care among targeted 1000 pregnant women and their newborn babies. The program intends to provide these core services through a holistic and systematic approach.

As a pioneer program of the Provincial Government of Quezon, Q1K has distinctive features: 1) Assignment of Q1K Coordinators per town who works hand in hand with the Public Health Workers (PHWs). They oversee the implementation of Q1K activities and ensure that the beneficiaries receive quality services for their health. 2) Enrolment of beneficiaries to PhilHealth under the sponsorship program. 3) Conduct of baseline ultrasound and laboratory work-up (CBC, Urinalysis and RBS) among mothers during their first pre-natal check-up. 4) Conduct of monthly Parent Effectiveness Service sessions during the prenatal and postnatal period with emphasis on the psychosocial development of the baby and infusion on everyday hygiene. 5) Conduct of activities on the maintenance of Environmental and Water Sanitation. 6) Provision of mama book and baby book which includes Tatay and Nanay Tips to guide the parents on taking care of both the mother and the baby. 7) Participation of Southern Luzon State University

"Ay ako po ay nagpapasalamat sa Q1k at marami pong naitulong sa amin, at nung nagkasakit din po (ang aking anak) at na-hospital, sila din po ang nagsagot ng bayad namin sa hospital lahat ng gastos doon."

Ivy Buefano, 26, mother of 4

(SLSU) Research Division as third party evaluator to do geo-tagging of beneficiaries, Focal Group Discussions and Key Informant Interviews, and statistical analyses all throughout the implementation of the program. 8) A website that gives real time updates on the status of each of the beneficiary.

Out of the 1000 targeted mothers, Q1K has 924 actual beneficiaries with 76 drop outs. Some of the reasons for drop out are miscarriage, intrauterine fetal death, non-compliance, mother has transferred and home birth. An estimated 92% (849) of all the Q1k mothers had a Normal Spontaneous Delivery (NSD) and approximately 8% (75) went through Caesarean Section. In terms of deliveries by facility, the results unveil that almost 40% (371) of the total beneficiaries deliver in District Hospitals while 31% (288) gave birth at Rural Health Units/Lying-in/Birthing homes, around 25% (230) deliver in Quezon Medical Center (QMC), almost 2% (21) at private hospitals and the remaining 2% (14) categorized as others.

"Ngayon po nung nakapasok ako sa Q1k, malusog po yung inianak ko kasi kumpleto po ng vitamins saka alaga po ng Q1k ."

Gina Marie Huerto, 29, mother of 2

Newborn were all given immunization to protect them from life-threatening diseases. Moreover, Newborn Screening was also done to find out if the baby has congenital metabolic disorder that may lead to mental retardation. Around 95% (885) resulted normal during the newborn screening and almost 3% (28) has findings of G6PD Deficiency and Congenital Hypothyroidism.

Aside from this, Q1K mothers were also given orientations and trainings on nutrition and health, responsible parenthood and livelihood ventures. All of the 924 beneficiaries were provided with seeds like petchay, mustasa and okra from the home garden. Some were able to established ampalaya, kalabasa, sitaw and kangkong. The vegetables that they harvested are for family consumption and some were sold.

Improving nutrition for mothers and children during the first 1000 days and beyond will positively influence short and long-term outcomes. Thus, this period of time harbors the greatest opportunity to provide optimal nutrition and health interventions to ensure normal development and help children get the best start to life and the chance to reach their full potential. The advantages of Q1K are estimated to benefit not just direct participants, but the whole community. It can do more than shine a spotlight on the importance of early childhood development but it can also fuel tomorrow's citizens, workers and innovators and shape future's generations and societies.

Pres. Duterte appoints Calabarzon RDC Chair and Co-Chair!

President Rodrigo Duterte appointed Batangas Provincial Governor Hermilando I. Mandanas as Chairperson and Engr. Ladislao L. Andal from the private sector as Co-Chairperson of the Calabarzon RDC on March 8 and March 2, 2017, respectively.

Both the appointed Chair and Co-Chair are not new in the RDC. Chairperson Mandanas has already served as RDC Chairperson from 1995 to 2004 while Co-Chairperson Andal has served the RDC as private sector representative since 1992.

Among the advocacies and plans for the region of the newly appointed Chairperson are implementation of the the ER 1-94 projects, investment promotion, support to federalism and revival of the federation of RDCs for the complementation and convergence of inter-related programs and projects among regions.

(L-R) RDC Chairperson Hermilando I. Mandanas and RDC Co-Chairperson, Engr. Ladislao L. Andal. (Photos by: NEDA Region IV-A)

Calabarzon welcomes new Region IV-A heads!

MR. LUIS B. BUENO, JR.
Regional Director, DAR

PCSUPT MA. O R APLASCA
Regional Director, PNP

MS. NOEMI A. PARANADA
Regional Director, DENR-EMB

DOST, BFAR, PUSOD consort for Gawad Kalinga's seaweeds-based products

by John Maico M. Hernandez, DOST Region IV-A

To increase productivity of seaweed chips and impart new knowledge on processing additional profit-generating seaweeds-based products to GK San Francisco Javier People's Organization, the DOST Batangas, BFAR Region IV-A, Pusod Inc. and the local government of Nasugbu, conducted a training on Seaweeds Processing with Awareness-Seminar on Basic Food Hygiene and on current Good Manufacturing Practices on April 4 to 5, 2017 in Nasugbu, Batangas.

According to BFAR, seaweed is an important component of the marine ecosystem along with the mangrove and coral reefs and can be viewed in two perspectives, from its ecological value as well as its economic uses. The seaweed industry employs between 100,000 to 120,000 workers where 90 percent are seaweed farmers and the rest are seaweed processors and traders.

DOST Batangas, BFAR Region IV-A and Pusod, Inc. aimed to increase the productivity of GK San Francisco Javier People's Organization through adoption of appropriate technologies that would provide its members additional profit-generating seaweeds-based products other than seaweed chips. Recipes on processing pickled seaweeds, seaweed noodles, seaweed crackers, seaweed shing-a-ling and seaweed puto were discussed and demonstrated to participants. Health benefits of seaweed were also discussed in conjunction with the basic food hygiene and good manufacturing practices. Issues on product packaging and labelling, costing and use of equipment provided by DOST Batangas were also addressed.

Quarterly Regional Economic Situationer:

January to March 2017

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

CALABARZON'S ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE (Quarter on Quarter)

Improvement in performance

- Reduced underemployment
- Decrease in retrenched establishments and affected employees
- Increased coffee, sugarcane, commercial and municipal fisheries production
- Increased in domestic and foreign cargo throughput in Batangas Port
- Increase of passenger traffic in Lucena Port

Decline in performance

- Increased unemployment
- Increase in shutdown establishments and affected employees
- Increased average inflation rate at 2.4 percent and average CPI at 143.8
- Decreased palay, corn, coconut, pineapple, livestock (cattle, carabao, hog, chicken, goat), and aquaculture production
- Reduced passenger traffic in Batangas Port
- Reduced private shipcalls and cargo throughput in Lucena Port

Prices & Inflation

The inflation rate (IR) continued to rise from 0.9 percent in the first quarter of 2016 to 1.5 percent of the same year to 2.4 percent in the first quarter of 2017. Consequently, price indices of commodities increased from P 140.9 and P 142.1 in the first and last quarter of 2016, respectively, to P 143.8 in the first quarter of 2017.

The increase in the average consumer price index is primarily due to the increase in the prices of alcoholic beverages and tobacco, housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels. The Sin Tax Reform Law of 2012 imposed single tax regardless of the products' retail prices. In addition, the hike in petroleum prices also contributed to the increase in the price indices of commodities.

Other factors contributing to the increase in average consumer price index (CPI) were the increase in the prices of transport, food and non-alcoholic beverages, corn, oil and fats, clothing and footwear, restaurants and

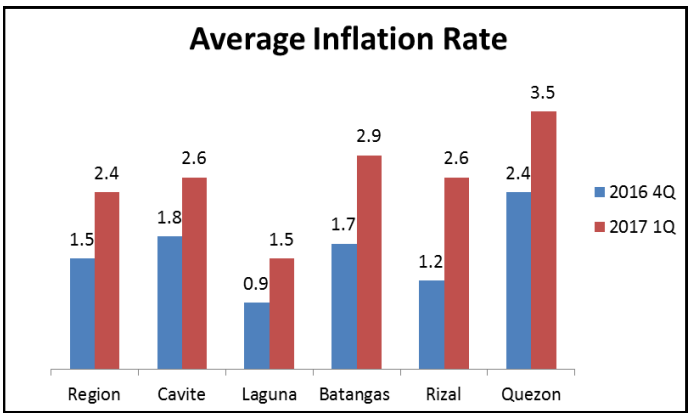

Figure 1. Average Inflation Rate for 4th Quarter of 2016 and 1st Quarter of 2017
Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

Table 1: Consumer Price Indices, Inflation Rate and Purchasing Power of Power Calabarzon, 1Q 2017, 4Q 2016 and 1Q 2016

Prices & Inflation	2017	2016		Trends	
	1st Qtr	4th Qtr	1st Qtr	Quarter -on- Quarter	Year -on- year
Indicator	(in index points)				
Average CPI	143.8	142.1	140.9	↑	↑
Average Inflation Rate (%)	2.4	1.5	0.9	↑	↑
Average PPP (PhP)	0.70	0.70	0.71	=	↑
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	163.8	162.0	159.9	↑	↑
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	235.9	225.2	212.7	↑	↑
Clothing and footwear	139.3	138.7	137.0	↑	↑
Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	122.3	119.7	119.1	↑	↑
Furnishings, HH equipment and routine maintenance of the house	134.0	133.8	132.6	↑	↑
Health	143.8	143.6	141.2	↑	↑
Transport	124.5	122.5	121.5	↑	↑
Communication	95.1	95.1	95.2	=	↓
Recreation and culture	113.4	113.2	112.5	↑	↑
Education	151.7	151.7	150.0	=	↑
Restaurants and miscellaneous goods and services	144.5	143.9	141.3	↑	↑

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority Region IV-A

miscellaneous goods and services. However, price indices for health, recreation and culture and furnishings, household equipment and maintenance posted minimal increase from last quarter indices.

First quarter price indices for communication and education commodities remained at P 95.1 and P 151.7, respectively. Year on year, the prices of communication declined while education increased. The decline in the communication prices can be attributed to the cheaper connection charges by telecom networks implemented in January of this year.

The purchasing power of peso in the region remained the same at P 0.70 with a slight decrease from the same quarter last year at P 0.71. This indicates that inflation and income level in the region rose at the same level for the first quarter of 2017.

Labor and Employment

As expected, the labor force or the population 15 years old and over continues to increase. However, the labor force participation rate or the percentage of those employed and looking for work out of the total labor force showed a consistent decline. This may be attributed to more of the young population attending school and new graduates who opt not to seek immediate employment. The decision of new graduates to postpone seeking employment may be attributed to the improved socio-economic status of their households. Some stakeholders also cite the fact that the decline in the labor force participation is caused by job seekers who cannot find work and therefore quit looking for work.

Employment rate for the first quarter of 2017 is also lower than the fourth quarter and first quarter last year. The reason for lower employment rate quarter-on-quarter is due to the additional graduates as many universities in the region still end up classes in March while year-on-year may be attributed to better economic standing of the region in the first quarter last year compared to the same period this year.

With declining employment rate, the unemployment situation increased. The underemployment rate showed improvement, evident by the decrease of 0.9 and 5.6 percentage points, quarter on quarter and year on year, respectively.

Table 2: Labor and Employment Data Calabarzon, 1Q 2017, 4Q 2016 and 1Q 2016

Labor & Employment	2017	2016		Trends	
Indicator	1st Qtr (Jan)	4th Qtr (Oct)	1st Qtr (Jan)	Quarter -on- Quarter	Year -on- year
Population 15 years and above (No.)	9,733	9,625	8,680	▲	▲
Labor Force Participation Rate (%)	63.2	64.3	65.1	▼	▼
Employment Rate (%)	91.8	93.8	92.5	▼	▼
Unemployment Rate	8.2	6.2	7.5	▲	▲
Underemployment Rate	14.8	15.7	20.4	▼	▼

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority Region IV-A

The number of establishments in the region which reported retrenchment decreased as compared to the previous quarter. Also, the total number of affected employees decreased by 64 percent. Although the number of retrenched established increased slightly by 10 year on year, the number of affected employees decreased. Majority or 44 percent of the cases reported is in Laguna.

Sixty two percent of the reported cases of retrenchments in the region is attributed to economic reasons such as financial losses, redundancy reorganization and downsizing, lack of market, uncompetitive price and lack of raw materials.

Table 3: Company Retrenchment and Shutdown Data Calabarzon, 1Q 2017, 4Q 2016 and 1Q 2016

Retrenchment & Shutdown	2017	2016		Trends	
Indicator	1st Qtr	4th Qtr	1st Qtr	Quarter -on- Quarter	Year -on- year
Retrenchment					
No. of Establishments	150	409	140	▼	▲
No. of Employees Affected	3,883	10,778	9,856	▼	▼
Shutdown					
No. of Establishments	15	13	12	▲	▲
No. of Employees Affected	1673	1,811	707	▼	▲

Source: Department of Labor and Employment Region IV-A

Quarter on quarter and year on year, the number of shutdown cases increased. The cases reported are from Laguna and Cavite. It was also reported that both affected male and female employees increased. The decline in the economic performance in the region, particularly in the industry sector, can be one of the causes of the increase in shutdown establishment as 87 percent of these establishments reported shutdown due to economic reasons such as financial losses, redundancy reorganization and downsizing, and lack of market.

Agriculture & Fishery

On a year on year comparison, Calabarzon posted a general positive agriculture performance in the first quarter of 2017 as compared to the same quarter in 2016. There was increased production in sugarcane, pineapple, major livestock and poultry, and municipal fisheries.

Pineapple and sugarcane production increased by 3.18 percent (341.70 MT) and by 0.96 percent (10,980 MT), year on year. In contrast, rice/palay, corn, coconut and coffee production declined by 6.65 percent, 2.33 percent, 4.95 percent and 28.17 percent.

The declining agricultural performance can be attributed to the dwindling agricultural lands due to reclassification or conversion and unfavourable weather brought about by Typhoon Nina which negatively affected production up to the first quarter of 2017.

All major livestock and poultry production posted small improvements year on year due to increased demand and better farm systems employed by suppliers. There were improvements in cattle production by 1.60 percent or 83 MT, carabao production by 3.5 percent or 45 MT, hog production by 2.23 percent or 1,894 MT, chicken production by 2.53 percent or 1,858 MT and goat production by 4.5 percent or 35 MT.

For fisheries, municipal fisheries production increased by 9.04 percent (2,143 MT) year on year. However, commercial fisheries production and aquaculture production decreased by 4.53 percent (646 MT) and by 5.54 percent (2,175 MT).

Table 4. Agriculture and Fisheries Performance Calabarzon, 1Q 2017, 4Q 2016 and 1Q 2016

Agriculture & Fisheries	2017	2016		Trends	
	1st Qtr	4th Qtr	1st Qtr	Quarter -on- Quarter	Year -on- year
Commodity	(in metric tons)				
Crops					
Rice/Palay	83,990	137,132	89,973.00	↓	↓
Corn	20,499	32,194	20,987.00	↓	↓
Coconut	267,993.24	383,025.75	281,964.47	↓	↓
Coffee	1,809.83	199.40	2,519.71	↑	↓
Sugarcane	1,152,531	58,966.63	1,141,551	↑	↑
Pineapple	11,080.59	14,696.83	10,738.89	↓	↑
Livestock and Poultry					
Cattle	5,285	9,141	5,202.00	↓	↑
Carabao	1,331	2,819	1,286.00	↓	↑
Hog	86,913	97,590	85,019.00	↓	↑
Chicken	75,421	98,919	73,563.00	↓	↑
Goat	813	1,328	778.00	↓	↑
Fisheries					
Commercial	13,635.03	12,989.17	14,281.58	↑	↓
Municipal	25,850.67	25,707.77	23,707.63	↑	↑
Aquaculture	37,064.19	49,658.45	39,239.99	↓	↓

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority Region IV-A

Typhoon Nina damages hectares of coconut farms in Quezon province. (Photo: GMA News Online)

A boy rides a horse to deliver pineapples to a market in Indang, Cavite. Calabarzon is considered as one of the major pineapple-growing regions in the Philippines. (Photo: BusinessMirror)

Department of Agriculture Region IV-A trains coffee farmers and growers to increase productivity and make coffee farming attractive to future generations. (Photo: Department of Agriculture Region IV-A)

Port Performance

Total shipcalls in Batangas Port increased by 7.77 percent from the fourth quarter of 2016 to the first quarter of 2017, however, it is lower by 3.8 percent compared to the same quarter in 2016. The decrease in total shipcalls can be attributed to the decrease in domestic shipcalls by 4.2 and foreign shipcalls by 7.89 percent. The cancellation of domestic trips due to bad weather contributed to the downtrend.

Total cargo throughput consistently increased on a quarter on quarter and year on year by 19.37 percent or 1,037,895 MT and 8.74 percent or 514,304 MT, respectively. The positive performance can be attributed to increases in both domestic and foreign cargo. Despite the positive cargo performance, recorded exports from the Batangas increased quarter on quarter at 4.39 percent however this decreased by 17.23 percent from the same period last year. Meanwhile, imports continue to increase quarter on quarter (16.67%) and year on year (7.74%).

Domestic and foreign cargo continue to increase in Batangas Port. (Photo: PortCalls Asia)

Passenger traffic both declined quarter on quarter and year on year by 0.6 percent (9,662 persons) and 9.05 percent (158,012 persons), respectively. The decline in passenger traffic can be attributed to the change in the period of Holy Week celebration in 2016 and 2017 when the influx of passenger are at its peak. The Holy Week in 2016 was during the 1st quarter of the year while it was in the 2nd quarter of the year in 2017.

Table 5: Performance of Batangas Port, 1Q 2017, 4Q 2016 and 1Q 2016

Port Performance	2017	2016		Trends	
Indicators	1st Qtr	4th Qtr	1st Qtr	Quarter-on-Quarter	Year-on-Year
Shipcalls	10,230	9,492	10,634	▲	▼
Domestic	9,820	9,082	10,254	▲	▼
Foreign	410	410	380	▼	▲
Cargo Throughput (in MT)	6,396,685.55	5,358,790.08	5,882,381.26	▲	▲
Domestic	2,588,578.89	2,079,301.34	2,305,091.74	▲	▲
Foreign	3,808,106.66	3,279,488.74	3,577,289.52	▲	▲
Import	3,655,487.96	3,133,292.70	3,392,891.56	▲	▲
Export	152,618.70	146,196.04	184,397.96	▲	▼
Passenger Traffic	1587,596	1,597,258	1,745,608.00	▼	▼

Source: Philippine Ports Authority-Port Management Office of Batangas

Table 6: Performance of Lucena Port and private ports in Quezon Province, 1Q 2017, 4Q 2016 and 1Q 2016

Port Performance	2017	2016		Trends	
Indicators	1st Qtr	4th Qtr	1st Qtr	Quarter-on-Quarter	Year-on-Year
Shipcalls	1,470	1,253	1,563	▲	▼
Port of Lucena	1,381	1,086	1,384	▲	▼
Private	152	167	179	▼	▼
Cargo Throughput (in MT)	1,106,691	1,325,369	1,120,942	▼	▼
Port of Lucena	59,042	53,656	56,293	▲	▲
Private	1,047,649	1,271,713	1,064,649	▼	▼
Domestic	42,296	40,248	59,613	▲	▼
Foreign	1,005,353	1,231,465	1,005,035	▼	▲
Passenger Traffic (Lucena Port)	191,458	154,894	185,262	▲	▲

Source: Philippine Ports Authority-Port Management Office of Quezon

Development Prospects and Challenges

Slower growth in manufacturing and construction will continue to affect many workers employed in these subsectors who will find it difficult to migrate to more high growth sector on services.

Palay production will increase as the 2nd quarter coincides with the harvest season. Livestock and poultry production are also expected to improve due to recovery in stocks that is able to meet sustained demands and shift of farms to better ventilated system for chicken.

Port performance, in terms passenger traffic, will continue to improve given Calabarzon's strategic position in Southern Manila which caters sea travel as the primary mode of transportation for domestic inter-island connectivity. Moreover, the growing importance of Batangas Port as an international seaport, given Manila port's full capacity, and the Lucena Port as domestic seaport will also contribute to the positive port performance of the region.

RPMC Bulletin

Regional Project Monitoring Committee's Second Quarter Meeting

by Richard P. Engasa, NEDA Region IV-A

The RPMC conducted its second quarter meeting on 02 May at RDC IV-A Conference Room, Barangay Real, Calamba City. The agenda items discussed were the following: a) Second Quarter Project Field Monitoring Report; b)studies under the NEDA Monitoring and Evaluation Fund; c) LPMC in the DILG's Seal of Good Local Governance; d) New Centennial Water Source Project; e) SLEX Toll Road Project 4; f) North-South Railway Project; g) DOT-DPWH Convergence Program; h) Philippine Rural Development Project; i) Local Project Monitoring Committee (LPMC) activities; and; j) Local Migration and Development initiatives.

The Committee endorsed to RDC for approval the results of the 2017 Search for Outstanding LPMCs and approved the 2017 Calabarzon Project Monitoring System (cPMS) Training.

Members and guests during the Second Quarter Regional Project Monitoring Committee Meeting. (Photo by: NEDA Region IV-A)

RPMC IV-A Conducts Calabarzon Project Monitoring System Training

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

Mr. Valter Morada the RPMC Secretary presents the rationale of the cPMS training. (Photo by: NEDA Region IV-A)

The Regional Project Monitoring Committee (RPMC) Region IV-A conducted the Calabarzon Project Monitoring System (cPMS) training on 24 May 2017 at Continuing Education Center Conference Room, UPLB, Los Baños, Laguna.

The cPMS is an online system that facilitates the submission of up-to-date RPMES monitoring reports and resolution of project implementation issues.

The training aimed to enhance the knowledge of Regional Line Agencies (RLAs) and Local Government Units (LGUs) on the basic principles and concept of cPMS as well as provide necessary tools, access, procedures and techniques in using the cPMS. The training served as an avenue to enroll and update the major programs and projects of the region.

Representatives from the regional offices of DBM DAR, DBP, DepED, DENR, DTI, DSWD, DPWH, LBP, NIA and OPAPP attended the training along with the technical staff of the provincial planning offices of Batangas, Cavite and Rizal. On the part of the RPMC, PSRs Ruel Punzalan and Iluminada Gomez attended the training. The RPMC Secretariat gave lectures on the filling up of Project Monitoring Committee forms as well as the use and functionality of the cPMS. The participants were given a hands-on exercise by enrolling their major programs and projects.

RPMC Bulletin

RPMC Inspects Calatagan Port in Batangas Province

by Richard P. Engasa, NEDA Region IV-A

RPMC Team visits Calatagan Port in Batangas Province. (Photo: RPMC)

Calatagan Port, an all-weather port, caters to many travellers coming to and from the Lubang Island. To further promote trade and tourism between Calatagan and Lubang Island all year long, the RPMC Monitoring Team conducted a field monitoring visit of Calatagan Port in Calatagan, Batangas on 07 April.

The Team assessed the implementation of support projects of the port and validated the actions taken on the recommendations made by the RDC Task Force Calatagan. Also, the Team inspected the existing port facilities, gathered feedback from the port users, and identified issues, concerns and possible recommendations.

The RPMC Team inspects existing port facilities

The monitoring team identified the following issues and concerns: 1) passenger terminal needs repair and improvement; 2) only small RO-RO vessels, motor and fishing boats utilize the port; 3) limited movement of vessels due to shallow water; 4) a deteriorated building; 5) fare overcharging by tricycle drivers; and 6) non-issuance of drumming permit for fuel and dangerous cargo by the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG).

The Team recommended to demolish the deteriorated building to create more open space; request LGU to regulate tricycle fares; and 4) request PCG to issue drumming permit to ensure safety of passengers. The monitoring team was composed of members and representatives from the regional offices of DBM and NEDA, PPA PMO-Batangas, RDC-PSRs Ladislao Andal and Joselito Rodriguez, Batangas Provincial Project Monitoring Committee, DPWH Batangas 1st District Engineering Office, and Calatagan LGU.

RPMC Team meeting with Calatagan Port officials

RPMC Bulletin

RPMC Checks Quipot Irrigation Project in Quezon Province

by Richard P. Engasa, NEDA Region IV-A

Members of the RPMC monitoring team during their visit in Quipot Irrigation Project. (Photo: RPMC)

The PhP 1B Quipot Irrigation Project is one of the government priority projects that will benefit around 2,000 farmers in Quezon and Batangas. The RPMC Monitoring Team inspected the Quipot Irrigation Project in Quezon on April 20. The RPMC monitoring team is composed of members and representatives from the regional offices of DILG, DBM and NEDA, OP-PMS, PSR Iluminada Gomez and NIA.

The monitoring team assessed the implementation of Quipot Irrigation Project, inspected the existing irrigation infrastructures, validated the negative 13 slippage and identified issues, concerns and possible recommendations.

The monitoring team identified the following issues on right-of-way acquisition: land ownership and tenancy; undocumented land; and slow land verification. Other implementation bottlenecks are the political and security issues, and delayed issuance of DENR permit to cut trees.

The monitoring team recommended the following: 1) RPMC to initiate a problem-solving session among DENR,

The RPMC Team assess the implementation of the Quipot Irrigation Project. (Photo: RPMC)

RPMC Team meeting with NIA Region IV-A. (Photo: RPMC)

DAR, BIR, Land Registration Authority, Registry of Deeds and Assessor's Office to facilitate right-of-way acquisition and the cutting of trees; 2) DILG to request manifestation of support from the concerned municipal and barangay government; 3) concerned LGU to ensure the security of the contractor's personnel and equipment during project implementation.

Updates on Studies Under the NEDA Monitoring and Evaluation Fund

by Josephine D. Hapil, NEDA Region IV-A

The Terms of Reference and other required documents for the four studies approved by the NEDA Central Office and budgets made available. Procurement of consultants is ongoing for the following studies:

1. Ex-Post Evaluation of Strengthening, Upscaling and Mainstreaming International Migration and Development in Calabarzon Project
2. Impact Evaluation of Marikina-Infanta Road Project
3. Impact Evaluation of Laguna de Bay Institutional Strengthening and Community Participation Project
4. Impact Evaluation of Batangas Port Phase II Project