



First Quarter
March 2020

there is knowledge in news **CALABARZON**

The Official Newsletter of the Regional Development Council IV-A

CALABARZON RDC endorses the proposal to study the availment of P2P Bus System/p.3

CALABARZON students get first hand information on COVID-19 from DOH/p.7

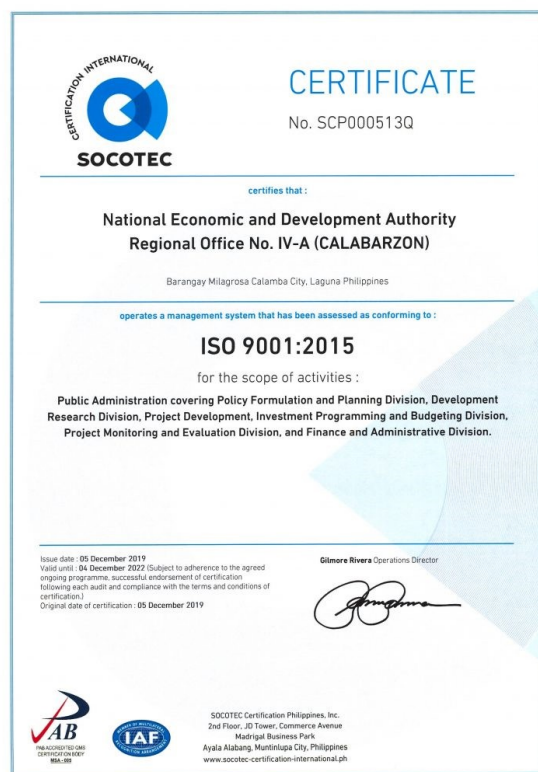


JOINING HANDS FOR TAAL VICTIMS

Story on pages 10-11

NEDA Region IV-A is now ISO 9001:2015 Certified

by Mary Deemle D. Ariate, NEDA Region IV-A



The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Region IV-A is now ISO Certified after successfully passing the external audits conducted on August 19 and October 2, 2019.

The ISO Certification on Quality Management System covers the following core process: Regional Development Plan; Policy Formulation; Secretariat Services for the RDC Full Council Meeting; RDC Newsletter; Budget Review; Regional Development Investment Program; Project Evaluation; Project Monitoring; and Regional Development Report. The following support processes were also certified: Financial Transactions; Procurement; Issuance of Supplies and Materials; Recruitment; Learning and Development; ICT and Equipment Troubleshoot; and Preventive Maintenance; Control of Documented Information; Corrective Action Request; Control of Non-Conforming Products; Internal Audit; and Management Review.

The NEDA Region IV-A's ISO certification journey began in November 2017 and culminated on December 5, 2019 with the issuance of the ISO 9001:2015 Standard by SOCOTEC Certification Philippines, Inc. on December 5, 2019.

First Quarter 2020

there is knowledge in news
CALABARZON
 Published quarterly by the Regional Development Council IV-A (CALABARZON). The Editorial Board reserves the right to choose the articles to be published due to the limited space.

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor-in-Chief
 RD Luis G. Banua

Managing Editors
 ARD Gina T. Gacusan
 Marlo E. Chavez

Editors
 Agnes A. Daantos
 Valter Morada
 Marcelo Cesar R. Palacio
 Allan del Socorro
 Theresa Jane C. Medenilla

Layout and Design
 Mary Deemle D. Ariate

Feedback and article contributions are welcome. Please contact:
 NEDA Regional Office IV-A,
 Barangay Milagrosa, Calamba City,
 Laguna 4027
 Tel: (049) 502 -0289
 Email: rdc.calabarzon@gmail.com



About the Cover

The recent Taal volcano eruption proved that Batangueños are real "*barako*" like its *balisong* and coffee that symbolize bravery especially in times of calamity. The virtue of courage to stand and get back to where it was, upholds the spirit of *#BatangasMagiting*.

ON THIS ISSUE

NEDA Region IV-A is now ISO 9001:2015 Certified **28** Provincial News

CALABARZON RDC endorses the proposal to study the P2P Bus System **310** Feature. Joining hands for Taal victims

CALABARZON RDC recognizes Champion Awardees **4** CALABARZON welcomes new Region IV-A heads!

CALABARZON strengthens its GAD Resource Pool **512** NEDA joins relief efforts for Taal Volcano victims

CALABARZON RDC conducts Training on Technical Secretariat Services **613** Regional Economic Situationer

CALABARZON students get first hand information on COVID-19 from DOH **717** RPMC Bulletin

DA CALABARZON distributes additional P32M worth of interventions to ASF-affected raisers in Rodriguez, Rizal **20** 2019 CALABARZON Seal of Good Local Governance Awardees

CALABARZON RDC endorses the proposal to study the availment of P2P Bus System

by Franchess Louise P. Lopez, NEDA Region IV-A

The CALABARZON Regional Development Council (RDC) in its Full Council meeting on December 18, 2019 endorsed to the Department of Transportation and the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board the proposal to study the "Incentive for Government Employees Availing Point-to-Point (P2P) System."

The Sectoral Committee on Infrastructure Development (SCID) reported that mass transportation is critical in attaining the development goals of the Region. The ongoing construction of the Skyway Extension Project triggered traffic congestion along the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX). The use of P2P bus system was introduced as a strategy to decongest major thoroughfare in the Region and in Metro Manila.

The P2P mode of transportation, especially to employees who travel to work on a daily basis, will ease traffic congestion along the major expressway without compromising the overall quality of commuting experience and thus promote employee productivity.

The SCID recommends determining additional P2P routes to accommodate more commuters and identify possible incentives to encourage government employees to take the P2P buses.

The RDC also endorsed during the meeting the institutionalization of Community-Driven Development, support on the declaration of adolescent pregnancy as a national social emergency, Quezon-Bicol Expressway, and CALABARZON Transport Master Plan.

The RDC also confirmed the geographic representatives namely: Ms. Marilou G. Dinoy of Punta Fuego Village Foundation, Inc. for Batangas; Mr. Rodrigo M. Camia of Cavite Metro Multipurpose Cooperative for Cavite; Ms.



DPWH Region IV-A Assistant Regional Director Jovel Mendoza (left) presents the P2P Bus System. Photo by: Farhad Ali Asgari, NEDA Region IV-A



RDC Chairperson and Batangas Governor Hermilando I. Mandanas (left) officiates the oath taking of geographic private sector representatives of Batangas and Cavite. Photo by: Farhad Ali Asgari, NEDA Region IV-A

Vivienne Co-Say of ICCT Colleges Foundation, Inc. for Rizal; and Ms. Zenaida L. De Asis of Original UGAT Lucena Association, Inc. for Quezon.



Members of the CALABARZON RDC Full Council. Photo by Farhad Ali Asgari, NEDA Region IV-A

CALABARZON RDC recognizes Champion Awardees

by Francess Louise P. Lopez, NEDA Region IV-A



CALABARZON RDC awarding ceremonies officiated by RDC Chairperson and Batangas Governor Hermilando Mandanas and RDC Vice Chairperson and NEDA Region IV-A Director Luis G. Banua. Photos by: Farhad Ali Asgari, NEDA Region IV-A

The CALABARZON Regional Development Council (RDC), during its 4th Quarter 2019 RDC Full Council Meeting, approved and conferred various awards to private and government individuals and organizations on December 18, 2019 at the RDC Conference Hall, NEDA Region IV-A, Barangay Milagrosa, Calamba City.

The RDC recognizes individuals and organizations who bring honor to the Region as a way of inspiring others to excel in their respective fields and eventually redound to the development of the CALABARZON Region.

Among the awards conferred were the CALABARZON Champion Award and Special Award. The CALABARZON Champion Awardees were: a) Matt Zyus M. Ramirez (gold medalist in the 164th Philippine Swimming League National Series – 1st Susan Papa Unity Cup 2019; b) 3D Container & Packaging Philippines Corp., national winner

in the 2019 Productivity Olympics; c) Public Employment and Service Offices (PESO) of Angono, Rizal and Balete, Batangas and the Job Placement Office of the University of Batangas, National Best PESO in the 19th National PESO Congress. The winners in the 7th Regional Competitiveness Summit were also recognized: Provinces of Rizal, Laguna, and Cavite, Cities of Antipolo, Calamba, Santa Rosa, Batangas, and General Trias, and Municipalities of Cainta, Taytay, Binangonan, Taal, Pagsanjan, Silang, and San Mateo. For the special award, a plaque of recognition was given to Assistant Regional Director Francisco P. Ranches, Jr. of LTO Region IV-A for being the Career Executive Service Very Innovative Person Awardee of the Career Executive Service Board.

Gov. Mandanas, RDC Chairperson and Dir. Luis G. Banua, RDC Vice Chairperson handed over the awards during the ceremony.



The CALABARZON RDC also honors partners in the RDC Community Outreach and Yakap Bayan: Community Mobilization Support Program in Mabitac, Laguna and Tanay, Rizal on June 26, 2019 and October 24, 2019, respectively. Photo by : Farhad Ali Asgari, NEDA Region IV-A

CALABARZON strengthens its GAD Resource Pool

by Aprille M. Suyat, NEDA Region IV-A

The CALABARZON Regional Gender and Development Committee (RGADC) conducted the CALABARZON GAD Resource Pool (CGRP) Deepening Session Preparation on November 21 to 22, 2019 at the BP International Makiling, Makiling, Los Baños, Laguna. The activity is part of the continuous capacity development provided to CGRP members to further capacitate them in providing technical assistance on GAD.

The two-day training activity consisted of detailed discussions on sexual orientation and gender identity expression also known as SOGIE, gender analysis tools, and GAD Plan and Budget, as well as how to properly deliver the GAD core messages. Resource Persons from the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) were invited to provide the necessary discussions and knowledge sharing. Through the session, the participants gained a deeper understanding on the core messages of

GAD and be able to effectively relay these messages to their audiences.

CGRP is a group of GAD practitioners in the region that was certified by the CALABARZON Regional Development Council (RDC) to address the increasing number of requests for technical assistance on GAD mainstreaming as well as to ensure the provision of quality technical assistance. In 2018, 11 GAD practitioners from different sectors were certified by the RDC as the CGRP Batch 1 following the certification guidelines adopted from the PCW National GAD Resource Pool Certification.

Due to the overwhelming demand on GAD technical assistance, RGADC will call for CGRP applications for Batch 2 in the first quarter of 2020.



Resource persons and participants of the training pose for the group photo.

CALABARZON RDC conducts Training on Technical Secretariat Services

by Laurece Francia R. Tanyag, NEDA Region IV-A



Participants during the Training on Secretariat Services. Photo by: NEDA Region IV-A

The CALABARZON Regional Development Council (RDC) in its bid to capacitate the technical staff of its members conducted the Training on Technical Secretariat Services last November 28 to 29, 2019 at Bayleaf Hotel, General Trias, Cavite.

As the head of the technical secretariat to the RDC, NEDA Region IV-A Regional Director Luis G. Banua and Assistant Regional Director Gina T. Gacusan served as resource persons. The topics discussed during the training include roles of the secretariat; meeting dynamics; basics of good writing; doctrine of Completed Staff Work; tips on technical writing; writing reports, letters and resolutions; and the Philippine Protocol.

Director Banua emphasized the important role of the

secretariat as vital support to decision-makers during meetings and in the preparation, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of the development plans, programs, projects, and policies.

Forty-four participants from local government units and regional line agencies attended the training. Participants who excelled in English exercises were recognized during the training.

The training of RDC members and technical staff is one of the priority activities of the Council to improve the coordination and facilitation work during the conduct of meetings and other related activities. This is the second Training on Secretariat Services conducted by the RDC since 2018.



Regional Director and Assistant Regional Director Gina T. Gacusan of NEDA Region IV-A serve as resource person in the Training on Secretariat Services. Photo by NEDA Region IV-A.

CALABARZON students get first hand information on COVID-19 from DOH

by Department of Health Region IV-A

The Department of Health (DOH)- CALABARZON continues its intensified health education campaign as it now targets schools in the Region to extend awareness and correct information on COVID-19 to help reduce fear and worry among students and their families.

"We have to properly educate and inform our students on what COVID-19 is all about to avoid confusion and panic and how it can be prevented. Ang mga eskuwelahan lalo na ang mga pribado ay itinuturing na entry at exit point ng corona virus dahil sa mga dayuhang estudyante at kasama na dito ang iba pang



DOH-CALABARZON Health Education and Promotion Officer II Ms. Evangeline F. Caidoy answers students queries after giving a lecture on COVID-19 during one of the schools visits in schools in Imus, Cavite. *Photo by: DOH Region IV-A*

madalas lumalabas ng bansa upang umuwi o magbakasyon," stated DOH CALABARZON Director Eduardo C. Janairo.

"CALABARZON has no confirmed case of COVID-19 yet but health measures to contain and prevent its spread are in place should there be a need to implement an emergency procedure," he assured.

The DOH-CALABARZON Rapid Response Unit composed of Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Disease Program, Health Emergency Management Service, Health Education and Promotion Unit and the Regional Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit will continue to visit schools and educate students on COVID-19.

A series of lectures about COVID-19, how it began, its symptoms, complications, transmission and prevention including national and global updates were given to grade 7 to grade 10 students including proper wearing and disposing of masks and hand washing.

Janairo encouraged students to help disseminate correct information to their families and avoid spreading fake news about the virus online.

DA CALABARZON distributes additional PHP 32M worth of interventions to ASF-affected raisers in Rodriguez, Rizal

by Department of Agriculture Region IV-A

Agriculture Secretary William D. Dar and Regional Director Arnel V. de Mesa led the distribution of additional PHP 32-million worth of interventions composing of various farm tools, equipment, inputs, livestock, and poultry for hog raisers affected by African Swine Fever (ASF) in Rodriguez, Rizal on February 21, 2020 at Municipal Nursery in Brgy. Macabud, Rodriguez, Rizal.

The assistance is to help affected hog-raisers to have other sources of sustainable livelihood which they can grow even after the threat of ASF in the country disappeared.

Secretary Dar emphasized that the strong coordination between the Provincial Government of Rizal and Municipal Government of Rodriguez, with the Department of Agriculture CALABARZON is crucial to control and eliminate ASF in Rodriguez in just 30 days (August to September 2019).

There were 7,003 hogs culled due to ASF in the 1-7-10-kilometer zones affecting a total of 711 hog raisers in six barangays of Rodriguez were affected.



One of the initial interventions provided by the Department was indemnification wherein DA gave affected raisers P5,000 for each surrendered pig to be humanely culled.

According to Director de Mesa, the distribution of interventions is based on needs assessment and validation of affected raisers to ensure that the livelihood assistance provided to them is the most suitable and sustainable.

PROVINCIAL NEWS

Laguna Province bags top DILG governance awards

by Ruby S. Ambrosio, PIO Laguna

The Province of Laguna was conferred its fourth Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG) award by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) in November 2019.

The province passed 2019's polished and redefined 'All-in' assessment criteria with specific modifications in most of the governance areas namely: Financial Administration, Disaster Preparedness, Social Protection, Peace and Order, Business Friendliness and Competitiveness, Environmental Protection, and Tourism, Culture and the Arts.

Laguna was already inducted into the SGLG Hall of Fame in 2018, having been an awardee for three consecutive years.

Moreover, Laguna received the 2019 National Anti-Drug Abuse Council Performance Award in December. The award is given to LGUs for their effort and commitment in ensuring that their communities are drug-free, and in safeguarding their constituents from the adverse effects of illicit drugs.

The Province garnered a perfect score of 100 points, fully meeting the parameters set by the DILG in the 2018



Laguna Governor Ramil L. Hernandez (2nd from the right) receives the 2019 National Anti-Drug Abuse Council Performance Award from DILG Region IV-A Regional Director Elias Fernandez Jr., while DILG-Laguna Provincial Director Eng. John M. Cerezo stands behind the 2019 Seal of Good Local Governance, with Provincial Administrator Dulce H. Rebanal (far right) and Provincial Board Secretary Francisco R. Macabuhay (far left). Photo by Jun Sapungan, PIO Laguna

Anti-Drug Abuse Council Performance Audit, and duly recognized it for complementing the anti-illegal drugs programs of the national government strictly implemented by the Provincial Anti-Drug Abuse Council.

Cavite prepares for ISO 9001:2015 recertification

by Cavite Quality Management Office



New PGC-QMS internal auditors pose for photos on final day of the Internal Quality Auditors Training. Photo by: Cavite QMO

The Provincial Government of Cavite reinforced its continuous improvement through Internal Quality Auditors Training.

The Provincial Government through the Cavite Quality Management Office spearheaded the training last February 11-12, 2020 at the Sangguniang Panlalawigan Session Hall, Legislative Building, Trece Martires City, Cavite.

ISO 9001 Specialist Mr. Antonio P. Santos, the activity's resource speaker, discussed the structure and interpretation of the requirements of ISO 9001:2015 and emphasized the crucial role of internal auditors in PGC's commitment to a more effective and efficient implementation of the Quality Management System.

Participated by more than 70 representatives from the different offices, the two-day activity aimed not only to equip the participants with knowledge on how to thoroughly plan and conduct internal audits but also, to be able to report valid, factual, and value-adding audit findings by adopting "risk-based thinking" and "process approach."

ISO 9001:2015 Appreciation and Risk-Based Thinking Seminars being conducted consecutively since January 2020 are likewise among the various activities led by Provincial Government in order to foster a culture of effective service facilitation among its leaders and employees and ultimately, to address the needs and aspirations of every Caviteño.

PROVINCIAL NEWS

Rizal is 2019 SGLG awardee

by Rizal Provincial Information Office

After being adjudged as the Most Competitive Province in the Philippines in 2019 for four consecutive years and receiving a favorable COA Report on Good Financial Performance, comes the prestigious Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG).

The province of Rizal passed and was given “green” scorecards in all core and essential areas or the upscaled criteria, especially in environmental management, where the province performed well because of its YES (Ynares Eco System) Program which aims to safeguard the environment for future generations and combat the “climate change” phenomenon.

The award recognized LGUs in the practice of transparency, accountability and diligence in compliance with the Anti-Red Tape Act. The Province previously bagged the distinguished Seal in 2016 and 2017, aside from the Bronze and Silver Category in 2012 and 2013, respectively under its precursor the Seal of Good Housekeeping. The Province was also awarded the Seal of Good Financial Housekeeping in 2014, recognizing the province’s sound financial management administration and management.

According to Governor Rebecca Ynares, the conferment

symbolizes the integrity and good leadership of the provincial administration and its commitment to give the highest quality of public service to the constituents. The award also entitles the province to a PHP4.5 million Performance Challenge Fund which can be used for development projects to sustain its trailblazing efforts of ensuring good governance, inclusive growth, and competitive economy.



Rizal Governor Rebecca Ynares (3rd from right) holds the distinguished SGLG Plaque during the awarding ceremonies held at Manial Hotel. Also in photo are Congressman Alfred Vargas of Quezon City (center), DILG Secretary Eduardo Año (3rd from left), Usec. Marivel Sacendoncillo (2nd from left), DILG Region IV-A Director Elias Fernandez, Jr. (far left), DILG Rizal Provincial Director Allan Benitez (far right), and Rizal Provincial Treasurer Ms. Ma. Teresa Lasquety (2nd from right). Photo by: Rizal Provincial Information Office

Yakap Kababayan, inilunsad ng Lalawigan ng Quezon

by Quezon Provincial Information Office

Patuloy na ipinaabot ng Pamahalaan ng Lalawigan ng Quezon ang Serbisyonang Suarez maging sa ating mga taga-karatig Lalawigan na naglalayong matugunan ang mga pangunahing pangangailangan ng ating mga kababayan na apektado sa pagputok ng Bulkang Taal sa Probinsya ng Batangas. Matatandaan na sa programang “Yakap Kababayan” nasa mahigit labing limang libong evacuees ang pansamantalang tumutuloy sa mga evacuation areas sa ilang bayan ng ikalawang distrito ng Quezon partikular sa bayan ng San Antonio, Dolores, Tiaong, Candelaria at Sariaya.

Kasabay nito ay ipinabatid naman ng mga Alkalde ng mga nabanggit na bayan na sila ay handang tumugon at tumulong sa mga evacuees na nasa pangangalaga ng kanilang mga evacuation sites. Kung saan kamakailan ay personal na binisita ng Ama ng Lalawigan ng Quezon, Governor Danilo E. Suarez ang kababayan natin mula Lalawigan ng Batangas upang kumustahin ang kanilang mga kalagayan at ipagkaloob ang kanilang mga pangangailangan gaya ng hygiene kit, mga gamot at bitamina maging ng mga damit. Lagi rin may nakatalagang stand-by ambulance at rescue vehicle sa mga evacuation areas.

Nais ding bigyan ng pansin ng Gobernador ng Quezon, ang pag-aaral ng mga kabataang hindi makapasok sa eskwelahan dahil sa kinailangan ng mga itong lumikas dulot ng Bulkang Taal.

Ayon kay Governor Suarez, gagawa ang Pamahalaan ng Lalawigan ng coordination sa DepEd upang matulungan ang mga estudyanteng makapagpatuloy ng kanilang pag-aaral na tinatayang may kabuuang nasa mahigit apat na daan kabilang ang mga Elementarya at Sekondaryang magaaral kabilang ang mga kolehiyo. Para naman sa mga college students ay handa rin umano ang Lalawigan upang matulungan silang makapasok sa ilang mga unibersidad sa Probinsya.



JOINING HANDS FOR TAAL VICTIMS

by Batangas Provincial Planning and Development Office



Last January 12, 2020, the Taal Volcano surprised everyone as it spewed ashes across CALABARZON, Metro Manila, and some parts of Central Luzon.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) raised Alert Level 4 which means hazardous eruption was imminent within hours or days. Ashfall blanketed the municipalities around the lake and frequent earthquakes destroyed houses and infrastructure forcing people to leave and seek to safer grounds.



Amidst the destruction brought by the eruption, the spirit of “bayanihan” lived on and prompted many to help the evacuees. Those unaffected by the eruption opened their doors to thousands of evacuees from greatly affected municipalities of Talisay, Laurel, Agoncillo and San Nicolas. Apart from the evacuation center in Batangas and Cavite, other provinces in CALABARZON and even other regions sheltered the evacuees.

Different government agencies, non-government organizations (NGOs) and private individuals extended support to the victims of the Taal unrest. Donations such as clothes, food packs, medicines, drinking water, and personal necessities poured in. Cash and check donations have reached more than PHP39 million.



On the forefront, the Provincial Government of Batangas through its Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office Provincial Health Office, other offices, together with the frontline national agencies including Philippine National Police, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Philippine Coast Guard, Office of the Civil Defense, Philippine Red Cross and volunteers from different NGOs and private individuals selflessly offered their time and risked their lives for Batangueños to assist in the relief and rescue operations.



Currently, the Provincial Government of Batangas under the leadership of Governor Hermilando I. Mandanas, is working on building long term plans for permanent resettlement with livelihood to help victims, particularly those living at the Taal Volcano who will be displaced.

Despite the challenges faced by the Province of Batangas, Batangueños still prove to be a real “barako” like its balisong and coffee which symbolize bravery especially in times of calamity. The virtue of courage to stand again after the fall, upholds the spirit of #BatangasMagiting.



CALABARZON welcomes new Region IV-A heads!



MR. SAMMY A. MALVAS
Regional Director, BFAR



MR. ELMER K. TALAVERA
Regional Director, TESDA



MGEN. ANTONIO G. PARLADE, JR.
Commander, SOLCOM



DR. NANCY T. PASCUAL
President, URS

NEDA joins relief efforts for Taal Volcano victims

by Michael R. Lavadia, NEDA Region IV-A

Regional Director Luis G. Banua of NEDA Region IV-A and Ms. Jaques Soliguin of ANRES, NEDA Central Office delivered relief goods for the Taal Volcano victims on January 21, 2020.

The relief goods, composed of clothes, water, food, medical supplies, blankets and beddings, were donated by employees of NEDA Central Office and NEDA Region IV-A, and canned goods from Ms. Victoria Wienke of the Kabisig ng Kalahi Inc., a Private Sector Representative (PSR) of the RDC CALABARZON. The goods were received by the Taal Heroes Group at the National College of Science and Technology (NCST), Dasmariñas City, the Cavite central distribution center.

The NCST, under the leadership of Dr. Emerson Atanacio, PSR of RDC CALABARZON, with the Taal Heroes Group, and RDC CALABARZON collaborated and organized a centralized relief goods distribution center to systematize the delivery of relief goods to evacuation centers in the provinces of Batangas, Cavite, and



NEDA contingents, PNP, and volunteers from Taal Heroes and NCST delivers relief goods to the central distribution center at the National College of Science and Technology, Dasmariñas City, Cavite. Photo by NEDA Region IV-A

other provinces.

Taal volcano erupted on January 12, 2020 affecting 586,284 affected individuals or 151,343 families as of March 1, 2020.

REGIONAL ECONOMIC SITUATIONER

Fourth Quarter 2019

by NEDA Region IV-A Policy Formulation and Planning Division

Improved Performance

- Employment Rate
- Unemployment Rate
- Underemployment Rate
- Coffee, Pineapple, Sweet Potato, & Cassava
- Carabao & Goat
- Chicken, Chicken Eggs and Duck Eggs
- Aquaculture Fisheries
- Overnight and same day tourists
- Total shipcalls
- Passenger traffic

Declined Performance

- Average Inflation Rate
- Average Consumer Price Index
- Average monthly crime rate
- Index and non-index crime rates
- Municipal Fisheries
- Palay, Corn, Coconut, Banana, & Sugarcane
- Hog & Cattle
- Commercial Fisheries
- Container volume in Batangas Port

Prices & Inflation

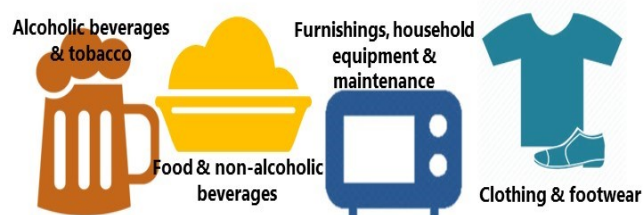
Average Inflation Rate



Figure 1. Quarterly average inflation rate, 4th Quarter 2018 to 4th Quarter 2019

Average inflation rate slightly increased by 0.37 percentage points from the last quarter but significantly lower by 3.6 percentage points from last year.

Top contributors to the increase in Consumer Price Index



The main drivers of higher consumer price index were the prices of alcoholic beverages and tobacco, food and non-alcoholic beverages, furnishings, household equipment and maintenance, and clothing and footwear. Prices of alcoholic beverages and tobacco grew by 9.1 percent and 24.8 percent, quarter-on-quarter and year-on-year, respectively while prices of food and non-alcoholic beverages increased by 1.5 percent quarter-on-quarter and 1.1 percent year-on-year. Prices of furnishings, household equipment and maintenance went up by 0.9 percent from last quarter while clothing and footwear increased by 0.8 percent.

The increase in prices of commodities was expected due to the high consumption demand during the holiday season. The last quarter constituted the time of the year where consumers tend to spend more on food gifts and other recreational activities which in effect, raises the prices of commodities.

Consumer Price Index & Purchasing Power of Peso

The average consumer price index for this quarter increased by 0.93 points quarter-on-quarter, from PHP118.6 from last quarter to PHP119.7 this quarter while the average purchasing power of peso remained the same.

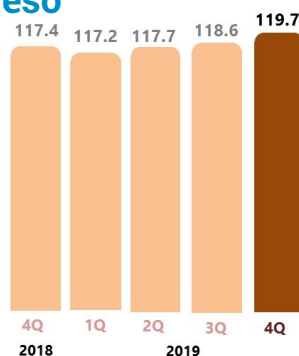


Figure 2. Quarterly consumer price index, 2nd Quarter 2018 to 3rd Quarter 2019



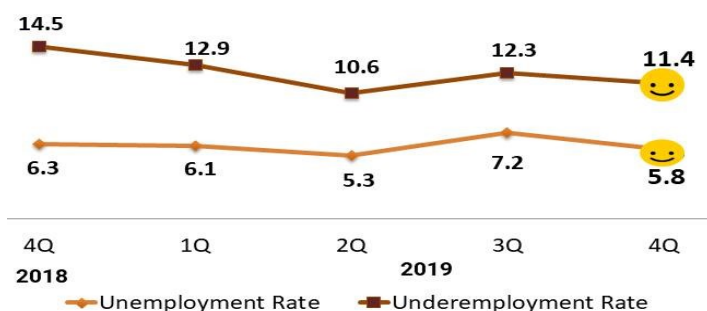
Figure 3. Quarterly purchasing power of peso, 3rd Quarter 2019 and 4th Quarter 2019

Labor & Employment*



Fourth quarter's labor force participation rate is estimated at 64.1 percent which is lower by 0.03 percentage points quarter-on-quarter but 1.80 percentage points higher year-on-year. Decrease in the labor force participation rate can be attributed to more students in the working population age who pursue higher education, especially those in senior high school.

Employment rate increased by 1.40 and 0.50 percentage points quarter-on-quarter and year-on-year, respectively. Increase in the employment rate can be attributed to increased job openings in sales and retail as demand for goods and services increased during the holiday season.



*Estimates are preliminary and subject to changes

Meanwhile, retrenched establishments decreased by 16.34 percent compared with last year and 1.41 percent compared to the previous quarter. This affected 9,412 employees, of which, 65 percent were from Cavite, where most of the retrenched establishments are located.

Shutdown cases increased by 95 percent as compared to the previous quarter; hence, the number of affected employees surged fivefold. Cavite Province recorded the most shutdown cases at 15 establishments which affected 2,628 employees.

Redundancy of workers, lack of market, financial loss, and non-renewal of leasing contract were some of the reasons for retrenchment and shutdown.

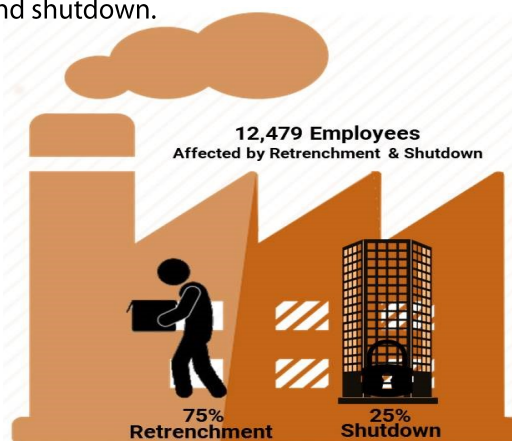


Figure 4. Percentage of employees affected by retrenchment and shutdown, 4th Quarter 2019

Sources: Philippine Statistics Authority Region IV-A

Agriculture & Fisheries*

Production losses were recorded for major agricultural crops and livestock during the fourth quarter of 2019 compared to the same quarter in 2018. However, production of poultry and fisheries generally increased in the same period.

Crops

Majority of the crops monitored in the region, such as, palay, corn, sugarcane, coconut and banana displayed production downtrend while production increased on coffee, pineapple, sweet potato, and cassava.

Palay production at 140,146 metric tons in fourth quarter of 2019 was 8.64 percent lower than production of 153,400 a year ago. Corn production also contracted from 36,129 metric tons to 22,367 metric tons while coconut production slightly declined from 385,868 metric tons to 374,165 metric tons for the same time period. Sugarcane and banana recorded a significant reduction in production from fourth quarter of 2018 to fourth quarter of 2019 with 53.42 percent and 2.71 percent losses, respectively. On the other hand, coffee production was up by 11.50 percent from the 149 metric tons in fourth quarter of 2018 to 166.14 metric tons for the same quarter in 2019.

Pineapple, sweet potato and cassava production improved by 5.91 percent, 4.14 percent and 2.53 percent, respectively. Pineapple production expansion may be attributed to newly opened pineapple plantation areas due to high market price while significant increase in coffee production may be attributed to the aggressive promotion and interventions for the coffee industry.

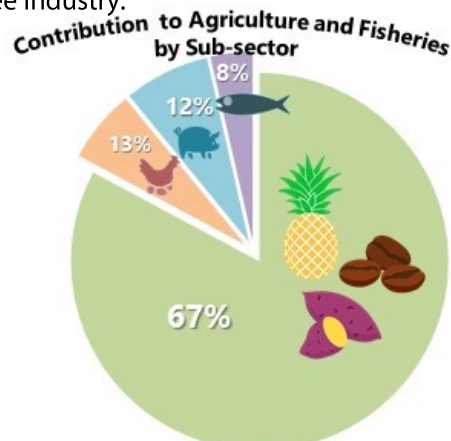


Figure 5. Percent contribution of agriculture, livestock, poultry and fisheries sub-sector to the total production, 4th Quarter 2019

Fisheries

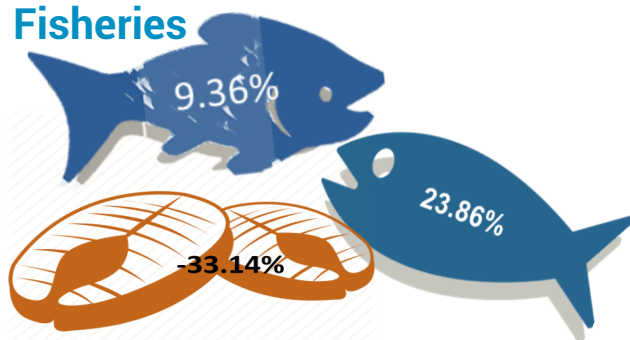


Figure 6. Volume of fisheries production, 4th Quarter 2019

The total volume of fisheries production increased by 9.36 percent in the fourth quarter of 2019 compared to the same period last year. The positive performance can be attributed to the significant increase in production of municipal fishing by 23.86 percent and aquaculture fishing by 9.36 percent. On the other hand, commercial fishing declined by 33.14 percent due to Typhoon Tisoy and Ursula.

Livestock and Poultry

Livestock production declined by 1.06 percent in the fourth quarter of 2019 compared to the previous year. Hog and cattle production contracted by 0.56 percent and 8.45 percent, respectively. Hog production went down as demand slumped due to the African Swine Fever outbreak while cattle production declined due to limited stocks available for slaughter in the Region. On the other hand, poultry production expanded by 8.29 percent due to increase production in chicken, duck, and eggs.

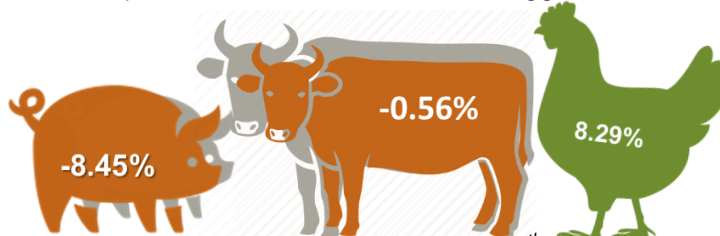


Figure 7. Livestock and poultry production, 4th Quarter 2019

*Based on partial data

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority Region IV-A

Ports

Batangas Port

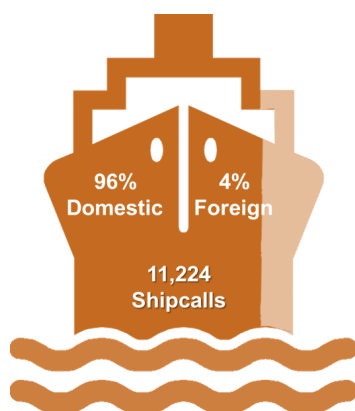


Figure 8. Total shipcalls in Batangas Port, 4th Quarter 2019

Total ship calls at Batangas Base Port, including government and private ports increased by 10.31 percent compared to last year and 22.60 percent compared to the previous quarter. This can be attributed to the significant increase in the number

of domestic ship calls despite decrease in foreign ship calls. Domestic ship calls comprised about 96 percent of the total ship calls in the ports

in Batangas.

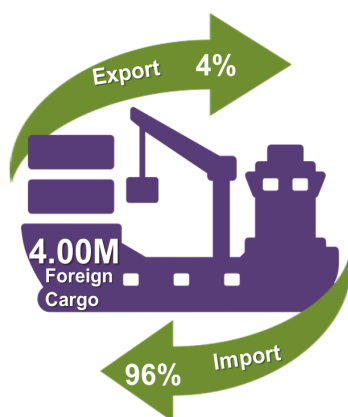


Figure 9. Total cargo throughput in Batangas Port, 4th Quarter 2019

Total cargo throughput declined by 11.98 percent compared to last year but higher by 14.32 percent compared to the previous quarter. The increase in cargo throughput can be attributed to the holidays as both domestic and international

cargoes increased by 37.21 and 18.12 percent, respectively. On the other hand, lower cargo throughput compared last year can be attributed to fewer cargoes in private ports.

The holidays brought an increase of passengers by about 26 percent compared to last quarter and 0.77 percent compared to last year. Higher numbers of passengers embarked and disembarked at the Port of Batangas and Port of Nasugbu.

Source: Philippine Ports Authority-PMO Batangas

Lucena Port and Private Ports in Quezon

Shipcalls

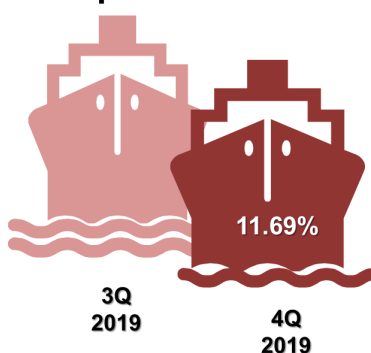


Figure 10. Total shipcalls in Lucena Ports and Private Ports in Quezon, 4th Quarter 2019

Total ship calls at Lucena Port and other private ports in Quezon increased by about 12 percent and 3 percent compared last quarter and the previous year, respectively. Increase in ship calls can be attributed to resumption of fastcraft and RoRo vessels of Montenegro Shipping Lines in the 4th quarter of 2019.

There was a significant increase on passengers that disembarked and embarked in the Port of Lucena. Compared to the previous quarter, passengers disembarked increased by 27.92 percent while those that embarked increased by 38.92 percent.

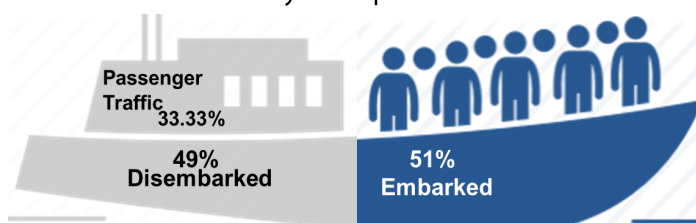


Figure 11. Total passenger traffic in Lucena Port and Private Ports in Quezon, 4th Quarter 2019

Source: Philippine Ports Authority-PMO MarQuez

Cargo Throughput

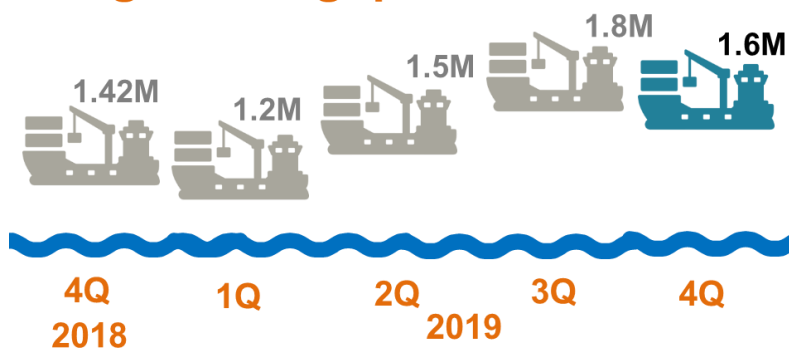
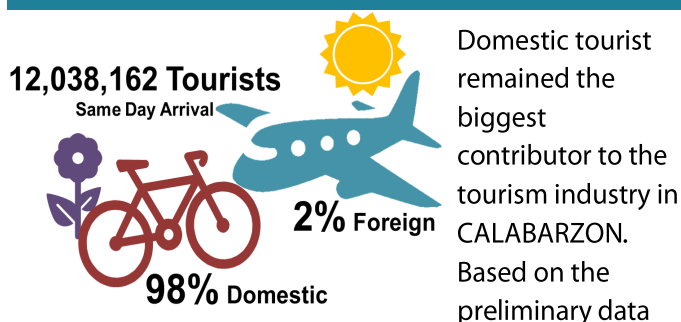


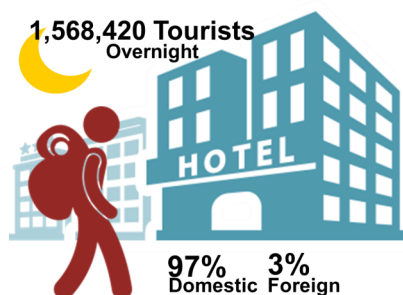
Figure 12. Total Cargo throughput, 4th Quarter 2019

Total cargo throughput declined by 12.92 percent compared to the previous quarter but increased by 12.29 percent compared to the previous year. Total cargoes handled in the Port of Lucena and private ports declined in the 4th quarter of 2019. On the other hand, compared to last year, there was a 14 percent increase in foreign cargoes in Mauban and Pagbilao ports due to importation of coal.

Tourism



submitted by the Provincial Tourism Offices, same day tourist arrivals during the 4th quarter reached 12,038,162, which was 18 percent higher compared to the previous quarter. Similarly, more tourist stayed overnight compared to the last quarter.



Source: Department of Tourism Region IV-A

Peace and Order

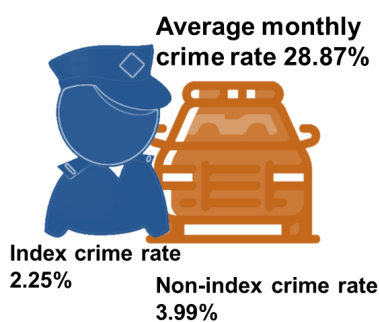


Figure 15. Peace and order situation, 4th Quarter 2019
*Rate per 100,000 population

Average monthly crime rate per 100,000 population increased by 3.75 percent compared to the previous quarter while it declined by 0.18 percent compared last year. Increased in the monthly crime rate can be attributed to the holiday season. Theft was recorded as the main contributor in the index crime. Non index and index crime rates increased compared last year by 2.25 percent and 3.99 percent, respectively. Solution rate also declined by 1.83 percent compared last quarter.

Source: Philippine National Police Region IV-A

Development Prospects and Challenges

- ◆ Inflation rate will remain within target for the upcoming months as the base effects of 2018's inflation rate continues to wear off.
- ◆ The implementation of 2020 excise tax tranche of TRAIN will likely pull up prices of transportation and fuels for the first quarter of 2020.
- ◆ The impact of damages to agriculture by Taal eruption's may increase prices of commodities but the Corona virus (COVID-19) outbreak may slow down global prices. Thus, offsetting any domestic price changes.
- ◆ Livestock production is expected to slow down as the African Swine Fever continues to threaten the swine industry while the impact of the Taal Volcano eruption might negatively affect production of coffee, corn, pineapple and aquaculture fishing in the Region.
- ◆ The continuous spread of COVID-19 in Asia and other continents may affect numerous industries including tourism, manufacturing and agriculture resulting to reduced production, and retrenchment and shut down of small enterprises.

RPMC Bulletin

By NEDA Region IV-A Project Monitoring and Evaluation Division

RPMC 2020 First Quarter Meeting

The CALABARZON Regional Project Monitoring Committee (RPMC) conducted its first quarter meeting on February 6 at NEDA Region IV-A, Barangay Milagrosa, Calamba City. The Committee discussed various topics for approval, adoption, and information.

The Committee approved the 2019 RPMC Accomplishments and Revised Guidelines on the Search for Outstanding Local Project Monitoring Committees (LPMCs). Likewise, the RPMC adopted the RPMC Fourth Quarter 2019 and First Quarter 2020 Field Inspections Reports for the Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program, Quipot Irrigation and Macalelon Small Reservoir Irrigation Projects and Querocep Bridge Project. The outcomes of the RPMC Problem-Solving Sessions for Lobo-Malabrigo-Laiya-San Juan Road and Sariaya Bypass Road Projects were also discussed and the recommendations to facilitate project implementation were approved.

Moreover, updates on the following projects were noted by the Committee: a) Sangley Airport Development; b) New Centennial Water Source – Kaliwa Dam Project; and c) Cavite Industrial Area Flood Risk Management Project.



RPMC Chairperson, Director Luis Banua of NEDA Region IV-A presides the meeting

RPMC Approves the Revised Guidelines: Search for Outstanding LPMCs



RPMC 2020 First Quarter Meeting

The CALABARZON

RPMC approved the Revised Guidelines on the Search for Outstanding LPMCs during its first quarter meeting.

The Search for Outstanding Local Project Monitoring Committee is an annual activity of the Committee that aims to motivate, strengthen and sustain the LPMCs in monitoring and facilitating the implementation of development projects at the local level. All LPMCs at the provincial, city and municipal levels are included in the Search.

The Search's Guidelines were revised to further assess and determine the status and functionality of LPMCs. The Revised Guidelines will be used starting in 2021 to evaluate the 2020 Accomplishments of the LPMCs.

Meanwhile, the 2020 Search will be conducted from February to April where the 2019 Accomplishments of the LPMCs will be evaluated. Awarding of the outstanding LPMCs will be in second quarter RDC meeting.

Construction of Querocep Bridge to be completed in March 2020



Field Inspection of Querocep Bridge

The access to Infanta, Quezon from the National Capital Region is expected to improve with the completion of the Querocep Bridge along the Marikina-Infanta Road in March 2020. The bridge collapsed in December 2015 due to Typhoon Nona.

The bridge will pave the way for the transport of local products from the REINA (Real, Infanta and General Nakar) area to Manila and vice-versa. This will also open more opportunities for tourism and other economic activities in the Region.

The construction of the Querocep Bridge was delayed due to unfavorable weather conditions and the road cut in the Infanta Section which hampered the transport equipment for the construction of the bridge. The CALABARZON Regional Project Monitoring Committee conducted the field inspection of the Bridge on January 30.

RPMC Bulletin

Solid Wastes continue to Accumulate in Manila Bay Clean-up Sites



Clean-up site in Barangay Talaba VI, Bacoor

The Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program aims to rehabilitate and restore Manila Bay water to SB level (i.e. recreational water class 1 and fishery water class 3). The Program components include the comprehensive clean-up and rehabilitation of priority rivers, installation of trash traps, and mapping and ground delineation of easement area in CALABARZON.

On December 20, 2019, the CALABARZON RPMC conducted field inspections of selected clean-up sites in Cavite Province. Among the implementation issues were the persistent

accumulation of solid waste in clean-up sites, presence of informal settler families along priority rivers and lack of available materials recovery facilities and sanitary landfills in Cavite Province.

The RPMC recommended for DENR Region IV-A to continue coordination with DILG, DPWH and concerned LGUs on clean-up activities and include in its priority projects the establishment of materials recovery facilities and sanitary landfills in Cavite Province. Moreover, they should coordinate with the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development on the relocation of informal settler families, and finalize the CALABARZON Sanitasyon at Basura Watch Program. DENR was asked to establish trash traps in barangay boundaries to determine accountable LGUs on solid wastes.

Major Irrigation Projects of NIA Region IV-A Inspected by CALABARZON RPMC

The CALABARZON RPMC in cooperation with Quezon PPMC conducted field inspections of Quipot Irrigation and Macalelon Small Reservoir Irrigation Projects of NIA Region IV-A in Quezon Province on January 29.

The Macalelon Small Reservoir Irrigation Project (MSRIP) aims to irrigate around 830 hectares of farmland in 10 barangays in Macalelon, Quezon which will benefit around 700 farmers. The MSRIP involves the construction of a 22-meter high zoned earthfill dam and appurtenant structures

including irrigation, flood control, and aquaculture components. Among the implementation issues of the Project were ROW acquisition, delayed payment of landowners due to absence of proof of land ownership, and peace and security issues.

NIA Region IV-A continues to coordinate with concerned agencies and LGUs to fast track payment of landowners and resolution of ROW issues and ensure peace and security in the area.



RPMC Field Inspection of MSRIP

Likewise, the Quipot Irrigation Project (QIP) involves the construction of a barrage-type dam to irrigate about 2,800 hectares of new agricultural areas. The Project will benefit the farmers in the Municipalities of Tiaong, Candelaria, and Sariaya

in Quezon and San Juan in Batangas. During the field inspection, NIA Region IV-A was requested to submit to the RPMC the details of their release of payment requests to DBM and prepare a briefer on the decreasing value of palay in the market due to Rice Tariffication Law. The issue on palay prices will be discussed in the second quarter meeting of the Sectoral Committee on Economic Development of the RDC.

The CALABARZON RPMC will continue to monitor and facilitate the implementation of these two major irrigation projects in Quezon Province.

RPMC Bulletin

Monitoring of Priority Projects in CALABARZON

LAND TRANSPORT

LRT Line 1 (Cavite)	41% complete
LRT Line 2 (East)	79% complete
Cavite-Laguna Expressway (Laguna Segment)	68% complete
Gumaca Bypass Road	82% complete
Taal Circumferential Road	69% complete
SLEX Toll Road 4	ongoing
General Nakar - Dingalan Road	40% complete
PAMANA Program	3 projects are ongoing
Kaykulot Road	90% complete
Bacoor Diversion Road	17% complete
Tagaytay Bypass Road	suspended
Carmona-Silang Diversion Road	30% complete
Carmona-Biñan Diversion Road	64% complete
Marikina-Infanta Road	81% complete
Pulo-Diezmo Road	22% complete
Lobo-Malabrigo-Laiya-San Juan Road (Biga Section)	completed
Link Road Connecting Aguinaldo Highway and Governor's Drive	suspended due to presence of ISFs
Sangley Airport	priority facilities completed

GOVERNANCE, ICT AND OTHERS

Assistance to Disadvantaged Municipalities	474 projects completed
Assistance to Municipalities	276 projects completed
Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program	58 former rebels received financial assistance

SOCIAL

School Building Program	730 classrooms completed (new)
Sustainable Livelihood Program	surpassed 100% target
Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps)	91% of target households provided with cash grants
KALAHI - CIDSS	100% of subprojects completed
Social Pension Program for Indigent Senior Citizens	37% of target senior citizens received social pension
Health Facilities Enhancement Program (HFEP)	ongoing construction of 22 health facilities under CY 2019

ECONOMIC

Kaliwa Dam Project	ongoing drafting of MOAs (Rizal and Quezon)
Quipot Irrigation Project	99% complete (Phase 1)
Macalelon Small Reservoir Irrigation Project	ongoing
Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program	prepared MOAs for GIS-based priority river profiling
Enhanced National Greening Program	3,712 individuals employed
Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP)	14 subprojects completed

FLOOD CONTROL

Cavite Industrial Area - Flood Risk Management Project	63% complete (consulting services)
Flood Risk management Project for Imus River	52% complete



2019 SEAL OF GOOD LOCAL GOVERNANCE AWARDEES IN CALABARZON REGION

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT AWARDEES

Laguna • Quezon • Rizal

CITY GOVERNMENT AWARDEES

**Antipolo City
Biñan City
Calamba City
City of Bacoor**

**City of Dasmariñas
City of Imus
City of San Pedro
City of Santa Rosa**

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT AWARDEES

BATANGAS

**Bauan
Taal**

LAGUNA

**Kalayaan
Paete
Pagsanjan
Pakil
Sta. Cruz**

**Panukulan
Sampaloc**

CAVITE

**Carmona
Magallanes
Maragondon
Mendez
Naic
Rosario**

QUEZON

**Guinayangan
Gumaca
Mauban**

RIZAL

**Angono
Binangonan
Tanay
Taytay**

Name of Agency/Institution: _____ Gender: _____

Name (Optional): _____

Position/Designation (Optional): _____

I. Please rate the Calabarzon newsletter based on the following:

a) Parts of the newsletter (1-Good to 5-Excellent).

	1	2	3	4	5	Comments
News Articles	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Feature Articles	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Regional Economic Situationer	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
RPMC Bulletin	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Provincial News	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

b) Attributes of the newsletter (1-Good to 5-Excellent).

	1	2	3	4	5	Comments
Cover	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Contents	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Length	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Layout	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Pictures	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Font Face/Size	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

**II. Importance of the contents (rate each category:
1-most important to 5-least important)**

<input type="text"/>	News Articles	<input type="text"/>	RPMC Bulletin
<input type="text"/>	Feature Articles	<input type="text"/>	Provincial News
<input type="text"/>	QRES		

III. Relevance of the information

- ☐ Very Relevant
☐ Somewhat Relevant
☐ Not at all Relevant

IV. Do you read the Calabarzon Newsletter?

- ☐ Always
☐ Frequently
☐ Sometimes
☐ Rarely
☐ Never

V. Overall Satisfaction

- ☐ Very Satisfied
☐ Somewhat Satisfied
☐ Neutral
☐ Somewhat Dissatisfied
☐ Very Dissatisfied

Comments or suggestions on how to improve the newsletter:

Thank you for taking time to answer this survey! Kindly return this form thru email (rdc.calabarzon@gmail.com).