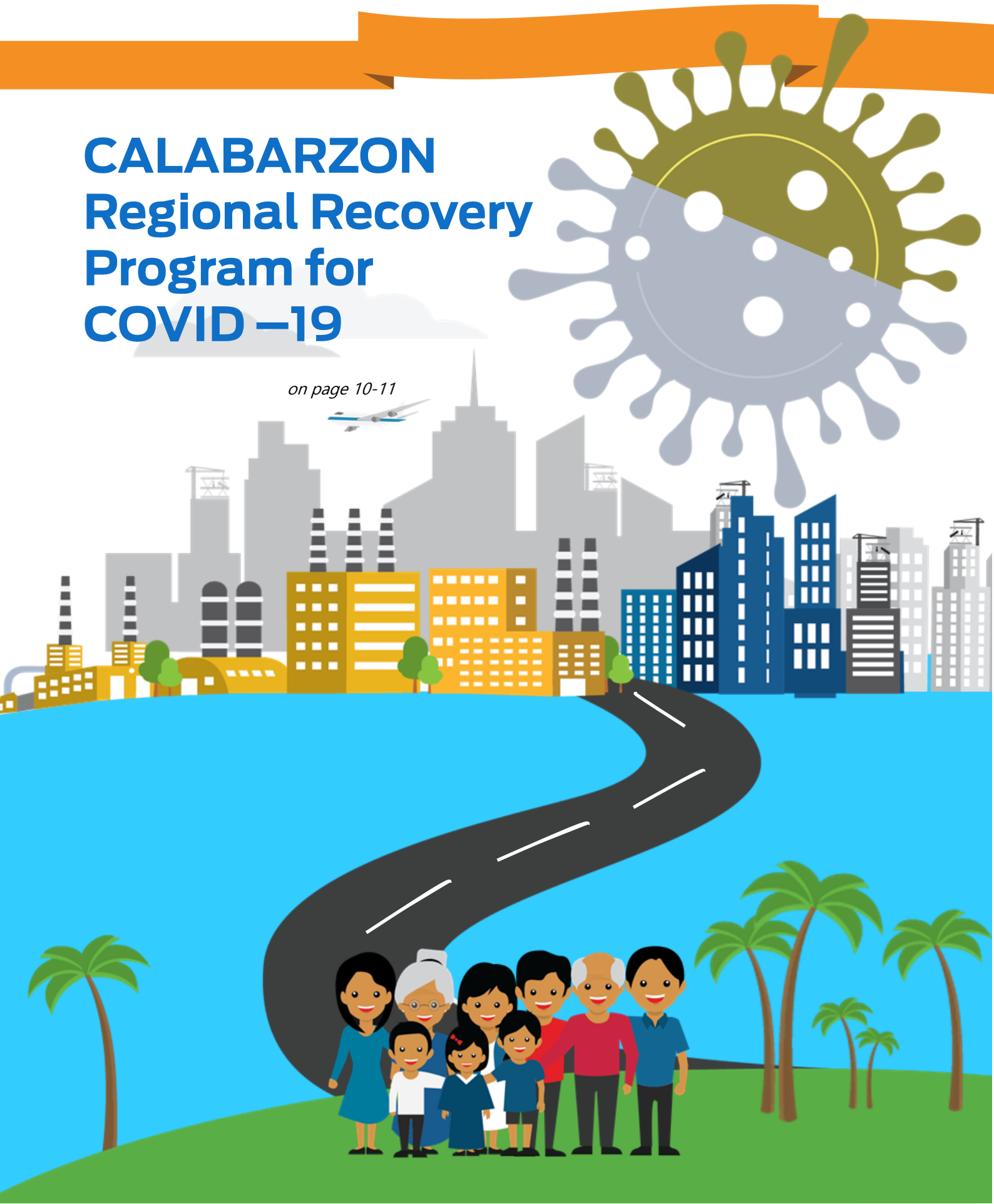


CALABARZON Regional Recovery Program for COVID-19

on page 10-11



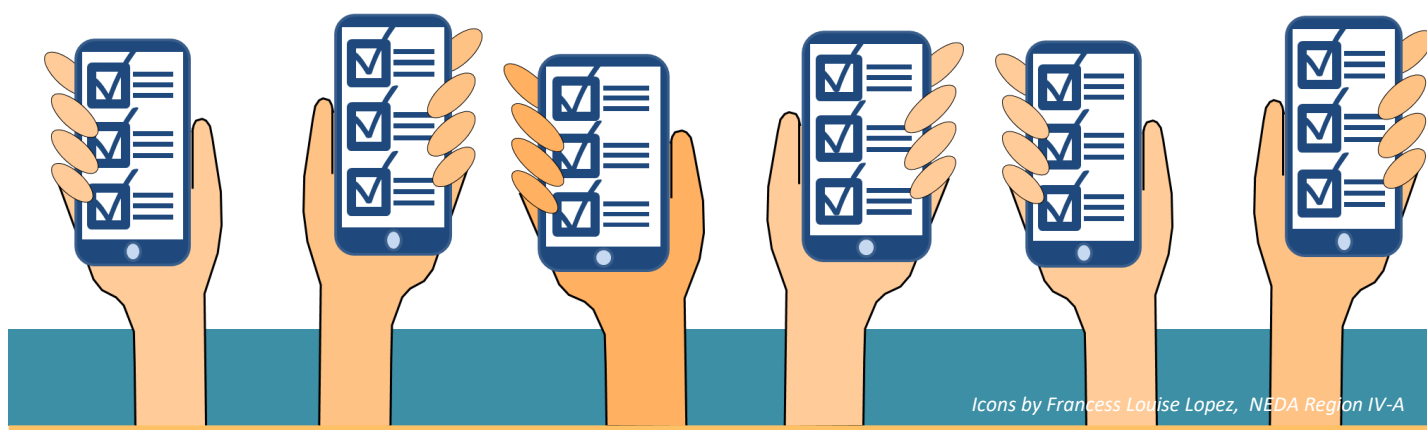
NEDA Region IV-A conducts online business survey for CALABARZON enterprises for COVID-19 Recovery Plan

by Benjamin Jose Bautista, NEDA Region IV-A

The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Region IV-A conducted an online business survey to assess the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the enhanced community quarantine to establishments in CALABARZON from March to April. The survey results will be used in the preparation of an evidence-based and comprehensive national recovery plan and the Regional Recovery Program (RRP).

The online survey was conducted from May 4 to 16, 2020. Respondents to the survey were identified by DTI, PEZA, DOT, and private sector representatives of the RDC. This was to ensure that respondents are legitimate business people and that no single sector will be overly represented or excluded.

Results of the survey will help identify the specific interventions to targeted groups based on their needs.

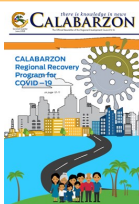


Icons by Frances Louise Lopez, NEDA Region IV-A

Second Quarter 2020

there is knowledge in news
CALABARZON

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About the Cover

The CALABARZON Regional Recovery Program aims to mitigate the losses from the COVID-19 pandemic and to adapt to the "new normal". It contains the list of key programs and projects needed to limit transmission of COVID-19, provide health care to those affected, increase resilience of the communities and steer the economy to recovery.

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CALABARZON prepares Regional Recovery Program for COVID-19

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

The NEDA Region IV-A spearheaded the preparation of the COVID-19 Regional Recovery Program (RRP) for CALABARZON, as the Chair of the Committee on Recovery and Rehabilitation of the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (RDRRMC).

The Regional Recovery Program follows the framework of the plan, "We Recover as One", prepared by the Interagency Task Force Technical Working Group on Anticipatory and Forward Planning chaired by NEDA. While following the same framework, the Regional Recovery Plan is localized based on the nuances of our region. In general, the aim is to mitigate losses and damages and adapt to the "new normal".

As all other rehabilitation and recovery programs, the long-term goal is to have safer, adaptive and disaster resilient Filipino communities. The medium-term goal or the outcome that we want is to restore socioeconomic

conditions in CALABARZON and have higher resilience to health emergencies.

In the pursuit of this goal, the program aims to convey the right information to the public to gain public trust and confidence, mitigate losses, and define the "new normal". It focuses on five sectors which are health, social (including social protection and education), economic, peace and security, and governance. The investment requirements to implement the programs and projects from 2020 to 2022 are also estimated per sector and per year.

Workshops were conducted on May 5 to 8 to define the sectoral goals and objectives, strategies, programs and projects, key implementing agencies, and possible implementation issues and recommendations. The RRP was approved by RDRRMC on May 22, 2020.



DA CALABARZON fulfills mandates even during crises

by Department of Agriculture Region IV-A



The foremost and immediate concern for the agriculture sector during the Community Quarantine is the uninterrupted and unimpeded production and flow of agricultural commodities and inputs.

To promptly address the said concern, Agriculture Secretary William D. Dar issued several memorandum circulars and recommended measures, which were approved by the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID). Among these recommendations were the following: allowing all farming and fishing activities to continue, allowing the agricultural supply stores and veterinary clinics to remain operational, and allowing free movement of all agricultural commodities and inputs.



With the IATF approval, the DA, in collaboration with the DILG and the PNP, facilitated the unhampered farming and transport activities of agriculture stakeholders of the region.

To roll out immediate interventions for food production and availability, food accessibility and affordability, and food price stabilization, the DA received a PHP 31 billion supplemental fund to expedite implementation of the "Ahon Lahat, Pagkaing Sapat (ALPAS) Kontra sa COVID-19," on top of the Department's existing programs.

Under ALPAS is the promotion of urban agriculture. The campaign to promote urban agriculture was intensified and over PHP 34.8 million worth of vegetable seeds were delivered to the five agricultural program coordinating offices in the region which were turned over to provincial, city, and municipal agriculture offices for distribution.



DA Region IV-A Director Arnel V. de Mesa tapped the Agricultural Training Institute CALABARZON to provide information materials relevant to urban farming, particularly on how to grow and harvest indigenous vegetables within 30 – 35 days. These materials come with vegetable seed packs to be distributed. Online information dissemination was used to reach more people.

To help the farmers, cash assistance under the Financial Subsidy for Rice Farmers (FSRF), in coordination with the Landbank of the Philippines, was distributed to a total of 27,147 beneficiaries in CALABARZON as of May 11, 2020. Farmers who tend a one-hectare farm or less received PHP5,000 for their day-to-day farming activities.

Along with the rollout of "KADIWA on Wheels," Director de Mesa acknowledged the initiative of various local government units for buying agricultural products from farmers and fishermen, and distributing these to their constituents as part of their relief efforts.



The regional office also partnered with farmer-cooperative groups like San Jose Consortium of Cooperatives in Batangas to bring healthy food closer to the communities and to ensure that their produce reach consumers on time. Through this project, tons of vegetables, as well as fruits, livestock, and poultry products, are sourced directly from farmers or agricultural cooperatives. As of May 11, 2020, the accumulated sale for KADIWA in the region has reached more than PHP 11 million. This has benefited more than 50,000 farmers and fisherfolk, as well as consumers or buyers.

CALABARZON's SETUP cooperators propagate ripple of assistance

by Demee Angelica S. Ludia and Jessamine V. Bariuan, DOST Region IV-A

DOST-CALABARZON's Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP) cooperators prove that a helping hand is always indispensable in the process of winning. The Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) are one of the most affected sectors amidst the enhanced community quarantine. As an emerging player in the business, the cost of halting or modifying operations play a major role when one talks about sustainability and efficiency of an enterprise. These MSMEs chose to offer a helping hand by conducting their own form of corporate social responsibility, sharing their products or services, or utilizing equipment granted to them through the SETUP program.

Farm Asia Global Environmental Research's Bayani-Juan: Mobile Palengke Solution. The Bayani-Juan is a mobile market which sells essential products like meat, vegetables, fruits, condiments, canned goods, rice, coffee, etc. It is a market which made more organized, accessible, and safe for both sellers and buyers. All products in this mobile market are already pre-packed and can be bought in kilo/s or in containers which limits contact between two parties. Currently, there are four BayaniJuaans serving the cities and municipalities of San Pedro, Biñan, Muntinlupa, and Parañaque. It is bound to expand its reach to Pila, San Pablo City, Santa Cruz, and Calauan, Laguna.



The Bayani-Juan Palengke-sa-Jeepney envisioned interface.



Cordero Sewing Services brought to life 4,000 washable cotton cloth face masks. These face masks were produced to help the frontliners and volunteers in the municipality of Bauan, Batangas.



LA Machineries Corporation (LAMACO) refilled used and empty bottles of alcohol and hand sanitizers which amounted to a total of 10 gallons of alcohol and 5 gallons of hand sanitizer. In addition, they also distributed 100 packs of relief goods. LAMACO also shared vital knowledge on proper waste segregation to their community. They partnered with their barangay and did a short talk hosted by their local expert, Mrs. Lorna Unas, a LAMACO officer and also a member of the Ecowaste Coalition.



GreenLife Coconut Products Philippines, Inc., known for being one of the top producers of virgin coconut oil (VCO) in Quezon, saw an opportunity to help the frontliners upon knowing that there are ongoing research studies on the use of VCO against COVID-19. Every week, the firm provides 100 pieces or more of 250 mL VCO bottles to be tested first by the Philippine Coconut Authority before forwarding to the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine. Some of their coconut products were also donated to hospital frontliners and selected checkpoints around Quezon Province. Overall, they have given an estimated PHP 200,000 worth of donations as help in the COVID-19 crisis.



In the province of Rizal, **Binthau Bakery** and **GMG Powder Coating Inc.** took the initiative to assist their local frontliners through providing them meals and personal protective equipment. This assistance generated an estimated cost of PHP 60,000 which was spent specifically on 500 loaves of bread, 5 boxes of mineral water, and 5 boxes of canned juice.

DOLE IV-A releases P583M cash aid to more than 100,000 workers

by Franz Raymond Aquino, DOLE Region IV-A



DOLE Rizal Provincial Head Marivic Martinez distributes cleaning solutions to the 1st batch of beneficiaries of DOLE's TUPAD #BKBK program.

"I would like to express my gratitude and thanks for the hardwork just to process our papers. Thank you for helping my company and my employees during this pandemic. They are very thankful to you and the government for providing for them in times like this. May God bless you all."

KRIZIA PINEDA
Owner, Alpina Monte Carlo
Tagaytay City



Over 100,000 workers in CALABARZON, both from the formal and informal sectors, affected by the enhanced community quarantine due to COVID-19 have already received financial assistance from the DOLE Region IV-A.

As of May 15, DOLE IV-A has already distributed cash aid under the COVID-19 Adjustment Measures Program (CAMP), the Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Displaced/Disadvantaged Workers (TUPAD) #Barangay Ko, Bahay Ko (#BKBK) program, and the Abot-Kamay ang Pagtulong (DOLE-AKAP) program.

For CAMP, DOLE IV-A has already released PHP 368.825 million to help 73,765 formal sector workers from 1,531 micro, small and medium enterprises. For TUPAD #BKBK, DOLE IV-A already spent PHP 122.164, million to aid 30,541 informal sector workers in 2,853 barangays. For AKAP, DOLE IV-A in coordination with the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration Region IV-A has already listed 9,284 OFWs as beneficiaries which is composed of 3,285 and 5,999 landbased and seabased OFWs respectively with PHP 92.840 million worth of financial assistance.

DOLE-AKAP is designed to cushion the adverse economic impacts of losing experiencing disruption on

employment abroad. A one-time financial assistance in the amount of PHP 10,000.00 is given to land-based and sea-based OFWs who experienced job displaced due to COVID-19.

CAMP is a safety net program which aims to provide financial support to affected workers in private establishments to mitigate the adverse economic impacts and reduction of income due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A one-time financial assistance of PHP 5,000.00 was provided to affected workers in lump-sum, non-conditional, regardless of employment status.

TUPAD is one of the flagship programs of the DOLE which aims to contribute to poverty reduction and inclusive growth. It is a community based (municipality/barangay) package of assistance that provides temporary wage employment for the displaced workers, underemployed and self-employed workers. The qualified beneficiaries for TUPAD #BKBK are the unemployed, self-employed workers and displaced marginalized workers who have lost their livelihood or whose earnings were affected due to the enhanced community quarantine against COVID-19.



“Maraming salamat po sa DOLE sa pagbibigay sa akin ng ayuda. Napakalaking bagay po sa aking pamilya dahil meron po akong anak na umaasa sa akin sa araw-araw na paghahanapbuhay. Nang dahil po sa nangyaring lockdown, hindi ako makapaghahanapbuhay, kaya po sobrang pasasalamat ko po sa inyo. Marami po akong nabiling bigas at pang-ulam kahit wala po akong hanapbuhay sa ngayon. Muli po, maraming salamat po sa tulong na ibinigay ng DOLE sa akin.”

ANALIZA G. BORDEJOS
Vendor from Tanay, Rizal



Tayabas PESO Manager Ms. Malou Montoya orients beneficiaries of TUPAD #BKBK. Photo by: DOLE Region IV-A

Struggle, readiness and response on the worst of times

by PCpl. Vanessa B Ramos, PNP Region IV-A



The police as frontliners are tasked to manage and secure peace and order not only in the Quarantine Control Points (QCP) but in the whole community. Their job is to restrict non-essential entry or exit of people to or from contained area and allow passage of essentials workers and goods. This is to ensure the unhampered flow of essential goods while controlling the movement of people during the community quarantine.

However, problems on who and what to allow to pass at the checkpoints were encountered as frontline agencies and the local government units (LGUs) have different guidelines even as

the National Inter- Agency Task Force already issued guidelines to all.



Meanwhile, Police Regional Office (PRO)-4A stood their ground with working personnel and logistics management for the duration of the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ). The 30 QCPs and 10 dedicated control points were established region-wide with an average of eight PNP personnel per team rotating every 8-12 hours. Further, in support to the COVID-19 deployment, 285 Basic Internal Security Operations Course trainees and 177 Newly Appointed Police Commissioned Officers were deployed to the QCP's while the remaining Reactionary Standby Support Force and standby alert personnel were already deployed to support personnel on the ground.

PRO CALABARZON's readiness was seen with the presence of quarantine/isolation facilities for PNP personnel. Fifty-three PNP Quarantine Areas with 664 total bed capacities were established in the Regional Headquarters, the five Police Provincial Offices and the Regional Mobile Force Battalion 4A with 178 PRO4A Medical Reserve Force. In the Regional Headquarters, a Decontamination Area was also established.

The Regional Health Service 4A continuously conducts Rapid Test and COVID-19 test to the rest of the personnel of the Regional Headquarters.

On logistical support, a total of 980 vehicles consisting of 282 patrol jeeps, 163 patrol cars, 62 ltvs, 20 personnel carriers, 36 vans, 3 utility trucks, 412 motorcycles and 2 coasters were utilized for COVID-19 operation. These were used to transport the students from the UP-Los Baños who were stranded from the campus upon the declaration of the ECQ. Through the 'Oplan Hatid-Sundo', the Los Baños Municipal Police Station provided security assistance to 15 students ferrying them from the campus to UP Diliman in Quezon City. The Regional Mobile Force Battalion 4A also extended assistance to transport some 58 students from the same campus to Dau in Pampanga province.

PNP's "Pulis CALABARZON, Kaagapay Ko!" Adopt A family program which provides assistance to the 'poorest of the poor', has already aided 31,519 families in CALABARZON as of May 11, 2020.



Members of Police Regional Office CALABARZON manning the different Quarantine Control Points established region-wide.

PROVINCIAL NEWS

Laguna and its fight against COVID-19

by Laguna Provincial Information Office



Governor Ramil L. Hernandez (far left) held separate meetings with provincial government officials and other key agencies in its fight against COVID-19. (Clockwise) The first isolation facility in San Pablo City; thermal scanning of travellers and Gov. Hernandez supervising repacking of family food packs at the Laguna Sports Complex. (Photos by: PIO Laguna)

Even before the Coronavirus Disease-2019 (COVID-19), was declared by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a global pandemic on March 11, 2020, Gov. Ramil L. Hernandez already prepared for its possible emergence in Laguna. Upon declaration of COVID-19 as a pandemic by the WHO, Gov. Hernandez immediately convened the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council and the Local Health Board to discuss plans and strategies on how to combat said disease.

After the first confirmed case was reported, thermal scanning devices were used while alcohol/hand sanitizers were provided in the provincial capitol compound and the Laguna Provincial Capitol Extension Office in Calamba City. In addition, triage tents were installed in strategic places in the province.

In terms of health facilities, 60 isolation facilities were established in the 24 municipalities and 6 cities of the province, including the Athlete's Village at the Laguna Sports Complex in Sta. Cruz, Laguna as of May. All facilities are now fully operational.

The construction of Laguna's first testing center, which is the Laguna Molecular Laboratory located at the San Pablo City District Hospital, started in mid-April. The facility will have specialized equipment such as Nuclei Acid extraction machine, PCR machine, biosafety cabinet, laminar flow hood, micro centrifuges, autoclaves, cold storage/ultra low freezers and pass boxes. It will be manned by six medical technologists/medical laboratory scientists who will perform testing procedures for COVID-19 cases. With this facility, COVID test results will be available in 2 to 3 days.

Cavite Province's response efforts to fight COVID-19

by Cavite Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office

The response of the Provincial Government of Cavite on the COVID-19 pandemic concerns uses three mechanisms: (1) management of the Emergency Operations Center; (2) activation of the Response Clusters and the (3) implementation of the Incident Command System (ICS). This systematic response is in accordance with Republic Act 10121 or the Disaster Risk and Management Act of 2010 and Office of the Civil Defense (OCD) Memorandum 227 series of 2020.

Among the response efforts of Cavite were IEC campaigns continued through the distribution of different IEC materials relative to the pandemic, strict compliance to ordinance and protocols with strengthened police

visibility, establishment and maintenance of COVID-19 hotlines at the provincial, city and municipal levels, continuous provision of personal protective equipment to frontliners provision of ambulances for COVID-19 patients, and vehicles for contact tracing, among others.

Cavite also partnered with De La Salle University Medical Center for the accreditation of RT-PCR testing. On May 8, 2020, the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine certified the Molecular Laboratory of De La Salle Medical Health and Science Institute in Dasmarias, Cavite to perform independent testing for COVID-19 by Realtime PCR. This means that the facility can now process 1,000 tests per day.

Quezon ramps up fight vs. COVID –19 with own testing lab

by Belinda Otordoz, PNA

The Provincial Government of Quezon expects to better manage and control the spread of Covid-19 with the opening of the first Molecular Diagnostic Laboratory 2+ in Lucena City.

Gov. Danilo Suarez, Lucena City Mayor Roderick Alcala, and Dr. Gerardo Carmelo Salazar, president of Lucena United Doctor's Hospital and Medical Center (LUDHMC), led the inauguration rites for the facility on May 19.

The laboratory passed the proficiency test conducted by the Department of Health. In an interview, Mayor Alcala said the city government has pledged an initial fund of PHP 6 million for the laboratory while the provincial government committed another PHP6 million. Dr. Salazar said the laboratory will begin to operate once its license and certification are released by the DOH. Its four medical technologists have also acquired DOH accreditation.

The Molecular Diagnostic Laboratory 2+ will have an initial testing capacity of 90 swab samples per day, with results coming out within 24 to 48 hours.

Dr. Salazar said the facility is the result of private-public partnership efforts. The city and provincial governments will provide the personal protective equipment for the health workers as well as the budget for the testing kits. The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation will shoulder the procedural expenses at LUDHMC, which is a private hospital.

As of May, there were 81 confirmed Covid-19 cases in Quezon province with 54 recoveries and 8 deaths. The molecular diagnostic center in this capital city is the third in CALABARZON. The other two are at the University of the Philippines in Los Baños, Laguna and De La Salle University in Cavite.

Batangas Province on active move against COVID –19

by Batangas Provincial Information Office

The Provincial Government of Batangas is continuously taking efforts to stop the spread of COVID –19 in the province.

Last February, Gov. Hermilando I. Mandanas released Executive Order No. 2HIM2-03 Series of 2020, "Directing the Institution of the Precautionary Measures Against the 2019-Novel Corona Virus Acute Respiratory Disease (2019 NCoV-ARD) in the Province of Batangas".

With the issuance of that Executive Order, the Provincial Health Office and the DOH Region IV-A laid down the Interim Guidelines and Protocol to fight the said virus. Included in the discussion is the widening of case detection and risk communication to avoid the spreading of fake news, the presentation of Incident Command System and Response Plan and the Referral System of Person Under Investigation (PUI) and suspected cases.

Another EO No. 2HIM2-05, an Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging and Re-emerging Diseases in the Province of Batangas was created for the proper and effective management of the said disease.

Dr. Rosvilinda Ozaeta, the Provincial Health Officer, assured that the provincial government is continuously coordinating with the local government units within the province as well as with DepEd, CHED and different national agencies regarding pre-emptive measures and strategies in fighting the virus. In relation to this,



coordination to Batangas port and health officials of MIMAROPA was initiated for the proper sanitation of the port and efficient management of standard operating procedures in response to the possible patients of the said region.

A PHP 5 million fund was allocated for the medical needs in response to COVID-19 and emergency vehicles and ambulances are ready to be used exclusively for the transfer of possible COVID-19 patients to different hospitals.

CALABARZON Regional Recovery Program for COVID –19

by National Economic and Development Authority Region IV-A

The CALABARZON Regional Recovery Program (RRP) aims to mitigate the losses from the COVID-19 pandemic and to adapt to the “new normal”. It contains the list of key programs and projects needed to limit transmission of COVID-19, provide health care to those affected, increase resilience of the communities and steer the economy to recovery.

The Program is guided by the vision of a safer, adaptive and disaster resilient Filipino communities that is protected from risks and can cope with and recover quickly from emerging and infectious disease outbreaks. For CALABARZON, this means restoring the socioeconomic conditions with higher resilience to health emergencies.

VISION AND STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

The strategic framework, adopted from the We Recover as One, guided the formulation of the CALABARZON RRP. It ensured that the rehabilitation and recovery strategies for the affected areas will be comprehensive and integrated and that the identification of the PPs were based on significant needs of the Region’s population. In its medium-term outcome, the RRP aims to restore the socioeconomic conditions of the Region with higher resilience to health emergencies which is consistent with the country’s long-term goals of communities protected from risks and can cope with and recover quickly from emerging and infectious disease outbreaks.

Major strategies in each sector were identified to facilitate the attainment of the desired outcomes. These strategies were further divided into three major groups to attain the three main objective of the IATF Technical Working Group on Anticipatory and Forward Planning that is to convey right information to the public to gain public trust and confidence, to mitigate losses, and to adapt to the “new normal”. These strategies were supported by the identified policy recommendations and PPs to be implemented by the LGUs and regional line agencies.



HOW DO WE GET THERE

Major Strategies

Social

- ✓ Improve the health care system including facilities supplies and equipment, and manpower to population ratio
- ✓ Provide social protection measures for all
- ✓ Adopt flexible and blended learning



Transport

- ✓ Provide operational support to the transportation sector, such as provision of fuel subsidies to transport operators
- ✓ Implementation of public transport operations that are compliant with the COVID-19 IATF and DOH protocols
- ✓ Construct and improve mass transportation facilities that will follow the IATF and DOH protocols on COVID-19 or infectious diseases
- ✓ Construct road networks that will help improving the transportation of goods from farms and industries such as farm-to-market-roads and roads linking industries to ensure continuous transport of essential goods



Economic

- ✓ Enhance government programs to ensure continuity of agriculture food production
- ✓ Link farmers and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to supply needs of government service
- ✓ Provide easier access to business financing and financial services
- ✓ Encourage businesses to reconfigure/change their product offerings to include essentials



Environment

- ✓ Streamline the management of health care and infectious wastes, especially at the community and household levels
- ✓ Ensure water security and safety by expanding water supply and sanitation systems and adopting new water conservation and efficiency technologies
- ✓ Prioritize the protection and conservation of natural resources, especially in degradation hotspots and critical ecosystems
- ✓ Implement ancillary remedial actions to improve environmental health and mitigate climate change



Governance

- ✓ Enhance capacities of LGUs as first responders and frontline service delivery units
- ✓ Strengthen coordination and cooperation between government, private sector, and CSOs to adopt a whole-of-society response
- ✓ Fast-track implementation of ICT-enabled government to facilitate service delivery and ensure public reach in the context of "new normal"
- ✓ Ensure cybersecurity and maximize use of technology
- ✓ Promote community-based engagements



CALABARZON welcomes new regional heads!



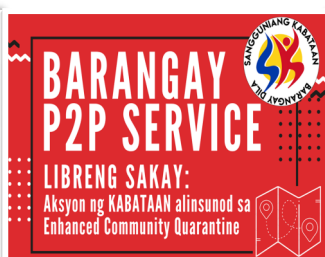
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MR. ARIEL O. IGLESIA
Regional Director, DILG

DILG IV-A continues its monitoring of LGU's response to COVID –19

by Sara Elayne M. Caliwagan, DILG Region IV-A



The DILG Region IV-A as one of the lead agencies in providing guidelines to LGUs has intensified its

monitoring of LGUs' response to the Corona Virus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.



As social distancing and strict home quarantine are both keys in flattening the curve, the DILG has used several online platforms in meeting and coordinating with Local Chief Executives through the City/Municipal Local Government Operations Officers (C/MLGOOs).

One significant platform in monitoring the LGU response is the use of Google Sheets to document the best practices of LGUs in addressing the COVID-19 situation within their area of responsibility. C/MLGOOs were tasked to fill-out details, such as programs initiated by the LGU, its objectives, beneficiaries, and results, among others.

Through the system, the City of Biñan and Municipality of

Carmona in Cavite and a Barangay Dila from the Municipality of Bay in Laguna, were acknowledged by the Bureau of Local Government Development (BLGD). These LGUs were featured in their "COVID-19 Book: Collection of Good Practices of LGUs" because of their innovative and creative response in dealing with the situation.

Through the online monitoring system, the DILG Region IV-A is set to launch the LGU's programs and innovations in its official social media platforms as part of recognizing their efforts in combating the pandemic in their areas. Said initiative also aims to encourage other LGUs to take inspiration and lead actions that can help them give better services to their constituents.

REGIONAL ECONOMIC SITUATIONER

First Quarter 2020

by NEDA Region IV-A Policy Formulation and Planning Division

Improved Performance

- Carabao and goat
- Chicken, duck, chicken eggs and duck eggs
- Total cargo throughput
- Index crime
- Crime Solution Efficiency

Declined Performance

- Hog and cattle
- Employment, unemployment and underemployment rate
- Average Purchasing Power of Peso
- Average Inflation Rate
- Average Consumer Price Index
- Total ship calls
- Passenger traffic
- Average monthly crime rate
- Crime volume
- Non-index crime

Prices and Inflation

Average Inflation Rate



Figure 1. Quarterly average inflation rate, 1st Quarter 2019 to 1st Quarter 2020

Average inflation rate for the first quarter of this year increased by 0.83 percentage points from 1.97 percent to 2.8 percent despite decelerating by 1.0 percentage point from last year. This may be attributed to the increase in prices of basic goods primarily due to the eruption of Taal Volcano in January to mid-February of this year. Higher inflation rate may also be caused by the increase in excise tax rates for sin products and the effects of coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic during the second half of March.

Consumer Price Index & Purchasing

Average consumer price index continue to increase at 0.69 and 2.82 percent quarter-on-quarter and year-on-year, respectively while average purchasing power of peso declined by 1.19 percent quarter-on-quarter and 2.35 percent year-on-year.

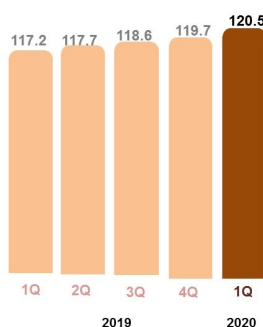


Figure 2. Quarterly consumer price index, 1st Quarter 2019



Figure 3. Purchasing power of peso, 4th Quarter 2019 and 1st Quarter 2020

Top contributors to the increase in Consumer Price Index



Commodities with highest price increase are: a) alcoholic beverages and tobacco; b) clothing and footwear; c) furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house; d) restaurants and miscellaneous goods and services; and e) food and non-alcoholic beverages. Prices of alcoholic beverages and tobacco for this quarter increased by 1.62 percent from last quarter and 19.24 percent from last year. Further, prices of clothing and footwear, and furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house surged by 0.89 and 0.84 percent, respectively, while restaurants and miscellaneous goods and services, and food and non-alcoholic beverages posted quarter-on-quarter increase of 0.65 and 0.64 percent, respectively.

Prices of alcoholic beverages and tobacco increased with the implementation of RA 11467 in January which levied higher tax rates on sin products and e-cigarettes. Meanwhile, price hikes in clothing and footwear and furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house may have been brought by the increase in demand for these goods particularly after the Taal volcano eruption as the need for household repairs, procurement of household furnishings and equipment, and protective clothing and footwear against volcanic ash also increased. In addition, agricultural supply was expected to decline due to the eruption of Taal, thereby increasing prices of food, raw materials for food products, and food-related services.

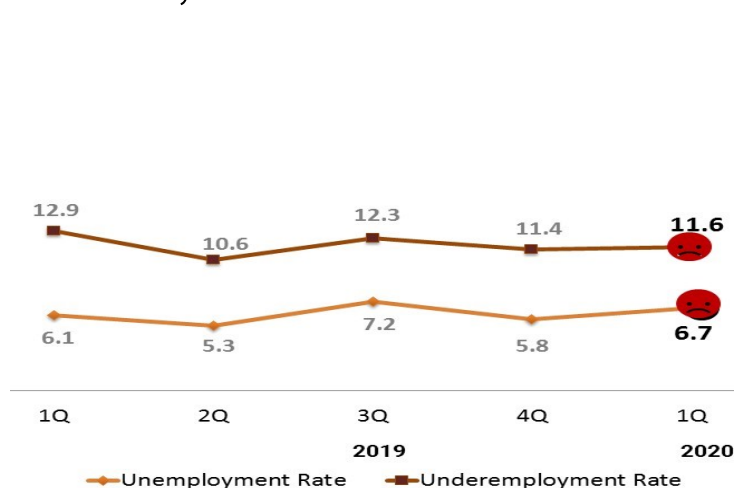
Labor & Employment*



The labor force participation rate for the first quarter of 2020 at 64.0 percent is lower by 0.10 percentage points quarter-on-quarter but higher by 1.10 percentage points year-on-year.

Employment rate decreased by 0.90 compared to the last quarter and 0.50 percentage points compared to the same time last year. The Taal Volcano eruption and the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic caused the decline in employment rate as many establishments affected by these crisis have to temporarily close. Moreover, the enhanced community quarantine in CALABARZON led to the increase in number of retrenched establishments and temporary closure which resulted to employees laid off.

Retrenched establishments increased by 31.79 percent affecting 10,746 employees, 14.17 percent higher compared to the previous quarter. Financial loss, reorganization or downsizing, and redundancy were the common reasons for retrenchment.



*Estimates are preliminary and subject to changes

Shutdown cases increased by 18.18 percent as compared to the previous quarter. However, the number of employees affected decreased from 924 in fourth quarter 2019 to 611 in first quarter 2020. Economic reasons, non-renewal of leasing contract and completion of phase project were some of the reasons for permanent closure.

The number of establishments with flexible working arrangement was reported at 804 with 59,430 affected employees.

Moreover, there were 2,570 establishments that temporarily shutdown which affected 109,632 employees. Cavite Province reported the highest number of establishments that temporarily shut down at 759 with 39,147 affected employees, the highest among the provinces in the region. Among the reported establishments that temporarily closed, 99.7 percent declared enhanced community quarantine as the reason for temporary business closure.

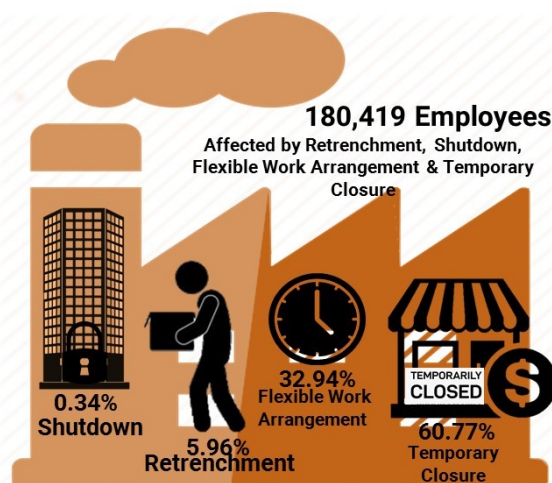


Figure 4. Percentage of employees affected by retrenchment and shutdown, 1st Quarter 2020

Sources: Philippine Statistics Authority Region IV-A
 Department of Labor and Employment Region IV-A

Agriculture

Livestock

Output from livestock production during 1st quarter of 2020 was 2.12 percent lower than the previous year's production. Hog and cattle production contracted by 2.10 percent and 4.17 percent, respectively. Hog production went down still due to African Swine Fever while cattle production declined due to limited stocks available for slaughter in the Region.

Carabao production increased from 1,343 MT in first quarter of 2019 to 1351 MT for the same quarter in 2020. Goat also posted increase in production by 3.71 percent from 727 MT to 754 MT for the same time period.

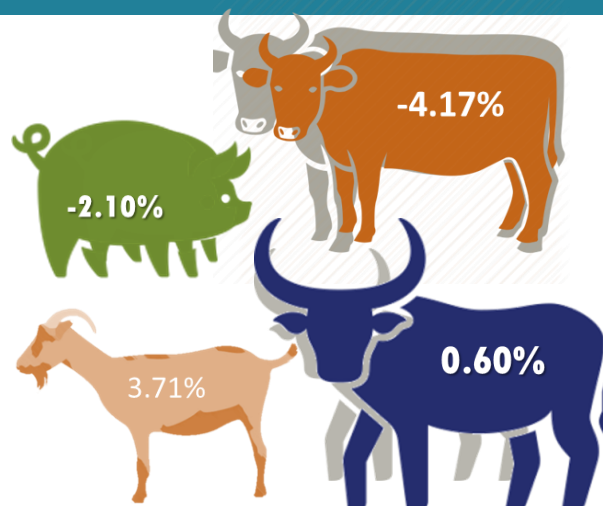
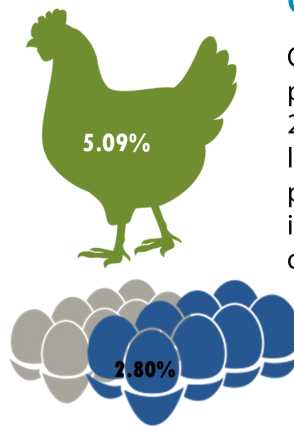


Figure 5. Volume of livestock production, 1st Quarter

Poultry

Chicken production was up by 5.09 percent from 77,325 MT in 2019 to 81,257 MT in 2020. Increased in production of chicken eggs by 2.80 percent, duck by 1.46 percent and duck eggs by 4.95 percent also contributed to the positive poultry production. Increased in production can be attributed to higher demand for poultry meat and egg products.



Crops

Coconut and banana recorded a significant reduction in production from first quarter of 2019 to first quarter of 2020 with 31.65 percent and 40.68 percent production losses, respectively. On the other hand, cassava production was up by 8.91 percent from the 13,471 MT in the first quarter of 2019 to 14,671 MT for the same quarter in 2020.

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority Region IV-A

Ports

Batangas Port

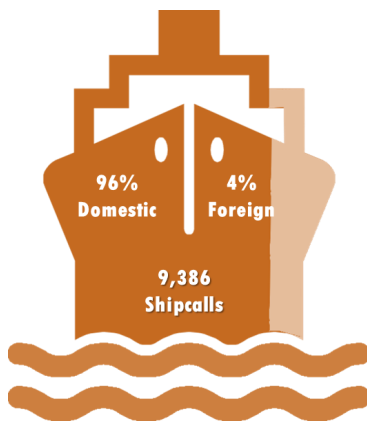


Figure 6. Total shipcalls in Batangas Port, 1st Quarter 2020

Total ship calls at Batangas Base Port, including government and private ports declined by 8.70 percent compared to last year and 16.38 percent compared to the previous quarter. This can be attributed to the implementation of enhanced community quarantine in the island of Luzon in March. Likewise, passenger traffic significantly declined by 23.16 percent and 21.21 percent compared last year and previous quarter, respectively.

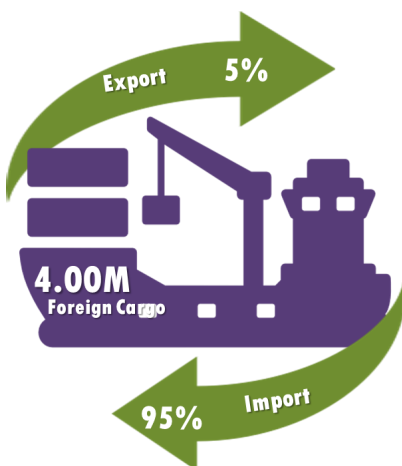


Figure 7. Total cargo throughput in Batangas Port, 1st Quarter 2020

Total cargo throughput declined by 7.23 percent compared last year while it increased by 4.05 percent compared to the previous quarter. Increased in cargo throughput can be attributed to increase in the domestic cargoes

by 11.31 percent. On the other hand, decreased in total cargo throughput compared to 2019 was due to the decline in foreign cargoes handled.

Container volume handled in the Batangas Container Terminal declined by 20.31 percent and 15.75 percent compared last year and last quarter, respectively. This can be attributed to the significant decrease in containers handled for export.

Source: Philippine Ports Authority-PMO Batangas

Lucena Port and Private Ports in Quezon

Shipcalls

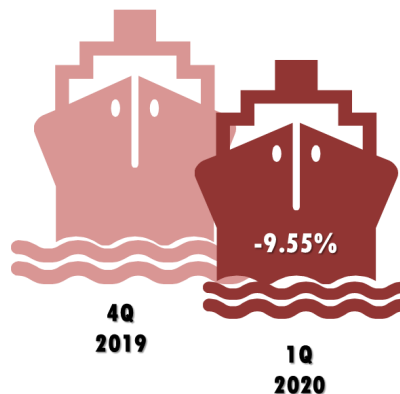


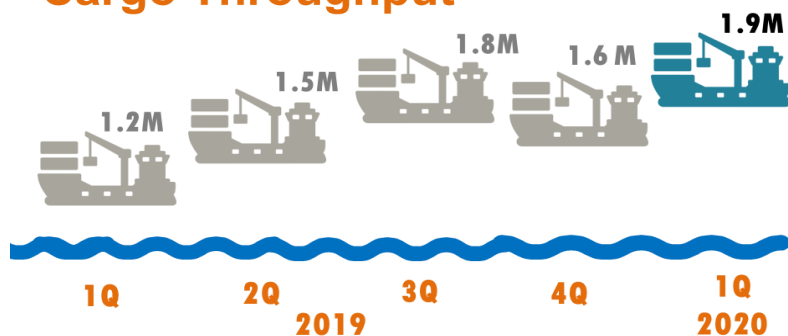
Figure 8. Total shipcalls in Lucena Ports and Private Ports in Quezon, 1st Quarter 2020

Total ship calls at Lucena Port and other private ports in Quezon declined by about 10 percent and 5 percent compared last quarter and the previous year, respectively. Decline in total ship calls can be attributed to the significant decline in the month of March wherein the enhanced community quarantine in Luzon

island was implemented. Likewise, total passenger traffic declined by about 10 percent and 5 percent compared last quarter and the previous year, respectively.

Source: Philippine Ports Authority-PMO MarQuez

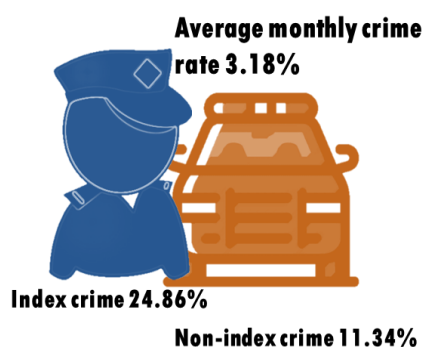
Cargo Throughput



Total cargo throughput increased by 18.75 percent and 62.20 percent compared last quarter and the previous year, respectively. Top commodities transported were coal, wheat, flour, palm oil and copra.

Figure 9. Total Cargo throughput, 1st Quarter 2020

Peace and Order



Average monthly crime rate per 100,000 population increased by 3.18 percent in the first quarter of 2020 compared to the previous quarter. Similarly, crime volume increased by 3.17 percent. This can be attributed to the increase in non-index crime by about 11 percent which comprised about 84 percent of the crime volume. On the other hand, index crime declined by 24.86 percent.

Source: Philippine National Police Region IV-A

Figure 10. Peace and order situation, 1st Quarter 2020

Development Prospects and Challenges

- ◆ The enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) from March to May due to COVID-19 pandemic is expected to drive down employment rates lower as many establishments are not allowed to operate. Many establishments have to learn how to adjust to the new normal and seek creative ways in continuing their operations while abiding with the new health standards.
- ◆ Manufacturing which is the growth driver of CALABARZON's economy will have to be reconfigured to adapt to the new standards to ensure the protection of their workers. As the impact of COVID-19 is global, this affects the supply chain and will affect the production of export-based industries. However, the greater demand for electronic products is expected to increase investments in the electronics industry.
- ◆ The tourism industry, which is the hardest hit sector, will have to adapt and find new markets as foreign tourists are still discouraged while the number of same day tourists may be lower as the bulk of the same day tourists are pilgrims who visit the shrines in Antipolo and Lucban. As mass gatherings are discouraged, establishments catering to the same day tourists will expect lower sales.
- ◆ Declining oil prices in the international market and lower transportation costs are expected to decelerate the inflation rate in the next quarter. However, prices of food is expected to increase as more people are required to stay at home.
- ◆ African Swine Fever will continue to push production of poultry products to expand in order to fill the gap from hog production.

RPMC BULLETIN

by NEDA Region IV-A Project Monitoring and Evaluation Division

RPMC Adopts to the “New Normal Situation”

The CALABARZON Regional Project Monitoring Committee (RPMC) conducted its second quarter meeting on May 7, 2020 via video conference. The Committee discussed various topics for approval and information.

The Committee approved the Revised 2020 RPMC Work Program. Since March 16, the country is still in a state of health emergency because of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The RPMC Work Plan was revised as a safety measure and to adapt to the “New Normal Situation” resulting from the COVID 19 Pandemic.



RPMC Chairperson, Director Luis Banua of NEDA Region IV-A, and SCID Chairperson, Engr. Ladislao Andal during the RPMC Teleconference

Among the major revisions were cancellation of the second and third quarter field inspections, cancelation of the 2020 Search for Outstanding Project Implementer, and deferment of the field validation and awarding for Search for Outstanding to the fourth quarter. Moreover, problem-solving sessions and provision of technical assistance shall be conducted as need arises via teleconference.

On the other hand, updates on the following projects were noted by the Committee: a) Health Facilities Enhancement Program; b) New Centennial Water Source – Kaliwa Dam Project; c) Quipot Irrigation Project; d) Macalelon Small Reservoir Irrigation Project; e) SLEX TR4 Extension Project; f) Querocep Bridge; g) Pulo-Diezmo Road; h) Taal Lake Circumferential Road; i) Tayabas Bypass Road; j) Gumaca Bypass Road; and k) Alaminos – San Pablo City Bypass Road. The implementation of these projects was suspended due to the COVID -19 Pandemic.

The Committee also noted the updates on the 2020 Search for Outstanding Local Project Monitoring Committees and the LPMC reports of Batangas, Laguna, Quezon and Rizal.

RPMC Requests MWSS to include a Comprehensive Socioeconomic Development Plan for the negatively affected communities of the New Centennial Water Source – Kaliwa Dam Project

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) implementation of the New Centennial Water Source – Kaliwa Dam Project (NCWS – KDP) started in 2019 and is expected to be completed in 2024. The NCWS – KDP shall serve as an additional source of water to meet the increasing demand in Metro Manila including the neighboring areas in Cavite and Rizal.

However, several indigenous peoples and communities residing in Barangay Pagsangahan, General Nakar, and Barangay Magsaysay, Infanta, Quezon were negatively affected by the Project. Hence, the Committee approved a resolution requesting the MWSS to include a comprehensive socio-economic development plan for the negatively affected communities of the NCWS – KDP.

The comprehensive socio-economic development plan will ensure that the negatively affected stakeholders of the project will be able to participate and contribute to the present and future developments of their communities, including the provision of livelihood and social infrastructure projects.

The CALABARZON RPMC will continue to monitor the implementation of the New Centennial Water Source – Kaliwa Dam Project.

RPMC conducts the 2020 Search for Outstanding Local Project Monitoring Committees

The Search for Outstanding Local Project Monitoring Committees (LPMC) is an annual activity of the CALABARZON RPMC 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 2020 Search for Outstanding LPMCs started in February. Out of the 148 LGUs invited, 11 LPMCs at the provincial, city and municipal levels joined the Search. Based on the Search Guidelines, only the LPMCs with a minimum score of 60 points will be shortlisted. Batangas, Cavite, and Quezon were the shortlisted nominees for the provincial category while San Pablo City, Laguna, and Municipality of Carmona, Cavite were the lone shortlisted nominees for the City and Municipal (1st – 3rd class) categories.

Field validation on the shortlisted nominees and awarding will be scheduled after the public health emergency on COVID-19 had been lifted or as permitted by public health officials.

RPMC BULLETIN

Monitoring of Priority Projects in CALABARZON

LAND TRANSPORT

LRT Line 1 (Cavite)	42% complete	Marikina-Infanta Road*	81% complete
LRT Line 2 (East)	83% complete	Pulo-Diezmo Road	40% complete
Cavite-Laguna Expressway (Laguna Segment)	74% complete	Lobo-Malabrigo-Laiya-San Juan Road*	GAA 2019: ✓ Package 1: 35% complete ✓ Package 2: 64% complete
Gumaca Bypass Road	42% complete	Calamba-Tagaytay Road	66% complete
Taal Circumferential Road	67.11% complete	Link Road Connecting Aguinaldo Highway and Governor's Drive*	74% complete
Alaminos—San Pablo City Bypass Road	41% complete	Querocep bridge	96% complete
SLEX Toll Road 4	RROW acquisition and other activities suspended	Sangley Airport Development Project	Remaining minor works along air strip
General Nakar - Dingalan Road	40% complete	Carmona-Silang Diversion Road*	30% complete
General Nakar—Dingalan Road	40% complete	Tagaytay Bypass Road	GAA 2018: suspended due to unavailability of fund
Atimonan—Mauban Road	GAA 2018: 15% complete GAA 2020: 23% complete	Bacoor Diversion Road	GAA 2018: 16.52% complete
Molino-Daang Hari Flyover (Phase II)	34% complete suspended due to RROW obstructions	Kaykulot Road connecting Tagaytay-Calamba Road	90% complete
General Aguinaldo-Magallanes-Nasugbu Road	36% complete		
Tayabas Bypass Road	81% complete		

SOCIAL

GOVERNANCE, ICT AND OTHERS

Assistance to Disadvantaged Municipalities	Completed
Assistance to Municipalities	FY 2018: 99.68 percent complete with negative slippage of 0.32 percent FY 2019: 12.75 percent complete

School Building Program	1,831 out of 2,094 sub-projects completed
Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps)	104% of target households provided with cash grants
KALAHI - CIDSS	1,210 out of 1,188 sub-projects from 2017 to 2019 were completed
Social Pension Program for Indigent Senior Citizens	1% of target number of senior citizens received social pension in the first quarter
Health Facilities Enhancement Program (HFEP)	CY 2019: completed 9 out of 50 projects

RPMC BULLETIN

Monitoring of Priority Projects in CALABARZON

ECONOMIC

Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP)	✓ 7 out of 22 Infrastructure Development sub-projects completed ✓ 8 out of 26 Enterprise Development subprojects completed
New Centennial Water Source - Kaliwa Dam Project	✓ MOA finalization and submission of resolution to NCIP postponed due to ECQ ✓ Expropriation hearings suspended due to ECQ, delaying the grant of Writ of Possession for affected parcels of land
Quipot Irrigation Project	✓ Phase I (CY2012-2017) is 99% complete with negative slippage of 0.66 percent ✓ Phase II (CY2018-2020) is 38% percent complete with positive slippage of 1.68 percent
Macalelon Small Reservoir Irrigation Project	✓ 35% percent complete with positive slippage of 1.19 percent
Water District Development Sector Project*	✓ 1 water district completed ✓ 13 ongoing ✓ 1 suspended
Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP)	14 subprojects completed
Development and Use of Nanobiopesticide for the Control of Fusarium Wilt on High Value Crops	✓ 95% complete ✓ Preparation of field set-up for optimization of cucumber after the Enhanced Community Quarantine
Production and Application of Cellulosic Nanocrystals from the Wood and Processing Wastes of ITPS	✓ 85% complete with negative slippage of 15% ✓ Ongoing determination of optimum parameters for the acid hydrolysis of identified fast-growing species ✓ Established the formulation of the control films using polyvinyl alcohol

FLOOD CONTROL

Cavite Industrial Area - Flood Risk Management Project	✓ Project still in the detailed design stage and land acquisition process ✓ Consulting services for the project is 63% complete, with positive slippage of 0.44%
Flood Risk management Project for Imus River	52% complete with negative slippage of 6.45%

FLOOD CONTROL

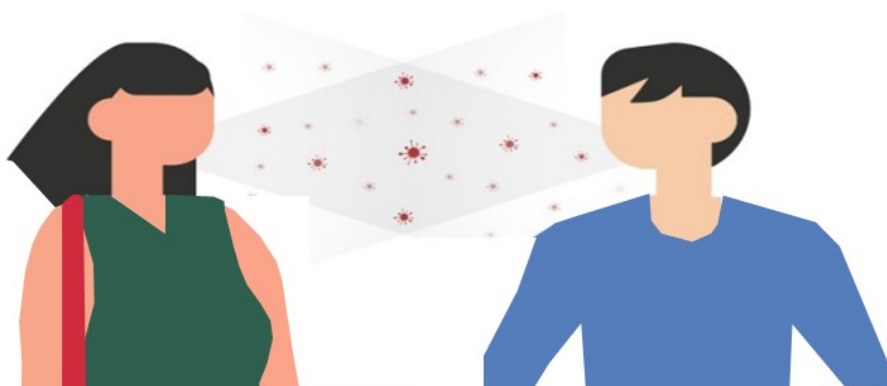
Manila Bay Rehabilitation Project	Temporary suspension of clean-up activities by river/estero rangers from March 17 to April 13, 2020 due to ECQ
Enhanced National Greening Program (eNGP)	✓ On-going assessment of areas subject to enhancement planting; funds will only be downloaded upon submission of WFP and shapefiles of the areas ✓ Monitoring postponed due to the imposition of ECQ



Bakit mahalaga ang **pagsuot ng face mask** at **physical distancing**?

Kung pareho kayong walang mask:

Malaki ang tyansa na makahawa at mahawaan ng iba



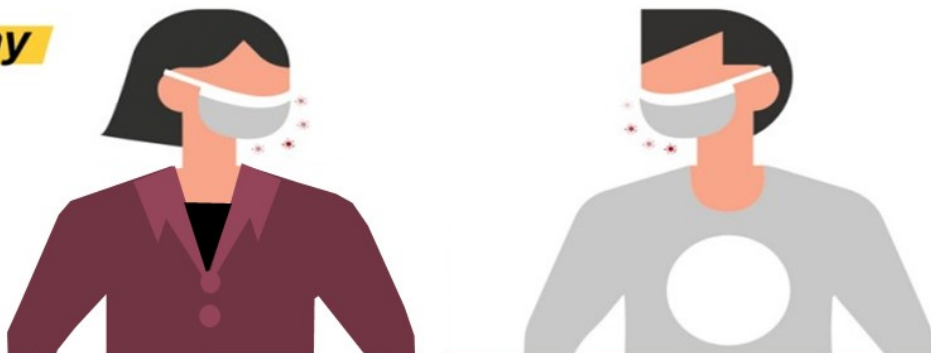
Kung ikaw ay may mask:

Bababa ang tyansa na makahawa at mahawaan ng iba



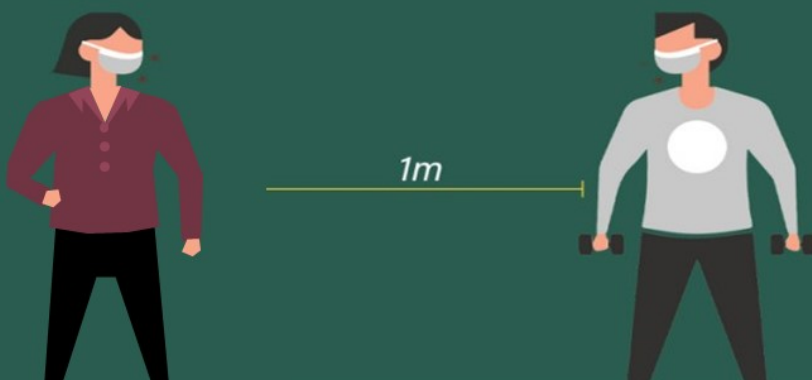
Kung pareho kayong may mask:

Mas bababa pa ang tyansa na makahawa at mahawaan ng iba



Kung pareho kayong may mask at may 1 metrong distansya:

Mas malaki ang tyansa na hindi makakahawa at mahahawaan ng iba



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 (rdc.calabarzon@gmail.com).