

Restarting the Economy



Handcrafted by Harl's

**How a micro social enterprise
hurdled the pandemic**

story on page 10-11

Investment Promotions Group undergoes training on Public-Private Partnership

by Elisa Pandela, NEDA Region IV-A



The members of the Investment Promotions Group of the CALABARZON Regional Development Council (RDC) underwent a two-day training on Public-Private Partnership (PPP) last August 18 and 19.

The training was attended by 52 participants consisting of planning officers and investment

promotions officers of LGUs, DTI, NEDA and selected regional government agencies.

The objective of the training was to enhance the knowledge and skills of the local government staff in generating project proposals that could be implemented through PPP.

During the training, the participants from Batangas and Quezon provinces presented their proposed projects to a review panel composed of experts from the PPP Center and the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) for their comments. Both of these agencies assured the LGUs of their assistance in the preparation and execution of PPP projects, including the preparation of PPP Code for LGUs.

Director Jomel Anthony V. Gutierrez of PPP Center led the training team while Mr. Emmanuel D. Cortero of PEZA joined the resource persons as panelist.

Third Quarter 2020

there is knowledge in news
CALABARZON

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About the Cover

Handcrafted by Harl's is the only micro social enterprise in the country owned by Harley Dave Beltran. Like any other businesses, Harley was caught off guard when the pandemic happened. Harley started crafting face masks made from leather and ticog mat to earn. One purchase of mask will not only help one PWD family but also the weaving community of San Miguel, Leyte.

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CALABARZON RDC approves Regional Recovery Program for COVID-19

by Franciss Louise Lopez, NEDA Region IV-A

The CALABARZON Regional Development Council (RDC) approved the CALABARZON Regional Recovery Program (RRP) for COVID-19 during its 2nd Quarter Full Council Meeting on June 11, 2020.

The Regional Recovery Program contains the strategies, programs, projects, and activities to mitigate the losses brought about by the pandemic and to adapt to the “new normal”.

NEDA Director Luis G. Banua presented the Regional Recovery Program as chair of the Committee on Recovery and Rehabilitation of the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council. The Committee was responsible in crafting the RRP.

Among the projects in the RRP are the following:

a) emergency subsidy for informal workers in low-income families; b) school-based feeding program – post COVID; c) Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS) and Balik Probinsya thru (AICS) – Transportation Category; and d) construction/ rehabilitation of hospitals and isolation rooms.

The RRP will be endorsed to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council for funding. Projects for recovery will be included in agency budgets from FY 2020 to 2022.

CALABARZON REGIONAL RECOVERY PROGRAM FOR COVID-19

Mitigate the Losses from COVID-19
Pandemic, and to Adapt to the New
Normal

Version July 8, 2020



CALABARZON RDC approves use of PHP190 million regional share from Energy Regulation 1-94 Fund to fight COVID-19

by Benjamin Jose Bautista, NEDA Region IV-A

The CALABARZON Regional Development Council approved the use of PHP190 million from the regional share of the Energy Regulation Fund 1-94 to fight COVID-19 during its second quarter meeting last June 11.

The regional share will be given to the provinces of CALABARZON. Fifty percent of the fund will be divided equally among the five

CALABARZON provinces and the other half will be distributed based on population. As highly populated provinces have higher risk, they will be given higher allocations.

The fund can be used for mass testing, purchase of personal protective equipment, feeding programs, lease of additional medical facilities, electricity cost subsidies to newly constructed

facilities for COVID-19 and tangible projects that can fight COVID. The Energy Regulation Fund provides that host communities of energy generating facilities are entitled to a share of one centavo for every kilowatt hour of the total electricity sales as a financial benefit of host communities. This benefit is allocated to the host region, province, municipality, city and barangay.

CALABARZON RGADC addresses cases of violence against women and children

by Aprille Suyat, NEDA Region IV-A



Cases of violence against women and children (VAWC) in CALABARZON were brought to the attention of the Regional Gender and Development Committee (RGADC) during its meeting last July 17.

The Philippine National Police Region IV-A reported 1,087 cases of violence against women and children with acts of lasciviousness, statutory, incestuous, and attempted rape topping the list. The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) Region IV-A, through the VAW Desks of local government units (LGUs), reported 1,044 cases of physical, sexual, psychological or emotional abuse and neglect. The Department of Social Welfare and Development Region IV-A attended to 15 gender-based violence cases while the Commission of Human Rights

(CHR) Region IV-A reported seven VAWC cases which all involved economic abuse.

However, during the meeting of the Regional Inter-Agency Committee Against Trafficking and Violence Against Women and their Children last June 30 it was noted that VAWC cases in CALABARZON were lower for the first semester of 2020 compared to the reported cases in 2019. The decrease in the number of reported cases may be because of underreporting due to the lockdown and home quarantine.

To improve the reporting of VAWC cases, CHR requested the help of the RGADC to promote their e-Report sa Gender Ombud (gbcovid.report). This is an online system where people can report incidents of gender-based violence while the country is on quarantine due to

COVID-19. CHR also requested the assistance of DILG in reaching out to the victims for the provision of financial assistance. RGADC agreed to have a more in-depth discussion with the concerned agencies to harmonize and come-up with a more accurate data collection and reporting system.

RGADC also discussed incidents of sexist or victim-blaming post in social media by certain local police stations in CALABARZON. A resolution requesting all LGUs and agencies in CALABARZON to refrain from using sexist and discriminatory language in all communication materials and social media posts was passed. Through the resolution, the Committee is hopeful that future incidents of sexist and discriminatory acts against women will be avoided in support to the goal of being a VAWC-free Region.

Project call for RDIP 2017-2022 and FY 2022 Budget Review Preparation

by Carmela Lantican, NEDA Region IV-A

The CALABARZON Regional Development Council (RDC) called for new projects in the Updated Regional Development Investment Program (RDIP) 2017 to 2022.

The project call was made during the third quarter meetings of the sectoral committees of the RDC on August 11 to 14. The proposed programs and projects will be approved by the RDC during its third quarter meeting.

The new projects in the Updated RDIP will be used as a reference of the RDC in reviewing the FY 2022 budget proposals of national government agencies in the region. The Updated RDIP contains the regional priority projects with high development impact.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the Taal Volcano Eruption have gravely affected CALABARZON. Government interventions through responsive projects are needed for the region to transition to the new normal and get back on track as the leading industrial region.



Agriculture production up by 0.5 % in spite of pandemic

by Radel F. Lagas, DA Region IV-A

Agricultural production increased by 0.5 percent in the second quarter of 2020 compared to the same time last year. The increase in production was heralded as it came when the country's Gross Domestic Production decreased by 16.5 percent and all sectors of the economy were battered by the pandemic.

In his State of the Philippine Agriculture Address, Agriculture Secretary William D. Dar said it would be hard to achieve a 2 percent growth this year. "Through the grace of God and with the continuous hard work of farmers, fishermen, and businessmen in the agriculture sector, we hope that we will still achieve at least 1.5 percent," the Secretary said.

In CALABARZON, the Department of Agriculture has embarked on projects such as the Plant, Plant, Plant Program, the Recovery and Rehabilitation Program for African Swine Fever (ASF)- and Taal affected farmers, KAtuwang sa Diwa at GaWA (KADIWA) ni Ani at Kita Project, and monitoring of Fall Armyworm (FAW), avian influenza, and other farm pests and diseases. These projects support not just the farmers but the key players in the value chain (production, processing, and marketing).

Moving forward, the regional office has started to institutionalize the "Food Security Framework" developed by no less than Secretary Dar to best realize the vision of a food-secure and resilient Philippines with prosperous farmers and fisherfolk.

The regional office is also on track to set up more farm clusters to bring about economies of scale, in particular for crops requiring mechanization and massive use of technology, and to pursue digital agriculture by installing smart facilities such as smart greenhouses, solar-powered irrigation system, and automated weather stations in CALABARZON.

All these, on top of the regular programs being implemented, such as production support, research, mechanization, and education and extension support, are for our beloved and prospering farmers and the agricultural sector.



Online and virtually connected

by Jonaly Oasin, DICT Luzon Cluster 2



(Left) Installation of Free Wi-Fi at Lipa City Sports Arena Isolation Facility; (top right); e-BPLS in Paete, Laguna LGU as one of the pilot LGUs to implement the Barangay Clearance module as part of the updated system offered by the e-BPLS; (top right) Teachers in the Tech4ED Center learn the Tech4ED Platform. *Photos by: DICT Luzon Cluster 2*

To be online and virtually connected is now a must or a basic need to survive this COVID crisis. Information and Communications Technology (ICT) saved the day for many sectors during this pandemic as doing things online became the norm.

The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) Luzon Cluster 2 intensified its projects to support the needs of business, government and the general public. These projects include the Free Wifi For All, Tech4ED, Digital Jobs PH Training, e-BPLS, Digital Cities 2025, and Digital Governance Award.

Addressing the need for connectivity, Free Wi-Fi for All is intended to boost the economic, social, and educational opportunities of all Filipinos and bridge the digital divide. In CALABARZON, the Free WiFi for All Program is readily available 24/7 in 156 locations and 176 more will be activated before the end of September right in time for the opening of classes in October. Additional sites will also be established in government hospitals and rural health centers to help efforts on the COVID-19 recovery front.

Aside from the Free Wifi For All Program, teachers and students, who do not have any laptops or printers can go to the Technology Empowerment for Education, Employment, Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (TECH4ED) Centers. These Centers were established to serve as access points for the unserved and underserved sectors. The Centers, which have mostly been in partnership with the LGUs, schools, and libraries have available computers with internet connection that can be used at any reasonable hours on weekdays. A total of 1,415 computer units are available in 123 Tech4ED Centers located in schools, municipalities, barangays, and libraries throughout CALABARZON. Thirty-one more centers will be launched before the end of September.

With the increasing unemployment rate in the country, repatriation of OFWs, bankruptcy of businesses, and the risk of commuting to workplace, online trainings for Filipinos nationwide are available

under the DigitalJobsPH Program. The trainings are designed to develop skills on digital marketing. DigitalJobsPH also supports businesses to transition to online operations.

The online trainings have benefitted the unemployed, former and current OFWs, teachers, students, entrepreneurs, and those who want to start their own business. Digital Hubs, which serve as Digital Transformation Centers alongside the Tech4ED Center, were also established in partner municipalities in CALABARZON which can be used by freelancers who are just starting their journey in the industry and are in need of workplace and resources. Each Digital Hub is complete with internet connectivity, eight computers, headsets, a printer, and a router donated. All these were donated by DICT.

To support the Stay Safe at Home, Learn From Home, and Work From Home campaign while in community quarantine, online trainings such as, Digital Literacy, English as Secondary Language (ESL), Graphic Designing, General Virtual Assistance, Social Media Marketing, Website Development, and Data Privacy are being provided by DICT.

For the ease of doing business, through the Electronic Business Process Licensing System (e-BPLS) software, taxpayers will now be able to file their application for new and renewal of business permits online.

TESDA Region IV-A will bring light to priority barangays in CALABARZON thru its Project Turn-On-The-Sun (TOTS) under the government's Executive Order No. 70, Whole-Of-Nation-Approach.

As part of TESDA's highlights in celebration of its 26th Anniversary, with the theme "Bringing HOPE in times of CRISIS", the TESDA Region IV-A will be launching the Project TOTS in several priority barangays across the region.

On August 26, TESDA-Rizal conducted the Project TOTS to the residents of Brgy. Puray, Rodriguez, Rizal, and TESDA-Cavite at Brgy. Patungan, Maragondon on

TESDA IV-A kicks off Turn-On-The-Sun Project for PRLEC priority barangays

by TESDA Region IV-A

August 28. Meanwhile, TESDA-Batangas, Laguna, and Quezon will soon begin as it gets approval from its respective Local Chief Executives. The Project TOTS is a five-day training on basic solar (off-grid) lighting and charging system which is designed to enhance the knowledge, skills, and attitude of the trainees in installing basic photovoltaics components and commissioning of basic PV off-grid system.

aims to improve the livelihood and living conditions and living conditions of special clients such as Indigenous Peoples and supply the selected barangays with electricity through renewable energy.

TESDA IV-A, through series of project launching, aims to provide access to economic and livelihood opportunities among residents in conflict-affected communities in CALABARZON.

The project



On-site visit of TESDA PO Rizal on July 15, 2020 in Brgy. Puray, Rodriguez (former Montalban), Rizal for the implementation and project launching of Turn-on-the-Sun (TOTS) training program in coordination with the Barangay Officials. Also distributed 50 facemasks to the community. Photos by: TESDA Region IV-A

Work resumes for companies inside Special Economic Zones

by PEZA Cavite Economic Zone

At the height of the Enhanced Community Quarantine in April, only 25 percent of the more than 1,000 PEZA locators operating in Cavite, Laguna and Batangas were operational and only 6 percent of the work force were physically reporting to work. While export oriented establishments were allowed to operate even under the most restrictive Enhanced Community Quarantine, the lack of public transportation and the difficulty in crossing borders took its toll in the operations of businesses, including those in Special Economic Zones.

With the guidelines issued by the Inter Agency Task Force on health protocols, PEZA implemented stringent procedures throughout the Special Economic Zones in CALABARZON. These include: a) the implementation of strict social distancing measures; b) the use of thermal scanners, alcohol, sanitizers, PPEs, and face masks; and c) disinfection of workplaces regularly. In addition, companies were encouraged to lessen the risk of their workers being infected by providing accommodation and shuttle services.

As of August, 90 percent of the PEZA locators in CALABARZON were operational and 75 percent of the workforce were reporting for work. With the issuance of the DTI and DOLE Joint Memorandum Circular 20-04 providing supplemental guidelines on prevention and control of COVID – 19 in the workplace, companies are working hard to counter the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace, even as the community transmission in CALABARZON continues to rise sharply.

PROVINCIAL NEWS

Cavite maximizes use of the internet to restore business activities

by Cavite Cooperative, Livelihood, and Entrepreneurial Development Office

The Community Quarantine may be the most challenging time for the economy and for the Provincial Government of Cavite. With around a million households affected with temporary loss of employment and livelihood, the priority of the provincial government is to ensure that Caviteños meet their basic needs. Second priority is to increase the capacity of health services and ensure that COVID-affected constituents are well-taken cared of, while also safeguarding the ranks of our healthcare workers and frontliners.

The Provincial Government's service delivery is maximizing the use of the internet. It is fortunate that the fiber-optic network project has already progressed thus making connectivity more accessible for many.

The Provincial Cooperative, Livelihood, and Entrepreneurial Development Office is conducting webinars to impart knowledge and technical skills to their clients. Since the lockdown, a total of nine learning sessions have been conducted through web-based trainings which have been participated by 181 individuals from micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and cooperators. Among the topics covered were Crafting a Business Recovery and Growth Plan and Fundamentals of Cooperatives.

Meanwhile, skills training videos like Fashion Accessories Making, Balloon Decoration, and Baking were made available through Facebook so that anyone can access

them anytime.

Online marketing and advocacy campaigns were also intensified, featuring MSMEs, cooperatives and their products in social media on a weekly basis. Two market matching activities were carried out, bridging locally made products to two establishments to become their additional sales windows. The assistance of the Cavite Product Display Center generated total additional sales of PHP80,765 as of July. A COVID-19 Impact Assessment Survey was also conducted to check on the overall status of clients and how the office can adjust to their current needs.

Another key service that is now being done online is the provision of technical assistance for product development. Entrepreneurs are given free label designs to help improve marketability of their products.

All these assistance to entrepreneurs and to those who would like to go into business were made possible through the support of the Office of the Provincial Governor, help and generosity of partner agencies like DTI, DOST-Industrial Technology Development Institute, DA-Agricultural Technology Institute, and fellow advocates from private institutions. The shared commitment to lift up our people, inspire them to move forward and conquer even more emerging challenges is the best assistance we can give today.



Batangas Governor Hermilando I. Mandanas. Photo by: PIO Batangas

Batangas Governor Mandanas responds to economic needs brought by COVID –19

by Batangas Provincial Information Office

established in different barangays.

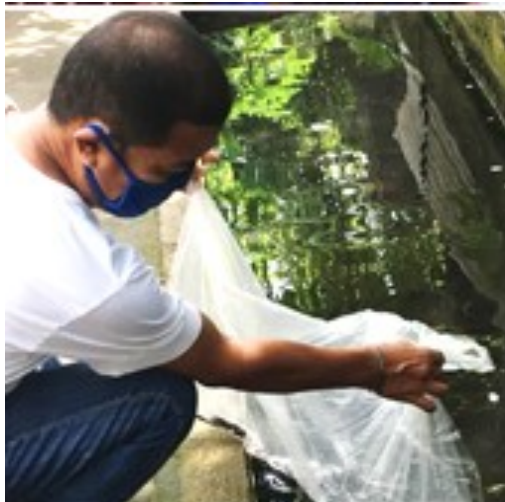
Five mobile markets are expected to operate in different municipalities and barangays within the province to

supplement the limited operation of public markets and address the suspension of public transportation. This is one of the Province's projects supportive to the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act.

The mobile markets will help people living in remote areas who cannot go to the town markets and grocery stores. Through the mobile market and the purchase of additional supplies for the barangay sari-sari stores, it will be more convenient for people to do their marketing and not leave their barangays.

The project is expected to continue even after the pandemic and will be ran by different groups or individuals in the future.

Gov. Hermilando I. Mandanas directed the release of additional funds from the Provincial Government to purchase fresh produce and grocery items for the mobile markets and stores to be



Tilapia fingerlings seeding and machinery and equipment for rice farmers in the province. (Photos by PIO Laguna)

Laguna embraces the new normal

by Ruby Ambrosio, Laguna Provincial Information Office



The provincial Special Livelihood Office launched 'Ratsada Hanapbuhay,' an online livelihood training program on paper bag, doormat/potholder, and paper beads making; crochet, bread and pastry, meat processing, and nata de coco production, among many others.

The Provincial Public Employment Service Office created the "Laguna Employment Hub" Facebook page in partnership with various employers to make job hunting more convenient.

For the Iskolar ng Laguna Scholarship Program of PGL, the PHP5,000 semestral allowance of each student beneficiary were brought to the municipality or city of residence for distribution, in time for the start of online learning classes for the AY 2020-2021.

The Provincial Government of Laguna (PGL) has taken significant measures in restarting Laguna's economy as its transition to the new normal amid the COVID-19 health crisis.

In the agriculture and fishery sector, the provincial Field Agriculture and Services (FAES) intensifies its efforts to support farmers through the Department of Agriculture Region

IV-A mechanization program, awarding farmers a wide variety of farm machinery and equipment. Communal water and river seeding is continuously conducted by dispersing thousands of tilapia fingerlings in irrigations and rivers, and awarding same commodity to fishpond owners. FAES also facilitates ramping of sampaguita production and forum on piña fiber production.

It is not business as usual in Rizal

by Rizal Provincial Information Office

It is not business as usual for most businesses in Rizal because of COVID-19. The restrictions posed by the community quarantine and the suspension of public transport have severely affected many businessmen that many have closed down or are barely surviving.

The Provincial Government of Rizal under the leadership of Governor Rebecca Ynares understands the important task of the government in helping businesses restart in the face of the pandemic. Business has to continue amidst these challenging times. The economy has to get back on track and move into the new normal.

With the cooperation of the Department of Trade and Industry and the 14 Local Government Units, new and creative ways of doing business were introduced to businessmen in Rizal.

E-commerce was introduced where a virtual platform is used to access essential goods and services from establishments like supermarkets, banks, pharmacies, food stores, and more.

Among the new ways of doing business were the e-Palengke, mobile-Bank, e-Botika, and online food orders which have made life easier and safer to the consumers.





Handcrafted by Harl's

How a micro social enterprise hurdled the pandemic

by DTI Region IV-A

Handcrafted by Harl's is the only micro social enterprise in the country. Owned by Harley Dave Beltran, Harl's produces innovative and unique genuine leather products such as bags, coin purses, cellphone cases, gadget organizers, clocks, stools, bow ties, belts, sandals, slippers, key chains, tags, wallets, and other customized items.

Harley started his business in San Pedro, Laguna in 2014 to promote local artistry and provide employment to persons with disabilities and underprivileged craftsmen. He trains aspiring artisans to produce leather goods that can succeed in the international market.

Harley takes pride that their products are 100 percent handmade. What sets them apart from other leather brands is their skillful use of waste materials as well as the use of genuine "rugged" type full grain leather to create upcycled products. Their products have visible natural leather markings on them, such as a few scratches, discoloration, or burn marks to have more character and add uniqueness to the product. They do not use linings and make only one of a kind product, especially with bags. Every batch produced has different sets of leather choices and will not be produced again. These leather goods are all crafted proudly and

skillfully by differently-abled workers who are either mute, deaf, or crippled.

For the past years, Harl's handcrafted items are regularly showcased at the regional and national trade fairs of the Department of Trade and Industry. In 2018 at the DTI's Sikat Pinoy National Trade Fair and National Arts and Crafts Fair, differently-abled workers from Harl's conducted a leather workshop where guests can create their own wallet, coin purse, and other leather goods.

But like any other business, Harley was caught off guard when the pandemic happened.

businesses, off guard when happened.





"I had to unload the ship for it to sail further. To put it simply, I needed to let go of one of my stores. I needed to prioritize what's best for the company and for my employees," said Harley.

"We were not prepared for the pandemic, but what can we do about it? Instead of constantly thinking of problems and feeling dejected, I use my time during this quarantine period to become more productive by thinking of new ways for my business to survive and to sustain the needs of my employees," added Harley.

With these in mind, Harley started crafting face masks made from leather and *ticog* mat, and they called it *maska*. *Ticog* is harvested by an Abre Linea weaving community in San Miguel, Leyte.

According to Harley, *maska* doesn't just provide safety but also comfortable and durable because of the materials used. One purchase of *maska* will not only feed one PWD family but will also support the San Miguel's weaving community.

With the donations of customers and friends, Harley conducted the "Harl's COVID-19 Response" by distributing relief packages to several underprivileged and PWD families in their area.

"Harl's bounce back story is very remarkable. We hope that his

experience will help our MSMEs to be inspired to move forward and start the process of putting their businesses back on track. We, in the DTI, and with our programs and activities for our MSMEs want them to be ready to embrace the new normal," said DTI CALABARZON Director Marilou Q. Toledo.

"Harl's is here not to have business; we're here to inspire and survive. We continue to serve our purpose by helping others," said Harley.

Harley believes that your action matters, so act now.



New jobs for tricycle drivers

by JM Laude, DOLE Region IV-A



New FoodPanda drivers in the City of Bacoor receive their starter kits from the Local Government Unit. The partnership with the City of Bacoor and FoodPanda provides income for the displaced tricycle drivers. *Photo by: PIO Bacoor City*

The City Government of Bacoor partnered with delivery services to assist tricycle drivers find new jobs with delivery services. Tricycle drivers were among those badly affected by the pandemic due to the suspension of public transportation.

The City Government of Bacoor signed a memorandum of agreement with Food Panda for the enrolment of the displaced tricycle drivers in their delivery service. With the endorsement of the Public Employment Service Office (PESO) of Bacoor, the joining fee was waived

for the newly enrolled drivers. Starter kits containing thermal bags and uniforms were also provided for free as part of their onboarding. Bacoor PESO Manager Dr. Abraham de Castro reported that the said partnership helped some 165 tricycle drivers.

Partnerships with other delivery service providers, such as, Joy Ride and Happy Move are also in place to accommodate more displaced tricycle drivers. Thirty-six drivers have already onboarded and at least 200 are expected to follow in

month as delivery drivers. De Castro added, "we are expecting more displaced drivers to benefit from the partnerships as slots are still open. We likewise hope that this could be a benchmark of employment generation not only in Cavite but in the whole Region as well."

DOLE Calabarzon Regional Director Henry John S. Jalbuena commended De Castro and the City Government of Bacoor for their out-of-the-box ideas in delivering employment service during these trying times.

the coming days.

Orientations and trainings were provided to enhance the capabilities of the drivers in terms of using the app including some financial management tips. According to de Castro, the displaced drivers are expected to earn up to PHP25,000 a

CALABARZON organizes Committee to attain Sustainable Development Goals

by Jennylyn Jucutan, NEDA Region IV-A

The newly created Special Regional Committee on Sustainable Development Goals (SRC-SDG), under the CALABARZON Regional Development Council (RDC), conducted its first organizational meeting on August 26, 2020 via video conference. The SRC-SDG was created on June 11, 2020 to enhance coordination and allocate resources to implement programs and projects (P/P) that will significantly contribute to the achievement of SDG targets. The SRC-SDG is the regional counterpart of the NEDA Board Sub-Committee on SDGs.

To jumpstart the activities of the Committee, the 2019 Regional Development Report (RDR) Supplemental Guidelines and the regional SDG indicators were endorsed to the RDC. The SDG indicators will serve as basis in preparation of the SDG report that will be an Annex Report to the 2019 RDR. To facilitate the identification and funding of SDG-supportive P/Ps, the

Committee also approved to consider SDGs in the technical budget review of regional line agencies and state universities and colleges for the fiscal year 2022.

Recognizing the key role of infrastructure in attaining all the SDGs, the creation of a technical working group (TWG) on infrastructure was also endorsed to facilitate the identification, coordination and monitoring of SDG-related infrastructure targets and P/Ps. The SRC-SDG is now being supported by the four sectoral committees of the RDC which also serve as its TWG.

The Committee also confirmed the membership of nine RDC-Private Sector Representatives to ensure multi-sectoral participation and facilitate initiatives between government and non-government stakeholders to address concerns on SDGs. Advocacy on SDGs and localization will also be conducted to increase awareness, and encourage active participation and commitment at the local level on the SDGs.

REGIONAL ECONOMIC SITUATIONER

Second Quarter 2020

by NEDA Region IV-A Policy Formulation and Planning Division

Improved Performance

Increased

- Rice, corn, sugarcane, and sweet potato
- Goat, chicken, and ducks
- Chicken eggs and duck eggs
- Crime solution rate

Decreased

- Inflation rate
- Average consumer price index
- Average monthly crime rate
- Index crime rate
- Non- index crime rate

Declined Performance

Increased

- Underemployment rate

Decreased

- Employment rate
- Coconut, coffee, banana, pineapple, and cassava
- Hog, cattle, and carabao
- Aquaculture, municipal and commercial fisheries
- Total ship calls
- Total passenger traffic
- Cargo throughput
- Container volume

Prices and Inflation

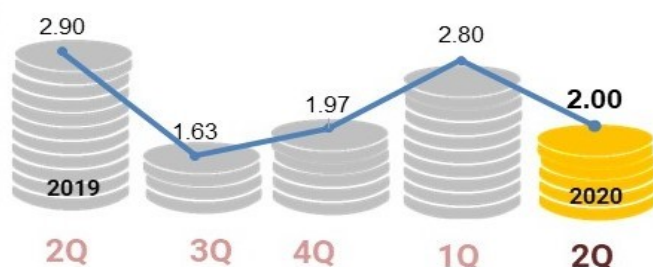


Figure 1. Quarterly average inflation rate, 2nd Quarter 2019 to 2nd Quarter 2020

Average inflation rate in the second quarter of 2020 slowed down further by 0.8 percentage points compared to the first quarter and 0.9 percentage points compared to last year. The slower growth is the result of lower average consumer price index at PHP120.1 from PHP120.5 in the first quarter. Average purchasing power of peso remained at PHP0.83. The impact of COVID-19 coupled with the continued decrease in oil prices and other commodities were the primary reasons for the inflation rate deceleration.

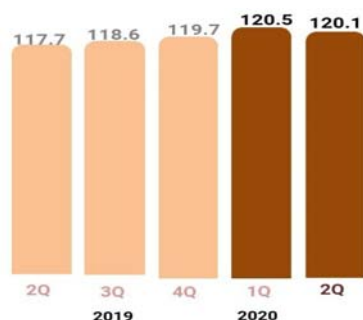


Figure 2. Quarterly consumer price index, 2nd Quarter 2019 to 2nd Quarter 2020.



Figure 3. Purchasing power of peso, 1st Quarter 2020 and 2nd Quarter 2020

Transport price dropped by 2.32 percent quarter-on-quarter, while price of housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels decreased by 1.21 percent. However, prices of alcoholic beverages and tobacco, and food and non-alcoholic beverages had the highest quarter-on-quarter increase at 0.78 and 0.72 percent, respectively. Other commodities with increased prices were furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house, clothing and footwear, recreation and culture, health, and restaurants and miscellaneous goods and services.

Commodities with High Consumer Price Index



Slower price increment in transport may be attributed to decreasing global crude oil prices and lower demand due to quarantine protocols. Meanwhile, lower prices of housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels may be attributed to instalment payments and refunds offered by companies due to the pandemic.

Increased commodity prices, particularly for food and non-alcoholic beverages, may be due to supply disruptions brought by lower factory outputs during the enhanced community, quarantine protocols, consumer panic buying, and some unfavorable weather conditions.

Labor & Employment*

Population 15 years old and above (April, 2020) = 11,042,000

Labor Force = 6,437,486

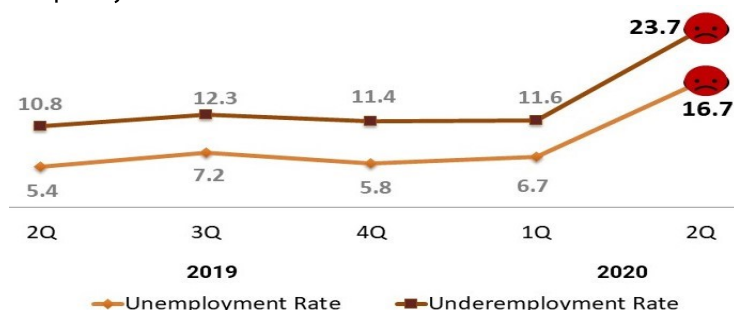


8 in every 10 are employed

The labor force participation rate declined to 58.3 percent, a decrease of 5.7 percentage points from the first quarter and 4.8 percentage points compared to the same time last year.

Likewise, employment rate in the Region dropped to 83.3 percent, lower by 10 percentage points compared to the previous quarter and 11.3 percentage points compared to the same quarter in 2019. Further, underemployment rate was recorded at 23.7 percent, 12.1 and 12.9 percentage points higher quarter-on-quarter and year-on-year, respectively.

Financial loss to the COVID-19 pandemic and redundancy caused most of business establishment to retrench and permanently close. The enforcement of community quarantine, lack of market and raw materials, financial loss, and downsizing resulted to the temporary closure of business establishments.



A total of 431 business establishments reduced their work force affecting 22,320 employees while 59 companies have to shut down affecting 2,096 employees. The number of companies that shut down in the second quarter is five times higher than the first quarter.

The implementation of flexible work arrangement in 460 business establishments affected 24,119 employees. Temporary closure of 3,703 business establishments affected 183,882 employees which increased by 67.73 percent from the first quarter.

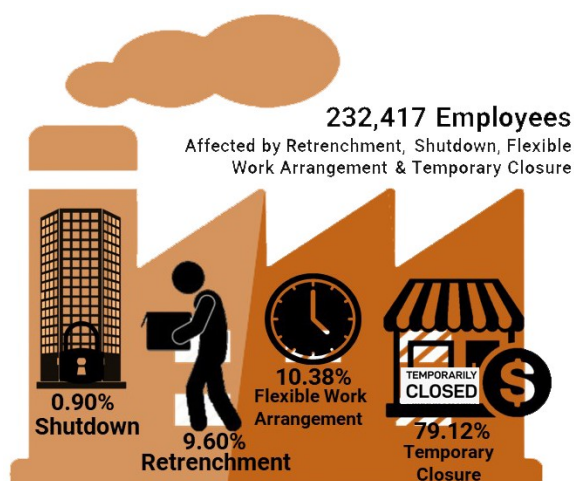


Figure 4. Percentage of employees affected by retrenchment, shutdown, and retrenchment, 2nd Quarter 2020

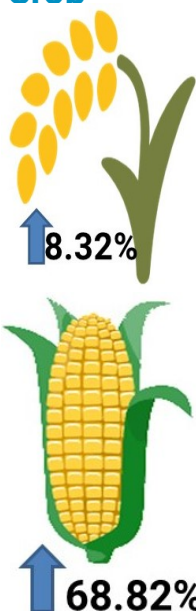
Sources: Philippine Statistics Authority Region IV-A Department of Labor and Employment Region IV-A

*Estimates are preliminary and subject to changes. First quarter data on retrenchment and shutdown data used to compare quarterly data were updated on August 27.

Agriculture

Production of major crops like rice, corn, and sugarcane increased during the second quarter of 2020 compared to the same quarter in 2019. Similarly, the production increased on poultry products such as chicken, chicken eggs, duck, and duck eggs. On the other hand, the production of livestock and fisheries contracted for the same time period.

Crop



Majority of the crops such as palay, corn, sugarcane, and sweet potato increased production while there was a decline for other crops such as coconut, coffee, banana, pineapple and cassava. Palay recorded an increase of 8.32 percent volume of production from 124,857 metric tons in second quarter of 2019 to 135,248 metric tons for the same quarter in 2020. This may be due to increased provision on seeds and fertilizer, as well as adequate supply of water compared to last year's cropping.

Similarly, corn production increased by 68.82 percent from 5,654 metric tons to 9,545 metric tons. This significant increase may be attributed to rehabilitation of the areas damaged by

Typhoon Tisoy back in December 2019 and the wide distribution of seeds and fertilizers. Production boost of major crops in the second quarter of 2020 can also be attributed to the continuous distribution of seeds and other farming inputs to farmers.

On the other hand, continued decline in production of coffee from 89.31 metric tons in 2019 to 76.91 metric tons in 2020 was caused by the Taal Volcano eruption which affected production areas in Batangas and Cavite. Downtrends in production of other priority crops in the Region such as coconut, banana, pineapple, and sweet potato may be attributed to the losses in production brought about by Taal Volcano eruption and restrictions due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Livestock

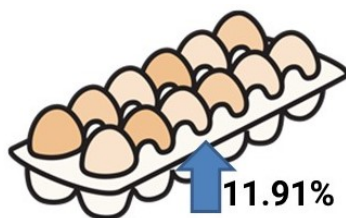


Hog production declined by 15.02 percent from 103,434 metric tons to 87,897 metric tons for the same time period. Similarly, cattle and carabao recorded production downtrends by 14.09 percent and 5.10 percent, respectively. The drop in hog production can still be

attributed to incidences of African Swine Fever while contraction in output of cattle and carabao can be attributed to limited stocks available for slaughter. Meanwhile, goat production inched up by 1.80 percent from 888 metric tons in the second quarter of 2019 to 904 metric tons for the same quarter in 2020.

Poultry

Chicken production slightly increased by 2.36 percent from 80,541 metric tons in second quarter of 2019 to 82,443 metric tons for the same quarter in 2020. Significant increases in



percent, and duck eggs at 49 percent also contributed to the positive performance of poultry production for the second quarter of 2020. The gains in production can be attributed to higher demand for poultry meat and egg products during the quarantine period.

Fisheries

Commercial Fisheries



There was a general decline in fisheries production. Municipal fishing was down by 29.95 percent from 28,318 metric tons in second

quarter of 2019 to 19,836 metric tons in same quarter of 2020. Aside from municipal fishing, aquaculture fishing and commercial fishing also posted declines in production for the same time period by 23.58 and 54.42 percent, respectively. The lower production in fisheries may be attributed to limitations in fishing activities brought by Taal Volcano eruption and COVID-19 pandemic.

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority Region IV-A

Ports

Batangas Port



Figure 6. Total shipcalls in Batangas Port, 2nd Quarter 2020

production of chicken

Total ship calls at Batangas Base Port, including government and private ports significantly declined by 63.84 percent compared to last year and 56 percent compared to the previous quarter. Likewise, passenger traffic significantly declined by 93.33 percent and 87.09 percent compared last

year and the previous quarter, respectively. These significant declines were due to the enforcement of enhanced community quarantine from April 1 to May 15 and general community quarantine from May 16 to June 30 in Batangas which restricted non-essential travel.



Figure 7. Total cargo throughput in Batangas Port, 2nd Quarter 2020

Fewer cargoes and containers were also handled in Batangas ports due to quarantine protocols. Total cargo throughput declined by 21.08 percent compared last year and by 22.88 percent compared to the previous quarter.

Similarly, container volume handled in the Batangas Container Terminal declined by 38.57 percent and 13.39 percent compared last year and last quarter, respectively.

However, export of cargoes in Batangas port increased by 105 percent in the second quarter compared to the previous quarter.

Source: Philippine Ports Authority-PMO Batangas

Lucena Port and Private Ports in Quezon

Shipcalls

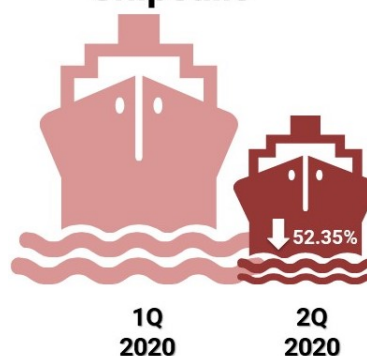


Figure 8. Total shipcalls in Lucena Ports and Private Ports in Quezon, 2nd Quarter 2020

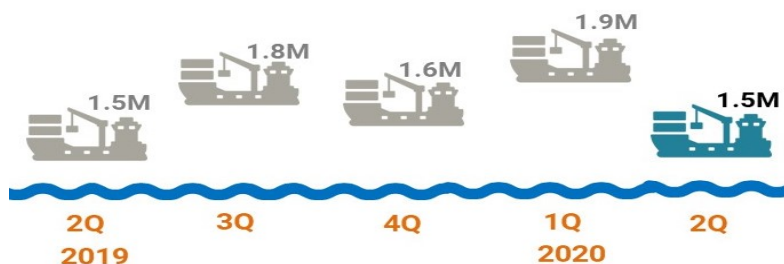
Total ship calls and total passenger traffic at Lucena Port and other private ports in Quezon were also affected by the enforcement of community quarantines.

Total shipcalls significantly declined by about 52 percent and 59 percent compared last quarter and the previous year, respectively. Total passenger traffic was severely affected with 84.87 percent and 91.51

percent decline compared last quarter and the previous year, respectively. However, it was recorded that there was an increase of about 6 percent in the domestic ship calls in the port of Sariaya.

Source: Philippine Ports Authority-PMO MarQuez

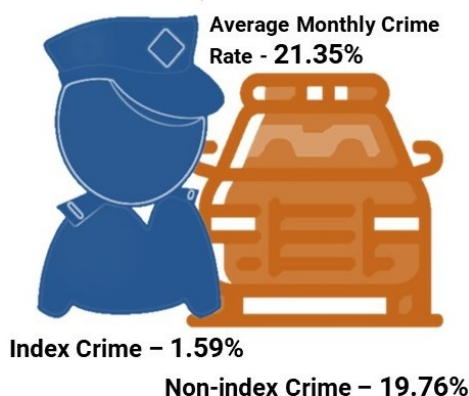
Cargo Throughput



Similarly, total cargo throughput declined by 44 percent and 30.51 percent compared last quarter and the previous year, respectively. Regular cargoes on palm oil, coconut oil and copra handled in Lucena port declined by about 56 percent. Importation of coal also declined which contributed to fewer cargoes handled in private ports.

Figure 9. Total Cargo throughput in metric tons, 2nd Quarter 2020

Peace and Order



Average monthly crime rate per 100,000 population declined by 22.39 percent in the second quarter of 2020 compared to the previous quarter. This can be attributed to the decrease in non-index crime rate by 19.25 percent and index crime rate by 47.52 percent. Compared to the same period in 2019, there was also a significant decrease in all crime indicators. This can be attributed to the enforcement of enhanced and general community quarantine in the region which restricted mobility of individuals.

Positive performance was also recorded in crime solution rate which increased by 3.36 percent compared last quarter and 6.42 percent compared last year.

Figure 10. Peace and order situation, 2nd Quarter 2020

Source: Philippine National Police Region IV-A

Development Prospects and Challenges

- The passage of Bayanihan 2 provides prospects for a stronger healthcare system, better public transport, and investment opportunities for small businesses which have the potential to restore consumer demand and recover economic growth.
- Aside from Bayanihan 2, the acceleration of the Build Build Build program, now expanded to cover health and digital infrastructure, and the 2021 Budget are two measures that will improve economic recovery prospects.
- With the easing of restrictions and quarantine protocols, an increase in transport price can be expected due to possible higher fares for land, sea, and air transportation, and lower allowed capacity of public utility vehicles.
- The enforcement of the community quarantine in the Region and minimum health standards in establishments will continuously affect the operations of the business establishments but will reduce COVID-19 infection.
- As the economy gradually reopened and more industries are allowed to operate, workplace prevention and control of COVID-19 is of paramount importance and should be strictly enforced. The increasing number of confirmed cases among workers requires strong coordination between companies and local governments to properly handle cases and control the infection rate.
- The prolonged enforcement of community quarantines in CALABARZON will continuously affect operations of ports in Batangas and Quezon province. While both provinces are now under a more relaxed community quarantine compared to the other provinces in CALABARZON, economic activities are still not fully allowed. Thus, fewer passengers and cargoes might still be observed. Industries in the region are still operating below full capacity which can affect the number of import and export cargoes.
- While restrictions in movement of individuals resulted to fewer crimes, there is also a need to address the possible emergence of cybercrimes given the increased utilization of online platforms.

RPMC BULLETIN

by NEDA Region IV-A Project Monitoring and Evaluation Division

MWSS ensures the well-being of communities affected by New Centennial Water Source – Kaliwa Dam Project

To allay the concerns of the communities affected by New Centennial Water Source – Kaliwa Dam Project (NCWS – KDP), the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System presented the Comprehensive Socioeconomic Community Development Plan for the affected communities of the Kaliwa Dam Project during the third quarter RPMC meeting on August 6.

The need for a Community Development Plan was raised during the second quarter meeting last May 7. This Plan will minimize the the negative effects of the project to the indigenous peoples and communities, and mainstream them in the development process, through the provision of livelihood and social infrastructure projects.



The affected IPs attend the Community assembly of NCWS-KDP. Photo by: MWSS

In addition, MWSS also initiated the future establishment of an information center in Barangay Magsaysay in Infanta, Quezon to provide information on Kaliwa Dam Project.

Economic Activities in REINA to Improve with the Completion of Querocep Bridge in August 2020

Going to Infanta, Quezon from Metro Manila is expected to improve with the completion of the Querocep Bridge along the Marikina-Infanta Road in August 2020 as reported by the DPWH IV-A. The bridge collapsed in December 2015 due to Typhoon Nona.

The reconstructed bridge will enable the transport of local products from the REINA (Real, Infanta, and General Nakar) to Metro Manila. This is expected to boost economic activities in the area.

As of August 6, the Querocep bridge was 99 percent complete but not yet open for commuters and motorists. The construction of the bridge was delayed due to unfavorable weather conditions and the road cut in the Infanta Section which hampered the transport of equipment to the project area.



Querocep Bridge. Photo by DPWH Region IV-A

DENR-EMB Issues Environmental Compliance Certificate for the Taal Lake Circumferential Road Project

The DPWH Region IV-A has already secured the Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) from the DENR-Environmental Management Bureau for the Taal Lake Circumferential Road Project on July 21, 2020. The project was previously issued with Cease and Desist Order by the DENR-EMB IV-A on July 5, 2019 due to non-compliance with ECC.

The Taal Lake Circumferential Road involves the construction of a 114-kilometer circumferential road along the coast of Taal Lake. The project is under the DOT-DPWH Convergence Program with a total cost of PHP3.3 billion. The implementation period is from January 2013 to 2021. The project aims to boost tourism and trade in the 10 municipalities around Taal Lake. As of August 2020, the project is 72.51 percent complete with a positive slippage of 3.47 percent.

CALABARZON RPMC Recommends Problem-Solving Session for Projects with Road-Right-Of-Way issues

The CALABARZON Regional Project Monitoring Committee recommended the conduct of Problem Solving Sessions for three infrastructure projects the Macalelon Small Reservoir Irrigation Project, Pulo-Diezmo Road, and Bacoar Diversion Road.

These projects are experiencing delays in implementation and have high negative slippage due to right-of-way issues. The Problem Solving Sessions will be conducted by the Regional Project Monitoring Committee with the National Irrigation Administration IV-A and DPWH IV-A on September 3 via video conference.

In the past, issues on implementation were resolved when a Problem Solving Session was conducted by the Regional Project Monitoring Committee with all stakeholders.

RPMC BULLETIN

Monitoring of Priority Projects in CALABARZON

Land Transportation

National Road

1) Gumaca Bypass Road	42% complete
2) Alaminos—San Pablo City Bypass Road	60% complete
3) General Nakar - Dingalan Road*	40% complete
4) Sariaya Bypass Road	96.58% complete
5) Atimonan-Mauban Road	23.05% complete
6) Molino-Daang Hari Flyover (Phase II)	33.95% complete
7) Tayabas Bypass Road	Completed on January 14
8) General Aguinaldo-Magallanes-Nasugbu Road (East-West Road)	68.94% complete
9) Batangas City- San Pascual-Bauan Road	Completed on May 2
10) STAR Tollway-Pinamucan Bypass Road	50.19% complete
11) Taal Lake Circumferential Road	72.51% complete
12) Kaykulot Road connecting Tagaytay-Calamba Road	Completed on February 20
13) Bacoor Diversion Road	15.69% complete with RROW issues
14) Tagaytay Bypass Road	Suspended due to unavailability of fund
15) Carmona-Silang Diversion Road	77.35% complete with RROW issues
16) Carmona-Biñan Diversion Road	88.86% complete
17) Pulo-Diezmo Road	22.53% complete with RROW issues
18) Lobo - Malabrigo - Laiya - San Juan Road	97% complete
19) Tagkawayan - Labo Diversion Road	95% complete
20) Calamba-Tagaytay Road	Completed on May 27

National Road (cont.)

21) Link Road Connecting Aguinaldo Highway and Governor's Drive	87.75% complete
22) Lipa City - Padre Garcia Diversion Road	51.53% complete
23) Guinayangan-Tagkawayan Diversion Road	67.50% complete
24) Angono-Antipolo Diversion Road	32.36% complete
25) Magallanes Drive Connecting Tagaytay-Batangas Arterial Highway and Tagaytay-Manila via Silang Road	97% complete
26) Catanauan Diversion Road	81% complete
27) Mauban Bypass Road	58% complete

Rail

1) LRT Line 1 (Cavite)	45% complete
2) LRT Line 2 (East)	82% complete
3) South Long Haul	Design and survey works stage

Expressway

1) Cavite-Laguna Expressway (Laguna Segment)	73.4% complete
2) South Luzon Expressway—Toll Road 4 (SLEX TR4)	
✓ Section B (Makban to San Pablo)	0.13 percent complete
✓ Section C (San Pablo to Tiaong)	5.71 percent complete
3) Quezon-Bicol Expressway	Feasibility study already completed

Bridge

1) Querocep Bridge	98.18% complete
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RPMC BULLETIN

Monitoring of Priority Projects in CALABARZON

Air Transportation		Economic	
1) Sangley Airport Development Project	96.52% complete	1) Philippine Rural Development Project	41 percent complete (8 out of 22 sub-projects completed under I-BUILD Component)
Social		Flood Control	
1) School Building Program		1) Flood Risk Management Project for Imus River*	52.3% complete
✓ GAA 2018	89.34% complete	2) Cavite Industrial Area – Flood Risk Management Project (CIA-FRMP)	Consulting services for the project is 77.16% complete
✓ GAA 2019	50.15% complete	Water Resources	
2) Health Facilities Enhancement Program (GAA 2019)	9 out of 50 projects completed	1) New Centennial Water Source - Kaliwa Dam Project	2.10% complete
3) KALAHI-CIDSS National Community Driven Development Program	3.40% complete	2) Quipot Irrigation Project	99.35% complete
4) Sustainable Livelihood Program	0.01% complete as targeted	3) Macalelon Small Reservoir Irrigation Project	55.48% complete
5) Social Pension Program for Indigent Senior Citizens	90.67% complete	Environment	
6) Cash Grant for Centenarians	72.85 percent or 51 centenarians out of 70 target centenarians were granted cash grants	1) Manila Bay Rehabilitation Project	Temporary suspension of clean-up activities by the river rangers due to COVID 19 community quarantine
7) Supplementary Feeding Program (SFP)	100% completed	2) National Greening Program	900 hectares validated/assessed, 5 Seed Production Areas/Individual Plus Trees maintained, 1 Mechanized and Modernized Forest Nursery maintained with quality seedlings produced
8) Recovery and Reintegration Program for Trafficked Persons	36.75% complete	Science and Technology	
9) Comprehensive Program for Street Children, Street Families, and Indigenous People	3.80% complete	1) Production and Application of Cellulosic Nanocrystals from the Wood and Processing Wastes of ITPS	80% complete
10) Disaster Response Assistance and Management	43.22% complete	2) Clean Energy - Alternative Energy Research Trends	50% complete
11) Social Amelioration Program - Emergency Subsidy Program (SAP - ESP)	99.14% complete	3) Acquisition of Multi-Band Network Scanning Receiver and Post Processing Tools Built-in a Monitoring Van	Acquisition to commence in August 2020
12) Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program	90% of target HH (307,189) were provided with conditional cash grants		
13) Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situations (AICS)	100% of target beneficiaries (28,836) served		



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6th CALABARZON Research, Statistics, and Innovation Forum



"Bridging Research and Innovation Towards
CALABARZON's Sustainable and Inclusive Development"

October 15, 2020



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"/>	
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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).