



Third Quarter
September 2021

there is knowledge in news

CALABARZON

The Official Newsletter of the Regional Development Council IV-A

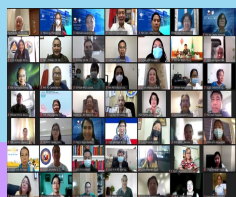


Vegetable farming in the new normal:

A look into the women of the Angono New Normal Farmers Association

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CALABARZON RDC highlights
full devolution in 2022



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DepEd CALABARZON banners
one region, 21 solutions in
enhanced BE-LCP

This issue's theme:

**Moving forward to a
gender-focused recovery**

ABOUT THE COVER

Angono New Normal Farmers Association, an organization mostly composed of women farmers, advocate for community vegetable farming to alleviate hunger in the new normal.

KNOW YOUR REGION

CALABARZON RDC-Regional Gender and Development Committee (RGADC) was the first region to conduct Gender and Development Convention.

CALABARZON RGADC was also the first to reorganize and go into partnership with the Philippine Commission on Women.

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EDITORIAL BOARD

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Layout and Design

Mary Deemple D. Ariate
Aprille M. Suyat
Christine B. Flores
Nelson J. Aman, Jr.

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

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NEDA CALABARZON passes energy audit with flying colors

by Marlo E. Chavez, NEDA Region IV-A

The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Region IV-A - (CALABARZON) recently added another feather in its cap after successfully hurdling the energy audit spot check by the Department of Energy (DOE) on March 29, 2021. Garnering a score of 97.9 percent or Grade A, NEDA IV-A was bestowed with a 5-STAR Rating by DOE, which is the second highest rating nationwide for the year.

With the achievement, NEDA CALABARZON has been accorded with the honor and privilege of presenting its notable programs and best practices on energy conservation in the recently concluded Government Energy Management Program (GEMP) Virtual Energy Audit Orientation on June 15, 2021, to an audience of more than 200 representing different agencies across the country. On June 22, 2021, the office again shared its best practices to another group of government agencies/instrumentalities.

NEDA CALABARZON scored high on its adherence to energy-saving office policies, and the designation of an Energy Conservation Officer. Its consistent adoption of austerity measures and initiatives, and the implementation of best practices for electricity and fuel conservation also played a big role in the conferment of the distinction.

Energy conservation is a way of life in that humble office with Regional Director Luis Banua at its helm, and the accolade will definitely serve as an inspiration to do better.

The energy audit is being conducted annually by the DOE to identify opportunities for energy efficiency and conservation in line with RA No. 11285 otherwise known as the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act. With this Act, the GEMP was enhanced and expanded to cover agencies/offices under the Executive Branch, and the Local Government Units.

NEDA CALABARZON receives BSP Outstanding Stakeholder Award

by Christine B. Flores, NEDA Region IV-A

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) recognized NEDA CALABARZON as an Outstanding Stakeholder during its 2021 Outstanding BSP Stakeholders Appreciation Ceremony held on July 30, 2021 via video conference.

This year's appreciation ceremony, with the theme, "Pagpupugay at Pagkilala sa Gitna ng Hamon ng Pandemya," acknowledged the significant contributions of stakeholders in achieving BSP's objectives and mandates, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. The BSP recognized NEDA CALABARZON's efforts for the past years as its partner in providing economic information, and support to BSP's activities and initiatives amidst disasters and pandemic.

This is the seventh award received by NEDA CALABARZON as an outstanding partner of



Regional Director Luis G. Banua of NEDA CALABARZON holds the token of appreciation from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. (Screenshot taken during the 2021 Outstanding BSP Stakeholders Appreciation Ceremony)

BSP. The BSP also gave NEDA CALABARZON the "Buhay Filipino" BSP Art Plate and 500-Piso Commemorative Coin as tokens of appreciation.

CALABARZON RDC highlights full devolution in 2022

by Lovely S. Mores, NEDA Region IV-A



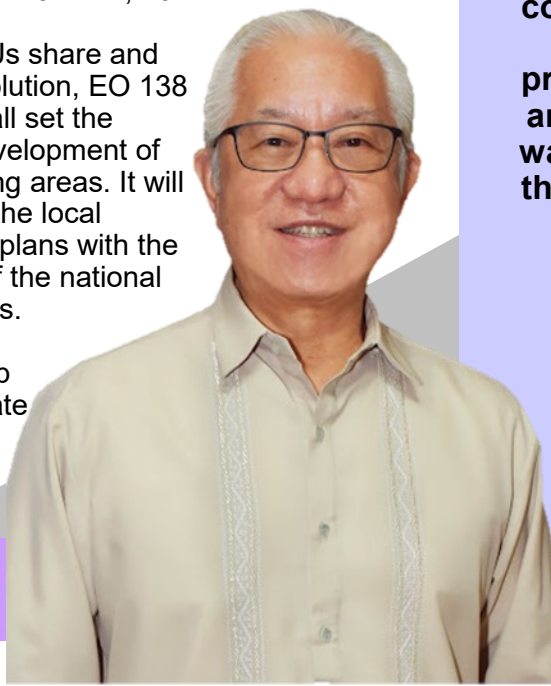
RDC members during the second quarter meeting on June 10, 2021.

The full devolution of functions to LGUs in 2022 was highlighted during the second quarter meeting of the CALABARZON Regional Development Council (RDC) on June 10, 2021 via video conference.

RDC Chairperson, Governor Hemilando I. Mandanas, one of the petitioners of the Mandanas-Garcia Ruling, underscored the increase and automatic release of LGUs share in national taxes in 2022 and the creation of a Devolution Committee as provided in the Executive Order (EO) No. 138, entitled Full Devolution of Certain Functions of the Executive Branch to Local Governments, Creation of a Committee on Devolution, and for other purposes signed on June 1, 2021.

Aside from the increase in LGUs share and creation of Committee on Devolution, EO 138 also provides that the RDC shall set the strategic direction for faster development of the regions, especially in lagging areas. It will also facilitate the alignment of the local development and the land use plans with the goals, objectives and targets of the national and regional development plans.

The full devolution will also help the LGUs to immediately allocate funds for COVID-19 and Taal Volcano eruption rehabilitation and recovery.



“

With the full devolution, we can have a government that embodies the ideals and aspirations of the people, and one that promotes the common good. LGUs will be able to implement programs and projects in an effective and efficient way, and agencies will be there to provide strategic direction to address persistent development issues.

”

Chairperson Mandanas

CALABARZON RDC gears up towards Regional Infrastructure Connectivity

by Angela R. Llamas, NEDA Region IV-A

The CALABARZON Regional Development Council conducted a Regional Consultation on Infrastructure Connectivity on July 29, 2021 via Zoom video conference. The Consultation solicited stakeholders' inputs on the harmonization of policies, programs, and projects which will ensure infrastructure connectivity in the Region. It was participated by 80 officials and staff from the national and regional government agencies, academe, local government units and private sector.

RDC Co-Chairperson Ladislao Andal, in his opening message, emphasized the inclusivity of infrastructure, and highlighted the multi-modality of connectivity. These would facilitate the inter and intra-regional connectivity of the region's transportation and digital infrastructures.

The consultation commenced with the presentation of the CALABARZON Regional Physical Framework Plan 2017 to 2046 which considered connectivity through efficient transport network as one of the spatial strategies. To elaborate on the guiding principles at the national level, NEDA Infrastructure Staff Director Kathleen Mangune

presented the National Transport Policies and Strategies focusing on connectivity. She also presented the updates of major transport projects in the region that were submitted for NEDA- Investment Coordination Committee's approval.

The completed, ongoing and proposed major transport projects were presented in maps overlaying the protection, production, settlement land uses, economic zones, tourism areas and mobile network coverage. The consultation concluded with a drafting of action plan that will be implemented by the different implementing agencies in the enhancement of the region's infrastructure connectivity. The action plan considered the improvement of existing infrastructure facilities both in congested and geographically-isolated areas.

RDC Vice-Chairperson Luis Banua, in his closing message, encouraged the stakeholders to continue taking part in collaborative efforts towards infrastructure connectivity. He emphasized that these efforts will benefit all sectors by facilitating the socio-economic development of CALABARZON.



Participants of the Regional Consultation for Infrastructure Connectivity.

DepEd CALABARZON banners one region, 21 solutions in enhanced BE-LCP

by Public Affairs Unit, DepEd CALABARZON



DepEd CALABARZON Regional Director Francis Cesar B. Bringas conveys his trust to the 21 Schools Division Offices in ensuring that learning will continue for SY 2021-2022 even during the pandemic. (Photo by: DepEd CALABARZON)

Department of Education (DepEd) CALABARZON Regional Director Francis Cesar B. Bringas conveys his trust to the 21 Schools Division Offices (SDOs) in ensuring that learning will continue for School Year (SY) 2021-2022 even during the pandemic. The Regional Office has been conducting a series coordination meeting in preparation for the opening of classes.

DepEd CALABARZON Basic Education Learning Continuity Plan (BE-LCP) for SY 2021-2022 will ensure that no learners will be left behind even amidst the pandemic.

Using a framework produced by UNICEF, UNESCO, World Bank, World Food Programme, and UN Refugee Agency, the Region and its 21 SDOs directed their objectives to five key dimensions. These are Focus on Learning, Safe Operations, Well-Being and Protection, Education Financing, and Reaching the Most Marginalized. The offices also used their accomplishments and experiences in the previous school year as a basis in crafting specific strategies to attain effective learning continuity that is relevant to the needs of their respective divisions.

“Sustain the use of lateral thinking in finding solutions to the challenges and gaps you have identified. The Solutions will be coming from the 21 SDOs,” Director Bringas explained during the 9th Regional Management Committee Meeting which was held on July 13, 2021.

Moreover, a series of coordination meetings were conducted from July 29 to August 4, 2021 that became a venue for the SDOs to present each of their Enhanced BE-LCP. Evident in their presentations were the emergency responses, flexible solutions, and specific approaches for any possible scenarios that may occur during the second year of no face-to-face classes.

The nationwide opening of classes is set on September 13, 2021 and it is scheduled to end on June 24, 2022.

Protecting the vulnerable: Mayor Arlene inaugurates women and children crisis center

by LGU Santa Rosa City, Laguna

In the midst of the pandemic, the City of Santa Rosa, Laguna continues to implement programs that are equally important as responding to the needs of the people during this crisis brought upon by COVID-19.

According to City Mayor Arlene B. Arcillas, the City Government's regular programs did not take a backseat because of the pandemic; they were pushed through since these help ensure that people's welfare, especially the vulnerable sector, is taken care of at present and in the future.

"Establishing social infrastructure is one way to do that," Mayor Arcillas said. On January 12, 2021, the City of Santa Rosa inaugurated its Women and Children Crisis Center – considered to be the first of its kind in Laguna that is operated by a city government.

The Center serves as a temporary shelter for women and children who are victims of violence, abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and such. It was founded in support of Republic Act No. 9262 or the Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children Act of 2004. The victims stay in the center when they are still at risk, when there is no qualified guardian in the case of child abuse, or when the case is still being

heard in court.

The facility is a 2-storey building that has a multipurpose hall where activities such as livelihood training and sports for women and children are conducted. It operates 24/7 and manned by social workers, nurses, psychologists, and house parents employed by the city government.

The Social Development Center houses the Persons with Disability Affairs Office, Federation of the Senior Citizens and Gender and Development Office. It was renovated and unveiled on July 19, 2021. It was built in support of the City's Gender and Development Code or Ordinance No. 1940-2014.

Other existing structures promoting the welfare of the vulnerable sector include the *Bahay Pag-Asa* Youth Rehabilitation Center which accommodates Children in Conflict with the Law; the Multi-Purpose Evacuation Centers in the barangays which have a separate comfort rooms for men and women; the *Dangal ng Pagbabago* Rehabilitation Center for drug offenders; and the Santa Rosa Community Isolation Unit for mild cases of COVID-19, among others.

Cavite Provincial GAD unit working towards gender-focused recovery amidst COVID-19

by Christine Joy Cuarteron, PSWDO Cavite

The Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office (PSWDO) of Cavite, through the Gender and Development Unit and Gender Focal Point System, continue to move forward in its advocacy on gender equality, social justice and violence against women.

On March 31, 2021 the Province of Cavite hosted the 2021 Regional Women's Month Celebration together with the Cavite State University and the CALABARZON Regional Gender and Development Committee. The celebration was held online via Zoom video conference and was actively participated by more than 200 participants from different provinces, cities and municipalities in the region. With the theme, "*Juana: Kagitingan at Katatagan sa Gitna ng Pandemya*", the event

emphasized the value of women's strength and resiliency despite the challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. Speakers presented various topics including the impact of COVID-19 on Filipino Girls & Young Women, Women's Leadership in the Time of Pandemic, and Rethinking Work: Flexibility and Engagement.

On May 26, 2021, the Province also held the post-celebration of the 2021 Provincial Women's Month online via Zoom. It was participated by more than 100 participants from the different offices of the Provincial Government of Cavite and its cities and municipalities. With the sub-theme "I Can, Women Can", the event celebrated the different success stories of women in different fields during the pandemic.

PROVINCIAL NEWS

Laguna: From pandemic to recovery

by Ruby S. Ambrosio, Laguna Provincial Information Office

The Province of Laguna is one of the provinces in the country that has experienced the most critical level of quarantine classification since March 2020.

Laguna Governor Ramil L. Hernandez was quick to address the situation by implementing lockdowns, setting up quarantine facilities and molecular testing laboratories in the province. To cope with the restriction of movement of people, closing of businesses, and to address rising unemployment, alternative livelihood trainings and seminars were conducted online, or face-to-face with limited attendance and strict observance of minimum public health standards.

Moreover, free pneumococcal vaccine was given to female employees of the Provincial Government of Laguna (PGL) during Women's Month celebration in March 2021. Laguna Provincial Gender and Development (PGAD) also facilitated the celebration of 2021 Laguna Day for Men for male employees by providing free influenza vaccination from July 27-29, 2021. Anti-COVID vaccination of frontliners under the

Resbakuna vaccination program of the government also started in March 2021 at the San Pablo City District Hospital. At present, employees of national agencies stationed in the province are also being vaccinated.

Moreover, PGAD recently created the websites: <https://lagunapgad.com.ph/> and <https://gad.laguna.gov.ph/>, with the tagline Gender Equality and Development. The website aims to empower people on the issues of gender development and seeks to equalize the status and condition of relation between women and men.



Batangas Province conducts LGBT Pride Celebration

by Batangas Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office

The Provincial Government of Batangas, through the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office, together with the Provincial Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Alliance of Batangas (PLAB), held the virtual 6th Batangan Pride Celebration with the theme "*May Bahaghari sa Panahon ng Korona*" on June 30, 2021.

As part of the annual pride walk, PLAB Corona Queen 2021 Pageant for gay/transgender

members was conducted. The pageant is one of the advocacies of the Province to promote and strengthen gender equality and women empowerment.

One of the highlights of the event was a lecture by Hon. Senator Risa Hontiveros on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the LGBT community. The second part of the activity was the Virtual Elimination round of the Search for the PLAB Corona Queen 2021. The event was held at the Sea Spring Resort in Mabini, Batangas and was virtually attended 48 Zoom participants and more than 1,000 live viewers on Facebook and YouTube. The PLAB Corona Queen 2021 grand winner received the crown and P10,000.00 cash. The other 20 contestants received a P1,000.00 consolation prize from the Provincial Government.

The success of the 2021 Provincial LGBT Pride Celebration will result to a greater camaraderie among leaders and members of the LGBT community and a deeper understanding of their rights within the community.



PLAB Corona Queen candidates.
(Photo by: Batangas PSWDO)

PROVINCIAL NEWS

Rizal prioritizes gender-responsive recovery

by Rizal Provincial Information Office

One of the consequences of the pandemic is the rise of violence against women (VAW) which was exacerbated by the prolonged lockdowns.

In its commitment to end VAW, the Rizal Provincial Government under the leadership of Governor Rebecca Ynares, rolled out a heightened campaign through virtual orientations and eye-opening infomercial videos posted on the province's social media site. It aimed at empowering women to speak up against abuses by educating them of their rights, and capacitating stakeholders for continued vigilance against gender-based violence.

The Governor believes that empowering women and addressing gender inequalities is vital to effectively recovery from the pandemic. She

emphasized that VAW programs, projects and activities will be a key part of the economic recovery and resilience programs of the provincial government as it will ensure equitable access to productive resources and viable employment opportunities for women, especially those affected by the pandemic. Governor Ynares directed the Provincial Public Employment Service Office to strengthen its linkages in speeding up job placement in sectors that are recruiting amidst the pandemic.

"The end to VAW is not yet in sight but our intensified efforts in promoting women's rights and welfare, and educating community members of their responsibilities are steps towards our desire of eliminating gender-based violence," said Governor Ynares.

Gender and Development in the midst of the new normal

by Quezon Provincial Information Office

Despite the many changes to adapt to the current pandemic-stricken reality, Quezon Province continues to uphold its legacy of gender inclusivity and women empowerment which have led it to become one of the Philippine Commission on Women's Local Learning Hubs for 2015-2017 and 2018-2020.

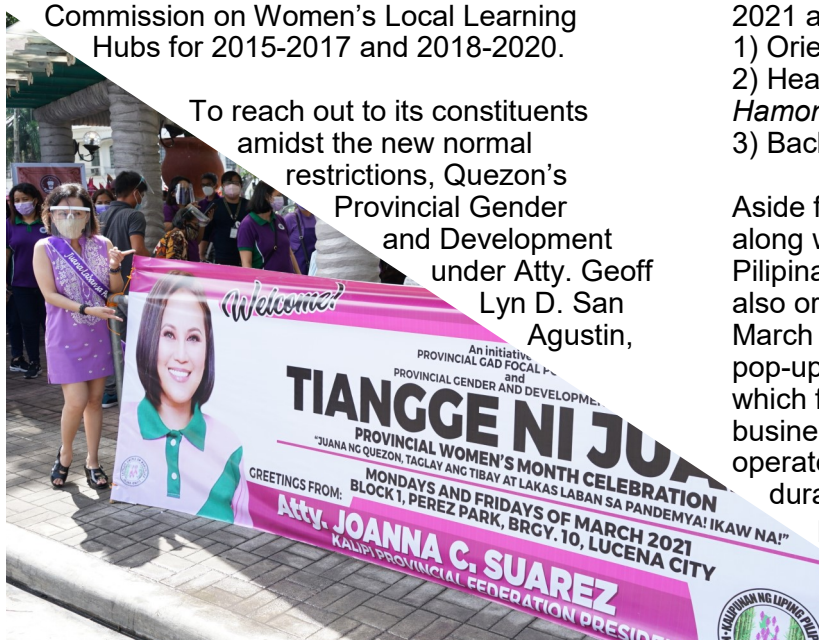
To reach out to its constituents amidst the new normal restrictions, Quezon's Provincial Gender and Development under Atty. Geoff Lyn D. San Agustin,

spearheaded a series of public webinars coinciding with the celebration of Women's Month.

The webinars were conducted last March 23-25, 2021 and covered the following topics:

- 1) Orientation on Magna Carta of Women;
- 2) Healthy Lifestyle at *Wastong Nutrisyon – Hamon sa Gitna ng Pandemya*; and
- 3) Backyard Gardening Basics.

Aside from the online discussions, PGAD, along with Quezon's Kalipunan ng Liping Pilipina President Atty. Joanna C. Suarez, also organized *Tiangge ni Juana* last March 2021. The *Tiangge* is an open-air pop-up market at Perez Park, Lucena City which featured women-owned small businesses and traders. The market operated every Monday and Friday for the duration of Women's Month, and enjoyed patronage from locals and provincial government employees.



Quezon KALIPI President Atty. Joanna Suarez during the opening of *Tiangge Ni Juana* at Perez Park, Lucena City last March 8, 2021. (Photo by: Quezon PIO)

Vegetable farming in the new normal

A LOOK INTO THE WOMEN OF THE ANGONO NEW NORMAL FARMERS ASSOCIATION

by Halyn Lunel A. Gamboa, DOST CALABARZON



(L-R) Ms. Loreta Magadia, former ANNFA President, with her fresh harvest of vegetables; Sec. Fortunato de la Peña, together with ANNFA farmers last July 20, 2021 for the turnover of farm tools, equipment, and vegetable seeds to further capacitate its farmers in promoting community vegetable farming in Angono, Rizal. (Photo by: Ms. Horizon Chaser).

“Ano raw ang karanasan ko sa pagtatanim eh ‘babae lang ako’? Ang sabi ko, hindi ako marunong umasa. Basta ang sa akin, magtatanim ako sa abot ng aking makakaya.”

These were the words of Loreta Magadia, the former President of the Angono New Normal Farmers Association (ANNFA)—an organization mostly composed of women farmers who advocate for community vegetable farming to alleviate hunger in the new normal. Currently, the organization already has 50 members, 31 of which are women.

HOW IT ALL BEGAN

Upon seeing a group of elderlies persistently tending to a vacant lot one morning, Ms. Narisa

Piscos (also known as Ms. Horizon Chaser, a member of the media) started a conversation with the said group, realizing their potential and learning about their needs.

“Ang isang salita na ma-describe ko po sa karamihan sa miyembro ng ANNFA ay ‘pursigido’,” Ms. Narisa recounted, “Gusto nila matugunan ang kanilang araw-araw na pangangailangan sa kabila ng kahirapan na dulot ng pang-globong pandemic.” Ever since, Ms. Narisa has been with the organization to document and further support their causes.



Some vegetable seeds, farm tools and equipment to be turned over to ANNFA by PSTC-Rizal.

Last August 4, 2020, ANNFA was recognized and accredited as an organization by the Angono Municipal Agriculture Office with the help of the Department of Science and Technology-CALABARZON (DOST-CALABARZON) through its Provincial Science and Technology Center of Rizal (PSTC-Rizal) and in collaboration with the Local Government Unit of Angono.

In line with this, the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST-PCAARRD) implemented the GALING-PCAARRD *Kontra* COVID-19 Program: *Gulayan sa Pamayanan* Project to encourage community vegetable farming and improve the livelihood of communities.

PSTC-Rizal, led by Provincial Director Fernando E. Ablaza, then implemented the “Employing Hydroponics and Community Vegetable Gardening Technologies to alleviate COVID-19 Threats to Food Security in Selected Municipalities in Region IV-A” to cater to the needs of ANNFA. Such efforts include Science and Technology assistance like the conduct of trainings and provision of farm tools, equipment, and vegetable seeds to the members of ANNFA.

WOMEN IN FARMING

Most of the women in the ANNFA expressed the joy and fulfillment that they found in vegetable gardening. For some, it was a source of livelihood for their family; for others, a newfound hobby.

Meanwhile, Leodinisia Formentera, another

ANNFA member, said that her dream is to continuously learn how to farm and help others in the process of doing so, especially those who are less fortunate.

However, despite their hopeful dispositions, the women farmers of ANNFA also have their fair share of challenges. Ms. Narisa observed that since most of the member-farmers are women between the ages of 45 to 65 years old, they find it difficult to do laborious tasks such as carrying heavy farm equipment and tilling the soil for longer periods of time.

Emilia Briones, the current Vice President of ANNFA who recently had her surgery, acknowledged the importance of women in farming and expressed her personal struggles as a farmer herself.

However, all members, both men and women, recognize that farming in the new normal is both a blessing and a challenge in itself—a pursuit that requires a lot of grit and perseverance, coupled with modern and S&T-based solutions.

CURRENT PLANS FOR ANNFA

According to Ms. Jessamay Matanguihan of PSTC-Rizal, a few activities are already pipelined for the ANNFA. These include the conduct of future trainings on organizational management and various ways to market their products to increase their possible sources of income. PSTC-Rizal is also currently planning to establish their own community fresh market in which ANNFA member-farmers can sell their fresh produce.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

September 9TH CALABARZON GAD CONVENTION



9th REGIONAL GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT CONVENTION

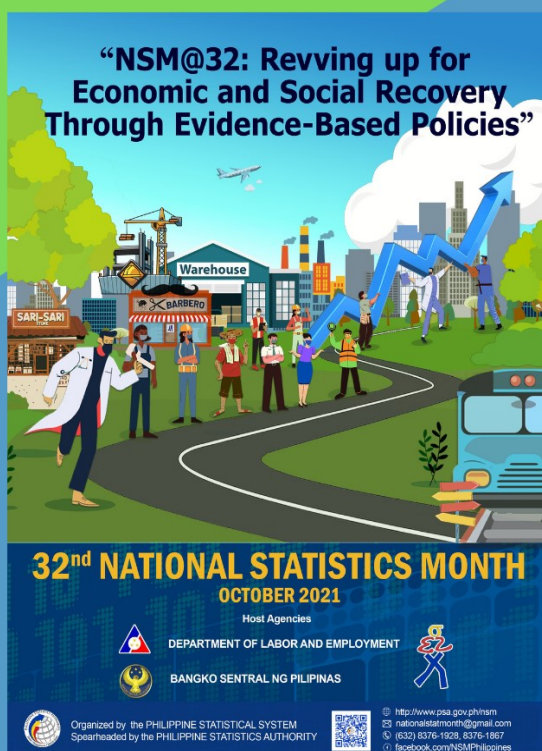
“CALABARZON: Moving forward amidst the challenges of COVID-19 for a gender-focused recovery”

September 15-17, 2021; 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 nn
via Zoom video conference

For queries, contact the RGADC Secretariat at pfpd@calabarzon.neda.gov.ph

Illustrations from icons8.com

October 32ND NATIONAL STATISTIC MONTH



“NSM@32: Revving up for Economic and Social Recovery Through Evidence-Based Policies”

32nd NATIONAL STATISTICS MONTH
OCTOBER 2021

Host Agencies

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS

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Spearheaded by the PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY

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facebook.com/NSMPHilippines

REGIONAL ECONOMIC SITUATIONER

Second Quarter 2021

by NEDA Region IV-A Policy Formulation and Planning Division

Improved Performance

Increased

- Sugarcane, string beans, cabbage, cacao, corn, pineapple, squash, tomato, mango, sweet potato, & palay production
- Egg production
- Chicken & duck production
- Cattle, carabao, & goat production
- Aquaculture fisheries production
- Total cargo throughput in Lucena ports & private ports in Quezon
- Shipcalls in Batangas base port & private ports

Decreased

- Average consumer price index

Declined Performance

Increased

- Unemployment rate
- Underemployment rate

Decreased

- Employment rate
- Black pepper, eggplant, banana, ampalaya, coffee, cassava, calamansi, chayote, & coconut with husk production
- Hog production
- Municipal & commercial fisheries production
- Tourist arrivals
- Total cargo throughput & container volume in Batangas
- Passengers in Batangas base port & private ports, & Lucena port
- Shipcalls in Quezon

Prices and Inflation

Average Inflation Rate & Purchasing Power of Peso

CALABARZON's average inflation rate and purchasing power of peso remained at 5.7 percent and PHP0.79, respectively.

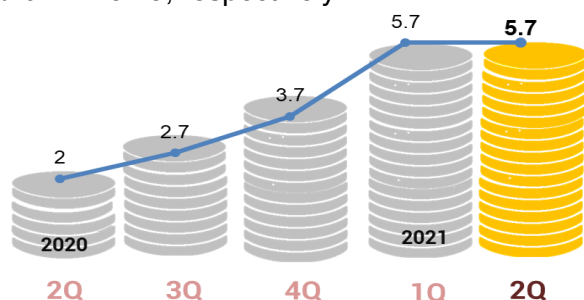


Figure 1. Quarterly average inflation rate, 2nd Quarter 2020 to 2nd Quarter 2021.

Average Consumer Price Index

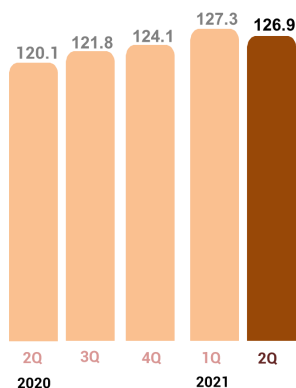


Figure 2. Quarterly average consumer price index, 2nd Quarter 2020 to 2nd Quarter 2021.

The average consumer price index (CPI) improved by 0.4 index points from 127.3 in the first quarter in 2021 to 126.9 in the second quarter.

The main drivers on the improvement of CPI were stable prices in the education sector and the lower prices of the following: 1) food and non-alcoholic beverages; 2) housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels; and 3) communication.



Main Drivers of Improved CPI

Prices of food and alcoholic beverages declined by 2.9 percent and prices of housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels were down by 0.2 percent. Moreover, prices on communication services also went down by 0.1 percent while prices of the education commodity group remained the same.

The decline in prices of corn, fish, fruits, and vegetables resulted in lower prices of food and non-alcoholic beverages. The decline in the prices of the said commodities can be attributed to increased crop yield and fish production. The lower consumer price index can be attributed to lower prices of domestic oil products.

Labor & Employment

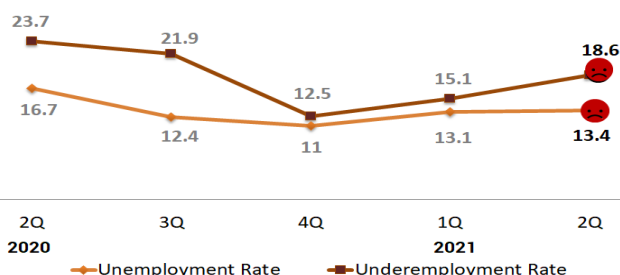
The working population in the Region increased by 0.8 percent in the second quarter of 2021, compared to the previous quarter. The labor force participation rate increased by 3.3 percentage points.

Population 15 years old and above (April, 2021) = 11.35 M
Labor Force = 7,354,800



9 in every 10 are employed

For the second quarter of 2021, the employment rate was recorded at 86.6 percent, which is 0.3 percentage points lower than the previous quarter but 3.3 percent higher, year-on-year. The underemployment rate is posted at 18.6 percent, higher by 3.5 percentage points quarter-on-quarter.



There were fewer retrenchments by business establishments but more establishments stopped business operations in the second quarter of 2021. Establishments with retrenchments decreased by 4.44 percent. Nevertheless, retrenchments affected 6,484 employees. Closed business establishments increased by 3.0 percent which affected 854 employees.

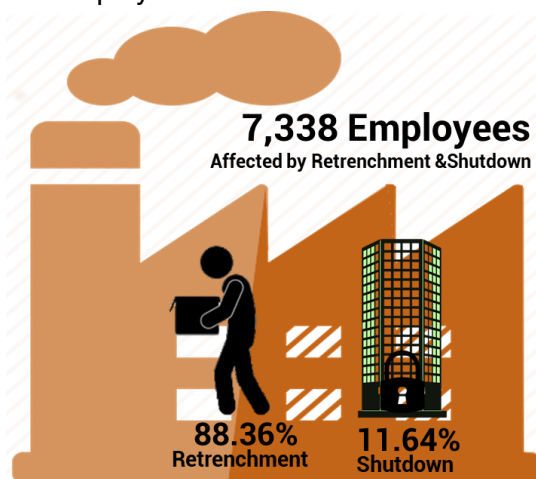


Figure 3. Percentage of employees affected by retrenchment, and shutdown in 2nd Quarter 2021.

**Estimates are preliminary and subject to change.*

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

Agriculture

Production of major agricultural commodities increased in the second quarter of 2021 compared to the same quarter of 2020. There was an increase in the production of poultry products, cattle, carabao, goat, aquaculture fisheries, and major crops such as sugarcane, string beans, cabbage, and cacao, among others.

Crops



249,333MT

Sugarcane, string beans, and cabbage are among the crops with the highest increase in production in the second quarter of 2021 compared to the same quarter in 2020. Cacao, corn, pineapple, squash, tomato, mango, sweet potato, and palay also posted an increase in production.

High-quality seeds, pesticides, and fertilizers provided by the Department of Agriculture and the favourable weather condition on the crops during the growing period resulted in better crop quality and increased yield. Higher demand and profit from the previous year made farmers increase the production of corn, cacao, squash, tomato, cabbage, pineapple, and sweet potato.

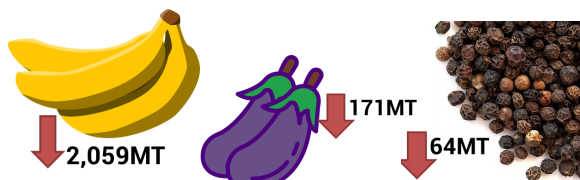


96MT



28MT

Black pepper, eggplant, banana, ampalaya, coffee, cassava, calamansi, chayote, and coconut with husk posted a production downtrend in the second quarter of 2021. Black pepper, eggplant, banana, and ampalaya are among the crops with a high production downtrend, year-on-year.



2,059MT

171MT

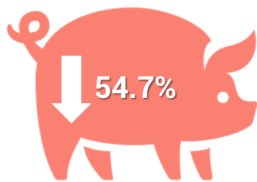
64MT

Damages brought by the Tropical Cyclones Quinta, Rolly, and Ulysses still affected the production of coconut, coffee, and banana during the second quarter of 2021. The warm weather during the hot dry season from March to May also affected the yield of calamansi, cassava, chayote, eggplant, ampalaya, and black pepper. Moreover, black pepper production declined as farmers planted fewer peppercorns due to its low market price.

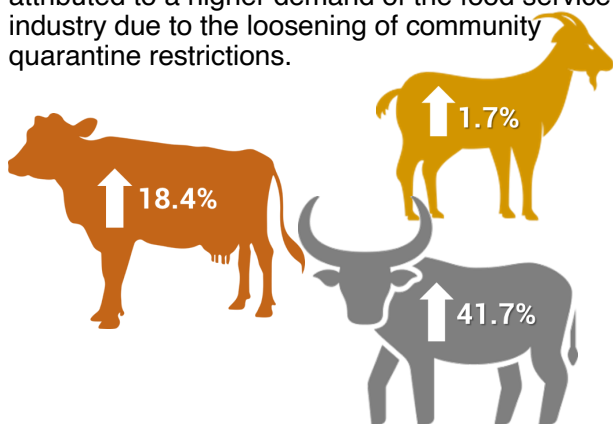
Livestock & Poultry

Livestock production significantly declined in second quarter of 2021 compared to the same quarter of 2020. Production declined by 46.2 percent which can be attributed to lower hog production which comprised 88.8 percent of the total livestock production.

Hog production declined by 54.7 percent due to the presence of African Swine Fever. Temporary closure of commercial, backyard, and breeder farms resulted in lower supply in the second quarter of 2021 compared to the same quarter of 2020.



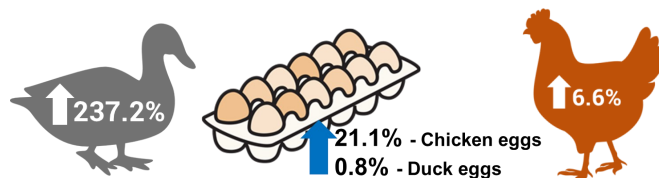
Production of cattle, carabao, and goat posted a positive growth at 18.4 percent, 41.7 percent, and 1.7 percent, respectively. This performance can be attributed to a higher demand of the food service industry due to the loosening of community quarantine restrictions.



Source: Philippine Statistics Authority Region IV-A

Poultry production posted a growth of 11.8 percent due to an increase in the production of chicken, duck, and eggs.

Duck production recorded the highest increase which tripled in the second quarter of 2021 compared in the same quarter in 2020 which can also be attributed to higher demand by the food service industry.

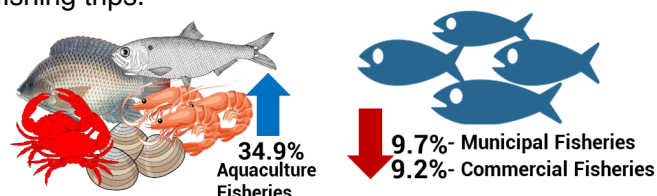


Fisheries

Total fisheries production posted a growth at 15.1 percent in the second quarter of 2021 compared to the same quarter of 2020 due to a significant increase in aquaculture production, despite the declines in municipal and commercial fisheries.

Aquaculture production comprised 65 percent of the region's total fisheries production. It increased by 34.9 percent which can be attributed to the availability of fingerlings and larger harvest area.

Municipal and commercial fisheries declined at 9.7 percent and 9.2 percent, respectively, due to strong waves from Southwest Monsoon resulting in fewer fishing trips.



Ports

Batangas Port

Total shipcalls in Batangas base port and other private ports increased by 58.1 percent in the second quarter of 2021 compared to the same quarter of 2020.

Quarter-on-quarter performance also showed an increase in total shipcalls despite decline in the number of foreign shipcalls.

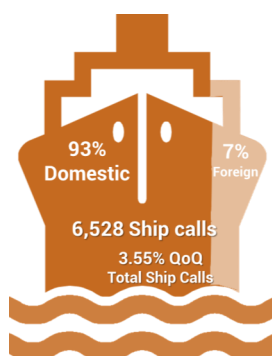
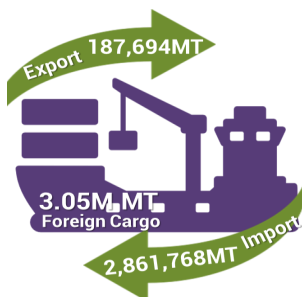


Figure 4. Total ship calls in Batangas, 2nd Quarter 2021.

The number of passengers also increased significantly at 95.2 percent in the second quarter of 2021 compared in the same quarter in 2020.



The total cargo throughput slightly increased by 2.7 percent in the second quarter of 2021 compared to the same quarter of 2020. Likewise, total container volume handled increased by 12.8 percent.

The quarter-on-quarter performance on total cargo throughput, container volume and number of passengers declined by 0.8 percent, 11.9 percent and 16.04 percent, respectively. The enforcement of stricter community quarantine restrictions in Metro Manila and selected provinces in the region may have contributed to this performance.

Source: Philippine Ports Authority-Batangas PMO

Lucena Port and Private Ports in Quezon

Total shipcalls in Lucena port and private ports in Quezon increased by 80 percent in the second quarter of 2021 compared to the same quarter of 2020.

This increase can be attributed to an 80.5 percent increase in domestic shipcalls because of higher movement of people and goods with fewer restrictions and a 71.1 percent increase in foreign shipcalls due to an operation of a new company.

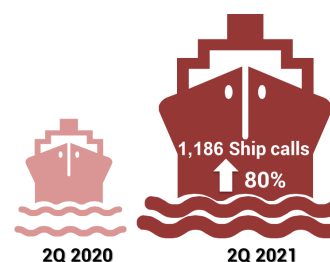
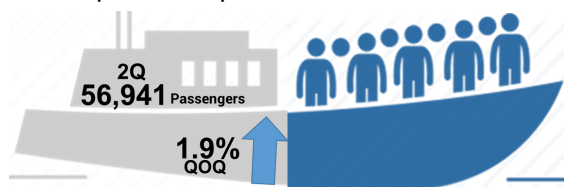


Figure 5. Total ship calls in Lucena Ports and Private Ports in Quezon, 2nd Quarter 2021.

Source: Philippine Ports Authority-MarQuez PMO

Passenger traffic in Lucena port more than doubled in the second quarter of 2021 compared to the same quarter of 2020 but increased by 1.9 percent compared to the previous quarter.



Cargo Throughput

Total cargo throughput increased by 87.4 percent in the second quarter of 2021 compared to the same quarter of 2020. Similarly, the quarter-on-quarter performance showed an increase of 35.6 percent.

The year-on-year increase can be attributed to higher cargoes on coconut products handled in Lucena port and higher importation of coal and liquefied petroleum gas which are handled in private ports.

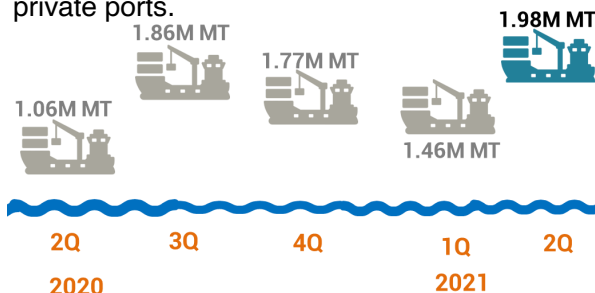
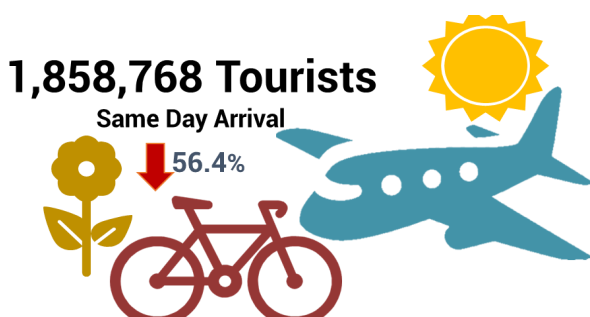


Figure 6. Total cargo throughput in metric tons, 2nd Quarter 2020 to 2nd Quarter 2021.

Source: Philippine Ports Authority-Marquez PMO

Tourism

The total number of tourists declined in the second quarter of 2021 compared to the previous quarter. Same-day arrival and overnight tourists declined by 56.4 percent and 72.2 percent, respectively. Batangas and Rizal recorded the highest reduction in the number of same-day arrival and overnight tourists, respectively.



This can be attributed to the imposition of a stricter community quarantine in Metro Manila and selected provinces in CALABARZON to address the surge in COVID-19 cases.



Source: Department of Tourism Region IV-A

*Partial data as of July 31, 2021

Development Prospects and Challenges

- Economic recovery may face a setback due to the imposition of mobility restrictions to address the surge in COVID-19 infections caused by the Delta and Lambda variants.
- Further acceleration of the vaccination program and strict adherence to public health protocol while expanding the health care capacity will be critical to ensure that the region can manage the surge and prevent further strain in achieving economic recovery.
- Upskilling and retooling of displaced workers and vulnerable sectors are needed to develop the essential and in-demand skills in the new normal. Targeted training or modules may be developed to address the needs of the new entrants to the labor force.
- The expected disruption in the global supply chain due to the partial closure of ports in other countries to address the COVID-19 infection will result in a higher cost of moving cargoes and an increased consumer price of imported goods.
- The continued provision of agricultural inputs such as high-quality seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides will increase the volume of crop production and produce high-quality crops.
- The continued implementation of hog repopulation and the Bantay ASF sa Barangay Program of the Department of Agriculture is vital to the recovery of the hog industry which is the largest contributor to the region's livestock production. Eighty-three cities and municipalities in the region remain in the infected zone.
- The Safety Seal Certification Program will boost consumer and business confidence as this certifies and affirms the establishment's compliance to the minimum public health standard. The additional 10 percent operating capacity of certified establishments can accommodate more consumers and employ more workers.

RPMC Bulletin

by NEDA Region IV-A Project Monitoring and Evaluation Division

CALABARZON RPMC enhances conduct of Search for Outstanding Local Project Monitoring Committees

The CALABARZON Regional Project Monitoring Committee (RPMC) approved the enhanced guidelines on the 2022 Search for Outstanding Local Project Monitoring Committees (SOLPMC) during its 3rd quarter meeting on August 5. The SOLPMC is an annual activity of the RPMC which aims to motivate and strengthen the LPMCs in the areas of project facilitation, monitoring and evaluation.

The proposed enhancements in the 2022 SOLPMC Guidelines were discussed by the Evaluation Committee during its meeting on July 21. The enhancements include the scoring on timeliness of submission of RPMES reports, templates for desk and field monitoring plans, detailed supporting documents per criteria, and the Search selection process.

The Evaluation Committee for the 2022 Search will be chaired by DBM Region IV-A with members from DILG Region IV-A, OP-PMS, NEDA Region IV-A, and three RDC private sector representatives.



The RPMC conducts the third quarter meeting via Zoom video conference. (Photo by: NEDA Region IV-A)

For the 2021 Search, the Outstanding LPMCs were the Province of Batangas, San Pablo City, and the Municipality of Carmona, Cavite which also garnered the Hall of Fame Award. The awardees were recognized and given plaques and certificates of recognition during the second quarter meeting of CALABARZON Regional Development Council on June 10.

RPMC approves revised GAD M&E tools



The RPMC to roll out GAD M&E Tool to agencies by 4th quarter 2021. (Photo by: NEDA Region IV-A)

The RPMC initiated the drafting of a monitoring tool which incorporates the core elements of the Harmonized Gender and Development Guidelines. The tool aims to ensure that the mainstreaming of GAD and gender equality elements is not limited to project identification and design stage, but also sustained throughout the project implementation. The tool was approved by the Regional Development Council through Resolution No. IV-A-21-2021 during its first quarter full council meeting on March 11.

An orientation meeting was conducted on the M&E tool among implementing agencies on April 30 to generate feedback to improve the tool prior to its implementation. Issues on the frequency of reporting and the projects to be included were raised. In response, the RPMC in the 2nd quarter approved the enhancement of the tool to address the agencies' concerns.

RPMC monitors 929 projects



The 80-lineal meter bridge of the Atimonan-Mauban Road Project is 100% completed.
(Photo by: DPWH Region IV-A)

During the second quarter of 2021, the RPMC monitored a total of 929 projects, 227 of which were completed, 466 are ongoing and 236 have not yet started. The projects include major regional projects and other projects included the Rehabilitation and Recovery Programs (RRP) for Taal, COVID-19 and Typhoons Quinta, Rolly, and Ulysses, and ER 1-94 COVID-19 Response projects.

For the major regional projects, 44 were completed, 240 are ongoing and four projects have not yet started. Implementation issues encountered were road right-of-way problems, delayed release of project funds, restricted movement of manpower and materials due to community quarantine, issues on construction works, difficulty in securing relevant permits and endorsements from some LGUs, and unfavorable weather condition. For other regional projects, 18 were completed while 13 are ongoing.

For projects under the Taal Volcano Eruption RRP, 104 were completed, 50 are ongoing, and 33 have not yet started. Project delays were encountered due to continuous unrest of Taal Volcano, community quarantine restrictions, procurement issues, road right-of-way problems, and no fund allocation.

For the COVID-19 RRP, 20 projects were completed, 92 are ongoing projects while 27 have not yet started. The project issues encountered were no fund allocation and field work restrictions due to COVID-19. Likewise, for projects under RRP for Areas Affected by Typhoons, 20 are completed, 38 are ongoing, and 150 have not yet started. Majority of the projects have no fund allocation.



Rizal Province procures Aztra Zeneca COVID-19 vaccines using the regional share from the Energy Regulation 1-94 COVID-19 Response funds. (Photo by: Rizal PPMC)



Taal Lake Circumferential Road (Viaduct-Phase IV) in Sta. Teresita, Batangas is approximately 26% complete. (Photo by: Batangas PPMC)

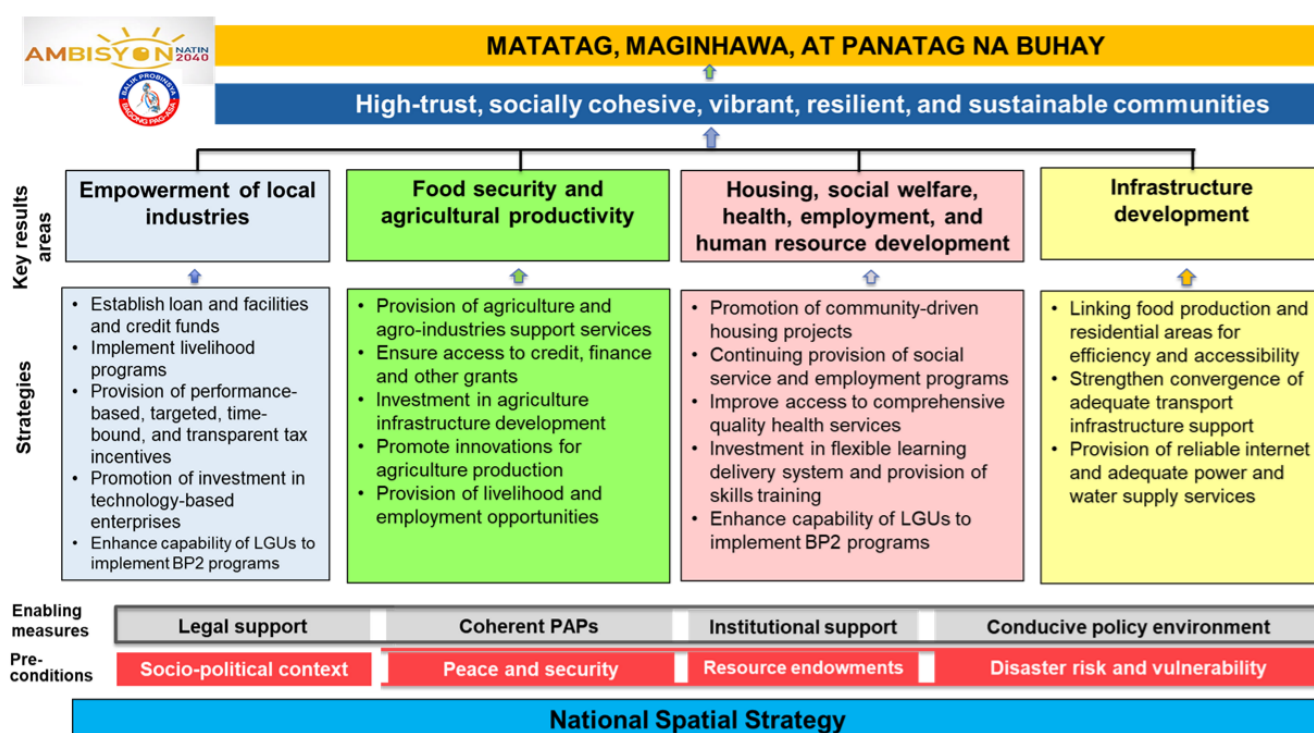
For the ER 1-94 Regional Share for COVID-19 Response, PHP187.25 million or 99 percent of PHP190 million total allocation was released by the Department of Energy to the five provinces as of July 2021. The provinces of Cavite, Rizal, and Quezon received 100 percent of their allocation while the provinces of Laguna and Batangas received 98 percent and 95 percent of their shares, respectively. As of June 2021, there are 21 completed, 33 ongoing, and 22 projects not yet started. Implementation issues encountered were on procurement and revision of the work plans due to unavailability of supply of vaccines in Rizal and change of project in Batangas.



RPMC updates the implementation of BP2 Action Plan

The Executive Order No. 114 or The Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag-asa Program or (BP2) was issued on May 6, 2020 to ensure balanced regional development and improve quality of life in the rural areas. To institutionalize the BP2 in

the Region, an Action Plan was formulated on October 2020 and approved by RDC on December 10, 2020. It has a total investment requirement of PHP13.78 billion comprised of 504 programs and projects.



Regional BP2 Action Plan —The projects are categorized into the four Key Result Areas of the Action Plan, which are to be implemented into short term (2020-2022), medium term (beyond 2022), and long term (beyond 2026). (Photo by: NEDA Region IV-A)

As of June 2021, the concerned agencies and LGUs submitted updates on 119 projects out of the 366 BP2 short term projects (2020-2022) in the Action Plan. The updates comprised of 27 completed, 67 ongoing, and 25 projects not yet started. There were also 20 new short-term projects submitted that are not originally included in the Action Plan.

The implementation issues encountered include no funding request received from MSMEs and internal concerns of NGO partner in Cavite, COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, road right-of-way issues, procurement issues, limited funds, and unfavorable weather conditions.

CALABARZON COVID-19 Updates

as of September 6, 2021

ACTIVE CASES

39,104

CONFIRMED CASES

275,747

2,510 new cases

RECOVERIES

228,645

1,795 new recoveries

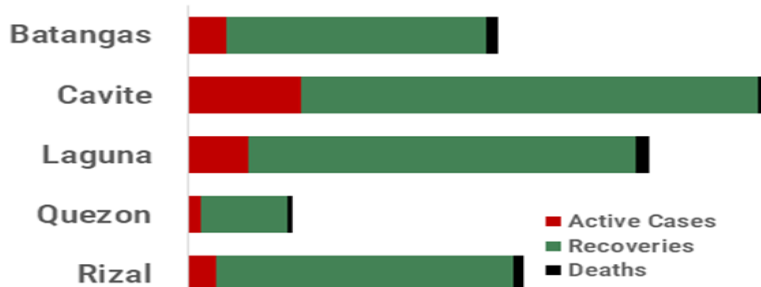
DEATHS

7,946

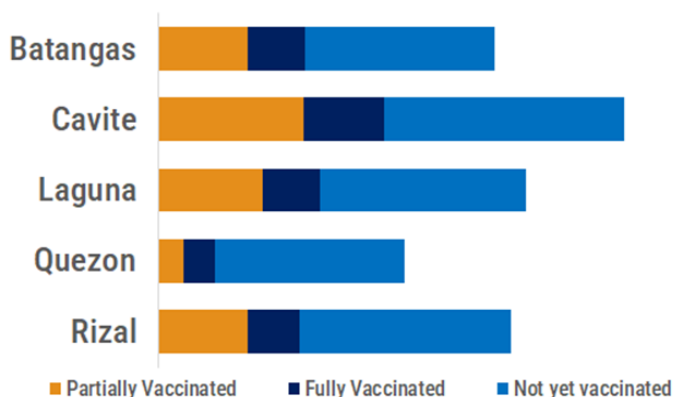
52 new deaths

Source: DOH CHD CALABARZON Reports

Distribution of Cases per Province, CALABARZON



Herd Immunity Status as of September 2



3Q 2021 RDC NEWSLETTER FEEDBACK SURVEY

To help us continuously improve our newsletter, kindly provide us feedback through this code.

THANK YOU

