



Linkage

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March 2017



**GOVERNOR
JUNIE E. CUA**
is new
RDC2 Chair



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News and feature articles are welcome and may be submitted to the RDC2 Secretariat c/o NEDA RO2. However, the RDC2 reserves the right to choose and edit articles for publication. Comments and suggestions are also accepted.

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ABOUT THE COVER

After six years of having none, the RDC2 welcomes Quirino Provincial Governor Junie E. Cua as its new Chairperson following his appointment to the position by President Rodrigo R. Duterte. *Inset:* RDC2 Acting Chair and NEDA Regional Director MaryAnne ER. Darauay lauds Gov. Cua for being one of the Top 10 good performing governors of the country in 2016.



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March 2017 Issue

What's inside this issue:

RDC CORNER

RDC2 opens 2017 with momentous meeting | 4

RDC2 pushes for release of P5M FS fund for Cagayan bridge | 6

RDC2 oks Cagayan Valley RDP 2017-2022 | 7

Gov. Cua is new RDC2 Chairperson | 8

RDC2 Chairperson Junie Evangelista Cua: a brief profile | 9

Sectoral Committees welcome new set of officials | 10

Region 2's compliance to full disclosure policy increases | 10

EXCOM endorses FY 2018 budget proposals of RLAs | 11

RPMC conducts problem-solving sessions for delayed projects | 11

Transpo is top GHG emitter in the Cagayan Valley RGC | 16

AGENCY WATCH

457 Fisherfolk complete BFAR's school-on-air program | 12

DOLE 2 monitors livelihood projects in Nueva Vizcaya | 12

DAR turns over 9 units of SFRs in Diffun | 13

AROUND THE REGION

NV PLGU to train farmers on agri-technologies | 14

City gov't in Isabela to conduct skills, literacy trainings | 14

Cagayan PLGU eyes investors for Cagayan River dredging | 14

Quirino mayors vow to curb illegal drugs in 1 month | 15

Batanes to get PHP835M rehab fund | 15

FEATURE

CY 2016 Annual Regional Economic Situationer | 3



BOUNTIFUL CAGAYAN VALLEY REGION

CY 2016 ANNUAL REGIONAL ECONOMIC SITUATIONER



The region experienced a stronger performance in the industry and services sector for CY 2016 amidst some production setbacks in the agriculture sector.

Despite having decreased production levels, the Cagayan Valley Region maintained its top rank in corn and second spot in palay production, contributing 23.26 percent and 13.23 percent share to the national output, respectively.

Specifically, the agriculture sector displayed lower production levels in palay, corn, fruits, and in the fisheries sector.

The decrement in production was primarily attributed to the negative impact of a series of typhoons that hit the region toward the latter part of the year. This resulted in lesser area harvested and in lower productivity levels.

For the Industry and Services sector, key indicators recorded increased economic activities during the year. DTI's Business Name Registration posted a higher number of firms, reflecting more investments and jobs generated.

Indicators on loans from the Land Bank of the Philippines and the Development Bank of the Philippines, tourist arrivals, number and value of construction, and revenue collections also improved as compared to the previous year.

MACROECONOMY

- ◆ Inflation rate at 3.0%
- ◆ Unemployment rate at 3.1%
- ◆ Underemployment rate at 12.7%

AGRICULTURE AND FISHERY

- ◆ Palay production down by 6.31%
- ◆ Corn production down by 6.79%
- ◆ Fruit production down by 4.19%
- ◆ Vegetable and root crop production up by 20.47%
- ◆ Non-food and industrial commercial crops production down by 2.96%
- ◆ Livestock production up by 4.52%
- ◆ Poultry production up by 2.19%
- ◆ Fisheries production down by 5.12%

OTHER SECTORS

- ◆ Number of BNR investments up by 17.08%
- ◆ BNR investments up by 3.76%
- ◆ LBP loans up by 16.29%
- ◆ DBP loans up by 73.73%
- ◆ Tourist arrivals up by 23.26%
- ◆ Value of construction up by 16.85%
- ◆ Revenue collections up by 17.68%

Figures are based on year-on-year comparison

Prices of basic goods and services measured by the inflation rate remained stable at 3.0 percent.

The region also maintained a higher employment rate (96.9%) and lower underemployment rate (12.7%) compared to the national levels of 94.5 percent and 18.3 percent, respectively.

Given the gains during the quarter, the challenge for the region in the next year and beyond remains on accelerating

economic growth through the further improvement of productivity levels, increase in flows of investments, and increase in the availability of more quality jobs.

The resiliency of the sectors especially agriculture as one of the drivers of growth and employment in the region should be supported and prioritized by the government.

| ANGELICA A. UMOQUIT, NEDA PFPD

The complete report can be downloaded at www.rdc2.gov.ph



RDC2 Acting Chair MaryAnne ER. Darauay (center) welcomed the members of the Council to its 1st quarter regular business meeting and thanked Governors Junie E. Cua of Quirino (left) and Carlos M. Padilla of Nueva Vizcaya for gracing the event.

RDC2 opens 2017 with momentous meeting, endorses 10 resolutions

As early as January, the Regional Development Council (RDC) 2 started its new work year by successfully conducting its first quarter meeting and endorsing 10 significant resolutions. It was also an opportune time to welcome two new heads of agencies assigned in the Cagayan Valley Region, namely Regional Director Homer P. Tobias of the Department of Agrarian Reform and North Eastern Luzon District Commander Captain Juancho A. Maraño of the Philippine Coast Guard.

The meeting was graced by Nueva Vizcaya Provincial Governor Carlos M. Padilla, Quirino Provincial Governor Junie E. Cua, Santiago City Mayor Joseph S. Tan, and Tuguegarao City Mayor Atty. Jefferson P. Soriano.

RDC2 Acting Chair MaryAnne ER. Darauay, the NEDA Regional

Director, welcomed the Council members and thanked them for their zeal in participating in the meeting.

She was later joined by Department of the Interior and Local Government Regional Director John M. Castañeda in presenting the plaques of recognition to Gov. Cua and Isabela Provincial Governor Faustino G. Dy III for being among the 10 best performing governors in the country, a recognition given by the Office of the President. In his stead, Gov. Dy's plaque was received by Isabela PPDO Head Dr. Alexaner Troy G. Miano.

Among the new business matters discussed were the approval of the Regional Development Plan 2017-2022 and the final report on the benchmarking of the carbon footprint within the Regional

Government Center (RGC) (*separate stories on pages 7 and 16, respectively*).

Infrastructure Development

The RDC2 also endorsed three resolutions related to infrastructure development within the Cagayan Valley Region: (1) on the conduct of a feasibility study for the Tupang-Afusing Bridge in Alcala, Cagayan; (2) on the Tourism Road Infrastructure Prioritization Project under the DOT-DPWH Convergence Program; and (3) on the request for the Department of Transportation to consider the proposed construction of a seaport and an airport in the municipality of Calayan, Cagayan (*story on page 6*).

Updates on the RGC

The Council also deliberated on requests received from two

government agencies pertaining to their lots in the RGC. Through a resolution, the RDC2 approved the request of the Metropolitan Tuguegarao Water District for an extension of the period to introduce land improvements and to construct its regional office building in the RGC. The extended period is from January 2017 up to 2019.

Also, the request of the National Prosecution Service (NPS), represented in the region by the Regional Prosecution Office (RPO), for a lot allocation at the RGC was approved. The proposed regional building shall house the RPO, the Cagayan Provincial Prosecution and the Tuguegarao City Prosecution Offices.

At present, the RPO is renting an office space within Tuguegarao City after the small space allotted to them at the Department of Justice building at the RGC was damaged during the onslaught

of Typhoon *Lawin* in October 2016.

Having its own office at the RGC will allow the RPO to accommodate its growing number of prosecutors and support staff.

Internal Operations

To support its activities for this year, the RDC2 approved its work and financial plan which requires a budget of PHP5,319,937.00 to be funded under the RDC2 Regular Fund and the RDC2 Work Program balances from the previous year.

This year, the RDC2 will discontinue the collection of an annual fixed contribution of PHP7,500 from each member-agency due to the increase in the amount of the Regular Fund for CY 2017 and the substantial balance of the RDC2 Trust Fund in CY 2016. | **NEDA DRD**

RDC2 Resolutions passed for the 1st quarter

RDC2 Resolution No. 02-01-2017

Adopting the Cagayan Valley Regional Development Plan 2017-2022

RDC2 Resolution No. 02-02-2017

Adopting for Implementation the Final Report on the Benchmarking on Carbon Footprints Within the Regional Government Center (RGC)

RDC2 Resolution No. 02-03-2017

Requesting for the Conduct of a Feasibility Study for the Alcala (Tupang-Afusing) Bridge in Cagayan Through the PHP20 Million Feasibility Studies Fund of the DPWH Allotted for the Proposed Cagayan Alternate Bridges

RDC2 Resolution No. 02-04-2017

Supporting the Request of the Province of Cagayan for the Department of Transportation to Consider the Proposed Construction of a Seaport and an Airport in the Municipality of Calayan, Cagayan

RDC2 Resolution No. 02-05-2017

Endorsing the DOT-DPWH Convergence Program Known as Tourism Road Infrastructure Prioritization Project for the Cagayan Valley Region for CY 2018-2022

RDC2 Resolution No. 02-06-2017

Approving the Request of the Metropolitan Tuguegarao Water District for a Two-year Extension of the Period Within Which to Introduce Land Improvements and to Construct its Office Building in the RGC

RDC2 Resolution No. 02-07-2017

Approving the Request of the National Prosecution Service for Lot Allocation at the RGC

RDC2 Resolution No. 02-08-2017

Adopting the Work and Financial Plan of the Regional Development Council 2 for CY 2017

RDC2 Resolution No. 02-09-2017

Adopting the Discontinuance of the Annual Fixed Contribution of PHP7,500 Collected from each Member-agency of the RDC2 for Augmentation and Support to the Implementation of the Yearly Work and Financial Plan

RDC2 Resolution No. 02-10-2017

Supporting and Endorsing the Request of the City of Santiago for the Establishment of a Satellite Office of the Department of Foreign Affairs at Santiago City, Province of Isabela to Complement the Operations of the Existing DFA Regional Office in Tuguegarao City, Province of Cagayan



POWER DUO. During the 108th RDC2 business meeting on January 26, 2017 Quirino Provincial Governor Junie E. Cua (left) and Isabela Provincial Governor Faustino G. Dy III were awarded plaques of recognition for being among the Top 10 governors who were recognized by Malacañang for leading the fight against illegal drugs in their respective provinces. The 10 best performing governors from across the nation were selected based on their achievements in terms of good governance, transparency, business competitiveness, and disaster preparedness.

During its business meeting this quarter, the Regional Development Council 2 strongly pushed for the release of the needed funding in order for the feasibility study (FS) for the construction of a bridge in Cagayan Province to proceed the soonest.

Amounting to PHP5 million, the fund is part of the PHP20 million Feasibility Studies Fund allotted by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) for the six alternate bridges being proposed to be constructed along the span of the Cagayan River.

Presenting for the Infrastructure Development Committee (IDC), DPWH Assistant Regional Director Engr. Alexander G. Nola said that the Tupang–Afusing bridge in the municipality of Alcala will connect the town to other western towns in Cagayan.

“When completed, this bridge will improve access, mobility, and trade and commerce in the area and will contribute to the socioeconomic transformation of the province,” he said.

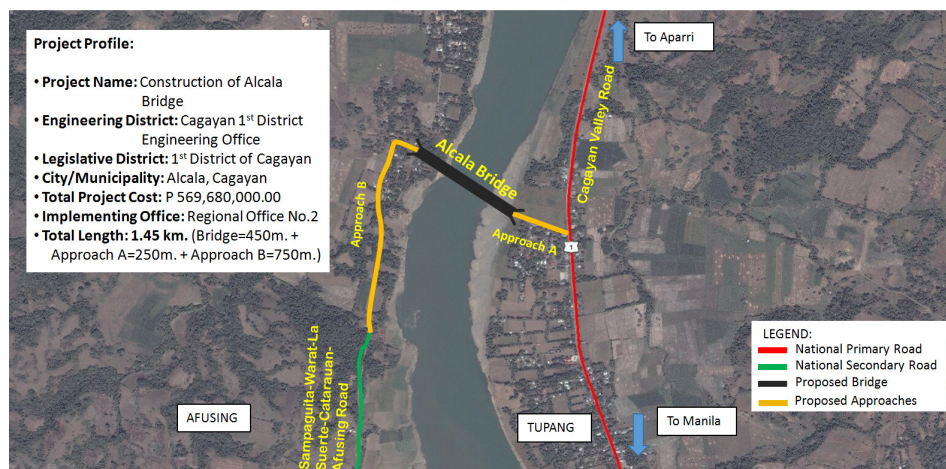
“Having the bridge in place will also translate to lesser travel times and will provide an alternate route in going to Piat and Tuao,” ARD Nola added.

According to the DPWH, the construction of the 1.45-km-long Tupang–Afusing bridge is expected to cost around PHP570 million.

The five other proposed Cagayan River alternate bridges are the

RDC2 pushes for release of P5M FS fund for Cagayan bridge

PROPOSED ALCALA BRIDGE
(TUPANG-AFUSING)



Anquiray–Pacac bridge in Amulung, the Nassiping–Dunago bridge in Gattaran, the Camalaniugan–Allacapan bridge, the Toran–Parrudun bridge in Aparri East and Aparri West, and the Solana–Bagay bridge in Tuguegarao City. The inclusion of these bridges under the PHP20 Million FS Fund of the DPWH was borne out of the request and endorsement of the RDC2 of the same in June 2015.

2 more infra projects get RDC2 endorsement

ARD Nola also presented two more infrastructure projects related to boosting tourism in the Cagayan Valley Region, both of which were also endorsed by the RDC2 during its January 26, 2017 meeting.

He reported that the Convergence Program of the Department of Tourism and the DPWH, known as Tourism Road Infrastructure Prioritization Project (TRIPP), comprises

of 109 road projects for 2018–2022 with a total cost of PHP20 billion.

Of these, 52 will be implemented in Cagayan, 20 in Quirino, 17 in Isabela, nine in Batanes, nine also in Nueva Vizcaya, and two in Santiago City.

“Through the TRIPP, access to tourism gateways, service centers, and development sites will be enhanced and will eventually boost the tourism and economic activities in the project areas,” the director said.

“When construction of these road projects starts, it will also mean more employment opportunities for people in the project areas,” he said.

The TRIPP aims to provide efficient and more coordinated efforts in identifying, prioritizing, and implementing technically-correct and politically-participative road access leading to strategic tourism destinations as

reflected in the National Tourism Development Plan.

The other infrastructure project that was approved and endorsed by the RDC2 was the request for the Department of Transportation (DOTr) to consider the proposed construction of a seaport and an airport in the island municipality of Calayan in Northern Cagayan.

“Calayan is a 3rd class municipality and could not afford to fund the construction of its own seaport and airport,” ARD Nola explained.

“The construction of these transportation infrastructures will facilitate the arrival of tourists in the area given its huge potential to become an ecotourism destination,” he added.

“When completed, both the seaport and airport will eventually create more jobs and boost the economic activity in the island,” ARD Nola further stated.

The request for funding support from the DOTr was raised during the first quarter meeting of the IDC held on January 18, 2017. Cagayan Provincial Administrator Joseph Llopis, a former mayor of Calayan town, asked for the assistance and support of the RDC2 for the construction of the airport to be continued.

He said that the project was initiated by the local government unit of Calayan through a loan.

“The airport is designed to handle a 19-seater plane and having it in Calayan will surely boost the economic and tourism activities in the municipality,” Mr. Llopis said. | **NEDA DRD. Photo Credit: DPWH**

RDC2 oks Cagayan Valley RDP 2017-2022

It's all systems go for the new Cagayan Valley Regional Development Plan (RDP) for 2017-2022 after the RDC2 has approved its adoption during the Council's regular business meeting held on January 26, 2017 at the NEDA-RDC2 office in Tuguegarao City.

According to NEDA OIC-Assistant Regional Director Engr. Ferdinand P. Tumaliuan, the RDP reflects the region's development aspirations for the next six years.

“It shall serve as the development blueprint of our region, aligning our thrusts and priorities along those contained in the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) for the same period,” ARD Tumaliuan, the RDC2 Interim Secretary, said.

He added that the RDP is anchored on the country's long-term vision which is spelled out in the AmBisyon Natin 2040 as well as on the 0-10-Point Socioeconomic Agenda of the Duterte Administration and the Sustainable Development Goals.

“This plan is actually a product of a series of consultations and workshops with our various stakeholders which were conducted to ensure that the RDP captures the needs of all sectors of society,” ARD Tumaliuan explained.



“We started conducting the multi-sectoral consultations with our government and private sector stakeholders from the third week of November in 2016 up to the second week of January this year,” he added.

The region's RDP embraces three development pillars along enhancing the social fabric, reducing inequality, and increasing potential growth, which are further translated into regional strategies, policies, programs, and activities that would ensure a more effective and efficient complementation of efforts by all partners and stakeholders.

Further, it will serve as reference in crafting its companion document, the Regional Development Investment Program, which translates the RDP goals, objectives, and strategies into specific programs and projects. | **NEDA DRD**

After six years of having none, the Cagayan Valley Regional Development Council 2 now has a new Chairperson after President Rodrigo R. Duterte appointed Quirino Provincial Governor Junie Evangelista Cua to the position on March 8, 2017.

Governor Cua's appointment paper was personally handed to him by officials of the National Economic and Development Authority Regional Office 2, which serves as the secretariat of the RDC 2, on March 17, 2017.

The Governor took his oath of office on the same day, administered by Judge Eufren F. Changale of the Regional Trial Court Branch 32, at the capital town of Cabarroguis in Quirino Province.

Governor Cua has been a very active member of the RDC2, presiding over the Council's joint meetings with the Regional Peace and Order Council which he chaired from 2011 to 2015.

He is currently on his third term as Governor of Quirino Province after occupying a seat at Congress

as Representative of the Lone District of Quirino for a total of 20 years from 1987 to 1998 and again from 2001 up to 2010.

President Duterte has yet to appoint a Co-Chairperson for the RDC2, which will automatically be either of the two nominees from the private

sector, being that the chairperson already comes from the government sector. As stated in the RDC 2 Operations Manual, the Regional Director of NEDA RO2 remains as the RDC Vice-Chairperson while the NEDA Assistant Regional Director acts as the Council's secretary. | NEDA DRD

GOV. CUA *is new* RDC2 Chairperson



Gov. Cua (second from left) took his oath of office as the new RDC2 Chairperson in Cabarroguis, Quirino in front of (L-R) Judge Eufren Changale, NEDA OIC-Assistant Regional Director Engr. Ferdinand P. Tumaliuan, the RDC2 Interim Secretary, and Engr. Gerardo L. Catolos, OIC-Chief of the NEDA Development Research Division which serves as the overall secretariat of the RDC2.



Prior to his appointment as RDC2 Chairperson, Governor Cua served as Chairperson of the Regional Peace and Order Council, presiding over joint meetings of the RPOC2 and the RDC2 together with RDC2 Acting Chair MaryAnne ER. Darauay. These joint meetings have resulted in successful collaborations and in coming up with immediate actions to address various development concerns. Also in photo are Philippine National Police Regional Director PCSupt. Ranier Q. Idio (extreme left) and 5th ID-Philippine Army Commander MGen. Lysander A. Suerte.



As a member of the RDC2 being a provincial governor, Gov. Cua has been consistently active during meetings of the Council, showing that he recognizes the importance of these meetings by personally attending. He has been providing very significant inputs to numerous matters tackled during Council meetings, which have been helpful in facilitating the resolution of development issues. Together with Governor Cua in the picture are RDC2 Acting Chair MaryAnne ER. Darauay and Nueva Vizcaya Provincial Governor Carlos M. Padilla.

RDC2 Chairperson JUNIE EVANGELISTA CUA: *a brief profile*

Governor Junie E. Cua was born an achiever. From his early education years, he has already shown exemplary performance as he graduated salutatorian at the Butuan Chinese School and again as the same at the University of the East for his secondary education.

College was, therefore, no mean feat for this young man then as he finished his bachelor's degree in business administration at the University of the Philippines (UP) Diliman with honors, having been bestowed with a *cum laude* award.

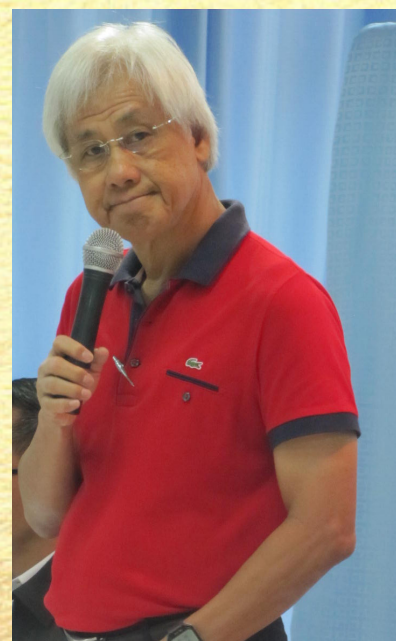
He put his college degree to good use as he set forth in the world of business where he succeeded for two decades before he took on a teaching post as a professor at UP. He stayed with the academe for seven years, molding the

eager youth to become better individuals.

It was in 1987 when he first traversed the colorful road of politics. His campaign to become a legislator for the Lone District of Quirino bore fruit as he was chosen by the people, thus, serving as Congressman until 1998.

He then served as presidential assistant for Northern Luzon in the Office of the President under the Estrada Administration before he was again elected as Congress Representative in 2001 and went on to complete three consecutive terms up until 2010.

Despite having had a 20-year run as Congressman, his passion for serving the people of Quirino never faltered. In 2010, he took



his oath as governor of Quirino Province and is in his third term being so.

The father of five has become a father to many, as Governor Cua's unparalleled leadership skills and wisdom have truly paved the way for the betterment of the lives of the Quirinians and have propelled the Province of Quirino into new heights, directing it from one achievement towards another. |
NEDA DRD

Sectoral Committees welcome new set of officials

Following the reorganization of the RDC2 in August 2016, its four sectoral committees are expected to have a new set of officials headed by the Provincial Governors as chairpersons.

The co-chairpersons and vice-chairpersons are elected by the members from either the regional line agencies or the RDC2 private sector representatives (PSR) of each committee.

The new officials shall serve for the period 2016-2019, a fixed-term of three years coinciding with the regular term of local elective officials and RDC2 officials.

Nueva Vizcaya Provincial Governor Carlos M. Padilla is taking the reins for the Economic Development Committee.

In late 2016, the members have elected Department of Agriculture Regional Director (RD) Lucrecio R. Alviar, Jr. as co-chairperson and PSR Engr. Gilbert L. Cumila, who represents the commerce, industry, and tourism sector, as vice-chairperson.

Cagayan Provincial Governor Manuel N. Mamba is the new chairperson of the Infrastructure Development Committee.

RD Melanio C. Briosos of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and RD John M. Castañeda of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) were re-elected as co-chairperson and vice-chairperson, respectively.

The Social Development Committee is now under the leadership of Batanes Provincial Governor Marilou H. Cayco and is co-chaired by Ms. Perla A. Visorro, president of the Cagayan Valley Partners in People Development. For vice-chairperson, Department of Education RD Estela L. Cariño was elected.

For the Committee on Development Administration and Communication, Isabela Provincial Governor Faustino G. Dy III is its new chairperson for this term.

It is now co-chaired by Philippine Information Agency RD Purita S. Licas while RD Castañeda of the DILG assumes the position of vice-chair.

Meanwhile, the seven RDC2 support committees are chaired by the following: Department of Budget and Management RD Isabel C. Taguinod for the Regional Budget Review Committee; Department of Science and Technology RD Sancho A. Mabborang for the Regional Research and Development Committee; DPWH RD Briosos for the Regional Government Center Management Committee; and NEDA RD MaryAnne ER. Darauay for the Regional Project Monitoring Committee, Regional Land Use Committee, Regional Committee on Sustainable Development, and the Regional Geographic Information Network. | **NEDA DRD; JEZREEL M. PATTAGUAN & KARYLL GEM L. BAYUBAY, NEDA PDIPBD**

Region 2's compliance with full disclosure policy increases

More local government units in Region 2 have complied with the government-initiated Full Disclosure Policy (FDP) from 2012 to 2016, said NEDA Regional Director MaryAnne ER. Darauay.

Dir. Darauay further said that the compliance of the LGUs on the sourcing and disposition of their local budgets and finances and their transparency in the conduct of financial transactions, including bids and public offerings, increased from 73 percent in 2012 to 96.30 percent in 2016.

She added that almost all the LGUs in the region have posted in their websites the summary of their revenues collected and funds received, disbursed, and appropriated; procurement-related documents; and status and use of funds and projects.

"This led to a high level of transparency rate for the region for the past four years," Dir. Darauay said.

The LGUs also registered a very high rate of 96.3 percent in 2016 as compared to 16 percent in 2012 on the establishment of operational websites for posting of financial status.

She said the regional line agencies and the government-owned and controlled corporations in the region both sustained their 100 percent compliance status from 2012 to 2016, while state universities and colleges improved from 40 percent in 2012 to 100 percent in 2016.

The director said that the LGUs' increased compliance to the FDP is very significant in the attainment of public trust and confidence in local governance and other public institutions. | **OLIVER T. BACCAY, PIA R02**

Through a referendum dated March 20, 2017, the Executive Committee (EXCOM) of the RDC2 approved and endorsed the proposed budgets of 17 regional line agencies for fiscal year 2018.

These budget proposals were critiqued during the regional budget review and consultation conducted by the Regional Budget Review Committee (RBRC) on March 22-23, 2017. The review focused on the agencies' proposed projects to be funded under Tier II of their budgets.

"This review will help ensure the complementation of your programs and projects with current congressional, provincial, or local priorities and development directions," said Department of Budget and Management Regional Director

Isabel C. Taguinod, Chair of the RBRC, as she addressed the representatives of the agencies during the activity.

For this to be achieved, the RBRC involved the private sector, the provincial LGUs, and the region's Congressional Representatives to sit in the panel during the review and consultation. The co-chairpersons of the four sectoral committees of the RDC 2 also served as members of the panel.

The budget review and consultation focused on Tier II-funded projects that include (1) high-priority policy proposals that are implementation-ready and compliant with the Public

Investment Program and to the Three-Year Rolling Infrastructure Program Guidelines; (2) proposals to realign resources between the agency's programs, projects, and activities; and (3) proposals for the scaling up of activities in terms of policy change which are not previously approved such as scope, beneficiaries, design, and implementation schedule.

After being critiqued during the review, the budget proposals were submitted to the members of the RDC2 EXCOM for their endorsement and approval. The EXCOM is composed of the chairpersons of the sectoral and support committees and PSR representatives. | NEDA DRD

RPMC conducts problem-solving sessions for delayed projects

Two problem-solving sessions were conducted by the Regional Project Monitoring Committee (RPMC), chaired by NEDA Regional Director MaryAnne ER. Darauay, in March to check on the status of implementation of projects that were already behind schedule.

The first session sought to identify the needed immediate and appropriate actions to take to fast track the implementation of the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) for School Infrastructure Project Phase II (PSIP II) implemented by the Department of Education (DepEd) Regional Office 2.

For this meeting, the RPMC passed two resolutions that (1) requested the project contractor, Megawide Construction Corporation, to repair the projects that were damaged during the onslaught of Typhoon Lawin in October 2016 that have not yet been turned over to the DepEd; and (2) urged the DepEd Central Office to involve its regional office in project implementation and monitoring, especially that the projects are being constructed in the region.

These resolutions will be passed to the RDC2 for their subsequent endorsement.

On March 14, 2017, the RPMC conducted its 1st quarter regular business meeting *cum* second problem-solving session for two delayed projects: the construction of major roads and bridges under the DPWH Infrastructure Program and the Zinundungan River Irrigation System Project under the Participatory Irrigation Development Project of the National Irrigation Administration.

Recognizing the importance of such sessions to recommend actions to address project delays, the Committee agreed to regularly include problem-solving sessions during their meetings to elicit, discuss, and resolve bottlenecks in the implementation of projects and to help facilitate their completion. | NEDA DRD

457 fisherfolk complete BFAR's school-on-air program

Some 457 fisherfolk in this province have recently completed the school-on-air (SOA) program of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR).

Donald Aguinaldo, BFAR information officer, said the SOA was part of the campaign strategies employed by the bureau to transfer the different technologies in aquaculture and fisheries-related programs through radio.

Aguinaldo said the SOA was intended to update the knowledge and skills of the fisherfolk and listeners who want to venture in aquaculture and boost their fish production.

He added that the program is a joint undertaking of BFAR, DWPE Radyo ng Bayan - Tuguegarao, Radyo Kalugaran in Claveria, "Tanguyub Ti Gonzaga" in Gonzaga and "Timek ti Sta. Teresita" in Sta. Teresita.

"We are not only providing knowledge and skills to recipient fisherfolk but we also extend livelihood opportunities to help them augment their income," said BFAR Regional Director Milagros Morales.

Dir. Morales said the partnership between the graduates and the bureau will not stop after their graduation but will continue as they were urged to apply the skills and knowledge they have learned from the program.

The top three graduates, Mercy Gabayan of Buguey, Benjie Tabuzo of Gonzaga, and Larry Retuta of Sta. Teresita, were provided each with one unit oyster plot using raft method. | **GENE V. BAQUIRAN, PIA R02**

DOLE 2 monitors livelihood projects in Nueva Vizcaya

To ensure proper implementation, success, and sustainability of nine funded livelihood projects, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Regional Office 2 conducted a monitoring and evaluation of these projects implemented in Nueva Vizcaya.

According to DOLE RO 2 Regional Director Atty. Sixto T. Rodriguez, Jr., project efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability must be observed to achieve the project's objectives of improving the living condition of the beneficiaries.

"Monitoring helps us ensure that government funds are not wasted and if the recipients are making good in managing the assistance given to them," he said.

"For low performing projects, we need to determine the causes and suggest proper intervention mechanisms to improve their operations," the director added.

The monitoring activity covered the projects implemented in the municipalities of Sta. Fe, Aritao, and Alfonso Castañeda. It aimed to check on the achievement and progress of the funded projects in terms of project sustainability, organizational strength, institutional partners support, and DOLE technical support.

The monitoring team found that most of the projects have not yet met the sustainability point.

In terms of performance, only two of the nine projects have reached

a high-level performance. These are the Buko Pie Making Project and the Agri-Farm Supply Project both in Alfonso Castañeda.

These projects have a potential to transform into sustainable enterprises; hence, strengthened collaboration with institutional partners was recommended for a stronger support in implementation.

Five projects showed medium-level performance: the Butchering and Meat Processing Project and Agri-Farm Supply Project in Aritao, the two Soft Broom Making Projects in Sta. Fe, and the Agri-Farm Supply Project in Alfonso Castañeda.

The sales incomes of these projects were at breakeven point; thus, it is essential to review production volume, product pricing, operating expenses, and sales.

The remaining two projects registered a low-level performance: a Soft Broom Making Project in Sta. Fe and a Agri-Farm Supply Project in Alfonso Castañeda. Both were found to be nearing bankruptcy, so there is a need for DOLE to conduct problem analysis to determine the causes and effects of the situation.

Moreover, it is essential to develop marketing strategies and to enhance the organization's management skills and workers' competency for the projects to end up being successful.

In 2016 alone, a total of PHP6.2 million was released in six municipalities in Nueva Vizcaya for 10 livelihood projects with 909 beneficiaries. | **END/GBC/RBE DOLE R02**

DAR turns over 9 units of SFRs in Diffun

The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has turned over nine units of small farm reservoirs (SFRs) to the GANANO Agrarian Reform Community in Diffun, Quirino.

Key officials of the DAR Regional Office 2 headed by Regional Director Homer P. Tobias and Assistant Regional Directors Paramon Furigay and Jess Beth Quidasol led the turn-over ceremony. They were also joined by PARPO II Arthur E. Faeldon and PARPO I Blessie Taguibao.

Of the nine SFRs, six units were given to Barangay Cajel, one unit to Barangay Ricarte Norte, and



two units to Barangay Dumanisi in Diffun town.

The SFR is an earth dam with an average reservoir area of 1,000 square meters. It has a potential irrigable area of 40 hectares and has a total cost of PHP350,000.

The construction and awarding of the nine SFRs were made possible through the climate change adaptation project on the "Adoption of Soil and Water



(Photos on this page): Officials of the DAR Regional Office 2, led by Regional Director Homer P. Tobias, and some beneficiaries witnessed the ribbon cutting ceremonies for one of the SFRs in Brgy. Cajel, Diffun.

Conservation Measures for the Sustainability of Rice and Corn Production".

June Sucaldito, one of the happy recipients of the SFRs and an agrarian reform beneficiary (ARB) himself, thanked DAR for the project.

"This is of great help to us farmers because this will serve as a source of water for our farms during the summer season," Sucaldito said.

He added that the project greatly "benefits our family since farming is our major source of income."

Sucaldito further appealed to his fellow recipients to take good care of the SFRs. "This is the first time we receive free reservoirs from DAR and we hope to be beneficiaries of more projects from DAR soon," he averred.

In his response to this request from the ARBs, Dir. Tobias advised them to approach the Development Facilitator assigned in their area for project proposals.

"There are ready proposals for possible projects and the farmers and development facilitators only need to look for the best site and target beneficiaries," Dir. Tobias said.

The director also encouraged the ARBs to continue recruiting so as to increase their membership in order for them to avail of projects included in the proposals.

DAR's delivery of support is through the organizations and not through individual beneficiaries; hence, the priority for each organization or cooperative should be to have more members.

In order to address more needs of the farmers, Dir. Tobias encouraged the development facilitators to never get tired of approaching the ARBs.

"Sa inyong paghaharap, palagiang pagkikita at pagkukuwentuhan, malalaman ang kanilang pangangailangan," he ended.

The turn-over ceremony was also witnessed by members of the PARCCOM, the local government units, and members of the Go Quirinians Multi-Purpose Cooperative. | **DITAS CADIENTE, DAR RO 2. Photo Credit: DAR RO2**

NV PLGU TO TRAIN FARMERS ON AGRI-TECHNOLOGIES



The provincial government plans to provide training to farmers in the province to further boost the quality and quantity of rice and corn products they produce.

Alexander Domingo, Provincial Agriculturist, said the Provincial Nursery will be developed into a farm school for farmers willing to train on agricultural technologies.

"This will serve as an informal training center for our farmers so that they will learn new technologies and techniques which they can use to further improve their production," he said.

Domingo added that the training of certified trainers for the program will start within this year's first quarter.

The trainers, he further said, will come from the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPA), TAM-AN Banaue Multi-Purpose Cooperative (TBMPC), and Vizcaya Fresh.

He said these activities are geared towards the sustainability of the province's food security program.

Recently, the province was chosen as 2016 National Quality Corn Awardee and won PHP3 million.

Out of the 15 municipalities of the province, the corn-producing towns are the towns of Villaverde, Bagabag, Diadi, Quezon, Solano, Bayombong, Bambang, Kasibu,

and Dupax Del Norte. Villaverde and Bagabag were also awarded as Hall of Famers for Outstanding Corn Achievers in 2014 and 2016, respectively.

Domingo said they will also distribute free corn seeds to farmers who are producing below four metric tons per hectare.

"These activities are in support of the national government's efforts in strengthening the Philippine corn industry through the National Quality Corn Achievers Award that aims to recognize the top performing LGUs in order to improve the welfare of farmers and corn-producing provinces," Domingo added. | **BEN MOSES EBREO, PIA R02**

CITY GOVT IN ISABELA TO CONDUCT SKILLS, LITERACY TRAININGS



The Ilagan City Government will be launching its Barangay-based Skills Training Program for Functional Literacy Program - Engaging Communities for Development (BASTA-ECD) under its Manpower Skills Training Program (MSTP).

The City Information Officer said that the BASTA-ECD is an innovative community-based skills training program intended for women, out of school youth, and other sectors especially in far-flung barangays of Ilagan.

The training will be implemented in March in partnership with

the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, the Department of Education, and some non-government organizations based in the City.

"Instead of inviting the trainees to converge in training centers, we will bring the training programs to the barangay level," City Information Officer Paul Bacungan said.

He added that all the 91 barangays in Ilagan City will be clustered to ensure that the target beneficiaries will be covered. | **MERLITO G. EDALE, JR., PIA R02**

CAGAYAN PLGU EYES INVESTORS FOR CAGAYAN RIVER DREDGING



The provincial government here is open to investors interested to dredge the heavily silted Cagayan River, Provincial Administrator Joseph Llopis said.

Llopis reiterated the observation of Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel Piñol during an aerial assessment of Typhoon Lawin's damages in the region that the Cagayan River needs dredging as it is already silted.

He said the provincial government's recommendation for the need to dredge the silted parts of the country's longest river was backed by no less than President Rodrigo R. Duterte.

Dredging, Llopis said, could be the most possible solution to solve the problem on perennial floods and bank erosions in many communities along or near the Cagayan River.

“A newly-created committee will study the dredging activities to ensure the protection of the aquatic resources and to safeguard the people’s livelihood, especially those depending on the resources of the Cagayan River,” the provincial administrator said.

He said should the provincial government and the involved investors have sealed its agreement, the committee will monitor the dredging activities as there is a huge reserve of black sand in the whole stretch of lower Cagayan River. | **OLIVER T. BACCAY, PIA RO2**

BATANES TO GET PHP835M REHAB FUND



Batanes Governor Marilou H. Cayco has shared that no less than President Rodrigo R.

Duterte has assured her of the approval of the PHP835 Million budget for the rehabilitation of infrastructure and public facilities in the province that were damaged by Typhoon Ferdie in late 2016.

The governor added that this budget will be released to the concerned government agencies in the island province. Among these agencies are the Department of Agriculture - Experiment Station, Department of Environment and

Natural Resources, Department of Education, DWBT Radyo ng Bayan, Department of Public Works and Highways, Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical Astronomical Services Administration, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority.

The six municipalities of Batanes as well as the Provincial Veterinary Office, Department of Agrarian Reform, Department of Science and Technology, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Saint Dominic College, and the Batanes Provincial Government will receive a portion of the budget as well.

“We have to follow-up the downloading of this fund from the national offices of these agencies to their regional offices,” the governor said.

Gov. Cayco added that some of these agencies have already started their rehabilitation efforts but there are still some offices that are yet to implement major repairs before they could resume their normal operations. | **OLIVER T. BACCAY, PIA RO2**

QUIRINO MAYORS VOW TO CURB ILLEGAL DRUGS IN 1 MONTH



All town mayors in Quirino Province recently vowed to eradicate the illegal drug problem in their areas before February ends.

This was their commitment when Gov. Junie E. Cua challenged them to make a quick end to the problem during the 1st quarter meeting of the Provincial Peace and Order Council in January.

Based on the Philippine National Police reports, there are 1,099 surrenderers, of which 15 are users and 62 are pushers, who were in their watchlist while the majority or 920 users and 102 pushers are newly identified.

“We must work hard and we should not be complacent on this problem,” he said, adding that it is a fragile matter that everyone must work on seriously.

Echoing the call of President Duterte, Cua said everyone should do his or her job and that laws must be enforced not only by lip service.

“Let us not be destructed by drug problems in our fight against poverty,” the governor said, stressing that the real hindrance of development is poverty, not illegal drugs.

He has urged the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Offices, Municipal Health Offices and other concerned offices to fast track the assessment and rehabilitation of the surrenderers.

He likewise ordered the conduct of regular drug testing of the surrenderers in preparation for other interventions such as livelihood trainings.

The governor said he will be providing augmentation funds for the LGUs for them to complete the needed facilities and equipment for drug testing. | **THELMA C. BICARME, PIA RO2**

Transpo is top GHG emitter in the Cagayan Valley RGC

In the recently concluded benchmarking survey on the carbon footprint within the Regional Government Center (RGC), transportation emerged as the highest contributor of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

In fact, transportation – both via air and land – comprised 99% of the total recorded GHG emissions of the agency-locators in the RGC in 2014. A large percentage or 61.15% of this bulk came from the carbon dioxide (CO₂) emitted by the consumption of fuel of both public transport and personal vehicles used by employees going to their offices at the Center. Among the public transport modes, motorcycles were the top emitters of GHGs as they were the most used.

Other vehicles, particularly tricycles and motorcycles, that are not owned by the agencies nor their employees, also ply the RGC road network, it being part of the national road. These vehicles also contributed 38.66% of the total GHG emissions from fuel consumption recorded in the RGC.

While fuel consumption via transportation ate up almost the entire total GHG emission of tCO₂ 635,268.7432e recorded in the RGC in 2014, the consumption of electricity also put in a minimal yet significant portion of GHG emission of tCO₂ 3,170.1581e.

The electricity provided by the Cagayan Electric Cooperative is mainly produced from fossil fuel or coal, which are both known sources of GHGs. Across all agencies, computers were the most used electrical equipment followed by air conditioning units.

The least emissions in 2014 came from the consumption of water (with a total of tCO₂ 1,585.4062e) and from the generation of solid wastes (with a total of tCO₂ 1,881.6968e).

The results of the benchmarking survey showed that, in 2014, the top two producers of GHG in the RGC was the Cagayan Valley Medical Center (CVMC) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), contributing 12.18% and 11.54%, respectively, to the total. The high generation of GHG emissions of these locators is due in large part to their relatively high number of employees (748 for CVMC and 597 for DENR during the survey) and to the high number of clients they cater to daily.

Carbon sequestration

This benchmarking survey, which was conducted by the Regional Committee on Sustainable Development (RCSD) through the assistance of a technical expert in the person of Dr. Artemio Antolin, gives an opportunity for the RGC agency-locators to appreciate how much they are contributing to global warming.

"In order to reduce the carbon footprint in the RGC, agencies can pursue options for greening their offices and using alternative sources of energy as well as more innovative strategies on managing their solid wastes," Dr. Antolin said during his presentation of the survey's final report during the first quarter meeting of the RDC2 in January.

He further said that one important finding was the insufficient number of trees within the Center.

"Trees are major CO₂ sinks as they capture carbon from the

atmosphere and store it in the form of fixed biomass," he explained.

During the survey in 2014, there were a total of 3,843 trees belonging to 65 species that were existing in the RGC. As Dr. Antolin presented, these trees have a combined biomass of 367.1217 tons which stores 1,345.978 tons of CO₂, with an average of 15.08 kg CO₂ sequestered per tree.

"This total, which makes up only about 21% of the total GHG emission in the RGC, hardly makes a dent in reducing the massive carbon footprint of the Center," he emphasized. "More diversified tree species need to be planted to increase our carbon sink here."

From these results, the study recommends some measures to reduce the carbon footprint in the RGC, which includes adopting innovative strategies on solid waste management like composting, pursuing options for investment in projects like greening, using green energy, and advocating and securing support for CO₂ reduction initiatives.

For the RGC and the RDC2 as well, the study is a first step in identifying measures to reduce GHG emissions and ultimately mitigate the impacts of global warming and climate change. | NEDA DRD. Photo Credits: www.mahoganyseed.com; www.wallpapercave.com



Of the total 3,843 trees existing in the RGC Complex in 2014, mahogany (shown above) was the most planted with 1,107 trees followed by gmelina with 897 trees.