



Linkage

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March 2018



**RDC2
WELCOMES
NEW CO-CHAIR**

**RDC2 VISITS
CAGAYAN
FREEPORT**



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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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Visit our website: www.rdc2.gov.ph

ABOUT THE COVER

This issue highlights the importance of maintaining a strong collaboration among the members of the RDC2 and its new set of leaders, with the appointment of a new co-chairperson. For the first quarter, the Council continues to deliberate on several infrastructure projects, heeding the call of the government to build, build, and build for development.



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CY 2017 ANNUAL REGIONAL ECONOMIC SITUATIONER

The Cagayan Valley Region experienced a stronger performance in the Industry and Services sector for CY 2017, amidst some production setbacks in the agriculture sector.

The region maintained its top rank in corn and second spot in palay, contributing a share of 23.22 percent and 13.78 percent to the national output, respectively. On the other hand, lower production levels were registered by the fruits, vegetables and rootcrops, non-food and industrial commercial crops, poultry, and fisheries sectors.

The decrement in high-value commercial crops production was primarily attributed to the negative impact of the series of typhoons that hit the region in 2017, making the need to rehabilitate damaged plantation areas a priority. This resulted in lesser area harvested and lower productivity levels.

On the Industry and Services sector, key indicators recorded increased economic activities in 2017. The Department of Trade and Industry's Business Name Registration (BNR) posted a higher number of firms, reflecting more investments and jobs generated.

Indicators on the number and value of construction and on non-metallic and metallic productions also improved as compared to the previous year.

MACROECONOMY

- ◆ Inflation rate at 3.5%
- ◆ Unemployment rate up to 3.2%
- ◆ Underemployment rate at 13.6%

AGRICULTURE AND FISHERY

- ◆ Palay production up by 13.90%
- ◆ Corn production up by 9.67%
- ◆ Fruit production down by 12.13%
- ◆ Vegetable and root crop production down by 2.60%
- ◆ Non-food and industrial commercial crop production down by 13.91%
- ◆ Livestock production up by 0.34%
- ◆ Poultry production down by 2.76%
- ◆ Fisheries production down by 4.57%

OTHER SECTORS

- ◆ Number of BNR firms up by 20.14%
- ◆ BNR investments up by 5.46%
- ◆ Tourist arrivals down by 15.30%
- ◆ Value of construction up by 15.83%
- ◆ Non-metallic production up by 28.83%
- ◆ Crime volume down by 18.81%

Figures are based on year-on-year comparison between CY 2016 and CY 2017.

The investment climate in terms of security and peace and order also displayed lower crime volumes for the year.

Prices of basic goods and services measured by the inflation rate remained stable at 3.5 percent.

The region maintained a higher employment rate (96.8%) and lower underemployment rate (13.6%) compared to the national level of 94.3 percent and 16.1 percent, respectively.

Given the gains during the year, the challenge for the region remains on accelerating economic growth through the further improvement of productivity levels, increased inflows of investments, and 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 government. | ANGELICA A. UMOQUIT, NEDA PFPD

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

To formalize her new role as Co-Chairperson of the Regional Development Council (RDC) 2, Ms. Cecilia La Madrid Dy, Ph.D. has taken her oath of office on January 10, 2018 after being appointed to the position by President Rodrigo R. Duterte in December 2017.

Conducted in Cabarroguis, Quirino, the oath of office was administered by Quirino Provincial Governor Junie E. Cua, the Chairperson of the RDC2. Earlier in March 2017, Governor Cua himself took his oath of office as the Council's Chairperson which was administered by Judge Eufren F. Changale, also in Cabarroguis.

Dr. Dy is currently one of the 12 private sector representatives (PSRs) of the RDC2, representing the commerce, industry, tourism, and services sector. She also sits as a member of the Economic Development Committee, one of the four sectoral committees of the Council.

She is the immediate past President of the Cagayan Valley Regional Tourism Council (CVRTC), Inc. With 193 regular members and three honorary members, the CVRTC, Inc. is a non-stock, non-profit organization which is actively involved in the promotion and development of the tourism sector in the region.

She also chairs the family-owned CMD Cable Vision, Inc. and the Polaris Cable Vision, Inc. companies.

Dr. Dy obtained her doctor of philosophy degree in

Dy takes oath as RDC2 Co-Chairperson



Dr. Dy took her oath of office as the Co-Chairperson of the RDC2 in January in front of RDC2 Chairperson Governor Junie E. Cua.

organizational development from the Southeast Asia Interdisciplinary Development Institute, a graduate school based in Antipolo City, Rizal Province. She attended college at the Sta. Catalina College in Metro Manila.



Above: Dr. Dy, pictured here with former RDC2 Vice Chair MaryAnne ER. Darauay, was confirmed as one of the 12 PSRs of the RDC2 on August 24, 2016.

Dr. Dy's position as RDC2 Co-Chairperson shall be co-terminus with her term as a PSR. Both Gov. Cua and Dr. Dy shall serve as the Council's top officials up to 2019. | **NEDA DRD**

Below: Dr. Dy actively participates in the activities of the RDC2, including the Advisory Committee meeting held on May 30, 2017 at the Batasan Complex in Quezon City, sitting beside Batanes Provincial Governor Marilou H. Cayco.



IDC approves resos on road conversion, reopening of Aparri Port

The Infrastructure Development Committee (IDC) of the Regional Development Council (RDC) 2 approved two resolutions during its 1st quarter regular business meeting held on February 13, 2018 at the NEDA-RDC2 Building in Tuguegarao City.

Chaired by Cagayan Governor Manuel N. Mamba, the IDC favorably endorsed these resolutions to the RDC2 for its subsequent approval: the re-opening of the Port of Aparri and the proposed conversion of the Piat-Sto. Niño-Lasam road, via Barangays Tammucco and Namuccayan, from a provincial to a national road.

The proposed re-opening of the Aparri Port is beneficial not only to the Municipality of Aparri in Cagayan but also to the region, given its huge impact on spurring economic activity and potential trade undertakings. This will likewise serve as a catalyst in unlocking the region's potential as a major transshipment facility, thus, realizing its role as an agro-industrial and tourism hub.

Crucial to the development and revitalization of the Port is its delineation as a Port Zone, which the local government of Aparri is currently working on in collaboration with the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA).



IDC Chair Gov. Mamba (in black) discussing with Engr. Jaime Catolos of the Planning Division of the DPWH Regional Office 2 the merits of the proposal for the reopening of the Port of Aparri during the IDC meeting in February.

To facilitate the application for Port Zone delineation, the PPA has included in their 2018 consultancy package, which is already in the procurement stage, the conduct of a feasibility study and formulation of a master plan. This, together with a survey plan, will complete the necessary documentary requirements.

In support of this effort, the Department of Public Works and Highways Regional Office 2 proposed for the construction of an alternate access road which will make the Port of Aparri more viable and attractive for public and private investments.

On the other hand, the proposed conversion of the Piat - Sto. Niño - Lasam road to a national road will greatly improve the inter- and intra-connectivity of underserved areas of the province to major economic outposts. The proposal will likewise benefit the pilgrims of Our Lady of Piat Basilica Minore coming from the northern and western part of Cagayan. The conversion of the proposed road connection is a necessary step in ensuring budget

allocation for its upgrading and regular maintenance.

During the RDC2's 1st quarter meeting held on February 23, 2018 in Sta. Ana, Cagayan, the two IDC proposals were unanimously approved and endorsed. However, the Council recommended that the feasibility study for the construction of the alternate access road leading to the Port of Aparri should be accompanied by an in-depth study on dredging to address the siltation problem in the Cagayan River and the sustainability of the Port. The conduct of the study should also be in close coordination with the Cagayan River Basin Management Council.

Aside from these two issues, other development concerns were also discussed during the IDC meeting such as the proposed "No Parking Policy along Major Thoroughfares of the Province of Cagayan" and the cutting of trees to facilitate rescue and relief operations during typhoons and other calamities. | **MARK S. PAGULAYAN, NEDA PDIPDB**

Security is a shared responsibility, says AFP

Brigadier General Bartolome B. Bacarro, Commander of the 502nd Infantry Brigade of the 5th Infantry Division (ID) of the Philippine Army (PA) in Upi, Gamu, Isabela, stressed that security is indeed a shared responsibility when he reported to the members of the Regional Development Council (RDC) 2 in February in Sta. Ana, Cagayan.

BGen. Bacarro presented some recommended measures to address problems encountered during the implementation of development projects, infrastructure projects in particular.

He said that during a problem solving session conducted by the Regional Project Monitoring Committee (RPMC) in November 2017, implementing agencies reported that some infrastructure projects in the region were experiencing security issues such as extortion, harassment of project personnel, and destruction of project equipment.

“These problems naturally lead to delays in project implementation

and even to discontinuance of the project in some areas,” the commander said.

In his report, BGen. Bacarro said that the 5ID provides security in the implementation of projects within its area of operations as a response to the organization plan of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) called “Development Support and Security Plan *Kapayapaan*”.

“We are asking implementing agencies to coordinate with us so that we will also be informed of the locations of the projects that need to be secured,” he added.

Aside from this, other recommendations include collaborating with government security forces through information sharing and securing major vital installations and flagship projects through the Special Citizen Armed Force Geographical Unit (CAFGU) Active Auxilliary Company.

His report and the RPMC’s efforts to elevate this issue to

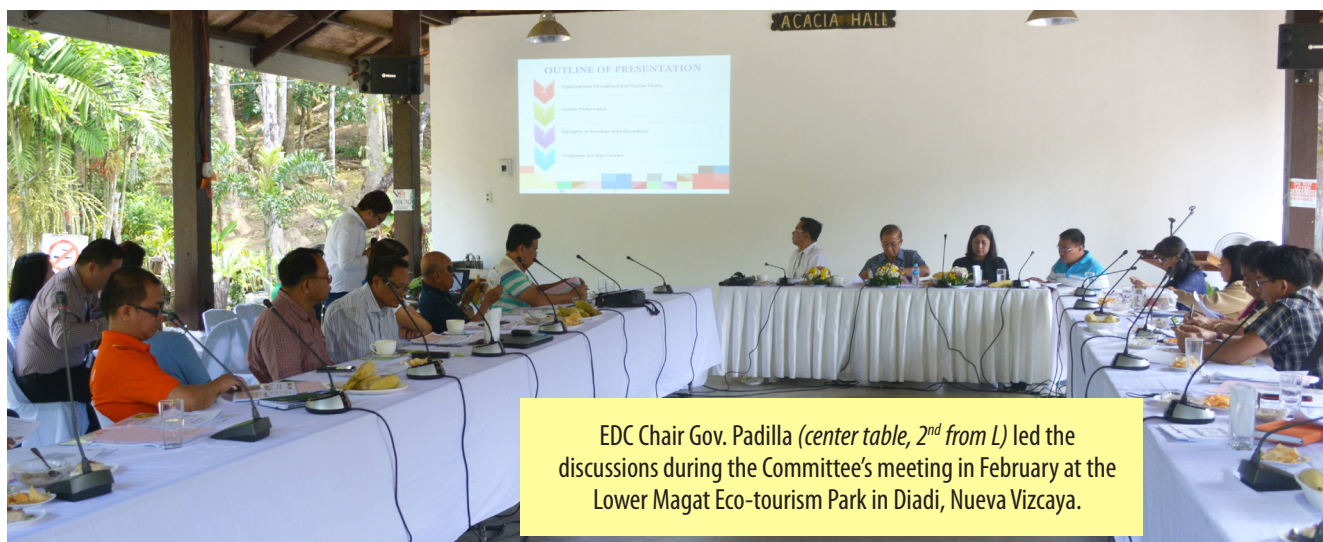
the RDC2 led to the approval of three resolutions to address the matter, one of which is the resolution enjoining regional line agencies to coordinate with the AFP during the implementation of programs, projects, and activities. The agencies are also requested to regularly submit the list of new and ongoing major projects to the AFP through the RPMC to help address security problems during project implementation.

The RDC2 also approved a resolution requesting the Department of National Defense to augment the manpower and logistics complement of the 5ID in Gamu to enable them to fully provide the needed security during the implementation of major development interventions in the region.

The third resolution endorsed a request to the National Peace and Order Council to amend the composition of the Barangay Peace and Order Committee (BPOC) to include the PA so that the BPOC can be tapped to provide more security in project sites. One of the duties and functions of the municipal and barangay peace and order councils is to monitor the provision of livelihood and infrastructure development programs and projects in remote rural and indigenous population areas. The inclusion of the PA in the BPOC will truly enable the Committee to respond better to peace and order problems.

These resolutions have been forwarded to concerned national agencies for their appropriate action. | NEDA DRD





EDC Chair Gov. Padilla (*center table, 2nd from L*) led the discussions during the Committee's meeting in February at the Lower Magat Eco-tourism Park in Diadi, Nueva Vizcaya.

EDC supports use of P/C Commodity Investment Plans

The Economic Development Committee (EDC) of the Regional Development Council (RDC) 2 unanimously expressed support to the utilization of the Provincial/City Commodity Investment Plans (CIPs) during its 1st quarter meeting on February 15, 2018 at the Lower Magat Eco-Tourism Park in Diadi, Nueva Vizcaya.

Ms. Kaye Olivas, Planning Officer of the Department of Agriculture (DA) Regional Office 2, said that the CIP is a strategic plan that rationalizes the interventions within the various segments of the value chain of selected commodities which are significant to the province/city and are supportive of the national/regional goals of the agriculture and fishery sector.

She explained that the formulation of the CIPs was initiated by the DA, through the Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP). The PRDP is a three-year rolling consensus plan between the DA and provincial/

city local government units (LGUs) which will serve as basis in selecting eligible sub-projects for funding under the PRDP's two components, namely 1) Intensified Building Up of Infrastructure and Logistics for Development (I-BUILD); and 2) Investments in Rural Enterprises and Agriculture and Fisheries Productivity (I-REAP).

Ms. Olivas further said that the CIPs of the five provinces and one city (Santiago City) were already approved by their respective Provincial/City Development Councils and Sangguniang Panlalawigan/Panlungsod.

The commodities considered in the Cagayan Valley Region per province/city are as follows: Batanes - organic garlic, sweet potato, beef cattle, marine fisheries, bulb onion; Cagayan - dairy, mango, rice, corn, peanut, cacao, pineapple; Isabela - dairy, mungbean, tilapia, white corn, pineapple, mango, seaweeds, aromatic/pigmented rice; Quirino

- coffee, banana, dairy, aromatic/pigmented rice, ube, cacao; Nueva Vizcaya - mandarin, onion, pineapple, coffee, corn, tomato; and Santiago City - peanut, mungbean, beef cattle, mango, muscovado, tilapia, dairy.

EDC Chair and Nueva Vizcaya Provincial Governor Carlos M. Padilla said that the Committee should advocate the use of the CIPs to regional line agencies, LGUs, non-government organizations, government-owned and controlled corporations, funding institutions, and the private sector as input in the formulation of their Annual Investment Plans with corresponding budget allocation and to other stakeholders to implement or provide funding support to identified interventions that they can relate to or support.

After being endorsed by the EDC, the proposal was subsequently approved by the RDC2 during its 1st quarter meeting in February through a resolution endorsing its support to the use of the commodity investment plans of the province or municipality. | **JAMES B. RODRIGO, NEDA PDIPDB**



L-R: 51D, AFP Commander BGen. Perfecto M. Rimando, Jr., RDC2 Chair Gov. Junie E. Cua, CEZA Administrator Sec. Raul L. Lambino, RDC2 Interim Vice Chair and NEDA OIC-RD Ferdinand P. Tumaliuan, and RDC2 Interim Secretary and NEDA OIC-ARD Ronilo H. Bulseco.

RDC2 conducts first 2018 meeting at Cagayan Freeport

For its maiden meeting for 2018, the Regional Development Council (RDC) 2 convened at the Cagayan Special Economic Zone and Freeport in the town of Sta. Ana where they shared their insights on issues along infrastructure, peace and order, and disaster risk management.

About 40 of the 63 members of the RDC2 participated in the meeting which was held

on February 23, 2018 and was hosted by the Cagayan Economic Zone Authority (CEZA) as part of its 23rd anniversary celebration. CEZA is a member of the RDC2 since December 1997.

RDC2 Chair Junie E. Cua, the provincial governor of Quirino, said in his opening message that holding the meeting at the Cagayan Freeport is an opportunity to appreciate the many potentials of the Cagayan

Valley Region that remain untapped.

He said that Cagayan Valley has a very strategic advantage given its proximity to other Asian countries like China which is today's greatest economic powerhouse.

"Greater economic complementation between the Philippines and its northern neighbors such as China, Taiwan, South Korea, Japan, and Hong Kong should be pushed," he added.

"CEZA can become a great player in this possible economic complementation," the RDC2 Chair further said. "This way, we can tap Cagayan Valley's great potential not only as a food basket but also as a strategically located agro-industrial economic hub that plays an important role in this region of Asia."

CEZA Administrator and Chief Executive Officer Atty. Raul L. Lambino echoed the same sentiment as he said in his welcome remarks that CEZA envisions to be "a catalyst in the development of Northern Luzon



About 40 of the 63 RDC2 member-agencies, including the private sector representatives, attended the Council's first quarter meeting in Sta. Ana, Cagayan which was hosted by CEZA.

as a full-serviced industrial, agro-industrial, commercial, and tourism enclave and gateway to international markets for the products of East Asia.”

Nine resolutions passed

For this meeting, the RDC2 endorsed nine resolutions approving and/or supporting the following development concerns: the implementation of the Information Management System for the disaster response cluster of the Cagayan Valley Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council; the conduct of a feasibility study for the improvement of the Port of Aparri; the proposed conversion to national category of a road traversing the municipalities of Lasam, Sto. Niño, and Piat in Cagayan Province; the utilization of the provincial/city Commodity Investment Plans;



Also present during the RDC2 meeting was Nueva Vizcaya Governor Carlos M. Padilla (L), the Chair of the EDC which endorsed the proposal on the use of the provincial/city commodity investment plans..

and the provision of security support/measures during the implementation of projects.

In addition, the Council approved the creation of a sub-committee on culture under the RDC2-Social Development Committee as well as its work and financial plan for CY 2018.

The Council also welcomed the newly installed regional

directors or heads among the member-agencies which include BGen. Perfecto M. Rimando, Jr. of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, PCSupt. Jose Mario M. Espino of the Philippine National Police, Dir. Ma. Sarah Buena S. Mirasol of the Department of Labor and Employment, and OIC-Regional Manager Constancio G. Banaay, Jr. of the National Irrigation Administration. | NEDA DRD

RDC2 Resolutions passed for the 1st Quarter 2018

RDC2 Resolution No. 02-01-2018

Supporting and Endorsing the Conduct of a Feasibility Study for the Construction of an Alternate Access Road Leading to the Port of Aparri, Including the Extension of its Jetty Port

RDC2 Resolution No. 02-02-2018

Supporting and Endorsing the Proposed Conversion of the Piat-Sto. Niño-Lasam Road Via Barangays Tammucco and Namuccayan from a Provincial to a National Road

RDC2 Resolution No. 02-03-2018

Supporting the Utilization of Provincial/City Commodity Investment Plans Under the Philippine Rural Development Project

RDC2 Resolution No. 02-04-2018

Approving the Creation of the Sub-Committee on Culture Under the Social Development Committee of the Regional Development Council 2

RDC2 Resolution No. 02-05-2018

Approving the Work and Financial Plan of the Regional Development Council 2 for CY 2018

RDC2 Resolution No. 02-06-2018

Enjoining Project Implementing Agencies and Contractors to Inform the Armed Forces of the Philippines of their Major Programs and Projects for Implementation and to Strengthen Collaboration With the Local Government Unit / Community in Project Implementation

RDC2 Resolution No. 02-07-2018

Requesting the Department of National Defense to Augment the Current Manpower Deployment and Logistic Support of the Philippine Army in Region 02 to Help Address Peace and Order Concerns in the Region

RDC2 Resolution No. 02-08-2018

Requesting the National Peace and Order Council to Cause Amendment on the

Provision of Executive Order No. 773 Defining the Composition of the Barangay Peace and Order Committee to Include the Philippine Army

RDC2 - ExCom Resolution No. 02-01-2018

Supporting and Endorsing the Region 02 Road Projects Under the DTI-DPWH Convergence Program Known as Roads Leveraging Linkages for Industry and Trade (ROLL IT) for FY 2019 Funding

RDC2 - ExCom Resolution No. 02-02-2018

Supporting and Endorsing the Local Government Units' List of Priority Programs and Projects to Concerned Agency Central Offices

RDC2 - ExCom Resolution No. 02-03-2018

Supporting and Endorsing the Region 02 Road Projects Leading to Tourism Destinations Under the DOT-DPWH Convergence Program Known as Tourism Road Infrastructure Program (TRIP) for FY 2019 Funding

RDC2 highlights cultural agenda in development

By approving the creation of a sub-committee on culture under one of its sectoral committees, the Regional Development Council (RDC) 2 has put premium on the role of cultural awareness in development.

During its 112th regular business meeting held on February 23, 2018 at the Cagayan Special Economic Zone and Freeport in the town of Sta. Ana, the RDC2 recognized the importance of including cultural agenda to address cultural fragmentation, perceived distrust, parochialism,

and perpetuation of historical injustices, among others.

“The sub-committee on culture shall be created under the Social Development Committee (SDC) as a response to the call to strengthen Filipino culture and values in the region,” reported Ms. Perla A. Visorror, Vice-Chair of the SDC, who presented on behalf of SDC Chairperson Marilou H. Cayco, the provincial governor of Batanes.

Ms. Visorror further said that the officials of the sub-committee on culture shall be the heads

of agencies of the Department of Education as Chair, the Department of Tourism as Co-Chair, and the Department of the Interior and Local Government as Vice Chair.

On the other hand, the membership of the sub-committee shall include the Department of Trade and Industry, Commission on Higher Education, Philippine Information Agency, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, the National Commission on Culture and the Arts, NEDA, the five provincial governments, five state universities and colleges in the region, as well as five private higher education institutions and two civil society organizations. | **NEDA DRD**

Five major infrastructure projects are set to be constructed starting this year at the Cagayan Special Economic Zone and Freeport (CSEZFP) which are vital in the development concept for the Freeport called Global TransPark (GPT) community.

Secretary Raul Lambino, Cagayan Economic Zone Authority (CEZA) administrator and chief executive officer, said CEZA has set aside corporate funds for the construction and completion of a 100- to 300-bed capacity medical center which will cater to locators, tourists, and the local community in Sta. Ana, Cagayan in the office's medium-term development plan.

Lambino said they will also build a corporate center which will serve as CEZA's headquarters

and the nerve center of its operations.

“This building communicates to the world an image of stability, efficiency and transparency at CEZA and at the Freeport,” Lambino said in a statement delivered by CEZA Senior Deputy Administrator Byron San Pedro before the members of the Regional Development Council 2 in a meeting in February at the Freeport.

Aside from these, CEZA also has plans to construct a convention center which will further boost the tourism industry within the eco-zone, a boutique hotel which will encourage frequent travel to this northern destination,

and a cyber park which will complement the existing internet data center and will provide modern communications facilities.

“With this, the Free Port will be in a strong position to cash in on the growing trade with the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation region as well as the increasing intra-Asian trade,” Lambino said.

The GPT system would integrate transport, telecommunications, manufacturing and commercial processes, distribution, technology, and education into a “seamless and efficient supply chain for tenants and users of the economic zone and Freeport”. | **OLIVER T. BACCAY, PIA R02**

CEZA to build Global TransPark community

DAR turns over ₱1.525M-worth of farm equipment, livelihood projects in Cagayan



The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Provincial Office of Cagayan-Batanes recently turned over ₱1.525 million-worth of farm equipment and livelihood projects to three Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Organizations (ARBOs) in two Cagayan towns.

Under the Climate-Resilient Farm Productivity Support Project (CRFPSP), a package containing bamboo skills training, establishment of bamboo nursery and bamboo plantation, and two units of hand tractor with complete accessories was granted to the Roma Sur Multi-Purpose Cooperative in the town of Enrile, benefiting 106 farmer-members.

Another package consisting of organic fertilizer (vermi) skills training, establishment of organic fertilizer (vermi) production, one unit of hand tractor with

complete accessories, and one unit of shredder was also given to the MBG Farmers-Irrigators Association of Rizal, Cagayan, with 92 farmers to be benefited.

Both packages under the CRFPSP amount to ₱1.3 million. This project involves a wide range of component which include the conduct of climate change orientations and skills training as well as the provision of farm machineries and equipment. It is a multi-sectoral effort which aims to protect the environment and seeks to reduce poverty by creating sustainable employment and income-generating opportunities for farmers.

Meanwhile, the Village-Level Processing Center Enhancement Project (VLPCEP) was simultaneously launched in Rizal. The project comprises of the improvement, enhancement, and expansion of the existing building

intended to be the production center for livelihood enterprises in compliance with the Food and Drug Administration requirement. The project costs ₱225,000 and was awarded to the Malaueg Savings and Trading Cooperative with 160 farmer-members benefiting from it.

DAR 02 leaders headed by Regional Director Homer P. Tobias and Assistant Regional Directors Paramon D. Furigay and Jessbeth G. Quidasol showed their support during the turnover of the projects, together with Enrile Vice Mayor Robert B. Turingan, Rizal Mayor Brenda B. Ruma, and other officials of the Cagayan Provincial Government.

Dir. Tobias emphasized the importance of membership expansion so that more ARBs can benefit from the array of programs and services that DAR provides. |
MARVI TURINGAN, DAR R02



Leading the ceremonial ribbon cutting during the turnover were DAR RD Homer P. Tobias (*front, 2nd from L*) and Rizal Mayor Brenda B. Ruma (*3rd from L*). They were joined by other officials from DAR, the concerned LGUs, and the Cagayan Provincial Government.

DENR inaugurates model SWM facility

In support of Ecological Solid Waste Management as one of the priority programs of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) under Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, DENR Region 2 inaugurated its model solid waste management facility on March 12, this year.

In his message during the launch, Regional Director Atty. Gil A. Aromin challenged every employee to be serious in segregating wastes properly.

“Start in your homes, teach your children and your family how to segregate wastes. This is the least we can do to help our environment recover,” the regional environment chief said.

Atty. Aromin led the DENR employees in a *Panunumpa ng*

Pakikiisa for the implementation of Republic Act No. 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

The director also lauded the Regional Gender and Development Focal Point System (RGADFPS) for coming up with the model facility which can be replicated by the DENR field offices.

RGADFPS Chair and Administrative Division Chief Lilia dL. Abel underscored the benefits of proper waste segregation such as the conservation of natural resources, the prevention of health threats, and income generation.

The model SWM facility stores recyclable materials such as papers, plastic bottles, and cans

that were collected from the trash cans in the DENR building. The facility also has a composting area.

The launch of the facility was the highlight of the office’s celebration of Women’s Month this year.

Aside from the inauguration, the regional and field offices conducted several activities such as giving of tokens to women clients and conducting an in-house orientation session on RA 9262 or the Anti-Violence Against Women and Children Act of 2004.

“Women are now empowered. We know our rights and men must respect our rights because we are protected by the law,” said Atty. Mari-Grace L. Cumagun of the Civil Service Commission Regional Office 2 during the orientation. | **PRINCESS MARGARETT S. ASTUDILLO, DENR RO2, Lifted from The Cagayan Valley Environment Update Volume 9, No. 1.**

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in Region 2, through the Regional Child Welfare Specialist Group (RCWSG), successfully matched at least 175 abandoned and neglected children with their adoptive parents.

Rosario Corpuz, DSWD focal person on adoption, said that of the 175 children, 119 were adopted locally while 56 were already living with their adoptive parents abroad.

She said they are now monitoring these children to evaluate their status with their adoptive parents and to ensure that they are not being maltreated and abused.

DSWD gives new home to 175 abandoned children

“They all underwent a rigid cross-matching process. We evaluated and studied carefully the capacity of the adoptive parents to manage the developmental and other needs of a child,” Corpuz said.

Atty. Noel Mora, chair of the RCWSG, said that potential adoptive parents must possess the core criteria in adopting a child, which include not only their financial capabilities but

also their emotional preparedness in child rearing.

“We accept applicants from qualified adoptive parents but there are rules that we have to follow. If we see that the welfare of the children is at risk with them, then we can deny their applications as we always ensure the best interest of the child, not the adoptive parents,” Mora said.

Corpuz urged prospective adoptive couples or individuals to always seek DSWD’s assistance on the process of adoption following reports that many couples have adopted children without undergoing legal procedures. | **OLIVER T. BACCAY, PIA RO2**

DOLE launches one-stop service center for OFWs in Santiago City

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Regional Office 2 has launched the One-Stop Service Center for OFWs (OSSCO) located at the Integrated Terminal Complex in Malvar, Santiago City on March 9, 2018.

The launching was spearheaded by Philippine Overseas Employment Administration Administrator Atty. Bernard P. Olalia, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration Deputy Administrator Josefino I. Torres, Santiago City Mayor Joseph S. Tan, and DOLE OIC-Regional Director Atty. Sarah Buena S. Mirasol.

“The establishment of the OSSCO will ease the burden of OFWs in processing their documents because they no longer need to go from one office to another,” Dir. Mirasol said.

“They can now save time and expenses for government services because all their needs are now catered in just one place,” she added.

The establishment of the OSSCO in Santiago City is in response to the order of President Duterte to streamline government services for OFWs.

Admin. Torres said that the OSSCO recognizes the contribution of OFWs to the economy.

According to him, their remittances saved the country from financial crisis in recent years, and OSSCO is one of the government’s way of helping them back.

The OSSCO in Santiago City is the 18th such facility in the

country and the second in Region 2. It houses 16 government agencies offering various services to OFWs.

Atty. Olalia lauded Mayor Tan for his speedy action on the establishment of the OSSCO.

“This OSSCO in Santiago City is the fastest to be established, and we thank Mayor Tan for allowing the free use of the space,” he said.

Other government offices offering their services at the OSSCO include the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation, Pag-IBIG Fund, Department of Foreign Affairs, Philippine Statistics Authority, National Bureau of Investigation, Bureau of Immigration, Bureau of Internal Revenue, Professional Regulation Commission, Commission on Higher Education, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, and the Santiago City Police Office. | **REGINALD B. ESTIOCO, DOLE R02. Photo Credit: DOLE R02**



L-R: POEA Administrator Atty Bernard P. Olalia, DOLE OIC-RD Atty. Sarah Buena S. Mirasol, Santiago City Mayor Joseph S. Tan, and OWWA Deputy Administrator Josefino I. Torres during the launching of the one-stop service center for OFWs in Santiago City.

ISABELA PLGU GRANTS ZERO INTEREST LOAN TO MSMEs



At least 829 micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and former Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) from Gamu, Burgos, and Quirino towns in Isabela recently availed of the interest-free loan amounting to ₱8.2 million from the provincial government.

Lilia Castillo, provincial cooperative development officer, said the provision of free-interest loan assistance to MSMEs and other sectors is part of the Bojie-Rodito Opportunities (BRO) for Livelihood program implemented by the provincial government.

Castillo said the program aims to help local entrepreneurs, OFWs, and other sectors to enhance their entrepreneurial skills and sustain their livelihood activities. She said each recipient received ₱10,000 as a start-up capital for their business venture.

Castillo added that the provincial government, through Governor Faustino "Bojie" G. Dy III and Vice Governor Tonypet Albano, has established the BRO program as a system to reach out to poor families to help them uplift their living conditions.

Aside from loan assistance, Castillo said that the BRO program has several components which include livelihood assistance to potential and deserving farmer-families and scholarship project for poor but deserving children of farmers, among others. | **MERLITO G. EDALE, Jr., PIA R02**

CAGAYAN IRAGA- BAYABAT FMR PROJECT SOON TO BE COMPLETED



The Cagayan Provincial Project Management Implementing Unit, through its head, Provincial Agriculturist Pearlita Lucia P. Mabasa, affirmed that the rehabilitation of the Iraga-Bayabat farm-to-market road (FMR) with a bridge sub-project under the Philippine Rural Development Project is expected to be completed before its target date.

The project started on March 28, 2017 and is expected to be completed on August 7, 2018. The 20.25-km project amounts to about ₱203 million.

"It is expected that by August of this year, thousands of farmers and other families in Solana and Amulung will finally reap the benefits of the FMR," Mabasa stated.

Mabasa said that the good partnership of the Provincial Government of Cagayan as procuring entity with the contractor of the project (R.D. Interior Jr. Construction/ Crest Construction JV) is one of the factors that ushered in the smooth implementation of the project.

Engr. Basilia Flores, Provincial Engineer, reiterated that various good practices in infrastructure project management, including manpower and continuous onsite monitoring, also contributed to the good implementation of the project.

The Iraga-Bayabat FMR with bridge is a sub-project of the Cagayan Dairy Enterprise, the province's primary enterprise.

The road will traverse various barangays including Iraga in Solana and barangays Nangalasuan, Cordova, San Juan, Annaftan, Palayag, Pacac Pequeno, Masical, and Bayabat in Amulung.

It is expected to benefit some 26,711 individuals and about 5,654 households in both municipalities. | **MIELMIA MARIE T. BAQUIRAN, CAGAYAN PLGU. www.cagayan.gov.ph**

BATANES TO ADDRESS SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PROBS



Government Officials in Batanes are now exerting their efforts to solve the developing problem of solid waste management in the province.

Gov. Marilou H. Cayco recently presented the increasing volume of solid wastes dumped in different sites in the province, including those disposed in the sea, to representatives of various sectors who are concerned in the implementation of the Ecological Solid Waste Management law.

Cayco ordered all barangays to revive their Material Recovery Facilities to sustain their program on the collection of recyclable materials and to develop a scheme for the proper collection and management of biodegradable wastes from households and business establishment areas.

She said the solid waste problem is due to the bulk of waste collected, mostly plastic bottles and wrappers, while the influx of tourists is one of the attributed factors.

To encourage junkshop operators to buy plastic bottles and other recyclable materials, the provincial government entered into an agreement with shipping operators to collect a minimal fee for the transshipment of the materials to Metro Manila as some junkshops have already stopped operating due to the high freight charges in transporting such.

The governor also launched the “garbage collection for a fee” program to encourage the public to collect recyclable materials and sell it to the provincial government at ₱5 per kilo.

“This is one way of eliminating solid waste problems in the province,” Cayco said. | **NECITAS G. ALCONIS, PIA R02**

QUIRINO PDRRMC TURNS OVER PHP17.5 M WORTH OF EQUIPMENT



The Quirino Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (PDRRMC) headed by Gov. Junie E. Cua recently awarded at least ₱17.5 million-worth of preparedness and rescue equipment to the six municipal DRRMCs, barangay DRRMCs, hospitals, and all offices of the provincial and national government agencies that are members of the PDRRMC.

The rescue and preparedness equipment include four ambulances for the Quirino Province Medical Center and the three district hospitals in Diffun, Aglipay, and Maddela. The kit

also includes a drone, VHF base radio, and hygiene kits for the six municipal DRRMCs, namely Rescue 702-Diffun; Rescue 712-Saguday; Rescue 104-Maddela; Rescue 105-Nagtipunan; Rescue 621-Cabarroguis, and Rescue 101-Aglipay.

Some barangay DRRMCs received megaphones, flashlights and early warning systems, and information boards while the Bureau of Fire Protection, Philippine National Police, Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, and the Philippine Army received metal detectors, basic first aid kits, trauma bags, lumen flashlights, and helmets.

Other national government agencies and all offices of the provincial government also received various equipment according to their office needs such as helmets, handheld radios, basic first aid kits, metal detectors, and flashlights.

The amount used for the purchase of said equipment was taken from the ₱49 million local DRRM fund of the provincial government.

Governor Cua said these equipment are gifts of the provincial government to the Quirinians to keep them prepared and safe in times of disasters.

For his part, regional director Jonathan Paul Leusen Jr. of the Department of the Interior and Local Government lauded the PDRRMC's innovativeness in providing support to the DRRMCs at the lower level.

Both Cua and Leusen share a common vision of a safe and disaster-resilient Quirino Province. | **THELMA C. BICARME, PIA R02**

NV PUSHES PEOPLE'S COUNCIL CREATION



The provincial government of Nueva Vizcaya is expected to create a people's council to rally participation and partnership towards effective local governance.

The creation of the People's Council of Nueva Vizcaya (PCNV) is mandated in the recently approved “Nueva Vizcaya Peoples’ Participation in Governance” ordinance passed by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan.

Vice Governor Lambert Galima, Jr. said the people's council ordinance seeks to promote the establishment and operation of peoples' organizations and non-government organizations as partners of the local government unit (LGU) in the pursuit of local autonomy.

He added that the PCNV is the general assembly of all accredited and duly registered civil society organizations in the province.

With the ordinance, Vice Governor Galima said LGUs may enter into joint ventures and other cooperative arrangements to engage in the delivery of certain basic services, capability building, livelihood projects, and local enterprise development to improve the productivity, income, and social well-being of the people.

“The PCNV will not be used for partisan politics but rather it will strengthen peoples' organizations as partners for progress,” he said. | **BENJAMIN MOSES EBREO, PIA R02**

SPECIAL FEATURE

AMBISYON Natin 2040

**MATATAG,
MAGINHAWA,
at PANATAG
na BUHAY**

By 2040, Filipinos enjoy a strongly rooted, comfortable, and secure life.

In 2040, we will all enjoy a stable and comfortable lifestyle, secure in the knowledge that we have enough for our daily needs and unexpected expenses, that we can plan and prepare for our own and our children's future. Our family lives together in a place of our own, and we have the freedom to go where we desire, protected and enabled by a clean, efficient, and fair government.

AmBisyon Natin 2040 represents the collective long-term vision and aspirations of the Filipino people for themselves and for the country for the next 25 years. It describes the kind of life that people want to live, as well as how the country will look like by 2040. As such, it will serve as an anchor for development planning across at least four administrations.

Matatag

- ☑ Family is together.
- ☑ Time with friends.
- ☑ Work-life balance.
- ☑ Volunteering.

Maginhawa

- ☑ Free from hunger and poverty.
- ☑ Secure home ownership.
- ☑ Good transport facilities.
- ☑ Travel and vacation.

Panatag

- ☑ Enough resources for day-to-day needs, unexpected expenses and savings.
- ☑ Peace and security.
- ☑ Long and healthy life.
- ☑ Comfortable retirement.

Filipinos are strongly rooted: matatag. Filipino families live together; there is work-life balance so that there is time to spend with family even for members who work. On weekends, families and friends enjoy time together in parks and recreational centers. It is a high-trust society with a strong sense of community. There are volunteer opportunities and Filipinos spend time to serve the community, help others who are in need, and contribute to various causes.

Filipinos are comfortable: maginhawa. No one is poor, no one is ever hungry. Filipino families live in comfortable homes with the desired amenities and secure tenure. Families and friends are within reach because transport is convenient and affordable, and they can take a vacation together within the country and abroad. Children receive quality education so that they realize their full potentials and become productive members of society. Decent jobs that bring sustainable income are available, including opportunities for entrepreneurship.

Filipinos are secure: panatag. Filipinos feel secure over their entire lifetime. They expect to live long and enjoy a comfortable life upon retirement. There are resources to cover unexpected expenses, and there are savings. They feel safe in all places in the country. Filipinos trust their government because it is free of corruption and provides service to all its citizens equally.