

Official Publication of the National Food Authority

www.nfa.gov.ph

# grains

Volume 41 No. 1

January - March 2013

## Orlan A. Calayag:

Get to know the new  
NFA Administrator

## 13 Hopes for 2013

Listen to the voices of young  
NFA employees

## 2013 National Year of Rice

NFA joins the nation in achieving  
rice self-sufficiency

## 13 Places to See Before you Retire

Visit local destinations before bidding the NFA adieu

## NFA-PAD holds IO Conference

Training the NFA's Spokespersons

## On the cover

He's young, vibrant and full of ideals. From being the son of a rice retailer in Dolores, Quezon, Administrator Orlan Agbin Calayag has accepted the challenge to become NFA's 14th Administrator.

Photo: Manuel A. Sadsad  
Cover Design: Boy Paraiso

## NFA Management

**Orlan A. Calayag**  
Administrator

**Ludovico J. Jarina**  
Deputy Administrator

**Pedro S. Hernando, Jr.**  
Deputy Administrator

**Jose D. Cordero**  
Asst. Administrator  
for Marketing Operations

**Celia Z. Tan**  
Asst. Administrator for Finance  
and Administration

## Editorial Staff

**Rex C. Estoperez**  
Editorial Consultant

**Becky C. Olarte**  
Executive Editor

**Cora L. Abio**  
Editor

**Ma. Lina G. Reyes**  
Managing Editor

**Mena M. Dalumpines**  
**Tess P. Galvez**  
**Lally B. Umali**  
**Ma. Cynthia DL. Suarez**  
Contributing Writers

**Boy T. Paraiso**  
Design/Lay-out Artist

**Nilo Manongsong**  
**Maning Sadsad**  
Photographers

**grains**

is a publication  
of the National Food Authority with  
editorial offices at the  
Department of Public Affairs,  
3rd Flr., Philippine Sugar Center,  
North Avenue, Diliman  
Quezon City.  
Address all editorial  
contributions to The Editor.  
Email: e-mailnfa@nfa.gov.ph or  
lg\_ennyl@yahoo.com

# grains inside

Vol. 41 No. 1

January - March 2013

3

Editorial:  
The Future Spells H. O. P. E.

4

Grainsnotes:  
The Bright Side

5

Orlan Calayag is New Administrator

6

NFA Joins Nationwide Launching  
of National Year of Rice

8

PAD Conducts Info Officers' Seminar-  
Workshop

10

Across the Country

28

Adm. Orlan A. Calayag:  
A Rice Retailer's Son Becomes NFA  
Administrator

32

Top 3 Procurement Areas in 2012

36

MYCNSIA: Improving Child Survival,  
Growth and Development in Asia

38

New York Thru My Lens

40

Love Trivia

42

13 Places to See Before You Retire

46

Hopes for 2013

50

They Make NFA Proud

54

Your Union is Working for You

55

Poetry

56

Gallery

**Field Correspondents:** **REGION I/LA UNION P.O.** - Frederick B. Dunlay - **ABRA** - Nelly B. Ramos **BENGUET**-Jennifer C. Paraton **ILOCOS NORTE** - Imelda R. Valdez **ILOCOS SUR** - Elizabeth T. Kai **E. PANGASINAN** - Ligaya M. Apolinario **W. PANGASINAN**-Chona Maramba **REGION II**- Fe L. Salim **SANTIAGO P.O.** - Miguel S. Tecson **TUGUEGARAO** - Angelica S. Simeon **QUIRINO** - Marcelina A. Domingo **NUEVA VIZCAYA** - Carlito G. Caser **IFUGAO** - Teresita J. Arcaina **ALLACAPAN** - Zhanell Diorelli C. Picaña **MT.PROVINCE** - Elma Joyce M. Faniswa **KALINGA** - Rhoda A. Gamon **REGION III** -Jonathan D. Yazon **NUEVA ECIJA P.O.** - Rosaura Asuncion **AURORA** - Editha D. Pingol **BATAAN** - Lina S. Del Mundo **BULACAN** -Eduardo N. Camua/William V. Balbin **PAMPANGA** -Myra E. Bernardo **TARLAC** -Georgina P. Sarmiento/Mia Kristel Y. Pineda **ZAMBALES**-Ronilo C. Salvador **REGION IV** - Ariel A. Lavarro **INFANTA** -Quirino C.Decena **MAMBURAO** - Kathryn Gonzales **MARINDUQUE**-Salvador Veciana **OR.MINDORO**-Axela P. Infanteado **OCC.MINDORO** - Nida Nobio **PALAWAN** - Marita Abadilla **QUEZON** - Marianita C. Zaportezga **ROMBLON** - Gina R. Lanting **LAGUNA** - Annabell P. Oncinian **REGION V** - Nelsie Alcantara **ALBAY P.O.** John Paul C. Molato **CAMARINES NORTE** - Josephine M. Baraquiel **CAMARINES SUR** - Leilani Quinto **CATANDUANES** - Mae Ogalesco **MASBATE** - Haydee C Floresta **SORSOGON** - Jocelyn L. Agtuca **REGION VI/ILOILO P.O.** - Cashmere Gemarino **KALIBO** - Judith Tindog **ANTIQUÉ** - Elizabeth T. Salazar/Gazelle N. Jamandron **CAPIZ** - Rose B. Andalecio **NEGROS OCC.** - Cynthia Luz F. Chua **REGION VII** -Ma. Lucia R. Rosales **BOHOL** - Jboel J. Lim **NEGROS OR.**-Salvacion A. Uy **SIQUIJOR** - Elvira M. Calibo **REGION VIII** - Mary Agnes R. Militante **N. LEYTE** - Ella Vircelle Estoya **S. LEYTE** - Eliza Almacin **N. SAMAR** - Roger E. Eriane **E. SAMAR** - Rialyn B. Oriondo **BILIRAN** - Elvira C. dela Cruz **W. SAMAR** - Ma. Rosario G. Cadiz **REGION IX** - Angelica M. Pellican **ZAMBO CITY P.O.** - Earl O. Abarri **IPIL SIBUGAY** - Rose Miro **PAGADIAN** - Rejorie Reyes **DIPOLOG ZDN** - Malou Karen Sarenas **REGION X** - Ma. Celeste R. Gaabucayan **MISAMIS OR. P.O.** - Marian Tapangot **BUKIDNON** - Ma. Socorro Mellomida **CAMIGUIN** - Cristina L. Mora **LANAO DEL NORTE** - Floripes R. Santos **MISAMIS OCC** - Beverly M. Navarro **REGION XI/GEN. SANTOS** - Alma T. Sañada **DAVAO CITY** - Anna Lea A. Altea **DIGOS** - Ma. Celia DV. Prestozga **MATI** - Jean Dulota **TAGUM** - Jefferson D. Caliao **COMVAL** - Monaliza Grace E. Palmares **REGION XII** - Marissa O. Nuñez **SULTAN KUDARAT** - Aida A. Valencia **NORTH COTABATO** - Lerma I. Maranan **KORONADAL (SO.COT)** - Luisito N. Mangayayam **REGION XIII/NCR** - Carolina B. Manzano **CDO** - Melissa Joy Bahuyot **EDO** - Heidy C. Pasion **NDO** - Rolando M. Belando **CAVITE** - Adehyn dela Peña **SDO** - Miraquel D. Hernandez **REGION XIV** - Umisalam D.Sarip **MAGUINDANAO** - Bai Norhanna Mabang Butucan **LANAO DEL SUR** - Khayamera H. Diale **TAWI-TAWI** - Lydia I. Arsad **SULU** - Madania S. Kee **BASILAN** - Carmelita U. Pulido **CARAGA** - Fe D. Moreno **AGUSAN NORTE** - Hyde Beth M. Pascual **AGUSAN DEL SUR** - Lorena G. Dandan **SURIGAO NORTE** - Girlie D. Enoya **SURIGAO SUR** - Regina R. Vasquez

# THE FUTURE SPELLS H.O.P.E

EVERY NEW YEAR is a time for great feelings and expectations. Mushy as it may seem, we always welcome the New Year with deep reflection and thanksgiving. We reflect both on our achievements and mistakes. And we feel grateful about having risen above our difficulties or having survived the many trials of our existence – as we look forward to better times ahead.

For years now, we have been under the clouds of global economic uncertainties. But resilient as we are, we have never been cowed by any forms of discouragement. As a people, we have seen the best and worst of times that have only tested our persistence, perseverance and sense of perfection. The trials that we have undergone have served as cornerstones, not stumbling blocks, in achieving a balanced perspective in life.

As employees of NFA, we have nurtured an excellent work ethics and sense of loyalty that has kept us steadfast, inspired and engaged while we display the strength and unity of a corporate family.

As we look forward to the future, we think of hope as a best defense that will guide us through the tough

times. With hope, there is every reason to continue improving our services and deliver our best performance for our country and people. There is every reason to feel committed as we sustain the stability of the supply and price of rice, our staple food.

While pursuing our core mandates, we intensify our palay procurement, empower our farmers, make rice available during man-made and natural calamities, comply with the national policy on food fortification, maintain pro-poor programs, and seek reforms to achieve a level of stability that will highlight the role and contribution of NFA in the food industry.

Our ultimate objective is to transform NFA into a more cost-effective government agency that will facilitate national food security, through efficient and sustainable execution of its mandate. With this in mind, and with a lot of faith, the future offers much hope and greater opportunity for success and stability. ***cora l. abio***

# THE BRIGHT SIDE

The New Year always brings new hopes. Like a rainbow after the rain, it foretells a new beginning. For us in the food agency, this year is going to be busier as we celebrate 2013 as the National Year of Rice (NYR). It's a year of going beyond our regular procurement strategies and adopting ways that will encourage more farmers to sell their produce to us. It's also a year of looking more closely into our rice-eating habits. Studies show that at least two tablespoons of rice is wasted every day by every Filipino. This equals to P17 million worth of importation every day. This volume of wasted rice can actually feed about 2.6 million Filipinos in a year. Imagine that!

Growing rice requires patience, patience and more patience. As the old song goes, *magtanim ay 'di biro* because according to a social experiment conducted by PhilRice, the farmer and his water buffalo (carabao) need to walk about 60 to 80 kilometers so they can plow a hectare of rice field. That is not a joke.

Every Monday, we recite our rice vows embodied in Panatang Makapalay. We vow not to waste rice; to cook just the right amount; to get only what we can consume; to try to eat brown rice and other root crops such as banana, cassava and corn. Vows are meant to be taken seriously. They're not just words to be recited or memorized.

There are ways to show how we value the sacrifices of the 15 million Filipino rice farmers. One is for the government to stop importing rice. Two is for us to eat rice responsibly. *Bawat kaning isinusubo natin ay katumbas ng bawat pawis ng mga magsasaka. Huwag naman tayong magsayang.*

oOo

It's another year and in this first quarter issue of Grains Magazine, Ms. Teresa Galvez gathered 13 hopes for the year from 13 mostly new employees of the food agency. It's indeed an exciting year as a young administrator is appointed to lead our agency in the person of Mr. Orlan Agbin Calayag from Dolores, Quezon. Read his biography and get to know this young, vibrant, and debonair former US-based yuppie.

Meanwhile, if you're one of those heading for retirement this year or you're a fresh recruit, leaf through the 13 domestic destinations you shouldn't miss and start your blissful journey. You can come up with your own personal list, just make sure you get there before you retire. Remember, traveling is always therapeutic so pack your bag and take a trip somewhere. Stop contemplating, stop saying I don't like or I can't! Merida, the lead character of last year's best animated film Brave summed it up pretty well: If you always say I don't like, how would you know that you really don't like it?

Lina<sup>u</sup>

# Orlan Calayag is new Administrator

News Feature 5

By Rebecca C. Olarte

**President Benigno S. Aquino III has appointed Orlan A. Calayag as the new National Food Authority administrator effective January 17, 2013.**

During his oathtaking ceremony in Malacanang last January 21, Calayag, an entrepreneur, banker, community organizer, and NGO volunteer, assured the President that during his stewardship of the NFA, he will ensure that the country's food security is protected and the prices of rice and corn will be stable, while looking after the welfare of the farmers.

Calayag expressed hope that the officials and employees of NFA will extend their full support to his leadership so that the agency can fully measure up to its mandates while treading the path of "daang matuwid" (straight path). He said he will ask for the trust and cooperation of every NFA employee, which is most crucial to a more aggressive palay procurement operations for food security buffer stock and to upgrade the status of NFA as a government-owned and controlled corporation.

Prior to his appointment at NFA,

Calayag was Executive Director of the Progressive Community and Ecological Services Organization, a non-government organization helping farmers, fisherfolks, the youth, women and other sectors in the areas of livelihood, job generation and environmental protection.

As one of the youngest to be appointed as NFA administrator, it is expected that Calayag will institute certain changes, among them is rallying the agency's field offices for a more active and efficient operations and ensuring greater rapport and coordination with the farmers. Calayag is scheduled to immediately visit NFA's field offices to familiarize himself with the nationwide operations of the agency.



Administrator Orlan A. Calayag

## CPMSD goes eco-Friendly



Assistant Administrator Celia Z. Tan

In an effort to help mitigate the effects of climate change, the Corporate Planning and Management Department (CPMSD) recently launched its Eco-Friendly and Good Practices program. The occasion was graced by Assistant Administrator Celia Tan, Chairperson of the Oversight Committee on Eco-Friendly and Good Practices, and Director Ruben S. Rimando of GSD and participated in by CPMSD employees.

Eco-Friendly Good Practices is the government's integrated effort towards the mitigation of climate change. CPMSD started its implementation in the department as its response and contribution in helping the environment through this program.

The program covers the following areas: a)Electricity Conservation; b)Water Conservation; c) Fuel Conservation; d) Waste Management; e)Air Pollution Prevention; f)Emergency Preparedness; g) Greening; h) Green Procurement; and i) Climate Change.

During the launch, committee members wore shirts with the words "CPMSD goes Eco-Friendly". In her welcome address, Director Mercedes Yacapin mentioned that during the CPMSD planning in Tagaytay last January 5-6, 2012, it was decided to create different committees with members from each division to work on the different activities of the department, including disaster preparedness and the concept of 5S (Sort, Straighten, Shine, Stan-

dardize, and Sustain).

The program has the following objectives:

- To formulate and adopt appropriate implementation structure, mechanism and action plan for the effective implementation of Eco-Friendly Good Practices at the NFA Central Office;
- To create a healthy and eco-friendly workplace;
- To elevate the level of awareness among NFA employees regarding practical eco-friendly tips and transform the NFA workforce into well-disciplined group of employee with high regard for environmental concerns;
- To reduce the large volume of waste accumulated by the agency; and
- To generate savings through the maximized use of agency resources and maximum utilization of used materials.

One of the highlights of the CPMSD planning was the presentation of environment-friendly tips, activities and practices like reducing water and energy usage, and waste disposal management. Green procurement was recommended in buying office supplies made from environment-friendly products. The group also recommended the switch to electronic methods in making office requests to minimize the use of paper.

The program ended with a "Wall Signing" to support and show commitment to Eco-Friendly Good Practices at CPMSD headed by Dir. Yacapin, AA Celia Tan, Dir. Rimando and the rest of the CPMSD employees. Ms. Fioretta S. Estoperez delivered the closing remarks.

## NFA joins nationwide launching of 2013 National Year of Rice



TOP PHOTO: Singer Kirby Assunto sings *Sapat na Bigas, Kaya ng Pinas* composed by Noel Cabangon during the NYR 2013 launch.



LEFT PHOTO: Administrator Orlan Calayag (extreme right) graced the NYR 2013 launch. Next to him is Asec. Dante Delima and other DA officials.

In a show of support and solidarity, the National Food Authority joined other attached agencies of the Department of Agriculture and the private sector in the Flag Raising Ceremony that signaled the nationwide launching of the National Year of Rice on February 25, 2013 at the Quezon Memorial Circle Parks and Grounds. The event was also called the National Rice Commitment Day highlighted by the recitation of the Panatang MakaPALAY and signing for RICEponsibility to create more rice advocates.

President Benigno S. Aquino declared 2013 as National Year of Rice (NYR) under Proclamation No. 494 dated October 18, 2012 to intensify efforts of the government through the Department

of Agriculture to attain rice self-sufficiency by 2013.

Proclamation 494 also affirms November of every year as National Rice Awareness Month pursuant to Proclamation No. 524 issued in 2004.

Agriculture Secretary Proceso J. Alcala tasked the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) and the DA National Rice Program to undertake a nationwide information campaign and social marketing to enjoin farmers, other rice industry stakeholders, consumers and policy makers to help attain national rice self-sufficiency.

As emphasized in the proclamation, a sustained and nationwide campaign is necessary to boost the morale of farmers and motivate them to adopt technolo-

gies to further improve farm productivity; and encourage the general public to be responsible rice consumers.

The NYR2013 is a major component of the Food Staples Sufficiency Program (FSSP) of the DA. It is an advocacy that enjoins the full cooperation of every Filipino to finally realize self-sufficiency in rice, the staple food of half of the world's population, including the Filipinos.

The Filipino consumer is expected to conserve and save rice and try brown rice and other staple foods such as banana, sweet potato, corn.

The Filipino lawmaker is enjoined to support resolutions and laws on increasing farm yield and responsible rice consumption.

The Filipino farmer is encouraged to adopt modern technologies that will raise the productivity and quality of rice produce.

# PANATANG MAKAPALAY

(Ilagay ang kanang kamao sa dibdib)

Bilang isang mamamayang Pilipino  
nakikiisa ako sa panatang huwag magsayang  
ng kanin at bigas.

**Magsasaing ako ng sapat lamang  
at sisiguraduhing tama ang pagkakatulo nito.**

Kukuha ako ng kaya kong ubusin upang sa aking pinggan  
ay walang matirang kanin. Ganun din ang aking gagawin  
kung may handaan o kung sa labas ako kakain.

**Ang brown rice o pinawa ay susubukan kong kainin,  
pati na ang ibang pagkain bukod sa kanin  
tulad ng saba, kamote, at mais.**

Ituturo ko sa iba ang responsableng pagkonsumo  
nang mabigyang halaga ang pagod ng mga magsasaka  
at nang makatulong na maging sapat  
ang bigas sa Pilipinas.

**Aking isasapuso ang panatang ito  
dahil sa bawa't butil ng bigas  
o kanin na aking matitipid  
ay may buhay na masasagip.**



**SAPAT na BIGAS  
KAYA ng PINAS**

[www.nyr2013.com](http://www.nyr2013.com)

## Sapat Na Bigas, Kaya Ng Pinas (Noel Cabangon)

Kay gandang pagmasdan  
Mga ginintuang palayan  
Sa buong kapuluan  
Sa mga malalawak na sakahan

Sumasayaw pa sa hangin  
Naghihintay nang anihin  
Ng malaon nang nagsisikhay  
Na mga kamay

Upang ihatid  
Sa pamilihing bayan  
Sa hapagsaluhan  
Ng bawat tahanan

Chorus:

Tulong-tulong nating abutin  
Ang malaon na nating mithiin  
Ngayong taon na ang tamang panahon  
Pagabunngin ang pagkakataon

Sapat na bigas, kaya ng Pinas

Darating din ang bukas  
Di na tayo aangkat  
Pagkat bunga ng pagsasaka'y  
Tiyak at sapat-sapat

Kaya't ikaw at ako  
Makiisa't makisalo  
Upang ang layo ng ito'y  
Maabot at magkatotoo

Bawat butil ng palay  
Ay mahalaga sa 'ting buhay  
Bawat butil ay biyaya  
At gintong pagpapala

Chorus:

Kaya nating abutin  
Ang malaon na nating mithiin  
Ngayon na ang tamang panahon  
Pagabunngin / pagyamanin ang pag-  
kakataon

Sapat na bigas, kaya ng Pinas (4x)

# Public Affairs Department conducts Information Officers' seminar-workshop

By Mena M. Dalumpines & Loreta B. Umali

Photos by Maning Sadsad & Romy Navarro

The National Food Authority, thru its Public Affairs Department (PAD) headed by Dir. Rex Estoperez, conducted a conference and seminar-workshop for Information Officers (IO's) last Feb. 13-14 at NFA Cebu Training Center, Cebu City.

The conference and seminar-workshop was participated in by information officers (IOs) coming from the Visayas and Mindanao Region. It was not only meant to upgrade the communication skills of the participants but also to apprise them of NFA plans and programs as well as policy directions for 2013, the Food Staples Sufficiency Program (FSSP) of the government through the Department of Agriculture, and the launching of 2013 National Year of Rice.

NFA R-7 Director Efren J. Sabong welcomed the participants citing that the seminar-workshop is important to IOs being the frontliners of the agency in the field of image-building. "IO's are expected to be conversant, to honestly speak of the agency and not be peddler of lies", he said in his remarks. He expressed belief that NFA will survive challenges "if we work as a team".

During the conference, HRD Director Ruben J. Reside informed the participants of HRD's programs. He assured that all recommendations with HRD will be processed and everything will be acted upon.



*Carlo Dacumos of PhilRice discusses design & Layout*

Atty. Dennis Guerrero, Special Assistant to the Administrator, apprised the participants that NFA is in a crucial period. "Redefine", this is how he described the task of NFA. He said that employees should feel and re-live the glory days of NFA, "ibalik at panatilihin at paigtingin ng IOs ang trabaho, being the conduit to farmers".

Asec. Dante de Lima of the Department of Agriculture gave an overview of the FSSP. He mentioned that FSSP is not a new program because this was already a target since 2010 but was moved to 2013. He said that DA Secretary



*Love Gado of PhilRice lectures on News & Feature Writing*

Proceso Alcala already announced that this country should be rice sufficient at the end of 2013.

CPMSD Director, Ma. Mercedes G. Yacapin discussed the significant accomplishments of NFA in 2012 and its plans and programs for 2013. She explained the Major Final Outputs (MFO's) and priority projects this year.

The overview of the conference and seminar-workshop was given by Dir. Estoperez of PAD. He asked the participants these questions: "Where are we now?" "where we want to go?" and "how to get there?". He also talked on Effective PR Management and Media Handling.

Two resource speakers from the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) lectured on News and Feature Writing, Photo Journalism, Design and Lay-Out and How to prepare a Communication Plan. News writing exercises were given and critiquing of group outputs followed.

Although the two-day seminar was not enough to learn the course, the IOs were thankful to the management for giving them the opportunity not only to enhance their skills but to meet with other IOs as well. Indeed, it was worth an experience and everyone expressed hope to have similar trainings like this in the future.

The conference and seminar



*Administrator Calayag delivers a speech*



*DA Assistant Secretary Dante Dellima*

workshop for Luzon area followed after the Visayas and Mindanao Conference. It was attended by 54 participants from Regions I to V and NCR. The Information Officers were convened in order to equip them with the current developments in the thrusts and directions of the NFA as well as in their line of work.

Director Piolito C. Santos, in his welcome address, thanked the Public Affairs Department for spearheading the IO Conference and expressed hope for its success.

In his inspirational message, Deputy Pedro S. Hernando, Jr. shared with the participants his experiences from being a rank-and-file employee up to his present status. He emphasized the value of honesty in doing the job and in dealing with the stakeholders.

Director Ruben Reside discussed the different training programs and other benefits for the employees as well as retirement benefits. He cited the statistics of NFA employees who are retiring soon, and encouraged the Info Officers especially those in designated status to look for appropriate positions that will be vacated.

Before giving the overview of the conference and seminar-workshop, Dir. Rex Estoperez thanked Dir. Piolito Santos, Asst. Dir. Elvira Martinez and Mgr. Cecilia Concubierta for hosting the conference. He also explained the role of NFA in the Food Staples Sufficiency Program or FSSP.

In the absence of Dir. Mercy Yacapin, Ms. Alice Fadura of CPMSD discussed the NFA's accomplishments for

the year 2012 as well as the agency's Major Final Outputs (MFOs) and other projects.

Administrator Orlan A. Calayag acknowledged the important role of the agency's information officers and expressed his admiration to the participants considering that some of them are designated IOs but still can do the extra job. The Administrator said that he considers the information officers' job as critical and important to building NFA's image. He asked everybody to convey a good message about NFA, explain its mandate properly and to take pride in doing their work.

Special Assistant to the Administrator Dennis Arpia likewise expressed support to all information officers and challenged everyone to be sincere in what they are doing and be a good example so that they can touch people's lives. He

also asked info officers to gather success stories of the stakeholders.

Deputy Administrator Ludovico J. Jarina informed the group that NFA will support the FSSP program by acquiring dryers and intensifying procurement to somehow bring back the glory days of NFA.

A 30-minute open forum followed wherein some of the info officers aired their issues and concerns. The Administrator told them that there is an NFA Council that will decide especially on matters needing Council approval but assured that he will do his best to lobby for the good of the employees.

Ms. Charisma Love Gado and Mr. Carlo Dacumos of Philrice lectured

**PLS. TURN TO PAGE 18...**



*The participants from Luzon during the IO Conference held in Baguio City with Administrator Calayag.*

*Info Officers from Visayas and Mindanao show their certificates proudly.*



**CALAYAG OBSERVES PALAY BUYING.** Administrator Calayag observed actual procurement of palay at Binalonan Triplex Warehouse during his visit in the province. With him are Dir. Santos, Mgr. Cuaresma and several employees. (MIL JOY D. MELENDEZ, correspondent)



**PROCUREMENT ADVOCACY.** PSQAO Eleuterio Asuncion, Jr. of Eastern Pangasinan explains to the participants during an Ugnayan in the provincial office about the new ENW table as part of the branch procurement advocacy. (MIL JOY D. MELENDEZ, correspondent)



**10 TREES A YEAR.** NFA East Pangasinan employees undertake regular tree planting in compliance to DENR Executive Order no. 26 series of 2011 which requires all government employees to plant at least 10 trees a year. Manager Ramon B. Cuaresma and PFAC Chairman Bismario Cordero spearhead the activity at NFA Binalonan Office compound. (MIL JOY D. MELENDEZ, correspondent)

## NFA Nueva Vizcaya tops Ugnayan sessions

Nueva Vizcaya was recognized for topping **Ugnayan** sessions with farmers, barangay folks, farmer leaders, government officials and employees of local government units (LGUs), Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Provincial Agricultural and Fishery Council (PAFC), Municipal Agricultural and Fishery Council (MAFC), and DepEd in attendance in Region II. Manager Leslie A. Martinez was awarded a certificate of recognition by NFA Regional Director Danilo I. Pastrana, in a simple but fitting ceremony held at the University of La Salette in Santiago City during the NFA Regional Christmas celebration last December 20, 2012.

Highlights of the Ugnayan sessions are the new procurement guidelines and policies like the relaxing of requirements in securing farmer's passbook, support price of P17/kg for clean and dry palay, P0.20/kg drying incentive, P0.20/kg delivery incentive, and P0.30/kg incentive granted to accredited farmer organizations. The Ugnayan conducted in 29 venues in the province were participated in by 1,268 participants and facilitated the issuance of



NFA Region 2 Director Danilo I. Pastrana (second from right) and Provincial Manager Evelyn M. Barroga (extreme right) interact with farmers during the height of procurement operations at NFA GID #01, Matucay, Allacapan, Cagayan. (ZHANEL DIORELLI C. PICAÑA, correspondent)

264 new individual passbooks and three new master passbooks for Munguia Farmer's Credit Cooperative, Inc., Nangalisan MPCI and Pingkian Community Development Cooperative.

The aggressive conduct of Ugnayan provincewide resulted in the procurement of 30,241 bags of palay from

September to December 2012 with a monthly average procurement of 7,500 bags. Meanwhile, Manager Martinez urged NFA employees not to remain complacent but to take active participation in the advocacy towards the implementation of various NFA programs. (ROMULO C. ABLANG, correspondent)

## NFA Cagayan Summer Getaway

"People travel to faraway places to watch, in fascination, the kind of people they ignore at home."

Dagobert D. Runes' words came to mind on March 7, 2013 as NFA Cagayan branch gears up for the **Lakbay Aral** spearheaded by Provincial Manager Henry H. Tristeza. This year, the employees decided on the itinerary of island hopping, among others, Hundred Islands at Alaminos, Pangasinan.

As the employees rolled off, they probably mused, "For my part, I travel not to go anywhere, but to go. I travel for travel's sake. The great affair is to move." To move, indeed was what was foremost on their minds. But this mindset changed as the scenery swathed in before their eyes.

Several famous tourist spots and NFA branches were also visited by the group-NFA Allacapan, Bantay, La Union and Binalonan – where they received a warm welcome including a sumptuous meal. As they met, mingled and established connections with other branches, it was deduced that, "One's destination is never a place, but a new way of seeing things."

Landmark destinations in Region



1 were seen and conquered, so to speak: Saud Beach Resort in Pagudpud, Bangui Windmills, Batac, Fort Ilocandia, Baluarte, Heritage Village and Bell Tower in Vigan as well as Our Lady of Manaoag in Pangasinan.

The trip was not complete without pasalubong or the ubiquitous souvenir. So the employees shelled out much-saved pocket money to buy local products and delicacies. Vinegar, *longganisa*, *kornik*, *bagnet*, garlic, onions, *padas bagoong*, *balicocha* and dried fish made almost everyone heavier. The bus groaned with the extra heavy load, they kidded.

The travellers arrived at BFAR staff house in Alaminos, Pangasinan

on the evening of March 8. A feast of seafoods like crabs, oysters and fish were bought from the local market of Sual, Pangasinan.

After breakfast the following day, **Hataw** exercises set the tone and the pace of the succeeding activity. Then, they grouped themselves in three's to fit the capacity of the boat and breathing a prayer of safety, they set sail to Hundred Islands.

During the island hopping, the group bumped into NFA-Central Office's GMOD personnel. The serendipitous meeting waved acquaintances and bridges.

The rest of the morning was

TO NEXT PAGE PLS....

## Cagayan... from P. 11

spent mostly on island hopping and swimming. The sail was made interesting by trivia shared by the *bankero* as they passed through the islands. The smooth sail became slightly rugged and turbulent. This set the adrenaline pumping and the heart

thumping. Somehow, there was fear factor, but, the adventure was worth it--- what with the awesome view of the islands!

As the employees rolled into familiar places and normal feelings back to the bosom of Cagayan, one aptly calls to mind: "No one realizes how beautiful it is

to travel until he comes home and rests his head on his old own pillow." The Lakbay Aral of NFA Cagayan to Ilocandia Region lasted for three days and left in everyone's memories the experience and the kinship that were developed. Travel is more than seeing sights; it is a change that goes on, deep and permanent, in the ideas of living. (ANGELICA S. SIMEON, *correspondent*)

## NFA Tarlac conducts Ugnayan activities

Region 3

In compliance with a directive from central and regional office, NFA Tarlac kicked off Ugnayan activities which aim to reach out to farmers, inform them of NFA's palay procurement program, and appeal to them to support NFA in its aim to procure more palay during the harvest season.

As early as July last year, Ugnayan teams were formed and assigned to different municipalities of Tarlac to coordinate with the local government units (LGUs), municipal agricultural officers (MAOs) and technicians in their respective municipalities for schedule of Ugnayan activities. NFA programs were discussed and explained in detail to the farmers. Briefing materials/flyers on procurement were distributed to the farmers. Issues and concerns regarding NFA's palay procurement were raised during the open forum which were answered by each team member.

A number of Ugnayan activities were already conducted. (MIA KRISTEL Y. PINEDA, *correspondent*)



**PALAY PROCUREMENT IN TARLAC.** In his recent visit in NFA Tarlac, NFA Administrator Orlan A. Calayag (left) was able to discuss with farmer leaders some of their issues and concerns in order to strengthen NFA's palay procurement efforts in the province. In this photo, Adm. Calayag talks with Mr. Hipolito Venson (right), provincial president of the Tarlac Farmers Irrigator's Association regarding his experience in the delivery of his produce to NFA. With him are (from left) Assistant Director Angel G. Imperial, Jr., Regional Director Amadeo B. De Guzman, Special Assistant Dennis Arpia and Tarlac Manager Marietta J. Ablaza. (JONATHAN D. YAZON, *correspondent*)

## Bulacan tops CL provinces in palay procurement

NFA Bulacan topped Central Luzon (CL) provinces this first quarter of 2013 in palay procurement.

Provincial Manager Serry M. Manalili reported that the office registered a total procurement of 271,484 bags or 45% accomplishment for this year's annual target, cropping season in Region III.

With the voluminous procurement transaction in the province, Mgr. Serry negotiated for the lease of additional three warehouses in the third district of Bulacan province – namely LIMSUI Warehouse at Bgy. Capihan, San Rafael, Bulacan; Sanvil Saver's Warehouse at Bgy. Binagbag, Angat town; and MayMay Warehouse at Bgy. Matimbubong, San Ildefonso, Bulacan.

This accomplishment is the result of a series of dialogues held before the onset of summer harvest with various farmers organizations, cooperatives, irrigators' associations and local government units and closed coordination with concerned government agencies with direct concern on palay production such as Department of

Agriculture and Department of Agrarian Reform.

Mgr. Manalili is personally attending these dialogues to make sure that all issues and concerns are properly addressed, and that first hand information can be gathered at the first level direct from the farmers.

Although the province of Bulacan is classified as trading province with high marketing competitions due to the presence of Intercity at Bocaue, Bulacan with hundreds of big millers and traders, NFA still managed to surpass its target because of timely deployment of personnel and opening of buying stations concentrating its resources to production areas where

NFA has a competitive advantage.

Aside from the several incentives (CDIF, delivery, drying) the untiring efforts and support of employees, heeding the call and leadership of Regional Director Amadeo "Boy" de Guzman, contributed to the attainment and even surpassing the branch procurement target.

Aside from the three additional warehouses, the province has four NFA-owned warehouses: Tikay GID Malolos, Balagtas GID, San Ildefonso GID, and Sta. Rita GID – San Miguel, Bulacan. (ED CAMUA, *correspondent*)

## NFA Tarlac attends assembly with DAR-Tarlac

As a result of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the National Food Authority (NFA) and the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), NFA Tarlac, headed by Provincial Manager Marietta Ablaza together with APM Agustina Acuña, met with Provincial Agrarian Offi-

cer (PARO) Emmanuel G. Aguinaldo and Municipal Agrarian Reform officers (MAROs) of DAR Tarlac at Diwa ng Tarlac.

PM Ablaza discussed NFA's responsibilities embodied in the MOA. PARO Aguinaldo discussed their role in the said agreement.

APM Acuña discussed the NFA programs for the information of the body. All issues and concerns were answered to the satisfaction of everybody. Before closing the program, NFA Tarlac management once again appealed for DAR's support to NFA's procurement program. (MIA KRISTEL Y. PINEDA, *correspondent*)

## NFA Mamburao holds Ugnayan with farmers of MAPSSA

The National Food Authority Mamburao branch headed by Manager Nestor C. Balina conducted a meeting with the farmers of Mamburao, Paluan, Sta. Cruz and Sablayan (MAPSSA) at Sablayan Sports Complex Multi Purpose Building last October 16, 2012.

The dialogue is in response to the instructions of Director Tomas Escarez of Region IV to all provincial managers to regularly meet NFA stakeholders. He stressed the importance of Ugnayan for the agency to reach the goal of the government towards food self-sufficiency. He personally came up to the occasion to show that the agency is determined to fulfill its mission and announced that more buying stations will be put up in strategic areas for easy access and delivery of their produce.

Attendees actively participated during the meeting and clarified matters on NFA's new procurement procedures. Issues and concerns were given immediate response during the meeting and the NFA management guaranteed farmers of



Heading to the Road Mapping and National Planning of the NFA and in support of the DA's Food Staples Sufficiency Program (FSSP), PM Gondelina U. Alda of NFA Laguna conducted a briefing on "NFA Palay Procurement Program" to some 55 employees of NFA San Pablo City. The lady executive emphasized the strong need to locally procure the palay harvests of farmers in Laguna to be self-sufficient and sustain its daily rice requirement. The "Summer Crop" harvests have started in March 2013 and procurement teams were deployed by the NFA to embark on massive palay procurement. (ANNABELL P. ONCINIAN, correspondent)

smooth procurement transactions.

After the exchange of ideas and suggestions on relevant issues, Director Escarez encouraged farmers to sell their produce to the NFA to take advantage of the

incentives being given by the government. NFA-Region IV is now on intensified procurement mode. (ARIEL A. LAVARRO, correspondent)



**i-RICE ADVOCACY.** Faculty and students of the Canossa College, San Pablo City visited NFA San Pablo City Provincial Office as part of their Career Awareness Celebration. NFA accommodated the group and briefed them on various NFA operations, also an opportunity to advocate Iron-Fortified Rice. (ANNABELL P.

**OUTSTANDING CHAPTER. GRECON** Provincial Manager Gondelina U. Alda poses with officials/members of Sta. Rosa City (LAGUNA) and NFA Laguna Staff displaying with pride the "Plaque of Appreciation" awarded to the Chapter as the "Outstanding Market Retailers Group." Manager Alda took the key of responsibilities from Mgr. Apolinario J. Buerano last Dec. 26, 2012. Also in the picture are GRECON National President James Magbanua, National Treasurer Annie Tobias, Region IV GRECON Director Elsa Alarva.



"NFA is not created to make income but to serve the people and to secure food for the people..."

This was the pronouncement of Administrator Orlan A. Calayag when Emilio Llacer, Masbate Grecon President, complained of low sales as their rice allocation consists of old stocks from Region I.

Administrator Calayag said that NFA is implementing First in First out Policy, hence, old palay stocks will be disposed first. Our mandate is to secure rice especially during times of calamity or emergency.

Last year, the Region had a difficulty in sustaining the needs of the people, that's why they accepted the augmentation stock from Region I.

NFA is not created to make income but to serve the people and to secure food for the people. That's why we are encouraging farmers to produce more rice to sustain our needs. Also, we are trying our best to develop the irrigation systems so that lands could be more productive.

## Administrator Calayag meets with GRECON



Administrator Orlan A. Calayag discusses a point. He is joined by Deputy Administrator Ludovico J. Jarina (left) and RM Alan B. Borja.

## Region 6

### Turn-Over Ceremony



RD Lozada was all smiles as he receives the symbolic key of responsibility from the beaming RD Reside.

Outgoing Regional Director Ruben J. Reside formally handed the symbolic key of responsibility to incoming Regional Director Javier P. Lozada, Jr. during a symbolic turn-over ceremony held at the NFA Iloilo Training Center recently.

Earlier, Capiz and Aklan had their turnover ceremonies. PM Gil B. Ibarra turned-over Capiz to OIC Erna Abello of Aklan to become the Acting Assistant Regional Director of Region 6. While OIC Abello entrusted Aklan to OIC Martina Lodero. Before her designation as the officer-in-charge of Aklan, OIC Lodero was the Senior Accounting Specialist of Tacloban.

Dir. Reside officially handed over the Office of the Asst. Regional Director to ARD Gil B. Ibarra. In his speech, ARD

Ibarra highlighted "sa puso, diwa, damdamin...tayo ay iisa...Let us disagree in order to agree," he said metaphorically.

In his message, Director Reside said that he predicted his stay in the region to only six months. With regard to his new assignment as the new head of HRMD, he is

both professionally and personally happy. In closing, he affirmed that the 365 pages of 2013 will be meaningful, spirit-filled, and fruitful.

On the other hand, Dir. Lozada said that he is happy to be back after five years since he is no stranger to Western Visayas having been assigned here for the fourth time. He said "we have endured so many crises and yet we are able to survive," which in turn inspired the employees.

The provincial executives were all in attendance along with their contingents to witness the turn-over ceremony. This was followed by a *despedida* for Dir. Reside with each province had a presentation and a token to give.

## NFA Iloilo continues i-Rice advocacy

The National Food Authority, spearheaded by Regional Licensing Officer (RLO) Antonio M. Mendoza and Provincial Licensing Officer (PLO) Merlyn M. Chua has served numerous farmers in Tubungan and its neighboring municipalities, namely: Leon and Igaras during the Caravan of Government Services. NFA has advocated the consumption of iron fortified rice (i-Rice) to the audience.

A total of 150 farmers from the three municipalities were given an orientation with regard to palay procurement and this was made possible through proper coordination with their respective Municipal Agricultural Officers.

For the agency's i-Rice Advocacy Campaign, it has distributed 50 kilograms of i-Rice to the municipality of Tubungan, 25 kilograms to Igaras and another

25 kilograms to Leon for a total of 100 kilograms iron fortified rice. The beneficiaries will be the pregnant women of the municipalities wherein one mother-to-be will be given a one-kilogram i-Rice. Additionally, more than 1,000 pieces of i-Rice fan boards were distributed as part of the campaign.

PLO Merlyn M. Chua conducted an orientation with regard to the services and programs of NFA while Cashmere G. Gemarino, advocated on the importance and benefits of consuming iron fortified rice. On the other hand, RLO Antonio M. Mendoza represented the agency in the Executives' Forum held at the Liga Hall of the municipality. His discussion was focused on NFA reforms, highlighting on the agency's procurement operations. **(CASHMERE GEMARINO, correspondent)**

NFA Iloilo has reached out to its clients through its participation in the “Government Express at the Mall” which is part of the month-long celebration of the 112th Philippine Civil Service Anniversary with the theme “Kawani, Ikaw ay Isang Lingkod Bayani.”

This one-stop shop of national government services is a four-day activity and was held at the activity center of SM City Iloilo.

NFA Iloilo employees took advantage of the activity to deliver frontline services like registration and licensing. Also, inquiries were entertained and information brochures were distributed to raise public awareness regarding the services being catered by the agency.

Besides NFA, thirty-three other government agencies took part in Government Express at the Mall. Every year, the National Food Authority – Iloilo actively participates in the said activity. (CASH-MERE GEMARINO, correspondent)



(From left to right) Thelma Turija, Dionisio Hubag & Merlyn Chua of the Iloilo Provincial Office extending frontline services during the “Government Express at the Mall”



**NFA PROVINCIAL MANAGER MEETS THE ROTARY CLUB.** NFA Neg. Occ. Provincial Manager Mari-anito B. Bejemino as a Guest Speaker at the Rotary Club of Bacolod South, RI District 3850 in one of their weekly meetings at L’Fisher Hotel in Bacolod City. He discussed the agency’s rice distribution and procurement programs, iron fortification law, and other support programs. (CYNTHIA LUZ F. CHUA, correspondent)



**NFA-DAR MEETING IN NEG. OCC.** Asst. Provincial Manager Jobe L. Chua is explaining the procurement programs of NFA to the officers of the Department of Agrarian Reform during a meeting held at the Pavillon Hotel in Bacolod City. Also discussed were the FOBB, FAIR, IIAD and the PAR-NFA MOA on procurement. (LAILA MAE SADIA, correspondent)



**MEETING WITH THE CITY/MUNICIPAL AGRICULTURISTS.** Errol F. Redil, PSQAO of NFA Neg. Occ. explains to the City and Municipal Agriculturists of the province the palay procurement program of the agency. The meeting was held at the Governor’s Hall of the Provincial Capitol. (LAILA MAE SADIA, correspondent)

## Sec. Alcala visits Cebu

Agriculture Secretary Proceso J. Alcala was in Cebu City for a two-day official visit in line with his campaign towards food self sufficiency program and sustainable agriculture.

The Secretary was welcomed by NFA Region VII Regional Director Atty. Efren Sabong and Cebu Provincial Manager Nestor Rey Alcosoba with other executives of DA line agencies in Cebu on his arrival at the Mactan Cebu International Airport (MCIA).

While in Cebu, Secretary Alcala witnessed the Technical Briefing on Urban Agriculture and Food Self Sufficiency Program (FSSP) and Agri-Pinoy Stakeholders' forum attended by farmers, fisherfolk, LGUs, and municipal agriculturists. The Secretary also visited the Cebu Federation of Dairy Cooperatives (CEPEDCO) Processing plant and Organic Ampalaya Techno Demo Farm in Consolacion City. Also part of the Secretary's official itinerary was a visit to Bgry. Can-asujan Dam in Carcar, south of Cebu City for the tilapia fingerling



DA Secretary Proceso J. Alcala (left) with NFA Regional Director Atty. Efren Sabong and Cebu Provincial Manager Nestor Rey Alcosoba upon Sec. Alcala's arrival at the Mactan Cebu International Airport. (LUCY ROSALES, correspondent)

stocking before heading to attend another stakeholders' forum at Colawin National

High School, Colawin, Argao. (LUCY ROSALES, correspondent)

## NFA Negros actively procures palay for CY 2013

NFA-Negros Oriental procures 26 bags of palay last January 22, 2013 and 25 bags last January 28, 2013 from a group of farmers headed by Mr. Roberto Bustamante of Barangay Trinidad, Guihulngan, Negros Oriental.

The first and second batches of palay were delivered by Mr. Bustamante to GID II Warehouse/Buying Station headed by Warehouse Supervisor Luwalhati S. Campoy in Guihulngan, Negros Oriental. Barangay Trinidad is a far-flung barangay which is 32 kilometers away from GID II Warehouse.

The procured palay were classified by the Provincial Standard Quality Assurance Officer (PSQAO), Ms. Maria Odessa G. Mercado. According to PSQAO Mercado, the 26 bags palay with a net kilogram of 924.88 were classified as (Palay Dried) PD3. It has a 13.2% Moisture Content and 95% Purity. While the 25 bags (Palay Dried) PD1 with a net kilogram of 991.00 has a 13.5% Moisture Content and 94% purity.

As per records from the Provincial Economist/Acting Provincial Operation Officer (POO), Ms. Cheryl Marie V. Echiverri, the actual bags of palay procured last year reached 344 bags with an accomplishment of 172% as against 200 bags target. This is due to the efforts and initiative exerted by the NFA-Negros Oriental Procurement Team headed by the Provincial Manager, Dr. Carlos S. Cortes. For this

year, procurement target reached 500 bags which would mean more challenges and efforts for NFA-Negros Oriental.

The massive procurement of palay was the marching order by NFA's new administrator, Mr. Orlan Agbin Calayag in order to serve more farmers especially in far-flung areas.

The massive procurement of palay is an action geared towards Rice Self-Sufficiency and in one with the policy

statement of President Benigno Simeon C. Aquino, III in his second State of the Nation Address (SONA) that goes:

"Ang gusto nating mangyari  
- Una hindi na tayo aangkat ng hindi kailangan  
- Ikalawa, ayaw nating umasa sa pag-aangkat  
- Ang isaing ni Juan dela Cruz, dito ipunla, dito aanihin, dito bibilhin..."  
(EMILY L. DIPUTADO, correspondent)



**PROCUREMENT STRATEGIES.** PM Maria Fe H. Evasco meets with Mr. Larry M. Pamugas, OIC-Office of the Provincial Agriculturist and Chairman of BOFAMCO, during a special meeting held at the NFA Manager's Office. The meeting was held to discuss strategies to address farmers' concerns on palay prices vis-a-vis their immediate need for cash. PM Evasco requested OIC Pamugas to tap the Municipal Agriculture Officers (MAOs) in the information dissemination of NFA's palay buying activities as well as the incentives which the Agency grants to farmers and farmer cooperatives who sell their palay to NFA. PM Evasco said that NFA will be conducting mobile procurement to serve small farmers during the harvest season. (JHOEL J. LIM, correspondent)

## Adm. Calayag receives warm welcome in Cebu

Across the Country 17

NFA R7 Regional Director Efren Sabong, together with Asst. Regional Director Rolando Maravilla, provincial managers and employees, gave a warm welcome to NFA Administrator Orlan Calayag during his first visit in Cebu last February 14.

He was accompanied by his personal assistant, Dennis Arpia and Deputy Administrator Ludovico Jarina. His visit was in line with the Visayas-Mindanao Information Officers' Conference which was held at the NFA Cebu Training Center last February 13-14 wherein Adm. Calayag was the special guest of honor. Adm. Calayag and party flew to Cebu after attending the 1st quarter Manager's League meeting previously held in Davao City.

The Administrator was very happy to see all smiles and excitement on the faces of executives and employees upon his arrival at the NFA office. The affable and courteous young administrator and party didn't fail to delight the employees as they gamely accommodated the request of the employees for a souvenir photo before proceeding to the training center to deliver his keynote speech before information officers.

After meeting the information officers, NFA executives, led by Direc-



Administrator Orlan A. Calayag with NFA Cebu employees.

tor Efren Sabong toured the visiting officials to NFA warehouses located in Cebu North Reclamation area for a warehouse inspection then a dialogue with the Cebu employees was conducted at the regional office and briefing with the provincial managers took place at the Asst. Regional Director's office.

Although the administrator's visit in Cebu was brief and hectic, he still spent time to interact with the employees with no weariness on his face. He expressed deep gratitude for the warm welcome accorded to him by the executives and employees. (LUCY ROSALES, correspondent)

## Region 8

### NFA-8 turns over MLGC cum trading post to LGU Calubian, Leyte

After many years of expectant waiting, NFA-8 finally turned over the Municipal Level Grains Center (MLGC) cum Trading Post to the Municipality of Calubian, Leyte.

The turn-over ceremony started with a short program hosted by the Local Government Unit of Calubian, Leyte under the stewardship of Mayor Doroteo N. Palconit. Gracing the affair were NFA-8 Officer-In-Charge Vilma H. Zarraga, NFA Biliran Provincial Manager Mario A. Cayanong, RISO Clinia C. Eusores and other NFA employees.

In his welcome address, Sangguniang Bayan (SB) member Mr. Gilbert Ponce, emphasized that the LGU is indeed very thankful that the turnover finally materialized after years of waiting.

The auspicious event was highlighted by the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) by RD Zarraga and Mayor Palconit.

In her short but meaningful message, RD Zarraga congratulated the LGU for being the recipient of the facility, a



Asst. Regl. Manager Bernardo M. Asetre with Regl. Information Officer Mary Agnes R. Militante pay a courtesy call on Leyte Provincial Governor Mimiette Bagulaya. A follow-up on the important matter of requesting the provincial government to donate the lot where NFA Regional and Northern Leyte Provl. Offices now occupy was discussed in earnest. (MARY AGNES R. MILITANTE, correspondent)

functional legacy of NFA. She advised the LGU to improve the building for other noteworthy purposes. She said that the MLGC can also be used as a distribution center. Further, she encouraged the accredited grains retailers to activate their associations, utilizing the MLGC as venue for their meetings. Director Zarraga enjoined everyone to support NFA's procurement program, as well.

After a snappy salute to RD Zar-

raga, the Honorable Mayor lauded the efforts of the Agency and expressed his gratitude for choosing the Municipality of Calubian as the beneficiary of the project. Mayor Palconit remarked further that the municipality is now richer by seven (7) million pesos in assets because of the MLGC building. He asked the cooperation of those present especially the teachers to maintain its cleanliness.

In support to the NFA's pro-

## 18 Across the Country

curement program, the Honorable Mayor announced that he will personally make a position paper to the concerned agency not to convert agricultural properties into residential, commercial or industrial land which would minimize the potential areas for rice productivity. **(ELVIRA DE LA CRUZ, correspondent)**



**WINNER.** Recorded as first in the history of NFA Region 8, the office won 3rd runner-up for the Most Decorated and Lighted Government Agency from the Palo Christmas Festival Foundation, Inc. RD Vilma H. Zarraga and Asst. Regl. Manager Bernardo M. Asetre proudly show the Plaque of Appreciation and trophy plus a cash prize of five thousand pesos. **(MARY AGNES R. MILITANTE, correspondent)**

**TRAINING.** Participants to the Classifier's Pool Training trooped to the NFA Alangalang GID Warehouse to witness actual warehouse operations. **(MARY AGNES R. MILITANTE, correspondent)**

### IO Seminar... from P. 8

on News and Feature Writing, Photojournalism, Design and lay-out, and Audio Visual Presentation. Ms. Gado explained the mechanics in the preparation of the communication plan while Dir Rex encouraged the participants to read the Protocol Manual and refer to page 4 on the preparation of the communication plan. Each region grouped themselves to prepare the plan. Because of the limited time, Dir. Rex advised them to submit the communication plan via email.

The group had photo sessions with NFA officials followed by a city tour.

*APM Guadelyn Esparancilla turns over the symbolic key of responsibility to incoming Northern Leyte Provincial Manager Isagani Nicandro. (MARY AGNES R. MILITANTE, correspondent)*



*Outgoing Southern Leyte Provl. Manager Isagani Nicandro hands over the symbolic key of responsibility to incoming Provl. Manager Zaldy Z. Tan. Being a first-timer, Manager Tan hopes to equal or even surpass the accomplishments of his predecessor with the cooperation of all NFA So. Leyte employees. (MARY AGNES R. MILITANTE, correspondent)*



## WE ARE EATING WAY TOO MUCH RICE

On average, we eat around 4 ½ cups of rice a day when at most 3 cups is enough.

*Source: Department of Agriculture*

## Intensified & continuous palay procurement advocacy

Through the leadership of Regional Director Dianne A. Silva, region 9 is now implementing intensified and continuous advocacy on palay procurement following the “No Importation Policy.” Said office has been coordinating and communicating with the Department of Agriculture (DA) and concerned DA attached agencies that have contact with palay farmers like the National Irrigation Administration

(NIA), Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS), Philippine Rice Research Institute (Philrice), Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), MRDP, also with Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and Local Government Units (LGUs) with their provincial agriculturists and municipal officers, asking said offices to help campaign for farmers to deliver their produce to NFA.

The lady director said in an in-

terview that NFA has also requested line agencies for NFA's participation in their scheduled meetings with farmers and in case said agencies have collectibles from farmers wherein payment in kind (PIK) scheme is possible, arrange that PIK-Palay be absorbed by NFA.

She also said that meetings with Regional/Provincial Farmers Action Council (RFAC/PFAC) and Regional/Provincial Agricultural & Fisheries Council (RAFC/PAFC) and with Grains Retailers Confederation (GRECON) are lined in order to ask for assistance in campaigning for palay procurement from their organization.

Silva also stated that she asked the provincial managers to commit themselves in the attainment of their respective palay procurement targets in the achievement of NFA's nationwide goal, for Philippines to be a food self-sufficient country. (**ANGELICA M. PELLIN**, *correspondent*)

## Back-to-back turnover



A turnover of regional executives took place in Region IX, Zamboanga City last December 18, 2012. By virtue of Special Order No. AO-2K12-12-002, dated December 5, 2012, Acting Regional Director Dianne A. Silva replaced Regional Director Halil A. Lucman who retired from government service effective December 18, 2012. Likewise, Acting Assistant Regional Manager John Robert R. Hermano replaced Assistant Director Rey A. Salvatierra, who was reassigned in Digos, Davao del Sur in Region XI.

Prior to her assignment as Acting Regional Director of Region 9, Dir. Dianne A. Silva was Assistant Regional Director of NFA Region XI. Dir. Silva is well known in the NFA Community to be a very strong advocate of Good Warehouse Keeping and Sanitation and of Gender and Development.

In her message during the turnover ceremony, Director Silva said that she will look into the areas where NFA can possibly improve its services to the people of Region IX. She asked the support of Region 9 employees to realize the plans and programs of the agency in the region, most especially on palay procurement.

**UPPER PHOTO:** *Former RD Halil Lucman while turning over the key of responsibility as Regional Director of Region 9 to Acting Director Dianne A. Silva.*



**LOWER PHOTO:** *ARD Rey A. Salvatierra turns over the key of responsibility as Assistant ARD of Region 9 to Acting ARD John Robert R. Hermano.*

On the other hand, before his assignment to Region 9, ARD John Robert R. Hermano was the Provincial Manager of Misamis Oriental/Cagayan de Oro City. He was also previously assigned as Provincial Manager of NFA Zamboanga City way back 2008-2009.

Both RD Dianne A. Silva and ARD John Robert R. Hermano are graduates of the first batch “Kabsat Batch” of the NFA Management Training Program (MTP) last July 2003. They both belong to the Top 10 Outstanding Graduates of that batch with Director Dianne Silva garnering the “Gawad Mumbaki” Leadership Award. (**ANGELICA M. PELLIN**, *correspondent*)

## WE ARE WASTING WAY TOO MUCH RICE

Every Filipino wastes about 2 tablespoons of cooked rice

- In 2010, our wasted rice was equivalent to 13% of the total rice imports of the same year
- That is equivalent to PhP6.2B or the consumption of nearly 2.6M Filipinos a year

*Source: Department of Agriculture*

## NFA Region 10 heightens palay procurement

The National Food Authority has announced the all-out palay procurement operations this harvest season in order to lift farm prices and boost government buffer stocks. The NFA buys palay at P17.00 per kilogram (clean and dry).

Among the measures adopted by NFA are: the simplified requirements

in the issuance of farmers' passbook and given free of charge; increase in the delivery incentive up to P0.50 per kg or P25.00 per bag depending on the distance from the source of palay to NFA buying station; the acceptance of wet palay of farmers; and the loosening of quality requirements. Other internal modification are: increase in

quantity for initial delivery of walk-in farmers up to 200 bags; the increase of the cash portion of payment up to P300,000.00 and the excess made out in checks.

Buying stations are located in all NFA warehouses. Farmers' organizations may also coordinate with the NFA Provincial Offices for schedule of deliveries and pick-up points. **(MA. CELESTE R. GAA-BUCAYAN, correspondent)**

## Camiguin intensifies campaign on National Year of Rice

The province of Camiguin has intensified its advocacy campaign in support of the government's Food Staples Sufficiency Program (FSSP) during the launching of the National Year of Rice (NYR) 2013 on March 7 spearheaded by the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Unit 10 (DA-RFU 10) with the theme "Igo nga Bugas, Kaya sa Pinas" held at Camiguin Convention Center, Mambajao, Camiguin.

Governor Jurdin Jesus M. Romualdo stressed the importance of rice self-sufficiency primarily in Camiguin being an island province and a tourist destination. Camiguin has high tourism potential especially if it has rice surpluses. He also promoted the i-Rice (Iron Fortified Rice) for better health of consumers.

OIC-Provincial Manager Dr. Rafael V. Marasigan discussed NFA's role in FSSP which is to intensify farmer procurement of up to 615,985 MT of rice nationwide with target zero importation this year.

NFA will buy palay from the farmer-producers at P17.00 per kg giving additional incentives of P0.20/kilogram drying fee, P0.20/kilogram delivery fee and additional P0.30/kilogram cooperative development incentive fee for farmer groups.

Gov. Romualdo commended NFA Camiguin for having buffer stocks in its warehouses symbolizing the agency's commitment to food security and self-sufficiency.

Meanwhile, the local government unit of Mambajao thru its Municipal Agriculture Office committed to support the DA's self-sufficiency program through the rehabilitation of 82 meters of communal irrigation; construction of line pigment in Sitio Lumad; Vermin composting facility to augment crop production currently utilized in Barangay Anito; distribution of community sacks to farmers of 8 barangays for their post-harvest activities; 27 farmers recipient of rice seed bank in Sitio Lakas; and intensified promotion of upland rice

farming.

Senior Rice Specialist/Project Manager of Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) Mario S. Ramos inspired farmers to produce more as he discussed Science and Technology updates regarding varieties, crop management, machineries and efficient rice technologies.

2013 was declared National Year of Rice under Presidential Proclamation No. 494 signed by President Benigno S. Aquino III on October 18, 2012.

NYR is an information campaign which encourages farmers/producers, policy-makers and consumers to work hand in hand to achieve government's goal of self-sufficiency.

"Panaad sa Pagdaginot sa Humay" (Pledge of Rice), was recited by everybody led by PhilRice Senior Rice Specialist Mario Ramos as consumers' pledge to reduce food wastage and achieve rice self-sufficiency. **(MARY ROSMIL N. REALISTA, correspondent)**



Provincial governor Jurdin Jesus M. Romualdo (3rd from left) leads the unveiling of the National Year of Rice 2013 logo during the NYR launching in Camiguin Province. Joining him are (from left) Provincial Agricultural officer Engr. Renero G. Torion; NFA OIC Provincial Manager Dr. Rafael V. Marasigan; Philippine Crop Insurance Covergae (PCIC) Regional Manager Atty. Rosa M. Galitao; Senior Rice Specialist/Project Manager of Philippine Rice Research Institute Mario R. Ramos; and Mambajao Municipal Councilor Rodolfo D. Salcedo. **(MARY ROSMIL N. REALISTA, correspondent)**

## NFA-Comval's Quick Response to Super Typhoon "Pablo"

Immediately after super typhoon "Pablo" left the ravaged province of Compostela Valley, NFA-ComVal staff, led by Provincial Manager Virgilio B. Alerta, braved their way to rescue the flooded and damaged 100,000 bags capacity GID warehouse located in the municipality of Compostela, one of the hardest-hit municipalities of ComVal Province, and just adjacent to the municipality of New Bataan which bore the highest number of casualties caused by super typhoon "Pablo". While conducting the rescue and salvage effort to its own warehouse, NFA-ComVal staff also

attended to the immediate needs of the local government unit of Compostela for rice stocks intended for relief operations to its affected populace. Immediately after the typhoon, the office resumed its services and started to release rice stocks through credit sales to municipalities with outstanding MOA on Rice Credit Sales with the National Food Authority which entitles LGUs to withdraw NFA rice in times of calamities 24/7.

To date, a total of 4,006 bags of government rice were released to local government units, leg-

islators and the various private sectors giving relief goods. Cognizant of the dire need of the victims for an immediate source of the staple food, NFA-XI Regional Manager Edgar S. Bentulan ordered the immediate transfer of 10,000 bags of iron-fortified rice coming from NFA Davao City to augment the affected rice stocks inventory of NFA ComVal while undergoing recovery and salvage operation.

Quick response activity of NFA ComVal involves automatic activation of the Operation Center on 24/7 basis, close monitoring of the prices of the staple, particularly those within the hard-hit zones, coordination with other government agencies especially on security measures, ensuring the food/buffer stocks inventory, and immediate deployment of rolling stores.

Presently, NFA ComVal is doing a vital role in the relief operation of both local and international initiatives by providing readily available source of the good quality, iron fortified government rice to sustain the on-going relief and rehabilitation operation. (ALEXES A. SOTTO, *correspondent*)

## New NFA palay buying schemes hailed by farmers

In what could have been a direct contrast to the National Food Authority's palay procurement schemes in previous years, rice farmers in Davao del Norte met the new food agency's palay buying approaches with a big surprise or almost in total disbelief.

It may be recalled that in previous years, the palay buying schemes of NFA were taken by local farmers with deep skepticism which made them shy away from delivering their produce to the Agency. But since last year, the palay buying policies of NFA have been drastically changed to make it more "farmer-friendly", such that the concerns or the nitty-gritty faced by farmers in selling their produce

are now fully accommodated and personally attended to by its various procurement teams deployed in different parts of Davao del Norte.

This year's summer crop season has put NFA's major reforms on its palay procurement policies to an acid test, since it went as far as the Agency buying wet-soaked palay, hauling the produce even at small quantities, leasing of private truck-haulers to increase its hauling capability and pay in cash right at the farmers' doorstep.

The change in schemes employed by NFA in buying the palay of farmers was very much welcomed and hailed by farmers in Davao del Norte. In fact, one farmer in Brgy. New Cortez in New Corella and who is also a member of the New Cortez Farmers' Irrigators Association has this testimony; "mas labing maayo kay moanhi na diay kamo sa among basakan aron sa pagkuha sa among abot, ug mas mahal pa ang inyong palit kumpara sa mga traders. Dugang pa niana, mobayad na diay kamog cash dili pareha kiniadto nga tseke ang inyong ihatag

sa amo-a. Dako kining ikatabang sa amo-a." (It's good that NFA is now coming right to our farm and willing to haul our produce and pay even at a higher price compared to private traders. Moreover, our palay deliveries are now paid in cash, not like before where the payment is made in cheque. It is a big help to farmers, like us.)

Another testimony was taken from Mr. Antonio M. Lonzaga of Tagum City, who is also a Farmer-Leader of NIA-Saug Employees and Irrigators Multi-Purpose Cooperative. He says that, "NFA plays a big role in their rice farming for buying their produce at a price higher than the traders who at present are buying palay at low price. He added by saying, "maayo gani kay naa ang NFA nga mopalit pa sa among

**TURN TO NEXT PAGE...**



**FARMER-FRIENDLY APPROACH.** Engr. Senen T. Carcosia, GOO-III/Classifier of NFA-Davao del Norte, randomly classifies the bags of palay piled along the farm roads in bgy. San Isidro, Carmen, Davao del Norte, as the aggressive and massive palay procurement sets in during this year's summer crop season in Davao del Norte.



**MOBILE PROCUREMENT SUPPORT TEAM.** Contracted laborers of NFA-Davao Del Norte carry the procured bags of palay directly from the farmer's farmsite in Bgy. San Isidro, Carmen, Davao del Norte in this year's summer crop season.

## New buying scheme... from P. 21

humay nga mahal ang presyo sa niani nga panahon.” (It is good that NFA is here to readily buy our produce at a much higher price this time). The statement of Mr. Lonzaga was made when he delivered his palay to NFA Warehouse in Tagum City, Davao del Norte.

It was observed that this summer crop season, farmers in Davao del Norte are facing difficulty in disposing their produce, particularly if their palay or paddy are wet or “thresher-fresh” because private traders buy this type of palay at a price between P13.00 to P13.50 per kilo only, while NFA buys the same at P14.00 to P15.00 per kilo, exclusive of total buying incen-

tives amounting to P0.70 per kilo. Farmers are complaining that they are shortchanged when traders buy their palay because of the automatic weight deduction, also locally known as, “resekada”, which ranges from two to eight kg per bag.

The new NFA procurement schemes have yielded a record-breaking performance for NFA-Davao del Norte, since the total volume of palay bought for this year’s summer crop which totaled to over 40,000 bags was the highest for over 20 years taking the same cropping season.

Meanwhile, NFA-Davao del Norte Provincial Manager Antonio C. Arañas stressed that, “in order for the Agency to be able to buy more palay from farmers,

it should do what the private rice traders are doing. Otherwise, the Agency will not be able to attain its objective of building-up rice buffer stocks for the food security requirement needed, in case of any calamity or emergency that may hit our Province. The marching orders of the Department of Agriculture to create rice buffer stocks through massive and intensified local palay procurement is in sync with the national government’s over-all program-thrust which is to cut rice importation and attain rice self-sufficiency. And, this can only be done through this innovative brand of service to our farmers and the new procurement schemes in place which are now the working policy directions of the present NFA administration”, Manager Arañas concluded. **(JEFFERSON D. CALIAO, correspondent)**

## Region 12

### Region 12 is reaping the efforts of “ugnayan”

The efforts of the various Ugnayan activities conducted last year by the employees of Region 12 have paid-off. In line with the motto of Sec. Proceso J. Alcala “Bridging the Gap, Touching the Heart and Deliver Results”, Region 12 wins back the hearts of the farmers by showing concern/ compassion especially in the presentation of the Enhanced Procurement Policies with relaxed/simplified requirements and as well as other related

programs. Small/individual farmers are now delivering their produce to the NFA buying stations, hence, achieving the 100% palay procurement targets. Acting Regional Director Raul B. Chong thanked the employees and encouraged them to continue what they have started by conducting continuous and pro-active **ugnayan** to be able to attain our goal in support to the Food Staples Rice Sufficiency Program (FSSP). **(MARISSA NUÑEZ, correspondent)**



**PFAC-SKT OFFICERS.** The Provincial Farmers Action Center (PFAC) of Sultan Kudarat in Region 12 conducted election of the new set of PFAC officers for the year 2012-2013 held at the Farmers Training Center in NFA Isulan, Sultan Kudarat. Elected officers are the following: Joseph Ortiz, chairman; Nonito Legayada, vice chairman; Ana Mary Odiaman, secretary; Lerma Chlva, treasurer; Rodolfo Atadero, auditor; and Norodin Noling as PIO. **(MARISSA O NUÑEZ, correspondent)**

### NFA Sultan Kudarat hosts Remancom meeting

NFA Region XII held recently its two-day Remancom Meeting held at the Farmers’ Training Center (FTC) at the Provincial Office in Dansuli, Isulan and at the Sanguniang Bayan Hall of the Municipality of Columbio, respectively.

Outputs from the National Planning Conference held in NFA General Santos City were presented by Regional Economist Teresa Herrera, ARD Pangalian B. Busran and RD Crestituto C. Mangaoang *(Mangaoang retired last December 2012 - ed).*

Dir. Mangaoang stressed that it is high time that NFA be brought closer to the hearts of the stakeholders, particularly the palay farmers. Of the three municipalities with high palay deliveries this season due to series of Ugnayans, Columbio was chosen as the venue of the 2nd Remancom Meeting because the palay farmers in this municipality had delivered 13,253 bags of dried palay amounting to PhP11.6 M which is a big infusion to the economy of the municipality. The Municipal Level Grains Center (MLGC) serves as the buying station of NFA. With this purchase it has greatly contributed to the volume of this year’s procurement.

The highlight of the Remancom Meeting was the awarding by Dir. Mangaoang of the certificates of appreciation to Mayor Amirh M. Musali as host for the use of the Sanguniang Bayan hall as venue of the Remancom and to Municipal Agriculturist Hector D. Nido for being instrumental in encouraging the palay farmers to deliver their produce to NFA. Likewise, certificates of appreciation were also presented to FO’s such as the Alip-Lumaga CIA, Christian Fellowship Farmers Association (CFFA) and the top eight individual farmers.

“Instead of giving the inspirational message, it is the other way around. I am the one who is inspired by the gesture of Dir. Mangaoang for holding the 1st Remancom Meeting in the Province of Sultan Kudarat in a remote Municipality of Columbio. Rest assured of my full support to the NFA Programs,” Mayor Musali said. Columbio is 55 kilometers away from the provincial office of Sultan Kudarat at Bgy. Dansuli, Isulan.

After the Remancom meeting, the members proceeded to the MLGC warehouse for a tree planting activity as part of the NFA environment and eco-friendly agency **(MARISSA NUÑEZ, correspondent)**

## NFA South Cotabato launches test milling

Across the Country 23

The National Food Authority (NFA) South Cotabato provincial office has conducted test milling of palay as pre-requisite for regular milling to augment food security reserve in anticipation of the lean months season when a production is nil and demand for rice is high. However, in the interest of the agency on its direct intervention program through rice distribu-

tion we will stick out on its policy by means of calibrated distribution to give importance to the private grains sector to be more responsible in their function as rice distributor in the major market.

Officer-In Charge Provincial Manager Guialudin D. Usman, invited three private rice millers of which Mr. Ruel Espinosa the Provincial President of South

Cotabato Millers Association participated in the test milling to fast tract the process. In line with this, our agency created Provincial Test Milling Committee and composed of the following:

**Team Leader:**

PASQOA Edgar F. Fuentebella

**Milling Supervisor:**

GOO II Yoy B. Segafa

**Accounting Representative:**

Accountant II Von D. Baustista, CPA/or Accounts Analyst Rosie B. Baito

**Operations Representative:**

GOO I Ma. Evelyn L. Vermon

**COA Representative as Observer:**

Ivy A. Fuentebella



South Cotabato Gov. ARTHUR Y. PINGOY (3rd from left) and NFA 12 Dir. Raul D. Chong (3rd from right) together with the Provincial Agricultural Officer of South Cotabato Reynaldo Legaste (1st from right) and Former Governor of South Cotabato Gov. Ismael Sueno (2nd from right) join OIC-PM Guialudin D. Usman, MBA (2nd from right) and SGOO/Acting PIO Luisito N. Mangayayam participated the launching of NYR 2013 held at DA demo Farm, Municipality of Tupi South Cotabato.



COURTESY CALL. Dir. Raul B. Chong, ARD Pangalilan B. Busran and Mgr Fernando S. Nuñez paid a courtesy visit to Gov. Suharto T. Mangudadatu on the agency's accomplishment and presented NFA's marketing and other related programs. (MARISSA O. NUÑEZ, correspondent)

**TURN-OVER.** NFA Region 12 ended the year 2012 with the coming in of the new Regional Manager in the person of Raul B. Chong replacing Dir. Crestituto C. Mangaoang in his compulsory retirement. The turn-over ceremony was held last December 7, 2012 after the tribute given to the retiree Dir. Mangoang at The Farme in Koronadal City. (MARISSA O. NUÑEZ, correspondent)



## NFA Administrator Calayag visits SDO

New NFA Administrator Orlan A. Calayag made a surprise visit at NFA-South District Office in Uniden Compound in Taguig City last February 06, 2013 at around 11:00 in the morning.

Adm. Calayag the 13th Administrator of the National Food Authority, a businessman from Dolores Quezon, assumed responsibility effective January 21, 2013.

SDO Provincial Manager Jaime Hadlocon together with NFA-NCR Regional Director Joseph Dela Cruz toured Administrator Calayag around South District Office premises and in Uniden Warehouses A & B. Director Dela Cruz informed the Administrator on the Uniden Warehouse's transactions, particularly the fortificant mixing operations using the Two-Stand Alone Rice Fortification Equipment (RFE) situated in the warehouse.

The young Administrator stayed for a midday meal and gamely posed for a souvenir photo with South District employees. (MIRAQUEL D. HERNANDEZ, correspondent)



NFA Administrator Orlan A. Calayag with NFA-SDO Mgr. Jaime Hadlocon during the former's surprise visit at the South District Office in Uniden Compound in Taguig City last February 6, 2013. Beside Mgr. Hadlocon is SDO Asst. Provincial Manager Jojo Muncada. (MIRAQUEL D. HERNANDEZ, correspondent)

## 8,361 bags of NFA rice released for relief operations

Fulfilling its mandate on Food Security and Quick Response at times of calamities, the National Food Authority (NFA) National Capital Region (NFA-NCR) issued a total of 8,361 bags of rice to government and private relief agencies and offices for flood victims caused by heavy Southwest Monsoon (Habagat) Rains.

Rice issued by NFA to the relief agencies were repacked and distributed to various evacuation centers.

Breakdown of rice releases to relief agencies are as follows:

| AGENCIES/OFFICES | TOTAL RICE RELEASES (in bags) |
|------------------|-------------------------------|
| DSWD             | 5,551                         |
| LGUs             | 2,150                         |
| RED CROSS        | 40                            |
| PCSO             | 400                           |
| PRIVATE OFFICES  | 220                           |
| -----            | -----                         |
| TOTAL            | 8,361                         |

The rice issuance to relief agencies and offices is part of NFA-NCR's quick response to ensure availability of the staple in times of emergencies and calamities. (CAROLINA B. MANZANO, correspondent)

## ARD Alvarez turns over key of responsibility to OIC Pagayunan



Outgoing PM Mar Alvarez (left) turns over the symbolic key of responsibility to incoming OIC of NCR-Central District Office Engr. Lemuel Pagayunan last January 9 at the J. Dela Cruz Hall as NCR Director Joseph Y. Dela Cruz and ARD Celedonio Mendoza look on. PM Alvarez is promoted as Acting Asst. Regional Director of CARADA in Northern Mindanao. (MELISSA JOY BALUYOT, correspondent)

It's been 5 years and roughly 5 months ago when PM Mar Alvarez formally took his seat as mentor of the Central District Office of the National Capital Region. Operation of the district wasn't new to him since he was already assigned to other NCR district offices prior to holding the CDO's steering wheel. During his stint, he commandeered the district to become one of the most productive district offices in NCR through his proactive leadership. Especially so during difficult times, turmoil along the way were hurdled through his above par leadership with the help of his reliable and a trustworthy work force.

PM Alvarez left the district to assume the responsibility of Assistant Regional Director of CARAGA. In his farewell message, he recounted memorable experiences. During the 2008 rice crisis, he narrated how he and his dependable staff attended to solve the problem of long queues of rice buyers along Commonwealth Avenue. For that, he thanked each employee for their dedication, cooperation and endless support. He also mentioned how thankful he was for the special attention extended to him by the NCR-CDO family during his days of sickness.

On the other hand, Engr. Paga-

# In God's Hand...

By Melissa Joy Baluyot

It was not an ordinary "Thank GOD It's Friday" for us CDO employees while traversing the Marcos Highway bound for our Annual Team Building at NFA Loakan, Baguio City on March 01, 2013.

Everyone was excited when we left the NCR compound at 12:00 noon. Giggles and laughter filled the bus as each one of us has a funny story to share while some cracked jokes to keep the long journey alive.

We were proceeding to the North with ease but when we have reached the mountainous terrain of Cordillera, our bus experienced difficulty ascending the Marcos Highway. The fuel

filter gets clogged causing the bus to slowly creep up the highway. The average travel time from Manila to Baguio would only take 6 hours but not for us, it took us almost 10 hours to reach our destination.

The excitement shifted to fear. Everybody was alarmed considering that a vehicular accident involving a tourist bus happened a few weeks back. We realized what we had experienced was a test of our faith. Just like when Jesus was brought by the devil on a high mountain and was put into the same test of faith. Promised to have all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour, if only He would bow down and worship Satan. But like Jesus, we keep our faith high and entrusted everything to the Lord.

The group did not lose faith, instead of panicking we prayed as one. We arrived at NFA Loakan safely. Indeed, the power of prayer was witnessed as we survived the nerve-breaking trip.

Still in awe with the experience, the team building pushed through. Together we toured the City on Saturday

at the same time but of the chance to re-live our childhood memories as we rode the rowboats in the lagoon. When everyone was already exhausted, the team decided to return to barracks and spent the rest of the afternoon relaxing and preparing for the recollection in the evening.

Our recollection started at 6:30 pm. Fr. Kenneth Onda of Casiciaco Recoletos prepared multimedia presentation on the pains and sufferings of Jesus Christ for us to reflect on. He discussed Why God allows us to undergo Pain and Suffering. Pain and Suffering are the results of our choice and decision. It is God's way of testing our faith, disciplining us and teaching us to be humble at all times. God loves us that He permits these to happen in our lives, but He gave us free will to choose between resisting and giving in.

A short film was presented entitled "Sa Kambas ng Lipunan". It is a story of a painting which depicts the Last Supper of Jesus not with the 12 disciples but with the 12 children in poverty. Each child has a "depressing" story of his own. At a very young age, these children

already suffered social crisis. The painter tries to convey the true picture of the society as we see all these kinds of situation everywhere but we simply deny to ourselves that they exist and get us blinded by the reality.

An eye opener for all of us, realizing how lucky and blessed we are living comfortably and yet we are not contented because at the back of our minds we wanted more. Somehow it made us feel guilty of wasting food or having more than what is enough, while others have nothing to eat. The session ended with all of us enlightened and relieved of our "baggage".

The third part of the

program was the much awaited Solidarity Night. The night was filled with chanting as everyone willingly indulged in the "Videoke Session". Challenged by Mgr. Pagayunan's P100.00 reward for every perfect score, each one of us presented as if it was our greatest performance ever. With an empty pocket, Mgr. Pagayunan addressed his call for unity and cooperation in his closing message. We concluded our program with the community singing of "If we hold on together". By being one, we can achieve our goal.



Manager Pagayunan with CDO employees in Baguio.

yanan expressed his delight that he will be working with the "best" district of NCR and hoped that his task to lead the CDO will be strolled a long, long way unlike his 3-month stint at EDO.

The J. Dela Cruz hall of the NCR was filled with mixed emotions. Employees were saddened that an exceptionally good man will leave them, but on the other hand they were excited that an extraordinary man will lead them. (MELISSA JOY BALUYOT, correspondent)

morning. The group visited some popular attractions of the city. First stop: Fort del Pilar, the home of the Philippine Military Academy where the group amazingly watched the "PASA MASID" honouring a high ranking official of the AFP. Next route: The Mansion, Wright Park, Mines View Park, Good Shepherd Convent, Our Lady of Atonement Cathedral, Session Road and the Burnham Park.

It is in the latter that we enjoyed so much, not because of the "Kapamilya Caravan" program being held

## NFA-ARMM holds quality assurance officers' & milling supervisors' training on grains classification



Participants to the QAO & milling supervisor's pool training pose for a souvenir photo.

NFA Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao conducted Training on Grains Classification to Quality Assurance Personnel and Milling Supervisors at the Regional Conference Room, Co tabato City last January 09, 10 and 11, 2013.

The said training headed by RSQAO Arnel S. Adriano, was participated in by employees from the provinces of Tawi-tawi, Sulu, Basilan, Lanao Sur, Maguindanao and from the Regional Office. RSQAO Adriano also tapped some Regional Staff as facilitator or resource speaker on different topics, namely ROO Bonifacio Antiquisa on Grains Procurement Policies and Procedures and Grain Anatomy, Regional Engineer Gifaril Cabalquinto on Grain Drying Principles and Milling Principles, Lanao Sur PSQAO

Elma Quilang on Grain Storage Principles, Maguindanao PCO Edwin Delgado on Integrated Pest Management, Regional Calibrator Norulhak Balabadan on Operation, Care and Maintenance of Moisture Meters. While RSQAO Adriano lectured on the Quality Assurance Activities from Procurement to Distribution, Standardization and Quality Control, Standards on Good Warehouse Management, Grains Procurement and ENWF, Technology on Rice Fortification, Corn Quality and Grain Physical Analysis Procedures for Palay, Milled Rice and Corngrains. RSQAO Adriano tapped Regional Staff as speakers so that they will be trained and to enhance their ability as speakers especially on agency's activity of operations.

PM Kadatuan of Maguindanao

told the participants that they are the future of the agency that's why trainings like this are vital to the future of NFA since most of the participants were new employees or have serve the agency not more than ten years. Region XIV RD Kamid stressed out the importance of Effective Grain Classification since NFA plays a important role in the Grains Industry of the country. Practical and Test examination were also conducted, Regional Calibrator Norulhak Balabadan topped the exam with 91.40% average, followed by Acting PSQAO Fatima Sherene Mukhtadir of Sulu with 90.40% average and Razel A. Tupay GOO I of Basilan on third with 90.00 % average.. The top three were cash rewarded by PM Kitem P. Kadatuan. **(BAI NORHANNA M. BUTUCAN, correspondent)**

### Caraga



Regl. Director Gil Pepito B. Paqueo and OIC/PM Gil G. Tabor together with ABC President Allen Namuag and 21 members and officers of the League of Barangay Captains of Las Nieves, Agusan del Norte after Ugnayan meeting with the ABC at the ABC Building in Las Nieves, Agusan del Norte.

## NFA Agusan ladies Join the 2013 Women's Month Celebration

Feature 27

NFA-Agusan del Sur women, headed by our Provincial Manager, Gloria M. Tabayag, joined the 2013 Women's Month Celebration held at San Francisco Gymnasium on March 12, 2013. The celebration was participated by the different barangays of San Francisco Local Government Units, national government agencies and women of private sectors.

In consonance with President Benigno Aquino's pursuit and vision of 'tuwid na daan', the theme being adopted for the 2013 Women's Month Celebration is "Kababaihan: Gabay sa Pagtahak sa Tuwid na Daan". The theme underscores women's leadership role and participation in governance to enhance gender perspective in upholding good governance. It highlights the importance of strengthening the mechanisms and institutions that support women and to widen the arena for their participation. (**LORENA G. DANDAN**, *correspondent*)



NFA Agusan del Sur employees during the parade.

## Caraga exceeds last year's procurement target

Regional Director Gil Pepito B. Paqueo of NFA CARAGA announced that NFA bought from the farmers of CARAGA a total of 33,262 bags of palay worth Php28.7M from January to December last year.

Paqueo said that palay procurement in 2012 was higher by 20,720 bags or 165% compared to the 12,542 bags procured in 2011. Moreover, palay procurement for the second semester of 2012 of 28,094 bags was 5.4 times more than the 5,168 bags procured in the first semester of the same year.

He attributes the higher performance principally to the extensive preparations which NFA CARAGA region undertook in the third quarter of 2012 which included the series of "Ugnayan" with local government units (LGUs), farmers and various farmer organizations; setting up of temporary buying stations and satellite collection centers especially in the river towns of Agusan Del Norte, Agusan Del Sur and Surigao Del Sur and augmentation of NFA's mechanical drying capability.

Paqueo said NFA CARAGA region has started to prepare for the procurement of the March to June 2013 palay and corn harvests. He said that top priority is being assigned to the continuing build-up of NFA's mechanical drying capability especially for the buying stations in the so-called river towns. (**FE D. MORENO**, *correspondent*)

# THEY MAKE NFA PROUD

### Leigh... from Page 53

WUP CBA recognition. Isa ka palang awardee bilang Dean's Lister. First time kong umakyat ng stage with you na recognition day. So proud.

Then the greatest news na nagpaiyak sa amin ni papa mo. Cum laude ka. Wow. My first born na wala man lang medal sa wall ng

bahay namin ay mag aakyat pala ng napakalaking karangalan sa pagtatapos niya ng kolehiyo. Sabi nga ng mga nakakakilala sa iyo, late bloomer si Leigh, biglang humataw ng bandang huli.

Salamat anak, maraming salamat. Di mo lang alam ang happiness namin ni papa mo. I can proudly say, **anak ko ito!**

### Janelle... from Page 53

While still in Davao City boarding house, and on the day after the release of the results, Janelle sent an early message to her parents in General Santos City, that she made it in the CPA board exams. She immediately quipped: "It really feels good to wake up knowing that I will be facing another journey of my life. This is just the beginning..." Surely, she will be in the right path as she is guided by her favorite Bible verse: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on

your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths." Prov. 3:5-6. She continued: "God works in His mysterious ways".

She and her parents almost could not contain all the accolades, greetings and congratulatory messages they received from relatives, friends and officemates. As the journey begins another phase in Janelle's life, we the NFA family welcomes this great accomplishment of our co-employee, RA Ming Lucas. **Congratulations!**

# Orlan

## A rice

It's not every day that a young and vibrant gentleman is appointed to head the country's food marketing arm. But Orlan Agbin Calayag accepted the challenge and his life has never been the same ever since.

For someone who punctuates his sentences with *po* and *opo*, NFA employees soon found themselves falling for the 30-something administrator from Dolores, Quezon. As everyone knows by now, Administrator Calayag used to be Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala's Chief Legislative Officer when the latter was Representative of Quezon in 2004. He must have been exceptional in his duties for him to earn the trust and confidence of the Secretary. It was Alcala who personally recommended him to President Benigno S. Aquino III.

This NGO worker and environmentalist from Dolores, Quezon is equipped with the perfect business acumen having graduated with a Business Administration degree major in Business Marketing. In 2006, he earned a degree in Real Estate Professional Course from Rockwell Institute in Bellevue, Washington. He was Executive Director of Progressive Community and Ecological Services Organization, a non-governmental organization giving aid to farmers and fishermen.

After a little over five months on the job (*this interview was conducted in mid-June, 2013*), let's get to know our Administrator on a more personal level in this Q&A.

Photo by Manuel A. Sadsad

# A. Calayag: retailer's son becomes NFA Administrator

By Ma. Lina G. Reyes

## Q & A

### FAST FACTS:

**Birthday:** July 22, 1974

**Degree:** Business Administration major  
in Business Marketing

**Hometown:** Dolores, Quezon

**Civil Status:** Married

**Fave Food:** Bulanglang & fried fish

#### How did you prepare for the job?

I didn't know anyone in NFA, so I started asking around. I need to do my homework first. I consulted my family, some friends, and some acquaintance from the government sector who have better knowledge of the food agency. Most particularly, I asked God's guidance. I believe God assigned me here for a reason.

Our family owns one of the oldest *bigasan* in Dolores, Quezon. We've been helping out since we were kids. To this day, we continue to help around when we can.

#### What is your first impression of NFA?

As an outsider looking in, I wasn't very proud of the things I heard about the food agency. That's why we're supposed to be working together as one big family. There's so much to be done and I cannot do it alone. If you think there's one member of our family that needs our 'special' attention, we'll have to talk to that family member. But we'll have to do it in a subtle way and not condemn them.

#### What's the biggest sacrifice you made in accepting your post at NFA?

Sacrifice, I believe, is relative to every person. One person's big sacrifice may not mean anything to or from others. This is the longest time I've been away from my family who I left in the States, especially from my two boys. My youngest just turned two recently and I wasn't there to celebrate his birthday with him. It's supposed to be a huge milestone but I couldn't be there.

I left a very promising career in the United States as a licensed mortgage and investment banker. We also own a nursing home in Washington State.

But I keep telling myself I was chosen to be the Administrator of NFA for a specific purpose. Although I didn't apply for this job, it was offered to me because perhaps the Secretary and the President believe I could be the right man for the job so, at the end of the day, I must do what I've got to do.

#### What is your most challenging/demanding role so far?

Everything is new and every day is a challenge for me. But what sets the new day from the previous one is that we have accomplished something. I attribute every success to our employees. I cannot own up to it alone. Everyone is doing what he can and is making our roles more bearable.

### What are three things you like about the NFA?

If there's one thing I like being here, it's the people. NFA employees are very welcoming, very accommodating. The adjustment period wasn't so tough.

NFA is like a big family. I am amazed by the kind of relationship you have with each other. So like a big family, we must treat each other like our own flesh and blood. We must treat NFA like our own home. If something needs fixing, we must fix it together.

What I want from people is to be straightforward. If you need to tell me something you have to tell me right away.

### What are the traits we should know about you?

I put great value on time-line. When I want something done, I expect the results within schedule. Time is so expensive. I've never heard anyone who was able to buy an extra time. Even the richest of men cannot afford it. You cannot even buy an extra minute on your deathbed. So next to God and love, time is precious. This is why I don't want people waiting for me. I can endure waiting for others but I cannot do it to other people.

I want people to be accommodating because that's who I am as well. I open myself to everyone. You can visit me in my office anytime. You can talk to me anywhere.


Simplicity is also important to me. Even in my choice of food. I go for *pritong galunggong, bulanglang, malunggay*.

### What is your unforgettable/memorable experience at NFA so far?

I look at my memories at NFA collectively, like a favorite book not just a favorite chapter. NFA is a journey which I value as a whole. So far, it's been very challenging but manageable. But we need to keep working for ways to improve. *Basta, tulungan tayo.*



Administrator Calayag inspects rice at a warehouse Region 2.

A full-page photograph of a man, Administrator Orlan A. Calayag, smiling and holding a blue folder. He is wearing a white barong tagalog with gold embroidery. The folder has the NFA logo and the text 'Department of Agriculture' and 'Finance Report'.

Our new Administrator begins his day at 5:00 a.m. Normally, he's at the office before 8 a.m. and his long day starts immediately after a simple breakfast of fried fish and vegetables which he buys at the canteen downstairs. When he's not busy attending meetings or signing important documents, or accepting visitors in his office, he meets with NFA employees around the country and monitors the situation personally.

After five months at the NFA helm, Administrator Orlan A. Calayag says there's still so much to do but humbly admits he can only do so much. That's why he calls on every NFA employee who loves the agency to help him carry out his job.

On his way to the office, he prays the Holy Rosary as he seeks guidance so he can fulfill his enormous duties. In spite of a demanding schedule, he makes it a point to check on his lovely wife and two adorable boys from a million miles and a different time zone. After an intense day, he retreats to his abode and calls it a day by 11:30 p.m. or 1:00 a.m..

Photo by Nilo Manongsong



Workers in San Jose, Mindoro attend the farmers who sell their produce to the NFA.  
(Photo: Nilo Manongsong)

## NFA SAN JOSE, MINDORO (REGION IV)

NFA San Jose proved again its being number one in palay procurement. The branch has procured 1.46 M bags of palay, remarkably good at 91.68% of its 1,600,000 cavans target for 2012. The application of modern farm techniques, certified and high breed palay seeds during the planting period, balanced with good weather condition and the introduction of combined harvester and thresher resulted in a very good and

timely harvest for the province. Palay produced were all ready for delivery to NFA buying stations before the procurement season. Added to this scenario was the haste of NFA San Jose in opening and getting ready the various buying stations in the locality.

Procurement commenced as early as September with 400 to 500 bags daily peaking at 25,000 to 35,000 per day. Buying stations were filled with farmers and farmer-coordinators delivering their palay produce while a happy atmosphere emerged with vendors selling meals and snacks in the area.

Several strategies encouraged the farmers and farmer-leaders to bring

# TOP 3 PROCUREMENT AREAS IN 2012



Farmers transport and sell their harvest to the NFA in San Jose, Mindoro. (Photo: Nilo Manongsong)

their palay to NFA such as: relaxed requirements on passbook accreditation/revalidation; new palay classification; additional transport incentives; MTS lending and the conduct of Grand Ugnayan with the presence of Administrator Angelito Banayo, Regional Director Tomas Escarez, Congresswoman Amelita Vilarosa and Governor Josephine Ramirez Sato.

Likewise, the traditional prob-

lem of limited storage for palay procured was solved through immediate issuance to milling and dispersal to other provinces.

This undertaking was achieved through the leadership of OIC-PM Oscar Servando, APM Crisostomo Catama, the San Jose staff with the support of the regional and central office officials. **(NIDA NOVIO, correspondent)**

## NFA ISABELA (REGION II)



More farmers are selling their harvest to NFA due to higher buying price. Photo taken in NFA Isabela. (Photo: Nilo Manongsong)

Determined to outshine its relatively successful performance in 2012, NFA Region 02 already surpassed its target procurement for the first quarter of 2013. With barely more than a month past, NFA branches in the region were able to procure 174,716 bags of palay, almost 2% more than its target of 171,500 bags for the whole first quarter. With the current harvest still to reach its peak in March and April, Isabela was already able to procure 56,275 bags, followed closely by Northwestern Cagayan and Apayao (NCA) branch with 49,939

Bags and bags of palay sold to the NFA in Isabela. (PHOTO: Nilo Manongsong)

bags and Cagayan with 43,158 bags.

After posting a 128% increase in palay procured in 2012 with 1,052,606 bags, or equivalent to 592,889 bags more from its previous performance of only 459,717 bags in 2011, NFA Region 2 is determined to buy more palay especially now that commercial traders are buying at a lower price.

Last year, Isabela also topped with 468,183 bags procured followed by NCA with 293,888 bags and Cagayan with 141,746 bags. It was only NCA branch, however, which was able to surpass the 5% target based on area production last year.

With 2013 declared by the President as "National Year of Rice," NFA is now in high gear to finally achieve its palay procurement target of at least 5% of total area production. In Region 02, this translates to a target procurement

of 2.66 million bags of palay. Based on BAS data, the total projected palay production of the provinces under NFA Region 02 is seen to reach 53.2 million bags in 2013.

According to Director Danilo I. Pastrana, "this scenario will give the region a surplus because our procurement will exceed the local distribution requirement." The management is confident that it can attain this target since NFA's buying price remains higher than the

current farm gate price offered by palay traders in the region. Aside from the P17.00/kg buying price, NFA provides additional incentives to the farmers selling their palay to the NFA. An individual farmer will be entitled to the P0.20/kg delivery incentive and P0.20/kg drying incentive, or a total of P17.40/kg. Farmers cooperatives will also get an additional P0.30/kg as Cooperative Development Incentive Fund (CDIF) for a total of P17.70/kg. (FE SALIM, correspondent)



## NFA NUEVA ECIJA (REGION III)



Farmers in Nueva Ecija and nearby provinces sell their produce by the truckloads. (PHOTO: Maning Sadsad)

NFA Administrator Orlan A. Calayag recently awarded a Certificate of Commendation to NFA Region 3 for its outstanding palay procurement accomplishment in CY 2012. Dir. Amadeo B. De Guzman received the award last February 15, 2013 during the first Regional Directors' Meeting with the new NFA chief.

NFA Central Luzon's palay procurement for the period January to December 2012, totaled 1,122,995 bags accomplishing 59% of the 2012 target of 1,888,500 bags. This is a remarkable accomplishment for the region as it eclipsed its 2011 performance of 312,476 bags by 810,519 bags, registering a 259% increase.

Director De Guzman credited the overall efforts of region 3 procurement personnel, citing early preparation prior to the



*Palay overflows. The NFA in Nueva Ecija has to use this open parking space to accommodate more palay from farmers. Photo: Maning Sadsad)*

harvest season and the implementation of innovative strategies to catch-up with procurement targets, as the main reasons for the fair but very remarkable accomplishment

According to Dir. De Guzman, the regional management constantly reminded the provincial offices of the need to procure in order to create buffer stocks for operational and food security requirements not only for Central Luzon, but for other deficit regions as well.

Among the innovative measures implemented by the region were as follows:

- ☐ Early preparation of palay procurement logistics plan based on the approved marketing plan;

- ☐ Meetings/dialogues with provincial procurement teams were spearheaded by the regional office to discuss the procurement policies and guidelines particularly the simplified requirement for farmers passbook, increase in farmers delivery and drying incentives, etc.;

- ☐ Early positioning of procurement teams - Stationary buying stations were prepared to receive rice deliveries of farmers. Mobile procurement teams were dispatched in far-flung areas;

- ☐ House-to-house coordination of procurement teams to convince farmers to sell their produce to NFA;

- ☐ NFA procurement teams went head to head with private traders by directly classifying, weighing and paying the palay to the farmers in the field/farm levels;

- ☐ Procurement teams concentrated their operations on pocket areas

which cannot be reached by private palay traders notwithstanding the road conditions, distance and travel time to reach the place;

- ☐ It was observed that private traders concentrated in buying high-end palay varieties which commanded higher prices, thus the NFA teams focused their buying efforts for palay varieties which were not preferred by private traders, such as c10 and triple 2 (222);

- ☐ The region's limited trucking facilities was addressed thru the utilization of MTO trucks, borrowing of trucks from NIA and LGUs and leasing of private trucks;

- ☐ Market-matching of farmers with owners of small trucks was also recommended in order to boost palay deliveries by farmers;

- ☐ Maximizing of the use of drying facilities for palay with high moisture content (MC) while farmers selling palay with borderline MCs were convinced to reduce the MC through solar drying or aeration using industrial fans to avail of the additional drying incentive for their produce; and

- ☐ Designation of standby Disbursing Officers to fasttrack the replenishment of Cereal Procurement Fund (CPF)

The top three achieving provinces in Central Luzon in terms of accomplishment percentage are as follows:

| PROVINCE | ACTUAL  | TARGET  | % ACC |
|----------|---------|---------|-------|
| ZAMBALES | 107,694 | 59,500  | 181%  |
| AURORA   | 95,613  | 71,000  | 135%  |
| TARLAC   | 245,227 | 345,000 | 71%   |

On the other hand, the top three provinces that garnered the highest volume of palay procured are:

| PROVINCE    | ACTUAL  |
|-------------|---------|
| NUEVA ECIJA | 301,365 |
| BULACAN     | 255,205 |
| TARLAC      | 245,227 |

Dir. De Guzman bared that this early, a "NO LET-UP" policy was implemented for the palay procurement operations of NFA Region 3 in order to attain the CY 2013 target totalling 1,700,000 bags. "I have instructed the provincial managers to continue and improve their palay buying efforts to meet if not surpass our target for the year, in line with the agency's thrust of achieving a sufficient buffer stock thru local produce," De Guzman said. (JONATHAN YAZON, correspondent)

## Maternal and Young Child Nutrition Security Initiatives in Asia (MYCNSIA):

By Ma. Cynthia DL. Suarez

Photos by Maning Sadsad

# Improving Child Survival, Growth and Development in Asia



**D**o you still have your three meals a day? Then, thank God for this! You are blessed because you are not among the more than one billion people in the world who are suffering from chronic hunger. Hunger has become a worldwide crisis especially among young children.

In Asia, undernutrition is still a major health concern. UNICEF, in its recent report in 2012, cited that more than a third of children under five years of age in East and South Asia are stunted, meaning they are too short for their age because of long term insufficient nutrient intake and frequent infections. Eighteen per cent of babies are born with low birth rate while 27% of under-fives are underweight and 13% are wasted. Nearly half of pregnant women and pre-school children are anemic.

This is cause for alarm. Anemia in pregnancy may lead to low birth weight. It could also result into mental retardation and delay the physical development of a child. If unchecked, this may create devastating and far-reaching effects on the lives of the populace as well as on the economic growth and development of a country.

To help fight the widespread problem on undernutrition in Southeast

and South Asia, the European Union and the UNICEF have launched the Maternal and Young Child Nutrition Security Initiatives in Asia (MYCNSIA) to improve child survival, growth, and development through nutrition security policy agenda of the country including life cycle interventions among women and children in the region. MYCNSIA is supporting five Asian countries namely; Bangladesh, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal and the Philippines under a four-year programme (2011-2014).

Nutrition security is not about

food security alone. It is also about good health, healthy environment and proper health care practices. It is said that the most critical period in the life cycle of a child is the first 1000 days from pregnancy to two years because it is during this time that cognitive and physical development takes place. Thus, policies and interventions in improving nutrition security among women and young children should be given priority.

The MYCNSIA project is targeting about 30 million children and five million pregnant women in the five



*I-Rice mascot entertains school children in one of the NFA school-hopping activities promoting iron fortified rice.*

Asian countries. The European Union has provided a grant amounting to 20 million euros to support this project while UNICEF shall be working in partnership with the government and other institutions based on the four interrelated result areas, namely: (1) Up-Stream Policy and Nutrition Security Awareness which includes the adoption of an integrated framework of goals, targets, policies, strategies and tools by regional institutions and their respective member states. (2) Capacity Development with enhanced capacities at all levels to address maternal and child undernutrition in collaboration with national and regional institutions through a strong nutrition community network. (3) Data Analysis and Knowledge Sharing with strengthened nutrition security information systems, data collection and analysis including monitoring and evaluation with effective mechanisms for knowledge sharing and management. (4) Scaling Up Interventions with improved infant, young child and maternal nutrition through at-scale implementation of key direct interventions.

Among the initiatives that will be adopted under the MYCNSIA project that were already tested and proven effective as direct interventions are the following: (1) promotion of good nutritional practices that include exclusive breastfeeding for the first 6 months of life, complementary feeding for children aged 6-23 months; improved hygiene practices; (2) increasing intake of vitamins and minerals such as multiple micronutrient powder for children aged 6-23 months, iron folic acid/multiple micronutrient supplements for pregnant and lactating women, iron fortification of staple foods, therapeutic zinc supplements for diarrhea management, periodic vitamin A supplements; (3) therapeutic feeding for malnourished children with special foods through the prevention or treatment of moderate undernutrition and treatment of severe acute undernutrition with ready-to-use

therapeutic foods; (4) linking of nutrition to agriculture, poverty reduction, and water and sanitation by encouraging home production of foods and animal products, inclusion of nutrition services in social protection and cash transfer programs and better access to safe water and improved sanitation facilities.

At end of the four-year programme, the project hoped to reduce stunting levels by 5% points and anemia in young children and pregnant women by one-third in the targeted programme areas.

### MYCNSIA Implementation in the Philippines

In the Philippines, the project aims to reduce stunting levels among children under-two years old by 5%; decrease anemia rates among children 6-23 months old by one-third; and decrease anemia rates among pregnant women by one-third in targeted areas.

Target areas for implementation of MYCNSIA project are Regions 5, 6 and 9. Prevalence of anemia is high in these areas and is still considered as a public

health concern while incidence of stunting and wasting are also high to medium in magnitude based on the result of the 7th National Nutrition Survey (NNS) conducted by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute.

UNICEF and EU are currently working with major players in nutrition and food security across multiple sectors in the national, regional and provincial level of the three focus areas to implement the project's conceptual framework.

### NFA's Role in the MYCNSIA Project

NFA sits as a member of the MYCNSIA Steering Committee. The agency is one of the partner agencies of the MYCNSIA project because of its Rice Fortification Program. Iron fortification of staple foods is among the nutrition initiatives identified as an effective intervention in the control of anemia. Rice is a staple food of the Filipinos and is widely consumed by the populace.

As part of its support to the Rice Fortification Program, EU-UNICEF funded the advocacy activities in MYCNSIA areas of Regions 5, 6 and 9 totalling to PhP 2.4 M in 2011 and PhP 1.1 M in 2012. The funds were used in the conduct of Training of Trainers (TOT) for the members of the NFA's Committee on Rice Fortification in the regional and provincial level and in the implementation of various activities such as school hopping, business forum, LGU assembly and others.

With the intensified advocacy on the health and nutritional benefits of iron fortified rice or I-Rice, the populace especially in the targeted areas are hoped to become more aware and would prefer eating the more nutritious iron fortified rice over the ordinary rice.



*Director Rex Estoperez of the Public Affairs Department advocates the consumption of i-Rice in one of the schools in Albay.*



*NFA officials and employees advocates i-Rice in schools.*



*The Statue of Liberty*  
*A view of Manhattan while on cruise.*



# New York thru my Lens

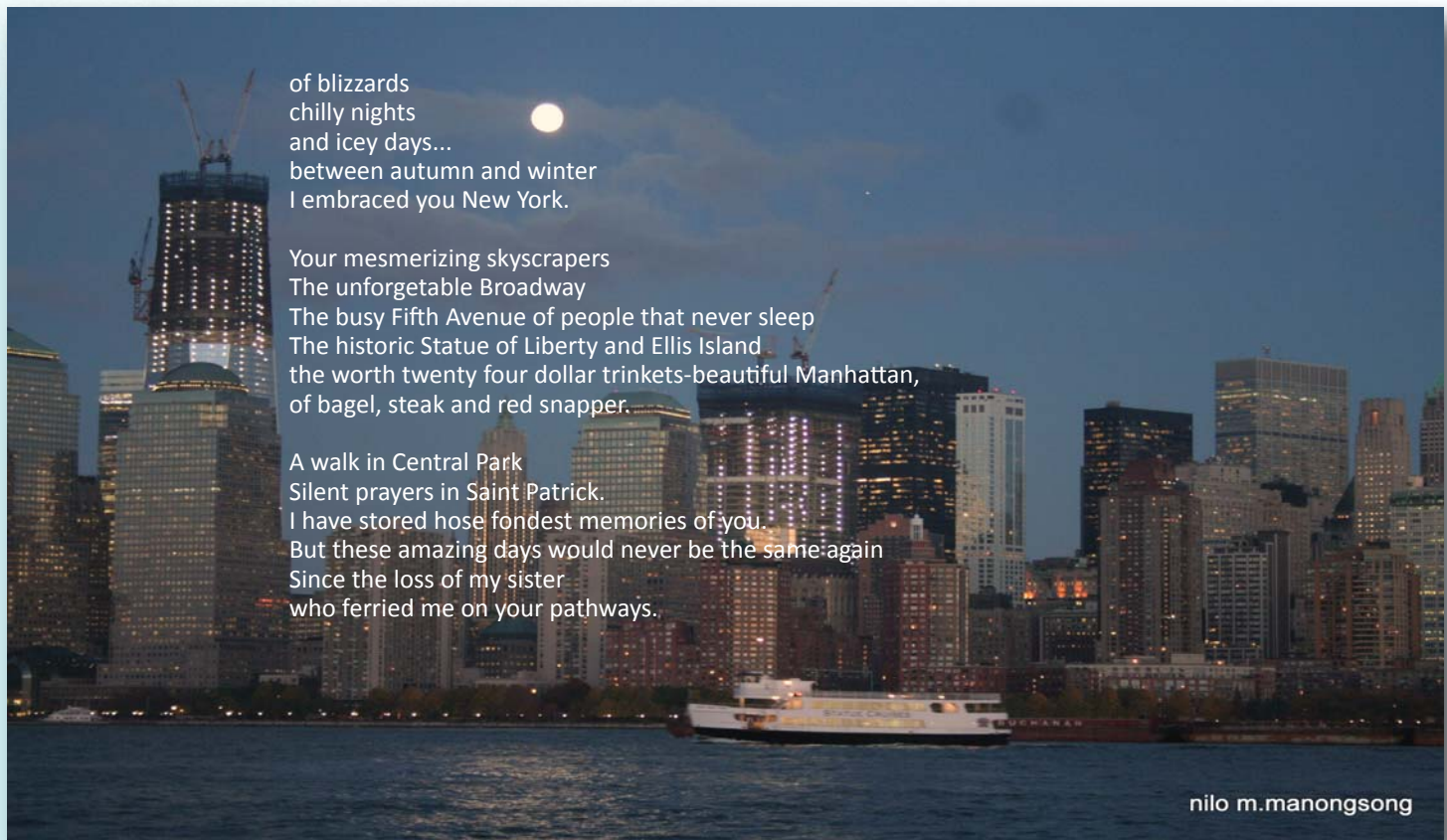
By Nilo Manongsong



*Saint Patrick Cathedral*



*World Trade Center*



of blizzards  
chilly nights  
and icy days...  
between autumn and winter  
I embraced you New York.

Your mesmerizing skyscrapers  
The unforgettable Broadway  
The busy Fifth Avenue of people that never sleep  
The historic Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island  
the worth twenty four dollar trinkets-beautiful Manhattan,  
of bagel, steak and red snapper.

A walk in Central Park  
Silent prayers in Saint Patrick.  
I have stored those fondest memories of you.  
But these amazing days would never be the same again  
Since the loss of my sister  
who ferried me on your pathways.

nilo m.manongsong



Broadway  
New York City Hall



nilo m.manongsong



nilo m.manongsong

*My last photo of goodbye with my sister.*

# LOVE TRIVIA



Compiled by Nilo Manongsong

Husbands who kiss their wives before leaving home in the morning have been documented to live five years longer than those who do not.

King Solomon had over 300 wives and hundreds of mistresses during his reign.

According to historians, women and men did not kiss in ancient China. In fact, they considered the custom revolting.

*Herpes is called a kissing disease because it is communicated by kissing.*

In Russia, when flowers are given for a romantic occasion, flowers are given in odd number as even number of flowers is given in funeral only.

The Catholic Church formally recognize a total of 11 Valentines days: January 7, February 14, May 2, July 16, August 31, September 2, October 25, November 1, 3, 11, 13 and December 16.

The carrying of flowers by the bride has its roots in ancient times. It was believed that strong smelling herbs/spices would ward off evil spirits.

The best place for single people is on the prowl in New York where 50% of state residents are unmarried and Washington DC with 70%.

In some African cultures, long grasses are braided together and used to tie the hands of the groom and bride together to symbolize their union.

In 1827, condoms made of tortoise shell and leather were in use in the orient.

Honeymoon: The honey is a reference to the sweetness of a new marriage. And the moon is an acknowledgement that this sweetness would quickly fade.

According to psychologist Dr. Jane Barr Stump, 1 out of every 4 men believes he's in love on the first date.

It is said that the monument of love, Taj Majal, used 1,000 elephants to transport materials required for the construction of the tomb.

You burn 26 calories in a one-minute kiss. The science of kissing is called "PHILEMATOLOGY".

On September 15, 1990, Alfred Wolfram from New Brighton kissed 8001 people in just 8 hours at the Minnesota Renaissance.

In ancient Rome, there was no legal ceremony for marriage, the couple agreed to live together and they are recognized as husbands and wives.

Chocolate, with its rich and sweet flavor and smooth creaminess has compounds that stimulate the feelings you get when you are in love.

In 450 BC. Greek men wanted love, but tried to obtain it by gifts and trickery, when Greek men actually did fall in love, they considered themselves as sick.

Adam and Eve are the most famous couple ever. They serve and symbolize the beginning of humanity and loss of innocence.

The longest kiss listed in the Guinness Book of World Records lasted at an incredible 417 hours. How chapped must those lips be!

Kissing one's fingertips is a common gesture throughout Europe and Latin American countries; it connotes the declaration of "aah beautiful".

A scientist found that when people look at their new loves, the neutral circuits (in charge of social judgment) are suppressed.

# PM Beverlyn P. Peralta: An Economic Manager

By Chona DG Maramba

*"Wise men write their names on the pages of the book; fools write their names on the walls; and, I would like to write my name in the hearts of the people" - PM Bevs*



**M**iss Beverlyn P. Peralta, Ph. D., fondly called "Bevs", became full-fledged Provincial Manager in Western Pangasinan last December 2011. She handles 38 regular workforce, three NFA-owned warehouses and 26 leased warehouses.

Manager Bevs has over 31 years working for the food agency. Her credentials include: Statistical Aide, Marketing Operations, Planning and Research Section, NFA-Abra and Pangasinan Provincial Offices; KKK Economic Researcher, NFA-La Union Regional Office; Economist II, NFA-Ilocos Norte Provincial Office; Economist III, NFA-La Union Regional Office; Regional Information Officer (in acting capacity); Regional Operations Officer (in acting capacity); Supervising Grains Operations Officer (Regional Market Development Officer); and Assistant Provincial Manager of NFA-Western Pangasinan. Her other special work assignments as follows: Training Officer of FARMERS, Port Operations Officer; Vessel Supervisor; Posting Clerk (unloading operations of Region I); and member of RBAC-NFA Region I under the Technical Working Group & Secretariat.

She became a provincial (La Union) and regional president (Region I) of the National Food Authority Employees Association (NFAEA) and Chairperson of the National Food Authority Multi-Purpose Cooperative. She is also an active

member of the Regional Development Cooperative Council (RCDC) of Region I and other NGOs.

She obtained her college degree through hard work as a working student until she finished her Bachelor of Arts degree major in Economics, 'Cum Laude'. A civil service eligible, Manager Peralta finished post-graduate studies of Masters Development Administration (MDA) in 2002 and Doctor of Philosophy in Development Administration (Ph.D.-DA) in 2004 at

the Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University (DMMMSU). A Certificate of Recognition was given to her as the Most Outstanding Alumna by DMMMSU in 2006 for personifying excellence in her academic, intellectual, workplace, and personal engagement and for providing exemplary leadership, integrity, and service.

Other recognitions under her belt include those from the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Unit-I acknowledging her invaluable support and assistance extended to the success of the Gawad Saka Search for Outstanding Palay and Corn Farmers and Outstanding City and Municipal Agricultural Fishery Council in Region I in 2008 and 2009. She was the vice chairperson of the said categories in the Gawad Saka search until her promotion to provincial manager.

During her stint as OIC of NFA-WPGS, she earned the honor of having the Best Maintained Warehouse (GID Alaminos Warehouse) in Region I and 2nd place at the national level for the 2010-2011 search.

It is also worth mentioning that her attendance to the NFA Management Training Program in 2003 and her educational experience guided her work assignments in NFA operations particularly in serving the palay/corn farmers and farmers' organizations/cooperatives

(FOs/Coops). Manager Bevs believes there has never been a more rewarding or challenging time than to be working with the farmers. She said that they make a difference in achieving the goals of the NFA. She wanted to encourage the farmers/FOs to start thinking that they are "partners" in the grains business and not to be treated as dummies by big traders/financiers.

Manager Peralta believes that one of her arduous jobs as a public servant, a worker of the NFA, is to inject some shots of extension work to the stakeholders. This has led her to believe that she is not actually paid as a worker just to dispense doses of extension work to farmers/FOs, rather it is her moral obligation to serve and "be" with the stakeholders in the struggle for serving the public with efficiency and effectiveness. She often says that "wise men write their names on the pages of the book; fools write their names on the walls; and, I would like to write my name in the hearts of the people".

Working with the government sector and joining some NGOs, Manager Bevs is always guided by the biblical verse found in 1 Corinthians 10:13 which says, "Every test that you have experienced is the kind normally comes to people. But God keeps His promises. He will not allow you to be tested beyond your power to remain firm, at the time you are put to test. He will give you the strength to endure it and to provide a way out."

Manager Bevs is truly grateful to her parents, Jaime C. Peralta and Felicidad P. Peralta, now both deceased, for molding the character that made her what she is now, to her sisters and brothers who have been sharing with her all stresses and strains (still she belongs to the family that prays and stays together); to her friends, to the educational institutions that reinforced her; and to the Food Agency where she is joyfully working.

# 13 PLACES

By Ma. Lina Gabilan-Reyes **TO SEE**

## **BEFORE YOU RETIRE**

While we continue to hire new employees into our roster, some of our colleagues are leaving due to retirement. If you're one of the few who're bidding the NFA adieu, take a look at this list of interesting places to see and plan your next getaway. Having spent most of your lifetime with this agency, it's time to reward yourself by visiting all these 13 domestic destinations before your retirement. If you're a newbie employee, this is also the time to start picking your choice of amazing places to see as you start your own NFA journey. While you're at it, touch base with the locals. You'll learn about the sight more when you interact with the people.

*The Naidi Lighthouse in Batanes*



# 1

First stop, the pristine **Batanes**. Who wouldn't fall in love with this beauty? Whether you're coming here on business or pleasure, you'll thank God more for placing a bit of heaven for us to enjoy. I've never been to this sanctuary myself but it tops my bucket list of the wonderful places I'd like to see before I leave NFA. While in Batanes, don't miss the Marine Sanctuary, Radar Tukon, Tukon Chapel, Fundacion Pacita, Japanese

Tunnel, Valugan Bay, Vayang Rolling Hills, Naidi Lighthouse, and the Chavayan Heritage House.

# 2

**Sagada** will always be my all-time favorite. I love trees, flowers, mountains, and everything about nature so I'll choose this place at any given time. I fell in love with Sagada the moment I laid eyes on its gorgeous natural splendor. I like its peace and quiet ambiance. The climate is not only perfect but absolutely amazing. Just the thought of not being able to sweat gives me an instant lift. Oh how I love it!

# 3

If you love the beach, head out to **Pagudpud**. It may not have the white, smooth sands of Boracay but it's the next best thing. If you hate the crowd, then this beach haven is for you.



4

The **Kapurpuraoan** rock formations in Ilocos Norte are becoming famous for their beauty. Be mesmerized by this natural wonder.

5

The **Bangui windmills** are also worth visiting. With the distance of Ilocos Norte from Manila and the thought that this may be your first and last trip to the province, enjoy the benefit of your journey and see all the marvelous places you can visit.

6

Then there's the **Hundred islands** in Pangasinan. Remember Charlene Gonzales' answer in the Ms. Universe pageant long time ago? She bragged about the 7,100 islands of the Philippines, both high tide and low tide. If you want to see 100 of these islands all in one place, then go to Pangasinan. The Koreans and other foreigners are enjoying these sights so why don't you?



*The Hundred Islands in Pangasinan*

7

If your muscles can still take it, hire a 4x4 and trek the **Mt. Pinatubo trail** in Tarlac and enjoy the scene above. The French and Koreans already beat us to it. They know the place more than we locals do.



*The Mt. Pinatubo Lake*

8

### The **Puerto Princesa Underground River (PPUR)**

did not make it to the New Wonders of Nature list for nothing. Explore the 3-kilometer boat ride inside the cave complete with an amusing tour courtesy of the friendly tour guide and be mesmerized by the eye catching stalagmites and stalactites. Afterwards, have a picnic at the grounds. Just watch out for the monitor lizards (bayawak) and monkeys around the area.



*The entrance to the Puerto Princesa Underground River*

9

Still in Palawan, **El Nido** is another place you shouldn't miss. It's a favorite tourist destination and in fact in 2007, it earned the National Geographic Traveler magazine's best travel destination

in the world. Last year, El Nido was declared the Philippines' Best Beach and Island destination by the CNNGo, CNN's travel news website.



*A secluded island in Caramoan*

10

In Bicol region, there's an island that's been a favorite location scene of the Survivor series.

**Caramoan** Island in Camarines Sur is an absolute piece of heaven on earth.



*The writer, helmet diving in Boracay*

**11** **Boracay** is probably getting too crowded for our taste but it's still worth visiting. Frolic in the white sand beaches and be a goddess for awhile. Strut along the shore in your tankini with your best buddy. Try helmet diving, which I must say is not recommended for the chicken-hearted. Drive an All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) and bid your inhibitions goodbye.

**12** A trip to **Corregidor Island** is also a perfect idea especially for the history buffs. The island played a crucial part during the country's liberation from the Japanese forces in World War II. The attractions include the Malinta Tunnel, Pacific War Memorial, Filipino Heroes Memorial, Japanese Garden of Peace, and the Corregidor Light-house.



*One of the ruins in Corregidor Island*



*The Sunken Cemetery in Camiguin*

**13** Lastly, come to **Camiguin**. This beautiful island is not only famous for its Sunken Cemetery. There are other attractions worthy of our discerning attention like the Spanish colonial churches. There are also waterfalls and springs that will leave anyone in wonder. Oh and don't forget to try their famous lanzones.

So far, I've crossed four off my bucket list. I know I have nine more destinations to explore but I am not retiring in the near future. I'm only on my 13th year with the NFA. I have more time to plan, more months to save. What about you? What are you waiting for? Grab a bag and go!

# 13 HOPES for 2013

By Teresa P. Galvez  
Photos by Maning Sadsad

**P**eople from all walks of life have wishes, dreams, aspirations, New Year's resolutions and other stuff that will make them a better and improved person. Ironically, New Year's resolutions do not flourish nor prosper because we lack the drive, the perseverance and the power to sustain what we have started.

For a change, let's start the year not with resolutions but with HOPES.

We encounter challenges, hardships, failures, happiness, success and triumphs, despite all these, we still hope. HOPE is the last thing that we have and we do not want to lose.

When we hope, we pray, when we pray nothing is impossible. All things are possible when we hold on to our hopes and to our Almighty Father.

For me, I hope for simple and grandeur things to happen in my life. I hope to visit Hongkong and to fulfill my dream of seeing Mickey and Minnie Mouse. The big part is, I hope to win in the PCSO Lottery and retire early, enjoy the company of my family, especially my grandchildren and to help the needy.

For NFA, that our agency will continue to serve the Filipino people in providing the needed services to the grains marketing industry towards global competitiveness and committed to ensuring food security. For our friends and officemates, I hope that we learn to accept each and everyone's strength and weaknesses, support one another and be fair in dealing with all the employees and our stakeholders. For us to continue serving our agency with honesty, dignity and take pride that we belong to this office.

For this year and the years thereafter, I hope that we will be blessed with good health, together with our families and continue to have a peaceful, happy and contented life.

As Steve Marboli said, "Plant seeds of happiness, hope, success and love; it will all come back to you in abundance. This is the law of nature.

I asked 13 of our colleagues to share their hopes for 2013. These employees are young, driven, intelligent and the group that I hope, we all hope, will continue the legacy of our beloved NFA.



*I hope in 2013, people would have more respect for each other. More respect for human rights, privacy, decisions and religion. I know that if this would happen, crime rate, gossips, disputes and wars will surely be lessened. After all, we must remember that we are all brothers and sisters with a great and loving Heavenly Father above.*

**CARMEL ANNE S. AGUILAR**

Accountant III, ASD-COAD



*I wish not only for year 2013, that we would all be free from hunger and starvation and all people around the world have a life treated with love, respect and dignity, no matter who you are or who you love.*

**ALMER M. SUNGA**

Security Officer I, ISSD



*Hoping for a clean, peaceful and honest election this coming May and the people may vote those candidates who are conscientious and whose intentions are to serve the people not the other way around, so our country will have good leaders that would direct us into a more productive nation.*

**JACKIE LOU T. BUCATCAT**

Accountant II, ASD



*More production of  
G - OOD governance  
R - APID development of  
research and projects  
A - LTRUISM may  
always exist  
I - NTEGRITY in every-  
thing we do  
N - EVER-ENDING ex-  
cellent service  
S - USTAIN economic  
growth*

**MA. TERESA J. MARTIRES**

Clerk III, CRMD-GSD



*Happy New Year! 2012 was a very wonderful year for me and my family in a lot of ways and I hope it was for you too. But for some people, 2012 wasn't.*

*I hope for good health and happiness for my family, friends and love ones, always... to spend more time with the people I love and things that DO matter.*

**RACHELLE ZOLETA-CASTRO**  
Economist I, GMOD-MRSD



*I hope that all of us will strive to be kinder and more considerate of each other for year 2013. I also hope that we'll learn to appreciate all the blessings that we have in our lives – our families, our friends, our neighbors, our co-workers, our jobs and the like. I wish as well that God will continue to bless NEA and keep my family and friends healthy and safe.*

**HAROLD D. CUARTERO**  
Accountant III, ASD



*I hope that God continues to shower us with more blessings, a meaningful life with contentment, love, a rewarding career, and excellent health this 2013.*

**MINERVA BILLONES GOROSPE**  
Clerk III, CPMSD

*They say this year is a year of changes, a good start for us to become "better than before" individual. I hope that this year, we will continue to seek God and His will in our lives. May we enjoy more the relationship that we have with Him and completely trust His ways. Looking forward for more blessings, happiness and answered prayers this 2013.*

**MAYETH O. PANTALUNAN**  
Secretary I, ASD



*Lessen the importation of rice and improve the exportation of it.*

**JR DAYAO**  
Records officer I, GSD-CRMD

All of us are not only "wishing" for the best this year... but "hoping".... Hoping that it will potentially happen if we do our best part to realize and visualize our dreams. However, above all those hopes I have, I am looking more than just career development or winning at the lotto, or perhaps travelling around the world. I am hoping for our greatest wealth – our Good health. It is only about aspiring to eat healthy foods and exercising daily, but more importantly on how to stay positive even facing thousands of hardships and attitude issues. These hopes cannot be realized alone by self-perseverance. They require the help of our Almighty Father, let us keep our precious treasure – our FAITH—NO MATTER WHAT. He knows what is best while valuing most of what is essential beyond our naked eyes. It is our inner self that makes our being complete... because there's no such thing as "YOU complete me"....

**GLETA B. ARANA**  
Accounts Analyst, ASD



There are just so many things to hope for... higher salary, good health, peace of mind, better working environment, etc. etc. But one hope stands out...Sana magkaroon ng sariling building ang NFA-C.O!

**ATTY. JOVAL R. PICIO**  
ATTY. IV, LAD



I hope this 2013 would bring more luck and more blessings for all of us and success for everyone's endeavor.

**CHARLENE D. GONZALES**  
Secretary I, GSD-D.O.



First off, I hope our institution to help our country to be self-sufficient in terms of rice production and also to be able to export our own produce to other countries. I also hope that all of our leaders will be guided by our common goal, food security and self-sustenance. I would also like to hope our leaders to be the role-model in good governance, accountability and public trust. And for us as government employees, I hope that we would regain the faith of the people, wherein we live and breathe the maxim, "public office is a public trust".

For myself, I hope that I could serve NFA and our government for many years to come. I hope that the institution would give me the opportunity to grow and lead me to a better future.

May I also bring great transformation in time, before I hand over the baton of responsibility to the next generation.

**PIO LORENZO M. DE LOS REYES**  
HRD ASSISTANT, HRMD



## Tristeza receives ASEAN engineer status

**Henry H. Tristeza**, provincial manager of NFA Tuguegarao branch has been successfully conferred the status of ASEAN Engineer from the ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organizations (AFEO) Governing Board last December 19, 2012 at Phnom Penh, Cambodia. He is the only Engineer in NFA to be awarded the prestigious title.

He now carries the designatory letters ASEAN Engr., after meeting the qualification requirements of the said award.

Incidentally, Manager Tristeza has gained another victory as he was elected recently as the new Philippines Society of Agricultural Engineers (PSAE) President during the 10th PSAE International Convention and Exhibition And 63rd Annual National Convention held at the Cagayan State University, Andrews Campus, Tuguegarao City. (**ANGELICA S. SIMEON**, correspondent)



Manager Tristeza



Cardeno

## NFA employee is champion in Resorts World's Darts Tourney

The most promising and talked about in the Philippine darts today is **Danilo B. Cardeno** of the NFA Darts Club. Danny, some close friends call him "Dancard", is an Internal Auditor III of the Internal Audit Department. He was crowned as champion in the recently concluded P1M Darts Tournament-Open singles sponsored by the Resorts World Manila held at the Resort's Prosperity Court on December 17 and 18, 2012.

Top seeded darters from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao and no less than

the RP National Darts Team participated in this first ever prestigious and biggest dart tourney in the open singles category.

Mr. Juanito "Boy" Gionzon from Manila International Airport, currently ranked as No. 1 of the RP National team was announced as the early finisher on the top 4 level. Danny, for his part, would become the person to face the most feared and heavy favorite Gionzon. Danny stood focused and with firm determination to accept the biggest challenge in his entire dart career. Behind him were the support of cheers and prayers from the friends and fellow darters close to him. One of these supporters is Chito Yacapin, the better half of NFA Director Mercy Yacapin who won the top 32 money bracket level. Our very own Danny defeated Boy Gionzon

to a convincing win of 2-0 in the best of three championship game series.

In a short message after the competition, Danny mentioned the support extended to him by the NFA, as his bread and butter. He sent a strong message to all darters that the NFA Darts Club, which he currently heads was not only a champion in the GCAA, DA and Corporate Cup dart tournament but also a threat even to the Goliaths of the Philippine darts.

## NFA Information Officer named Best Performing Info Officer

### Cynthia Luz F. Chua

of NFA Negros Occidental was named one of the Best Performing Information Officers of the province for 2012 by the Philippine Information Agency (PIA).

Chua received a trophy and a citation from Secretary Sonny Coloma of the Presidential Communications Operations Office in the presence of PIA Region VI Director Atty. Janet Mesa and PIA Negros Occidental Infocen Manager Lorenzo Lambatin. The ceremony was held at Nature's Village Resort, Talisay City, Negros Occidental during the year-end conference of government information officers in the region.

This recognition is an annual undertaking of the PIA in Region VI for government information officers doing information, education, communication, and advocacy work and who have rendered extraordinary accomplishments and contribution to government information works.

Ms. Chua is the designated Information Officer of the province and at the same time a Senior Grains Operations Officer who handles extension work.



Chua

**THEY MAKE  
NFA PROUD**



Dante R. Tio, designated classifier of NFA Davao Oriental was awarded a Certificate of Recognition by RD Edgar S. Bentulan and GMOD Dir. Carlito. Tio and truck driver Enrique F. Ladero, Jr. bravely secured the stocks and one of them even helped a child at the height of typhoon Pablo. (JEANNE ELIVER I. DULOTA, correspondent)



WSII Cirilo G. Naive (left) of NFA Baganga was awarded a Certificate of Recognition by NFA RXI Dir. Edgar S. Bentulan (2nd from left) together with NFA Davao Oriental OIC Arthur A. Aller (3rd from left) and GMOD Dir. Carlito G. Co during the RE-MANCOM last January 24. Naive fearlessly put his life on the line and protected NFA stocks from the ravaging typhoon Pablo. (JEANNE ELIVER I. DULOTA, correspondent)



## CPA LICENSURE EXAMINATION

### **KEMPEE JOHN O. NO-OT**

Course: Bachelor of Science in Accountancy

School: Holy Name University  
Tagbilaran City, Bohol

Year Graduated: SY 2011-2012 (March 2012)

Honors Received: Cum Laude

Date of Examination: October 2012

Parents: Abraham No-ot (PSQAO – NFA Siquijor)  
Marichu No-ot

**THEY MAKE  
NFA PROUD**



### **FRANK LORENZO R. PIZARRAS**

Course: Bachelor of Science in Accountancy

School: Holy Name University  
Tagbilaran City, Bohol

Year Graduated: SY 2011-2012 (March 2012)

Honors Received: Cum Laude

Date of Examination: October 2012

Parents: Edilberto Raul Pizarra  
Rogelia Pizarra (SGOO/WS II – NFA Bohol)

## REAL ESTATE BROKER LICENSURE EXAMINATION



### **REX L. SOLARTE**

Accounts Analyst

NFA Bohol

Date of Examination: March 2012

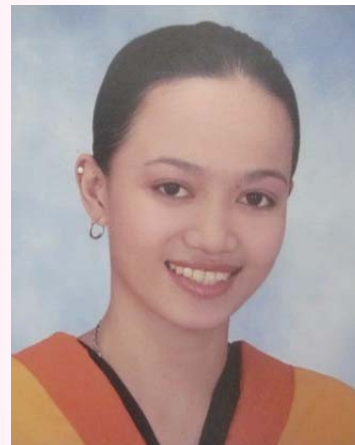
**THEY MAKE  
NFA PROUD**

## NURSING LICENSURE EXAMINATION



### **KAREN JEAN A. BORJA**

**Course:** Bachelor of Science in Nursing  
**School:** Holy Name University  
 Tagbilaran City, Bohol  
**Year Graduated:** SY 2009-2010 (March 2010)  
**Date of Examination:** July 2010  
**Employer:** ADK Hospital, Maldives  
**Parents:** Oreste Borja  
 Elaine Borja (Economist III – NFA, Bohol)



### **MARC RAYMUND T. HUBAC**

**Course:** Bachelor of Science in Nursing  
**School:** Bohol Institute of Technology  
 Tagbilaran City, Bohol  
**Year Graduated:** SY 2005-2006 (March 2006)  
**Date of Examination:** July 2011  
**Parents:** Moises Hubac  
 Leonor Hubac (RLO/PISO, NFA – Bohol)



### **EASTER JOY D. CATURZA**

**Course:** Bachelor of Science in Nursing  
**School:** Holy Name University  
 Tagbilaran City, Bohol  
**Year Graduated:** SY 2010-2011 (March 2011)  
**Date of Examination:** July 2011  
**Parents:** Hipolito Caturza  
 Anaclea Caturza (Accounts Analyst,  
 NFA – Bohol)

**THEY MAKE  
NFA PROUD**

## BOARD PASSERS



### **MICHAEL S. ALVAREZ**

**Course:** Bachelor of Science in Accountancy  
**School:** University of Sto. Tomas  
**Date of Exam:** May 2012  
**Parents:** MR. MARCIANO A. ALVAREZ – ARD, Caraga  
 MS. SONIA S. ALVAREZ – Economist, EDO



### **FRANCELINE B. CARANGIAN**

**Course:** Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering  
**School:** University of the Philippines, Los Baños  
**Date of Exam:** November 2011  
**Parents:** MS. ERLINE B. CARANGIAN -Sr. Acctg.  
 Specialist, CDO  
 MR. FRANCISCO CARANGIAN



### **KEVIN C. ARICA**

**Course:** Bachelor of Science in Accountancy  
**School:** University of Sto. Tomas  
**Date of Exam:** October 2011  
**Parents:** MS. SUSAN C. ARICA – QAO, CDO  
 MR. JOSEPH S. ARICA, CPA

**THEY MAKE  
NFA PROUD**

# An open letter to Leigh Pauline Dingle

by **MARIFE BERNARDO-DINGLE**

Parang kailan lang, I still remember, I had a countless sama ng loob, hagulgol at iyak when you started to enter school. Nakatatlong school ka noong preschool ka pa lang, dahil ayaw mong pumasok. Sobra hinagpis namin ni papa mo. Si mama rhoda ang nagmistula bayani noon na wala sawang binabantayan ka. Si Mommy naman ang matiyagang tagabantay mo noong elem ka na. Nagmistulang yaya mo sa school, pumasok ka lang. Jollibee ang daily lunch at miryenda huwag ka lang umiyak. Every 5 pm, uwian ninyo, I should be nasa tapat na ng flag pole ng CIC rain or shine para paglabas mo ako na ang makikita mo. Para kunyari binantayan kita maghapon. Natapos ang elementary mo na even once di ka nafirst section. Unlike ng tatlo mong mga kapatid na mga consistent honor students. Madalas kang maingit kasi ikaw lang ang wala medal na nakasabit.

Then nag high school ka na. Kasama mo pa ako sa first day mo, remember. Unti unti nakikitaan ka namin

ni papa ng pagpupursigi sa pag-aaral. Nagulat kami sa mga pagtaas ng grades mo. Kahit di ka nahonor, I can say na napakalaki ng improvement ng grades mo.

Then nag college ka na. Nagulat kami ni papa mo sa minsang pag uwi mo sinabi mong unti lang babayaran namin tuition kasi nakapasok ka sa

academic scholarship ng school mo. Shocked kami. And hindi lang once, not twice but thrice mong pinatuyan na kaya mong maging academic scholar. Salamat anak sa malaking tuition na natipid natin. hehehe. Then last first week of March, you texted me na aatend tayo ng

**TURN TO PAGE 27**



## Regional Accountant's daughter is Magna Cum Laude

**Janelle "Precious" Lucas**, daughter of proud parents, Romana "Ming" Manansala-Lucas, Accountant IV of NFA Region XI, General Santos City and Jose "Joe" G. Lucas, State Auditor IV, Commission on Audit, finished her degree in Bachelor of Science in Accountancy from Notre Dame of Dadiangas University (NDDU), General Santos City, as Magna Cum Laude. She immediately took a 5-month CPA Review at Davao City and successfully passed the CPA Board Exams. Since childhood, Janelle was already exposed to the language of accounting as she listens to her parents discussing about their work, the mother being an Accountant and the

father being an Auditor. She helped in the bookkeeping of the family's native delicacies business. No wonder that she did not find difficulty in choosing what course to take in college.

During her college days, she has been an active officer of the Junior Phil Institute of Accountants or JPIA and has attended out-of-town activities relative to JPIA going as far as Cotabato City, Boracay and other places. Janelle did not confine herself to school work, because while in high school and college days, she has been an active part-time volunteer in the Kids for Christ, and later in the Youth for Christ, a Family Ministries of the Couples for Christ (CFC). Her involvement in these activities gave her the opportunity to go places in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, and was once in Singapore to attend the International Kids Village (IKV).

**TURN TO PAGE 27**

## Your Union is Working for you

Last year was a phenomenal year for the National Food Authority Employees Association (NFAEA) as it hosted the first National Art Installation Competition (NIAC). It was another admirable feat since NFAEA was able to bring all NFA workers across the country together to compete for the art installation contest. It was a proof that NFA employees are not only good at performing their office duties but they are also blessed with creative skills.

The year 2012 was also a banner year for the employees' union as can be seen from its long list of accomplishments from January to December. It actively participated in a series of meetings with different committees in the Central Office as well as with government officials outside of the NFA. During the year, the NFAEA met with the management to discuss various issues and concerns such

as the creation of a special committee on 40% and its restoration. Our Union also accommodated interviews from the media including UNTV, GMA-7, ABS-CBN, DWIC, Manila Standard, and the Manila Bulletin.

True to its social mission, the NFAEA also joined rallies/protest actions to press noteworthy issues such as the Collective Negotiations Agreement Incentive (CNAI); P6,000 across the board wage increase; Department of Budget and Management's disallowances of employee benefits like CNAI, among others.

One of the key achievements of the NFAEA last year was the successful approval of the 2012 uniform allowance of P2,500 in cash. NFA employees nationwide were delighted to hear this piece of news since any monetary benefit is gladly greeted with enthusiasm. This wish was granted by former

Administrator Angelito Banayo after the NFAEA wrote him an emotional letter.

It is also worth mentioning that the NFAEA wrote the former administrator a letter requesting deferment of the implementation of Section 37 of the General Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2012 requiring that the net take home pay of government employees should not be lower than P5,000 after all authorized deductions.

Meanwhile, in March last year, the NFAEA, upon the appeal of GSD drivers, sought the help of Administrator Banayo to postpone the implementation of the compulsory payment of monthly lodging fee of NFA drivers sleeping at the Motorpool at the NFA Visayas Avenue. Banayo responded with a letter to Director Ruben Rimando suspending the implementation until further notice.

Meanwhile, the NFAEA continues to provide financial assistance to its members nationwide notably those with financial and health concerns.

While 2013 is yet another challenging year not only for the employees' union, the NFAEA will carry on its duties for NFA employees and will try to surpass its accomplishments for 2012. (LINA REYES)



*Employees of the National Food Authority are joined by cause-oriented groups trying to oppose the abolition of the food agency in a rally held recently.*

### NFA employees help Pablo victims thru NFAEA

Employees of the National Food Authority, through the NFA Employees Association (NFAEA), once again showed compassion by helping fellow employees in Compostela Valley (ComVal) and Davao Oriental ravaged by typhoon Pablo in December last year.

A total of P259,300.00 cash donations were raised from both the Central Office in Quezon City and field office employees of the NFA as of February 1, 2013. Cash donations not reported to the NFAEA national office from regions 5, 7, 8, and Caraga were not included in the report.

The NFAEA personally supervised relief operations to beneficiaries who are regular employees of ComVal and Davao Oriental, laborers, security

guards, farmers, and residents of Poblacion and Nabunturan in ComVal and barangay San Antonio in Cateel, Davao Oriental. The beneficiaries either received cash or goods as donations.

The effected employees and other beneficiaries expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the NFAEA and to their fellow employees for their generosity. (LINA REYES)

Hindi Alintana Ang Hirap Ng Ginagawa  
Sa Ilalim Ng Sikat Ng Araw, Ang Init Ay Kinakaya  
Sa Gitna Ng Bukid, Buong Pusong Pinagpapala  
Ang Butil Ng Buhay, Na Bawat Pilipino Ay Umaasa

Ang magbubukid na hamak sa paningin  
Ay siyang tunay na dakila at siyang dapat tingalain  
Sa kanyang mga kamay, ang pagkain ng bayan ay nakasalalay  
Sa kanyang mga pagpupungagi, siguradong may kanin  
Ang bawat pamilyang Pilipino sa oras ng pagkain.

Salat man sa yaman at ginhawa sa buhay  
Ang ating mga magsasaka,  
paghihirap man ang puhunan  
Upang maitawid ang kinabukasan ng kanyang pamilya  
Ay hindi kayang tumbasan ng ginto o anumang yaman  
Ang gintong ani na sa bukid na mga magsasaka  
Lamang ang may kakayahang magpapala

Ang bawat butil ng Gintong Ani,  
buhay ang siyang katumbas  
Ating pahalagahan, sinupin at pagyamanin  
Upang ang kinabukasan ng bayan  
Ay atin pang malalaspil!

### Lamentation in Numbers

the\_accountant013

better to be blind,  
than to see  
dying children  
horrible crimes  
violations and sins  
and being unable  
to do anything about it.

better to be mute,  
than to remain silent,  
on situations  
that has to be heard.  
on things,  
that has to be exposed,  
on conversations,  
that you just have  
to make a stand.

better to be deaf,  
than to hear,  
truths that can  
pierce hearts,  
words,  
that can move mountains  
that turned out  
to be dead.

They say wisdom  
Comes with age  
But we know  
Not all that has been said  
Were true.  
If this world  
Has been filled  
With these hollow lies,  
What would life  
Now mean to you?

# Gallery

Poverty is  
manmade because  
of greed for power...  
And to eradicate poverty  
is not an act of charity  
But an act of justice.  
- Nelson Mandela

nilo m.manongsong

