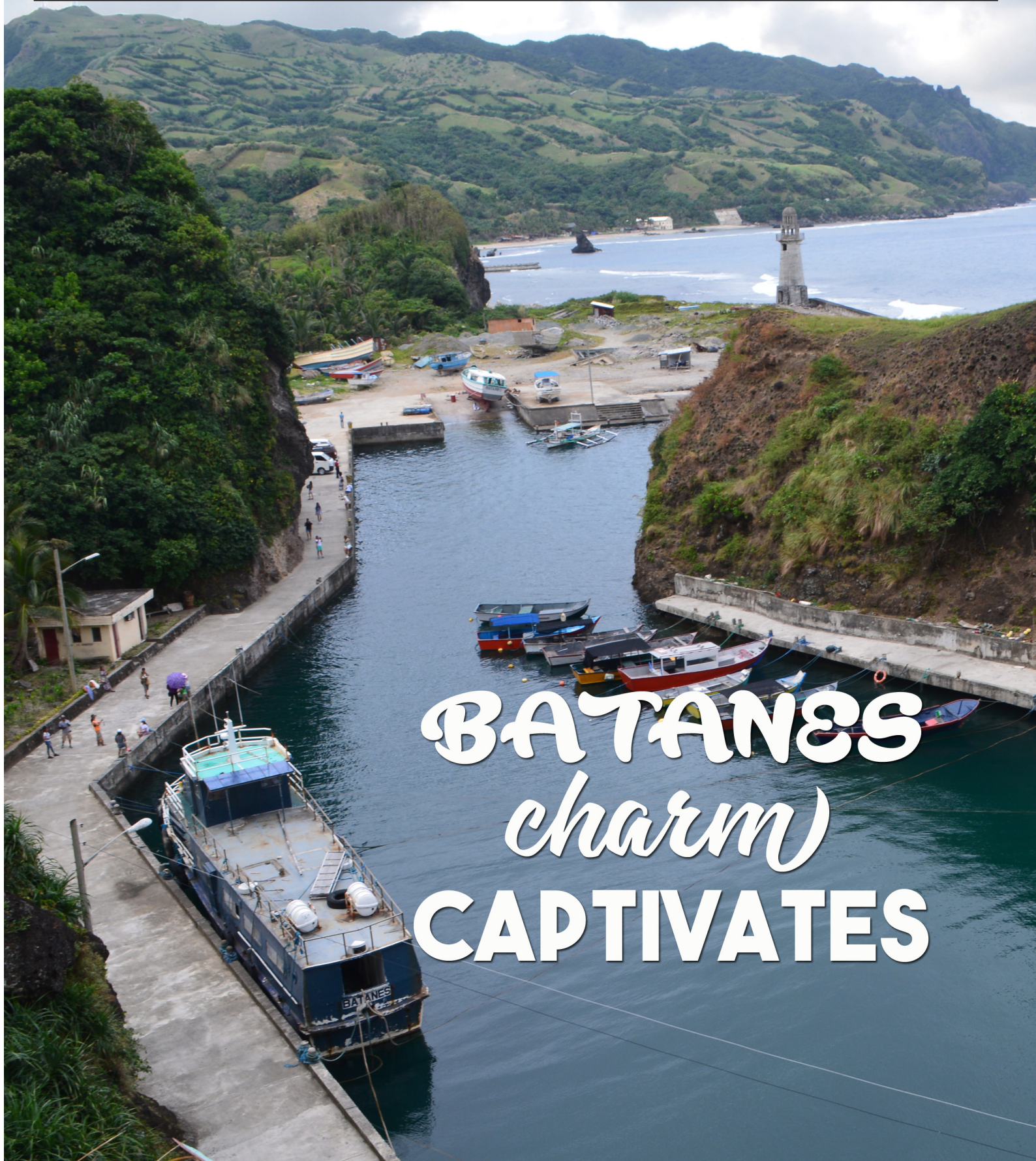




Linkage

A Publication of the Regional Development Council 02 June 2018



BATANES
charm
CAPTIVATES

EDITORIAL TEAM

Advisers/Editors-in-Chief
OIC-RD FERDINAND P. TUMALIUAN
OIC-ARD RONILO H. BULSECO

Associate Editors
GERARDO L. CATOLOS
DJONIMAR LO C. Dumlao

Managing Editor
ANNE Y. LASAM

Contributors For This Issue:

NEDA: Anne Y. Lasam, Angelica A. Umoquit, Gina V. Dayag, Florendo T. Irigayen, Jr.,
DPWH: Maricel B. Asejo, Wilfrid V. Catu
NIA: Dorothy Belle C. de Leon
DOLE: Jolina A. Pelovello
PIA: Oliver T. Baccay, Benjamin Moses Ebreo, Mark Djeron C. Tumabao, Thelma C. Bicarne, Rafael L. Salamagos

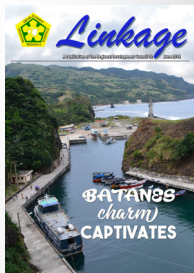
News and feature articles are welcome and may be submitted to the RDC2 Secretariat c/o NEDA RO2. However, the RDC2 reserves the right to choose and edit articles for publication. Comments and suggestions are also accepted.

The RDC Linkage is published quarterly by the Regional Development Council 2.

Visit our website: www.rdc2.gov.ph

ABOUT THE COVER

This quarter's issue focuses on the efforts and initiatives of the Cagayan Valley Regional Development Council to push for more infrastructure projects to further propel development in the region. It also highlights the charm of the region's island province of Batanes.



Phone: (078) 304-9300
Fax: (078) 304-1243
E-mail: neda_ro2@yahoo.com



Linkage

June 2018 Issue

What's inside this issue:

RDC CORNER

RDC2 pushes for breakwater facility at Basco Port | 4

RBRC holds FY 2019 Regional Budget Review | 5

RDC2 Resolutions passed for the 2nd Quarter | 5

RPMC monitors 6 projects in Batanes | 6

RDC2 visits Batanes | 8

CODAC to implement ComPlan for PDP/RDP, AN2040 | 10

RDC2 PSRs join 9th National Convention in GenSan | 11

10th PPP Knowledge Corner launched | 16

AGENCY WATCH

₱4.37 billion peso irrigation project breaks ground | 12

DOLE gives livelihood assistance, teaching kits | 13

DA rallies support for CV's commodity investment | 13

AROUND THE REGION

NV farmers get machinery support from local gov't | 14

10th Kulay Festival highlights Ivatans' rich cultural heritage | 14

Quirino PLGU recommends training center for IPs | 14

Cagayan Guv envisions economic cooperation with Northeast Asia | 15

IPs in Isabela get livelihood assistance | 15

FEATURE

CY 2018 First Quarter Regional Economic Situationer | 3

Infobits | 10



Cover photo credit: PLGU Batanes



CY 2018 FIRST QUARTER REGIONAL ECONOMIC SITUATIONER

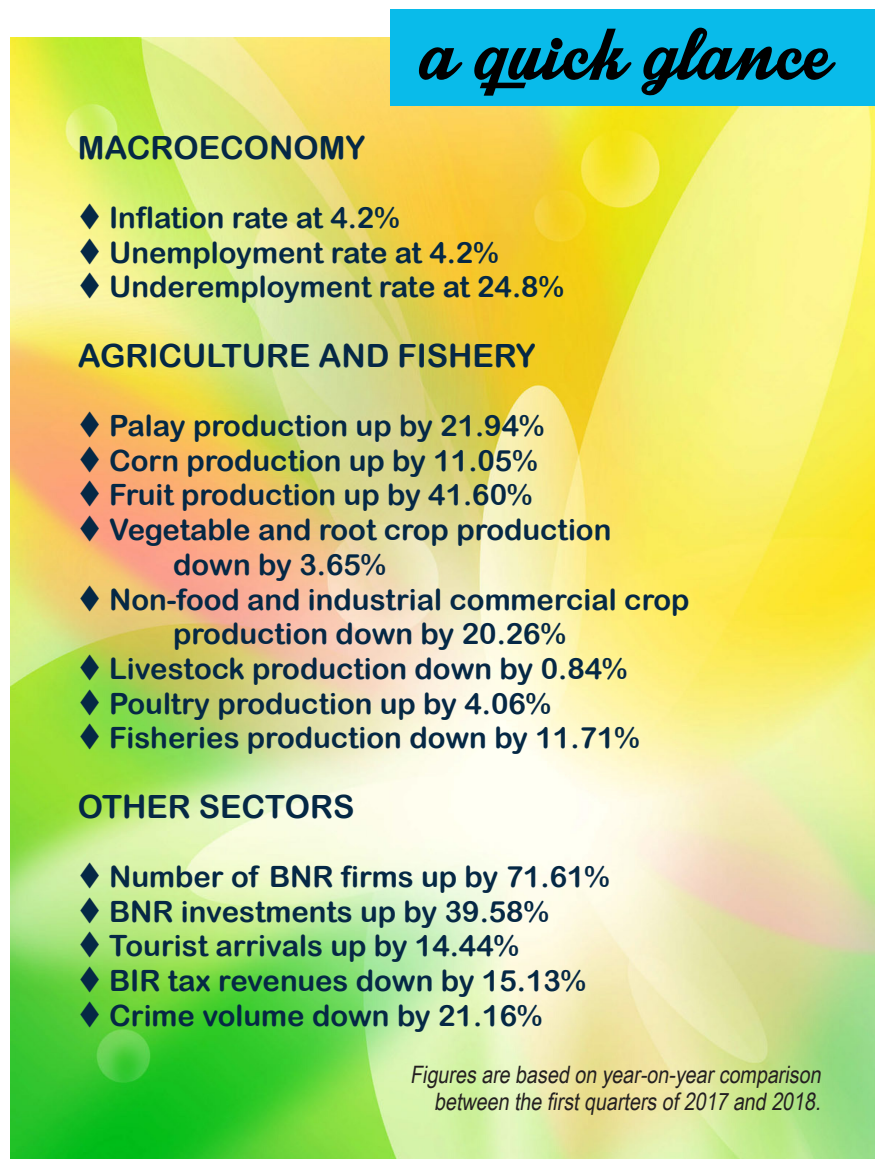
The Cagayan Valley Region experienced a gainful performance in all sectors for the first quarter of CY 2018.

As in past quarters and years, the region topped production in palay and corn, contributing a share of 15.69 percent and 25.10 percent to the national output, respectively.

Production of fruits and poultry posted increments as well. However, low production levels were registered by vegetables and root crops, non-food industrial and commercial crops, livestock, and fisheries.

On the Industry and Services sector, key indicators recorded increased economic activities during the quarter. The Department of Trade and Industry's Business Name Registration (BNR) posted a higher number of firms, reflecting significant increases in investments and jobs generated. Indicators on tourist arrivals continue to show a flourishing tourism industry with both domestic and foreign tourists.

The investment climate, in terms of security and peace and order, also displayed lower crime volumes during the period. Meanwhile, the tax revenue generation of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) dropped as a result of the decrease in personal income taxes due to the implementation of the TRAIN Law.



Prices of basic goods and services measured by the inflation rate rose to 4.2 percent for the quarter, an inch up by 0.3 percentage points from last year's 3.9 percent. This is attributed to the increase in the price indices of most commodity groups.

The region, nonetheless, maintained a higher employment rate and lower unemployment rate (4.2 percent) compared to the previous year.

For the next quarter and beyond, the challenge for the region remains on improving the quality of jobs created, further streamlining business procedures, increasing productivity levels and value creation on local produce in agriculture, and harnessing the potentials of the booming tourism industry. | ANGELICA A. UMOQUIT, NEDA PFPD

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



RDC2 pushes for breakwater facility at Basco Port

The Regional Development Council (RDC) 2 has requested the Department of Transportation (DOTr) to allocate funds for and expedite the construction of a breakwater facility at the Basco Port in the island province of Batanes.

This as the Council recognized the importance of having a breakwater facility at the Basco Port after a report made by the Provincial Government of Batanes during the RDC2's 113th business meeting in April in Basco.

"The absence of a breakwater facility at the port has resulted in the suspension of ship calls which causes shortage of basic goods coming into the province, mishap to vessels as they could not escape to a safer water basin or anchorage, and the lack of a safe shelter port for vessels navigating the sea lane between Taiwan and the Philippines," explained Rolando Ventolero, the Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator of Batanes.

He added that Basco Port is the only port of entry for ships from the mainland that carry consumer goods, commodities, and

construction materials. It is also the only exit point for livestock and agricultural products from Batanes to the mainland.

"The existing port faces the South China Sea and experiences rough offshore waves regularly as the province is located within the typhoon belt," Ventolero said.

In March 2017, the Philippine Ports Authority conducted a port survey that resulted in the crafting of an Updated Development Plan for the Basco Port which includes the construction of a breakwater facility.

This proposed improvement of the Basco Port was one of the development issues raised by Batanes Governor Marilou H. Cayco in her presentation on the socioeconomic situation of the province during the meeting.

"Given our location, we are prone to natural calamities and we are also constantly facing the

problem of illegal poaching in our municipal waters," Governor Cayco said.

"We are very thankful to the RDC2 for coming over to our province despite our remoteness to the mainland and we humbly welcome any technical assistance from our friends in government," she added.

Aside from the breakwater facility at the Basco Port, Governor Cayco also identified their needs for scholarship programs and student financial assistance, funding assistance for the establishment of waste water treatment plants, provision of hazard maps, training/workshops on information technology, training on tour guiding, establishment of an organic fertilizer production facility and provision of farm inputs, and regular patrolling of the maritime domain of the province, among others. | NEDA DRD. Photo Credit: Batanes PLGU

RBRC holds FY 2019 Regional Budget Review

On April 4-5, 2018, the Regional Budget Review Committee (RBRC) of the Regional Development Council (RDC) 2 reviewed the FY 2019 budget proposals of 19 regional line agencies (RLAs) and five state universities and colleges (SUCs).

Led by RBRC Chair and Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Regional Director Isabel C. Taguinod, this year's review was based on the Budget Framework for FY 2019 as defined by National Budget Memorandum No. 129 issued by the DBM.

The FY 2019 budget proposals should reflect the current administration's policies like the 0+10-Point Socioeconomic Agenda as envisioned in the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022. The government's investments in infrastructure and social services shall ensure that the 7-8 percent economic growth target in the PDP is both sustainable and inclusive.

To support these investments, government is streamlining its Public Financial Management System through the proposed budget reform bill. A key component of this reform is the shift from a multi-year obligation-based budget to an annual cash-based one. The aim is to

change the basis of measuring the budgetary performance of agencies from one that is based on obligations to one that is based on payments made for goods and services actually delivered.

As such, the 2019 agency budgets will be characterized by an annual cash-based budget that will put more emphasis on accelerating program delivery. Limiting the national budget to the annual cash requirements of agencies safeguards the original intent of the Appropriation Law – that is, the budget as planned and legislated is fully executed within the year. Thus, agencies ensure that their operations are on schedule and that their appropriated budgets can be fully disbursed within the year.

The FY 2019 budget proposals were also reviewed based on other expenditure or budgetary policies such as the (a) provision of full support to the poorest, lagging, and most climate-vulnerable areas; (b) adoption of the two-tier budgeting approach; (c) disaggregation of lump-sum amounts within the agency-specific budgets; (d) institutionalization of a well-functioning, results-based, and credible monitoring and evaluation system; and (e) vertical linkage between national and local plans and budgets. | **GINA V. DAYAG, NEDA PDIPBD**

RDC2 Resolutions passed for the 2nd Quarter

RDC2 Resolution No. 02-09-2018

Adopting and Enjoining Support to the Communication Plan for the Promotion of the AmBisyon Natin 2040 and the Philippine Development Plan / Cagayan Valley Regional Development Plan 2017-2022

RDC2 Resolution No. 02-10-2018

Requesting All Regional Line Agencies, Government-Owned and Controlled Corporations, Government Financial Institutions, Local Government Units, Public and Private Higher Education Institutions, and Technical and Vocational Education and Training Institutions in Region 2 to Adopt and Use the AmBisyon Natin 2040 Logo and Tagline "Matatag, Maginhawa, at Panatag na Buhay" in All Their Advocacy Materials

RDC2 Resolution No. 02-11-2018

Endorsing the Project Proposal of the Isabela State University under the Niche Centers in the Regions for Research and Development Program of the Department of Science and Technology

RDC2 Resolution No. 02-12-2018

Approving and Adopting the Updated Cagayan Valley Regional Research and Development Agenda 2017-2022

RDC2 Resolution No. 02-13-2018

Approving the National Commission for Culture and the Arts as a Special Non-Voting Member of the Regional Development Council 2 and as a Regular Member of the Social Development Committee

RDC2 Resolution No. 02-14-2018

Endorsing the Philippine Water Supply and Sanitation Master Plan – Cagayan Valley Roadmap

RDC2 Resolution No. 02-15-2018

Requesting the Department of Public Works and Highways Central Office and Regional Office 03 to Expedite the Remaining Components of the Dalton East Alternate Route Project

RDC2 Resolution No. 02-16-2018

Requesting the Department of Public Works and Highways to Include in its FY 2019 Budget the Proposed Construction of the Convention Center at the Regional Government Center

RDC2 Resolution No. 02-17-2018

Requesting the Department of Transportation to Allocate Funds and Expedite the Implementation of the Breakwater Component of the Basco Port Development Project

RDC2 Resolution No. 02-18-2018

Prohibiting Hauler Trucks and Passenger Buses/Vans to Pass Along the Main Roads of the Regional Government Center

RDC2 Resolution No. 02-19-2018

Requesting the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Tuguegarao City to Enact an Ordinance Prohibiting Hauler Trucks and Passenger Buses/Vans to Pass Along the Roads in the Regional Government Center



Tank 1 of the water sanitation facility being rehabilitated and developed through the Bottom-Up Budgeting Program which will serve around 1,132 households in Brgys. Kayvaluganan and San Antonio in Basco, Batanes.

RPMC monitors 6 projects in Batanes

For this quarter, the Project Monitoring Team (PMT) of the Regional Project Monitoring Committee (RPMC) conducted its regular monitoring activity in the island province of Batanes to check on the status of implementation of five development projects in Basco town and another in Ivana on April 19, 2018.

Two of the projects visited are implemented by the Provincial Government of Batanes, one of which is the construction of a 5.8 m by 100 linear meter (ln.m.) retaining/seawall for reclamation at Kadpidan Beach in Ivana, including a 2.2 m x 281 ln.m. reinforced rubble concrete seawall.

This project is funded under the 20% Development Fund of the provincial government (amounting to ₱5 million) with a share of ₱1.7 million from the Municipality of Ivana.

At the time of visit, the project was 50% completed. Expected to be finished by August 2018, the project will protect the community from typhoons, storm surges, and tsunamis.

The other project is the concreting of the Basco-Songsong Provincial Road Phase II in Basco. The project, which started in October 2017, has a net length of 1.465 km. During the visit, it was 97% complete, which was

retargeted to be completed by April 2018 from the original target of February. This is in addition to the 1.625 km which was already completed during the first phase of the project.

The team also visited the Basco Water System which is being rehabilitated under the Bottom-Up Budgeting (BUB) program of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG). It aims to provide sufficient clean and safe water for consumption and domestic use.

The project started in 2015 and is 80% complete as of February 2018. The remaining 20% involves the installation of distribution lines, but this was halted because the contractor abandoned the project due to the unavailability of laborers in the locality, increase in the pay rate of laborers, and the high cost of construction materials.

The team recommended that the provincial government should build the capacity or working skills of local laborers so that future projects will not experience similar problems. It was also



The Level III Basco Water System will soon provide sufficient and safe water upon the installation of the transmission and distribution lines.



Members of the RPMC-PMT during this field monitoring visit in Batanes were composed of officials and staff from the PIA, PMS, DILG, DBM, NEDA, and an RDC2 private sector representative.

Batanes General Hospital, which is implemented under the 2015 Health Facilities Enhancement Program of the Department of Health. Its implementation is delayed due to various issues with the project contractor and the scarcity of workforce.

For this project visit, the RPMC-PMT was composed of Regional Director Purita S. Licas and Mr. Oliver T. Baccay of the Philippine Information Agency, Engr. Cesar Tuliao and Mr. Xernan M. Wandagan of the Presidential Management Staff, Engr. Imelda Rosales and Engr. John Marlo Pascual of the DILG, Mr. Jose Pamittan of the Department of Budget and Management, Regional Development Council 2 Private Sector Representative Engr. Gilbert E. Acdal, and Ms. Mageline S. De Laza, Ms. Francisca C. Tannagan, and Mr. Joel T. Unciano of NEDA Regional Office 2. | **NEDA DRD and members of the RPMC-PMT. Photo Credits: RPMC**

recommended that water quality from the source – in the spring of Mt. Iraya – should be tested for any water-borne diseases before the project is turned over to the local government.

Also under the BuB is the rehabilitation and development of water sanitation facilities (Phase III) project in Basco, which aims to provide more access to a safer water supply.

The water facility will have two tanks: Tank 1 will serve 1,132 households in the urban barangays of Kayvaluganan and San Antonio while Tank 2 will serve 986 households in Kayhuvokan and Kaychanarianan.

As of the visit, Tank 1 is only 16% complete, which should have been 23% based on the program of work. The cause of delay was the late arrival of construction materials from Metro Manila. Meanwhile, the PMT recommended to fast track the acquisition of the lot for Tank 2. The whole project is expected to be completed by December 2018.

The PMT also visited the ongoing development of the Basco

Kaychanarianan Port Road with a bridge component. The project is under the CY 2016 Convergence Program of the Department of Tourism and the Department of Public Works and Highways.

This project aims to expand Basco Port and provide an alternative access to it from Brgy. Kaychanarianan. Based on the program of work, the project was expected to be completed by March 2017, but it was still 94.60% finished as of the team's visit. Again, one of the reasons for the delay was the lack of manpower in the area.

The last project that the PMT monitored was the construction of various health facilities at the



The Basco Kaychanarianan Port Road is being developed into a national road with a bridge component, having a total project cost of around ₱47 million. It is expected to be completed 20 days from the time of the project visit.



(From L-R): Batanes Provincial Governor Marilou H. Cayco, Santiago City Mayor Joseph S. Tan, Nueva Vizcaya Provincial Governor Carlos M. Padilla, RDC2 Chairperson and Quirino Provincial Governor Junie E. Cua, NEDA Undersecretary Rosemarie G. Edillon, NEDA Consultant Bebet G. Gozun, RDC2 Interim Vice-Chair and NEDA OIC-RD Ferdinand P. Tumaliuan, and RDC2 Interim Secretary and NEDA OIC-ARD Ronilo H. Bulseco.

Around 45 members or almost 70% of the Regional Development Council (RDC) 2 shared their inputs during the Council's 113th regular business meeting held on April 18, 2018 in Basco, Batanes.

The good turnout of the Council's members did not go unnoticed by the RDC2 Chairperson himself, Quirino Provincial Governor Junie E. Cua. During his opening remarks, Governor Cua acknowledged that the members came to Batanes not only to fulfill their role in the RDC2 but also to see the marvelous beauty of the region's only island province.

"Everybody wants to see Batanes and to experience the warm welcome of the Ivatans," he said.

He continued to express his heartfelt thanks to the Provincial Government of Batanes, led by Gov. Marilou H. Cayco, for inviting the RDC2 to the island. He noted that so much development has transpired in the province since the last time

the Council held its meeting in Batanes in May 2009.

Governor Cayco also thanked the RDC2 for accepting the invitation and giving Batanes a chance to showcase its splendor and beauty. She also encouraged everyone to work hard for the realization of every plan that the Council charters.

"With the active participation of every member, we at the RDC2 will surely find our place at the top among the rest of the regions," said the first lady governor of Batanes.

She further acknowledged the efforts of the Council under the leadership of Governor Cua for taking actions and initiatives

toward the realization of the goals of the Regional Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022.

"Adopting mechanisms and doable measures within the framework of the RDP is necessary to speed up the implementation of programs and projects," added Governor Cayco, who also acts as the Chairperson of the RDC2-Social Development Committee.

Governor Cua averred that the members should always strive to achieve the Council's constitutional mandate along administrative decentralization to strengthen the autonomy of local government units in the region to accelerate socioeconomic development.

RDC2 ~~È~~ ~~À~~ ~~È~~ BATANES



NEDA Undersecretary Rosemarie G. Edillon shared how LGUs and RLAs can localize and ensure that their programs and projects are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Among the development initiatives approved and endorsed by the RDC2 during this meeting were the construction of a convention center within the Regional Government Center in Tuguegarao City, the inclusion of the National Commission on Culture and the Arts as a special non-voting member of the RDC2, and the approval of the Philippine Water Supply and Sanitation Master Plan – Cagayan Valley Roadmap.

The updated Cagayan Valley Regional Research and Development Agenda (RRDA) for 2017-2022 was also approved by the Council. The RRDA provides the list of research areas for the region and will serve as a guide for research efforts in the next six years to address the identified challenges reflected in the Cagayan Valley Regional Development Plan 2017-2022.

One of the research proposals identified in the updated RRDA is the proposal of the

Isabela State University for the establishment of a forest products innovation center for Region 2. This study is proposed for funding under the Niche Centers in the Regions for Research and Development (NICER) Program of the Department of Science and Technology. The RDC2 endorsed said proposal to fast track the implementation of the research.

Localizing the SDGs

As a reminder to all member-agencies of the RDC2 to ensure that their projects and programs are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), NEDA Undersecretary for Policy and Planning Rosemarie G. Edillon gave a brief presentation on localizing these goals.

Undersecretary Edillon said that the SDGs, also called Global Goals, are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

“The Global Goals are about finding balance in the development trajectories of the economic, social,

and environmental dimensions,” she explained.

“This just ensures that development is sustainable and no one is left behind,” she said.

The undersecretary emphasized that the PDP 2017-2022 is the first medium-term plan that is geared towards the attainment of the AmBisyon Natin 2040, which represents the collective long-term vision and aspirations of the Filipino people for themselves and for the country, articulated by the tagline, “*matatag, maginhawa, at panatag na buhay para sa lahat*”.

She also shared with the members of the Council some strategies on how to advance the AmBisyon Natin 2040 and the Agenda 2030.

“It is by raising the awareness of the people through advocacy that we can gain support for both endeavors, at the same time allowing us to adopt these perspectives in development planning,” she explained. | NEDA DRD



After the meeting, members of the Council joined a tour of the famous tourist spots and significant development initiatives around the island province.

With the go-signal from the Regional Development Council (RDC) 2, the Committee on Development Administration and Communication (CODAC) is set to implement the Communication Plan (ComPlan) for the promotion of the AmBisyon Natin 2040 (AN2040) and the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) and Cagayan Valley Regional Development Plan (CV RDP) 2017-2022.

In her presentation, CODAC Co-Chairperson Regional Director Purita S. Licas of the Philippine Information Agency said that the ComPlan aims to build understanding on, awareness of, and support for the PDP/RDP and the AN2040.

“Through this ComPlan, we will be able to engage our stakeholders and citizens to work towards the realization of the shared vision of a *matatag, maginhawa, at panatag na buhay*,” the director said.

CODAC to implement ComPlan for PDP/RDP, AN2040

She added that the ComPlan enumerates the region’s promotional efforts and activities for the period 2017-2022 which shall be jointly implemented by cooperating regional line agencies (RLAs), local government units (LGUs), public and private higher education institutions (HEIs), and the media, including the Cagayan Valley Information Officers Organization.

“These activities use innovative and effective communication platforms to reach a wider range of audience such as the government, private sector, and civil society,” Director Licas added.

One of the promotional activities is the adoption and use of the AN2040 logo and tagline in the advocacy materials that will be produced by the RLAs, LGUs, HEIs, government-owned and controlled corporations,

government finance institutions, and technical and vocational education and training institutions in Region 2.

Advocacy materials include flyers, brochures, celebration streamers, training backdrops, newsletters, and other forms.

Other activities include the publication of infobits in newsletters, plugging of the promotional song (Tunog ng Progreso) over AM and FM radio stations, conduct of students’ forum, media briefings and radio/ tv interviews and guestings, and participation in info caravans.

Director Licas emphasized that these activities will be implemented in partnership with various cooperating agencies who shall submit accomplishment reports to the CODAC. | **NEDA DRD**

Infobits

To contribute to the attainment of a *matatag, maginhawa, at panatag na buhay para sa lahat*, the strategies in the PDP 2017-2022 fall under these three pillars, which are supported by cross-cutting strategies for national security, infrastructure development, socioeconomic resiliency, and ecological integrity, which provide a bedrock for all strategies to work:

MALASAKIT. Enhancing the Social Fabric - The aim is to regain people’s trust in public institutions and cultivate trust

in fellow Filipinos. This entails making public institutions citizen-centered, efficient, and clean. Administration of justice will be swift and fair and Filipinos will have increased awareness of the country’s cultural diversity and shared heritage.

PAGBABAGO. Inequality-Reducing Transformation - By expanding economic opportunities and increasing access to these opportunities, growth will be felt on the ground. A key strategy is fostering linkages in agriculture and the industry and service

sector, coupled with reducing vulnerability and ensuring resiliency of communities by strengthening social protection and prioritizing human capital development.

PATULOY NAPAG-UNLAD.

Increasing the Growth Potential of the Economy. Major strategies to ensure that economic growth is accelerated and sustained include advancing to a knowledge economy and accelerating the full harvest of the demographic dividend. Technology adoption will be promoted and innovation encouraged.

RDC2 PSRs join 9th National Convention in GenSan

Nine of the 12 Private Sector Representatives (PSRs) of the Regional Development Council (RDC) 2 participated in the 9th National Convention of RDC PSRs held on May 22-25, 2018 at the Greenleaf Hotel Gensan in General Santos City.

They joined other PSRs from the regions nationwide in extensively discussing various sectoral issues related to the theme, “Peace and Development through Better Governance”.

They also identified areas where they could possibly collaborate with other development partners to address various concerns along the sectors of tourism, agriculture and food security, education, labor, peace and security, and governance.

Undersecretary Adoracion M. Navarro of the NEDA - Regional Development Office graced the occasion, emphasizing that the PSRs in the RDCs have a key role in bringing development concerns to the government.

“At the same time, our PSRs play an important role in keeping our regional line agencies and local government units on guard with respect to promoting efficiency in public service,” she said.

“We also rely on you, our PSRs, to be advocates of government’s



ROAD TO AGLIPAY CAVES GETS UPGRADE. Aiming to boost tourism and economic activities in the area, the Department of Public Works and Highways – Quirino District Engineering Office has started upgrading the road leading to the famous Aglipay Caves in Aglipay, Quirino. With a fund allocation of ₱20 million, the project is part of the Tourism Road Infrastructure Project under the Convergence Program of the Department of Tourism and DPWH. The project involves the paving of the existing gravel road, including drainage and slope protection structures. When completed, it will provide a 1.60-km concrete road that will enhance accessibility and shorten travel time to the tourist spot, thereby attracting more tourists and generating jobs for the residents within the area. It is expected to be completed on July 18, 2018. | **MARICEL B. ASEJO & WILFRID V. CATU, DPWH RO2**

policies and programs in your respective sectors, communities, and business circles,” the undersecretary added.

Key officials from the Department of Tourism Regional Office XII, Department of Agriculture Regional Office XII, Department of the Interior and Local Government Central Office, and the Bangsamoro Transition Commission discussed the following topics, respectively: (a) barrier-free tourism; (b) the state of Philippine agriculture, particularly on food security; (c) the emerging model of Philippine Federalism; and (d) the salient features of the Bangsamoro Basic Law.

The Region 2 PSR delegation was led by RDC2 Co-Chairperson Dr. Cecilia La Madrid-Dy. Other PSRs who were present included Elpidio T. Tortoza, Engr. Gilbert E. Acdal, Engr. Gilbert L. Cumila, Charles T. Lim, Atty. German M. Balot, Cristina G. Reyes, Protacio D. Laguinday, and Engr. Romeo S. Vasquez.

RDC2 Interim Vice Chairperson and NEDA OIC-Regional Director Ferdinand P. Tumalian also joined the group, together with Engr. Gerardo L. Catolos and Florendo T. Irigayen, Jr. from the RDC2 Secretariat. | **FLORENDO T. IRIGAYEN, JR., NEDA DRD**

₱4.37 billion peso irrigation project breaks ground

The ₱4.37 billion-worth Chico River Pump Irrigation Project (CRPIP), the first flagship infrastructure project of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) Regional Office 2 under President Rodrigo R. Duterte's Build Build Build Program, broke ground on June 8, 2018.

NIA Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya and Mr. Jin Yuan, the Economic and Commercial Counsellor of the Embassy of the Republic of China, together with Acting Regional Irrigation Manager Constancio G. Banaay, Jr., Acting Project Manager Roland V. Apaga, Cagayan Governor Manuel N. Mamba, Kalinga Governor Jocel C. Baac, Congress Representative Allan Jesse Mangaoang of the Lone District of Kalinga, and Pinococ Barangay Captain Saturnino B. Tamdog, led the ground breaking ceremony at Sitio Karaw, Pinococ, Pinukpuk, Kalinga.

The components of the CRPIP include the construction of a pump house in Katabbog, Pinukpuk; installation of six units electric motor-driven pump with an individual capacity of 3,000 liters per second; installation of a 30-kilometer transmission line; construction of two units conveyance tunnel, 4.403-kilometer diversion main canal, 33.596-kilometer main canal, 100.48-kilometer lateral canal; roads, irrigation and drainage facilities; and the construction of an eight-kilometer access road and 84.387-kilometer service roads.

A Project Management Office will also be established in Naruangan, Tuao, Cagayan. The project will also conduct activities for institutional development.

Once completed, water delivery to 8,700 hectares of riceland in Cagayan and Kalinga will be efficient, benefiting 4,350 farmers in 22 barangays in both provinces.

The project is also expected to create 14,784 temporary jobs during implementation and 8,700 permanent jobs when it becomes completely operational in three years' time.

In addition, it is expected to contribute 36,217 metric tons of rice to the country's supply, to incur USD15.57 million savings from rice importation, and to yield an incremental income of ₱75,193/ha/year including income from high-value crops.

"This project is our best gift for the China-Philippines Friendship Day which we celebrate every

ninth of June," Counsellor Yuan said, stating that it is the 43rd commemoration of the Filipino-Chinese Diplomatic Relations.

Almost 2,500 farmers and several local, national, and international dignitaries attended the ceremonial ground breaking.

Governor Mamba shared that he is very grateful to President Duterte for making Cagayan Province one of the recipients of such a big project. He also encouraged his fellow Cagayanos to support the project as it represents the culmination of a lifelong dream among farmers in the area.

On his part, Governor Baac requested NIA to add more farm lands to be irrigated in Kalinga, in addition to the 1,150 hectares already included in the design plans.

CRPIP is the first Chinese soft loan-funded infrastructure project in the Philippines. The technology will use pumps where water is lifted from the source without the need of any type of dam, hence, no area will be submerged in water. | **DOROTHY BELLE C. DE LEON, NIA R02. Photo Credit: NIA R02**



The Chico River Pump Irrigation Project will be constructed by China CAMC Engineering Co. Ltd.

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Regional Office 2 has earmarked this year a total amount of ₱26.2 million for livelihood assistance under the Integrated Livelihood and Emergency Employment Program (DILEEP) mainly for the vulnerable and informal sectors in the region.

DOLE 2 OIC-Regional Director Atty. Sarah Buena S. Mirasol said that the amount will benefit at least 1,310 individuals from the region's five provinces.

"Of this fund, some ₱7.86 million is allocated for the province of Cagayan, ₱10.48 million for Isabela, and ₱2.62 million each for Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, and Batanes," Director Mirasol said.

This assistance has the following components: 'Formation' which provides start-up capital to enable beneficiaries

DOLE gives livelihood assistance, teaching kits

to venture into individual or group undertakings; and 'Enhancement' which aims to provide additional working capital to operating livelihood activities for them to grow into viable and sustainable businesses.

The livelihood assistance can be implemented through an accredited co-partner, which is usually a local government unit, or through direct administration by the DOLE field offices. For Region 2, interested parties can seek assistance from the Tuguegarao City Public Employment Service Office or go directly to any DOLE field office in the region.

Meanwhile, 42 former Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) who are now working as public school teachers were

awarded with ₱20,000-worth of teaching kits through the National Reintegration Center for OFWs (NRCO) during the Independence Day celebration in Tuguegarao City.

The teaching kits included a laptop, mouse, external drive, flash drive, and a speaker to aid them in their teaching career.

After thorough evaluation by the NRCO and the Department of Education, the OFWs were also granted with Teacher I permanent plantilla item positions.

The teaching kits are part of the "Sa Pinas, Ikaw ang Ma'am/Sir" program which aims to provide an opportunity for OFWs, who are licensed teachers, to practice their profession locally. | **JOLINA A. PELOVELLO, DOLE R02**

DA rallies support for CV's commodity investment

The Department of Agriculture (DA) in Region 2 has called on all local government units and other stakeholders to promote and support the region's commodity investment plan.

DA Regional Director Lorenzo M. Caranguian said the region's commodity investment plan, which was initiated through the Philippine Rural Development Project, rationalizes the interventions within the various segments of the value chain of selected commodities that are of significance to the five provinces

and are supportive of the regional and national economic goals.

He said that in the investment plan that the DA submitted to the Regional Development Council 2, dairy is the top priority commodity of Region 2 followed by mango, peanut, coffee, cornstarch, onion, and citrus.

The emerging commodities include seaweeds, organic garlic, mungbean, tilapia, banana, swine, sweet potato, goat, aromatic and pigmented rice, shrimps, and vegetables.

Director Caranguian said the projects under the investment plan aim to increase farmers' income and the number of farmers and fisherfolk with improved access to DA's services and enterprise development.

"We are also eyeing for a 7 percent increase in the value of our annual marketed output," the regional director said.

Director Caranguian added that when supported and implemented, the commodity investment plan will contribute to the regional economic growth and help improve the quality of people's lives. | **OLIVER T. BACCAY, PIA R02**

NV FARMERS GET MACHINERY SUPPORT FROM LOCAL GOV'T



Some farmers' organizations in Nueva Vizcaya recently received free machineries from the provincial government in a bid to boost agricultural production in the province.

Alexander Domingo, provincial agriculturist, said at least 18 farm machineries, composed of nine hand tractors and nine floating tillers, were awarded to several farmers' groups from various towns during the recent Farmers and Fisherfolk Day celebration at the provincial capitol.

According to Domingo, hand tractors were given to Ahong Farmers of Ambaguio, Mabalit Irrigators of Aritao, San Luis Service Providers of Solano, Lower San Leonardo Irrigators of Bambang, Mabisar Almaguer-Ineangan Irrigators of Dupax del Norte, and Magapuy Irrigators of Bayombong.

He added that floating tillers were awarded to the Gatapang-Sinipil Irrigators of Solano, Cupas Irrigators of Bambang, Pag-asa Farmers of Dupax del Norte, Luyang Irrigators of Bayombong, Allawan Communal Irrigators of Dupax del Norte, and Lower Sisi Irrigators of Kasibu.

The Santa Cruz Service Providers of Bagabag, Dumaliguia Irrigators of Quezon, and Ibung-Nagbitin Irrigators of Villaverde also received both hand tractors and floating tillers.

Domingo said the recipients were pre-screened and evaluated earlier by the Provincial Agricultural Office.

"The purchase of the hand tractors and floating tillers was funded from the awards received by the province as Outstanding in the Rice Achievers Award in 2012, 2013, 2015, and 2016," Domingo added. | **BENJAMIN MOSES EBREO, PIA R02**

10TH KULAY FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS IVATANS' RICH CULTURAL HERITAGE



The local government of Batanes once again showcased the rich cultural heritage of the Ivatans in this year's 10th Kulay Festival through various cultural presentations, sports competitions, and a display of their best processed and manufactured food products.

Since its beginning in May 2008, the Kulay Festival has been one of the most anticipated events in Basco, featuring the traditional Ivatan way of preserving food through the method of drying or "Kapangulay."

For Ivatans, "Kulay" is a native term which means "anything dried" that may imply dried products such as onion, garlic, rice, corn, and fish, among others, which are proudly manufactured locally.

Basco Mayor Anastacia B. Viola said the annual celebration aims to promote the preserved rich

cultural heritage of Batanes and introduce their locally manufactured food products to tourists visiting their province.

This year's festival started with a solemn mass at the Basco Cathedral, followed by a parade of barangay delegations around the town proper with their drum and lyre corps.

Visitors of the week-long festival were also entertained with food bazaars, laji and fandango competition, indoor and traditional games, concerts from local Ivatan bands, and the search for the Mutya ng Basco 2018. | **RAFAEL L. SALAMAGOS, PIA R02**

QUIRINO PLGU RECOMMENDS TRAINING CENTER FOR IPs



Upon the recommendation of the provincial government, a multi-purpose training center for indigenous peoples in Quirino will be established by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) in the province.

This is on top of the free skills and entrepreneurship training, free assessment, daily allowances, and tool kits provided by TESDA to all interested and qualified IPs, depending on their capabilities and the needs of their communities.

During the dialogue with representatives of the Technical Vocational Education and Training Centers, Technical

Vocational Institutions, and other stakeholders held in Cabarroguis town, TESDA Secretary Guiling “Gene” Mamondiong said that the training center will have various facilities, including dormitories.

Secretary Mamondiong said that this was conceptualized to address the needs of the IPs who are unable to finish school due to poverty.

“To solve the language problems during the skills training, TESDA will get trainers from the IP groups,” the secretary said.

Gov. Junie E. Cua committed to conduct a census for the actual IP population of every municipality in the province to determine the town with the greatest number of IPs. | **THELMA C. BICARME, PIA RO2**

CAGAYAN GUV ENVISIONS ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH NORTHEAST ASIA



The Cagayan Provincial Government has envisioned economic cooperation with the giant countries in the Northeast Asia region to boost the tourism and investment potentials of the province.

Gov. Manuel N. Mamba said while the country is integrating its potentials with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the province will also try its best to link with the northeastern nations with its ‘Cagayan Looking Northward’ program thrust.

Governor Mamba said the banner program aims to foster possible investment opportunities with developed countries in Northeast Asia by promoting the province’s rich culture, heritage, traditions, tourism, agriculture, and investment offerings.

“Cagayan is now gearing for a new journey. I believe that our neighbors in the north can have a big impact in our economic development, hence, we need to look northward from where we are,” Governor Mamba said.

On the other hand, during a press conference for the 435th Aggao Nac Cagayan celebration, the governor said the activities will highlight the province’s bountiful treasures that will make it worthy of becoming a key player in the economic activities in the north.

“The activities for our foundation day celebration will all focus on how we can further enhance and package our potentials to prepare our province towards our vision of linking with the economic giants in the north,” the governor said. | **OLIVER T. BACCAY, PIA RO2**

IPs IN ISABELA GET LIVELIHOOD ASSISTANCE



At least 10 fiberglass boats and other fishing paraphernalia were turned over to the Dumagats, a group of indigenous peoples (IPs) living in the coastal towns of Isabela, the newest beneficiaries of the livelihood assistance program of the

Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) in Region 2.

BFAR Regional Director Milagros C. Morales said that the provision of the livelihood assistance package to the IP fisherfolk is part of the agency’s intervention program in ensuring sustainable livelihood among the region’s fishing communities.

She added that the assistance aims to improve the livelihood of the fisherfolk and boost shared efforts in protecting, preserving, and managing the sea as a source of life and aquatic resources.

Elmie Cabaldo, one of the beneficiaries from Barangay Dimapula, said that the volume of their catch increased when they already used the fiberglass boats given by BFAR due to the sturdiness of the boats. She added that their old wooden boat was vulnerable to damage at sea when there are strong waves.

Meanwhile, Nolie Alvarez, also a Dumagat member of Barangay Dicitian, said that their family was chosen by BFAR in 2017 to plant mangrove propagules along the coastal shores of Divilacan. She said that they received ₱20,000 as compensation for the same task in two different areas in Divilacan.

Director Morales explained that under this program, fisherfolk were tapped as volunteers but they were paid ₱1.50 for each propagule they planted and another ₱2.50 when the propagule survived and developed. The Bureau bought the propagules from the fishers’ groups at ₱2 each. | **MARK DJERON C. TUMABAO, PIA RO2**

10th PPP Knowledge Corner launched



Asec. Mercedita Sombilla of NEDA (center) led the ribbon cutting during the launching of the PPP Knowledge Corner in Region 2, together with PPP Center Director Feroisa Concordia (left) and former NEDA Regional Director MaryAnne ER. Darauay, who is now the Director for Social Development at the NEDA Central Office.

PPP Knowledge Corner facilitates this seamless collaboration with the NEDA regional offices, and the RDC2, as the lead in promoting PPPs in the region.

The newest Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Knowledge Corner in the country was officially launched on May 10, 2018 at the NEDA-RDC2 Building in Tuguegarao City.

This is the 10th PPP Knowledge Corner that was launched since NEDA signed the memorandum of agreement with the PPP Center of the Philippines in January 2018, with the aim of establishing an information hub that will serve as a coordinating unit between the PPP Center and local government units (LGUs) and other project implementing agencies.

Assistant Secretary Mercedita A. Sombilla of the NEDA-Regional Development Office graced the launching, which was attended by some local chief executives and representatives from the LGUs, heads of agencies and staff from regional line agencies (RLAs), representatives

from the state universities and colleges, the media, the private sector, and other development partners of the Regional Development Council (RDC) 2.

In her message, Assistant Secretary Sombilla said that this collaborative effort builds on the present Administration's thrust to aggressively pursue rural and regional development so that economic growth spreads outside the mega-urban and industrialized regions centered within Metro Manila.

"It profoundly symbolizes our desire to strengthen the capabilities of LGUs and RLAs to bolster PPP at the local level for their infrastructure and other development requirements," she said.

Director Feroisa Francisca T. Concordia of the Capacity Building and Knowledge Management Service of the PPP Center said that operationalizing the

"The Knowledge Corner will serve as a venue where stakeholders can access accurate and up-to-date information on PPP programs and projects," she added.

NEDA OIC-Regional Director and RDC2 Interim Vice-Chair Ferdinand P. Tumaliuan said that the existence of the PPP Knowledge Corner gives greater opportunity for all LGUs and other parties to develop and learn about successful and well-structured PPP projects that yield the highest and most sustainable socioeconomic benefits for the people of Cagayan Valley.

"Through the PPP Knowledge Corner that is now at the NEDA-RDC2 office, we hope to have more bankable and viable PPP projects at the local level like the water supply project of the Baggao LGU," said Director Tumaliuan during the opening program. | NEDA DRD & PDIPBD

