



INFOCUS

IN-DEPTH NEWS, FACTUAL AND RIGHT ON TARGET
THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF ISABELA

“THE THRUST OF
MY GOVERNMENT IS
TO INVEST IN PEOPLE.”

~ Gov. RODITO T. ALBANO





“THE AGENDA FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS
WILL BE SIMPLE - INCREASE INCOME,
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ENSURE PUBLIC ORDER.”



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EDITOR'S NOTE

People and Progress

There is a need to know people with real faces, names, addresses, occupation – not just as statistics in agency reports. With his long years of public service, he recognizes and is fully aware of the wide spectrum of the needs of the people in his province that he must address, especially those who need help the most.

Governor Rodito T. Albano III is no neophyte in leading people. He understands that his being a Governor of the province of close to two million people is as much a privilege as it is a formidable challenge. His immediate response upon assuming the position which he underscored in his inaugural speech: to stand equal to the task and honor that the Isabeleños have entrusted to him.

As a strong and decisive leader, Governor Rodito, with the staunch support of Vice Governor Faustino “Bojie” Dy III whom he refers to as “Governor”, has set the core of his thrust for the people of Isabela: **INVEST IN PEOPLE**. As he always articulates during assemblies where he maintains direct contact with the people especially the farmers, the youth and the professionals, encouraging them to speak their minds and relay to him first hand their concerns, his ardent intent is to strengthen and elevate the standard of living of the people especially the poor. To quote his very own words, **“palakasin at iangat ang antas ng kabuhayan ng mga tao lalong-lalo na ang mahihirap.”** He is bent on making sure that the day to day needs of the people be addressed, his primordial concern being, **“food on the table, good harvest, access to education, job and livelihood opportunities.”** He also emphasized his fervent aspiration for the province to be the food basket of the country. He will make sure that no one should be left out in terms of access to the benefits that the government provides.

Attaining this is no simple feat. But true to his promise to invest in people and as a testament to his genuine concern for our farmers, Governor Rodito embarked on various programs and activities all aimed at strengthening and elevating the status of life of the Isabeleños, especially our small farmers. Foremost among these is the establishment of a super cooperative for the Isabela small farmers and forging close linkages with the national government agencies particularly with the Department of Agriculture. Our tobacco farmers were also given assistance to aid them in their engagement for alternative livelihood sources. Expansion of SSS membership among farmers and crop insurance coverage was likewise carried out.

Putting a premium on quality education as a means to develop the competencies and skills of our youth and also as a measure to help the children of our farmers, Governor Rodito expanded the educational assistance. Believing that lack of financial assistance should not be a hindrance for the students to pursue and finish their chosen careers. He also encouraged farmers, who are not interested in pursuing college degrees, to enroll them in farm schools to hone their skills in operating farm machinery and equipment.

As he stressed in his inaugural speech, Governor Rodito trusts that government officials **“should not wait passively for things to happen but should create the conditions, and rock the boat, so to speak – that is to make great things to happen in Isabela”**. He thus called on his fellow workers in the provincial government, the local government units as well as those in the private sector to “not be afraid to change and to innovate what they do and how they do things in government and for them to make a difference and to dare to be the difference.”

There is much to do and work never ends. Governor Rodito and Vice Governor Bojie are up to the task. With their firm faith and with God’s guidance and their deep sense of compassion and the unwavering service of those with them in the provincial government, glorious Isabela is beaming.

ATTY. ELIZABETH CUREG-BINAG
Editor-in-Chief



“I can only pledge with all humility that I will, in God’s guidance and your support, stand equal to the task and honor the trust you have so generously given to me with competent, honest, effective service to our people.”

THE INAUGURATION & OATH-TAKING OF THE 26TH GOVERNOR OF ISABELA

"We can, and we will build the future that Isabela deserves. Let us rock the boat to make great things happen in Isabela," was a remarkable statement of faith and resolve of Governor Rodito T. Albano III in front of elected officials and the people of Isabela during his inauguration as the 26th governor of the province, held at the Queen Isabella Park on June 30, 2019. The oath was administered before the people by the outgoing governor, Hon. Faustino Dy III.

The governor administered the oath of the vice governor, elected mayors and board members while the new vice governor administered the oath-taking of vice mayors and town councilors in the province.

The simultaneous oath-taking ceremony was graced by Senator Maria Lourdes "Nancy" S. Binay who returned to his father's roots and opted to take her oath here. She was sworn into office by Punong Barangay Maricon Padillo of San Pedro, Tumauni and Punong Barangay Ariel Tabangcura of Alibagu, City of Ilagan. The lady senator was accompanied by members of her family including her father, former Vice President Jejomar Binay who hails from Cabagan, Isabela. Sen. Binay, in turn, administered the oath for the honorable members of the House of Representatives and the members of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Isabela. ***"I am proud to be recognized as the Senator from the Province of Isabela during the 18th Congress, and I will continue to cherish the support you gave me,"*** she said in her speech.

In his inaugural speech, the new governor attributed his power and authority from the most important resource, the people. ***"The spring cannot rise higher than its source. I have always believed that you – kakailian, kaprobinsiyaan are the source of everything that we are public servants. We are merely the spring that flows from your well. In our society, all power, all authority emanates from you – the people. We, your elective officials are the only temporary trustees of the power and the authority that rightly belongs to you. We owe you our best service, our talents and labors can muster,"*** he said.

Gov. Rodito admitted that it is a challenge for him to be the leader of the province. ***"Indeed, to be governor of this province of 1.6 million people is as much a privilege as it is formidable challenge to even the most capable of leaders,"*** he said as he vowed to serve the people of Isabela. ***"That you have deemed me worthy of the***

job firstly with pride, and I can only pledge with all humility that I will, in God's guidance and your support stand equal to the task and honor the trust you have so generously given to me with competent, honest, effective service to our people," he added.

Gov. Rodito laid out his plans and programs for his term, ***"The agenda for the next three years will be simple – increase income, generate jobs, provide assistance to the poorest of the poor, and ensure public order."***

On health, the governor underscored the wisdom on health promotion and disease prevention. ***"We will aim to channel our resources and attention to primary health care, maternal and child care, especially breast feeding, and improving communal health services delivery, especially providing protection against communicable and endemic diseases,"*** he said.

The new governor also envisioned the urgent need to scale up efforts and raise the bar on disaster preparedness, ***"Resilience must also be strengthened in the province and be ready of the impact of natural calamities and other climatic shocks."*** The governor said that the provincial government must be proactive by developing the resilience of the people, as the province of Isabela, being the path of many destructive typhoons.

For the youth sector, the governor said that the provincial government will attend to their developing skills and competencies and provide opportunities for their professional development as well as entrepreneurship and income generating activities. ***"We will also continue improving the arena of education by expanding the school network system so as to reach far-flung barangays and seek more funding resources to strengthen the capabilities of tertiary education capabilities,"*** he added.

Gov. Rodito recognizes that peace and order remains a continuing concern in the province. He said that efficient law enforcement must be pursued to curb criminality and lawlessness. ***"We will support the President's war on drugs within the bounds of the law,"*** he stressed.

The new governor concluded his inaugural speech with gratitude and prayer, ***"I pray that God guides us every step of the way and infuses us with deep compassion for the plight of the Isabeleños so we may always put them above our own comforts and self-interest."***





ISABELA REAPPORTIONED TO 6 LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS; SIX CONGRESSMEN NOW REPRESENTING THE PROVINCE AND THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN NOW COMPOSED OF 12 ELECTED MEMBERS



MORE FUNDS AND BETTER REPRESENTATION

The province of Isabela is the second largest province in the country in terms of land area, politically divided into three cities and 34 municipalities, and recorded 1,593,566 people including the highly urbanized City of Santiago with a population of 134,830, as of the 2015 census of the Philippine Statistics Authority. A first class province, Isabela is a major contributor to the country's economic growth and development, being the number one producer of corn and the number two producer of rice in the Philippines.



The House of Representatives passed the bill principally authored by former first district representative, now Isabela Governor Rodito Albano III who said the people of Isabela must be given equal opportunity to participate in the national legislative affairs through their legislative representatives.

The creation of additional legislative districts will ensure equitable representation for the inhabitants of the province of Isabela in the legislature and the national government. The law also seeks to strengthen the power of the people and ensure that there is proportionate number of constituents for each of the district representatives.

Article VI, Section 5, paragraphs 3 and 4 of the 1987 Constitution provides that each legislative district shall comprise, as far as practicable, contiguous, compact, and adjacent territory. Each city or province with a population of at least 250,000 shall have at least one representative.

The reapportionment also shows that Isabela is truly progressing and becoming a more vibrant province.

President Rodrigo R. Duterte, on **September 27, 2018** signed into law, **Republic Act 11080, An Act Reapportioning the Province of Isabela into Six (6) Legislative Districts.**

The **first district** is now composed of the **City of Ilagan** and the towns of **Cabagan, Delfin Albano, Divilacan, Maconacon, Tumauni, San Pablo, Sta. Maria** and **Sto. Tomas.**

The **second district** is comprised of **Benito Soliven, Palanan, Naguilian, Reina Mercedes, San Mariano** and **Gamu**; while the **third district** is made up of **Alicia, Cabatuan, San Mateo, Ramon** and **Angadanan.**

Santiago City, Cordon, Dinapigue, San Agustin and **Jones** make up the **fourth district.** The **fifth district** is composed of **Aurora, Burgos, Luna, Mallig, Quezon, Quirino, Roxas** and **San Manuel**; while **Cauayan City, Echague, San Guillermo,** and **San Isidro** comprise the **sixth legislative districts.**

The Act, establishing the additional 5th and 6th districts of Isabela originated in the House of Representatives. It was passed by the House of Representatives on May 28, 2018, amended by the Senate on September 3, 2018, and which amendments were concurred in by the House of Representatives on September 10, 2018.

ISABELA'S REPRESENTATIVES TO THE 18TH CONGRESS

On May 14, 2019 mid-term elections, the Province of Isabela, having been reapportioned into six congressional districts, for the first time, a total of six congressional seats to the House of Representatives were elected.



HON. ANTONIO T. ALBANO
1ST DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE



HON. ED CHRISTOPHER S. GO
2ND DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE



HON. IAN PAUL L. DY
3RD DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE



HON. ALYSSA SHEENA P. TAN
4TH DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE



HON. FAUSTINO MICHAEL
CARLOS T. DY, III
5TH DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE



HON. FAUSTINO "INNO" G. DY, V
6TH DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE

Gifted with good looks and charm, Isabela's honorable representatives to the 18th Congress also exudes youthful exuberance, namely; Hon. Antonio "Tonytjet" Albano for First District; Hon. Ed Christopher S. Go for second district; Hon. Ian Paul L. Dy for third district; Hon. Alyssa Sheena P. Tan for fourth district; Hon. Faustino Michael Carlos T. Dy III for fifth district; and Hon. Faustino "Inno" A. Dy V for sixth district.

THE 10TH SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN OF ISABELA

At the provincial level, local legislators here convened for its inaugural session at the FNDY Session Hall on July 2, 2019, this time with additional seats from districts 5 and 6, joining the session. Vice Governor Faustino Dy III presided the session with the adoption of their Internal Rules of Procedures.

Here are the members of the 10th Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Isabela, with two members from each legislative districts serving for a three-year term from 2019 to 2022. For the First District - Hon. Delfinito Emmanuel L. Albano and Hon. Emmanuel Joselito B. Añez; Second District – Hon. Ed Christopher S. Go and

Hon. Edgar Capuchino; Third District – Hon. Ramon Juan N. Reyes, Jr. and Hon. Randolph Joseph P. Arreola; Fourth District – Hon. Abegail Sable and Hon. Clifford R. Raspado; Fifth District – Hon. Faustino U. Dy IV and Hon. Edward S. Isidro; and for the Sixth District – Hon. Marco Paulo A. Meris and Hon. Alfredo V. Alili.



Hon. Delfinito Emmanuel "MM" L. Albano is the 10th SPI's Majority Floor Leader. Albano obtained 137,103 votes from Isabela's first district during the May 13, 2019 mid-term elections, the highest number of votes obtained from among the candidates who ran for Sangguniang Panlalawigan member in the six congressional districts in the province of Isabela. "MM" stands for Mamamayan Muna.

THE SECTORAL REPRESENTATIVES

In addition to the regular members of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, four sectoral representatives were also confirmed to join the legislative body that will enact and adopt policies, laws and legislations for the province of Isabela.

On July 23, 2019, during the 4th regular session of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Isabela held at the FNDY Hall, appointment of Hon. Venus T. Bautista was confirmed. She is now the Women's Sectoral Representative.

During the 5th regular session of the SPI on August 13, 2019, two appointments for sectoral representatives were confirmed. Hon. Adrian Philip S. Baysac was confirmed as the Agricultural/Industrial Workers/Labor Sector Representative, while Hon. Antonio Hui as Interim Philippine Councilors' League, Isabela President.

Meanwhile, the appointment of Hon. Gretchen F. Valdez as Sectoral Representative on Indigenous Cultural Communities was also confirmed on August 20, 2019 during the SPI's 6th regular session.

RDC2 NOMINATES ISABELA GOV. ALBANO AS CHAIRPERSON



The Regional Development Council, Region 02 conducted its 115th Regional Business Meeting on September 27, 2019 at Marco Paulo Hotel in Cauayan City.

The highlight of the RDC2 meeting was the nomination of Chairperson and Co-chairperson to head the Council for 2019 - 2022. Governor Rodito T. Albano III, a first-term Governor in Isabela Province, was unanimously endorsed as the lone nominee for Chairperson from the government sector. Former Tourism Regional Director Blessida Diwa from the private sector was also endorsed by the Council as Co-chairman. The names of the two nominees were submitted to the President who appoints the RDC2 Chairperson and Co-chairperson.

“I’d like to thank you for your trust and confidence, and I will try my best to become a real chairman,” said Governor Rodito as his way of expressing his gratitude to the Council for his lone nomination from the government sector.

The Council also confirmed fourteen (14) new set of Private Sector Representatives (PSR) who will all serve a three-year term. The newly confirmed PSRs are: Mr. Protacio D. Laguinday and Rev. Ferdinand Valdez for Agriculture and Fisheries; Mr. Cloyd C. Velasco for Trade, Industry and Services; Engr. Gilbert E. Acdal for Environment and Natural Resources; Engr. Bonifacio B. Carag for Social Welfare and Marginalized Sector; Mr. Christian R. Guzman for Health, Education and Manpower Development; Ms. Blessida G. Diwa for Tourism; Atty. Melchor A. Battung for Labor and Mr. Napoleon P. Baltazar for Indigenous People and Cultural Communities. RDC2 Secretary Engr. Ferdinand

Tumaliuan administered the oath-taking ceremony. As representatives of the private sector, PSRs are expected to attend and participate in RDC meetings, as well as meetings of sectoral committees on development administration, social development, infrastructure development, economic development, environmental management, and indigenous peoples’ concerns.

Also confirmed are the government agencies who will sit as Special Non-Voting Members (SNVM). The participation/membership of the SNVM, according to PIA Regional Director Purita Licas, is deemed necessary by the council. Confirmed as SNV members are the following government agencies/offices: CEZA, CHED, DA-BFAR, DepEd, DENR-EMB, DENR-MGB-DOLE, DSWD, NCCA, NIA, PIA, TESDA and CSC.

The Regional Development Council is the highest planning and policy-making body in the region. It serves as the counterpart of the NEDA Board at the sub-national level. It is the primary institution that coordinates and sets the direction of all economic and social development efforts in the region. It also serves as a forum where local efforts can be related and integrated with regional and national development initiatives.

“I’D LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR TRUST AND CONFIDENCE, AND I WILL TRY MY BEST TO BECOME A REAL CHAIRMAN...”



Governor Rodito Albano III, accompanied by Vice Governor Faustino Dy III, along with the 21 local chief executives of the province of Isabela rose to the occasion as they received the much-coveted Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG) award from Secretary Eduardo Año of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) during the 2019 SGLG National Awarding Ceremony – Cluster 1 held at the Fiesta Pavilion, The Manila Hotel on November 04, 2019.

Isabela reaps SGLG awards for 5th year in a row

The Seal of Good Local Governance is an award, incentive, honor and recognition-based program for all Local Government Units (LGUs) and a continuing commitment for LGUs to continually progress and improve their performance.

In his letter to Governor Rodito T. Albano III, DILG Secretary Año said, “the Provincial Government substantially met the standards of all assessment areas and carried-on the “all-in” criteria where a local government unit has to pass minimum requirements of all seven areas: Financial Administration, Disaster Preparedness, Social Protection, Peace and Order, Business-Friendliness and Competitiveness, Environmental Management, and Tourism, Culture and the Arts”.

For the fifth consecutive time, the Provincial Government of Isabela was conferred the SGLG marker, having consistently passed the evaluation with sterling performance in 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and the just concluded national validation last August this year.

Meanwhile, despite more stringent assessment criteria, the cities of Ilagan and Cauayan and 19 municipalities of Isabela also passed and hurdled this year’s more challenging SGLG namely: Alicia, Angadanan, Benito Soliven, Burgos, Cabagan, Cabatuan, Cordon, Delfin Albano, Echague, Jones, Luna, Mallig, Naguilian, Quezon, Quirino, Ramon, Roxas, San Mateo and Tumauini.

Secretary Año revealed that as an incentive, this year’s awardees are entitled to the Performance Challenge Fund

(PCF) and other program windows. The PCF is an incentive to finance the local development projects of the LGUs and a priority access to other programs and capacity development assistance from the DILG.

This year, 17 provinces, 57 cities and 306 municipalities passed the tougher, redefined “all-in” extra-challenging SGLG criteria, or a total of 380 LGUs nationwide which is 44 percent more than last year’s 263.

As the SGLG moves forward as an institutionalized award and incentive program thru Republic Act 11292, Secretary Año expressed great optimism that LGUs will remain a proactive partner in providing quality service and continuously commits as an agent of “gobyernong may malasakit tungo sa pagbabago at patuloy na pag-unlad”.

“The Provincial Government substantially met the standards of all assessment areas and carried-on the “all-in” criteria where a local government unit has to pass minimum requirements of all seven areas: Financial Administration, Disaster Preparedness, Social Protection, Peace and Order, Business-Friendliness and Competitiveness, Environmental Management, and Tourism, Culture and the Arts”.

Isabela shines anew at the Nat'l Quality Corn Achievers Awards

Cognizant of the excellent performance in the development of the corn industry as a result of a strong and efficient Department of Agriculture (DA) – Local Government Units (LGUs) collaboration, the province of Isabela shines anew during the 7th National Quality Corn Achievers Award (NQCAA). Isabela bagged the award as one of the Top 5 Outstanding Provinces during the NQCAA awarding ceremony held at the Iloilo Convention Center, Mandurriao, Iloilo City on November 12, 2019. Also awarded were the provinces of Cagayan, La Union, Bukidnon and Agusan del Sur each receiving P3M cash incentive for projects plus a plaque of recognition.

With the theme “Bountiful Harvest and Increased Farmers Income: Key to Prosperity and Inclusive Growth”, it recognized the achievements of top performing LGUs and DA-RFOs in the production of quality corn, together with the active participation of their respective Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs) in support to the development of corn and cassava as well as the whole grains industry sector. This annual event also serves as the venue for the various stakeholders of the corn industry to come together and discuss the current issues of the sector, share

best farm practices, showcase modern farm equipment, technologies and forge market linkages.

DA Undersecretary for Operations Engr. Ariel T. Cayanán who represented DA Secretary William D. Dar handed out the awards to the winners. In his speech, Undersecretary Cayanán lauded the efforts of the LGUs and the private sector in supporting the programs and projects of DA under the corn banner program in order to attain inclusive growth amidst challenges in the agriculture sector.

With the Outstanding Province Award for Isabela, Provincial Veterinarian/Concurrent Provincial Agriculturist Dr. Angelo C. Naui also received the Outstanding Provincial Agriculturist Award and received a plaque of recognition plus P40,000 cash award. For the Outstanding City Award, the city of Ilagan bagged the award receiving P1M cash incentive plus plaque of recognition. City Agriculturist Moises C. Alamo of the city of Ilagan received cash award of P30,000 plus plaque of recognition as Outstanding City Agriculturist while City Corn Coordinator Jenita Z. Fernandez received P25,000 cash award plus plaque of recognition as Outstanding City Corn Coordinator.



Since its inception in 2013, Isabela has been consistently awarded as one of the NQCAA Top 5 Outstanding Provinces and subsequently adjudged as the Hall of Fame in 2015. Once an LGU have attained the Hall of Fame award, the National Secretariat prohibits its participation within a period of three (3) years. However, the province continued to empower the corn farmers and sustain the food security being the number one corn producer in the country. In 2019, Isabela participated in the NQQA, and once again bagged the award.

The province remains a formidable contender in the National Quality Corn Achievers.

Isabela, Gawad Saka 2019 regional champ



The Department of Agriculture (DA) Regional Office 02 gave honor to outstanding agricultural achievers who excelled in their fields during the Gawad Saka awarding at the Pulzar Hotel, Caggay, Tuguegarao City on July 29, 2019. The award recognizes the efforts of farmers and fisherfolks in improving not only their lives but the community as a whole, an appreciation to the hardworking people of Region 2 who always ensure that Cagayan Valley will always be a consistent producer of agricultural products.

The event was graced by USec. Roldan G. Gorgonio, Undersecretary for Administration, Policy & Planning, Project Development, Research & Regulation and Chief of Staff of the Department of Agriculture.

For 2019, the province of Isabela was hailed as the Regional Gawad Saka Champion, garnering ten (10) out of the twenty-eight (28) category awards.

The winners under the individual category who received P50,000.00 each were Mr. Benjamin E. Domingo – Outstanding Farmer from City of Ilagan, Isabela; Mr. Renato C. Alfaro - Outstanding Fisherfolk (Fish Culture) from Cauayan City, Isabela; Mr. Arvin Israel D. Padilla - Outstanding Large Animal Raiser from Sisim Alto, Tumauni, Isabela; Mr. Jorge Saguibo - Outstanding Integrated Rice-Based Farmer from Daramuangan Sur, San Mateo, Isabela; Mr. Ronald Calong - Outstanding High Value Crops (HVC) Farmer from Malasin, Aurora, Isabela; Mr. Armando M. Delos Santos - Outstanding Young Farmer/Fisherfolk from Bonifacio, Angadanan, Isabela; Mr. Romar A. Del

Rosario - Outstanding Fisherfolk (Capture Fisheries) from Didaddungan, Palanan, Isabela; Engr. Claudio P. Gonzaga - Outstanding Organic Agriculture Farmer from Villa Gonzaga, Santiago City, Isabela.

Meanwhile, winners under the group category who received a cash of P75,000.00 were Villa Luna Multi-Purpose Cooperative - Outstanding Small Farmer/Fisherfolk Organization from Villa Luna, Cauayan City, Isabela; and ICCAFC - Outstanding Provincial Agriculture and Fishery Council (PAFC) from Santiago City, Isabela.

Ms. Hermilita P. Valdez from Bannawag, Angadanan, Isabela was also awarded as Rural Woman Achiever; and Mr. Wilfredo Loresto and Family from Holy Friday, Mallig, Isabela as Organic Farming Family.

Gawad Saka is an annual search in recognizing the continuing efforts and contribution of farmers and fisherfolks as partners of the government in sustaining food security and nation building.

OUTSTANDING FISHERFOLKS

FEATURE

The Department of Agriculture through the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources recognizes the contribution of fisheries sector in providing food, employment and income and to the country's economy on fisheries.

To attain sustainable fish production for food security, the department launched the Gawad Saka Search for Outstanding Fisherfolk on Fish Culture and Fish Capture Category which aims to give recognition to exemplary performance and achievements of fisherfolks in the field of aquaculture and capture fisheries. It also provides incentive to fishfarmers to enhance their technologies, improve their production and income generating activities, and empower themselves to contribute to the welfare and socio-economic upliftment of their communities. Documentation of success stories in aquaculture that provides role modelling for other small fishfarmers was also made. The search commenced yearly to give honor to the outstanding performance of fishfarmers/fisherfolk.

Outstanding Rural Women Achievers



MR. VICENTE LUGAGAY
RIZAL, SANTIAGO CITY, ISABELA
NATIONAL CHAMPION FOR FISH CULTURE

For the year 2018, Mr. Vicente Lugagay of Rizal, Santiago City, Isabela awarded as the National Champion for Fish Culture which was held at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC), Pasay City on October 22, 2019. Mr. Lugagay received plaque of appreciation and Two Hundred Fifty Thousand pesos (250,000.00) cash award.

Mr. Vicente Lugagay who has been in the tilapia industry for more than three decades said that it requires a lot of perseverance and never-ending courage to stick in the tilapia hatchery production. For him, it doesn't mean that if one is born unfortunate, one will end up that way. With perseverance and aptitude displayed in his hatchery business, he is the perfect example of the saying that goes "Luck is what happens when opportunity meets preparation".



MR. ROMAR DEL ROSARIO
DIDDADUNGAN, PALANAN, ISABELA
NATIONAL WINNER FOR FISH CAPTURE

For the year 2019, Mr. Romar Del Rosario of Brgy. Didaddungan, Palanan, Isabela was declared as the National Winner for Fish Capture.

Mr. Romar Almazan Del Rosario a registered fisherfolk in the Municipal Fisherfolk Registration of Palanan, Isabela is a self-worth individual who can be tagged as a good leader "idol" due to his contribution and works that are remarkable and notable not only in fishery sector but also in agriculture and in shaping the minds of the youth through education and promoting the total standard of living of his constituents through health and services.

His fish capture skills were enhanced through different trainings/workshops about fisheries technology and other agri-fisheries related activities conducted by BFAR-RO2 and different agencies which turned out to be the start of a quite lucky fishing expedition.



MR. RENATO C. ALFARO
NUNGNUNGAN, CAUAYAN CITY, ISABELA
REGIONAL WINNER FOR FISH CULTURE

For the year 2019, Mr. Renato C. Alfaro of Nungnungan, Cauayan City, Isabela was adjudged the Regional Winner for Fish Culture. The awarding ceremony was held at Pulsar Hotel, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan on July 29, 2019. He received a plaque of appreciation and Fifty Thousand Pesos (50,000.00) cash.

Mr. Alfaro's fish farm produces millions of hito (*Clarias gariepinus*) fingerlings and volume of grow-out hito annually, thus, helping augment the deficit in fish supply in Region 02. He provides sizeable number of jobs directly thru the operation of his fish farm and indirectly thru his numerous contract growing scheme within Cauayan. With his 25 years of experience in fish farming through grow-out and hatchery project, he was able to develop techniques that made him produce hito fry in large volume without sacrificing quality.



The Search for Rural Outstanding Women Achiever is an annual search organized by the Department of Agriculture. It is open to all Filipino rural women in the private sector who are currently involved in the agriculture and fisheries and have created positive impact in the lives of the people in the rural community. They may be engaged in actual farming or fishing, processing, marketing of agricultural inputs or products, provision of credit, micro-financing, training, education and others in individual capacities or as leaders of cooperatives, Rural Improvements Clubs, (RICs), faith-based organizations and other non-government organizations (NGOs).

The Province of Isabela were able to produce national awardees on this search, to wit:

Year 2015

Mrs. Jesusa Rarangol of San Mateo, Isabela garnered 2nd runner up

Year 2016

Mrs. Agapita Colcol of San Manuel, Isabela garnered 1st runner up

Year 2017

Mrs. Vivial Taniza of Victoria, San Mateo, Isabela garnered 1st runner up

Year 2019

Mrs. Hermila Valdez of Bannawag, Angadanan Isabela garnered the 6th runner up

BAMBANTI FESTIVAL BAGS PEARL AWARD GRAND CHAMP FOR BEST TOURISM EVENT



Another feather now adorns the hat of Isabela's Bambanti as it gained the most coveted recognition in the 2019 Pearl Awards for Best Tourism Practices of the Philippines given by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and Association of Tourism Officers of the Philippines' (ATOP) as the Grand Winner, Best Tourism Event – Festival as Thanksgiving For A Beautiful Harvest held in front of the UNESCO World Heritage Site, San Agustin Church in Paoay, Ilocos Norte on October 4, 2019.

The Bambanti Festival won the said award besting 4 other finalists namely; Begnas ti Bauko of the municipality of Bauko, Mountain Province; Kneeling Carabao Festival of the municipality of Pulilan, Bulacan; Pista'y Dayat of the province of Pangasinan; and Simballay Festival of the municipality of Nabunturan, Compostela Valley.

Started in 2005, the Pearl Awards of the Association of Tourism Officers in the Philippines celebrates the best in the tourism industry and honors the great efforts made by the people in the industry, most especially the Local Government Units. **"Creative works and exceptional services are not going to be ignored or taken for granted but instead it should be noticed and recognized and will be publicized to provide visibility and recognition as rewards for such noble deeds,"** notes ATOP in giving the awards.

Isabela Tourism Officer Miano said that Governor Rodito Albano III endorsed the official entry of the province for the Best Tourism Event – as a Thanksgiving for a Bountiful Harvest category with a bid book carefully crafted and prepared by the Isabela Tourism Office. The coverage of the entry was Bambanti Festival 2018. A week after its endorsement, DOT sent a notice to the Provincial Government of Isabela to defend the entry. At least 22 local government units from across the country defended their entries for the festival category in the final screening held at the University of Santo Tomas in Manila. Miano, with backing from Mr. Nilo Agustin poured out all vital justifications to convince the three-man panel of judges in a five-minute interview that the Isabela Bambanti Festival is indeed the best tourism event in the country.

The Best Tourism Event (Festival) was divided into six categories — nature worship/or myths and legends, thanksgiving for a bountiful harvest, as a commemorative to historical events, a religious practice to honor community saints, showcase of productivity and trade and contemporary/non-traditional expression.

Festival as Thanksgiving for a Bountiful Harvest category must capture the expression of community saints. With the indelible impression of the Catholic faith across the archipelago which has been locally contextualized, numerous celebrations throughout the calendar are invaluable gratitude of local folks on the fruits and harvest that they receive from agriculture and nature. Whether in terrestrial or marine setting, the bountiful harvest reflects not just the abundance and benevolence of Philippine

environs but the hard work and perseverance, sense of harmony and community of Filipinos.

The province of Isabela celebrates the farmer's helpers — known in the province as bambanti — with a festival every fourth week of January. The Bambanti is the ultimate symbol of the diligence, vigilance and resilience of the people of Isabela which the late Fr. Ingeno Rapadas regarded as the symbol of people's spirituality because of its resemblance to the crucified Christ.

In 2014, the Bambanti Festival float won the grand prize at the prestigious Aliwan Fiesta, besting entries from more established festivals like the Utanon Festival float of Cebu and the Panagbenga Festival float of Baguio City. Aliwan is known as the "mother of all festivals."

Cannes best director laureate Brillante Mendoza also served as juror in previous Bambanti festivals. He was so inspired by what he saw, that he produced a film entitled Bambanti, topbilled by Allesandra de Rossi and directed by Zig Dulay. It was hailed Best Film in the 2015 Brussels Film Festival in Belgium.

National artist and Aliw Awards founder, Ms. Alice Reyes poetically described the Bambanti Festival, **"Songs, music, dance, the arts...they are feeding and nurturing the spirit and the soul, making the Isabeleño a very whole being. The stomach is full, the spirits are lifted with pride and the heart is filled with song and dance and poetry and the arts..."** Ms. Reyes was guest of honor during the opening ceremonies of the Bambanti Festival in 2018.

The Bambanti Festival also shared the Aliw Awards stage annually with the brightest stars and performers of the local entertainment industry in three consecutive years of 2015, 2016, 2017, and on 2018 for its Hall of Fame Award for Best Festival Practices and Performance.

One month after the elevation to the elite Aliw Awards Hall of Fame, the Bambanti Festival set a new Guinness world record in 2019 for gathering 2,495 street dancers dressed as scarecrows and performing non-stop for two hours.



In behalf of Gov. Rodito T. Albano and Vice Gov. Faustino G. Dy III, Sangguniang Panlalawigan Chair Committee on Tourism Abegail Sable received the award, escorted by Isabela Tourism Officer Troy Alexander G. Miano. Delegates from the City of Ilagan and Cauayan, and Santo Tomas town joined the jubilation in receiving the Paoay Church-inspired trophy.

Two new buildings rise at Isabela DRRM complex

The province of Isabela is not only going to raise the bar in disaster risk reduction and management as the country's PDRRMC Gawad Kalasag Hall of Fame, but also building the first-ever DRRM complex in the Philippines.

The Isabela DRRM Complex, a pioneering project of PDRRMC Isabela, is now getting bigger with the inauguration and blessing of the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office (PSWDO) and Provincial Safety Office (PSO) as a monument to the diligence, vigilance and resilience of the Provincial Government of Isabela's leaders and workforce.



Governor Rodito T. Albano III continues to blaze the trail as he led the inauguration and blessing of these buildings at the Isabela DRRM Complex on September 12, 2019. Also inaugurated was the new Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) – Isabela Provincial Office.

Built during the administration of former Governor Faustino G. Dy III and then Vice Governor Rodito T. Albano III, the edifice forms part of Isabela DRRM Complex, aimed at enhancing capabilities and strengthening mechanisms in addressing the effects of nature's wrath and the complexities of the changing climate of an earth in peril.

The Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office is a tribute to the social workers as the consummate public servants, always at the front and center of the government's social reform agenda. Grateful for their exceptional service to country and people, the new PSWDO is a celebration of their compelling narrative of selflessness and heroism. It is in their anonymity that they make the most profound impact in the lives of the marginalized, the impoverished and the powerless, among children, women, the elderly, indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities.

Meanwhile, providing balance to the social workers' gentle and motherly countenance is the Provincial Safety Office with its courageous public safety officers as pillars of strength to the daunting task of enforcing and maintaining public order and safety across the country's second largest province.

The PSWDO and PSO are two forces in the spheres of disaster management forging a formidable partnership in raising and nurturing a culture of preparedness, honoring their commitment to treat every man with dignity in times of adversity, lead people to safety in times of peril and assert public order in the midst of chaos.



As envisioned, the Complex will consist of the PDRRMC-BFP Headquarters, which has been completed and is already operational, this newly-inaugurated Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office and Public Safety Office, the PDRRMC Command Center, the PDRRMC PAGASA Weather Bureau, the Climate Change Center, plus facilities for Council members, first responders and rescuers.





“Gagawin natin ang Isabela as the model of agri-industrial development of this country.”

- DA Secretary William D. Dar

Secretary William D. Dar of the Department of Agriculture and Senate Chair for Agriculture Senator Cynthia Villar, formally launched the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) implementation in the Province of Isabela on October 12, 2019 held at the Roxas Astrodome in Roxas, Isabela.

Secretary Dar said that the event “marked a milestone in the history of the rice industry in the country” as it ensures the proper and efficient implementation of Republic Act 11203 or the Rice Tariffication Law. The RCEF is mandated under the Rice Tariffication Law to allot a total of P10 billion annually that will be incorporated under the General Appropriations Act to be used in boosting the agricultural productivity in the country and help the lives of rice farmers.

RCEF will be used for rice farm machinery and equipment (50%), rice seed development, propagation, and promotion (30%), expanded rice credit access (10%), and rice extension services (10%). For farm machineries, this will be handled by Philippine Center for Postharvest Research and Development (PHILMECH), seed assistance by Philippine Rice Research Institute (PHILRICE), credit by Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP), Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) and Agricultural Credit and Policy Council (ACPC) and extension services by Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA).

The agriculture department has added P1 billion fund to augment the P2.5 billion-

worth SURE Aid that grants farmers, tilling one hectare or less, a P15,000-loan with zero-interest and no collateral, through the LBP and the ACPC.

Meanwhile, Secretary Dar lauded the leadership of the Provincial Government of Isabela (PGI) for coming up with a program through the Nagkaisang Magsasaka ng Isabela Agricultural Cooperative (NMIAC) to buy the palay harvest of Isabela farmers. As one component of the RCEF on provision of credit assistance, the PGI through the NMIAC President Ana Cristina Go and the DBP President and Chief Executive Officer Emmanuel Herbosa signed an agreement of availing a loan for the purchase of palay from farmers at higher price and providing a loan of P500 million to the said agricultural cooperative. The NMIAC is a super cooperative with initial members of 6,000 farmers provincewide and engaged in palay trading, milling, processing and marketing.

The super cooperative was a brainchild of Governor Rodito Albano III and strongly supported by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Isabela headed by Vice Governor Faustino Dy III.

“Dayta nga gundaway nga tulong nga ited ni Provincial Government under the leadership of Governor Albano, gagawin natin ang Isabela as the model of agri-industrial development of this country”, Sec. Dar said. The agriculture chief earlier encouraged top rice producing provinces in the country to engage in direct palay procurement to prop up farmgate prices following the lead of Isabela.



BuyANlhan at E-SURE-Aid program tungo sa Masaganang Ani, Mataas na Kita ng mga magsasakang Isabeleño

"Ang hangad po namin sa DBP ay maramdaman ninyo ang benepisyo ng tunay na kaunlaran. Ito ang layunin ng tinatawag na Isabela Prosperity Program." Ito ang binigyang diin ni Emmanuel Herbosa, Chief Executive Officer ng Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) sa kanyang talumpati sa harap ng mga magsasakang Isabeleño sa ginanap na paglunsad ng Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) sa bayan ng Roxas, Isabela noong ika-12 ng Oktubre 2019.

Ayon sa kanya, ang DBP ay kaisa ng pamahalaang panlalawigan ng Isabela para mapataas ang kita at maiangat ang kabuhayan ng mga magsasakang Isabeleño. Sa katunayan, naglaan ang DBP ng kalahating bilyong pisong pondo mula sa RCEF para ipautang sa Nagkaisang Magsasaka ng Isabela Agricultural Cooperative (NMI). Ang pondo, ayon kay Herbosa ay gagamitin ng kooperatiba upang bilhin ang palay ng mga magsasakang miyembro ng kooperatiba na may dagdag na limang piso bawat kilo. Ang kooperatiba ay bibili ng hindi hihigit sa walampung (80) kaban ng palay bawat miyembro. Nakipagtulungan din aniya ang DBP sa PayMaya Inc., para mapabilis ang proseso ng pagbayad ng mga ibentang ani ng mga magsasaka sa pamamagitan ng e-wallet o ATM cards.

Upang mapagtibay ang programa para sa mga magsasakang Isabeleño, isang ceremonial loan signing o

kasunduan ang nilagdaan sa pagitan ng pamahalaang panlalawigan ng Isabela (PGI), DBP, Department of Agriculture (DA), Paymaya Inc., at ng NMI Agricultural Cooperative para sa programang BuyANlhan.

Sa ilalim ng BuyANlhan program, ipagkakaloob sa NMI ang pautang na kalahating bilyong piso mula sa RCEF sa pamamagitan ng DBP. Ang pautang na ito ay gagamitin ng NMI upang bilhin ang palay ng mga maliliit na magsasaka na miyembro ng kooperatiba sa mas mataas na presyo sa halagang P20 per kilo for palay na may 14% moisture content at P14 per kilo naman para sa wet palay. Sa pamamagitan nito ay direktang makikinabang ang humigit-kumulang 6,000 na miyembo ng NMI.

Kaugnay nito, binanggit din ni Senador Cynthia Villar ang Expanded Survival and Recovery Assistance Program for Rice Farmers (E-SURE Aid). Ayon kay Senador Villar, ang SURE Aid ay ang pagpapautang ng halagang P15,000 sa mga rice farmers ng bansa sa pamamagitan ng DBP at Land Bank of the Philippines na walang interest na maaaring bayaran ng mga magsasaka sa loob ng walong taon.

Sa kanyang panig, masayang ipinahayag ni Kalihim William Dar ng Department of Agriculture (DA) sa mga magsasaka na magkakaloob si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ng halagang P5,000 sa lahat ng mga rice farmers na nagsasaka ng isang ektarya pababa bilang regalo sa mga ito sa darating na Pasko.

Lubos naman ang pasasalamat ni Governor Rodito Albano III sa pagtitipon na ito ng mga ahensiya ng pamahalaan at pag-ulan ng mga biyaya para sa mga magsasaka ng Isabela.

"Ang hangad po namin sa DBP ay maramdaman ninyo ang benepisyo ng tunay na kaunlaran. Ito ang layunin ng tinatawag na Isabela Prosperity Program."

Mr. Emmanuel Herbosa, CEO
Development Bank of the Philippines





NAGKAISANG MAGSASAKA NG ISABELA AGRICULTURE COOPERATIVE

ISABELA COOPERATIVE

The newly signed Rice Tariffication Law seeks to lift import restrictions on rice, which the government hopes will lower the price of the staple food to a level more affordable for the Filipinos – a boon to consumers but a bane to rice farmers, farmworkers and the local rice sector as a whole. Rice procurement serves the dual purposes of building rice stocks for the public food grain distribution system and of providing income support to farmers. The law addresses the urgent need to improve the availability of rice in the country, to prevent artificial rice shortage, reduce the prices of rice in the market, and curtail the prevalence of corruption and cartel domination in the rice industry. The law essentially allows for the liberalization of rice imports. It will remove the previously placed quota on rice imports, permitting traders to import a near-unlimited quantity of rice.

Upon assumption to office of Governor Rodolfo T. Albano III in July 2019, his first marching order is to organize a super cooperative that will help the marginalized farmers in the province. A massive cooperative membership orientation was conducted in 32 municipalities and resulted in the birth of “Nagkaisang Magsasaka ng Isabela Agriculture Cooperative” (NMIAC) aka “super cooperative”.

To date, the NMIAC has about 8,500 small farmer-member. Who would have thought that these small farmers invested their hard-earned money to the super coop after they have realized the benefits of becoming a member? The NMIAC serves the dual purpose of building rice stocks for the public food grain distribution system and of providing income support to farmers. Its objectives: to be able to purchase the farmer produce at a reasonable price; to provide a value chain to small farmers; minimize the risk and effect of rice tariffication, and; to be able to establish a guaranteed market.

The super coop is the first of its kind in the history of cooperatives in the country and initiated by a Local Government Unit. The registration of NMIAC in August 28, 2019, with the Cooperative

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Development Authority, which is chaired by former Congresswoman Ana Cristina Siquian-Go, paved the way in providing additional support price of P 5.00 per kilogram to small farmers with .25 hectare to 2 hectares, access to market at a guaranteed sale of a maximum of 80 bags at 50 kilograms per bag, which is equivalent to P20,000 additional income per farmer-member. The members of the NMIAC were also given an individual identification card cum debit card. It is intended to fast track the process of payment transactions instead of a traditional farmer-trader of doing business.

The NMIAC started palay procurement in September 2019 and a record-breaking 9,373,910 kilograms of wet and dry palay in just one month was purchased.

Through the help of the Department of Agriculture and the Development Bank of the Philippines, through representation of Governor Rodolfo T. Albano III and Vice Governor Faustino G. Dy III, a credit line of P450 million was awarded to NMIAC under the DA's Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) Program and an additional farmers support fund of P40M from the Provincial Government of Isabela. A formal launch was conducted on October 12, 2019, held in Roxas Astrodome, Roxas, Isabela.

The super coop, a brainchild of Governor Albano became known and gained admiration and curiosity across provinces, from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. And with this, the Province of Isabela was invited to present in the National Food Security Summit on October 29-30, 2019 at DM Hall, Land Bank of the Philippines, Malate, Manila...the LGU Model for Food Security was presented by Governor Albano.

The NMIAC is a resounding proof of the Albano-Dy Administration's strong will to empower those who have less to have more of the support of the government.

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Kailangan talagang tugunan natin ng pansin yung iba't ibang facets of life nung ating mga farmers, hindi lamang sa pagsasaka kundi pati yung well-being nila at pamilya nila dahil yun po ang ginagawa namin sa lalawigan ng Isabela.

GOVERNOR RODITO T. ALBANO III

Gov. Albano presents Isabela's Model Chain on Food Security Program at NFSS 2019

Dubbed as the country's Center of Agriculture, Isabela, along with other food champion provinces, cities and municipalities all over the country joined this year's National Food Security Summit aimed at levelling up the Philippine agriculture and fishery sectors leading to a committed vision of sustaining a food-secure agricultural country through prosperous farmers and fisher folks held at Diosdado Macapagal Hall, Landbank of the Philippines, Malate, Manila on October 29 - 30, 2019.

The event also aimed to provide an avenue to forge new public and private partnership for the betterment of the agriculture industry following countless agricultural issues like the falling price of palay/copra & other pressing matters such as the African Swine Fever (ASF) & Fall Army Worm (FAW) that's greatly affecting the agricultural sector these days.

With this year's theme "Sama-sama tungo sa Masaganang Ani at Mataas na Kita", Secretary William D. Dar of the Department of Agriculture (DA) introduced DA's new vision tagged as "New Thinking", composed of eight paradigms pushing for modernization and industrialization

geared towards empowering the agricultural and private sectors to increase its agricultural productivity and profitability whilst promoting sustainability and resilience.

Governor Rodito T. Albano III, presented Isabela's Model Chain on Food Security Program. As the second highest rice-growing province nationwide that produces 15% of the aggregate national rice production on an annual basis, Governor Rodito emphasized that the Provincial Government of Isabela focuses on promoting food security by providing high income to rice farmers while making prices affordable to the consuming public, "the premiere function of the Local Government is to provide the basic needs of its citizens, one of which is, stable food supply," he said.

Gov. Albano also discussed how the recent passing of the Rice Tariffication Law affected the rice industry especially among small rice farmers due to surge of cheaper imported rice in the market as well as the decline in the buying price of locally-produced palay resulting to lower income of rice farmers, however, through DA, Isabela managed to allot funds amounting



to 3 billion to bankroll palay-buying, drying, milling and rice marketing as a means to address the problem.

Moreover, Albano underscored the creation of the Nagkaisang Magsasaka ng Isabela Agriculture Cooperative (NMIAC) to showcase the agricultural prowess of the province in responding to agri-challenges. The NMIAC is a province-wide super cooperative composed of marginalized farmers with landholdings of 2 hectares and below with two hundred marginalized rice farmers from each of the 30 municipalities and 2 component cities initially registered with a paid-up capital of Php 1,000 plus Php 200 each created to revitalize the rice industry of the province. To date, NMIAC has an initial of 6,165 registered members.

As the only province honored with Hall of Fame trophies in both the National Rice Achievers Award and the Quality Corn Achievers Award, Albano proudly highlighted the Bojie-Rodito Opportunities Farmer Assistance Program that addresses the needs of marginalized farmers through its components that provide for crop insurance, pricing and transport subsidy and college scholarship for farmers' children.

"So, I'm trusting Sec. Dar and Sec. Dominguez pati ang DBP at Landbank na kailangan talagang

tugunan natin ng pansin yung iba't ibang facets of life nung ating mga farmers, hindi lamang sa pagsasaka kundi pati yung well-being nila at pamilya nila dahil yun po ang ginagawa namin sa lalawigan ng Isabela," he added.

Driven to elevate the quality of life of farmers, Albano encouraged the participants to buy locally-produced rice to help the farmers beat the existing agricultural challenges and be an active partner in attaining a food-secured Philippines.

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2019 Youth Summit Highlights Youth Parliament; Culminates with Awarding of Ten Outstanding Isabeleño Students

Attended by some 300 young leaders representing different subsectors of the Isabeleño youth, the fourth Provincial Youth Summit held on December 13-15, 2019 at The Hotel Sophia, Cauayan City is acclaimed as being one of the productive and meaningful youth gathering in the province, as this annual gathering gets grander and bigger every year.

SP ALBANO GRACES OPENING PROGRAM; SPEARHEADS PYDP, IYC LAUNCHING



A testament to the solid support of the Provincial Government of Isabela to the programs and activities advancing the participation of the youth in governance, Sangguniang Panlalawigan senior member Hon. Delfinito Emmanuel L. Albano, formally opened the activity on behalf of the Governor Rodolfo T. Albano III.

Addressing the Isabeleño youth, the former Most Outstanding Young Legislator Awardee challenged the delegates to find and be part of more avenues, such as the summit, to forward their advocacies, express their concerns, and vigorously lobby them to the realms of government legislation.

A former SK Federation President himself, SP Albano further reiterated that the provincial government, with the leadership of Governor Albano, shall continuously provide opportunities for the Isabeleño youth to hone their skills and recognize their views and opinion through formal way of communication.

Albano, along with SK Panlalawigan Federation President, Hon. Dax Paolo C. Binag, spearheaded the ceremonial launching of the province's youth code and youth development plan.

For the first time after its crafting, the Isabela Youth Code and Youth Development Plan were presented to the youth leaders of the province for an extensive and multi-sectoral discussion, the output of which will be presented to the plenary of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan.

PARLIAMENTARY CAPACITY-BUILDING

Recognizing that the state should encourage the youth to perform their roles in nation-building, the provincial government seeks to strengthen their involvement in governance through the establishment of the first Isabela Youth Parliament.

The IYP is the province's own congress of Isabeleño youth leaders where participants went through a series of capacity-building activities prior and during the summit to

ensure that they properly perform their responsibilities. Provincial Administrator Atty. Noel Manuel R. Lopez served as the primary lecturer of the 150 qualified IYP participants during the December 7, 2019 orientation program, prior to the actual summit.

PA Lopez, a former moot court champion, discussed resolution writing and parliamentary rules and procedures. With accurate and comprehensive lectures and demonstrations, the one-day orientation gave the young parliamentarians a clear glimpse of how to properly go through the plenary session while having a discourse on relevant matters, as well as how to put their advocacies and proposals in formal writing.



Provincial Administrator Atty. Noel Manuel R. Lopez mentoring the plenary officials before the formal opening of the First Isabela Youth Parliament.



YOUTH SUMMIT CULMINATES WITH AWARDING OF GAWAD ULIRANG KABATAAN TO TEN OUTSTANDING ISABELEÑO STUDENTS

In recognition to their vital contributions and accomplishments, the Provincial Government of Isabela conferred the Gawad Ulirang Kabataan to the Ten Outstanding Isabeleño Students (TOIS) during an awarding ceremony on December 15, 2019 at the Hotel Sophia, Cauayan City, culminating the three-day Provincial Youth Summit 4.0

This year, the most coveted Gawad Ulirang Kabataan, in its resolute pursuit of excellence among Isabeleño youth and desire to highlight every youth sector, recognized accomplished students who exhibited exemplary achievements both in their academic and social life. Nominees came from across the province, the region, and the nation as all Isabeleño students enrolled in any college or university in the country were qualified for the search.

A class valedictorian and the president of the Provincial and Regional Federation of Supreme Student Government, this year's Gawad Ulirang Kabataan Most Outstanding Isabeleño Student is Leunam Kier C. Camayang of Ugad, Tumauini, Isabela.

The very humble Camayang is a student of the Regional Science High School. He serves as a commentator and lector at Saint Matthias Parish.

The 2019 MOIS is a delegate to the first-ever Provincial Child Rights Summit in 2017. He delivered a speech on behalf of the Isabeleño youth during the said activity.

Camayang received a GUK trophy, a plaque of recognition and Php 25,000.00 cash prize during the awarding ceremony.

Among the top ten awardees were campus journalist champion Hans Albert T. Carinugan of Magsaysay, Alicia from the Regional Science High School; president's lister Krystelle Joy T. Zipagan from Catabayungan, Cabagan and studying at ISU-Cabagan; the only University of the Philippines qualifier Jasmin Kisha Angela V. Lugo who is also a former UP LAMBAK chairperson from Barangay 4, Tumauini; San Mateo's Most Outstanding Student Alpha Mel S. Domingo studying at St. Mary's University-Nueva Vizcaya; artist and Ten Outstanding Cauayeños 2019 Awardee Chung Nung C. Thian of ISU-Ilagan from Labinab, Cauayan City; Children's advocate Joe Randy G. Ramos Jr. of Doña Paulina, San Isidro from ISU-Echague; young agriculturist Jeffrey P. Tuquero of ISU-Echague from Catabban, Burgos; Junior Chamber International volunteer Julibelle Bulan of ISU-Cauayan from San Fermin, Cauayan City; ISU-Ilagan Student Council President Ricky John C. Guittu from Centro, Gamu; and Girl Scout of the Year Christine Mae B. Mapatac of Roxas National High School from San Antonio, Roxas.

The awardees were each awarded with a GUK trophy, a plaque of recognition and Php 10,000.00 cash.

Representing Vice Governor Faustino G. Dy III, SP Member Clifford R. Raspado graced

the awarding ceremonies together with SK President Binag, PYDO Officer-in-Charge Rey Mel C. Resposo, and TOIS Judge Mr. Jhonly R. Cacho.

Before the awarding ceremony, the bid book entries which include the nominee's significant accomplishment in academic, leadership and social responsibility were adjudged.

Twenty (20) finalists were determined and have gone through a panel interview which was the second level of screening conducted at the Blue Room, Provincial Capitol Bldg on December 11, 2019.

This year's TOIS Board of Judges is composed of Provincial Administrator Atty. Noel R. Lopez as Chairman and Dr. Elena C. Ariola, Vice President for Academic Related Affairs of Saint Ferdinand College; Mr. Jessie James P. Geronimo, Social Media Focal Person, RTA: 1 Million Tree Planting Project; Ms. Hideliza Maximo of DILG-Isabela; and Founder of Quirinian Youth in Action – 2018 Gawad Ulirang Kabataan Most Outstanding Youth Organization Mr. Jhonly R. Cacho, as members.



AT THE FOREFRONT OF COUNTRYSIDE DEVELOPMENT

For the past months, the Governor of the province of Isabela, Hon. Rodito T. Albano III has successfully completed the distribution of the BRO Education Scholarship Allowance and Tobacco Farmers Excise Tax Subsidy. The working Governor had visited 30 Municipalities and 2 Cities in the province taking time to deliver to the Isabeleños the much awaited financial assistance from the provincial government.

EXPANDED EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE

13,480 student scholars of the BRO-Ed together with their parents from the different cities and towns took time to attend as they received their book and lodging allowance from the Governor. These scholars are classified as Non-Academic who receives P3,000.00 per semester for book and lodging allowance and Academic Scholars who receives cash allowance of P3,000.00 for with honors, P4,000.00 for with high honors and P5,000.00 for with highest honors. In his speech, the good Governor mentioned the expansion of the BRO Scholarship program, with his words, "We will be expanding the assistance to our BRO Scholars as we consider to give e-books to each scholar. We have also expanded coverage of the assistance as we will be giving P10,000.00 a year for those who will pursue degrees in Law, Medicine, Theology (seminarians), Masteral and Doctoral Studies. It is my vision that all students will be able to graduate, be gainfully employed, become successful in their chosen career, be competitive in their respective fields."



The Governor truly believes in the importance of the youth and their education.

The Provincial Governor's Office (PGO) also extends educational assistance in the form of financial aid to eligible college students, professionals for their review and masteral students. This aid is to help ease the burden of these students to cope with their educational needs. A total of 989 students were granted educational assistance ranging from P1,000.00 - P10,000.00 each for the period of July - December 2019. This is in consonance to the thrust of the Albano Administration to invest in human capital, particularly in the educational aspect to help reduce, if not eradicate poverty and inequality while expanding economic opportunity to its constituents in the longer term.

TOBACCO EXCISE TAX SUBSIDY



On the other hand, 7,178 tobacco farmers were also highlighted by the Governor for the distribution of the Excise Tax Subsidy. The tobacco farmers received P5,000.00 each as subsidy from the excise tax collected by the government.

The Governor mentioned, "Now, we are giving P5,000.00 each tobacco farmer regardless of their area of cultivation. They will also be enrolled in SSS and PAG-IBIG for their security where they can save and obtain loan. The tobacco excise tax is yours, it is not ours - so we will give it all to you - we will not retain anything - we will pour everything to you."

The governor also mentioned updated tobacco farming through the aid of technology to lessen the contact of farmers to harmful substances.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE



The Provincial Government of Isabela values the health of every Isabeleños and believes in the constitutional mandate of all LGUs to promote the fundamental right of the people to health.

Hence, the PGI caters to the needs of hemodialysis patients in Isabela in the form of financial assistance. The financial assistance aims to augment the expenses of hemodialysis patients. Each qualified hemodialysis patient is given P2,000.00 financial assistance every quarter from July-December 2019, the financial assistance has been granted to 655 patients (1st time requestors) and 276 patients (2nd requestors) from various municipalities in the province. This is a supplemental aid to the patients who undergo the procedure at the GFNDy Memorial Hospital. Aside from the assistance to hemodialysis patients, the PGI extendeds medical assistance in the form of cash and medicines to 2,159 patients.

Governor Rodito T. Albano III prioritizes the health of his constituents, that no Isabeleño should be pushed to poverty just to cope with paying their medical needs.

TUPAD: TULONG PANGHANAPBUHAY SA ATING DISADVANTAGED/DISPLACED WORKERS

Sec. Silvestre "Bebot" H. Bello III of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) personally turned-over to the Provincial Government of Isabela through Hon. Rodito T. Albano III, Provincial Governor, the cheque



*More than Jobs!
It's decent jobs.*

amounting to 89,348,400.00 pesos for the TUPAD program. The Turnover was held at the Governor's Office last December 23, 2019 witnessed by PGI department heads and DOLE Officials led by Regional Director Atty. Evelyn R. Ramos.

The Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers (TUPAD) is a community-based packaged assistance that provides emergency employment for displaced workers, underemployed and seasonal workers which also prioritizes Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), 4Ps member, out of school youths and the unemployed adults in partnership with Local Government Units (LGUs).

The adults or senior citizens are given the chance to go back to work as long as they are still physically fit and up to 70 years old only. The works are classified on the DOLE guidelines based on the following projects: Social Community Projects, Economic Community Projects and Agro-Forestry Community Projects. Before actual engagement in employment, the program also provides basic orientation on safety and health, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in form of T-shirt and hat, enrolment in group micro-insurance and TUPAD ID.

The unending support and delivery of services to the Isabeleños has just started as the Governor together with the Vice Governor and the Provincial Government of Isabela continues to find ways and means to expand its programs for the betterment of the people.

BRINGING THE PROVINCIAL GOV



GOVERNMENT CLOSER TO THE PEOPLE





DILG launches #DisiplinaMuna Advocacy Campaign in Isabela

As a means of encouraging people's involvement in maintaining peace, order and development in the country's communities as well as to rekindle the culture of discipline among its citizens, the Department of the Interior and Local Government in partnership with the Provincial Government of Isabela launched its government-wide #DisiplinaMuna Advocacy Campaign in the province participated in by different government agencies, organizations and Local Government Units on November 27, 2019 held at the City of Ilagan Community Center, City of Ilagan, Isabela.

The #DisiplinaMuna campaign aspires to activate the real concept of governance where the communities are well aware of their vital roles and responsibilities to carry out active citizen participation in nation-building anchored on the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022 which aims to establish the foundation for all-encompassing growth and a high-trust society ensuring people-centered governance towards **AMBISYON NATIN 2040** that foresees a **"matatag, maginhawa at panatag na buhay para sa lahat"**.

PSO continues to deliver safety and prevention services

True to its mandate of promoting safety and security the Provincial Safety Office continue to provide training and community awareness programs, facilitated coordinating meetings and produced updated Safety IEC materials by constantly researching new safety measures and acquiring skills and knowledge through various trainings related to Safety and Health programs.

The office, tasked to monitor and facilitate implementation of various Road Safety Laws across the Province thru the Isabela Special Motorcycle Action and Response Team (iSMART). The continued monitoring and operations provide necessary reports and spread Road Safety Awareness in distributing Road Safety Tips, Road Safety Program Laws and Ordinances Handbook to LEO's and flyers through various platforms such as social media.



Since its establishment in 2016 the iSMART has shown a very remarkable impact in the reduction of road crashes in all types of vehicles from 2,393 to 1,223 this 2019 a 55.89% reduction. Reports from the IPPO shows a decline of 663 from 2018's 1,886 to 2019's 1,223, this gives a 35.15% reduction of road crashes in the province in this year's report. As the group continues to monitor and implement road safety measures to the 5 LTO areas of coverage in Isabela, additional members are on deck for the next batch of intensive training.



The Road Safety Council on the other hand carries on in its duty to gather additional information on road safety, addressing issues of concern and tackling feedbacks in the implementation of safety measures.



The spread of African Swine Fever (ASF) in the country brought an alarm to the entire province since hog-raising is one the major industries in Isabela. With the Executive Order 25-A of the Governor, the PSO and PVET together with identified offices spearheaded the task force responsible for the monitoring of entry of livestock animals and meat products in Isabela for the prevention and control of "African Swine Fever" and other diseases affecting the livestock industry.

The monitoring teams stationed check points at the main entry gates of Isabela, in Cordon and San Pablo, teams where composed of PSO personnel, PVET representative and PNP personnel who inspects vehicles carrying meat products. The conducted monitoring also provided technical assistance to surveyors for the Local Public Transport data collection of all cities and municipalities across the province as part of the Isabela Local Public Transport Route Planning Technical Working Group and monitored African Swine Fever Operations pursuant to EO 46, S.2019.

AT THE HELM: VICE GOVERNOR FAUSTINO G. DY III

Continuing the legacy of volunteerism



"Nakakataba ng puso na makita ang tunay na pusong Isabeleño. Hindi ito bago sa atin na tumulong sa ibang probinsya. Itong takbo natin ngayong araw na ito ay ating pagmamahal at pagmamalasakit sa ating kapwa Pilipino na naapekuan ng pagputok ng bulkan sa Taal," Vice Governor Faustino G. Dy III, the 2020 - Bambanti Festival director-general and the man behind the success of *"iRun for Taal"*, was quoted as saying.

The province of Isabela, touted as the Volunteer Capital of the Philippines registered more than 13,000 volunteers gathered at the Queen Isabella Park on January 29, 2020, for a 3-km *"iRun for Taal"*, a charitable fun run aimed at raising funds for the victims of Taal Volcano eruption.

At least 5,000 runners were expected to participate, but Vice Gov. Dy earlier noted the overwhelming support, that in the day for this run for a cause, registered runners reached more than 13,000. Runners, mostly students, enjoyed being drenched in colorful, yet non-toxic "paint" spewed by the tankers of the city's fire trucks. At the finish line, they were met with a foam party, with suds enveloping their already drenched bodies from spray paint and sweat.



Meanwhile, in another big event on May 2014, the province of Isabela raised a total of P1,008,750.00 through the Family Fun Run and the Padyak Isabeleño Fun Bike, two of the highlights leading to the 158th Founding Anniversary of the province of Isabela. Isabeleños engaged in fun run that promote physical development in order to raise precious funds for the Philippine Red Cross. Over 8,000 men, women and children trooped to the Isabela Police Provincial Office where the event's opening salvo was held. A mix of local officials led by then Gov. Dy, department heads, capitol employees, young professionals, police officers, students, private individuals, health buffs and even children, senior citizens and persons with disabilities flooded Ilagan City's major thoroughfare and negotiated the 2-kilometer stretch leading to the Isabela Capitol for the awarding of special prizes.



When asked how this overwhelming spirit of volunteerism among Isabeleños was made possible, Dy resolutely said, *"It is because of the support of the people. That is how lucky we are."*

PUBLIC SERVICE KNOWS NO BOUNDARY

On November 11, 2013, then Gov. Dy dispatched the Team Isabela Yolanda Relief Mission to conduct medical, rescue and relief operations in the typhoon ravaged province of Leyte. The 120-men team composed of personnel of the provincial government of Isabela, DART 831 rescuers, government doctors, nurses, social workers, PNP and BFP personnel, PRC volunteers, electricians and cooks left Ilagan City on board a fleet of fifteen vehicles including two fully-equipped ambulance units, two rescue vehicles and four dump trucks loaded with premium quality Isabela rice to embark on its most charitable mission.

For five days, the different sub-teams conducted medical missions, clearing and retrieval operations and water sanitation in the municipalities of Palo, Tanauan, Burauen and the city of Tacloban while a special team served hot meals to typhoon victims who sought refuge at the Philippine Science High School Visayas Campus Evacuation Center in Palo which, at the time of the operation, accommodates 2,000 to 2,500 evacuees.

Everytime there was a calamity, then Gov. Dy sent aid to other provinces, such as the provinces of Davao Oriental, Compostela Valley, Leyte, Marinduque, Albay, Bulacan, Tarlac and even the province of Cagayan.

Then Gov. Dy said, *"We reach out to our brother Filipinos in distress because we believe that public service knows no boundaries."*

It is the desire to help and reach out to our brother Filipinos who find themselves in the midst of adversity made the Isabela spirit of volunteerism even more noble and laudable, worthy to the sterling reputation as the "volunteer capital of the Philippines".

As a manifestation of support, a registration fee of P200.00 was collected in order to raise additional funds for the people of the province of Batangas who have been in an unfortunate situation after the Taal Volcano eruption. Earlier, the provincial government of Isabela has sent 2,000 bags of rice to Batangas and Cavite provinces for the volcano eruption victims while the Isabela Capitol employees also raised P100,000.00 for the same recipients.



ISABELA'S SPIRIT OF VOLUNTEERISM

In the 2013 Bayani Challenge, the biggest volunteer movement in the country's history, the province of Isabela posted the highest number of enlisted volunteers at 11,500 of the over 80,000 who participated in the event, thus, affirming Isabela's distinction as the volunteer capital of the Philippines.

Then Governor Faustino Dy III said that he was inspired and impressed seeing the volunteers who showed up and offered themselves during the 5-day event to build houses for homeless Isabeleños, conduct clean-up drives, donate blood, educational sessions for children and other socio-civic activities.



RTA: ONE MILLION TREES IN ONE DAY

Once again, the Province of Isabela demonstrated its unity as the “Volunteer Capital of the Philippines”. Despite rainshowers, Isabeleños from all sectors—the youth, government agencies, non-government, different cooperatives and the private sector, assembled at the Provincial Capitol as early as 5:00 a.m, on December 20, 2019 all bound to Sitio Lagis, Barangay Sindon Bayabo, City of Ilagan for the Reforestation Target Action (RTA): Plant One Million Trees in One Day. Simultaneous tree planting activities were also conducted by the Local Government Units (LGUs) in their respective municipalities and barangays.

To ensure full participation, Governor Rodito Albano III issued Executive Order No. 54 – 2019 declaring the 20th of December 2019, as a Special Non-Working Day in the Province of Isabela, for the simultaneous tree planting activity.

In a briefing, Provincial Administrator Atty. Noel Manuel Lopez requested the volunteers to plant at least 50 seedlings each. He also reiterated his plea to refrain from using single-use plastic bottles and plastic materials.

Governor Rodito Albano III and Vice Governor Faustino Dy III, together with Sangguniang Panlalawigan members, Capitol department heads and DILG-Isabela spearheaded the tree planting activity at the Ilagan-Divilacan Road reforestation site at Sindon Bayabo, city of Ilagan, Isabela.

Acknowledging the various benefits of trees, the goal of the project was to plant and grow one million trees. It also aims to re-establish nature, fruit-bearing, hardwood trees along waterways, forest parks and within communities, provide shelter and viable food source for wildfire and migratory birds, increase biodiversity; help reduce flooding, erosion and surface runoff; improve water and air quality; and create an awareness regarding the value of planting trees.

In support of this project, Gov. Albano earlier issued a series of Executive Orders to strengthen its implementation and achieve the set goal. On July 25, 2019, he issued Executive Order No. 15 series of 2019, creating the 1 Million Trees in One Day Task Force to guide the formulation of policies, strengthen the implementation of all forest plantation and rehabilitation activities in the province and ensure tighter inter-agency cooperation in the conduct of the ecological campaign. The Task Force conducted series of meetings to ensure the smooth implementation of the project.

Gov. Albano also issued Executive Order No. 16 -2019 issued on July 25, 2019 enjoining all Isabeleños’ involvement in a massive ecological campaign towards a holistic view in the rehabilitation and development along the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park. On September 20, 2019, the governor also issued Executive Order No. 42 – 2019 enjoining all schools in the Province of Isabela to ensure the





During the tree planting day, volunteers were distributed in four reforestation areas. The BRO-Ed scholars and the youth sectors were assigned to plant along the roadside of Ilagan-Divilacan Road from Km. 02 to Km. 22. The Provincial Government of Isabela offices, hospitals, and some associations were assigned at Sitio Disipun reforestation area. The cooperatives, religious sectors, other associations and local residents were assigned at Sitio Lagis reforestation area. Lastly, national agencies, construction firms, bikers group and private firms were assigned at Trailer (Km. 21) reforestation area including the PNP who were also in charge of security of the volunteer-planters.

From the initial target of 250,000, a total of 270,483 seedlings were planted in the four reforestation sites at Sitio Lagis, Barangay Sindon Bayabo, City of Ilagan, Isabela with an aggregate area of 220 hectares. In addition to this, 734,237 seedlings were planted in the simultaneous tree planting activities conducted by LGUs in 34 municipalities and 3 cities, agencies and institutions within their respective areas. Thus, a grand total of 1,004,720 seedlings were planted in one day, exceeding the target of one million trees, a laudable undertaking for all Isabeleños in a common goal to rejuvenate the ecosystem, a giant leap towards environmental sustainability.

A GRAND TOTAL OF 1,004, 720 SEEDLINGS WERE PLANTED IN ONE DAY, EXCEEDING THE TARGET OF ONE MILLION TREES, A LAUDABLE UNDERTAKING FOR ALL ISABELEÑOS IN A COMMON GOAL TO REJUVENATE THE ECOSYSTEM, A GIANT LEAP TOWARDS ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY.

planting of 100 new trees per year adjacent to the perimeter fence or boundaries as windbreakers and natural barriers. Likewise Executive Order No. 43 – 2019 was also issued on the same day, enjoining all barangays in the Province of Isabela to plant 500 trees per year along highways but away from electric posts and service lines in their respective area.

The Provincial Government of Isabela thru its Environment and Natural Resources Office in coordination with the DENR-CENRO Naguilian identified the areas intended for reforestation, conducted field validation and delineation of the areas and were able to generate maps of the areas. There were four major areas along the Ilagan-Divilacan Road (IDR) for reforestation – the roadside of IDR from kilometer 02 to kilometer 22; 60-hectare area at Sitio Disipun (km. 14-15); 100-hectare area at So. Lagis (Km. 18); and 60-hectare area at Trailer (Km. 21).

WSite preparation activities like hole-digging, staking, brushing, putting-up of placards, were conducted by ENR and ISEP-TF personnel in the identified areas. To augment manpower requirements, the Provincial Government hired additional forty four (44) local residents from Sindon Bayabo and Cabisera 10, City of Ilagan, Isabela thru Job Order contract to conduct site preparation activities. The ENRO and ISEP-TF personnel together with the hired laborers were able to prepare around 310,000 holes.

LANDBANK loan to agriculture reach P236B in 2019; assists over 1M farmers

LANDBANK intensified its lending to agriculture with loans reaching P236.31 billion last year, exceeding its year-end target of P231.25 billion. Of this amount, P44.82 billion were outstanding loans to small farmers, fishers, cooperatives, and farmers associations, while P191.49 billion were loans to other players in the agri-business value chain.

The bank also exceeded the number of farmers and fishers assisted, registering 1,032,982 or 103% of its yearend target of one million, with significant increase in the number of farmers from the provinces of Maguindanao, Palawan, Ilocos Norte, Abra, and Nueva Vizcaya.

LANDBANK will target to assist an additional one million new farmers and fishers for a total of 2 million this year, 2.5 million in 2021, and 3 million in 2022.

"Last year, President Duterte directed LANDBANK to do more for agriculture. We responded to the President's directive by intensifying assistance to the sector, particularly in providing financing interventions to improve farmers' income and boost productivity," LANDBANK President and CEO Cecilia C. Borromeo said.

LENDING PROGRAMS

To reach more farmers, LANDBANK adopted a direct lending approach especially for programs which it jointly implemented with the Department of Agriculture (DA).

One such program is the Expanded Rice Credit Assistance under the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (ERCA-RCEF) implemented in line with the Rice Tarrification Law. In 2019, LANDBANK released P358.25 million in loans to 7,468 farmers.

For the Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (ACEF), cumulative releases amounted to P1.04 billion as of end-2019 benefitting more than 7,000 farmers and fishers.

Another initiative is the Expanded Survival and Recovery Assistance Program for Rice Farmers Program (SURE Aid), which extends credit assistance to small farmers affected by the drop in palay prices. Under the program, P2.07 billion in loans was released to extend immediate financial assistance to 136,648 farmers nationwide.

In addition, the implementation of the Socialized Credit Program under the Sugarcane Industry Development Act (SCP-SIDA) for individual sugarcane farmers and block farms, recorded loan releases of P111.37 million directed towards 992 beneficiaries.

Meanwhile, in partnership with the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), LANDBANK introduced the Accessible Funds for Delivery to Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries which provided loans for production of rice, corn, high-value crops as well as for farm implements. Outstanding loans reached P100.86 million with 523 beneficiaries. Another program for ARBs is the Credit Assistance Program for Program Beneficiaries Development with P580 million loans released to 7,759 agrarian reform beneficiaries.

LANDBANK remains as the biggest credit provider to small farmers and fishers and local government units, and the biggest lender to microenterprises and SMEs among government financial institutions.



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MOVING FORWARD TO A FOOD-SECURE

