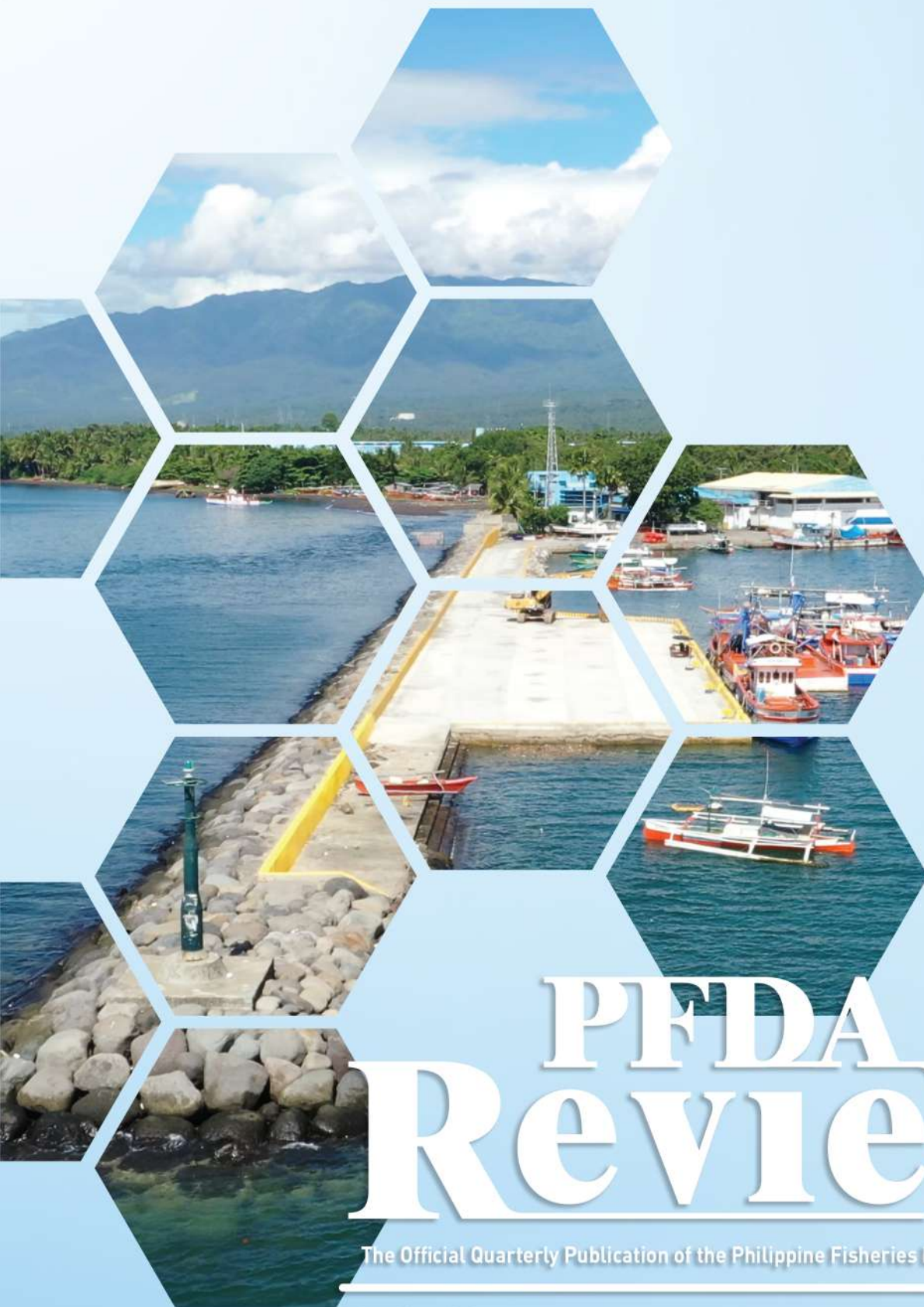


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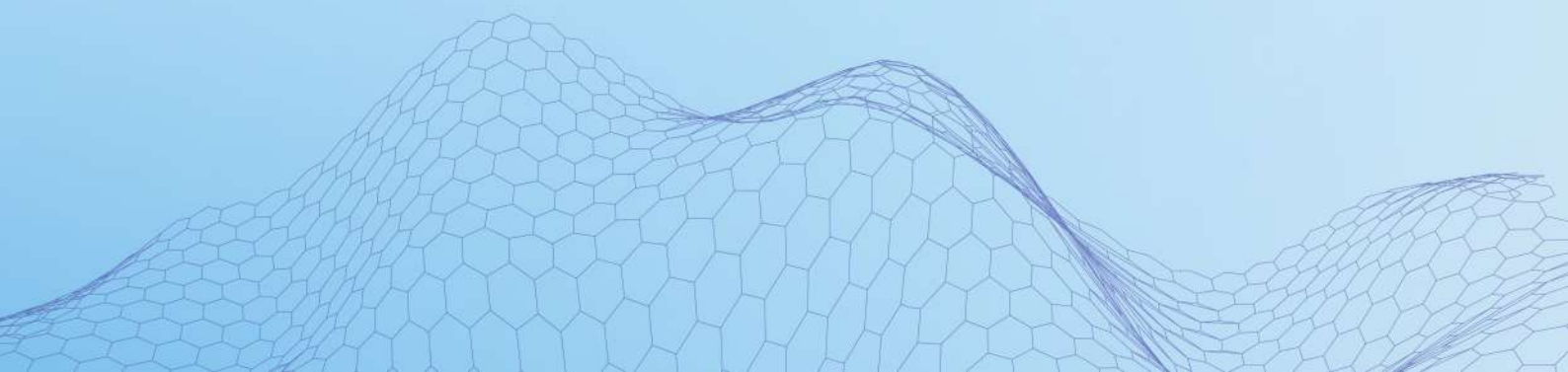


PFDA Review

The Official Quarterly Publication of the Philippine Fisheries Development Authority

Volume 4, Issue No. 1

January to March 2023



ABOUT THE COVER



Art Cover by Mark Angelo Perez

The year 2023 marks another milestone for the Philippine Fisheries Development Authority and its endeavor to provide world-class fishery post-harvest facilities and infrastructures for the Filipino fisherfolk.

In this cover, the hexagonal tessellation symbolizes the Agency's goal to become stronger and sturdier as we enter another year. Like the six-sided polygon, the PFDA seeks a stable center to become more efficient and organized in providing quality services to all clients, stakeholders, and industry partners nationwide.

This issue also highlights the PFDA – Davao Fish Port Complex (PFDA-DFPC) that is currently on its way to becoming the center of business in the Region as rehabilitation projects in the port progress. This newly upgraded berthing area opens the port to more interested clients and fishing vessels. Like the stable structure of a hexagon, the PFDA-DFPC is ready to carry heavier responsibilities that the future may bring.

Also, the hues of blue symbolize the deep, unpredictable, and unforgiving waters. With that, the PFDA hopes to become a beacon for our Filipino fisherfolk in the year ahead.

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PFDA-ZFPC ATTENDS 12TH OPEN FISHING SEASON FOR SARDINES

PFDA-LFPC ATTENDS GRAND LAUNCHING OF M/V SANTA ALBERTA

NFPC, ZFPC CONDUCT FIRE SAFETY TRAINING, TACKLE ROLE OF WOMEN IN DISASTER RESPONSE



SCAN ME!

PUBLICATION READERSHIP FEEDBACK SURVEY FORM

As a recipient of the Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA) publication/s, the Editorial Team would like to ask you a few questions about your **publication readership experience**. Your responses are confidential, and you will not be identified in the survey results. Please be open and honest with your feedback as this will help us improve our service.

Begin Again

Miguel M. Pilarta

Sometimes it seems that some of the most terrifying things in life involve starting over. When we let go of our past or present and move on to a new and unfamiliar territory, it can get suffocating and feel like it's not worth the effort. The overwhelming feeling can consume us and stop us from getting the fresh start that we deserve.

Where do I even start? Most of us ask this question to ourselves everyday. Sometimes we are paralyzed by the fear of starting over again because we don't believe in ourselves. There's the fear of failing and the fear of looking foolish. There is also the fear of the unknown, of leaving our comfort zones and the life that we have grown accustomed to.

These fears may be hard to live with, but I eventually realized that we can turn our fears into power. When I started working at PFDA in 2019, I honestly barely knew what I was getting myself into. I began as a technical staff who barely knew the know-hows of the industry, unsure of what it meant for me and what lies ahead of me. As someone obsessed with maintaining structure and routine, the feeling of being lost scared me.

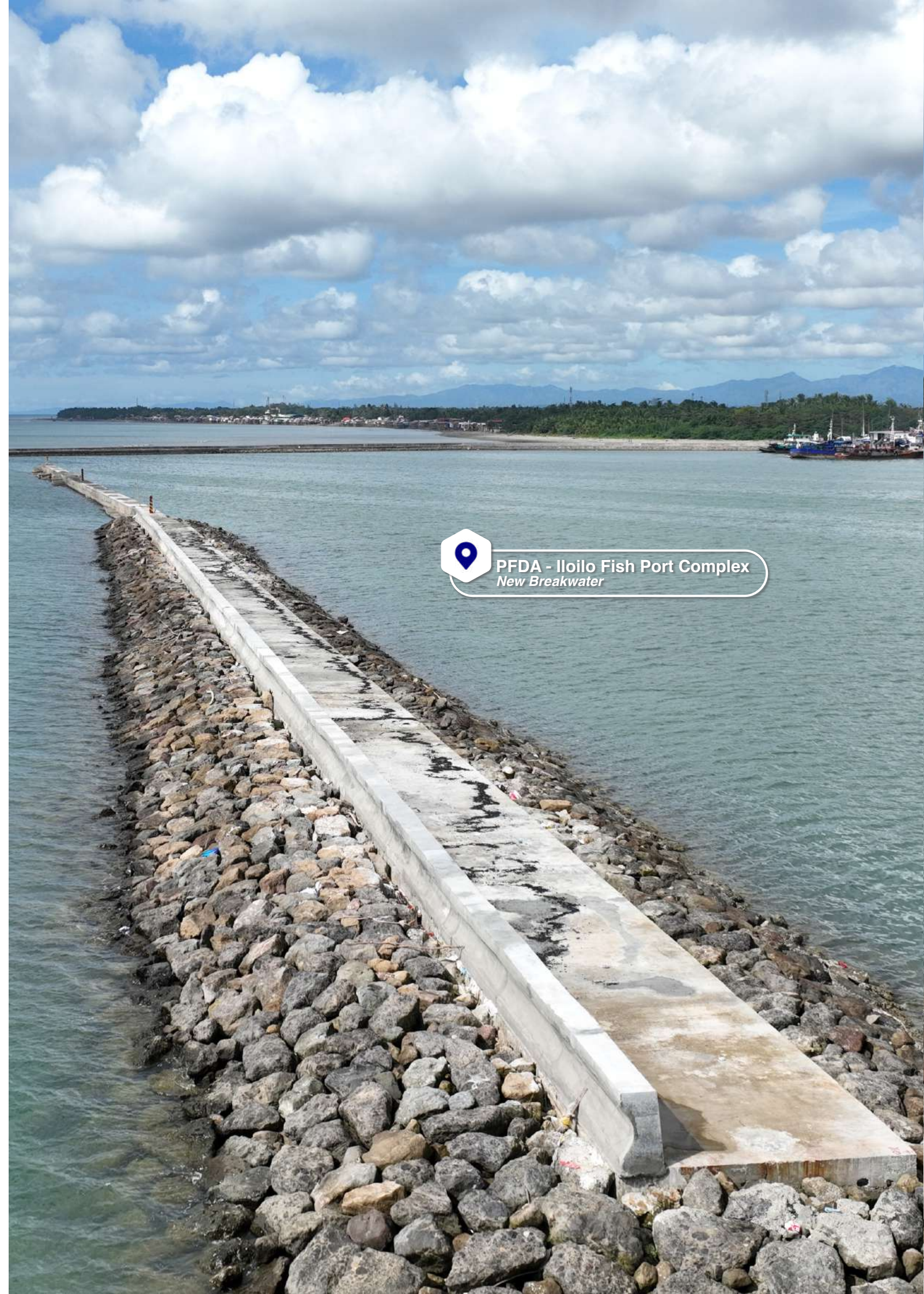
The decision to persevere and continue working for the agency set a chain of events in motion that has now come full circle four years later, allowing me, with so much happiness and gratitude, to present this issue of PFDA Review as the Editor-in-Chief and Officer-in-Charge of the Public Information Division. This made me realize that courage starts when we start looking fear right in its eye. Although mustering up the energy to face our fears may be a painstakingly long process for most of us, in the end, if we carry on, the reward and feeling of accomplishment will surely be worth it.

This issue of PFDA Review is also a "begin again" moment for the team as we begin to lean on the community we have built for insights through the Publication Readership Feedback Survey Form. We figured that the beginning of a new volume is an opportune time to start gauging and understanding the issues and topics that are of greatest interest to our readers. With that, we hope the stories within this issue will inspire you as they have us.

We are excited to begin again, with you.



*These fears may be hard to live with,
but I eventually realized that we can
turn our fears into power.*



PFDA - Iloilo Fish Port Complex
New Breakwater



PFDA HIGHLIGHTS

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ICE PLANTS &
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136

PROJECT
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MUNICIPAL
FISH PORTS

Q1 2023 PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

Q1 2023 IN NUMBERS



118,419.49 MT

VOLUME OF
FISH UNLOADING

VS. 109,665.42 MT IN Q4 2022



1,315.77 MT

AVERAGE DAILY
UNLOADING

VS. 1,192.01 MT IN Q4 2022



5,327.53 MT

VOLUME OF
ICE PRODUCTION

VS. 8,395.20 MT IN Q4 2022



237.98 MT

VOLUME OF FISHERY & NON-
FISHERY PRODUCTS PROCESSED

VS. 451.39 MT IN Q4 2022



25,200

NUMBER OF
VESSEL ARRIVALS

VS. 19,171 IN Q4 2022



10,869

NUMBER OF
CLIENTS SERVED

VS. 10,049 IN Q4 2022

On Fish Unloading and Handling

Reports showed that during the January to March 2023 unloading period, the PFDA unloaded 118,419.49 metric tons (MT) of fish which is equivalent to an average daily unloading volume of 1,315.77 MT of fish. Moreover, data showed that the PFDA recorded a slight decline in ice production with 5,327.53 MT. Meanwhile, the PFDA processed 237.98 MT of fishery and non-fishery products.

On Serving Port Clients

During Q1, all PFDA RFPs maintained a positive trend both in the quarterly number of vessel arrivals and the number of clients served. The ports opened their doors to 25,200 vessel arrivals and attended to 10,869 clients throughout the quarter.

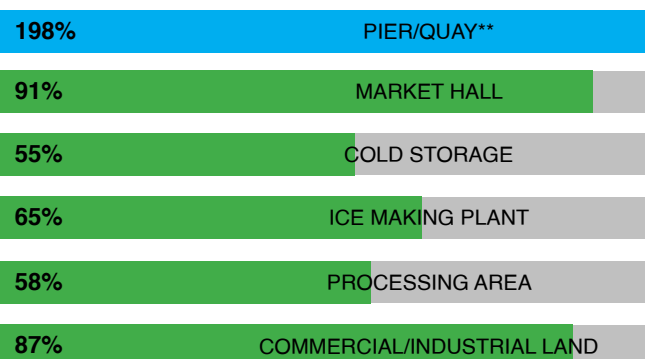
PFDA PORT UTILIZATION RATE*

On Port Facilities Utilization

In this quarter, piers and quays recorded the highest utilization rate at 198%. As port rehabilitation moves forward across all RFPs, concerns about the high utilization rate can soon be addressed.

On the other hand, as other facilities become functional, utilization of market halls was at 92%, commercial/industrial land was at 87%, and ice-making plants were at 65%.

Also, the utilization rate for processing areas and building spaces reached 58%, while cold storage facilities reached a 55% utilization rate.



LEGEND: ■ > 100% UTILIZATION RATE
■ 0-100% UTILIZATION RATE

*UTILIZATION RATE VIS-A-VIS Q1 2023 TARGET

**Berthings days for Sual Fish Port were still not included in the total percentage for pier.

DATA SOURCES:
PFDA-Operations Services Department
PFDA-Corporate Planning and MIS Department

PFDA-Technical Services Department
PFDA Regional Fish Ports

PRODUCED BY:
PFDA-Public Information Division

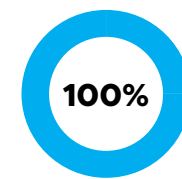
PFDA HIGHLIGHTS

PFDA FLAGSHIP INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT STATUS

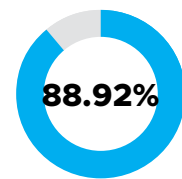
(AS OF MARCH 31, 2023)

FPC = Fish Port Complex;
FP = Fish Port

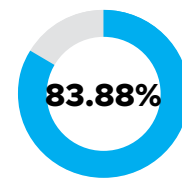
REHABILITATION/IMPROVEMENT/UPGRADING OF:



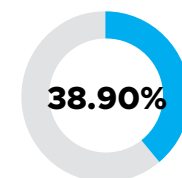
LUCENA FPC



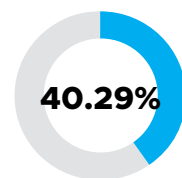
DAVAO FPC



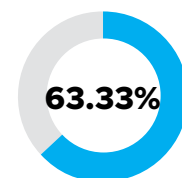
ILOILO FPC



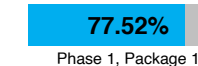
ZAMBOANGA FPC



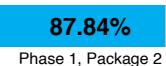
CAMALIGAN FP



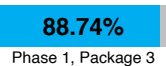
SUAL FP



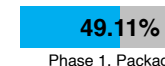
Phase 1, Package 1



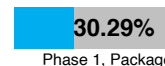
Phase 1, Package 2



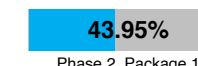
Phase 1, Package 3



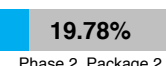
Phase 1, Package 4



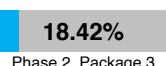
Phase 1, Package 5



Phase 2, Package 1



Phase 2, Package 2



Phase 2, Package 3

NAVOTAS FP

On Flagship Projects and Rehabilitation Initiatives

The rehabilitation project in the PFDA – Lucena Fish Port Complex (PFDA-LFPC) reached its 100% completion rate in December 2022.

Also inching closer to completion are the PFDA – Davao Fish Port Complex (PFDA-DPFC) and the PFDA – Iloilo Fish Port Complex (PFDA-IFPC) with an 88.92% accomplishment rate and an 83.88% accomplishment rate, respectively.

Meanwhile, rehabilitation in the PFDA – Sual Fish Port (PFDA-SFP) continues to move at a faster pace with 63.33% accomplished as of March 2023.

Not far behind are the PFDA – Camaligan Fish Port (PFDA-CFP) and PFDA – Zamboanga Fish Port Complex (PFDA-ZFPC) with a 40.29% completion rate and a 38.90% completion rate, respectively.

Furthermore, the National Caption Region will soon be home to a revamped PFDA – Navotas Fish Port Complex (PFDA-NFPC) as Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the port rehabilitation continue as planned.

PFDA FLAGSHIP CSR PROJECT

(AS OF MARCH 31, 2023)



7.34 MT

TOTAL VOLUME SOLD*
(in metric tons)

110

MARKET AREAS &
COOPERATIVE PARTNERS

MODALITIES:

- Market Areas
- Partnership with LGUs
- Partnership with Cooperatives

On PFDA's CSR

In addition, the PFDA continues to provide affordable fresh-frozen fishery products nationwide through the isDA ON THE GO (iOTG) Program.

This quarter, the iOTG Flagship project has sold a total of 7.34 MT of fishery products. The agency continues to work with 110 market areas and cooperative partners in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.

*Total Fish & Fishery Products (Bangus, Tilapia, Squid, fresh and frozen GG & Shrimp)

FLAGSHIP PROJECTS

LUCENA FISH PORT COMPLEX

100%



DAVAO FISH PORT COMPLEX

88.92%



ILOILO FISH PORT COMPLEX

83.88%



SUAL FISH PORT

63.33%



CAMALIGAN FISH PORT

40.29%



ZAMBOANGA FISH PORT COMPLEX

38.90%



NAVOTAS FISH PORT COMPLEX

ONGOING
Phase 1
Phase 2



IOTG ACTIVITIES

PFDA PRESENTS IOTG FLAGSHIP PROJECT TO COOPS IN REGIONS 6, 8

Mark Angelo N. Perez

Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA) conducted an orientation of the PFDA isDA ON THE GO (iOTG) Flagship Project to registered cooperatives in Regions 8 and 6 as part of the celebration of the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA)'s 33rd founding anniversary, held on March 8 and 28, 2023, respectively via teleconference.

The online webinar aims to share programs and services that can be availed by cooperatives the regions through CDA partner agencies, which includes the PFDA's iOTG program.

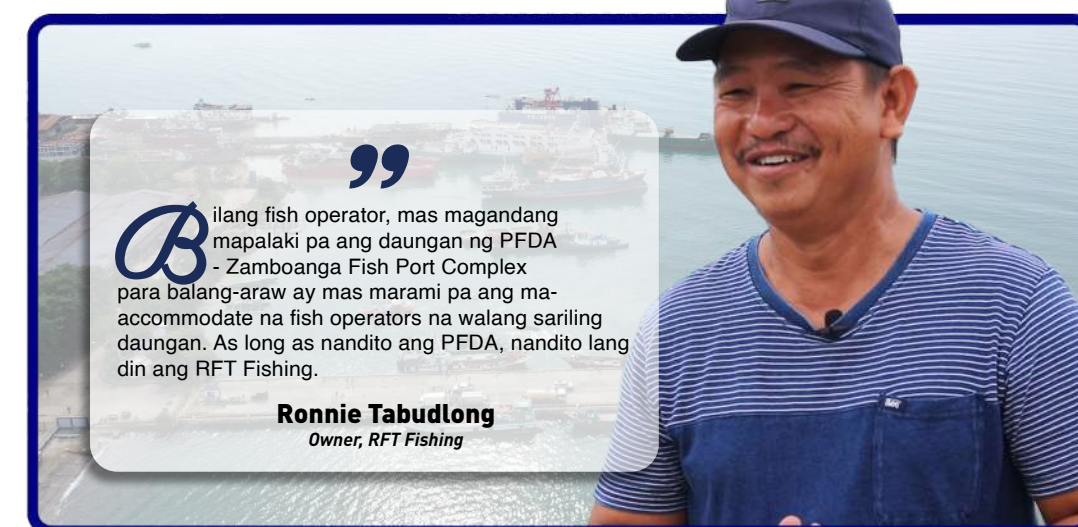
Mr. Antonino Carlos O. Del Prado of the PFDA – Operations Services Department (OSD) presented the objectives and operations of the iOTG Program for the cooperatives in Region 8. Meanwhile, PFDA-OSD Regional Municipal Port Operations Division (RMPOD) Chief Ms. Janet T. Manalo presented the Program to coops in Region 6.

During the discussion, they discussed the project's business model, product lines (frozen fish and fresh fish), and distribution channels.

In addition, they presented the accomplishments and ways forward of the iOTG program, as well as the roles and responsibilities of PFDA and the cooperatives when the partnership occurs.

Since the collaboration between the PFDA and CDA began in October 2021, the iOTG program has assisted more than 50 cooperatives in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao by providing them with top-of-the-line inverter chest freezers, which they utilize for selling fresh-frozen fishery products under the iOTG initiative.

After the orientation, Ms. Manalo answered all queries from coop participants.



Our PFDA Review digital library is always open!

Visit the PFDA website (pfda.gov.ph) and go to the News and Events tab to access the online copies of the PFDA Review.





”
As a gender advocate and HR practitioner, I can promote gender equality in the workplace by ensuring that there is equal opportunity and rights for working women and everyone in the organization. I will help ensure that they receive fair responsibilities and have full access to the agency's resources.

FRITZIE LEVISTE
HRMO III, PFDA-GSFPC



”
As I firmly believe that equality and inclusivity are pivotal, it requires the transformation of workplace cultures, which in turn requires sustained commitment from individuals at all organizational levels in the fisheries sector, women and men alike.

MA. CHRISTINE D. LACUESTA
OIC, Admin & Finance Services Division
PFDA-ZFPC



”
I believe in the power of being a woman. Just know your worth and believe in yourself even when nobody else does because that's what makes you a winner. Always choose to be kind and calm in every situation and to lend a helping hand, in that matter everything in between, the organization, the fisheries, the people in it, will fall into their proper places and everything wonderful will follow.

ENGR. CHARLOTTE KAYE JUAYONG
Engineer II, PFDA-TSD



”
Being a GAD-TWG member has allowed me to embrace my weaknesses and equipped me with a voice to encourage other women to stand for themselves. To all women in the fishery sector, let us continue to break barriers and together, we can conquer all the challenges of this industry.

MAE ANGELICA R. MEDINA
Fishery Market Operations Officer I
PFDA-NFPC



”
Women today are excelling in different fields. Everyday is a chance to showcase that women CAN and women WILL. A gender-diverse PFDA is proof that inclusivity promotes morale which in turn encourages work effectively and efficiency towards the attainment of the Department of Agriculture's vision of a Food Secure and Resilient Philippines.

SAPHO G. COBARRUBIAS
Chief, PFDA-FSD Budget Division



”
I truly believe that the PFDA has always been a gender-equal and inclusive agency. We have always been respectful and compassionate to everyone. In addition, the PFDA is a place where employees, clients, and stakeholders can feel safe and enjoy their freedom of self-expression without the fear of judgment or harm.

Happy National Women's Month to all!
IRIS R. DE VERA
PFDA OIC-General Manager



the WOMEN of PFDA

National Women's Month Celebration 2023



”
Being in the AFSD, I would do my best to ensure that men and women in the office enjoy equal rights, respects, and responsibilities, to ensure that recruitment process will be based on merits, abilities, and performance, encourage the use of gender inclusive language both in writing and speaking which may help decrease bias and to support activities that promote work-life balance.

MARIFE BORJA
Chief, Admin & Finance Services Division
PFDA-DFPC



”
Equality among and between women and everyone is a plea - it is likewise the answer and its practice is the demand of morality.

ATTY. MARY ANNE CHRISTINE R. BALTAZAR
Executive Assistant II, PFDA-OAGM



”
In our workplace, at the PFDA-LFPC, may it be female, male, LGBTQIA+, we work as one, despite our individual challenges, together, we are able to do more, it's possible as the National Women's Month theme provide #WEcanbeEquALL.

GAD FOCAL PERSONS
PFDA-LFPC



GAD CORNER

PFDA, RFPs JOIN 2023 NATIONAL WOMEN'S MONTH CELEBRATION

Mark Angelo N. Perez with photos from Paul Vincent R. del Rosario

Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA), through the PFDA Gender and Development Focal Point System (PFDA-GFPS), joined the celebration of the 2023 National Women's Month Celebration (NWMC) with the theme "WE for gender equality and inclusive society" this March 2023.

During a kickoff event on March 6, 2022, the PFDA launched its participation in the month-long observance, aiming to motivate women and everyone (WE) to push equality and inclusivity where all, regardless of ability, status, and situation, are respected and afforded their rights.

In her opening speech, PFDA Officer-in-Charge General Manager and PFDA-GFPS Executive Committee Chairperson Ms. Iris R. de Vera recognizes the dedication of every female employee in the Central Office and in the Regional Fish Ports who are passionately working to assist our resilient Filipino fisherfolk.

"We truly believe that the PFDA has always been a gender-equal and inclusive agency. We have always been respectful and compassionate to everyone. The PFDA is a place where employees, clients, and stakeholders can feel safe and enjoy their freedom of self-expression without the fear of judgment or harm," Ms. de Vera said.

The OIC-GM also noted that the female fight toward equality is not over yet, but the PFDA is committed to championing gender and development throughout the agency.

Public Information Division Officer-in-Charge and Head of the PFDA-GFPS TWG Committee on Advocacy, Linkages, and Capacity Building Mr. Miguel M. Pilarta announced the lineup of activities for the entire March. This month's activities include the launching of the NWMC 2023 Advocacy Photobooth and the conduct of a Gender Sensitivity Orientation, which will coincide with International Women's Day on March 8.

To close the kickoff program, PFDA-GFPS TWG Assistant Head Ms. Mary Ann D. Daquer said that that women have no limit to what we they accomplish. "Huwag natin lilimitahan ang sarili natin sa kaya nating gawin dahil lang babae tayo. Hindi tayo babae 'lang'. Babae tayo," Ms. Daquer said.

Meanwhile, as part of this year's celebration, the **PFDA – Navotas Fish Port Complex (PFDA-NFPC)** Gender and Development – Technical Working Group (GAD-TWG) conducted various activities for port employees and clients, starting with a kickoff program led by PFDA Officer-in-Charge General Manager Ms. Iris R. de Vera and PFDA-NFPC Port Manager Ms. Luz P. Ortiz.

Some activities include a Women's Month parade and the distribution of GAD reading materials. In addition, the PFDA-NFPC launched an exhibit entitled "HER Story: Outstanding Women Exhibit" that celebrates the work, achievements, and historical significance of remarkable Filipinas. Afterward, the color purple which symbolizes women's empowerment and gender equality illuminated the night during the ceremonial lighting of the PFDA-NFPC GAD Center Building.



Subsequently, staff and personnel of the **PFDA – Zamboanga Fish Port Complex (PFDA-ZFPC)** led by Port Manager Ignacio M. Yao joined the "Marcha de Las Mujeres: A Purple Walk for a Cause Campaign" organized by the City Government of Zamboanga as part of the 113th International Women's Day celebration with the theme "DigitALL: Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality" on March 8, 2023.

To show their commitment to gender equality, participants from various government and non-government agencies filled the streets with purple and marched more than one kilometer from Mayor Climaco Avenue to Paseo del Mar where the program proper was held.



Subsequently, members of the **PFDA – Davao Fish Port Complex (PFDA-DFPC)** led by Port Manager Albert P. Aguinaldo took to the streets to participate in the purple parade on International Women's Day organized by the City Government of Davao. Later, representatives of the PFDA-DFPC GAD-TWG attended the Department of Agriculture (DA) Region XI's Women's Month Opening Program.



In addition, the **PFDA - Lucena Fish Port Complex (PFDA-LFPC)**, headed by Port Manager Custodio L. Balaoing Jr., also joined the purple campaign by leading a kickoff event for the 2023 National Women's Month. The program was attended by staff and personnel of the PNP-Maritime Unit, Philippine Coast Guard, and Bureau of Plant Industry.



Moreover, the **PFDA - General Santos Fish Port Complex (PFDA-GSFPC)** also took part in the major activities for the NWMC.

One of the highlights of their celebration was the Serbisyo Kay Juana: Year 5 which is a port's collaboration with the Barangay Tumbler Rural Health Unit (RHU) which aims to provide health services to women clients of the Port. Such services include free medical check ups and consultations, basic health services such as blood pressure and blood sugar monitoring, HPV vaccination, and distribution of vitamins, medicines, contraceptive pills, and sanitary hygiene kits.



The PFDA - Sual Fish Port (PFDA-SFP) PFDA - Iloilo Fish Port Complex (PFDA-IFPC), PFDA - Bulan Fish Port (PFDA-BFPC), and PFDA - Camaligan Fish Port (PFDA-CFP) also showed their support for the 2023 National Women's Month.

*Reports and Photos from PFDA RFPs GAD Technical Work Group Members





PFDA-GFPS LEADS GSO TO GENERAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL

Mark Angelo N. Perez

Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA), through the PFDA – Gender and Development Focal Point System (PFDA-GFPS), conducted a Gender Sensitivity Orientation (GSO) to general support personnel, held at the PFDA Central Office Conference Room, Diliman, Quezon City.

In line with the 2023 National Women's Month Celebration (NWMC) with the theme "WE for gender equality and inclusive society", this orientation aims to inform all the participants about practicing gender equality and inclusivity for women and everyone (WE) in the workplace regardless of ability, status, and situation.

PFDA-GFPS Overall Head and Public Information Division Chief Mr. Mc Christian Julius A. Macaranas II served as the resource person for the orientation.

Mr. Macaranas discussed various topics, including the basics of Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, and Sexual Characteristics (SOGIESC) and how we can provide a safe space for everyone visiting PFDA.

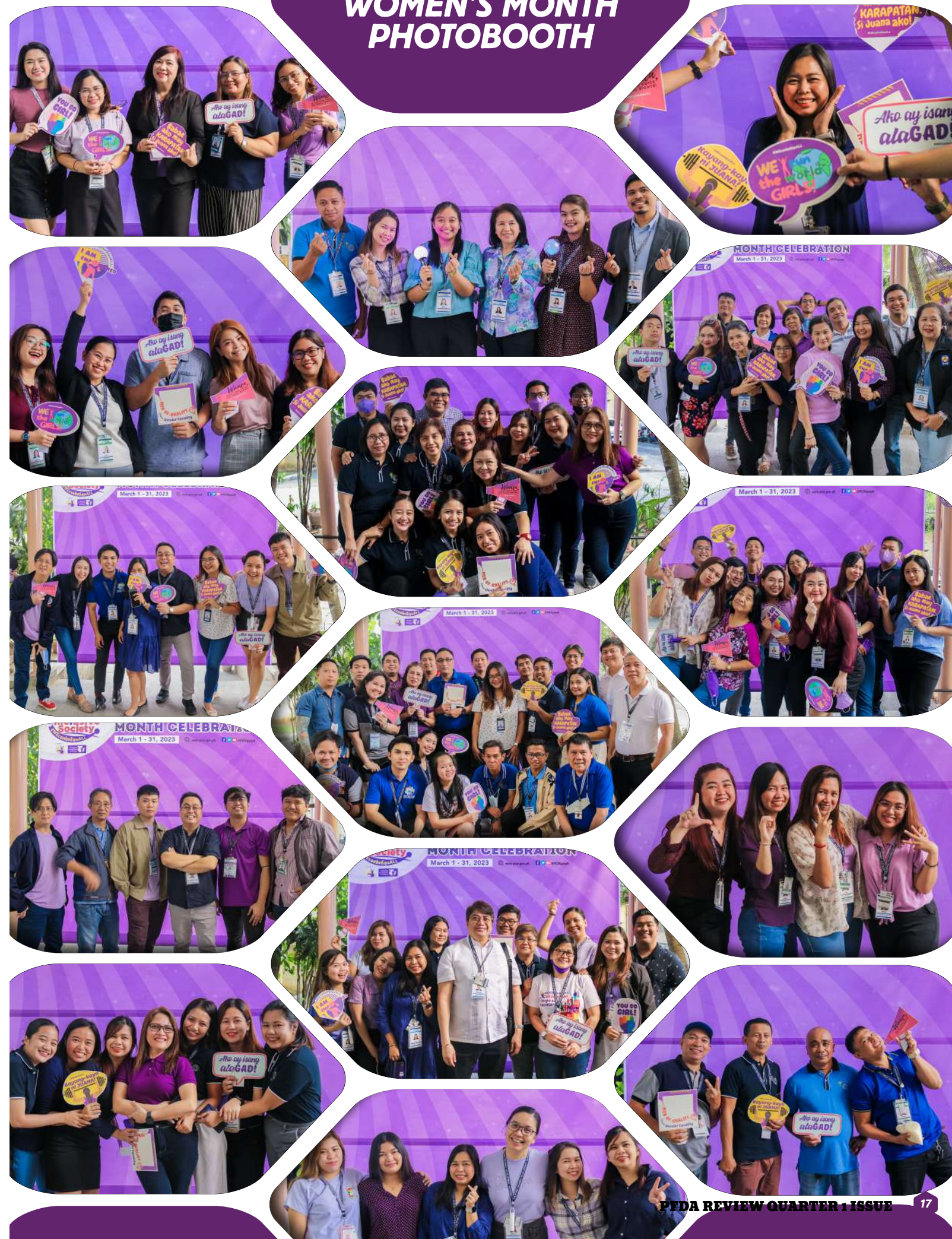
In addition, Mr. Macaranas noted that as the people working at the frontlines of the agency, the participants should understand the basics of SOGIESC. He said that "if we learn how to embrace diversity and equality in the workplace, we can have a very beautiful office that is a safe space for all."

Moreover, Mr. Macaranas talked about gender stereotyping in various institutions and gender as a social construct. He also discussed different legislation covering the rights of women and girls against physical and emotional abuse.

Nineteen (19) security guards, utility personnel, and drivers actively participated in the gender sensitivity orientation.



2023 NATIONAL WOMEN'S MONTH PHOTOBOOTH



PFDA JOINS MARITIME FORUM ON PORT DIGITALIZATION IN PH

Mark Angelo N. Perez with photos from Erikah Mae D. Hesarza – OSD-RMP0D

Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA) joined various government maritime agencies and private maritime stakeholders in a forum entitled “Port Digitalization and Modernization: Fueling our way to become an Asian Maritime Hub”, held at the Citadines Bay City Manila, Pasay City on March 30, 2023.

Organized by The Manila Times, the assembly firmly calls for full digitalization of the Philippine maritime industry to satisfy global demand for a modernized maritime hub.

Guest speakers from various maritime agencies shared their knowledge and ways forward to accelerate the integrated development of the Philippine maritime industry.

Atty. Mark Jon S. Palomar of the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) shared the agency’s digital infrastructure projects that are aimed to provide seamless services in ports. During his talk, Atty. Palomar presented the PPA’s Digitalization Roadmap 2021-2023. He said that the PPA believes that digitalization is the way forward to provide real-time data in one platform, become paperless, and reduce time and cost while increasing transparency, cybersecurity, and market access.

On the other hand, Ms. Mary Ann Pastrana, Chairperson of the Archipelago Philippine Ferries Corporation, presented modernized services offered to their clients and stakeholders. Ms. Pastrana said that digitalization is what people want in an industry that is mostly driven by traditional business models. She noted the need for digital transformation and the incorporation of

technological advancements to further challenge the status quo and promote cultural change.

Meanwhile, Ms. Nannette Z. Villamor-Dinopol, Deputy Administrator for Operations of the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), presented the Maritime Industry Development Plan (MIDP) 2028. Ms. Dinopol said that the Plan is consistent with the core principles of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the United Nations and the principle of “leaving no one behind” as well as the achievement of the long-term vision for the Filipinos to enjoy a strongly rooted, comfortable, and secure life.

Ms. Dinopol believes that the support of the national government and the stakeholders on the implementation of the updated MIDP in the context of a whole-of-nation approach is one of the keys for the Philippines to become a maritime hub in Asia.

Finally, Atty. Brenda Pimentel of The Manila Times talked about how digitization and digitalization can be the key to making the Philippines a maritime hub and the challenges that the country might face along the way.

Representatives from the PFDA Central Office and Regional Fish Ports attended the forum.



PFDA TOP MANAGEMENT INSPECTS ONGOING REHABILITATION IN SFP

Mark Angelo N. Perez with report and photos from Rodel B. Gabuya – PFDA-SFP

Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA) Top Management conducted a site inspection on the ongoing rehabilitation projects in PFDA – Sual Fish Port (PFDA-SFP) on March 30, 2023.

Led by PFDA Officer-in-Charge General Manager (OIC-GM) Ms. Iris R. de Vera, the visiting team was joined by PFDA-SFP OIC Port Manager Mr. Francisco Romeo G. Escandor, Jr. during the comprehensive assessment of the current state of the development and improvement in the port.

The visit also aims to check the status of the project and to identify possible issues and areas of improvement for a new and improved Sual port. As of February 2023, the ongoing rehabilitation in the PFDA-SFP is currently at a 60% completion rate and is expected to be finished by the end of the year.

During the site visit, along with the OIC-GM were Corporate Planning and MIS Department Manager Ms. Gina J. Reyes, Operations Services Department Manager Mr. Eric M. Sims, Technical Services Department – Construction Management Division Chief Engr. Eduardo Manalo, and HG-III Construction & Development Corp. EVP Engr. Leilani D. Panesa.



PFDA SUPPORTS SHARK CONSERVATION WEEK 2023

Mark Angelo N. Perez

Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA) joins in the celebration of the 2023 Shark Conservation Week to promote the vital role of the biodiversity of shark and ray species in the balance of marine wildlife and the ocean’s ecosystem from February 27 to March 4, 2023.

Led by the Marine Wildlife Watch of the Philippines and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resource (BFAR) Central Office, this week-long celebration aims to build a constituency and strengthen the conservation of shark and ray species by passing a national legal framework, paving the way to healthier marine ecosystems, and encouraging economic stability and sustainable livelihoods.

Studies showed that each year, 100 million sharks are removed from our oceans, and much of this haul is illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU).

As a member of the One Stop Action Center (OSAC), a group that aims to combat IUU fishing in the country, the PFDA strongly supports the protection and conservation of shark and ray species in Philippine waters.

Through the PFDA Regional Fish Ports (RFP), the agency is committed to implementing effective port state measures to eliminate IUU fishing activities in order to prevent the unlawful catching of shark and ray species in the country.



PFDA-GSFPC LAUNCHES ALS TUNA ESKWELA FOR OUT-OF-SCHOOL FISH PORT WORKERS

Mark Angelo N. Perez with report and photos from Fritzie Leviste - PFDA-GSFPC

Philippine Fisheries Development Authority – General Santos Fish Port Complex (PFDA-GSFPC), in partnership with the Department of Education (DepEd) and Barangay Local Government Unit of Tambler, launched the Alternative Learning System (ALS) TUNA Eskwela for out-of-school fish port workers, held at the PFDA-GSFPC Food Safety and Environmental Management Unit Building on March 10, 2023.

The ALS center will cater to out-of-school youths (ages 15-24), adult learners (ages 25-64), and those with special needs. Based on an earlier survey conducted by DepEd ALS Tambler District, an initial 15 to 20 students will be accommodated for classes starting this April 2023.

Aside from basic literacy and numeracy, the ALS center also offers specialized courses such as livelihood and skills training, entrepreneurship, values education, and health education, enabling the learners to acquire skills and competencies that can help them become employable or start their own small businesses.

The establishment of ALS Tuna Eskwela is a much-welcomed development that can change the lives of many fish port workers and provide them with a second chance at education.



PFDA, VARIOUS GROUPS AID FIRE-RAVAGED FAMILIES IN NAVOTAS

Mark Angelo N. Perez with report and photos from Rose Ann Mendoza - IAD and Kristine Joy Tuazon and Mae Angelica Medina - PFDA-NFPC

Philippine Fisheries Development Authority – Navotas Fish Port Complex (PFDA-NFPC), PFDA Central Office, and PFDA Credit Cooperative joined forces with various groups, companies, and clients, to organize a relief operation for families that were severely damaged by a fire that broke out at the PFDA-NFPC Market 3 on New Year's Eve.

On January 6, approximately 254 fire-affected families received relief packs containing rice, canned goods, drinking water, hygiene kits, school supplies, towels, blankets, clothes, and other household materials that can help them start anew. In addition, the Rotary Club of North Bay East also gave financial aid to fire victims.

Clients and companies who joined and supported the relief drive were Crystal Cold Storage, United Navotas Fishport Small-Scale Fish Traders' Association, Inc., Maynilad Water Services, Inc., City Government Office – Navotas, Philippine National Police – Maritime, Starcom Manpower and Allied Services, Inc., and Catalina Security Agency.

According to the PFDA-NFPC Management, they are in cooperation with the authorities and other agencies to further assist those affected families. Reports showed no casualties, but roughly 100 houses were affected by the incident.

PFDA-NFPC Port Manager Ms. Luz P. Ortiz expressed her appreciation to Navotas City Mayor John Rey Tiangco, officials from the Rotary Club of North Bay East, and all the clients who are part of the relief operations.



PFDA-NFPC ASSISTS SEN. BONG GO'S RELIEF EFFORTS TO FIRE VICTIMS

Mark Angelo N. Perez with report and photos from Kristine Joy Tuazon - PFDA-NFPC

Philippine Fisheries Development Authority – Navotas Fish Port Complex (PFDA-NFPC) assisted in the relief efforts of Senator Christopher Lawrence "Bong" Go and the Department of Social Welfare and Development – NCR (DSWD-NCR) to aid fire-affected residents inside the port, held on February 3, 2023.

In coordination with the City Government Office (CGO) of Navotas, the joint activity was conducted at the PFDA-NFPC Gender and Development (GAD) Center wherein relief items such as food, groceries, vitamins, and other items that can help the fire-ravaged families to start anew were distributed by Senator Go and his team.

Senator Go expressed his sympathy to the affected families while reminding them of the importance of their safety and security. The Senator also told the beneficiaries to seek help at any Malasakit Center in NCR whenever they need medical assistance.

In addition, DSWD-NCR distributed financial assistance worth 10,000 pesos to more than 200 fire-ravaged families inside the PFDA-NFPC.

Representatives from the National Housing Authority were also present during the activity to assess the situation of the affected families.

Senator Robinhood "Robin" Padilla and Mr. Philip Salvador were present during the relief operations.

They were joined by PFDA OIC-General Manager Ms. Iris R. de Vera, PFDA-NFPC Port Manager Ms. Luz P. Ortiz, CGO-Navotas led by Representative Toby Tiangco and Mayor John Rey Tiangco, and Valenzuela City Mayor Weslie Gatchalian.



PFDA-ZFPC ATTENDS 12TH OPEN FISHING SEASON FOR SARDINES

Mark Angelo N. Perez with report and photos from Mary Felice Cirilo - PFDA-ZFPC and BFAR 9 Facebook Page

Philippine Fisheries Development Authority – Zamboanga Fish Port Complex (PFDA-ZFPC) attended the commencement of the 12th Open Fishing Season for Sardines following a three-month ban on sardine fishing pursuant to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resource (BFAR) Administrative Circular 255, otherwise known as the Establishing of Closed Season for the Conservation of Sardines within Sibuguey Bay, Basilan Strait, and East Sulu Sea, held at the BFAR 9 Conference Hall, Zamboanga City on February 28, 2023.

According to BFAR, commercial fishers and small-scale fisherfolk are now allowed to conduct sardine fishing activities following the three-month marine conservation measures for sardines that started on December 1 of last year.



During the fishing ban period, the use of purse seine, bag net, ring net, and scoop net in catching sardines within the area is strictly prohibited to protect the species during its peak spawning season.

PFDA-ZFPC Port Manager Mr. Ignacio M. Yao and Harbor & Market Operations Division Officer-in-Charge Engr. Orlie R. Villareal joined representatives from the Local Government of Zamboanga City, BFAR Regional Office No. IX, Department of Agriculture (DA) Regional Field Unit 9, and officials of the Philippine Coast Guard and PNP Maritime Group in opening the sardine fishing season.



PFDA-LFPC ATTENDS GRAND LAUNCHING OF M/V SANTA ALBERTA

Mark Angelo N. Perez with report and photos from Genesis L. Bernaldez - PFDA-LFPC

Philippine Fisheries Development Authority – Lucena Fish Port Complex (PFDA-LFPC) attended the blessing and grand launching of Batangas-based shipping company Montenegro Shipping Lines Incorporated's newest roll-on/roll-off (ro-ro) passenger vessel, M/V Santa Alberta, held at San Pedro Shipyard Corporation in PFDA-LFPC on March 27, 2023.

The San Pedro Shipyard Corporation, a subsidiary of Montenegro Shipping Lines, Inc., is the present lessee of the PFDA-LFPC's shipyard and workshop facilities. The M/V Santa Alberta is the fifth ro-ro vessel to be built entirely at the shipyard since they started the lease and operation in CY 2016.

PFDA-LFPC Port Manager Mr. Custodio L. Balaoing Jr. and other staff of PFDA-LFPC attended the launching ceremony of the new passenger vessel that can accommodate almost 500 passengers and 22 freight vehicles.

Aside from the construction of vessels, the shipyard also caters to the repair and maintenance of fishing boats and other passenger and cargo vessels.

The grand launching of M/V Santa Alberta, which was named after their beloved grandmother, coincides with the celebration of National Women's Month 2023. The new vessel will be deployed in Calapan, Mindoro-Batangas (and vice-versa), and is set to contribute to tourism and business activities in the area.



NFPC, ZFPC CONDUCT FIRE SAFETY TRAINING, TACKLE ROLE OF WOMEN IN DISASTER RESPONSE

Mark Angelo N. Perez with report and photos from Kristine Joy Tuazon, Mae Angelica Medina, and Rommel Quindoyos - PFDA-NFPC and Mary Felice Cirilo - PFDA-ZFPC

Philippine Fisheries Development Authority – Navotas Fish Port Complex (PFDA-NFPC), in coordination with the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) Navotas City, conducted an orientation on "Fire Prevention and the Role of Women in Disaster Risk Management" as part of the month-long observance of the 2023 National Women's Month and Fire Prevention Month, held at the PFDA-NFPC Gender and Development (GAD) Center on March 22, 2023.

Through the PFDA-NFPC GAD Technical Working Group, port employees learned about fire prevention and protection information to use in day-to-day activity and how to properly respond to fire incidents. Resource speakers from the BFP shared their knowledge about possible sources of fire and the dangers it may cause. Also, the lecture discussed women's rights under the Magna Carta of Women and the important role of women during disasters.

According to the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, women are more than just victims of

disasters. They are powerful agents of change, and they have unique knowledge and skills that are crucial when addressing or managing risks. However, the potential contributions that women can offer to the disaster risk reduction imperative around the world are often overlooked and female leadership in building community resilience to disasters is frequently disregarded.

Moreover, BFP representatives held a demonstration of the proper use of fire extinguishers and fire truck hoses to immediately put out a fire.

Meanwhile, on March 27, 2023, the PFDA - Zamboanga Fish Port Complex (PFDA-ZFPC) also conducted a fire safety seminar and drill in coordination with the BFP at the port grounds.

The activity was participated by PFDA-ZFPC personnel, security guards, and janitorial services.

PFDA-NAVOTAS FISH PORT COMPLEX



PFDA-ZAMBOANGA FISH PORT COMPLEX



PFDA Review



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