



PFDA Review

The Official Quarterly Publication of the Philippine Fisheries Development Authority
Volume 5, Issue 4

October - December 2024



Feature Story:
**THE EARLY BIRD
CATCHES THE FISH**
page 14

ABOUT THE COVER



Art Cover by Katherine Ericka H. Cornejo
Photographed by Jaycee Rick S. Martinez

This year was not easy, nor was the past, and certainly will not be the future. But all of them have one thing in common; the colorful memories that we keep—the colorful vibrant memories that we bring altogether as we move forward to the blank and uncertain new year.

This issue highlights the busy and colorful life of the PFDA - Zamboanga Fish Port Complex, where hardworking laborers like Mr. Jeric Barbas do their tasks as early as 5:00 AM.

The cover features Mr. Barbas as he carries a banyera to the market hall. Mr. Barbas is one of the prime examples of no matter how challenging this year was, we will always have the strength and memories to take with us as we move forward.

This is the “sunset issue” for the year 2024. As we face the next year, may we all keep the memories of this year as we paint the next in harmony and optimism, for tomorrow and the days ahead.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

It's a wrap

Miguel M. Pilarta

As we wrap the year up, I can't help but feel a wave of emotion—a mix of reflection, gratitude, and hopeful anticipation for what lies ahead. Many of us look back on the past months, contemplating what we've learned, what we've overcome, and what we still aspire to achieve. This time of year prompts us to make resolutions, reconsider our choices, and dream of fresh beginnings. There's something about the turning of the calendar that feels like permission to start over.

But I've come to realize something truly powerful: we don't have to wait for the year to end—or the first day of January—to make a change. Life doesn't pause for the calendar to reset; it keeps moving forward, and so do we. The truth is, we can choose to begin again at any time. Each new day is an opportunity for a fresh start, if we're willing to take it.

For the past few years, I've had the honor of witnessing a remarkable example of dedication and service through Ms. Iris R. De Vera, the Assistant General Manager of PFDA, who will retire in January 2025 after 43 years of selfless public service. Her relentless commitment and the passion she has poured into her work are truly inspiring. As she prepares to close this significant chapter, I am filled with deep gratitude—not only for her incredible contributions but also for the profound and lasting impact she's had on so many lives, including mine.

What moves me most about Ms. Iris is that she didn't need a new year or a milestone to reignite her purpose. She showed up every day, dedicating herself to the work she loved with passion and integrity. Her leadership wasn't about titles or recognition—it was driven by a natural desire to serve.

Ms. Iris has always been committed to making a difference in the fisheries sector, not for personal gain, but because she genuinely cared about the people and communities she served. Her leadership is a testament to the power of leading with heart, and she taught me that starting fresh isn't reserved for the beginning of a year. It's a choice we can make every day.

Ms. Iris exemplified what it means to lead with purpose. She understood the importance of her role, not just in her professional capacity, but as a guiding force for an entire industry. Her leadership was grounded in empathy, integrity, and a dedication to serving others. She didn't wait for perfect moments to act; she showed up with her best self, every single day. Her quiet, consistent commitment to public service is a powerful reminder that we don't need to wait for the "perfect" time to grow, change, or make an impact. We can begin right now, regardless of the circumstances.

As we close out this year, let's not see it as an end, but as another chance to begin again—whenever we're ready. We don't need to have it all figured out, and we don't need to wait for perfection. We just need to take that first step. Even the smallest progress is still progress.

The lessons we've learned, the mistakes we've made, and the love we've shared aren't erased with the changing of the year. They stay with us, shaping who we are and who we're becoming. Just like Ms. Iris, who has devoted her life to lifting others up, we too can continue to grow, evolve, and make a difference—no matter where we are in life.

So here's to starting over—giving ourselves the grace to begin again whenever we need it. After all, it's never truly "a wrap"—unless we decide it is. For Ms. Iris, whose 43 years of service have touched countless lives, her story reminds us that there's no expiration date for making a difference. We can all begin again, at any moment, and leave a legacy that lasts.

Enjoy the 2024 year-end issue of PFDA Review!

YEAR-END MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Binabati ko ang lahat para sa isa na namang matagumpay at makabuluhang taon ng pagtulong sa ating mga mangangisdang Pilipino.

Ngayong taon, buong pwersa nating isinulong ang industriya ng pangisdaan sa pamamagitan ng pagtatayo ng mga makabagong post-harvest facilities sa iba't ibang sulok ng bansa. Maraming salamat sa inyong tiwala at patuloy na pagsuporta sa ating mga programa at proyekto.


Sa pagtutulongan ng bawat isa sa atin, unti-unting nagbubunga ang ating mga pagsisikap upang mapabuti ang kabuhatan ng mga mangangisda at mapalakas ang sektor ng pangisdaan.

Isang taon na naman ang lumipas. Maraming pagsubok ang dumaan, ngunit alam kong sabay-sabay natin itong mapagtatagumpayan.

Para sa lahat ng bumubuo at nagpapatatag ng PFDA, maraming salamat sa inyong pagsisikap. Nawa'y patuloy pa nating pagbutihin ang ating mga tungkulin sa mga susunod pang taon at sama-sama nating itaguyod ang mas maliwanag na hinaharap tungo sa isang Masaganang Bagong Pilipinas.

Sa pagpapalit ng taon, hiling ko na patuloy pa rin tayong magsanib-pwersa sa pagsulong ng industriya ng pangisdaan at pagtulong sa ating mga mangangisdang Pilipino.

Isang masagana at manigong Bagong Taon sa ating lahat.


ATTY. GLEN A. PANGAPALAN
PFDA Acting General Manager





PFDA HIGHLIGHTS

The Official Quarterly Bulletin of the Philippine Fisheries Development Authority

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REGIONAL
FISH PORTS

9

ICE PLANTS &
COLD STORAGES

137

PROJECT
LOCATIONS

MUNICIPAL
FISH PORTS

Q4 2024 PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

Q4 2024 IN NUMBERS



126,903.94 MT

VOLUME OF
FISH UNLOADING

VS. 129,227.50 MT IN Q3 2024



1,379.39 MT

AVERAGE DAILY
UNLOADING

VS. 1,404.65 MT IN Q3 2024



9,755.75 MT

VOLUME OF
ICE PRODUCTION

VS. 9,341.55 MT IN Q3 2024



412.16 MT

VOLUME OF FISHERY & NON-
FISHERY PRODUCTS PROCESSED

VS. 221.10 MT IN Q3 2024



18,391

NUMBER OF
VESSEL ARRIVALS

VS. 19,687 IN Q3 2024



9,585

NUMBER OF
CLIENTS SERVED

VS. 8,750 IN Q3 2024

On Fish Unloading and Handling

Another year has passed and the PFDA Regional Fish Ports (RFP) made sure that they will end it on a high! During the fourth quarter of 2024, the PFDA RFPs delivered 126,903.94 metric tons (MT) of fish and other fishery products to all their consumers. This high volume of annual fish unloading is equivalent to an average daily unloading volume of 1,379.39 MT of fish.

When it came to ice production, the PFDA RFPs produced 9,755.75 MT of ice and processed 412.16 MT of fishery and non-fishery products.

On Serving Port Clients

As we leave 2024 behind us, we are always thankful and grateful to all our clients and stakeholders who played a huge part in our agency's success. In the final quarter of the year, the PFDA RFPs served 9,585 clients and welcomed 18,391 vessels from October to December 2024.

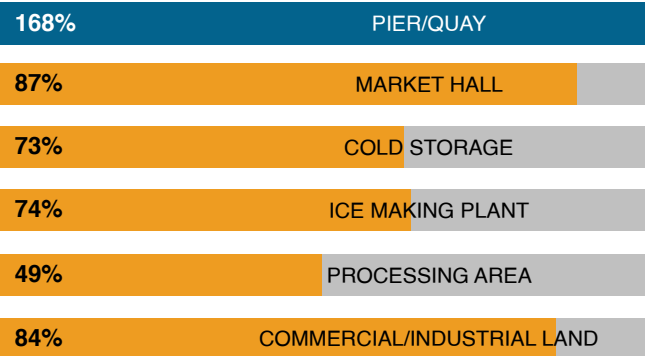
PFDA PORT UTILIZATION RATE

On Port Facilities Utilization

Flagship rehabilitation in PFDA RFPs continue to go in full swing as the year changes. With our constant pursuit to serve more clients and stakeholders, the utilization rate of piers and quays reached 168%. This high utilization rate is slowly improving as improvement projects move closer to completion.

Meanwhile, utilization of market halls was at 87%, and building spaces, commercial & industrial areas sat at 84% utilization rate.

In addition, the utilization rate for ice making plants reached 74%, cold storage utilization reached 73%, and processing rates recorded 49% utilization rate.



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

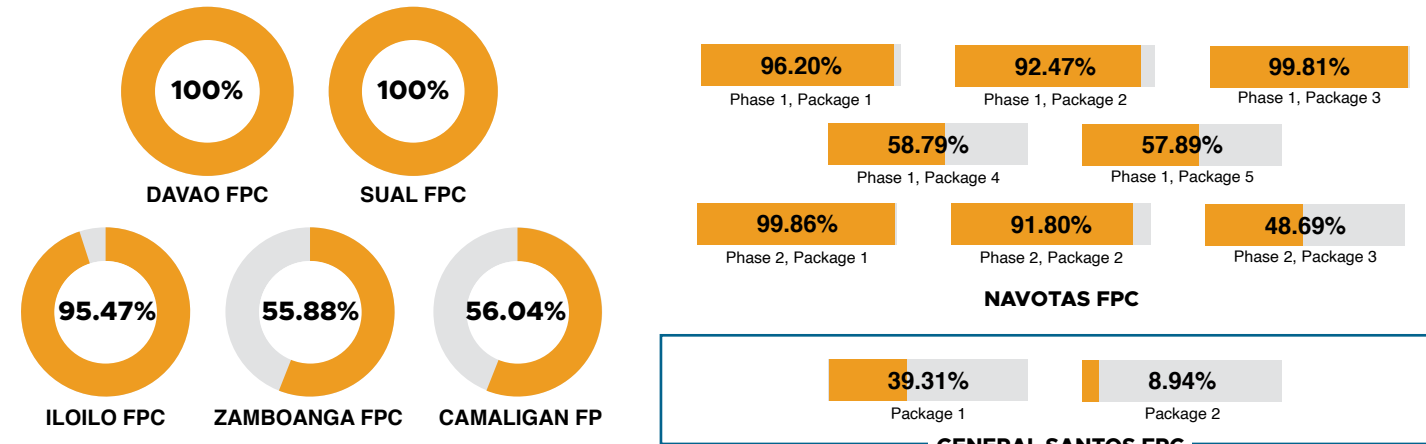
PFDA HIGHLIGHTS

PFDA FLAGSHIP INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT STATUS

(AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2024)

FPC = Fish Port Complex;
FP = Fish Port

REHABILITATION/IMPROVEMENT/UPGRADING OF:



PFDA FLAGSHIP CSR PROJECT

(AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2024)



3.56 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

Through the isDA ON THE GO (iOTG) Program, the PFDA continues to offer rightly priced fresh-frozen fishery products across Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.

For the final quarter of the year, the iOTG Flagship project has sold a total of 3.56 MT of fishery products. In addition, the PFDA continues its partnership with 110 market areas and cooperative partners nationwide.

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

PFDA REHABILITATION UPDATES

PFDA ends the year with two newly rehabilitated fish ports; continues to improve remaining six

Robert Gregory Q. Elardo

The Philippine Fisheries Development Authority advances forward in port rehabilitation and improvement of all PFDA Regional Fish Ports (RFP) for the last quarter of 2024.

Completed in 2022, the PFDA - Lucena Fish Port Complex (PFDA-LFPC) is going steady with their quality service to the people with their new and improved facilities.

With a recently completed rehabilitation, the PFDA - Davao Fish Port Complex (PFDA-DFPC) can finally provide a more efficient service to its people and customers.

Subsequently, the rehabilitation on PFDA - Sual Fish Port (PFDA-SFP) is also recently completed and currently serving its stakeholders with rightly priced and quality fish supply.

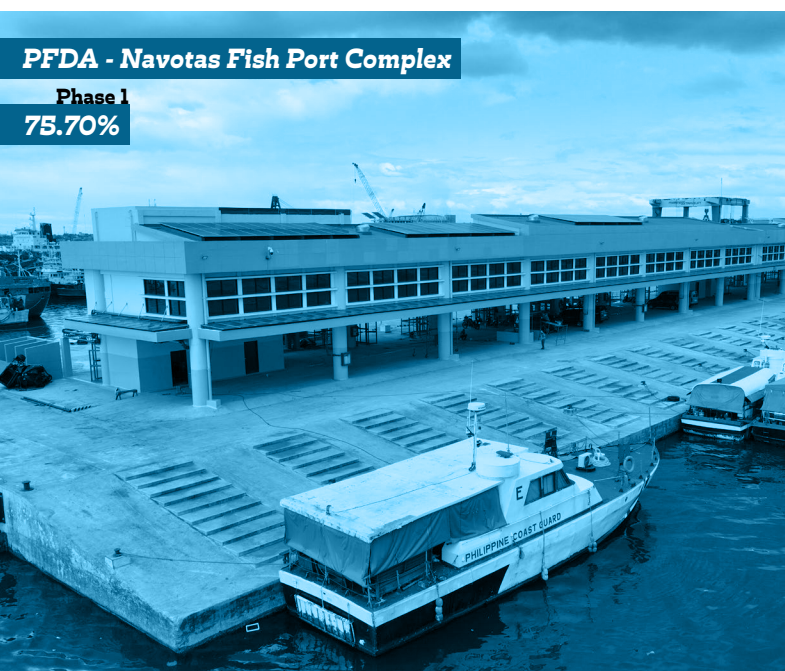
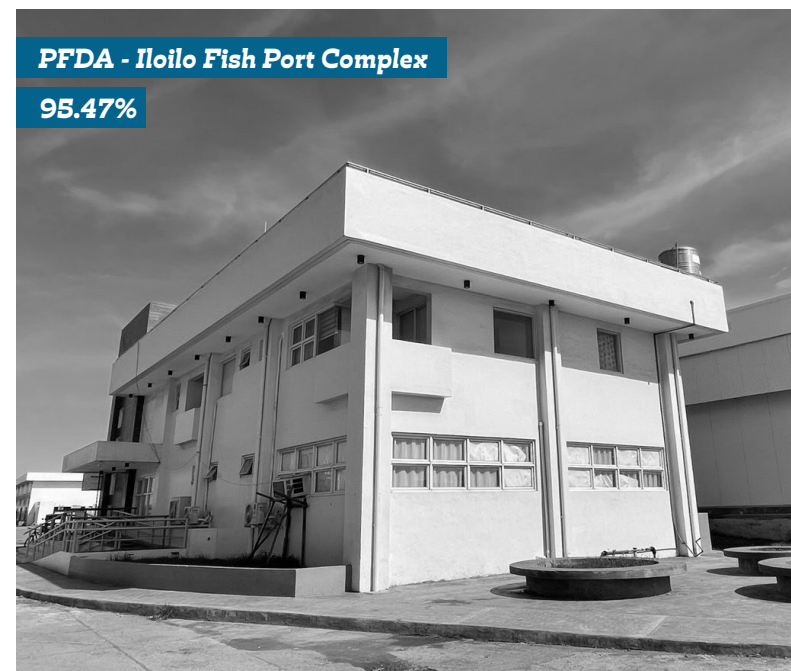
The PFDA - Iloilo Fish Port Complex (PFDA-IFPC) is just footsteps away from completion with a rate of 95.47%.

Moreover, the PFDA - Camaligan Fish Port (PFDA-CFP) is more than halfway through its development process with a rate of 56.04%.

Additionally, the PFDA - Zamboanga Fish Port Complex (PFDA-ZFPC) is also striving to better serve its clients with a completion rate of 55.88%.

Meanwhile, the construction of the two phases of the PFDA - Navotas Fish Port Complex (PFDA-NFPC) is ongoing. Currently, the average rate for the Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the PFDA-NFPC is 75.70% and 82.83% respectively.

Lastly, the PFDA - General Santos Fish Port Complex (PFDA-GSFPC) is working tirelessly to serve their clients more efficiently with a rate of 23.52%.



PFDA harmonizes structural requirements, eyes food safety certification

Public Information Division with report from OSD-QAD

Thirty-one personnel from the Philippine Fisheries Development Authority – Technical Services Department (PFDA-TSD) and PFDA Project Management Office (PFDA-PMO) engaged in an orientation on Food Safety Standard Structural Requirements of the Market Hall and Cold Storage Facilities on October 4, 2024, at the PFDA Central Office, Diliman, Quezon City.

The orientation is a part of the ongoing joint initiative of the PFDA – Operations Services Department (PFDA-OSD) and the TSD to harmonize all ongoing and future PFDA projects with the Food Safety and Environmental standards, policies, and laws.

The one-day workshop was geared towards reinforcing the agency's understanding of the structural prerequisites of the Market Halls and Cold Storages in compliance with Food Safety, with the end goal of obtaining certification from the regulatory agencies on Good Hygienic Practices (GHP) and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) such as the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) and the National Meat Inspection Services (NMIS).

Mr. Dennis E. Tiotangco, former Fisheries Inspection and Quarantine Division (FIQD) Chief under BFAR, was the resource speaker during the orientation.



PFDA boosts food safety campaign, finalizes sanitation protocols in RFPs

Public Information Division with report from OSD-QAD

Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA), through its Operations Services Department – Quality Assurance Division (OSD-QAD), conducted a writeshop on the finalization of Sanitation Standard Operating Procedures (SSOP) for PFDA Regional Fish Ports (RFP), at the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), Quezon City, on October 7 to 11, 2024.

The primary objective of the five-day writeshop is to finalize a comprehensive SSOP manual to ensure the consistent and effective implementation of sanitation protocols across all PFDA RFPs, particularly in their market halls and cold storage facilities.

Mr. Dennis E. Tiotangco, former Chief of the Fisheries Inspection Unit of the Fisheries Inspection and Quarantine Division at the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, was the resource speaker during the SSOP workshop.

This writeshop directly supports the achievement of the Agency's five-year plan to acquire Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) certification for PFDA facilities and processes.

Furthermore, this writeshop represents a crucial step towards aligning all port operations with international regulations and standards, such as the European Union's Codex Alimentarius (Food Code).

Moreover, the participants discussed the incentivization of the Check F.R.E.S.H. Program. This program aims to promote food safety and sanitation measures in PFDA RFPs by persuading fish port clients that achieving safer fish ports is possible through cooperation and positive reinforcement.

Eighteen (18) officials and personnel across all nine PFDA RFPs actively participated in the five-day activity.



PFDA personnel learn Creative and Effective Selling Techniques

Mark Angelo N. Perez and Robert Gregory Elardo with report from Mary Anne Kristine R. Ramos - ASD-HRD

Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA) engaged in a Seminar-Workshop on Creative and Effective Selling Techniques (CEST) at University of the Philippines – Institute for Small-Scale Industries (UP-ISSI), Diliman, Quezon City, on October 14 to 18, 2024.

The week-long seminar-workshop aims to apply the communication tools needed to effectively win customers, identify the innovative marketing techniques to ultimately improve overall sales performance, determine the different selling approaches in generating repeat and bigger sales orders through good understanding of after-sales service, apply practical insights in the art of marketing either as a career or simply gain a strong foothold on the dynamics of salesmanship, and prepare a marketing plan.

Mr. Gerard Joseph B. Alava, a professor at the Virata School of Business in UP Diliman, served as the

resource person of the workshop. Among the topics he discussed in the workshop are: the selling process, approach to effective selling, best practices in handling objections, best practice in closing the sale, and how to prepare a sales plan.

“Understand who you are,” Mr. Alava said, encouraging the participants to believe in the PFDA brand to properly sell the products and services of the Agency.

The first batch of CEST was participated by thirty-five (35) personnel from PFDA - Central Office, PFDA - Navotas Fish Port Complex, PFDA - Lucena Fish Port Complex, PFDA - Bulan Fish Port Complex, PFDA - Camaligan Fish Port, and PFDA - Sual Fish Port.

The seminar-workshop was organized by the PFDA Administrative Services Department – Human Resources Division (ASD-HRD), in partnership with the UP-ISSI.



PFDA attends the opening of KADIWA ng Pangulo Expo

Robert Gregory Q. Elardo and Katherine Ericka H. Cornejo

Philippine Fisheries Development Authority - Central Office (PFDA-CO), along with personnel from the PFDA - Navotas Fish Port Complex (PFDA-NFPC), attended the opening of the KADIWA ng Pangulo (KNP) Expo on November 26, 2024 at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) Forum Tents 1-3 in Pasay City.

The event, which will operate from November 26 to 28, 2024, is for farmer cooperatives, farmer exhibitors, and agency partners to showcase and sell products at lower prices through direct transactions between the vendor and buyer.

The expo also revealed innovative Bigger, Better, More KADIWA models, including KADIWA Food Hubs, Centers, Stores, Model Trucks, Carts, and the KADIWA Digital App—each designed to streamline the delivery of fresh produce from farm to market, and direct market linkages with institutional buyers.

Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Francisco “Kiko” P. Tiu Laurel Jr. attended the event and thanked all the attendees of the expo and promoted all the cooperatives and partners of the KNP Expo.

“Matutulungan natin ang mga magsasaka na direktang makabenta ng kanilang mga produkto, dahil dito tataas ang kanilang kita habang natutulungan naman natin ang mga mamimili na magkaroon ng access sa mas mura at mas masustansyang pagkain,” said Sec. Tiu Laurel about the importance of the KNP Program.

Through the program, the DA hopes to further improve the food supply chain and achieve sales targets through the exhibition of agri-fishery products. The KADIWA also offers direct connections between farmers, fisherfolk, and consumers, ensuring access to affordable food for all.



CCPFDA shows appreciation to utility, security personnel for their service

Public Information Division with report from Arlyn E. Andagao - IAD

‘Tis indeed the season of giving! The Credit Cooperative of the Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (CCPFDA) distributed tokens of appreciation to all utility and security personnel of the PFDA - Central Office (PFDA-CO) on December 18, 2024.

Strengthening the agency’s commitment to its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), the activity was aimed to extend gratitude and support to the utility and security personnel who tirelessly contribute in maintaining the agency’s daily operations and safety.

The CCPFDA distributed Christmas baskets to a total of 20 recipients: 10 utility personnel (5 males and 5 females) and 10 security personnel (10 males).

the EARLY BIRD CATCHES THE FISH.

by
Jaycee Rick S. Martinez
and
Walid G. Magasa

For most of us, 5 o'clock in the morning is just the time to wake up to face the day to come. But for some people, like Jeric Barbas, 24 years old, laborer, is already at the PFDA - Zamboanga Fish Port Complex (PFDA-ZFPC) waiting for the docking of the buti or bangka, small fishing boats that deliver freshly caught fish.

His primary task involves unloading and transporting heavy loads of fish from the landing quay to the Market Hall, a tedious work that requires tremendous physical effort.

In Tausug:

“Bang niya buti o bangka magbuhat kami box ubos binuwanan kami dayang in dayang iya elle in bayad makami pabilliha kami para makasin.”

(Bawat buti o bangka ay tagabuhat kami ng box at binibigyan kami ng isda. Yun ang bayad sa amin at binebenta namin para kami ay magkapera.)

Laborers like Jeric are not paid in monetary terms, but instead are compensated by receiving a portion of the day's catch as payment for a day's work as fish brokers also have yet to sell their fish.

This arrangement calls for laborers to sell the fish they collected in order to generate income or take the caught fish home for their families to eat, either of which depends on the volume of fish landed and market demand.

The economic conditions for laborers can be quite challenging. During certain periods, particularly around the full moon, the catch is significantly reduced, leading to fewer boats docking at the port.

Such incidents emphasize the often unpredictable nature of their livelihoods.

The scarcity of fish unloading further harbors competition among laborers, often resulting in chaotic and confrontational situations caused by limited number of fish boxes.

In Tausug:

“In tahanang labor susa pasal mintu ka kami holat ma dayang sin supplier ma fishing port.”

(Ang buhay ng pagiging labor ay mahirap dahil umaasa lang kami sa isda ng supplier na dumadagsa sa fishing port.)

In response to these challenges, the PFDA- ZFPC has introduced a systematic intervention to address the disorder and inequity that arise during times of scarcity. This intervention involves the implementation of a structured allocation system such as queuing. This ensures a fair distribution of available work to all laborers.

By reducing disputes and fostering a more equitable environment, this initiative by the PFDA-ZFPC management has provided laborers with a degree of stability and reduced the competitive tensions previously experienced by the laborers like Jeric.

Despite these countermeasures, Jeric's financial security remains subject to external variables, including fluctuations in fish supply and market pricing. On days when the catch is abundant, oversupply drives prices down, further complicating the laborers' economic situation.

Nevertheless, Jeric continues to adapt to these challenges. His daily routine concludes in the evening. Then, he relies on the fish he received as payment to purchase his and his family's everyday needs.

The story of Jeric serves as a microcosm of the labor dynamics at the PFDA-ZFPC, reflecting the endurance of individuals to navigate and overcome everyday challenges.

Jeric's perseverance, as seen in his smile despite carrying heavy loads of fish even before the dawn breaks, reflects the spirit of resilience.

His story is a testament to PFDA-ZFPC's commitment to empowering individuals and driving economic progress for all stakeholders, fishermen, brokers, laborers, and beyond.

This article was written by Mr. Magasa and Mr. Martinez. At the time of writing, Magasa was an intern at the PFDA-ZFPC, affiliated with ZSCMST, while Martinez is a personnel under the Port Maintenance and Refrigeration Division (PMRD) of the PFDA-ZFPC.

PFDA holds Internal Planning and Budget Conference for FY 2025

Mark Angelo N. Perez

Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA) conducted its Internal Planning and Budget Conference for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 to set and organize agency goals and objectives on September 31 to October 4, 2024, at The Linden Suites, Ortigas Center, Pasig.

The five-day workshop aims to consolidate and align all the plans and budgets of PFDA Central Office support units and Regional Fish Port (RFP) operating units. Moreover, the objective of this conference is to ensure efficient and effective plans and budget allocation.

PFDA Acting General Manager Atty. Glen A. Pangapalan attended the event and shared his insights and comments on the plans and budget proposal of all support and operating units. The Acting General Manager encouraged participants to have open communication to make the work easier for everyone.

“Let us help each other to achieve our plans and goals... We are doing this for the future of PFDA,” GM Pangapalan said.

Before the actual workshop, Corporate Planning and Management Information Services Department (CPMISD) Manager Ms. Gina J. Reyes presented the Three-Year Strategic Plan Assessment to appraise the agency's progress and performance for FY 2021 to 2023.

Afterwards, Department Managers and unit heads from the PFDA Central Office and Port Managers from the RFPs presented their Plan and Budget proposals.

Subsequently, Ms. Sapho G. Cobarrubias, Chief of Budget Division - Finance Services Department (BUD-FSD), presented the Projected Statement of Income and Expenses of RFPs and CO units for FY 2025.

To conclude the five-day workshop, the support units and the operating units had a ceremonial signing of the Plans and Major Activities for FY 2025. The signing was led by GM Pangapalan, together with Assistant General Manager Ms. Iris R. De Vera, CPMISD Manager Ms. Gina J. Reyes, and FSD Manager Mr. Jose A. Ruiz Jr.



Sec. Tiu Laurel, GM Pangapalan visit KADIWA ng Pangulo in PFDA-NFPC

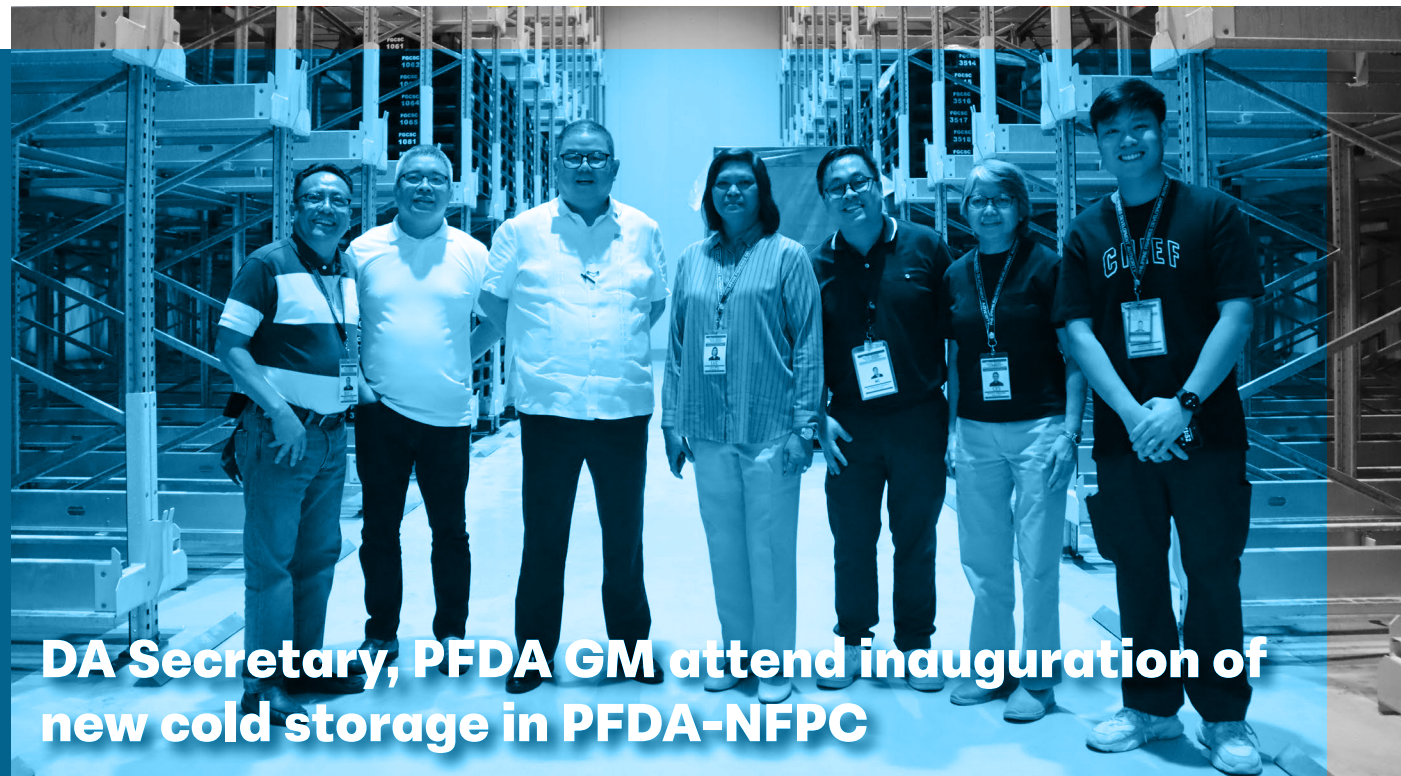
Mark Angelo N. Perez

Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Mr. Francisco “Kiko” P. Tiu Laurel, Jr. and Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA) Acting General Manager Atty. Glen A. Pangapalan visited the KADIWA ng Pangulo in Palengke Avenue, PFDA - Navotas Fish Port Complex (PFDA-NFPC) Grounds, on October 11, 2024.

Sec. Tiu Laurel and GM Pangapalan engaged in conversations with the KADIWA vendors. They discussed the food products available at the KADIWA store, which are sold at lower, more affordable prices compared to those in commercial markets.

PFDA-NFPC Port Manager Ms. Luz P. Ortiz, PFDA Operations Services Department Officer-in-Charge Mr. Mc Christian Julius A. Macaranas II, and Public Information Division Officer-in-Charge Mr. Miguel M. Pilarta were also present during the visit.





DA Secretary, PFDA GM attend inauguration of new cold storage in PFDA-NFPC

Mark Angelo N. Perez

Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Mr. Francisco "Kiko" P. Tiu Laurel, Jr. and Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA) Acting General Manager Atty. Glen A. Pangapalan joined the inauguration of the new FG Cold Storage Corporation at the PFDA - Navotas Fish Port Complex (PFDA-NFPC) Grounds, on October 11, 2024.

The FG Cold Storage Corporation, which is part of the Frabelle Group of Companies, has been a long-term client of PFDA-NFPC. It operates full service cold storage facilities which are strategically located near major ports and highways within the Greater Metropolitan Area.

In addition, this new FG cold storage facility in PFDA-NFPC would cater to more food manufacturers, processors, traders, and restaurants, ensuring their

valued inventory ranging from fruits, vegetables, seafood, meat, poultry, and processed food products are kept fresh and in excellent condition.

This partnership is part of the PFDA's aim to strengthen its ties with the private sector. As a government-owned and -controlled corporation (GOCC), the PFDA believes that collaborations like this can benefit the public sector because they can reduce costs, improve services, and generate additional revenue.

PFDA-NFPC Port Manager Ms. Luz P. Ortiz and other PFDA-NFPC officials, together with PFDA Operations Services Department Officer-in-Charge Mr. Mc Christian Julius A. Macaranas II, and Public Information Division Officer-in-Charge Mr. Miguel M. Pilarta also attended the inauguration ceremony.



PFDA joins World Food Day, supports food safety and security

Robert Gregory Q. Elardo and Katherine Ericka H. Cornejo

Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA) joined the World Food Day 2024 celebration with the theme "Right to Foods for a Better Life and a Better Future. Leave No One Behind," on October 16, 2024 at the Quezon City Memorial Circle.

Led by the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, the celebration highlights the country's commitment to achieving zero hunger and emphasizing the importance of access to adequate and nutritious food.

"The Department (of Agriculture) is committed to its mandate as the country's primary agency for agricultural development. It will continue to support initiatives of not only the FAO, but also of every individual, government agency, and institution in ensuring that no one is denied his or her right to food,"

Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel Jr. said in a recorded message, assuring that the DA has always dedicated its resources to attaining food safety and security, economic development, agricultural sustainability, climate resilience, and other developmental goals.

Additionally, Senator Cynthia Villar discussed the laws and policies that she supported in the Senate to advance sustainability, food security for all Filipinos, and the welfare of the agriculture and fishery sectors.

In a recorded message, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. assures that his administration remains steadfast in boosting the agriculture sector alongside various social programs for those who are most vulnerable to hunger and malnutrition. He added that while they have made commendable strides in these fronts, having the WFD to shed light on the gravity of the issue that generates greater participation is a crucial step towards achieving the goals for the people.

"I enjoin the entire nation, especially those belonging to the industries that are vital to producing and delivering foods across the country to use this year's theme as a guide post in continuing our endeavors. When we join hands to uphold our peoples' right to food then we also provide them with a better life and a better future," President Marcos assured.

Personnel from PFDA - Navotas Fish Port Complex (NFPC) also attended the Lighting of Candles and Declaration of 2024 World Food Day Pledge led by DA Assistant Secretary for Administration Atty. Kristopher A. Anarna.



PFDA RFPs achieve ISO recertification; continue to provide quality services

Robert Gregory Q. Elardo with reports and photos from PFDA Regional Fish Ports

Six (6) Regional Fish Ports (RFP) of the Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA) secured the recertification of their International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 9001:2015 Quality Management System for Public Administration covering Market and Harbor Operations in the last quarter of 2024.

The PFDA ports, namely: PFDA - Navotas Fish Port Complex (PFDA-NFPC), PFDA - General Santos Fish Port Complex (PFDA-GSFPC), PFDA - Davao Fish Port Complex (PFDA-DFPC), PFDA - Zamboanga Fish Port Complex (PFDA-ZFPC), PFDA - Iloilo Fish Port Complex (PFDA-IFPC), and PFDA - Lucena Fish Port Complex (PFDA-LFPC) successfully complied with the requirements of their respective annual ISO surveillance audits.

For three years in a row, the PFDA-NFPC successfully passed the surveillance audit for its ISO 9001:2015 recertification on October 9.



Navotas Fish Port Complex

The PFDA-DFPC also passed its third consecutive recertification on October 30 with zero non-conformities.



Davao Fish Port Complex

Moreover, the PFDA-IFPC received its certification on November 15 with zero non-conformities. On the other hand, the PFDA-GSFPC also got its recertification on October 29.



Iloilo Fish Port Complex



General Santos Fish Port Complex

Subsequently, the PFDA-LFPC successfully passed its 3rd ISO recertification audit on November 29 with zero non-conformities.

The evaluation on the abovementioned RFPs was conducted by SOCOTEC Certification Philippines, Inc.



Lucena Fish Port Complex

Another Mindanao fish port, the PFDA-ZFPC, also passed its second surveillance audit with zero non-conformities under TÜV Rheinland on November 11.



Zamboanga Fish Port Complex

PFDA-CFP conducts relief ops to Kristine-hit families

Robert Gregory Q. Elardo with report and photos from PFDA-CFP

On October 30, 2024, the Philippine Fisheries Development Authority - Camaligan Fish Port (PFDA-CFP) personnel carried out relief operations for around 90 families who were affected by the Severe Tropical Storm (STS) Kristine.

Headed by PFDA Camaligan Fish Port Port Manager Mr. Francisco Romeo G. Escandor, Jr., the relief operations were conducted in the PFDA-CFP's staff house building, which temporarily houses families affected by the storm. The families received food packs containing rice, mineral water, milk, instant noodles, instant coffee, canned goods, and over-the-counter medicines.

To help those who are affected by the typhoon, the PFDA-CFP staff and personnel have assisted in the evacuation of families and residents within the vicinity, and have provided them with temporary shelter.

The PFDA is committed to providing assistance to the people in need in times of calamities, and will always be willing to extend its hand to the public.



STS Kristine-hit families in Camaligan, Milaor receive essential relief packs from PFDA

Mark Angelo N. Perez and Robert Gregory Q. Elardo with report and photos from PFDA-CFP

Through the joint efforts of Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA) - Bulan Fish Port Complex (PFDA-BFPC), PFDA - Camaligan Fish Port (PFDA-CFP), and PFDA - Central Office (PFDA-CO), several households across various barangays in Camaligan and Milaor, Camarines Sur who were affected by Severe Tropical Storm Cristine received essential goods in a simultaneous relief operations on November 5, 2024.

The relief operation focused primarily on providing supplemental food and medication to those in need. Each relief pack contains food items such as rice, canned goods, and instant noodles. Additionally, essential items such as water, hygiene kits, and other essentials were also distributed. By providing these basic necessities, this relief effort aimed to stabilize the situation and alleviate the hardship experienced of those affected by STS Kristine.

These immediate measures were crucial in assisting individuals and families recover from the devastating impact of the typhoon and eventually rebuild their lives.

This batch of relief operations was made possible after an online donation drive led by the PFDA-CO from October 31, 2024 to November 2, 2024. Afterward, the preparation and transport of

relief goods was led by the PFDA-BFPC, while the distribution to more than 200 individuals was conducted by the PFDA-CFP.

The PFDA sends its utmost gratitude to those who have opened their hearts and joined in the donation drive. Your kindness and generosity have reached those families and individuals who were affected by STS Kristine in Camaligan and Milaor in Camarines Sur.



PFDA-IFPC fish brokers, vendors attend food safety orientation

Robert Gregory Elardo with report and photos from Camelyn Ariz - PFDA-IFPC

Twenty (20) fish retailers, food vendors, fish brokers, and staff and personnel of the Philippine Fisheries Development Authority - Iloilo Fish Port Complex (PFDA-IFPC) participated in an Orientation on Food Safety, Good Hygiene Practices, and Sanitation in Public Markets on October 23, 2024 at the PFDA-IFPC Compound.

Conducted by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Region VI, the one-day activity was aimed at providing updates and raising awareness on the importance of food safety and proper fish handling.

Principles of food safety, fish spoilage, fisheries post-harvest losses, proper fish handling, good hygiene and sanitation in public markets, and an orientation on relevant regulations and protected species were among the topics discussed on the orientation.

This initiative supports the overall objective of promoting public health and sustainable fisheries practices.

The orientation was led by BFAR resource speakers Wena Yana Cabrito, Julie Ann Macuja, Rozelyn Asin, and Arvi Abellar.



PFDA-ZFPC personnel learns Basic First Aid Training

Robert Gregory Elardo with report and photos Anesty F. Limen - PFDA-ZFPC

Philippine Fisheries Development Authority - Zamboanga Fish Port Complex (PFDA-ZFPC) participated in a Basic First Aid Training led by Marine Battalion Landing Team-1 (MBLT-1) of the Philippine Marine Corps on December 4, 2024.

The training aimed to ensure that participants are well-prepared to handle real-life emergencies and to build community resilience by teaching a series of practical exercises. This is also a part of MBLT-1's ongoing series of efforts to foster cooperation between the military and local emergency response teams.

The training covered essential first aid skills, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), wound management, and other emergency response procedures to better equip the participants in handling medical emergencies in their respective communities.

Ten PFDA-ZFPC personnel along with six Citizen Armed Force Geographical Unit (CAFGU) staff, and three barangay health workers attended the training (seven males and 12 females).

1st Lieutenant James Arnold Gagtan, PN(M) served as the resource person during the training.



PFDA-LFPC, PCG conduct Harbor Operations Seminar

Robert Gregory Q. Elardo with report and photos from Genesis L. Bernaldez - PFDA-LFPC

PFDA - Lucena Fish Port Complex (PFDA-LFPC), with the assistance of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), conducted a Harbor Operations Seminar on October 30, 2024, at the PFDA-LFPC Admin Building, Brgy. Dalahican, Lucena City.

To deepen the awareness of PFDA-LFPC personnel on maritime safety, environmental protection, and efficient port management, this one-day seminar focused on three topics.

First is Maritime Safety Awareness by Marine Environmental Protection Enforcement and Response Unit (MEP ERU) of the PCG. The topic highlighted the "Purpose of Aids to Navigation", ensuring safe and orderly movement within the fish port's waterways.

Subsequently, the Southern Quezon Station of the PCG had a discussion on solid waste management that focused on the prevention of pollution from garbage, with reference to RA 90031 and strict guidelines, to prevent marine pollution. Emphasis was given to restrictions on the disposal of waste into the sea, ensuring that sustainable practices extend beyond port boundaries.

Lastly, the topic on harbor operations was discussed by the PFDA-LFPC Harbor Masters. They provided

an in-depth look into the essential daily operations and safety protocols for maintaining an efficient and secure harbor.



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PFDA elevates gender-responsive infrastructure development through HGDG, PIMME workshop

Mark Angelo N. Perez and Robert Gregory Q. Elardo

Thirty (30) personnel from the Philippine Fisheries Development Authority - Central Office (PFDA-CO) participated on a Gender and Development (GAD) Training-Workshop on Harmonized Gender Development Guidelines (HGDG) and Project Implementation, Management, Monitoring, and Evaluation (PIMME) on November 4 to 8, 2024 at the PFDA Central Office Building, Diliman, Quezon City.

To open the training-workshop, Technical Services Department (TSD) Manager Engr. Danilo A. Axalan acknowledged the participation of mostly engineers, architects, and other key personnel for the workshop. He said that as project implementers, he recognizes the importance of attributing GAD-related undertakings in all construction and rehabilitation activities of all PFDA Regional Fish Ports and other developmental projects.

“I hope with this training-workshop, we can all have a deeper and wider understanding on how we can champion gender inclusivity in our future infrastructure projects,” Engr. Axalan said.

The week-long activity aims to develop the HGDG as a tool to ensure gender equality and women empowerment in the agency's present and future programs and projects.

Additionally, the workshop provided a consistent framework for combining gender considerations. It also demonstrated how to use the HGDG for measuring project progress and integrating it into GAD Planning and Budgeting.

Moreover, tips and reminders in preparing and revising gender-responsive program proposals

using the results of HGDG Design Checklist as well as GAD Planning and Budgeting (GPB) were also discussed during the training.

During the five-day training-workshop, the participants actively engaged in various workshops including an assessment of PFDA Design Proposals, preparing a Gender-Responsive Program Proposal, finalization of the GPB, assessing programs and projects through HGDG PIMME Checklist, and preparing the accomplishment report of the PFDA flagship programs/projects.

“I hope all the future projects of PFDA can be gender-responsive,” said by Ms. Psyche Mae A. Asencio, member of the PCW National GAD Resource Pool who served as the resource speaker for the five-day activity.



PFDA-GFPS Drives Institutional Transparency with Workshop on SDD and CODI Orientation

Robert Gregory Q. Elardo and Katherine Ericka H. Cornejo

Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA), through the PFDA – Gender and Development Focal Point System (PFDA-GFPS), hosted a training workshop on Sex-Disaggregated Data/Gender Analysis and Orientation on the Committee on Decorum and Investigation (CODI) on November 18 to 21, 2024, at the Agricultural Training Institute, Diliman, Quezon City.

The workshop was aimed at driving institutional transparency and is aligned with the PFDA's commitment to fostering a culture of transparency and accountability and generating accurate gender-differentiated data to improve service delivery and policy implementation.

PFDA-GFPS Technical Working Group (TWG) Overall Head and Operations Services Department (OSD) Officer-in-Charge Mr. Mc Christian Julius A. Macaranas II said that this training workshop is the PFDA's steppingstone to progress its Gender Mainstreaming Evaluation Framework (GMEF) and Harmonized Gender and Development Guidelines (HGDG) scores.

“Malaking factor ang SDD at Gender Statistics sa GAD activities, pati na rin sa overall activities ng PFDA dahil lahat tayo ay parte statistics... Mainam na ma-familiarize at ma-appreciate natin ang SDD at CODI, at isama ang mga ito sa ating mga programa,” Mr. Macaranas said.

Ms. Josephine Gabriel-Banaag, a Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) National GAD Resource Pool (NGRP) Certified Member, was the resource speaker for the training workshop.

On the first day, Ms. Banaag highlighted the importance of Sex-Disaggregated Data (SDD) and Gender Statistics (as linked to Gender Analysis) in policy and program formations. Afterward, Ms. Banaag guided the participants in designing forms to collect SDD/Gender Statistics.

Subsequently, the participants gained a deeper understanding of various laws in the Philippines aimed at addressing gender-based harassment, including the Sexual Harassment Act of 1995 (R.A. 7877) and the Safe Spaces Act (R.A. 11313).

Lastly, Ms. Banaag emphasized the importance of a Committee on Decorum and Investigation (CODI) within an organization and discussed the application of gender sensitivity in handling sexual harassment reports.

A total of 39 participants, 27 female (69.23%) and 12 male (30.77%), from the PFDA Central Office and Regional Fish Ports (RFP) actively participated in the training workshop.



PFDA kicks off annual 18-day Campaign to End VAW

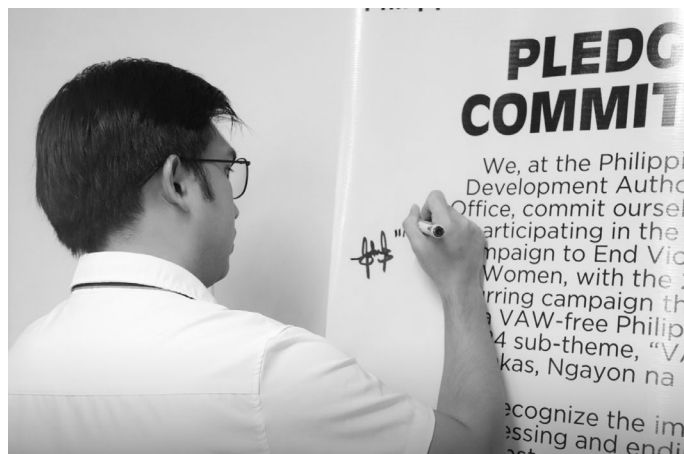
Mark Angelo N. Perez and Robert Gregory Q. Elardo

Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA), through the PFDA - Gender and Development Focal Point System (PFDA-GFPS), kicked off the 2024 18-day Campaign to End Violence Against Women (VAW) on November 25, 2024, at the PFDA – Central Office (CO), Diliman, Quezon City.

This year's campaign bears the 2022-2027 recurring theme, "UNITED for a VAW-free Philippines" and its 2024 sub-theme, "VAW Bigyang Wakas, Ngayon na ang Oras!".

To open this year's kickoff program, Assistant Head of the PFDA-GFPS Technical Working Group (TWG) Ms. Mary Ann D. Daquer, encouraged all PFDA-CO personnel to join and participate in promoting gender equality and safe spaces for all.

"Nawa'y magsilbi tayong inspirasyon sa lahat ng kababaihan, kabataan, pati na rin sa kalalakihan, upang patuloy na mawakasan ang violence against women," Ms. Daquer said.



Afterward, the Public Information Division Officer-in-Charge and Head of PFDA-GFPS Committee on Advocacy, Linkages, and Capacity Building, Mr. Miguel M. Pilarta, introduced the activities that will be conducted during the 18-day campaign.

As part of the kickoff program, PFDA-CO Department Managers, Unit Heads, and personnel recited and signed the Pledge of Commitment to end VAW. Later in the day, PFDA-CO staff and personnel came

together and posed for photos in support of the 18-day Campaign to End VAW.

They posed while raising placards that say, "Stop Violence Against Women" and the 2024 sub-theme, "VAW Bigyang Wakas, Ngayon na ang Oras!".

In addition, PFDA Regional Fish Ports (RFP) across the nation also participated in the 2024 18-day Campaign to end VAW.



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