



# PFDA Review

*Volume 3, Issue No. 1*

*January to March 2022*



# ABOUT THE COVER



Art Cover by Paul Vincent del Rosario

According to the data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), from 2007 to 2016, women comprise about 25% of workers in the agriculture and fisheries sector. With that, the PFDA Review Volume 3, Issue No. 1 is the agency's way of acknowledging each hardworking woman and man who tirelessly works day and night to deliver quality, affordable, and sufficient supply of fishery products for all.

As the PFDA celebrates National Women's Month in March, the Quarter 1 issue will take you on a rollercoaster ride of challenges and success as we highlight the story of strength and resilience of the Eco-Friendly Women of Navotas. This feature story serves as a tribute to every woman who is selflessly working for their family and to everyone who is willing to take the extra mile toward a better future.

Based on the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, women are essential users of fisheries resources and pivotal players in the fisheries sector and should be considered important agents of change. Through this issue, we are recognizing the vital importance of gender equity in the fish value chain and how essential they are to ensuring overall value chain efficiency and to reducing food loss and waste.

Colored with hues of green and brown, every story in this issue resembles how the agency continues to flourish, just like how flowers blossom amidst any adversaries, through an inclusive and diverse working environment. Like growing trees, compassion and perseverance are deeply rooted in the hearts and minds of every PFDA employee. Like growing vines, the PFDA embraces every new beginning and new opportunity along the way.

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## SHARE NEWS WITH US!

The editorial team encourages readers to copy and distribute articles in this publication with proper acknowledgement. Everyone is also invited to contribute articles and photos, suggest topics for the future publication. Please email pid@pfda.gov.ph or send mail to THE EDITOR, PFDA Review, Public Information Division, Philippines Fisheries Development Authority, PCA Annex Building I, Diliman, Quezon City 1104 Metro Manila.



SCAN THIS TO SHARE NEWS

# EDITOR'S NOTE

**Mc Christian Julius A. Macaranas II**

Chief, Public Information Division

## PUSH TO START

If you think about it, the concept of a new year is arbitrary. In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII introduced the Gregorian Calendar establishing January 1 as the first day of the year and most cultures and countries stick to it since then. A new year could have been any other day or month. But as a humanity that seeks organization, we agreed that we have to start somewhere.

Following the life-changing situations due global pandemic, territorial conflicts, and imminent environmental crisis, restarting should be done with best intentions and worthwhile thought. Further, recent events are constantly reminding us that human capital outweighs material inclination.

In this issue of the PFDA Review, we highlight the breakthrough initiatives of the agency during the first quarter of the year showcasing our capacity to introduce and start valuable activities which are above and beyond the organization's scope.

According to the official report from the Department of Agriculture, Typhoon Odette left 2.4 million people in need of assistance and wiped out P13.3 billion worth of agriculture and fisheries outputs. In January 2022, the PFDA reached out to the typhoon survivors and extended assistance worth P10 million in Sogod, Southern Leyte; Surigao City; Siargao Island; and Ubay, Bohol. See the PFDA Typhoon Odette relief story on page 14 which showcases how in our little way helped the survivors restart their lives after the calamity onslaught.



“

*There are instances that starting something new can be overwhelming. But as J.P. Morgan said, “The first step towards getting somewhere is to decide you’re not going to stay where you are.”*

”

PFDA is also magnifying its efforts to further push the agenda of women empowerment and gender advancement. More than ever, PFDA is now spearheading more programs under the agency's Gender and Development Focal Point System. Various activities during the National Women's Month celebration last March are available in this issue. Also meet the strong women who started the first organized women's group in the Navotas Fish Port Complex in our feature story on page 25.

The agency, specifically the operating units, is also restarting massively with the rehabilitation and improvement projects of our Regional Fish Ports. Updates on these efforts can be read on page 12.

PFDA understands that the core of the organization lies within the strength of the human capital, particularly our Regional Fish Port stakeholders. To make sure that the lifeblood of the agency

continuously flows, organizational initiatives such as establishment and maintenance of the Quality Management System and regular Customer Satisfaction Survey and review of Service Quality Standards should also be part of the priority programs. Related stories can be checked on page 08.

Finally, isDA ON THE GO, the corporate social responsibility project which started as a Manila-based and consumer-oriented initiative, has already started to cover more locations outside the capital city. Expansion updates can be checked on page 18.

There are instances that starting something new can be overwhelming. But as J.P. Morgan said, “The first step towards getting somewhere is to decide you're not going to stay where you are.”

**ERRATUM NOTICE:** The editorial team would like to correct an error found on page 11 of the PFDA Review Volume 2, Issue No. 4. The “Ilocanos” was supposed to be “Ilonggos”. This error has been corrected in online copies of the magazine. Apologies for the confusion.



# PFDA COVID-19 RESPONSE

## PFDA RECORDS HIGH VACCINATION RATE, MAINTAINS IMPLEMENTATION OF PROPER HEALTH PROTOCOLS

As the nation moves towards herd immunity against COVID-19, a total of 668 organic and non-organic personnel from the Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA) Central Office and Regional Fish Ports (RFP) are now fully vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus.

According to a report on the vaccination status from the PFDA – Administrative Services Department (PFDA-ASD), 99% of PFDA employees have attained full vaccination status as of March 2022.

Some of the units who have vaccinated 100% of its workforce are the PFDA – Central Office, PFDA – Navotas Fish Port Complex (PFDA-NFPC), PFDA – Davao Fish Port Complex (PFDA-DFPC), PFDA – Lucena Fish Port Complex (PFDA-LFPC), PFDA – Camaligan Fish Port (PFDA-CFP), PFDA – Sual Fish Port (PFDA-SFP), PFDA – Tacloban City Fish Port (PFDA-TCFP), PFDA – Davao Fish Port Complex (PFDA-DFPC), and PFDA – Zamboanga Fish Port Complex (PFDA-ZFPC).

Meanwhile, the PFDA – Iloilo Fish Port Complex (PFDA-IFPC), PFDA – General Santos Fish Port Complex (PFDA-GSFPC), and PFDA – Bulan Fish Port Complex (PFDA-BFPC) will soon achieve full vaccination rate as COVID-19 restrictions ease up in their respective areas.

In addition, all personnel who have completed their first two doses are getting their COVID-19 vaccine booster shots. According to the Department of Health (DOH), the interval for the administration of booster doses was shortened to at least three months after the second dose of a primary two-dose vaccine, or at least two months after the primary single-dose vaccine was given.

On the other hand, only four PFDA personnel have yet to receive their vaccinations due to medical concerns.

The agency is strictly adhering to the COVID-19 Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) protocol which states that unvaccinated personnel is required to present a negative RT-PCR test result taken within 48 hours every Monday of the week.

Despite the high vaccination rate, the PFDA would like to remind everyone to continuously observe proper health protocols to keep the agency coronavirus-free.

*Mark Angelo N. Perez – Public Information Division with reports from Mary Anne Kristine R. Ramos - HRD-ASD*



## PFDA, DENR CONDUCT COASTAL CLEANUP, REGULAR DISINFECTION ACTIVITIES IN NFPC

Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA), together with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), conducted coastal cleanup activities in conjunction with the 24th monthly general cleaning and disinfection in the PFDA – Navotas Fish Port Complex (PFDA-NFPC) on February 18, 2022.

In line with the ongoing rehabilitation of Manila Bay, the PFDA has collaborated with the DENR – Metropolitan Environmental Office (MEO) North to restore and minimize environmental footprints in one of the country's major natural harbors of economic activities. Meanwhile, disinfection activities resumed in PFDA-NFPC as part of the implementation of safety and preventive measures against the spread of the COVID-19 virus within the port's vicinity.

The disinfection team thoroughly cleaned several areas of the fish port, including the Entrance gate/Lambatan Area, Market Halls 1 to 5, Piers 1 to 5, Market 1 and 2 compound/quayside, Market 3 area, BGA/NENA Compound, and Sagingan Area.

Personnel from the PFDA and DENR have also conducted an ocular inspection of PFDA-NFPC premises as part of the ongoing rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

The inspection team includes DENR MEO North led by Deputy Executive Officer Mr. Olga O. Arzado, Navotas City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) Chief Ms. Yzabela Bernardina A. Nazal-Habunal, PFDA Assistant General Manager Ms. Iris R. de Vera, PFDA-NFPC Port Manager Luz P. Ortiz, and other PFDA Central Office and PFDA-NFPC officials.

Members and volunteers from the PFDA-NFPC and CO, DENR River warriors, Navotas CENRO, PNP Maritime Unit, Philippine Coast Guard, Market 2 night-time and day-time, Sequest Fish Trading Corp., Irma Fishing and Trading Inc., Chanidae Marketing Corporation, Samahan ng ambulant vendors, BMIL-BSL and Delta Fire Volunteer Team, Janitorial Services – Manila Alliance Management Services Cooperative (MAMSC), and Catalina Security Agency (CSA) actively joined in the effort towards a cleaner Manila Bay and safer fish port complex.

*Mark Angelo N. Perez and Johnny A. Basamot – Public Information Division with reports from Ms. Kristine Joy Tuazon, Mr. Emilson Fajardo, and Ms. Mae Medina of PFDA-NFPC*



# PFDA STAKEHOLDERS NEWS

## PFDA-CO, SIX RFPS RETAIN ISO 9001 CERTIFICATION AMID COVID-19 PANDEMIC, TYPHOONS

Despite many challenges and threats posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and strong typhoons, Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA) Central Office (CO) and six Regional Fish Ports (RFP) have successfully retained their ISO 9001:2015 certification for meeting international standards on Quality Management System.

The PFDA CO and RFPs, namely the Navotas Fish Port Complex (NFPC), Davao Fish Port Complex (DFPC), General Santos Fish Port Complex (GSFPC), Iloilo Fish Port Complex (IFPC), Lucena Fish Port Complex (LFPC), and Zamboanga Fish Port Complex (ZFPC), have once again secured ISO 9001:2015 recertification after passing their respective annual surveillance audit.

The PFDA-NFPC was the first to pass its recertification on November 15, followed by the PFDA-IFPC on December 18. Both fish ports had their surveillance audited under the SOCOTEC Certification Philippines, Inc., a recognized management systems solution provider.

Meanwhile, Christmas came early for the PFDA-CO and PFDA-ZFPC after receiving their ISO recertifications under the TUV Rheinland, another established ISO certifying body, on December 20.

Subsequently, the PFDA-DFPC, PFDA-LFPC, and PFDA-GSFPC have all ended the year merrily after securing ISO 9001 recertification on December 23, 28, and 29, respectively. Their ISO certificates were also

issued by the SOCOTEC Certification Philippines, Inc. The QMS for the PFDA Central Office involves Public Administration covering Project Management while the QMS for the six mentioned RFPs cover Market and Harbor Operation.

ISO 9001:2015 is an internationally recognized standard for quality management. This certification is proof that organizations consistently provide quality services and high-end products that meet customer demands and requirements and enhance client satisfaction.

Adhering to the ISO standards is also part of the national government's quality management program. This annual audit is required under the Governance Commission for Government-Owned and -Controlled Corporations (GCG) as one of its indicators under the performance evaluation system.

Neither the COVID-19 pandemic nor intense weather conditions can bring down the agency's commitment to providing excellent project management service and quality harbor and market operations services to consistently attain the highest customer satisfaction. In the many years to come, the PFDA and its RFPs are committed to continually improving the effectiveness of its QMS in accordance with the requirements of ISO 9001 standards.

*Mark Angelo N. Perez – Public Information Division with reports and photos from PFDA Central Office and RFPs*



## PFDA SCORES 80% CLIENT SATISFACTION RATE ON 2021 CSS

Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA) has received an overall net satisfaction rating of 80.85% during the 2021 Client Satisfaction Survey (CSS) conducted by the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP), a significant jump from 2020 CSS rating of 74.40%.

According to the PFDA Operations Services Department – Project Evaluation Division (OSD-PED), the rating suggests that the performance of the PFDA meets the minimum expectations of the customer. Some of the main reasons for the significant rise of this year's satisfaction rating were accessibility to prompt service, ease of doing business, and presence of courteous staff.

Since 2016, the PFDA has been conducting a client survey through DAP to understand what the customers think about the products or services in the Central Office and nine Regional Fish Ports (RFP). For three consecutive years, the agency has experienced a significant rise in customer satisfaction.

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic hit the entire economic landscape which created a downward spike in the fisheries sector. Hence, a decline in the PFDA's satisfaction rating.

In 2021, as the COVID-19 situation eases, the fisheries industry has gradually recovered. With a better and improved fisheries sector, the PFDA is back in business and is once again on an upward track towards a high client satisfaction rating.

The objective of CSS in the PFDA is to measure the level of customer satisfaction with services offered by PFDA on all its RFPs. The satisfaction survey also aims to measure the level of awareness of the Service Quality Standards (SQS) among the customers based on the action plan applied by the ports and to determine the level of knowledge and understanding of SQS and professionalism of the PFDA personnel involved in frontline services.

*Mark Angelo N. Perez – Public Information Division with reports from OSD-PED*





# PFDA HIGHLIGHTS

The Official Quarterly Bulletin of the Philippine Fisheries Development Authority

January to March 2022

PFDA Q4 2021

VOLUME OF FISH UNLOADING	NUMBER OF VESSEL ARRIVALS	VOLUME OF ICE PRODUCTION
<b>132.5K MT</b>	<b>19,732</b>	<b>6,744.6 MT</b>
AVERAGE DAILY UNLOADING	NUMBER OF CLIENTS SERVED	VOLUME OF FISHERY PRODUCTS PROCESSED
<b>1,440.7 MT</b>	<b>6,889</b>	<b>312.6 MT</b>

## AGENCY PROFILE

<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>
REGIONAL FISH PORTS	ICE PLANTS & COLD STORAGES	JOINTLY MANAGED
		CONSTRUCTED SO FAR
		<b>135</b>
		MUNICIPAL FISH PORTS

## Q1 2022 PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

### PFDA PORT UTILIZATION RATE\*

<b>106.17%</b>	PIER/QUAY
<b>104.45%</b>	MARKET HALL
<b>61.30%</b>	COLD STORAGE
<b>56.27%</b>	ICE MAKING PLANT
<b>127.44%</b>	PROCESSING AREA
<b>89.42%</b>	COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL LAND

#### LEGEND

<span style="background-color: #f4a460; width: 10px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span>	> 100% UTILIZATION RATE
<span style="background-color: #f4a460; width: 10px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span>	0-100% UTILIZATION RATE

\*utilization rate vis-à-vis Q1 2022 target

### Q1 2022 IN NUMBERS

**139.8K MT** ↑

VOLUME OF FISH UNLOADING

**1,553.6 MT** ↑

AVERAGE DAILY UNLOADING

**5,671.2 MT**

VOLUME OF ICE PRODUCTION

**283.9 MT**

VOLUME OF FISHERY & NONFISHERY PRODUCTS PROCESSED

**11,870**

NUMBER OF VESSEL ARRIVALS

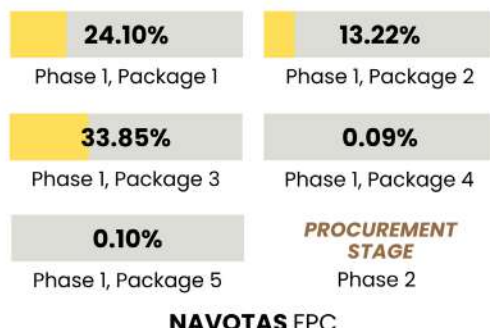
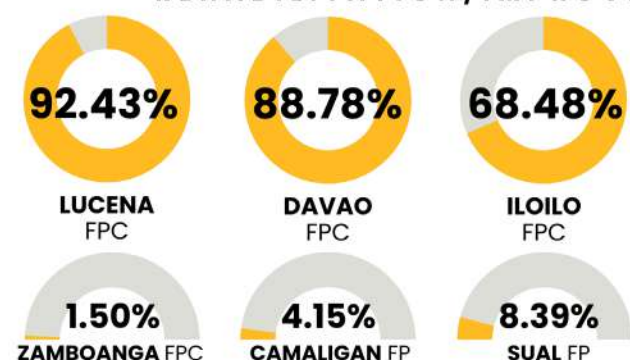
**8,935** ↑

NUMBER OF CLIENTS SERVED

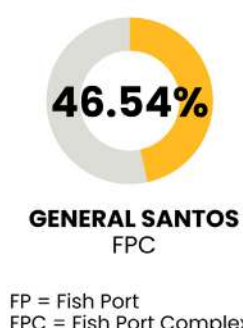
## PFDA FLAGSHIP INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT STATUS

(AS OF MARCH 31, 2022)

### REHABILITATION/IMPROVEMENT/UPGRADING OF:



### Extension of Wharf II



FP = Fish Port  
FPC = Fish Port Complex



Flagship CSR Project of PFDA  
1ST QUARTER 2022 DATA  
(AS OF MARCH 28, 2022)

**6,430.89**

TOTAL VOLUME SOLD  
(in kg.)

**₱1.287M**

TOTAL MONETARY VALUE

**117**

PROJECT PARTNER OUTLETS

### MODALITIES

- KADIWA on Wheels (PFDA-NFPC and Central Office)
- Direct Sales / Private Retailers
- Market on Wheels - partnership with LGU, AFPCEs

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

## ON THE MOVE AGAIN

**PFDA OPENS THE YEAR 2022 WITH POSITIVE UNLOADING VOLUME;  
REVS UP ONGOING FLAGSHIP PROJECTS, CSR ACTIVITIES IN Q1**

The Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA) is on the move again towards its goal of providing top-quality products and unhampered services this New Year 2022.

Among the most important highlights of this quarter is the simultaneous ongoing rehabilitation project across all Regional Fish Ports (RFP) nationwide under the national government's "Build, Build, Build Project".

Make sure you fasten your seatbelts as the PFDA steps on the gas and accelerates toward a bigger and brighter fishing industry this quarter one.

### On Fish Unloading and Handling

According to the report, during the January to March unloading period, the PFDA has delivered a total of 139.8K metric tons (MT) of fish. This is equivalent to an average daily fish unloading of 1,553.6 MT. In comparison to last quarter's volume, this record is a significant increase despite recent devastating weather conditions like Super Typhoon Odette. On the other hand, the PFDA processed 283.9 MT of fishery and non-fishery products and produced 5,671.2 MT of ice for its frozen fish supply.

### On Serving Port Clients

As the year opens, all Regional Fish Ports (RFP) have revved up their determined effort to provide quality services to all their clients and stakeholders. Based on the agency report, there had been 11,870 vessel arrivals in RFPs. Subsequently, PFDA was able to serve more clients during this new quarter. Data showed that the ports have catered to 8,935 clients with quality and adequate fishery and non-fishery products.

### On PFDA's CSR

As the agency tries to amplify the people's knowledge about fresh-frozen fish, the PFDA continues to supply affordable, fresh-frozen fishery products to selected areas in Metro Manila and nearby provinces through the isDA ON THE GO (iOTG) Project.

As of March 2022, the iOTG Flagship project has sold a total of 6.4 MT of fishery products this quarter alone. The agency continues to work with 117 outlets in Metro Manila and nearby provinces since the beginning of the pandemic last March 2020.

In addition, the PFDA iOTG has partnered with the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) to widen the range of the iOTG program through cooperatives in Metro Manila. This collaborative partnership is also looking into working with some cooperatives in Visayas and Mindanao.

Aside from that, the iOTG also sells low-priced fish through the Department of Agriculture's KADIWA on Wheels program. There is also Market on Wheels in partnership with LGUs and the AFPCEs.

### On Flagship Projects and Rehabilitation Initiatives

Meanwhile, as of March 2022, all RFPs have now begun port rehabilitation and development under PFDA's Flagship Projects. (see article on Page 12)

### On Port Facilities Utilization

This year, port utilization in all PFDA ports had successfully reached agency targets across all port facilities. Despite facing a few bumps along the way, the agency remains on the road toward success this quarter.

In this quarter, processing areas recorded the highest utilization rate at 127.44%. This is followed by piers and quays with a utilization rate of 106.17%, market halls at 104.45%, and commercial/industrial lands at 89.42%. As port rehabilitation through the agency's flagship projects commences across all RFPs, concerns about the high utilization rate can be addressed.

Moreover, the utilization rate for cold storage facilities reached 61.30%, while ice-making plants achieved a 56.27% utilization rate.

As the new year unfolds, the PFDA continues to move toward fulfilling its vision of becoming the leader of fishery post-harvest services through an empowered fisheries sector in the next few years. Through continuous service and projects, the agency moves closer to its goal of having a food secure and resilient Philippines.

Mark Angelo N. Perez



# PFDA FLAGSHIP REHABILITATION PROJECTS

## PFDA CONTINUES SUCCESSFUL FEAT IN Q1 THROUGH SIMULTANEOUS REHAB PROJECTS IN RFPS NATIONWIDE

Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA) continues its path to success through a simultaneous ongoing infrastructure rehabilitation project of all its Regional Fish Ports (RFPs) nationwide.

As part of the agency's mandate to promote the development of the fishing industry through the provision of post-harvest infrastructure facilities, this ongoing rehabilitation project is funded under the national government's "Build, Build, Build Program".

Also, these necessary port improvements seek to enhance the quality of fish and improve efficiency in the handling and distribution of fishery products through stronger and bolder RFPs all over the country.

According to recent data from the PFDA Technical Services Department (TSD) as of March 2022, every RFP is moving a step closer to becoming a new and improved port as the days go by.

PFDA began the initial procurement activities and construction of the RFPs rehabilitation program back in 2018. Since then, some of the upgraded facilities are already being used to continuously provide adequate fish supply to all their consumers amid the difficulties in trading and transport brought by the pandemic.

Significantly ahead of its schedule, data showed that the construction in the PFDA – Lucena Fish Port Complex (PFDA-LFPC) is inches away from completion at **92.43%**. Soon, all Southern Luzon and nearby provinces will soon have access to more adept services through a new PFDA-LFPC.

In addition, a region known for its bustling economic activities, Davao Region will soon be home to a busier fish port as the development of the PFDA – Davao Fish Port Complex (PFDA-DFPC) remains in motion amidst the dangers posed by a surge in COVID-19 cases in the first quarter. As of March 2022, construction in the port has already reached **88.78%** completion.



Not far behind, the PFDA – Iloilo Fish Port Complex (PFDA-IFPC) is also on its way to completing rehabilitation with **68.48%** of construction accomplished. As one of the major sources of deliciously fresh seafood in Western Visayas, the "Heart of the Philippines" can soon cater to more and more clients and stakeholders through a stronger fish port.



Meanwhile, the redevelopment of PFDA – Navotas Fish Port Complex (PFDA-NFPC) is also moving as planned. For **Phase 1** of the port rehabilitation, all five packages have simultaneously begun construction. On the other hand, the **Phase 2** of the PFDA-NFPC infrastructure project has already completed the required procurement stage to identify the most responsive contractor for the implementation of the project.

Subsequently, the rehabilitation of the PFDA – Sual Fish Port (PFDA-SFP) and the PFDA – Camaligan Fish Port (PFDA-CFP) are both working ahead of their schedules. Data showed that the improvement and enhancement of the ports are currently at **8.39%** and **4.15%**, respectively.

The PFDA – Zamboanga Fish Port Complex (PFDA-ZFPC) had recently initiated the construction of various port facilities to further bolster the quality of products and services in the port. As of March 2022, the PFDA-ZFPC is taking it one step at a time and is now at a **1.50%** completion rate.

Finally, under the initiative of PFDA, the expansion and improvement of the PFDA – General Santos Fish Port Complex (PFDA-GSFPC) is also in progress. As of March 2022, the extension of Wharf II in the PFDA-GSFPC is currently at **46.54%**.

Despite recent backlashes in the economy due to the current COVID-19 pandemic and extreme weather conditions, the PFDA continues to live up to its mandate by developing stronger fish ports and empowering the fisheries sector. It is true that the path to success is narrow and winding, but the agency considers every step a significant feat that will soon lead to a much-awaited victory.

Mark Angelo N. Perez





# REBUILDING A LOST TOMORROW

PFDA aids TY Odette victims in Visayas, Mindanao

by Mark Angelo N. Perez



*"Nagpapasalamat po ako nang marami sa PFDA dahil nakarating sila dito sa aming barangay. Kahit na mahirap abutin ang aming barangay ay nakarating kayo at nagbigay ng food packs. Ang hirap po talaga dito sa amin kaya maraming salamat po talaga sa inyong tulong."*

As tears well up in her eyes, Ms. Ruth Oring of Sogod, Southern Leyte looked back on the bitter memory that they experienced when Super Typhoon Odette landed and wreaked havoc in their province in December 2021. She was one of the many typhoon-affected residents who received much-needed assistance from the Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA) during its relief operation activities in Visayas and Mindanao.

Broken bridges, uprooted trees, devastated houses. Typhoon Odette has defeated the hearts of many residents in the southern part of the country. Hundreds of lives lost, thousands of people rendered homeless, and billions worth of infrastructures and business destroyed.

As an organization that works for the people, the PFDA, through its Regional Fish Ports (RFP), stepped out of the agency mandate and reached a helping hand to aid Typhoon Odette victims.

The PFDA has conducted simultaneous distribution of relief goods and construction materials worth P10 million to over 7,250 typhoon-affected families in Sogod, Southern Leyte; Surigao City; Siargao Island; and Ubay, Bohol on January 26 to 28, 2022.

Led by PFDA General Manager Atty. Glen A. Pangapalan and Assistant General Manager Ms. Iris R. de Vera, the agency has allocated P10 million from the PFDA corporate funds to assist various provinces in the southern portion of the country that have been severely affected by the strongest storm of 2021.







### Sogod, Southern Leyte

On January 26, the three-way team of PFDA Central Office, PFDA – Navotas Fish Port Complex (PFDA-NFPC), and PFDA – Bulan Fish Port Complex (PFDA-BFPC) arrived in Sogod, Southern Leyte where they distributed 500 relief storage boxes that each contain five kilograms of rice, canned goods, and hygiene kit to the several typhoon-affected barangays. In addition, the agency has also delivered 100 boxes of frozen fish that were received by the LGU of Sogod. The PFDA has also lent 10 freezers for the storage of these frozen goods.

Subsequently, two 10-wheeler trucks filled with three tons of fishery products and three tons of construction materials from the PFDA – Davao Fish Port Complex (PFDA-DFPC) arrived in Sogod to aid more Odette-stricken barangays.

According to the records of Sogod-LGU, they have 3,200 homeless families and 7,000 partially damaged households because of Super Typhoon Odette.

### Surigao City and Siargao Island

Meanwhile, the team composed of PFDA – General Santos Fish Port (PFDA-GSFPC) and PFDA-DFPC delivered food packs and construction materials to more than 5,000 typhoon-affected families in Surigao City and Siargao Island.

Typhoon Odette made its first landfall in the province of Surigao del Norte. Torrential rains, strong winds, and storm surges wreak havoc in the area which rendered many families homeless and in need of help. Immediately after, the typhoon made its landfall in Siargao Island which resulted in a very devastating aftermath in one of the country's top tourist destinations.

### Ubay, Bohol

The PFDA-CO/NFPC/BFPC team crossed the ocean to visit the municipality of Ubay, Bohol. On January 27, they delivered 500 relief storage boxes and 500 packs of rice (5 kgs each) together with a truckload of construction materials like galvanized iron sheets (yero), umbrella nails, hammers, rolls of tie wire, cut saw, and canvasses to Odette victims in Ubay.

Ubay, Bohol is a first-class municipality on its way to becoming a city when Typhoon Odette flattened them to the ground. Their primary source of livelihood, which is fisheries and agriculture, has been gravely affected by the typhoon. Fortunately, their municipality is continuously receiving donations from government agencies like the PFDA.

*"Ang mga yero (at iba pa) na bigay ng PFDA ay malaking tulong po sa aming mga mahihirap. Ang bahay po namin ay nalugmok ng bagyo. Maraming salamat po sa lahat ng tumulong sa amin mula sa PFDA."*

*Mr. Armando Udtohan of Purok 7 Poblacion, Ubay, Bohol*

The hopes and dreams of many people were washed away by torrential rains and howling winds brought down by the Category 5 storm. On top of the current pandemic, the devastation of Super Typhoon Odette was another blow to our desire to recover and begin again.

Through these relief operation activities, the PFDA aims to become a glimmer of hope that the Odette victims can cling on to during these tribulations and be a helping hand in rebuilding what seemed to be a lost tomorrow.



# PFDA ISDA ON THE GO PROGRAM

## PFDA GOES TO LEYTE; CONDUCTS ORIENTATION ON ISDA ON THE GO PROJECT

Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA) conducted an orientation on isDA ON THE GO (iOTG), the agency's banner Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program, with the members of the local government unit in Sogod, Southern Leyte and some cooperatives on January 31, 2022.

Aside from bolstering their knowledge about the agency's mandates, the orientation aims to strengthen the iOTG partnership between the PFDA and Sogod-LGU.

A Memorandum of Agreement was signed to formally transfer the units and have them distributed to different strategic areas and barangays. The Sogod-LGU has received 10 brand-new and state-of-the-art inverter chest freezers and one reefer van through the iOTG initiative.

Regional & Municipal Project Operations Division Chief Ms. Janet T. Manalo led the orientation. During the presentation, Ms. Manalo discussed the program objectives and operation of iOTG. She also explained the project's business model, product lines (frozen fish and fresh fish), and distribution channels.

Furthermore, Ms. Manalo proudly presented the accomplishments and ways forward of the iOTG program.

"The PFDA aims to cascade the iOTG project across all parts of the country para mas malawak na ang mararating at matutulungan ng proyekto. Ang iOTG Program ang sagot ng PFDA upang masolusyonan ang tumataas na presyo at limitadong suplay ng isda sa merkado bunsod ng closed fishing season at COVID-19 pandemic," Ms. Manalo said.

Later in the orientation, Ms. Manalo discussed the roles and responsibilities of PFDA iOTG and its partners, as well as the requirements and criteria before the collaboration with Sogod-LGU starts.

Sogod Mayor Hon. Imelda U. Tan expressed her appreciation to PFDA and PFDA General Manager Att. Glen A. Pangapalan for providing the people of Sogod with quality and affordable fishery products through the iOTG project.

According to former three-term Sogod Mayor Mr. Sheffered Lino S. Tan, frozen fish is safe for consumption. He said that he wants to change the mindset of people that frozen fish, like the ones sold under the iOTG program, retains the quality of freshly caught fish while extending the lifespan of the product.

On January 26, the PFDA, through the PFDA - Davao Fish Port Complex (PFDA-DFPC), delivered three tons of frozen fish and three tons of construction materials in Sogod as part of the agency's relief efforts for the Typhoon Odette affected communities in Visayas and Mindanao. In addition, the PFDA Central Office and Navotas Fish Port Complex (PFDA-NFPC) also distributed 100 boxes of frozen fish and 500 relief boxes to typhoon-hit families in several barangays in Sogod.

When the partnership kicks off, Sogod-LGU will serve as the iOTG depot where cooperatives can avail fishery products and sell them to their respective constituents.

*Mark Angelo N. Perez - Public Information Division with photos from Paul Vincent R. del Rosario and Miguel M. Pilarta - Public Information Division*

### Partnership Opportunity: Cooperative Development Authority



CDA



PFDA



Cooperatives

## PFDA JOINS CDA REGION 3 WEBINAR SERIES, PRESENTS IOTG PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA), through its isDA ON THE GO Business Office (IBO), took part in a webinar series led by Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) Region III entitled "Programang Pangkooperatiba" in line with CDA's 32nd anniversary on March 8, 2022.

The online webinar aims to share programs and opportunities that can be availed by various cooperatives across the region through CDA partner agencies, including PFDA and its isDA ON THE GO (iOTG) Flagship Project.

Ms. Camille An I. Moog of PFDA - Operations Services Department led the presentation of the iOTG orientation. During her lecture, Ms. Moog delivered a detailed presentation about the program objectives and operation of iOTG. She also explained the business model, product lines (frozen fish and fresh fish), and distribution channels of the project.

Additionally, Ms. Moog presented the accomplishments and ways forward of the iOTG program, as well as the roles and responsibilities of PFDA and the CDA cooperatives once the partnership occurs.

To benefit from this partnership project between PFDA and CDA, cooperatives must adhere to several

requirements and must achieve certain criteria. The CDA-certified cooperatives must: (1) sign a contract agreement with PFDA; (2) have at least 6 square meters of space; (3) can oversee and process point of sale purchase; (4) have the capacity for bookkeeping and asset inventory management; (5) have a minimum of three years in operation; (6) have a CDA Certificate of Good Standing; and (7) preferably with members from the marginalized sector.

During the open forum, Quality Assurance Division - OSD Officer-In-Charge Mr. Emilio Paul M. Candelaria and Regional & Municipal Project Operations Division Chief Ms. Janet T. Manalo responded to questions and concerns from the members of the cooperatives in the region. Some concerns about requirements and application were also given further clarification during the group discussion.

Some 200 representatives and participants from CDA Region III, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Region III, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority Region III, and various cooperatives from all provinces in the region actively participated in the webinar.

*Mark Angelo N. Perez*





# PFDA TOP MANAGEMENT NEWS

## DA USEC CABALLERO, PFDA MANAGEMENT VISIT MINDANAO RFPS, ONGOING SITE PROJECTS; DISCUSS MATTERS AFFECTING THE FISHERIES SECTOR

As part of the OneDA reform agenda, Department of Agriculture (DA) Undersecretary for Agri-Industrialization and Fisheries Ms. Cheryl Marie Natividad-Caballero and Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA) General Manager Atty. Glen A. Pangapalan visited PFDA Regional Fish Ports in Mindanao, as well as some of PFDA's Mindanao Project Development sites on February 15 to 18, 2022.

During the visit, the teams of USec. Caballero and GM Pangapalan were joined by officials from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources in the region. They toured two Regional Fish Port Complexes in Mindanao to conduct an ocular inspection and look over the progress and ongoing improvement of the PFDA project sites.

The visiting team went to PFDA - General Santos Fish Port Complex (PFDA-GSFPC) where they conducted a walk-thru at all Market Halls and Wharfs 1 and 2 as part of their Mindanao-wide visit to fishery facilities and projects. In addition, they inspected the progress of the ongoing extension of Wharf 2 of the Port and Frabelle Cold Storage.

In addition, USec. Caballero and GM Pangapalan went to PFDA - Davao Fish Port Complex (PFDA-DFPC). They examined the ongoing rehabilitation Flagship project in the port, which is part of the national government's Build, Build, Build Program.

Aside from PFDA Regional Fish Ports in Mindanao, the visiting team went to Panabo City, Davao del Norte for the construction of Panabo City Cold Storage and Processing Plant. They also went to Tagum City, Davao del Norte and Mati City, Davao Oriental to talk about the construction of Tagum City Modern Fish Market and the construction of Mati City Municipal Fish Port, respectively.

Afterwards, the team went to Malalag, Davao del Sur to inspect the ongoing construction of Malalag Municipal Fish Port and Hagonoy, Davao del Sur to conduct an ocular visit for a prospective construction project.

After their ocular inspection, the visiting team had a sit-down meeting with the Local Government units (LGU) and industry stakeholders of each area to discuss the project's implementation phase and to review and address several matters affecting the fishery sector in the region.

According to USec. Caballero, these improvements in the fisheries sector is part of the budget utilization and completion of big-ticket infrastructure projects like Agri-industrial Business Corridors (ABCs). Additionally, she stated that the PFDA-GSFPC is being upgraded to upscale Philippine exports from Mindanao.

Some infrastructures and measures that the agency will review as part of the improvement of food security

and food safety in the region are the construction of processing plants and large-scale fishing vessels for tuna, investment in fry to fingerling production for bangus, shipping of vannamei or whiteleg shrimp to Metro Manila, and a newly built and highly efficient cold storage facility.

"Abundance is an understatement in making food-fish available and with more private sector investments, organized fisherfolk, strong LGU support, and national government

policy for agri-industrialization. The best is yet to come," USec. Caballero said in a social media post.

*Mark Angelo Perez - Public Information Division with report and photos from Mr. Paris U. Ayon and Ms. Fritzie V. Leviste - PFDA-GSFPC and Mr. Jude Ambong - PFDA-DFPC*

## PFDA BOD, TOP MANAGEMENT VISIT ONGOING REHAB PROJECT IN LUCENA, ILOILO

As part of nationwide monitoring of several ongoing infrastructure projects for the fisheries sector, members of the Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA) Board of Directors (BOD) and Top Management visited the ongoing rehabilitation program in the PFDA - Lucena Fish Port Complex (PFDA-LFPC) and PFDA - Iloilo Fish Port Complex (PFDA-IFPC).

Despite the recent devastation of powerful typhoons and dangers brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, the PFDA-LFPC and PFDA-IFPC continue to work round the clock to unveil a new and improved fish ports to all its clients and stakeholders in the months to come. On March 3, the visiting team inspected various project sites in the PFDA-LFPC, including its Cold Storage, Multi-purpose Pier 1, Market Hall, Ice Crusher stalls, Commercial Building, Alpha Agri Aqua Mechanical and Marine Inc., and San Pedro Shipyard Corporation. Meanwhile, on March 10, the team inspected several project areas in the PFDA-IFPC to further see the status of the project and to plan future engagements for a new and improved port.

According to USec. Caballero, these rehabilitation projects in PFDA Regional Fish Ports (RFP) aim to address post-harvest losses, better profit for local fisherfolk, and

improve food safety of fresh catch including harvest from fish farming/aquaculture for the consuming public.

Among the BOD members who visited the port were the Department of Agriculture (DA) Undersecretary for Agri-Industrialization and Fisheries Ms. Cheryl Marie Natividad-Caballero, NFA Administrator Atty. Judy Carol Dansal, and Department of Public Works and Highways Undersecretary for Technical Services and Regional Operations in Region IV-B, VI, and VII Engr. Maximo Carvajal.

Also part of the visiting team were PFDA officials led by General Manager Atty. Glen A. Pangapalan, Assistant General Manager Ms. Iris R. de Vera, Technical Services Department Manager Engr. Danilo A. Axalan, Corporate Board Secretary Atty. Jose A. Ruiz III, Administrative Services Department Manager Atty. Edward M. Campos, Corporate Planning and MIS Department Officer-in-Charge Ms. Gina J. Reyes, Operations Services Department Manager Mr. Eric M. Sims, PFDA-LFPC Port Manager Mr. Custodio L. Balaoing Jr., and PFDA - Navotas Fish Port Complex Port Manager Ms. Luz P. Ortiz.

*Mark Angelo N. Perez - Public Information Division with report and photos from Mr. Genesis Bernaldez - PFDA-LFPC*





# PFDA GAD CORNER



## PFDA JOINS IN 2022 NATIONAL WOMEN'S MONTH CELEBRATION

Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA), through its PFDA Gender and Development Focal Point System (GAD-FPS), joins in the celebration of the 2022 National Women's Month Celebration (NWMC 2022) with the theme "We Make Change Work for Women: Agenda ng Kababaihan, Tungo sa Kaunlaran", on March 1, 2022.

The PFDA-GAD FPS conducted a virtual kickoff program to launch the agency's participation in this month-long annual celebration that will highlight the gains achieved for women and girls, assess actions towards gender equality, and look forward to steps that must be taken to ensure progress in empowering women.

As the main highlight of the program, the PFDA-GAD FPS invited five outstanding and empowered women of PFDA to serve as guest speakers and to deliver short messages of inspiration for the hardworking women of PFDA. Guests included Atty. Fatima Dennise D. Briones of PFDA Legal Division, PFDA-Bulan Fish Port Complex Officer-in-Charge Ms. Jacqueline B. Pauig, CPMISD Officer-in-Charge Ms. Gina J. Reyes, Internal Audit Department Manager Ms. Gloria P. Vasquez, and PFDA Assistant General Manager / Chairperson, PFDA-GAD FPS Executive Committee Ms. Iris R. de Vera.

According to AGM de Vera, the times have changed for women. The AGM proudly said that there are women who are now leading various organizations in the

fisheries sector. Nowadays, some women are working and operating regional and municipal fish ports across the country. She also emphasized how women are now leading every important decision-making that can help improve the fisheries industry.

PFDA-GFPS Technical Working Group Overall Head Mr. Mc Christian Macaranas expressed his appreciation to everyone who attended and actively participated in the virtual kick-off to close the program. Mr. Macaranas said that this month-long celebration of women is a recognition that everyone, women and men, should work together to overcome every challenge and hurdle in life.

During the program, Mr. Miguel M. Pilarta, Head, Committee on Advocacy, Linkages, and Capacity Building, presented the lineup of National Women's Month activities.

As a true advocate of gender sensitivity, the PFDA continues to take its part in the celebration of women's valuable role in society and proves that inclusive and sustainable development is only possible when gender equality becomes obtainable.

Ms. Mary Anne Kristine R. Ramos of PFDA ASD-HRD and Ms. Camille An I. Moog of PFDA-OSD served as the hosts and moderators of the kickoff virtual program.

Mark Angelo N. Perez

## PFDA GAD CONDUCTS GENDER SENSITIVITY ORIENTATION, CHAMPIONS INCLUSIVITY THIS WOMEN'S MONTH

Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA), through the PFDA - Gender and Development Focal Point System (PFDA-GAD FPS), continues to champion gender inclusivity and equality this 2022 National Women's Month by conducting an online Gender Sensitivity Orientation, held on March 21, 2022.

Dr. Excelsa C. Tongson, Deputy Director for Training and Outreach at the University of the Philippines Center for Women's and Gender Studies (UPCWGS), served as the resource speaker for the event. During her presentation, Dr. Tongson taught the participants how to differentiate sex and gender and help them become more gender sensitive and gender transformative.

Moreover, Dr. Tongson carefully dissected the true meaning of Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, and Sexual Characteristics (SOGIESC) and how to make things better for everyone and create an inclusive and gender transformative workplace and community.

"We all have the right to define and be proud of our SOGIESC. Everyone has unique SOGIESC, and we have to celebrate this diversity and support our friends and relatives towards human flourishing... To make things better, anyone should have the opportunity to participate in the things that matter to them, like a decent standard of living and access to work. Walang problema sa inyo. You are perfectly okay," Dr. Tongson said.

In addition, Dr. Tongson noted that regardless of our SOGIESC, we need to have social protection and health care services from the government. She also discussed how to become an ally of SOGIESC.

During the open forum, Dr. Tongson responded to SOGIESC-related queries and clarifications from the participants. Several attendants expressed their appreciation for this initiative to champion gender sensitivity in the workplace.

For the closing remarks, Mr. Miguel M. Pilarta, Head of the Committee on Advocacy, Linkages, and Capacity Building, thanked everyone who actively participated in the event. He expressed his appreciation to Dr. Tongson for her unwavering support to PFDA-GADFPS and its advocacy to have a gender inclusive and gender transformative workplace.

Some 50 representatives from various PFDA Central Office units and Regional Fish Ports (RFPs) actively participated in the online discussion about gender sensitivity.

Mr. Mc Christian Julius A. Macaranas II, head of PFDA GAD Focal Point System TWG, served as the moderator and host for the said activity.

Mark Angelo N. Perez





## USAPANG LALAKI: PFDA GAD HOLDS VIRTUAL TALK ON MASCULINITY THIS WOMEN'S MONTH

To cap off the month-long celebration of 2022 National Women's Month, Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA) held a virtual talk series entitled "Usapang Lalaki: Understanding Masculinity in Women Issues and Gender Advancement" on March 25, 2022.

Through its Gender and Development Focal Point System (PFDA-GAD FPS), today's webinar aims to provide the audience a basic understanding of masculinity as a key gender issue, its relationship to women issues such as violence against women (VAW), and how addressing issues of masculinities is essential to advancing gender equality.

Mr. John Erwin S. Bañez, Assistant Professor at the University of the Philippines – College of Social Work and Community Development (UP CSWCD), served as the first speaker where he discussed "Pagkalalake: Sanhi ba ito ng diskriminasyon at pag-aabuso?".

During his discussion, Mr. Bañez talked about how we build and change the concept of masculinity. The professor said that we tend to put labels and level masculinity, depending on who is considered as masculine and not, which can result in discrimination. He noted that discrimination begins because we have a set standard in men.

Moreover, Mr. Bañez also defined toxic masculinity and ways to address this destructive notion. He noted that masculinity can be a basis of support. Mr. Bañez said that there are other definitions of masculinity, and we can be masculine without being toxic.

Later in the day, Mr. Reynaldo G. De Guia, National Chairperson of Men Opposed to VAW Everywhere (MOVE) – Philippines, served as the second guest speaker where he talked about the virtues and principles being upheld by MOVE Philippines.

MOVE Philippines is an advocate of principled men which dedicated themselves to being actively involved in eliminating all forms of discrimination against women, particularly VAWC.

During his presentation, Mr. De Guia shared an overview of VAW in the Philippines and various laws related to VAW. He also shared the vision, mission, objective, core values, and various notable achievements of MOVE Philippines, which revolves around the fight against VAWC.

Before the end of his talk, Mr. De Guia encouraged the male employees of the PFDA to take action and be partners in the efforts of ending VAW in the Philippines.

To watch the replay of the webinar, make sure to like and follow the PFDA GAD Focal Point System Facebook Page and PFDA Official Facebook Page and use the hashtags #WomenMakeChange #AgendaNgKababaihan #NWMC2022

Mr. Mc Christian Julius A. Macaranas and Mr. Miguel M. Pilarta of the PFDA – GAD FPS Technical Working Group served as the moderators of the webinar series.

Mark Angelo N. Perez

**USAPANG LALAKI: Understanding Masculinity in Women Issues and Gender Advancement**

Virtual Talk Series **LIVE** @officialpfda @pfdagad  
March 25, 2022 (Friday) | 10:00AM to 12:00NN

**MR. JOHN ERWIN S. BAÑEZ**  
Assistant Professor  
UP CSWCD

**MR. REYNALDO G. DE GUIA**  
Chairperson  
MOVE-Philippines

**Pagkalalake: Sanhi ba ito ng diskriminasyon at pag-aabuso?**

Migo Pilarta (he/him) | Mc Macaranas (he/him) | Erwin (he/him) | Reynaldo De Guia (he/him)

**AGENDA NG Kababaihan Tungo sa Kaunlaran**

24 PFDA REVIEW 1st QUARTER ISSUE





# When the dawn breaks

## A story of power and resilience by the women of Navotas

by Mark Angelo N. Perez

**"Amazing things happen when women help other women."**  
– Kasia Gospos, founder and publisher at Leaders in Heels

This message mirrors the story behind a group of women who are willing to go the extra mile to provide for their families and loved ones. The story of a group of women who will work from dusk until dawn to bring home enough food to their tables. This is the story of the amazing women of Navotas— the **Eco-Friendly Women of Navotas Fish Port Complex (EFW)**.

### Humble beginnings

Fueled by their dedication to helping their families, the EFW began as a group of women who supported the sanitation project in the vicinity of the Philippine Fisheries Development Authority – Navotas Fish Port Complex (PFDA-NFPC) through proper disposal of garbage.

While working as part of the janitorial services of the PFDA-NFPC, they were challenged to collect and segregate garbage in exchange for money through recycling. The PFDA-NFPC has provided them with a Material Recovery Facility where they can stock their collections because every December, participants with the most garbage recovered in the entire year will receive a prize from the management.

According to Ms. Araceli Andaya, president of the EFW, she encouraged her colleagues inside the fish port to be part of the agency's initiative to collect garbage so that they can earn extra money. "Napatunayan naming na may pera sa basura," Ms. Andaya said.

When the segregation project ended, in October 2013, the group of women was regrouped and registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) as Eco-Friendly Women of Navotas Fish Port Complex (EFW). Ms. Andaya has recalled how excited she was when the EFW was created. She also remembered how hesitant she was to assume the highest position. "Sabi ko noon hindi ko ito kaya dahil mahirap humawak ng tao, pero challenge din ito sa akin dahil mahihikayat ko silang kumita", she said.

### Eco-Friendly Women at present

Since the formation of the EFW, the association now has approximately thirty-five members. They are actively participating in various training on deboning fish, smoking fish, processing Spanish-style sardines, and other related seminars offered by the PFDA-NFPC.

Popularly known for their processed fish products like tinapang, the members of the EFW are selling these products at every isDA ON THE GO (iOTG) outlet through the PFDA partnership with the Department of Agriculture (DA)'s KADIWA ni Ani at Kita Rolling Stores.

By 07:00 PM, some members of the EFW will start to prepare and buy fish that they will sell in iOTG stalls the next day. To find the cheapest supplier possible, it will take them until 01:00 AM to purchase all fishery products. After that, they will re-ice these kilos of fish to remain fresh until the time of sale.

According to Ms. Andaya, the iOTG project significantly helped them during the pandemic. Up to this day, the project is giving them extra income.

Ms. Andaya said that they are assigned to sell at every KADIWA outlet to sell their processed products and other iOTG products. Some of the most in-demand products are galunggong, bangus, tilapia, and squid.



If some products are not sold, the EFW will be processing these products so that they can sell them again and earn extra profits.

During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, when everybody was staying in their houses or only availing of food supplies from nearby stores, the gross sale of the EFW is reaching an average of P60,000 per location. Now that COVID-19 restrictions are eased and almost everyone is fully vaccinated, the profit remains high because of the trusted quality of their products.

In addition, the EFW is also attending activities every Women's Month, like training on siomai-making, face mask-making, and others that can help them earn extra income while working as EFW members.



### Facing challenges

Successful ventures always face challenges along the way, and the EFW is not exempted from that harsh reality.

According to Ms. Andaya, their association faced lots of challenges over the years. There are times when income is low to nothing. She also said that the EFW is looking at plans to further improve the lives of the women of Navotas, but they need additional budget support.

In addition, some EFW members are becoming inactive to focus more on their own small businesses. Thankfully, the women of PFDA became active again and earned more when the iOTG program was introduced.

### Messages of gratitude

The PFDA, a home of inclusivity and women empowerment, strongly supports organizations like the EFW. That is why the members of the association are thankful for the continuous assistance of the PFDA Top Management and the PFDA-NFPC.

On behalf of the EFW, Ms. Andaya is incredibly grateful for every opportunity that the agency has given their organization. Ms. Andaya noted that today, are not just "stay-at-home wives." Women can lead and women can choose their own paths toward success, and organizations like these can empower their vision of a better future for their families.

"Nagpapasalamat po ako kay PFDA General Manager Atty. Glen A. Pangapalan at kay PFDA-NFPC Port Manager Ms. Luz P. Ortiz sa pagbibigay sa amin ng tulong. Nagpapasalamat po ako sa PFDA dahil nabigyan kami ng halaga. Kahit

na ganito lang ang trabaho namin, binigyan nila kami ng pagkakataon na matuto ng iba't ibang bagay at magkaroon ng extra income," Ms. Andaya said.

In addition, Ms. Marilou Alzate, EFW vice president, also expressed her appreciation to the agency for always being there to help them earn more through various agency programs. She said that despite being 64 years old, she will continue to work for her family and for the association.

"Nagpapasalamat po ako kay GM Pangapalan at kay PM Luz. Sa darating pa pong mga panahon, pangarap ko po sa EFW na magtuluy-tuloy pa po ang iba't ibang programa, lalo na ang iOTG para sa mga kababaihan. 64 years old na ako pero kaya kinakaya ko pang magbuhat ng isdang mabibigat para makatulong sa aking pamilya at sa aming grupo," Ms. Alzate exclaimed.

Moreover, Ms. Jona Bescaño, EFW member, also thanked the agency for giving her the chance to be part of the association. Ms. Bescaño said that since she became part of the EFW, she can bring home extra income for her family.

"Bilang isang single parent, malaking tulong na naging bahagi ako ng EFW at iOTG dahil nagkakaroon kami ng dagdag na income. Malaki po ang pasasalamat namin sa PFDA Top Management at kay PM Luz dahil nabigyan nila kami ng pagkakataon na makapagtinda ng iOTG products sa iba't ibang lugar," Ms. Bescaño expressed.

As the dawn breaks, the light of a better and brighter tomorrow awaits. This progressive and hopeful tomorrow is the future of the EFW. With their inert strength and resilience to work for their families, no wonder that every member of the EFW will soon achieve all their dreams and endeavors and have a much better future.

"Sa mga gusto pang sumali sa Eco-Friendly Women, hinihikayat ko kayong maging bahagi ng aming asosasyon dahil malaking tulong po ito upang magkaroon kayo ng dagdag na kita. Sa mga members, dagdagan pa natin ang sipag at tiyaga dahil iyan ang kailangan natin ngayon. Balang araw, kapag kumikita na ang lahat, taas noo ninyong sasabihin na doon ako nanggaling sa isDA ON THE GO at sa EFW," Ms. Andaya proudly said.



# PFDA Review



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