The Philippine Statistics Authority - Regional Statistical Service Office II (PSA-RSSO II) announced the 2018 Economic Performance of Cagayan Valley as measured by the Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) via News Conference on 25 April 2019 at Pulsar Premier Suites, Pulsar Commercial Plaza, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan.

Ms. Marilyn T. Estrada, Regional Director of PSA-RSSO II gladly welcomed the participants in the News Conference and expressed how overwhelmed and grateful she was considering the number of attendees of the activity. RD Estrada gave a brief discussion of what GRDP is and informed everyone that similar news conference was conducted simultaneously with the other 16 regions of the country. In the end of her speech, she hoped and looked forward for an active and friendly articulation of the 2018 GRDP of Cagayan Valley.

The message of Ms. Minerva Eloisa P. Esquivias Assistant National Statistician (ANS) of the National Census Service (NCS) of PSA formally started the news conference. She stressed that “GRDP is an important indicator that tells a story on the evolution of the economic landscape: the emerging industries and the inception of technologies that innovates the manner of production and consumption”. She sincerely thanked the data providers for continuously supporting PSA in coming up with GRDP estimates. Also, she happily said that PSA is looking forward to strengthening its relationship with its partners in order to continuously enhance and improve the delivery of its products and services living by its tagline, “Better Statistics, Better Policies, and Better Lives!”. Lastly, ANS Esquivas thanked everyone for gracing the news conference and hoped for their continuous support and collaboration with PSA undertakings.
At exactly 10:00 o’clock, RD Estrada announced Cagayan Valley’s economy which grew by 3.3% in 2018 but slower compared to the region’s 7.2% growth in 2017 and lower compared to the reported Philippine economy at 6.2%. Also discussed was Cagayan Valley’s economic performance as measured by GRDP, percent distribution by industry, contribution to growth, per capita GRDP, performance of Cagayan Valley economy as compared to other regions, and various data sources contributing to the successful estimation of the 2018 GRDP. Accordingly, the greatest contributor among the three major economic sectors was Services which grew by 10.5% in 2018, followed by Industry which grew by 2.2%. Agriculture, Hunting, Forestry and Fishing (AHFF) on the other hand, pulled down the region’s economic growth by 7.1%. By the end of her presentation, she thanked all regional line agencies (RLAs), academe, broadcast and media agencies, partners from private institutions and other various agencies for the continued to support PSA in making the annual GRDP estimation possible.

Engr. Ferdinand P. Tumaliuan, Assistant Regional Director (ARD) of the National Economic and Development Authority Regional Office 2 (NEDA RO2) delivered, on behalf of RD Dionisio Ledres, Sr., a statement on the policy implications of the 2018 GRDP to regional development. He said that Cagayan Valley’s economy managed to attain growth in 2018 despite the major hurdles. The occurrence of natural phenomena like drought, El Nino, cold front and typhoons greatly affected the agriculture sector that with all these challenges, ARD Tumaliuan encouraged stakeholders to increase level of convergence, cooperation and commitment to make the sector more resilient for increased productivity. To further strengthen the Industry and Services sectors for the next years, he emphasized the need to intensify promotions, strengthen value and supply chain linkages and others. Furthermore, he called for more aggressive efforts, both from partners in the public and private sectors, as well as the support of the general public, to achieve a “matatag, maginhawa at panatag na buhay” para sa Rehiyon Dos.

An open forum followed after the discussions. Various queries were raised by the attendees and addressed properly by the resource persons. Representatives from other agencies also shared their knowledge and insights to inquiries of their concern to support the answers given by the resource persons.

Engr. Girme M. Bayucan, Chief of the Statistical Operations and Coordination Division (SOCD) of PSA-RSSO II culminated the activity with his message. He pointed out that the numbers / figures presented may not have been made possible without the contribution of various agencies. He assured that, despite not being able to reach/attain the 2018 target set in the Regional Development Plan (RDP), the GRDP estimates presented are relevant and reliable and can be used in future policy making, program formulation and evidence-based decision making. He also announced the upcoming activities of the PSA and urged everyone to continuously support PSA in coming up with official statistics. Lastly, he expressed his gratefulness to everyone for the success of the Press Conference.

The News Conference was viewed live through the Facebook page of PSA-RSSO II, Clearview Cable TV, and RBC Master Cable System with the support of other broadcast and media agencies in the region.
As part of the Philippines’ commitment in achieving the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) No. 1 - “end poverty in all its forms everywhere” and realizing the Philippines’ Ambisyon Natin 2040 for a “Matatag, Maginhawa at Panatag na buhay para sa lahat”, PSA-RSSO II conducted its Poverty Statistics Dissemination Forum on 28 June 2019 at Las Palmas De San Jose, Leisure Club, San Jose Village, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan. In her welcome remarks, PSA-RSSO II Regional Director Marilyn T. Estrada thanked everyone for a good attendance rate despite busy schedules. She further encouraged the participants to internalize the discussions for them to actively participate in eradicating poverty in all its forms.

Meanwhile, in a statement made by NEDA, Cagayan Valley Region ranked 5th lowest in terms of poverty incidence among population across all regions. On this note, NEDA Region 02 ARD Engr. Ferdinand P. Tumaliuan shared that people who are living in Cagayan Valley Region have better living conditions compared to other regions and the poverty incidence is lower than the national average of 21.0 percent.

Ms. Wilma A. Guillen, ANS of the Social Sector Statistics Service explained that “poor” as defined are individuals and families whose income fall below the poverty threshold, and/or cannot afford in a sustained manner to provide their minimum basic needs of food, health, education, housing and other essential amenities of life. In Cagayan Valley during the First Semester of 2019, a family of five needed at least ₱10,118 on the average to meet both basic food and non-food needs in a month, lower by ₱363 from the national poverty threshold of ₱10,481. As per record, the latest poverty threshold is 7.2 percent higher compared with same semester of 2015 estimate at Php9,440.

ANS Gullien also discussed that 19 in every one hundred Filipinos in Region II belong to poor families and 15 out of 100 of them do not have sufficient income to meet their basic food and non-food needs.

ARD Tumaliuan, on his insights said that Region 02’s accomplishments are encouraging but it should not stop from that. He encouraged to continue to strive to end poverty in all forms, end hunger, achieve food security and improve the nutrition of our population. He also enjoined the commitment of all stakeholders to respond to the call for an aggressive action and participation towards the achievement of reducing poverty and attain a sustainable and inclusive growth.

Ms. Dulceneah Lyra F. Dela Cruz, Planning Officer IV of the Department of Social Welfare (DSWD) Region 02 who represented Director Leonardo C. Reynoso thanked PSA for providing information that they can use in formulating and implementing anti-poverty initiatives. She said that the data provided in 2015 helped...
A rigorous 2-week training of PSA-RSSO II on Processing of Geo-tagged Buildings, Updating of Digitized Map and Enumeration Area (EA) Delineation/Merging was held on June 3-15, 2019 at Crown Hotel and Restaurant, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan.

Mr. Edito B. Grande, Assistant Statistician (AS) from PSA Central Office along with Ms. Zenaida U. Rivera, Regional Focal Person and Statistical Specialist II of PSA-RSSO II, and Ms. Cholly L. Bayon, OIC -Chief Statistical Specialist of PSA- Nueva Vizcaya led the second level training and acted as trainers for the 23 Map Data Processors (MDP), five Map Data Reviewers (MDR), 23 Map Data Verifiers (MDV) and one Regional Mapping Clerk (RMC). The participants were hired by the agency for faster and efficient processing and updating of digitized map and EA Delineation/Merging. Along with the participants, the activity was also joined by RD Marilyn T. Estrada, PSA Officials and Employees of the region and its five provincial statistics offices.

Mr. Grande said that the processors, reviewers and verifiers plays a vital role in the success of the 2020 CPH. “The office conducted an integrated map updating activity to ensure the accuracy and reliability of EA maps and Enumeration Area Reference File (EARF). Aside from that, the updating of census map can also be used by other activities of the agency such as household agricultural and establishment based surveys, remote sensing activities and environment-related activities”, Grande said. He further emphasized to take the responsibilities given to them seriously in order to achieve a dependable data.

The participants were trained on the use of Quantum QGIS (QGIS), an open source geographic information system (GIS) enabling users to visualize, manage, edit, analyse data, and compose printable maps and Google Earth PRO, a geospatial software application that displays a virtual globe, which offers the ability to analyze and capture geographical data. These applications will be utilized to process Geo-tagged building points, update layers for barangay boundaries and road networks and delineate and merge EAs.

The activity will start on June 17, 2019 and will commence on November 2, 2019. It will cover all barangays in the region that are candidates for delineation and merging activities.

PSA-RSSO II disseminates... from page 3 the agency in the implementation of programs benefitting thousands of poor communities. She also stressed out that DSWD social protection framework breed on the premise that as long as there are poor and vulnerable sectors, the agency will never falter to find solutions, alleviate their conditions and bring social justice and equal opportunities for all.

The dissemination forum was actively participated by PSA-RSSO II Officials and Employees, Regional Line Agencies (RLAs), Local Government Units (LGUs), academe sector, private institutions and media partners.
PSA-RSSO II All Set for 2020 CPH Pilot Census

Forty enumerators (EN) and five Team Supervisors (TS) were hired in Cagayan Valley Region to conduct the 2020 Census of Population and Housing (CPH) Pilot Census in all barangays of Quirino, Isabela. The pilot census will serve as a dry-run of all phases in the actual census activities and done one-year preceding the actual activity to test the system and come up with recommendations to further improve strategies that can be adopted on the actual census. The activity officially started on May 20, 2019 and ended on June 17, 2019.

Prior to the dry-run, a second level training was conducted on April 29, 2019 to May 9, 2019 at Piazza Zicarelli Hotel and Restaurant, Ilagan City, Isabela. Hired TS and enumerators also had a one-day briefing on the use of tablets last May 17, 2019 at PSA-Isabela Provincial Statistics Office.

The 2020 CPH will be the first census undertaking that will adopt the Computer-Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) technique. CAPI application is already installed in a tablet which will be used in gathering information through electronic questionnaire and mapping.

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Seminar 1 Conducted in Cagayan Valley

The Philippine Statistical Research and Training Institute (PSRTI) conducted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Seminar I for Region 02 on June 27, 2019 at Pulsar Hotel Premier Suites, Tuguegarao City. It is one of the seminar series conducted by the Institute in collaboration with the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Local Government Units (LGUs).

The activity was attended by 121 participants from different Local Government Units (LGUs) of Cagayan Valley, Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and PSA Regional and Provincial Staff.

The overview of SDG was explained by Ms. Frances Anne A. Castillo, Statistical Specialist II of the Poverty and Human Development Statistics Division (PHDSD) of PSA Central Office. Meanwhile, Assistant National Statistician (ANS) of the Social Sector Statistics Service (SSSS) of PSA, Ms. Wilma A. Guillen explained what data ecosystem is and stressed that it is an innovation to address data gaps at the subnational levels. The mechanics of the workshop was discussed by Ms. Mechelle M. Viernes of PHDSD.

Aside from the agenda of the seminar, Dr. Josefina V. Almeda, Executive Director III of PSTRI gave a brief lecture on the Basic Concepts in Statistics.

Workshop followed after the discussion of the different topics as well as the mechanics. It was set during the workshop that the submission of the output will be on 26 July 2019.
PSRTI Conducted a Complimentary Training on Methods of Effective Data Presentation Using MS Excel

As one of the major statistical agencies in the Philippine Statistical System (PSS) and as the research and training arm of PSS, the Philippine Statistical Research and Training Institute (PSRTI) conducted a complimentary training for NEDA and PSA on Methods of Effective Data Presentation Using MS Excel last June 26, 2019 at NEDA RO2, Regional Government Center, Carig Sur, Tuguegarao City with Ms. Josefina V. Almeda, PhD., Executive Director III of PSRTI as the Resource Person.

The free training aimed to promote PSRTI services to quality statistical training and to hone and improve knowledge/familiarity of government officials in presenting reports using the MS Excel.

Ocular Inspection of Inmalog Church of Christ in Calayan, Gonzaga

Ms. Milagroc C. Adduru, Chief Administrative Officer and Ms. Ms. Maria Corazon H. de Guzman of PSA-RSSO II conducted an ocular inspection on the existence of the Inmalog Church of Christ at Calayan, Gonzaga on July 04, 2019. The ocular field verification was to affirm the physical presence of the Inmalog Church of Christ located at Calayan, Gonzaga on July 04, 2019 in connection with the Application for Certificate of Authority to Solemnize Marriage (CRASM) of Reverend Amante Tapucol of said religious sect covering the entire Philippines as his territorial jurisdiction.

LEARN FROM YESTERDAY, LIVE FOR TODAY, HOPE FOR TOMORROW

- Albert Einstein
The Provincial Statistics Committee of Cagayan (PSC-Cagayan) convened for its 1st Regular Business Meeting (2nd Quarter) on 30 May 2019, Thursday, 09:00 A.M. at the BAC Conference Room, Capitol Hills, Alimannao, Peñablanca, Cagayan. There were 28 attendees to the said meeting which comprised of representatives from member agencies, higher education institutions (HEIs) and private sector. Also present during the meeting were representatives from the non-member agencies.

The meeting was called to order at exactly 09:45 A.M. with 10 out of 11 member agencies present or 90.9 percent attendance rate. Ms. Elisa G. Umoso, Provincial Planning Development Coordinator and CPSC Chairperson in the province warmly welcomed all the partakers and stressed the importance of statistics in our day to day activities. Engr. Elena U. Rivera, Chief Statistical Specialist (CSS) of PSA Cagayan and Mr. Mar L. dela Cruz, Planning Development Officer III and PSC Co-Chairperson presided the said meeting.

The creation of the Provincial Statistics Committee (PSC) of Cagayan is in response to Regional Statistics Committee (RSC2) Resolution No. 06 Series 2018 mandating the five provinces of the region to establish a Provincial Statistics Committee (PSC) to enhance coordination and implementation of the Provincial Statistical System (PSS).

In March 1, 2019, Hon. Manuel N. Mamba, Provincial Governor of Cagayan signed the Executive Order No. 03 Series of 2019, Creating the Cagayan Provincial Statistics Committee. The committee is composed of 11 agencies chaired by the Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator of LGU Cagayan and Provincial Statistics Officer of PSA.

PSA Cagayan Realizes Its Social Responsibility Commitments

Tree Planting

On 24 May 2019, armed with tools and planting materials and driven by spirit of teamwork, PSA-Cagayan led by Engr. Elena U. Rivera, Chief Statistical Specialist (CSS) conducted tree planting at Sitio Padungsol, Bassao, Gattaran, Cagayan. A total of 60 cacao seedlings were planted in the area.

CSS Rivera on behalf of PSA-Cagayan conveyed their appreciation to Mr. Gilbert Guillermo, Barangay Captain of Bassao, Gattaran and the community of Sitio Padungsol, predominantly Agta, for the warm welcome and assistance during the conduct of the tree planting.

In PSA context, Social Responsibility is a commitment of the office that extends beyond its mandates by taking responsibility for the environment.

Share a Gift and Win a Smile

Another remarkable social responsibility conducted by - continued on page 8
PSA Cagayan Realizes... from page 7

PSA Cagayan was the **Share a Gift and Win a Smile** activity at the Agta community of Sitio Padungsol, Bassao, Gattaran, Cagayan on May 24, 2019. The visit aimed to bring love and happiness to the children of the community by giving school supplies to the upcoming grade one pupils of Creative Dreams Christian Academy.

The gift giving activity of the office was timely for the opening of the school year 2019-2020. A total of 41 incoming grade one pupils were given school supplies. A heart melting smiles were seen in every child face children as they received their bags.

Ms. Adelaida S. Purificacion, School Head of Creative Dreams Christian Academy, cheerfully expressed her gratitude to the office. “Agyaman nak PSA Cagayan for choosing our school, this year we received two blessings, one is the accreditation of Creative Dreams Christian Academy and the gifts from PSA Family”, Ms. Purificacion said.

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**PSA-Nueva Vizcaya Invited in Various Festivals Held in the Province**

PSA-Nueva Vizcaya joined the opening program of the 2019 Grand Ammungan Festival which started with a Thanksgiving Mass on May 22, 2019 at the Nueva Vizcaya Convention Center, Bayombong Nueva Vizcaya.

Ms. Cholly L. Bayon, OIC of PSA-Nueva Vizcaya and Staff joined the said event together with the employees of the different LGUs and National Government Agencies of Nueva Vizcaya.

PSA-Nueva Vizcaya invited as Chairman of the Board of Judges in the “Kuligligan Float Competition” during the 3rd Tangguyob Festival

Ms. Cholly L. Bayon joined other members of the Board of Judges in adjudging 12 floats representing the different barangays of the municipality of Quezon during the 3rd Tangguyob Festival “Kuligligan Float Festival” held last June 16, 2019. The theme of the years' celebration is "Naimpusuan A Panagserbi, Ayat Ken Rag-o iti Umili".

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If you don’t like the road you’re walking, start paving another one.

- Dolly Parton
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