

Gazette

The official newsletter of Parole and Probation Administration

PPA Builds Partnerships Toward Sustainable Rehabilitation Efforts



PHOTO: VICTORIAS GIO

The PPA started the year with zeal forging partnerships up to the middle of 2024. Through Administrator Bienvenido O. Benitez, Jr., PPA signed several important agreements. These collaborations created sustainable programs that help the clients to live a second chance at life.

On January 10, Administrator Benitez flew to Victorias City for a government-to-government cooperation that would benefit 148 clients. Livelihood programs, entrepreneurship opportunities, skills training, and capacity-building await the recipients. Signatories to the MOA conveyed their support for the collaborative program.

Mayor Javier Miguel Benitez congratulated the program beneficiaries and partners. He said, "Everybody gets the second chance that everybody deserves".

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Dr. Portia Mallorca, the Schools Division Superintendent, expressed the commitment and support of Victorias City Schools Division Office for the DOJ-PPA's programs.

Meanwhile, Supervising TESDA Provincial Specialist Ernesto Duremdes presented various livelihood courses that clients can avail of.

Representative Jose Francisco Benitez, ROIC Grace V. Tomaro, and CPO Annie D. Abellar co-signed the Agreement.



Photo By: VisayanDailyStar



The next month, PPA and Share an Opportunity Philippines, Inc. (SAOph) inked an agreement on February 27, 2024, at Teodulo Natividad Hall in the Central Office. The venture would help the field officers in uplifting the welfare of clients. Under this MOA, clients of the three Quezon City field offices would receive help.

Clients and their families could benefit from SAOph's programs. These are the Makabata Program, Communities Adapt, and the Resource and Services Development Program.

The **Makabata Program** aims to help create an environment fit for children and families. It is a community-based approach to caring for children. **Communities Adapt**, on the other hand, aspires to build community resilience against disasters and reduce vulnerabilities to climate change. With the **Resource and Services Development Program**, SAOph holds outreach and livelihood programs through community-based organizations.

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Besides the Administrator, Regional Director Lucy Nenette V. Rojas and SAOph Executive Director Armi Martinez also signed the Memorandum.

Present during the signing were CPO Concepcion A. Esguerra, CPO Ma. Isabel B. Castillo, and CPO Girlizette U. Palacio.

The Community Services Division headed by CPO Danilo M. Capili facilitated the activity.

Before the quarter ended, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority became PPA's partner in the Workplace Reintegration Program (WRP). 158 possible beneficiaries could take advantage of this Program which would be jointly monitored and evaluated by SBMA and PPA.



Photo By: Tribune.net.PH-Jonas Reyes

SBMA Senior Deputy Administrator for Support Services Ramon O. Agregado said, "For our part, we will facilitate the endorsement of potential and qualified clients through a Register of Eligibles (ROE) to Subic Bay Freeport Zone locator-companies under the Workplace Reintegration Program".

Administrator Benitez hoped more companies would follow suit.

Chairman and Administrator of SBMA Eduardo Jose C. Aliño and Atty. Bienvenido O. Benitez, Jr. sealed the deal on April 11, 2024 at the SBMA Corporate Boardroom. Joining them were Regional Director Marissa D.C. Alquetra and Atty. Ramon O. Agregado.

For clients with skills in line with agriculture and fisheries, the Agency teamed up with the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), a government bureau under the Department of Agriculture.

Atty. Bienvenido O. Benitez, Jr. and Director IV Remelyn R. Recoter set their hands on the Memorandum of Agreement during the Pistang Ani ng Bayan celebration on May 31, 2024. The MOA signing ceremony held at the ATI Building in Quezon City became one of the event's highlights.

Accordingly, PPA and ATI would work hand in hand in equipping probationers and parolees with agriculture and fisheries-related training. Eligible clients could also receive material support. Should they form an entity composed of 20-30 persons, ATI could also provide them with funding.



Meanwhile, the meeting on long-term collaborations with the Office for Alternative Dispute Resolution was set last May 22. The conference centered on holding specialized training on mediation-conciliation, a topic relevant to RJ practitioners and grievance committees as key persons in resolving conflicts. The said training would focus on enhancing the skills of these personnel.

Then on July 5, 2024, Administrator Bienvenido O. Benitez, Jr. and Undersecretary Irene De Torres Alogoc finally signed the Memorandum of Understanding at the Multi-purpose Hall in the PPA-Central Office.

Completing the Memorandum of Understanding, the OADR held the training on August 12-16, 2024, at the OADR Academy in Quezon City. The training enhanced the mediation skills of RJ practitioners and marked significant progress for Philippine Alternative Dispute Resolution.

Last year, the Administrator sealed four agreements of a national scope. These were undertakings with BJMP, TESDA, UNODC, and DOLE.

These partnerships with government institutions and NGOs are a resource generation effort that boosts the Agency's capability to deliver services and achieve its mandate.

The probationers, parolees, and pardonees as recipients of these services can live a decent life, and be productive citizens away from a life of crime. At the same time, the probation officers guide the clients toward successful rehabilitation and reintegration into society. All these endeavors contribute to keeping peace and social justice in the community. ###

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Success on the Spotlight: Recognizing Valuable Contributions of Employees



This year, commemorating the Agency's 48th Founding Anniversary was a simple yet meaningful celebration. The event culminating on July 24, 2024, also marked the 30th Probation and Parole Week. On this date, the Parole and Probation Administration highlighted the personnel's contributions to the service and their outstanding performance.

For the National PRAISE Awards, four officers received major awards such as Gawad Kahusayan, Gawad Karangalan, Gawad Kagitingan, and Gawad Bilang Katangi-Tanging Pinuno. The winners were PPO II CHRISTIAN U. GARAN (*Region 7*), SPPO NECIFORA C. SAN AGUSTIN (*Region 3*), SPPO MERLA E. PIO (*Region 3*), and Regional Director ROSANA V. SOLITE (*Region 7*), respectively.

Meanwhile, for the Central Office, Administrator Bienvenido O. Benitez, Jr. gave selected personnel special awards namely, the Best Attendance Award, the Going Above & Beyond Award, the Innovation Award, and the Administrator's Award.

Recipients of the Best Attendance Award were ADA IV Jay F. Orozco, ADA II Perlita R. Reyes, Photographer I Rodolfo A. Lomibao, ADA IV Lileth Ann M. Zafra, ADA VI Benedick B. Ferrer, CPPO Mary Ann G. Navalta, AO V Maryrose Carmen C. Soriano, PPO II Jhon Caesar P. Retiro, Legal Assistant John Christopher N. Ong, and CAO Norhaya C. Guiling.

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For the staff who show up early, leave late, and take on extra assignments, Administrator Benitez conferred the Going Above & Beyond Award. The personnel who received this were ADA I Amalia S. Reyes, ADAS III Virginia M. Silva, PPO II Jhon Caezar P. Retiro, SrPO Precilla Q. Camposanto, SI III Allizza Joy C. Castillo, ACCT III Godwin Austen O. Mijares, PLO III Francis Raymond S. Balitaan, SPPO Sheila Marie O. De Leoz.

On the other hand, the Innovation Award was given to personnel who have developed a new technology or have innovated a new technology, service, or process. This recognition was presented to ADA VI Arrianne V. Paragas and CPPO Mary Ann G. Navalta.



Every year, staff who have been in the service for given years are honored with a Loyalty Award. For 2024, five personnel with 20 years in public service and three employees for 10 years of service were acknowledged.

The personnel applauded for their 20 years of service were AO V Ricardo S. Arellano, Jr., AO IV Madelene B. Balane, AO V Ma. Gracia V. Padua, ADA II Perlita R. Reyes, and PPO II Antonio A. Saldua, Jr.





Recognized for 10 years of service were AO IV Adelyn C. Chingco, ADAS II Jo Anne Meg R. Tilos, and ADA VI Maria Rosita S. Villena.

Another reward due to the length of service in the government, the Length of Service Award was also afforded to a select few. This was given to employees for rendering at least three years of continuous satisfactory service in the same position.

Officers and staff who were chosen for this appreciation were ADA VI Elizabeth C. Reyes, Photographer I Rodolfo A. Lomibao, AO V Maryrose Carmen C. Soriano, AO I Rolando P. Cabello, SPPO Sheila Marie O. De Leoz, AO V Maribel Z. Jimenez, and PLO V Wilson R. Suba.



If permanent employees were recognized, the Administrator made sure that workers under contract of service were likewise appreciated. Driven by this motivation, Atty. Benitez, Jr. chose two personnel to receive the Administrator's Award, Mr. Eriberto R. Avanceña and Ms. Grace L. Balbuena. Mr. Avanceña was accorded the Multitasking Maestro for his exceptional time and task management, while Ms. Balbuena was bestowed the Dedication Diva for her commitment and loyalty.



The culminating activity of the 48th Anniversary celebration was held at the Multi-Purpose Hall in Central Office. Undersecretaries Deo L. Marco and Raul T. Vasquez graced the celebration with Ms. Regina Benitez, the Administrator's sister.

PPA's observation of the 48th Anniversary and 30th Probation and Parole Week consisted of six elements. These were **environmental responsiveness, expanding access to livelihood opportunities, charity & care for the community, learning & development, health & wellness, and honoring success and contributions.** ###

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PPA's New Investigation and Supervision Program Strengthens Commitment to the Tokyo Rules



The Administration officially launched the new investigation and supervision program. This was in partnership with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The launch was held on August 5-7, 2024, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Ortigas, Pasig City.

The new program, the **Principles of Effective Probation and Parole Investigation and Supervision** includes four tools such as the following:

- Classification and Risk Assessment Tool (CARAT)
- Hulagpos
- I-CARE; and
- Livelihood and Education Access Program (LEAP)

According to CPPO Danilo Capili, UNODC Alternate Focal Person, this Program reinforces PPA's commitment to the Tokyo Rules. The Tokyo Rules, also known as the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures states the basic standards that should be present in the use of community-based or out-of-prison treatment of offenders.

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Photos By: Metrobytes PPA-NCR

He explained that the integration of offenders into society should be in a way that lowers the likelihood of a return to crime. The rehabilitation of offenders, he said, should be within the principle of minimum intervention, which the Program addresses.

Using the CARAT, the needs of clients are determined through a series of carefully crafted questions, and the right treatment approach is identified. Based on their answers, they may undergo Hulagpos, or receive I-CARE or LEAP.

The use of the Program is promising, said CPPO Capili. Findings presented by Dr. Raymund E. Narag, a UNODC consultant, showed that 60% of clients don't need any treatment at all. With the effort, resources, and time focused on the 40% who need it, probation officers become more effective and efficient in their jobs.

By 2026 the Program will roll out nationwide as planned. But to make sure that the tools are reliable and valid, the PEPPIS is expanded to all regions in the country from the few selected pilot sites. Administrator Bienvenido O. Benitez, Jr. issued Memorandum Order No. 29, series of 2024 directing all heads of the regional offices to nominate additional pilot sites. For regions without pilot sites, the regional head may nominate at least three field offices up to 50% of the field offices. Meanwhile, for regions with pilot sites, the regional head may either nominate 50% or include all its field offices. This is crucial to collecting more data for validating the Investigation and Supervision Program. ###

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PPA Joins Kapihan sa Bagong Pilipinas



Photos By: Philippine Information Agency

Effective and fair administration of justice. This was the central theme of episode 14 of Kapihan sa Bagong Pilipinas.

On August 27, 2024, the Department of Justice and its attached agencies' regional heads guested on the program. It was aired via Radyo ng Bayan and streamed on PIA's social media pages.

Aside from the Parole and Probation Administration, other government bureaus joined the series. These are the National Prosecution Service, the Bureau of Immigration, LRA, NBI, and the Public Attorney's Office.

The coordinated simulcast aligned with the President's directive to inform the public of the government's programs and projects at the grassroots level.

The PPA through the Regional Directors and Regional Officers-in-Charge presented the ongoing programs, activities, and achievements specific to their regions.

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Photos By: Philippine Information Agency

Some important topics they discussed were PPA's role in decongesting jails and preserving peace and public safety, the multipronged approach to rehabilitating clients that utilizes the Therapeutic Community Ladderized Program, Restorative Justice, and Volunteer Probation Assistants.

Kapihan provided the opportunity for the regional heads to shed light on the process of investigating petitioners for probation or parole. Probation officers thoroughly investigate before submitting the result to the courts or the Board of Pardons and Parole (BPP). They verify their legal qualifications and suitability - if they fit the community. The courts or the BPP then grant or deny the requests of the petitioners.

The Agency's digitalization and modernization efforts were also discussed. CMIS or Case Management Information System and PMEIS or Performance Monitoring and Evaluation System were tackled. Other modalities such as the Livelihood and Education Access Program (LEAP), Hulagpos, and iCARE under the Principles of Effective Probation and Parole Investigation and Supervision (PEPPIS) were likewise explained. These tools would further improve and modernize the individualized treatment of clients.

An effort on a national scale started this synchronized activity. In July, Administrator Bienvenido O. Benitez, Jr. joined the launching of the DOJ Town Hall Meet. The Meet featured the Katarungan Caravan in Dasmariñas, Cavite. Justice Secretary Jesus Crispin Remulla and the Undersecretaries led the event.

The Kapihan sa Bagong Pilipinas is a weekly series that airs every Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. It is organized by the Presidential Communications Office through the Philippine Information Agency. ###

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Mid-Year Assessment, Updates, and Seminar: Highlights of the 3rd Quarter ExeCon

The 3rd Quarter Executive Conference of Directors and Division Chiefs began with a Planning, Programming, and Budgeting seminar. Mr. Ryan C. Thomas from the Office for Alternative Dispute Resolution was the resource speaker.

During the ExeCon proper the next day, Administrator Bienvenido O. Benitez, Jr. led the meeting with all the Directors and Division Chiefs present. The agendas focused on assessing the Agency's first-semester performance, disbursements and allotments, updates on internal quality audits, and pilot implementation of the Classification and Risk Assessment Tool (CARAT).

PPA-Region 1 ROIC Wilfred D. Gonnay hosted the quarterly conference from September 16-20, 2024, at Ynad's Place Hotel and Resort in San Fernando City, La Union.

Despite their hectic schedule, the officials headed by Administrator Benitez paid a courtesy call to Representative Dante S. Garcia and Provincial Vice Governor Mario Eduardo C. Ortega, who expressed their support for the Agency.

Meanwhile, Vice Mayor Manuel Victor R. Ortega, Jr. and Executive Assistant IV Justo H. Orros III from the Office of the Provincial Governor graced the event. ###

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*The host region, Region 1
headed by ROIC Wilfred
D. Gonnay (center)*

Gearing up for Compliance: Central Office Submits to Several Audits

In the past months, the Central Office has undergone several audits by oversight agencies such as the Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) and Internal Audit Service (IAS) of the Department of Justice. The purpose was to check the Agency's compliance with laws and regulations, the performance of operating and support services, and conformance to identified standards.



Audit by DOJ-IAS

Apart from the QMS Internal Quality Audit, the Central Office was also assessed by the IAS. The evaluation was scheduled randomly from July 1 to September 16, 2024. Internal Auditor IV Eva Mempin, Internal Auditor III Grace Asuncion Nolong, and Internal Auditor I Jonell Detablan conducted the face-to-face inspection and interview.

Like the QMS audit, the IAS began with an opening meeting with the Administrator and Division Chiefs. The on-site visit of offices and units followed after that. After several days, the DOJ-IAS started the formal assessment by requiring the submission of documentary evidence. The Central Office was given one week to comply. The auditors reviewed these documents before notifying the Administration of their in-person interview. For more than a week, the IAS verified the Agency's compliance with laws, personnel and structure, planning, efficiency of operations, and performance of units.

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After over a week, the auditors returned for the closing meeting on September 25, 2024. During the meeting, Internal Audit Service Director IV Arnold Joseph Co and the three auditors presented the result of their evaluation. The IAS noted five Audit Observation Bulletins (AOB). Once these AOBs are addressed, PPA's internal control system and conformance to the identified standards would be strengthened even more.



Audit by ARTA

Meanwhile, the Anti-Red Tape Authority visited the Central Office on September 11, 2024, for an ocular inspection. Ms. Ma. Christine B. Camata, and Ms. Jeanette C. Sanson from ARTA checked the Agency's compliance with the provisions of Republic Act 11032 also known as the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018. The auditors went to the Case Management and Records Division and the Technical Services Division.

Based on their monitoring checklist, PPA complied with all the reportorial requirements. However, for the Information Billboard and Handbook compliance, ARTA listed three recommendations or required actions. In the end, ARTA recognized the Agency's four good practices. These are wearing the ARTA ID, nameplates on desks, use of the Harmonized Client Satisfaction Survey Form, and one signatory on certificates. ###

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***Limang Haligi ng Katarungan.***

The Provincial Government of Bulacan headed by Governor Daniel N. Fernando organized the 30th Anniversary Celebration of Limang Haligi ng Katarungan on August 9, 2024.

Atty. Bienvenido O. Benitez, Jr. attended the event as a guest of honor representing the Parole and Probation Administration. Chief Probation Officers Isagani P. Villena and Cesar D. Lopez, Jr. of Bulacan PPO No. 1 and 2, and other Agency heads were also present during the momentous event held at the Pavilion, Hiyas ng Bulacan Convention Center, City of Malolos, Bulacan.

**Comprehensive Course on Mediation-Conciliation.**

The Restorative Justice practitioners and grievance committee members underwent the 40-hour course from August 12 to 16, 2024, at the OADR Academy in Quezon City.

The training was a collaboration between the Parole and Probation Administration and the Office for Alternative Dispute Resolution (OADR).



Region 8's 4th VPA Summit and Stakeholders' Awards Night

This year's Summit, 106 VPAs from all 12 field offices attended a night of fellowship and recognition on July 8, in Palo, Leyte. Regional Officer-in-Charge Ma. Beverly D. Ampo and ARD-OIC Lovella C. Libertad spearheaded this meaningful occasion.

Administrator Bienvenido O. Benitez, Jr. thanked the VPAs for their selfless acts and for helping administer the Agency's rehabilitation program.

Gracing the event were Honorable Mayor Gina Merilo of the Municipality of Tanauan, Leyte and representatives from different government agencies who are partners of PPA Region 8. Administrator Bienvenido O. Benitez, Jr. acknowledged their partnership and support to the Agency.



PPA Joins 1st DOJ Town Hall Meet.

Administrator Bienvenido O. Benitez, Jr. participated in the DOJ Town Hall Meet on July 4, 2024, at Dasmariñas Arena, Dasmariñas, Cavite.



Region 2's VPA 4th Regional Congress: Bringing Family and Community as One.

Volunteer Probation Assistants (VPA) from the different field offices in the Cagayan Valley Region (Region 2) participated in the recently concluded 4th Regional Congress organized by Parole and Probation Administration-Regional Office 2 with Vice-Governor Julius Ceasar S. Vaquilar gracing the regionwide event as the guest speaker.

Taking place at the Capitol Gymnasium, San Marcos in Cabarroguis on May 23, 2024, VPAs joined the dialogue/open forum with PPA officials headed by Administrator Bienvenido O. Benitez, Jr. and Regional Director Benita L. Maramag. Likewise, during the Congress, VPAs were awarded a Certificate of Recognition for their unwavering support to the noble cause of rehabilitation and supervision of probationers, parolees and pardonees. Meanwhile, the newly-elected VPAs who took their oath witnessed by fellow volunteers, PPA officials and employees was also the highlight of the Congress.



126th Philippine Independence Day Celebration at the Rizal Park, Manila.

On June 12, 2024, in commemoration of the 126th Philippine Independence Day, representatives of the Parole and Probation Administration joined the symbolic Flag-Raising Ceremony and wreath-laying rites held at Rizal Park led by President Ferdinand R Marcos, Jr.

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