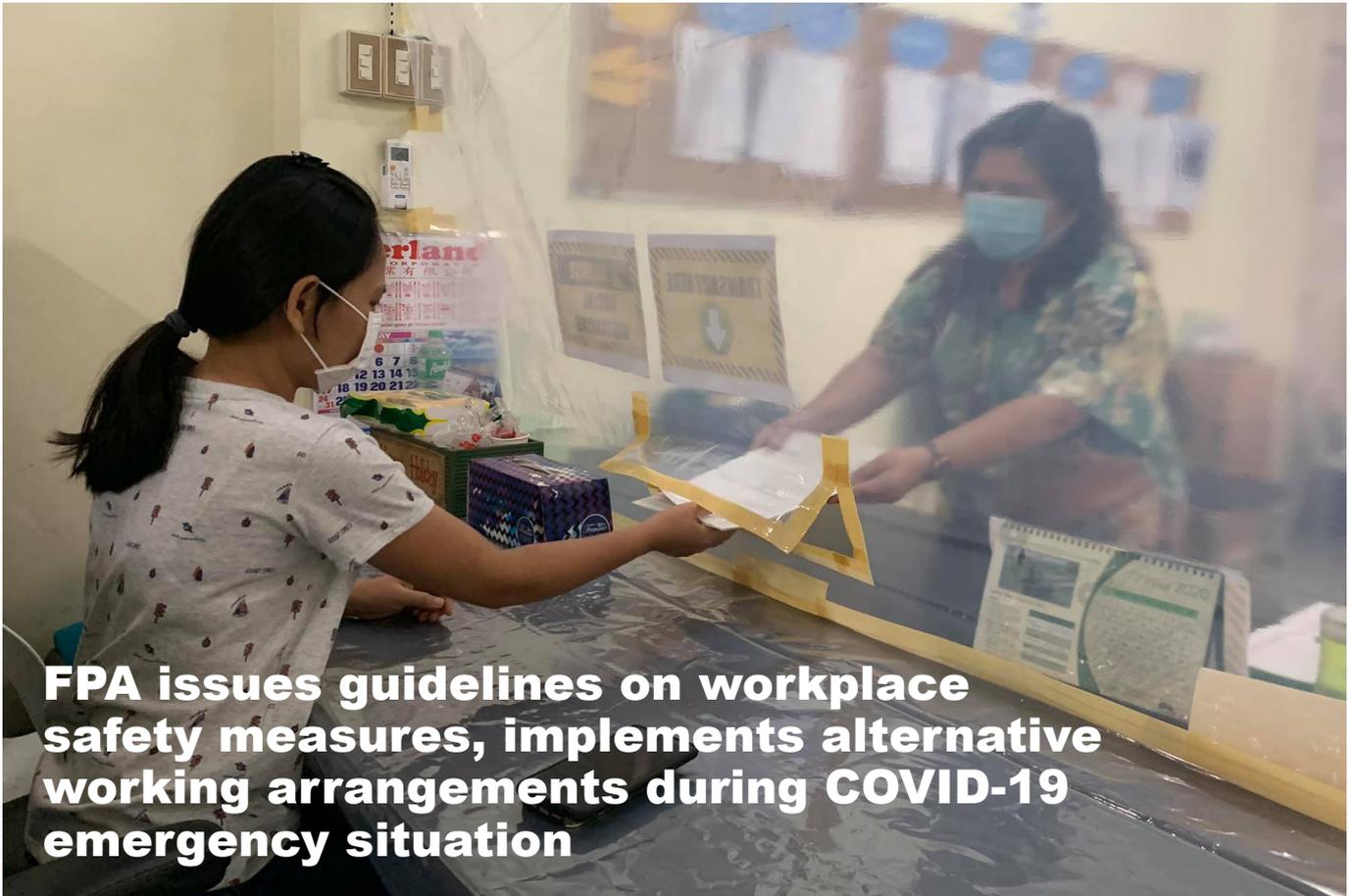




# THE FPA BULLETIN

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE FERTILIZER AND PESTICIDE AUTHORITY

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## FPA issues guidelines on workplace safety measures, implements alternative working arrangements during COVID-19 emergency situation

To ensure the safety of fertilizer and pesticide industry stakeholders and FPA employees during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) issued Memorandum Circular No. 12 series of 2020 or the 'Guidelines on Food Safety Measures for Agricultural Frontliners for the Handling of Fertilizers, Pesticides and Other Agricultural Chemicals and Related Activities,' on 21 May.

This is in compliance to the DA's directives on food safety measures for agricultural frontliners in relation to the agency's commodity specified under the Food Safety Act of 2013.

The guidelines directs FPA stakeholders and employees to strictly comply with the "Interim Guidelines on 2019 Novel Corona Virus Acute Respiratory Disease (2019 NCOV-ARD) Response in the Workplace" issued by the Department of Health (DOH), which provides the guidance for the prevention, containment and mitigation of COVID-19.

Such workplace safety measures includes the implementation of social distancing; wearing of masks, face shields and Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs); provision of alcohols

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# FPA receives Certificate of FOI Compliance from PCOO



**The FPA received a Certificate of Compliance from the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) for fulfilling the FOI requirements as provided under Executive Order No. 2, series of 2016 signed by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte on July 23, 2016.**

The same requirement was also stipulated under Section 5.5 b of Memorandum Circular No. 2019-1, issued by the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Harmonization of National Government Performance Monitoring, Information and Reporting Systems.

The achievement was attained after the FPA submitted its (1) FOI Agency Manual that details the internal FOI guidelines and defines the roles and

responsibilities of designated agency personnel (FOI Champion, Decision-Maker/s and Receiving Officer/s) to handle FOI requests; (2) the Agency Information Inventory that provides the scope and limitations of the types of information which can be requested from the agency; (3) the FOI Standard Form which is the standard form for all FOI requests submitted to agencies covered under Section 2 of the EO; and, (4) the Standard FOI Registry which serves as the basis for measuring agency performance and compliance alongside FOI analytics.

The FOI program is being enforced in all government agencies and public institutions based on the constitutional right to information as stated in Section 28, Article II of

the 1987 Constitution on the “state policy to full public disclosure of all its transactions,” except for sensitive information and matters affecting national security.

The FOI, as a government mechanism, allows Filipino citizens to request any information about the government transactions and operations, provided that it shall not put into jeopardy privacy and matters of national security. eFOI, on the other hand, is the online FOI platform that is available to select agencies, providing an alternative avenue for Filipinos to file their requests for information. The FOI rules and exceptions also apply to the eFOI platform.

## FPA GADFPS spearheads various activities for every Juan and Juana



The FPA Gender and Development Focal Point System (FPA GADFPS) spearheaded various activities to promote gender sensitivity and empowerment in the workplace for the first quarter of 2020.

During the Valentines day celebration, the team facilitated the activity dubbed “ToGADer Forever” as they serenaded every Juan and Juana of the agency and allowed them to feel the value of togetherness and sharing of happiness.

On March 9, the FPA GADFPS organized the #SerbisyoParaKayJuana which enabled the Central Office employees to avail of the different privileges, services, freebies and discounts offered by partner private organizations. The activity aims to enable every Juana to feel appreciated, supported, and empowered.

Other activities included film showing promoting GAD; Juana Be Fit? to promote healthy-living; and the Lodi Ka Juana which enabled employees to share their messages to the female FPA employee who inspires them.

## FPA celebrates 43rd Anniversary in the virtual space



With the challenges brought by COVID-19 pandemic and in compliance with government protocols to prevent the spread of the virus, the FPA pursued the celebration of its 43rd Anniversary through virtual teleconferencing on 29 May 2020.

In his message, Executive Wilfredo Roldan shared how FPA continues to strengthen its commitment to public service. “As we serve our four pillars of stakeholders namely the industry, the farmers, the academe and the FPA; we aspire to move forward in building an institution that significantly prioritizes the interest of farmers,” he said.

“We encourage our industry partners to go beyond ‘business as usual’ but for them to be our [passionate] partners in serving the agricultural sector.”

He also emphasized the contribution of FPA as frontliner during the COVID-19 emergency situation. “As we all know, we are all affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, with the commitment and resilience of FPA employees, we made it possible to continue serving the public even during times of crisis.”

Dir. Roldan further enumerated the accomplishments of FPA for 2019 which includes the approval of the revised Fertilizer and Pesticide Policies and Implementing Guidelines; LSD’s accreditation as ISO/IEC 17025:2005 from the Philippine Accreditation Bureau; recognition from the Government Quality Management Committee (GQMC) for the successful implementation of ISO 9001:2015; and, the adaption of the revised Citizen Charter.

The virtual conference was joined by FPA employees both from the Central Office and Regional Offices. The agency also extended its acknowledgement to the industry stakeholders who expressed their anniversary greetings through digital posters uploaded in their social media accounts.



March 31, 2020

**WILFREDO C. ROLDAN**  
Executive Director  
Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority  
BAI Compound, Visayas Avenue, Quezon City

ATTENTION: Ms. Elizabeth T. Ramiro  
Chief Administrative Officer  
PBB Focal Person

Dear Executive Director Roldan:

We affirm the **Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA)** for complying with the FY 2018 Performance-Based Bonus (PBB) requirements and qualifying for the grant of the bonus. The summary of the final IATF assessment result is attached.

More than the grant of the performance-based bonus (PBB), we hope that the Results-Based Performance Management System (RBPMS) including its initiative on Streamlining and Process Improvement of Critical Services significantly contributed to strengthening your agency's performance in efficiently providing public services.

## FPA qualifies for 2018 Performance-Based Bonus

**After complying with the FY 2018 Performance-Based Bonus (PBB) requirements and undergoing validation by the Inter-agency Task Force on the Harmonization of National Government Performance Monitoring, Information and Monitoring Systems, the FPA has been found eligible for the grant of FY 2018 Performance-Based Bonus.**

The FY 2018 PBB was measured based on the following indicators: Streamlining and Process Improvement, Support to Operations, Good Governance Conditions, General Administration and Support Services (GASS), Procurement Requirements and Budget Utilization Rate (BUR).

More than the grant of the performance-based bonus (PBB), the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) hopes that the Results-Based Performance Management System (RBPMS) including its initiative on Streamlining and Process Improvement of Critical Services significantly contributed to strengthening FPA's performance in efficiently providing public services.

The Guidelines on the Grant of Performance-Based Bonus for FY 2018 under Executive Order No. 80

series of 2012 and EO No. 201 series of 2016 or the Memorandum Circular 2018- 1 issued by the IATF on 28 May 2018, provides that the grant of PBB aims to tighten the advocacy for intensified public accountability, heightened transparency, stronger fiscal discipline and more efficient government services. The government is leveraging priorities of its Results-Based Performance Management Systems (RBPMS) and its people-centered Performance-Based Incentive System (PBIS) through requirements and conditions aiming to fight corruption, achieve higher citizen satisfaction, and implement a firmer validation process to recognize outstanding performance in government service.

The DBM advised that the evaluation of agency accomplishments for FY 2019 shall be tightened in accordance with the review of your Agency's report on Streamlining and Process Improvement of Critical Services. Additionally, agencies are encouraged to continue efforts in accelerating procurement and timely utilization of approved budgets to properly support their operations and delivery of high-quality services.



## FPA supports Manila Bay Rehabilitation Project

**The Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) through the Fertilizer Regulations Division continues to conduct information campaign and water quality monitoring activities in support to the Manila Bay Rehabilitation Project.**

For the period, the FRD focused its operations in barangays Pilar and Balanga in Bataan and in barangays Calamba, Cabuyao and Pakil in the Province of Laguna. It is in these areas where the Talisay River, Masuaje River, Cabuyao River, San Juan River, and Malaking Ilog runs through and exits to the Manila Bay as the catch basin.

A total of seven information, education and communication (IEC) activities for the farmers and 12 water monitoring activities were conducted. The water quality monitoring is being facilitated before and after the conduct of information dissemination on the safe and judicious use of fertilizer and pesticide. The water samples resulted in obtaining 186 parameters after these were subjected into laboratory analysis.

Water samples collected are being monitored with the following parameters: nitrate, phosphate, zinc, nickel, chromium, copper, lead and pH. Accordingly, water quality can be also affected by other factors that goes beyond use of commercial fertilizer and pesticides like spills from industrial establishments and residential sewages.

The FRD said that the efforts in the information drive to the farmers and the implementation of proper local waste disposal are both essential in providing a scientific basis for improving the water quality or maintaining the current condition of all connected rivers and waterways of the Manila Bay.

Since the launch of the project in 2011, different government agencies involved in the project work collaboratively in an effort to rehabilitate, restore and conserve the Manila Bay. It is being spearheaded by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

## ***FPA issues guidelines on workplace safety measures, implements alternative working arrangements during COVID-19 emergency situation***

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and hand sanitizers; regular workplace disinfection; thermal scanning upon entry of employees and clients; and, the conduct of necessary orientation and training.

These protocols shall be applied during the conduct of field activities such as importation, transport, hauling, delivery, sampling, quality inspection, storage, piling, stacking, display, purchase, sale, use and disposal of fertilizer, pesticide and other agricultural chemicals.

In addition, establishments shall designate a place for deposit and pick-up of parcels and payments to avoid prolonged exposures of buyers. They may also adapt online transactions whenever possible.

The FPA Central Office and its Regional Field Units has already implemented measures such as the installation of plastic sheets in the client queuing/waiting areas and posting of workplace safety reminders in strategic office corners. Moreover, the FPA issued the 'Guidelines on Service Continuity and Precautionary Measures in the Workplace During the Period of State of National Calamity Due to COVID-19 Pandemic' for the adoption of alternative working arrangements.

Alternative Work Arrangement (AWA) includes the implementation of Work-from-Home, Skeleton (Skeletal) Workforce, Four-day (Compressed) Workweek, Staggered Working Hours, and other alternative work in

accordance with CSC Memorandum Circular No. 10, series of 2020.

Given said working set-up, clients and stakeholders are advised to continue transacting with the agency through email, telephone, and social media. They may refer to the directory of FPA Offices at <https://bit.ly/2B7qxry>

On the other hand, when face-to-face interaction is extremely necessary, clients shall secure an appointment with the concerned office or personnel before proceeding to the office to ensure that the person they intend to transact with is available on-site.



### EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Let our voices and stories be heard in this publication. This is your publication, our publication!

We invite all FPA employees to send us your stories, opinions, literary attempts and essays to be published in this publication. Also, we appreciate receiving your suggestions or feedbacks on how we could enhance its contents and design. Kindly send these to [fpacentral77@gmail.com](mailto:fpacentral77@gmail.com) or coordinate with the Information Section of the Planning, Management and Information Division (PMID).

This publication is being produced by the Planning, Management and Information Division (PMID) of the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority, BAI Compound, Visayas Ave., Diliman, Quezon City

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## FPA supports initiatives of DA Bantay Presyo Task Force to go after price freeze violators

As member of the Department of Agriculture Bantay Presyo Task Force, the FPA provided assistance to the Department of Agriculture in the monitoring of the Suggested Retail Price (SRP) and price freeze on agri-fishery products during the implementation of Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) in Metro Manila.

DA Secretary William Dar said that the government is serious to apprehend and file cases against violators of SRP and price freeze if they continue to take advantage of the countrymen particularly during the current state of national emergency.

The task force have enforced appropriate charges to erring retailers, unscrupulous traders and hoarders, for violating the Price Act or R.A. 7581 during their weekly monitoring in different public markets.

The Price Act protects consumers by stabilizing the prices of basic necessities and prime commodities, and by prescribing measures against undue price increases during emergency situations, natural

occurrences or man-made disasters. Further, the price freeze policy is contained under a joint memorandum circular forged by the DA, Department of Trade and Industry, and the Department of Health.

The price freeze covers all persons, including those who sell through the internet or other media. It sets a price ceiling for basic commodities "should the existence or effects of COVID-19 continue to persist beyond the 60-day period."

The FPA have been also submitting to the task force weekly retail prices of fertilizers and quarterly prices for pesticides. The FPA recently submitted the names of personnel as additional members of the task force's Price Monitoring Unit, Price Enforcement Unit, and the Bantay Advisory Committee.

The said different units of the task force has the following functions:

- Price monitoring. Conducts regular monitoring of prices and supply of agricultural

commodities throughout the food supply chain, from the farm and fishing ground to various markets. The team will also analyze price trends, provide basis for establishing SRP or price ceilings, develop a data system on prices, identify and investigate causes of market and price irregularities, and identify Price Act violations and violators;

- Enforcement. Issues a letter of inquiry (LOI) to retailers and traders found violating the SRP. It serves as a fact-finding unit that documents proof of violation, and submits its report to the adjudication team.

- Adjudication. Files appropriate case against against SRP violators, hoarders and profiteers before the proper court.

Violators of the Price Act will be fined between P5,000 and P2 million and face imprisonment between five and 15 years.