

Ilocos Sur Launches 7th Negosyo Center

The DTI – Ilocos Sur launched its 7th Negosyo Center (NC) on November 25, 2016 in the Municipality of Sta. Catalina, Ilocos Sur. Regional Director Florante O. Leal of DTI – Region I was joined by Ilocos Sur Provincial Officials Vice Governor Jerry C. Singson, Board Members Gina Cordero Pe Benito, Ronnie Rapanut, Metro Vigan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Chairperson Dr. Esperanza Lahoz, and Sta. Catalina Mayor Edgar R. Rapanut in the cutting of the ribbon and dedication of the NC.

The Center which is the 22nd in the region, and 388th nationwide will cater to the needs of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) of Sta. Catalina and the nearby municipalities.

The establishment is expected to ease the process of starting and registering small businesses, facilitating development programs, as well as providing capacity building programs to the MSMEs to sustain their operations. It shall also provide relevant information that will improve and develop start-up and existing businesses.



Left photo: Sta. Catalina Mayor Edgar R. Rapanut leads the ribbon cutting during the launching of the Sta. Catalina Negosyo Center. With the Local Chief Executive are Vice-Governor Jeremias Singson, DTI Regional Director Florante O. Leal, SPM Gina Cordero Pe Benito, SPM Ronnie Rapanut, ISMSMEDC Co-Chair Dr. Esperanza R. Lahoz, and DTI Ilocos Sur Provincial Director Grace R. Lapastora.

Right photo: Pastor Novel Pulanco officiates the blessing of the newly launched Sta. Catalina Negosyo Center.

The establishment of the NC Sta. Catalina was made possible through the support of the Local Government Unit headed by Mayor Rapanut which provided the space for the Center. With the support of the LGU and other agencies, the Center is expected to further boost government assistance to the MSMEs who will contribute to the growth of the local economy. (meae)

Fish Processing Training Benefits 4Ps Beneficiaries

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) in collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Sta. Catalina, Ilocos Sur conducted a Basic Skills Training on Fish Processing held on November 18-19, 2016 at Poblacion, Sta. Catalina, Ilocos Sur. Ms. Beatriz Ragon, a fish processing expert commissioned by the University of Northern Philippines Extension Services Office served as the resource person for the said activity. About thirty (30) participants who are 4Ps beneficiaries of Sta. Catalina attended the said activity. Outputs include smoked bangus, bangus in tomato sauce, fish embutido and fish siomai which were showcased during the Sta. Catalina Trade, Agri and Food Fair held on November 22-26, 2016. [cont'd on page 2](#)

Fish Processing Training Benefits ...

The establishment of fish processing project in the Municipality of Sta. Catalina is a joint project among the DTI, DSWD and LGU Sta. Catalina to provide alternative source of livelihood for the 4Ps beneficiaries in the area. DTI provided fish processing tools and equipment under the Shared Service Facility (SSF) Program while the DSWD provided starter kit including packaging and labelling materials to enable the 4Ps beneficiaries start a fish processing venture. The LGU Sta. Catalina provided a building to house the facilities.

"Maraming salamat sa DTI, DSWD at sa LGU Sta. Catalina sa patuloy na pagtulong sa aming mga 4Ps beneficiaries. Ang proyektong ito ay isang patunay na seryoso ang pamahalaan para maiangat ang aming kabuhayan", said Ms. Zenaida P. Rapisura, president of the Sta. Catalina Fish Processors Association, the cooperator of the SSF.

The fish processing center will serve as a readily available market for the fish pond operators and fishermen in Sta. Catalina being the center of the aquamarine industry in Ilocos Sur. (bqp)



Upper photo: Participants are busy bottling the bangus in olive oil, one of the outputs of the training **Lower photo:** PD Grace R. Lapastora orients SPM Pe Benito and SPM Rafanan on the various products of 4Ps being developed by DTI, DSWD and the LGU.



Sta. Catalina Municipal officials headed by Mayor Edgar R. Rapanut assisted by SPM Gina Cordero Pe Benito and SPM Efren Rafanan cut the ribbon during the opening of the Sta. Catalina Trade, Agri and Food Fair. The activity which runs from November 22-26, 2016 is one of the highlights of the annual celebration of the Sta. Catalina Town Fiesta. The fair showcases the various products of the town and other municipalities in Ilocos Sur.



Ms. Ma. Divina Alcasabas and Ms. Rosalinda Lorilla, food safety experts from the Technology Plus Products and Services Consultancy (TPPSC) inspects the building that serves as production center of the veggie noodle and fish processing projects for the 4Ps beneficiaries of Sta. Catalina, Ilocos Sur. DTI commissioned the TPPSC to provide appropriate plant lay-out for the two projects to ensure the manufacture of safe and quality products.

**SERBISYONG
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**NEGOSYO
CENTER**



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