



Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ISABELA
City of Ilagan

Office of the Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 37

Series of 2021

ORGANIZING THE ISABELA PROVINCIAL INTER- AGENCY TASK FORCE FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF RICE BLACK BUG (RBB) AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL PESTS FOLLOWING THE INCREASE IN NUMBER OF REPORTED RBB INFESTATION IN THE PROVINCE

WHEREAS, it is the declared policy of the State to achieve sustainable modern agriculture and food security by helping the agricultural communities to reach their full potential, increasing farmers' incomes, and bridging gaps through significant technology and methodology, thereby improving their quality of life;

WHEREAS, healthy plants serve as the foundation of life, ecosystem functions and food security in which the Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that agricultural production must rise above 60 percent to feed the growing populations in the next thirty years;

WHEREAS, crop pests remain as the major culprits for the loss of global food crops that cost the world's economy around 70 billion US dollars for invasive insect pest alone, and that the existing climate change phenomenon will fundamentally alter the underlying agro-ecosystems through elevated temperatures and carbon levels, leading to adverse changes in crop pest activities, the evolution of new strain of pests and their migrations, thus increasing losses in crops yields and value if not averted;

WHEREAS, Rice Black Bug (RBB) is one of the most difficult pest to manage and is locally known as "*itim na atangya*" or in Ilocano dialect "*nangisit a dangaw*". It is a sap-feeding insect that sucks the plant sap through the stems and nodes near the water surface;

WHEREAS, RBB outbreak is also triggered when there is a relatively small natural enemy complex in the ecosystem, low availability of alternate host in the vicinity of the rice fields, application of high levels of nitrogenous fertilizers and when there is scarcity of quality preferred foods in the area.;

WHEREAS, there is already an alarming infestation of RBB in the Province of Isabela affecting the municipalities of Burgos, San Guillermo, San Mateo, Cabatuan, Roxas, Alicia, Aurora, San Manuel, Mallig, San Agustin and the City of Cauayan, there is a need to implement a holistic approach in preventing the spread of the pestilence and suppressing the same from the already infested locality;

WHEREAS, in order to achieve a successful campaign of pest prevention and suppression an effective, efficient, and sustainable crop pest management system is vital and the organization of a an Inter- Agency Task Force specifically for this purpose is essential;

WHEREAS, it is the duty of the Provincial Government of Isabela, as provided for in Republic Act 7160 or the Local Government Code, to carry out emergency measures as may be necessary before, during and in the aftermath of disasters and calamities;

WHEREAS, Section 465 in relation to Section 16 of Republic Act 7160 also known as the Local Government Code of 1991 empowers the Local Chief Executive to carry out measures for the faithful and appropriate enforcement and execution of laws and ordinances;

NOW THEREFORE, I, **FAUSTINO G. DY III**, OIC- Governor of Isabela, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby decree the following:

Section 1. Organization. There is hereby organized an Isabela Provincial Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Rice Black Bug (RBB) and other Agricultural Pests (Isabela PIATF- RBB).

Section 2. Composition. Isabela Provincial Inter- Agency Task Force for the Management of Rice Black Bug (RBB) and other Agricultural Pests, to wit:

Chairperson : *Hon. Rodolfo T. Albano III*
Governor

Vice Chairperson: *Hon. Faustino G. Dy III*
Vice Governor

Action Person: *Dr. Marites E. Frogoso. DPA*
Provincial Agriculturist

Members: *Hon. Arnold S. Bautista*
Federation President
League of Municipalities-Isabela

Hon. Adrian Philip S. Baysac
Committee on Agriculture
Ex- Officio Member- Sangguniang Panlalawigan

Hon. Dante G. Halaman
LNB Federation President
Ex- Officio Member- Sangguniang Panlalawigan

League President
Isabela League of Municipal Agricultural Officers,
Municipal and City Agriculturists of the Philippines

Representative
Department of Agriculture

Representative
Regional Crop Pest Management Center -DA

Representative
PHILRICE

Dr. Ricmar P. Aquino, Ph.D.
Isabela State University

Representative
Farmers Organization

As may be necessary, the Task Force may call on other relevant government agencies, private and farmer's organization as additional permanent members, subject to the approval of the Office of the Governor.

The Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPA) shall provide secretariat support to the Task Force.

Section 3. Functions. The Isabela Provincial Inter- Agency Task Force for the Management of Rice Black Bug (RBB) and other Agricultural Pests shall have the following functions;

- a. Serve as the overall and provincial body to ensure whole-of-government implementation, monitoring and controlling the increase in population of RBB and other crop pest in the province.
- b. Expedite and lead the preparation and implementation of control measures for infested areas aligned with the provincial government's agricultural objectives and agenda.
- c. Ensure implementation, availability and adequacy of key interventions such as but not limited to conservation and deployment of beneficial insects, intermittent irrigation with at least 10-12 cm during maximum tillering to heading stages at 3 days interval, herding of ducks in the field, removal of weeds, plowing under of heavily infested field immediately after harvest and submerging stubbles under water until these decompose, provision of biological control agents- *Metharizium anisopliae* and other insecticide/pesticide known to be effective against RBB , synchronous planting of varieties with the same maturity; direct seeding of rice crop; use of resistant or tolerant variety; and regular monitoring of the rice crop for presence of egg, nymph and adult RBB and the use of light trapping technology.
- d. In coordination with other government and private agencies initiate programs that will help farmers recover their losses in case of destructive infestation;
- e. Introduce, and if possible, strengthen or expand agricultural activities that will help lessen the infestation of RBB and other agricultural pests in close partnership with the relevant government agency;
- f. Create committees or technical working group based on identified needs and desired outcomes and call on other government agencies, LGUs and partner stakeholders to participate therein;
- g. Strengthen the institutional knowledge and expertise of LGUs on Pest control and management thru massive tri-media and social media dissemination;
- h. Formulate protocols, specific timelines, and undertake activities necessary to carry out the objectives of this Order; and
- i. Perform such other functions as may be directed by the Governor;

Section 4. Whole-of-society. The Task Force shall consult and engage affected communities and farmer organizations in the crafting, implementation and evaluation of the various control and management protocols, rehabilitation and recovery programs and projects to be implemented pursuant to this order.

Section 5. Reports. The Task Force shall submit to the Governor, a quarterly report on the implementation of this Order, and publish an annual report on its accomplishments, including projects and programs implemented and budget utilized.

Section 6. Support and Assistance. All government agencies, as well as state colleges and universities in the province of Isabela, and LGUs are hereby enjoined, to provide the necessary support and assistance to the Task Force in the implementation of this order.

Section 7. Funding. All expenses pertaining to the operation of the Task Force shall be sourced from available funds of the Provincial Government and all funding necessary for the implementation of the programs and interventions subject to the usual budgeting, accounting and auditing laws, rules and regulations;

Section 8. Repealing Clause. All orders and issuances inconsistent with the provisions of this order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 9. Separability Clause. In the event that any section, paragraph, sentence, clause, or word of this order is declared invalid for any reason, other provisions thereof shall not be affected thereby.

Section 10. Effectivity. This order shall take effect immediately and let copies hereof be provided to all concerned for their information, reference, and guidance.

Done in the City of Ilagan, Isabela, November 23, 2021.


FAUSTINO G. DY III
OIC- Governor