

[News] The poverty that rose in Batangas

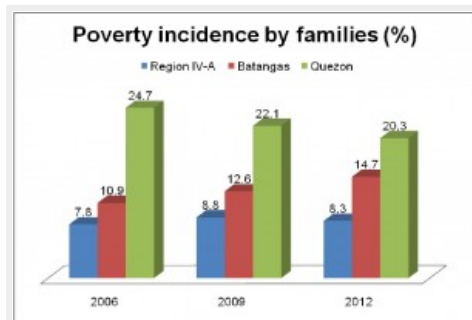
December 30, 2013 by **JEREMIAH M. OPINIANO**

LIPA CITY—There is something hidden in the sprawling factories and in the malls of Batangas.

It is poverty, and as the country's statistical authorities had released the 2012 poverty incidence figures recently, poverty incidence in one of Calabarzon region's economic hubs went up.

The triennial Family Income and Expenditures Survey (FIES) conducted by the National Statistics Office (NSO) showed that 2012 poverty incidence figures among Batangueño households rose to 14.7 percent, higher than the 12.6 percent incidence in 2009 and the 10.9 percent figure in 2006.

Not only that: The number of poor families in Batangas rose by some 62 percent in 2012.



Source: National Statistical Coordination Board / National Statistics Office

Figures for poverty incidence among individuals also moved upward: from 14.4 percent in 2006 to 19 percent in 2012. The figures translate to 301,261 poor individuals in 2006, then the number rose to 452,808 in 2012.

The Philippines, for its part, saw poverty incidence among families slightly go down to 19.7 percent in 2012. Poverty incidence among families was pegged at 21 percent six years ago.

As for individuals, the number of poor Filipinos slightly went down to 25.2 percent in 2012. But the number of poor Filipinos in 2012 was at 23.745 million, from 23.3 million in 2009.

"The poverty incidence for the population is higher than the corresponding figure for families because the poor tend to have larger family sizes than the rest of the population," said Dr. Jose Ramon Albert, secretary-general of the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB).

The period between 2006 and 2012 was a period when the Philippines implemented a major anti-poverty program called Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), or the conditional cash transfer (CCT) that is being done in other developing countries.

On the part of Batangas, the governorship of Vilma Santos-Recto had implemented what the three-term provincial government calls HEARTS —health, education, agriculture, roads, tourism and security.

Regionally, Batangas is second to Quezon province in terms of poverty incidence for both families and individuals.

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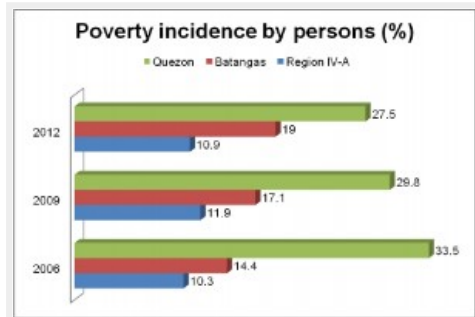
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Source: National Statistical Coordination Board / National Statistics Office

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