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## DOST Helps Vigan Processed Meat Owner Fulfill Her Dream

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Cristeta F Cheng, owner of Ayen's Food Products in Vigan City is grateful for the improved quality of her meat products after DOST's aid. The food grade machines and packaging materials enabled her to produce more in terms of quantity and quality.

With DOST's aid, her workers finish their jobs fast, giving them additional time to produce more than before. This led to increase in sales and deliveries. And the fulfillment of her dreams.

### Ayen's meet DOST SETUP, receives PhP350,000 project

Ayen's meat processing was done manually. It was tedious, time consuming. Food safety measures were compromised and volume of production was limited. The finished products were inappropriately labeled and packaged. They are less attractive to buyers compared to similar products in the market. However these concerns need additional investment on production facilities, equipment and supplies.



Ayen's availed of DOST SETUP because it was financially incapable for this upgrading. SETUP is the Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program of DOST.

SETUP's assistance includes the acquisition of appropriate packaging materials and production equipment such as, stainless steel manual meat stuffer, stainless steel meat mixer, stainless steel meat grinder, and stainless steel working table.

The firm also received other assistance like appropriate plant layout design, subsidized label designing for longanisa, embutido and shanghai rolls and training on Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), occupational health and safety and financial management.

As equity to the project, Mrs. Cheng built a new and better production area for its meat processing.

### Processed Meats Galore

The customers of Ayen's are now satisfied because their demands are completely met, unlike before when they were short of deliveries during peak seasons. Ms Cheng said that the new machine enables her and her workers to produce fast. "The operation is more consistent now. We have more advantage compared to other businesses in the community."

Ayen's processed meats products include vigan longanisa, embotido and shanghai rolls. Ms. Cheng ensures the quality of her products by purchasing good quality of raw materials. The taste is consistent because all the ingredients are measured.

She has three workers including her husband who does the purchasing of materials. She does the mixing of ingredients. Her helpers do the rest of the job such as stuffing, sealing and packaging.

For big orders, customers have to place orders in advance to give time for production. During low seasons production continues in preparation for the peak season.

'I chose this type of business because food is a basic need of everyone' Ms Cheng quipped. She plans to expand her business and dreams to go nationwide if God permits.

Now it is improving with the combined efforts of the DOST and her part. Plus patience, hard work and focus, too.

### Good manufacturing practices

To improve the quality of her products she trained her workers by giving them lessons on current good manufacturing practices (GMP) which she learned from DOST through seminars. Strictly she demands consistency in their working habits. She makes sure that her workers comply with her rules.

She is thankful for GMP as it helps to maintain the good quality of her products. The continuous monitoring of DOST is well appreciated. It gives her constant updates. "This is one way of uplifting the lives of residents. DOST has the heart to reach out for us who are in need of their assistance," she gratefully shares.

### Advice in starting own business

For those who want to start their own business, patience, hard work and focus is important. Always believe in what you do and be optimistic always. For those who want to avail of the DOST program, she advises, "do not be afraid to gather information and ask government establishments on their different programs."

She narrated that based on experience, at first, they were really at a lost whom to go, until finally somebody told them where to. We finally ended at the right agency which is the DOST.

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