**FFF HOLDS 2019 NATIONAL PLANNING CONFERENCE**

The Federation of Free Farmers (FFF) held its annual National Planning Conference and Convention on March 26 to 29, 2019 in Diliman, Quezon City.

 Ruben D. Presilda of Mindoro Occidental and Dioscoro A. Granada of Davao were re-elected President and Secretary-General, respectively. Leonardo Q. Montemayor retained his position of Chairman of the National Policy Board.

 The Board reaffirmed the FFF’s affiliation as founding member with the National Trade Union Center (NTUC) of the Philippines.

 The Board also decided to strengthen its programs for women and the youth. Appointed head of the FFF Women’s Department is Susan Llamido (who currently is vice-chairman of the NTUC Women’s Committee). Jason Gabinez was named was head of the Youth Department.

 The Board unanimously approved a resolution to oppose the re-election of Senator Cynthia A. Villar for gravely undermining farmers’ welfare by spearheading the Rice Tariffication/Import Liberalization and Industry Deregulation Act and blocking the passage of bills that would establish the Coconut Levy/Development Trust Fund, provide for a comprehensive National Land and Water Use Policy, and strengthen the Philippine crop insurance system.

 The FFF further accused Villar of violating “conflict of interest” rules by chairing three Senate Committees (Agriculture, Agrarian Reform and Environment and Natural Resources) which impact directly on her personal and family interests in the real estate, housing and other sectors.