

# AGRARIAN

DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM

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FEBRUARY 1

## Pangasinan military and police veterans seek DAR assistance to qualify as agrarian reform beneficiaries

URDANETA CITY, Pangasinan — Pangasinan military and police veterans have sought the assistance of the Department of Agrarian Reform through Regional Director Maria Ana B. Francisco to discuss the possibility of becoming an agrarian reform beneficiary

(ARB) under the government’s comprehensive agrarian reform program (CARP). Francisco said that section 40 of the amended Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law, lists landless veterans, retirees, surrenderers, and other similar beneficiaries as those

who shall be considered potential land awardees under the CARP. President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., in his State of the Nation Address (SONA) last year also ordered the distribution of 52,000 hectares of unused government agricultural lands, under Executive Order (EO)

No. 75, series of 2019, to qualified ARBs. EO 75 directs the identification of all idle government-owned lands (GOL) which are dedicated or suitable for agriculture for distribution to qualified ARBs. “Secretary Conrado Estrella III

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# Pangasinan military and police veterans seek DAR assistance to qualify as agrarian reform beneficiaries

has directed us to speed up the identification and validation of idle government-owned lands so we can distribute these the soonest possible time,” Francisco said.

The DAR issued a memorandum last January directing all DAR regional and provincial officers to start processing applications of retired personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine National Police, rebel-returnees, and agricultural graduates.

“This memorandum was issued because the DAR has been receiving numerous requests from these applicants seeking assistance to become or be identified as a potential ARB. We will be following rules and guidelines set by the government to know if these applicants are qualified,” Francisco said.

The government veterans, headed

by Deputy Chief of Police Major Rommel Sembrano of the Urdaneta Police Office, along with the AFP and PNP retirees, saw the announcement on the DAR’s Official Facebook account instructing government veterans, rebel-returnees, and agriculture graduates, to visit any DAR offices near them to find out if they are qualified to become an ARB. Francisco informed the applicants that the provincial office is accepting applications for the program, but there are presently no identified government-owned lands suited for agriculture and distribution in Pangasinan.

All interested applicants were encouraged to visit the Legal Division before applying for the program so they can first be oriented on the Department’s policy on land acquisition and distribution.



Urdaneta City, Pangasinan



Urdaneta City, Pangasinan

## FEBRUARY 2

# 548 CARAGA AGRARIAN REFORM BENEFICIARIES RECEIVE LAND TITLES

A total of 548 agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) in the Caraga region finally received their land titles as officials from the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) distributed certificates of landownership award (CLOA), and electronic titles, covering 634,298.0 hectares of agricultural land.

The land titles, located in the provinces of Surigao del Norte, with 301,627.9 hectares; Agusan del Norte, 194,800.9 hectares; and Dinagat Island, with 137,869.2 hectares were distributed by the DAR officials on Wednesday, February 1, 2023, in PhilRice Romualdez, Agusan del Norte.

Emma Servande, one of the land title recipients, said that this would be a big boost in improving their economic lives.

“We are more inspired to make these lands become more productive, especially since we know that it is now actually ours. We believe that DAR would continue to support us in enriching these lands,” she said.

The electronic titles given to other ARBs were provided under the Support to Parcelization of Land Titles (SPLIT) Project, which aims to subdivide lands previously awarded with collective CLOAs and issue individual land titles to the ARBs.

The SPLIT Project would strengthen the property rights of the ARBs to the lands awarded to them under collective ownership.

Atty. Kazel Celeste, DAR Undersecretary for Field Operations Office, said the DAR’s support to the farmers does not end in land distribution, as President Ferdinand Marcos Jr, has directed the department, through DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III, to uplift the lives of the farmers by providing them with various support services to help them improve their lives.

“Aside from the provision of various

infrastructures, farm machinery and equipment, farm inputs, and training, the department is in continuous coordination and dialogue with the lawmakers to seek ways on how to make your lives better,” she said.

Celeste divulged that the DAR officials are currently working out to make the lands given to all the farmers free from amortization.

After the distribution of land titles, the DAR also turned over various machinery and equipment to agrarian reform beneficiaries’ organizations in the region.





# GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, LGUS CONVERGE TO BOOST FARMERS' LIVES IN SARANGANI AND GENSAN

Seven (7) government agencies and nine (9) local government units (LGUs) have crafted a convergence plan that would benefit the agrarian reform beneficiary (ARB) members belonging to 113 agrarian reform beneficiaries' organizations (ARBOs) in Sarangani and General Santos City. Mariannie S. Lauban-Baunto, Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Soccsksargen Director, said the agency had joined forces with the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) who all agreed to provide essential support services to the ARBs in the area.

Baunto said that this event is in line with the directive of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., to DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III, to improve the livelihood of the farmers throughout the country by providing them with different support services such as farm machinery, farm inputs, agricultural technologies, and training, among others.

"These agencies have committed to sharing their resources to help uplift the lives of our farmers and promote sustainable development in the countryside," she said.

The representatives who presented their programs and projects that would benefit the ARBs in the area include Doreen Ancheta, CDA Regional Director; Elisa Gabi, PCA Regional Director; Jocelyn Misterio, DA Regional Director; Forester Nabil A. Hadji Yassin, DOST Acting Provincial Director; Karen Cariga, DENR Supervising Ecosystems Management Specialist; and Hazel Daze Flores, DTI Development Specialist.

Representatives from the 9 LGUs acknowledged the significant contributions of the DAR for the realization of the project, as they commit to support the convergence plan and assured the agencies involved of their support in delivering the support services to their respective constituents.

The LGUs include the provincial government of Sarangani, General Santos City, and municipal LGUs of Sarangani, Alabel, Glan, Kiamba, Maasim, Malapatan, and Malungon.



# SURIGAO DEL SUR ARBS RECEIVE PHP208.98-MILLION INFRA FACILITIES, LAND TITLES

A total of 125 agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) in Surigao del Sur, received on Thursday, February 2, 2023, from the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), eight (8) farm-to-market roads and a bridge, with a total cost of Php208.98-million, and land titles covering 222.10 hectares to improve their lives and boost the agriculture sector in the area.

The roads are located in the towns of Barobo, with a total cost Php50-million; two (2) roads in San Miguel, costing Php30-million and Php27.6-million respectively; Madrid Php27.2-million; Carmen, Php20.8-million; Cagwait, Php20.4-million and two (2) roads in Tago both Php12-million.

A bridge, implemented under the Tulay ng Pangulo para sa Kaunlarang Pang-Agraryo (TPKP), worth Php8.98-million, was also turned over in the town of Madrid. The interventions for the farmers are in line with the directives of President R. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III, to strengthen the agricultural sector in the country.

Prodenacia Tingabgab, an ARB from Tagbina, said the overwhelming support of the government to their community and the province will play a big part in improving their lives.

"We can now have easy access and cheaper transportation costs to bring

our agricultural products to various markets and trading centers," she said.

Atty. Milagros Isabel Cristobal, DAR Undersecretary for Support Services Office, who led the distribution of infrastructure facilities said that these would not only help the ARBs in their livelihood activities but also would boost the agriculture sector in the province.

"I hope that with this support you receive, you can sustain producing and serving food to your fellowmen and contribute to the improvement of the local economy," she said.

The land titles that were distributed to the ARBs were from the towns of Cagwait, Marihatag, San Miguel, Tago, Lianga Barobo, Hinatuan and Tagbina, and from the cities of Tandag and Bislig.

Atty. Kazel Celeste, DAR Field Operations Office Undersecretary, said the assistance of the DAR to the ARBs does not end in land distribution as the agency will continue to provide them with other necessary support services.

"After you receive the lands, we would ensure that your newly-acquired properties become more productive to help you improve your economic lives," she said.

The DAR also turned over Php567,200 worth of farm equipment and farm inputs to the ARBs during the ceremony.





# SOUTHERN LEYTE FARMERS AND RESIDENTS BENEFIT FROM PHP8.5 MILLION TULAY NA PANGULO PROJECT

A total of 29,149 residents including 4,759 agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) from the Hinunangan agrarian reform community (ARC), in Hinunangan, Southern Leyte, will now have easier access to transport their agricultural products to the nearest markets, with the completion of the Php8.5-million bridge under the Tulay ng Pangulo Para sa Kaunlarang Pang-Agraryo (TPKP) project.

The TPKP project is facilitated by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), in close coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH). Victorio Dagohoy, President of Barangay Ilaya Kikoy Farmers Association (BIKFA) expressed his gratitude to the government and said that the newly constructed bridge would be a big help not only in bringing their products to the market but also during emergency disaster evacuation cases.

“Thank you very much. You can expect that we would take care of this bridge so we can benefit much longer from the project,” Dagohoy said.

Atty. Kazel C. Celeste, DAR

Undersecretary for Field Operations Office (FOO), and Rene E. Colocar Assistant Secretary for Special Projects under the Foreign Assisted and Special Projects Office (FASPO), led the inauguration and turnover of the said bridge to Atty. Marian Donayre-Pelin, Hinunangan Municipal Vice Mayor.

Celeste said that DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III, will provide more support services to the farmers upon the directive made by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.

“The Secretary’s intention is to link the remotest barangays or villages to the town and market proper, so that farmers can feel that they belong and play a big role in nation-building,” Celeste said.

Atty. Robert Anthony P. Yu, DAR Eastern Visayas regional director said the 22.80 linear meter two-lane bridge will benefit seventeen (17) barangays and one (1) sitio namely: Calag-itan, Calinao, Catublian, Ilaya, Ingan, Libas, Lumbog, Manlico, Matin-ao, Nava, Nueva Esperanza, Palongpong, Patong, Pondol, Sto, Niño II. Tuburan, Upper Bantawon, and Sitio Tabjon.



# 16,888 ARBs receive individual e-titles under Project SPLIT

A total of 16,888 agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) nationwide had already received their individual electronic land titles (e-tiles) nationwide under the Department of Agrarian Reform’s (DAR) Support to Parcelization of Lands for Individual Titling or Project SPLIT.

Engr. Joey Sumatra, DAR Assistant Secretary for Field Operations Office and concurrent SPLIT national director revealed on Monday, February 6, 2023, that the said ARBs received a total of 18,802 e-titles covering 23,898 hectares of agricultural lands nationwide.

The World Bank-funded SPLIT project aims to improve land tenure security and stabilize the property rights of some 1.14 million ARBs nationwide covering 1.37 million hectares of land, by subdividing the previously distributed collective certificates of land ownership award (CCLOAs), and turning them into individual land titles for distribution to

qualified ARBs.

Sumatra bared that they have already validated 522,688 hectares out of the 591,572 hectares funded for parcelization, representing an accomplishment of 88 percent, covering 50,249 of previously distributed CCLOAs.

Sumatra, however, clarified that these newly validated agricultural lands are still subject to re-documentation to complete the required documents for each ARB for submission to the Registry of Deeds (RODs) for eventual registration.

DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III also announced that documents of another 38,196 hectares of farmlands are already submitted to various RODs nationwide and cleared for processing and generation of e-titles, which are expected to be released and distributed to ARBs within this year.

“Subdividing collective CLOAs for each individual ARBs undergoes a very rigid process and we cannot afford to make a



# 16,888 ARBs receive individual e-titles under Project SPLIT

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mistake,” Estrella said.

The DAR chief also said that another 107,344 hectares of farmlands have already been re-documented and are up for submission to the RODs for final evaluation and assessment.

He added that the department needs to go through the process of data validation, which includes revisiting copies of CCLOAs with annotated ARBs, the approved survey plans, and the actual master lists of ARBs. The DAR-SPLIT validation team needs to establish who among the listed ARBs have already passed away, abandoned

or sold their rights of ownership, are still in possession of their respective shares of farm lots and those merely squatting in the absence of any proof of transfer of rights of ownership.

“Everything is really done under close scrutiny since we do not want to redo the process. We want to make sure that everything is in order,” Estrella stressed.

Despite the rigorous process of subdividing collective CLOAs, the DAR is slowly but steadily making some progress in Project SPLIT.

FEBRUARY 9

## CARAGA ARBS RECEIVE THOUSANDS OF HECTARES OF LANDS, MULTI-MILLION AGRI-PROJECTS

One thousand two hundred thirty-six (1,236) agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) in Caraga region received a total of 1,952 hectares of agricultural lands, Php215-million worth of infrastructure projects, and a combined amount of Php25.5-million farm machineries, a greenhouse facility and a tissue culture.

ARBs from Agusan del Sur Emma Servande and Junmar Castillo Surigao del Sur Prudencia Tingabngab, and Balilaycar Farmers Marketing Association member Joel Ochavillo expressed their optimism that the blessings they receive from the government would bring prosperity in their communities.

“Thank you to the DAR because we now have farms we can truly call ours,” Ochavillo said.

The distributed lands were from the provinces of Agusan del Sur, with 1,096.0182 hectares; Surigao del Norte, 301.6279 hectares; Suriago del Sur, 222.1077 hectares; Agusan del Norte, 194.8009 hectares; and Dinagat Island, with 137.8692 hectares.

The farm to market roads were constructed in the towns of Surigao del Sur, which include Barobo, costing Php50-million; two (2) roads in San Miguel, Php30-million and Php27.6-million respectively; Madrid Php27.2-million; Carmen, Php20.8-million; Cagwait,

Php20.4-million and two (2) roads in Tago both Php12-million. The agency also turned over a Php6.02-million road in Trento, Agusan del Sur.

A bridge, under the Tulay ng Pangulo para sa Kaunlarang Pang-Agraryo, worth Php8.98-million, was also turned over in the town of Madrid.

Agrarian reform beneficiaries’ organizations (ARBOs) in the region also received various support services, which include a 4-wheel drive tractor for Agri-Puyo Irrigators Association worth Php 1.87-million and Php1.72-million rice combine harvester for Tagbucayan Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative, both in Agusan del Norte; Php2.04-million corn combine harvester for Lumad sa Adgawan Multi-Purpose Farmers’ Cooperative, a 4-wheel drive tractor, worth Php2.4-million for Buenasuerte Multi-Purpose Cooperative; and Forklift worth Php1.05-million for Southern Agusan Multi-Purpose Cooperative, all in Agusan del Sur. A hauling truck worth Php1.2-million and rice combine harvester, worth Php1.72-million were also provided for the San Pedro Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Cooperative; a 4-wheel drive tractor worth Php1.87-million for Matin-ao Agra Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative; Php3-million greenhouse for Villafior Agrarian

Reform Beneficiaries Association; and Php1.5-million tissue culture, in Surigao del Norte.

In Surigao del Sur, a 4-wheel drive tractor worth Php1.87-million was provided to the Libapa Irrigators Association, Php3.5-million hauling truck for Balilaycar Farmers Marketing Association; and Php1.72-million rice combine harvester for Pandanon Coconut

Farmers Marketing Cooperative. Atty. Kazel Celeste, DAR Undersecretary for Field Operation Office, said the government needs to look after the farmers welfare, because apart from helping them improve their living conditions, their profession provides Filipinos food requirements, three times a day and seven days a week.





# SENATE APPROVES ON SECOND READING THE BILL CONDONING DEBTS OF ARBS

The Senate approved on second reading the proposed measure to condone the unpaid debt of agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) of the government's Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

Senator Cynthia Villar sponsored Senate Bill No. (SBN) 1850 or the "New Agrarian Emancipation Act", which seeks to condone all loans including interests, penalties and surcharges, arising from the award of agricultural lands under the CARP.

Villar, who chairs the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Food, and Agrarian Reform, said the measure shall cover two types of loans of the ARBs. These include loans of ARBs who have Agrarian Reform Receivables (ARR) Account with the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) and those who have not paid or have incomplete payments of their amortization on the principal, interests, penalties and surcharges of their lands under Presidential Decree 27, and subsequent amendments to Republic Act No. 6657.

Under the proposed law, the balances of unpaid obligations of ARBs to landowners shall be assumed by the LBP.

The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) shall issue a certificate of condonation to be annotated on the ARB's emancipation patent (EP) or certificate of land ownership award (CLOA), which is the equivalent

of a land title.

"This involves 1,173,101.574 hectares of agricultural land with 57.557 billion principal debt which has 610,054 ARBs," Villar said.

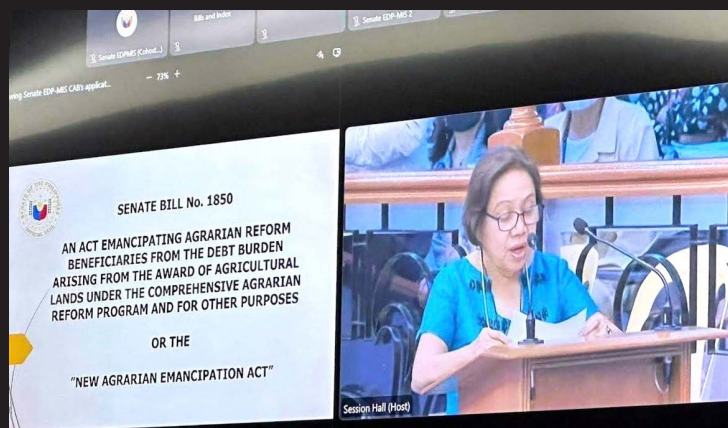
Villar said all cases related to the non-payment of loans of ARBs with the DAR shall be dismissed and that ARBs will be exempted from payment of estate taxes.

Agrarian Reform Secretary Conrado Estrella III fully supports the passage of the said legislation stating that this supports the president's commitment to emancipate agrarian reform beneficiaries from agrarian reform debt burden.

Estrella noted that upon approval of the bill, future ARBs shall be awarded lands without any additional costs or financial obligations on their part.

Atty. Luis Meinrado C. Pañgulayan, Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and Research Office (PPRO) said aside from Villar, the co-authors of the bill include Senators and Majority Leader Joel Villanueva, Francis G. Escudero and Imee R. Marcos. Senators Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay, Christopher Lawrence T. Go, Ronald "Bato" Dela Rosa, Robinhood C. Padilla and Loren Legarda moved to co-author the said bill.

Pañgulayan said that the period for interpellation with Senator Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III and Senator Risa Hontiveros is scheduled next week.



# DAR OFFICIALS CONDUCT 2022 ASSESSMENT, MAKE PLANS FOR A BETTER PERFORMANCE IN 2023



ANGELES CITY—Officials of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) conducted a four-day year-end summative assessment for calendar year 2022 (CY) and direction-setting conference for CY 2023.

DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III said the objective of the activity is to look back at what has been accomplished in 2022 and make plans for a better performance in 2023.

Estrella laid out his priorities to address social justice and improve the lives of poor farmers through the land reform program.

"We are eyeing more resilient programs by reinforcing the three main goals of the department – to speed up land distribution, ensure delivery of agrarian justice, and empower the agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs)," Estrella said.

The discussion zeroed in on the issues and challenges that cropped up in 2022 to map up plans for confronting and resolving them to ensure the unimpeded implementation of the DAR's land acquisition and distribution, provision of support services and delivery of agrarian justice.

"Aside from these three main goals, I will push the DAR officials and staff to achieve self-sufficiency for the ARBs, create progressive agrarian cooperatives, and sustainable and resilient agrarian

reform communities," Estrella added.

Estrella called on his central and regional directors to strategize on how to improve the implementation of agrarian reform program in the country.

During the plenary and focus group discussion, the participants were able to identify the internal and external drivers and barriers of the DAR, which either helped or hindered in the achievements of its targets.

The activity also focused on ensuring that the development thrusts of the administration of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. are integrated into the programs and services of DAR.

Estrella directed his officials to implement agrarian reform laws to aid in fighting for farmers' rights and expediting agrarian legal cases. The CARP audit is an annual activity of the DAR to ensure the transparency and accountability of the agrarian reform program.

DAR is the lead government agency that holds and implements comprehensive and genuine agrarian reform that actualizes equitable land distribution, ownership, agricultural productivity, and tenurial security for the tillers of the land to improve their lives.

The assessment and planning conference was held on February 7-10, 2023 in Angeles City.

# Negros Occidental ARBs receive land titles

Eighty-five (85) agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) from the province of Negros Occidental became new landowners as they received from the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) their land titles covering a total of 46.44 hectares of agricultural lands.

Barangay Agrarian Reform Committee Chairperson Ma. Luvisinda Llarves, who participated in the simple distribution ceremony with other barangay officials, expressed her gratefulness to the agency.

“We are very thankful for these lands because it would help improve the farmers’ economic lives,” she said.

Atty. Shiela Enciso, Western Visayas Regional Director, said this activity is in line with the directive of President R. Ferdinand Marcos Jr., to DAR Secretary Conrado

Estrella III, to improve the lives of the ARBs.

Enciso said 33 ARBs from Victorias City received the 27.66 hectare-property formerly owned by Silvino Eriberto Martin Jesena, et al., located at Hacienda. Mantaunon, Barangay VIII, while 18.78 hectare-property formerly owned by Siacor Agricultural Corp., located at Barangay Magticol in the town of Toboso, was distributed to 52 ARBs.

Enciso reminded the ARBs of their obligations to the government as new landowners to pay their land taxes and to make the lands productive.

“The DAR will continue to help you enrich the lands you received. We will provide you with the necessary support to ensure your farm productivity and receive more income from your farms,” she said.



# DAR, DPWH, LGU TO INSTALL PERMANENT MARKERS FOR FMR PROJECTS

Representatives from the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), and concerned local government units (LGUs) will soon install permanent and uniformed markers for every farm-to-market road (FMR) to be constructed in the countryside under the DAR’s Sustainable and Resilient Agrarian Reform Communities (SuRe ARCs) project.

DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III said the permanent markers would serve as a living testimony to the unceasing commitment of the DAR to serve the rural folks, especially the agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs).

“It is only proper that we establish a permanent marker for every farm-to-market road we are building to serve as the government’s road to

the people’s heart,” Estrella stressed. Besides being the best information tool to enhance people’s awareness about the exploits of the DAR, the permanent marker will also serve as a constant reminder that the government is doing its best to make life bearable and sustainable in the countryside.

Estrella said the permanent marker would be established initially in farm-to-market roads that are being implemented under the DAR’s SuRe ARCs project.

He added that such permanent markers would soon become permanent fixtures in various basic rural infrastructure projects of the DAR, which also include, among others, bridges, postharvest and irrigation facilities.

Atty. Milagros Isabel Cristobal, DAR Undersecretary for Support Services, advised the provincial

agrarian reform program officers (PARPOs) to provide the DPWH and the concerned local governments with the approved template design of the permanent marker for DAR-sponsored farm-to-market road

projects. “Please advise the DPWH and the concerned local governments to install the permanent marker at the start and end of the road project,” Cristobal said to the PARPOs.





# AKLANON RESIDENTS AND ARBS RECEIVE P8.4-MILLION TULAY NG PANGULO PROJECT

Kalibo, Aklan – Around 7,785 Aklanon residents, including agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBS) will benefit from a newly-built steel bridge with concrete pavement turned over by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) to the municipality of Ibajay on Thursday, February 16, 2023, to provide them with easier access to cross the river to transport their agricultural products to the nearest market.

Ronald Almodal, Naisud barangay kagawad, on behalf of the ARBs expressed his gratitude to the DAR and other government agencies for their answered prayer.

“We are very thankful to the DAR, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), and the local government of Ibajay for this bridge. Our road is now passable to all kinds of 4-wheeled vehicles not only transport our products to the nearby markets, but also in cases of emergencies,” Almodal said.

He said the old bridge was only passable to light vehicles like tricycles, motorcycles, and bicycles and they had to pay additional costs to transport their products.

DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella

III said the P8.4 million double-lane modular steel bridge with a total length of 28.80 linear meters was constructed under the Tulay ng Pangulo para sa Kaunlarang Pang-Agraryo (TPKP) project.

“This project is aligned with the directive of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. to improve the lives of the farmers. The government is always behind you to support and provide you with the necessary services that you need”, Estrella said.

Western Visayas Regional Director Atty. Sheila Enciso said that residents and ARBs of barangay Naisud have waited for years for the TPKP project to be completed hoping that it will bring a high impact to improve their livelihood activities. She noted that farmers and ARBs are the main actors in the agriculture industry which provides self-sufficiency and food security among members of the community.

“This bridge links the barangays of Ibajay to the economic mainstream and opens up opportunities for the ARBs to enhance their agricultural productivity and household income,” she said.

Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II Ma. Teresa C.

Valencia said the metallic bridge now connects the residents of four (4) barangays in the area, namely Naisud, San Isidro, Bugtong Bato, and Colong-colong to the town

proper.

“The bridge was constructed in coordination with the DPWH, and used pre-fabricated materials imported from France,” she said.



# 1,500 Western Visayas ARBs receive land titles from DAR

After eighteen (18) years, Liberato Cosio, 78 years old, finally received his certificate of land ownership award (CLOA) during the distribution of electronic land titles (e-titles) and CLOAs by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) to the 1,500 agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBS) in Western Visayas.

Cosio received his CLOA comprising an area of 1.4-hectare from the landholding formerly owned by Ramiro Golez in

Barangay Guimbala-on, Silay City, Negros Occidental.

“We would like to thank the DAR for helping us own the land we have been tilling for a long time. At last, we are now holding the CLOA we have been dreaming of,” Cosio, the new landowner said.

DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III led the distribution of CLOAs and e-titles to 1,500 ARBs comprising a total of 1,649.5760 hectares of agricultural lands Western Visayas under the agency’s Support to



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## 1,500 Western Visayas ARBs receive land titles from DAR



**FEBRUARY 19**

## SOCOT PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT ENDORSES P439-M AGRI PROJECTS TO IMPROVE ARB'S LIVES

South Cotabato Governor Reynaldo Tamayo Jr. has endorsed a total of P439-million worth of priority projects for funding under the agrarian reform fund (ARF) to ensure food security in the area and improve the agricultural sector and economic welfare of the agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) in the province.

Tamayo said that these projects include the construction and rehabilitation of bridges, irrigations, canals, and farm-to-market roads of the identified municipalities in the province.

The ARF is a special fund that finances the implementation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) with the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) as the lead implementing agency.

DAR Soccsksargen Regional Director Mariannie Lauban-Baunto said the endorsement of Governor Tamayo in the intensification of CARP implementation in the province, mirrors the stand of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., through DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III, to continuously pour in various support services projects to boost the lives of the ARBs.

“We are happy that the Governor is in tandem with the DAR’s crusade

to help the ARBs and improve the agriculture sector in the country,” she said.

Baunto added that close coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways, National Irrigation Administration, municipal and local government units, and other CARP-implementing agencies would be done to ensure the effective implementation and completion of the said projects. She said the project is only the 1st phase of the total P3-Billion proposed projects for the entire province.

Tamayo is also set to request a supplemental fund amounting to P1.37-million for the completion of the processing buildings under the Village Level Farm-focused Enterprise Development Project. This he said aims to capacitate the ARBs in producing high-value and FDA-compliant quality products for the market.

He also met with the representatives of the identified ARB organizations to orient them on the project and its implementation, including the policies on maintenance and sustainability.

The project involves the municipalities of Tandingan, Tboli, Surallah, Norala, and Tupi including Koronadal City with 266 ARBs.

Parcelization of Lands for Individual Titling or SPLIT Project. The event was held in Passi City, Iloilo on Friday, February 17, 2023.

Estrella said the event is in compliance with the directive of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., to speed up land distribution and intensify support services to the ARBs.

“We will provide you with more lands and necessary support services to help you improve your economic lives,” he promised.

Estrella mentioned that the DAR is coordinating with other agencies like the Department of Health (DOH) to provide medical

assistance to the ARBs, and to the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) to provide scholarship to the children ARBs where they can have free education while earning extra income.

Aside from the distribution of land titles, the DAR also turned over farm-to-market roads (FMRs) worth Php100 million, farm machineries and equipment (FME) worth Php14,357,636.50, through the Sustainable and Resilient Agrarian Reform Communities (SuRe ARCs) project to selected ARB Organizations (ARBOs) in the province of Iloilo.

**FEBRUARY 20**

## ESTRELLA PROVIDES PHP 114 MILLION INFRA PROJECTS, FARM MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT IN ILOILO

Agrarian Reform Secretary Conrado Estrella III distributed a total of Php114-million infrastructure projects and farm machinery and equipment (FME) to uplift the lives of agrarian reform beneficiary (ARB) members belonging to twenty-two (22) ARB organizations (ARBOs) in Iloilo.

“This is a dream come true. I would like to thank the DAR and other agencies involved for providing the province with concrete roads that would make life easier not only to the members of the ARBOs but also to the residents of the area,” said Liby Rodriguez, barangay captain of Cabilauan, Barotac Nuevo, Iloilo. Estrella said the project was distributed under the Sustainable and Resilient ARCs (SURE ARC) project of the DAR which will benefit a total of 3,293 agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) in the province.

“These farm machinery and equipment would make farming easier and faster for the ARBs to help improve their yield and increase their income,” he said.

Estrella said the infrastructure

project reflects the commitment of the DAR to the national goal of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to increase mobility in transporting the basic needs of the municipality and boost the economic growth of farmers.

Estrella was accompanied by Ferjanel G. Biron, Iloilo 4th district representative, Jesry T. Palmares, Undersecretary for Foreign Assisted and Special Projects Office (FASPO) and Atty. Sheila Enciso, DAR Western Visayas regional director.

Enciso said the project involves five infra projects, including the construction of 0.849km. Cabilauan FMR in Barotac Nuevo, Iloilo worth 10-million; 0.849 km. Paloc Bigque FMR in Dumangas, Iloilo worth 10-million; 0.849 km. Bolilao to Barasan FMR in Bolilao, Dumangas worth Php 10-million, construction; improvement, rehabilitation and concreting 1.718 km P.D. Monfort to Rosario FMR in Dumangas, Iloilo worth Php 20-million; and 3.98 km. Mambirahan Grande to Cabunga in Cabunga, Passi worth Php 50-million.





# DAR, DPWH AND LGU TO CONSTRUCT P50 MILLION FMR PROJECTS IN AKLAN

Kalibo, Aklan – A total of 1,924 agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) and 19,123 non-ARBs from the interior areas in this municipality will soon experience the ease of transporting their products to the market as the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), in partnership with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and the local government of Aklan launched the concreting five (5) farm-to-market roads (FMRs) in the area with a total cost of P50 million.

DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III, with Aklan 2nd district representative Teodorico Haresco, Jr., Jesry T. Palmares, Undersecretary for Foreign Assisted and Special Projects Office (FASPO), and Atty. Sheila Enciso, DAR Western Visayas regional director, led the project's groundbreaking ceremony.

Eliserio S. Aguelo, an ARB from Barangay Naile said the FMRs would pave the way for the farmers to immediately transport their products to the market for a

higher and more reasonable price. "Farmers and residents will no longer have to travel on muddy and slick roads just to go to the town proper. Finally, our dream was realized. Thank you to the DAR," Aguelo said.

Estrella said the construction of the FMR is in compliance with the directive of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to extend the necessary support services to the farming sector to resuscitate the country's agriculture industry by improving the flow of food supply.

"This project will change the lives of the ARBs, it will help them gain better prices for their products to improve their income and livelihood," he said.

Enciso said through the FMRs, ARBs would have the advantage of not only experiencing reduced transportation costs and travel time, but they will also be experiencing faster delivery of various support services from the government.

She disclosed that the FMRs include the Php 10 million

concreting of Brgy. Naile, proper in Ibajay; the Php 20 million concreting of Tagaroroc FMR in Brgy. Tagaroroc, Nabas; the Php 5 million concreting of Sta. Cruz-Biga-a in Brgys. Sta. Cruz

and Biga-a, Lezo; the Php 10 million concreting of Aliputos in Brgy. Aliputos, Numancia; and the Php 5 million concreting of Dangcalan in Brgy. Dangcalan, Malinao.



## PEBRERO 22

# DAR CHIEF DISTRIBUTES LAND TITLES IN CENTRAL VISAYAS

Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Secretary Conrado Estrella III distributed on Tuesday, February 21, 2023, a total of 1,290 land titles to 1,321 agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) covering 1,171.34 hectares of agricultural lands from the provinces of Bohol, Cebu, and Negros Oriental.

The distribution activities were simultaneously held in the three (3) provinces of Central Visayas, with Secretary Estrella leading the event in Bohol, Atty. Kazel Celeste, Undersecretary for Field Operations Office (FOO), in Negros Oriental and Atty. Marjorie Ayson, Assistant Secretary FOO, in Cebu province.

In Bohol, about 501 ARBs received 602 land titles, covering 544.05 hectares. Of these land titles, 483 are electronic titles (e-titles), generated under the DAR's Support to Parcelization of Lands for Individual Titling (SPLIT) project, comprising 471.15 hectares distributed to 402 ARBs. The remaining 72.89 hectares were provided with 119

certificates of land ownership award (CLOAs) given to 99 farmers.

Negros Oriental distributed 480 land titles, covering an aggregate area of 330.63 hectares, to 474 ARBs. Of these total, 175 are e-titles, covering 145.73 hectares, distributed to 212 ARBs; 271 are CLOAs, covering 164.83 hectares, to 238 ARBs; and 34 are emancipation patents (EPs), covering 20.07 hectares, for 24 ARBs.

In Cebu province, 208 CLOAs, covering 296.66 hectares, were distributed to 346 ARBs.

The SPLIT Project is the subdivision of agricultural lands and issuance of individual land titles to ARBs who were previously awarded lands under collective CLOAs.

"Hold on to your land titles and take care of your farmlands because this administration will pour out various support services in your community to boost your livelihood activities," he said.

Estrella divulged that aside from the provision of lands and support

services, the DAR is working in tandem with the lawmakers for the eventual approval of a bill to make the lands distributed to the ARBs free from amortizations.

Avelino Montes, a 67-year old ARB from Talibon, Bohol, expressed his gratefulness to Secretary Estrella for finally receiving the land titles they were dreaming of for 30 years.

"We are now looking forward to a brighter future for our families because of these lands and the promise of support that they will deliver to us," he said.

Bohol Governor Augmentado, who also graced the event emphasized the importance of the agrarian reform program in the country's food sufficiency and that the provision of lands and farm machinery are solid proof that the farmers are benefitting from it.

Leomides Villareal, DAR Central Visayas regional director expressed his happiness for the hard work of all the DAR officials and personnel stating that: "Our fulfillment is manifested in the smiles of our ARBs."





# Estrella distributes land titles to Aklan farmers

Kalibo, Aklan – Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Secretary Conrado Estrella III distributed a total of 183 electronic land titles (e-titles) to 175 agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) comprising a total of 304.9723 hectares of agricultural lands in Aklan under the Support to Parcelization of Lands for Individual Titling (SPLIT) Project of the DAR.

Emelda S. Zonio, an ARB from Guadalupe, Libacao, has committed to continuously cultivate her land to make it more productive.

“This piece of paper reminded me of my parents who were previously tilling this land. This proof of ownership will provide many opportunities for our family,” Zonio said.

Estrella was accompanied by Teodorico T. Haresco, Jr., Aklan 2nd district representative, Jesry I. Palmares, Undersecretary for Foreign Assisted and Special Projects Office (FASPO), Jose Enrique M. Miraflores, Aklan province Governor, and Jose Miguel M. Miraflores, Ibjay municipal Mayor during the

distribution of e-titles to the ARBs.

Estrella vowed to continue to empower the ARBs by providing them with all the necessary support services to ensure their success in return for being the food producers and providers of the country.

Atty. Sheila Enciso, DAR Western Visayas Regional Director, stated that the ARB’s long wait will be paid off as they can soon fully enjoy the fruits of their hard work by making their lands productive. “The e-titles distributed are located in Altavas, Buruanga, Ibajay, Libacao, Madalag and Malay, Aklan,” Enciso said.

Aside from the distribution of land titles, the DAR also turned over a P8.4 million double-lane modular steel bridge under the Tulay ng Pangulo para sa Kaunlarang Pang-Agraryo (TPKP) project and farm machinery and equipment (FME) worth Php 275,850.00, to selected ARB organizations (ARBOs) in the second district of Aklan and groundbreaking of farm-to-market roads (FMRs) worth Php50 million.



# Farmers' organizations in Central Visayas receive farm machines

Agrarian reform beneficiaries' organizations (ARBOs) in Central Visayas recently received from the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) farm machines with a total cost of Php7.5 million.

Agrarian Reform Secretary Conrado Estrella III said the distribution activity was simultaneously held in the three (3) provinces of the region, with Secretary Estrella leading the event in Bohol, Atty. Kazel Celeste, Undersecretary for Field Operations Office (FOO) in Negros Oriental and Atty. Marjorie Ayson, Assistant Secretary FOO,

in Cebu province.

In Bohol, farm tractors and implements were distributed both for Cagawasan CARP Farmer Beneficiary Multipurpose Cooperative, worth P1.298 million, and the Bulilis Agrarian Reform Communities Cooperative, amounting to P1.298 million.

In Negros Oriental, the Himocdongon ARB and Farmers Association and Nangka Agrarian Reform Farmers Cooperative also received farm tractors and implements worth P2.249 million and P1.325 million, respectively.

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# Farmers' organizations in Central Visayas receive farm machines

The Lico-an Siquijor Farmers Irrigators Association in Siquijor received a P1.325-million farm tractor and implements.

Estrella emphasized that the DAR's assistance to the ARBs does not end in land distribution as per the directive of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. to provide also various support services projects to the ARBs.

"We will provide you with the necessary projects to make your lands productive and provide

you with bountiful harvest and quality products to lead the way to your economic progress," he said.

Angelo Seismundo, President of Cagawasan CARP Farmer Beneficiary Multipurpose Cooperative, said the farm machines provided by the DAR would help them in boosting their livelihood activities.

"Because of the DAR, we now have farm machinery to help us in cultivating our farmlands faster and easier," he said.

FEBRUARY 28

# CAMIGUIN ARBS GET FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE FROM DAR



A total of 70 agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) and other farmer-members of ARB organizations (ARBOs) from the distant province of Camiguin received free legal advice and assistance from the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) legal team to help them resolve their problems, issues, and concerns involving cases on agrarian reform.

Dubbed as "Agraryong Abogado Todo Serbisyo Para sa Benepisyaryo", the program intends to have the DAR

legal team go directly to the rural areas to gather ARBs in a designated place to provide free legal clinic, counseling, and legal advice to help them resolve legal challenges they are currently facing on their lands.

Fatima Aniqa T. Macarambon-Tomawis, Camiguin Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer (PARPO II) said the activity forms part of the goal of Secretary Conrado Estrella III to bring the government closer to the people to make the ARBs feel that the DAR is always

ready and willing to help them by effectively addressing their concerns. "Legal problems could affect our ARB's productivity. This activity would provide hope and encourage the ARBs to continue making their farms productive," she said.

To help keep the DAR Camiguin abreast with the latest department issuances and jurisprudence, a series of lectures was also conducted for the entire employees of the province, including the Support to Parcelization of Lands for Individual

Titling (SPLIT) team.

Macarambon and the DAR Camiguin legal team expressed their gratefulness for the opportunity to serve and give guidance to the ARBs of Camiguin.

"It is a must that our employees are equipped with sufficient knowledge and guidance, especially concerning land application requirements and interpretation of legal concepts and theories, and clear understanding of issued administrative orders," she added.