

AGRARIAN

DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM • ENGLISH EDITION • MARCH 2023

MARCH 1

P12-M communal irrigation system to irrigate 334-hectare farmland in Nueva Vizcaya



A P12-million communal irrigation system (CIS) was recently turned over by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) to Paoac-Barobbob farmer-irrigators in Brgy. La Torre, Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya to be able to irrigate a total of 334 hectares of agricultural land in the area. Primo C. Lara, DAR Cagayan Valley Regional Director affirmed that the irrigation project is part of the nine (9) priority programs of DAR Secretary Conrado

M. Estrella III focusing on the interests and welfare of the agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs). “Lack of irrigation system is one of the challenges facing our farmers today. We will continue to collaborate with other agencies to ensure and expedite the delivery of support services to our beneficiaries,” Lara said. The project was funded through the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program, with the DAR as the lead implementing agency,

in partnership with the National Irrigation Administration (NIA). Engr. Rustico R. Turingan, DAR Nueva Vizcaya Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II, said the CIS can serve more than 334 hectares of agricultural land that could benefit over 94 ARB households in the barangay. “Through this project, the farmer-beneficiaries would be able to improve and expand their agricultural production since the project can provide sufficient water supply to irrigate the

ARB’s crops to raise their yield and guarantee the stability of their production,” he said. Antonio Sergio Bagasao, Municipal Mayor of Bayombong reminded the farmers to maintain the infrastructure to be able to maximize its use and purpose. Farmers who benefited from the project thanked the national and local governments for their unending assistance and support and for improving the irrigation system in the town of Bayombong.

NORTH COTABATO LANDLESS FARMERS RECEIVE GOVERNMENT-OWNED LANDS

A total of 184 agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) received certificates of land ownership award (CLOAs) comprising 195.89 hectares of government-owned lands (GOLs) from the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in Carmen, North Cotabato.

Fulgencio Gepiala, 82, one of the land recipients from Purok 8, Aroman, said the land he received inspired him to continuously cultivate the land and make it productive for his children and grandchildren.

“My determination to plant corn, banana, and coconut has been revitalized. I’m happy and thankful to the DAR for giving me a piece of land, where we could have an additional source of income,” he said.

The distribution of public lands is in line with the directive of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., to



DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III, to expedite and provide idle government-owned agricultural lands to landless farmers.

The lands that were given to the ARBs are portions of the GOLs that were already not used for their intended purpose in compliance with Executive Order No. 75, series

of 2019. The said EO mandates all government offices to distribute public lands devoted to or suitable for agriculture for distribution to qualified beneficiaries.

Mariannie Lauban-Baunto, Soccsksargen Regional Director said the DAR distributed the unutilized lands of the Department

of Agriculture-Bureau of Plant Industry (DA-BPI)-XII Aroman Research and Experiment Station, where a portion of the area was also used by the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) situated at Aroman, Carmen, North Cotabato.

“These unused 64.2271 hectares of BPI and 131.5286 hectares of PCA will be a big help to uplift the lives of many farmers,” Baunto said.

Congresswoman Ma. Alana Samantha Taliño Santos, from the 3rd District of Cotabato, recognized the perseverance and efforts of DAR and other partners in the government to distribute these lands to the beneficiaries.

“The value of our land increases over time if we cultivate it with sweat and hard work. We just have to unite, work together, and help one another to do better and be better for our municipality and our province,” Santos said.

CAMSUR CORN FARMERS RECEIVE FARM EQUIPMENT FROM DAR



PILI, Camarines Sur — More than 150 agrarian reform beneficiary (ARB) corn farmers who are members of the Pag-iribang Nagkakaisang Magsasaka (PNM) organization in Maria Gracia Village, Hacienda Salamat, Cadlan will benefit from a flatbed dryer worth P1 million provided by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR).

“There is a continued high demand for corn used for both human and animal feeding. Post-harvest technology, such as the flatbed dryer, will boost the yield and sales of high-quality corn, and it will make farming easier and faster too,” said Renato C. Bequillo, DAR Camarines Sur Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer.

The equipment was distributed as part of DAR’s Major Crop-based Block Farm Productivity Improvement Project of Climate Resilient Farm Productivity Support (CRFPS).

The project is one of the nine primary goals of Secretary Conrado Estrella III that focuses on the provision of farm machinery and equipment to ARBs.

“More than 150 ARBs will benefit from the equipment. The farmers can now dry corn even during the rainy season. The farmers from nearby barangays may also use the flatbed dryers for their harvested corn,” Bequillo said.

According to Beguillo, the town of Pili produces a substantial percentage of the corn used in food and cattle feeds, and approximately 450 hectares of agricultural area are mainly devoted to corn production. “However, like in many areas, local corn producers here continue to suffer big losses in income due to the high cost of agricultural inputs required for its cultivation, as well as lack of farm mechanization,” Beguillo explained.

To help the ARBs recover from the losses, the DAR provided the said farm equipment to the corn farmers.

Arturo Bismonte, president of the PNM, thanked the department for the new flatbed dryer and promised that the property would be handled properly. He also urged the members to actively participate in and support all the organization’s operations and future initiatives to continue benefiting from the assistance provided to the organization.

“With over 100 hectares of arable land, we are home to the largest ARBs and land granted by the DAR in the area. I urge every PNM member not to misuse the assistance and opportunities provided by the DAR and other line agencies. Let’s manage it well as a sign of gratitude for them to see that we are maximizing the use of their projects,” Bismonte said.

DAR, BJMP in Cagayan Valley renew tie-up to boost ARBs' lives

The Department of Agrarian Reform Region (DAR) and the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) in Cagayan Valley region have renewed their partnership to help the agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) in sustaining their livelihood activities.

The marketing agreement, implemented under the Enhanced Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty Program (EPAHPP), is a government initiative addressing food security, hunger, and poverty problems through the cooperation and convergence of essential services of various government agencies.

The activity is in consonance with the directive of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. to DAR Secretary



Conrado Estrella III to uplift the economic lives of the ARBs.

DAR Regional Director Primo Lara and BJMP-Region 2 Jail Senior Superintendent Brendan Fulgencio signed the memorandum of understanding specifying that

the ARBs would supply their agricultural products to the food requirements of the BJMP.

Lara said apart from addressing food security, EPAHPP also helps augment the income and productivity of the farmers to help

mitigate poverty in the countryside. "I would like to thank the BJMP for their continued support to our ARBs. Providing the food requirements for the persons deprived of liberty (PDLs) in this region is a great economic opportunity for our farmers," Lara said.

Fulgencio for his part said the responsibility of the BJMP does not stop by keeping the society safe but also to give hope to the PDLs for them to become good citizens again.

"Apart from giving our PDLs fresh and nutritious foods we are glad that, through the budget allocated for them, we are also able to help our farmers by providing an additional steady market for their products," he said.

AGUSAN DEL NORTE FARMERS AND RESIDENTS TO BENEFIT FROM PHP 20-M BRIDGE



A total of 890 residents and commuters of barangay Matabao, Buenavista, Agusan del Norte, where 465 are agrarian reform communities (ARBs), would benefit from the 28.8-lineal Buenavista-Matabao universal bridge (unibridge) worth Php20 million.

Merlita Capinpuyan, DAR-Caraga regional director, said the unibridge project was implemented under the Tulay ng Pangulo para sa Kaunlarang Pang-Agraryo (TPKP) of the

Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

Capinpuyan said the project was implemented to promote rural development in agrarian reform communities (ARCs) by linking the road networks within the ARC barangays to the town proper to improve the economic welfare of the farming communities.

"The bridge would be able to support the livelihood of our farmers in these identified

agrarian reform areas, to boost the productivity of our agricultural lands," she said.

Representatives from the DAR and DPWH turned over the unibridge to the local governments of Buenavista and Matabao led by Agusan del Norte Governor Maria Angelica Rosedell Amante Mayor Joselito T. Roble.

Secretary Conrado Estrella III said the construction of the unibridge can link the farmers to commercial areas where they can sell their products to allow them

to become active participants in the local economy.

"The common goal of the DAR and other agencies in this project is to help the community overcome their long-standing problem of transporting their goods to the market and the delivery of public service in the area," she added.

TPKP project aims to promote rural development, enhance productivity and income through reduced marketing costs, and alleviate poverty among ARBs and agrarian reform areas.

North Cotabato farmers' group receives upgraded cassava chips processing facility



A group of farmers in the province of North Cotabato is expected to boost their income after the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) turned-over an upgraded processing center to add value to their cassava crops by producing quality cassava chips.

The processing facility was turned over to Barangay Katipunan Farmers Association (BKFA) of Katipunan, M'lang and is in line with the directive of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. to DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III to boost the livelihood activities of the farmers in the countryside.

Bernandina Lacao, BKFA President, affirmed the commitment and assistance of DAR in helping their association to be more productive and produce quality products.

"We will always remember DAR because of their continued assistance provided to us. Through this facility, we are assured of a wider market for our cassava chips," she said.

The upgraded facility amounting to Php250,000.00 was provided under the DAR's Village Level Farm-focused Enterprise

Development (VLFED) Project. Evangeline Bueno, Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II, said the improvement of the processing center aims to conform with the processing standards and become compliant with the Food and Drugs Administration, with the end in view of acquiring a license to operate and certifications to penetrate bigger markets.

"Our assistance will continue to intensify by providing technical assistance to the agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) and help them market their products to penetrate the institutional markets," she said. Bueno also recognized the partnerships and collaboration of the DAR with the Department of Trade and Industry, and other government agencies in developing and enhancing the ARBs and their organization's products as potential enterprises.

Earlier in 2020, the DAR has provided BKFA with cooking equipment such as grinder, stockpots, wok pan, and steamer, and additional cassava stalks as planting materials to intensify their production amidst the height of pandemic.

DAR TO DISTRIBUTE 310 HECTARES OF GOVERNMENT-OWNED LANDS TO PAMPANGA FARMERS

The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) recently conducted a dialogue with the farmers of San Agustin town in Magalang, Pampanga to discuss the smooth and expeditious distribution of idle government owned-lands (GOLs) and identify the possible agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) in the said province.

The land set for distribution is the unused 310 hectare-property of Pampanga State Agricultural University (PSAU) in Magalang. The distribution of GOLs is in consonance with the directive of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., through DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III, to provide farmers with agricultural lands to boost their economic lives.

DAR Central Luzon Regional Director Arsenio James Ponce said that the DAR would begin surveying the properties of PSAU so that they could immediately issue individual land titles to qualified ARBs.

"We ask the ARBs' full cooperation



and want their opinions on how we can survey the land faster. We will assess the result of this meeting and apply the best measures to implement this process quickly," he said.

Ponce divulged that this idle

land would be put to benevolent use because it would provide a livelihood to many farmers, which could help mitigate poverty in the countryside and contribute to the country's food security.

The lands that are set for distribution

to the ARBs will be implemented through Executive Order No. 75. Series of 2019, mandating all government offices to distribute public lands devoted to or suitable for agriculture for distribution to qualified beneficiaries.

Northern Samar field personnel get motorcycles for Project SPLIT



CATARMAN, Northern Samar – Field validation teams (FVTs) personnel from the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in Northern Samar received 16 brand-new motorcycles — Honda XR150Ls – to expedite the parcelization of the collective Certificate of Land Ownership Awards (CCLOAs) in the province. DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III said the motorcycles would play a crucial role in the conduct of field validation activities, especially in areas where access roads are less conducive for four-wheeled vehicles.

Engr. Jose M. Balberde, Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II expressed his gratitude to the department thru the DAR Secretary for his active efforts and immediate response to address the needs of the FVTs, particularly in the validation of landholdings and field investigations under Project SPLIT implementation. “This is one of the programs of DAR thru the efforts of Secretary Estrella, as a response to President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.’s mandate to expedite the distribution of the individual land titles to the agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) to

strengthen land tenure security towards the improvement of their quality of life,” he said. He disclosed that far-flung barangays in some municipalities are difficult to travel for four-wheeled vehicles and the appropriate mode of transportation is a motorcycle. With the provision of these motorcycles, field personnel, and FVTs can easily access these areas, especially in the conduct of field validation. “The 16 newly delivered motorcycles are part of the 820 units that the Department had procured at an aggregate cost of

P123 million,” he said. After receiving the sixteen (16) units of motorcycles from the Regional Office, the DAR-Northern Samar conducted a blessing of these units to turn over to FVTs. Project SPLIT is a World Bank-funded project of DAR. This project aims to improve the security of tenure and strengthen the property rights of the ARBs through the subdivision of collective Certificate of Land Ownership Awards or CCLOAs into individual titles. The province also received a one-unit multi-function laser photocopier machine.

DAR launches inter-agency marketing platform for MiMaRoPa farmers



POLA, Oriental Mindoro--The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) of Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, and Palawan (MiMaRoPa) region recently launched the KaSaMa (Katuwang sa Market) para sa Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (ARBs): An Inter-Agency Unified Marketing Platform. The KaSaMa project is a marketing strategy designed to provide more opportunities for farmer-beneficiaries organizations or cooperatives in MiMaRoPa region to have a greater value in the market chain by collaborating with different stakeholders and institutional buyers. DAR Regional Director Marvin

Bernal said the KaSaMa project came about during the height of the pandemic when restrictions on local transport of farmers’ produce became a major concern. “There was an increase in post-harvest losses on rice, vegetables, and other major crops of about 10-30 percent. Most of the farmers have low access to timely and accurate information on market demands. In effect, depending on the need of the market, the supply side was not being maximized,” Bernal said. Bernal said the project is intended to improve the lives of farmer

beneficiaries through increased income, ensured market, and the right pricing for their products. The MiMaRoPa region has a total of 288 agrarian cooperatives with 27,836 ARBs. Out of the total cooperatives, only 56 have marketing arrangements with institutional buyers. "With these data, efforts in market accessibility are our utmost priority

to make the farmers' lives better," Bernal said. For its pilot implementation, 58 agrarian cooperatives with more than 6,000 members will be reached by the project. Currently, the DAR is maximizing the social media platform in promoting farmers' produce and products specifically in the DAR Facebook pages, Instagram, and Twitter accounts. The project will improve the existing system in terms of easy access or on-

hand information on the market information thru the website. Also, the convergence initiative will then be strengthened because this will provide a "one-stop" website where farmers can easily access all the marketing platforms. "This project will revitalize the convergence initiatives of the government using the mechanism of the whole-of-the-nation approach. With the collaboration of different stakeholders, a wider market can be reached for the

benefit of the farmers," Bernal said. KaSaMa is a collaborative project of DAR, the Department of Agriculture (DA), Mindoro State University (MinSU), the Philippine Information Agency (PIA), the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), Provincial Local Government Unit (PLGU) of MiMaRoPa. It was created to help ARBs sell their farm products through online marketing platforms.

MARCH 11

DAR, WORLD BANK CREATE COMPOSITE TEAM FOR SPLIT PROJECT



The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) is already preparing in advance the mechanisms for the provision of support services to farmer-beneficiaries who are recipients of individual titles under the Support to Parcelization of Land for Individual Titling (SPLIT) in an apparent move to prevent the pawning or selling of farm lots awarded under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP). DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III has created over the weekend a Project SPLIT composite team that will conduct the World Bank Gap Analysis Study (WBGAS) to determine the appropriate and

timely development interventions to be provided to its beneficiaries to ensure that they will harness and maximize the productivity of their respective farm lots. "As much as possible, we wanted our agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) to be as productive as they can and maintain possession and ownership of their farm lots while resisting the temptation of pawning or selling them," Estrella said. Estrella stressed that the DAR would exhaust all means to ensure that the immediate needs of its ARBs under the SPLIT project are met so that they could start harnessing their respective

farm lots once they receive their individual titles. "We do not want to see even just one farmer being forced to pawn or sell his/her farm lot simply because he/she lacks the necessary means to till it. Otherwise, it will defeat the very purpose of the SPLIT project," Estrella said. The study will be undertaken jointly by teams from the DAR and the World Bank. Estrella appointed Foreign-Assisted Special Project Assistant Secretary Rene Colocar as chairman of the DAR composite team. He will be assisted by vice chairman Rhoderick Torres and a host of team members from the central office and chief agrarian reform program officers from regional and provincial offices nationwide. The joint DAR-World Bank composite team is tasked to assess the following aspects:

- Support services needed by ARB Organizations (ARBOs), clustered agrarian reform communities, and forestry people's organizations;
- Extension services, such as technology transfer, farmers' field, and business schools;
- Accessibility and availability of inputs and machinery, pest control, and the like;
- Business development and planning

· Land tenure legal services – fair land negotiations and transactions;

- Access to market information;
- Access to funds; and
- Access to agriculture insurance.

On the other hand, the gap and needs analysis focuses on the following:

- Desk review of reports and publications on support services to ARBs;
- Data analytics of ARB survey data, which include basic information on current support services received; and
- Focus group discussions with ARBs, central/regional/provincial staff of agencies providing support services; agriculture-based civil society organizations; financial institutions; private and business sector, farmers' organizations and other stakeholders.

The output of the study will be presented to the World Bank Task Team and the DAR management for review and proper action. The SPLIT project, courtesy of the World Bank, was launched in January 2020. It seeks to parcelize Collective Certificates of Land Ownership Award (CCLOAs) to enable each member of ARBOs to take full ownership and possession of his or her share of farm lots, harness it according to his or her wishes and direct his or her future.

MARCH 12

DAR, IFAD PARTNERSHIP TO BOOST SOCCSKSARGEN FARMERS' LIVES

In a recently held kick-off meeting between the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the newest foreign-assisted project, "Value Chain Innovation for Sustainable Transformation in Agrarian Reform Communities" (VISTA) Project, was discussed to boost the economic lives of the agrarian

reform beneficiaries (ARBs) in SOCCSKSARGEN region. The VISTA Project aims to improve the livelihood and enhance the community resilience of vulnerable rural populations through a Value Chain Development (VCD) approach anchored to natural ecosystem adaptation. The IFAD mission team is

composed of experts from around the globe who specializes in rural finance, value chain innovation, environment and natural resources, institution, governance, land tenure, gender, and targeting and social inclusion, to name a few. IFAD team leader, Dorothy Luks, expressed excitement over the possibilities that this region can offer since the project will innovate coffee, cacao, and coconut production and marketing, for the benefit of ARBs in agrarian reform communities (ARCs). "The VISTA Project aims to

increase employment, improve food security and nutrition, and reduce poverty while maintaining the cultural integrity of the recipient communities, as well as preserve the natural ecosystem in the area," said Luks. Relevant activities will be undertaken by the combined IFAD and DAR teams to conduct focused group discussions on the project, together with the recipient ARB organizations, partner LGUs/PLGUs, agencies,

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microfinance institutions, private sectors, and other necessary stakeholders involved in the value chain of coffee, cacao, and coconut.

DAR Foreign Assisted and Special Projects Office Assistant Secretary Rene Colocar said this activity is in line with the directives of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., through the leadership of DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III, to improve the livelihood of the ARBs nationwide.

“In line with the Philippine development plan for 2023-2028, the DAR and IFAD will once

again prove our strong partnership in order to provide adequate and sustainable support services to our ARBs,” he said.

Over the course of the week, the teams will visit ARC sites in the region including Brgy. Linan in Tupi, South Cotabato, the municipality of President Quirino in Sultan Kudarat, Maasim in Sarangani province, and Antipas in Cotabato province, gathering comprehensive data from the farmers and stakeholders on how best to design the project, molded to the needs of the farmers in the target areas.

MARCH 14

DAR GENERATES 406 LAND TITLES TO BE ISSUED TO SARANGANI ARBS

The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) generated 406 electronic land title (e-titles), covering a total area of 601.82 hectares of agricultural lands, to improve the security of tenure of 394 agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs), who have been tilling their respective land for several years located at Alabel, Sarangani.

This activity is in line with the marching orders of President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. to DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III, to strengthen the property rights of the ARBs nationwide.

The e-titles covers seven (7) municipalities of Sarangani, which include Alabel with 13 e-titles; Glan, 37; Kiamba, 14; Maasim, 7; Maitum, 222; Malapatan, 63; and Malungon, 50.

Cenon S. Original, OIC-Provincial Agrarian Reform Officer II, said the e-titles were generated under the DAR’s Support to Parcelization of Lands for Individual Titling (SPLIT) project.

SPLIT Project is the parcelization of lands and issuance of individual land titles to ARBs who were previously awarded with lands



distributed under collective certificate of land ownership award (CCLOA).

“These titles determine the exact metes and bounds of the areas covered under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) to be issued to the ARBs,” he explained.

Original said that because of this, the ARBs would gain full control of making their lands productive.

“I thank the Registry of Deeds for their unwavering support in accurately and promptly processing and encoding of individual land titles to make the ARBs as legitimate owners of the

lands they have been tilling to serve as inspiration to make their farms more productive and richer,” he said.

Last year, the DAR, under the SPLIT Project, distributed about 520 e-titles to 292 ARBs of Sarangani and General Santos City.

MARCH 15

Romblon ARBs attend training on cassava crackers processing



Thirty (30) agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) belonging to the Sikap-Kabuhayan Agrarian Reform Cooperative in San Fernando, Romblon attended a “Hands-on Training on Cassava Crackers Making” sponsored by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) held in Brgy. Espana, San Fernando, Romblon.

Officials and personnel from the two agencies facilitated the training to commercialize and promote

the cassava industry as potential alternative food crops to support the ultimate goal of the government to achieve food sufficiency in the country.

Camilo Claro Pacquing, DAR-Romblon Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer, expressed the DAR’s commitment to support and develop the cooperative’s products.

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“The participants were trained both through digital presentation and hands-on application of the cassava production process,” he said. He disclosed that the DTI representatives provided technical interventions for them to be aware of the cost and pricing strategies and

also assisted in product labelling and packaging.

“Product diversification is an innovative leap to add in the cooperative’s existing “nito handicraft products” with that goal to create another source of income and additional employment opportunity for the members of the cooperative,” he said.



MARCH 16

ESTRELLA VISITS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



Secretary of Agrarian Reform Conrado M. Estrella III visited the House of Representatives this week to ascertain the recent developments in the passage of the bill leading to the condonation of the loans of agrarian reform beneficiaries stemming from the award of agricultural lands under

the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

Secretary Estrella reiterated the pronouncements of the President in his First State of the Nation Address last year on the need to continue the program and to emancipate the ARBs from the debt burden. The House of

Representatives and the Senate already have their respective bills, which seek to address the matter. House Speaker Ferdinand Martin Gomez Romualdez received Secretary Estrella together with House Committee on Agriculture and Agrarian Reform Chair Representative Solomon R.

Chungalao and Representative Angelo Marcos Barba.

DAR Undersecretaries Marilyn Barua-Yap and Luis Meinrado C. Pañgulayan accompanied Secretary Estrella. House Committee Ifugao Congressman Secretary Rita Macabulos was with Rep. Chungalao.

MARCH 17

Estrella assigns DAR officials to supervise Project SPLIT in every Region

Agrarian Reform Secretary Conrado Estrella III has assigned his central office officials to every Region to expedite the processing of individual electronic land titles (e-titles) and corresponding hectares of agricultural lands for redistribution to agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) under the Support to Parcelization of Land for Individual Titling (SPLIT) project. Estrella said that all the DAR undersecretaries and assistant secretaries have been tapped and given specific assignments to work closely with regional directors to ensure that the processing of the individual e-land titles under the Project SPLIT is on schedule.

“We need to hasten the distribution of e-titles since our ARBs are aching to till their respective shares of farmlots,” Estrella said.

Undersecretary for External Affairs and Communications Operations, Atty. Marilyn Barua-Yap, is assigned to directly supervise the Ilocos and Cordillera Autonomous Regions; Undersecretary for Support Service, Atty. Milagros



Isabel Cristobal, to Cagayan Valley, Central Visayas and Caraga; Undersecretary for Field Operations, Atty. Kazel Celeste, to Calabarzon and Mimaropa;

and Undersecretary for Mindanao Affairs and Rural Development Amihilda Sangcopan to Western Mindanao and Soccsksargen; Undersecretary for Planning, Policy

and Research, Atty. Luis Meinrado Pañgulayan, is tasked to oversee Central Luzon; Undersecretary for Legal Affairs, Atty. Napoleon Galit, to Bicol, while working in tandem with Undersecretary for Foreign Assisted for Special Project Jesry Palmares for Western Visayas and Eastern Visayas; and Undersecretary for Finance Management and Administration Jeffrey Galan to Northern Mindanao.

Estrella also called up all the assistant secretaries to lend a hand in getting the job done and ensure that every step of the way is closely monitored to avoid any lapses.

“As much as possible, we do not want to redo the whole process. We want to make sure that everything is in order,” he stressed.

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

So far, a total of 18,802 parcelized e-titles, covering 23,898 hectares of agricultural lands, have been distributed to 16,888 ARBs.

150 DAR DEVELOPMENT FACILITATORS ATTEND TRAINING ON COMMUNITY ORGANIZING IN EASTERN VISAYAS

TACLOBAN CITY – A total of one hundred fifty (150) development facilitators (DFs) of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) attended a five-day training on Enterprise-based Agrarian Reform Community Organizing and Development (E-ARCOD) to improve the level of development of agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs), ARB organizations (ARBOs) and agrarian reform communities (ARCs) in Eastern Visayas.

Agrarian Secretary Conrado Estrella III said the number of ARBOs formed and organized will continue to increase as it is one of the agency’s mandates to reach out to the organizations and provide them with appropriate and necessary support services to secure a better quality of life.

Ismael Aya-ay, Eastern Visayas Assistant Regional Director, said the said DFs were provided training on social entrepreneurial skills to enhance the capability of ARBO officers and members to effectively

and efficiently manage their respective organizations.

He said E-ARCOD is basically rural development, community organizing, and extension works which covers the ARBs farming stages from production to marketing.

Al Francis Caballero, a DF for almost three years assigned in Ormoc City in the province of Leyte, shared that he feels more confident in discharging his functions as a DF with the learnings he gained in the training.

“The knowledge I gained here will enhance my skills in communication, problem solving and critical thinking, which are important in community organizing,” he said.

Rosemarie Balanquit, Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer of DAR Northern Samar commended the resource speakers for the comprehensive discussions of the different topics which sustained the interest of the participants until the last day of the training.



DAR Western Visayas receives Bronze Award from CSC

The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in Western Visayas recently received a Bronze Award from the Civil Service Commission (CSC) under the Program to Institutionalize Meritocracy and Excellence in Human Resource Management (PRIME-HRM) for continuing its outstanding practice in human resource management.

The PRIME-HRM Award System aims to celebrate and recognize excellence in human resource management systems, practices, and competencies of government agencies under the 4 core HRM areas.

These 4 core HRM areas include: (1) Recruitment Selection and Placement (RSP), (2) Learning and Development (L&D), (3) Performance Management (PM), and (4) Rewards and Recognition (R & R). Agencies meeting all the Maturity Level 2 indicators are conferred with the Bronze Award.

The Commission also recognized the DAR Western Visayas for being compliant with civil service laws, rules, and regulations on issuing appointments and other HR programs and has maintained its HR records management.



Having been conferred the PRIME-HRM Bronze Award, the CSC has granted privileges to the Department such as an authority to approve appointments, subject to post audit, among others.

Such award is a manifestation that DAR Western Visayas upholds

“People Excellence for Service Excellence”-- a philosophy that guides the agency in helping every employee to be a “Lingkod Bayani” in the service of agrarian reform beneficiaries in Western Visayas. CSC also gave 20% discount to the DAR regional office for Civil

Service Institute trainings and conferences, exclusive membership to Community of Learners who can access digital learning

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resources and other developmental opportunities, nomination or recommendation for scholarship grant or CSC's Certification Program, and announcement of the agency's programs and projects bureaucracy-wide through the CSC website.

The award was received by Gideon A. Umadhay Jr., DAR Assistant Regional Director for Support to Operations, Lucrecia S. Taberna, Asst. Regional Director for Program Beneficiaries Development and Land Tenure Security Program, and Josephine D. Pamulag, regional personnel officer at the Grand Xing Imperial Hotel, Iloilo City.



MARCH 20

SOCOT FARMERS GROOM AS AGRI-ENTREPRENEURS



Agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) in Polomolok, South Cotabato are groomed to become agri-entrepreneurs as the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) launched 14th Farm Business School (FBS) in this town.

The FBS, which provides education to ARBs on how to improve farm production, and marketing strategy, is in consonance with the directive of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., to

DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III, to improve the livelihood of the farmers.

Dolefil Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Cooperative (DARBC) Vice-Chairman Maria Antonia Banting conveyed the cooperative's commitment and promised full participation in the course of the program.

"Through this program, our farmers will certainly improve their farm production and profitability," she said.

The FBS would equip the ARBs with knowledge in sustainable farming, and provide them with interventions to innovate, develop, and make their products more enticing to the market to make them become effective farmer-entrepreneurs.

Charish Paña, DAR-South Cotabato Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II, said the program implementation would run for 16 weeks with 25 hands-on sessions.

"The ARBs attending the FBS are lucky because the learning center is just around their doorsteps. They no longer need to go to school and learn the valuable lessons that they will experience in the program," she said.

FBS is implemented in partnership with DARBC, Department of Agriculture, Department of Trade and Industry, and other Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program or CARP-implementing agencies.

MARCH 21

DAR EMPLOYEES UNDERGO STRATEGIC PLANNING-WORKSHOP

The key officials and personnel of the Office of the Undersecretary for Special Concerns (SCO-EACO) and External Affairs and Communications Operations are slated to undergo a strategic planning seminar-workshop from March 23 - 24 at the University Hotel in UP Diliman.

Dubbed as "Crafting a Blueprint for Public Value Creation," the activity will also include participants from the three sectors of SCO-EACO, which is headed by Undersecretary Atty. Marilyn B. Barua-Yap. These sectors are the Public Assistance and Media Relations Service (PAMRS), the Clientele Relations Service



STRATEGIC PLANNING SEMINAR-WORKSHOP CRAFTING A BLUEPRINT FOR PUBLIC VALUE CREATION

March 23-24, 2023 University Hotel UP, Diliman Quezon City



(CRS), and the Legislative Liaison and External Affairs Service. Key officials and select personnel from the Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects Office (FASPO) and the Office for Mindanao Affairs (OMA)

will also be in attendance. The seminar-workshop will be conducted by Dr. Edgardo Pangilinan, the Deputy Secretary-General of the House of Representatives, who is a specialist

in strategic management and is an active lecturer at the University of the Philippines (UP) and the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP).

Undersecretary Yap said that the seminar-workshop is part of DAR's capacity-building thrust under the leadership of Secretary Conrado M. Estrella III, whose priority is to bring government to the people. The strategic planning workshop will teach the participants the basics of strategic analysis, practical tools, and techniques towards the development and implementation of the sector's strategic roadmap in the next five years.

DAR TARGETS 100% RESOLUTION AND COMPLIANCE RATING FOR 2023 UNDER 8888

The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) is targeting to get a 100-percent resolution and compliance rate this year under the government's 8888 Citizens' Complaint Action Program.

DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III bared this after the Office of the President commended the DAR for addressing swiftly and in a timely manner all 479 issues and concerns raised by its stakeholders and advocates last year.

"We are pleased to inform you that of the 479 citizens' concerns referred to your office from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022, 479 tickets or 100 percent were acted upon. We

would like to commend your efforts in ensuring that all citizens' concerns referred to your office are acted upon on time," Bernadette Casinabe, head of the 8888 Citizens' Complaint Center, said.

Casinabe said that of the 479 issues and concerns referred before the DAR, only six were acted upon beyond the three-day notice or 72 hours for a high 98.75-percent compliance rating.

Casinabe said he is looking forward "to our continued partnership in the fight against red tape and corruption."

Estrella expressed his deep appreciation even as he declared to

raise the ante by targeting a hundred-percent accomplishment rate in both the resolution and 72-hour compliance.

"We will continue exerting and exhausting all efforts in a timely manner to address issues and concerns affecting the public," the DAR chief said.

Atty. Jazon Collado, director of the DAR-Clientele Relations Service, the office responsible for addressing issues and concerns referred to the department, also commended the DAR central office frontliners and field offices in swiftly addressing the concerns of the clientele.

"We are happy doing what we ought

to do and, that is: 'Serve the Filipino people the best way we can,'" he said.

The 8888 Citizens' Complaint Center was established in June 2007 to serve as a mechanism where citizens may report their complaints and grievances on acts of red tape, as defined under Republic Act (RA) No. 9485, otherwise known as the "Anti-Red Tape Act, as amended by RA No. 11032.

It also acts on cases of corruption against any national government agency, government-owned or controlled corporations, government financial institutions and other instrumentalities.

MARCH 22

3 AGRARIAN COOPERATIVES IN CAMNORTE GET MOTORIZED HAULERS

DAET, Camarines Norte — Three (3) agrarian reform beneficiary organizations (ARBOs) each received one motorized hauling vehicle from the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) here.

The delivery service vehicles worth P170,000.00 each will be used to transport the groups' agri-products to private buyers and consumers.

Meralyn Bongais, DAR Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer, said through the service vehicles, the three cooperatives can expand their operations and increase the income of the farmer-members as well as the organization.

The DAR facilitated the signing of the Trust Agreement and the certificate of turnover for the official receipt of equipment to the San Jose Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Association (SARA),



the San Pascual Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Organization (SPARBO), and the Brgy. Maisog Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Organization (BMARBO).

The service vehicles were provided under the Sustainable Livelihood Support for Disaster Affected Areas

and the Expanded Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty programs.

"This hauler will help us in transporting our products to the market, where we can sell them at a reasonable price. That is one of the many things we are grateful

for. This would be a big help for agrarian reform beneficiaries like us," said Marilyn Francisco, BMARBO officer.

BMARBO, a coconut producing organization, is also one of the organizations provided with a project under the Sustainable Livelihood Support for Disaster-Affected Areas for year 2023.

Francisco added they will also receive a startup kit that would allow them to establish a broiler production project providing additional income for their families.

Alicia Almacin, DAR chief for support services, said that SPARBO's rice trading business continues to generate significant gains, while SARA is fully involved in its profitable egg production venture.

MARCH 23

11 farmers' organizations in Sultan Kudarat receive P2.9-M farm machinery

Eleven (11) agrarian reform beneficiaries' organizations (ARBOs) in Sultan Kudarat recently received P2.9-million worth of farm machinery from the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) to boost their livelihood activities.

The farm machineries include 13 units of hand tractor with trailer worth P130,000.00 each, eight (8) units of floating tiller (Bao-bao) worth P75,250.00 each and eight (8) units of power tiller (Kuliglig) worth P76,000.00 each.

The activity is in line with the directive of President Ferdinand

Marcos Jr. to DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella, to pour out support services to ARBOs nationwide.

The ARBO-recipients of farm machineries include the Libertad Peace and Development Farmers Association, Batang Bagras, Libertad Peace and Development Farmers Association, Maligaya Peace and Development, Telafas Peace and Development, Kalanawe II Farmers Association, Tambak Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries, Palavilla Barangay Irrigation, Barurao II Women's Association, Cadiz Rice Farmers Association, Nati



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Communal Irrigators Association, and P4MP Baras. Ruth D. Mayo, Board of Director of Maligaya Telafas Peace and Development Farmers Association from Columbio, thanked the DAR for once again going an extra mile to help them. "We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the DAR for all their continued support in helping us improve our lives especially in these trying times. These farm machineries will be a huge help to our organization. Rest assured that these will be taken good care of and will be put to good use," she said. The farm machinery was provided under the Sustainable and Resilient Agrarian Reform Communities Project, which aims to balance

economic growth, social well-being and environmental care. H. Roldan A. Ali, DAR Assistant Regional Director, said this initiative is part of DAR's effort to assist the ARBOs in boosting their agricultural productivity and improving the farmers' economic lives. "I hope that this turned over farm machinery will serve its purpose and that it will be maintained and sustained because it will help you achieve higher farm productivity and profitability," he said. The said ARBOs are from the municipalities of Palimbang, Columbio, President Quirino, Lambayong, Lutayan, Kalamansig, Lebak, and Senator Ninoy Aquino, and Tacurong City.

MARCH 24

BOHOL ARBS RECEIVE AGRI LANDS



Ninety-nine (99) agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) in the town of San Miguel in Bohol province received a total of 113 hectares of agricultural land from the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) to improve their economic lives. The activity is in line with the stand of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., through the leadership of DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III, to provide farmers with agricultural lands. The distributed lands cover the former landholdings of Primo Almedilla, et al., in Barangay Corazon in the said town. Leomides Villareal, DAR Central Visayas regional director, said the

lands given to the farmers would be a big help in sustaining their daily needs. "Aside from providing lands, the DAR will also provide you with necessary support services to make your lands productive and help you increase your earnings," he told the farmers. Villareal also reminded the ARBs of their obligation to their newly-acquired properties, such as taking good care of it and religiously paying their land taxes. The DAR's support services include provision of infrastructure facilities, agricultural machineries, agricultural inputs, agricultural technologies, training and seminars, and access to credit institutions, among others.

MARCH 25

FARMERS' COOPERATIVE OPENS DAIRY BOX IN JALAJALA RIZAL

The Llano Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative (LFMPC), located in Brgy. Bayugo, Jalajala, Rizal recently opened its Dairy Box, the first in the CALABARZON region. The Dairy Box will be the center not only of the LFMPC's delicious buffalo milk products, but also of various products made by nearby cooperatives and associations in the province. "We are very grateful to the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), which facilitated the partnership between and among various government agencies and local government units to put up this Dairy Box," said Lamberto Campo, LFMPC Board of Director (BOD) Chairman. Included among the products offered by the Dairy Box are



flavored milk, pastillas de leche and other pasalubong products, all made with 100% fresh buffalo milk. Raul M. Leonin, DAR-Rizal

Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II, said this is a proof of the LFMPC's hard work and dedication to provide fresh and quality milk products,

who have been engaged in dairy processing since 2006. It is expected that this project would greatly contribute to the tourism of Jalajala. Aside from the DAR, other concerned offices involved in the construction of the Dairy Box are the Philippine Carabao Center, University of the Philippines-Los Baños, Departments of Agriculture, Trade and Industry, Science and Technology, Labor and Employment, the local governments of Rizal. The project was funded by the Office of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Food, and Agrarian Reform through its chairperson Senator Cynthia Villar, geared towards providing income opportunities to farmers and progressing the carabao dairy industry.

CASSAVA KROPEK PRODUCTION OF CAMSUR COOPERATIVE GETS A BOOST WITH DAR, DOST, LGU TIE UP



BULA, CAMARINES SUR — The cassava kropek production of the Sto. Nino Multi-Purpose Cooperative (SNMPC) would soon be able to increase and improve their production with the recent tie up of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Department of Science and Technology Region (DOST), and the local government unit (LGU) of Bula.

The upgrading of SNMPC's production capacity, according to Ricardo C. Garcia, DAR Camarines Sur Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer, is part of the convergence program of DAR and DOST, which seek to meet the growing consumer demand and make the cooperative more

competitive.

"This convergence initiative of DAR, DOST and the LGU of Bula will not only develop the quality of their cassava kropek, but it will also ensure a stable market for it," Garcia said.

The project will be implemented over a three-year period, with one year dedicated to performance and two years for monitoring.

Garcia said the SNMPC, as the project's beneficiary, will receive a total of P335,110.00.

DOST will provide P289,610.00, while LGU Bula will give P30,000.00 and another P9,000.00 from DAR Camarines Sur 1. The SNMPC, on the other hand, has agreed to provide P6,500.00 to the

project.

During the ceremonial check release, Municipal Councilor Nelly Largo commended the government agencies for choosing SNMPC as the project's beneficiary. She also reminded everyone of the obligations tied to the release of the funds.

Patrocinio G. Felizmenio, director of DOST Camarines Sur, expects the project to be a stepping stone to a larger effort and as sustainable as other DOST-supported projects.

Augusto S. Medina Jr., chief of the Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Development and Sustainability Program, stressed that the DAR continues to collaborate with other line agencies to give

viable businesses to agrarian reform beneficiary organizations (ARBOs) and agrarian reform beneficiaries.

He then challenged SNMPC to go the extra mile to become on par with other successful businesses.

SNMPC Chairperson Augusto G. Consorte assured that the funding will be utilized to improve the cassava kropek business and other products of the cooperative, such as mushroom food seasoning.

"We will do this not only for our cooperative, but for the entire community of Bula," he added.

Kropek is a cracker made from starch or animal skin added with flavoring, deep-fried, grilled or hot sand fried.

296 North Cotabato farmers receive agri lands and land titles

A total of 296 agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) in Pigcawayan, North Cotabato received 272 certificates of land ownership award (CLOAs) comprising a total land area of 696.306 hectares.

Pakir Pasawiran, one of the ARB-recipients, said that they are very happy for the individual land titles they received and consider it as a treasure and a valuable property.

"The land title is very important to us because it is proof that we can tell anyone that we are the absolute owner of the land. It is now our valuable property that we can freely develop to make it productive for



our family," Pasawiran said.

This activity is in accordance with the stand of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., through the leadership of DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella

III, to provide agricultural lands for the farmers to till.

Evangeline Bueno, Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II, said the distributed lands are

located in Barangay Payong-payong in the said municipality.

"We are doing our best to fast track the distribution of lands as mandated by our Secretary and provide them with support services as a way of bringing the government closer to the people," Bueno said.

Bueno further elaborated that the support services will be intensified in the area to capacitate the ARBs and provide them with enterprise development and economic support interventions to make their lands productive, increase their income, and improve the quality of their living.

Estrella: 'Ensure all rural infrastructure projects are operational and well-maintained'

Agrarian Reform Conrado Estrella III is mobilizing all his field officials to keep an eye on all rural infrastructure sub-projects that have already been completed and turned over to concerned local government units (LGUs) and ensure that they are properly maintained and functioning according to their designs and purposes.

Estrella said that it is vital for every regional and provincial agrarian reform official to see to it that all completed rural infrastructure sub-projects and those already turned over to concerned LGUs are monitored and their overall condition determined for proper management and maintenance.

"Keeping these rural infrastructures at their best condition helps sustain the gains the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) has worked for through the years," Estrella said, referring to sub-projects implemented under its foreign-assisted special projects program.

Atty. Milagros Isabel Cristobal, Undersecretary for Support Services, urged all DAR regional directors and provincial agrarian reform program officers to institutionalize the conduct of the sustainability, monitoring and evaluation (SME) scheme "to preserve and restore the system of completed sub-projects."

"We need to maintain in good

condition completed foreign-assisted special sub-projects according to their designs and accepted configurations to offset the effects of weather, organic growth, traffic wear, damage or vandalism and to preclude deterioration of structures and appurtenant facilities over time," Cristobal stressed.

Cristobal enjoined the field officials of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) to conduct periodic SME on completed and turned-over rural infrastructure sub-projects as part of the program beneficiaries development program.

She also advised them to coordinate with concerned LGUs and monitor their compliance

of providing operational and maintenance funds during the 10-year reglementary period from the date the projects were turned over to them to ensure that these sub-projects are properly maintained, functioning and beneficial to their intended beneficiaries.

Providing operational and maintenance funds for the DAR's foreign-assisted special projects are clearly stipulated in the memoranda of agreement the concerned LGUs had forged with the DAR and the foreign financing institutions, in which the financial grants for the implementation of the projects will be reverted to loans and shouldered by the negligent LGUs.

PARCCOM PRESIDING OFFICERS ATTEND PARC SECRETARIAT NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The Presiding Officers of Provincial Agrarian Reform Coordinating Committees (PARCCOMs) nationwide attended the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council (PARC) Secretariat national conference to be updated on the new developments and latest policy issuances on the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) and discuss other matters involving the implementation of agrarian reform.

Dubbed "PARCCOM Leadership: Meeting the Challenges," the event was to strengthen the 76 PARCCOMs presiding officers nationwide, held at Queen Margarette Hotel, Lucena City, Quezon province from March 27-30, 2023.

Atty. Kazel C. Celeste, DAR Undersecretary for Field Operations Office, said this conference would strengthen the PARCCOM, which plays a crucial role in the successful implementation of agrarian reform in the countryside.

"The PARCCOM is the partner



of the PARC, the highest policy-making body of the CARP, at the provincial level. They are in charge of coordinating and monitoring the programs, activities, and projects implemented at the field level," she said.

Celeste said this event would update PARCCOM chairpersons on

the department's new policies and programs and would serve as an avenue to address their issues and concerns in implementing CARP at the provincial level.

Atty. Eric Francis Luna, Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II of Quezon I said that the event strengthened the bond they have

built in the last 29 years since its creation, through the passage of Republic Act No. 6657 or the CARP Law.

Luna disclosed the PARCCOMs have performed and served well for the welfare of the agrarian reform program and its millions of beneficiaries.

"At the end of the day, I believe that government is about teamwork and partnership and we will be proving this as true by working together," Luna added.

Atty. MacDonald M. Galit, Director IV of the PARC, said that this year's conference is also timely in view of the change in the DAR management. PARCCOMs will be informed of the DAR's agrarian reform agenda and priority goals for the next six (6) years.

"As a newly designated PARC Director, I assure you that I will do my best in accordance with my oath of Office to implement the objectives of President Ferdinand Marcos and DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III.

PARCCOMS MEMBERS RECEIVE RECOGNITION FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS, STRONG COMMITMENT TO CARP IMPLEMENTATION

Members of the Provincial Agrarian Reform Coordinating Committees (PARCCOMs), especially the private sector representatives (PSRS), received recognition from the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council (PARC) Secretariat for their exceptional

contributions, strong commitment, and support to the agrarian reform program implementation during the National Conference of PARCCOM Chairpersons held at Queen Margarette Hotel, Lucena City, Quezon.

"Especially deserving of this

recognition are those PARCCOMs who strongly honored their commitments, have initiatives, or have gone the extra mile beyond their mandated functions to help the agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) and other members of the community," Atty. MacDonald M.

Galit, Director IV of the PARC said.

He said the PARCCOM members, especially the PSRS receive very minimal remuneration for their

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services and only operate on a meager quarterly budget despite their numerous functions and concerns.

“Notwithstanding these setbacks, the PARCCOMs’ coordinative and monitoring efforts focused on ensuring the efficient implementation of the program towards improving the lives of the ARBs and ushering rural development for the past thirty-five (35) years,” he said.

Galit said the criteria in the selection of exceptional PARCCOMs include: exerting extra efforts for the agrarian reform program; passing the highest number of relevant resolutions on policy and reform program, and operational issues for the year 2022 to facilitate the implementation of agrarian; has 100% compliance to the provision of mortuary assistance and oldest members of the PARCCOMs.

“The recipient PARCCOMs with Exemplary and Successful Initiatives are Bukidnon, Davao City, Camarines Norte, and Davao Occidental,” he said.

PARCCOMs with the most number

of relevant resolutions passed for the year 2022 are Masbate with 36 resolutions passed, Camarines Norte with 28 resolutions, Apayao with 26 resolutions, Kalinga with 26 resolutions, Albay with 24 resolutions, Camarines Sur with 24 resolutions and Quezon 22 resolutions.

Occidental Mindoro PARCCOM receives 100% compliance with the request for mortuary assistance.

Alberto B. Agpawan, 86 years old, the oldest Indigenous Cultural Communities (ICC) representative from Mt. Province PARCCOM was also recognized for his dedication and passion to serve despite his old age; along with Filomeno Flordeliza, 85 years old, a landowner in the category of the principal crop, Davao Occidental; Constancio Estillore, 83 years old, a landowner for other crops, Davao City; Dionisio Valor, 83 years old, ICC representative from Negros Oriental; Atty. Teresita Dy-Liacco Flores, 83 years old, landowner-principal crop, Albay; and Rolando Broquil, 82 years old, farmers’ organizations’ representative from Bataan.

DAR OSC-EACO SUCCESSFULLY HOLDS STRATEGIC PLANNING SEMINAR-WORKSHOP

The Office of Special Concerns and External Affairs and Communications Operations (OSC-EACO), of the Department of Agrarian Reform, successfully held its Strategic Planning Seminar-Workshop last March 23 - 24 at the University Hotel in UP Diliman.

Dr. Eduardo H. Pangilinan, Deputy Secretary-General and the head of the Legislative Information Resources and Management Department of the House of Representatives lectured participants on the steps in the formulation of a strategic management plan and theoretical concepts of the strategic planning process.

The same was applied during the conduct of the two-day activity, through a series of exercises that Dr. Pangilinan asked the groups of



participating offices to accomplish, in order to measure their grasp of the subjects discussed and emphasize how essential strategic planning in the formulation and achievement of set goals.

In her closing remarks,

Undersecretary Atty. Marilyn B. Barua-Yap urged the participants to take advantage of the capacity-building activities that the department has been organizing for its employees, to update and upgrade their management skill sets.

She also reiterated the theme of the activity, “Crafting a Blueprint for Public Value Creation,” to become part and parcel of the participants’ mindset when it comes to the performance of their respective duties and responsibilities, as it is part of Secretary Conrado M. Estrella III’s vision of bringing government to the people.

The participants were composed of the officials and personnel from the Public Assistance and Media Relations Service (PAMRS), the Legislative Liaison and External Affairs Service (LLEAS), the Clientele Relations Service (CRS) of OSC-EACO and select officials and personnel from the Foreign-Assisted Projects Office (FASPO) and Office of Mindanao Affairs (OMA).

MARCH 30

CEBU FARMERS’ GROUP RECEIVE PHP1.3-M FARM TRACTOR

A farmers’ group in the town of Daanbantayan, in the province of Cebu received a Php1.3-million worth of farm tractor from the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR).

DAR Central Visayas Regional Director Leomides Villareal said a total of 104 farmer-members of Dalingding Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Association (DAARBA), a DAR-assisted agrarian reform beneficiary organization (ARBO) located in

Barangay Dalingding, would benefit from the tractor.

“The turned over 35 horsepower, 4-wheel drive tractor will be a big boost to agrarian reform beneficiaries’ farm productivity and is expected to generate more income to the farmers and their organization,” he said.

Villareal encouraged more farmers to join ARB organizations because more government interventions would be channeled through these DAR-assisted organizations.



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The provision of farm machinery is in line with the stand of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., through the leadership of DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III, to improve the livelihood of the farmers.

“Our President and the DAR Secretary have given us directives to pour more support services to the farmers to uplift their economic lives. These support services include the provision of

infrastructure facilities, agricultural machines, agricultural inputs, agricultural technologies, training and seminars, and access to credit institutions, among others,” he added.

The farm machinery was provided under the Climate Resilient Farm Productivity Support Project (CRFPSP) on Major Crop-Based Block Farm and Sustainable Livelihood Program of the agency.



MEMBERS OF VARIOUS AGENCIES DRAFT EO ON SUSTAINABLE LAND USE AND MANAGEMENT

The Presidential Management Staff (PMS) of the Office of the President (OP) spearheaded the facilitation meeting on the drafting of an Executive Order (EO) for Sustainable Land Use and Management last March 29, 2023, at the PMS Building in Arlegui, Malacañan compound.

Agrarian Reform Secretary Conrado M. Estrella III facilitated the meeting attended by representatives from the various departments involved in land use and management including the Departments of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Agriculture (DA), Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD), Interior and Local Government (DILG), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA),



Presidential Legislative Liaison Office (PLLO), and the PMS. Estrella emphasized that the EO should be aligned with the priority set by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on the passage of a

National Land Use Act during his first State of the Nation Address last year. As an executive decree, it can provide a mechanism for inter-agency cooperation but should never

supplant established procedures and jurisdictions conferred by the law. The National Land Use Act, if passed by Congress, will provide the legal structure, procedure, system, and enforcement actions for land use management. But the key element in both an EO and the law once passed is to ensure food security.

Guided by the pronouncements of Secretary Estrella, the representatives of the various agencies submitted their comments and recommendations. A Technical Working Group has been set up to work on a version of the EO with the input of the agencies.

The DAR was represented by Undersecretaries Napoleon U. Galit, Marilyn B. Barua-Yap, and Luis Meinrado C. Pañgulayan.

MARCH 31

DAR, DPWH finish P5.8 million FMR projects in Pangasinan

A total of 241 agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) and 13,710 non-ARBs from the interior areas in Calasiao and Laoac 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) recently completed the farm-to-market Road (FMR) projects located at barangay Anis in Laoac, and barangays Talibaew, Banaoang, San Vicente in Calasiao, Pangasinan.

Maria Ana Francisco, DAR Ilocos Regional Director, and concurrent Provincial and Agrarian Reform Program Officer II led the on-site inspection of four (4) DAR-funded FMR projects to ensure these projects were implemented in accordance with the established guidelines and procedures.

Francisco said the DAR considers the construction of the FMR as the government’s road to people’s hearts, as well as a testimony to the department’s commitment to serve the rural folks, especially the ARBs. “The construction of these rural infrastructure projects was implemented under the DAR’s



Sustainable and Resilient Agrarian Reform Communities (SuRe ARCs) project with the aim to help enhance the capacity of farmers within the agrarian reform community to produce, deliver and ensure the continued supply of food in the province,” she said. She disclosed that the FMRs

involved the concreting of .327 km. in Barangay Banaoang, Calasiao, Pangasinan worth Php2,910,367.90; concreting of .250 km. in Barangay Vicente, Calasiao, Pangasinan worth Php2,911,882.74; concreting of .101 km in Barangay Talibaew, Calasiao, Pangasinan worth Php2,911,754.67; and concreting

of .220 km. in Barangay Anis in Laoac, Pangasinan worth Php4,960,194.88. “These FMRs will change the lives of ARBs, it will definitely bring better production and good prices for their products that will improve their income and livelihood,” she ended.