

Balitang DAR

Official Newsletter of the Department of Agrarian Reform

APRIL-JUNE-2018

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COVER STORY

DAR awaits Congress nod for CARP II

By Richard B. Gallardo

THE Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has expressed its readiness should Congress give it the go-signal to resume acquiring and distributing agricultural land under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP), which was put to a halt following its expiration four years ago.

DAR Secretary John R. Castricones said preparations are already in place in response to President Duterte's declaration: "I want to resume land reform because it is really needed."

President Duterte, however, stressed that his idea was not simply a resumption of land reform, but also involved the possibility of converting idle and forest lands into productive agricultural areas for the farmers in the country.

"Bitawan na natin lahat ngayon. Wala namang silbi 'yan. It is not productive. It is not being used for anything. Why do we not embark on a second phase of land reform?" he said.

President Duterte issued the statement in response to strong clamor from various sector for the resumption of the land acquisition and distribution component of the CARP.

After the land acquisition and distribution of the CARP expired in June 2014, the DAR is constrained to pursue the coverage of farm lands that had already been issued with notices of coverage, hear and resolve agrarian cases, and provide support services to both agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) and non-ARBs to enhance farm productivity.

DAR records show that some 561,000 hectares of



Duterte hands a CLOA to a farmer-beneficiary as Secretary Castricones looks on.



government and privately owned agricultural lands are still up for distribution.

Castricones said the DAR is considering two schemes: the re-issuance of notices of coverage to privately owned agricultural lands that are not yet placed under CARP coverage, and the acquisition of public lands, following the President's idea.

Castricones said the first scheme is just a continuation of past activities that was abruptly stopped with the expiration of the five-year CARP extension with reform (CARPer) Law in June 2014.

The second scheme, Castricones said, involves expanding the CARP coverage of his office, where natural, timber and mineral lands would be transferred to the DAR from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

DAR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and Research David Erro explained that the DAR and the DENR would sit down to discuss the parameters for the smooth and orderly transfer of the said natural, timber and mineral lands for distribution to landless farmers.

"The whole idea is to make these lands productive," Erro said.

Erro even quoted President Duterte as saying: "Even if it is really a mountain or a hill, taniman ninyo ng coconut at rubber as I had experienced in Mindanao."

Erro said the DAR is leaving it to Congress to make the necessary amendments to the Republic Act No. 6657, also known as the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law (CARL), which set the limit of elevation of land to be distributed by the DAR to landless farmers up to 18 percent slopes.

Any lands with elevation above the 18-percent slope are placed under the coverage of the DENR. ●

Castriciones confirmed!

By Remy E. Arcaina

THE Commission on Appointments (CA) confirmed last May 29 the appointment of Agrarian Reform Secretary John R. Castriciones.

Senator Grace Poe, who presided over the CA's committee on agrarian reform, said the decision to approve Castriciones' appointment was reached in an executive session where a secret voting was made, with 13 members of the panel voting for the DAR chief's nomination and only two objecting.

The senator reminded Castriciones to address the concerns raised by those who opposed his nomination when she reported the panel's recommendation to the CA plenary the following day.

Castriciones assumed the post vacated by Rafael "Ka Paeng" Mariano whose nomination was rejected by the CA.

For more than 23 years, Castriciones was a law practitioner who appeared in inferior and superior courts throughout the country. During this period, he also served as legal counsel for several corporations and top government officials in controversial and precedent-setting cases.

In 2009, he served as Director for Investigation, Security and Law Enforcement Services (ISLES) of the Department of Transportation and Communication, and as assistant spokesman and deputy chairman of the Task Force Gabay of the Tagapagligtas sa Karagatan.

At the beginning of the current administration, he served as undersecretary for operations for the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) until his recent appointment at DAR.

He also serves as the national president of Mayor Rodrigo Roa Duterte National Executive Coordinating Committee (MRRD-NECC) and founding the senior partner of the Castriciones Legal Consultancy, where his children, who are also lawyers, practice their profession. ●

DAR Chief declares war vs graft and corruption

AGRARIAN Reform Secretary John Castriciones has declared war against graft and corruption within his office, saying that "heads will roll" in pursuit of his "no-holds-barred" campaign for a graft-free DAR.

"There will be no sacred cow in this campaign," Castriciones said, sending a strong warning to all DAR officials and employees to resist the lure of graft and corruption.

Castriciones said campaign is a gesture of reassuring President Duterte that the DAR would never again be dragged in any corrupt activities as in the past when it was linked to multi-million scams involving the Malampaya Fund and the Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF).

Some DAR officials had been charged with violating the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act for their

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Five years in the making

Secretary John Castriciones

494 employees savor long-awaited promotion

By Richard B. Gallardo

AGRARIAN Reform Secretary John R. Castriciones became the toast of the DAR community Friday (May 25, 2018), following the oath-taking of 494 newly promoted and appointed employees from the central office to the field offices in various parts of the country, the culmination of the five-year rationalization plan that was marked with confusion and uncertainty.

Calling them the "heroes of the country's land reform program," Castriciones presided the oath-taking of the newly promoted employees at the DAR Gymnasium in Quezon City.

Castriciones urged them to carry on with their tasks of distributing farm lands and delivering support services to agrarian reform beneficiaries to the best of their abilities to uplift the farmer-beneficiaries' standards of living and spur rural development.

He also implored them "to be selfless and be not afraid to sacrifice and even put their lives on the line, if necessary, in our efforts to address the social ills and injustices in the countryside."

"Being the catalysts of change, the instruments of justice and the servants of the Filipino people, the more you should be motivated to carry out your sacred duties and obligations without fear or favor as mandated under the country's agrarian reform law," the DAR chief stressed.

Undersecretary for Finance, Management and Administration Emily Padilla called "D-Day" as a "milestone in the lives of the newly promoted and appointed DAR employees" for their dedication and patience, giving their all despite the misgivings brought about by the aborted rationalization plan (RatPlan).

"For the longest time, they have waited for this very moment when their dreams (finally) become a reality," Padilla said.

The DAR's RatPlan actually commenced in August 2013 after having been suspended due to uncertainties brought about by the then near expiration of the five-year

Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program Extension with Reform (CARPer) Law.

The law eventually expired in June 2014 and, as if serving as a portent of what to come, the Civil Service Commission (CSC) rejected the DAR's RatPlan a month later for setting aside the Memorandum Circular No. 3, which calls for the placement of affected personnel to comparable positions before undertaking any promotions for deserving employees.

Leo Mabansag said he is grateful to the new administration of Secretary Castriciones and to President Duterte for making their dreams come true. Mabansag was promoted to municipal agrarian reform program officer (Marpo) for the clustered towns of San Julian and Sulat, Eastern Samar.

"It took us five years, all in all, before our prayers were answered. But it's worth it. I would say that the invalidation of our promotions brought pains to me and fellow DAR employees, but it only made us even stronger in our resolve to fulfill our duties and obligations to our clientele, both the farmer-beneficiaries and the landowners and other agrarian advocates," Mabansag said.

Samuel Sesio, who was also promoted to Marpo for the clustered towns of Balangkayan, Maydolong and Llorente also in Eastern Samar, admired the strong political will of the administration of Secretary Castriciones for doing in only five months what his predecessors had failed to do for years – the long awaited promotions.

"Finally, the waiting is over. Now, we can go back to work and work with peace of mind," Sesio said.

Lucille Mabanua-Busud was also ecstatic with her promotion from senior agrarian reform program officer to chief agrarian reform program officer of Isabela, serving as one of the deputies of the provincial agrarian reform program officer (Parpo) II.

"I'm very happy that finally we got our long overdue promotions. Hopefully, this is it, that this will not be recalled again as what had happened in the past," Busud said. ●

Secretary's Note

CARP Part II

WHEN President Duterte announced his desire to have a second phase of land reform, a great majority of the Philippine populace must have rejoiced as it open up anew more opportunities for landless farmers, an affirmation of it being the catalyst for change in the countryside.

Thirty years after the CARP was launched, the political and economic landscapes in the countryside have changed significantly for the better. People, who used to be submissive, are now becoming more assertive of their rights, and villages have since been gaining much-needed attention, something that were hardly felt before.

Never again have they become victims of neglect as assistance has kept on flowing not only from the Philippine government but also from the appreciative international community and financial institutions, which admires CARP for its uniqueness. Never have these international partners seen before such an agrarian reform program that distributes lands to landless farmers and simultaneously delivers support services to make the awarded lands productively as ever and eventually empower the recipient farmers, thus, making vibrant their once sleepy villages.

Truly, CARP has made them become more responsible to themselves as compared to before when they were content of being dictated upon on what they should become.

The changes in the countryside are probably what made President Duterte consider resuming CARP under his watch. Just the thought of CARP going to obscurity after it expired in June 2014 seems to be a bitter pill to swallow, knowing that there's a lot more to be done.

No one should doubt the resolve of President Duterte when he stressed that his idea "is not simply a resumption of land reform, but also the possibility of converting idle and forest lands into productive agricultural areas for the farmers in the country."

"Bitawan na natin lahat ngayon. They're not productive, anyway. Why do we not embark on a second phase of land reform?" he said.

Lest it be misunderstood, President Duterte is envisioning agricultural development out of the natural, timber and mineral lands rather than industrial. Conversion of these lands are, therefore, the farthest thing in his mind. So, real estate developers, back off.

He made it clear that "even if it's really a mountain or a hill, tatanim ninyo coconut at rubber as I had experienced in Mindanao."

For his part, Secretary John Castriciones announced the readiness of his department to embark on a new phase of agrarian reform, one that will be tainted no more with corruption, something that President Duterte abhors.

Secretary Castriciones already sent a strong warning against suspected corrupt department officials and employees to resist the lure of corruption even as he linked arms with the Presidential Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC) to investigate illicit activities of suspected corrupt DAR officials and employees.

The good secretary obviously finds prudence in the President's idea so that he doesn't want it spoiled even by any hint of corruption within his office.



The rebirth of agrarian reform

THE EMERGENCE of a new agrarian reform program in the country is in the offing. President Rodrigo Roa Duterte has many times articulated on "the renaissance" of agrarian reform. The President dwelled on this thought when he led the distribution of certificates of land ownership award (CLOAs) in Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao. It was again discussed during his speech in a CLOA distribution in Quezon Province.

It has been 30 years since the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) was established. A great number of our farmers have already earned victories in their fight to own the land they till. But for President Duterte, the program must continue, and this time with new direction and scope. Many of our farmers continue to farm in "strange lands" – lands that they do not own and control. Thirty years of CARP is not enough to alienate them from the bondage of tenancy. CARP must regenerate and linger to uplift the lives of our farmers and ensure the food security of our country.

The President is looking at the thousands of hectares of public but idle lands. For years, these terrains have been left futile despite its richness and suitability to agricultural production. With the new agrarian reform, President Duterte wants these lands to be given to the hands of our farmers for agricultural growth and improvement.

Success in high-value crop production is also part of the President's concept of new agrarian reform. In Mindanao, there's a lot of stories on achieving high productivity and income through high-value crop farming. The President wants



these success stories to turn into role models for farmers in Luzon and Visayas areas. If these thousands of hectares of idle lands will be subjected to agrarian reform and distributed, then we could hear, in the near future, more stories of triumphs.

My challenge to my colleagues at the DAR is to support the plan of the President. A new phase of agrarian reform in the country is crucial for food security and rural development.

Congratulations, Sir. This is the simplest yet sincere greetings I could send to Secretary John R. Castriciones for getting the nod of the Commission on Appointments.

Secretary John is about to face a herculean task inside the DAR. It will be under his reign that the concept of the resurgence of agrarian reform, now being promoted by the President, will be implemented. It's a great challenge, Sir. And we are here to work with you as a team.

Some words to my team members at the DAR. We can only prove our worth and effectiveness once we open our sails and venture into the waves and tides of challenges and trials. I've been into various roles in our society but the desire to take on another responsibility is always there, summoning me to move on. It's innate in my person that I have to embark upon the many challenges, avenues, and opportunities in life in order to grow as a better person and public servant. I want to share this with you so that together we will move as one in the service of our clientele – the farmers.

Balitang DAR

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93-year-old Pangasinense receives land title

By Pinky Roque

STA. BARBARA, Pangasinan—Ninety-three-year-old Emerenciana Bustamante from Burgos, Pangasinan was teary-eyed after receiving her long-awaited certificate of land ownership award (CLOA) from Agrarian Reform (DAR) Secretary John Castriciones in distribution ceremony held here.

“My long wait is finally over! The land is now legally mine,” cried Bustamante who, together with his husband farmed the land for more than 40 years.

“I know my husband is smiling in heaven,” said Bustamante, the oldest of the 155 jubilant agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) who received their CLOAs in a ceremony held at the Farmers’ Pavillion, Tebag East, Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan on May 10.

Castriciones together with Undersecretary for Field Operations Karlo Bello led the awarding of CLOAs and training certificates to 186 farmer-graduates



93-year-old Emerenciana Bustamante from Burgos, Pangasinan receiving her long-awaited certificate of land ownership award (CLOA) from Agrarian Reform Secretary John Castriciones and Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer Maria Ana Francisco.

are housing projects for farmers, TESDA scholarships for children of ARBs, the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program or 4Ps program of the Dept. of Social Welfare, provision of crop insurance from the Phil. Crop Insurance Corp., credit assistance from the Land Bank of the Phils. and from other financial institutions.

“We are lucky because we have a President who love the farmers. He is very supportive and these support services will be conducted under his term,” said Castriciones.

Undersecretary for Field Operations Bello thanked the DAR personnel in Pangasinan for efficiently facilitating the distribution of CLOAs to farmer-beneficiaries.

“It is so heartwarming to see farmers with their happy faces. They are very grateful for finally owning the land they have been tilling for so long. On our part, we are just as happy working for all of you to own your land,” Bello said.

During the CLOA distribution, Secretary Castriciones awarded certificates of training to 186 farmer-graduates.

DAR Regional Director Judita Tungol said they have recently conducted various trainings to help strengthen farm cooperatives under the Social Infrastructure Building (SIB) of the department.

She said three farm officials from 62 farm cooperatives were trained on basic cooperative courses namely: rules formulation, basic accounting, standard setting, credit management and delinquency control.

“Part of our work is to assist our farmers in maintaining and sustaining their farm cooperatives. These courses are essential in helping them achieve that,” said Tungol. ●



Secretary Castriciones giving his speech to farmer-beneficiaries.

The distributed lands covered some 322 hectares of agricultural lands located in the municipalities of Anda, Burgos, Dasol and Alaminos City.

Bustamante, who is also a retired teacher said that to augment their income, she taught in the elementary school while her late husband planted rice and fruit crops in the farm. “Now that I am in my twilight age, and my husband is in heaven, I will leave this land to my only child and to my grandchildren. I’m so happy, I know their future will be secured because I have something to leave them with,” Bustamante said.

Castriciones said the department will not stop after land distribution. “We will put into action a convergence strategy to provide support services to our farmers.”

Among those lined up for implementation



The Secretary with DAR officials Undersecretary for Field Operations Karlo S. Bello, Assistant Secretary for Foreign-Assisted Projects Teresita Vistro, Assistant Regional Director Felicidad Dumaguing and Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer Maria Ana Francisco.

Enraca finds an ally in microfinancing

HE WAS damp with sweat, and the heat of the noontime sun dried the mud that spattered in his body. But the 68-year-old farmer keeps pedaling his bicycle with his bare, mud-covered feet. His goal is to reach home and take his lunch with his children and wife. Only when he sees his family that he will be refreshed.

He is Leonardo Enraca. Since childhood, he is already engaged in farming. He was his father's helper in tilling the 6,600 square meters hectares rice land owned by Fabian Habal in Ponong, Casiguran, Sorsogon. On March 19, 1975, a leasehold contract was made between his father and the landowner's son.

"From that time on, I am already the one who toil the land because my father is already too old to do the strenuous work. However, the area was reduced to four thousand four hundred square meters after the landowner put restrictions," he said.

Although the area which he cultivates reduced in size, his rice land was somehow increased in 1984 when his mother-in-law transferred to him her 1.5-hectare rice land. However, his income in farming still could hardly meet both ends for his family.

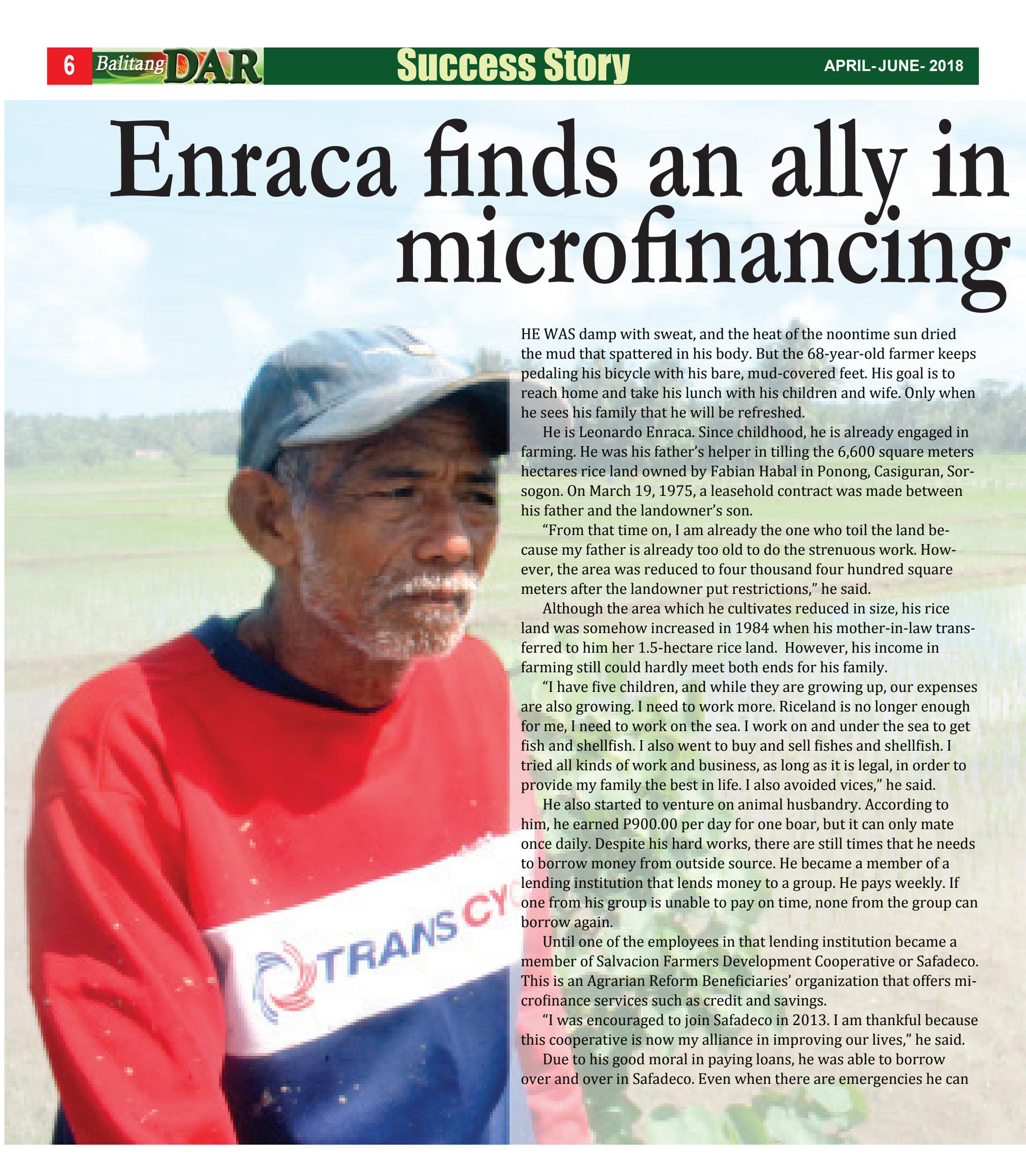
"I have five children, and while they are growing up, our expenses are also growing. I need to work more. Riceland is no longer enough for me, I need to work on the sea. I work on and under the sea to get fish and shellfish. I also went to buy and sell fishes and shellfish. I tried all kinds of work and business, as long as it is legal, in order to provide my family the best in life. I also avoided vices," he said.

He also started to venture on animal husbandry. According to him, he earned P900.00 per day for one boar, but it can only mate once daily. Despite his hard works, there are still times that he needs to borrow money from outside source. He became a member of a lending institution that lends money to a group. He pays weekly. If one from his group is unable to pay on time, none from the group can borrow again.

Until one of the employees in that lending institution became a member of Salvacion Farmers Development Cooperative or Safadeco. This is an Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries' organization that offers microfinance services such as credit and savings.

"I was encouraged to join Safadeco in 2013. I am thankful because this cooperative is now my alliance in improving our lives," he said.

Due to his good moral in paying loans, he was able to borrow over and over in Safadeco. Even when there are emergencies he can



TRANS CY

a peasant-based institution

rely on Safadeco.

“When my daughter needs money to take an exam, Safadeco was there. My loan is not just for farming expenditures but I also used it when my son went to Korea, when our house needs repair after it was destroyed by the road widening, and when somebody pawned a rice land,” he said.

In 2016, two farmers pawned their rice land to him. One has an area of 0.66 hectares and the other one has an area of 1.5 hectares. This resulted to an increase in rice production. There are also two more

boars added in his already earning boar.

Previously, there are 20 costumers that needed service for breeding, now they are already two hundred (200), that’s why he needs to increase the number of his boars.

“I was encouraged to join Safadeco in 2013. I am thankful because this cooperative is now my alliance in improving our lives,”



Today, four of his children are already professionals. The eldest is a mechanical technologist who’s taking a vacation in the province after some years of working abroad. The second is an automotive technologist in Korea. The third is still taking business administration. The fourth is a mechanical engineer working in Batangas. The youngest is an electrical engineer.

If before, Leonardo used to be the one operating the tractor from sunrise to sunset, now he has workers while he is the one who manages. But what’s surprising is that he can do the job much better than his young workers.

“They are amazed to see me operates the tractor for a whole day and I still have energy while they can’t because they easily get tired,” he said.

His neighbors told him that after his stressful life in the past, it is now the time to chill out. He has already fulfilled his obligation to his children, and he has already increased their assets. But still, he chose to work in the muds of the farm and shepherd his boars.

“If a person used to hard work and he stops working, soon he will stop breathing. Working is just my exercise. This is my way of burning the cholesterols and other toxins in my body, my way of renewing my energy. For health purposes, I chose to work, and work, and work,” he said smiling. (Alura A. Jaso)

Returning the Favor

(The Samuel Guadalquiver story)

“Boboy, who used to help his parents in the farm, said determination to escape poverty pushed him to strive and find ways to realize his dream.”

“THERE were times when my parents would tell me, I might not be able to continue my studies next school year because the harvest is low or the price of copra had gone down. Every time I hear this, the thought of not getting a college degree dreads me. Thus, I applied for a scholarship to finance my college education.”

Thus, said Samuel Guadalquiver Jr., one of the recipients of the President Diosdado Macapagal Agrarian Scholarship Program (PDMASP) in Northern Samar. His being the son of agrarian reform beneficiaries, Samuel Sr. and Amelita, was his ticket to the scholarship program.

PDMASP is a four-year college scholarship offered by DAR to deserving dependents of ARBs under the Program Beneficiaries Development component of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

“It was only by accident that I discovered the PDMASP,” Boboy said.

According to him, when he was in his first year in college at the University of Eastern Philippines, he applied for the Catarman Educational Scholarship Program offered by the local government unit so he could continue with his studies. But he didn’t make the cut.

When he returned to their school, Boboy, as he is fondly called, read an announcement at the bulletin board about a scholarship program being offered by DAR.

He grabbed the opportunity and got the slot. Later, he learned that DAR just re-opened its search to fill-in a vacated slot. Boboy must have been destined to become a PDMASP scholar to reach his dreams. In 2008, he graduated with a

degree of Bachelor of Elementary Education Major in Social Science.

The third in a brood of nine (two are now deceased), Boboy is the first to earn a college degree (the second is sister, Gloria, who was also a PDMASP scholar) in their family, and one of the handful of professionals in their village, which is situated in the mountains of Catarman, 27 kilometers away from the town proper.

He was the only one of the less than 20 pupils enrolled in grade 1 in 1994 who finished college.

“He was so determined,” his parents said proudly of him.

When I asked why his other classmates failed to continue their studies, Boboy said, it could probably be due to lack of motivation. He disclosed that their





teachers rarely report to school then because of the distance. That is why his parents transferred him to the town proper when he was in grade four.

Barangay Quezon is one of Catarman's remotest villages. There was no road at that time. People had to walk 10 kilometers to and from Barangay Polangi by just passing through a trail. Now, this barangay could already be reached by motorcycles for ₱70. Very soon, when concreting of the road is completed, travel will be much easier and perhaps cheaper.

Boboy, who used to help his parents in the farm, said determination to escape poverty pushed him to strive and find ways to realize his dream.

After graduation, he took the licensure examination for teachers and passed it.

But why did he return to Barangay Quezon to

teach, when there were better opportunities at the town proper or elsewhere?

Boboy humbly said he wanted to serve his fellow residents in their community. But to many, he inspires the young and motivates them to take education seriously to have a better future.

As a teacher, his supervisor Annie Dulay said, he is a good example worthy of being emulated, while his pupils described him as strict when it comes to their lessons.

He taught his students to be industrious. The once idle surrounding in their school is now planted to pili nuts and bananas.

Presently, Boboy is planning to take up masters degree this coming school year.

(Clariza C. Estremera)

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DAR Chief declares...

involvement in various multi-million scams, such as, the P200-million agribusiness program in 2007-2008; the P900-million Malampaya Fund for the rehabilitation of farmers devastated by typhoons in 2009; and the P230-million budget insertion in 2010 involving fake non-government organizations.

They were former DAR Secretary Nasser Pangandaman, Undersecretary Narciso Nieto, finance director Teresita Panlilio, budget officer Ronald Venancio, cashier Nilda Bauí, chief accountant Angelita Cacananta and administrative service director Dominador Sison.

Earlier, President Duterte expressed all out support for the second phase of the country's agrarian reform program, but stressed the need to get rid of corruption.

DAR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and Research David Erro said the department is coordinating closely with the Presidential Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC) to investigate illicit activities of suspected corrupt DAR officials and employees.

"We need the PACC (Presidential Anti-Corruption Commission) to also correct the defects in the system of procurement and other transactions involving government funds," Mr. Erro said in a press conference at the DAR central office in Quezon City.

PACC Commissioner Greco Belgica said anybody who could provide any information that may lead to the filing of charges against erring government officials and employees would receive as much as 25 percent of the would-be recovered ill-gotten wealth.

"This is in line with President Duterte's directives to cleanse the government of corrupt personnel," Mr. Belgica said. ● (R. Gallardo)

Quezon Province

President Duterte distributes CLOAs to Hda. Matias farmers



PRESIDENT Rodrigo Roa Duterte distributes today certificates of land ownership award (CLOAs) to 386 agrarian reform beneficiaries, effectively transferring to them the ownership of the remaining 654.4082 hectares of the Hacienda Matias in Mulanay, Quezon province.

The farmer-beneficiaries are also assured of government support and assistance, a promise made by President Duterte to all farmer-beneficiaries, including the beneficiaries here to ensure the continued and greater productivity of farmlands distributed to them.

Early last year, 283 farmer-beneficiaries received their CLOAs for about half of the estate covering three of the seven land titles, but were unable to occupy the land due to harassment by the hacienda workers and legal maneuvers of the landowners.

The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) is doing its best to hasten the distribution of land titles to actual tillers as ordered by the President to empower them and give them opportunities for a dignified and improved quality of life.

DAR records showed that the Hacienda Matias, which is covered by seven titles, has been placed under the CARP since 2004. Earlier, a portion of the property covered by three titles, were given out last year.

For several years, the owners of the 1,715-hectare Matias estate, mostly planted to coconut and straddles the villates of Butanguiad and Don Juan Vercelos in San Francisco town in Bondoc Peninzula district, have been opposing the government's land reform program, specifying that the estate is a "cattle ranch."

The government, through Malacanang decision dated June 9, 2014 signed by Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr, rejected the argument.

Under the previous sharing system in the hacienda, a farmer is given only a third of the proceeds of farm products, like copra.

The hacienda caretaker takes charge of selling the copra and automatically deducts the two-thirds share of the landowner from the proceeds.

The farmers shoulder all the production expenses but are not refunded after the sale.

Also present during the distribution of land titles are top officials of the province led by Quezon Gov. David "Jayjay" C. Suarez, Partylist ALONA Rep. Ana V. Suarez, Land Bank of the Philippines AVP Ramilito R. Basbacio, Register of Deeds Atty. Sherwin M. Fernandez, Provincial Assessor Atty. Melojean M. Puache, Provincial Treasurer Rosario Marilou M. Uy and Mulanay Mayor Joselito Ojeda. San Narciso Mayor Florabelle U. Uy-Yap, San Francisco Mayor Engr. Ernani C. Tan, Catanauan Mayor Atty. Almira A. Orfanel and Unisan Mayor Nonato E. Puache. ●

Easterv Visayas

DAR Region VIII now ISO 9001:2015 certified

TACLOBAN CITY – For all officers and employees of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in Region VIII, May 21 will always be a special day since it was then when the office was conferred its ISO 9001:2015 certification.

The conferment of ISO 9001:2015 was handed over by Norlito M. Suelo, GIC of the Certifying Body to Regional Director Atty. Sheila B. Enciso in a ceremony held at DAR Region VIII office in Tacloban City.

As ISO 9001:2015 certified, DAR VIII has already proven its ability to provide support services to its clientele, the agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs).

In his welcome address, Asst. Reg. Dir. Ismael P Aya-ay recognized the efforts and contributions of all DAR employees in the area.

"Pinaghirapannaminito. It's not as easy as eating a pie," Aya-ay pointed out as he recalled the difficult tasks they had gone through.

"Thank you for your contributions, no matter how big and small," he added.

The conferment also manifested the undying resolve of the men and women of DAR Region VIII to pursue the objectives of the agrarian reform program of the government in the area, despite the devastations it suffered during the onslaught of typhoon Yolanda in November 2013.

Tacloban City and most parts of Region VIII were among the areas devastated by "Yolanda's" fury, that saw thousands of residents killed and hundreds of millions worth of infrastructures and sources of livelihood of the people destroyed.

After the ruins, DAR Region VIII was able to put into operation applicable statutory and regulatory requirements.

In his pre-conferment message, Suelo said he is happy to confer the certification to DAR Region VIII for its dedication to satisfy the needs of its clients.

Suelo said DAR Region VIII is among the more than



1 million institutions certified as ISO 9001:2015 compliant worldwide.

He added that all government agencies, particularly those in the executive branch are encouraged to adopt ISO 9001:2015 to enhance public service and performance.

"All our efforts have been paid," Enciso emphasized, adding that all the employees accepted and faced the challenges, provided support to and help each other to achieve such milestone.

She said changes in the kind of services they provide to their clients became visible since 2015 when the quest to attain ISO 9001:2015 commenced.

"During office hours we performed our duties and responsibilities. We made our offices habitable and conducive for work to satisfy our clients," Enciso added.

She also recognized the determination, will, and power of section and division heads and top officials of DAR Region VIII.

With the accomplishment, Serrano said DAR Region VIII now under obligation to set the trend to other regional offices that are pursuing ISO certification.

For his part, Dir. Villareal lauded DAR Region VIII for reaching such landmark as he made an assurance of the continued support of PAMRS to its programs and activities.

Farm business schools launched in Tarlac, GenSan City

THE Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) recently opened Farm Business Schools (FBS) in Camiling, Tarlac and General Santos City to enhance the entrepreneurial and management skills of agrarian reform beneficiaries there.

Forty-three farmers belonging to the Bacabac Farmers Producers Cooperative (BFPC) and Bacaback Gintong Ani Farmers' Association (BGAFa) are enrolled in Camiling and 60 B'laan farmer-beneficiaries in General Santos City.

Chairmen Jerry Lorenzo of BFPC and Pedro Ibarra of BGAFa thanked the DAR for the opportunity to improve further their farming skills and providing them basic knowledge on business management.

B'laan tribal chieftain Toni Saliman also expressed his appreciation even as he encouraged his people to avail themselves of the courses offered in the FBS for them to have greater understanding in dealing with their day-to-day farming and business activities.

One of the salient features of the FBS is the clustering approach in agro-enterprise, from production to marketing, where farmers are taught how to negotiate collectively to established markets.

Building up the capabilities of agrarian reform beneficiaries organizations (ARBOs) in the proper handling and marketing of their products is among the priorities



of the administration of President Duterte and of DAR Secretary John Castriciones.

Tarlac provincial agrarian reform program officer Ileona B. Pangilinan said the farmer-participants would undergo 25 sessions, which would last for four months. They will be taught hands-on about the business side of agriculture right in a selected area within the community of the participants, the DAR's way of bringing

the school right where the farmers usually work.

Pangilinan pointed out that the primary objective of the FBS program is to transform the participants from mere producers of raw farm products to processors and entrepreneurs.

"When the farmers become entrepreneurs, they gain collective bargaining power, thus, giving them leverage and command with regard to the price of their harvests," Pangilinan said.

GenSan City Agriculturist Susan B. Baya added

that the FBS would open the minds of B'laan farmers and boost their confidence in transforming their farms into business enterprise with stronger links to the markets.

GenSan City agrarian reform program officer-in-charge Romeo Rellin said the FBS would help prepare farmers for future challenges brought about by the ever-growing competitive market.

CAR

Cordillera farmers welcomes delivery of P5-M climate-change common service facilities

TABUK CITY – A total of 5.1 million worth of farm machineries were turned over to Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Organizations (ARBOs) at the Provincial Gymnasium in Tabuk City last April 12.

A 4-W 90 HP tractor worth P2.349 million was handed to DanggayantiManalontiPinococ and to the Bago Farmers' Association. Both ARBOs that are based in Pinukpuk, Kalinga.

Another farm machinery, a 35 HP tractor that cost P1.144 million was delivered to Macutay-Sadiri Credit Cooperative.

The tractors were funded from the Climate Resiliency Farm Productivity Support Project (CRFPSP).

Members of the Kajchilan Multi-purpose Coopera-

tive in Balbalan, Kalinga, also received common service facilities that include a mechanical dryer, coffee pulper, and sets of coffee grinders.

At least three mechanical dryers, seven coffee pulpurs and two sets of coffee grinders, worth P1 million were distributed in the province.

Some P19.350 million worth of support services projects for implementation in the six provinces of the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) for this year were also launched during the distribution of farm machineries.

The Linksfarm project worth P1.2M each will also be implemented in seven sites in the region: two in Kalinga, one in Apayao, one in Ifugao, one in Benguet, and two in Mt. Province.

Another project, the sugar block farming costing P800,000 each will also be implemented in three sites in Kalinga and one in Abra.

The third project that was launched, the Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty, with a budget of P450,000 each will also be implemented in 22 sites in the region. The sites include four areas in Benguet, two in Ifugao, seven in Kalinga, and two in Mt. Province.

Linksfarm is programmed to link the products of farmers to the market while sugar block farming helps improve the quality and increase production.

The Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty, on the other hand, is seen to help solve cases of malnutrition among the children in rural communities.



Davao Region

DAR-11 turns over P5-M coco-cacao processing projects to Davao del Sur ARBOs

DAVAO CITY – The Department of Agrarian Reform in Davao Region (DAR-XI) on Tuesday, May 22 handed over coco-cacao production processing and marketing projects to seven agrarian reform beneficiaries' organizations (ARBOs) in the province of Davao del Sur.

The distribution of the projects materialized under DAR's Mindanao Sustainable Agrarian and Agricultural Development (MINSAAD) project through its Agriculture, Agri-business, and Agro-Forestry Development (AAAD) component.

All seven ARBOs who received the projects came from the municipality of Magsaysay, specifically from the villages of San Miguel, Balnate, Tagaytay, Malawanit, Bacungan, and Glamang.

The projects worth P5.3 million, is expected to benefit 686 agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs).

It will also develop a total land area of 669 hectares within the barangays where the recipient ARBOs are situated.

The turnover ceremony was spearheaded by DAR Undersecretary Sylvia Mallari together with MINSAAD Project Manager Eduardo Suaybagueo and OIC-PAR-PO II ElmeritoGerigdig.

Local government officials of Magsaysay town was also present during the event led by Vice Mayor Donnabelle Joy Mejia, CouncilorSilverioTirate, and Municipal Agriculturist Helen Carampatana.

Officials and members of recipient ARBOs expressed gratitude to DAR for the release of their projects.

"CARP@30:DARe2Change"



Pagbabalik-tanaw sa 3 Dekada
ng Repormang Agraryo Patungo
sa Ikalawang Yugto ng Pagbabago

(Hunyo 10, 1988 – Hunyo 10, 2018)



Pagdiriwang ng tatlungpum taong pagpapatupad ng Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP)

Paghihigay pagay sa mga magpasahe, kooperatiba, may-ari ng lupa,
matagumpayang lokal at mga karami ng DAR. Sila ang magkakatumbang sa
pagpapaligid ng kanyaman. Sa ikalawang pagay, dala up paghihigay pag-ara.

PROGRAMA

HUNYO 10-12, 2018

Edaran

Pagpapaligid ng Pagsalungat Pabalay para sa mga magpasahe

Press Conference

"CARP@30" - presentasyon ng mga pangalan ng may-ari ng mga magpasahe

Photo Exhibit

Fields sa DAR/Pinar Cultural Celebration

Symposium



Republic of the Philippines

Department of Agrarian Reform

"Tugay sa Pagbabago sa Maraming Agriway"