

AGRARIAN

DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM DIURNAL • ENGLISH EDITION • JULY 2022

JULY 1

DAR provides vitamins, medicines to 700 Coron farmers

CORON, Palawan—More than 700 farmers here are thankful for the multivitamins and medicines provided to them by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in coordination with the Department of Health (DOH).

DAR Undersecretary Virginia Orogo said the provision of medicines and vitamins was implemented under the medical mission project of the department's foreign-assisted projects office.

"We don't stop with awarding lands to landless farmers, we also help them in taking care of their physical welfare," Orogo said.

Orogo, together with the DAR Assistant Secretary Rene Colocar sought the help of DOH Secretary Francisco Duque for the provision of vitamins and medicines.

"With the help of DOH, we also arranged for medical doctors to visit these ARBOs to personally see the farmers for a free medical checkup. The doctors will also give prescriptions should the farmers need them and avail of the medicines that we have provided," Colocar said.

DAR Regional Director Marvin Bernal, together with the farmer leaders of the eight ARBOs, happily received from Orogo,



DAR Undersecretary Bernie Cruz, and Colocar, boxes of vitamin C, vitamin B-complex, vitamins in syrup form, multivitamins, mefenamic acid, metoprolol, amoxicillin, amlodipine, losartan, and clotrimazole.

"The rainy season usually brings cough, colds, and flu to farmers and their families, and these multivitamins and medicines will greatly help in building resistance against sickness for our farmers," Bernal said.

DAR Undersecretary Bernie Cruz said the provision of vitamins, medicines, and free medical consultations will also be replicated in other parts of the country.

JULY 2

DAR TO GIVE AGRICULTURAL ASSET INSURANCE TO 7,300 FARMERS IN SULTAN KUDARAT

Columbio, Sultan Kudarat —The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in the province of Sultan Kudarat recently conducted a two-day activity of on-site mass

insurance application to the agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) with existing agricultural crops and livestock in the said municipality. In partnership with the Philippine

Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC), the DAR has successfully facilitated the application for insurance of a total of 315 ARBs – where 200 ARBs are from Barangay Datablao

and 115 ARBs are from Barangay Sinapulan. OIC-Provincial Agrarian Reform

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Program Officer II Mary Jane A. Aguilar said the insured farmers are part of the 7,300 ARBs they aimed to insure this year to provide additional insurance protection for their agricultural assets such as short and long-term crops, livestock, fisheries, and equipment.

“With the implementation of ARB-AIP (Agricultural Insurance Program), we hope to assist our ARBs in mitigating risks associated with agricultural losses caused by natural calamities and other eventualities, as well as to improve our ARBs’ agricultural productivity,” Aguilar said.

She also commended the personnel

involved in the successful conduct of the activity and for their continuous efforts in initiating and facilitating support services to the ARBs.

The ARB-AIP program began in 2013 and is still insuring ARBs to date.

Juvelyn Malayang, an ARB recipient of the said program from Barangay Datalblao expressed her gratitude for the assistance and support of DAR and PCIC to them.

“We now feel more secure knowing that our farm assets are now insured. Again, thank you for taking the initiative to help and support us,” Malayang said.

JULY 3

DAR HOLDS FREE LEGAL CLINIC IN ORMOC

Ormoc City – The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) held free legal consultations, counseling, and legal advice in Ormoc province to help the agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) in the different communities resolve their problems, issues, and concerns involving land reform.

Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II (PARPO II) Josefina Corazon Turla disclosed that the activity was the fulfillment of DAR Undersecretary Elmer Distor’s promise to the farmers who presented various issues during the dialogue he attended in this city last month.

“We discussed to them their rights and obligations as farmer-beneficiaries and focused on topics like arbitration and mediation to reduce conflicts maturing into court cases,” Turla said.

“We are very thankful for conducting this activity in Ormoc. They even sent lawyers coming from the central office, to help us understand our case,” said Estrella Monsanto-Alejandre.

Nanay Estrella, 64 years old, was among the nearly 300 farmers and ARBs from this city and adjacent



towns who went to the Ormoc Superdome to avail of the free legal clinic conducted by the DAR.

She was with her brother Julieta, 60 years old, and neighbor, Melania Aldiano, 74 years old who went to the venue as early as seven o’clock in the morning. The three are from Barangay Licuma, which is more than 10 kilometers away from the city proper.

Nanay Estrella said they wanted to consult and be enlightened about their Emancipation Patents (EPs) and Certificates of Land Ownership Award (CLOAs) that were cancelled after more than a decade since the land titles were awarded to them.

“We were given assurance that they will take care of our case,” she said. Like Nanay Estrella, Tatay Julieta and Nany Melania, many of those

who availed of the legal services for agrarian-related issues, went home satisfied and with revived hopes.

DAR personnel from the central office team, lawyers Christopher Ryan Rosal and Daniel Pen, Legal Division chiefs of the regional and provincial offices, together with their legal officers joined in addressing the legal problems of the farmers.

JULY 4

NEW DAR BUILDING WORTH P67-M TO RISE IN MASBATE CITY

The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in Masbate will soon have a brand-new, state-of-the-art, five-story provincial office to better serve farmer-beneficiaries and clients of agrarian reform in the province.

This came about after the DAR and Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) held a groundbreaking ceremony for the

new building project to be funded by the DPWH under its General Appropriations Act (GAA) and the 2023 Infrastructure Program amounting to P67 million.

DAR Bicol Regional Director Rodrigo O. Realubit said that DAR Masbate has been using its old building located in the 1,406-square-meter lot at Acacia Road, Barangay

Nursery since 1988 when he was still the head of the province.

Realubit emphasized that giving DAR Masbate personnel a comfortable, safe, and sound working environment will boost their morale and will encourage them to create camaraderie, perform better, and become even more productive in carrying out the department’s

mandates.

“As we look forward to the future completion of this structure, may it serve as a source of inspiration for us to further commit to achieving our mandate and responsibilities as stewards of farmers and helping our farm communities,” Realubit said.

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Officer Herald R. Tambal said that while the old office building is being demolished, they are currently renting an apartment.

“The start of building construction is an important milestone for DAR Masbate, given that our existing office has an unmistakably run-down appearance because of natural wear and tear, and it will soon no longer be usable,” said Tambal.

Tambal also mentioned that the lot currently occupied by the DAR provincial office and where the new facility would be constructed was granted by the Masbate Provincial Government through a deed of donation several years ago.

DPWH Chief of Quality Assurance Section Engr. Josephine F. Gime said the new building project will include ground floor parking, a roof

deck, and an elevator for persons with disabilities (PWDs).

Gime said that since the area is quite big, they have categorized it into two (2) phases.

“Construction of Phase I costs P37,398,922.80, and it is projected to be completed on March 10, 2023,” Gime said.

She revealed that P30 million had already been allocated for the Phase

II of the project.

Second district representative Elisa Olga C. Kho congratulated all DAR Masbate employees, whose dream of acquiring a new office facility is inching closer to fruition.

“This is undeniably a long-awaited dream come true for all of you, and I am really delighted to be part of it,” Kho said.

JULY 5

ESTRELLA III OFFICIALLY ASSUMES AS DAR SECRETARY



Former Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Acting Secretary Bernie F Cruz and OIC-Secretary David Erro yesterday, July 4, 2022, jointly hand over the agency’s leadership to Secretary Conrado M. Estrella III after a celebratory mass held at the DAR Central Office gymnasium in Quezon City.

Erro said this will be the signal for the new administration to perform their new role.

“The new secretary will have to cover and distribute a total of 212,000 hectares of agricultural lands and look into a total of 400,000 hectares of problematic lands,” he said.

Erro disclosed that the DAR only receives a yearly budgetary allocation of only P700 million to help the agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) of the comprehensive agrarian reform program (CARP).

Cruz thanked the officials and employees of the agency for giving him their trust.

“The DAR is a family. We have experts here at the department, they just need a good leader and I know you can give it to them,” Cruz said to the new Secretary.

Estrella for his part vows not only

to look into the welfare of the ARBs but also of its employees.

“I always treat agrarian reform as my second home, and as such, I would like to tell everyone that we will be one family. If before I have looked into the welfare of my constituents in Pangasinan, now I will also attend to my constituents here at the department,” Estrella II assured the DAR employees.

He assured the employees that he understands their plight, especially now, with the effects brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic, the war between Russia and Ukraine, and continuing increase in fuel prices.

Estrella said that he will look into various medical and scholarship programs to help the employees through these trying times.

“In terms of implementing the agrarian reform, we will fulfill the real mandate of the program, which is to provide social justice, to free the farmers from the bondage of land. His Excellency President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos has given his commitment to support the department and the program to further improve the lives of the less-privileged farmers,” Estrella said.

DAR EXEC NOMINATED FOR PRESIDENTIAL GAWAD CES

QUEZON CITY—Veteran lawyer Luis Meinrado Pañgulayan, a long-time undersecretary of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) was among the shortlisted nominees for the 2021 Presidential Gawad CES of the Career Executive Service (CES).

Pañgulayan's nomination was officially announced by the CES Board on its official website and published in newspapers on July 3, 2022.

Last year, Pañgulayan, along with 11 other officials from the Executive Branch, was appointed by former President Rodrigo Roa Duterte in CES rank.

The undersecretary who heads the Agrarian Legal Sector of DAR was given the highest rank of CES Officer I. He applied for the CES position in 2018 and undertook all the preliminary examinations, immersion activities, and seminars prior to his attainment of the status of a CES Eligible (CESE) official. He garnered fifth place during the CES national written examinations in 2018.

The shortlisted nominees for the 2021 Presidential Gawad CES are the following: Ma. Josefina Abilay, CESO III (Dept. of Science and



Technology Reg. IV-B), Irene Alogoc, CESO I (Dept. of Justice), Erastus Sandino Austria, CESO V (Bureau of Customs, Davao), Arturo Bayocot, CESO III (Dept. of Education Reg. X), Maria Theresa Camba, CESO VI (Dept. of Information and Comm. Technology, Mindanao),

Alejandro Ibanez, CESO VI (Dept. of Education, Navotas City), and Luis Meinrado Pañgulayan, CESO I (Dept. of Agrarian Reform).

The Presidential Gawad CES is an annual awards program for the Career Executive Service based on demonstrated exemplary

performance and significant contributions that concretize the ideals of the CES of "bringing change where it is needed, expertise where it is missing, and leadership where it is wanting."

DAR distributes 142 hectares of agri lands to Capiznon farmers



The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has distributed a total of 142.32 hectares of agricultural lands in the province of Capiz to improve the economic lives of 150 agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs).

A total of 196 certificates of land ownership award were distributed to the ARBs from the towns of Cuartero, Dumarao, Mambusao, Panit-an, Roxas City, Tapaz, Sigma and Maayon.

Assistant Regional Director Lucrecia

Taberna, who led the distribution ceremony held at the Civic Center, in Maayon, congratulated the ARBs and challenged them to exercise their rights as the new landowners.

"With the awarded lands, comes greater responsibilities. We trust in your commitment to cultivate and make your land productive to be able to fulfill your responsibilities as landowners," she said.

Taberna recognized the unwavering efforts of the DAR officials and



employees who faced challenges in the implementation of the agrarian reform program.

Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II Anthony Arostique reminded the ARBs of the importance of being members of agrarian reform beneficiary organizations for them to avail provisions to help them source income and improve their livelihood. "Do not sell or lease your lands and fulfill your obligations of paying the amortization of compensable lands

and real property taxes. The DAR would continue to help you enrich your land by providing you with necessary support services," he said. Emmanuel Ojcastro, a jubilant ARB from Cuartero, thanked the DAR for the land they received.

"I've been dreaming of this land for years. I will make this land productive because I believe that through this my family will have a better future," he said.

ROD NO LONGER REQUIRES OWNER'S DUPLICATE COPY OF CCLOAS FOR PROCESSING OF E-TITLES



of CCLOAs for individual titling scheduled from 2021-2024.

Currently, about 90,000 hectares of validated CCLOAs are ready for registration but only 4,000 hectares have been registered.

To achieve the full implementation of registering the validated CCLOAs, the DAR sought the assistance of the LRA and the Land Registrations Systems, Inc. (LARES) for the generation, registration, and eventual issuance of the electronic individual titles (e-titles).

LRAOIC-Administrator Atty. Robert Nomar V. Leyretana expressed his willingness and gratitude for the opportunity to help the DAR, especially in implementing Project SPLIT.

“I knew the long and tedious journey that we have started two years ago and the challenge of sustaining this activity because this is a milestone in terms of its magnitude because of the economic effect that it will bring in the future of the farmers,” he said. Leyretana disclosed that he requested the DAR to conduct further consultation meetings with

the LRA and the LARES officials which resulted in the issuance of the DAR-LRA Joint AO.

The joint administrative order noted that the cancellation of CCLOAs by reason of parcelization under the Project SPLIT are considered involuntary dealings as prescribed under Sections 24 and 25 of Republic Act No. 6657, as amended by Sections 9 and 10 of RA No. 9700, and therefore, would not require the presentation and surrender of ODC.

The AO also serves as a guide for the annotation of the conditions of the Order of Conversion on agrarian reform title.

The conversion plan must be implemented within five (5) years from the date of finality of the Order of Conversion. Any violation of the conversion plan including the failure to implement it within the said five (5) year development period shall result in the revocation of the Order of Conversion and the automatic coverage of the land under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

The presentation and surrender to the Registry of Deeds (ROD) of the owner's duplicate copy (ODC) of collective certificates of land ownership award (CCLOAs) will no longer be required in the proceedings involving the parcelization of CCLOAs under the Project Support to Parcelization of Land for Individual Titling (Project SPLIT). This is the gist of the joint Department

of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and Land Registration Authority (LRA) Administrative Order No. 2, Series of 2022, entitled “Registration and Annotation Requirements for SPLIT and Annotation of the Conditions of the Order of Conversion”.

The Project SPLIT is a foreign-assisted project funded by the World Bank and spearheaded by the DAR requiring the cancellation

DAR distributes agricultural lands in Negros Occidental



The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in Negros Occidental 1-North recently distributed a total of 35 hectares of agricultural lands to improve the lives of 31 agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) from the town of Toboso.

This activity involves the 18-hectare landholding formerly owned by Lacandula Cañizares in Barangay Tabun-ac, which was awarded to 22 ARBs; and the 17.15-hectare landholding of the previous owner

Manuel Posa in Barangay Gen. Luna, distributed to nine (9) farmer-beneficiaries.

Toboso Municipal Agrarian Reform Program Officer Marco Blanca, who led the distribution ceremony, said the activity forms part of the extended celebration of the 34th Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) anniversary and the 50th year of Presidential Decree (PD) 27.

“The DAR continuous to uplift the

lives of our ARBs by providing them lands to till and various support services projects to make their lands productive,” he said.

Blanca also reminded the new landowners of their responsibilities and obligations by enriching their lands and paying their taxes and amortizations, among others.

The distribution was conducted through the land acquisition and distribution process under the CARP, which has a mandate to acquire

and distribute public and private agricultural landholdings to the identified and qualified ARBs. Titles are provided to the landless farmers in the form of certificates of land ownership award, (CLOAs) and the DAR and other CARP implementing agencies guarantee their land security, deliver social equity, and provide them with the necessary productive resources needed to ensure their economic viability and productivity.

DAR PARTNERS WITH DA TO PROVIDE FREE SOIL ANALYSIS IN QUIRINO PROVINCE

The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has partnered with the Department of Agriculture-Soils Laboratory to provide free soil analysis services to agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) from various barangays of Saguday, Quirino.

Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II Jess Beth G. Quidasol said the move is in line with the agency's goal to increase the income of the ARBs and as part of the solution to lower the ARBs' production costs by introducing advanced technologies.

"The soil analysis aims to determine the right quantity, type, and timing of fertilizer to be applied by the farmers on their farms," Quidasol said.

Quidasol said that the farmers just need to submit air-dried soil samples from their farms to the DA laboratory station and come back for the results after a few days.

"At present, there are fifty-seven (57) soil samples reviewed from the barangays of Sto. Tomas, Tres Reyes, and Salvacion with recommended fertilizers to be used for the palay production," Quidasol



said.

Quidasol is very grateful to the DA-Soils Laboratory team led by the chief of the regional soils laboratory Fevie Rica Ancheta for accepting the request of the ARBs to conduct the on-site soil analysis of their farms.

"This would be a great help to the ARBs to alleviate the burden on their production, especially with the inevitable increase in the price

of farm inputs such inorganic fertilizers," he said

Quidasol said that soil analysis is used to determine the average nutrient status of an area and measures the available humidity, acidity, and alkalinity of the soil.

"The quantity of phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, sodium, sulfur, manganese, copper, and zinc available in the soil samples tested also determine the amount of

fertilizer that is required," he said.

Quidasol said that the soil analysis reports with the corresponding fertilizer recommendations were also forwarded by the DA-Soils laboratory team to the President of the Pagbabago ng Kabuhayan Irrigators Association (PKIA) of Saguday after 4 days of on-site analysis.

Sorsogon farmers receive solar-powered irrigation from DAR and NIA



JUBAN, Sorsogon—Ninety-seven (97) farmers of Barangay Catanagan in this municipality are the beneficiaries of a solar-powered irrigation pump (SPIP) project under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program-Irrigation Component (CARP-IC) of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and the National Irrigation Administration (NIA).

The P12 million project was turned over to Catanagan Farmers Irrigators Association, Inc. to help farmers increase their rice yield.

"This is the first SPIP project of the NIA and DAR in Bicol. It aims to irrigate a total of 89 hectares of palay in the locality," said NIA Engr. Emma A. Manlagmit.

"Currently, we have six pumps, but the final design will consist of nine pumps. Each pump is equipped with 27 solar panels. The remaining three pumps will be built next year if further funding is granted, so there is no need for concern. Our only problem is the lack of canals. And with DAR's help, canal systems can be improved," she said.

According to Manlagmit, the first phase of the project was completed in January 2019, but the third and final phase has still to be implemented.

"These solar panels can last up to 25 years if properly maintained. Due to the sensitivity of solar panels, the government rarely grants this type of project," she added.

Rosalio H. Olaybar, the 62-year-old president of Catanagan Farmer IA, revealed in an interview that their yields increased in 2019 after NIA completed the first phase with three solar pumps.

According to him, they can now harvest up to 100 bags of palay per harvest season, which is a significant increase compared to prior years without a sufficient water irrigation supply.

He said, he anticipates that the project's phase 2 completion will also increase palay production in several palay-producing areas of the community.

Olaybar, a farmer for the past 44 years, praised DAR and NIA for providing newfound hope for their agricultural pursuits.

Sorsogon agrarian reform chief Nida Santiago expressed her thanks to everyone who made this project a reality.

"The SPIP will be beneficial to many rice producers because the engine, powered by solar panels, no longer requires crude oil, thus, cutting the cost of farmers' expense in farming," Santiago said.

Achilles Alindogan, municipal councilor, and chairman of the local government unit's agriculture sector said he suggested to Mayor Antonio Alindogan that water sufficiency be prioritized in Juban, as water scarcity is a serious problem affecting local farmers.

DAR North Cotabato inaugurates newly-completed office building



After two decades of renting and numerous transferring of offices, the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) North Cotabato Provincial Office would be moving this month to its new and permanent home. The P40-million newly completed two-storey office building is located at Phase 3, Singao, Kidapawan City, DAR-Soccsksargen. Director Mariannie Lauban-Baunto said the inauguration and turn-over ceremony of the new office building is a sure indicator that DAR-NorthCot has found its niche as a government institution that has a high regard in providing a conducive and safe work environment for its personnel and providing quality services to the agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs), stakeholders, and partners. “As the personnel move to their new home, we hope that this facility would serve as an instrument that would re-ignite their passion for work, and for them to develop competencies, to effect progress not only for themselves but for the entire office and the beneficiaries and stakeholders, in general,” Baunto said.

She further acknowledged DAR’s top management and staff who ensured that excellent public service, especially to the ARBs, was continuously being provided. The office building was officially turned over by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) District II Engineering Office through its representative Engineer Rey Francisco. In her acceptance message, Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II Charish Paña recognized and paid tribute to the agencies and individuals who have been instrumental in the realization of the project. “This new office building is a shining example of the great partnership that has been forged between the DPWH and DAR to strengthen the coordination and partnership to the benefit of our working force,” Paña said. The inauguration was attended by DAR’s top management and personnel and representatives from various government and local officials.

ALBAY FARMERS SOON TO GET OWN HOUSING UNITS FROM DAR

Agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) who are members of the Albay Dairy Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative in Guinobatan, Albay will be the beneficiaries of the housing units under the Building, Adequate, Livable, Affordable, and Inclusive Filipino Communities (BALAI) project, a joint undertaking of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD). OIC-Regional Director Rodrigo O. Realubit said 200 units of bungalow-type houses will be constructed on a 2.6-hectare parcel of land in Barangay Upper Binogsacan donated by the local government of Guinobatan overlooking the majestic Mount Mayon. “This initiative not only intends to provide the poor with a home but also to honor our unsung heroes—our farmers, who are among the most neglected sectors of our society,” Realubit said. He said about 170 units would be allocated to eligible members of the dairy cooperative with no houses, while the remaining units will be made available to other low-income farmers in the area. “The 36-square-meter concrete homes will have two bedrooms, one toilet with electricity and water connections, a granite kitchen, tiled floors, and completely painted interior and exterior walls,” Realubit



said. Each house costs PHP520,000.00, which will be paid by the farmers over a maximum of 25 years at only 2 to 3% annual interest. Albay OIC-Provincial head Patricia Rastrullo said that aside from the houses, the DAR will provide livelihood programs for the beneficiaries within the location to make the housing package financially inclusive to the farmers.

She commended Vice Mayor Ann Gemma Ongjoco for supporting and providing the land for the housing project. “This is a milestone. We are very thankful for this initiative which will create modest and affordable dwelling units for our farmers. Through this project, their families will have the opportunity not only to live in a more comfortable home but also to improve their lives and

economic condition,” Rastrullo said. DAR Provincial Office of Albay led the ceremonial ground breaking with BALAI National Coordinator Raymond A. Matic (in white polo shirt), Tech4Ed Head Dra. Leilani D. Pavilando, Guinobatan, Albay Vice Mayor Ann Y. Ongjoco, DAR Director Roberto Gavina, Guinobatan Agrarian Reform Chief Jocelyn Naz, and BALAI Regional Coordinator Lolita Adricula.

Farmers' products in Eastern Visayas sold more than ₱100K in 2 days



TACLOBAN CITY – Farmers' products from different parts of Eastern Visayas generated more than a hundred thousand pesos in sales during the two-day Agraryo Trade Fair held last week at the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) compound. Chief of the Program Beneficiaries Development Division, Melecia Ong, disclosed that the trade fair, with the theme "Produktong Benepisyaryo tungo sa malawak na Merkado," generated a combined sales of ₱116,332 for products of agrarian reform beneficiaries' organizations (ARBOs) alone. She said that sales generated by private entrepreneurs who joined the trade fair were excluded. According

to the organizer, the private entrepreneurs garnered a cumulative sale of more than ₱40,000. Ong shared that most of the ARBOs products, from fresh fruits and vegetables to processed foods, were sold out. On processed foods, Ong proudly shared that 13 ARBOs in Region 8 were already given licenses to operate by the Food and Drug Administration commonly referred to as FDA-LTO; while one product was issued with the certificate of product registration, making them qualified to penetrate a larger market. "We are showcasing here the results of all the interventions we provided to the agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) under CARP's

(Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program) provision of support services component," said DAR Regional Director Robert Anthony Yu in his message at the opening of the trade fair. Provincial Director Ruthelma Samonte of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) was very proud of the farmers' products and their achievement in sales. "They are no longer farmers by themselves, but we call them CARpreneurs or CARP entrepreneurs, which means, they are already into business," Samonte said. She advised DAR during the said occasion to prepare the farmers and their products for a bigger market.

"The ARBOs must be prepared in terms of production. With institutional buyers, they must be ready with the supply," Samonte added. DTI is among DAR's partner agencies in providing the necessary assistance thereby transforming ARBs into farmer entrepreneurs. Representatives from the Department of Agriculture and Department of Science and Technology, Francisco Ocado and Lysander King III, respectively, committed their agency's continued support to help the ARBOs develop potential products as an additional livelihood to their farming activities.

DAR SCHOLARS GRADUATE FROM BENGUET STATE UNIVERSITY



FOUR CHILDREN of agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) recently graduated from Benguet State University (BSU) through a scholarship program funded by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in the area. Dubbed DAR Scholarship Program for the Dependents of Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (DAR SP-DARB), the scholarship provides financial support to qualified dependents of ARBs for them to have an opportunity to study and complete agriculture-related four-year college degree courses from any state university and colleges. The Benguet scholars include Riwa Agsawal, Joyce Faith Lagadeo, and Meriam Lumyaen who all graduated with Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness (BSAB), and Kaizer Sudaypan who finished a BS in Agriculture course. Agsawal who received an Academic Achiever Award from her BSAB course, thanked the DAR for the scholarship program as it helped her family with their school expenses. "The scholarship program helped our parents in sending us to college and we reciprocated by doing our best to finish our courses," she said.

The DAR SP-DARB is open to those who are related to an ARB such as the children, grandchildren, nephews, or nieces who are required to take up any four-year course related to agriculture. Qualified scholars should belong to a family that has an annual gross income of not more than P100,000.00. Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II Jane Toribio awarded the certificates of recognition to the DAR scholars in Mountain Province. "It is with high hope that you will cherish these blessings in your life and realize that you are a testimony of how the government is doing its best to be close to you and your family. God bless everyone who shared their hands and minds for the success of these young graduates," she said. Parents of the scholars felt that they were triply blessed not only because of the DAR scholarship program, but also because they were recipients of certificates of land ownership award (CLOAs) to the lands provided by the DAR, and the support services that were given to them, especially when they become members of agrarian reform beneficiaries organizations (ARBOs).

Bukidnon farmers become farmer entrepreneurs as they graduate from DAR's farm business school

Thirty-one (31) farmer-members from Lingion Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Association (LARBA) in Lingion, Talakag, Bukidnon transformed themselves into farmer-entrepreneurs as they graduate from the Farm Business School (FBS) program of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR).

DAR-Bukidnon Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II Mohammad Abdul Jabbar Pandapatan said the FBS aims to develop agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) to become agricultural entrepreneurs to promote farming as a business where the ARBs could draw big income.

"It is with great joy to know that you have learned a lot from the FBS program of the DAR. You have been good stewards to the land that the agency has entrusted to you," Pandapatan said.

Pandapatan disclosed that during the twenty-five (25) day activity, the DAR was able to educate, capacitate and empower the 31 ARBs on various entrepreneurial skills and advance farming practices for them



to properly manage the produce from the lands that DAR has awarded to them up to its marketing stage.

"Your active participation in this program indicates your readiness to become Agripreneurs. Congratulations, and don't forget that we are always behind you in

your journey to becoming successful Arbitrageurs!," he said.

DAR, in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture, initiated the FBS which also teaches the farmers essential tools on bookkeeping, cash flows, market surveys, and selling and costing, and

proper packaging of their products. LARBA Chairman Ronald B. Lake said that through FBS, they were able to learn how to manage farm records, develop a good plan and learn how to become successful entrepreneurs.

COTABATO ARBS GET LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT FROM DAR



The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in the province of Cotabato recently turned over livelihood support facilities to agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) to boost their economic lives.

The Sitio New Alimodian Peace Zone Multi-purpose Cooperative (SNAPZ-MPC) in Banayal, Tulan received a Php450,000.00 common service facility and production inputs for their peanut and corn production; while the Cadiis Farmers' Association, from Barangay Cadiis, Carmen, also received Php450,000.00 support services composed of one-unit corn sheller, four-units collapsible dryers, 10 bags of organic compost, corn seeds, and capacity development training.

Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II Charish Paña said that the facilities were provided to help improve the farm productivity and net income of the ARBs in a sustainable manner through their organizations.

"We hope that you will do your best to take good care of what DAR has provided you. May these facilities inspire you to work harder to improve the quality of your living," Paña told the ARBs.

The support services projects were provided through Climate Resilient Farm Productivity Support Project (CRFPSP)-Sustainable Livelihood Support.

CRFPSP Regional Pointperson Maria Cecilia Machan said the projects would help address food security amidst climate change by providing livelihood support in the form of farm machines and equipment, farm inputs, and capacity development interventions.

"The DAR will continue to monitor this project and we expect that the ARBs will fulfill their responsibilities as stated in the trust agreement we have established," Machan said.

Meanwhile, SNAPZ-MPC President Jessie Capasgado thanked the DAR for the assistance provided to them.

"We will strive harder to manage and make all the machines and inputs become instruments in making our lives better," Capasgado said.

The turn-over ceremony was attended by the ARBs, regional, provincial, and municipal DAR personnel as well as representatives from the local government.



DAR-BATANES VERMICAST PRODUCTION IN FULL SWING

The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR)-assisted cooperative in Batanes recently launched its Vermicast production through the Sustainable Livelihood Disaster Affected Area (SLDAA) program of the DAR as an alternative source of livelihood and as a means to restore and rehabilitate areas affected by the impacts of climate change.

To make the vermicast project in full swing, the DAR turned over a total of PhP489,090.00 worth of farm machinery and equipment (FME) and agri-inputs to MILAGROSA Multi-Purpose Cooperative located in Barangay Itbud, Municipality of Uyugan, Batanes to elevate and improve the quality of life of agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) and non-ARBs in the province.

DAR-municipal agrarian reform program office Jocelyn P. Flores said the initiative is part of the major crop-based block farm productivity enhancement project under the Climate Resilient Farm Productivity Support (CRFPS) and SLDAA project of the DAR.

Flores disclosed that the FME and agri inputs provided for the cooperative's vermicast production include one (1) unit Power shredder (GR-1500,35x350 with a cost of P375,000.00); 1 set grass cutter (UMK 435/4-stroke Honda worth P25, 000.00); 1 unit 4 concrete paddocks of 3 feet x 10 feet worth



P50,554.001; 4 kilos Vermi Worms worth P4,000.00; 16 packs plastic packaging worth P1,536.00; and 2 sets of training worth P33, 000.00. "These farm machinery will be a great help because it will enhance and sustain the agricultural productivity of the ARBs and turn waste products into soil food," Flores said.

Milgarosa MPC Chairman Ms. Emily Balderas expressed her gratitude to the department on behalf of their association for exerting all efforts to help the farmers and the ARBs. Vermicast is a natural fertilizer made from the processing of organic wastes using a mixture of earthworms.

These earthworms are placed in a container filled with compost. The combination of organic wastes and earthworms is recycled and transformed into natural fertilizer, thereby turning waste products into natural soil food and nutrients.

DAR INSTALLS POS TERMINAL MACHINE TO NORTH COTABATO COOPERATIVE TO STEP UP ITS OPERATION



Aleosan, North Cotabato. – Farmers and other residents of New Leon in this province can now pay online or obtain cash without going out of their barangay just to withdraw money after the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) facilitated the installation of a Point of Sale (POS) terminal machine to New

Leon Multi-Purpose Cooperative in this barangay. The POS machine was made possible through the partnership of the DAR with the Philippine Federation of Credit Cooperatives-Manila Lead (PFCCO-ML). Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II Charish Paña congratulated

the management of New Leon MPC for the recent feat and milestone of the cooperative.

"I would also like to thank the PFCCO-ML for being our partner in providing the technology and capacity development interventions for the smooth and efficient operation of the New Leon MPC," Paña said.

The newly created service line also enabled the New Leon MPC to accept Automated Teller Machine (ATM) withdrawals which would ease local residents and neighboring barangays from going to nearby municipalities just to withdraw money from an ATM.

Cooperative Manager Roland Lemana said members and non-members of the coop would definitely save more or less PhP 200.00 in their transportation expenses from going out of the barangay just to withdraw money in an ATM.

"We are really thankful to DAR and PFCCO-ML for assisting us in realizing this dream of providing this kind of service in our community,"

he said.

Lemana added that with this new development, the residents could have peace of mind that they have cash on hand, in times of emergency when they need money for expenses.



DAR turns over P10-M solar-powered irrigation system in Quezon province



Buenavista, Quezon – The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has turned over a P10-million solar-powered communal irrigation system (CIS) to a farmer-irrigators association in Quezon II to boost rice and corn production here. Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II Cornelio P. Villapando said the project is funded under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program-Irrigation Component (CARP-IC) in partnership with the National Irrigation Administration (NIA). Villapando said the newly installed CIS, located at Brgy. Hagonghong, Buenavista, Quezon, includes 108 solar panels that can irrigate over 35 hectares of rice and corn land that would benefit over 53 farmer-members, including agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) belonging to the Hagonghong Irrigators' Association (HIA). "The town of Buenavista can be considered an Agrarian Reform

Community (ARC) because it is one of the towns with the largest distributed lands by the agency. This Irrigation System is a great help to our farmer-beneficiaries whose main crops are rice and corn," he said. He reiterated the importance of collaborating with the appropriate agencies in implementing these kinds of projects. Acting NIA-Quezon Irrigation Management Office Division Manager Engr. Edwin C. Nazareno expressed his gratitude to DAR Quezon II for their utmost support in this project, while Municipal Vice Mayor Alvin Ray U. Rivera appealed to the farmer-beneficiaries to take care and love the project so that it will be beneficial even for the next generation. HIA President Alvin Ray U. Rivera assured the two agencies that their association will be responsible for maintaining and taking care of the said irrigation system.

DAR STEPS UP MEDIATION OF LAND DISPUTES IN CAMARINES SUR



CARAMOAN, Camarines Sur —Through mediation, free legal consultations, and counseling, the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in Camarines Sur helped agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) in this town solve their land problems. Camarines Sur agrarian reform chief Renato Bequillo said the DAR

legal division, with support from the municipal agrarian reform office of Caramoan-Garchitorena, was able to resolve cases such as boundary disputes, tenurial arrangements, and tenancy in a mobile mediation conducted by the team recently. "Mobile mediation is a method established by the legal division of DAR-Camarines Sur with the

assistance of municipal offices. In this, they identify barangays in coastal areas with the most problematic agrarian reform-related cases and set up a schedule to bring farmers together to settle disputes and negotiate contracts," Bequillo said. Around 30 farmers, tenants, tillers, and farmworkers showed up at the DAR Municipal Office in Caramoan for the scheduled mediation proceedings, and about 35 more came to get their legal problems solved. Bequillo said, "Our legal division devised and applied mobile mediation as a means of conflict resolution and prevention, intended especially for farmer-beneficiaries living in remote barangays." "I am really pleased with the collaborative efforts of the legal team and the municipal offices in resolving agrarian reform concerns. They have always partnered. Hopefully, all their hard work and efforts will continue to empower our farmers to become productive landowners," he said. He also explained that mediation between ARBs is a structured, interactive process that DAR uses to help warring parties work out their differences over lands awarded by the DAR or arrangements for farming land. Legal Chief Atty. Ramon SG. Cabañes, Jr. said that this year's resolution of land cases has vastly improved, with an evaluative approach used to assist disputing parties in evaluating the legal merits of their arguments, resulting in fair

rulings that ultimately benefit all parties. "With this, each mobile mediation will serve as an avenue for the legal officers to utilize their mediation skills and apply negotiation techniques in addressing the legal issues and concerns of disputing parties," he said. "For the past five years, the DAR has made it their task to bring agrarian justice delivery closer to ARBs through the conduct of legal clinics and marathon mediations, where farmer-beneficiaries and legal officers gather at a common venue to discuss agrarian legal matters. These activities are aggressive efforts to resolve agrarian reform disputes at the lowest possible level," said Cabañes. Roque Estomata, a farmer who attended the settlement negotiations, stated: "As soon as I got the DAR's notice, I felt joyful and excited about the upcoming mediation. I am grateful that they came to help us resolve our land-related disputes." "Most of us are truly inclined to a peaceful settlement. We thank the DAR for educating us about our rights and discussing our legal concerns. We hope this kind of event will happen every year in Caramoan so that the DAR can help more farmers." Estomata said. Based on the data, the DAR has resolved a total number of 178 cases from January to June this year. The DAR Camarines-Sur plans to conduct another mobile mediation in Siruma town in August and Garchitorena before the year ends.

DAR UPLIFTS TARLAQUEÑO FARMERS' LIVES



Bulwagan ng Kanlahi Convention Center, San Vicente, Tarlac City – The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), on Thursday, July 21, 2022, distributed land titles and various support services packages to improve the economic lives of agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) in this province.

DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III led the distribution of land titles covering 48.827 hectares of agricultural lands to 123 ARBs and turned over various farm machinery and equipment to seven (7) ARB organizations (ARBOs) through Climate Resilient Farm Productivity Support (CRFPS).

A processing center for Dairy Ice Cream and a signed memorandum of agreement (MoA) between the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology and ARBO was also entrusted to the farmers' organizations.

The MoA was implemented under the Enhanced Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty (EPAHP) program to contribute in addressing hunger and poverty by creating a direct linkage to market ARBOs products as steady food suppliers for Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDL) in the province.

Along with the activity was the graduation of 32 farmers under the department's Farm Business School (FBS) to enhance the entrepreneurial and marketing skills of ARBs to manage for themselves their profitable agribusiness ventures.

Estrella III said the support given to the farmers would help boost their farming activities, hence provide bigger earnings for them.

"Our support does not end here. We will give them additional capital to create an alternative source of income such as poultry, or raising farm animals," Estrella III said.

The ARBOs that received various farm machinery and equipment from CRFPS include Pao Kadamortisan Irrigators Association, Inc., Bantog Anao Bagong Sibol Farmers Association, Inc., Calibugan Agriculture Cooperative, Calipayan

ARBs Association Inc., Bigbiga ARBs Association, Inc., Magao Ortilano Modernong Magsasaka Association, and Sulong Sto Rosario ARBs Association.

CRFPS is the agency's program that provides farm machinery to improve farm productivity and earning capabilities of ARBs in a sustainable manner.

Amia Cruz Agriculture Cooperative is the recipient of the processing center for Dairy Ice Cream, which was provided under the Village Level Farm Focused Enhancement Development Program, designed to further develop competitive ARBO products and make them conform to the market demand. The cooperative's Chairperson Lina Apolonio thanked the DAR for the blessings they received because according to her, this support would be a big help for their livelihood.

Apart from the marketing agreements under EPAHP, Concepcion Calamansi Growers and Rice Producers Cooperative also received two (2) units of hauling vehicles, with 150-cc motor hauling implements, five (5) power sprayers (6.5 Hp), and a backpack gasoline power sprayer.

Regional Director James Ponce divulged that the FBS graduates attended 25 training sessions focusing on the different farming methods, creation of market linkages, and increasing their capability in farm business management to boost their farm income. Part of their program is the launching of the Buhay sa Gulay Project, urban farming to address food security in their community and provide an additional income for them.

"Aside from the benefits of these various projects to our ARBs, Secretary Estrella leading the turnover ceremony of projects would definitely have a great impact on our farmers because his presence and messages to them doubly inspire them to make their farms productive," Ponce said.

Sagay agrarian reform beneficiaries to receive agri lands from DAR

SEVENTEEN (17) agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) recently took an oath and sign the Application to Purchase and Farmer's Undertaking (APFU) before Judge Beina Marieta Cabusao at the Municipal Trial Court in Cities in Sagay City, Negros Occidental, as they qualify for the screening process to become

land recipients of the government's Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) is the lead implementing agency of CARP, which redistributes public and private agricultural lands to farmers and farm workers who are landless, irrespective of the

tenurial arrangement.

The said farmers will receive landholdings owned by Rhode Jesena, Diosdado Camelote, and Alexius Abong et al., identified as Title Numbers T-104341, T-40237, T-225515, covered by Lot Numbers 3, 1765, and 777, with areas of 3.9812 hectares, 11.9708 hectares,

and 4.8904 hectares, located at Barangays Andres Bonifacio, Maquiling, and Vito in Sagay City. Municipal Agrarian Reform Program Officer Ramon Silvino Abiera congratulated the farmers as they are a step closer to becoming

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the new landowners of the land. "This oath-taking ceremony and signing of APFU are the start of fulfilling their dreams. We hope that they will never forget the responsibility that comes with it, such as making the land more productive, religiously paying their taxes, among others," he said. Abiera explained that this is one of the preliminary activities of

DAR to acquire land under the CARP through its mandate of redistribution of government and private agricultural lands to landless farmers and farm workers to secure the farmers' land security, social equity, and provide them with the necessary productive resources needed to ensure their economic viability and productivity.



129 Pangasinan farmers get land titles from DAR

BUGALLON, Pangasinan-- After nine years since their application for landholding, farmers from Barangay Hacienda in Bugallon, Pangasinan received their certificates of land ownership award (CLOAs) from the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR).

"We waited for almost nine years. I thought I was still dreaming but it's happening," said Malonie Tejada, one of the farmers-turned-new-landowners.

Ricardo Cunanan, another beneficiary, said they went through a lot of difficulties before they finally owned the land.

"With the help of the DAR and by the mercy of God, we finally got the land that we have been yearning for," he said.

DAR Asst. Regional Director Maria Ana Francisco said the 40-hectare landholding in the barangay, which was owned by Eduardo Dee and sold to Dr. Macario Feliciano,

was acquired by the DAR through compulsory acquisition and went through several legal processes before finally getting registered with the Registry of Deeds this year. Francisco emphasized the importance of joining cooperatives so that they can fully enjoy DAR's services and improve as a community.

"Cherish this title. Now you have something to hold on to. Finally, you can call yourself landowners," she said.

At the CLOA distribution rite, DAR conducted an education seminar for the 129 agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) who are members of the Bugallon Federation of Free Farmers Marketing Cooperative.

The ARBs were oriented on their rights and responsibilities as title holders, as well as the support services that they are entitled to as farmer-beneficiaries.



JULY 24

DAR SEEKS TO HIT TARGETS FOR THE YEAR WITH A BANG



PREPARATIONS are underway for the 2022 1st Semester National Formative Assessment and Planning Conference to gauge how far the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has fared over the past semester and determine remedial measures for the resolution of issues and challenges to ensure the effective and efficient delivery of its mandated tasks.

Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and Research, Atty. Luis Meinrado Pañgulayan said a meeting between and among the central office Planning Service and its counterparts from the regional offices had been scheduled on Tuesday, July 26, 2022, for presentation and consolidation of the latter's performance last semester.

Pañgulayan said the discussion would zero in on issues and challenges that cropped up in the first semester to map up plans for confronting and resolving them to ensure the unimpeded implementation of the DAR's land acquisition and distribution, provision of support services, and delivery of agrarian justice. Pañgulayan had advised the

regional planning officers to submit in advance vital documents relative to their performance reports, as well as financial performance for Land Tenure Security Program, Agrarian Justice Delivery Program, and Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Development Sustainability Program to better prepare them for the conference proper.

These reports, he said, would be shared by the DAR central office technical staff with members of the Executive and Management Committees of every sector of the department to give them ample time to review those reports and better prepare them for the conference proper.

Pañgulayan said the idea is to call off the presentation of these reports during the conference proper to maximize time, efforts, and resources in assessing issues and challenges met in the first semester and in finding ways of resolving them "to ensure the effective and efficient delivery of the remaining balances for the year."

DAR DISTRIBUTES FARM EQUIPMENT TO BOOST CASSAVA PRODUCTION IN RIZAL



The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) provincial office in Rizal has distributed farm equipment to fifty (50) agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) in Tanay, Rizal to boost cassava production in the area. Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer Saturnino Bello said the initiative is part of the major crop-based block farm productivity enhancement project (MCBFPEP) under the Climate Resilient Farm Productivity Support (CRFPS) Project of the DAR. He said that the farmer-members of

Organization of Agrarian Reform Beneficiary Farmers of Inalsan, Inc. (OARBFII), a DAR-assisted ARBO located in Tanay, Rizal benefited from the P640,000.00 worth of farm implements. “The project, which will be established in a one-hectare demo farm, aims to sustain cassava production activities that will increase the income of 50 ARB members, composed of 33 female and 17 male,” she said. Bello disclosed that the farm implements delivered to OARBFII

include a Rotavator for 35hp tractor, cassava ridger machine, cassava pulling tool, soil test kits, electric knapsack sprayer, and pressurized power sprayer. He said that the agri-extension support is a component of the implementation of the MCBFPEP on cassava production to achieve mechanization and provide capacity building intervention devised to support efficiency and sustained profitability of farmlands. “The project also seeks to create an agreement among cassava farmers

to incur lower costs, to increase production and become more efficient in their production and marketing activities,” he added. OARBFII Chairperson Lourdes Bitabara thanked the DAR team for providing the cooperative with the opportunity to replace their equipment. “You can expect that these will be taken care of and properly utilized by the members,” Bitabara said.

JULY 25



‘NOBODY WILL BE LAID OFF’ — DAR CZAR

WHILE the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) is shaken up by the on-going revamp of high-level officials, Secretary Conrado Estrella III quickly allayed fears of rank-and-file employees, assuring them that nobody would be displaced under his administration. “I can promise you one thing: Nobody will be laid off,” Estrella III said during the turnover ceremony at the DAR Gymnasium recently. Former Undersecretary for Finance

Management and Administration Jeffrey Galan is making a comeback after he was appointed by President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. as DAR undersecretary of the same office. Marcos elevated Atty. Milagros Isabel Cristobal from assistant secretary to undersecretary of the Support Services Office and named other five new DAR undersecretaries. They are Kazel Caasi Celeste for the Field

Operations Office, Napoleon Uy-Galit for the Legal Affairs Office, Marilyn Bugarin Barua-Yap, Amihilda Julsadjiri Sangcopan and Jesry T. Palmares. The new appointees replaced former Undersecretaries David Erro, Virginia Orogo, Carim Panumpang, Emily Padilla, Francisco Buan Jr., Ranibai Dilangalen, and Lucius Junjun Malsi, to give the new administration a frehand to appoint people with its trust and confidence.

The President also appointed Aurita Carlos-Ang, Ubaldo Sadiarin Jr., Joey Sumatra and Josef Angelo S. Martires as assistant secretaries. Earlier, Undersecretary Luis Meinrado Pangulayan quietly took the helm of the Policy, Planning and Research Office (PPRO) while former Head Executive Assistant, Atty. Celestina Tam as OIC-Undersecretary for External Affairs and Communications Operations Office (EACOO).

“Agrarian reform program must continue” - Marcos Jr.



President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. has vowed to continue the implementation of the agrarian reform program during his term as he delivered his first State of the Nation Address (SONA), on Monday, July 25.

“Agrarian reform is not only about acquisition but also about support services and distribution,” Marcos Jr. said

Marcos Jr. announced that he will issue an Executive Order (EO) to impose a one-year moratorium on the payment of land amortization and interest payments by agrarian reform beneficiaries.

“A moratorium will give the farmers the ability to channel

their resources in developing their farms, maximizing their capacity to produce and propel the growth of our economy,” Marcos Jr. said.

He urged Congress to pass a law to amend Section 26 of Republic Act No. 6657 to free the agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) from their debts where loans of ARBs with unpaid amortization and interest will be condoned.

“The purpose of this law is to erase the unpaid debts of our farmers who are beneficiaries of the agrarian reform,” he added.

Marcos Jr. also promised the ARBs who are still to receive their awarded lands under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP)

will no longer have to pay any amortization for their lands.

He said the proposed condonation will cover a total amount of P58.125 billion that would benefit 654,000 ARBs involving a total of 1.18 million hectares of awarded lands.

On Executive Order No. 75, Series of 2019, where all government agencies, agencies, bureaus, departments, and instrumentalities are required to turn over agricultural lands to qualified ARBs, Marcos Jr. said that at present, there are a total of 52,000 hectares of unused agricultural lands of the government which can be distributed in accordance with Section 14 of RA 6657 as amended.

He said that priorities for distribution will be landless war veterans, landless surviving spouses or orphans of war veterans, landless retirees of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and the Philippine National Police.

“Agricultural lands acquired under this program will be given to graduates of college degrees in agriculture who are landless,” Marcos Jr. said.

He added that the country needs a new breed of farmers equipped with modern agricultural technology that is able to engage in sustained scientific farming to increase farm yields and are resilient in the face of climate change.

JULY 27

DAR NORTH COTABATO HELPS FARMERS BECOME ENTREPRENEURS

Some 32 sugarcane farmers in North Cotabato are seen to become agri-entrepreneurs after they graduated from the Department of Agrarian Reform’s (DAR) Farm Business School (FBS).

The graduates who are members of Onica ARB Association in Onica, Kidapawan City had completed the 25 sessions of the FBS and

satisfactorily complied with the necessary requirements for becoming entrepreneurs.

Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II Charish Paña said the knowledge and skills they have learned from the FBS are life-changing experiences when they put all their learning into practice and become entrepreneurs.

“We hope that we have inspired the graduates to look at farming as a business and change their perception of themselves from being a farmer into a farmer-entrepreneur that diversifies streams of income by developing businesses through farming,” Paña said.

On the other hand, Municipal Agrarian Reform Program Officer

Mario Albete said the FBS is a good starting point in coming up with innovations for their product and livelihood.

“Take part in strengthening your organization and establish a sustainable enterprise in line with

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sugarcane because DAR will continue to help and assist you in marketing your products in the future,” he said. Onica ARB Association was a recipient of the sugarcane block farming project in 2016 and was provided with muscovado processing facilities in 2020. Onica ARB Association President Virgilio Dorado said they have

learned a lot from the FBS and they have seen the opportunity to gain higher income in muscovado processing. “Before the year ends, we hope that we have already applied all that we have learned in muscovado production. Our members, especially the women will be directly involved in this endeavor,” he said.



MIMAROPA EPAHP regional convergence team lumagda sa kasunduan para mabawasan ang kagutuman



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the 25 sessions of the FBS and satisfactorily complied with the necessary requirements for becoming entrepreneurs. Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II Charish Paña said the knowledge and skills they have learned from the FBS are life-changing experiences when they put

all their learning into practice and become entrepreneurs. “We hope that we have inspired the graduates to look at farming as a business and change their perception of themselves from being a farmer into a farmer-entrepreneur that diversifies streams of income by developing businesses through

farming,” Paña said. On the other hand, Municipal Agrarian Reform Program Officer Mario Albete said the FBS is a good starting point in coming up with innovations for their product and livelihood. “Take part in strengthening your organization and establish a sustainable enterprise in line with sugarcane because DAR will continue to help and assist you in marketing your products in the future,” he said. Onica ARB Association was a recipient of the sugarcane block farming project in 2016 and was provided with muscovado processing facilities in 2020. Onica ARB Association President Virgilio Dorado said they have learned a lot from the FBS and they have seen the opportunity to gain higher income in muscovado processing. “Before the year ends, we hope that we have already applied all that we have learned in muscovado production. Our members, especially the women will be directly involved in this endeavor,” he said.

JULY 28

DAR CHIEF TO PUSH FOR 1-YEAR MORATORIUM AND CONDONATION OF FARMERS' LOANS

QUEZON CITY — Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Secretary Conrado Estrella III said he will push for the President's plans for the condonation of loans and the one-year moratorium on payments of amortization and interest for agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs). “We don't stop at just giving lands to ARBs, we also think about their welfare. After two years of the pandemic, just like us, our ARBs have been experiencing financial difficulties too. These plans of the President will be a very big help to them,” Estrella said. In an impromptu interview with the media yesterday at the DAR,

Estrella said the land reform program of the government will continue, this time with more vigor starting with President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr's pronouncements on agrarian reform at his first state of the nation address on July 25. The President said he will issue an executive order imposing a one-year moratorium on the payment of land amortization and interest payments. The President said the moratorium will allow farmers “to channel their resources in developing their farms, maximizing their capacity to produce and propel the growth of our economy.” Estrella said that the Office of the President is already drafting the

executive order that will unburden the farmers of their dues. “Once drafted and approved for implementation, this moratorium would be beneficial to 654,047 ARBs,” Estrella said. The President also urged Congress to pass a law that will lift the burden off ARBs who have loan dues so they could concentrate on farm productivity. He said an amendment to Section 26 of Republic Act (RA) 6657, or the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988, is needed to unburden the farmers from their loans and interests. In this law, the loans of ARBs with unpaid amortization and interest shall be condoned.

“We are ready to work and coordinate with Congress and the Senate for whatever they need for this bill to be passed,” Estrella said. Estrella said that prior to the President's SONA, the DAR submitted to the President, a report that there are 52,000 hectares of unused government agricultural lands that are up for distribution under EO 75. “According to Section 40 of RA 6657, agricultural lands can also be distributed to landless war veterans, landless surviving spouses and orphans of war veterans, and

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landless retirees of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP),” Estrella said. He added that under DAR Administrative Order (AO) No. 03 issued in 1997, aside from AFP and PNP beneficiaries, returnees, surrenderees, and similar beneficiaries, shall be considered in the disposition of agricultural lands. “The President, upon knowing these, ordered us to reserve 50,000+ hectares of land for distribution to them. And to encourage the youth to farm, agricultural graduates are also included,” he said. Executive Order No. 75, Series of 2019 directs all government

agencies, bureaus, departments, and instrumentalities to turn over agricultural lands owned by the government for distribution to qualified agrarian reform beneficiaries. “At present, we are continually distributing lands and are focused, too, on providing the needed support services of farmers. I want our farmers to be extraordinary. So, we are not only providing farm machines and inputs but also training them to become modern farmers adept at using modern technology and training them too, to become entrepreneurs,” Estrella said.



PCOO CONFERS DAR WITH COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATE FOR FOI REQUIREMENTS



The Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) hailed the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) for fulfilling the set of requirements for Freedom of Information (FOI) recently. The conferment of the said certificate, the PCOO said, is prescribed under Section 5 (b) of Memorandum Circular No. 2021-1, issued by the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Harmonization of the National Government Performance Monitoring, Information and Reporting System (The Task Force Administrative Order 25, series of 2011). “This Certificate of Compliance is presented to the DAR for being fully compliant with the set of Freedom of Information requirements,” the PCOO said. The PCOO added: “Compliance with these requirements, will be used as one of the bases in determining

the eligibility of responsible units and individuals.” Among the requirements the DAR has complied with include:
 1. Updated People’s FOI Manual;
 2. Updated One-Page FOI Manual;
 3. Updated FOI Report (Agency Information Inventory: 2022 FOI Registry, and 2022 FOI Summary Report);
 4. Onboarding to the eFOI portal (www.foi.gov.ph);
 5. Updated Accomplished AID-FOI Tool; and
 6. FOI Feedback Report.
 These requirements will be subjected for validation by the FOI-Project Management Office to ensure that they were done according to the standards it set. Any agencies that failed to comply with the requirements may file a request for reconsideration to the FOI-PMO through a letter from their respective heads of agencies.

JULY 29

AGRARIAN REFORM BENEFICIARIES’ PRODUCTS PENETRATE COMMERCIAL MARKET



Tacurong City, Sultan Kudarat — The products of agrarian reform farmers can now be regularly bought at Tacurong Fitmart in the town of Isulan as their farm products, particularly the Freefarm Chili Powder and Flakes, received more positive feedback, hence more patronage. The products were processed and distributed by Isulan Free Farmers Biofarming Producers Cooperative (IFFABPCO), an agrarian reform beneficiaries organization (ARBO) from Barangay New Pangasinan. Senior Agrarian Reform Program Officer Cherry Mae Purazo said that IFFABPCO members use raw materials and equipment obtained from the Department of

Agrarian Reform’s (DAR) Village Level Farm-focused Enterprise Development (VLFED) Project. VLFED project focuses on capacitating ARBs to improve their product development and enhance the skills of the farmers in managing their cooperative. She added that last year, they were provided with support such as grinders, packaging materials, processing equipment, and various capacity building/training to sustain their production. “I am very excited for the farmers because they were given the opportunity to showcase their products at Tacurong Fitmart as

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this will significantly increase their market thereby giving them the opportunity to earn more,” Purazo said.

The DAR assured the ARBs that they would still receive continuous training and livelihood support.

Meanwhile, IFFABPCO Chairperson Ana Mary Odiaman thanked DAR-Sultan Kudarat and said that the agency’s training and marketing conference helped a lot to improve their marketing and salesmanship skills.

“We are truly thankful to DAR for finding ways to help ARBs like us through the provision of training interventions and for going above and beyond to assist us,” Odiaman added.



JULY 30

DAR DISTRIBUTES ELECTRONIC LAND TITLES TO 215 BICOL FARMERS

ESTRELLA III TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO DAR EMPLOYEES



LEGAZPI CITY — The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) recently conducted a series of distribution of certificates of land ownership award (CLOAs) and electronic land titles (E-titles) to agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) in Bicol in the last week of July 2022.

The distribution benefited 215 landless farmers from five towns in the provinces of Sorsogon and Camarines Sur, covering 344.8695 hectares of agricultural land.

In Sorsogon, seven (7) farmer-beneficiaries from Juban town were given their e-titles covering 18.9407 hectares of land. This was followed by the CLOA distribution to 64 ARBs with a total land area of 68.0892 hectares in Ocampo, Camarines Sur.

Another 67 beneficiaries from Bangon, Lupi in Camarines Sur received their land titles that covered 89 hectares, while 77 more farmers were given CLOAs and c-titles covering 168.8396 hectares in Caramoan and Garchitorea.

Bicol Region Assistant Regional Director for Operations Engr. Romulo Britanico shared that the distributed land titles covered hectares of land implemented under the Comprehensive Agrarian

Reform Program (CARP). “The titles are symbols that you are now the owners of the land you are tilling. It is also a symbol that we, in DAR, have done our job well and honestly,” Britanico said.

He also advised the beneficiaries to cultivate the land and make it productive and reminded them of their obligations on their awarded lands.

“There is a responsibility you need to take on. I just want you to enrich the land and make it productive,” he added.

Farmer Dominguito G. Mimay, 57, expressed gratitude to DAR and pledged to fulfill his duties as a DAR beneficiary. He is one of the seven recipients of the Erquiaga Development Corporation estate in Barangay Buraburan, Juban.

“Big thanks to DAR. I waited so long for this title, I cannot describe how it feels to finally have it in our possession. Rest assured that we will handle this with care. Thank you so much,” exclaimed Mimay.

From January 1, 2022, to date, the DAR in Bicol has already given land titles comprising 698.6576 hectares of agricultural land to 408 farmer-beneficiaries.



True to his promise that he will not only look into the welfare of the agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) but also of its employees, Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Secretary Conrado Estrella III announced recently that he would provide educational assistance to support the college education of grown-up sons and daughters of DAR employees, the fund for it would be drawn from his first salary. Estrella announced that he is giving away his first month’s salary for the said college educational assistance program through draw lots to be conducted during the flag-raising ceremony, this Monday, August 1, 2022.

Priority beneficiaries who will be provided with the college educational assistance program will be solo parent-employees who are supporting children at college levels.

The former lawmaker from Pangasinan is yet to complete his first month in office as DAR Secretary, but he is already fast becoming the “DARling of the DAR community” for his generosity.

Estrella assumed the top post of the DAR during the turnover ceremony last July 4 at the DAR Gymnasium, during which he showed a glimpse of his kindness when he announced that his administration had set aside a P5-million fund for the medical subsidy of DAR employees and their immediate family members. In Special Order No. 03, series of 2022, Estrella stressed that the Medical Assistance Program “may vary but may not exceed P20,000 per patient at any time.”

The medical assistance program is open to all regular and contractual employees whose salary or remuneration is P20,000 and below. Job order laborers, who have worked continuously for the Department for at least two years are also included and can also avail themselves of the said program.

Estrella said the program covers “a percentage of the cost of essential and life-saving medicines and other medical products and services as prescribed and recommended by the DAR medical consultant for out-patients and attending physician for in-patients.”

DAR installs 58 ARBs in M'lang, North Cotabato



A total of 58 agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) have finally occupied the 55.9-hectare agricultural land in Barangay New Kalibo, M'lang, North Cotabato after they were installed by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR).

Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II Charish Paña said that prior to the installation of the ARBs to the then banana plantation, there were individuals, who were not among those identified as legitimate farmer-beneficiaries, who intruded the area, thus restraining the entry of the DAR's identified ARBs or land title holders.

"Because of the intrusion, the DAR was constrained to recommend the issuance of a writ of installation. The activity was another social justice served for our ARBs. Aside from the land given to them, we will ensure that they will also get the support services they need to make their lands productive," Paña said.

The landholdings were acquired by the DAR through the Compulsory Acquisition Scheme of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program, which is the redistribution of public and private agricultural lands to farmers and farmworkers

who are landless, irrespective of tenurial arrangement.

Municipal Agrarian Reform Program Officer Oding Yusoph thanked the DAR management for their full support and prompt action in the issuance of the writ of installation.

"We are very happy about this feat for the ARBs and we also appreciate the active collaboration of partner agencies, particularly the barangay governments of New Rizal and New Kalibo for their facilitation in the area as well as the Municipal Police Office of M'lang for providing security assistance," Yusoph said. Meanwhile, New Kalibo Barangay Chairman Haide Pines expressed her gratitude to the DAR for their time and effort in the process of coverage until the installation of the ARBs in the area.

"We are very happy that all the beneficiaries are already occupying the assigned lots and that we can call the land of our own now," Pines said.

She also committed that they would do their best together with the other beneficiaries to take good care of the land and make it productive for their families survival and daily sustenance.

DAR GAUGES 1ST SEM ACCOMPLISHMENTS, PLANS TO IMPLEMENT SONA COMMITMENTS OF PRESIDENT ON AGRARIAN REFORM



The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) conducted a three-day 2022 1st semester formative assessment and 2nd semester catch-up planning conference to assess what has been accomplished and make plans to integrate the commitments made by President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr., during his first State of the Nation Address (SONA) particularly on agrarian reform. DAR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and Research Office (PPRO) Atty. Luis Meinrado C.

Pañgulayan, said given the limited resources, the conference will be done in two (2) parts.

Part 1, he said, will be focused on the presentation of the 1st sem accomplishment versus the targets, problems, issues, needs and concerns encountered, and the 2nd sem catch-up plan. While part 2 will involve the Executive Committee and Management Committee face-to-face session with the sector and region one-on-one sessions.

"One of President's top priorities in

his first SONA is that agrarian reform must continue. The President has vowed to issue an Executive Order to impose a one year moratorium on the payment of land amortization and interest payments. Second, is for the Congress to pass a law to amend Section 26 of RA 6657. And third, is the implementation of Section 14 of R.A 6657, as amended," Pañgulayan said. Pañgulayan said the proposed law to be passed by the Congress, is intended for the condonation

of loans of ARBs with unpaid amortization and interest.

The DAR is also mandated to pursue EO 75 to include in its coverage as beneficiaries the landless war veterans, landless surviving spouses or orphans of war veterans, landless retirees of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police. Agricultural lands acquired under this program are also targeted for distribution to graduates of college degrees in agriculture who are landless.