

# AGRARIAN

DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM DIURNAL • ENGLISH EDITION • SEPTEMBER 2022

SEPTEMBER 1

## Sugarcane farmers in Cebu receive hauling truck from DAR

MEDELLIN, Cebu-- In compliance with the directive of Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Secretary Conrado Estrella III to enhance the delivery of support services to the agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs), the DAR in Cebu province has turned over a hauling truck to the farmer-members of the Panugnawan Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Association (PANARBA) to help sustain their sugarcane business.

DAR Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer Grace B. Fua said the truck provided under the DAR's Climate Resilient Farm Productivity Support Project (CRFPSP) costs P4.1 million.

"The 10-wheeler farm truck will be a great help in hauling harvested sugarcane and it will also address their need for cheaper transportation in transporting their produce," Fua said.

Fua said the DAR, as the grantor of the farm truck, will monitor and evaluate the operation and management of the truck by the PANARBA. On the other hand, the PANARBA as the grantee will provide the equity for the following: lot and construction of the garage, operating capital, and



maintenance of the truck. She also encouraged PANARBA to formulate and submit its business plan for the management of the farm truck as a business enterprise to benefit its 80 members. "The hauling truck will serve as an added service of PANARBO to its members and non-members. The

earnings from the low-rate rental of the truck will be used as a business asset of the organization and for the maintenance of the truck," Fua said.

PANARBA President William G. Auman thanked DAR for the hauling truck.

"This dump truck is a huge help for

our farmer-members because of its lower rental fee compared to other rental trucking services," Auman said.

Auman promised the DAR to properly maintain the truck and to address whatever problems or challenges that their organization would encounter.

SEPTEMBER 2

## SUMILAO FARMERS JUBILANT OVER P9-M "TULAY NG PANGULO" PROJECT

Sumilao, Bukidnon-- Farmers and residents have expressed their jubilation and gratitude to Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Secretary Conrado Estrella

III after the DAR in the province of Bukidnon, in partnership with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), facilitated the completion and turnover of a

concrete bridge to the municipal government of Sumilao.

DAR-Bukidnon Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II Mohammad Abdul Jabbar M.

Pandapatan said the Sumilao II Uni-Bridge in Sitio Kilaog, Poblacion, Sumilao, Bukidnon was constructed

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under the Tulay ng Pangulo para sa Kaunlarang Pang-Agraryo (TPKP) project, to provide ease among farmers in transporting their products to the market centers. Pandapatan said that this a milestone of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) implementation in the municipality of Sumilao under the leadership of Secretary Estrella. "The bridge is a sign of progress and success for this town since it is seen

to benefit a total of 16,737 residents in the area including 1,256 agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs)", he said. He further stated that the construction of the bridge worth P9-million is aligned with the DAR's commitment to improve the lives of the farmers. "The construction of the 28.80 linear meter, 2-lanes, 1 span pre-fabricated Unibridge modular steel used a technology based from France,"

Pandapatan said. Pandapatan disclosed that the design of the bridge can withstand typhoons and flash floods, providing easier access to farmers and motorists, in bringing their farm products to the market outlets even during severe weather conditions. The Sumilao II Uni-Bridge connects the residents of the two (2) barangays of Poblacion and Kisolon to the town proper. "We are really happy about this

project. Our dream was finally realized. Thanks to the DAR," said Datu Lunie Payuhan, an ARB from Barangay Poblacion Sumilao, Bukidnon. TPKP project aims to promote rural development in agrarian reform communities, enhance productivity and income through reduced marketing cost, and alleviate poverty among ARBs and agrarian reform areas.

## ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY FARMERS START PRACTICING NATURAL FARMING TECHNOLOGY



Zamboanga Sibugay farmers are now practicing the natural farming technology system after the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) conducted a series of training to members of eight (8) agrarian reform beneficiaries organizations (ARBOs) to boost their agricultural production. DAR Zamboanga Sibugay Chief Mohammad Dassan Adju said this activity is aimed to encourage farmers to engage in organic farming which would improve their farm productivity and ensure higher yields. "These ARBOs were already recipients of farm machinery and garden tools under the Enhanced Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty (EPAHP) program, a government initiative addressing food security, hunger, and poverty problems through the synergy and convergence of essential services of the government agencies," he said. Adju disclosed that aside from the training the DAR also assists

the farmers in marketing their produce by linking them with other institutional partners, hospitals, as well as local government units, and forging a marketing agreement to guarantee a sustained and stable market for their produce. He added that during the training the ARBOs also received vegetable seeds, plastic mulch, and organic compost for their respective plots. The ARBOs that attended the training include Patalon Estate Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Cooperative, Latuan Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Cooperative, Silingan Rubber Farmers Association, JR GARCIA MPC, Small Water Impounding System Association, Buluan Agrarian Community Multipurpose Cooperative, and Tomitom Small Rubber Farmers Association. About 240 farmer-beneficiaries of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) are expected to benefit from the said training.

SEPTEMBER 3

## Estrella III converges with gov't agencies to market farmers products

In its continuous effort to strengthen the government's war against hunger, the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in Negros Occidental recently facilitated the signing of marketing agreements between the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) district jails, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and four (4) DAR-assisted cooperatives. DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III said he has included the services of other government agencies to help elevate the welfare of the agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs). "This move of inviting other government agencies to partner with the DAR is aligned with President

Ferdinand Marcos, Jr.'s national goal of improving the lives of the farmers," Estrella said. DAR Undersecretary for Support Services Office Atty. Milagros Isabel Cristobal said the partnership agreement is being implemented under the Enhanced Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty (EPAHP) program. The EPAHP is one of the banner programs of the government to mitigate hunger, ensure food nutrition security, and establish sustainable agriculture by 2030. Cristobal said the program offers mutual benefits to concerned parties. The BJMP district jails and the AFP would be assured of a steady supply



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of fresh vegetables for the dietary requirements in their facilities, while the 4 ARB organizations (ARBOs) would have a regular market for their farm produce.

“This partnership will serve as a tool so our ARBs can have an assured market for their products and open opportunities to further expose their products to other target buyers,” Cristobal said.

DAR Western Visayas Regional Director Sheila Enciso expressed her gratitude to the members of the 94th Infantry Battalion of the 3rd Infantry Division of the AFP for supporting the EPAHP and partnering with the DAR and the ARBOs.

“The four ARBOs are the

Barangay Ara-al Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Association in La Carlota City, Victory Hills Farmers Association in Kabankalan City, Bagong Silang Farmers Association in Hinigaran, and Sitio Flora Agrarian Reform Cooperative in Kabankalan City,” she said.

Enciso lauded the said collaboration stating that Negros Occidental is the pioneer province in the country to forge a partnership agreement between the ARBOs and the AFP. Under the said agreement, the 4 ARBOs agreed to ensure the delivery of the required volume of poultry products, fruits, and vegetables to the BJMP and the AFP.

**SEPTEMBER 4**

# Improving farmers’ lives is President BBM’s priority -- Estrella



“Improving the economic lives of our farmers is one of the priorities of this administration,” said Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Secretary Conrado Estrella III during the agency’s P15.85-billion budget proposal hearing for the year 2023.

Estrella said that true to the executive chief’s word, President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. will sign an Executive Order imposing a moratorium on payments of amortizations fees and interest loans of agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARB), to support the intensified provision of support services and expedite the distribution of all idle government-owned lands.

He disclosed that the EO will be signed when the President turns 65 on September 13 as this was part of his commitment during his first State of the Nation Address

(SONA).

“I trust the wisdom of the President. The money of the ARBs that will be spent for their debts and other obligations will be used instead for other agricultural ventures. They can use that as additional capital for greater agricultural production,” Estrella said to the members of the budget committee.

The agrarian reform chief also reiterated Marcos’ call for condoning the land amortization fees of the ARBs.

“I have a continuous talk with the members of the House and the Senate, and I think they are going to support this measure as it is expected to benefit the ARBs nationwide,” Estrella said.

He further said that with the condonation, the ARBs would be free from their debts and their farmlands, being their personal

asset, can be used as a collateral or a negotiable instrument that is beneficial especially to those who will only get a small portion of land. Estrella stated that Marcos also supports the department’s drive to intensify its provision of support services such as constructions of more infrastructure facilities, providing farmers with farm machines, equipment and inputs and giving them various capacity development training.

“Aside from these, we would also include the children of our ARBs in the coverage of the Unified Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education scholarship under the Commission on Higher Education. We would also provide our farmers with medical assistance through our partnership with the Department of Health,” he said.

The DAR also aims to distribute

all the remaining 256,121 hectares of idle government-owned lands, under the Executive Order No. 75, Series of 2019, to the farmer-beneficiaries of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

Estrella divulged that under the leadership of President Marcos the DAR, for the next six years, targets to achieve:

- 80% or 743,800 ARBs empowered with enhanced productivity and family income and become economically independent and active players,
  - 85% or 7,800 ARB organizations with stable business operations, and
  - 80% or 1,300 Agrarian Reform Communities with improved business ecosystem and connectivity.
- The budget hearing was carried on for a little over an hour and was passed for plenary without a single question being raised.

# ESTRELLA III FORMS SELECTION BOARD TO FILL UP THIRD-LEVEL POSITIONS

A new set of officials are expected to emerge as the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) reconstituted the Management Selection and Advisory Board (MSAB) to rationalize and facilitate the filling-up of third-level appointees.

DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III tapped Undersecretary for Finance Management and Administration Jeffrey M. Galan as chairperson of the newly formed MSAB, which shall deliberate and evaluate the selection and promotion of third-level positions which include: Directors IV and III, Regional and Provincial Agrarian Reform Adjudicators, and Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officers II and I.

Estrella designated Undersecretary for Field Operations, Atty. Kazel C. Celeste as vice chairperson and Undersecretaries, Atty Milagros Isabel A. Cristobal of the Support Services Office, and Atty. Napoleon U. Galit of the Legal Affairs Office



as members.

Estrella named the following as members of the technical working group: Assistant Secretaries Joey Sumatra of the Field Operations Office, Atty. Maria Celestina Tam of the Legal Affairs Office, Aurita Ang of the Field Management and

Administration Office, Josef Angelo Martires of the Foreign-Assisted and Special Project Office, Executive Director Roland Manalaysay of the DAR Adjudication Board, and Director Robert Anthony Yu of the Bureau of Agrarian Legal Assistance.

Under Special Order No. 503, the MSAB serves as the recommendatory body for third-level positions. Its picks shall be subject to final approval by the Secretary.

Applicants who gain the nod of the Secretary shall be forwarded to the Office of the President to serve as the basis for the recommendation for the available third-level positions. The President may approve or reject the said recommendation.

In facilitating the deliberation and evaluation of the selection and promotion process, the MSAB shall be guided by the following assessment criteria:

1. Education and Training (10 percent)
2. Experience (20 percent)
3. Performance (30 percent)
4. Management Competence (10 percent)
5. Technical Competence (20 percent)
6. Overall Contribution to the Program (10 percent)

## DAR chief to hasten distribution of support services to ARBs

Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Secretary Conrado Estrella III has vowed to expedite the delivery of badly needed support services to ensure the continued productivity of farmlands awarded to agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) and discourage them from pawning or selling their farm.

Estrella said one of his major priorities is to keep the flow of food smooth and orderly since it is the best way to keep the prices of basic farm goods at an affordable level.

“Remember, when the supply of goods is abundant, the price is likely to go down,” Estrella said.

At a time when the prices of goods are going up due to high cost of oil products, the DAR chief said that keeping food supply to the market uninterrupted would somehow help stabilize the prices, something that President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. is trying to emphasize during his meetings with members of his Cabinet and with other major stakeholders.

Earlier, Estrella directed DAR Undersecretary for Support Services Office Atty. Milagros



Isabel Cristobal to prioritize the construction of roads that would connect bridges that were constructed under the “Tulay ng Pangulo para sa Kaunlarang Pang-agraryo” to the main roads, leading to the market.

A total of 140 bridges under the said project had already been completed, while construction of 29 others are on-going.

The DAR chief is also eyeing

the construction of more post-harvest facilities to help keep farmer-beneficiaries from being shortchanged by providing them safe storage facilities where they can store their harvests when prices are low and sell them when prices are high.

Estrella observed that the lack of storage facilities makes farmers vulnerable as they are often forced by unscrupulous traders and

middlemen to sell their harvests at a very low price instead of seeing them rotting in their backyard.

“We need to put a stop to this practice because it is one of the major reasons why prices of goods are going up as some traders have the nerve to hoard farm goods they bought at very low price to create artificial shortage, resulting in sudden upsurge of prices of goods,” he said.

# “Speed up distribution of gov’t farmlands” -- Estrella III



In compliance with the directive of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) is working double-time to speed up the distribution of idle government-owned lands to landless war veterans, their surviving spouses or orphaned children, retired military and police personnel, and agricultural courses graduates.

DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III said he had ordered all field land reform program implementers to immediately conduct field validation activities and piece together pertinent documents to determine the areas of government-owned lands that could be distributed to the intended beneficiaries.

Estrella said there are 24,459 hectares of government-owned lands that are up for field validation, 14,118 hectares of them are targeted for distribution this year under Executive Order No. 75, series of 2019.

The said executive order directs all government agencies to identify and distribute agricultural lands owned by the government to qualified beneficiaries.

In his State of the Nation Address, Marcos Jr. vowed to pursue the “distribution of unused government

agricultural lands to landless war veterans, their surviving spouses or orphaned children, retired military and police personnel and agricultural courses graduates.”

DAR Undersecretary for Field Operations Atty. Kazel Celeste conveyed Estrella’s order in her two-page memorandum to regional and provincial land reform implementers, directing them to conduct field validation activities immediately and submit their reports at the soonest possible time. Besides the validation reports, Celeste expects them to present other supporting documents, such as photocopies of the Proclamation or titles, certifications from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources classifying the lands as alienable and disposable, certifications from the Department of Agriculture as to their suitability for farming and the identified areas for coverage, among others.

Celeste expressed the DAR’s resolve to distribute identified government-owned lands to qualified beneficiaries when she advised the field land reform program implementers to seek military and/or police assistance “in cases wherein you are denied entry by the government instrumentality.”

# QUEZON FARMERS ADOPT MODERN FARMING TECHNOLOGY THROUGH DAR’S HELP

SAN FRANCISCO, QUEZON – A total of 207 farmer-members from the Nagkakaisang Nayon Auto-Savings Group (NNASG) in Quezon Province are excited to adopt modern machinery and advanced farming technology after the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) turned over to them farm machinery and equipment (FME) worth Php800,000.00.

Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II Engr. Cornelio P. Villapando led the turnover of FMEs to the NNASG, with Quezon province 3rd District Representative Reynante U. Arrogancia, attended by representatives from the municipal and barangay local governments, DAR provincial office, program stakeholders, and community residents.

Villapando said the FME distributed



include one (1) unit corn mill, two (2) units corn sheller, five (5) units grasscutter, seven (7) units of battery-operated knapsack sprayer, a pressurized power sprayer, one (1) unit of power tiller with implements,

eight (8) plastic drums, and two (2) units of water pump with hose.

“DAR’s work does not end with the distribution of agricultural lands to the agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs). We continue to provide

support services to further develop their lands and their livelihood,” Villapando said.

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Villapando emphasized that among the major directives of President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. to DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III is to extend support service to help more farmers throughout the archipelago. He mentioned that with the global projection of food shortage in the coming years, the national

agency has geared up to adapt and provide the necessary assistance to the farmer-beneficiaries to help them increase their production to counteract the looming crisis. Municipal Mayor of San Francisco Romulo R. Edaño expressed his gratitude to the DAR and admitted that these farm machinery and equipment would help not only the farmers, but the entire community,

as well. NNASG Chairperson Bonifacio M. Tacud likewise gave his appreciation to the DAR and the local governments for the assistance, as he formally accepted the farm machines and equipment and assured them of the cooperative's support to the government. The activity is part of the Major Crop-based Block Farming Project,

a component of the Climate Resilient Farm Productivity Support Program being implemented by the DAR. The program is geared towards building resiliency and enhancing agricultural productivity as an adaptation measure to combat climate change. This project also aims to mechanize farm production systems and to be used as revenue-generating assets of the cooperatives.

SEPTEMBER 8

# Estrella to hire more lawyers to speed up resolution of agrarian cases

The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) will hire additional lawyers to speed up the resolution of agrarian cases.

Agrarian Reform Secretary Conrado Estrella III said that this is part of the commitment of President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. during his first State of the Nation Address (SONA) to provide social justice and free the farmers from the bondage of the soil.

“Currently, the DAR is experiencing a shortage of lawyers to review all agrarian disputes that are pending under the DAR Adjudication Board (DARAB) and Agrarian Law Implementation (ALI),” Estrella said.

The Secretary noted that from 1988 to June 2022, the DARAB received a total of 640,807 caseloads. From these, a total of 638,445 were adjudicated leaving a balance of



2,362 pending cases.

On the other hand, from 1993 to June 2022 the DAR received a total of 945,875 caseloads under the ALI cases, resolving a total of 943,584

cases and leaving a balance of 2,291 pending cases.

“It is very hard to hire competent and topnotch lawyers who can assist the DAR to resolve its pending

cases. Our game plan is to do a scrap and build scheme. We will abolish vacant positions so that we can create positions to offer bigger salaries to the lawyers,” Estrella said.

Estrella disclosed that the DAR will implement the real mandate of the program, which is to provide social justice and free farmers from the bondage of the land as reiterated by the President.

“The DAR will encourage more lawyers to join the team to help us review pending cases, conduct fast-tracking activities, and enhance its legal case monitoring system,” Estrella said.

Estrella said that the DAR may not be able to achieve a zero backlog at this point, but it is the DAR's commitment to provide a higher percentage of solving pending cases.

SEPTEMBER 9

# House Committee fast-tracks approval of 6 agrarian welfare bills



QUEZON CITY—Members of the House Committee on Agrarian Reform recently met to fast-track the passage of six (6) House Bills

(HB) approved in the 18th congress. Included among the agrarian welfare bills discussed is the full crop insurance coverage to qualified

agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) authored by Deputy Speakers Ralph

Recto and Kristine Singson-Meehan through HB 3178 and HB 3839. Department of Agrarian Reform

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(DAR) Secretary Conrado Estrella III said that the DAR will provide safety nets against losses to adverse weather conditions, as he thanked the lawmakers for the bills they have authored for the benefit and welfare of the farmers.

“I thank all of you for making the effort and finding ways to uplift the economic lives of the farmers. It is so wonderful to know that all the bills authored coincide with the President’s goal of unburdening the farmers of financial problems and getting them out of extreme poverty. With all of you on our side, and

working together, this endeavor is not impossible,” Estrella said.

Also included in the discussion is a bill that will restructure and condone unpaid interests, penalties, and surcharges on loans secured by farmers, fisherfolks, and ARBs from the DAR, Department of Agriculture (DA), People’s Credit and Finance Corporation, Cooperative Development Authority, National Food Authority, and Quedan and Rural Credit Guarantee Corporation authored by Rep. Felimon Espares under HB 1879.

A bill that will look into the conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural uses, including a

review of its existing policies and procedures on the preservation of agricultural lands is being pursued under HB 272 penned by Rep. Luis Raymund ‘LRay’ Villafuerte Jr. and HB 2076 by Rep. Jaime Cojuangco under HB 2076.

The transfer of the Provincial Agrarian Reform Office of Lanao del Norte from Iligan City to the Municipality of Tubod, Lanao del Norte is being pushed as authored by Rep. Mohamad Khalid Dimaporo under HB 1863.

Estrella said the department will work with Rep. Dimaporo to speed up the relocation of the DAR provincial office.

“We will help you in this undertaking and we will see to it that government service will continue and will not be hampered by the relocation,” Estrella said.

The meeting was attended by key farmer’s welfare advocates in the House led by Ifugao Representative Solomon Chungalao, chairman of the house committee on agrarian reform, and its members Representatives Edsel Lagman, Arnolfo Teves, Angelo Marcos-Barba, Arlene Brosas, Jaime Cojuangco, Mohammad Khalid Dimaporo, Camille Villar, Felimon Espares, Ralph Recto, Geraldine Roman, and Wilbert Lee.

SEPTEMBER 10

# ESTRELLA ANNOUNCES HOLDING OF AGRILINK EXHIBIT 2022



Former Abono party-list representative and now Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Secretary Conrado Estrella III announced the holding of the 27th AgriLINK Exhibit on October 6–8, 2022 at the World Trade Center along Roxas Blvd., Pasay City.

The AgriLINK is an internationally recognized agribusiness exhibition in the Philippines, which offers more than 500 indoor and outdoor booths where participants can showcase products, information, technologies, equipment, and services, as well as, live animals and plants.

It will also present 24 seminar slots for technical and product presentations, and special events such as cooking demonstrations, product launching, raffles, and fun games.

“This is a great opportunity for our farmers’ organizations to promote and impress upon everyone that our farmers’ products are at par with the rest of the world,” Estrella said.

To encourage the various agrarian reform beneficiaries organizations (ARBOs) nationwide to participate and showcase their agri-based products for wider market reach, DAR Undersecretary for Support

Services Office, Atty. Milagros Isabel Cristobal directed all DAR regional and provincial officers to join the event.

“Our ARBOs involvement in the exhibit will showcase the result of our beneficiaries’ effort in making the awarded lands provided by the DAR productive,” Cristobal said.

Cristobal said the AgriLINK Exhibit 2022 will serve as an avenue for new learning experiences as it offers a number of activities, which include, among others, the following:

- a) 27th International Agribusiness Exhibition and seminars;
- b) 21st International Food Processing, Packaging and Product Exhibition; and
- c) 16th National Fisheries Exhibition and seminars.

The ARBO’s participation will entail a corresponding rental fee for the available exhibit slots. Interested stakeholders are encouraged to log in to the website [www.agrilink.org](http://www.agrilink.org) for all application details or coordinate with Ted Adrian A. Damole or Lia Melcha M. Pandapatan of the Bureau of Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Development (BARBD) at telephone number 02-8926-1890.

# Estrella distributes land titles in Northern Mindanao

After twenty (20) years of waiting, Warnita Mocay, a 78 years old agrarian reform beneficiary (ARB) in Northern Mindanao, finally received her Certificate of Land Ownership Award (CLOA) from Department of Agrarian Reform Secretary Conrado Estrella III during his visit in Cagayan de Oro City yesterday, September 9, 2022. Mocay who claims to be the oldest

recipient of the CLOA in the area, was one of the 654 agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) provided by Estrella with CLOAs and electronic land titles (e-titles) under the Support to Parcelization of Lands for Individual Titling (SPLIT) Project.

Mocay said it took almost 20 years for the land valuation issue between the DAR and the heirs of Paz

Montalban to be resolved.

“This land title is a big help to us. We are very thankful for finally receiving this CLOA after waiting for so long,” Mocay said.

The CLOAs comprise a total of 999.67 hectares of agricultural lands formerly owned by Paz Montalban in Balintonga, Aloran, Misamis Occidental.

Estrella said that included among

his main priorities is to speed up land distribution, agrarian justice delivery and intensify support services to ARBs, in compliance with the directive of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

“We will provide you with more lands and necessary support to help

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you improve your economic lives,” Estrella promised the ARBs. He said that the DAR will assist the ARBs get additional income in order to improve their living conditions. “We know that the income from farming is not enough. It is necessary to provide various additional sources of income,” he said. Aside from the land titles, Estrella also turned over sub-projects which include the Tulay ng Pangulo para sa Kaunlarang Pang-Agraryo (TPKP) worth Php11,888,624.74, fourteen (14) units of evaporation kettle set worth Php5,012,000.00 and twenty-six (26) units of decorticating machine worth Php2,078,700.00. The Secretary also launched the “Agraryo Abogado Todo Serbisyo sa Benepisyaryo” to assist the ARBs settle their agrarian disputes.



SEPTEMBER 11

## North Cotabato farmers get steady market for their banana products

Kidapawan City – The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has linked the North Cotabato farmers to an institutional buyer of Cardava bananas so that they could have a steady market for their agricultural produce.

The DAR linked the Arakan River Irrigators Credit Cooperative (ARICCO) of Naje, Arakan to Liberty Fruits Inc., at Mua-an Kidapawan City for them to directly conduct collective marketing for their fresh cardava banana products. Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II Charish Paña said the DAR trained ARICCO as a consolidator of clusters of smallholder cardava banana farmers from barangays Naje, Malibatuan, and Doroluman so that they can collectively sell their bananas in order to have a just and more reasonable price for their products. “After a series of consultations and planning with the Arakan Municipal Agriculturist, ARICCO was able to start their test marketing with a collective volume of 8,890 kilos of fresh cardava banana,” she said.



Paña said that the DAR would sustain its assistance to the farmers to allow them to have a steady market for their products and make their lives better.

“Linking them with the institutional market is part of the DAR’s support services intervention to ensure that we could help boost the agricultural sector in the countryside,” she said.

The effort was implemented under the DAR’s Linking Smallholder Farmers (LinkSFarmM) project in partnership with the local government unit and private entities.

SEPTEMBER 12

## AGRARIAN REFORM CHIEF ACCELERATES INVENTORY OF GOLs, SUCs TO BE DISTRIBUTED FOR FREE TO CARP BENEFICIARIES

Agrarian Reform Secretary Conrado Estrella III is accelerating the inventory of idle government-owned lands (GOLs) covered under Executive Order 75, Series of 2019, which include State Colleges and Universities (SCUs) nationwide,

as part of the commitment of the 6-year administration of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

Estrella said that there will be no moratorium to stop the distribution of GOLs and SUCs.

He noted that the DAR is in the

process of evaluating the more than 56,000 hectares of GOLs nationwide which can be covered under EO 75, with about 26,000 still to be validated and targeted for distribution for free to qualified beneficiaries of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform

Program (CARP).

“We will evaluate and make an inventory of coverable SCUs and identify which areas are being used for agri-research. Only those areas

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not used for this purpose will be covered for distribution to qualified beneficiaries of the CARP.

Estrella ensured that only those that are not used for educational purposes shall be included in the inventory of lands for SCUs, that is why he had already directed his DAR field officials to closely coordinate with the SCUs so that only those that are no longer used for educational

purposes will be included in the inventory.

EO 75 instructs all government agencies to identify, validate, segregate, transfer and distribute GOLs suitable for agriculture, no longer used for the purpose which they have been reserved and this will be intended for distribution to qualified beneficiaries.

“According to Section 40 of RA 6657, agricultural lands can be distributed to landless war veterans, landless

surviving spouses and orphans of war veterans, and 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, series of 1997, aside from AFP and PNP beneficiaries, returnees, surrenderees, and similar beneficiaries, shall be provided with agricultural lands.

On the other hand, Estrella said that

to encourage the youth to engage in farming, agricultural graduates are also included as beneficiaries as stated under Administrative Order No. 3, series of 2020.

“We need a new breed of farmers who will be scientifically prepared and be engaged in a scientific method of farming to increase their production and income and thereby be a contributor to economic development,” Estrella emphasized.

SEPTEMBER 13

# PBBM declares moratorium on payment of land amortization and interests

The 65th birthday of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. today marks the historic signing of an executive order, declaring a moratorium on payment of land amortization and interests.

The momentous signing of the executive order, held on Tuesday, September 13, 2022, would spare agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) the burden of paying their annual amortization and interests while enabling them to use the money to purchase farm inputs and/or as starting capital for any business enterprises they may consider venturing into.

Agrarian Reform Secretary Conrado Estrella III led a delegation of 160 department officials, land reform beneficiaries, and advocates to witness in Malacañang Palace event. Section 26 of the Republic Act 6657, the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law, states that “lands awarded pursuant to the law shall be paid for by the beneficiaries to the Land Bank of the Philippines in 30 annual amortizations at six percent interest per annum.”

Many agrarian reform beneficiaries and advocates have long been clamoring for the suspension of amortization payments and loan interests amid the many challenges that farmers face such as the pandemic, calamities, and rising cost of farm inputs.



In his first State of the Nation Address, President Marcos Jr. urged Congress to pass a law that will lift the burden off agrarian reform beneficiaries who have loan dues so that they could concentrate on farm productivity, a top priority of his administration.

“The condonation of the existing agrarian reform loan will cover the amount of P58.125 billion benefiting around 654,000 agrarian reform beneficiaries and involving a total of 1.18 million hectares of awarded lands,” Marcos was quoted

as saying.

Agri Party-list Rep. Wilbert T. Lee already proposed a bill, seeking to free ARBs from their unpaid land reform amortization and interests.

The 2006 study commissioned by the DAR, “The Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program: Scenarios and Options for Future Development,” it shows that pursuing payments for amortization and interests would not be beneficial to the government due to “high transaction costs.”

The said study says: “Administrative cost of setting up a system for

collecting amortization payment from beneficiaries will be higher than the collectible amount.”

Another study conducted by the DAR-Policy and Strategic Research Service: “An Assessment of Payment of Land Amortization by ARBs,” it shows that of the total amount of arrearages for ARBs with deficient amortization payments, 43.6 percent constitute the principal and 56.4 percent the interests, a not promising scenario since “the interest arrearages has already exceeded the principal amount.”

## PBBM FREEZES LAND AMORTIZATION AND INTEREST PAYMENTS

Today, his 65th birthday marks the fulfillment of another commitment made by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. during his first State of the Nation Address (SONA), that of emancipating the agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) from their debts.

Marcos, Jr. today signed the Executive Order imposing a year-long moratorium on payments on the annual amortization and interest payments of ARBs for agricultural lands distributed under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

The President said that the one-year

moratorium on land amortization and interest payments would help unburden the ARBs from their debts, enabling them to use the money instead in developing their farms, maximizing their capacity to produce and propel the growth of the economy.

DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III said the executive order on moratorium is in preparation for another fulfillment of the commitment of the President, which is for Congress to pass a law that will condone the loans of ARBs with unpaid amortization and interests.

“We always think about the farmers’

welfare. The one-year moratorium and condonation of farmers’ loan payment will lead to freedom of farmers from debts,” Estrella said.

He expressed willingness to work and cooperate with the House of Representatives in the amendment of Section 26 of Republic Act 6657, or the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988.

“The condonation of the existing agrarian reform loan will cover the amount of PhP58.125 billion benefiting around 654,000 ARBs and involving a total of 1.18 million hectares of awarded lands,” Marcos said in his first SONA.

Section 26 of the Republic Act 6657, requires the ARBs who were awarded lands to pay to the Land Bank of the Philippines in 30 annual amortizations at six percent interest per annum.

Marcos said that under the proposed law, the loans of ARBs with unpaid amortization and interest shall be condoned and erase the outstanding debts of the farmers who are beneficiaries of agrarian reform. “ARBs who are still to receive their awarded lands under the CARP shall receive it without obligation to pay any amortization,” Marcos said.

# 600 AGRARIAN REFORM BENEFICIARIES ATTEND DAR SUMMIT IN TARLAC



An assembly of 600 agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) in the 1st district of Tarlac recently attended a Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Summit held in San Manuel, Tarlac.

The DAR assembled the ARBs to present the various support services provided by the department, other agencies, private organizations, and the local government unit in the area to help them achieve their goals of improving their lives.

Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II Jocelyn Ramones said the intervention of support services to the farmers is one of the top priorities under President Ferdinand Marcos Jr and DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III.

The event, dubbed as “Magsasakang Agraryo: Kabalik sa Pagbabago at Pagpapaunlad ng Kanayunan Tungo sa Maginhawa, Matatag at

Mapanatag na Pamumuhay,” is an ARB organizations’ (ARBO) summit and convocation cum support services mobilization.

“We brought together DAR’s farmer-beneficiaries with other government officials and CARP (Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program) stakeholders and other institutional partners to show our ARBs the magnitude of support that will be provided to them,” Ramones said.

Ramones said stakeholders from Pilmico Food Corporation, Philippine Carabao Center, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, and the Office of the 1st District Representative signed the Memorandum of Understanding between the DAR-Tarlac to fully support and mobilize various programs of the DAR for the ARBOs.

She added that the event also conducted the oath-taking and induction of the newly-elected officers of the ARBO Federation/Alliance and the officers of the Barangay Agrarian Reform Committee (BARC) and the awarding and recognition of progressive ARBOs as strong and active partners of DAR in realizing its programs and projects to uplift the lives and welfare of the ARBs in the community and for being big brothers and sisters for small fledgling cooperatives within the district.

“This is our strategy that puts together all the banner programs of the agency which could be effectively implemented through a federation and alliance of the ARBOs and strengthening the BARC Officers,” she said.

The activity also highlighted the

unveiling of the product development “Tinapay Ti Uno Bun Making Competition,” and the showcase of a whole range of products and services of the ARBOs in the 1st district of Tarlac.

DAR Central Luzon Director Arsenio James Ponce, with other DAR officials, led the assembly of about 40 ARBOs during the event, attended by 1st District of Tarlac Representative Jaime Cojuangco, San Manuel Mayor Doña Crescencia Tesoro, Tarlac Governor Susan Yap, Camiling Mayor Erlon Agustin, Mayantoc Mayor Iluminado Pobre, Moncada Mayor Estrelita Aquino, Paniqui Mayor Max Roxas, Pura Mayor Freddie Domingo, Ramos Mayor Celso Banag, San Clemente Mayor Elma Macadamia, Santa Ignacia Mayor Nora Modomo and Anao Mayor Gian Pierre De Dios.

# OP COMMENDS DAR FOR BEING A RESPONSIVE AGENCY

Consistent with the agenda of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to transform the government into an agile bureaucracy that is responsive to the needs of the public, the Office of the President (OP) recently commended the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) for its quick action on the citizen complaints it received on public service through the government’s 8888 Citizens’

Complaint Center. Agrarian Reform Secretary Conrado Estrella III said that the DAR for two years and eight months covering the period of January to December 2020 and 2021 and January to August of 2022, acted upon 100% of its citizen’s complaints. Estrella thanked the DAR officials and employees for continuously supporting the Hotline 8888 Program

of the Office of the President. “I am also very thankful to the OP for commending the DAR. We would like to assure everyone that they can count on our agency to continually address the concerns and issues that will be raised by our clientele,” Estrella said. The commendation was sent to Estrella in a letter sent by 8888 Citizens’ Complaint Center Director

Bernadette Casinabe, which recognized the DAR’s efforts in ensuring that all tickets are acted upon within the prescribed period. Estrella reported that the DAR from January to December 31, 2020, has responded to 311 tickets; from January to December 31, 2021, responded to 499 tickets; from

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Continuation from page 9

January to April 2022 responded to 175 tickets, and from May to August 2022 responded 334 tickets under its 8888 Citizen's Complaint Center. "All the 334 tickets were acted upon with an equivalent of 100 percent accomplishment of the task completed within the prescribed period," he said. As a national government's 24/7 public service hotline, 8888 Citizens' Complaint Center aims to address

queries or grievances from the public directed to government agencies, bureaus, and offices. Clientele Relations Service Director Atty. Jason E. Collado disclosed that all ticket referrals were evaluated and referred to the concerned DAR offices, who in turn had concrete and specific actions within the 72-hour deadline set by the OP. "To ensure the 100% resolution rate of this task within the set time, a close monitoring of the action of the concerned DAR Office was done by the CRS," Collado added.



SEPTEMBER 16

## DAR chief makes available compendium of agrarian laws and issuances



In response to the call of President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. "to provide good and solid data to ensure informed decision-making, as well as allow secure and seamless access to public services," Agrarian Reform Secretary Conrado Estrella III today announced that his office has put together all agrarian reform-related laws issued in a span of 102 years, from 1902 to 2022.

Estrella said that the compilation offers a collection of information on the evolution of various policies related to agrarian reform. He said that it represents the struggles of the government and its best responses on how to emancipate the landless farmers for the past century.

In his Foreword, Estrella said that the compilation is very timely in preparation for the target landmark legislation that seeks to condone all unpaid payment of amortizations, interests, and charges for debts obtained by the agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) for the lands awarded to them

by the government through agrarian reform program.

"We offer this compendium of agrarian reform laws and issuances to agrarian reform workers and advocates, researchers, policy study specialists, students, academicians, legal practitioners, legislators, and legislative workers, and all other interested sectors," Estrella said.

The Secretary also acknowledged the invaluable assistance of the Legislative Information Resources Management Department of the House of Representatives under Dr. Edgardo H. Pangilinan and Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Undersecretary for Special Concerns Office and External Affairs and Communications Operations Office (SCO-EACOO) Atty. Marilyn B. Barua-Yap for the completion of the Compendium.

The first batch of the Compendium was provided by the SCO-EACOO in a USB drive format and distributed to the DAR central, regional, and provincial officials.

SEPTEMBER 17

## DAR OFFICIAL PREPARES LISTS OF LANDHOLDINGS FOR LANDOWNERS' COMPENSATION



Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Secretary Conrado Estrella III has directed his officials to prepare the lists of landholdings that will be paid by the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) as part of the landowners' compensation for

the remaining part of 2022.

In his recent meeting with the Bureau of Treasury (BTr), Estrella said that the landowners' compensation would be sourced from the P34-billion Agrarian Reform Fund (ARF).

"The Bureau of Treasury has appropriated P10 billion to the ARF for the remaining months of 2022, of which P1 billion would be allocated for the landowners' compensation for this year," Estrella said.

Estrella, through, Atty. Kazel Celeste, Undersecretary for Field Operations Office, has directed all regional directors to confirm the lists of landholdings with pending issuance of certificates of deposit (CODs) from the LBP.

CODs are savings accounts issued by the LBP as a form of compensation to former landowners whose lands had been covered under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

Celeste said the Secretary is currently requesting additional

funds through the ARF "to cater the remaining land acquisition and distribution (LAD) transactions for the calendar year 2022" since the budget allotted for last year and this year "has already been fully exhausted."

Celeste said the DAR, in coordination with the LBP, is consolidating the list of landholdings with pending issuance of certificates of deposit so that these could be attended to once the budget becomes available. Pending the release of the budget, Celeste directed all DAR regional directors to review all the details and make the necessary corrections pertaining to the list of landholdings with pending issuance of certificates of deposit to ensure that everything is in order.

# NEW FARMING TECHNIQUES TO BE INTRODUCED TO AGRARIAN REFORM COMMUNITIES

Agrarian Reform Secretary Conrado Estrella III has launched intensive training for the members of agrarian reform beneficiaries organizations (ARBOs) to introduce new farming techniques to help them produce more and provide quality farm products. Estrella said the training is in line with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s directive to maximize food production in the country. He emphasized that he has high respect for various farmers' organizations since they have long proven their dependability, by providing food to the people in areas critically affected by the Covid 19 pandemic. "As a former Abono Partylist representative, I should know because we worked with them to ensure the continued supply of food for our people when operations of the food manufacturing industry practically came to a halt during the pandemic," Estrella said. So far, there are approximately 7,500 ARBOs nationwide, which the government can tap for its food security program. Following the Secretary's direction, Atty. Milagros Isabel Cristobal, Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Undersecretary for Support Services, in cooperation with the Agriculture Training

Institute (ATI) of the Department of Agriculture (DA), mobilized the different ARBOs nationwide to establish demonstration farms under the Farm Business School (FBS) project. Participants in this endeavor are tasked to evaluate the readiness of ARBOs to face the challenge posed by President Marcos Jr., which is to "Raise food productivity." Cristobal said the FBS is a long-standing project of the DAR, where interested members of ARBOs are taught new farming methods to help them produce more and provide quality crops. She added that the demonstration farms would serve as model farms, where interested ARBOs could visit to learn some farming techniques which they can replicate in their respective areas. "The idea here is to determine the technical capability and readiness of our ARBOs to develop demonstration farms where fellow, but less technically abled ARBOs can learn from," Cristobal explained. "We wanted to convince at least one ARBO in every region all over the country to take the challenge, as part of our food security program, and be among the pioneers in this undertaking," she said.

# SOUTH COTABATO AGRARIAN REFORM BENEFICIARIES BECOME AGRI-ENTREPRENEURS



Thirty-eight (38) agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) from Barangay Duengas, Surallah, South Cotabato became agri-entrepreneurs as they graduate from the Department of Agrarian Reform's (DAR) Farm Business School (FBS). H. Roldan A. Al, DAR SOCCSKSARGEN Assistant Regional Director said that through the FBS, the farmers gained basic knowledge of agricultural business to make their products more profitable and marketable and how to properly manage their own agri-business. Ali added that FBS is in line with DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III's directive to support the farmers' livelihood activities and create for them alternative sources of income. "You should apply the knowledge you acquired from FBS because this is the key to your goal of becoming a successful agricultural entrepreneur. We look forward that your farms will become learning sites in this

province," he said to the graduates. This is the 12th FBS site in the province of South Cotabato which was launched last May 25, 2022, with the course running for almost four months. Ellen Purisima, one of the FBS graduates thanked the DAR and other line agencies for their continual support to the farmers. "We have so many memorable journeys in the FBS and the 25 sessions we had, gave us so much hope. We are confident that from the learnings we have gained on business planning, records keeping, savings mobilization, and value-adding, we will succeed in our agricultural lives in the future," she said. Evangeline Bueno, Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II for her part, thanked the ARBs for accepting the challenge of completing the project and encouraged them to put their learnings into practice to make their goals turn into a reality.

# Cavite farmers get P12-M worth solar-powered irrigation system



"We can plant anything when there is water," said Danilo Arnes, President of Tres Cruces Agrarian Reform Beneficiary and Farmers Association, Inc. during the turnover of the solar-powered irrigation system (SPIS) in Cavite. Arnes said that tapping the solar energy is environmentally friendly and provides farmers with a sustainable source of water for their palay and high-value crops. "I was talking to market vendors, they said they would buy our vegetables because it is clean as compared to rain-fed or vegetables that were irrigated from the creek," he added. Arnes proudly expressed the association's contentment for being provided with the SPIS and assured

the department that they will preserve and properly use the SPIS. DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III has identified the provision of irrigation as one of the primary goals of the department, during one of the Cabinet meetings with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. In response to this call, Atty. Milagros Isabel A. Cristobal, DAR Undersecretary for Support Services Office immediately turned over two (2) SPIS worth a total of P12 million to Tres Cruces ARB and Farmers Association Inc. The SPIS, situated in Sitio Gugo, Brgy Tres Cruces, Tanza and Brgy.

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Baliwag, Magallanes, Cavite, was implemented in partnership with the National Irrigation Administration. “You should take care and be responsible for this project because not all agrarian reform cooperatives are given the opportunity to be provided with it,” she said.

James Arthur T. Dubongco, DAR-Cavite Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II said the SPIS offers a viable, low-tech energy solution for irrigated agriculture. He said the project also provides a reliable source of energy in remote areas, contributing to rural electrification, reducing energy

costs for irrigation, and enabling low emission agriculture.

“SPIS runs on solar energy, so that bringing water to farmlands will be much more affordable than the traditional diesel and gasoline-powered engine pumps,” he added. Dubongco said the project can irrigate 32 hectares of agricultural lands primarily benefitting thirty-four (34) agrarian reform beneficiary households and other neighboring farmers.

The project was implemented under the Climate Resilient Farm Productivity Support (CRFPS) project of the department.



## CEBU FARMERS ORGANIZATION RECEIVES DELIVERY TRUCK FROM DAR

TOLEDO CITY— The Talavera United Farmers Association (TUFA) in barangay Talavera, Cebu received a multi-cab delivery truck from the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) which they will use to transport food supplies to the Bureau of Jail and Management Penology (BJMP) and other private buyers and consumers.

DAR Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer Grace B. Fua said the provision of the truck is part of the national government’s Enhanced Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty (EPAHP) program.

“The program reflects the commitment of DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III to the national goal of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to improve farmers’ lives through the provision of various support



services,” Fua said.

Fua noted that an agreement was signed between the DAR, BJMP, and TUFA specifying that the BJMP will directly buy the food requirements of the BJMP from TUFA based on the current market price.

The DAR reserves the right to monitor and evaluate the

operation and management of the truck, while TUFA, as the grantee, will assume the obligation of yearly registration fees, insurance, taxes, permits and other charges, and maintenance of the truck.

“The delivery truck worth P300,000 will be used to deliver vegetables, rice, corn, fruits, root crops, poultry, and other farm

produce for BJMP and for the cooperative’s other buyers,” Fua said.

Fua explained that both the truck and DAR’s partnership with the BJMP are part of the EPAHP program to provide marketing support to farmers’ produce.

She said 83 farmers will benefit from this project which could help increase their household incomes through improved production and access to markets.

“It will also minimize post-harvest losses and enhance the quality of goods that will be sold to the markets,” she added.

TUFA President Orlando Plaza thanked DAR for supporting the farmers.

“Because of the partnership of the DAR and EPAHP, we now have a steady market for our products and could now demand fair pricing for our agri-produce,” Plaza said.

SEPTEMBER 21

## PORTASOL technology solves Pangasinan farmers’ crop drying problems

Urdaneta City, Pangasinan – The distribution of the Portable Solar (PORTASOL) dryer by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) to the Calapungan Agrarian Reform Cooperative (CARE.Co) is very timely, with the country currently experiencing the rainy weather.

PORTASOL is a technology invented by Francisco Pagayon, President of the Filipino Inventors Society Producer Cooperative (FISPC).

The said multipurpose solar dryers are stackable sets of grain thermal drying trays, clean, and space-efficient and are specifically designed to



reduce the moisture content of large volumes of produce. It can accommodate 150 kilos of palay of palay per drying.

DAR Ilocos Region Director Maria Ana Francisco said the CARE.Co located in Natividad, Pangasinan, is the first of a series of DAR-assisted agrarian reform beneficiary organizations (ARBOs) awarded with the PORTASOL in the region.

“The PORTASOL, provided by the DOST, allows farmers to dry their grains easier and faster even during overcast days that are common during the country’s rainy season,” she said.

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Francisco added that the distribution of dryers and tapping the services of other government agencies is in consonance with the goals of DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III to help boost the livelihood activities of the farmers. CARE.Co, which is also this year's beneficiary of the DAR's Village-Level Farm-focused Enterprise Development project, is currently managing a cassava chips enterprise that employs rural women and local cassava growers in Barangay Calapugan. CARE.Co Chairman Rogelio Pagal said drying is a crucial part of cassava processing and the PORTASOL can help the cooperative maintain the quality and quantity of its products at this

time of the year. "This is a great help to us because we can dry our cassava chips and palay faster. Thank you to the DAR and the support services sector for providing us with these multipurpose solar drying trays," he said. The distribution of the PORTASOL is a fulfillment of the earlier commitment of the DOST to provide the farmers with PORTASOL along with carrageenan fertilizers during the joint convention of Pangasinan Provincial Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP)-Implementing Team and Provincial Agrarian Reform Coordinating Committee held last June.

**SEPTEMBER 22**

**SEPTEMBER 23**

## AGRARIAN REFORM ORGANIZATION TO FEED CHILDREN AND PREGNANT WOMEN IN PAMPANGA

## CAGAYAN FARMERS ATTEND TRAINING ON PRODUCT CHAIN MANAGEMENT



An agrarian reform beneficiary organization (ARBO) in Magalang, Pampanga would feed undernourished children and pregnant women in the said area. This was made possible through the recent signing of a marketing agreement between the Cruzian Multipurpose Cooperative, located in Sta. Cruz, Magalang, and the National Nutrition Council-National Capital Region (NNC-NCR) which would enable the ARBO to supply the food requirements of the NNC. The project is being implemented under the Enhanced Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty (EPAHP) program of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR). The EPAHP program is a government initiative addressing food security, hunger, and poverty problems through the synergy and convergence of essential services of government agencies. DAR Central Luzon Director James Arsenio Ponce said the activity is in

line with the primary goals of DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III to support the livelihood activities of the farmers by providing them with diversified sources of income. "Aside from providing our farmers with farm inputs and equipment to boost their farm yields, we also help them in marketing their agricultural products," Ponce said. Ponce disclosed that Cruzian MPC's agricultural commodities would be used for the NNC's Tutok Kainan Dietary Supplemental program. The program aims to improve the quality and quantity of food and nutrient intakes of its beneficiaries by providing nutritious food commodities to undernourished pregnant women for 90 days and to nutritionally at-risk children 6-23 months old for 180 days. "Aside from the farmers benefitting from the marketing agreement, the program also assures the well-being of the pregnant women and children because of the high quality of the Cruzian MPC's agricultural products," he said.

Two (2) agrarian reform beneficiary organizations (ARBOs) in Cagayan province attended training on product chain management provided by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). The training and tapping of the services of other government agencies are in line with the directives of DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III to help the farmers improve their livelihood activities. Product chain management refers to the full lifecycle of a product or process. It is the management of the flow of goods and services and includes all processes that transform raw materials into final products until their eventual delivery to the customer. Farmer-beneficiaries of PATASDA-ARB cooperative in Allacan and Bical-Baliaug ARB cooperative in Peñablanca, Cagayan attended the training on product chain

management. Samuel Solomero, DAR Cagayan Regional Director, said the training aims to arm the participants with knowledge on how to centrally control and efficiently link their production, shipment, and distribution of products to their customers. "The farmers learned the importance and benefits of managing supply chain, which is relevant for today's era, and the concepts and advantages of product and supply chain management," he said. Solomero said the department expects that these ARBO members would efficiently manage their productions which would result in more systematized organizations, bigger income, and happier farmers. "The training was implemented under the support service component of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program where the DAR and DTI would closely work together to assist the agrarian reform beneficiaries," he said.

# Capiz farmers receive Php1.3 M farm machinery and agri inputs from DAR



Farmer members from the three (3) agrarian reform beneficiary organizations (ARBOs) in Capiz were provided with P1.3 million worth of farm machinery and agricultural inputs by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) to elevate and improve the quality of their lives.

Anthony P. Arostique, DAR Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II led the turnover of the common service facilities (CSFs) and farm inputs to Matagnop Royale Multi-Purpose Cooperative, Traciano Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative, and Lonoy Agrarian Reform Cooperative held in Roxas, Capiz. Arostique said the awarded CSFs

will help boost the economic productivity of the cooperatives, improve their agricultural operations and enhance their market stability.

“We are here to assist the organizations in terms of maintaining their books of accounts, accomplishing their target compliments to food and farm production and the productivity of their awarded farm inputs,” Arostique said.

Arostique noted that the project is implemented under the Climate-Resilient Farm Productivity Support (CRFPS) project of the DAR.

The Matagnop Royale Multi-Purpose Cooperative received a

total project cost of Php287,750.00, the Traciano Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative with Php372,000.00, and the Lonoy Agrarian Reform Cooperative with Php668,749.00 total project cost.

All in all, the 3 ARBOs received a total of 51 farm equipment, which include: one (1) unit incubator machine, one (1) unit generator machine, one (1) unit pelletizing machine, one (1) unit corn grinder machine, two (2) units cauldrons, 15 pcs plastic drums, one (1) unit cultivator machine, two (2) units re-chargeable knapsack sprayers, one (1) unit wheelbarrow, two (2) units hand carts, ten (10) pcs fabricated copra removers, ten (10) pcs karets, two (2) units hand

tractors with trailer, one (1) unit brush/grass Cutter, and one (1) unit de-husking machine.

Alona D. Albances, Capiz PARPO I emphasized the importance of maintaining the farm facilities efficiently and economically to ensure the productivity and profitability of the equipment.

Aside from the farm inputs, machinery, and equipment, the ARBOs also received technology training and starter kits to guarantee the success and sustainability of their chosen livelihood activities.

ARBO leaders pledged their commitment and expressed their gratitude to the DAR for being chosen as recipients of the CSFs and farm inputs.

## ESTRELLA IDENTIFIES 3 NEW SPECIAL PROJECTS OF DAR



Agrarian Reform Secretary Conrado Estrella III recently identified three (3) new special projects of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), in response to the thrust of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to give priority to boosting the agriculture sector of the country.

Estrella identified Value Chain Boosting, Land-Based Digitalization, and Agrarian Reform Communities (ARC) Product Development and Standardization/Registration as the new special projects of the DAR.

Estrella tapped Jeffery Galan, Undersecretary for Finance Management and Administration to spearhead the preparation and initial management of the said DAR’s new special projects.

Estrella said that under the value-

chain boosting, the DAR will target the overall improvement of existing processes and the capacities of various institutions related to the country’s agricultural production, specifically rice, corn, coconut, and livestock, to build better market linkage for the agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs).

“It’s about time that we further strengthen market linkage for our ARBs through value chain so that they will be fairly compensated for their investments in farming,” Estrella stressed.

A value chain is a business model that describes the full range of activities that involve bringing a product from conception to distribution

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or marketing, and everything in between – such as procuring raw materials, manufacturing, and marketing activities.

Estrella said that helping the members of the ARB organizations sell their harvests direct to the market or institutional buyers to maximize their earning potential would motivate them to produce more quality products and lead to a sustained supply of food and raw materials.

The project on land-based digitalization involves the updating and enhancement of the existing database of the DAR on farmers, land grants, and the status of lands into a more comprehensive farmers registry, complete data mapping, and profiling of the farmers' crops. Galan said the improved database system will serve as the repository of varied information pertaining to agrarian reform program implementation where different

stakeholders can access official data as a reference.

ARC product development and standardization/registration concern the development of product protocols that can be replicated as successful agri-enterprise. It also deals with the consolidation of the related databases on support services being provided by DAR and other government instrumentalities to the ARBs, including the subsequent upload of the same to a created site.

SEPTEMBER 25

## FARMERS IN BICOL REGION REGISTER ELECTRONICALLY TO GET MORE GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

LEGAZPI CITY — A total of 3,438 agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) in the Bicol region will be electronically registered by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) with the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA) by the end of the year. The move is in line with the goal of Secretary Conrado Estrella III of giving the farmers access to various government assistance programs, said Romulo Britanico, DAR Bicol assistant regional director for operations.

"We are pushing this endeavor because this will be beneficial for the farmers," Britanico said.

He said the ARBs enrolled in the system will greatly benefit from government assistance provided by the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC) and the Rice Competitive Enhancement Fund (RCEF).

The RSBSA is an electronic database containing essential information for farmers, fishermen, and agri-fishery workers and government programs and services for target beneficiaries. It will be a requirement for obtaining agri-



fishery-related services from the DA, other government agencies, and private companies.

Britanico said the DAR and the Department of Agriculture (DA) are strengthening their partnership to register ARBs in the DA's database system.

"I appreciate the DA's effort and thorough discussion on the RSBSA program. Following this, I will personally follow up with the provinces on this matter. And I hope that our accomplishment with RSBSA registration will increase," Britanico said.

During the two-day learning session, DA representative Bjorn

Borris De Los Santos discussed the claims procedure and how to sign up for the RSBSA.

"Based on our data, the number of registered ARBs in the RSBSA as of June 2022 is 13,210," de Los Santos said.

Chief Agrarian Reform Program Officer Lerma Dino said that of the 3,438 ARB's target of DAR-Bicol for this year, 1,537 had been registered in the first semester.

"Farmers have been denied farm assistance from the government because they were not registered in the RSBSA. That is why we are committed to enrolling our ARBs in the registry because we

want them to qualify for services and assistance offered by the government," Dino said.

The DAR is also persuading the eight (8) agrarian reform beneficiaries' organizations (ARBOs) to become agri-insurance program (AIP) underwriters. They will act as agents to persuade other ARBs to obtain insurance protection to cover crop losses resulting from natural disasters, plant diseases, and pest infestations, such as corn and palay.

As of June 2022, seven ARBOs are already accredited as underwriters. These include the Quipia Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Cooperative in Jovellar, Albay; the Castilla Development Cooperative in Castilla, Sorsogon; and five others from Camarines Sur, such as the Del Rosario Multi-Purpose Cooperative in Pili, the San Isidro Development Cooperative in Naga City, the San Agustin-San Ramon Agrarian Reform Farmers' Cooperative in Bula, and the San Antonio Farmers Irrigator's Association in Buhi, and Concepcion-Umalo Farmers' Cooperative in Libmanan town.

SEPTEMBER 26

## NORTHERN SAMAR FARMERS GET FARM MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT FROM DAR

Catarman, Northern Samar – The Cervantes Integrated Organic Farmer Association (CIOFA) in Northern Samar received from the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) farm machinery and equipment to sustain and provide productivity in their farmlands.

Rosemarie R. Balanquit, DAR Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer, said the project is implemented through the Enhanced Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty (EPAHP) program, a government initiative that aims

to mitigate hunger, ensure food security, and establish sustainable agriculture in the country.

"The agency provides different support services to help the farmers uplift their lives. The agrarian reform beneficiary organization (ARBO) members only need to be active participants in these projects so that assistance from the government will not be put to waste," Balaguit said.

Emerita Anabe, chief agrarian reform program officer, oriented the CIOFA members on their roles and

responsibilities in maintaining the tools and equipment, as well as the role of the agency in coordinating with the different suppliers and government offices to ensure that all the products would be sold and promoted.

Jocelyn Ballicud, municipal agrarian reform officer, encouraged the members to be united particularly in making sound decisions to improve their organization.

"Make your income as an asset to strengthen your organization," she

said.

Included among the farm machinery and tools provided to help the farmers establish sustainable organic vegetable production are the following: one (1) unit chariot 175 with roof and windshield, two (2) units grass cutter with complete accessories, three (3) units 16-liter capacity manual sprayer, ten (10) units mattocks, ten (10) units grab hoe, ten (10) units spade, ten (10) units rake, ten (10) units hand

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trowel, 20 units garden bolo, 15 pairs of rubber boots, five (5) units plastic mulch, and seeds. Nestor C. Esplago, CIOFA President expressed his gratitude to the agency for the various assistance and encouraged the members to continue their active participation to maintain the organization. CIOFA is already a recipient of various programs of the department to improve their agri-business

enterprise, which includes one (1) unit tractor for organic vegetable production under the Climate Resilient Farm Productivity Project (CRFP) and egg layers provided under Convergence on Livelihood Assistance for Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Project (CLAAP) for their poultry projects. Currently, CIOFA has fifty (50) active members, with thirty (30) ARBs and twenty (20) non-ARBs.



SEPTEMBER 27

## SEC seals partnership with DAR, speeds up registration of farmers' organizations in Nueva Ecija

The Securities and Exchange Commission-Tarlac Extension Office (SEC-TEO) and the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in Nueva Ecija signed a Memorandum of Agreement to fast-track the registration of newly organized agrarian reform beneficiaries' organizations (ARBOs) and to provide assistance in securing and complying with all the SEC regulatory requirements. Eden B. Ponio, DAR Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II said the parties agreed to collaborate to fast-track the registration of ARBOs with the SEC and to facilitate the conduct of training for members of the Nueva Ecija ARBOs. "DAR Nueva Ecija has already identified the ARBOs for the said partnership. We will assist them in securing all regulatory requirements for SEC regulation, ensure that all regulatory



requirements are complete, and provide them with the logistics in the conduct of training," Ponio said. Ponio said that this is the first joint activity between the two government agencies, and it was off to a good start. Atty. Richard R. Laus, SEC-TEO Director said the SEC will establish and strengthen effective linkages

with various government and non-government agencies, business organizations, local government units, the academe, and other stakeholders. This, he said is aimed at establishing, sustaining, and strengthening SEC's presence, especially in the grassroots level to promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth. Anna Marie R. Guillermo, DAR

chief agrarian reform program officer, expressed her satisfaction with the efficient conduct of the activity. Immediately after the signing, the training on the Compliance of SEC Reportorial and Credit Investment Requirements started attended by members of the ten (10) newly formed ARBOs. The ARBOs include the Popolon United Farmers Association of Palayan City; Licabeñong Gintong Butil Farmers Association; Kaakibat sa Bundok Planters Association Inc.; Hope for the Women's Association; Nagkaisang Gabay sa Bayan ng Gabaldon; Cuyapa Agri-Tubig Upland Farmer's Association; Systemableng Agrikulturs para sa Malinao na Kasapian ng Kanayunan Inc.; Villarosa Farmers Association; Zaralica Farmers Association; and Masipag Kabangkalan Farmers Association.

## SOUTH COTABATO DAR PERSONNEL ATTEND MEDIATION TRAINING TO EFFECTIVELY RESOLVE LAND DISPUTES

South Cotabato field personnel from the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) recently attended a series of mediation training to enhance their knowledge on the basics of mediation proceedings. Mariannie Lauban-Banto, DAR Soccsksargen Director said the series of training for the field personnel is in response to the nine primary goals of DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III aimed at improving the lives of the agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) of the program. Included among the primary goals identified by Estrella to benefit the ARBs are: intervention on land tenure problems, agrarian justice delivery, intervention for support services, interventions for medical expenses, educational expenses, technical skills, diversified income sources, farm-

to-market roads and irrigation. Baunto said these activities would help municipal agrarian reform program officers and other field personnel to conduct smooth mediation proceedings. "To successfully resolve agrarian-related conflicts we need an effective and quick mediation process in the field," she said. Evangeline Bueno, Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II said the activities would further enhance the delivery of quality services to the ARBs. "We would like to thank the department for their all-out support in our pursuit to enhance our skills and capacity. The training also served as a refresher course to those who already know the basics of mediation proceedings," she said.



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# Private trader buys agri products from Quezon province farmers' coop



A private wholesale buyer and trader from Gumaca public market in Quezon province will buy agricultural products harvested by the Samahan ng Nagkakaisang Magsasaka ng Barangay Bilucao, Inc. (SNMBI), located in Pitogo, Quezon.

The move was made possible with the recent signing of a marketing agreement between Edgar E. Roldan, SNMBI President and Elsa Luz, a private wholesale buyer and trader from Gumaca public market. The MOA signing was held in Pitogo Quezon facilitated by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR).

DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III said involving the private sectors to partner with the DAR is aligned with the national goal of President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. of improving the lives of the farmers. Cornelio P. Villapando, DAR-Quezon Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II, said the marketing agreement will be valid for a period of one year.

“Based on the agreement, the SNMBI will supply Luz with vegetables and other crops, which include banana, papaya and corn,” he said.

Villapando emphasized the importance of directly connecting the agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) to the buyers to ensure

that they will have steady markets for their products and for them to command fair and just price for their commodities.

“This partnership provides an assured market for the ARB’s products and opens opportunities to further expose their products to other target buyers,” Villapando said.

Lilia A. Ogayon, DAR Quezon Marketing Assistance point person, said the project aims to increase the income of the ARBs and strengthen the government’s war against hunger, especially in this time when the country is still experiencing a crisis due to the COVID-19.

“The current project is expected to cover five (5) hectares of plantations, involving a total of 30 farmer-beneficiaries, who attended a Farm Business School (FBS) training from the DAR,” she said. Earlier, the DAR Quezon II also linked other groups of ARBs to a similar project which includes the Sumagonsong Farmers’ Multi-Purpose Cooperative of Mulanay, Quezon which are supplying agri-products to the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) and the Gumaca District Jail; and the San Nicolas Farmers Group of General Luna supplying their products to Quezon and Catanaun Municipal Jail.

# CA CONFIRMS ESTRELLA AS DAR SECRETARY

The Commission on Appointments (CA) on Tuesday, September 27, 2022, confirmed the ad interim appointment of Conrado M. Estrella III as Secretary of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR).

Senator Juan Miguel Zubiri, chairperson of the Commission on Appointments, presided over the 7th plenary session of the CA in the 1st regular session of the 19th Congress.

“I pledged that I shall not be an armchair executive. I shall bring government closer to the people,” Estrella earlier said during the CA committee agrarian reform hearing. The CA received expressions and manifestations of support and did not receive any opposition to Estrella’s confirmation.

Senators Nancy Binay, Loren Legarda, Cynthia Villar, Jinggoy Estrada, Christopher “Bong” Go, Francis Tolentino, and Allan Peter Cayetano; Congressmen Ramon Guico, Jr., Rodante Marcoleta, Johnny Pimentel, Jose





PLENARY SESSION No. 7 19th CONGRESS FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SEPTEMBER 29

## 63 AGRARIAN BENEFICIARIES BECOME LANDOWNERS IN NEGROS OCCIDENTAL



Sixty-three (63) agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) were transformed into landowners as they received a total of 65-hectare landholdings from the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in Negros Occidental.

Of the total 63 ARBs, forty-seven (47) are now owners of the 49.85-hectare landholding formerly managed by Vasquez Development Corporation located in Barangay Old Sagay, while 16 ARBs received the 15.43-hectare property formerly owned by Joffre Dela Paz in Barangay Bulanon.

In her message, Atty. Sheila Enciso, DAR Western Visayas Director, said the distribution of certificates of land ownership award (CLOAs) to the ARBs signifies their full ownership of the land they are tilling.

“You are no longer landless, and this is a great way to start a new beginning. Make your lands productive and use this as an instrument to improve your economic lives,” she told the ARBs. She said the undertaking is anchored on the agency’s aim to

provide lands to landless farmers and farmworkers, to guarantee the farmers’ land security, deliver social equity, and provide them with the necessary productive and emergency resources.

Enciso added that the activity is in line with nine primary goals identified by DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III for the next six years, specifically on the intervention on land tenure problems.

Mart Deraja, municipal agrarian reform program officer, who led the simple installation rites, reminded the ARBs of their responsibilities as owners of the lands, by taking care of the said asset and ensuring that it will bear good harvests.

Deraja divulged that the activity followed the community quarantine measures set by the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases and the Department of Health.

“Such continuous field activities conducted by the agency is evidence that despite the inconveniences brought by the pandemic, the service for the Filipino people still lives on” he said.

Gay Padiernos, Albert Garcia, Greg Gasataya, and Manuel Jose Dalipe expressed their support for the confirmation of Estrella’s appointment.

Estrella is an AB history and political science graduate with a Master’s degree in Development Management.

He first served as a provincial board member at the age of 19 and was Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture and Agrarian Reform from 1980-1985.

Estrella was elected to the House of Representatives from 1987 to 2010, representing Pangasinan’s 6th District. In the 8th Congress, he was one of the youngest elected

representatives at the age of 26. During this time, he became an active member of the Committee on Agrarian Reform.

Among the bills, he filed include proposals to strengthen the resiliency of farmers against climate change, improve the financing system for farmers and fisherfolk, and establish “instructional gardening programs” in all elementary and secondary schools in the Philippines.

In 2013, he became the party-list representative of Abono, succeeding his brother Robert Raymond Estrella. As the representative of the Abono party list, he ensured that the needs of those in the agricultural sector are not neglected.

## ESTRELLA, BORROMEO APPROVE IRR ON AGRARIAN DEBT MORATORIUM



In compliance with the directive of President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr., Agrarian Reform Secretary Conrado M. Estrella III and Land Bank of the Philippines (LANDBANK) President and CEO Cecilia C. Borrromeo, on Wednesday, September 28, 2022, signed the Joint Administrative Order providing the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) for Executive Order No. 4 Series of 2022, which declares a moratorium on the payment of land amortization and interests for agrarian reform beneficiaries.

Signed by the President on September 13, 2022, the EO entitled, “Directing the Implementation of a Moratorium on the Payment of the Principal Obligation and Interest of the Amortization Due and Payable by Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries,” calls for a one-year moratorium on loan payments of Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (ARBs) who received agricultural land under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

“It is our duty in the government to prioritize the farmers, not only because they are the ones who keep us alive, but because they will

make our economy rise again,” the President said.

The IRR signed by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and LANDBANK specifies that the one-year moratorium covers the payment of the Principal Value and the Annual Interest Due and payable by the ARBs.

“The one-year moratorium period will provide the needed time for Congress to pass the law condoning the existing agrarian reform loans for the current ARBs and free land distribution for future beneficiaries,” Estrella said.

It primarily covers the financial obligation to pay the total cost of the land under Presidential Decree No. 27, including interest at the rate of six percent (6%) per annum as provided under Section 6 of E.O. No. 228; and the financial obligation to pay the principal value including the six percent (6%) annual interest of the thirty (30)-year land amortization of the ARBs under Section 26 of RA No. 6657, as amended.

“LANDBANK supports this historic

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**SEPTEMBER 30**

# Sultan Kudarat farmers' organization receives processing facility from DAR



Senator Ninoy Aquino, Sultan Kudarat — The United Highlander Farmers Producers Cooperative (UHFPCC), located in Barangay Nati, Senator Ninoy Aquino, received a newly renovated processing building, complete with equipment and packaging materials from the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) to boost their agricultural production and income. The turnover of the Php350,000 worth of processing facility is in consonance with the directive of DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella

III, to intensify the interventions for support services and diversified income sources to agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs). Although the main crop of UHFPCC is coffee, the DAR also saw the potential of tablea to become more competitive in the market. Tablea are roasted, ground, and molded pure processed cacao beans, used for chocolate drink. UHFPC Chairperson Ma. Corazon Estandarte thanked the DAR for the project and assured the agency of their full commitment and dedication to sustain it.

initiative which is now taking off. We will provide immediate financial relief to ARBs nationwide and yield positive results towards ensuring food security in the country,” said LANDBANK President Borromeo. LANDBANK serves as the collection agent of the National Government for land amortizations from ARBs, pursuant to its mandate as the financial intermediary of the CARP. All collections are remitted by the Bank to the Bureau of the Treasury (BTr) as part of the revenue of the National Government. The DAR-LANDBANK Joint Administrative Order covers the identification of beneficiaries qualified to avail of the one-year payment suspension, with the

impact of the initiative to enhance the productivity and profitability of the ARBs duly documented and promoted. EO No. 4 directs the DAR and LANDBANK to jointly submit to the Office of the President, through the Office of the Executive Secretary, a comprehensive report on the implementation of this Order, including data on the number of ARBs actually covered and the impact of the moratorium, among others. The DAR-LANDBANK Joint Administrative Order shall take effect upon publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

“We would like to thank the DAR-Sultan Kudarat for always being supportive and assisting us in terms of providing what we need so we could have additional income to provide for our family,” she said. Mary Jane Aguilar, Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II, said the project was implemented under the Village Level Farm-focused Enterprise Development (VLFED) project of the agency. “The VLFED enables the ARBs to produce market-competitive products through value addition by providing them with appropriate

facilities and equipment for their products to become more competitive, increase their profits and strengthen their organization,” she said. The municipal agrarian reform program officer and the municipal cooperative development officer reminded the members of the UHFPCC of their responsibilities to sustain and maintain the facilities because of the benefits it will give to the organization. They likewise assured the organization of the government’s continuing assistance to improve their livelihood.