

BALITAANG AGRARIAN

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OCTOBER 1

P789-k worth of farm implements to boost Sarangani farmers' production

Glan, Sarangani Province – A total of PhP 789,000 worth of farm implements was turned over by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) to Busok-Baliton Communal Irrigators Association, Inc. (BBCIAI), located in Barangay Baliton, PaBurBaCa agrarian reform community, to help them

improve their farm production and agricultural activities.

The provision of farm implements, which includes a collapsible dryer, knapsack sprayers, hand tractor, floating tiller, grass cutter, and heavy-duty weighing scale, is in line with the directive of DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III

to intensify the intervention for support services.

BBCIAI Chairperson Paharlito Bolilo received the farm machinery and equipment on behalf of the farmers' association. "We are very thankful for the blessings you gave us. Our lack of equipment is a hindrance in enriching our farm lots during

difficult seasons. With the support that you provided to us, I believe that we can produce more in the days to come," he said.

Bolilo assured that all the farmers would be given obligations to take care of the farm implements and keep it in good condition. The farm machines were provided under the Climate Resilient Farm

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P789-K WORTH OF FARM IMPLEMENTS TO BOOST SARANGANI FARMERS' PRODUCTION



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Productivity Support Project – Major Crop-based Block Farm Project, which aims to address food security amidst climate change by providing livelihood support in the form of farm machinery and equipment, farm inputs, and capacity development interventions.

Engineer Kaddafe Palao, project point-person, reminded the BBCIAI

that they are the DAR's partner in expanding support services to agrarian reform beneficiaries.

"These farm implements will be used to increase your rice farming productivity, coordinate with each other in managing these machineries and let's help the province to achieve food sufficiency," he said.

CAVITE FARMERS GRADUATE FROM FARM BUSINESS SCHOOL



Thirty-seven(37) agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) from Batas Dao Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Inc. General Emilio Aguinaldo Cavite graduated from the Department of Agrarian Reform's (DAR) Farm Business School (FBS).

DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III said the project is in line with the program of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. to maximize food production in the country as it unveiled its intensive training to introduce new farming techniques to the

farmers to help them produce more and provide quality farm products.

Eufemia V. Alvarez, Chairman of Batas Dao Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Inc., one of the graduates expressed her gratitude to the DAR family for its assistance and free training provided by the agency.

"We would like to thank the DAR for their support to the farmers. We really learned and enjoyed the 25-session journey in the FBS," she said.

The 37 members of the

organization were able to learn about managing farm records, developing a strategic plan, and how to become successful entrepreneurs.

Atty. Milagros Isabel A. Cristobal, Undersecretary for Support Services Office (SSO) said the farmers are very lucky to have a government that works together to help the farmers.

"Enrich what you have, and share your success and blessings with others. Just like you, we are just intermediaries in providing assistance to our beneficiaries,"

Cristobal said.

James Arthur Dubongco, DAR-Cavite Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II, said that this is the 5th FBS site in the province of Cavite, with the course running for almost three (3) months.

The FBS is a DAR program in partnership with other line agencies like the Department of Agriculture, the Local Government Unit, the Department of Trade and Industry, and the Agricultural Training Institute.

OCTOBER 2

SOCCKSARGEN FARMERS ORGANIZATIONS TO BECOME SEC-REGISTERED

The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in the Soccksargen region and the Securities and Exchange Commission-Davao Extension Office (SEC-DEO) tied up recently to make agrarian reform beneficiaries organizations

(ARBOs) SEC-registered for them to receive more government support.

This undertaking is in consonance with the directive of DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III to boost the livelihood of agrarian reform beneficiaries.

Mariannie S. Lauban-Baunto, DAR Soccksargen Director, said this agreement between the two agencies is the first national government agency partnership in the south-central Mindanao Region.

"Our partnership with SEC-

Soccsksargen farmers organizations to become SEC-registered



DEO is part of our commitment in helping our ARBOs. Their agricultural businesses would be open to more possibilities toward success," she said.

Baunto added that they fully support this partnership and vowed to aid and assist the ARBOs in registering with the SEC and they would continue to provide support for their development and that of their members.

This agreement is being implemented under the SEC Communication, Advocacy, and Network (SEC CAN!) campaign. Katrina Jamilla Ponco-Estares, SEC-DEO Director, said that

the partnership is an important milestone for the SEC CAN! campaign, as it signals the participation of more agencies not only in its base region, Davao region, but in all areas under its jurisdiction.

"We acknowledge that we cannot do this on our own. That is why we launched the SEC CAN! program two years ago at our Head Office, and last April for the Commission's nine extension offices," Ponco-Estares said. She added that they would be helping the farmer groups take their associations to a new level as this endeavor will open up new opportunities for them."



MARKETING STRATEGY FOR FARMERS' CROPS SOON A BUTTON AWAY — DAR CHIEF



MEMBERS of agrarian reform beneficiaries' organizations (ARBOs) can soon sit back and relax as the marketing of their harvests will be just a press of the button away.

The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) is embarking on a special marketing scheme that will feature online the finest products of various ARBOs and their members, profiling the dominant crops each of them is engaging in and when planting and harvesting season normally takes place.

DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III said the particular marketing project, dubbed: "Land-based digitization," seeks to upgrade into a more comprehensive farmers' registry the existing DAR database, which also includes information about the status of farmlands awarded to agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs).

Estrella tapped Undersecretary for Finance Management and Administration Jeffrey Galan to supervise the said project, which would give the public, especially the institutional buyers, an idea about farmers' crops and when the harvest season is for them to make

advanced bulk orders.

"Our main goal here is to spare, as much as possible, our ARBs from falling prey to unscrupulous traders and middlemen who are taking advantage of the peak harvest season to buy their harvests practically at a bargain price," the DAR chief said.

He added: "Once our database becomes operational, it will be made available through our DAR website where stakeholders can visit, get in touch with concerned ARBOs and place their orders. It's practically one press of the button away."

Estrella said the land-based digitization is part and parcel of another special project — "the value chain boosting," where members of an ARBO are advised to pool their harvests together to meet the demands in volumes of corporate owners of big fast-food chains and supermarkets.

"Since each of our ARBs is tilling an economic-sized farm, they cannot meet the demands in volumes of the corporate owners individually. But collectively, they can do it with plenty to spare," he said.

DOLEFIL COOPERATIVE IN SOUTH COTABATO RECEIVES RECOGNITION FROM DAR

The Dolefil Agrarian Reform Beneficiary Cooperative (DARBC), located in Polomolok, South Cotabato, was recognized by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) as the most outstanding agrarian reform beneficiaries organization (ARBO) in the entire region of Soccsksargen for its continued effort to help uplift the lives of the agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs). As emphasized in the priority areas of DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III, the recognition was highlighted by the partnerships, not only between the farmers and various government agencies but also among members of the DARBC and the local government of Polomolok to look into the interests of the farmers and fulfill future projects in the area. DARBC Chairman Vincent Palma said their commitment to expand their services has more than doubled now that they have formally inked an alliance of mutual support with Polomolok government. He said that DARBC has immensely contributed to improving and empowering the socio-economic welfare of the ARBs, small farm workers, and cooperative members through its pineapple production and other agricultural business ventures. "The award and acknowledgment

was not the primary goal of the organization. Its main objective is to create a cooperative that would provide the most outstanding benefits to its members and the community," he said.

Palma extended his gratitude to the DAR, and all the members, officers, staff, and people who have helped the cooperative rise and become the most progressive ARBO in the region. H. Roldan Ali, DAR-Soccsksargen Assistant Regional Director said the cooperative has been operating for almost 34 years and have proven that the support services provided by the DAR were excellently and effectively managed.

"Through the years, the cooperative has become the DAR's partner in helping the ARBs and making their lives become more progressive," he said.

Ali said that being recognized as the most outstanding ARBO in the region is one of the most valuable milestones for a cooperative and encouraged them to dream of becoming recognized as the top ARBO in the entire Philippines in the future.

The plaque of recognition was formally awarded to the cooperative at Club Kalsangi, Brgy. Cannery, Polomolok, South Cotabato.



Estrella seeks to include farmers as recipients of government's medical assistance program

Agrarian Reform Secretary Conrado Estrella III has sought the assistance of President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. to include the agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) as recipients of the Department of Health's (DOH) Medical Assistance for Indigent Patients (MAIP) program.

MAIP is a DOH program that provides medical assistance for poor patients in the country seeking consultation, rehabilitation, examination, or confinement in government hospitals.

Estrella said that this is part of the 9-point priority areas identified by the DAR, in response to the call of the President to continue the agrarian reform program and focus on the needs of the farmers nationwide.

"Aside from providing solutions to the problems in the security of land tenure, agrarian justice

delivery, and provision of support services, we are also taking into consideration the other burdens being carried out by the ARBs," Estrella said.

Estrella said the DAR also needs to address the medical concerns of the ARBs since most of them belong to the marginalized sector of society.

"Farmers usually resort to borrowing money each time one of their family members got sick. Comprehensive support from the DAR and other national agencies is required to ease this kind of burdens that the farmers are carrying," Estrella noted.

Estrella emphasized that he has already proposed in one of the Cabinet meetings with the President, to include in the DOH coverage the ARBs as recipients of the MAIP and assured the ARBs that they will be included in the said program by 2023.

DAR Quezon personnel improves data collection through OPTOOL mechanism

Officials and personnel of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in Quezon II province have geared up to enhance their database system by using the Operational Tool (OpTool) mechanism in the collection, inputting, and monitoring of the status of landholdings covered under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) and Presidential Decree No. 27.

Engr. Cornelio P. Villapando, Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II, said the

OpTool is the centralized repository system of the DAR-Bureau of Land Tenure Improvement (BLTI). OpTool contains data on the agency's target, accomplishments, and other specifics, like profiles of landowners and agrarian reform beneficiaries, location, and the number of hectares covered by the program, among others.

"OpTool is an efficient system to work with various BLTI data. We, at the field office and central office collaborate in real-time to closely monitor the progress

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DAR QUEZON PERSONNEL IMPROVES DATA COLLECTION THROUGH OPTOOL MECHANISM

of each task so that we could create valid and accurate data to improve the overall efficiency of the DAR operations,” he said.

He said that Optool provides daily up-to-date reports generated from the DAR central, regional and provincial offices aimed at improving the analysis and decision-making of the DAR management.

Elizabeth Z. Villapando, BLTI OIC-Assistant Director, personally visited the province and discussed with them the preparation of a five-year DAR indicative plan, the need to provide complete and reliable supporting data, such as ARB profiles, and the importance of target-setting per year, based on the activity milestones reached by a landholding, which are all inputted in the OpTool.

“We saw the need to talk with

the field personnel, to ramp up our collective efforts and better harmonize actions at different levels, particularly in data gathering and reporting of land acquisition and distribution (LAD) targets and accomplishments,” she said.

She stressed the need to build a credible and dependable database to have a ready reference and inform the various stakeholders of what the DAR is doing and has accomplished.

During the meeting, the BLTI officials and staff presented the current agency data, per OpTool results, as well as key issues and challenges facing the data monitoring system. The DAR field personnel provided clarifications and actual situations, which resulted in an insightful discussion of operational issues and concerns.



Sarangani farmers' business skills improve thru farm biz school

Kiamba, Sarangani – Thirty-four (34) agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) from the Kapate Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries and Farmers Association (KARBFA) in this town claimed that their farm business management improved after they attended the Farmer Business School (FBS) conducted by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR).

FBS, a 12-week session on agricultural entrepreneurship, is in line with the directive of DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III to enhance farmers' capabilities.

FBS graduate and best business plan awardee Fructoso Olaer said this program had helped them develop their farm management abilities by encouraging an entrepreneurial mindset and unleashing their business capabilities.

“What I'm grateful for in the FBS is that the modules taught us the principles of agro-enterprising, which is very relevant for us to develop as entrepreneurs,” he said.

Olaer said that all his fellow farmers have decided to adopt the entrepreneurial strategies they have learned on their farms.

“I have integrated into my business plan the proper financial recording, which is a very crucial

phase in a farming business. I have also carefully developed the farm schedule, types of crops to plant mingled with their corresponding inputs, expenses, and projected income,” he explained.

During their graduation ceremony, H. Roldan A. Ali, AL-HAJJ, DAR-Region 12 OIC-Assistant Regional Director, commended the graduates and emphasized the importance of lifelong learning and seeking ways to improve in all areas.

“With the business mindset you have, you will see opportunities unfolding before you. You know how, where, and when to sell your produce. You may even consider value-adding in order to get a bigger income,” Ali said.

Aside from teaching the ARBs ways to improve in business, the FBS sessions also provided members of the association an avenue to build their camaraderie, teamwork, and the spirit of voluntarism.

This became evident as two of the Arciaga family, who are members of KARBFA lent their farm lots for their group's vegetable farming project. The ARBs have already conducted their initial harvests and will have their next harvests the following week.



THOUSANDS OF FARMERS BENEFIT FROM TRAINING, CREDIT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE – DURING ESTRELLA'S FIRST 100 DAYS



Thousands of agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) all over the country benefitted from the various support services interventions provided by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) during the first 100 days under the leadership of Secretary Conrado M. Estrella III.

In a report submitted to President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. in Malacañang, Estrella identified training, organizational building, enterprise development, market linkage, access to credit, and provision of farm inputs, machinery, and equipment, as among the various support services provided by the DAR to the ARBs.

“Land redistribution should be complemented with support services and development initiatives to sustain the gains of the program. Our systematic delivery of support services would help harness the potentials of our ARBs and optimize the productivity of the lands they received from the government,” he said.

Estrella noted that from July to September 2022, the DAR trained 171,122 ARBs, which is 125.33% of its 136,533 target ARBs for the same period.

The training includes organizational

development, livelihood development, farm productivity enhancement technologies, and marketing strategies to help them become more proficient farmers and to contribute to strengthening the country's agricultural sector.

During the same period, the DAR also provided access to credits and microfinance services to 55,626 ARBs, which is 117.64% of the agency's 47,286 target ARBs. These services would help them boost their farm production and livelihood activities.

A total of 1,070 ARB organizations were provided with various technical assistance related to organizational development, business development services, and provision of farm machinery and facilities, among others. Estrella said one of the success metrics of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) is the transformation of agrarian reform communities into self-reliant communities that could help propel agro-industrialization.

Estrella added that the department expects that the interventions provided would have an immediate impact on the ARBs' land productivity, increase their household incomes and promote their well-being.

OCTOBER 9

We split collective CLOAs and issue individual titles to provide security of tenure to farmers- Estrella



Agrarian Reform Secretary Conrado M. Estrella III has ordered the aggressive and full-scale parcellation program and eventual issuance of individual titles to Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (ARBs) under the Support to Parcelization of Lands for Individual Titling (SPLIT) Project of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR). To conform with this directive,

the DAR conducted a three (3)-day Environmental and Social Assessment (ESA) and Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) review, which is also in compliance with the call of the World Bank (WB) for the DAR to address specific environmental and social risks and impacts.

The WB made the observations during the Fifth Implementation

and Support Mission on March 30, 2022. The workshop will finalize the Writeshop output of ESA and ESMF.

The ESA, as well as the Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP), provide the guidelines and the instruments to enable the stakeholders, the DAR, and the WB to identify the legal, environmental, labor, social, and other challenges, and provide

solutions during the SPLIT Project implementation.

Estrella disclosed that the updating of the ESA instruments complies with the DAR's commitment to the Loan Agreement as provided in the ESCP.

The Secretary emphasized that improving the security of tenure and strengthening the property rights of ARBs through the subdivision of Collective Certificates of Land

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We split collective CLOAs and issue individual titles to provide security of tenure to farmers- Estrella

Ownership Award (CCLOAs) are in line with the pronouncement of President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. during his first State of the Nation Address.

Atty. Luis Meinrado C. Pañgulayan, Undersecretary for Policy, Planning, and Research, discussed the policy environment of the SPLIT Project on the second day of the workshop. Undersecretary Pañgulayan initially

discussed that the issuance of the individual title to the ARB will not result in economic empowerment unless there is the stabilization of agrarian rights, enhancement of land tenure security, and attainment of agricultural productivity and profitability.

Pañgulayan also discussed the implementing rules and regulations of the DAR with the Land Registration Authority (LRA), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP). These are agencies that issue their own titles. The LRA issues the regular titles, the DENR issues tenurial instruments in the form of free patents and the NCIP issues certificates of ancestral domain titles and certificates of ancestral land titles.

The DAR and the LRA issued Joint Administrative Order (JAO) No. 2 Series of 2022 to ensure that the Order of Parcelization of the DAR Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer (PARPO) under the SPLIT Project is to be treated as part of an involuntary proceeding which will no longer require the surrender of the owner's duplicate copy.

DAR-DENR JAO No. 9, Series of 2021 ensures that areas of collective CLOAs with timberlands, national parks, mineral lands, and unclassified public forests shall not result in the nullification of the CCLOA and the eviction of the ARBs. If the title cannot be parcelized due to some technical or legal issues, the collective title shall be retained, and the ARBs shall be allowed to continuously possess the awarded land.

Pañgulayan mentioned that the DAR-NCIP Joint Administrative Order for the SPLIT Project

is a work in progress. The experience of the agencies under the Joint National Committee (the NCIP, the DAR, the DENR, and the LRA) as per Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2, Series of 2012 is helpful in the crafting of the Joint Administrative Order. Issues on vested rights and the delays in the issuance of the certificate of no overlap must be resolved.

The discussion on the SPLIT policy environment was followed by the break-out sessions for the conduct of focus group discussions on environmental and social safeguards and on the grievance redress mechanisms. The ESS discussions were led by Assistant Secretary Marjorie P. Ayson. The GRM-focused group discussion was led by DARAB Executive Director Roland Manalaysay.

The SPLIT Project was formulated by the DAR in pursuance of the directive of the President to expedite and complete the parcelization of CCLOA and the issuance of individual titles to the ARBs.

The total project cost is estimated at PhP 24.62 Billion. The loan proceeds from the WB is PhP 19.24 Billion, while the GOP counterpart is PhP 5.4 Billion. Project implementation is from the year 2021 until 2024. It involves one hundred thirty-eight thousand five hundred sixty-seven (138,567) CCLOAs covering an area of 1,380,422 hectares and affecting a million ARBs nationwide.

The three (3)-day workshop started on Wednesday, October 5, with the Opening Remarks given by Josef Angelo S. Martires, Assistant Secretary for Foreign Assisted and Special Projects Office, and ended on October 8 in Malay, Aklan.

OCTOBER 10

9 Ilocos Sur farmers' organization to benefit from P5.2-M farm machinery and equipment provided by DAR



Caoayan, Ilocos Sur — Nine (9) agrarian reform beneficiaries organizations (ARBOs) here will be able to mechanize their farming activities with the P5.2 million worth

of farm machinery and equipment (FME) provided by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR). Primo C. Lara, former Ilocos Regional Director, said the farm

machinery and farm inputs were provided under the Climate Resilient Farm Productivity Support Project (CRFPSP) of the DAR.

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

"The farm implements would make the ARB's farming easier and faster. It will also help improve their yield and increase their income," Lara said.

He disclosed that the ARBs can now adjust their traditional calendar of farming activities to synchronize with the most appropriate time of the season to maximize production and avoid the effects of climate change.

Included among the FMEs provided to the ARBOs are: drop side with A/C, diesel engine; rice harvester DC 35, diesel engine; hand tractor with suydol and cage wheel built-in with 8HP diesel engine with

heavy-duty trailer and accessories; irrigation hose; palay thresher; 4 x 4 rice mill; water pump; and knapsack sprayer.

The nine (9) ARBOs who were provided with the FMEs are Arnab Sunrise ARC MPC in Cabugao; Sunggiam Multi-Purpose Cooperative in San Juan; Macati Rang-ay Farmers AR Cooperative and Lesseb Santa Maria Farmers Association, Inc. in Sta. Maria; Alilem SN Tribal Multi-Purpose Cooperative in Alilem; Kakaldingan Farmers Association, Inc. in Narvacan; Centro Laoingen Farmers Association, Inc. in Sto. Domingo; Metro San Agustin Agrarian Reform Cooperative in Candon City; and Nagtenga-San Antonio ARC Farmers Association, Inc. in Sta. Cruz. Salvador Cadorna, Macati Rang-ay Farmers Agrarian Reform Cooperative Chairperson in Sta. Maria, expressed his gratefulness to the department for the FME and hopes that other ARBOs in the area will get their share to boost the income of the ARBs.

ESTRELLA TO HIRE FIELD PERSONNEL TO STRENGTHEN RURAL DEV'T CAMPAIGN



Agrarian Reform Secretary Conrado Estrella III has requested the Department of Budget and Management for the creation of ninety-six (96) Agrarian Reform Program Officers I (ARPO I) and the upgrading of three hundred forty-four (344) Agrarian Reform Program Technologists (ARPT) positions to ARPO I.

Estrella said the request was made to strengthen its support to the agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs), and complete the implementation of land acquisition and distribution program (LAD). "The move is intended to beef up the agency's development facilitators, who are made up of ARPTs, whose upgrading into ARPOs It is meant to motivate them to give their all in helping the ARBs attain greater farm productivity," Estrella said. Estrella said that the intensified

and vigorous rural development campaign seeks to reinforce the rank of its support services staff and development facilitators, who will serve as the agency's frontliners to cater to the needs of ARBs.

"So far, 312 vacant co-terminus positions are being finalized before opening them for hiring. Once filled up, the successful applicants will be deployed in the rural areas where they are needed the most to share their expertise in boosting agricultural productivity as envisioned by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.," he said.

Marcos Jr., who also serves as the country's Secretary of the Department of Agriculture in concurrent capacity, has pledged to exhaust all means to help transform the Philippines into the "leading agricultural resource hub" in the

world.

Estrella said the DAR is slowly but steadily veering towards providing the much-needed support services to farmer-beneficiaries to increase their harvests, augment their income and spur rural development since only about a hundred thousand hectares of "workable" private agricultural lands are up for distribution in areas under its jurisdiction.

Estrella explained that workable private farm lands refer to those with no legal impediment, with the landowners having already expressed their willingness to work with the DAR for the acquisition and redistribution of their properties to the landless farmers. To date, there are still about 500 thousand hectares up for distribution nationwide, 300

thousand hectares of them are classified as problematic with various courts proceedings and the other 100 thousand hectares being handled by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Agrarian Reform, the regional executive department under the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

In a related development, Undersecretary for Finance Management and Administration Jeffrey Galan announced the lifting of the moratorium on the filling up of vacant positions in the DAR central, regional and provincial offices.

The DAR had suspended the filling up of vacancies "to allow the Department to have a clear nationwide picture of the vacancies, position profiles and such other relevant personnel information."

3 farmers' organizations in Negros Occidental receive Php1.08-M worth of livelihood assistance from DAR

Three (3) agrarian reform beneficiaries' organizations (ARBOs) in the province of Negros Occidental received a total of Php1.08 million worth livelihood assistance from the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) to boost their economic lives.

The 3 ARBOs received the amount of Php360,000 each, Php200,000 of which was used to purchase buffaloes, goats, farm tools, vegetable seeds, African nightcrawlers for vermi-composting production, 192 ready-to-lay chickens and layering mash. While the remaining

Php160,000 each was used to fund the conduct of various technology training.

DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III said the national government under the administration of Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. is seriously looking for the welfare of the farmers and the DAR is expected to provide more assistance to agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) and ARBOs.

The ARBOs who received the livelihood assistance are the Bacong Gustilo Farmers Association (BGFA) in Barangay Bacong, Bago City; the Tagoc Agrarian Reform Cooperative (TARCO) in

3 farmers' organizations in Negros Occidental receive Php1.08-M worth of livelihood assistance from DAR



Barangay Tagoc, Kabankalan City; and the Duran Small Planters Association (DSPA) in Barangay Baga-as, Hinigaran.

Ricardo A. Alpis, Tagoc Agrarian Reform Cooperative Chairman expressed his gratitude on behalf of the members of their association and assured the DAR that they will take care of the livelihood assistance they received and apply all the knowledge they gained to sustain the program.

"We are very thankful to the DAR for the support and training which we really need

for our association to grow," he said.

Arnulfo Figueroa, Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II said the project is funded under the Sustainable Livelihood Support (SLS) Program under the Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries and Sustainability Program of the agency.

"This program aims to strengthen the skills, abilities and resources of the ARBs, which can help them increase their income and build opportunities to improve the quality of their lives," Figueroa said.

OCTOBER 13

CORN FARMERS GROUP IN NORTH COTABATO RECEIVES POST-HARVEST FACILITIES FROM DAR



The Malapag ARB Farmers Association, a farmers' group from Carmen, North Cotabato, recently received Php450,000 worth of post-harvest facilities from the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) to enhance their corn and rice production.

The post-harvest facilities consist of one unit combined 3-in-1 hammer mill and four units of collapsible dryers. A package of capacity development training was provided in connection with the directive of DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III to improve the livelihood of agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs).

Leonilio Roman, a member-ARB from the farmers' association, said the combined 3-in-1 hammer mill will be an advantage for them because they can now produce

and sell hammered corn, cracked corn, corn bran, milled rice, and rice bran as add-ons to their agri-supply store.

"We would like to thank the DAR for their continued support in strengthening our association by providing interventions like this project where we can address the needs of our members and generate additional income," he said.

Romano added that their organization would closely monitor and manage the facilities well to make them more beneficial to the farmers and to the community.

The post-harvest facilities were provided under the Climate Resilient Farm Productivity Support Program (CRFPSP)-Sustainable Livelihood Support.

Charish Paña, Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II,

said the CRFPSP would help address food security amidst climate change by providing livelihood support through farm machines and equipment, farm inputs, and capacity development interventions.

"We help encourage the production of corn, rice, and other commodities and would continue to equip and capacitate them on financial matters because this project will become one of their businesses that would generate more income," she said.

Paña also challenged the project recipient to increase the membership of their organization by encouraging other ARBs to join so that they could also benefit from the projects poured in by the government and other non-government organizations.

OCTOBER 14

ESTRELLA REINFORCES DAR'S LEGAL SERVICE SYSTEM

As part of its objective to reinforce its rural development campaign, Agrarian Reform Secretary Conrado Estrella III is also seeking to make a major breakthrough in its legal sector by strengthening its staff with fresh recruits to provide competent and efficient legal services to the agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs).

Estrella said his office had identified 139 vacant regular positions intended to boost the capacity and creation of

positions in the legal sector.

The DAR Chief said that resolving pending cases is one of the major concerns of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) to avoid protracted litigations that prevent the ARBs from possessing and making productive the lands awarded to them.

"The earlier these cases are resolved, the earlier we can help them move on with their lives," Estrella said.

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ESTRELLA REINFORCES DAR'S LEGAL SERVICE SYSTEM

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Estrella emphasized that many ARBs already received their Certificates of Land Ownership Award, but are often prevented from taking full possession and control of their farm lots because of legal impediments.

Estrella said that each delay in the resolution of cases would be a big blow to the country's food self-sufficiency program as many farmlands that are under litigations are often left untilled or idle.

Earlier, the DAR had requested the

Department of Budget and Management to create 96 new regular positions for Agrarian Reform Program Officers (ARPOs) I, while seeking the reclassification of 344 Agrarian Reform Program Technologists (ARPTs) into ARPOs I to further bolster its rural development campaign.

In addition to this, 312 vacant co-terminus positions are also up for filling up, with successful applicants to be deployed to different DAR field offices for the countryside development drive.



OCTOBER 15

North Cotabato farmers' group receives farm implements to promote organic farming



Arakan, North Cotabato – The Doroluman Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries' Organization (DARBO) from the upland Barangay of Doroluman received farm implements from the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) as livelihood support to make their farmlands become more productive through the use of organic farming.

The project is in compliance with the directive of DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III to improve the livelihood of the farmers.

The farm implements are composed of a 3-in-1 hammer mill, shredder, weighing scale, 16 packs of assorted vegetable seeds, and a package of training interventions with a total amount of Php450,000.00.

Sunny Ocate, DARBO President, expressed his gratitude to the DAR

for the livelihood assistance given to them being the first recipient organization in the town of Arakan, and on behalf of the organization provided his commitment to sustain and manage the project as an enterprise.

"This project would serve as an inspiration to support the advocacy of the municipality to adopt organic agriculture in the area," he said.

The farmer-members of the DARBO were also trained on the natural farming system which includes producing fermented fruit juices and organic fertilizers.

"The skills training is a big help to us just in time when the cost of farm inputs keeps on increasing. Some of the members have already adopted what we have learned, like the preparation of organic inputs, where we can save a lot of money

because most of the ingredients are readily available and accessible," Ocate said.

The support services were provided under the Climate Resilient Farm Productivity Support Program (CRFPSP)-Sustainable Livelihood Support, which aims to address food security amidst climate change by providing livelihood support in the form of farm machines and equipment, farm inputs, and capacity development interventions.

During the turnover ceremony, Doroluman Barangay Chairman Bonie Jay Abanilla vowed to support DARBO by providing additional financial capital for the operation of their chosen enterprise.

Charish Paña, the Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II, said the project would help improve the living condition of the farmers, especially the agrarian reform beneficiaries. She said that the post-harvest facilities would make the organization more operational since they could now start a milling business to generate more income.

"The department does not only provide the land but also support services to make your lands

productive and to improve the quality of your lives. May this project serve as an inspiration for you to strive and develop more improvements and become entrepreneurs to earn more income in the future," she said.

Paña also challenged the members of the DARBO to manage their organization well to increase their capability to handle their business so that more projects can be provided to their organization.



OCTOBER 16

DAR CHIEF AND ABOITIZ RENEW TIES TO PROVIDE LIVELIHOOD ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS' ORGANIZATIONS

Agrarian Reform Secretary Conrado Estrella III and Pilmico Foods Corporation President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Tristan Aboitiz have renewed their partnership to promote sustainable agri-livelihood for the members of agrarian reform beneficiaries organizations (ARBOs) in the country. The partnership was formalized

through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Aboitiz Foundation, Inc. Aboitiz Equity Ventures (AEV), and the Pilmico Foods Corporation held last October 14, 2022, at the 21st floor, NAC Tower, 32nd street, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City.



Under the agreement, Aboitiz Foundation and AEV will provide financial assistance for the implementation of various livelihood programs for the ARBOs, and Pilmico to provide technical and logistical support. At the same time, the DAR will identify potential ARBOs who will participate in the project, in coordination with the DAR provincial offices, where the partnership will be implemented. Estrella expressed his gratitude to the Aboitiz Foundation, AEV, and the Pilmico for their generosity, willingness, and kindness to help the most productive people in the country, the farmers. “We would like to see the farmers be integrated and be part of the consumers’ group for them to have better purchasing power. With that, they would have greater chances of succeeding in

any business they would engage in,” he said.

Aboitiz disclosed that Pilmico and DAR’s partnership started in 2017 when they launched a livelihood distribution project for the ARBOs in various provinces.

He noted that for the last five years, the partnership had provided hundreds of livelihood kits and technical training that helped create sustainable livelihood and accessible income opportunities for agrarian reform beneficiaries nationwide.

“As of date, Pilmico has donated a total of 177 livelihood kits amounting to Php17.2 million. As we close to 2022, we target to add to this number by distributing gift packages and bakery livelihood kits across different areas of the country,” he said.



OCTOBER 17

ALBAY FARMERS ORGANIZATION TO RECEIVE MORE MARKETING OPPORTUNITIES AND SUPPORT SERVICES

LEGAZPI CITY — Agrarian reform beneficiaries’ organizations (ARBOs) and smallholder farmers in Albay are now assured of an increased marketing opportunities and support services for their sustainable livelihood after the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), 18 local government units in Albay, and the Department of Interior and Local Government Unit (DILG) recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to provide the ARBOs with programs to improve their livelihood activities.

The signing of MOU is in consonance with the directive of DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III to boost the economic lives of

the agrarian reform beneficiaries. Rodrigo Realubit, DAR Bicol Officer-in-Charge Regional Director, said this undertaking was implemented under 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.

“Under the MOU, the provincial government of Albay will provide marketing assistance to the ARBOs by linking them to institutional markets through the forging of marketing agreements with DOH-retained hospitals, Albay Provincial Jail, Albay Provincial



Drug Rehabilitation and Treatment Facility, and Residential Care Facilities, and provide basic social, agricultural, and technical support services under the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office and the Albay Provincial

Agricultural Office,” he said.

Realubit added that the DAR, for their part, will assist the ARBOs and the farmers in the production and timely delivery of the food items for marketing, support services, access to financial

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ALBAY FARMERS ORGANIZATION TO RECEIVE MORE MARKETING OPPORTUNITIES AND SUPPORT SERVICES

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assistance, capacity-building and technical support.

Meanwhile, the LGUs of Bacacay, Malilipot, Malinao, Sto. Domingo, Tabaco City, Tiwi, Camalig, Daraga, Legazpi City, Manito, Rapu-Rapu, Guinobatan, Jovellar, Libon,

Ligao City, Oas, Pio Duran, and Polangui will help the qualified ARBOs by forging the required marketing agreements with their supplementation feeding programs.

Engr. Maria Eugenia Alteza, Provincial Agrarian Reform

Program Officer II, said the initiative aims to further augment the implementation of the EPAHP by strengthening the ties between the DAR, its line agencies such as the Department of Social Welfare and Development, DILG, and

LGUs.

The MOU signing, held at Kanzo Hall in Legazpi City, was attended by Albay Provincial Governor Noel Rosal, mayors of LGUs, DILG Provincial Office Director Arnel Renato Madrideo, and DAR officials.

OCTOBER 18

QUEZON PROVINCE FARMERS TO GET POTABLE WATER SUPPLY FROM DAR

San Narciso, Quezon— More than 400 agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) of Brgy. Busokbusokan, San Narciso, Quezon are expected to benefit and have access to safe potable water supply through DAR's Community-managed Potable Water Supply (CPWaSH) Project.

The project was formally launched through the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the DAR Quezon II Provincial Office, the Municipal Local Government Unit (MLGU) of San Narciso, Quezon, and the Brgy. Busokbusokan and Busokbusokan San Narciso Irrigators' Association (BUSNIA).

Carlito T. Ralia, President of BUSNIA assured the partner-agencies that their group shall exert all efforts to ensure the success and sustainability of the project.

"You can count on us to maintain the structures as our contribution and show of appreciation to the project, which we know will be very beneficial to us," he said.

Engr. Cornelio P. Villapando, Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II, led the signing with San Narciso Municipal Mayor Florabelle U. Uy-Yap, BLGU representative Rosita L. Buzar and Ralia.

The joint project, amounting to Php 168,000.00 will benefit community residents in Barangay Busok-Busokan, where majority of its farmer-residents are ARBs. Under the project, five (5) units of Biosand Filter, five (5) units of iron removal filter, and one (1) unit of rainwater collector would be installed in pre-selected sites within the barangay.

The criteria for the selection of site include the proximity to traditional sources of water and to the densely populated areas. The Sangguniang Barangay and BUSNIA are tasked to manage the project.

"The project will have a big impact on the health and hygiene of the community. I am very grateful to all the agencies and organizations that helped in the launching of this project," Villapando said.



He emphasized that the CPWaSH Project is among the projects of DAR Secretary Conrado M. Estrella III in line with the vision of President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. to implement responsive projects to uplift the living conditions of Filipinos in the country.

Based on the signed agreement, DAR shall provide the necessary financial, technical, and logistical support, while the target community, through the Sangguniang Bayan and BUSNIA, will shoulder labor

and manpower requirements. The MLGU is expected to provide the materials and support to facilitate replication of the project in other areas which need potable water.

CPWaSH was first introduced in Quezon II in 2013 and has been implemented in 10 municipalities including Mulanay, Gumaca, General Luna, and Catanaun.

To date, the project has continuously provided safe, accessible, and clean water to more than 500 ARBs and their families in Quezon II alone.

OCTOBER 19

Farmers association receive solar dryer, training to adapt to climate change

Alamada, North Cotabato – A Php 450,000 worth of package of support services is expected to boost the productivity and profitability of Upper Pacao Farmers Association of Barangay Pacao in this town, amidst the climate change, after the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) recently turned-over to them capacity building interventions and drying facilities.

The provision of support services is in consonance with the directive of DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III to boost the economic lives of the farmers in the countryside.

Cheryl Rose Belbar, President of Upper Pacao Farmers Association, said that they are grateful to DAR for the immediate response to the need and clamor of the farmers.

"The collapsible dryer will provide a great relief to us because everyone can now have access to an instant solar dryer anytime they need it. The facility will also serve as an income-generating project for our association," she said.

Pacao Barangay Chairman Joey Obenaza added that the scarcity of solar dryers in their barangay has been a struggle for the farmers, especially during harvest season.

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FARMERS ASSOCIATION RECEIVE SOLAR DRYER, TRAINING TO ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE

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“Due to limited solar driers in our barangay, farmers have no choice but to sell their produce directly to traders, usually at a low price. But now that DAR has provided the collapsible driers, there is no reason for the farmers not to dry their produce before selling to the market,” he said.

The support services were provided under the Climate Resilient Farm Productivity Support Program-Sustainable Livelihood Support, which addresses food security amidst climate change by providing livelihood support in the form of farm machines and equipment, farm inputs, and capacity development interventions.

Charish Paña, Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II, said the provision of capacity building interventions aims to help farmers become more resilient in adapting to climate change, thus a continuous generation of income despite the erratic weather conditions that they experience.

“With the availability of the collapsible driers, farmers can now dry their produce such as corn, rice, copra, and other commodities. This project will also make farmers and their organization become stronger in responding to the challenges brought about by climate change,” Paña said.

OCTOBER 20

DAR CHIEF TO REVIEW LEASE CONTRACTS WITHIN PADRE CRISOSTOMO ESTATE



Agrarian Reform Secretary Conrado Estrella III is vigorously pursuing the review of all commercial, residential, and agricultural lease contracts within the 165-hectare Padre Crisostomo Estate in Nueva Ecija.

Estrella has designated Jeffrey Galan, Undersecretary for Finance Management and Administration, to lead the newly reconstituted

Task Force Crisostomo Estate to immediately address and fully settle the issues and concerns related to the existing lease contracts involving the said landholding.

The Crisostomo Estate consists of farmlands owned by the late Fr. Gregorio Crisostomo, who donated his landholdings to the government, for redistribution to

the landless farmers. It includes 110 hectares of rice field located in Sta. Rosa town and seven separate residential and commercial landholdings in Cabanatuan City with a total area of 55 hectares.

In the 2021 inventory, the DAR gathered that there are 2,218 individuals occupying the property, 58 of them are tilling the lot in Santa Rosa town while the rest are occupants of residential homes and commercial establishments in Cabanatuan City.

Atty. Celestina Tam, Assistant Secretary for Legal Affairs, was designated to co-chair the said task force, who is very familiar with the said estate, having been the DAR-Central Luzon director when the DAR revived its claim as property custodian in early 2021.

Engr. Joey Sumatra, Assistant Secretary for Field Operations, is designated as the task force vice

chairperson, while the members are: Atty. Eugene Follante, DAR Legal Service Director, James Arsenio Ponce, DAR-Central Luzon Director, Atty. Odgie Cayabyab, Assistant Director, Atty. Cristina Miguel, Legal Chief, Eden Ponio, DAR Nueva Ecija agrarian reform program officer, Atty. Alvin Soriano, Legal Officer, and Juanito Valiente, Land Tenure Service Division chief.

Estrella has instructed the task force to formulate and recommend new guidelines on the lease of lots within the Padre Crisostomo Estate, determine the reasonable rates of lease rentals, submit an inventory of actual occupants, and ascertain the area occupied by lessees/occupants of the estate.

The DAR in the past followed the old and unadjusted rental fee of P25 per square meter for commercial area and P10 for residential area.

OCTOBER 21

MASBATE FARMERS RECEIVE ELECTRONIC LAND TITLES FROM DAR

MASBATE CITY – “After we saw our names on the land titles, we know that it is legally and completely ours. To God be the glory! The DAR blessed me with this piece of land,” Joaquin

Burga, Jr. said after receiving his electronic land title, or e-title, from the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR).

Burga was one of the 97 farmers from Barangay Sawmill in

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Masbate farmers receive electronic land titles from DAR

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Milagros town who received the e-titles through the DAR's Support to Parcelization of Lands for Individual Titling (SPLIT) project during the simultaneous distribution ceremonies held at

the Gaisano Mall in Masbate City and the Claveria Covered Court in Claveria, Burias Island, Masbate. The e-titles comprise a total of 202.8238 hectares of farmland

in Aroroy, Cataingan, Cawayan, Mandaon, Uson, Milagros, San Pascual, and Claveria.

Rodrigo Realubit, DAR Bicol Regional Director said the e-titles have given the farmer beneficiaries complete control of the land they till.

"Land titles distributed to farmer beneficiaries open the door to promising opportunities and brighter hopes for improving their quality of life," Realubit said.

During the event, 51 farmers from the municipality of Cawayan received their first tax declarations from Masbate Provincial Assessor, Engr. Voltaire Abayon.

Renato Dumangas, another farmer recipient, expressed his happiness after receiving his title since he had been waiting for it for almost 49 years.

Herald Tambal, DAR-Masbate Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II stated that the collaboration and strong partnership between the DAR

and the Registry of Deeds (ROD) in Masbate led to the success of this significant undertaking.

Through the SPLIT project, lands distributed under collective certificates of land ownership award (CCLOAs), will be subdivided and farmer-beneficiaries who were previously awarded with lands under collective ownership would be issued individual land titles.

Tambal said the province has registered 278 e-titles comprising 513.7288 hectares of lands since January 2022, with 220.3129 hectares awarded to 128 farmer-beneficiaries in May of this year.

"From 2021 to 2022, Masbate targets to subdivide a total of 475 CCLOAs, comprising a total of 9,576,4880 hectares. Over 6,256 hectares from these have already been validated with the necessary documents being generated for distribution as individual e-titles to the beneficiaries by the end of 2022 or early next year," he added.

SENATE HEARS DAR'S PROPOSED P15.85-B BUDGET FOR 2023

PASAY CITY-- The 2023 budget of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) is now up for Senate plenary deliberations.

Senator Cynthia Villar presided over the Finance Committee hearing on the proposed P15.85 billion budget of the DAR on October 19.

Of DAR's budget, P10.176 billion would be allocated for maintenance and other operating expenses, while P5.674 billion would be for personnel services.

DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III said that from 1972 up to June 2022, DAR was able to register emancipation patents and certificates of landownership award (CLOAs) covering close to 5 million hectares of land out of a total of 5.46 million hectares, benefiting 2.9 million beneficiaries.

Some 250,000 hectares more have been identified while 114,000 hectares

are ready for distribution.

Estrella said that the distribution of these lands is a key component of addressing land tenure issues. He informed the committee that President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr., has made good his promise at his first State of the Nation Address, and issued Executive Order No. 4 on his birthday on September 13.

The E.O. imposes a one-year moratorium on land amortization and interest payments of agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) for agricultural lands distributed under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

Estrella added that the executive order 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.



He said that in the recent Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (LEDAC) meeting, senators and congressmen pledged that the condonation bill will be approved, possibly in December this year. When approved, the condonation will cover the amount of P56 billion benefiting

around 654,000 ARBs and involving a total of 1.18 million hectares of awarded lands.

"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," he said.

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SENATE HEARS DAR'S PROPOSED P15.85-B BUDGET FOR 2023



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Estrella III also identified several areas where support services to farmers are greatly needed, including loan financing, medical and educational assistance, even capacity development, and providing modern farm equipment, fertilizers, and other farm implements and inputs.

He mentioned providing beneficiaries with buffalo or cattle while addressing the lack of farm-

to-market roads and irrigation.

At the hearing, Senator Francis Tolentino said he supports the DAR in all its endeavors for the farmers. He asked for the accomplishment of the Land Tenure Security Program (LTSP) to be submitted on before the start of the plenary hearing.

The DAR budget presentation at the Senate lasted for an hour on Wednesday, October 19.

ESTRELLA, CITY SAVINGS BANK TO PROVIDE LOANS TO DAR EMPLOYEES

Agrarian Reform Secretary Conrado Estrella III and City Savings Bank, Inc. (CitiSavings) President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Lorenzo T. Ocampo have signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) that will provide a loan program to the employees of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) nationwide.

Estrella said that this is a very significant event for the employees of the DAR as he expressed his gratitude to the CSB for understanding and exerting all efforts to partner with the agency and address the financial constraints of the employees.

"On behalf of the DAR, I would like to thank all of you for your kindness and generosity. This is one big favor you have extended to the employees of the DAR," he said.

Ocampo said that CitySavings, known for its warm and helpful service to its customers, is a thrift bank subsidiary of Union Bank of the Philippines and a member of the Aboitiz Group.

"The culture of concern is deeply rooted in our company as evidenced by stories on how we elevate people's lives and fulfill

financial inclusion through the products and services we offer," Ocampo said.

He said that with this MOA, CitySavings would be able to extend easily accessible, value-adding loan services to all the DAR employees across the country.

The CitySavings has offered to extend to the qualified employees of the DAR a multi-purpose loan facility that provides for salary deduction, collection, and remittance arrangements to be processed by the DAR, through its human resource division.

The loanable amount offered to the DAR regular employees ranges from Php25,000 to Php1,000,000.00 with 12% annual diminishing interest through salary deduction.

The following are required for the DAR employee when availing of the loan: at least one (1) year of service supported by a Certificate of Employment; must be of good moral character and without any derogatory record with the DAR; should at least be sixty-five (65) years upon loan maturity; and should have one (1) referrer on availing for the first loan.

OCTOBER 23

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL LANDLESS FARMERS GET AGRI LANDS



SIXTY-EIGHT FARMERS from Negros Occidental province became instant landowners after the Department of Agrarian

Reform (DAR) awarded them with certificates of landownership award (CLOAs).

The undertaking is anchored to the

directive of DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III to empower all the farmers throughout the country.

About 13.39 hectares of agricultural lands from Enrique B. Magalona town were distributed to 36 agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs), seven hectares from the town of Manapla to 15 ARBs and 17 hectares in Silay City distributed to 17 ARBs.

In her message, Western Visayas Regional Director Shiela Enciso said

the CLOAs they receive serve as proof that they are now the owners of the land that they are cultivating for years.

"Our personnel worked tireless days and nights verifying and identifying the rightful beneficiaries of these lands. You were selected as the rightful owners, because of your effort and passion to cultivate these lands. Now that it is yours, make it more productive," she said.



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NEGROS OCCIDENTAL LANDLESS FARMERS GET AGRI LANDS

Enciso added that the DAR would provide the ARBs with the necessary support they need to ensure their economic viability and productivity.

“Please remember your rights, roles, and responsibilities as new property owners. Refrain from engaging in leasehold agreements and continue cultivating the land instead so that it may help you improve your

economic lives,” she said.

The DAR is mandated to acquire public and private agricultural landholdings to be distributed to tenants, farmers, farmworkers, and other tillers identified as qualified ARBs, in the form of CLOAs covering one (1) contiguous tracts or several parcels of land cumulated up to a maximum of three (3) hectares per ARB.



MORE THAN HALF A MILLION FARMERS TO BENEFIT FROM MORATORIUM ON PAYMENT OF LAND AMORTIZATION

Agrarian Reform Secretary Conrado Estrella III said that more than half a million agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) are expected to benefit from the one-year moratorium on payment of land amortization and the corresponding six-percent annual interest.

Estrella said that the suspension on payment of amortization and interest covers a combined 1.18 million hectares of agricultural lands awarded to 654,000 ARBs.

“This should be of great help to our beneficiaries because they can make use of the money intended for the payment of annual amortization and interest for farm inputs or other livelihood activities to augment their

income,” Estrella said.

Estrella said the one-year moratorium covers “the financial obligation to pay the total cost of the land and the six-percent interest under Presidential Decree No. 27, series of 1972 or the ‘Operation Land Transfer,’ as well as the principal value of the 30-year land amortization under Section 26 of the Republic Act No. 6657 or the ‘Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law.’”

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. declared the moratorium on payment of amortization and interest in his speech during his first State of the Nation Address on July 25, 2022.



“It’s time to give back to the farmers,” Marcos was quoted as saying during the signing of Executive Order No. 4 held last September 13, 2022.

Marcos said a moratorium “will give

the farmers the ability to channel their resources into developing their farms, maximizing their capacity to produce and propelling the growth of the economy.”

OCTOBER 24

AGRI LANDS IN CALATRAVA, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL TO BE SUBDIVIDED AMONG FARMERS

TWENTY-SIX hectares of agricultural lands in the municipality of Calatrava in Negros Occidental would be parceled to agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) to strengthen their security of tenure.

The subdivision of lands was implemented by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) under its Support to Parcelization of Lands for Individual Titling (SPLIT). This move is one of the primary goals of Agrarian Reform Secretary Conrado Estrella III to strengthen ARBs’ property rights.

Jonalyn Portrias, Municipal Agrarian

Reform Program Officer, said the SPLIT project is a major project of the DAR, which involve the subdivision of collectively-owned land titles — known as the Collective Certificate of Land Ownership Award (CCLOAs) — into individual titles to be re-awarded to individual farmer beneficiaries.

Portrias, with her staff, assisted the SPLIT Field Validation Team to ensure the accuracy of parcelization of the landholdings.

The properties subjected to parcelization were formerly owned by Chua Chun Ti, Bibiano Villamero, and



Escolastico Batchiller bearing CCLOA Numbers 11638, 9705, and 9993 covering Lot Nos. 478, 137-A, C & G, and 143-B, respectively, with a total area of 26.8401 hectares subjected to titling to 40 ARBs in the locality.

“The conduct of validation is a necessary step in the subdivision of the CCLOAs into individual titles,”

Portrias said.

She added that the involvement of the ARBs in the activity is very important and their full cooperation is needed in the validation process.

The SPLIT project is implemented in 78 provinces, of 15 regions, which would benefit about 1.1- million ARBs nationwide.

DAR HONORS ELDERLY QUEZON FARMERS



SAN ANTONIO, Quezon Province—In celebration of the Elderly Filipino Week this October, the Department of Agrarian Reform in Quezon province honored 50 senior citizen agrarian reform beneficiaries for their contributions in the development of the country.

“We are giving this tribute to our elderly farmers for their role in providing the Filipinos with food. At their age, they are still working in the fields for the country’s food supply,” said Cupido Gerry Asuncion, DAR-Calabarzon Regional Director.

“I believe that despite the limitations and obstacles caused by various circumstances like pandemic, many senior citizens, especially elderly farmers, continue to work for their

families, and contribute to their communities, and the country,” added Asuncion.

The honorees are farmers who are members of the Roxas Estate Multi-Purpose Cooperative. Each farmer-beneficiary received a P1,000 worth gift pack containing adult milk, a towel, toothbrush, toothpaste, bath soap, alcohol, biscuits, among others. The tribute celebration began with a sumptuous lunch, then continued with songs, fun games, and dancing. The celebration of Elderly Filipino Week is in accordance with Proclamation No. 470 which emphasizes the important role of the elderly sector in the development of the country and in advocating for their rights and welfare.

DAR AND WORLD BANK DELEGATES DELIVER E-TITLES TO FARMERS’ HOMES

SAN ILDEFONSO, Bulacan – The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) led by Undersecretary for Foreign Assisted and Special Projects Office (FASPO) Jesry Palmares, together with World Bank (WB) delegates, personally distributed electronic land titles (e-titles) through its “Serbisyon DAR-to-Door” here.

Palmares and WB delegates Benoit Bosquet and Achime Fock, personally handed over five e-titles to agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) doorstep to ensure the farmers would receive their land titles.

The five ARB recipients are the Placido siblings namely, Wilson, Felixberto, Leonardo, Alejandro, and Rogaciano. The siblings have been tenants and farmers of the land they have been tilling all their lives. “We are overflowing with happiness.

We thank the government for this program. We never thought that it will be possible to have our own title. We also thank Secretary Conrado Estrella and President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. for speeding up the process,” said Felixberto Placido. Palmares said the Placido siblings’ land title belonged to a collective certificate of land ownership award (CCLOA). He said the farmers

were able to receive their own titles because of DAR’s Support to Parcelization of Lands for Individual Titling project or SPLIT Project.

The DAR’s SPLIT Project is funded by the World Bank which extended in the year 2020 a \$370-million loan to the Philippines.

The project seeks to fast-track the subdivision of collective land titles covering over 1.3 million hectares of agricultural lands and eventually issue individual land titles to ARBs previously awarded with lands and collective CLOAs under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program to benefit a total of 1.1 million farmers.

“Issuing separate titles for each farmer-beneficiary is better because it enables them to have a clear and defined ownership of the parcels of land they are tilling,” Palmares said.

SPLIT National Project Director Joey Sumatra, said under the SPLIT Project, the agency would parcelize the awarded lands covered by a CCLOA.

“Each farmer beneficiary would be given an individual land title based on the actual area or a particular portion of land they are tilling,” Sumatra explained.

The Placidos are among the 35



jubilant ARBs who received their e-titles in a simple ceremony held at the Upig Elementary School covered court after the Dar-to-door e-title distribution.

Palmares encouraged the ARBs, not to sell or transfer the lands given

to them by the government, as this land would help uplift their lives and their family in the future.

“You have been blessed with lands during this time, as a sign of the government’s concern for the farmers,” Palmares said.

CAMSUR FARMERS' GROUP GETS P5.5M FOR SWINE PRODUCTION PROJECT



LIBMANAN, Camarines Sur — A farmer's organization in Camarines Sur received P5.5 million to fund a community-based swine farm project to revive and boost the local hog industry affected by African swine fever disease.

The Mambalite Palangon Farmers Irrigators Association (MAPAFIA) in the town of Libmanan was chosen as the project recipient to speed up the repopulation of pigs to have a steady supply of high-quality hogs not only to help its members revive their economic status but also to help the local market sell more high-quality pork.

The MAPAFIA is the first agrarian reform beneficiaries' organization in the Bicol region to fully operate its newly constructed 360-square-meter pig facility, which was built on a 2,000-square-meter lot in Barangay Mambalite in said town. Florentino Umali, MAPAFIA President, thanked the government for providing them with the opportunity to raise pigs and entrusting them with a costly project.

"With the collaboration of the Department of Agrarian Reform

(DAR) and Department of Agriculture (DA), we would not have been able to obtain such a large-scale project," he said.

He added that their association hopes to work with different line agencies in the future on bigger projects and programs.

This project was implemented under DA's Integrated National Swine Production Initiatives for Recovery and Expansion (Inspire). Gay Labad, DAR's Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II, said the DA-Inspire project is a three-year plan to help the swine industry recover faster from African swine fever and revive the country's swine industry, which has experienced a major decline.

"As program recipient, they received P5.5 million in aid, which included pigs, feeds, and a modern pig facility with a tunnel ventilation system, a biogas facility, a caretaker shower room, and a perimeter fence," she said.

MAPAFIA was organized last year, and its assets and income are now making it one of the most progressive ARBOs in the Camarines Sur 1 area.



RICE FARMERS IN AKLAN RECEIVE FARM MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT FROM DAR



Malinao, Aklan — A total of P609,280.00 worth of farm machinery and equipment were turned over by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) to rice farmers in Aklan to improve their farm productivity and profitability. Atty. Sheila Enciso, Western Visayas Regional Director said the livelihood projects are part of the DAR's effort in the province to boost the agrarian reform beneficiaries' (ARBs) economic lives.

"Value for money for all these equipment should be ensured," Enciso said.

Enciso said that the Rosario Multi-Purpose Cooperative from Brgy. Rosario Proper, Malinao, Aklan received the following farm machinery and equipment: hand tractor with implements and trailer, rice reaper/harvester, rice thresher, blower, irrigation pump, floating tiller, and grass cutter.

Aklan 2nd district Representative Teodorico Haresco Jr said that the ARBs should maintain the usability of these farm machinery to help them

in the transportation, processing, and marketing of their products.

"These farm machineries should be well-maintained so that all of you can maximize their use," he said.

Aklan Gov. Jose Enrique Miraflores said the programs of DAR are consistent not only with the priorities of the province, but also of President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr., which is agriculture development to make the tourism industry self-sustainable.

Rosemarie Remedios Maravilla, Chairperson of the Rosario Multi-Purpose Cooperative, thanked DAR for the farm machines they have received and for its continued support and assistance that contributed to the growth of the organization.

The farm machines were provided under the Rice Block Farm Productivity Enhancement under Climate Resilient Farm Productivity Support Program (CRFPSP), which aims to build the resiliency of agrarian reform communities nationwide.



GROUP OF WOMEN FARMERS IN SARANGANI RECEIVE PROCESSING CENTER FOR THEIR CROP PRODUCTION

Maasim, Sarangani – The Kablacan Women In Development of Sarangani (KWINDS) recently received their newly constructed processing center to boost their production of corn powder mix, salabat, and turmeric tea.

The turnover of facilities to KWINDS is anchored to the directives of President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. and Agrarian Reform Secretary Conrado Estrella III to improve the livelihood activities of the agrarian reform beneficiaries.

Crisola Llego, KWINDS President, said the facilities they received from the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) would greatly help in processing their crops.

“Women have also great responsibilities in the economy, their families, and children. We could now fulfill our obligations

because of the support we received,” she said.

Llego said each production member’s lowest take-home share is approximately PhP400.00, in every production of corn powder mix, salabat, and turmeric tea and they believe that they could generate more income because of the processing center.

“I would also like to thank the DAR for the seminars and training they provided us because it helped us improve as an organization as well as an individual,” she said.

She also commended her fellow women for religiously attending the capacity-building interventions because they understand that they should make their idle time more productive for them to contribute to their household income in their own little way.



Laguna farmers receive electronic land titles

SINILOAN, Laguna— Electronic land titles comprising a total of 185 hectares of land were distributed to 288 agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARB) by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) here on Thursday, October 27.

DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III said that of the 185 hectares distributed, 100 hectares were awarded to 80 ARBs under the agency’s Support to Parcelization of Lands for Individual Titling (SPLIT) Project, which subdivided collective certificates of land ownership award (CCLOAs) previously issued by the DAR.

“Issuing separate titles for each farmer-beneficiary is better because it enables them to have a clear and defined ownership of the parcels of land they are tilling,” he said.

The SPLIT project intends to fast-track the land subdivision or parcelization of Collective Certificates of Land Ownership Award (CCLOAs) of about 1.3 million hectares of lands nationwide.

“The land title is finally in my name. I can now truly say that

the land I am tilling is mine. I am thankful to President Ferdinand Marcos Jr and Secretary Estrella for the quick processing of our land titles,” said Narciso Acueza, a farmer-beneficiary from Pakil, Laguna.

Also distributed were three hectares home lots awarded to 113 ARBs.

“We also award home lots to ARBs. These lots are usually located near the land of the farmers. We are fast-tracking the land survey in Siniloan to identify actual occupants so that we can issue individual CLOAs,” said Estrella.

He said the lots issued with individual CLOAs were the remaining home lots of the CARP coverage years in 1990 and 1991 in Siniloan. At present, continuous survey, interview, and registration of CLOAs of the remaining lots is being undertaken by DAR.

Some 82 hectares of agricultural land under DAR’s redocumentation program was distributed to 95 ARBs. The landholding included in this program is the collective CLOA awarded to Leonardo Estalero through DAR’s compulsory



acquisition scheme of the property of Refedor Southgold Property Management and Development Corporation located in Brgy. San Isidro and Banilan, Pakil, Laguna. Estrella, together with DAR Undersecretary for support services Milagros Isabel Cristobal, likewise led the turnover of farm machines worth P995,363.00 to the Matalatala Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Multi-Purpose Cooperative (MARBMPC) of Mabitac and the Barangay Bukal Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Association, Inc. of Nagcarlan, both in the province of Laguna.

Distributed to the two cooperatives were two hand tractors, 2 water pumps, 2 floating tillers, 2 brush

cutters, 4 knapsack sprayers, and 48 plastic drums.

“These farm implements will service more than 200 farmers here. And because the machines are mechanized, it would make farming easier and faster for them. It will also greatly improve their yield and increase their income,” Cristobal said.

She explained that the department, through its Support Services Division, gives out machinery under the Climate Resilient Farm Productivity Support (CRFPS) Project which aims to improve farm productivity and increase the net income of farmer-beneficiaries in a sustainable manner through their organizations.

OCTOBER 29

BOHOL FARMERS' ORGANIZATION TIES UP WITH RELIGIOUS GROUP TO SUPPLY THEIR VEGETABLE REQUIREMENTS

Tagbilaran City, Bohol – The La Suerte Vegetable Growers Association (Lasuvega) from Barangay La Suerte in the municipality of Pilar recently signed a marketing agreement with the Bread of Life Tagbilaran to supply their food requirements, particularly vegetable crops.

The marketing agreement, facilitated by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), is in consonance with the directive of President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. and DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III to boost the economic lives of the agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs).

Racquel Lacar, Lasuvega President, thanked the DAR for their

continued support to the association and making the endeavor possible. “Through this agreement, we were provided with an institutional buyer and a steady market that would be a big help in generating more income to our organization,” she said.

The undertaking was implemented under the Enhanced Partnership against Hunger and Poverty Program, a government initiative addressing food security, hunger, and poverty problems through the synergy and convergence of essential services of the government agencies.

Leomides Villareal, DAR's newly-installed Central Visayas Director, said Lasuvega is an ARB organization (ARBO) that engages

in vegetable production and trading business, has sufficient supply of farm commodities throughout the year and can provide the necessary volume and quality of products required by the customers.

He divulged that the Bread of Life Tagbilaran wants to contribute to the economic advancement of the ARBO by directly buying their products and services.

“Under the agreement, the Bread of Life would procure vegetable products such as eggplant, squash, ampalaya, banana, and others, on a weekly basis at the prevailing price agreed by both parties,” he said.

The DAR, for their part, would assist the ARBOs and the farmers in their vegetable production, as well as other support such as access to financial assistance, capacity-building and technical support.



OCTOBER 30

Estrella convenes PARC ExCom meeting



In line with the directive of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. to distribute the lands for free and intensify the provision of support services to farmers, Agrarian Reform Secretary Conrado Estrella III has convened the 150th meeting of Presidential Agrarian Reform Council Executive Committee (PARC ExCom), last Friday, October 28.

“I was tasked by the President, being the Vice-Chairman of the PARC, to convene this very important meeting, to use the remaining Php 10-billion of the Agrarian Reform Fund (ARF) to realize his dignified goals for our farmers,” Estrella said. Estrella expressed in the meeting his determination to adopt the President's recommendation for the release and utilization

of Php10-billion from the ARF balance, which will be used for:

- Landowners compensation, with an amount of Php1.4-billion for documented landholdings with pending claims which are due for payment;
- Support services budget, with Php7.85-billion for the implementation of projects including agri-extension services, distribution of

farm input support and farm machineries to agrarian reform beneficiaries, infrastructure development and public works projects, among others;

- Additional Php 500 million for administrative and operating expenses needed for the implementation of the above components of the agrarian reform program; and
- Institutional human resources

Estrella convenes PARC ExCom meeting

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for capacity development programs, Php250-million to empower and enhance the competencies of the Department for its effective implementation.

During the meeting, Estrella divulged that the members of Upper and Lower Houses have committed to the President that they would pass the “New Emancipation Act” for the landless farmers this December. “This bill would enable the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) to distribute free lands to

the farmers,” he said.

The Secretary added that this would create a great impact to the farmers along with the intensified provision of necessary support services to make their lands become more productive to generate more income.

“I believe that this is a historic executive meeting because this gathering will not just improve the lives of the farmers but it will also have a beneficial effect in our agricultural sector,” he said.

OCTOBER 31

Zambales farmers receive lands from DAR



Thirty-eight (38) agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) from Barangay Pangoligan in the town of Palauig received their certificates of land ownership of award (CLOAs) from Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer Emmanuel G. Aguinaldo.

In a simple ceremony, Aguinaldo said the DAR, which

is mandated to distribute lands to landless farmers and provide support services to ensure that the farmers would improve their economic lives, distributed CLOAs covering a total of 38 hectares of agricultural lands in the town of Palauig.

“Make these lands richer and do not sell these properties because it is against the law, the government can reclaim it and give it to more qualified

individuals,” Aguinaldo said.

The land was awarded through the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program, the government’s social justice program redistributing private and public agricultural lands to advance the economic conditions of small farmers. Aguinaldo encouraged the farmers to join a cooperative to avail of support services from the government.

“I urge all of you to join a cooperative to fully enjoy all the government has to offer. Support services are given through cooperatives and not individually. President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and Secretary Conrado Estrella III have projects and programs like provision for loans, irrigation, farm equipment, medical, and educational support for all of you,” Aguinaldo said.