

AGRARIAN

DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM DIURNAL • ENGLISH EDITION • MARCH 2022

MARCH 1

DAR provides truck, mobile rice mill to farmers' organizations in Surigao del Norte



Based from PAMRS press

SURIGAO CITY, Surigao del Norte--The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) turned over a farm truck, a mobile rice mill and farm inputs to two (2) agrarian reform beneficiaries organizations (ARBOs) here to help farmers generate income after the onslaught of typhoon Odette.

Secretary Bernie Cruz personally turned over the farm truck to the members of the Alipao Multi-Purpose Cooperative and the rice mill to San Pedro Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Organization both from Alegria, Surigao del Norte.

“The farmers desperately need help from the national government. After [typhoon] Odette, all crops were devastated, and their agribusinesses suffered major losses. We gave these support services to provide farmer-beneficiaries the means to bounce back from agricultural losses caused by the typhoon,” Cruz said.

The truck and rice mill will service more than 200 farmers. Cruz added that most members of the two ARBOs are agrarian reform beneficiaries, therefore, most of them own the land they till.

“Awarding them lands is just the

first step towards more support from the government. No matter what circumstances we face, during natural calamities like typhoons, pandemic, or no pandemic, we will follow the President’s national goal of improving the economic lives of farmers by pouring various support services to farm communities,” Cruz said.

Regional Director Leomides Villareal said the San Pedro Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Organization also received six (6) grass cutters, six (6) knapsack sprayers, two (2) wheelbarrows and a weighing scale.

“The truck, rice mill and farm inputs were given to support the farmers in their rice production. Since the truck and rice mill is now owned by the ARBO, farmers who are non-members can also use them for a very minimal fee,” Villareal said.

The portable rice mill worth P998,000 and farm implements was provided through the Enhanced Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty program (EPAHP) while the hauling truck worth P598,000 was given through the Linking Smallholder Farmers to Market with Microfinance (LINKSFARM).

DAR CHIEF SWEARS IN RETIRED GENERAL AS NEW BUREAU DIRECTOR

Based from PAMRS press

DILIMAN, Quezon City— Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Secretary Bernie Cruz has appointed retired Police Brigadier General Reuben Theodore Sindac as the new Director of the External Affairs and Relations Service (EARS) of the department.

Sindac, who was sworn in during simple rites at the Office of the DAR Secretary on Feb. 28, is seen to continue and create new ways in interacting and coordinating with the agency's relations with the upper and lower house and the other branches of government.

"With his leadership, I believe that he will be able to make the office very viable and will forge good relations with Congress and Senate with regards to working for



the welfare of our agrarian reform beneficiaries," Cruz said.

Cruz said that he has significantly improved the Phil. National Police's (PNP) logistics support services by introducing reforms in the system which made the delivery of essential services to the PNP smooth and efficient. He was also the PNP

spokesperson for more than 1.5 years.

"His track record in the PNP is very good. He will be an asset in the department," Cruz said.

Sindac replaces Gerald "Dindi" Tan who is now appointed by Malacanang as bureau director in Overseas Workers Welfare

Administration (OWWA).

"I am happy to still serve our countrymen. I may not be in the line of fire now, but I will give my 100 percent to serve our farmers. Public service is not new to me, I have extensive experience working in the police force for 30 years," Sindac said.

Sindac, who served as Police Brigadier General under General, now Senator Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa, is a war hero. As PNP Regional Director of the now BARMM, he was at the frontlines during the 2017 Marawi siege in Lanao del Sur. Sindac was instrumental in mitigating the Marawi crisis by providing responsive combat support to the AFP while conducting specialized law enforcement functions which led to the liberation of Marawi City.

MARCH 2

ATI Tribe of Romblon receives Domingo Realty Inc. property from DAR

Based from PAMRS press

Sta. Fe, Romblon — After six (6) years of waiting, a total of forty-one (41) members of the ATI tribal group finally received their Certificates of Land Ownership Award (CLOA) from the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), in a distribution ceremony held yesterday, March 1, 2022, at the Pandan Covered Court, Sta. Fe, Romblon.

Jemuel Fernando, 29 years old, grandson of a former tenant, is now the owner of the land where his grandfather used to work.



"I thank God, the government, and the blood and sweat of my grandfather, who persevered in tilling and cultivating this land, for this land title that I received today," Fernando said.

Together with Undersecretary for Finance, Management and Administration Office (FMAO) Atty. Lucius Jun Jun G. Malsi, DAR MIMAROPA Regional, and Romblon Provincial officials, DAR Secretary Bernie F. Cruz led the distribution of agricultural lands covering 67,3411 hectares located in Barangays Pandan and Magsaysay in Sta. Fe.

Cruz said the agricultural lands distributed are the

property owned by Domingo Realty Inc. covered through the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) specifically under compulsory acquisition.

He congratulated the new landowners and appealed to the agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) not to sell their government-awarded lands and to make them productive.

"The agency's support to the ARBs under CARP does not end in the distribution of lands but rather, it will continue to provide support services to help boost their economic lives," he said.

Cruz disclosed that the DAR's

thrust is consistent with President Duterte's directive to fast-track the distribution of the remaining lands to landless farmers under CARP.

DAR Regional Director Marvin Bernal emphasized to the ARBs the importance of the land titles that should be taken well taken care of, as it symbolizes hope for the recipients that would help uplift their lives.

"You brought a great blessing to us and to the Barangay Pandan. Count on us, that we will enrich, cultivate, develop, and have the land as our source of livelihood, and eventually pass it on to our children," tribal chief Alfie Lorenzo said.

Sarangani farmers receive agri inputs from DAR



Based from PAMRS press

ALABEL, Sarangani — The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) recently distributed agricultural farm inputs to 26 agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) here to boost vegetable production in the area.

Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer Cenon Original, said the initiative is part of the vegetable productivity enhancement project under the 'Buhay sa Gulay' Project of DAR.

Original said the 26 farmer-members of Baluntay-Tokawal Agri-Fishery Association (BATOFA) benefited from the cans of various vegetable seeds, four bags of fertilizers, sprayers, garden hose, water drum, mulch, and twines.

"DAR's 'Buhay sa Gulay' project gives them the opportunity to increase their income and boost the vegetable production of the cooperative," Original said the BATOFA, which was organized in 2021, is a cooperative assisted by DAR.

"We don't just leave the ARBs after awarding them their own land. We help them become productive by providing assistance like these agri-inputs that they received," Original said.

The BATOFA farmers are currently undergoing training on vegetable production with the East-West Seed experts which started on February 18 and will end until March 7, 2022.

The "Buhay sa Gulay" project is an initiative of DAR designed as a self-help start-up livelihood project for farmers. It aims to promote urban farming, reduce poverty, and eradicate hunger, particularly in marginalized urban barangays.

MARCH 3

DAR EMPOWERS YOUTH IN NORTH COTABATO, TURNS OVER P1-M WORTH LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT

Based from PAMRS press

The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) recently turned over a Php 1-million worth of livelihood support project

to impoverished families of Barangay Katilacan, a Muslim community, in Pikit, North Cotabato.

Mindanao Affairs and Rural

Development Undersecretary Ranibai Dilangalen, in her message, said that the project would focus on capacitating

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the youth or schooling children of selected 30 families living under the poverty line. "We want to engage the youth, particularly the elementary and high school students in agri-related activities, especially during this time of the pandemic to help generate additional income for their respective families," Dilangalen said. The total project amount was allocated to tilapia production, processing, and marketing with a

total budget slice of P724,500.00; goat production and marketing, P40,000.00; organic vegetables production and marketing, P31,600.00; garden equipment and tools, P67,770.00; agroforestry, P7,450.00; and capacity development interventions, P128,680.00. Assistant Regional Director and concurrent Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II Rodolfo Alburo divulged that the project is expected to improve the beneficiaries' productivity and increase their

income while cautiously observing the preservation of the environment. "The livelihood project, as farm enterprises, will be managed by the youth with close supervision and assistance of their parents and teachers," he said. Chief Agrarian Reform Program Officer Emelita Mayol explained that the department would closely supervise the implementation of the project through the DAR-Pikit municipal office and the development facilitators assigned in the area.

"The support of the school and local government of Pikit in providing direct extension services to the beneficiaries and their role in monitoring the project's operation and management is a big help in this project," Mayol said. Aside from the DAR, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources also provided hardwood timber seedlings and giant bamboo seedlings amounting to P86,500.00.

MARCH 4



DAR TURNS OVER P645,000 WORTH OF FARM MACHINERY AND AGRI INPUTS TO ROMBLON FARMERS ORG

Based from PAMRS press

San Andres, Romblon – The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in Romblon has turned over Php645,000 worth of farm machinery and agri-inputs to three (3) agrarian reform beneficiaries organizations (ARBOs) to elevate and improve the quality of life of 192 agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) in the province. "These services are vital in ensuring the productivity of the farmers' land and sustainability of their livelihood," thus the message of DAR Secretary Bernie F. Cruz during the turn-over of hauling facility as a sustainable livelihood support project. He assured the ARBs that the DAR,

in coordination with the local government will help improve the livelihood of the farmer-beneficiaries in San Andres. MIMAROPA Regional Director Atty. Marvin Bernal said the initiative is part of the major crop-based block farm productivity enhancement project under the Climate Resilient Farm Productivity Support (CRFPS) project of the DAR. "We have provided these machineries to our ARBs to uplift the standard of living of the ARBOs and their members," he said. Romblon Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer Camilo Claro Pacquing disclosed that three (3) motorbike chariots and

fertilizers were awarded to the JMP Farmers & Fisherfolks Association in Pag-alad, San Andres, Mari-Norte Farmers Association in Mari-Norte, San Andres, and agrarian reform community (ARC) of Agpudlos in Agpudlos, San Andres. Pacquing said that these farm machinery will be a great help to the ARBs because it will sustain the marketing, agricultural sustainability of the lands awarded to the ARBs. Rosemella G. Gramo, manager of Mari-Norte Farmers Association expressed her gratitude to the department on behalf of their association for exerting all efforts to help the farmers and ARBs. "The chariot is important to our

members for loading of their products to the market, our barangay is seventeen (17) kilometers away to the market," she said. She said that the fertilizer provided by the DAR is a big help since they will no longer go to the town to buy fertilizers to use in their farms. The CRFPS is geared towards building the resiliency of ARCs nationwide to enhance and sustain the agricultural productivity of farmers' organizations, by providing farm machinery and livelihood activities to uplift the lives of its members.

MARCH 5

COOPERATIVES RENEW CONTRACTS TO SUPPLY AGRI-PRODUCE TO JAIL, HOSPITAL

Based from PAMRS press

LEGAZPI CITY-- Nine (9) Sorsogon-based agrarian reform beneficiaries organizations (ARBOs) recently renewed their contracts with the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) and with the Sorsogon Medical Mission Group Hospital and Health Services Cooperative (SMMGHSC), to continue providing agricultural products as part of the food supply

of the two institutions. "The renewal of contracts will ensure a steady source of income to farmer-members of the nine ARBOs for another year," Sorsogon agrarian reform chief Nida Santiago said. Under the terms, farmers will supply the institutional buyers with a year's worth of rice, vegetables, root crops, and other food necessities. The institutions, on their part, will specify what they need and pay for

the deliveries in cash. She said the BJMP and the hospital will regularly purchase ARBOs' products based on the prevailing market price. According to Santiago, the ARBOs earned more than P600,000 last year from milled rice, homemade food, and vegetables grown on their farms. "The farmers were able to meet the agricultural product requirements of the city jail, Gubat district jail,

and Irosin district jail, which included eggs, sweet potatoes, cassava, vegetables such as bottle gourd (upo), eggplant, cucumber, bitter melon (ampalaya), and stringbeans, as well as processed meats such as longganisa, tocino, and lumpia," Santiago said. She said that over 100 sacks of rice were provided by Mayon

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Farmers Association (MAFA) for hospital patients of Sorsogon Medical Mission Group Hospital aside from 10 sacks of rice per month from Sorsogon Agro-Aquatic Development Cooperative (SAADECO) and Capuy-Basud Multi-Purpose Cooperative (CABAMUCO). The tie-up is the second marketing

agreement under the Enhanced Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty (EPAHP) project of the DAR, which aims to improve the food quality in city, district, and municipality jails in Sorsogon. The three ARBOs that renewed their contracts with the BJMP were: Salvacion Farmers Development Cooperative (SAFADECO),

Capuy-Basud Multi-Purpose Cooperative (CABAMUCO), and the Judi-San Vicente Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries and Farmer Association (JUSAVARBEFA) of Gubat. The other six ARBOs which renewed their marketing contracts with SMMGHSC were: Sogoy Natural Agricultural Grower (SINAG)

and Mayon Farmers Association (MAFA) in Castilla, Sorsogon Agro-Aquatic Development Cooperative (SAADECO) and Maharlika Development Cooperative (MADECO) in Sorsogon City, and Calateo Farmers Association (CAFA), and Gubat Special ARC Farmers Association (GSARCF) in Gubat town.

MARCH 6

DAR launches “Lawyers to the Benepisyaryo” program in Romblon



Based from PAMRS press

A total of 100 members from the agrarian reform beneficiaries organization (ARBOs) of Agpudlos, Marinorte Farmers Association, and JMP Farmers Association in San Andres, Romblon, became the first beneficiaries of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR)-MIMAROPA “Lawyers to the Benepisyaryo” program in the province.

ARBOs,” Bernal said. He disclosed that the DAR lawyers will come near to the house of the ARBs so that they do need to go to the DAR provincial offices and prevent the spread of Covid-19 disease. Chief Legal Officer Atty. Javie De Jesus-Frelida said that in the town of San Andres, there is an illegal sale, transfer, lease, or any other form of conveyance by a beneficiary of the right of



DAR Secretary Bernie Cruz himself witnessed the launching of the said program in the province of Romblon which includes the conduct of information dissemination, free legal consultation, and counseling to the agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) in the area. MIMAROPA Regional Director Atty. Marvin Bernal said the DAR offices in the province noticed that it was difficult for ARBs to go directly to the DAR offices to seek legal advice on their lands so they developed the “Lawyers to the Benepisyaryo” program, where the agency’s lawyers will be the one to personally go to the ARBs to hear their grievances and problems. “We gathered lawyers from all over MIMAROPA to give legal advice to the members of the

ownership, right to use, or any usufructuary right over the land acquired by virtue of being a beneficiary. She warned the ARBs against selling the land titles awarded to them under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP). During the free consultation, some of the problems they raised included problems on the size of the land and the placing of the mohon in the area. The launching of ‘Lawyers to the Benepisyaryo’ coincided with the DAR CLOA distribution and turnover of farm machinery and fertilizer to ARBOs in the said town. “Lawyers to the Benepisyaryo,” is a DAR project that gives free legal assistance and consultations to the ARBs.

DAR CHIEF DISTRIBUTES FIRST E-TITLES TO WESTERN VISAYAS FARMERS



Based from PAMRS press

Kalibo, Aklan – A total of 179 electronic land titles (e-titles) were distributed to agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) of Western Visayas by Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Secretary Bernie Cruz under the agency’s Support to Parcelization of Lands for Individual Titling or SPLIT Project over the weekend. “The “e-titles” issued here in Ibajay, Aklan, that were made possible under the Land Registration Authority’s new computerized system, are the first e-titles distributed to our farmer-beneficiaries nationwide,” Cruz said.



He disclosed the SPLIT project intends to fast-track the land subdivision or parcelization of Collective Certificates of Land Ownership Award (CCLOAs) of about 1.368 million hectares of lands nationwide. “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. Western Visayas Regional

Director Atty. Sheila Enciso said that under the SPLIT project, the DAR would parcelize the awarded lands covered by a CCLOA. This, she said, would mean that each farmer beneficiary would be given an individual land title based on the actual area or a particular portion of land they are tilling. “The 179 e-titles distributed to one hundred sixty-one (161) ARBs are located in Aklan, Antique, Capiz, Guimaras, Iloilo, Negros Occidental 1 and Negros Occidental 2 covering a total of 249.8389 hectares of agricultural lands,” Enciso said. Enciso credited the hard work, commitment, and dedication of the DAR-Western Visayas personnel, together with the DAR-SPLIT team, partner-agencies, and ARBs for the smooth implementation of the project. Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II Ma. Teresa Valencia said that the project resolved conflict in allocating and delineating lands from the CCLOAs issued in the earlier phase of the program. She disclosed that in the province of Aklan, the 89 e-tiles or Certificates of Land Ownership Award (CLOAs) distributed to seventy-eight (78) ARBs covering a total of 169 hectares of agricultural lands, are broken down into 13 e-tiles from Feliciano and 76 from Oquendo, Balete. “This move will give leverage to farmers to freely decide on how to till their lands for optimum production,” Valencia said.



DAR to turn over P3.7-M irrigation project in CamNorte

Based from PAMRS press

LEGAZPI CITY—The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) will soon turn over a P3.7-million communal irrigation system (CIS) to a farmer-irrigators association in Camarines Norte to boost rice production here.

Camarines Norte agrarian reform chief Camilo A. Del Monte said the project, funded under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) in partnership with the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) - Irrigation Management Office (IMO), will irrigate over 40 hectares of rice land, benefiting over 60 rice farmers, including agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) who are members of the Batobalani Paracale Farmers Irrigators Association, Inc. Del Monte said in a statement that the initial inspection of the diversion and canal lining works in Barangay Batobalani in Paracale town was conducted last February citing that the 966-meter lined canal was constructed in addition to the existing 1,300-meter unlined canals. Meanwhile, Engr. Carol L. Raola, acting Provincial Manager of the NIA-IMO, said that the facility is meant to help rice farmers in the community get more harvests and raise their farm income.

“The irrigation facility’s construction began in May 2021 and was completed by the end of the year. The facility will be formally turned over to the farmers’ association after the NIA completes its final inspection,” she added.

Elsa E. Quimson, president of the irrigators’ association, said that with the CIS, they intend to add another cropping season and raise their average yields from 60 cavans per hectare to 80 cavans per hectare.

She also vowed to take care of the facility, which would benefit their community by providing timely and reliable irrigation service.

“We would benefit greatly from this project because one of our primary concerns is irrigation. We had solely used rainwater to irrigate our rice fields, which resulted in a minimal yield. However, water from the Submakin River may now reach our farms because of this DAR initiative,” Quimson added.

DAR TURNS OVER PHP 2.7 M FARM MACHINES AND EQUIPMENT TO AKLAN FARMERS

Based from PAMRS press

The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in Aklan has turned over Php2.7-million worth of farm machinery and equipment (FME) to selected agrarian reform beneficiaries organizations (ARBOs) in Western Aklan District to help boost their economic condition, improve the timeliness of agricultural operations and enhance market access.

Eligene Tayco, chairman of Aparicio Agrarian Reform Cooperative, located in



Aparicio, Ibajay thanked the national government for the farm machinery and equipment they have been receiving.

“DAR and the national government have continuously helped us in our marketing activity through the use of common service facilities in the delivery of our products to the market,” Tayco said.

Agrarian Reform Secretary Bernie F. Cruz with Western District of Aklan Congressman Teodorico T. Haresco Jr. officially turned over the FME in Naisud covered court, Barangay Naisud, Ibajay, Aklan.

“I hope you will take good care of the farm machinery and equipment we have provided for the benefit of all members of the cooperative,” Cruz said.

Regional Director Atty. Sheila B. Enciso said the provision of FME

amounting to Php2,698,688.00 was made possible through the efforts made by Aklan 2nd district Representative Haresco, with the project sourced out from the Climate Resilient Farm Productivity Support (CRFPS).

“The project aims to increase agricultural productivity and household income of the 950 agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) and sustain the ARBOs’ marketing activities thru the use of common service facilities in delivering their products to the market,” she said.

Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II Ma. Teresa C. Valencia said the turned-over FME includes four units of delivery/cargo tricycles, two (2) units of mobile rice mills, one (1) unit of rice reaper mills/harvester, and two

(2) units of irrigation pumps.

Valencia said the FME would be utilized by ARB-members of San Jose ARBs Association, San Jose, Ibajay, Aparicio Agrarian Reform Cooperative, Aparicio, Ibajay, BENTCH Agrarian Reform Cooperative, Nazareth, Buruanga, Rosario Multi-Purpose Cooperative, Rosario, Agdugayan ARBs Association, Agdugayan, Ibajay, Rizal ARBs Association, Rizal, Ibajay, Rizal ARBs Association, Rizal, Ibajay, Agdugayan ARBs Association, Agdugayan, Ibajay, and Tagas Farmers MPC, Tagas, Tangalan.

“The FME was provided to boost the farm productions of the farmers and to ensure that the ARBs’ farmlands would become high yielding enough to sustain their financial needs,” Valencia said.

DAR BUILDS P6.8-M BRIDGE IN STA. MARIA TOWN, ILOCOS SUR

Based from PAMRS press

Transporting farm-produced products is now easier for agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) after the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has turned over a 34.2 linear meter bridge worth P6.8 million to the town of Sta. Maria in Ilocos Sur.

DAR Secretary Bernie Cruz said the bridge, which was completed last December 18, 2021, was constructed under the Tulay ng Pangulo Para sa Kaunlarang Pang-Agraryo (TPKP project), funded by France, monitored by DAR, and implemented by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

Cruz emphasized that good governance and sustainability are important for the project to last a long time.

“We always remind you that at the end of each construction, you will be the one who will be in charge of the project. We know that it will help the community in the progress



of the town,” Cruz said. “Preserve and keep the project in good condition so that it will benefit even the next generations,” he added.

DAR Undersecretary for Foreign-Assisted Projects Virginia Orogo, mentioned the presence of the Macati agrarian reform beneficiaries’ organizations in the area with 287 ARBs whose members will greatly benefit from the project.

“The bridge will benefit not only the farmers but also the more than

1,500 residents of the area,” Orogo said.

Municipal Mayor Brigido Camarillo, Jr. expressed his thanks to DAR and DPWH as the bridge will not only benefit farmers and residents in transporting their products to market centers but also improve the transportation and mobility in the locality for the commuting public. Punong Barangay Bernard Peralta, who is also a farmer, said the river overflows when it rains, and the road will be impossible to cross.