

# AGRARIAN

DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM DIURNAL • ENGLISH EDITION • APRIL 2022

APRIL 1

## Greener pasture is within farmer's grasp with DAR's microfinance project



**Feature Story by Agnes R. Torino and Marte L. Pabalay**

Of the tides and instabilities of farming, small farmers look elsewhere for greener pastures to meet their basic needs. One of them was Arma Tingkang Malunes, 42 years old, who considered employment abroad as a balm that could soothe their ailing livelihood. Nine (9) years after Arma's marriage to Marcelo Despojo Malunes, she left him and decided to work in Singapore to help sustain their growing family. As a domestic helper in 2009, she had been earning more or less P 20,000 a month to support her family's daily subsistence, as well as for her savings.

Months passed by, Arma realized that the comfort of her income wasn't enough to compensate for her homesickness and anxiety being away from home.

"Being with my family and nurturing them is my priority in life. I was optimistic that with the little savings that I had and the determination I possessed, I could earn the same amount or more when I return home," Arma disclosed.

In 2011, Arma decided to return home and used her savings to start a Sari-Sari store.

Being an agrarian reform beneficiary and a member of the Tinagacan Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Cooperative (TARBC), located in barangay

upper Biangan, Malulngon, Sarangani province, has unlocked many opportunities for their family. While operating their small sari-sari store, her family became the recipient of a Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) – Community-managed Potable Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (CPWASH) project in 2012, where they received five (5) heads of piglets, provided under the program. They also added two (2) more heads from their own pockets to have them grown as swine for their starting piggery.

As they diligently managed their livelihood, another opportunity came when Arma qualified in the TARBC microfinance project

Dagdag Kabuhayan component in 2013, in which she received additional capital for her sari-sari store and piggery.

"With the help of my husband, we applied the entrepreneurial principles we learned from the cooperative, paving the way for our sari-sari store to flourish and enabling us to meet our daily needs and sustain the operating expenses of our piggery," she said.

Arma's integrity as a loan borrower provided her the opportunity to renew anytime her TARBC microfinance loan. Presently she is on her 18th cycle of renewal. Thus, she was able to add more items to

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sell in her store that consistently increased her sales. “My husband diligently managed the piggery. Every two (2) cycles since then, one (1) sow was added. At this time, we have a total of five (5) swine and one (1) boar. The piggery has augmented our family’s income. All of these helped us support our three (3) children – one (1) in grade 11, and the other in the first year and second year of college. All of them are studying in General Santos City, requiring a bigger budget for their

fare,” she proudly said. The provident living that Arma’s family enjoys was evident as every time their relatives visited them, they would say that their house was getting bigger. Arma divulged that being a cooperative member has indeed many opportunities. “The TARBC microfinancing freed us from the debilitating chain of loan sharks. In addition, I am receiving a considerable salary as a Cashier of the cooperative.”

“The DAR’s microfinance project had strengthened my partnership with my husband in making a living and providing the necessities of life for our family. Because of it, I can now maintain a manageable schedule that allowed me to fulfill my responsibilities as a wife and a mother to my children. I realized that with the DAR’s help and guidance, the greener pasture is not far, but is just within our grasp,” Arma concluded.

**APRIL 2**

**DAR RECOGNIZES WOMEN AS PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD SECURITY**



Quezon City -- Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Secretary Bernie Cruz recognized the role of women as partners in development and food security during the closing ceremony of the National Women’s Month with the theme “We Make Change for Women.

“We look up, respect, and acknowledged women for their various contributions in our lives and the role they play to develop our farmers,” Cruz said.

Pinagdanlayan Rural Improvement Club Multi-purpose Cooperative manager Cristina Quijano-Generoso from Dolores Quezon shared their success story as agrarian reform beneficiaries and disclosed the processing of their ginger-based products remains an inspiration to all small cooperatives in the area.

“We grow our own ginger and turmeric. In this way we have an assurance that we will have enough supply of ginger and turmeric for our manufacturing and added income for our farming families,” Generoso said.

During the event, Cruz led the announcement and awarding of winners for the trade fair, highest sales, best in donor country national costume, and the TikTok challenge contest.

Five regions participated in the trade fair, Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), Region 1, Region 2, Region 3, CALABARZON, and MIMAROPA.

The best booth was awarded to Region 2 garnering 88.89%, second is CALABARZON with 86.67%, third is Region III and MIMAROPA with 80.00%, and 4th CAR with

75.76%. Criteria for judging include creativity and uniqueness of the booth, the applicability of the theme, and creative display of products for selling or promotion.

The trade fair has registered a total sale of Php480,308.20 displaying locally affordable but world-class quality products of the agrarian reform beneficiaries organization from March 28 to April 1, 2022.

CALABARZON got the highest sales amounting to Php170,137.00, second is Region 3 with Php153,897.00 and third is Region 1 with the total sale of Php52,700.00.

Winners for the international costume of DAR donor countries include a Cagayan Region representative as grand prize, Support Services Office group 2nd prize – both a costume from India and Foreign Assisted Special Projects Office (FASPO) group 3rd prize – wearing an Italian costume.

Of the 44 DAR offices nationwide, that participated in the Tiktok challenge, Negros Occidental 2 won first place, second is Davao del Norte and third is Negros Occidental 1.

Aside from the trade fair and the contests held, the DAR also conducted a week-long health and wellness program aimed to inspire and contribute to promoting gender equality and women empowerment,

The closing ceremony was also graced by Quezon City Councilor Mayen Juico and other officials and employees from the DAR central, Cagayan Region, Central Luzon, MIMAROPA and CALABARZON offices.

**DAR, CEBU PROVINCIAL GOVT TO ENSURE THE PROVINCE'S FOOD SUFFICIENCY**



Cebu Provincial Capitol, - Agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) in this province received certificates of commitment from the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and the provincial government through its Enhanced Countryside Development (ECD) program to provide them access to financing programs on crop production, livestock, poultry, and farm infrastructure.

DAR Secretary Bernie Cruz and Cebu Governor Gwendolyn Garcia, on Friday, April 1, led the distribution of the certificates to farmer-members of agrarian reform beneficiaries organizations from the towns of Asturias, Tabogon, Pinamungajan, and Barili to ramp up their food production and help in attaining the province’s food sufficiency.

Cruz said the government has various programs to ensure food security, however, this program would guarantee food sufficiency.

“In food security, the objective is to ensure that there is food that we can eat so that will survive. In food sufficiency, our objective is to have enough food available so that we can eat three times a day. And this is much better,” he explained.

The Secretary added that with food sufficiency the country would stop importing food products from other countries.

Cebu has around 35,544 hectares of land that are occupied by 31,590 ARBs. The DAR would select who are qualified and deserving farmers to receive assistance from the program.

Governor Garcia said food sufficiency requires viable financing support, as well as involvement and cooperation of farmers in the food production activities.

She said that ECD would help negate the negative impact brought by the pandemic.

“This program would boost the productivity of the lands awarded by the DAR to the farmers. We would like to thank our partner financing institutions for extending their service to help us realize this program,” she said.

The financing institutions involved in the program include the Land Bank of the Philippines, Development Bank of the Philippines, and Philippine Veterans Bank.

## P8-M TULAY NG PANGULO PROJECT TO BENEFIT ILOCANO FARMERS

Tagudin, Ilocos Sur -The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) led the groundbreaking of a bridge worth P8-million that is set to benefit more than 3,534 farmers and residents here in Ilocos Sur.

Ilocos Regional Director Primo Lara laid the capsule for the groundbreaking that jumpstarted the construction of the bridge that aims to link the agrarian reform communities (ARCs) to the economic mainstream and open up development potentials in the area.

Lara said the construction of Cabulanglangan Bridge implemented under the Tulay ng Pangulo para sa Kaunlarang Pang-agraryo (TPKP) in barangay Cabulanglangan, Tagudin, Ilocos Sur, is part of DAR Secretary Bernie Cruz' commitment to respond to the needs of agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) to ease the transportation of the farmers' produce from their farms to the



market.

"The project with a total cost of P7,830,585.25 is being implemented in partnership with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), is expected to be finished after six (6)

months," Lara noted.

He said the 28.8-meter single-span double-lane bridge will benefit the ARBs and residents of three adjacent barangays of Calulanglangan, Pallogan, and Ambalayay.

"The projects that link the road network within the barangays have led to the improvement of the economic welfare of more than a thousand ARBs in the farming communities," he said.

The ARBs expressed their excitement over the construction of the bridge that will link their barangay to other neighboring villages and reduce their travel time and cost of transportation.

The TPKP project aims to promote rural development in ARCs, enhance productivity and income through reduced marketing costs, and alleviate poverty among ARBs and agrarian reform areas.



## Farmer's org in Naga City earns over P500k in vegetable sales

NAGA CITY— Farmers here are happy earning extra income from their community vegetable garden they have established through the assistance of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR).

The Panicuason Farmers Association (PFA), with 65 members from Panicuason, Naga City earned a total of P 501,762 in gross income from their vegetable production in 2021.

Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer Maria Gracia Sales said that the cooperative was able to achieve such high sales through the interventions made by the DAR with the Enhanced Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty (EPAHP) program. In support of the government's food security and hunger mitigation programs, EPAHP establishes community gardens in the agrarian reform communities.

Sales said members regularly sold a variety of vegetables all year-round last year to market and institutional

buyers. The association also delivers to a consolidator in Ocampo town, who in turn supplies the vegetables to the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP).

"There is an NGO (non-government organization) that regularly buys in bulk and distributes it for free to the public. Sometime in 2020, PFA also supplied vegetables to Mother Seton Hospital, the most modern hospital in Naga City today," she added.

PFA Manager Rolando Cruzata also said some of the organization's members buy the harvests from their colleagues and sell them individually at the Naga City People's Market and in their own sari-sari stores.

Cruzata said the association is confident in sustaining the strong sales since they have already established a community garden of their own. As natural farming practitioners and advocates, their community garden, which is actively managed by 15 members,

is teeming with vegetable varieties such as water spinach (kangkong), eggplants, tomatoes, string beans, and chayote (sayote), among others. According to Cruzata, 50 percent of the net sales from the communal garden go to PFA, and the remaining 50 percent is shared by 15 members.

Cruzata explained that apart from the communal garden, other members are also growing their own food on their diversified farms. They sell their vegetables within the community, and the surplus are taken to the market. They have also established a group of "suki" at local eateries in the city.

"It's different when an agency like DAR watches over or monitors us. We work harder to have a good harvest," he added.

PFA President Eduardo Brosola said the DAR's support has helped them greatly since it has enabled members to get a much-needed extra source of income since the onslaught of the pandemic.

This year, the DAR Camarines Sur II provincial office gifted the PFA various vegetable garden variety seeds, seedlings, and other gardening tools as a token of appreciation for their efforts and commitment in continuing to develop the association's community farm and members' individual home gardens.

The association received one unit weighing scale, four heavy-duty vegetable crates, two tarpaulins with sterling grommets, five hand trowels, two pruning shears, six pouches of each seedling like eggplant, bitter melon (ampalaya), okra, squash, bottle gourd (upo), chili, upland kangkong (water spinach), pechay, papaya, and tomato, and two pouches of cucumber seeds.

"This is a big help to us. We really need the seedlings and additional gardening tools. DAR's assistance was very helpful. Thank you very much," Brosola said.

## DAR INSTALLS FARMER-BENEFICIARIES IN CEBU



DAANBANTAYAN, Cebu-- Thirteen (13) agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) here will finally get to cultivate their government-awarded land after the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) eventually completed their installation last week. “We are very happy that after such a long time, the sacrifices we made have finally paid off. We are very grateful for the government for making it all happen,” said Eulogia Tumabini, one of the ARBs installed. The installation of ARBs to their CARP (Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program)-awarded land is the final step in the land acquisition and distribution (LAD) process under the more than two decades-old land program that started in 1987 under the administration of Corazon C. Aquino. The covered landholding was formerly owned by the Medellin Farms Inc. It covers 32.6 hectares, located in Barangay Dalingging in Daanbantayan.

Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer Louie Naranjo who led the installation activity, reminded the farmer-beneficiaries to make the land productive. “One of my favorite activities in DAR is the ARB installation, this is an ultimate proof, signifying and ensuring the farmers own and possess the land they have been tilling for a long time. I encouraged you to take care of the land. Do not pawn or sell it. Make it productive for your family and for the next generation of your family,” he said. Legal Officer Edgar Guanzon conducted an orientation on the ARBs rights, duties, and responsibilities. He encouraged the farmers to perform their duties and obligations to pay taxes and amortizations of the land. DAR-Cebu Sheriff Herman Capule, read the writ of installation to the ARBs, before taking possession of the awarded land, which was covered under the Compulsory Acquisition of CARP.

## DAR INSTALLS NEWLY-APPOINTED PERSONNEL IN DAVAO REGION



The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in Davao Region recently installed newly appointed and promoted third level officials, who were the last set of appointees of President Rodrigo Duterte, and the second level employees who were the agency’s management’s top choices to help in the intensified implementation of the land reform program. Regional Director Joseph Orilla conveyed his sincerest gratitude to all appointed and promoted officials and employees who have worked hard with the DAR region’s vision and mission at their core. “I have faith and high regard in all of you, as we sustain our deep commitment and generous support that made us a performing region. We brought significant changes, best practices, and success stories. How I wish to continue all of these even beyond this administration,” he said. The six (6) third level officials installed in Davao Region include Assistant Regional Director Melchor Jamora of DAR Regional Office, Provincial Agrarian Reform Adjudicator Atty. Glenn Pobre of DAR Adjudication Board Region XI, Provincial Agrarian Reform

Program Officer (PARO) II Zaldy Arenas of DAR-Davao Occidental, PARPO I Remedios Magsayo of Davao del Norte, PARPO I Ellordo Gualberto of Davao de Oro and PARPO I Brenda Mendoza of DARPO Davao Oriental. Meanwhile, seven (7) second level employees were installed including Provincial Chief Administrative Officer Dennis Evangelista of Davao City, Municipal Agrarian Reform Program Officer Lexano Maala of Baguio and Marilog, Davao City, Regional Chief Administrative Officer Mary Jacqueline Elid, SAO Sandra Acain, Senior Agrarian Reform Program Officer Jean Dumandan, Chief Agrarian Reform Program Officer Rosario Maala, and Agrarian Reform Program Officer II Janessa Ripalda. Assistant Regional Director Melchor Jamora emphasized the necessity of a “One DAR XI team, one family, one solid community” where a culture of cooperation is at work. “I am counting on the renewed commitment and support of everyone in future undertakings in order to maintain an effective and efficient workforce,” he said.

discussions, we are expecting that an administrative order will be signed and issued by our Secretary soon, in which the DAR shall assume the responsibility of handling the field investigation process that is currently being performed by our LandBank partners,” Villapando said. He said the activity is designed to be more than the usual joint field investigation, but will serve as a mentoring session to pass on the necessary knowledge and skills—from LBP to DAR personnel—in evaluating a property. Villapando said that field investigations are a crucial part in the land valuation process to determine the necessary data for the appraisal of landholdings, which, in turn, is a key activity for determining landowners’ compensation as

well as amortization schedules of agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs). “Over the years, we have accomplished much in our land distribution efforts primarily because of the huge help from Landbank. We are very grateful to LBP-AOC IV, headed by Maria Magdalena Espiritu, and the Valuation and Field Services Unit, headed by Noel Fruto, for being our ever-reliable and valued partner,” Villapando added. Benefitting from the Landbank mentorship were officials and personnel from DAR Quezon II Land Tenure Improvement Division headed by Chief Veronica Otcharan, who said: “Hopefully, we will be able to fill-in the big shoes that Landbank personnel will be turning over to us.”

## APRIL 6

## LANDBANK QUEZON II TRAINS DAR TO ASSESS AND VALUE LANDS COVERED UNDER CARP



The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in partnership with the Land Bank of the Philippines Agrarian Operations Center IV (LBP-AOC) in Quezon II recently conducted an on-site technical training on land assessment during the synchronized Joint Field Investigation (JFI) and geotagging activity to determine the necessary data for the appraisal of landholdings covered under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP). JFI team from LBP-AOC IV Romeo Honrade and Vicente Mina

spearheaded the field assessment of nine (9) landholdings covering several municipalities under the jurisdiction of Quezon II, totaling 105.6320 hectares and simultaneously taught the DAR field personnel on how to properly evaluate a property that is subject for coverage under the CARP. Quezon II Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II Engr. Cornelio P. Villapando described the activity as “hitting two birds with one stone”. “Based on recent top-level



## DAR distributes computerized land titles in Central Luzon

San Fernando, Pampanga - The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in Central Luzon region distributed, on Wednesday, April 06, 2022, its first computerized individual land titles (c-titles) to agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) who were previously awarded with lands under collective certificates of land ownership award (CCLOAs). The c-titles were distributed through the Support to Parcelization of Lands for Individual Titling (SPLIT) Project. Parcelization is a process of subdividing and determining the exact metes and bounds of the areas covered under the Comprehensive

Agrarian Reform Program (CARP), which also involves the awarded lots to ARBs in a CCLOA. DAR Secretary Bernie F. Cruz led the distribution of 318 c-titles, covering 455 hectares of agricultural lands, to 256 ARBs to strengthen their land tenure security and property rights to their lands. "We subdivided the lands not to separate you from each other but to secure your ownership of your lands and inspire you more to make it more productive," he said. Cruz added that by having their own land title they could pass their lands to the next generations to come.

The distributed lands are from the provinces of Pampanga with 123.81 hectares; Zambales, 119.16 has.; Nueva Ecija, 90.45 has.; Bulacan, 53.56 has.; Tarlac, 33.75 has.; Aurora, 25 has.; and Bataan, 9.3 has. DAR Central Luzon Director James Arsenio Ponce said this event was the first set of c-titles in the region, and in the coming years, around 30,000 hectares of agricultural lands would be subdivided to more or less 17,000 ARBs. "The awarding of c-titles best demonstrates the Secretary's firm resolve to finish the SPLIT project on time, which is until 2024. Despite

the tedious process of validating their lands and resolving various land issues and disputes among the farmers, we would ensure a fair and just issuance of new, individual, and computerized land titles to these ARBs," he said. Larry Obinario, an ARB from Aurora province, thanked the DAR for their continuous support to small farmers like him. "The titles that we received are a realization of our dreams. We promise that we will persevere in enriching our farms," he said.

### APRIL 8

## PISO-PISO TO PHP200-MILLION: MEMOIRS OF A FARMER



### Feature Story by Rejel Guarifia

Comfortably seated on a monoblock chair, Tiyo Badong's aged but still sparkling eyes glow as he reminisced with pride about the place where he grew up and built his foundation, his family, and probably where he would like to be when his well-lived life comes to an end. Tiyo Badong, whose full name is Salvador Flores Dugan Sr., is a 78-year-old agrarian reform beneficiary (ARB) from Maharlika Highway in Salvacion, Sorsogon City. "I may be stuck in this place but it's my choice and I had a lot of adventures and achievements here. I was a witness as to how this small barangay became progressive and I played my role in helping our people, especially the Salvacion Farmers Development Cooperative (SAFADECO), grow from what it is

today," he proudly said. Tiyo Badong recalled that he became an ARB in June 1997 when he received his certificate of land ownership award for a 3,212 square meter agricultural land from the estate of Herminia Peralta, located in Salvacion, West District. With this tract of land, he planted his roots and made memories that he cherished forever. "I built my home there and started to establish myself by planting 30 coconuts and fruit-bearing trees. I never left Salvacion to explore as I relied on my awarded land while I served as a Barangay Councilor for three terms," he exclaimed. The land awarded to Tiyo Badong and his colleagues is part of the 10,1899 hectares parcel of the Peralta estate. The area is very strategically located in the heart of Barangay Salvacion which is

traversed by the Maharlika highway. Tiyo Badong said he was a father, a husband, a leader, a follower, a farmer, and a cooperative member. A role he assumed that molded him into what he is today. He was very pleased with how a very small organization of farmers that was organized in 1992 has now more or less Php200 million worth of assets. "In 1992, I was elected as treasurer of PAG-URUPOD cooperative, the now SAFADECO. We formed as an association of ARBs of Hacienda Pacheco in that same year. It had an initial membership of 16 during its registration with the Department of Labor and Employment," he said. He was also in charge of being the first caretaker of the organization's first business, a small sari-sari store that sold household goods like rice, sugar, coffee, and other commodities that were the basic needs of the people, which was strategically placed near Barangay Salvacion's chapel. "We were able to help small copra farmers and other members of the community by making available their household needs without going to the town proper. During these early years, we also bought copra from farmers, which we sold to other traders," he shared. He remembered that for several years, they have sustained their simple enterprise but their income was just too small for the group members and their families. In their

several years of operation, they have just earned more or less Php 20,000.00. "With the help of my colleagues, we thought of every way to improve our operations. And worked doubly hard to make our coop succeed," he said. Tiyo Badong boasted that he played various roles in SAFADECO – aside from his job as a treasurer and store caretaker, he also took part as a member of its committees such as Audit and Election, until he selflessly served as the cooperative's Chairperson in 2016 up to 2018. "Modesty aside, they said that I played an important role in the development of the coop through the years. As they said SAFADECO will never be SAFADECO today without Tiyo Badong," he beamed. Tiyo Badong disclosed that he and his colleagues in the association that time have tried several schemes just to earn additional working capital for their operations. "We even started the famous, piso-piso savings challenge. This is when all members saved one peso every day to earn additional funding for our sari-sari store and copra trading enterprise," he said. He also shared a funny trivia that a bottle of gin can be exchanged for a peso at that time as some of the members who can't bring one peso were given the option to bring with them a bottle of gin, instead.

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“I would collect the bottles, clean them up, and in some instances would use them to repack cooking oil for retailing. At other times, I sold them to a junk collector in exchange for a meager fee. So, the rolling piso is not alone. It was accompanied by a rolling bottle of gin that we throw away after using,” he exclaimed. That’s the beginning of their success, they were established as a micro-cooperative in 2001, then propelled an enormous leap of opportunities building unique and dynamic goodwill that led to amassing millions of assets, creating hundreds of meaningful employments, and organizing activities to give back to the community and the environment. “In 2001, we registered with the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) and changed our name from Pag-urupod to SAFADECO and

in 2012, our coop was one of the 12 agrarian reform beneficiaries organizations (ARBOs) who benefited from the launching of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR)-NATCCO-Microfinance Innovations in Cooperatives in Agrarian Reform Areas (MICOOP@ARAs),” he said. The NATCCO or National Confederation of Cooperatives (NATCCO) aimed to enable selected relatively weak agrarian reform community cooperatives to provide bank-like micro-financial services to the ARBs and the whole community through the Build-Operate-Adopt-Transfer scheme. “I am proud that our simple gestures and practices may have contributed ripples of change for SAFADECO to achieve what it has achieved today,” Tiyo Badong said proudly.

Jumping off as a barangay-level ARBO, it is now considered a large cooperative with more than Php200-million assets that offers a wide variety of services which include consumer stores, copra trading enterprise, money remittance, savings and credit, to name a few. It has around 10,000 members all over Sorsogon, Albay and Camarines Sur. “We started as a small sari-sari store in Barangay Salvacion. Now, it has seven (7) fully-furnished branches in the City of Sorsogon, the municipalities of Gubat, Irosin, Bulan, Castilla, Pilar and Daraga in Albay. The prospect is to open new branches and satellite offices in Albay and Camarines Sur in 2022,” he revealed. Despite their success, Tiyo Badong reflected that without the support of DAR this cooperative and its

members might not be successful in its endeavors. “I am living proof that DAR improves the lives of the farmers. With their various support services, such as credit and financing assistance, agri training, farm inputs and machinery, among others, that were provided to us and the hard work and perseverance in cultivating our farms, me and my wife Flor, 76 years old, raised six (6), successful children,” he said proudly. As he sat back in his chair relishing the life he had, Tiyo Badong muttered: “I was respected by the farmers and community because of my being an ardent agrarian reform advocate. And as long as I can, I will always support my fellowmen through the help of the DAR.”

## DAR HOLDS DIALOGUE WITH PANGASINAN ARBs ON LAND PARCELIZATION

The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), led by Secretary Bernie F. Cruz, held a dialogue, on April 7, 2022, with the representatives of agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) from various towns of Pangasinan to discuss issues and policies in connection with the implementation of Support to Parcelization of Lands for Individual Titling (SPLIT) Project. SPLIT project is the process of subdividing and determining the exact metes and bounds of the areas covered under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program, which involves agricultural lands awarded to ARBs in a collective certificate of land ownership award (CCLOA). Cruz said there were various land



conflicts, issues, and concerns raised during the validation of lands to be parcelized. “We would immediately address these problems and come up with fair

and just resolutions,” he said. The Secretary said that with the collective efforts of the involved agencies, such as the Registry of Deeds and Land Registration

Authority, the distribution of individual land titles of the ARBs would happen very soon. The awarding of individual land titles to ARBs would strengthen their land tenure security. Foreign Assisted and Special Projects Office Undersecretary Virginia Orogo said the DAR would make some adjustments to policy based on the result of their dialogues with the ARBs. “This activity is meant to expedite the implementation of subdividing your land so that we could fast-track the issuance of the ARBs land titles,” she said. The activity was also attended by World Bank representatives, which funded the SPLIT project.

APRIL 9

## DAR, WB MISSION CONDUCTS ASSESSMENT ON POSSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL EFFECTS OF SPLIT PROJECT



ILOILO CITY-- The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and World Bank Mission has conducted the second batch of the three-day environmental and social assessment consultation workshop for implementers of the Support to Parcelization of Lands for Individual Titling (SPLIT) Project agency. Undersecretary for Foreign Assisted and Special Project Office (FASPO) Virginia N. Orogo said the project aims to improve the security of tenure and strengthen

the property rights of agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) through the subdivision of CLOAs previously issued collectively by the agency. “The activity focuses on assessing and identifying the project’s possible environmental and social risks,” she said. Orogo, with Assistant Secretary for Legal Affairs Office and Head Executive Assistant Atty. Ma. Celestina M. Tam, Western Visayas Regional Director Atty. Shiela Enciso and WB Mission representatives

conducted a community consultation activity where farmers were interviewed on potential impacts on social, environmental, and labor-related risks. During the consultation, SPLIT implementers re-oriented the farmers on what the SPLIT project is all about. They also explained the basic laws, rules, and procedures before they can have their individual land titles. Among those who participated in the community consultation, Dioscoro Rodrigues of Barangay Sohoton, Barotac Nuevo, in Iloilo who received their collective certificate of land ownership award (CLOA) as co-owner of the 131,826 square meter property in the year 2000 from

DAR. As an agrarian reform beneficiary (ARB), he is eager to receive an individual land title that he can hand over to his children. Another ARB, Myrna Binobo from Barangay Palaciawan, Barotac Nuevo, Iloilo said: “After receiving our individual title, I will try to pay the amortization to the Landbank and property tax to the local government.” The community consultations were conducted in three batches in Barangays Guintas, Palaciawan, and Sohoton in Barotac Nuevo, Iloilo. At the end of each consultation, the gathered data will be presented to the teams of SPLIT implementers, and civil society organizations for a workshop on these data.



## CEBU FARMERS RECEIVE STARTER FUNDS, START URBAN VEGETABLE FARMING

MEDELLIN, Cebu—To boost farmers' income, the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) gave funds and farming starter kits to a farmers' organization here to help them start a sustainable livelihood project.

Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer Lilian B. Guanzon said the Don Virgilio Gonzales Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Association, a DAR-assisted organization, received the aid through the DAR's 'Buhay sa Gulay' project.

"We launched the 'Buhay sa Gulay' project last December, but it was not immediately implemented as scheduled because of typhoon Odette," said Guanzon.

The organization was provided with starter kits consisting of vegetable seeds, fertilizers, and gardening equipment worth P63,000.00.

The project site is the 5,000-square-meter land of agrarian reform beneficiaries in barangay Don Virgilio, Medellin, Cebu.

"The project aims to promote the importance of high-value farming among agrarian reform beneficiaries to encourage them to have an alternative source of income by planting and selling fresh vegetables," Guanzon added.

Fernando Jumao-as, Chairman of Don Virgilio Gonzales Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Association, expressed appreciation to the DAR for the vegetable seeds and garden equipment they received from the agency and promised to



sustain the project.

"We have planted okra, string beans, pepper, and pechay. We will have our very first harvest by the end of April. We are very excited," Jumao-as said.

Marmee Padul of the Program Beneficiaries Development Division of DAR said the project is implemented under the agency's Farm Business School, a program for farmers to effectively manage their farm produce and optimize their profitability.

Padul challenged the farmer-members to put into practice what they have learned from Farm Business School for their crops and farms to flourish.

The Don Virgilio Gonzales ARB Association, with 88 members, was organized in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## DAR distributes computerized land titles to Pangasinense farmers



Provincial Capitol of Lingayen, Pangasinan – The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) distributed, over the weekend, the first computerized individual land titles (c-titles) of Pangasinan through the Support to Parcelization of Lands for Individual Titling (SPLIT) Project, the agency's thrust in subdividing and determining the exact metes and bounds of the areas previously awarded via collective certificates of land ownership award (CCLOAs), which was covered under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

The c-titles were awarded to 94 agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) from the towns of Agno, Dasol, Bolinao, Mabini, Sual, Labrador, Alcala, Umingan, Rosales, Balungao, San Manuel, Pozzorubio and Anda. The c-titles cover a total of 94.4 hectares of agricultural lands from various towns, which were previously awarded to the ARBs under the CCLOAs.



Foreign Assisted and Special Projects Office Undersecretary Virginia Orogo said this project of issuing individual land titles to farmers would encourage them to cultivate their lands more and double their agricultural productions.

"Now that you have your own titles, the DAR will focus on support services that will lead to a sustainable rural development. Let us work together and help each other so that we will attain the agricultural industrialization of our country," she said.

The SPLIT project is being implemented in 78 provinces and in 15 regions. Since its implementation in the province last March 2021, up to March 31, 2022, DAR Pangasinan has validated landholdings for parcelization covering 9,093.25 hectares, benefitting 5,935 ARBs.

DAR Ilocos region Assistant Regional Director Maria Ana Francisco disclosed that since they are in close coordination with the Registry of Deeds and Land Registration Authority, the flow of issuing c-titles would be processed smoothly.

"This milestone is the first of many in Pangasinan, particularly in strengthening the land tenure security of our ARBs," she said.

Meanwhile, Pangasinan Governor Amado Espino III advised the farmers to take good care of their lands as the provincial government would link arms with the DAR to make their farms productive.

"These lands are for your family and the next generation to come. Do not sell it because we have plans to enrich your lands and improve your livelihood," Espino said.

## FARMER-MEMBERS OF 28 COOPERATIVES IN CAMSUR TO GET SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SKILLS TRAINING FROM DAR AND TESDA



LEGAZPI CITY— Around twenty-eight (28) agrarian reform beneficiary organizations (ARBOs) in Camarines Sur will undergo free training on the repair and preventative maintenance of farm tools and equipment.

DAR Bicol Regional Director Rodrigo O. Realubit said the training is aimed at helping farmers' organizations extend the life of their farming machinery and thus keep their production good.

The training is a collaboration between the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), and other government agencies.

The scholarship is the result of a DAR forged partnership for a mechanization skills enhancement program with the following government agencies, TESDA, the Department of Agriculture (DA), the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), the Provincial Agrarian Reform Coordinating Committee (PARCCOM), the Provincial Agriculture and Fishery Council (PAFC), and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR).

The joint initiative, dubbed "Sertifikadong Mekaniko sa Lambang Paraoma asin Parasirang Organisado," aims to improve the abilities of ARBOs' machinery operators and technicians. The scholarship program has also added those

involved in the fishing sector.

Realubit hailed TESDA's scholarship program as a great opportunity for ARBOs to learn how to properly maintain their equipment and therefore avoid paying a technician to repair it.

"While the DAR and other partner agencies provide the farmers' organizations with farm inputs and machinery, TESDA, on the other hand, will train them on small engine repairs so they know how to operate, maintain, and fix these machines and equipment in case of damage," Realubit said.

"Right now, they lack expertise in farm machinery repairs and maintenance, which resulted in many farm tools given by the DAR and other agencies going to waste or rotting completely when they break down because most organizations do not know what to do with the machines or tools awarded to them," he said.

TESDA Regional Director Andrew A. Bido, who led the ceremonial signing of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), said that the program will benefit over 100 organizations in the agriculture and fishing sectors. However, 50 of them, represented by their machine operators and technicians, would be prioritized in the first batch of training.

"This program is not just a classroom environment. This is about our scholars learning the skills that would give them a better understanding of machine parts, repairs, overhauls, tuning up, and maintenance, and others," Bido said.

Under the program, scholars will attend training for 82 days beginning April 18 and will get a daily stipend of PHP160.

"We will provide free lodging to trainees from distant locations at TESDA in Pili, Camarines Sur," he added.

## [SPLIT News Alert] DAR's issuance of individual c-titles increases Sorsogon LGU's tax collection



SORSOGON CITY — At least 34 agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) from Casiguran, Sorsogon, who received their individual computerized land titles, or C-Titles, from the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), have started paying their realty taxes.

In a report, Francisco Lariosa, revenue collection officer of the Casiguran Municipal Treasurer's Office said they have so far collected a total of P209,670 in land taxes from said ARBs this month. Lariosa said the tax payments

boosted the LGU's own-source revenue. He said that the treasurer's office is still expecting payments from farmer beneficiaries who have not yet paid real property taxes on their farms.

"Our efforts to improve tax collection will be effective only if we have the cooperation of our farmers by assuring them that their hard-earned money is being spent efficiently. With DAR's help this will happen," he added.

Lariosa urged other farmer-beneficiaries to comply with their tax

obligations as well: "If you already have DAR-issued emancipation patents (EPs) or certificates of land ownership award (CLOA), you should visit the local treasurer's office where your land is situated and pay your taxes on time to avoid additional fines."

Agrarian reform chief Nida A. Santiago said the ARBs are among the 46 beneficiaries of the 55-hectare agricultural land formerly owned by Augorio Martires and Carmen Manabat in the villages of Mabini and Timbayog.

The property is one of 84 targeted landholdings, with collective titles from 13 municipalities being divided up among recipients individually under DAR's Support to Parcelization of Lands for Individual Titling (SPLIT) Project.

SPLIT project subdivides all collective CLOAs into individual titles to be re-awarded to beneficiaries who are co-owners of a landholding.

DAR-Sorsogon intends to subdivide 8,461 hectares by 2023, ensuring that each ARB has its own land title.

Santiago said that parceling collective CLOAs will not only address the issues causing the insecurity of the ARB's property rights in their awarded lands but will also help local government units collect new taxes.

"Tax compliance is a trademark of ownership. As the lead CARP implementer, we are tasked with enforcing farmers' compliance with their rights and obligations as new owners of the government-acquired property," Santiago said.

Casiguran municipal agrarian reform officer Mariam G. Jamoralin, helped the farmers pay their taxes and get tax declarations of real property by connecting them directly to the municipal treasurer and assessor offices.

"The municipal assessor must have a receipt attesting to the payment and updating of real property tax before issuing tax declarations. And that's why we initiated a pulong-pulong to inform them of their responsibilities," Jamoralin explained.

## DAR-SULTAN KUDARAT EMPOWERS FEMALE ARBS, TRAINS THEM IN MEAT PROCESSING



The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in the province of Sultan Kudarat recently conducted a two-day training on meat processing and turned over a meat grinder to the Tinaungan Christians Muslims Farmers Association to empower female agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) who are members of the said farmers' group. The training, which was conducted under the Enterprise Development and Economic Support (EDES) held at Tacurong City and President Quirino consecutively, was

attended by 30 female ARBs to help them harness their skill and create more economic opportunities.

"With the aim to improve the livelihood of the ARBs and to highlight the skills of women in the society, we hone their talents in making chorizo, embotido, siomai, and tocino, which could become additional means of income for their household," said Helen Joy Abeto, coordinator of Product Development Component of the Agrarian Reform Development Sustainability Program (ARBDSP)

Division.

Abeto divulged that the meat used during the training was sourced from another DAR project three years ago, the swine fattening and raising production under the Convergence on Livelihood Assistance for Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Project, wherein the same beneficiaries were awarded with full-grown swine as part of their livelihood project.

"With other agencies' cooperation and their active participation, the participants immediately earned

after selling their processed meat amounting to more than P1,000.00, by selling their newly produced meat products", she added.

Abeto said the recipients were grateful for the training because they would be able to generate extra income while waiting for the next harvest of their produce. "In fact, seven (7) participants were able to grasp in-depth knowledge about meat processing that they said they would share in their barangay what they learn from the training to become a more productive member of their community."

Over the years, the DAR- Sultan Kudarat has been consistent in rendering support services to the ARBs to help them improve their livelihood and their quality of life through the projects and programs of the ARBDSP.

Meanwhile, Marcelita Goto Corpuz, Secretary of the Tinaungan Christians Muslims Association, said as a woman they can now help their man in supporting their family and expressed gratitude to the DAR-Sultan Kudarat for its continued support to them.



## DAR, NHMFC, AND LGUS TO PROVIDE HOUSING LOAN PROGRAMS FOR AGRARIAN REFORM BENEFICIARIES



Quezon City – Representatives from the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), the National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation (NHMFC), twenty (20) local government units (LGUs), and agrarian reform beneficiaries organizations (ARBOs) recently signed a memorandum of understanding to finance and provide livable and affordable housing to agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) nationwide.

“A house is a dream of every Filipino, let us not just build it on the lands we gave to our farmers, but in the hearts and minds of our ARBs,” said DAR Undersecretary for Support Services Office Atty. Emily Padilla during the signing of the MOU.

She disclosed that the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) has been the DAR’s partner from the very start when DAR was still dreaming for the farmers to have their own decent housing through the Building Adequate, Livable, Affordable and Inclusive (BALAI) Filipino Communities Program.

The NHMFC she said came at the right time to be able to finance the project and expressed her gratitude for making the dream a reality.

Padilla explained that the LGUs are responsible for securing a property for the housing scheme, while the DHSUD will be in charge of land development.

“NHMFC has been mandated to develop and provide for a secondary market for home mortgages granted by public or private home financing institutions and has accordingly created the housing loan receivables purchase program (HLRPPs) to provide a liquidity facility for public and private originators,” Padilla said.

She added that the ARBOs will be responsible for the housing loan receivables of the farmers and agreed to avail the HLRPP of the NHMFC.

“The ARBO, in partnership with the DAR, will also engage and oversee the services of the contractor and co-supervise the construction and development of the housing project,” she said.

DHSUD Assistant Secretary for Regional Operations Daryll Bryan Villanueva said the housing project is a huge boost to government efforts to uplift the living conditions of local farmers by providing them decent, adequate, and affordable housing units.

“Today’s MOU signing signifies the commitment of the department, NHMFC, LGUs, and the ARBO to the DAR-BALAI farmers housing program, and that through this partnership we are one step closer to addressing the unenviable task of reducing the housing backlog, and simultaneously improving the lives of the farmers,” Villanueva said.

NHMFC President Carlo Luis Rabat acknowledged the role of the farmers in food security and contribution to the economy and expressed his gratefulness for this undertaking by providing them with a more secure and comfortable life.

The MOU was signed by DAR Undersecretary Emily Padilla, DHSUD Assistant Secretary for Regional Operations Daryll Bryan Villanueva, NHMFC President Carlo Luis P. Rabat, twenty (20) LGU representatives and ARBOs officers.

The 20 LGU representatives are from the municipalities of Alaminos and Labrador in Pangasinan; Sta. Lucia and San Emilio in Ilocos Sur; Naguilan and Quezon, Isabela; Llanera, Nueva Ecija; Panukulan, Quezon; Broke’s Point, Palawan; Guinobatan, Albay; Canaman, Camarines Sur; Mina and Banate, Iloilo; Pulpandan and Valladolid, Negros Occidental; Kolambagan and Magsaysay, Lanao del Norte; Opol, Misamis Oriental; Matanao, Davao del Sur; and Cabadbaran, Agusan del Norte.

## Sarangani farmers enlist to farm biz school



KIAMBA, Sarangani-- Coping with the challenges of the new normal, members of the Kapate Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Farmers Association (KARBFA) will soon acquire better farm entrepreneurial skills as they committed to participate in the farm business school (FBS) conducted by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in this province starting this month of April.

DAR Sarangani Chief Cenon S. Original said the activity will help the farmers upgrade their knowledge and skills in developing competitive farm enterprises that will open opportunities for them to earn more.

“In collaboration with other government agencies and local government units, this training will enhance the farmer-beneficiaries capacity towards higher productivity and income. This way, it will also help alleviate poverty and contribute to national food security,” Original said.

During the launching of the FBS in Barangay Kapate, Kiamba, Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer Ramonito C. Marciano urged the farmer-beneficiaries to make a difference in their lives.

“They need to devote some time to train their minds and hands so that their talents in farming and marketing will propel them in acquiring their most desired treasures,” Marciano said.

The FBS weekly sessions which will be conducted by Provincial FBS facilitators Kristine Joy C. Carriedo and Lorna S. Acanto will cover 25 modules designed for on-site training. The 25 enlisted ARBs will be trained to become agricultural entrepreneurs through learning agro-enterprise principles.

“Since the official registration of our organization last year, we have seen the interventions of DAR unfolding at great length, and for this, we are very grateful. As a farmer-leader, I encourage my fellow ARBs to seize this opportunity to become better because I believe this training will open opportunities for us,” said Alejandro Sanchez, KARBFA President.

The KARBFA is a newly registered organization where the majority are agrarian reform beneficiaries.

## DAR TO BOOST ABACA PRODUCTION IN NORTH COTABATO



The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in North Cotabato recently turned over a Php300,000.00 worth of enhanced abaca processing and drying center to Perez ARB Rubber Farmers Association of Barangay Perez, Kidapawan City, to improve their abaca fiber quality.

Aside from the facility, the abaca

farmers would also benefit from a Php2-million worth project entitled, “Environment Responsible Abaca Value Chain to North Cotabato Farmers,” through the World Vision Development Foundation,

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with funding support from the government of Singapore. Assistant Regional Director and concurrent Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II Rodolfo Alburo said with the enhanced processing and drying center, they expect to further improve the livelihood of abaca farmers in

the area and increase their income by improving the quality of their product. Alburo added that with the processing facility, provided through Village Level Farm-focused Enterprise Development (VLFED) project, the farmers were also provided with skills and

institutional training as part of the soft component of the project. "Through the training, our farmers were already producing and selling abaca by-products such as bags, slippers, placemats, bags, and twines, among others," he said. Meanwhile, World Vision's Program Officer Samuel Ocon said the Php2-M project would highlight the expansion of abaca production by establishing more nurseries in the area, which will directly benefit 500 farmer-beneficiaries. "The project will help further develop farmers' knowledge of environmental protection and climate change adaptation and generate alternative livelihood to promote and improve the sustainability approaches of the community," Ocon said. During the turn-over ceremony, the convergence efforts of different government agencies and non-government organizations, such as

the Philippine Fiber Development Authority, Department of Trade and Industry, local government of Kidapawan City, and the World Vision Development Foundation, were recognized for boosting the abaca industry and for extending assistance to the recipient ARB organization. In the acceptance speech of the project, Association President Allan Masibay, Sr., expressed his gratitude to all the agencies that extended their help in reviving and expanding the abaca production in their barangay. "The enhancement of our abaca processing center posed a great challenge and inspiration to all the members of the organization and abaca farmers in our community. This shows the sincerity in upscaling abaca production and product innovation in our community," Masibay said.

**APRIL 19**

**DAR, LBP, PCIC TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO SARANGANI FARMERS**



The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in the province of Sarangani, in partnership with the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) General Santos Lending Center, and the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC) linked arms to provide financial assistance to agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) in this province. The financial assistance is in the form of a credit as capital for the ARBs' corn and other crop production with a low-interest rate of 5% per year. LBP Administrative Officer Prexy Almocera said twenty-two (22) ARBs from the town of Maasim who applied for loans were approved under the Accessible Funds for Delivery to ARBs (AFFORD ARBs), a lending program of the DAR, LBP, and PCIC intended for the ARBs to finance the production of their rice, corn, and high-value crops, as well as the acquisition of small farm implements. After successfully conducting the loan signing ceremony, a financial literacy training was conducted where Almocera explained the purpose of AFFORD ARBs which is to increase the income of the

farmers and refrain them from borrowing from private entities with high-interest rates. "We provided them with sample computations to ensure that all the applicants can compute and understand the loans they are applying for," she said. Almocera emphasized that only applicants with good repayment standing can avail of the renewal of the loan. She added that the application for PCIC was also discussed to provide insurance protection to farmers against losses arising from natural calamities, plant diseases, and pest infestations of their crops. This is part of the pre-release requirements before the loan can be downloaded to the farmers' bank account. Almocera said that the ARBs with approved loan applications were very eager and excited since it is already planting season. "They believed that this is a great opportunity for them to be to generate their own capital for production out of their income from the program which will lead to a better quality of life for them in the near future," Almocera said.

**APRIL 20**

**DAR UPDATES SPLIT DOCUMENTS BASED ON INPUTS MADE BY STAKEHOLDERS**



The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Support to Parcelization of Lands for Individual Titling (SPLIT) Project conducted a Writeshop to update the published Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS) Instruments based on the results of the consultation and initial assessment made with the stakeholders after the first year of Project SPLIT implementation. DAR Bureau of Agrarian Legal Assistance (BALA) and Concurrent National SPLIT Director for ESS and Grievance Redress Mechanism Atty. Marjorie P. Ayson said that it is high time for the ESS Instruments to be updated. The updating she said would include the actual risks and impacts that were encountered on the ground, validation of the effectiveness of the different management measures, and incorporation of the suggestions and recommendations made by the different stakeholders based on the engagements that were conducted. "The updating of the ESS Instruments is also part of the commitment plan of the DAR to the World Bank, which has funded the SPLIT Project," she said.

Ayson said the updated ESS Instruments would reflect the changes created during the project implementation. This move she said would make the proposed project activities more efficient, not only in compliance with the department's commitment to the WB but more importantly to see how the project is going, ensure the relevant issues and concerns are immediately addressed, and identify new mitigation measures on environmental and social risks. Other DAR officials who were in the event are Undersecretary for Foreign Assisted and Special Projects Office Virginia Orogo, Assistant Secretary and SPLIT National Project Director Rene Colocar, OIC-Assistant Secretary for Field Operations Office Engr. Joey Sumatra, OIC-Assistant Secretary for Finance, Management and Administration Office Aurita Ang, Management Information Systems Service Director Nestor Bayoneto and other SPLIT technical leaders and staff. The Writeshop is being conducted on April 19-22, 2022 in Lucena City, Quezon province.

## DAR encourages 2.9-M agrarian reform beneficiaries to vote wisely for their welfare



Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and Research Office (PPRO) and Concurrent Undersecretary for External Affairs and Communications Operations Office (EACOO) Atty. David D. Erro encouraged the agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) of DAR to find out who among the national and local candidates have platforms and plans that would benefit them and their communities and to actually go out to the voting precincts on May 9 and

exercise their right to vote for those candidates.

Erro said that data gathered from the DAR Planning Service showed that from 1972 to March 2022, a total of 2,916,621 ARBs have so far been provided by the agency with emancipation patents (EPs) and certificates of land ownership award (CLOAs) covering a total of 4,954,235.54 hectares of land nationwide.

The 2.9 million ARBs is the base number of DAR farmer-beneficiaries voting population that

may be multiplied by each member of their families that are of voting age as well.

“ARBs refer to farmers who were granted lands under Presidential Decree No. 27, Republic Act No. 6657 or the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law and RA No. 9700 or the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Extension with Reforms,” Erro said.

Erro said that the DAR is committed to uplift the living conditions of the ARBs through the department’s various intervention programs.

## CamSur farmers earn extra from growing vegetables

**LEGAZPI CITY**—Farmer-members of the Mambalite Palangon Farmers Irrigators Association (MAPAFIA) in Mambalite, Libmanan, Camarines Sur are increasingly taking up vegetable farming and are reaping handsome profits from the venture.

The Mambalite Barangay, known for its coconut, palay, corn, and vegetables, is located approximately 14 kilometers from Poblacion.

DAR Regional Director Rodrigo Realubit said the large expanses of land, most of which are owned by agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs), are devoted to vegetable cultivation. The farmers plant a variety of vegetables and crops throughout the year, including eggplant, pole beans, ampalaya (bitter melon), native squash, okra, upo (bottle gourd), cucumber, sweetcorn, and watermelon.

“Such endeavors by the farmers in the area have enabled them to provide a stable income for their families and send their children to school,” Realubit said.

Florentino SM. Umali, MAPAFIA president, and a vegetable farmer said that “many of us preferred to plant vegetables over palay because we realized that growing vegetables is much more profitable than rice farming, given that vegetables have a much shorter gestation than rice.” “And although vegetables require much more attention, the extra effort is compensated many times over,”



Umali said.

“It is important, however, to program the planting of other vegetables to maximize the use of our lands and avoid undue risks from farming. The programming ensures a continuing income flow,” added Umali

Umali said that they cultivate eggplant on a larger scale than other crops. The first pick took place in March. They gathered between 2,000 and 3,000 kilograms per harvest in just one area, around 1.75 hectares, and expect even better yields through September.

Umali stated that they sell eggplants at a farmgate price of Php 20.00 per kilogram, earning between Php 40,000.00 and Php 60,000.00 every harvest, twice a week, or an average monthly gross sale of Php 400,000.00.

“That income increases as other farmers also regularly gather and

sell native squash, ampalaya, okra, cucumbers, pole beans, bottle gourd, sweetcorn, and watermelon,” he noted.

It’s worth noting that vegetable cultivation in Mambalite is like a traditional Filipino farm scenario: the father and mother work together on the farm, with their children pitching in whenever possible, particularly during harvest time.

Many of the farmers of these high-performing farms attributed their success to the collective effort and good fortune, such as access to particularly profitable markets for their produce.

“We gained the security of year-round markets for our produce,” Umali said.

According to him, the MAPAFIA consolidates and markets the farmers’ produce to local buyers in Camarines Sur who come to their farms regularly during harvest

season. As a consolidator, the association gets a 2% “management fee,” which is added to the cooperative’s income.

“We no longer have to deliver or transport our harvested vegetables to markets, as buyers have got accustomed to visiting us on our fields throughout the harvest season.” We save significantly on fuel costs, he said.

Umali disclosed that MAPAFIA made over Php2.6 million in total sales when the organization became a direct supplier of various food and farm commodities to the National Nutrition Council’s (NNC) Tutok-Kainan nutrition program in 2021.

Umali said that they are hoping for another contract with the NNC sometime this year to re-supply various food and agri products for the feeding program.

MAPAFIA’s modest achievements are spilling over throughout the community. Over 122 farmers and other residents, the majority of whom come from the barangays of Mambalite, Palangon, and as far as barangay Uson, benefit directly from the group’s determination to progressively strengthen the organization.

MAPAFIA was formed in 2019 and registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) the following year with the assistance of DAR.

## WOMEN FARMERS OF PILI TURN ADVERSITY INTO OPPORTUNITY

### Feature story

**PILI, CAMARINES SUR**—When the COVID19-pandemic broke out, agrifood production was severely affected, creating a challenging environment. For most farm producers and businesses, pulling through the crisis was a matter of survival. Changes were brewing to forestall the gloomy situation. However, some agrarian reform

beneficiaries organizations like the Tinangis Upland Farmers Agriculture Cooperative (TUFAC), a group of 20 members, 15 of whom are female, in the Upper Barangay of Tinangis in Pili, Camarines Sur, turned this adversity into opportunity.

Scared that TUFAC and their members might face a barrage of threats in the future, causing havoc

on their farm incomes and the local economy, they immediately shifted their focus to long-term ‘out of the box’ or alternative solutions, such as operating a small bakery project, in order to keep their organization afloat and survive the crisis.

TUFAC General Manager Maria Mercedes Violeta, who led the female farmers, established a bakery business with assistance from the

Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development through the Convergence on Livelihood Assistance to ARBs Project.

“We had no idea what to do back then to start our own small business. We appear to be losing our courage, as nothing appears to be happening

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regardless of what we do. However, with the assistance of DAR, we were able to realize that we need to focus on our bakery project because everyone needs to eat amidst this crisis," she said.

The group's steadfast commitment and determination helped the coop overcome adversities that allowed their small business to prosper and earn a whopping Php 803,502.00 in one year and a half after it was launched on July 8, 2020, which coincided with the pandemic's onslaught.

In a report, the bakery's average monthly sales were recorded at Php 44,639.00.

The bakery started delivering pastries such as pan de coco, spanish

bread, pan legaspi, pinagong, choco bread, halfmoon, sliced bread, chiffon cake, and cassava cake to Centro Tinangis and Zones 3 to 5 through three motorized transporters that were also awarded as part of the same project by DAR. Because their baked goods are delicious and reasonably priced at Php 2.00 pesos for small sizes and 5.00 pesos for larger sizes, the coop ultimately began delivering to the nearby villages of Barangay Curry, Sitio Bungkaw, and relocation sites.

"We were able to deliver to these areas throughout the sugarcane harvest season," Violeta said. Even though we sold our products only locally, they quickly sold out.

We were not obliged to seek new markets, as our loaves of bread were in such high demand."

She disclosed that the secret to their tasty bread lies in the ingredients and added that all they can guarantee is that their recipes will not be changed, even if it means earning less profit; they will never, ever compromise on the quality of their items their customers have learned to appreciate.

She further stated that the bakery provided not only extra income for beneficiaries' families but also opportunities for women's empowerment.

Felicidad Buenafe, a 43-year-old farmer and baker, explained that each loaf is the result of TUFAC members' cooperation. She said, she performs her regular errands to keep the bakery well-stocked with bread for sale.

"Every day I wake up early, about one o'clock in the morning, to prepare and start baking bread," Felicidad narrated. "I finished wrapping the products at 6:00 a.m. That is often how my day goes," she added.

According to her, each TUFAC member has specific work assignments at the bakery to ensure its smooth and sustainable

operation.

"We need to strengthen our cooperative now so that when the government stops assisting us and focuses on other cooperatives, we can stand on our own," she said.

Felicidad added that the cooperative and their families like to express their gratitude to everyone who has assisted them along the way, particularly DAR—from cultivating vegetables to establishing the piggery to founding this baking business as it greatly helped their cooperative's income, and it gave them the courage to get out of poverty.

Apart from the bakery, TUFAC also continuously provides loans to sugarcane planters up to Php150,000.00 at a 2% interest rate to cover land preparation and harvest season expenses.

The coop, which received a Php 300,000 grant from the Department of Labor and Employment for its rice trading venture, also lends rice to its members, 4Ps, and Indigenous Peoples. They make bimonthly payments to the cooperative.

TUFAC, which has 55 active members, was organized and registered with the Cooperative Development Authority on March 25, 2012.

APRIL 23

## P8.4-M Siquijor bridge brings farmers' products to markets

PROVINCE OF SIQUIJOR – The Kinamandagan-Tignao bridge in Lazi, Siquijor was recently turned over by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) to the local government here. The bridge, implemented under the Tulay ng Pangulo Para sa Kaunlarang Pang-Agraryo (TPKP) was constructed to make transporting farmers' products faster and easier.

DAR Secretary Bernie Cruz said the project would greatly improve the trade and commerce of farmers and residents here.

"This bridge was constructed in response to farmers' request to provide them with an easier way to cross the river in transporting their agricultural products to the nearest market," Cruz said.

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

"We always remind the beneficiaries to take good care of the project upon its completion. Protect and maintain the project in good condition so that more generations would benefit from it," Cruz said.

Leonita Ates, Barangay Kagawad of Kinamandagan said that before, most farmers and residents who had to deliver their corn or vegetables to the market had a hard time crossing the river because it only had a wooden bridge built from slabs of wood that were pieced together. It was too dangerous, he said.



"They had to carry big bundles of corn on their backs because the habal-habal (motorcycle) can't pass through if heavily burdened. Most farmers do not have 4-wheeled vehicles to transport their products so they just hire habal-habal," explains Ates.

DAR Central Visayas Regional Director Romeo Reyes said the 55 linear meter bridge now connects the farmers and residents of eight barangays in the area namely Kinamandagan, Tignao, Cangclaran, Kimba, Poo, Cangomantong, Cang-atuyom, and Cang-asa.

Reyes stressed the benefit that the bridge would bring to the town. "This is a sign of progress. The new bridge will help the farmers and residents in availing various support services," he added.

He said that around 7,000 residents from the eight barangays will benefit from the bridge, where 252 are agrarian reform beneficiaries.

The government of France funded the construction of the TPKP project worth P 8.4 million and constructed by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

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## DAR, DENR, NCIP SETTLE OVERLAPPING ISSUES RELATED TO PROJECT SPLIT IMPLEMENTATION



The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and other inter-agency technical working group composed of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) has conducted a consultation meeting on land and forestry to settle overlapping issues in relation to parcelization of collective certificates of land ownership awards (CCLOAs) for Support to Parcelization of Lands for Individual Titling (SPLIT) Project.

DAR Undersecretary for Legal Affairs Office Luis Meinrado C. Pañgulayan said that based on a joint guideline, the DAR and DENR before processing applications for land titles pursuant to their respective mandates must notify the NCIP of the specific area to be titled. He said all lands covered by collective CLOAs within classified timberlands, unclassified public forests, mineral lands, and national parks, shall be parcelized in favor of agrarian reform beneficiaries.

"During the implementation of parcelization and in the issuance of appropriate tenurial instruments, the actual occupants on the lands covered by collective CLOAs shall not be displaced," Pañgulayan said. Pañgulayan disclosed that NCIP is tasked to certify subject land to the projection of survey plans and

issuance of the certification of non-overlap, whether the same affects an alienable and disposable (AD) or ancestral land (AL) involving "conflict areas" as identified by the agencies concerned pending/overlapping, jurisdictional/operational issues or conflicting claims which are contentious or potentially contentious.

"This is a very good opportunity to have a face-to-face meeting with Regional Offices of DAR and our Technical Working Group members to show commitment to the ownership of the government for land administration in the Philippines," World Bank Senior Environmental Engineer Maya Gabriella Villaluz said.

She said that this is the largest land administration project of the World Bank in the world and that they want the best practice of this project shared with other countries.

The event was attended by DAR and World Bank Mission representatives with Inter-agency technical working group, which include Atty. Cesar Ortega and Shelley Calata from NCIP, Jennette Ponce of Mines and Geosciences Bureau, Amie Rabang, and Gabriel Mendoza of Forest Management Bureau. Beata Batadlan and Estela Gumabon from the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority.

# SPLIT PROJECT TO ENABLE P44-BILLION LAND AMORTIZATION PAYMENT AND INCREASE IN REAL PROPERTY TAX PAYMENT

Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Secretary Bernie F. Cruz said that from the Philippine loan proceeds amounting to P19-billion, the country, through the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) can collect 44-billion land amortization payment from the agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) with the local government units (LGUs) to expect increase in the collection of real property tax.

“The projected land amortization payment and collection of real property taxes will be made possible through the Support to the Parcelization of Lands for Individual Titling (SPLIT) project of the DAR which was funded by the World Bank (WB) with a total project cost of P24.625 billion comprising 78-percent loan proceeds amounting to P19.240 billion and 22 percent counterpart from the Philippine government amounting to P5.385 billion,” Cruz emphasized.

Cruz said that the SPLIT project aims to fast-track the subdivision

of lands previously issued with Collective Certificates of Land Ownership Award (CCLOAs) into individual land titles to agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

In the province of Sorsogon alone, the implementation of SPLIT project had so far generated a total of 114 computerized titles (C-titles) with a total area of 178.8907 hectares involving 112 ARBs.

Cruz said that Sorsogon is one of the first provinces to launch Project SPLIT in 2021, and since it was launched in September 2021, the province has validated a total area of 1,240.4956 hectares for the landholdings located in its one (1) city and fourteen (14) municipalities.

Regional Director Rodrigo O. Realubit expressed his joy and appreciation in the significant milestones undertaken by Sorsogon in the implementation of Project SPLIT.

“This is the kind of information that



we need to disseminate because it makes our works more relevant,” Realubit said.

Field Collector and Agrarian Affairs Specialist I (AASI) of the LBP Domingo Venus Jr. said that the DAR is doing a lot of help to collect payment from the ARBs who voluntarily pay their amortization and did not consider it as a burden. Venus shared that during the collection of amortizations from the first six (6) recipients of c-titles in Mabini, Casiguran, the government gained P65,355.56 and five (5) of these payees have already fully paid their amortizations and LBP will prepare the required documents for the cancellation of encumbrance in their titles.

Sorsogon Agrarian Reform Chief Nida A. Santiago said the payment of taxes and land amortization is an assurance to the ARBs that they are now the genuine owners of the land that they till.

“For years, we have created a harmonious relationship with our CARP Implementing Agencies

here in Sorsogon, one of which is the LBP, to whom the collection of agrarian reform receivables (ARR) is lodged,” added Santiago.

Municipal Agrarian Reform Program Officer (MARPO) Mariam Jamoralin said the successful launch and implementation of the Project SPLIT has been advantageous not only to the ARBs in Sorsogon but to the realization of a more inclusive execution of the CARP in the whole province.

“Not only that it has fast tracked the issuance of individual titles for the ARBs, but it has created a renewed hope for them and an assurance of an uninterrupted tenure in the land that they have spent their lives on. As implementers, this gives us an assurance that we are doing a good job” she added.

DAR Sorsogon commits to proceed with the generation of the remaining c-titles and will continue to consistently assist in the raising of revenue for the government through the collection of tax payments and land amortizations.



# DAR LAUDS FARMERS’ ORG FOR VENTURING IN AGRIVET BUSINESS



Carmen, North Cotabato – The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR)-Region 12 recently lauded Liliongan Farmers Association of Barangay Liliongan for venturing in agricultural and veterinary supply

store to help their fellow farmers. Regional Director Mariannie Lauban-Baunto said this agrivet business would cater to the needs of their members and other farmers in the community at a reasonable

price.

“We are very happy to know that the support services we extended to them had really made an impact. And now the benefits will also be extended to the community by providing farmers easy access to agrivet supplies,” Lauban-Baunto said.

The Regional Director added that Liliongan Farmers Association is one among the many agrarian reform beneficiaries organizations that has become self-reliant because of DAR’s continued support and guidance to them.

Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II Charish Paña said the business venture was an off-shoot of the Convergence on Livelihood Assistance for ARBs

Project (CLAAP).

“The new venture of the beneficiaries only shows that the CLAAP project is sustainably growing under their care. They were able to manage the swine production project well that earned them enough capital to start the agrivet supply,” Paña said.

Project Pointperson Marites Toriaga extended her congratulations to the farmer group and believed that this business would become successful in the very near future because those who operate this store are dedicated and competent farmers.

According to CLAAP Swine Cluster President Merlina Tan, they opened the agrivet supply store with an initial capital of Php16,000.00 out of the savings generated from the CLAAP project given by DAR.

## DAR-Bicol gears up to take lead in field investigations, LBP to focus on land valuation



**LEGAZPI CITY**—The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in the Bicol region, in partnership with the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP), is conducting an on-site technical training on the land appraisal of landholdings covered under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

The move is in anticipation of the issuance of the amended DAR administrative order to be signed and issued by DAR Secretary Bernie Cruz, in which DAR shall assume the responsibility of handling the field investigation (FI) process that is currently being performed by partners in LBP.

DAR Bicol Assistant Director for Operations Engr. Romulo Britanico said that based on the top-level discussions, they are expecting the implementation of the amended Administrative Order (AO) No.1, series of 2020, ten (10) days after its publication. “Embedded in the AO are the guidelines simplifying the land acquisition and distribution process of CARP-covered private

agricultural landholdings. Under the provision, the responsibility of handling the field investigation now falls under the DAR.

And accordingly, LBP will focus now on the land valuation process,” Britanico clarified. Britanico added that with the field investigation now under DAR, the process of the investigation will be faster. “The provincial offices of DAR will purposely create a team that will be in charge of the on-site or field validation and investigation of the CARP-covered landholdings.”

DAR would facilitate the two-day on-site training with the technical assistance of the LBP-Agrarian Operations Center (AOC) through its land appraisers. The first batch was held on April 21-22 for the offices of Camarines Norte and Camarines Sur I and II; while the other batches will be held on May 4-5 for Albay and Sorsogon; and May 11-12 for Masbate.

Agrarian Affairs Specialist Engr. Francisco Corcuera said that they would teach the DAR field personnel about the proper and

correct evaluation of the property that is subject to coverage under the CARP. The training will also serve as a coaching and mentoring session for the DAR personnel.

Britanico asserted that the agency will work more on strategies to improve the capabilities of DAR field personnel who will appraise the properties, which would make the field investigation faster and smoother.

“What we are anticipating is the transition, which we have to fill the gap. We want the process to be continuous because we have a target for 2022. And considering the learning curve, the field personnel will adjust, so we need to devise a strategy,” he said.

Britanico added that the conduct of field investigations is a crucial part of the land valuation process to determine the necessary data for the landholding appraisal. This is also a key activity for determining the landowners’ compensation as well as amortization schedules of agrarian reform beneficiaries.

## DAR SET TO DISTRIBUTE 900-HECTARE GOVERNMENT-OWNED LANDS TO 786 BUSUANGA ARBS

The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) led by Secretary Bernie Cruz is set to distribute around 800-900 hectares of agricultural government-owned lands (GOLs) out of the total of 2,105 hectares of lot 699-Busuanga Cadastre and a portion of the landholding known as Yulo King Ranch (YKR) to 786 agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) in Busuanga, Palawan, April 29, 2022.

“The property will be distributed to 786 ARBs including five (5) agricultural graduates and 50 hectares reserved to approximately fifty (50) rebel returnees identified as farmer-beneficiaries, in compliance with Executive Order No. 75, Series of 2019,” Cruz said. EO 75 was signed into law on February 1, 2019, by President Rodrigo Duterte, which directed the DAR to quickly facilitate the processing of idle and abandoned government-owned lands (GOLs) that can be covered under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

MIMAROPA Regional Director Atty. Marvin V. Bernal said the region is fully committed to promoting equitable distribution of land and providing support services to its beneficiaries within a geographical location, under the banner program, “Ikaw, Kayo nasa Puso Namin.”

“MIMAROPA, so far, is the first region nationwide to implement the biggest number of lands for distribution, in terms of EO 75 implementation,” he added.

Bernal said that lot 699 (Busuanga Cadastre) and a portion of YKR within the Busuanga Pasture Reserve (BPR), are located in the Barangays of San Jose and Decalacho, Coron, Palawan.

“YKR, now known as the Busuanga Pasture Reserve, had been established as Pasture Reserve by virtue of Proclamation No.1387 in 1975 by then President Ferdinand E. Marcos with an aggregate area of, more or less, 40,000 hectares and is located in the municipalities of Coron and Busuanga, Palawan,” he said.

Cruz will lead the ceremonial distribution of CLOA with other officials of DAR, CARP Implementing Agencies including the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) in Municipal Open grounds, Coron.

## DAR ENSURES STABILITY OF TURNED OVER INFRA PROJECTS IN SULTAN KUDARAT



Isulan, Sultan Kudarat — The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) recently conducted an on-site Sustainability, Monitoring, & Evaluation (SME) of previously completed and turned-over infrastructure projects in the province of Sultan Kudarat, particularly in the municipalities of Isulan and Esperanza, and in the city of Tacurong to monitor and evaluate the functionality of

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the completed infra-subprojects. Collectively, 36 projects which consist of 22 farm-to-market roads, four (4) potable water systems, four (4) solar driers, four (4) irrigation canals, and two (2) bridges were monitored and evaluated by the SME teams from Isulan, Tacurong, and Esperanza. These projects were provided under Agrarian Reform Community Development Support Program (ARCDSP).

DAR Assistant Secretary for Support Services Milagros Isabel Cristobal, who spearheaded the activity, explained that SME is the agency's initiative to ensure that the projects are built for their purpose through assessment and evaluation of the support from the local government, the consistency of repair and maintenance funds in terms of adequacy of financial resources and the operation and maintenance of the subject organizations.

"We are very happy with the productive results of the conducted SME. The projects that we visited were still in good condition and

are continuously serving their purpose to our recipients in contributing to the development of the community," Cristobal said. She added that to fully ensure the longevity and sustainability of the projects, other useful tools should be considered, adapted, and explored, and must act proactively to things that need improvement.

Collaborative talks with the stakeholders and agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) were also conducted which provided recommendations necessary for attaining a more feasible action plan for the improvement and sustainability of the said projects. Leonerico Oriol of P4MP-Farmers Association of Upper Katungal expressed his gratitude to the DAR for facilitating the means of alleviating their hardship in delivering and transporting their farm produce easily to the market.

"With the project farm-to-market road, I can now sell my harvested crops for a much more competitive price in the market and can earn



more for my family," he said. Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II Mary Jane Aguilar of DAR-Sultan Kudarat stressed the importance of reciprocal responsibility with the local government in providing the ARBs a more sustainable and

progressive environment. "As part of the strategy of the province, we ensure that the projects that were implemented will help our farmers in a sustainable environment," Aguilar said.

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# DAR distributes government-owned lands to 786 Busuanga ARBs



Coron, Palawan — Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Secretary Bernie Cruz led the distribution of certificates of land ownership awards (CLOA) to 786 agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) here. "President Rodrigo Roa Duterte ordered DAR to fast track the distribution of lands, particularly government-owned lands (GOLs), to qualified beneficiaries before he stepped down from Office based on Executive Order No. 75, Series of 2019," he said.

Cruz appealed to the beneficiaries not to sell or pawn the land given to them so that their children and future generations will also be able to benefit from it.

DAR MIMAROPA Regional Director Atty. Marvin V. Bernal disclosed that the YKR, now known as the Busuanga Pasture Reserve, had been established as Pasture Reserve by virtue of Proclamation No.1387 in 1975 by then President Ferdinand E. Marcos with an aggregate area of 40,000 hectares and is in the municipalities of Coron and Busuanga, Palawan.

"A total of 900-hectares in Lot 699 (Busuanga Cadastre) and portion of YKR and within the Busuanga Pasture Reserve (BPR), a GOL located in the barangays of San Jose and Decalachao, Coron, Palawan will be distributed to 786

ARBs comprising of 473-male and 313-female, including five (5) agricultural graduates and fifty (50) rebel returnees," he said. Bernal said around 9,022 hectares had been projected and found to be alienable and disposable, (A & D) thus, coverable under CARP, the area is no longer actually, directly, and exclusively used for the purpose for which it has been reserved.

Rose Ann Gestupa, a graduate of Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, Major in Animal Industry, one of the beneficiaries under E.O 75 thanked President Rodrigo Duterte and the DAR.

"I will nurture and make the land awarded by the DAR productive to ensure the country's food security, especially in Coron," Gestupa said. DAR has already distributed 80 hectares of agricultural lands to 102 ARBs, the first tranche of GOLs on January 22, 2021, and 250 hectares out of a total of 427.0611 hectares of Lot 697 of the YKR to 98 ARBs in Busuanga in the province of Palawan on September 20, 2021. EO 75 directs all government instrumentalities to identify lands owned by the government devoted or suitable for agricultural purposes for distribution to identified qualified beneficiaries.