

ISO CERTIFIED
NIA

PROPOSED
BUDGET OF NIA
FOR 2018

THE NIA'S QUALITY
MISSION IWRM 101
(Part I)

SWEET
GOODBYE FOR
NIA 8 PILLAR



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION

CURRENTS

Volume 34, No. 4, 2017

ISO CERTIFIED

The National Irrigation Administration's vision of becoming a professional and efficient irrigation agency is drawing nearer with the realization of providing quality service according to international standards. *see page 6*



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PANANAW

Sa pagsapit ng taong 2020, ang Pambansang Pangasiwaan ng Patubig ay isa nang tanggapan ng pamahalaan na ganap at epektibong kaagapay tungo sa sama-samang paglago ng ekonomiya ng ating bansa at katuwang sa pagbibigay ng makabubuhay na kita at may kalidad na pamumuhay para sa ating mga magsasaka.

TUNGKULIN

Bumuo, magpatakbo, at magpanatili ng isang sistemang patubig na naaayon sa panuntunan ng “Integrated Water Resource Management” na ang yamang-tubig ay daan tungo sa paglago ng ating agrikultura na magdudulot ng mataas na kita ng mga magsasaka.

PANGUNAHING PINAHAHALAGAHAN

Paninindigan

Katapatan

De-kalidad na Paglilingkod

PATAKARAN PARA SA MATAAS NA ANTAS NG PAMAMALAKAD

Na tayo ay naninindigan na magbibigay ng magaling, mabisa at tuloy-tuloy na tapat na serbisyong patubig tungo sa pagkamit ng pinakamataas na kasiyahan ng magsasakang Filipino na syang makakapagbigay ng ambag tungo sa sama-samang paglago ng ekonomiya ng bansa.

Na tayo ay magsusumikap para makamit ang ating mga estratehiya tungo sa kahusayang

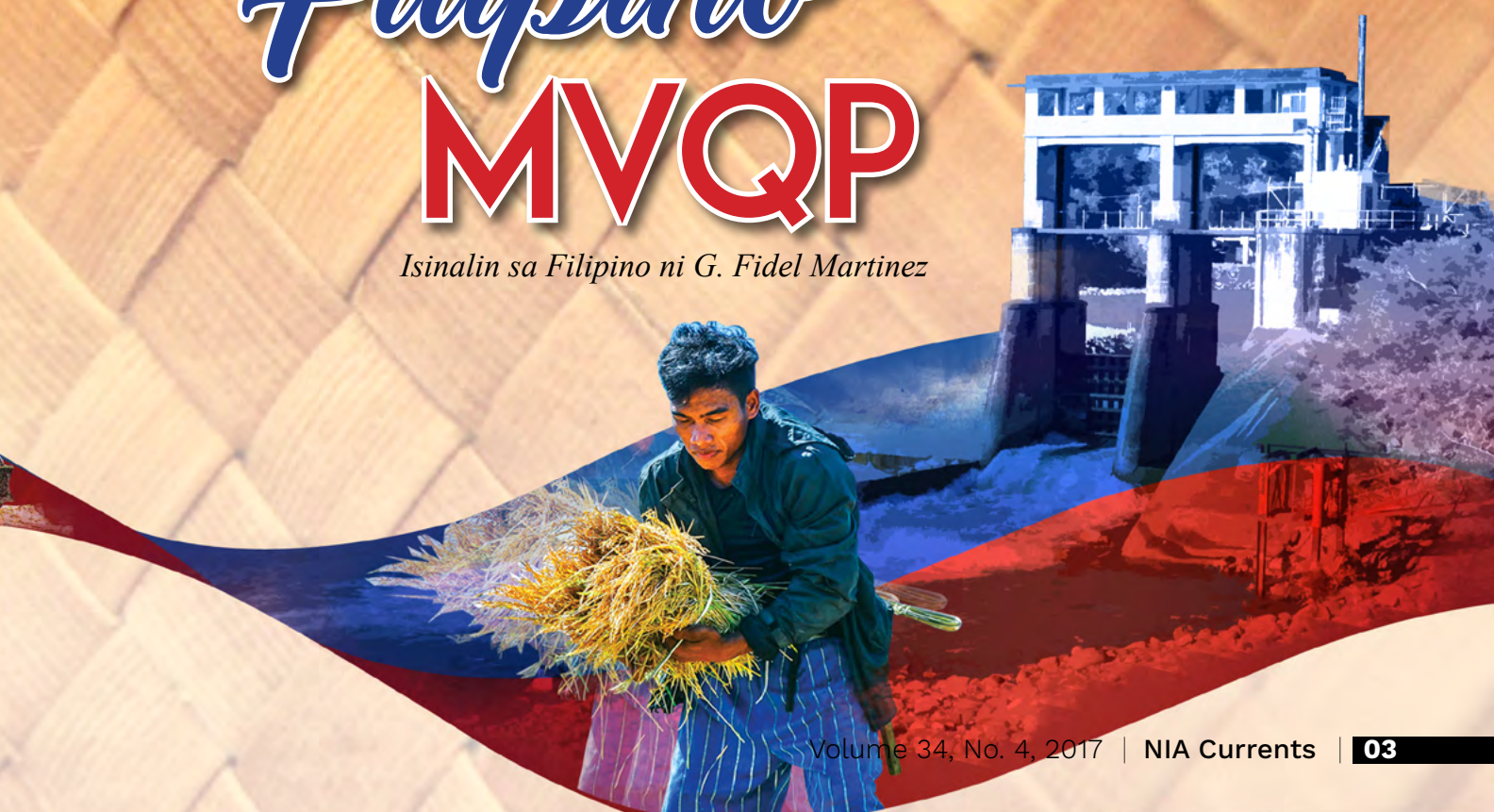
teknikal, pagpapatakbo, at isang mabuting pamamahala sa pamamagitan ng pakikipagkaisa sa mga magsasaka at mga tagatangkilik.

Na tayo ay mananatiling tapat sa ating mga pangunahing pinahahalagahan na ‘paninindigan’, ‘katapatan’ at ‘de-kalidad na paglilingkod’ upang patuloy na mapahusay ang mataas na antas ng pamamalakad ng NIA. 🏗️

Filipino

MVQP

Isinalin sa Filipino ni G. Fidel Martinez



I HEARD... I DID.. ISO.. I SUS

ISO 9001 is the world's most popular and the most commonly used standard for quality management system (QMS). An ISO QMS shows that you provide products and services that meet the customers' requirements, comply with the laws/legislation, as well as meet the organization's own requirements. Furthermore, it shows that these products and services are delivered with consistent quality.

NIA Central Office together with NIA Region 4A, Quezon Irrigation Management Office, and Upper Pampanga River Integrated Irrigation System, was granted its ISO 9001:2008 last July 25, 2017. After almost a year of hard work, the exclusive rainbow had already been caught. It will be effective until September 2018 and so we are gearing up again for ISO 9001:2015 certification in order to be in the loop of being an ISO compliant Agency...

Getting the stamp of the prestigious ISO 9001:2008 Certification shows that NIA has complied with internationally-recognized quality standards.

While there are pessimists among our ranks who do not believe in the efficacy of the stamp, there is no denying that we are now enjoying the fruits of our efforts – firstly, we have a cleaner and orderly workplace, our files are better organized such that these can easily be located, each department has its own Operations Manual and a customer feedback mechanism. In fact, some sectors have conducted workshops to improve their internal processes.

However, after the two stages of audit carried out by AJA Registrars, we relaxed a bit and tended to forget the efforts we invested to get the ISO Stamp. Now that we are certified, the challenge is to sustain the reforms that we have instituted which made us worthy of the ISO Certification. Sustain means maintaining a work environment according to ISO standards, practicing the 5S regularly, less or no more missing documents because the document tracking system is in place and is working, defined functions and roles of each staff because of working Operations Manuals, regular review and update of each units systems and procedures so that these are updated to what is more workable, and more importantly, better customer satisfaction because we have better or more efficient Agency services.

As an ISO but office, we are (almost) good with our workplace, we still have some muscling-up to do with our processes, especially procurement services, records keeping, document tracking system, customer service, customer feedback monitoring, and sustaining the stamp of our ISO 9001:2008 is requiring us some more effort – as we now say it “EFFORT PA MORE”, while gearing up for ISO 9001:2015 demands from us “2x or even 3x EFFORT PA MORE”. Still the Certification is only for four NIA offices and we have 15 Regional Irrigation Offices and 52 IMOs more nationwide which must be ISO Certified as well if we want to execute a unison movement and indeed claim that NIA is an ISO certified agency.

We have yet to see if the ISO Certification helped the Agency in carving its corrupt image.



MEET THE NEW NIA BOARD MEMBER: GREGORIO G. SARMIENTO, PRIVATE SECTOR REPRESENTATIVE



■ Frya Camille D. Ballesteros and Josias M. Mercado, PR Assistants, PAIS-C.O.

Gregorio “Boy” G. Sarmiento, the new Member of the Board for Private Sector of National Irrigation Administration (NIA) describes himself as a farmer, executive, community frontrunner, political leader, and livelihood advocate.

His contribution on both public and business sectors, gained for him the trust and confidence of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte. His public engagement deals with the practice of moving community towards socio-economic development, nation-building related programs and advocacy on the improvement of farmer’s quality of life. According to him, “It commands sacrifices and commitment in working with President Duterte. I will do my very best to contribute in providing assistance and service to less fortunate families as mandated by our President”.

Before joining the NIA, he held various positions both in the public and private sector. Notably, as the Founding National Chair of

Rody Duterte Solid Group (RDSG), a multi-sectoral movement that advocates environment preservation, grassroots entrepreneurship, drug-free and peaceful community.

Upon joining NIA, which the Joint NIA-IA Conference aims to formulate plans to fulfill President Duterte campaign promise of free irrigation service fee. The IA was represented by all Presidents of Regional Confederation of Irrigators Association (RCIA) nationwide. In recognition of the free irrigation service fees, each RCIA will donate about 3,000 sacks of 50-kilogram of rice to be distributed to poor families and marginalized sector of the society. This will be held in December 2017.

Board Member Sarmiento graduated from Holy Cross College of Digos (now Cor Jesu College) of Digos City, Davao Del Sur in 1977 and took up Bachelor of Science in Commerce major in Accounting. He is happily married to his spouse, Annabelle Pelayo de los Reyes, an entrepreneur, a father of three professionals, and a grandfather to Miguel and Kaitlin Sofia. #



ISO CERTIFIED NIA

■ Portia Sandoval Angulo, Industrial Relations Development Officer A, HRD, NIA-CO



NIA stands tall and proud that it now belongs to the line-up of public and private organizations that received the very much coveted International Organization for Standardization (ISO) certification.

It may be recalled that NIA's journey towards the said certification begun on 18 March 2016 during the leadership of then Administrator Florencio F. Padernal. Deputy Administrator Estrella E. Icasiano was designated as the Agency's Quality Management Representative to lead the endeavors for the desired ISO 9001:2008 accreditation.

The establishment of NIA Quality Management System (QMS) and its bid for accreditation was in response to Executive Order No. 605, series 2007 that directs government agencies, including GOCCs to adopt QMS and go after ISO certification.

The exertion of all personnel in the preparation for the certification faded off when the Anglo-Japanese American Registrars, Inc. (AJA) audit team finally gave NIA a nod and conferred the seal of ISO.

AJA bestowed NIA the registration certificate to ISO 9001:2008 on 25 July 2017 under the management of Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya.

AJA is a third party ISO accredited certifying body that audited NIA's QMS for public administration for the provision of irrigation services last 20 March 2017 and 5-6 April 2017. The audit was conducted to determine NIA's compliance with the standards of ISO. The scope of its registration focused on the four (4) major activities of the four (4) sites of the Agency namely: a) Central Office, b) UPRIS, c) Region 4A, and d) Quezon IMO in

Lucena City, Quezon Province. The said activities include a) development, b) construction, c) operation, and d) maintenance of irrigation systems.

The benefits gained from the ISO 9001:2008 QMS certification experience, among others include: a) promotion of transparency and predictability through clear, standardized processes in NIA's operations and continual improvement of NIA's services, b) provision of globally recognized standard that could address requirements for effective systems management, c) NIA's efforts to strengthen and promote good governance in government were supported, and d) consciousness of NIA personnel to have a clean and more organized work areas, as well as improved records filing system.

NIA will again pass through the rigid third party audit for AJA's monitoring surveillance audit. It shall be conducted on 15 July 2018 wherein the maintenance and sustainability of NIA's QMS will be evaluated.

NIA will be transitioning from ISO 9001:2008 to the newer version of 9001 series, the ISO 9001:2015, since the certification to the former will expire on 15 September 2018. This transition is also part of NIA's continual improvement in the delivery of its services as a government agency. It also intends to expand its coverage to include all regional offices across the country.

The whole NIA family congratulates all men and women involved in this achievement and celebrates this milestone in the history of NIA. However, we must not be contented with mere sustenance of the said achievement as improvement must be continually aimed. 🏆



The National Irrigation Administration's (NIA) objective is to fully complete the residual percent of the country's agricultural lands by the end of Duterte Administration which is the reason why the agency is hoping for the continuous increase of budget, as well as the acquisition of modern equipment and hiring of additional manpower.

For initial budget recommendation, NIA's budget proposal for 2018 has been slashed by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) from P56.95 billion to P45.8 billion. This will still be the biggest amount NIA may get despite of the budget cut.

The P2 billion allocation for the implementation of the government's free irrigation service is already included in the advised budget of the DBM. NIA chief said that the agency will not just be asking P2 billion subsidy for the irrigation services fee. NIA is also looking forward for a further hike in that amount to expand the coverage of the government's free irrigation program and support the communal irrigation systems [CIS].

In 2017, NIA has a budget allocation of P38.3 billion. Of

this amount, P25.65 billion is allotted for general administration and support while the remaining P12.72 billion is allocated for various projects, such as dams, earth canals, and piping systems.

As of July 31, 2017 Physical Status, the Agency is set to develop and cultivate 23,115 hectares of new areas and restore 13,507 hectares. NIA Administrator Ricardo Visaya previously said that the increased budget would be for the acceleration and completion of ongoing projects and quickly develop and increase new irrigation areas.

"We want to increase the budget to fund the construction of our dams. We still have about 40.68% to be developed and we would like to fast-track the development to help achieve rice self-sufficiency", he added.

NIA is eyeing for at least 20% escalation (in budget) annually so it can finish the irrigable areas by 2022 in time for the end of President's term.

The Agency is still waiting for the approval of Lower and Upper Chamber on the proposed budget.

PROPOSED BUDGET OF NIA FOR 2018



Frya Camille D. Ballesteros, PR Assistant, PAIS-C.O.

IDD LEADS JOINT NIA-IA PLANNING WORKSHOP ON THE REVISED IMT WITH FREE IRRIGATION SERVICE

■ Heartie E. Navarro, CDO IV, IDD, OD

Pursuant to the Agency's commitment to continuously solidify its strong partnership with the Irrigators Associations (IAs), Insitutional Development Division (IDD) spearheaded the conduct of a "Joint NIA-IA Planning Workshop for the Implementation of the Revised IMT Program with Free Irrigation Service" last August 29-31, 2017 at Iloilo Grand Hotel, Iloilo City.

The workshop aimed to: 1) level off guidelines, terminologies, standard costing, and operating procedures related to Irrigation Management Transfer (IMT) modified contract; 2) plan for the nationwide dissemination and information campaign on the IA level; and 3) conduct the re-organization/election of the National Confederation of Irrigators Association (NCIA) Board of Trustees.

IDD Manager Bayani P. Ofrecio discussed Senate Bill 1465 or the "Free Irrigation Service for Small Farmers Act of 2017" wherein NIA is proposed to be a Line Agency; and House Bill 5670 or the "Free Irrigation Service Act", with the provision that advocates that all unpaid ISF back accounts and amortization be condoned by the government. He also explained the amended MC 13 s. 2017 which omitted the portion stating "that farmers may collect additional amount on top of their regular dues to increase their O&M budget."

Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Emmanuel Piñol graced the event. He introduced DA's "Kaibigan at Kaagapay Adopt-A-Farm Program" which aims to provide IAs and FAs (Farmers' Associations) an easy access on farm inputs/financing by matching them to suitable Input-Providers/Investors.

Subsequently, IA Presidents inquired about the program and other agricultural-related concerns which were diligently responded to by the Secretary.

Senior Deputy Administrator Abraham Bagasin delivered an inspirational speech in behalf of the NIA Administrator.

The NCIA also conducted the election of officers that will hold office for four years. Results of the election are as follows: President – Silvestre B. Bonto (Region 5); Vice Presidents – Nemesio Yadao (MARIIS), and Adolfo Olaya (Region 8), Saturnino Simbajon (Region 11); Secretary – Remy N. Albano (CAR); Treasurer – Dante A. Lazatin (UPRIIS); Auditor – Samuel Lugo (Region 2); PRO – Ireneo Leuterio (Region 7).

■ **GILMAR J. BALLATAN**, Senior Hydrogeologist and **OTHELLO L. RAZON**, Principal Engineer A Head, Land and Water Resources Section, Project Planning Division, Engineering Department

THE NIA'S QUALITY MISSION IWRM 101 (PART I)

"To construct, operate, and maintain irrigation systems consistent with INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES TO IMPROVE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY AND INCREASE FARMER'S INCOME."

The agency's quality mission is focused on the improvement of the agricultural production of the Philippines, and at equal worth, aid in the advancement of the farmer's income and their lives in general. The mission statement's focus is anchored mainly on the framework of the agency's existence: construction, operation and maintenance of irrigation systems and its conformity with the principles of the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).

The agency has been existing for more than 50 years, and with it, the expertise and proficiency on the construction, operation, and maintenance of irrigation systems. There is no problem with that. It is in the statement of the principles of IWRM that the Agency is challenged. More specifically, the knowledge, acceptance, and practice of IWRM.

THE PHILIPPINE SETTING

The Philippines is considered as one of the frontrunners of IWRM in Asia. In the world, each country is at different stages of IWRM implementation and incorporation of the IWRM principles into its own national development program. In addition, some countries have pressed on even further through the formulation of their own IWRM-based national strategies and plans.

Last March 22, 2016, the final version of the Philippines Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Planning Guidelines was presented to various members of government agencies. In this event, plans on incorporating the IWRM in all projects

of the government agencies were established. The lead agency for the IWRM implementation is the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and the University of the Philippines – National Engineering Center (UP-NEC) which is the country's national knowledge center for IWRM. Moreover, a Technical Working Group for the preparation of a model river basin plan following the IWRM guidelines was set for the Pampanga River Basin.

The National Irrigation Administration, along with the other government agencies, which are either directly or indirectly involved with water utilization and management, and the other countries, in whatever stage they may be, has this very important role in the implementation and sustainability of IWRM at the regional, national, and Global scenes.

THE IWRM SCENE

The overall water problem worldwide is that:

- Freshwater resources are under increasing pressure as affected by growing population;
- The impact of pollution;
- Water governance crisis;
- Increased economic activity; and
- Increased competition for and 'conflicts over the limited freshwater resource due to the improved standards of living.

Moreover, water utilization and management challenges are centered on the following issues:

- Securing water for people;
- Securing water for food production;
- Developing other job-creating activities;
- Protecting vital ecosystems;
- Dealing with variability of water in time and space;
- Managing risks;
- Creating people awareness and

understanding;

- Forging the political will to act; and
- Ensuring collaboration across sectors and boundaries.

GLOBAL RESPONSE: THE IWRM

WHAT IS IWRM?

IWRM is defined by the Global Water Partnership (2000) as a process which promotes the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources, in order to maximize the resultant economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems. It means that all different uses of water resources are considered together. Water allocations and management decisions consider the effects of each use on the others. IWRM is a process, which can assist countries in their endeavor to deal with water issues in a cost-effective and sustainable way.

This concept of IWRM has attracted particular attention following the international conferences on water and environmental issues in Dublin and Rio de Janeiro last 1992.

In general, IWRM is focused on the four Dublin principles as its guide and are considered fundamental to improve water resources management:

- Freshwater is a finite and vulnerable resource, essential to sustain life, development and the environment;
- Water development and management should be based on a participatory approach, involving users, planners and policy-makers at all levels;
- Women play a central part in the provision, management and safeguarding of water; and,
- Water has an economic value in all its competing uses and should be recognized as an economic good.

TRADITIONAL VERSUS IWRM Approaches (in order to understand better “integrated” approach)

Traditional Approach

- One sector
- Limited institutions involved
- Decision making at one sector
- Specific issues addressed
- Specific interests solved
- Sectoral allocation of funds

Traditional Approach

- Hydrological / Hydraulic
 - What is the expected of the catchment area?
- Engineering
 - How much water leaks from the system?
 - How can leakage be reduced?
- Management
 - What is the economic level of the leakage?

Risks of fully traditional or sectoral approach:

- Overlooking negative impacts on environment and other sectors
- Inefficient use of resources - natural and financial

Finding a balance >> Each country needs to decide where integration makes sense based on its social, political and hydrologic situation

Integrated Approach

- Multi-sectors
- Various institutions involved
- Collective decision making
- Complex issues addressed
- Overriding interests solved
- National allocation of funds

Integrated Approach

How will new investment be agreed upon?

How can local management structures balance competing uses?

How will stakeholders negotiate water rights in different conditions of water availability?

How will consumers respond to periodic water shortages or to increasing environmental concerns?

Risks of fully integrated approach

- Getting mired in complexity
- Not making good use of specialist expertise

There is no one original blueprint in the implementation and sustainability of IWRM in the world. The practice of IWRM depends on the context and specifically in the conditions of the setting. At the operational level, the main challenge is how to translate these agreed principles into concrete actions. This is why the regional and national institutions developed their own IWRM practices using the collaborative framework, which has emerged globally and regionally. 🏢

Sources: Global Water Partnership Technical Advisory Committee (2000). *Integrated Water Resources Management. TAC Background Paper No. 4.*
Global water Partnership, Deltares and UNESCO-IHE (2016). *IWRM Planning Guidelines for the Philippines.*
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Introduction to IWRM – Global Water Partnership, (2015), Danka J. Thalmeinerova

EMANCIPATING NIANS FROM THE FLU VIRUS

Eden Victoria C. Selva, PRO IV, PAIS C.O.

First in the history of NIA, the Medical Services unit of the Administrative Department managed an influenza vaccination program for all NIA Central Office (C.O.) employees regardless of employment status. Of the total target of 650 C.O. personnel, there were 502 who received their influenza vaccine for free-219 males and 289 females. However not all NIA-CO employees, grabbed the opportunity.

The program was led by our Medical Doctor, Dr. Catherine Binag, supported by nurse Charrie Cruz. Also involved in the office rounds were our two Dentists, Dr. Jec Cuevas and Dr. Fersilina Eguillos, and Ms. Imelda Peralta, Dental Assistant. It took a total of three working days to complete the activity. Next in line is a free pneumonia vaccine.

The medical program of NIA is in line with the Management’s #3 Thrust: Strengthen NIA Organization. 🏢



THE 4 RECORD PHOTO NEWS



ADMIN RICARDO R. VISAYA AND COMPANY VISITS MARIIS-DIVISION III AND NIA REGION II IA DAY ON JULY 26-27, 2017



SEMINAR WORKSHOP ON THE PROCESSING OF CLAIMS FOR PAYMENTS OF CONTRACTOR FOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT HELD ON JULY 28, 2017 AT NIA IEC CONVENTION HALL



SENIOR DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR ABRAHAM B. BAGASIN WARMLY RECEIVES THAI OFFICIAL FROM THE ROYAL IRRIGATION DEPT. KINGDOM OF THAILAND RE: PHILIPPINE-THAILAND AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION ON JULY 25, 2017





ADMINISTRATOR RICARDO R. VISAYA WITH CABSEC LEONCIO B. EVASCO DURING THE LAYING OF TIME CAPSULE FOR BALOG-BALOG MULTIPURPOSE PROJECT PHASE II AT NIA CAMPSITE, BRGY. SULA, SAN JOSE, TARLAC ON JULY 18, 2017



REGIONAL REVIEW VISIT OF ADMINISTRATOR RICARDO R. VISAYA WITH CENTRAL OFFICE MANAGERS IN REGION 4, PILA, LAGUNA ON AUGUST 11, 2017

MANAGERS CONFERENCE HELD ON AUGUST 4-5, 2017 AT CROWN HOTEL, BAGUIO CITY



ADMINISTRATOR VISAYA JOINS NIA UPRIIS IA MASS SIGNING OF MODIFIED IMT CONTRACT ON AUGUST 16, 2017



SWEET GOODBYE FOR NIA 8 PILLAR

■ Karen C. Mades, Acting PRO, Region 8

Family:

a loving and supportive father;

Friends:

a generous and genuine friend;

Workmates:

a hardworking and sincere worker

Denote to the small but a big-hearted chief of National Irrigation Administration (NIA) Region 8, Engr. Romeo G. Quiza. Known to be the noisiest but tough when it comes to work, especially in the projects and programs implementation, improvement towards quality of work and prompt delivery of service to the farmers and other stakeholders, he truly left a noble legacy to Region 8.

► NIA 8 Regional Manager just signed-off

RM Quiza ended his service on June 30, 2017 at the age of 66 after serving the agency for 43 years. Supposedly, he was to retire last year, but in the exigency of the service, he was deemed to extend twice—about a year of extension. He started in NIA on 1974. His first assignment was in Southern Leyte, together with Engr. Gloria A. Sevilla. In January 1977, at the age of 25, he became the Officer-in-Charge in Southern Leyte. After three years, he was transferred to NIA Cebu as a Concurrent Provincial Engineer and served there for 25 years. While he was in Cebu, he was a task force in Dagami, Leyte for six months and a task force for the three projects in Negros Oriental—Sta. Catalina in 1983, Cambulan in 1985, and Zamboangita in 1986. On April 1, 2005, he became the Regional Manager of Region 8 until his retirement, serving the region for 12 years and three months.

► RGQ's principle in work

He was not a mere boss but also a leader, friend, and father to the employees. May it be an official or personal problems, he hears it and tries to give fatherly advice and guidance. "In NIA, there were



bad times and good times but all these things are memorable", he shared. According to him, there were times that he was threatened by other people. He was asked to do something not in accordance to the policy. However, in his earnest desire for the agency, he refused and fought for his principle. "Know how to say NO by saying YES", he said. He added that good times are his travels where he met good friends.

► Leaving a Legacy

He never let that extension as an excuse of failing to accomplish the targets. In his last sweat in NIA, the Hingatungan IA, Silago



Southern Leyte, and Kasaganahan IA, Palo, Leyte were awarded as the Outstanding IA in the Rice Achievers Award 2017 and were given cash prizes amounting to P 1M and P100,000.00 respectively. He is responsible for bringing celebrities to join with the NIAs in the parade. When the anniversary is about to come, he is asked by many, "Sir, sinong artista ang dadalhin mo this anniversary?". Pia Wurtzbach, Mary Jean Lastimosa, Xian Lim, Ali Forbes, Maja Salvador, Coco Martin, Diana Meneses, Rachel Peters, Maria Angelica de Leon, Jericho Rosales, Coco Martin, and Gizelle Sanchez are just some of the celebrities he brought to grace the occasion. He is not being lavish rather, he just wants everybody to be happy and enjoy the celebration. As it's in his nature of making people happy.

Other achievements under his leadership include the construction of the NIA 8 Training Center inaugurated last July 7, 2017, renovation of Regional office buildings, acknowledgment of NIA RIO 8 as the most improved Region, and with the support of Administrator Visaya, the continuation of Sta. Rita SRIP which was then suspended.

Efforts to Rebuild after YOLANDA

Everybody remembers the wrath of super typhoon Yolanda which hit Leyte and Samar on November 8, 2013. It was indeed a remarkable disastrous event in the world that no one could ever imagine how to move forward and continue to live. On the other hand, it was remarkable in such a way that it showed the resiliency of Eastern Visayan.

Yolanda aftermath to NIA 8: 18 National Irrigation Systems (NIS) and 79 Communal Irrigation Systems (CIS) affected and 50 units of post-harvest facilities were damaged. More than 70% of the population from the Yolanda affected areas in Region 8 consider farming and fishing as their means of livelihood. However, 9,258 irrigated rice areas were affected by the super typhoon. Thus, in the leadership of RM Quiza and sincere efforts of the NIA 8 employees, temporary remedial measures cooperatively undertaken by the NIA, irrigators' associations (IA), local government unit (LGU) and International Non-Government Organizations (NGO) resulted to restoration of irrigation water. In fact, 100 % of irrigation services has been restored in all Yolanda affected irrigation systems.

RM Quiza was known to be a generous person. Thus, NIA employees from different regions extended their sincere help and assistance to NIA 8 employees. It was 1 month before Christmas, despite the grief, NIA 8 felt the spirit of bayanihan and love from other regions.

Things Untold

- April 1 is the date. Three significant events of RGQ's life happened on April 1 (not in the same year)—he got married, became the RIM of Regions 7 & 8, and became the RIM of Region 8.
- Health is wealth. Everybody could notice his good posture or gracefulness. No one could really identify his age. The only indication of him being old is just his hair but not his total physical appearance nor his health condition. He looks 10 years younger of his real age (66). In one of the conversations of his friends, he shared his healthy tips or secrets in achieving or maintaining his good appearance. The following are just some of his tips:
 1. Complete eight hours of sleep,
 2. Good hygiene,
 3. Eat plenty of fruits and vegetables' and
 4. Smile

"I don't drink alcohol or liquor. Aside from water, only juice, coke, and coffee will do. I don't smoke. Only SEx—Sufficient

Exercise", he added playfully.

In fact, RGQ donated blood during the 53rd NIA anniversary held at the region. He was 65 years old at that time. However, the doctor allowed him to donate blood since he was physically fit, active, and able.

- Time is gold. For him, time is precious. He wants prompt delivery of service. According to his driver, they are always in hurry and an hour ahead of the expected time of arrival. He doesn't want to be late on special events.
- Music is everyone's food for the soul. He loves music. His favorite songs are Constantly and Visions by Cliff Richard. Obviously, he is proud of the NIA Region 8 Chorale. They are always requested to entertain guests and visitors who come to the office.
- His favorite foods are seafood, Japanese food, biko, fried banana (without sugar), pizza, and bread with strawberry jam and peanut butter.

SEx—Sufficient Exercise. Every other day he plays his favorite sport, lawn tennis, after office hours. He is truly good at this sport.

RGQ to the employees

"I have done so many accomplishments but it cannot be accomplished without you. Kasama ko kayo sa hirap at ginhawa. Utang na loob ko ito sa lahat ng mga empleyado. Masakit para sa akin kasi I sometimes decide based on the policy and program. May nasasagasaan at nasasaktan [ako] but please forgive me. I ask your forgiveness for that because I am just doing my work as the Regional Manager of this region", he expressed.

NIA 8 to RGQ

Employees are happy and thankful working with the cheerful, hardworking, and passionate regional manager. Efforts are well appreciated. Thumbs up to you, sir! "You may now say, Goodbye tension and hello pension", as you enjoy your new journey. You'll always be part of NIA Region 8.

Because of his sincere support to NIA's thrusts, Administrator Visaya commended RGQ in his message during RGQ's send-off party with the ARDOMA. "Romy, thank you for the fruitful service you have rendered. Saludo ako sa'yo! **Kung pwede lang sana ma-extend ka ulit**".





11 STEPS AND COUNTING: THE CHRONICLES OF ENGR. JOHN L. SOCALO

Rita L. Afidchao, Administrative Services Officer V & Mylene Malecdan, PRO, NIA-CAR

As he turned 65 on August 4, 2017, Engr. John Socalo spent his last day of government service with his fellow NIAns, family members, Irrigators' Association leaders, and former colleagues who converged for the Salamat-Mabuhay Program at the Crown Legacy Hotel in Baguio City held in honor of his 40 years and 6 months of service.

Sir John was Regional Manager of National Irrigation Administration (NIA)-Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) for more than seven years, but for more than three decades he wore the simplest shirts and pants, blending so well with the farmer-clients he loved to mingle with during his stint at the field.

His first step to the portals of the NIA was on February 8, 1977 at then-Chico River Irrigation Project (CRIP) in Bulanao, Tabuk, Kalinga as an engineer-trainee. When he entered this agency, the NIA-CRIP just took off. After a short office assignment, he was assigned to join the team to work on the realization of the ambitious CRIP. It was never an easy journey for CRIP to come to life. Resistance from various sectors came about. However, Sir John, his superiors, and teammates, with all dedication and perseverance, worked for its completion.

By the time CRIP was completed in 1986, he was already on his fourth step of the ladder. CRIP became CRIS, Chico River Irrigation System (It was named UCRIS to distinguish it from the Lower CRIS of Tuao, Cagayan, which used to be a communal system, and was rehabilitated by the CRIP. Lower CRIS is under NIA-Region 2).

As the project officially became a national irrigation system, the NIA had to undertake another chapter, the operation and maintenance (O&M) of the system. One of the hardest things to do was on how to steer farmers from their traditional farming to a more innovative farming style and, of course, the collection of Irrigation Service Fees (ISF).

As he was doing his best, God has done the rest. In September of 2004, he ascended to his eighth step when he was appointed as Irrigation Superintendent, the head of the CRIS.

That ascension to the eighth step did come with a price. Sir John had to raise his family on a 70%-30% scheme where he

got to give 70% of his time to the office while 30% was given at home. All of his children had to persevere in their studies until they earned their bachelor's degrees.

For 31 years, the vast tracts of land in Tabuk have been his playground. Those lands were still undeveloped then. As the years unfolded, the NIA team facilitated the resurrection of those idle lands into productive agricultural areas. The irrigation structures and facilities that they built are up to this time serving as the lifeblood of the farmers of Kalinga and part of Quezon, Isabela. This had contributed much to the uplifting of the living standards of the farmers. Even the paved roads now in Tabuk City were once service roads opened by the NIA-CRIP to access the project site.

Our good manager had shared that in his stint in the agency, it was hard work, dedication and commitment that caused his ascent to the ladder. He did not even have to apply for promotions; they were given to him on a silver platter. (I'd say it's a payment of the 70%-30% scheme).

When NIA as an agency had to undergo the Rationalization Plan, he had to get out of his comfort zone to fulfill a career growth. On May 16, 2009, with mixed feelings, he reported to duty at the NIA-CAR regional office in La Trinidad, Benguet to take his ninth step of the ladder to head the Engineering and Operations as its Division Manager. His abrupt relocation from a sweltering place to a heavenly cold place challenged his health. At times, he was really covered with layers of clothing. His hot water bag became his constant companion, a go-without accessory.



Challenges after challenges started to unfold. Not yet feeling warm and comfy at his seat in the EOD, in November 2009, barely six months of heading the said office, Sir John had to carry a rather gargantuan responsibility as he had to take the reins from Engr. Abraham B. Akilit who retired abruptly to pursue another chapter of his life in the political arena. He was designated as Acting Regional Manager, his tenth step.

On July 19, 2010, he was appointed as a full-fledged Regional Manager of NIA-CAR. This was his eleventh step. For more than seven years at the regional office, he had carried NIA-CAR and its burdens graciously because he weathered all the storms that came along the way.

Adding up to UCRIS as part of the comprehensive terminal report of his career life is the realization of the NIA-CAR Farmers' Training Center at the regional office. These significant structures are an attachment to his 40 years of government service. They are the products of his sweat, frustrations and success while he was climbing those 11 steps of the ladder.

"As you receive this key and the responsibility, power and authority vested in it, handle it with courage but with humility,

with determination but with compassion and understanding. May God bless and help you in all your undertakings", Engr. Socalo said to the incoming Acting Regional Manager, Engr. Benito T. Espique, Jr., during the mass turnover ceremony on August 4, 2017 in Baguio City.

God is indeed great. For all those stepladders he took, he came out stronger and fitter—because ladders can have more steps than those eleven ones he climbed. 🪜

Salamat and Mabuhay Sir John!



CENTRAL OFFICE RETIREES				
NAME	POSITION TITLE	OFFICE	EFFECTIVE DATE OF	YEARS OF
COMPULSORY RETIREMENT				
Antonio C. Aldovino, Jr.	Supervising Engineer A	DSD	March 01	39
Teresita A. Villa	IRMA A	HRD	March 24	38
Teresita T. delos Santos	Records Officer B	HRD	April 20	38
Josias R. Pacolor	Principal Engineer A	DSD/SRIP	April 24	41
Teodorico C. Pablo	Supervising Engineer A	EMD	July 02	40
Enrique E. Alay	Senior Carpenter	GSD	July 16	5
Camela R. Ubaldo	Sr. Internal Control Officer A	IAS	July 16	38
Alberto C. Alarcon	Senior Draftsman	PPD	December 23	44
OPTIONAL RETIREMENT				
Alberto P. Baluyut	Division Manager A	EMD	January 1	42
Evelyn M. Cordero	Private Secretary B	FMD	January 1	42
Consolacion B. Balba	Sr. Internal Control Officer	IAS	February 16	35
Sylvana C. Tomeldan	Data Encoder	DSD	March 01	30
Alicia R. Campos	Sr. Administrative Asst. II	CARP-IC	March 01	43
Dolores B. Galvez	Secretary A	SMD	April 01	38
Denia B. Gatdula	Secretary A	ED	April 03	36
Lorna T. Dacanay	Data Encoder	DSD	April 03	40
Marcela A. Abella	Sr. Corporate Accounts Analyst	AD	June 01	41
Estela J. Torres	Supervising Engineer A	CMD	July 01	38
Genever M. Dionio	Department Manager A	LEGAL	August 01	20
Elisa P. Jeciel	Community Development Officer III	IDD	September 01	40

To all the retirees, we would like to extend the Agency's heartfelt gratitude for your hard work and good service. While your lovely presence will be missed, rest assured that the great work you did would not be forgotten anytime soon. Thank you for being a tireless professional, supportive coworker, and a good friend.

Happy Retirement!

WIKANG FILIPINO: KILALANIN AT TUKLASIN

Filipino Word:
POOK-SAPOT

English Translation:
WEBSITE

Definition:
A place on the World Wide Web that contains information about a person, organization, etc., and that usually consists of many Web pages joined by hyperlinks.

Filipino Word:
SULATRONIKO

English Translation:
EMAIL

Definition:
A system for sending messages from one computer to another.

Filipino Word:
PANTABLAY

English Translation:
CHARGER

Definition:
A device for charging storage batteries.

Filipino Word:
DUYOG

English Translation:
ECLIPSE

Definition:
An occasion when the sun looks like it is completely or partially covered with a dark circle because the moon is between the sun and the earth.

Filipino Word:
AWANGAN

English Translation:
INFINITY

Definition:
Any unbounded space, time, or quantity.

Filipino Word:
ASOGE

English Translation:
MERCURY

Definition:
The chemical element of atomic number 80, a heavy silvery-white metal that is liquid at ordinary temperatures.



Filipino Word:

DAGSIN

English Translation:

GRAVITY

Definition:

The natural force of attraction exerted by a celestial body, such as Earth, upon objects at or near its surface, tending to draw them toward the center of the body.

Filipino Word:

KAGAW

English Translation:

GERM

Definition:

A small mass of protoplasm or cells from which a new organism or one of its parts may develop.

Filipino Word:

HIDHID

English Translation:

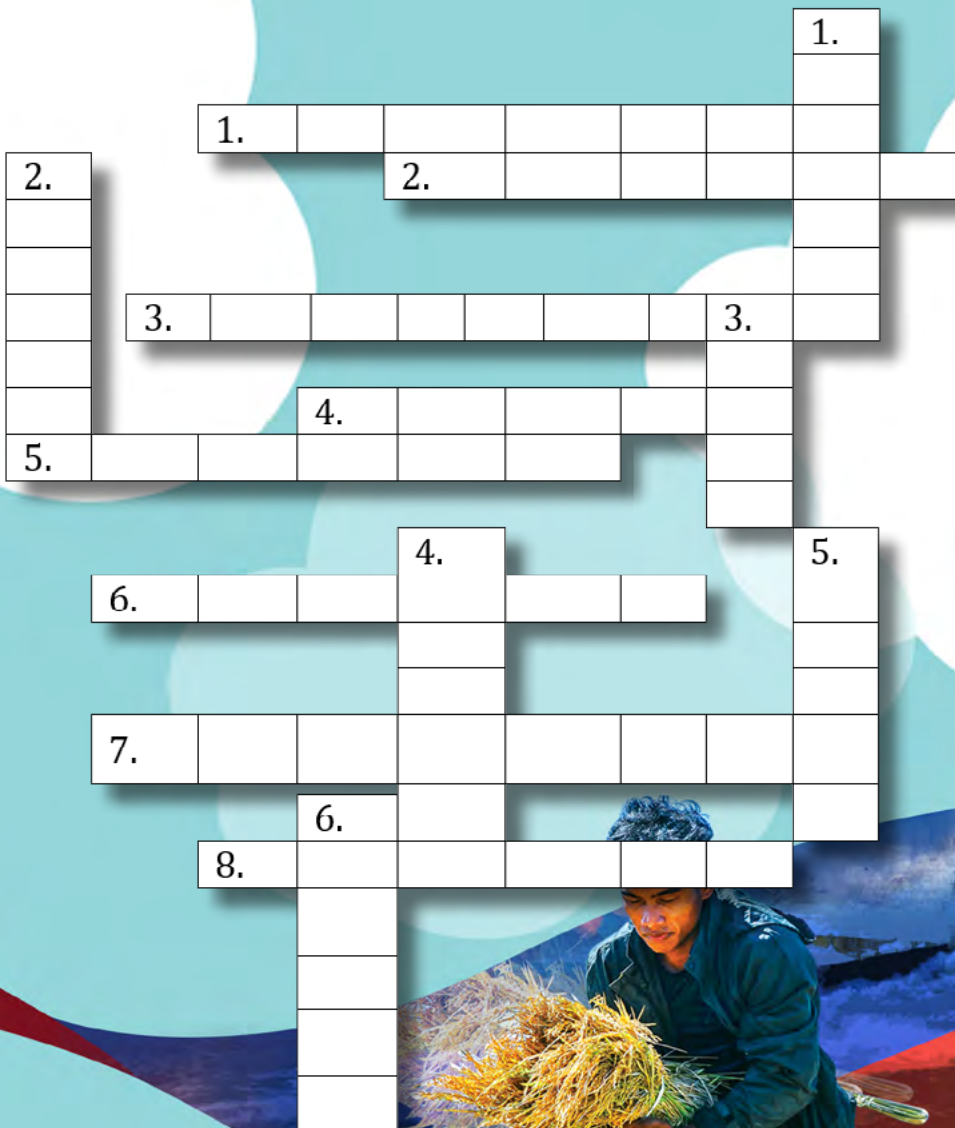
SELFISH

Definition:

Concerned chiefly or only with oneself.

Try Mo!

Ang mga sumusunod na salita ay karaniwan ginagamit sa larangan ng irigasyon o agrikultura. Ating subukang sagutin at unawain.

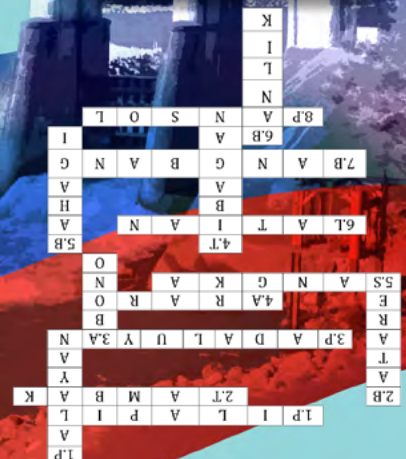


Pababa

1. Paddy
2. Cooperative work
3. Fertilizer
4. Quarry
5. Parcel
6. Siltation

Pahalang

1. Weir
2. Embankment
3. Conduit
4. Plow
5. Ditch
6. Swamp
7. Canal
8. Drainage





Hamon

*Masuyo ang dampi ng araw
Sa mahalimuyak na umaga,
Huni ng mga tagak na kumakanta
Ang musikang kasama
Tungo sa linang na inihanda
Sa pagtutudla ng mga punla.*

*Bawat hakbang ng mga paa
Sa binubungkal na lupa,
May malalim na bakas ang tuwa
Ng bayaning payak
Na wagas ang dalisay na pag-ibig
Sa larangan ng pagbubukid.*

*Saksi ang libo-libong berdeng laso
Na kumakaway sa patag ng alinlangan
At maulap na pakikipagsapalaran
Sa peste, delubyo, tag-init, at tag-ulan
Hatid ng nagpapatinterong panahon
Kung sila ba'y mamulaklak o babagsak.*

*Masuyo ang dampi ng araw
Sa mahalimuyak na umaga
At umaagos mula sa Prinsa
Patungo sa lupang sinasaka
Tubig na lagaslas ay pag-asa.*

Remster 2017

NIA BAGS RUNNER-UP IN 2ND TRANSCO INVITATIONAL BASKETBALL LEAGUE - JUNIOR CATEGORY

Clarizze C. Toribio, Information Officer A, PAIS-CO

In line with TransCo's 16th Anniversary Celebration, the National Irrigation Administration was invited to the 2nd Transco Invitational Basketball League participated by PSALM, TRANSCO, NGCP, PNB, BIR, and PDEA.

The league started last May 25, 2017 at the NPC Covered Court. It aims to develop the camaraderie among employees of the said organizations.

Team NIA is composed of Juris Huerta, Jerick Datu, Homer Cabigao, Kerr Sherwin Uchang, Renato Ulep, Ronald Rosario, Mark Daradal, Jervy Valencia, Bernard Pubulo, Renoir Bancod, Edmar Bautista, Arvin Palad, Edmond Bautista, and Carl Mitchum Cruz.

The Team was awarded 1st Runner up on August 22, 2017 at National Transmission Commission. 🏆



WINNERS OF THE 2ND TRANSCO INVITATIONAL BASKETBALL LEAGUE

SENIOR CATEGORY

Champion : BIR

1st Runner-up : NGCP

2nd Runner-up : TRANSCO

JUNIOR CATEGORY

Champion : BIR

1st Runner-up : NIA

2nd Runner-up : NPC