

Ushering
in 2020

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Certification

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Hydropower
Developers Inked

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for Possible Adoption
of Solar-Powered
Fertigation System



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION

CURRENTS

Volume 45, No. 1, 2020



**NIA 2020:
TOWARDS
CONTINUING
PURSUIT FOR
RESILIENCY AND
EFFICIENCY
THROUGH
INNOVATIONS AND
MODERNIZATION**



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USHERING IN A NEW DECADE

It seems that the beginning of the decade had posed humongous challenges to the limits of the human race. Year 2020 – is the start of '20s decade, which is the current decade based on the Gregorian calendar beginning January 1, 2020 until December 31, 2020.

In the global scene, there was the tension between the superpower United States (US) and Iran, after the assassination of Iran's military commander *Qasem Soleimani*. The virus which is the smallest and the simplest life form known have mutated through the years to have transformed into coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and have downed the highest form of life from this modern times in more than 200 countries. The COVID-19 pandemic led to the mandatory lockdown of human movement resulting to the widespread shortage of basic household commodities and utilities, cancellation of socio-cultural and political events, and temporary closure of factories and other workplaces. The closure of several employment sources had caused economic disruption globally.

At the local front, while the country has not yet recovered from the devastation caused by the series of earthquakes in Mindanao in the last quarter of 2019, a little less than 350 thousand locales of Batangas and Cavite, the country was displaced by the eruption of Taal Volcano on January 12. During this period, due to ash fall, the face masks' price had skyrocketed due to the shortage of supply. Two months later, on March 12, 2020, the Philippines raised the COVID-19 alert system to "*Code Red Sub-Level 2*" imposing community quarantine in the National Capital Region (NCR), restrictions on land, domestic air and sea travel, as well as suspension of classes, mass gatherings and non-essential work and imposition of flexible work arrangements. Days later, the majority of the regions and cities of the country was locked down under community quarantine. The country's GDP was recorded at negative growth due to the derailed economic activities. Not to be outdone by the COVID-19 pandemic's fear index, seven earthquakes with intensities ranging from 5.4 to 6.1 magnitudes rocked the three biggest islands in the country.

It was not all panic and fear which dominated the atmosphere of the first part of 2020 as the crisis have brought-out the humanity in human race long been relegated to the corners of the conscience. People became more thankful, more prayerful, kinder, more selfless, less materialistic, and more appreciative of the intrinsic things for living. Families were rediscovering each other and individuals were reinventing themselves. The skies were seen to be bluer as the earth's ozone layer was able to breathe again because of the closure of factories and the stoppage of all types of vehicles.

At the onset of the Luzon lockdown, a question that came to mind was how NIAs would manage the massive change of daily living. During these trying times, the Agency was able to prove our Agency's 2020 theme -- NIA 2020: Towards Continuing Pursuit For Resiliency And Efficiency Through Innovations And Modernization as we joined the country in the President's call of "*Bayanihan To Heal as One*". With the leadership of the Top Management, NIA Task Force COVID was set-up, Executive Committee (ExeCom) Meetings were carried out regularly either face-to-face observing the ninja-style face mask, one meter physical distancing, and the use of 70% alcohol as body and hand sanitizers, or via Zoom. These are done to decide on Agency policies to respond to the challenges of COVID-19, adopting a skeleton workforce to ensure that all our employees are supported foremost with their salaries and wages, and that other relevant interested parties are served. It is inspiring that the pandemic has proven the resiliency of a NIA. Through the use of information and technology, NIAs were able to connect, share how the 17 offices nationwide were adapting with the deadly virus through teleconferencing in Facebook and Messenger, and share information to each employee through text blasting.

To all NIAs and our service providers who made sure that we are fed, the surroundings are clean, and the vicinity of the NIA Central Office is safe, **MARAMING SALAMAT PO!**

We herald our own NIA Heroes of the new decade who stayed on days and nights transcending above the fear and threats to their lives of the pandemic so that "*#TuloyAngDaloyNIA*" 🙏

NIA CONDUCTS VALIDATION AND INVESTIGATION OF NANGALISAN CIS

■ Josias M. Mercado, Public Relations Assistant A, NIA PAIS - C.O.

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) conducted a thorough validation, investigation, and coordination meeting on February 17-20, 2020 at the NIA Cordillera Administrative Region – Benguet Satellite Office to address the issues that were recently raised against Nangalisan Communal Irrigation System (Nangalisan CIS) and restore the flow of irrigation water up to all the reservoir tanks irrigation system.

Located at Barangay Nangalisan, Municipality of Tuba, Benguet, Nangalisan CIS was implemented in two phases. The first phase was funded under the Repair, Rehabilitation, and Restoration of Existing Communal Irrigation Systems (RRRECIS) Fund 2017, while the second phase was under Extension and Expansion (EEECIS) Fund 2017, which were completed in March and July 2018, respectively. The project was completed in July 2018 after test-run was conducted with the irrigation water reaching up to the ninth reservoir tank. However, when Typhoon Ompong ravaged the region in September 2018, portion of the mainline of High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE) pipes were carried away by strong currents which made the system non-operational.

Meanwhile, the contractor of the project made remedies by installing four smaller parallel pipelines at the source which restored flow of the irrigation water from the first to the eighth reservoir tank. Upon validation and investigation, illegal turnouts were found. Instead of tapping irrigation water from the designed distribution pipes/turnouts, 12 individual pipelines along the main pipeline were illegally tapped.

Similarly, there were damages inflicted intentionally by unknown individuals through hacking of pipelines by bolo. These lead to decrease in the flow of irrigation water which can no longer supply/reach Tanks 5 to 9. In order to address the issues, NIA Benguet Satellite Office has undertaken immediate repair works which include the installation of 4" diameter HDPE pipes at the source on December 26-28, 2019 to restore the 78-meter damaged pipe near the intake, provision of Permanent Column Support along hanging pipelines from January to February 10, 2020, and embedding of some pipes to prevent illegal tapping. Moreover, coordination meetings between NIA and the affected farmers resulted to the preparation of detailed design and program of works (POW), issuance of the demand letter to illegal tappers to remove illegally tapped personal pipelines by the legal officer/retainer.

To prevent illegal tapping, pipes for use as lateral delivery pipelines by farmer-beneficiaries have been already delivered on February 29, 2020 for installation. In addition, NIA, in agreement with the Local Government Units (LGUs) of Nangalisan, instructed the Nangalisan Irrigators' Association to maintain and take care of the system. Nangalisan CIS, whose water source comes from Irisan River, supplies nine reservoir tanks to irrigate a total of 64.25 hectares of agricultural land in the area, benefitting 98 farmers and their families.

NIA welcomes concerns, feedbacks, and/or suggestion from its stakeholders for the improvement of government service delivery and transparency in governance. 📄

NIA SIGNS CAL ENERGY FIXED ASSET BOUNDARY

■ Josias M. Mercado, Public Relations Assistant A, NIA PAIS - C.O.

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA), represented by Deputy Administrator for Engineering and Operations (DAEO) Sector C'zar M. Sulaik, National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP), represented by District Senior Manager Florendo C. De Luna, and Cal Energy Casecan Hydroelectric Power Plant (CE CHEPP), represented by Plant Manager Roberto EL. Bernardo, signed the CE CHEPP Fixed Asset Boundary Document on February 21, 2020 at the Conference Room of DAEO, 6th Floor, Building A, NIA Central Office.

Before the signing of the document, the Presentation of Back to Office Report for the Inventory of the CE Casecan Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) Project-Fixed Asset Boundary was made by the NIA Inventory Team for the preparation of turn-over of the same to NIA. The events were attended by the representatives from the three parties and other officials of NIA Central Office. 📄



FIVE MOU WITH HYDROPOWER DEVELOPERS INKED

■ Josias M. Mercado, Public Relations Assistant A, NIA PAIS - C.O.


The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) signed five Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with hydropower developers on February 28, 2020 at the NIA Administrator's Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Building A, NIA Central Office.

The signing of three MOU between NIA, represented by Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya, and Renewable Development for Sustainable Growth (RDSG) Corporation, represented by President/Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Ruben B. Sumagang, aims to pursue the development of three mini hydroelectric power plants on three areas: 1) Mal River Irrigation System (Mal RIS) Canal Stations +220m, + 203m, and +171 m located in Matanao, Davao Del Sur, 2) Andanan River Irrigation System (Andanan CIS) Canal located in Agusan Del Sur, and 3) Miral River Irrigation System (Miral RIS) Canal Stations +322m and +220m located in Bansalan, Davao Del Sur.

On the other hand, the MOU signing between NIA, represented by Administrator Visaya, and SunAsia Energy, Inc., represented by President Theresa Cruz-Capellan, aims to pursue the development of floating solar power project at the Pantabangan Reservoir located in Pantabangan, Nueva Ecija.

Meanwhile, the MOU signing between NIA, represented by Administrator Visaya, and SN Aboitiz Power Magat, represented by President/CEO Joseph S. Yu, aims to pursue the development of floating solar power project at the Magat Reservoir located in Ramon, Isabela through an acceptable scheme under the existing laws, such as the Republic Act No. 9513 (Renewable Energy Act of 2008), among others. Under the memoranda, the hydroelectric and solar power developers requested NIA's permission for the conduct of feasibility studies (FSs) at its own expense and at no cost to NIA.

The activity is necessary to determine the financial, socio-economic, and technical viabilities of the project, as well as the most cost effective development, construction, and operation of the power generation components. If FS is feasible, the projects will be commercialized.

The development of hydroelectric and floating solar power projects is an undertaking of NIA to explore other income sources to sustain its viability as a government owned or controlled corporation (GOCC). 



Renewable Development for Sustainable Growth (RDSG) represented by President/CEO Ruben B. Sumagang

Sun Asia Energy, Inc. represented by President Theresa Cruz-Capellan



SN Aboitiz Power Magat represented by President/CEO Joseph S. Yu



P1.98 BILLION WORTH OF PROJECT CONTRACTS SIGNED

■ Josias M. Mercado, Public Relations Assistant A, NIA PAIS - C.O.

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA), represented by Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya, signed five Contract Agreements with the project contractors on January 14, 2020 at the Administrator's Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Building A, NIA Central Office.

These projects include 1) P322.83-million Ibato-Iraan Earthfill Dam located in Aborlan, Palawan represented by Green Asia Construction and Development Corporation Authorized Representative Renato M. Legaspi, Jr., 2) P455.84-million Alfonso Lista Pump Irrigation Project in the Province of Ifugao represented by Tokwing Construction Corporation / ASC Construction and Concrete Products (Joint Venture) Managing Officer Abraham S. Collado, 3) P333.37-million Sulvec Earthfill Dam in the Municipality of Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte represented by R.D. Interior Junior Construction General Manager Ricardo D. Interior, Jr., 4) P832.97-million Balbalungao Earthfill Dam in Lupao, Nueva Ecija represented by P.L. Sebastian Construction, Inc. / R.D. Interior Junior Construction General Manager Ricardo D. Interior, Jr., and 5) P45.5-million heavy equipment represented by Civic Merchandising, Inc. Machine Sales Engineer Aubrey Fe C. Bartolata.

Ibato-Iraan Zone Earthfill Dam has a reservoir storage capacity of 2,388 MCM which will irrigate about 860 hectares of farmlands in the four barangays of Sagpangan, Ibato, Iraan, and Maligaya. The source of water will come from Ibato and Iraan Rivers. Once completed, it will be considered as the biggest irrigation project in Palawan which will benefit 425 farmers and their families.

On the other hand, Alfonso Lista Pump Irrigation Project (ALPIP) is a multi-year locally-funded irrigation project which aims to provide substantial and timely water supply for irrigation to agricultural lands in three barangays of Alfonso Lista, Ifugao. The project, whose water sources come from the Magat Reservoir, is expected to irrigate around 2,300 hectares of agricultural lands in the area, benefitting 2,800 farmers and their families.

Meanwhile, Sulvec Small Reservoir Irrigation Project (Sulvec SRIP) with a service area of 900 hectares covers nine barangays in Pasuquin, namely, Caruan, Estancia, Nagsanga, Nalvo, Salpad, Pragata, Sulbec, Sulungan, and Susugaen, benefitting 792 farmers and their families.

Similarly, Balbalungao SRIP with a service area of 840 hectares aims to provide sustainable development in the rural area by improving agricultural productivity in support to the agricultural program of the government. The project will utilize the water resources from the Balbalungao River through the construction of 27-meter high embankment dam, canal network and appurtenant structures, and the rehabilitation of the existing dam of San Isidro Communal Irrigation System (San Isidro CIS), envisioned to eventually function as a regulator dam.

Lastly, the contract agreement for the acquisition of P45.5-million worth of heavy equipment (8 units of wheeled loader) is part of the Agency's Three-Year Re-fleeting Program from CY 2017 to 2019. For CY 2017, NIA purchased 34 units of light/transport vehicles and 17 units of heavy equipment.

For CY 2018, NIA acquired 91 units of light/transport vehicles and 18 units of heavy equipment. Meanwhile, five units of heavy equipment and 91 units of light/transport vehicles are set for procurement in 2019.

The contract signing is witnessed by the NIA Top Management Officials and the executives of the contracting industries. The NIA Management exercises its utmost diligence to complete the Agency's irrigation projects on time and to resolve the issues/problems in the project implementation. 📄



NIA AND PAGASA TO INSTALL TELEMETERED RAINFALL AND WATER LEVEL GAUGING STATION AT BUBUNAWAN IRRIGATION INTAKE FACILITY

■ Josias M. Mercado, Public Relations Assistant A, NIA PAIS - C.O.

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA), represented by Administrator Ricardo R Visaya, and the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), represented by Administrator Vicente B. Malano, signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the installation and operation of Telemetered Rainfall and Water Level Gauging Station in the vicinity of NIA Bubunawan Irrigation Intake Facility located at Purok 8, Sitio Nangkaon, Barangay Salimbalan, Baungon, Bukidnon. The activity was held on February 26, 2020 at the NIA Administrator's Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Building A, NIA Central Office.

The MOA signing aims to install/operate the Station, construct access road, and install peripherals and perimeter fence in the vicinity to effectively monitor the hydrological condition of the Cagayan de Oro River Basin.

There is a need to install automatic rainfall and water level gauging equipment and construct repeater/relay towers to enable the speedy transmission of hydrological data to the Cagayan de Oro River Basin Flood Forecasting and Warning Center (CDORBFFWC) and the Main Operation Center of the Hydrometeorology Division (HMD) as an advance information of the mainstream areas, as well as the response of the river system to the rainfall intensity. Thus, effectively carrying out flood forecasting and warning activities.

Under the memorandum, PAGASA agreed to make all necessary representations to the concerned authorities regarding the funds that will be utilized for the construction of the station, construct the housing and install monitoring equipment necessary for the operation of the Station, provide access to observed data as part of public domain, and ensure that the construction and operation of the Station will not result in any damage to environment, community, and to the NIA Bubunawan Irrigation Intake Facilities.

All undertakings provided in the memorandum will have no cost to NIA. PAGASA will bear all costs to be incurred in the establishment and installation of the equipment and other appurtenant facilities, as well as in the overall operation and maintenance of the Station.

The activity is part of the national government's endeavor to reduce the negative impacts of flooding through the establishment of early warning system for all of the major river basins in the Philippines. 🇵🇭




NIA OPENS ITS DOORS FOR POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF SOLAR POWERED FERTIGATION SYSTEM

■ Josias M. Mercado, Public Relations Assistant A, NIA PAIS - C.O.

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) opens its doors for possible adoption of Solar Powered Fertigation System Program which promotes the efficient use of liquid fertilizer as a directive of NIA Administrator Ricardo R Visaya. A product presentation for Solar Pump by Mr. Evi Elkayam of LR Group from Israel, was held during the NIA Executive Committee Meeting on February 10, 2020 at the NIA Administrator's Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Building A, NIA Central Office.

The possible application of the SPFS in NIA are the Establishment of Groundwater Pump Irrigation Project (EGPIP) and the Repair of Groundwater Pump Irrigation Systems (RGPIS). EGPIP involves the construction and installation of new deep wells and shallow tube wells.

Expected impact on the implementation of the project will be the provision, while RGPIS is implemented to sustain the operation of existing groundwater pumps, to repair the groundwater pumps to prevent further deterioration, and to sustain and augment present irrigate areas.


The presentation was attended by the NIA Top Management Officials, Department Managers from Central Office, Systems Management Division (SMD) and Irrigation Engineering Center (IEC) Managers, and personnel from IEC, SMD, and Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program – Irrigation Component (CARP-IC). 



FOUR REGIONAL OFFICIALS TAKE OATH OF OFFICE

■ Josias M. Mercado, Public Relations Assistant A, NIA PAIS - C.O.

Four regional officials of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) took their oath of office before NIA Administrator Ricardo R Visaya on January 27, 2020 at the Administrator's Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Building A, NIA Central Office.

The officials are Regional Manager (RM) Angelito S. Miguel (Region 1), Department Manager Rosalinda B. Bote (UPRIIS), RM Freddie M. Toquero (Region 5), and RM Wilson M. Lopez (Region 7). The oath taking was witnessed by Deputy Administrator for Administrative and Finance Sector Romeo G Gan, Operations Department Manager Delsy J. Revellame, PAIS Department Manager Pilipina P. Bermudez, and UPRIIS Administrative and Finance Division Manager Milca B. Cayanga. 



P8.1-MILLION PROJECT FULFILLS FARMERS' DREAM

■ Darlinda L. Gorillo, Institutional Development Officer, Surigao del Norte-Dinagat Island IMO, CARAGA

Dinagat Island — “A dream come true.” These are the words expressed by IA President Victorio L. Edana of Garcia Kudkuran Communal Irrigation Project (CIP) during the turnover of P8,168,615.72 million project. He conveyed it with a smile on his face and laughter in his eyes. His gestures were sincerely grateful to the government agencies, especially to the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and the Local government of Dinagat Islands (DI) who fulfill their dreams.

NIA Caraga Regional Manager Madante P. Ganotisi and DI Governor Arlene “Kaka” Bag-ao led the turnover ceremony held at Barangay Garcia, Multipurpose Building, Libjo, Dinagat Islands on January 24, 2020. The project was funded under Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program-Irrigation Component (CARP-IC) which will serve 25 hectares with 25 farmer beneficiaries. It was implemented by Agusan del Norte - Surigao del Norte - Dinagat Islands Irrigation Management Office (ASDI IMO) under the leadership of SDN and DI Satellite Head Engr. Susan D. Lariba and Acting Division Manager Engr. Adeline H. Manlunas.

“Almost 50% imported rice were procured outside of the province, considering the increasing demand of goods. *Tutukan ang agrikultura, tugunan ang pangangailangan para masiguro ang mataas na porsyento ng produksyon at kita ng mga magsasaka*”, Gov. Bag-ao said during the turnover. She also expressed that in order to ensure the sustainability of the project, farmers should properly manage the irrigation facilities so that the future generation will continue to benefit.

Regional Manager Ganotisi encouraged everyone to effectively manage the facilities to continually provide quality irrigation service and opportunity to help in the rice production in the province to secure rice sufficiency. 🍚



PAVING THE WAY FOR A NEW MULTIPURPOSE BUILDING

■ Jayson B. Cabrera, Public Relations Officer C, PAIS - C.O.

The Groundbreaking Ceremony of the Agency's Multipurpose Building was held on March 11, 2020 at the NIA Central Office Grounds. This project has the purpose of augmenting the Agency's facilities for the conduct of trainings, seminars, workshops, health and wellness activities, conferences, and other capability-building programs for employees.

The Top Management Officials, through the leadership of Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya, ensures that NIA employees are provided with a more dignified workplace which will encourage greater productivity, efficiency, and innovation in fulfilling the Agency's mission.

In his message, the Administrator mentioned that this multipurpose building is a sign of the management's efforts in improving NIA organization. "Palaki tayo nang palaki, kung minsan nagsasabay-sabay ang mga meetings, mga activities natin, masikip na tayo," he added.

The plan of constructing a multipurpose building for NIA is through the initiative of the Deputy Administrator for Administrative and Finance Sector Romeo G. Gan. Administrator Visaya expressed his gratitude to DA Gan while coining him as the "Great Architect of NIA".

Administrator Visaya said that when he and DA Gan were already Senior Officers in the Armed Forces, it was no longer the medal that gives them self-fulfillment. Rather, it is the fact that their job contributes, in one way or another, to the area where they are assigned. Thus, in serving NIA, it is their contribution to the improvement of the Agency that makes them have that sense of self-fulfillment.

Closing his message, Administrator Visaya encouraged everyone to keep on improving. He said, *"Let us always cooperate so that we can always improve our Agency. The key words are cooperation and unity."*

Based on the projection of the contractors, in close coordination with the General Services Division, the multipurpose building will be completed within a period of less than two years. This is envisaged to help strengthen NIA's stature as the lead irrigation agency of the Philippine government.

NIA Top Management Officials, representatives from the project contractor, Triumph Builders and Steel, Inc., department managers, and staff from Central Office attended the event. 📷



NEW GUARDBOUSES AND MOTORPOOL WITH DRIVERS' QUARTERS TOWARD BECOMING MORE PRODUCTIVE AND EFFICIENT WORKERS

■ Jayson B. Cabrera, Public Relations Officer C, PAIS - C.O.

Part of the management's thrust of ensuring that NIA employees are provided with more conducive workplace, the Blessing and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony of two newly constructed guardhouses at the NIA Gates 1 and 3 along with a motorpool with drivers' quarters was conducted on February 11, 2020.

NIA Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya believes that improved working condition motivates employees to work harder. In his message during the event, he said, *"We improve the conditions of the working areas of our personnel dahil mas motivated magtrabaho kung mas maganda 'yung facilities, 'yung mga kailangan nila."*

Upon entering NIA, people would first see the guardhouse where security guards greet them with a smile or a salute. Being the first facility that the people see in the Agency, considered somehow as the face of the complex, it is important that the guardhouses placed adjacent to all gates be pleasing to the eyes of both employees and clients. A beautiful guardhouse together with polite and gentle security guards can help them find some motivation to be more productive and efficient for the rest of the day.

Similarly, part of securing the service vehicles of the Agency is the construction of the new motorpool near Gate 3. It has a two-storey building that serves as conducive quarters for the drivers. Being vital contributors to the fulfillment of NIA's mission, the drivers are given utmost importance as well by the management that they may also be motivated in becoming more productive and efficient as they continuously serve the Agency.

The activity was attended by the Top Management Officials, department managers, and staff from NIA Central Office. 📷



NIA RECEIVES ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFICATION

■ Josias M. Mercado, Public Relations Assistant A, NIA PAIS - C.O.

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) is now International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 9001:2015 Certified after being assessed by the Certification International Philippines, Inc. (CIPI) on February 10, 2020. The certification is valid until February 09, 2023. CIPI is the third-party ISO-accredited certifying body that audited NIA's Quality Management System (QMS) for public administration of irrigation services on September 18 to December 17, 2019 and bestowed the registration certificate under the management of Administrator Ricardo R Visaya.

The audit was conducted to determine the NIA's compliance with the standards of ISO. The scope of registration covers 35 responsibility centers : the NIA Central Office, 15 Regional Irrigation offices, 15 Irrigation Management Offices, 2 Integrated Irrigation Systems Head Offices and 2 Division Offices. The activity is part of the Agency's continual improvement in the delivery of its services as a government agency. 🏆



The ISO 9001:2015 Certificate was handed over to Administrator Ricardo R Visaya by the Agency's Quality Management Representative (QMR), Senior Deputy Administrator Abraham B Bagasin.



HOPE PA MORE!

BE A BLESSING IN THE WORKPLACE TODAY!

■ With permission from Ms. Maloi Malibiran-Salumbides
Motivational Speaker, Book Author, Trainer and Radio Host
Published in ProTips Facebook page and aired over DZAS.

Huwag mawawalan ng pag-asa dahil hindi natin alam ang mga twists and turns ng ating buhay. Habang may buhay, talagang may pag-asa. Kaya, hope pa more, mga ka-Protips.

Magandang araw! Ako si Maloi Malibiran-Salumbides para sa ProTips, partner mo sa inspirado at puno ng pag-asang pagtatrabaho.

Kung mayroong mailap na break ang hindi pa mapasa-iyong at medyo pinaghihinaan ka na ng loob. May tatlong hope booster ako na gustong ibigay sa iyo.

Tip #1: Continue to have faith. Ang sabi sa Hebrews 11:1, “Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see.” Ang pananampalataya ay ang patuloy na pag-asa na ang iyong ipinapanalangin, minimithi at inaasam-asam ay mangyayari sa tamang panahon at ayon sa kalooban ng Diyos.

Tip #2: Continue to count your blessings. Hindi pa man napapasa-iyong ang bunga ng iyong pagsisipag at pagsisikap, tiyak akong mayroon ka pa ring maaaring ipagpasalamat na biyaya na iyong natanggap. Open your eyes and cultivate a grateful heart para makita mo ang mga pagpapala sa nasa iyo na pala.

Tip #3: Continue to hope that God has the best in store for you. Ang timing ng Diyos ang siya pa ring pinakamainam sa lahat. Hindi man natutupad pa ang iyong mga plano kung ano ang nangyayari sa buhay mo ngayon ay paghahanda para sa mas malaking responsibilidad at mas malaking biyaya na ipagkakatiwala sa iyo.

Continue to have faith. Continue to count your blessings and continue to put your hope in God. 🙏

NIA USHERING IN 2020

■ Clarizze C. Toribio, Information Officer A, NIA PAIS – C.O.

Officials and employees of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) stamped their hand prints on the hand painting murals embossed through the family tree as they usher the new year this morning of January 06, 2020 with the theme “NIA 2020: Towards Continuing Pursuit for Resiliency and Efficiency through Innovations and Modernization.”

The NIA Tree of Life was chosen to be the symbol for this year’s theme of the Agency. Trees gain character and beauty, weathering all sorts of trials and challenges to remain strong and upright. Similarly, it signifies rebirth and getting through the hard times. The leaves of the NIA Tree of Life bloomed through the hand prints of all NIA employees which represent human life, achievements and legacy, creative spirit, and channeled energy.

This activity was held simultaneously on all NIA offices nationwide. #NIATreeofLife 🌳







NIA and IRDF signs Budget Partnership Agreement at NIA Central Office

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA), represented by Administrator Ricardo R Visaya, and the Integrated Rural Development Foundation (IRDF), represented by Executive Director Arze Glipo, signed the Budget Partnership Agreement (BPA) for FY 2021 on March 13, 2020 at the NIA Administrator's Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Building B. BPA aims to make the national budget more responsive to the country's development needs and pressing concern to alleviate poverty and improve the quality of services. Similarly, it enhances the quality of budget process through citizens' participation in the preparation of the FY 2021 National Budget.



NIA participates to LMP Annual General Assembly

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) participated to the Annual General Assembly of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP) on March 08-09, 2020 at the Marriot Hotel Grand Ballroom, Pasay City. During the event, NIA put up an action desk to address all issues and concerns of municipal mayors regarding the implementation of irrigation projects in their municipalities, where in they submitted proposal for irrigation development. The event is attended by national government agencies, including NIA, and municipal mayors in the Philippines.



NIA celebrates National Women's Day at NIA Central Office

The female employees of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) wore violet/purple top and dress during the Agency's Flag Raising Ceremony on March 09, 2020 at the NIA Grounds, EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City in celebration of the National Women's Month. The activity is part of the worldwide observance of the International Women's Day. The celebration of the National Women's Month is based on Proclamation No. 224 s. 1988 declaring the first week of March each year as Women's week and March 08 as Women's Right and International Peace Day, Proclamation No. 227 s. 1988 providing for the observance of the Month of March as Women's Role in History Month, and Republic Act. 6949 s. 1990 declaring March 08 of every year as National Women's Days. The celebration recognized the contribution of women in social, economic, political, and cultural aspects of society.



CabSec Nograles presides NIA 956th Regular Board Meeting at NIA Central Office

Cabinet Secretary Karlo Alexei B. Nograles presided the 956th Regular Board Meeting of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) on February 19, 2020 at the NIA Board Room, 3rd Floor, Building B. It was attended by NIA Top Management Officials, headed by Administrator Ricardo R Visaya, and Department Managers from Central Office. Corporate Board Secretary Atty. Jiselle Rae A. Villamor declared the presence of a quorum at exactly 2:18 PM. The day's business was composed of eight items in the agenda. The inquiries in the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) of the subsidy was deliberated among other things. The meeting was adjourned at exactly 4:25 PM.



NIA conducts 2019 Year-End Assessment and Inventory of Irrigated Areas at NIA Central Office

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) conducted CY 2019 Year-End Assessment and Inventory of Irrigated Areas on February 10-13, 2020 at the NIA Classroom B, 3rd Floor, IEC Building. The activity is attended by the Operations Department staff from Central Office and Engineering and Operations Managers from NIA Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), Regions 1 to 3, UPRIS, and MARIIS. It aims to assess and update NIA's inventory on irrigated areas from CY 2018 to 2019.



Nationwide NIS RIP Meeting on the Status of Irrigation Projects at NIA Central Office

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) organized the Nationwide Meeting on Financial, Technical, and Institutional Development Program (IDP) Status of irrigation projects under the National Irrigation Sector Rehabilitation and Improvement Project on February 10-11, 2020 at the NIA Convention Hall, 5th Floor, IEC Building. The meeting aims to address the issues and concerns regarding the implementation of NIS RIP projects nationwide.



NIA conducts Seminar on FY 2021 Agency Budget at NIA Central Office

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) conducted Seminar on the Agency's FY 2021 Budget on February 03, 2020 at the NIA Classroom B, 3rd Floor, IEC Building. The seminar is attended by Administrative and Finance Division Managers from NIA regional offices and employees of Financial Management Department from NIA Central Office. It aims to discuss and address important issues and concerns in relation to the preparation of the Agency's 2021 Budget.



Oath taking of the new PICE-NIA Sub-Chapter Officers at NIA Central Office

The newly-elected officers of the Philippine Institute of Civil Engineers - National Irrigation Administration (PICE-NIA) Sub-Chapter took their oath before NIA Administrator Ricardo R Visaya on January 27, 2020 at the Administrator's Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Building B.

Photo News





NIA Relief Operations for the victims of Taal Volcano eruption by NIA Central Office and NIA Region IV-A

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA), in coordination with NIA Region IV-A, organized relief operations on January 23, 2020 for the victims of Taal Volcano eruption as part of the Agency's Corporate Social Responsibility. The NIA contingent visited 5 evacuation centers.



NIA Central Office conducts Ushering in 2020

NIA Central Office – The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) conducts Ushering in 2020 with the theme, “NIA 2020: Towards Continuing Pursuit for Resiliency and Efficiency through Innovations and Modernization” on January 06, 2020 at the NIA Lobby. One of the main highlights of the activity is the stamping of hand prints on the hand painting murals embossed through the NIA Tree of Life which symbolizes strength and character of the Agency and its employees despite all sorts of trials and challenges.



NIA conducts 2019 Year-End Managers' Conference at NIA Central Office

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) conducted the 2019 Year-End Managers Conference on January 8-10, 2020 at the NIA Convention Hall, 5th Floor, IEC Building, NIA Compound, Diliman, Quezon City. This aims to discuss and report the Agency's accomplishments in terms of irrigation project implementation, operations, administrative, and financial status. The panel who asks clarifications on the reports is composed of the NIA Top Management Officials, headed by Administrator Ricardo R Visaya.



Annual Physical Examination for NIA employees of NIA Central Office

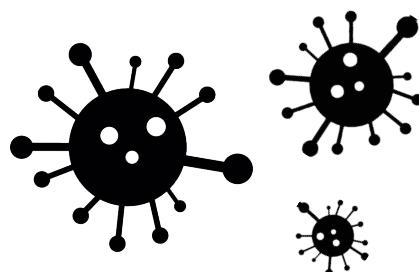
The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) conducted the first batch of Annual Physical Examination (APE) for regular employees on February 03, 2020 at the NIA Convention Hall, 5th Floor, IEC Building. Now on its second year, APE is conducted by NIA to determine the general status of employees' health, as well as to address any other health concerns that they might have. Meanwhile, the second and third batches of APE are scheduled on February 04 and 05, respectively.

MGA KATANUNGAN TUNGKOL SA NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (2019-NCOV)

1. Ano ang coronavirus?

Ang Coronaviruses ay mga pamilya ng mga virus na nagdudulot ng sakit mula sa karaniwang sipon hanggang sa mas malubhang sakit tulad ng Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) at Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

Ang novel coronavirus ay panibagong strain o uri ng coronavirus na hindi pa nakikita sa tao noon.



2. Anu-ano ang mga sintomas na dulot ng Novel Coronavirus (2019 - nCoV)?

Ang mga karaniwang sintomas na dulot ng coronavirus ay lagnat, ubo't sipon, hirap at pag-iksi ng paghinga at iba pang problema sa daluyan ng hangin.

Sa mga malubhang kaso, maaari itong maging sanhi ng pneumonia, acute respiratory syndrome, at pagkamatay.



3. Nakakahawa ba ang coronavirus ng tao sa tao?

Ayon sa kasalukuyang sitwasyon, may ilang coronavirus na maaaring maipasa ng tao sa tao (human-to-human transmission). Kadalasan ay nangyayari ito sa malapitang pakikipagsalamuha sa iba ng taong mayroon nito, gaya ng sa bahay, trabaho o health facility.

4. May gamot ba sa Novel Coronavirus (2019 - nCoV)?

Wala pang gamot o bakuna laban sa 2019 - nCoV. Supportive care at pag-aalaga base sa sintomas ang maaaring gawin para sa mga may kaso ng 2019 - nCoV.

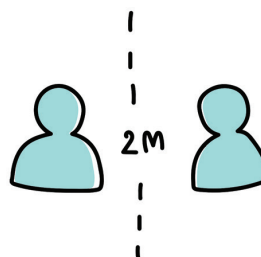
5. Ano ang magagawa mo upang maiwasan ang pagkalat ng Novel Coronavirus (2019 - nCoV)?

- ✓ Ugaliin ang madalas na paghuhugas ng kamay gamit ang sabon at tubig.
- ✓ Lumayo at takpan ang bibig at ilong kapag uubo at babahin gamit ang panyo o tissue.
- ✓ Umiwas sa mga taong may lagnat, ubo at sipon.
- ✓ Umiwas sa paghawak ng mga hayop na apektado ng coronavirus.
- ✓ Siguraduhing ang pagkain tulad ng karne at isda ay naluto nang maayos.



6. Ano ang maaari mong gawin para maprotektahan ang sarili laban sa Novel Coronavirus (2019 - nCoV)?

- ✓ Regular at wastong paghuhugas ng kamay gamit ang sabon at tubig.
- ✓ Pag-iwas sa malapitang pakikipagsalamuha sa mga may lagnat at ubo't sipon.
- ✓ Pagsisigurong malinis at naluto nang maayos ang pagkain tulad ng karne at isda.



MAKIPAG-UGNAYAN SA PINAKAMALAPIT NA HEALTH FACILITY PARA SA KARAGDAGANG IMPORMASYON.

SOURCE: Department of Health (DOH)

#TULOYANGDALOYNIA

■ Jayson B. Cabrera, Public Relations Officer C, PAIS-C.O.

This is the hashtag made by the Agency in its Facebook Page. By just clicking in this hashtag, the nationwide continuous efforts of NIA appear. Led by its Administrator RRV, NIA does not stop serving the Filipino farmers as well as supporting its beloved employees even at this time of crisis. RRV is one with every Filipino in praying to God that the curve may be flattened already in the soonest time possible.

March 2020 is when the drastic effects of global pandemic COVID-19 were started to be felt in our country. Enhanced Community Quarantine was declared all over Luzon Island along with several ECQs and lockdowns in Visayas and Mindanao in order to “flatten the curve”. Skeleton Workforce and Work from Home arrangements were set by government offices nationwide. The National Irrigation Administration has immediately responded to the situation. Series of Special Executive Committee Meetings were called right after the declaration of Malacanang, immediately responding accordingly to this health crisis.

Several memorandum circulars (MC Nos. 33-39, s. 2020) were made by the Agency giving guidelines to NIA employees nationwide in light of the pandemic. While keeping the safety and health of all NIAns, these guidelines state how the sworn mandate of the Agency to develop, construct, operate, and maintain irrigation systems would not totally be hindered/stopped due to COVID-19 with meticulous observance of extreme precautionary measures. Selected “NIA frontliners” who comprise the Skeleton Workforce continue to report to offices to ensure unhampered delivery of vital irrigation services to the farmers. They also can be seen on the grounds constructing irrigation systems and doing clean-ups, maintenance and repairs of irrigation canals and other facilities.

Meanwhile, those “NIA backliners” who have work from home arrangement, continue to do their tasks diligently every day. RRV gives significant importance both to NIA employees and our farmers in this time of crisis. While ensuring that irrigation services may not be unhampered in the best way possible, he also ensures that his employees do not get infected by the virus as he prioritizes their safety.

One great move of Administrator Visaya towards the benefit of NIA employees particularly in the Central Office who, amidst all of their efforts in preventing the virus, have been infected, is the installation of NIA Isolation Facility within its CO compound at the very start of ECQ in Metro Manila and Luzon. This facility serves as NIAns’ first refuge in combating COVID-19. Dr. Catherine Binag, CO’s resident doctor, together with her medical team, with some selected nurses from among the employees have been designated to run that facility in the duration of this ECQ with full compliance to the Department of Health’s requirements regarding such.

After series of Special ExeCom Meetings held at the Central Office right after ECQ declaration, the Top Management Officials do not stop in reaching out to the regional and provincial offices to ensure that their operations regarding irrigation still go well. He sees to it that every single peso in the funds available for irrigation are spent with transparency and accountability even during this crisis while keeping an eye that all employees are kept safe and healthy. With the Agency’s pursuit to modernization and innovations, he does his meetings with them nationwide via Zoom app where he can efficiently have a video teleconferencing/video chatting with all the managers in the field level. Special ExeCom Meetings at the CO continues.





NIA also ensures that its employees are able to receive their salaries which is a great help to them in surviving this crisis with additional hazard pay to the skeleton workforce. He ensures that all employees of particular offices continue to be connected in action even at home.

Although trainings, workshops, and seminars cannot push through in this crisis, the learnings brought by the previous ones serve their purpose now. They help employees a lot in adjusting and coping up to the situation while continuously becoming productive and responsive to their tasks and responsibilities as NIA employees. This challenge is being well-accepted by NIAs because they were holistically formed by several trainings/capacity-building workshops which the Agency had given them.

The first quarter may have been very much unusual with this global fight against COVID-19 pandemic, but it taught us a lot. NIA has proven that even amidst a pandemic, it can continue to survive with the unity and cooperation of all its officials and employees nationwide.

*COVID-19 lang yan, NIAns kami!
Kayang-kaya basta't sama-sama kahit malayo sa isa't isa!
Tuloy ang daloy ng NIA!*



MEMORANDUM CIRCULARS

ISSUED RE: COVID-19

M.C. No. 18, s. 2020

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

TO : THE SENIOR DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR, DEPUTY ADMINISTRATORS, DEPARTMENT / REGIONAL / PROJECT / DIVISION MANAGERS AND OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT : MEMORANDUM FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY – OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT RE GUIDELINES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE 2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS ACUTE RESPIRATORY DISEASE SITUATION

MC No. 23, s. 2020

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

TO : THE SENIOR DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR, DEPUTY ADMINISTRATORS, DEPARTMENT / REGIONAL / PROJECT MANAGERS, DIVISION MANAGERS AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT : CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 05, S. 2020, "INTERIM GUIDELINES ON THE USE OF LEAVE CREDITS FOR ABSENCES DUE TO SELF-QUARANTINE AND/OR TREATMENT RELATIVE TO THE CORONA VIRUS DISEASE-2019 (COVID-19)"

MC No. 32, s. 2020

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

TO : THE SENIOR DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR, DEPUTY ADMINISTRATORS, REGIONAL/DEPARTMENT/PROJECT/ DIVISION MANAGERS AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT : SELF-QUARANTINE DUE TO CORONA VIRUS DISEASE-2019 (COVID-19)

MC No. 43, s. 2020

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

TO : THE SENIOR DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR, DEPUTY ADMINISTRATORS, DEPARTMENT / REGIONAL / PROJECT MANAGERS, DIVISION MANAGERS AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT : CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 07, SERIES 2020, "INTERIM GUIDELINES FOR ALTERNATIVE WORK ARRANGEMENTS AND SUPPORT MECHANISM FOR WORKERS IN THE GOVERNMENT FOR THE DURATION OF THE STATE OF PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PURSUANT TO PROCLAMATION NO. 992"

MC No. 34, s. 2020

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

TO : THE SENIOR DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR, DEPUTY ADMINISTRATORS, DEPARTMENT/C.O.-BASED PROJECT MANAGERS, DIVISION MANAGERS, AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT : GUIDELINES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) SITUATION UNDER ENHANCED COMMUNITY QUARANTINE

MC No. 35, s. 2020

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

TO : THE SENIOR DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR, DEPUTY ADMINISTRATORS, DEPARTMENT/C.O.-BASED PROJECT MANAGERS, DIVISION MANAGERS, AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT : ACCREDITATION ORDER FOR SKELETAL WORKFORCE OF THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION (NIA) NATIONWIDE DURING THE ENHANCED COMMUNITY QUARANTINE IN VIEW OF CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) SITUATION

MC No. 36, s. 2020

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

TO : THE SENIOR DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR, DEPUTY ADMINISTRATORS, DEPARTMENT/C.O.-BASED PROJECT MANAGERS, DIVISION MANAGERS, AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT : FURTHER GUIDELINES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) SITUATION

MC No. 37, s. 2020

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

TO : THE SENIOR DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR, DEPUTY ADMINISTRATORS, REGIONAL/DEPARTMENT/PROJECT/DIVISION MANAGERS AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT : SUSPENSION OF TRAININGS, ET AL

MC No. 38, s. 2020

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

TO : THE SENIOR DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR / DEPUTY ADMINISTRATORS, DEPARTMENT / REGIONAL / PROJECT MANAGERS, DIVISION MANAGERS AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT : COMMISSION ON AUDIT (COA) DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT (DBM) JOINT CIRCULAR No. 1, s.2020, March 19, 2020

MC No. 39, s. 2020

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

TO : THE SENIOR DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR, DEPUTY ADMINISTRATORS, DEPARTMENT/C.O.-BASED PROJECT MANAGERS, DIVISION MANAGERS, AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT : GUIDELINES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE CORONA VIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

MC No. 42, s. 2020

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

TO : THE SENIOR DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR / DEPUTY ADMINISTRATORS, DEPARTMENT / REGIONAL / PROJECT MANAGERS, DIVISION MANAGERS AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT : ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 26, "AUTHORIZING THE GRANT OF HAZARD PAY TO GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL WHO PHYSICALLY REPORT FOR WORK DURING THE PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION OF AN ENHANCED COMMUNITY QUARANTINE RELATIVE TO THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK"