

Resilient and Efficient @ 57  
#TuloyAngDaloyNIA

Adapting to the  
COVID-19 Pandemic:  
The NIA Way

NIA Supports  
EPAHP

NIA Participates to  
Task Group on Food  
and Water Security  
Meeting



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION

# CURRENTS

Volume 46, No. 2, 2020



#TuloyAngDaloyNIA

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# INDEPENDENCE DAY AND FOUNDATION DAY IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

The challenges that the COVID-19 Pandemic posed to the world continued through the second quarter of the year. While it continues to persist its existence, the human race continues to adapt as we understand its characteristics and behavior.

We celebrated milestones in novel ways. Our 122 years of independence from Spain last June 12 was commemorated in the confines of our homes sans the festivities in observance of the social distancing health protocols. Only the City Mayor of Manila and key officials of the government were at the Rizal Shrine for the traditional flag-raising and wreath-laying. This year's *Araw ng Kalayaan* theme is **"Kalayaan 2020: Tungo sa Bansang Malaya, Nagbabayanihan, at Ligtas"**.

Ironically, there is deprivation of independence all around in our celebrations as we need to wear masks and face shields, to observe a meter distancing from the rest of the Filipinos, and to stay inside our homes most of the time in order to prevent the spread of the virus. And so we herald the new breed of heroes to regain our independence from this unseen invader – our frontliners.

On the other hand, the 57<sup>th</sup> Founding Anniversary of the Agency on June 22 was observed ala morning show through the platform Google meet. Greetings from the Top Management, Central Office Departments, and different Regional Offices were shared nationwide. Topping the program were video messages from the Cabinet Secretary Karlo Alexei B. Nograles, Senator Cynthia Villar who chairs the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Food, and from the President of the Republic of the Philippines Rodrigo Roa Duterte. It was simple but grand because of the presence of our Guests. The President was there but without the hassle of preparations and security measures. Overall, everyone present was in a relax mode despite the lockdown of the Senior Deputy Administrator's Office as we enjoyed our packed snack and lunch in our offices.

First time was an online Bingo game held where the prize was in support to address the problem of mobility – mountain bikes.

For both scenarios, our government and leaders on the national and agency levels are faced with choices on how to effectively and efficiently handle the pandemic and protect the welfare of its people, and, at the same time, providing a semblance of celebration like the past years of normalcy. Their choice is not without fiscal considerations. Our managers, with the guidance of Top Management officials, have judiciously worked and decided on these matters, meeting immediate needs, celebrating what matters, and ensuring that future requirements are secured.

In these challenging times, our duty as civil servants requires us the moral obligation to serve, not only the public but also to one another. We all work in one NIA community, located in the Philippines where we enjoy the freedom and benefits granted us. Therefore, let us continue to practice our personal responsibility to unceasingly observe the Minimum Health Standards for our protection until we regain our independence from COVID-19 and again celebrate our Founding Anniversary face to face, hand-in-hand resound. **#TuloyAngDaloyNIA!** 🇵🇭

# NIA FAST TRACKS REHABILITATION OF BUSTOS DAM

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

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) has conducted an immediate site inspection and investigation of the reported damage on Rubber Bladder No. 5 of Angat Afterbay Regulator Dam (AARD) located at Barangay Tibagan, Bustos, Bulacan on May 13, 2020 after NIA Regional Office No. III sought technical assistance from NIA Central Office.

The action was taken as a result of a meeting called by Deputy Administrator for Engineering and Operations Sector C'zar M. Sulaik on May 12, 2020 via Zoom Application, which was attended by the concerned personnel from Engineering Department, Regional Office, and Bulacan-Aurora-Nueva Ecija Irrigation Management Office (BANE IMO).

During the meeting, it was discussed that the rubber materials have passed the testing conducted by Beijing Research and Development Institute (BRDI) on April 24-26, 2017, as requested by the Contractor, ITP Construction, Inc. – Guangxi Hydroelectric Construction Bureau Co., Ltd. Consortium. To ensure the conformity of materials with the NIA Technical specifications, the Agency conducted Pre-Delivery Inspection as part of the Quality Control Program for the Rehabilitation of AARD.

In addition, one of the agreements during the meeting was to immediately call the attention of the Contractor regarding the incident, where in the damaged rubber bladder shall be replaced by the contracting party as part of the 20-year warranty period policy from 2017 to 2037. NIA also instructed the Contractor to coordinate with the Regional Office to determine the best remedial measure to address the problem.

After a series of discussions, the Contractor and the NIA Regional Office No. III decided that a cofferdam shall be constructed by the Contractor, without any cost to NIA. This will serve as a temporary replacement of the Rubber Bladder at Bay No. 5 prior to the replacement of the damaged Rubber Bladder.

On May 22, 2020, Deputy Administrator Sulaik chaired a joint evaluation and discussion regarding the proposed cofferdam design with the technical personnel of the Regional Office and Engineering Department. As an outcome, the contractor committed to revise their proposal by incorporating NIA's recommendations and submit the same in the soonest possible time. Similarly, it was agreed that the Contractor shall start immediately with mobilization and preparatory works, but will not proceed with the actual construction of the cofferdam until the final design plans are approved.

At present, the Contractor had already completed all preparatory works. Correspondingly, the Notice to Commence Work was issued to the Contractor after NIA Central Office approved the design plans from the Regional Office. It is noted that the design plans are critical and shall be evaluated thoroughly prior to the actual execution of the construction works.

NIA Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya assured that NIA is doing its best to continuously deliver efficient, reliable, and sustainable irrigation service to the Filipino farmers despite the ongoing rehabilitation works and prevailing COVID-19 Pandemic Situation. 🇵🇭



# OCULAR INSPECTION OF ANGAT AFTERBAY REGULATOR DAM CONDUCTED

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

Immediately after the reported collapse of the Rubber Gate No. 5, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), headed by Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya, and the Provincial Government of Bulacan, headed by Governor Daniel R. Fernando, conducted an ocular inspection of Angat Afterbay Regulator Dam (Bustos Dam) located at Barangay Tibagan, Bustos, Bulacan on June 09, 2020.

Upon site inspection, a meeting was held among the officials of NIA, Provincial Government of Bulacan, and ITP Construction, Inc. – Guangxi Hydroelectric Construction Bureau Co., Ltd. Consortium (Contractor) to discuss matters arising from the incident.

Since the replacement of the rubber bladder is part of the 20-year warranty period policy from 2017 to 2037, a cofferdam is now being constructed by the Contractor, without any cost to NIA, to ensure that irrigation will be provided and the farming activities of the farmers will not be hampered. Completion of the said cofferdam is due on July 15, 2020.

To further guarantee the integrity of the rubber bladder, a material testing will be undertaken by a third party contractor either in Singapore or Australia and will be carried out by July. All six rubber bladders of Bustos Dam were agreed to be replaced as permanent solution to its damages.

Administrator Visaya emphasized that even Bustos Dam is primarily used for irrigation purposes, the safety and security of the people living in provinces is the top priority of the Agency.

Meanwhile, NIA Regional Manager Josephine B. Salazar reported in the meeting that 6,500 farmers in the South Sector not covered by irrigation service delivery in the last cropping season to pave way for water allocation on households in the National Capital Region (NCR), will be receiving a total of P15 million worth of subsidies and financial assistance from Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS). 🇵🇭



# NIA SUPPORTS ENHANCED PARTNERSHIP AGAINST HUNGER AND POVERTY (EPAHP)

█ Luzviminda R. Penaranda, Senior PRO, NIA PAIS-C.O. in coordination with Institutional Development Division (IDD) Manager Leo L. Gallego and Ms. Heartie E. Navarro, CDO IV, IDD, Operations Department

*“...on its 57<sup>th</sup> year, I am delighted to see that NIA still continues its pursuit towards resiliency and efficiency thru innovations and modernization... dahil sa patubig may pagkain, Tuloy Ang Daloy NIA. Kabalikang ating mga irrigators association, malaki ang bahaging ginagampanan ng ating Ahensya para makamit ang food security sa ating bansa. Kaya naman hindi lamang pagpapatayo ng mga imprastraktura pang irigasyon ang ating pinagkakaabalahan kundi pati na rin makapasok ang iba pang interventions para sa ating mga magsasaka. Nung Disyembre nang nakaraan taon, minabuti natin na aktibong makilahok at makipag ugnayan sa 13 pang departamento at ahensya ng ating pamahalaan para sa convergence program na EPAHP. Layunin ng programang ito na pataasin ang produksyon ng ani, palakihin ang kita ng ating magsasaka, tiyakin ang food security at ibsan ang gutom at malnutrisyon sa ating bansa...”*

- Excerpts from CabSec Nograles' upbeat message for the 57<sup>th</sup> NIA Founding Anniversary that inspired NIAs as he emphasized the role of NIA to the government's enhance anti-hunger program.

### MOU Signing on EPAHP

On December 9, 2019, Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya represented NIA as one of the partners who signed the memorandum of understanding (MOU) on Enhanced Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty (EPAHP) Program at the Malacañang Palace. EPAHP is an enhanced version of Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty (PAHP) which aims to eradicate hunger and poverty by 2030.



Signing of MOU sealed the alliance and convergence of government agencies, such as Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Health (DoH), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), National Irrigation Administration (NIA), and Land Bank of the Philippines, which services are essential to food security and poverty reduction, EPAHP's goal.



There are three clusters under EPAHP Institutional Framework of convergence and synergy, namely: Support Services, Supply, and Demand. Along with this, NIA belongs to Support Services cluster through the rehabilitation and construction of irrigation facilities, as well as Supply cluster through the participation of Irrigators Associations.

EPAHP program components include the following: Provisions for institutional feeding program, Credit support for community-based organizations, Capacity-building and productivity improvement for community-based organizations (this is where IAs are involved), Nutrition education (for both consumers and producers), Agricultural facilities and technologies, food hubs, and other infrastructure facilities, Funding, technical and research assistance from the development and other local partners (e.g. FAO, WFP), and, advocacy and education.

Likewise, the following are the strategies for the Program: Convergence and synchronization of programs and projects, Credit assistance to support food production, processing, and marketing, Linkage of participating community-based organizations (CBOs) to prospective markets, Enhancement of provisions of agricultural and fishery inputs and services to farmers and fisherfolk organizations or CBOs, Sustainability of the program through the engagement of the private sector and institutionalization of mechanisms in LGUs that would allow the adoption of EPAHP, and Adoption of the Community Participation Procurement Manual (CPPM) to allow participation of CBOs in the program.

### Initial NIA Action

In 2019, the Agency through IDD had an initial target of three IAs per province nationwide capacitated for 2020 as service provider, and at least 50% increase in the number of capacitated IA per year with at least 10% increase in income of IA households participating in this Program. Initial list of participating IAs then was 75 from different regions.

To attain such target, IDD shall conduct a resource mapping to all its organized farmers, irrigators associations, nationwide to come up with a list of IAs capable of becoming supplier to the demands of other partner agencies for program's implementation. Partners agencies under *Demands Cluster* include the following: DSWD's Supplementary Feeding Program and Feeding for Residential Care Facilities, DepEd's School-Based Feeding Program, DOH-retained Hospitals, In-patient Feeding, Feeding Program for Severely Malnourished and Pregnant Women, and DILG's Government Food Requirement for Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDL).

Furthermore, IDD aimed to link capacitated IAs with other partner agencies for credit and other related support services to meet the growing needs and demands of clients.

## Updates of NIA's actions on EPAHP

A virtual meeting was held on June 24, 2020 by IDD Manager Leo L. Gallego with the IDD implementers nationwide, 222 irrigators associations (IAs) are ready to be possible partners as suppliers or food producers of rice, vegetables or root crops and as service providers, such as catering services, use of IA's training facility/ center for a fee, thus to make them more self-reliant.

## EPAHP Budget of P'18M by 2021 and IDD Presentation

NIA joined EPAHP in November 2019 right after the BiCam Committee Meeting approved 2020 NIA Budget. Consistent with Executive Order (EO) 101, s. 2020 creating Inter Agency Task Force on Zero Hunger, CabSec Nograles during steering committee meeting on February 12, 2020, stressed the need for the member agencies to include EPAHP in 2020 Budget. Thus, for 2020 activities, all expenditures will be charged under IMTSS assistance program. However, P18 million is allocated for EPAHP activities in 2021.

Finally, IDD has submitted a report to the Steering Committee for inclusion to CabSec Nograles' presentation on July 1 via Zoom Application.

## NIA's Role as EPAHP Partner

CabSec Nograles' closed his message underscoring the role of NIA in irrigation development and farmer empowerment even in the midst of pandemic.

*"... Sa ilalim nito, magiging bahagi ng institutional feeding programs ng gobyerno ang ating magsasaka ng direktang pagkukunan ng agrikulturang produkto ... the reprioritization of projects under the Build Build Build program is a strategic approach to make our country more COVID-19 resilient and irrigation facilities are identified more critical projects responsive to the new normal priorities. With this, I'm very hopeful that we may be able to achieve food security and alleviate poverty under our National Irrigation Master Plan. Sa tulong ng masigasig na pamunuan ng NIA at patuloy na cooperation ng bawat isa, naniniwala po ako na maisasakatuparan natin ang ating mga layunin..."*

Indeed, EPAHP is a concerted effort consistent with NIA's mission of improving agricultural productivity and increasing farmers' income.



# NIA PARTICIPATES TO TASK GROUP ON FOOD AND WATER SECURITY MEETING

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



The National Irrigation Administrator (NIA), headed by Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya, participated on the Task Group on Food and Water Security Meeting of the Inter-Agency Task Force for Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) on April 24, 2020 at Department of Agriculture - Central Office (DA-CO) Conference Room, Diliman, Quezon City.

Chaired by DA Secretary William Dar, the Task Group Meeting aims to discuss food and water security of the country amidst COVID-19 situation. Along with public health and safety, food security is on top priorities of the national government.

Being the lead government agency mandated to develop all possible sources of water for irrigation, NIA plays a vital role in securing agricultural productivity through the provision of efficient, reliable, and sustainable irrigation service to the Filipino farmers.

Administrator Visaya assured that the Agency is doing its best to continuously deliver irrigation service to the farmer-beneficiaries despite the prevalence of pandemic disease.

## #HealAsOne #TuloyAngDaloyNIA

■ Pops Marie A. Santos-Dadea, Public Relations Officer B, PAIS-C.O.

Pursuant to Republic Act (RA) No. 11469 or the “Bayanihan to Heal as One Act”, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) heeds the request of the Department of Finance to remit to the Bureau of Treasury the amount of One Billion Pesos (P1,000,000,000.00) from the unutilized subsidy of the Agency as a contribution of Government-Owned and Controlled Corporations (GOCC) in the implementation of health, safety, and emergency measures to prevent, contain, and mitigate the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the country.

NIA in its commitment not just in the agricultural sector but also in reinforcing, sustaining, and cushioning the country’s economic activities during the onslaught of the pandemic reassessed and identified programs, activities, and projects (PAPs) that can no longer be completed within the current fiscal year (FY) under FY 2018, 2019, and 2020 General Appropriations Act (GAA).

The assessment and identification course came after the Department of Budget and Management’s (DBM) National Budget Circular No. 580 or the Adoption of Economy Measures in the Government Due to the Emergency Health Situation, and the GCG Memorandum Order No. 2020-04 pertaining to RA 11469. 📄

NIA requested for the cancellation of Special Allotment Release Order of the following:

Program/Activity/Project (PAP)	Approved Budget (P'000)	Adjusted Budget (P'000)
<b>FY 2020 GAA</b>		
a. Agos River Irrigation System Improvement Project, Quezon	110,000	50,000
b. Ilocos Norte-Ilocos Sur-Abra Irrigation Project Stage II	184,000	100,000
c. Tumauni River Multipurpose Project, Isabela	184,000	130,660
d. Panay River Basin Integrated Irrigation Development Project, Capiz	242,760	100,000
e. Hilabangan Irrigation Project, Negros Occidental	166,774	116,774
f. Bohol Northeast Basin Multipurpose Dam Project, Bohol	232,500	100,000
g. Kabulan 2 Multipurpose Irrigation and Power Project, Sultan Kudarat	300,000	150,000
h. Libang Irrigation Project, Agusan del Sur	275,000	120,000
i. Tulunan Small Reservoir Irrigation Project, North Cotabato	237,000	117,000
<b>TOTAL FY 2020</b>	<b>1,932,034</b>	<b>984,434</b>
<b>FY 2019 GAA</b>		
a. Repair of Communal Irrigation Systems (Region 9)	139,245	129,845
b. Tandubas Irrigation Project, Tawi-tawi	40,000	33,000
c. Small Irrigation Projects (Region 9)	460,275	432,275
<b>TOTAL FY 2019</b>	<b>639,520</b>	<b>595,120</b>
<b>FY 2018 GAA</b>		
a. Tandubas Irrigation Project, Tawi-tawi	10,000	2,000
<b>TOTAL FY 2018</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>2,000</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>2,581,554</b>	<b>1,581,554</b>

# MCs from April to June 2020 re: COVID-19

In coordination with the National Policy of the government, RRV's Four-Pillar Agenda comes alive as a response to the present crisis brought about by COVID-19 pandemic. Policies for efficient implementation are exemplified through issuance of Memorandum Circulars (MCs) such as:

No.	MC No.	Subject	Date Signed
1	47	Moratorium on Loan Payments at the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), Social Security System (SSS), Pag-ibig Fund, and other Financial Institutions Amid Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation	April 3, 2020
2	48	Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB) Resolution No. 03-2020 Approving the Adoption of Efficient, Effective and Expedient Procurement Procedures During a State of Public Health Emergencies	
3	49	Civil Service Commission (CSC) Memorandum Circular (MC) No. 08, s. 2020, "Revised Interim Guidelines on the Use of Leave Credits for Absences due to Quarantine and/or Treatment Relative to the Coronavirus Disease - 2019 (COVID-19)"	April 8, 2020
4	50	GSIS Memorandum Circular No. 015, series of 2020, "Moratorium on All Loan Payments of GSIS Members and Pensioners Affected by Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)"	
5	52	Extension of the Enhanced Community Quarantine Over the Entire Luzon Until 30 April 2020	April 14, 2020
6	53	Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Advisory re: Unrestricted Movement of Food Supply During the State of Public Health Emergency	April 23, 2020
7	54	NIA Guidelines for 2019 Novel Coronavirus Acute Respiratory Diseases Response in the Workplace	
8	55	Department of Health (DOH) Administrative Order No. 2020-0013 re: Revised Administrative Order No. 2020-0012 "Guidelines for the Inclusion of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the List of Notifiable Diseases for Mandatory Reporting to the Department of Health" Dated March 17, 2020	
9	58	Extension of the Enhanced Community Quarantine in the "High Risk" Areas Until 15 May 2020	May 5, 2020
10	59	Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation of Community Quarantine in the Philippines	May 11, 2020
11	61	Construction Safety Guidelines for the Implementation of All NIA Infrastructure Projects During the COVID-19 Public Health Crisis	May 12, 2020
12	62	Adjustment and/or Implementation of Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Gender and Development (GAD) Plan and Budget in View of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Situation	May 18, 2020
13	65	Revised Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation of Community Quarantine in the Philippines	May 22, 2020
14	67	Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB) Resolution No. 09-2020 re: Approving Measures for the Efficient Conduct of Procurement Activities During a State of Calamity, or Implementation of Community Quarantine or Similar Restrictions	May 28, 2020
15	68	Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB) Non-Policy Matter (NPM) No. 004-2020 re: Emergency Procurement Under RA 11469 or the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act	
16	69	Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB) Resolution No. 006-2020 re: Approving the Recommendation to Increase the Allowable Amount for Advance Payment and Issuance of a Circular on the Guidelines of Emergency Procurement Under RA 11469 or the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act	
17	72	Revised Interim Guidelines for Alternative Work Arrangement and Support Mechanisms for Workers in the Government During the Period of State of National Emergency Due to COVID-19 Pandemic Date Signed: May 29, 2020	May 29, 2020
18	73	Issuance of Land Bank of the Philippines Automated Teller Machine (LBP-ATM) Card	June 2, 2020
19	75	Accelerating NIA's Institutional Development Programs Under the Current and Post-COVID-19 Pandemic Environment	
20	76	Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) Advisory on Contactless Filing of GSIS Claims	
21	83	Amended Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation of Community Quarantine in the Philippines	June 11, 2020
22	86	Conduct of Training Programs	June 17, 2020

# THE BOARD RESPONDS TO COVID-19 CHALLENGES

■ Eden Victoria C. Selva, Acting Department Manager, NIA-PAIS, C.O.  
In coordination with Ms. Hannah Mae M. Medes, Researcher Analyst,  
Office of the Corporate Board Secretary

*"This crisis has taught everyone to rise to the occasion  
and (to) really think on our feet."  
– Corporate Board Secretary*



Atty. Jiselle Rae A. Villamor, the Corporate Board Secretary of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), shares experiences on how the Office of the Corporate Board Secretary (OCBS) responds to the challenges brought by the pandemic. She said, *"I guess one of the challenges we have encountered in the pandemic was that no one knew the gravity of its effects. Though our Office, in anticipation of the lockdown, has adopted means to ensure continuity of work, we still felt that the preparation was never enough especially when we had to deal with different offices both internally and externally."*

Though OCBS faced sorts of challenges, thankfully, they were able to pull it off. The Office adapted work from home arrangement, and scheduled regular virtual staff meetings on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Whenever necessary, they also took note of deadlines and stuck to it. She revealed that never a day went by that they would not hear from each other, *"I think it was really necessary to be up to date about what's going on with everyone in the group. The crisis has hit all of us in varying degrees and what we wanted to get as an assurance was that we are in this together."* Atty. Villamor encouraged the staff to take good care of themselves not only physically, but also mentally, and made constant reminders to everyone to never hesitate seeking help whenever needed during the lockdown.

For Atty. Villamor, government services, even those not classified as frontline services, do not cease just because of the pandemic. She believes that *"all should work in synergy to achieve greater impact. There is no job too small. All the more that in times of crisis, public servants should stay committed to duties and rise above any occasion but always with welfare and health risk mitigation in mind"*.

The Office of the Corporate Board Secretary is responsible for providing advice and adequate resources to the Board of Directors in the performance of its oversight functions. The Corporate Board Secretary reports directly to Cabinet Secretary Karlo B. Nograles as Chairman of the Board, and coordinates with all the members. A viber group was in place before the advent of pandemic hence, a constant exchange of information among the Board members. *"I am fortunate that the members, individually, are also within reach and responsive. But more than ever, it was during this time that I have to be more direct and precise in delivering my message to them given the limited time due to demands from their respective departments especially that the Chairman sits as co-chair and spokesperson of the Inter-Agency Task Force for COVID-19,"* she said.

The (COVID-19) challenge requires physical distancing as one of the Minimum Health Standards, as such the Corporate Board Secretary set alternative ways for the Board to fulfill its duties effectively through setting strategies and direction in accordance with existing laws and standards. The Board had no choice but to defer the 957<sup>th</sup> Regular Board Meeting last March 26, 2020 since the members decided to table the deliberation of project proposals to the next meeting. According to Atty. Villamor, *"As discussed with the Chairman during the first few days of the lockdown, it was agreed that we shift our focus to support the efforts of the management in the containment of COVID-19 and discuss the situation of farmers, production and the 'seed to shelf' movement."*

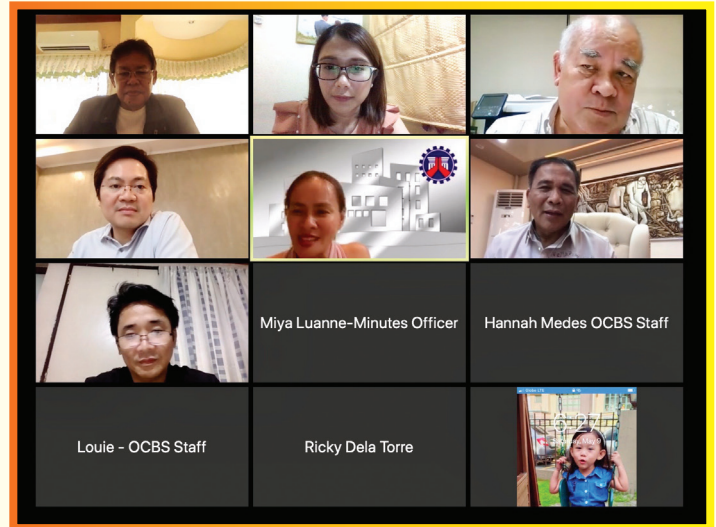
The Corporate Secretary intimated that the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) did not affect the consensual decisions of the Board, and confident that all decisions the Board made during the lockdown were based on well informed judgments. She declared, *"But despite the absence of a meeting in March, we still managed to decide on two important matters and adopted resolutions through a unanimous written consent in lieu of a meeting. I sent them all the documents to their email addresses and had them register their votes by following a format. I even conducted a survey through viber just to explicitly show each one's vote. One of the resolutions adopted was NIA's response to COVID-19 under the Bayanihan to Heal As One Act. I am fully aware that NIA as a GOCC needs to submit documentary requirements to other agencies so I deemed it necessary to have had it prepared and approved whatever it took me to do so. Thankfully, all the members were very cooperative and responsive."*

In addition to its core functions, OCBS assists outside agencies such as the Office of the President, NEDA and Department of Energy (DOE), among others, in its concerns relating to NIA with prompt response from the Administrator.

When asked how the pandemic affects the working dynamics within the Board, Atty. Jiselle informed that the Board continued on helping the management find the right balance in handling the crisis like sharing of crisis management experiences and inputs as well as giving recommendations. It also provides guidance to the Management in the determination of budget components to be reduced or adjusted. The Board provided inputs in consideration of NIA's performance targets with or without the lockdown.

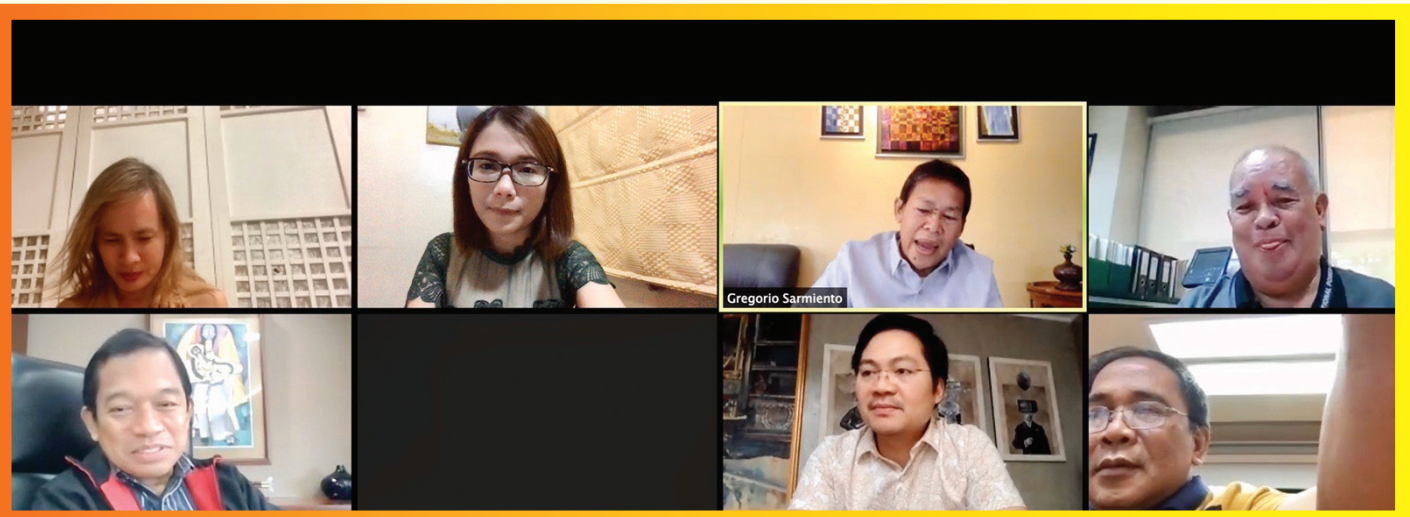
According to Atty. Villamor, the Board exchanged less serious topics virtually in the midst of crisis. The Board exchanged amusing conversations in their group chat. They shared all sorts of messages from inspirational, jokes, memes and latest trends to the group. It sparked conversation outside of work and helped care for their mental health during the quarantine.

Anticipating the crisis will eventually end and the measures adopted to handle the situation will cease, Atty. Villamor with the new normal, hoped to introduce changes to the Board post pandemic. One major initiative is the revision of the NIA By-Laws to include ways for the Board to effectively act on matters remotely through virtual meetings and written consent. The NIA By-Laws was adopted in January 1975 and upon her assumption, its review and revision were one of the agenda. The pandemic prompted the Corporate Board Secretary to firm up the plan the soonest possible time. She added that while the corporate governance standards and other Philippine laws allow the Board to transact and conduct business other than in-person meeting, no other than the by-laws which establish the rules for the Board to carry out its duties must reflect the same to address the demands of changing times.



The Board conducted its 957th and 958th meetings by teleconferencing on 28 April 2020 and 21 May 2020, respectively. A total of 21 proposals were deliberated and decided upon.

*“When the dust settles, I think it is really important for all of us to reflect on the lessons learned during this crisis. In stepping up to our game, we need to assess what went right, what went wrong and how to better prepare for the future,”* Atty. Villamor concluded. 🙏



# NIA ORIENTATION ON WEARING PPEs

■ Pops Marie A. Santos-Dadea, Public Relations Officer B, PAIS-C.O.

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) Central Office, through the initiative of the Administrative Department headed by Atty. Ailyne C. Agtuca-Selda and the support of the Quezon City General Hospital and the city's Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council which acted as resource speakers, conducted an Orientation on Wearing of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the Agency's Skeleton Workforce on April 13, 2020 held at the NIA Convention Hall, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, IEC Building.

The said orientation endeavors to provide instructions, procedures, training, and standard precautions in handling the equipment to the NIA Task Force who will be using the said PPEs. PPEs are important in making the workplace safe and likewise to encourage the employees to work safely and responsibly.

The activity is part of the Agency's commitment to ensure the health and safety of the NIA Central Office Task Force and Skeleton Workforce who report to the office during the declared Luzon-wide Extended Enhanced Community Quarantine. 🇵🇭



Atty. Ailyne C. Agtuca-Selda welcomes and encourages the participants on what a Skeleton Workforce and Task Force entail.

Members of the NIA Task Force listen intently as the speaker explains the use and handling of PPEs.



# PARTNERSHIP OF NIA AND IAS IN MITIGATING THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

■ Josias M. Mercado, Public Relations Officer C, NIA PAIS - C.O.  
in coordination with Regional Public Relations Officers nationwide

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) and Irrigators Associations (IAs) are one with the nation in fighting Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic. As part of the Agency's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), NIA steps up by conducting various efforts to help our farmers, frontliners, and COVID-affected families through NIA Regional Offices, NIA Employees Association of the Philippines (NIAEASP), and IAs nationwide.

The support and assistance include the provision of relief goods and cash support to IA members, sacks of rice for affected families, and food packs, including fresh farm produce and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), for frontliners on various check points, police stations, hospitals, and quarantine facilities.

NIA Top Management Officials, headed by Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya, assure that NIA is doing its best in extending assistance to frontliners and farmers, the backliners of this battle against COVID-19.

Indeed, NIA has proven that helping others in the midst of crisis is the best gift to humanity. 🙏



## PROVISION OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT TO MEDICAL FRONTLINERS



UPRIIS Department Manager Rosalinda B. Bote led the donation of 100 food packs to the frontline workers at ELJ Hospital, Bitas, Cabanatuan City. With her were the members of the Consumers Cooperative of UPRIS (CCUP) who donated common hospital supplies consist of 100 face masks and four gallons of alcohol, and the requested 40 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), through prior coordination with the hospital personnel.

In response to the needs of hospital frontliners, NIA Region 3 employees donated 200 units of face mask and 153 units of PPE Suit to Nueva Ecija Doctors Hospital and Talavera General Hospital in the province of Nueva Ecija.



### PROVISION OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT TO MEDICAL FRONTLINERS

Through the **“Pabigas at Pantawid COVID-19 ng Patubigan”** Project of UPRIS NIAEASP-Talavera Chapter, the Federation of Irrigators Associations (FIAs) of UPRIS Division II, headed by President Jaime V. Laysa, P79,000.00 in cash, which contributed to the distribution of relief goods, cavans of rice and personal protective equipment (PPE) to five municipalities in Nueva Ecija, two Parish Churches in Talavera and Aliaga, and frontline workers of a hospital in Talavera and checkpoints in Rizal and Llanera from April 8 to 15, 2020.



Nagkakaisang Magsasaka Samahan ng Magpapatubig, Inc. of Hanagdong RIS distributed P500.00 Cash assistance to its 146 IA members and they also donated fifteen thousand pesos (P15,000) worth of relief goods which includes two sacks of rice, two boxes of noodles, and two boxes of sardines to Sangguniang Barangays of Bignay and Guis-guis in Sariaya, Quezon.

NIA BPIO EMPC, the employees' cooperative based at the NIA-CAR regional office, donated P10,000.00 to Barangay Wangal LGU to help in their efforts against COVID-19 prevention. Cash assistance of P7,500.00 each was also handed over to Municipality of La Trinidad, Benguet and Provincial Government of Benguet.



### PROVISION OF RICE AND FOOD PACKS FOR FRONTLINERS



NIA Caraga, led by Regional Manager Madante P. Ganotisi, distributed 137 food packs for the residents of Purok 11, Barangay Bancasi, Butuan City, Agusan del Norte represented by their Purok President. To prevent spreading of the virus, social distancing and wearing of mask were strictly implemented during packing and distribution.



NIA Agusan del Sur IMO, headed by Acting Division Manager Engr. Wilson S. Nazareta, together with the employees of this IMO, conducted food packs distribution on May 27-28, 2020. Employees have raised 140 food packs with 25 kilograms of rice and grocery items. These packs had been enjoyed by a total of 140 families in the municipalities of San Francisco, Rosario, Bunawan, Prosperidad, and Talacogon, Agusan del Sur.



Nueva Vizcaya Irrigation Management Office extended its help amidst COVID-19. On April 27, 2020, NVIMO skeletal workforce spearheaded by Division Manager Leonardo B. Villegas distributed food packs to all personnel assigned in the COVID-19 checkpoints. Another batch of food packs were distributed on April 28, 2020 to health personnel manning the hospital quarantine facilities.



Any help no matter, however small, will be deeply appreciated and is much needed. Employees of Tumauni River Multipurpose Project (TRMP) and Tumauni Irrigation System (TIS) headed by Engr. Elmar P. Pagaduan worked in teams how they could help ease the burden of COVID-19. They have been able to distribute food packs to frontliners on various checkpoints and police stations in Tumauni and Delfin Albano, Isabela on April 22, 2020.



Let us help our frontline heroes to find strength to fight COVID-19! Isabela IMO, headed by Division Manager Felipa S. Sumer, sent some love to those risking their lives at the frontlines by providing meals on April 21, 2020. These packs aim to help frontliners power through long shifts and boost their morale as they work round-the-clock to save lives.



NIA Region IV-A, led by Regional Manager Romeo Lopez, together with NIA Laguna-Rizal IMO and NIA Employees Association of the Philippines – CALABARZON (NIAEASP), delivered 30 cavans of rice to the Local Government of Barangay Sta. Clara Sur and Bulilan Sur in Pila, Laguna. These were distributed to the affected families of the Enhanced Community Quarantine in the area.



Outstanding Communal IA with a heart. Look as the Hall of Famer/Outstanding Communal IA of NIA Cotabato IMO, the BUDASAN IA (formerly Bulacan IA), extended assistance among its farmer members through distribution of the second wave relief goods. This move by the IA manifests their bayanihan system in times of crisis. The desire to help shows that they are looking out for the welfare of its members, as well as boost their values and morale.



Apayao IMO employees donated food packs to 16 barangay checkpoint outpost in Flora, Apayao on April 21, 2020.



Indeed, sharing is caring. NIA Region 8 personnel repacked rice to be distributed to affected families of COVID-19.



NIA Quezon IMO led by Engr. Charlie Ibarrola donated 20 sacks of rice for the affected families of Enhanced Community Quarantine in Barangay 10, Lucena City Quezon.



From Farm to Frontliners. Jalaur River Multipurpose Project Stage II (JRMP II) delivered fresh farm produce to frontliners of Calinog. Recipients were Dr. Ricardo S. Provido Memorial District Hospital, Philippine National Police (PNP), Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), and those who are manning check points and first aid stations within the municipality.



NIA Cavite-Batangas IMO donated 10 sacks of Rice for the assistance of some 25 families of Olaes Kua Irrigators Association, Barangay Kua, General Mariano Alvarez, Cavite.



NIA Region 3 employees distributed relief goods to frontliners assigned in checkpoints in the Municipalities of San Rafael, Baliwag, and Bustos in the Province of Bulacan.

Together We Can: MARIIS AFD Manager spearheaded the distribution of food packs for checkpoint frontliners.



As a gesture of gratitude, Bukidnon IMO of Region 10 gladly distributed 170 food packs, alcohol and face mask to our dear frontliners in 5 checkpoints within Valencia City and Malaybalay City as a way of saying "Thank You" for keeping us all safe. Free packed lunch was also given to the NIA employees on May 28, 2020.

# BEHIND THE MASK: VOICES OF NIA FRONTLINERS

■ Sheen Claudette C. Paz, Public Relations Assistant A, PAIS-C.O.



**MARIA VICTORIA H. BANAL**  
Manager, NIAEASP Canteen

*"Sabi ng mga anak ko, 'bakit nandiyan ka pa lockdown na?' Sabi ko naman, wala kasing makakainan iyong mga tao rito. Iyon lang naman ang maitutulong ko kasi kami nga ang nagpeprepara ng pagkain dito sa NIA lalo na 'yong mga naka-quarantine dyan sa dorm o kahit saan na department, ng medical. Noong lockdown hindi mo na nga maisip ang buhay ng tao diba? Wala ng mahirap o mayaman, pagtinamaan ka. Pasensya at tiyaga talaga. Frontliner ka, walang oras, kahit pagod ka, siges. Kasi parang ang nararamdaman mo, masaya ka rin na ginagawa mo ito kasi nga sabi, kapag ang trabaho mo hindi mo sinasamahan ng totoong serbisyo, hindi maganda ang magiging resulta. Kaya kung hindi bukal sa loob mo, hindi maganda ang resulta."*



**EUSEBIO R. RACELLES**  
Security Officer C, Civil Security Affairs

*"Full force kami, hindi naman kami kasama sa skeletal. Full force kami. Dati kasi nasa Peace and Order lang kami at saka 'yong pag-protect ng properties of NIA. Wala 'yong thermal thermal na 'yan. May mga orders sa amin na paano mai-screen 'yong mga tao, dine-disseminate ko sa kanila at sinusubaybayan ko rin sila kung ano 'yong ginagawa nila. Ayoko rin umuwi sa pamilya ko. Gusto ko rin na makatulong dito. Ayaw ko umuwi dahil baka magkaroon din sila, iniingatan ko rin sila roon. Bukod doon pagka nandito ako, makakatulong pa ako. Kailangan nang lalong pina-igting pa na self-discipline. Kailangan, disiplinado, kung wala 'yong disiplin sa bawat isa sa atin, hindi rin magpoprosper 'yan."*



**ENGR. EUSEBIO S. VILLAMANTO**  
Manager, Systems Management Division

*"Aside from SMD manager, ako kasi 'yong acting Security Officer so I see to it na 'yong security ng compound napeperform din namin so dual tasking ako at that time and also, tumutulong din ako sa General Services. Nandoon 'yong fear pero nandiyan na 'yan kailangan natin harapin, huwag natin talikuran. Pero 'yon nga kailangan natin 'yong mga precautionary measure, 'yong mga protocols sundin natin. Talagang disiplin sa sarili saka 'yong may problema ka na, huwag mong sarilihin. I-share mo. Humingi ka ng advice. Walang level 'yon. Pag dating na ng after work, wala ng boss. Wala ng driver. Pare-parehas na tayo kasi 'yong exposure natin, walang pinipili yun."*



**MAYNARD BETH L. OMBAL**  
M8 Manpower Services

*"May time rin po na sobrang nakakatakot, sobrang nakakakaba kasi papasok kami sa may nagpopositive tapos pagkatapos po namin sprayhan 'yon, pagbabalik na po kami ng barracks, nandoon din po 'yong lalayuan po kami ng tao, daig pa po namin 'yong may sakit. Nakakamiss din po 'yong uwi kayo ng bahay araw-araw para makita po 'yong pamilya niyo. Parang lumiit po 'yong mundo mo. Parang ang liit na lang po ng linalakaran, hindi mo na po alam kung sino 'yong kasama mo, baka mamaya mayroon na po 'yon. Nandoon naman po 'yong tulungan at tiwala lang po kami sa isa't isa. Kung ano man po ang mangyari, basta wala pong mag-iwanan."*



**ARTEMIO B. DABUET**  
Building and Grounds Maintenance Head B  
General Services Division

*"As frontliner ng NIA, kung ano man 'yong mga utos ng management regarding sa mga protection para hindi magka COVID 'yong mga empleyado, ginagawa namin base sa pag-iingat at sa kakayahan ng tao. Naka stay-in tayo rito kasi ang GSD is essential sa opisina. Sinumpaang nating tungkulin 'yon e. Despite ng danger, ginagawa namin 'yong trabaho. Malaki talaga ang pagbabago kasi bawat galaw natin kaakibat na 'yong pag-iingat para magampanan mo 'yong trabaho mo sa Agency."*



**JEANNIE O. TANIEGRA**  
Procurement Analyst B  
Procurement and Property Division

*"Noong time na 'yon kasi naisip ko dahil lockdown, ECQ, so walang mga tao rito gaano, time ko 'yon para tapusin pa 'yong mga files kasi marami pa akong kailangan i-file. Sa dami ng reports na dumating tapos nagpipile-up na siya, so ang goal ko talaga noon, tapusin ko 'yong mga files ko na mga backlog. Pero noong ECQ, hindi lang pang-procurement 'yong gawa ko. Dahil konti lang 'yong pumapasok, 'yong ibang task din na under ng Administrative Department, ginagawa ko rin tapos nag-assist din ako sa Office of the Manager. Talagang kusa ko 'yon kasi nga trabaho ko 'yon. Dapat gagawin ko siya. Kung ano man 'yong mero kayo, pinatunayan lang na talagang ang pinaka-mahalaga 'yong kaugnayan natin sa Diyos, hindi yung kaugnayan natin sa pera o sa kahit na sinong tao. 'Yong relasyon lang natin sa Diyos talaga 'yong matitira, 'yon lang 'yong kailangan natin pagtibayin."*



**ABELARDO H. ANGADOL JR.**  
Environmental Watershed Specialist  
Project Planning Division

*"Nasa field kami noon, nasa Marinduque kami that time so noong nag-announce ng lockdown nandoon kami sa field. Doon kami muntikan ma-lockdown sa Marinduque. Kailangan ko i-continue ang trabaho ko, parang ako rin ang nagsilbing tulay, para ma-comply ang mga requirements ng office although naka lockdown ang office, kinakailangan ituloy-tuloy ang daloy. Ayaw ko rin naman na umuwi baka mamaya ako pa ang makapagdala roon ng sakit sa pamilya ko. Although ilang months na, hindi pa rin ako nakakauwi hanggang ngayon, hindi ko pa rin nakikita ang mag-iina ko. Marami tayong natutuhan during COVID time na maraming mga bagay pala na kaya nating gawin kahit na maraming restrictions, maraming mga factors na kinakaya naman sa small ways natin. Ma-encourage natin 'yong sarili natin na mas maunawaan pa 'yong sitwasyon ng ibang tao. Napakaswerte pa rin natin unlike doon sa mga other people na medyo talagang mas salat, mas hirap, pag minsan kinakailangan natin na intindiin na huwag tayong basta-basta maging judgemental sa iba."*



**RENATO A. ULEP, JR.**  
Senior Data Encoder  
Human Resources Division

*"Tumawag sila doktora noon, either BS Nursing graduate raw. Sabi ko since may knowledge pa rin naman ako, tinanggap ko naman. Ang duty ko noon is 16 hours, from 2pm to 6am. Pang-gabi, graveyard. Tumulong kami doon sa medical team na i-monitor lahat ng mga employees natin na naka stay-in and then, 'yong mga visitors coming from outside. Mayroon tayong hotline na minomonitor din. Hindi lang naman nagbabaril-baril ka roon sa medical, kailangan mo pa rin makipag-interact doon sa mga employees natin kung anong kailangan gawin. Kailangan mo talagang protektahan 'yong sarili mo. Kailangan mo mag-distancing and proper hygiene. Self-discipline talaga ang kailangan."*



**ALLAN JOHN O. ZITA**  
Head Photographer  
Public Affairs and Information Staff

*"Halos talaga minsan, ako lang. Kadalasan, sumasagot ako ng telepono, nag-aannounce, may magpapapicture na mga skeletal work force, kailangan ng ID picture, pipicturan ko. Sa announcement, nahirapan ako kasi nabubulol ako minsan. Pero habang tumatagal okay lang, nasanay na rin. Ginawa ko lang siya na parang normal. Ayaw ko kasi matakot kasi pag ganoon, pag natakot ako wala akong magagawa. Kailangan talagang maging maingat, maging malinis ka sa sarili mo."*



**ALEJANDRINO B. PASCUA IV**  
Corporate Planning Analyst A  
Corporate Planning Services

*"Mahirap po siya noong una pero noong nagtagal na, okay naman na siya. Medyo na-eejoy ko na rin tapos nakikita ko 'yong talagang circulation of work sa office namin. Doon po ako nagkaroon ng positive na side. Malaki din pala 'yong impact niya. Kasi hindi nagcontinue 'yong mga pag-usad ng papel, doon mo makikita 'yong importansya nung nasa baba papuntang pataas. 'Yong effectiveness, 'yong efficiency, 'yong competence mo sa ginagawa mo, kailangan mo pa rin i-maintain. Kasi it's not you, it's the agency. Iyong name ng agency, 'yong madudungisan mo or mapapaganda mo."*



**DENNIS B. BALUYOT**  
Senior Data Encoder  
Legal Services

*"As a nurse by profession, it's a call of duty. Even if I'm not a nurse by occupation. I am both hesitant and afraid at first, of course, knowing what worst could happen, but like what I said, it is my duty, if I will not do it, who else will. The top management asks those who are in the medical profession to join the task force, I choose to work rather than doing nothing at all. With this current pandemic, no man is an island. We have to work together to defeat this pandemic."*



**NELSON B. TRINIDAD**  
Driver Mechanic A  
General Services Division

*"Alas tres gising na kami ng madaling araw. Nagpeprepare na po kami tapos mga 5am alis na po kami para sumundo. Nung una po takot na takot kaming lahat kasi COVID, doctor, nurse, namamatay po. Talagang takot kami. Kaya lang, trabaho namin nga, essential, ginampanan na lang namin trabaho namin. Lumakad naman 'yong kumpanya. Walang transaction ng NIA ang naputol. Sa suporta ng management, lahat ng pangangailangan ng mga empleyado na nandito naka-lockdown, vitamins, alcohol pati pagkain prinovide nila, nabasawan ng konti 'yong takot. Kinausap nga po ako ng mga anak ko na umuwi na lang ako sa bahay pero may tungkulin ako e, may trabaho akong dapat gawin. Minsan umuwi ako ng Saturday ng hapon tapos babalik din ako ng Linggo ng umaga. Hindi ako nagcocommute, naglalakad lang ako hanggang sa amin tapos lakad ulit pabalik dito para sigurado. 'Yong natutuhan ko 'yong paano mo talaga iingat 'yong sarili mo, paano mo iingat 'yong kapwa mo manggagawa, paano mo pagsilbihan at ang pinakamahalaga, 'yong nagkaisa-isa."*

## MORE ON THE NEXT PAGE

## Special Feature



**ROSALINDA A. SEGOCIO**  
Officer-in-Charge  
Human Resources Division

*"Taga-HR ako. Alam ko 'yong need ng tao. While nasa field, nandoon 'yong ating mga services pero dito, tao 'yong kina-cater, ang empleyado. Benefits ng tao. Ito 'yong heart ng NIA, 'yong HR. When you care for people, ay talagang gagawin mo 'yong mga ganyan. Nakita ko na mas gusto ko rito kasi ang kina-care is tao talaga. Empleyado talaga. All other employees are caring for clientele pero kami, kina-care namin 'yong empleyado, mas meaningful 'yon."*



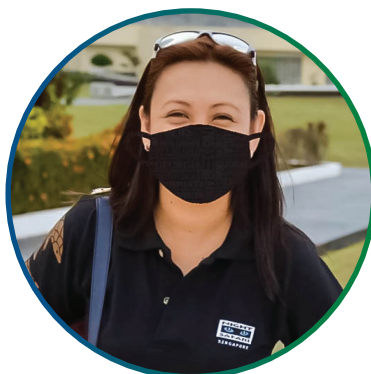
**ENGR. PHYLL N. DURAN**  
Project Coordinator  
Jalaur River Multipurpose Project II

*"Hindi naman kasi ako nagpapractice as Nurse dito, as Engineer ako pumapasok sa NIA. Pinagsabay ko 'yon. Araw-araw, umaga, may duty ako noon. Tapos pag lunch time pumupunta ako rito para i-perform ko naman 'yong mga duty ko rito sa JRMP. Tapos bababa na naman ako sa MDS. Naisip ko lang na if hindi ako gagalaw sa level doon sa opisina namin, baka kasi 'yong COVID mas umabot pa sa bahay namin o kaya sa community namin. Kung hindi ako magrereact or hindi ako tutulong, pupuwedeng mas kumalat pa. Uma-act ka kung kailan ka kailangan. Uma-act ka ng tama sa napapanahon."*



**JOSHUA L. MENSURADO**  
Assistant Cook  
NIAEASP Canteen

*"Apat lang po kami noon. Pumapasok po ako para po talaga sa pamilya, para na rin po makatulong sa mga tao rito. Kailangan lakasan lang po 'yong loob kasi para sa atin din naman ito. Kung susuko ka talaga, wala ka ng magagawa. Kailangan talaga labanan mo. Lahat naman tayo dadaan sa ganyan na pagsubok. Ang laki na po ng pagbabago. Hindi ko na po nagagawa 'yong dati. Huwag silang mawalan ng pag-asa dahil darating din ang araw na magiging normal po talaga ang lahat. Kami po, nagtutulong-tulong na lang po talaga kami dito. Kailangan po talaga magtulongan."*



**ARMIDA F. ROBLES**  
Senior Cashier  
Financial Management Department

*"Kailangan mo i-pursue 'yong work mo kahit alam mong may danger or may risk kasi kailangan mong gawin. Kami 'yong nagpoprocess ng mga benefits saka mga sahod so pag hindi ako, or kami sa finance pumasok, lahat tayo hindi makakasahod. Kahit at risk 'yong health mo, kailangan tumuloy ka pa rin kasi kahit alam mong may pandemic, nagawa mo 'yong part mo para hindi sila mahirapan during those times. As a NIA frontliner, siyempre nandoon ang risk pero na-value or na-treasure ko 'yong work natin na ipagpapasalamat mo talaga kay Lord na mayroon kang work tapos nandiyan 'yong mga kasama mo. Marami kang magiging realization sa nangyari sa pandemic -- magiging thankful ka sa family mo, sa loved ones mo na nagcacare sa'yo, nandyan sila para suportahan ka. Lagi tayong maging mapagpasalamat. Prayers ang nagiging lakas ko lagi."*

**EDITHA D. MORALES**  
Manager  
Financial Management Department

*"We are only three. Three personnels manning the department. So, I decided na paano kung ito ay magtatagal? Paano ang sweldo ng mga tao? So I thought all the personnel nationwide and also 'yong mga projects natin, sabi ko kay Lord, 'Lord you gave me this as a responsibility even for my family, even sa akin, but I surrender to you everything.' Sila Administrator, General Gan araw-araw din pumapasok so we take that opportunity rin during those time na talagang very crucial ang pagpasok. At least nandiyan sila na hindi naman kami pinabayaan din. Nandyan din sila araw-araw. That time nadeppress din ako because I also think of my family. But I was able to overcome it through prayers. Love of people. Love your work and, also helping 'yong mga tao na nangangailangan. Kasi nakikita ko 'yong struggles din outside from NIA naman. Na-feel ko lalo na 'yong mga tao na walang-wala."*



### MEDICAL AND DENTAL SERVICES

*"Sa aming lahat, kahit na sabihin mo pang 'yong delikado, we work because of passion kasi we are a medical and dental team. Nasa work din talaga namin 'yong risk, kahit saan pa kami. Namomonitor natin ang health ng mga empleyado, naka-duty kami 24 hours at nagkaroon tayo ng Rapid Testing na nakatulong din sa kanila. With the help of other employees na graduate ng Nursing at mga nakapasa sa boards, they volunteered to join us and help us. Lahat kami narealize kung gaano namin ka-mahal at naappreciate 'yong trabaho that we do here and ngayon talaga natest ng husto kasi nandoon 'yong drive gawin lahat. Lahat kami iisa lang naman 'yong goal. Nagtiwala ang NIA sa amin na hindi namin sila papabaya, kaya kailangan namin ipakita na talagang gagawin din namin lahat para sa kanila."*



# NIA IMPLEMENTS PURGED SKELETON WORKFORCE, PROVIDES HAZARD PAY TO QUALIFIED EMPLOYEES

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

In line with the government's effort of implementing stringent Social Distancing and Enhanced Community Quarantine in the entire Luzon, NIA Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya instructed the Middle Management to further purge the list of the Agency's skeleton workforce for submission to Deputy Administrator for Administrative and Finance Sector Romeo G. Gan, through Human Resources Division, Administrative Department (HRD-AD), at 5:00 PM today, March 23, 2020.

In his directive, Administrator Visaya emphasized the importance of limiting skeletal workers by minimizing employees who report once a week in the office, prioritizing stay-in personnel as part of skeleton workforce, and implementing Work from Home Arrangement.

In line with this, Deputy Administrator Gan ordered the resubmission of the list of skeleton workforce to HRD and to limit the same at the barest minimum.

*"Let us be more innovative. Assigning our people to report once a week will even be more to further exposure. We can prioritize stay-in personnel as our skeletal workforce. Do not lose sight of the purpose of quarantine. We have to be strict and conscientious about this",* Deputy Administrator Gan said.

To further ensure employees' compensation and welfare, NIA also provided Hazard Pay to all employees reporting for work amid quarantine. 🏠



# IT'S A GREAT TASK...FORCE!

■ Pops Marie A. Santos-Dadea, Public Relations Officer, PAIS-C.O.

When the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic hits the country it has been a worrisome and stressful situation for all of us. President Rodrigo Roa Duterte and his administration faithfully gave its best to support and assist the nation during these trying times. Food and financial assistance through different departments were given to the needy, most especially to the indigent people.

In the case of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) in its commitment and support to its employees during the onslaught of the pandemic, the Agency created a Task Force for the management of the disease at the Central Office (C.O.) Headed by Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya, five groups were formed:

## Response Operations Group

Medical and Dental Services with the employees who graduated with medical courses

## Resource Management and Logistics Group

Personnel of the Procurement and Property Division and General Services Division

## Oversight Group

**Ricardo R. Visaya**  
Administrator

Members:

**Abraham B. Bagasin**  
Senior Deputy Administrator

**C'zar M. Sulaik**  
Deputy Administrator for E&O Sector

**Romeo G. Gan**  
Deputy Administrator for A&F Sector

**Ailyne C. Agtuca-Selda**  
Administrative Department Manager

## Security Measures Group

Civil Security Affairs

## Strategic Communications Group

Administrative Department, Office of the Public Affairs and Information Staff, and CorPlan - Management Information Division



The main purpose of the Task Force is to immediately respond and provide medical attention to NIA personnel and ultimately, for the prevention, containment, and mitigation of the said virus within the C.O. premises.

The C.O. dormitory was purposely used as an isolation building to house NIA personnel with symptomatic and asymptomatic signs or identified as "Suspect", "Probable", "Confirmed" cases as new categories of DOH & WHO, or Confirmed COVID-Positive Patient. Two NIA service vehicles were assigned as NIA Ambulance. 🚑

# ADAPTING TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: THE NIA WAY

■ Pops Marie A. Santos-Dadea, Public Relations Officer, PAIS-C.O.

Through the efforts of the top management officials headed by Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) in its pursuit in keeping the Agency Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) free came up with ways to ensure the health and safety of its employees.

Vehicles entering Central Office (C.O.) premises will go through a spray with finely diffused jet of chlorine dioxide liquid (disinfectant, sterilizer, and sanitizer) to prevent the virus from spreading on NIA grounds. The Agency also conducts disinfection to the entire C.O. buildings during the Enhanced Community Quarantine period until now that the National Capital Region is under the General Community Quarantine.

On the other hand, employees, tenants, and visitors will go through a screening process handled by the Response Operations Group (ROG) of the NIA-C.O. Task Force headed by Dr. Catherin Binag before one can actually enter the building. Four easy steps were to follow before proceeding to their respective offices or areas: (1) A security personnel checks the employee/visitors temperature using a handheld thermal scanner then signs on the given Pass Slip, (2) Passing through the lobby thermal scanner, a Civil Security Affairs personnel will sign the Pass Slip, (3-4) An ROG personnel checks the employee/visitors temperature using a handheld thermal scanner, interviews if experiencing CoViD-19 symptoms, records the data on their database, and signs the Pass Slip. If the employee/visitor is free from any symptoms or disease, he can now proceed to his office or area.

NIA-C.O. also provided multivitamins, face shield, face mask, and alcohol upon the resumption of work of all employees on June 1, 2020. 🇵🇭



Handheld thermal scanning at Gate 1 for motorcycling employees



Vehicles entering the NIA compound will go through misting



Handheld thermal scanning at the lobby



CSA personnel gives back the pass slip to an employee after passing through the thermal scanner



A medical personnel once again checks an employees' temperature.



Employees will update their contact information with the MID-created Human Resources Management Information System



Employees will then be asked if suffering from any COVID-19 symptoms and then his information will be recorded

# #TuloyAngDaloyNIA

■ Ma. Elizabeth N. Lopez, Public Relations Officer A, UPRIIS

The launching of #TuloyAngDaloyNIA on April 7, 2020 has unified the social media posts of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) Skeleton Workforce during the period of extended Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ), and continued its use in the country's transition to General Community Quarantine (GCQ). The NIA Facebook Pages have served as the primary platforms of NIA Operations and Maintenance (O&M) activities nationwide showing the NIA personnel's active work engagement in the fulfillment of the Agency's mandate and continuous delivery of basic irrigation services to the Filipino farmers.

#TuloyAngDaloyNIA originated from the timely experience of NIA Upper Pampanga River Integrated Irrigation Systems (NIA-UPRIIS) when hashtag suggestions were solicited by NIA PAIS. The Office then was in the course of completing the initial restoration works due to an incident of sudden damage in the canal embankment along the Super Diversion Canal (SDC) and Diversion Canal 1 (DC-1) in Rizal, Nueva Ecija on March 28, 2020. Fears surrounded the farmers in 15 cities and municipalities covering the affected service areas of UPRIIS. However, UPRIIS Department Manager Rosalinda B. Bote did not allow the irrigation water supply to be compromised to the remaining 49,900-hectare rice crops during that time. The crops were mostly on its early growth stage while some were just counting a few days before harvest.

At the time when the whole nation was conquering the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) threat on food security, NIA cannot afford to fail the farmers' crop water requirement. UPRIIS has always aimed to increase rice production every cropping season, especially that it is the biggest irrigation system in NIA. Since it is strategically located in Nueva Ecija, the Rice Granary of the Philippines, it was expected that higher yield will be produced. Thus, the challenge to realize a higher volume of palay harvest was real.

During the incident of canal embankment damage, fleet from UPRIIS Head Office was immediately dispatched on March 28 for remedial repair measures in Rizal. Following shortly was the Management's request for equipment augmentation from the nearest contractor in town. UPRIIS was faced with limitations in access of construction needs, due to locked-down cities and municipalities in Nueva Ecija, but the proactive response of the Management allowed the periodic initial water release later that day. Upon the advice of experts who assessed the condition of the diversion canals, Masiway Dam resumed the regular release of irrigation water on March 29, 2020 from its main source, the Pantabangan Dam, to supply the remaining affected areas downstream.



See how engaging the work of NIA field personnel gets in monitoring the water distribution and delivery (WDD) to the farms, and assessing the status of farming activities amid the growing threat of the pandemic. These, among many other duties and responsibilities of NIA to the farmers, pave way for the farmers to occupy a soft spot in the heart of every NIAN. It appeared to be a major consideration in pursuit and attainment of farmers' satisfaction.

#TuloyAngDaloyNIA is a reminder for all NIAns that whatever happens, even in the middle of virus threat or any other challenges, NIA must continue the flow whatever the situation is. Not even the natural calamities that pose damage in irrigation structures and facilities can stop NIA from rendering its basic services.

NIA still and always finds a way to let the irrigation water flow and reach the farms – for rice crops will not survive without irrigation water supply. The Agency also ensures the effectivity of its O&M activities, sustainability of irrigation systems, and efficiency of its facilities. Afterall, NIA is founded in the service of the Filipino farmers. #TuloyAngDaloyNIA 🇵🇭



# RESILIENT AND EFFICIENT @ 57

## #TuloyAngDaloyNIA

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

*Kagaya ng tubig na dumadaloy sa ating irrigation systems, gayundin, patuloy na dumadaloy ang ating Ahensya. Magkaroon man ng balakid sa mga kanal natin – may humarang na troso, may bumarang basura, may mga lupang tumabon sa ilalim nito; ang tubig ng irigasyon ay hahanap at hahanap parin ng malulusutan, ng madadaluyan, sisingit sa pagitan ng mga nakaharang, hanggang sa makarating sa mga palayan.*

This has been the driving force of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) in its simple, yet meaningful and inspiring celebration of its 57<sup>th</sup> Founding Anniversary last June 21, 2020. The day started in thanksgiving to the Almighty as the Holy Mass was celebrated at the NIA Chapel by Rev. Fr. Larry Faraon. This was attended by the Top Management Officials, Managers, and some employees of the Central Office (with strict observance of health protocols and safe distancing). The Regional and Project Offices nationwide also joined in that Holy Mass via FB Livestreaming.

After the Mass, an audio-visual presentation prepared by the Special Program Committee (SPC) in collaboration with the Office of the Public Affairs and Information Staff (PAIS) was posted live via YouTube. This was simultaneously watched by all NIAs nationwide wherein all offices had their video greetings and some TikTok dance presentations. The Kilapsaw Band of the Central Office also rendered their performance in the middle of the program.

The AVP adopted a television morning show style wherein there were hosts who were leading the program via Zoom Conference. It was highlighted by the messages delivered by NIA Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya, Chairman of the NIA Board - Cabinet Secretary Karlo Alexei B. Nograles, Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Food – Senator Cynthia A. Villar, and most especially, by the President of the Republic of the Philippines – President Rodrigo Roa Duterte.

In his message, Administrator Visaya said that in every celebration of a Founding Anniversary, all employees are always left with a challenge on how each of them can make the Agency even more productive and how, together, they can further improve their services to their clients. This then makes NIA Anniversary the time, both individually and as one NIA family, to renew their commitment of serving the country to the best that they can.

*“Now on our 57<sup>th</sup> Founding Anniversary, we renew once more our commitment of continuously serving the nation even amidst crisis. Let all our efforts, hard work, and perseverance never cease as we always put in mind the Filipino farmers and people who are counting on us 57 years ago, now, and in the years to come. Let us continue to work hand-in-hand in fulfilling our mission as one strong NIA family.”*

- Administrator Visaya

Meanwhile, the message of CabSec Nograles focused on NIA as one of the key players in the agricultural growth and development in the country. He commended the Agency's effort of becoming resilient and efficient through its continuous pursuit for innovations and modernization, particularly, by having non-irrigation related projects that produce additional income for the Agency to survive. He also commended the capacity-building interventions being done by the Agency for the farmers that their income may be increased and food production may boost.

*“Being at the forefront of our national program to develop the country's agricultural productivity, our Agency has continued to assist our farmers by providing the necessary irrigation infrastructures and facilities for a sustainable and diversified crop production in our country... Dahil sa patubig, may pagkain. Tuloy ang daloy, NIA.”*

- CabSec Nograles

On the other hand, Senator Villar's message highlighted NIA's efforts of contributing to the improvement of the agricultural sector of the country, that amidst the pandemic, NIA continues working for the farmers.

*“As you celebrate your 57<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, which coincides with irrigation week, I want to commend all of you for your hardwork and dedication for the improvement of our agricultural productivity. Kahit may pandemya, tuloy padin ang ating trabaho para sa ating mga magsasaka, ang mga frontineros na nagpapakain sa atin.”*

- Senator Villar



Finally, the message of President Duterte left encouragement and motivation to all NIAs to continuously work in unity that the Filipino people's lives may become better, particularly, the farmers whom the Agency serves.

*“Your theme for this year's celebration which is about resiliency and innovation comes at a very crucial time when we are dealing with COVID-19 pandemic. May the spirit of bayanihan and pagmamalasakit inspire everyone to continuously work for a better life and a brighter future for every Filipino.”*

- President Duterte

Aside from these messages, one significant portion of the Anniversary program is the NIA Program on Awards and Incentives for Service Excellence (NIA-PRAISE). The following were recognized at the AVP as this year's NIA-PRAISE awardees.

## BEST OFFICES OF THE YEAR

## REGIONAL OFFICE OF THE YEAR - REGION 3



Headed by **Regional Manager Josephine B. Salazar**, NIA Region III is located in Tambubong, San Rafael, Bulacan. The Region is composed of the provinces of Aurora, Bataan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Tarlac, and Zambales. It has potential irrigable area of 283,954.53 and out of this 193,187.47 was already developed. The Office serves 77,782 farmers in the region.

INTEGRATED IRRIGATION  
SYSTEM OFFICE OF THE YEARUPPER PAMPANGA RIVER  
INTEGRATED IRRIGATION  
SYSTEM (UPRIIS)

Home of the famous **Pantabangan Dam** and the biggest irrigation system of NIA, the Upper Pampanga River Integrated Irrigation System (UPRIIS) is located in Maharlika Highway, Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija. **Department Manager Rosalinda B. Bote** is at helm of UPRIIS. The System has a service area of 147,089.65 hectares with 100,693 farmer-beneficiaries.

CENTRAL OFFICE-BASED BEST  
PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICE  
OF THE YEARCOMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN  
REFORM PROGRAM - IRRIGATION  
COMPONENT (CARP-IC)

For more than 30 years, **CARP-IC** continues to deliver efficient, reliable, and sustainable irrigation service to its agrarian reform communities. From 1989 to 2018, around 1,434 subprojects were funded, developed, achieved, and pursued with 178,702 farmer-beneficiaries.



## FIELD OFFICE-BASED PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICE OF THE YEAR

### CHICO RIVER PUMP IRRIGATION PROJECT (CRPIP)



The Chico River Pump Irrigation Project (CRPIP) Management Office is located in Palca, Tuao East, Cagayan headed by its **Project Manager Roland V. Apaga**. The Project has a total service area of 8,700 hectares with 4,350 farmer-beneficiaries.



## IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT OFFICE OF THE YEAR

### BULACAN-AURORA-NUOVA ECIIJA (BANE) IMO - REGION 3

Headed by **Engr. Lauro E. Ballesteros**, the Bulacan, Aurora, and Nueva Ecija Irrigation Management Office (BANE IMO) has a total service area of 30,148.88 hectares and irrigated area of 23,720.25 hectares. It has a total of 38,472 farmer-beneficiaries.



## DIVISION OFFICE OF THE YEAR - UPRIS DIVISION II

NIA-UPRIS Division II is headed by **Engr. Cristino C. Castillo**. The office is located in Brgy. Poblacion Sur, Talavera, Nueva Ecija. The Division has a total service area of 24,186.81 hectares with a total of 17,476 farmer-beneficiaries.



## BEST MANAGERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR



### BEST DEPARTMENT MANAGER ON SUPPORT SERVICES

#### ENGR. ROGELIA C. DELA TORRE

**Engr. Rogelia C. Dela Torre** is the Department Manager of the Corporate Planning Services. She has been working in the Agency for 38 years.



### CENTRAL OFFICE-BASED BEST DIVISION MANAGER FOR ENGINEERING (TECHNICAL SERVICES)

#### ENGR. REYNALDO L. BALOLOY

**Engr. Reynaldo L. Baloloy** is the Manager of the Project Planning Division (PPD) under the Engineering Department. Starting in 1981, he already rendered already more than 39 years of government service in NIA.



### CENTRAL OFFICE-BASED BEST DIVISION MANAGER FOR OPERATIONS (TECHNICAL SERVICES)

#### DR. LEO L. GALLEGO

**Dr. Leo L. Gallego** is the Manager of the Institutional Development Division (IDD) under the Operations Department. He has been working in the Agency for 41 years, starting 1979 to present.



### **CENTRAL OFFICE-BASED BEST DIVISION MANAGER ON SUPPORT SERVICES**

#### **ENGR. WILHELM S. TIANGCO**

**Engr. Wilhelm S. Tiangco** is the Manager of the General Services Division (GSD) under the Administrative Department. He has been with the Agency for 21 years, from year 1999 to present.



### **FIELD OFFICE-BASED BEST DIVISION MANAGER ON TECHNICAL SERVICES**

#### **ENGR. ALVIN L. MANUEL, SR.**

**Engr. Alvin L. Manuel, Sr.** is the Engineering and Operations Division Manager of NIA-UPRIS Head Office. He started as a Laborer in the Agency on October 2, 1989. He has been with the Agency for 30 years.



### **FIELD OFFICE-BASED BEST DIVISION MANAGER ON SUPPORT SERVICES**

#### **DR. NARCISA R. GABRIDO**

**Dr. Narcisa R. Gabrido** is the Administrative and Finance Division Manager of NIA-Region IV-A. She started her career in NIA on February 1, 1978. She has been with the Agency for 42 years.



### CENTRAL OFFICE-BASED BEST EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

#### MR. DANIEL OCOP

**Mr. Daniel P. Ocop** works as a Process Server II at the Internal Audit Services (IAS). He has been with NIA for 17 years, from 2003 up to the present.



### FIELD OFFICE-BASED BEST EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

#### MS. LITA M. BRONCE

**Ms. Lita M. Bronce** is the Cashier A of the Administrative and Finance Division of NIA-MIMAROPA. She has been with the Agency for 39 years.

## CARP-IC MOST OUTSTANDING IRRIGATORS ASSOCIATIONS



## Special Events



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

Plaque of Recognition  
awarded to

**ANOPOG PAGLAUM IRRIGATORS'  
ASSOCIATION INC.**

for its contribution to  
the Philippine economic development and  
support in the alleviation of  
the quality of life of our farmers in  
the Agrarian Reform Communities

Gen Ricardo R Visaya (Ret)  
Administrator, NIA

Atty. John R. Castricones  
Secretary, DAR

June 22, 2020  
National Irrigation Administration  
Quezon City

**CY 2019  
CARP-IC Most Outstanding IA**



**ANOPOG PAGLAUM IRRIGATORS' ASSOCIATION, INC**

Anopog, Pinamungajan, Cebu  
SEC Reg No CN093-000172 / NON VAT TIN No 702-882-515-000

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**MUNICIPALITY OF PINAMUNGAHAN**, Next to Toledo City and just before Aloguinsan, there lies a municipality that's called Pinamungahan. This mid-western Cebu province was established in 1815. It has a population of almost 60, 000 people, as according to a 2010 census, and its current mayor is Mayor Glenn Baricuatro, the former chief of staff of the former congressman, Pablo John Garcia, and the former head of the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources.

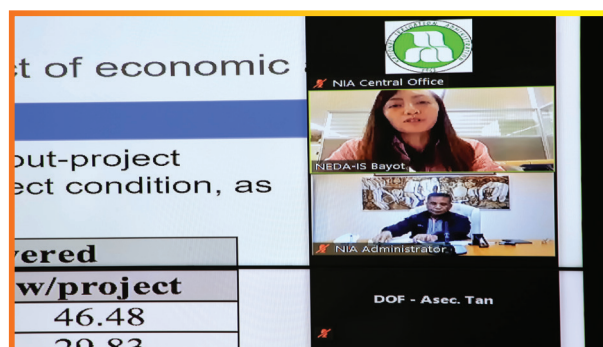
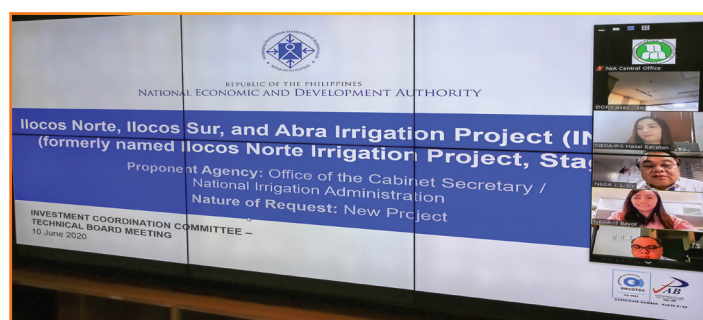
During the said phase, its official name is **ANOPOG PAGLAUM IRRIGATORS' ASSOCIATION INC. (APIA)** which was then led by its President Mr. Bonifacio T. Alqueza. APIA has then served a total service area of 165 hectares whom primary source of living is rice production. The 150 farmer beneficiaries of the said project were able to produce rice throughout the year without simply waiting for the rain to fill their fields hence they were now able to get water through irrigation canals of Anopog CIS which was managed by APIA.

*"Now on our 57<sup>th</sup> Founding Anniversary, we renew once more our commitment of continuously serving the nation even amidst crisis. Let all our efforts, hard work, and perseverance never cease as we always put in mind the Filipino farmers and people who are counting on us 57 years ago, now, and in the years to come. Let us continue to work hand-in-hand in fulfilling our mission as one strong NIA family."*

- Administrator Visaya



**Stay resilient.  
Continue becoming efficient.  
Keep serving. Keep persevering.  
Happy 57<sup>th</sup> Anniversary NIA!**



### NIA and ADB conducts Pre-Country Programming Mission Meeting

NIA Central Office - The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) conducted Pre-Country Programming Mission Meeting on June 10, 2020 at NIA Administrator's Conference Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Building B.

The Agenda of the meeting include the Country Programming Mission (CPM) which aims to update ADB's Country Operations Business Plan (2020-2022) to be held in the latter part of June 2020, Confirmation of the 2020-2022 Pipelines for the Proposed Mindanao Irrigation Development Project (MIDP), and Updates on Project Development and Schedule of MIDP, among others.

NIA Top Management Officials and staff, headed by Administrator Ricardo R Visaya, and the executives of ADB attended the meeting.



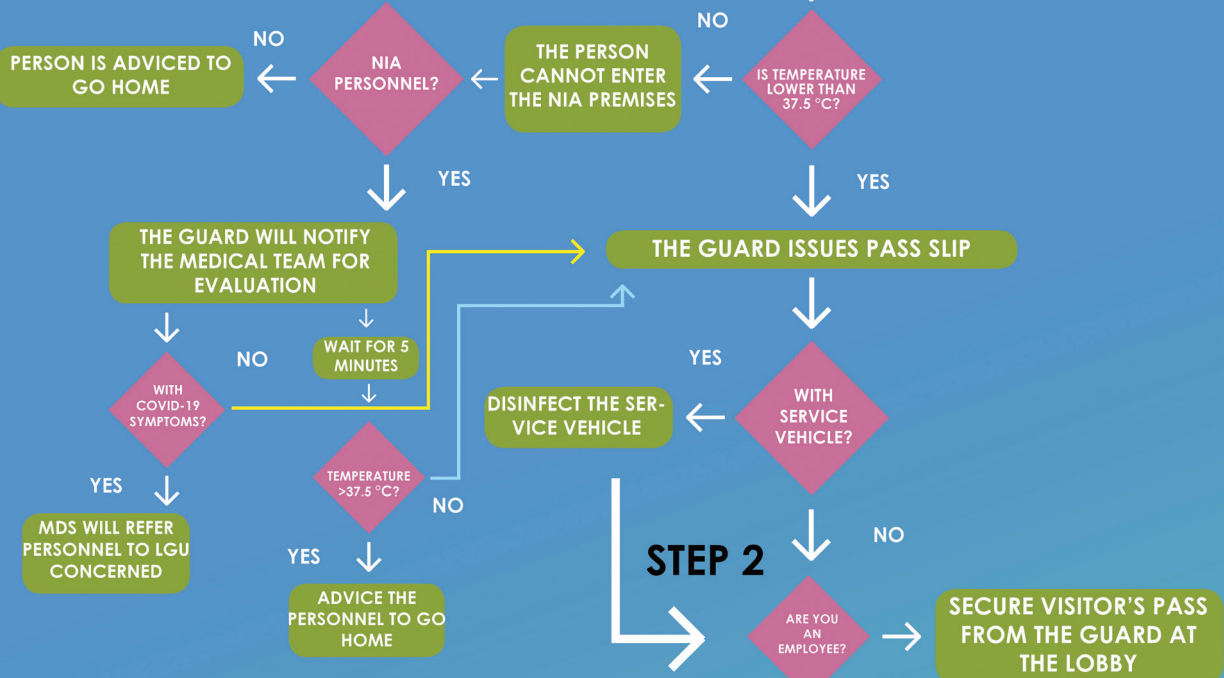
START

NO MASK  
NO ENTRY

## STEP 1

THE GUARD SIGNS IN NIA OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEE'S/VISITOR'S/TENANT'S NAME AT NIA GATE 1

THE GUARD CONDUCTS TEMPERATURE CHECK



## STEP 2

THE EMPLOYEE/VISITOR/TENANT PROCEEDS TO NIA LOBBY FOR THERMAL SCREENING



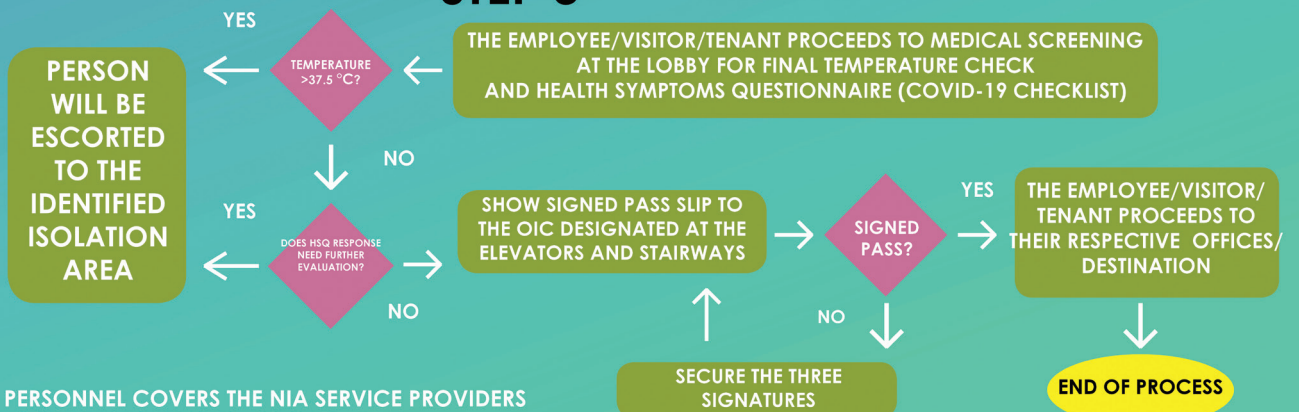
PERSON WILL BE ESCORTED TO THE IDENTIFIED ISOLATION AREA

PROCEED TO FINGERPRINT SCANNING FOR TIME IN. AFTER THE THERMAL SCREENING, THE CSA PERSONNEL AFFIXES SIGNATURE ON THE PASS SLIP



## STEP 3

THE EMPLOYEE/VISITOR/TENANT PROCEEDS TO MEDICAL SCREENING AT THE LOBBY FOR FINAL TEMPERATURE CHECK AND HEALTH SYMPTOMS QUESTIONNAIRE (COVID-19 CHECKLIST)



NOTE: NIA PERSONNEL COVERS THE NIA SERVICE PROVIDERS (GUARDS/M8/NIAEASP/EWPI/NIA COOPERATIVE)