

NIA Convenes with  
NDRRMC, PAGASA on  
Dam Water Release

Mercedes II SPIP: The  
First Inaugurated Solar  
Pump Irrigation Project in  
Zamboanga City

NIA and EPAHP: Towards  
Alleviating Hunger and  
Poverty in the Country

NIA-UPRIIS Targets to  
Complete Watershed  
Management Program by  
April 2021



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION

# CURRENTS

Volume 48, No. 4, 2020



## THE PURSUIT TO A BETTER FUTURE



**4TH QUARTER**  
nia.gov.ph

# CONTENTS

Volume 48, No. 4, 2020

## 3 *Editorial*

Resilience Amidst Challenges

## *Plans and Programs*

4 1,500 Farmers to Benefit from Newly Completed Hapid Diversion Dam Structures

5 Mercedes II SPIP: The First Inaugurated Solar Pump Irrigation Project in Zamboanga City

6 Mass Turnover of Projects in Misamis

7 P323.556-M LARISIP Contract Signed

8-9 Re-Fleeting of Transport Equipment: Towards Improving Delivery of Services

10 NIA-UPRIIS Targets to Complete Watershed Management Program by April 2021

11 NIA and EPAHP: Towards Alleviating Hunger and Poverty in the Country

12 NIA Adheres to PRRD's Directive to Publish List of Infra and Irrigation Projects

13 Virtual Oath-Taking of Field Leadership

## *Special Feature*

14-15 Lighting Up the Symbolic Christmas Tree

16 Rehabilitated Dumacaa RIS: A Symbol of Hope

17 NIA Confers Rice Achievers Awards to Outstanding IAs

## *News Feature*

18-19 Dam Crisis Management Task Force for Holistic Dam Management During Disasters

20-22 NIA Reaffirms that Recent Flooding in Cagayan Valley is not Wholly Attributed to Magat Dam

23 NIA Convenes with NDRRMC, PAGASA on Dam Water Release

## 24-29 *Photo News*

## 30-32 *Limelight*

GSD's Glimpse of Work Life Learnings

For Comments/ Suggestions/ Contributions:  
Call us @ (632) 921-37-41



[www.nia.gov.ph](http://www.nia.gov.ph)  
[pais@nia.gov.ph](mailto:pais@nia.gov.ph)



[niapais@gmail.com](mailto:niapais@gmail.com)



[www.facebook.com/nia.gov.ph/](https://www.facebook.com/nia.gov.ph/)

## EDITORIAL BOARD

GEN RICARDO R VISAYA (Ret)

*Administrator*

BGEN ABRAHAM B BAGASIN (Ret)

*Senior Deputy Administrator*

ENGR. C'ZAR M. SULAİK

*Deputy Administrator for Engineering and Operations Sector*

MGEN ROMEO G GAN (Ret)

*Deputy Administrator for Administrative and Finance Sector*

EDEN VICTORIA C. SELVA

*Acting Department Manager, Public Affairs and Information Staff*

## EDITORIAL STAFF

*Editor-in-Chief:* Clarizze C. Toribio

*Associate Editor:* Pops Marie S. Dadea

*Managing Editor:* Josias M. Mercado

*Copy Editing and Editorial Staff*

*Copy Editor/Writer:* Jayson B. Cabrera

*News Editor/Writer:* Sheen Claudette C. Paz

*Feature Editor/Writer:* Jermaine M. Donayre

*Content Editor/Writer:* Maria Elena P. Valenzuela

*Graphics and Layout Team*

*Design and Layout Artists:* Remster D. Bautista

Ana Cristel K. Untivero

Christian Rey E. Luz

Rosanna C. Mariano

*Photographer:* Allan John O. Zita

*Administrative Support Staff*

Frya Camille D. Ballesteros

Jennifer S. Colinares

Arnel M. Reyes

Mark V. Daradal

Andrian Christian C. Polinar

Rex Feljay E. Sagdullas

*Contributor/Writer*

Quennie A. Tabobo





# 1,500 FARMERS TO BENEFIT FROM NEWLY COMPLETED HAPID DIVERSION DAM STRUCTURES

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

Under the leadership of Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya, the National Irrigation Administration – Cordillera Administrative Region (NIA-CAR) inaugurated P70-million worth of newly completed diversion dam structures of the Hapid Irrigation System (Hapid IS) located in the Municipality of Lamut, Ifugao on October 01, 2020.

Witnessed by other local officials, regional heads of other agencies, NIA employees, and farmer-beneficiaries, the inaugural ceremony was led by Hon. Solomon Chungalao, Representative of the Lone District of Ifugao, Provincial Governor Jerry Dalipog, NIA-CAR Regional Manager Benito Espique, Jr., and NIA Ifugao Satellite Office Head Patrick Resurreccion.

Hapid IS used to have a gravity intake-type diversion dam which draws irrigation water from the Ibulao River. With the completion of the diversion dam on May 08, 2020, irrigation service delivery is more reliable and efficient. The project covers 11 barangays of Lamut, Ifugao, benefitting 1,500 farmers and their families.

To date, the irrigated area of the system is pegged at 1,040 hectares which is the targeted area for this wet cropping season. Engr. Patrick Resurreccion said that the irrigated area can still increase because water is now more sufficient with the completion of the diversion dam.

NIA Top Management Officials, headed by Administrator Visaya, assured that the Agency remains committed its mandate of providing efficient, reliable, and sustainable irrigation service to the Filipino farmers, the backliners of the country's battle against COVID-19 Pandemic. 🇵🇭



Hon. Solomon Chungalao, Representative of the Lone District of Ifugao (2nd from left), NIA-CAR Regional Manager Benito Espique, Jr. (outermost left), some regional directors of national government agencies, and other local government officials during the inauguration ceremony of the newly completed diversion dam of Hapid Irrigation System located in the Municipality of Lamut, Kalinga on October 01, 2020



# MERCEDES II SPIP: THE FIRST INAUGURATED SOLAR PUMP IRRIGATION PROJECT IN ZAMBOANGA CITY

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



Aligned with the Agency's efforts on continuous enhancement of innovative irrigation, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) turned over the P5-million Mercedes II Solar Pump Irrigation Project (Mercedes II SPIP) to the Irrigators Associations (IAs) of Mercedes, Cabaluay, Culianan, and Talabaan on November 30, 2020. The inauguration and turnover ceremony was held at the project site located in Barangay Mercedes, Zamboanga City.

Being the first solar-powered pump irrigation project in the locality, Mercedes II SPIP was initiated by Zamboanga City District II Representative Manuel Jose Dalipe with the supervision of NIA Zamboanga-Basilan-Sulu-Tawi-Tawi Regional Sub-Office (ZAMBASULTA RSO) Acting Manager Robert Bernie L. Rada II. The solar-powered centrifugal pump gets its water source from a spring and can pump an average of 170 cubic meters in six hours. The irrigation system is powered by 28 solar panels that can discharge approximately 200 gallons of water per minute. The system is also equipped with surveillance cameras and fortified with security fence to ensure utmost safety and security measures. The project will irrigate five hectares of agricultural land in the barangay, benefitting 10 farmers and their families.

Among the Guest of Honors during the event were District II Representative Dalipe, City Councilors Jhon M. Dalipe and Al-Jihan R. Edding, IA President Hja. Aida N. Loong, together with MCCT IA officials and members, and the Representative from Long Island Builders and Construction, the project contractor. 🏡



NIA ZAMBASULTA Acting Manager Robert Berni L. Rada II (middle), together with Congressman Manuel Jose "Mannix" M. Dalipe (3rd from left), City Councilor of District I Jhon M. Dalipe (2nd from left), MCCT IA President Haj. Aida N. Loong (2nd from right), and NIA ZAMBASULTA Institutional Development Head Leni S. Enriquez (outermost right) during the inauguration and turnover ceremony of P5-million Mercedes II SPIP) to IAs of Mercedes, Cabaluay, Culianan, and Talabaan, Zamboanga City on November 30, 2020





# MASS TURNOVER OF PROJECTS IN MISAMIS

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

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) Lanao del Norte-Misamis-Camiguin (LAMISCA) Irrigation Management Office (IMO) had a mass turnover of irrigation projects on November 27, 2020 at the Family Model Farm Site, Kalagonoy, Gingoog City, Misamis Oriental attended by NIA Regional Office No. X officials headed by Regional Manager Constancio G. Bana-ay, Jr. and Federation of Irrigators Associations President Napoleon L. Nisperos, Jr.

NIA turned over the said irrigation projects to its respective farmer-irrigators in the area namely Agay-ayan Communal Irrigation System (CIS), San Juan CIS, Kasingpitan CIS, Bal-ason CIS, Magsaysay CIS, and Kalagonoy Communal Irrigation Project (CIP).

Aside from the said activity, the day also celebrates the unveiling, ribbon-cutting, and blessing of the Family Model Farm House using the drip irrigation systems in producing various vegetables such as pechay, carrots, oolong tea, and other high-value crops. 🥕



Regional Manager Constancio G. Bana-ay, Jr. with the LAMISCA IMO EOS Chief Jocelyn S. Vivares, witnessed by Gingoog City Administrator in the signing of Turnover Documents of completed projects in the 2nd District of Misamis Oriental



Regional Manager Constancio G. Bana-ay, Jr. with Gingoog City Administrator Elvin Y. Restituto during the Project Mass Turnover Ceremony of Completed Irrigation Projects/Systems of 2nd District Misamis Oriental held at Kalagonoy Family Model Farm, Barangay Kalagonoy, Gingoog City last November 27, 2020



Barangay Captain Marcial Dotarot being the recipient of the Family Model Farm, expressed his gratitude to NIA in his welcome address.

▼ Ceremonial Turnover of the completed irrigation projects/systems through the handing over of the steering wheel to Agay-ayan IA President Raul Arao





# P323.556-M LARISIP CONTRACT SIGNED

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

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) represented by NIA Chief Ricardo R. Visaya and Deputy Administrator for Administrative and Finance Sector Romeo G. Gan and Rayman Builders, Inc./JLL Pulsar Construction Corporation (Joint Ventures) with representations from Authorized Managing Officers Joseph Jeremy D. Lara and Melencio B. Raymundo III had a contract signing at the Administrator's Conference Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, NIA Building A on October 13, 2020.

The two parties signed the P323.556-million worth of contract works for the Lower Agno River Irrigation System Improvement Project (LARISIP). The project with Contract No. R1-LARISIPD-C-2R includes the construction of slope protection and drainage inlet (Sta. 0+000.00-Sta. 0+260.00, and Sta. 1+270.00) and the excavation of the re-regulating pond.

The contract signing was attended by Senior Deputy Administrator Abraham B. Bagasin, NIA Regional Office No. I Manager Angelito S. Miguel, Rayman Builders Chairmain Ver Raymundo, and JLL Pulsar Construction Legal Officer Victorio Casuay. 🇵🇭





# RE-FLEETING OF TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT

## Towards Improving Delivery of Services

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

*“Let these service vehicles be an instrument for us to be more efficient in providing our services to our farmers and other stakeholders.”*

- Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya

Acquiring 34 units of light and transport equipment (Mitsubishi Strada Pick-ups) worth P57.8 million as part of the re-fleeting program, the National Irrigation Administration augments its service vehicles used in the different field offices to monitor and evaluate the status of on-going construction and Operations and Maintenance (O&M) activities of the Agency.

The acquisition of light/transport equipment is in line with the Four-Point Agenda of Administrator Visaya, particularly in instituting measures to improve the delivery of services, such as but not limited to, modernization of equipment for operations and project implementation.

In a simple turnover ceremony on December 22, 2020 at the NIA Grounds, the light and transport equipment were turned over by the winning bidder, CT Citimotors, to NIA Top Management witnessed by Central Office Department Managers and employees.





In his message, Administrator Visaya told employees to take care of the newly-acquired vehicles, *“Sa mga empleyado ng ating Ahensya na gagamit ng mga sasakayang ito, lalo na ang ating mga drivers, alagaan ninyo itong mabuti upang matagal natin silang maging kaagapay sa ating pagseserbisyo.”*

The purchase of light/transport and heavy equipment is part of the three-year re-fleeting program of the Agency from CY 2017 to CY 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 were set for procurement in 2019.

Mentioning that it was a long time ago when the last re-fleeting for the Agency happened, he mentioned, *“Kung gaanong katagal tayo naghintay upang magkaroon ng mga bagong service vehicles, gayunding katagal marahil ang panahong hihintayin natin bago muling mapalitan ang mga ito.”*

As of December 31, 2018, NIA maintained in operating condition 3,383 units of heavy, light/transport, other support, and special equipment in support to the operations and maintenance of irrigation systems nationwide. On the other hand, 600 units of equipment are non-operable, while 1,346 units of equipment are recommended for disposal. Thus, the three-year re-fleeting program is expected to make NIA operations more efficient and reliable.

Preceding the turnover ceremony of equipment was the handover of financial assistance amounting to P625,000.00 from NIA Top Management Officials to the NIA Employees' Association of the Philippines – National Capital Region (NIAEASP-NCR) for the victims of Typhoons Rolly and Ulysses. Part of the P625,000.00 is a contribution from NIA Central Office employees. 🙏





# NIA-UPRIIS TARGETS TO COMPLETE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PROGRAM BY APRIL 2021

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

The National Irrigation Administration-Upper Pampanga River Integrated Irrigation Systems (NIA-UPRIIS), headed by Department Manager Rosalinda B. Bote, targets to complete Watershed Management Program for Pantabangan Dam, Nueva Ecija by April 2021 to mitigate the impact of climate change.

As our country is highly vulnerable to the effects of the global climate change, including sea level rise, increased frequency of extreme weather phenomena, rising temperatures and heavy rainfall, NIA established efforts to ensure that watershed areas managed by our Agency continue to be protected and sustain required quantity and quality of water in our reservoirs.

The implementation of the Climate Change Project of NIA-UPRIIS consists of the establishment and maintenance of 220 hectares Reforestation and Agroforest Plantation such as Molave, Narra, Mimosa, Duhat, Langka, Guyabano, Cashew, Bignay and Sampalok that started this March 2020. The total amount of the said project is P16,465,000.00 including the Contract Works and Force Account Works. As of October 31, 2020, the said climate change project has overall physical accomplishment of 74.04% and financial accomplishment of 51.60%.

Furthermore, the P1.3-M Maintenance and Protection of 10,356 hectares NIA-Watershed Area as Capital Outlay Project has started July 16, 2020 and target to be completed by the end of the year. Major activities involved are patrolling and monitoring of NIA established plantations to safeguard the tree plantations, prevent timber poachers and other illegal and destructive activities within the watershed area; checkpoint operations, fireline construction and maintenance, and fire prevention and suppression to secure the entrance and exit at the watershed area and to trap the illegally gathered and transport of forest products from NIA plantation; and nursery operations with a target of 40,000 seedlings at the end of the year to be produced in our forest nursery for tree planting activities, seedling dispersal and supplying gap of old established plantations. As of October 31, 2020, Capital Outlay Project has overall physical accomplishment of 72.18% and financial accomplishment of 56.18%.

The Watershed Management Section of NIA-UPRIIS continues the different activities related to forest protection of NIA established plantation and other activities involved in the Climate Change Project implementation. This includes road clearing during typhoon and heavy rain as this last quarter of the year, most of the strong and destructive typhoons hit the province of Nueva Ecija which resulted to a lot of uprooted trees blocking the NIA access road.

NIA Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya assures that the Agency remains committed in conserving the environment through efficient, effective, and sustainable management of irrigation systems to where watersheds and reservoirs lie. 🌱





# NIA AND EPAHP:

## TOWARDS ALLEVIATING HUNGER AND POVERTY IN THE COUNTRY

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

*“Kayang lutasin ang anumang problema at mapagtagumpayan ang anumang pagsubok kung ang bawat isa ay magtutulungan.”*

- Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya

Hunger and poverty are one of the most serious problems which are being experienced by our fellow Filipinos, particularly by some of our farmers. These problems, if not solved immediately, shall be the cause of many other problems that may worsen their situation.

Thus, under President Rodrigo Roa Duterte’s Enhanced Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty Program (EPAHP), the different government agencies converged to alleviate hunger and poverty that affect many Filipino families nationwide.

EPAHP’s goal is very much timely, particularly in the year 2020 and beyond, when each one’s collective effort is very much needed to execute the solution which is believed to be the key to end hunger and poverty in our country.

Due to COVID-19 Pandemic, 2020 has really been a challenging year for the whole world. In our country, there were several natural calamities that have seriously affected many Filipinos, particularly in Luzon. Thus, one with EPAHP in fulfilling its mission, the National Irrigation Administration is fully committed to contribute to its success by conscientiously doing its part in this partnership.

As EPAHP aims to directly sell the products of the Irrigators Associations to its partner agencies, we can assure that the farmers would have sufficient income, as there will be no middleman anymore in marketing their produce and services. In this way, mutual benefits are experienced by both our farmers and the partner agencies.

With this program’s success, we can be assured that no farmers, particularly in our IAs would experience hunger and poverty. Through EPAHP, we will not come to a food shortage. Rather, we shall be assured of attaining food self-sufficiency in our country.

Through the Agency’s continuous construction, rehabilitation, and improvement of irrigation systems nationwide, NIA contributes to the overall achievement of the goals of EPAHP. Reliable and efficient irrigation systems produce greater yield, thus giving the farmers consistent and higher income.

In the second semester of 2020, here are the Agency’s actions in contributing to EPAHP’s success:

### EPAHP Program Orientation, Convergence Meeting and MOU Signing Conducted in 2020

1. Region VI (Aklan and Capiz)	August 26, 2020
2. Region VI	August 24, 2020
3. Region VIII (Southern Leyte and Biliran)	August 7, 2020
4. Region III	July 16, 2020
5. Region XIII It	July 16, 2020
6. Region VI (Iloilo-Guimaras IMO)	September 24, 2020
7. Region VI (Negros Occidental)	September 29, 2020
8. Region VII (NOSO)	October 13, 2020
9. Region 8 (Samar IMO)	October 28, 2020
10. Region 7 (Cebu City)	October 30, 2020
11. Region 4A	November 4, 2020
12. Region 4B (Oriental Mindoro)	November 11, 2020
13. Region 11 (MOU Signing)	November 18, 2020
14. UPRIS	November 20, 2020
15. Region 5	December 9, 2020
16. Region 7 NOSO (MOU Signing)	December 9, 2020
17. Palawan R4B	December 10, 2020
18. Region 12 (MOU Signing)	December 11, 2020
19. Region 7	December 16, 2020
20. Region 6 Capiz (MOU Signing)	December 14, 2020

NIA’s contribution to EPAHP is spearheaded by the Institutional Development Division (IDD) of the Operations Department managed by Dr. Leo Gallego. He, together with his team, ensures that this program is launched to all provinces in the country as soon as possible.

The Agency vows to always support the national EPAHP team headed by our Cabinet Secretary and Chairman of the NIA Board Karlo Alexei B. Nograles. NIA looks forward to the achievement of all the government agency’s common goal in this partnership of eradicating hunger and poverty in the country. 🇵🇭

# NIA ADHERES TO PRRD'S DIRECTIVE TO PUBLISH LIST OF INFRA AND IRRIGATION PROJECTS

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

**N**IA Central Office – Heeding the call of the national government to a more transparent public service and in adherence to President Rodrigo Roa Duterte's directive to publish details of infrastructure and irrigation projects in national newspaper/broadsheet, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) tied up with the Philippine Daily Inquirer (PDI) for the publication of the List of Irrigation Projects Bidded at NIA Central Office, and Ongoing and Completed Operations and Engineering-Monitored Projects with more than P10-million budget allocation each from CY 2019 to CY 2020 in six issues. All published data and information are based on August 2020 Status Reports of the Agency.

Issue	Publication Date	Content
Part 1	October 04, 2020	List of Irrigation Projects Bidded at NIA Central Office and the Reports on the Status of Operations-Monitored Project for CY 2019 of Regions 1 to 3, Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), Magat River Integrated Irrigation System (MARIIS), and Upper Pampanga River Integrated Irrigation Systems (UPRIIS)
Part 2	October 17, 2020	Reports on the Status of Operations-Monitored Project for CY 2019 of CALABARZON, MIMAROPA, and Regions 5 to 10
Part 3	October 18, 2020	Reports on the Status of Operations-Monitored Project for CY 2019 of Regions 11 to 13 and Status of Operations-Monitored Project for CY 2020 of CAR, MARIIS, and Regions 1, 2, and 3
Part 4	October 24, 2020	Reports on the Status of Operations-Monitored Project for CY 2020 of CALABARZON, MIMAROPA
Part 5	October 25, 2020	Reports on the Status of Operations-Monitored Project for CY 2020 of Regions 11 to 13, and the List of Completed and Ongoing Engineering-Monitored Projects for CY 2019 of CAR, Regions 1 to 13, UPRIIS, Tarlac Balog-Balog Multipurpose Project Phase II (TBBMP-II), Ilocos Norte-Ilocos Sur-Abra Irrigation Project (INISAIP), Jalaur River Multipurpose Project Stage II (JRMPII), Kabulnan-2 Multipurpose Irrigation and Power Project (KMIPP), and Malitubog-Maridagao Irrigation Project Phase II (MMIP-II).
Part 6	October 26, 2020	List of Completed and Ongoing Engineering-Monitored Projects for CY 2019 of Lower Agno River Irrigation System and Improvement Project (LARISIP), National Irrigation Sector Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (NISRIIP), and Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program – Irrigation Component (CARP-IC), as well as the List of Completed and Ongoing Engineering-Monitored Projects for CY 2020 of CAR, Regions 1-13, Chico River Pump Irrigation Project (CRPIP), UPRIIS, TBBMP, INISAIP, KMIPP, LARISIP, MMIP-II, NISRIIP, and CARP-IC

For CY 2019 Operations-Monitored Irrigation Projects, NIA reported 81.74 percent physical accomplishment for 414 contract packages worth P10 million above each with an aggregate cost of P8.946 billion, while for CY 2020, the Agency reported 34.06 percent physical accomplishment for 327 contracts amounting to P6.568 billion.

For CY 2019 Engineering-Monitored Irrigation Projects, NIA reported 42.88 percent physical accomplishment for 125 contract packages worth P10 million above each with an aggregate cost of P5.949 billion, while for CY 2020, the Agency reported 18.17 percent physical accomplishment for 80 contract packages amounting to P3.427 billion.

Actions to ensure that any party who fails to meet their commitments without justifiable reasons will be netted with corresponding sanctions. NIA Management expressed readiness to provide clarifications to anyone who have queries relative to the report.

Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya, assured that NIA is doing its best to finish irrigation projects on time or even ahead of the target completion because delays in project implementation mean injustice to the Filipino farmers.

President Duterte viewed the directive as instrumental in detecting collusion among agencies and contractors, allowing the public to identify possible conspiracy among bidders and officials, and ensuring that public funds won't go into corruption. 🇵🇭



# VIRTUAL OATH TAKING OF FIELD LEADERSHIP

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

National Irrigation Administration (NIA) Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya presided the simultaneous virtual Oath Taking Ceremony of regional and project leadership through a Google meeting on October 14, 2020 at the Administrator's Conference Room.

Four frontrunners namely Engr. Jonel B. Borres, Engr. Rory F. Avance, Engr. Ruby C. Tuan, Jr., and Engr. Manuel L. Rañeses will now lead the Jalaur River Multipurpose Project Stage II and NIA Regional Offices VI, VIII, and IX respectively.

In his message to the newly installed leaders, Administrator Visaya said that he has high hopes and confidence that they will do their best, excel, and succeed in their administration and management of their new assignments.

Joining the Administrator on the said ceremony were Senior Deputy Administrator Abraham B. Bagasin, Deputy Administrator for Engineering and Operations Sector C'zar M. Sulaik, Deputy Administrator for Administrative and Finance Romeo G. Gan, and other NIA officials. 📺



JRMP Acting Manager Jonel B. Borres



Regional Office No. IX Manager Manuel L. Raneses



Regional Office No. VI Manager Rory F. Avance



Regional Office No. VIII Acting Manager Ruby C. Tuan, Jr.

# LIGHTING UP THE SYMBOLIC CHRISTMAS TREE

■ Jermaine M. Donayre, Public Relations Assistant A, PAIS - C.O.

‘Tis the season to be safe and to remain healthy. Indeed, celebrating Christmas 2020 from all over the world will now be different from the way we have celebrated from the past years. Customs and traditions that we usually do on Christmas may have to change due to COVID-19 restrictions and limitations. For example, social gatherings with your long-distance relatives, friends, and neighbors are top ban. House-to-house caroling of children is not possible due to night-time curfew. Government even limiting the number of people attending mass and imposing social distances in order to contain the spread of the deadly virus. Even the economy was devastated, leaving thousands unemployed. But as what Regional Director Dr. Hans Kluge of WHO Europe Office said, *“It will be a different Christmas, but that does not mean that it cannot be a merry one.”*

Christmas in NIA despite the pandemic will always start with our annual tradition of lighting the Christmas tree. A ceremony that formally lit the Christmas tree was attended by several NIAns and top managers with the assurance of social distance, followed by the rite of the blessing of the Christmas tree. The Christmas Tree of NIA this year has a unique design. It has water that keeps flowing from top to bottom. This symbolizes the mission of the agency to provide farmers with stable water resources. And it also reminds us that, in the midst of the difficulties caused by the pandemic, life still needs to go on.

As this is the time to maximize the use of technology, NIA also conducted Thanksgiving Mass, virtual trivia, and raffle games with lots of prizes and virtual presentations from different departments. Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya had also gave a simple message and never failed to encourage us and reminds us the essence of Christmas. Christmas at the time of the pandemic still means giving, loving, and hoping that the future will be brighter and better.

Following the minimum health standards prescribed by the government is the best and most practical gift that we can give to others. Looking after our own and our loved ones and friends’ health and well-being at this time of the pandemic is the most meaningful Christmas gift that can be given to everyone. COVID-19 has taught us to cherish the little things of life. With an uncertain future ahead, it is more important now than ever to be thankful for our daily lives. 🙏









# REHABILITATED DUMACAA RIS: A SYMBOL OF HOPE

■ Queenie A. Tabobo, Irrigators Development Officer, NIS RIP

*“This rehabilitation... has given new life not only to Dumacaa RIS itself but most importantly, to our farmer-beneficiaries. This now stands as a symbol of hope to our farmers amidst the pandemic which affects the whole world and the natural disasters that have hit the country in the past months, particularly here in Southern Luzon.”*

*- NIA Senior Deputy Abraham B. Bagasin*

More than six decades after it was first operationalized in 1954, the Dumacaa River Irrigation System (RIS) located at Quezon Province was newly rehabilitated under the National Irrigation Sector Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (NIS RIP) of National Irrigation Administration (NIA) funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Leading the inauguration and turnover ceremony of Dumacaa RIS was NIA Senior Deputy Administrator Abraham B. Bagasin, together with Minister of Economic Affairs Masahiro Nakata of Embassy of Japan and Chief Representative Eigo Azukizawa of JICA, on December 10, 2020 at Lucena City, Quezon. Also participated during the ceremony were Tayabas City Mayor Ernida Reynoso, Lucena City Administrator Anacleto Alcala, Jr., NIA CALABARZON Regional Manager Romeo Lopez, NIA Quezon Irrigation Management Office (IMO) Manager Fidel Martinez, and NIS RIP Project Manager Silvino Navarro.

The P115-million irrigation system covers 1,839 hectares of agricultural land in the municipality of Pagbilao and cities of Lucena, and Tayabas, benefitting 1,795 farmers and their families. It includes the rehabilitation of three dams (Alsam Dam, Lakawan Dam, and Mayao Dam), 13.876 kilometers of concrete canal lining including realignment and desilting works, 11 unit of structure, 25 unit assembly turnout gates, and construction of one Irrigators Association (IA) Office and three IA Offices with support facilities. It is expected to improve the irrigation system efficiency and increase rice productivity in Quezon Province.

Alongside with the rehabilitation and improvement of irrigation facilities, the project also aims to strengthen IAs through capability buildings, provision of operation and maintenance (O&M) equipment, and agricultural support services which was co-complemented by the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice).

From the main benefactors, Mr. Roberto Villalon, Federation President of Dumacaa IAs, has represented the 1,795 farmers and conveyed gratitude to everyone who has given support on the project. The rehabilitated irrigation system will be a great assistance for them on their farming activities. The efficient irrigation service will improve their harvests especially during these trying times of pandemic.

Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles has emphasized the benefit that Dumacaa RIS rehabilitation will contribute to the country and the farmers.

*“Isa itong napakagandang balita para sa ating mga magsasaka sa gitna ng pandemyang ating kinakaharap sa kasalukuyan. Sa mga panahong ito, mas kailangan nating panatilihin ang daloy ng irigasyon patungo sa mga sakahan. Tandaan, sa patubig may pagkain,”* said Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles through his video message during the ceremony.

CabSec Nograles and SDA Bagasin extended their gratitude to the Japanese Government through the Embassy of Japan and JICA, for its continuous assistance to the Philippine Government particularly in boosting the agricultural sector of the country.

The rehabilitation of Dumacaa RIS is consistent with NIA's mission to contribute to the inclusive growth of the country and to improve the farmers' quality of life. 🌾





# NIA CONFERS RICE ACHIEVERS AWARDS TO OUTSTANDING IAs

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

**Diliman, Quezon City** - The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) conferred the Rice Achievers Awards to Outstanding Irrigators Associations (IAs) on November 27, 2020 at the Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM) Convention Hall, Department of Agriculture Central Office (DA-CO).

NIA Deputy Administrator for Engineering and Operations Sector C'zar M. Sulaik, Operations Department Manager Delsy J. Revellame, Upper Pampanga River Integrated Irrigation Systems (UPRIIS) Department Manager Rosalinda B. Bote, Institutional Development Division Manager Leo Gallego, and some members of the NIA Technical Working Group (NIA-TWG) attended the awarding ceremony.

In partnership with DA Agricultural Training Institute (DA-ATI), NIA-TWG led the evaluation of all IAs from NIA and Small Water Irrigation System Associations (SWISAs).

Now on its seventh year, the Rice Achievers Awards, an annual DA-wide event, recognizes the efforts of outstanding rice producers in the Philippines. 🌾





# DAM CRISIS MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE FOR HOLISTIC DAM MANAGEMENT DURING DISASTERS

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

**NIA Central Office** - The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) Board of Directors, headed by Cabinet Secretary Karlo Alexei B. Nograles, directed the management through Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya to immediately create a Dam Crisis Management Task Force dedicated to review the existing protocols and address concerns on dam management crisis on November 16, 2020 following the massive flooding in Cagayan Valley during the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses (Vamco).

The Philippines as it is located along the typhoon belt in the Pacific has made typhoons, storms, and flashfloods its principal natural hazards. Its geographical location and physical environment contributes to its vulnerability to earthquakes and volcanic eruptions and high-susceptibility to tsunamis, sea level rise, and storm surges. According to Asian Disaster Reduction Center, our country is visited by an average of 20 typhoons every year, five of which are destructive.

On November 11, 2020, Typhoon Ulysses lashed Luzon, whipping destructive winds and dumping heavy rainfall in Central Luzon, and nearby provinces including Cagayan Valley. Before the arrival of the Category 4-equivalent typhoon, five (5) typhoons already affected the agricultural provinces of Cagayan and Isabela that have been prone to storm surges and flooding in the past decades. This continuous rain for almost two (2) months in the region resulted in the saturation of land. The NIA-Magat River Integrated Irrigation System (NIA-MARIIS) has advised residents of the Provinces of Cagayan and Isabela in Region II of its water release from the Magat Reservoir to maintain safe water level of the Magat Dam on Monday, November 9, 2020, two (2) days before Typhoon Ulysses (Vamco) made its first landfall in Patnanungan, Quezon of November 11, 2020. Upon a communication received from PAGASA on the commencement of the Flood Precaution Period of the Dam Discharge Warning Operation for the Magat River, spillway gates were gradually opened to maintain the maximum water level elevation of the Magat Dam at 193 msl to prevent the catastrophic destruction brought about by dam collapse.

Many pointed their fingers to Magat Dam as the culprit in the widespread flooding within the Cagayan Valley Region. Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya stressed in numerous interviews and inquiries that the Agency strictly observed the Magat Dam Protocol on Dam Discharge and Flood Warning Operation during this flood operation. Moreover, as the House Committee on Agriculture and Special Committee on North Luzon Growth Quadrangle convened on House Resolution Numbers 1345 and 1348 at the House of Representatives held November 24, 2020, it is noted that the carrying capacity of the Cagayan River is 25,400 m<sup>3</sup>/s while the maximum volume of water released from the Magat Dam is only 6,706 m<sup>3</sup>/s indicating that water discharge of Magat Dam due to Typhoon Ulysses is not the main cause of massive flooding in the provinces of Isabela and Cagayan.

To produce doable plans, contingencies, and recommendations relative to Dam Safety to avoid the recurrence of comparable disaster that happened not only in Cagayan Valley, but including the massive flooding that affected several communities during the series of typhoons experienced in many parts of the country, Dam Crisis Management Task Force is created chaired by Dr. Guillermo Q. Tabios III of UP Diliman Civil Engineering and National Hydraulic Research Center and Engr. C'zar M. Sulaik, NIA Deputy Administrator for Engineering and Operations as Co-Chairman. Concerned agencies involved in the Task Force are National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), National Water Resources Board (NWRB), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), National Power Corporation (NAPOCOR), SN Aboitiz Power Group and concerned local government units. Dam Crisis Management Task Force aims to review whether the existing protocols on warning, water release and flood operation were followed during the Magat Dam water release due to Typhoon Ulysses, enhance Information and Education campaign before, during and after crisis, recommend changes in local and national communication policies, recommend short term, medium, and long term of mitigating measures during extreme weather conditions, and enhance the existing Dam Protocol on Dam Discharge and Flood Warning Operation. Several convergence meetings are being conducted among its members from the reviewing of the existing protocols to the proposing of holistic plans to address concerns on dam management crisis. Further, strengthened Inter-Agency coordination and collaboration is highlighted in disaster risk reduction. The National Dam Safety Committee, spearheaded by NDRRMC, is underway to address dam management concerns. Every concerned government agency's roles and functions are vital for a whole-of-government approach to provide common and feasible solutions to disasters just like what happened in Cagayan Valley during Typhoon Ulysses.

Administrator Visaya assures that corollary to NIA's mandate to manage and maintain irrigation systems, the Agency, along with other concerned government agencies, is doing its best in disaster risk mitigation and crisis management given the recurrence of natural disasters in our country. 🇵🇭



**Chairman**

**Dr. Guillermo Q. Tabios III**

UP Diliman Professor of Civil Engineering and  
Research Fellow, National Hydraulic Research  
Center (NHRC)

**Co-Chairman**

**Engr. C'zar M. Sulaik**

NIA Deputy Administrator for Engineering and  
Operations Sector

**Representative Members**

National Disaster Risk Reduction and  
Management Council (NDRRMC)

Department of the Interior and Local Government  
(DILG)

Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and  
Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA)

National Water Resources Board (NWRB)

Department of Environment and Natural  
Resources - Mines and Geosciences Bureau  
(DENR-MGB)

Department of Public Works and Highways  
(DPWH)

National Power Corporation (NPC)

SN Aboitiz Power Group

Concerned Local Government Units (LGUs)

Professor Fernando Siringan, UP Diliman Marine  
Science Institute

NIA-Magat River Integrated Irrigation System  
(NIA-MARIIS)

NIA, Operations Department

NIA, Engineering Department

NIA, Legal Services Department

NIA, Public Affairs and Information Staff

**Technical Working Group**

Irrigation Engineering Center (IEC), NIA Central  
Office

Dam Safety Group, NIA Central Office

Dam Safety Group, NIA-MARIIS

System Management Division, Operations  
Department

Flood Forecasting Unit, IEC

Project Planning Division, Engineering  
Department

Design and Specification Division, Engineering  
Department

Public Affairs and Information Staff



## NIA REAFFIRMS THAT RECENT FLOODING IN CAGAYAN VALLEY IS NOT WHOLLY ATTRIBUTED TO MAGAT DAM

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

**NIA Central Office** – The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) reaffirms that the recent flooding in Cagayan Valley is not wholly attributed to Magat Dam located in the Municipality of Ramon, Isabela.

During the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses (Vamco) in Luzon on November 11-12, 2020, Magat Dam was pinpointed as the culprit in the widespread flooding within the Cagayan Valley Region, especially, in Central Isabela and in the entire stretch of lower Cagayan River System down to Aparri, Cagayan.

The NIA-Magat River Integrated Irrigation System (NIA-MARIIS) has advised residents of the Provinces of Isabela and Cagayan in Region II of its water release from the Magat Reservoir to maintain safe water level of the Magat Dam on Monday, November 9, 2020, two (2) days before Typhoon Ulysses (Vamco) made its first landfall in Patnanungan, Quezon, at 10:30 PM of November 11, 2020. With the heavy downpour brought by Typhoon Ulysses that triggers massive flooding in many parts of the country, it also pushed the water level of Magat Dam beyond normal.

Pre-releases of calibrated opening of dam gates must be made before the occurrence of typhoon or unusual weather disturbances. This is to minimize, if not to avoid large Magat Dam discharges before spilling level will be reached. Prior to Typhoon Ulysses, five typhoons had affected Isabela and Cagayan Valley and almost the entire Luzon, causing continuous rain for almost two months. During this period, two gates opened or an equivalent of four meters were opened to reduce water containment at the Magat Reservoir. However, as water inflow from our Magat watersheds continually increases, additional gates must be gradually opened to maintain the safe level of the Magat Reservoir. The continuous rains upstream of Magat Dam contributed to high inflows, while rivers along the Cagayan River had also reached its maximum capacity, causing river overflows, not only to the Cagayan River but its adjacent areas.



The Magat Dam Protocol on Dam Discharge and Flood Warning Operation is strictly observed during this flood operation. In here, procedures to follow before, during and after typhoon are stated for dam operations. Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) issues the Notice for Flood Precaution Period of the Dam Discharge Warning Operation for the Magat River Basin. If due to its data analysis and weather projection, heavy amount of rainfall may be expected within the next 24 hours due to large scale weather system. It is only upon the receipt of this Notice that the NIA-MARIIS Dam and Reservoir Division Flood Forecasting Warning System Dam Operation (FFWSDO) will activate its extensive early warning operation. This is a public warning system installed downstream of Magat Dam along Magat River, informing those in the low-lying areas regarding the opening of Magat Dam gate/s. NIA-MARIIS, in coordination with stakeholders, is closely monitoring the dam status and operations. The system, as its practice, is making sure that all concerns regarding the dam status are addressed immediately and properly. Dam and Reservoir Division Manager Eduardo P. Ramos and his team is in close coordination with Office of Civil Defense (OCD), Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (PDRRMC), PAGASA, Regional Agricultural Fisheries Extension Network group and other concerned local government offices prior, during and after water releases. Different mediums such as TV, radio, print, social media, emails, Short Message Service (SMS), and sirens are used to disseminate information of current situation of Magat Dam and its water releases. All stakeholders are kept posted and updated as to the actual scenario of the water volume that may be flowing into their place on an hourly basis through SMS.

NIA-MARIIS officials have warned residents living near low-lying areas, particularly those adjacent to and along Magat River and Cagayan River to move to higher and safer places as the dam continues to release water starting November 9. It is necessary to release water from the reservoir for purposes of preventing the dam from reaching its critical level of 193 msl that may compromise its structural integrity and may result to a catastrophe to nearby municipalities and more impact on a widespread flooding in Region II.

The gradual opening of dam gates aims to lessen/drawdown reservoir elevation and to contain the water inflows expected in the forecasted heavy rainfall. However, Magat Reservoir drawdown should still be in accordance with its Rule Operational Curve. It cannot be done impulsively. Any adjustment or revision of the rule curve entails a study and coordination with various stakeholders, including PAGASA and Department of Agriculture (DA).

Cagayan River Basin is subdivided into three parts: Upper Cagayan River Basin (Ganano and Magat), Middle Cagayan River Basin (Siffu-Mallig, Pinacanauan Rivers of Ilagan, Tumaini, and San Pablo), and Lower Cagayan River Basin (Pinacanauan de Tuguegarao, Chico Pared, and Dummun).

Magat River is only one of the 20 river tributaries of the whole Cagayan River basin. As compared to other River Systems, it is only Magat River which can delay the surge of flood water through its Magat Dam. Studies showed that Magat Dam contributes only 15% of the river basin's total water storage capacity and 21% if the considered control point will be in Buntun Bridge, Tuguegarao City.







Magat Dam is a catch basin of 4,143 square kilometers of watershed and eight upstream rivers namely Alimit, Lamut, Ibulao in Ifugao Province and Abian, Matuno, Sta. Cruz, Marang, Sta. Fe river in Nueva Vizcaya. With the Magat Reservoir and Magat Dam to regulate the gush of water from these sources, flash flood and greater flooding at low-lying areas, which could have caused greater damage to life and property is minimized, if not prevented.

In this regard, the recent flooding in some parts of Cagayan Province cannot be wholly attributed to Magat Dam because that is an effect of the Frontal System and Amihan enhanced by Tropical Depression Vicky. The inflow and outflow experienced on December 19, 2020 is lesser by a half of the inflow and outflow of Typhoon Ulysses. Yet, even without spillage from the Magat Dam, flooding was already experienced in portions of Cagayan, which affected 219 farmers comprising 213 hectares of agricultural land in Cagayan Province, while MARIIS recorded 2,670 hectares of affected area (2,231 farmers).

With all data provided by the Agency, NIA Top Management Officials, headed by Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya, stand firm that the recent flooding in the Province of Cagayan and some portions of Isabela was caused by natural calamities which are beyond human control, contrary to the press release of Samahang Industriya ng Agrikultura dated December 21, 2020 accusing NIA of failing twice in dam water release. The Agency reaffirms that the opening of Magat Dam gates was in accordance with the existing guidelines.

As review of the protocol is in process, its finalization and subsequent implementation requires consensus of different Agencies. Magat Dam gates cannot and will not be opened and closed at the whim of NIA because life and property may be at a greater risk of danger. 🏠



# NIA CONVENES WITH NDRRMC, PAGASA ON DAM WATER RELEASE

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

**NIA Central Office** – With the proposal of transferring the authority of dam water release to the National Disaster Risk and Reduction Management Council (NDRRMC), the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) has started to convene with NDRRMC, Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), Department of Local Government (DILG), Office of Civil Defense (OCD), and National Water Resources Board (NWRB) to review existing protocol on water discharges from dams last Wednesday, November 18, 2020.

Present in the initial talk are NIA-Magat River Integrated Irrigation System (NIA-MARIIS) officials, headed by Manager Wilfredo C. Gloria to discuss further the followed Protocol on Dam Discharge and Flood Warning Operation during Typhoon Ulysses (Vamco) and the current status of Magat Dam. NIA-MARIIS emphasized the communications done to different government offices, local media, and residents of Provinces of Isabela and Cagayan that may be affected of its water releases. It was also highlighted that while Magat Dam is not a flood control system, it served as one during the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses as it helped mitigate and hold water to prevent a more widespread flooding in Region II.

Furthermore, NDRRMC will review its technical capability and manpower with regards to the proposal of transfer of authority of gate opening and water releases to their office.

Strictly following the protocol on water discharge, PAGASA informed NIA-MARIIS-DRD Flood Forecasting and Warning System Dam Operations on November 9, 2020, two days before the first landfall of Typhoon Ulysses, that they had commenced preparatory phase of flood operation for the Magat-FFWSDO indicating that Magat Dam is soon to release flood water due to large amount of rainfall because of Typhoon Ulysses (Form 1). After which, dam discharge warnings were activated and disseminated. This action is based on the memorandum dated December 12, 2006 stating that the release of water from Magat Dam should be decided by PAGASA.

NIA Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya assures that along with other concerned government agencies, existing protocol on dam discharges will be reviewed and will look into the possibility of transferring the authority of water releases to the NDRRMC. 🗨️



NIA Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya leads the initial talk on dam water release with the officials of NDRRMC, PAGASA, DILG, OCD, and NWRB



NIA-MARIIS Dam and Reservoir Division Manager Eduardo P. Ramos discusses the operation during Typhoon Ulysses and the current status of Magat Dam



National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) Executive Director Usec. Ricardo B. Jalad virtually joins the initial talk on dam water release



# PHOTO NEWS

# 4 THE RECORD



## NIA conducts nationwide bloodletting program and turnover of band equipment, instruments, and pistols

**NIA Central Office** – The National Irrigation Administration (NIA), in partnership with the Veterans Memorial Medical Center (VMMC), conducted “Dugtong Buhay ni Bong Year 2”, a nationwide bloodletting program to celebrate the birthday of Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya on December 07, 2020 at NIA Convention Hall, 5th Floor, IEC Building.

The bloodletting activity is followed by the turnover of band equipment and instruments from NIA Upper Pampanga River Integrated Irrigation Systems (NIA-UPRIIS) to NIA Central Office, as NIA Administrator Visaya and Deputy Administrator for Administrative and Finance Sector Romeo G. Gan handed over the instruments to the NIA H2O Band. This was followed by the turnover of pistols from NIA Central Office to NIA Regional Managers, represented by NIA ARDOMA President, Regional Manager Romeo M. Lopez.



Administrator Visaya took the opportunity to thank everyone who made his birthday a meaningful one as he reminded all NIA employees to continuously serve the nation with heart and compassion. Deputy Administrator Gan, department managers from Central Office, regional and project managers from Luzon, General Loretto T. Espinelli (Ret), General Ralph U. Villanueva (Ret), and other NIA security consultants, and employees from Central Office were present during the activity.





NIA Chico River Pump Irrigation Project bagged the “Best Project Management Office 2019” under the leadership of Project Manager Roland V. Apaga during the recently held NIA 57<sup>th</sup> Anniversary last June 22, 2020.

Engr. Roland V. Apaga Project Manager of NIA CRPIP (Left) and Governor Manuel N. Mamba (Right) Province of Cagayan during the NIA 57<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at NIA CRPIP Project Management Office, Palca, Tuao East, Cagayan.



Provincial Governor Manuel N. Mamba of Cagayan graced the celebration with his presence during this momentous occasion.



## NIA celebrates Bonifacio Day

**NIA Central Office** – The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) is one with the nation in celebrating Bonifacio Day on November 30, 2020 to commemorate the life of Gat Andres Bonifacio, one of the country's national heroes. He was the founder and eventual Supremo of Kataas-taasang Kagalang-galangang Katipunan ng mga Anak ng Bayan (KKK), a secret society that triggered the 1896 Philippine Revolution against the Spanish Empire. May his heroic act be our inspiration in facing life's challenges.

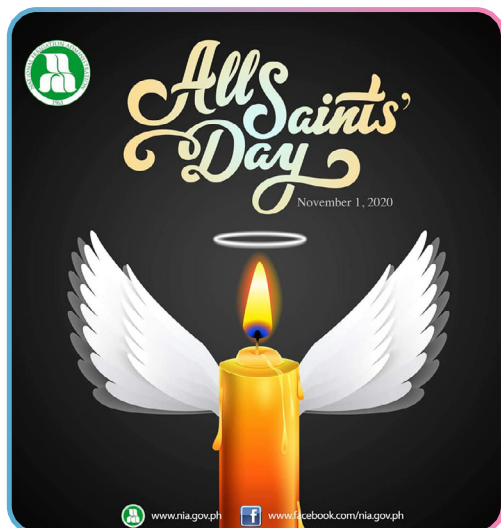
NIA Top Management Officials, headed by Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya, take the opportunity to remind all NIA employees to serve the Agency with passion, courage, and sacrifices to create a meaningful impact to the lives of our farmers, the agricultural heroes who feed the nation.



## TBBMP Engineering Division Manager takes Oath of Office

**NIA Central Office** – Engr. Juanito D. Jampil took oath of office as the Engineering Division Manager of the National Irrigation Administration - Tarlac Balog-Balog Multipurpose Project (NIA-TBBMP) before Deputy Administrator for Administrative and Finance Sector Romeo G. Gan on November 10, 2020 via Zoom Application. The event is witnessed by Engineering Department Manager Lydia S. Esguerra and other officials from NIA Central Office and TBBMP Field Office.

Engr. Hampil is the former Principal Engineer A of Camiling River Irrigation System, Tarlac-Zambales Irrigation Management Office (TarZam IMO). He has been in the service for more than 39 years.



## NIA observes All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day

As the nation observes All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day on November 01 and 02 respectively, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), headed by Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya, takes the opportunity to remind all NIA employees on how they are supposed to live as morally upright public servants, commemorate the faithfully departed, and appreciate the beauty of life.

After all, it is a great way of evangelizing the greatness and faithfulness of God as manifested through the lives of the Saints.





### NIA attends Congressional Inquiry

**Quezon City** – The National Irrigation Administration (NIA), headed by Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya, attended to the Congressional Inquiry and Deliberation on House Resolution No. 1345 and House Resolution No. 1348 on November 23, 2020 at the House of Representatives Nograles Hall South Wing Annex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City.

The House Resolutions seek to look into the cause of unprecedented flooding in the provinces of Cagayan and Isabela during the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses. The deliberation was convened by the House Committee on Agriculture, chaired by Representative Wilfrido Mark M. Enverga, 1<sup>st</sup> District of Quezon Province, and Special Committee on North Luzon Growth Quadrangle, chaired by Representative Ramon “Mon-Mon” V. Guico, 5<sup>th</sup> District of Pangasinan.

NIA Deputy Administrator for Engineering and Operations Sector C'zar M. Sulaik, Magat River Integrated Irrigation System (MARIIS) Department Manager Wilfredo C. Gloria, Acting Public Affairs and Information Department Manager Eden Victoria C. Selva, and other staff from NIA Central Office and MARIIS attended the House deliberation and inquiry.

Succeeding the Congressional Inquiry and Deliberation on House Resolution No. 1345 and House Resolution No. 1348, NIA held a press conference on Magat Dam water release before the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses in Cagayan Valley Region.



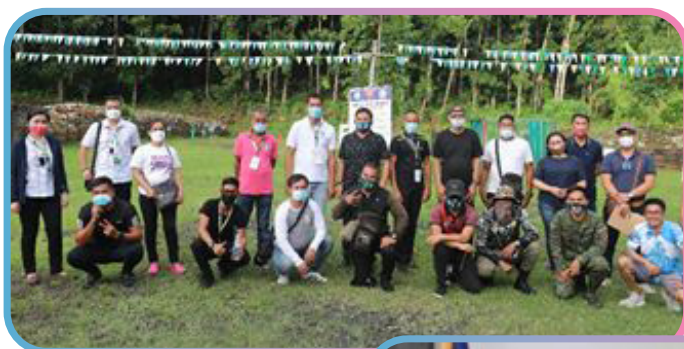


## EPAHP MEETINGS

### LEFT to RIGHT:

1. EPAHP Aklan (Dec. 14, 2020)
2. EPAHP REG 12 (Dec. 11, 2020)
3. EPAHP Oriental Mindoro (Nov. 11, 2020)
4. EPAHP Davao (Nov. 18, 2020)
5. EPAHP UPRIIS (Nov. 20, 2020)
6. EPAHP Samar (Oct. 28, 2020)
7. EPAHP CALABARZON (Oct. 4, 2020)
8. EPAHP Negros Oriental (Oct. 14, 2020)
9. EPAHP Cebu (Oct. 30, 2020)





### Ceremonial Turn-over of Pistols to NIA Region IX

**Labangan, ZDS** - Five (5) units of Glock 17 9mm pistols were turned-over to NIA Region 9 during a Ceremonial Turn-over of Pistols on November 23, 2020 at NIA Function Hall, Regional Office.

These pistols were personally delivered by the Chief Civil Security Affairs, Col Rogelio P Percol PA (Ret) together with Ms. Elaine P Villanueva, Acting Division Manager for Property and Procurement, and company.

The intention of the Agency is to safeguard its officers and employees in the performance of their duties, especially when they are at risk. The turned-over pistols will be issued to select NIA 9 Officials and Industrial Security Guards in connection with their duties and responsibilities.

In behalf of NIA 9 Regional Office, Regional Manager Manuel L. Rañeses expressed his gratitude and sincere appreciation to the top management's genuine concern to its employees in the regional level as well as in field offices.

After the ceremony, the group proceeded to 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry (Tabak) Division, Philippine Army Pistol Range for a brief Pistol Familiarization Training and fun shoot. NIA contingents were received by 1<sup>st</sup> Division Commander - Maj. Gen. Gene M. Ponio, other Officers, and troops who assisted in the shooting activity.

# GSD's GLIMPSE OF WORK LIFE LEARNINGS

■ Maria Elena P. Valenzuela, Research Analyst A, PAIS-C.O.

The General Services Division under the Administrative Department is responsible for the following: Operation, Maintenance, Repair and Rehabilitation of NIA building complex, facilities and equipment including building management and utility vehicles logistical support of NIA.

Few of its personnel have been with GSD for more than 15 years and it is worth sharing the glimpse of their verbatim of stories, work life learnings and advises to the next generation of its personnel.



**Engr. Wilhelm Tiangco aka Sir Wil**  
Division Manager, General Services Division

*“Magmalasakit sa trabaho, hindi puwedeng puro trabaho lang.”*

Twenty-one years na ako nagtrabaho dito, batang NIA ako, mula bata kasama na ako ng tatay ko sa opisina, nagkaroon ako ng maraming kaibigan at kakilala, 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation na ako ng Tiangco, ang lolo ko ay operator ng heavy equipment ang tatay ko naman ay rose from the ranks din at ako naman ngayon.

My morning routine are signing all the transportation request and other documents then magrounds na sa NIA. Ang mga natutunan ko sa pagtrabaho sa NIA ay yung Integrity, Respect sa elderly at sa mga boss. Dito sa NIA natuto ako makisama kahit kanino o anong posisyon sa opisina, akala lang nila suplado ako pero nakikisama ako sa lahat. Sa mga customer (NIA employees) dapat maging mapagpapasensya. Nararamdaman ko na naman na natutuwa o pinapahalagahan nila ang trabaho namin, kagaya nung sa Christmas tree, nung ginawa naming yun marami naman natuwa, humanga sila.

Ang maipapayo ko sa mga susunod na henerasyon ng trabaho naming ay una mag malasakit sa trabaho hindi pwedeng puro trabaho lang, kasi kapag wala kang malasakit parang ang gawa mo lang ay matapos lang ang trabaho, pero kapag may malasakit ka, siguro kahit lagpas na sa oras o hindi kana binabayaran gagawin mo pa din yung trabaho mo.

Magtrabaho ng maayos, makisama sa ibang tao at sila nalang umintindi. Hindi naman lahat ng tao ma-please kaya intindihan nalang. Habaan nalang ang pasensya nila. Hindi rin naman nila kasi alam ang pinagdadaan ng tao na kaharap nila.



**ARTEMIO B. DABUET aka Sir Artem**  
Building and Grounds Maintenance Headman B

*“Dapat matuto kang rumispeto, kapag kasi hindi mo nirespeto ang tao mo ang balik ay sa’yo bilang supervisor dahil hindi ka nila susundin ng maayos.”*

Almost 21 years na ako dito sa GSD, pero sa NIA 39 years na. Dahil sa pagtrabaho ko sa NIA at syempre sa tulong ng mga Loan Assistance ng mga cooperative, nakapagtapos ako ng mga anak ko. And daily routine ko, bukod sa pag supervise ng mga karpintero, I do table/office works. Pagkatapos ng mga paper works, pupuntahan ko na yung karpintero para isupervise yung ginagawa nila. Ang GSD matrabaho talaga, ang maintenance ng mga opisina ginagawa ng Sabado at Lingo, Kapag kasi weekdays hindi magawa yung trabaho dahil sa may mga empleyado na nasa opisina, maalikabukan at maiingayan sila sa trabaho namin kung during weekdays gagawin yung maintenance.

Ang tao noon hindi pa masyado maalam sa technical aspect ng trabaho, konti lang kasi ang training noon, pero ngayon may mga tao na tayo na nakapag training locally at abroad so naipasa na yung mga kaalaman sa trabaho na makakapagpaganda at padali ng trabaho.

Natutunan ko dito sa NIA yung kung papaano ideliver ang product or services sa mga nagpapagawa ng maayos, Kapag hindi maayos, hindi tatanggapin, kaya dapat yung ibibigay na mga request ng mga tao ng NIA ay yung katanggap tanggap o may quality talaga. Natutunan ko na yung ugali natin, dapat nakapag adjust sa mga ugali ng mga ka-trabaho, hindi na dadaan sa init ng ulo ang trabaho, syempre tao lang tayo minsan makakaramdam ng pagdaramdam pero sa sarili mo nalang yun dahil para sa trabaho naman lahat yun. Yung mga inuutos dapat gagawin mo without remore. Our customer is our co-worker, basta gawin ng maayos at sundin ang timeline na binigay nila. Maayos at katanggap katanggap dapat ang trabaho, Kapag nasabihan kami ng maganda ang trabaho at may nagpapasalamat yun lang sapat na para maramdaman na na-appreciate nila ang trabaho namin.

Ang advice ko sa papalit sa trabaho ko o sa mga magtrabaho dito, Kapag may pinagawa na trabaho ayusin, wag idaan sa init ng ulo, sa pag manage ng tao, dapat matuto kang rumispeto, kapag kasi hindi mo nirespeto ang tao mo ang balik nuon ay sayo bilang supervisor, hindi ka nila susundin ng maayos. Mataas man ang posisyon mo sa opisina o mababa, remespeto sa kapwa. I coordinate dapat ang trabaho mo, sa boss at sa nagpapagawa.





**JUAMAR MAJORENOS aka Tatay Jumar**  
Plant Mechanical/Electrical Maintenance Foreman

*“Importante ang magpakumbaba, mahirap ‘yong may kaaway, kailangan habaan ang pasensya”*

Forty years na ako dito sa NIA nagsimula ako sa BFMD nung 1981, noon kasama ko mga Senior, ngayon ako na ang senior. Para sa akin ang ugali ng tao noon at ngayon ay pareho lang, depende lang talaga sa pakikisama mo sa kapwa. Dito na ako nakapagtapos ng anak ko sa pag-aaral at nagkaroon na din ako ng apo. Mahal ko ang NIA dahil dito na ako nag umpisa o na established.

Araw- araw, nag monitor ako ng mga accomplishment at schedule ng mga tao atbp. Marami akong natutunan sa NIA, dahil sa ahensyang ito nakapag seminar at training ako, sinuportahan ako sa pag-aaral ko sa Refrigeration at Airconditioning sa Meralco na nakapagbigay ng magandang kaalamanan sa akin sa pagttrabaho.

Sa pakikipagkapwa sa mga kasamahan, importante ang magpakumbaba, mahirap yung may kaaway, kailangan habaan ang pasensya. Nararamdaman ko na naman na appreciate nila ang mga gawa ko kapag nakakatanggap ako ng salitang salamat.

Ang NIA parang bahay ko na, umulan o bumagyo nandito ako. Ang maipapayo ko sa papalit sa akin maging mabait at magpakumbaba.



**ROLANDO LUCAS aka Rolly**  
Supervising Electronics Communication Technician

*“Mahalin nila ang trabaho nila, huwag ipagpaliban ang trabaho o gawin agad ang trabaho.”*

March 20, 1984 ng mapasok ako dito sa NIA, mga 26 years old ako noon, BFMD pa noon ang GSD. Radio Operator ang position title ko dati, kasama ko si Tina. Noon wala pang computer o internet, ang radio message na natanggap naming naka type written yun at kailangan mo itakbo agad, bawal ma late sa pag-bigay ng message. Ngayon iba na, may fax at email na. Ang natutunan ko sa pakikipagkapwa ay dapat may pakikisama at maging mapagpasensya. Kahit napipikon kana, pagpapasensyahan pa din kasi parte ng trabaho ito. Nararamdaman ko naman na na-aappreciate ang trabaho ko kasi masaya naman yung atmosphere sa trabaho. Ang maipapayo ko lang sa papalit sa akin o sa amin, mahalin nila ang trabaho nila, huwag ipagpaliban ang trabaho o gawin agad.



**NELSON B. TRINIDAD aka ENTRI**  
Driver Mechanic A

*“Kapag hindi ka nakarating sa tamang oras, indikasyon ‘yon na hindi mo nirespeto ang oras nila at ‘yong nagbigay ng schedule sa’yo.”*

Eighteen years old palang ako nandito na ako sa NIA, dito na ako nagsimula mamuhay, sa paglipas ng panahon ang dami ko ng natutunan at madami na ako napuntahan na mga magagandang lugar na hindi ko naisip na mapupuntahan ko. Mula nung nagsimula ang Rationalization Plan nandito na ako sa GSD, ang laking pasasalamat ko o naming mga driver sa mga taga field office kasi kapag nandun kami talagang sobrang accommodating nila. Kaya kapag lumuluwas sila dito, inaaya ko o nag aayaan kaming mga driver na kahit simpleng pagsasalo salo kumain at magkape maasikaso man lang sila. Dito ko na sa NIA nabuo ang pamilya ko, napagtapos ang mga anak ko, sa tulong ng mga benefits na naibibigay ng NIA.

Araw araw ang gawa ko, pagpasok sa umaga, lilinisin at check-up ng sasakyan, pagkatapos ay magsundo na sa mga pasaherong empleyado ng NIA, ang pasahero namin ay binibigay ng dispatcher depende sa kung sino ang ma assign.

Dito natutunun ko na dapat irespeto ang kapwa at maging mapagpasensya lalo na sa mga pasahero. Importante sa akin ang pagpasok nang maaga, sinanay o nasanay ako sa lola ko nuon na dapat maaga kami sa pagpasok sa skwelahan. Sa trabaho naman, sinisigurado ko na hindi ako na la-late, kapag kasi na late ako sa trabaho pakiramdam ko hindi ko nagawa ng maayos ang trabaho ko sa pagsundo sa pasahero, pinalaki ako ng lola ko sa salitang wag paghihintayin ang tao, di bale nang ikaw ang maghintay huwag lang yung tao. Kapag kasi hindi ka nakadating sa tamang oras, indikasyon yun na hindi mo nirespeto ang oras nila at yung nagbigay ng schedule sayo. Nararamdaman ko naman na na appreciate nila ang trabaho ko, kapag minsan napupuri yung pagpasok ko nang maaga, kapag na recommend na ipagmaneho yung mga matatas na tao kasi alam nila hindi ako nale-late.

Ang maipapayo ko sa mga magtatrabaho dito o sa susunod na henerasyon ay maging sincere sa trabaho, maging natural at ipakita ang totoong sila. Palaging maging maagap, huwag paghintayin ang pasahero, maging tapat. Sa pag-uugali naman, sana yung mga bagong pasok na empleyado maging mapagkumbaba at magalang.



**RICHARD L. VILOG**  
Driver Mechanic A

*“Kapag nagmamaneho dapat cool lang sila, dapat naka focus sa kalsada ang paningin hindi sa kung saang gawi.”*

Thirty-nine years na ako dito sa NIA, nagsimula ako nung January 28, 1982, 20 years old ako noon. Nakapagpatapos na kami ng asawa ko ng dalawang anak namin sa pag-aaral. Sa trabaho ko bilang driver, bago ko gamitin ang sasakyan, nililinis ko muna at check-up ang makina ng sasakyan, tinitignan ko kung maganda ba ang kondisyon o kung may kailangan ba gawin, hindi maganda na kung kelan ka naka byahe saka duon magkaka trouble ang sasakyan.

Bago umalis o magbyahe dahil na check na yung makina, bago ka umalis na check na ung engine, gulong, preno para sa pagbyahe mo hindi ka masisiraan ng sasakyan.

Ang payo ko sa papalit sa akin sa pagretiro ko, Kapag nagmamaneho dapat cool lang sila, dapat naka focus sa kalsada ang paningin hindi sa kung saang gawi. Umiwas sa gulo, makipag usap ng maayos sa dispatcher kung may gusto iparating na mensahe.



**CRISTINA J. VILOG aka Tina**  
Electronics Communication Systems Operator B

*“Mahalin nila ang trabaho nila, huwag ipagpaliban ang trabaho o gawin agad ang trabaho.”*

Nag start ako dito sa NIA taong 1982, First Job ko ito, na transfer ako dito sa GSD mga year 1990, dito na kami nagkakila ng aking asawa na si Richard. Radio Operator ako nung araw. Ang gamit namin dati, single sideband radio para makapag communicate sa region, ngayon high tech na, may fax machine at cellphone na. Nuon ang mga regional manager nagpupunta sa radio room, nakikisuyo sa pagtransmit ng message sa region o kapag may gusto sila kausapin nagpupunta talaga sila sa radio room.

Sa trabahong ito, dapat mahaba ang pasensya mo sa mga tumatawag, kasi hindi maiiwasan na may mga callers na makukulit.



**ILUMINADO R. CABILDO aka Jorge**  
Building Electrician A

*“Show them courtesy at maging mabait sa customer, may kasabihan nga diba na customer is always right.”*

Thirty-five years in service na ako dito sa NIA, nag simula ako magtrabaho dito nung 1986, 25 years old lang ako noon. And as of to date, 64 years old na ako. May dalawang anak, yung panganay ko nakatapos na at nagttrabaho na, yung bunso ay nag-aaral pa. Nagpapasalamat ako sa NIA dahil sa mga financial assistance and benefits nito.

Nag ma-maintain ako ng electrical system ng building, job starts upon the request of the customer to fix the lighting or electrical concern in the office. Marami akong natutunan dahil sa mga pa seminar at training ng NIA. Kaming mga electrician, nagttrabaho kami with live wires, kaya dapat mabilis ka kumilos dahil baka makuryente. Kaya to make it safe, sa weekend naming ginagawa yung ibang trabaho.

Sa pakikipagkapwa sa katrabaho, magpakita ng kabaitan at huwag pansinin ang mga hindi magagandang bagay, kung may hindi pagkaka unawaan, kausapin ng direktong tao ng malinawan. Sa mga nagpapagawa, show them courtesy at maging mabait sa customer, may kasabihan nga diba na customer is always right. Kapag gumawa ka, dapat naaayon sa kung ano ang gusto nila, at kahit mas may edad kna, mag po at opo pa din sa customer. Nag-eeenjoy at masaya ako sa trabaho ko, wala akong nagging regret sa trabaho kong ito. Ang maipapayo ko sa papalit sa akin, paghusayan ang pag-gawa at maging alerto o mabilis kasi sa kuryente ang trabaho baka makuryente kung hindi mag-iingat. Kapag binigyan ng task ng boss, gawin agad. Kapag may pa training ang NIA umattend kasi nakaka-boost ng kaalamanan.