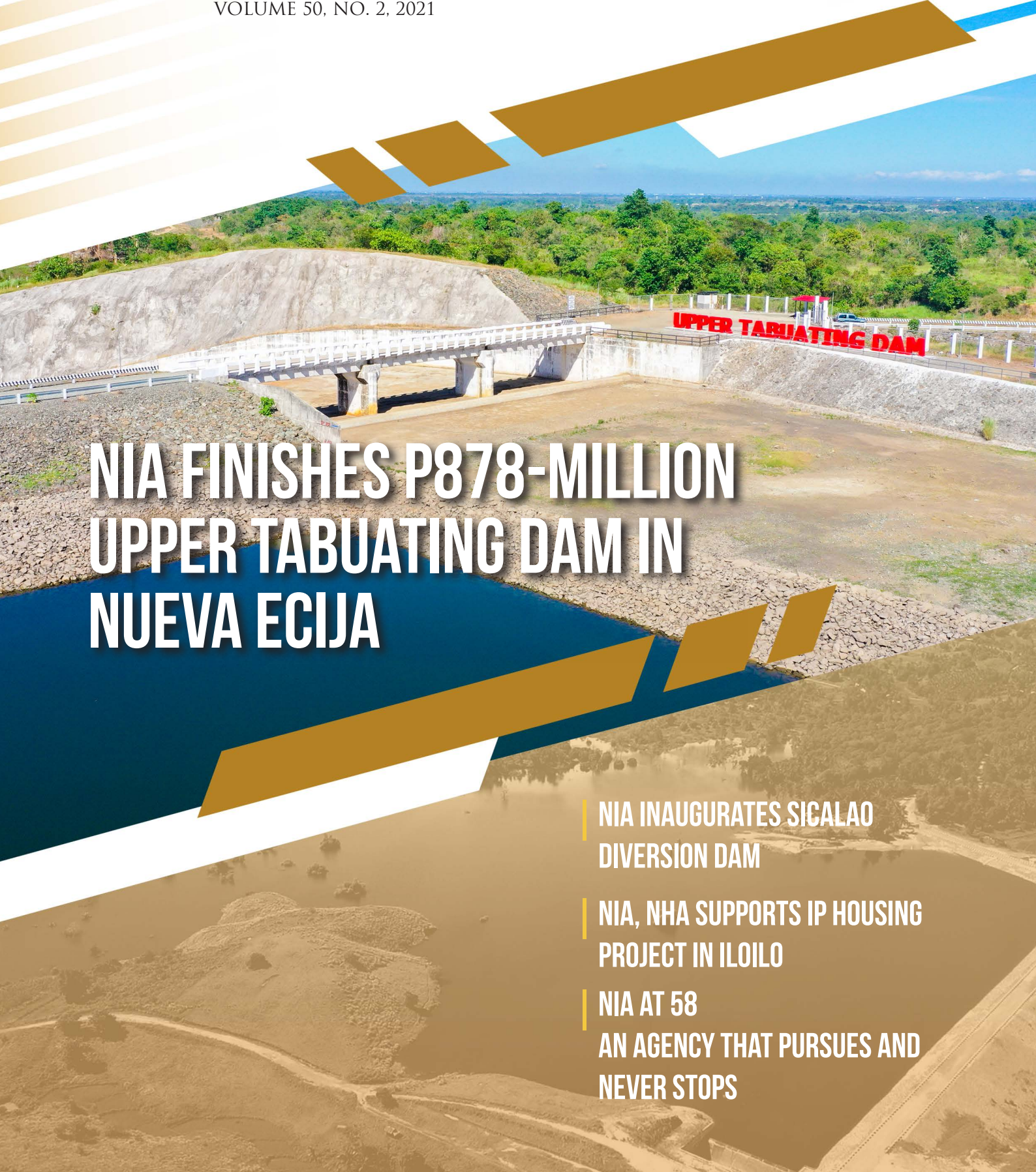




THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION

CURRENTS

VOLUME 50, NO. 2, 2021



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NIA INAUGURATES SICALAO
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NIA, NHA SUPPORTS IP HOUSING
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NIA AT 58
AN AGENCY THAT PURSUES AND
NEVER STOPS

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NIA'S UNHAMPERED IRRIGATION SERVICE THROUGH THE YEARS

True to its commitment of providing efficient, reliable, and sustainable irrigation service to the Filipino farmers, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) has served as a catalyst of agricultural growth and development through the construction, operation, and maintenance of irrigation systems/projects nationwide.

For the past 58 years, NIA has proven its vital role in irrigated agriculture. Through the provision of unhampered irrigation services amidst numerous challenges and adversities, NIA has gained the salute and respect from our Irrigators Associations (IAs) and farmers who are the backliners of the country's battle against COVID-19 Pandemic Situation. The men and women of NIA have demonstrated that even in the midst of uncertainty, there are a lot more opportunities to contribute to the nation and be of great service to others. Indeed, the 58 years of NIA's existence became an affirmation of how irrigation development means a lot for the people and for the society.

The structural integrity of dams and irrigation systems constructed and will be built by NIA that can last for half a century reflects the Agency's unhampered delivery of timely and reliable irrigation service to our agricultural lands nationwide. Our dedication as NIAns to do our job better tells us a lifelong story of commitment towards a food self-sufficient nation. As true public servants, our commitment is our driving force to be a catalyst of agricultural development and realize our objective to make Philippines a food self-sufficient nation.

With the unity and solidarity among the National Government, NIA Management and employees, farmers-irrigators, and local government units (LGUs), we can reclaim our rightful place as the Finest Irrigation Agency in Asia. Let us be the cradle of hopes and the future of the Philippine agricultural sector. Together, we will because we can. 

600 BOHOLANO FARMERS TO BENEFIT FROM P645-MILLION BENLIW SRIP



With the goal of promoting agro-tourism within its irrigation systems nationwide, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) has recently completed the P645-million Benliw Small Reservoir Irrigation Project (Benliw SRIP), a medium-scale irrigation development project located in the 2nd Congressional District, Municipality of Ubay, Bohol. On May 27, 2021, the inauguration of the project was presided by Senior Deputy Administrator Abraham B. Bagasin.

NIA Top Management Officials, headed by Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya, see the great potential of Benliw SRIP as an agro-tourism destination site with its scenic and breath-taking view. The project includes the construction of a 21-meter-high zoned earthfill dam with a length of 517 meters, a reservoir with a catchment area of 5.60 square kilometres that can store 2.86 million cubic meters (mcm) of water, irrigation and drainage canals, and other appurtenant structures.

With water source from Pasanan Creek, the project is expected to provide timely and reliable irrigation water supply to 400 hectares of agricultural land in barangays of Benliw, Emelda, Cagting, and Sinandigan, benefitting



NIA Senior Deputy Administrator Abraham Bagasin (left), together with Bohol 2nd District Representative Erico Aristotle C. Aumentado (right), and NIA Region VII Regional Manager Wilson M. Lopez (middle) during the ribbon-cutting and inaugural ceremony of P645-million Benliw SRIP in the Municipality of Ubay, Bohol

NIA Senior Deputy Administrator Bagasin and Congressman Aumentado led the Unveiling of the Marker of Benliw SRIP.



NIA Senior Deputy Administrator Bagasin delivers his message during the inaugural ceremony of P645-million Benliw SRIP in the Municipality of Ubay, Bohol.



600 farmers and their families. Aside from irrigation, the project is also expected to provide other incidental benefits, such as flood control, watershed management, aqua-culture as a supplementary food source to the residents in the area, and soil conservation since it prevents the soil from eroding or reducing fertility caused by over-usage.

The Agency remains committed to its mandate of providing efficient, reliable, and sustainable irrigation service to the Filipino farmers, the agricultural heroes who feed the nation. 🇵🇭



The project implementation of Benliw SRIP became successful through the collective effort and strong partnership among NIA, Local Government Units (LGUs), and Irrigators Associations (IAs).

NIA TURNS OVER P631-MILLION BARBAR EARTHFILL DAM IN ILOCOS SUR

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) turned over the P631-million Barbar Small Reservoir Irrigation Project (Barbar SRIP) to the seven Irrigators Associations (IAs) of San Juan and Magsingal, Ilocos Sur on May 6, 2021. The inauguration and turnover ceremony was held at the project site located in Barangay Barbar, San Juan, Ilocos Sur.

Amidst the current pandemic, NIA Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya led the turnover of the Barbar Earthfill Dam with a storage capacity of 0.861 million cubic meters designed to irrigate a total of 846-hectare agricultural land covering 11 barangays of Barbar, Camangaan, Nagsupotan, Nagsabaran, Muraya, Immayos Sur, Guimod Sur, and Bacsil in the Town of San Juan, and the barangays of Macatcatud, Caraisan and Barbarit in the neighboring town of Magsingal, Ilocos Sur. A total of 1,156 farmers and their families from the said barangays will benefit from the completed Barbar SRIP.

Irrigation facilities of the Barbar SRIP consists of a five-kilometer main canal and a total of 16.28 kilometers of lateral canal. Access roads were constructed simultaneous with the lateral canals having the same length as the latter, providing mobility and accessibility for farmers and their farms inputs and products.



NIA Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya delivers his message during the ceremony at Barbar SRIP site.

Barbar Earthfill Dam Area





Newly Elected Officers of the Federation of Irrigators Association of Barbar SRIP



Blessing of the Barbar SRIP Dam Structure officiated by San Juan Parish Priest, Rev. Moises Andrada II



Dispersal of the 10,000 Tilapia fingerlings into the dam waters of Barbar Earthfill Dam

Aside from increase in agricultural production through additional areas of around 319 hectares and yield increase up to 5.2 metric tons, the project also helps in mitigating flood by impounding typhoon waters for use as irrigation. Moreover, it strengthens watershed recharging the aquifer in the area that will re-establish the vegetation and helps enhance the biodiversity.

Present in the event were Ilocos Sur Governor Ryan Luis V. Singson, Ilocos Sur 1st District Representative Deogracias Victor Savellano, 1st District Board Member Efren Rafanan, San Juan Mayor Elaine Sarmiento, and NIA Region I Manager Angelito S. Miguel and Ilocos Sur Irrigation Management Office (IMO) Division Manager Gertrudes A. Viado who will facilitate the operation of the dam.

Dispersal of the 10,000 Tilapia fingerlings was also done in addition to the 50,000 fingerlings earlier poured at the dam waters from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR). This reinforces its livelihood component for the farmer-beneficiaries of the irrigation project. Right after the ceremony, the newly elected officers of the Federation of Irrigators Association of Barbar SRIP took their oath and sworn to before the NIA Administrator himself.

Furthermore, Governor Ryan Singson highlighted in his message his deep gratitude to Administrator Visaya and to the whole Agency for initiating such a timely project which he described as the most daring among the irrigation projects in the entire country he has ever seen.

NIA Top Management Officials, headed by Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya, assure that the Agency remains committed to its mandate of providing efficient, reliable, and sustainable irrigation service to the Filipino farmers.



NIA FINISHES P878-MILLION UPPER TABUATING DAM IN NUEVA ECIIJA



NIA Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya delivers his message during the inauguration of Upper Tabuating SRIP in General Tinio, Nueva Ecija.



Despite the prevalence of the COVID-19 pandemic, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) finished the P878-million Upper Tabuating Small Reservoir Irrigation Project (Upper Tabuating SRIP) situated in Barangay Nazareth, General Tinio, Nueva Ecija.

Completed in December 2020, Upper Tabuating SRIP involves the construction of Earthfill Dam with a height above the lowest streambed of 25.56 meters and length of 760 meters, with a storage capacity of 4.96 million cubic meters. The dam was able to irrigate the entirety of its target service area prior to its inauguration.

The project is expected to provide irrigation water to around 700.87 hectares of agricultural land which will benefit about 223 farm families distributed among the barangays of Nazareth, Rio Chico, Bago, and San Mariano in the Municipalities of General Tinio and

Peñaranda in Nueva Ecija.

Presided by Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya, Upper Tabuating SRIP held its inauguration on May 25, 2021. The implementation of the project was carried out by NIA-Upper Pampanga River Integrated Irrigation Systems (NIA-UPRIIS) Division III, now headed by Acting Division Manager Elenita L. Toquero, under the leadership of UPRIIS Department Manager Rosalinda B. Bote.

Present during the inauguration were General Tinio Municipal Mayor Isidro T. Pajarillaga, Nueva Ecija Provincial Governor Aurelio M. Umali represented by Provincial Human Resource Management Office Chief Roseten E. Tugaff, Nueva Ecija 4th District Representative Maricel N. Nagaño, NIA Deputy Administrator for Administrative and Finance Sector Romeo G. Gan, NIA UPRIIS Department Manager Rosalinda B. Bote, UPRIIS Acting UPRIIS Division III Manager Elenita L. Toquero, other NIA officials, and local farmers.

Capping the event was the dispersal of 12,000 Tilapia fingerlings into the dam water to help strengthen the irrigation project's livelihood component for the farmer-beneficiaries.

Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya assures that the Agency remains committed to its mandate of developing and maintaining irrigation systems in support of the agricultural program of the government. 🐟



Upper Tabuating Earthfill Dam situated in Barangay Nazareth, General Tinio, Nueva Ecija



(From Left to Right) NIA UPRIIS Department Manager Rosalinda B. Bote, NIA Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya, General Tinio Municipal Mayor Isidro T. Pajarillaga, Nueva Ecija 4th District Representative Maricel N. Nagaño, and NIA Deputy Administrator for Administrative and Finance Sector Romeo G. Gan during the Ribbon-Cutting and Inaugural Ceremony of the P878-million Upper Tabuating SRIP in the Municipality of General Tinio, Nueva Ecija.



NIA Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya during the dispersal of 12,000 Tilapia fingerlings into the dam water

(From Left to Right) Acting Public Affairs and Information Staff Department Manager Eden Victoria C. Selva, Acting UPRIIS Division III Manager Elenita L. Toquero, General Tinio Municipal Mayor Isidro T. Pajarillaga, Nueva Ecija 4th District Representative Maricel N. Nagaño, NIA Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya, and NIA Deputy Administrator for Administrative and Finance Sector Romeo G. Gan during the Unveiling of the Marker of the P878-million Upper Tabuating SRIP in the Municipality of General Tinio, Nueva Ecija.



NIA INAUGURATES SICALAO DIVERSION DAM

Another project under the helm of National Irrigation Administration (NIA) Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya held its Ceremonial Inauguration on May 10, 2021 in Lasam, Cagayan. The inaugurated undertaking is the Sicalao Diversion Dam of the P30.332-million Zinundungan River Irrigation System (Zinundungan RIS) located in Barangay Sicalao of the said municipality. NIA Senior Deputy Administrator Abraham B. Bagasin attended and presided the event.

Zinundungan RIS, whose water source is the Sicalao River, comprises gravity/ogee-type diversion works with an ogee length of 52.4 meters and a height of 2.60 meters. One unit of sluice gate which measures 3 meters x 2 meters has a discharge capacity of 2.050 cubic meters per second. The system's service area is 2,938.78 hectares and operations area of 2,127.53 hectares. The project aims to provide sustainable

agricultural development in the municipality by optimizing the irrigation potential of the system. The project will provide reliable irrigation water supply to 23 barangays, benefiting 1,639 farmers of Lasam.

"Sa atin pong mga magsasaka, magtulung-tulong po tayo upang mapangalagaan ang ating dam na ito. If we will work together to keep this structure in good condition, this may serve us for many years. Continue to coordinate with NIA so that together, we may ensure the smooth operation and maintenance of this river irrigation system", NIA Senior Deputy Administrator Bagasin implores everyone.

Amidst the pandemic, NIA remains committed on its mandate of providing efficient, reliable, and sustainable irrigation service for the agricultural development of our country. 🇵🇭



NIA Senior Deputy Administrator Abraham B. Bagasin leads the Ribbon Cutting of the Ceremonial Inauguration of the Sicalao Diversion Dam in Lasam, Cagayan.



SDA Bagasin tries to maneuver the steel valve to open the gate of the dam.



NIA officials and employees and some IA members pose for a photo after the ceremonial inauguration.

NIA, NHA SUPPORTS IP HOUSING PROJECT IN ILOILO

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) received a funding of P15 million from the National Housing Authority (NHA) for the housing project of the affected Panay Bukidnon Indigenous Peoples (IP) Community of the Jalaur River Multipurpose Project Stage II (JRMP-II) in Calinog, Iloilo.

The said funding is part of the P20-million commitment of the housing agency under the Memorandum Agreement (MOA) signed by both parties for the JRMP-II IP Housing Project on August 3, 2020. The to be displaced 35 IP families during the filling-up of the JRMP-II High Dam will be the recipients and will be resettled in Sitio Agburi, Barangay Cahigon, Calinog.


The JRMP-II Project Management Office (PMO), headed by Acting Project Manager Jonel B. Borres, provided the location of the resettlement site that underwent technical assessments for hazards and other relevant risks. The PMO is undertaking site-development activities after it was found out that the location is conducive for residential housing, such as provisions for community facilities, water system, and access roads to and from the resettlement site.

The P20-million funding from NHA will cover the construction of the 35 housing units with an approved floor area of 35 square meters in a 150-square meter



The JRMP-II IP Houses were designed by the housing beneficiaries themselves with the assistance of NIA and NHA and have an approved floor area of 35 square meters in 150-square meter lot.

lot and other entailing works, such as layout and excavation, concrete, masonry, roof and roof framing, carpentry, plumbing, doors and windows, tiles, painting, electrical with solar panels, and construction of project marker. The housing project will still exhibit the culture and tradition of the affected IP community.

The resettlement site is a commitment of NIA under the MOA by and between the Agency, the IP community, and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples during the free and prior informed consent process of the project. 



NHA Region VI turns over the check amounting to P15-million to NIA JRMP-II under the leadership of Acting Project Manager Jonel B. Borres (3rd from left).

NIA TURNS OVER 2 IRRIGATION PROJECTS IN THE PROVINCE OF RIZAL



(From Left to Right) Antipolo City Councilor Irvin Paulo C. Tapales, NIA CALABARZON Regional Manager Romeo M. Lopez, NIA Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya, Deputy Administrator for Administrative and Finance Sector Romeo G. Gan, and Engr. Leilani Dela Cruz, Senior Engineer of Laguna-Rizal IMO, during the Ceremonial Turnover of Calawis SIS and Palay-Palay PCIS in the Province of Rizal.

With the goal of providing vital contribution to irrigation development in the country, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) turned over two irrigation projects to two Irrigators Associations (IAs) in the Province of Rizal on June 24, 2021 at Barangay Calawis Covered Court, Antipolo City, Rizal. These projects are Calawis Small Irrigation System (Calawis SIS) located in Antipolo City and Palay-Palay Pump Communal Irrigation System (Palay-Palay PCIS) in the Municipality of Jala-Jala with an aggregate cost of P22.007 million.

Calawis SIS, whose water source comes from Calawis Creek, includes the construction of check structure and installation of pipeline with four water tanks and accessories. With a total cost of P15.007 million, the project is expected to provide timely and reliable irrigation water supply to 43 hectares of agricultural land in Antipolo City, benefitting 20 farmers and their families. Administrator Visaya led the turnover ceremony of the project to Calawis IA, represented by IA President Ronnie R. Idala.

On the other hand, Palay-Palay PCIS, whose water source come from Laguna Lake, includes the fabrication and installation of solar panel board, solar controller/inverter, and solar panel frame. With a total cost of P7 million, the project is expected to provide a year-round irrigation water supply to 142 hectares of agricultural land in the Municipality of Jala-Jala, benefitting 110

farmers and their families. The project was turned over by NIA Administrator Visaya to Palay-Palay IA, represented by IA President Eliseo SM. Inguito, Jr.

As part of its innovation and modernization platform, NIA ventures into solar-powered pump irrigation projects like Palay-Palay PCIS to replace diesel-powered pumps and generators which emit considerable quantities of carbon dioxide and greenhouse gases. In addition, diesel-powered projects are high in operations and maintenance costs. Hence, the Agency started developing solar-powered pump irrigation projects due to its environmental friendliness, durability, and long-term cost-effectiveness.

NIA Deputy Administrator for Administrative and Finance Sector Romeo G. Gan, NIA CALABARZON Regional Manager Romeo M. Lopez, Laguna-Rizal IMO Acting Manager Gerardo R. Perez, represented by Senior Engineer Leilani Dela Cruz, Antipolo City Mayor Andrea B. Ynares, represented by City Councilor Irvin Paulo C. Tapales, Barangay Captain of Calawis, Antipolo City Allan A. Abonio, other NIA Central Office and Regional Officials and employees, some uniformed personnel, and IA members attended the turnover ceremonies.

NIA is now looking forward to the development of more solar and floating solar power projects to cover more agricultural areas nationwide. 🌱



The Turnover Ceremony of Calawis SIS from NIA to Calawis IA represented by IA President Ronnie R. Idala

The Turnover Ceremony of Palay-Palay PCIS from NIA to Palay-Palay IA represented by IA President Eliseo SM. Inguito, Jr.



Calawis IA Farmers

Palay-Palay IA Farmers



NIA PRESSES ON WITH REFLEETING, GETS NEW LIGHT AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT



The acquisition of light/transport equipment is in line with the Four-Point Agenda of Administrator Ricardo R. 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.

Thus, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) acquired 95 units of light and transport equipment worth P155.315 million for use in the monitoring and evaluation of the status of on-going construction and Operations and Maintenance (O&M) activities.

These light and transport equipment were turned over in a simple ceremony on June 21, 2021 at the NIA Grounds. The winning bidder, CT Citimotors – Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corporation, represented by Mr. Lorenzo Cucio (Mitsubishi Motors) and Citimotors Assistant Vice President Rodrigo Almedral led the symbolic turnover of the key to NIA Top Management Officials, witnessed by Central Office Department Managers and employees.

The purchase of light/transport and heavy equipment is part of the three-year re-fleeting program of the Agency from CY 2017. 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.

As of December 31, 2020, NIA maintained in operating condition 3,201 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, 622 units of equipment are non-operable or needing repair while 1,382 units of equipment are recommended for disposal. Thus, the three-year re-fleeting program is expected to make NIA operations more efficient and reliable.

Handover Ceremony of Shotguns for Added Security

Preceding the handover ceremony of equipment was the handover of 319 units of shotgun and ammunition from Trust Trade, Inc., represented by Ms. Marinyl S. Belino, to NIA Administrator Visaya. The Administrator then turned over the shotguns to the Civil Security Affairs Office headed by Engr. Eusebio S. Villamanto.



OATH TAKING CEREMONY

PUBLIC COMMITMENT OF SIX NEW NIA OFFICIALS

It is not new to any government official that the Oath of Office is an important ceremonial gesture signifying the start to one's term in office. Significantly, it is a means for the official to make a public commitment to the duties, responsibilities, and obligations associated with holding public office. The extent to which an official is able to succumb to that commitment will profoundly impact the efficiency of that official's service.

Committed to discharge all duties incumbent upon them, six Central Office and Regional Officials of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) took their Oath of Office on June 15, 2021 at NIA Administrator's Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Building A, NIA Complex, Diliman, Quezon City.

Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya presided the oath taking ceremony of Engr. Rory F. Avance as Regional Manager of NIA Region VI, Atty. Marty P. Cachapero as Attorney V of the Legal Services, and Atty. Michelle G. Raymundo as Corporate Board Secretary. Meanwhile, Deputy Administrator for Administrative and Finance Sector Romeo G. Gan presided the oath taking ceremony of Engr. Jaime M. Lara as the Manager of Engineering and Operations Division – Magat River Integrated Irrigation System (EOD-MARIIS), Engr. Orencio M. Apale as EOD Manager of NIA Region VII, and Ms. Rosalinda A. Segocio as the Manager of Human Resources Division, Administrative Department.

Not a mere formality, the oath taking is a public pledge that the official understands the requirements of the position, thus, he will work to meet or exceed those requirements. The six NIA officials who took the oath must fully consider the meaning of their oath and all of its important implications with integrity, commitment, and professionalism. 🇵🇭



INVESTMENT IN HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

The capability development program facilitated by NIA Training and Career Development Section of Human Resources Division, Administrative Department aims to update with the trends and “bridge the gap” between the employees or a teams, knowledge and skills. The said programs are aligned with the Four-Point agenda of the Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya, specifically to uplift the morale and welfare of NIA’s human resources, to strengthen the administration’s organizational structure, and to further develop the essential capabilities of employees. Despite the prevalence of COVID-19 Pandemic Situation, NIA continuously invests in capacitating human resources as the best assets of the Agency. Below is the list of the conducted capability development programs during the First Semester of CY 2021:

TITLE		OBJECTIVES	PARTICIPANTS	DATE	REMARKS
1.	Speech Training and Presentation Mastery	1. To develop effective media communication skills. 2. To be equipped with different communication strategies that they can use as spokesperson of the Agency. 3. To be a reliable and effective spokesperson of the Agency. 4. To utilize their acquired knowledge and skills in organizing and delivering key messages.	Thirty-Five (35) Department, Regional, and Project Managers and selected Division Managers from the Engineering and Operations Sector	Batch 1: February 17 and 23, 2021 Batch 2: February 18 and March 4, 2021	Online Program
2.	Supervisory 101: A Workshop for Potential Frontline Supervisors	1. To restate the PLOC Framework and its definition. 2. To develop objectives, targets, budgets and action plan. 3. To explain factors in organizing workloads and proper delegation. 4. To demonstrate how to motivate, give feedback and communicate. 5. To translate objectives and targets into performance measurement.	Seventy-Three (73) Potential Supervisors under SGs 15 and 16	Batch 1: May 4-6, 2021 Batch 2: May 18-20, 2021 Batch 3: June 2-4, 2021 Batch 4: June 30-July 2, 2021	Online Program

	TITLE	OBJECTIVES	PARTICIPANTS	DATE	REMARKS
3.	Training on Technical Writing Skills for Improved Communication	<p>1. To understand the nature of technical writing vs. other forms of writing.</p> <p>2. To demonstrate an understanding of its basic principles, tools, and techniques.</p> <p>3. To choose the appropriate writing style to communicate to their specific audiences.</p> <p>4. To learn the mechanics and characteristics of effective writing.</p> <p>5. To undergo a quick review of practical and basic American English grammar.</p> <p>6. To write concise but comprehensive and well-organized documents that are responsive to the purpose, audience, and situation.</p>	Sixty (60) employees with Basic Level Technical Writing Competency Requirement who got 1.00 to 3.99 score at the competency assessment	<p>Batch 1: June 24-25, 2021</p> <p>Batch 2: June 29-30, 2021</p>	Online Program
4.	Virtual Training on the Use of Harmonized Gender and Development Guidelines for the National Irrigation Administration GAD Focal Point System Members	<p>1. To understand the basic concepts and relevance of the HGDG tool.</p> <p>2. To know the guidelines on how to appropriately rate the programs and projects using the GAD checklist.</p> <p>3. Further evaluate and ensure the gender responsive of projects to be integrated in the GPB.</p> <p>4. To further identify the relevant documents needed for the justification of projects enrolled in GPB.</p>	One hundred forty-eight (148) Gender and Development Focal Point System Members	<p>Batch 1: 2-4 June 2021</p> <p>Batch 2: 9-11 June 2021</p>	Online Program (Conducted in Coordination with the Procurement and Property Division, Administrative Department)

NIA AT 58

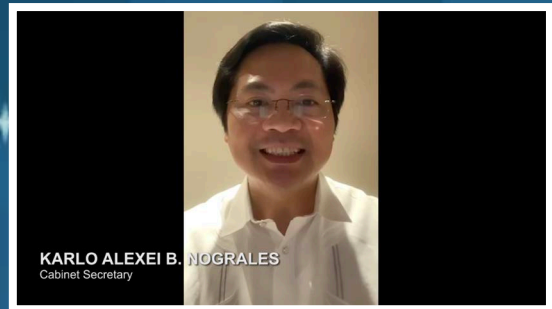
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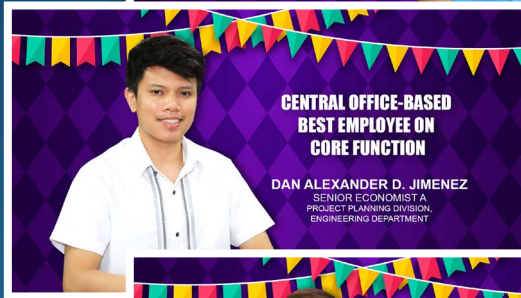
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This is the second anniversary celebration that we are given the opportunity to recreate ourselves as a blend of the best of the old normal and the new normal. As we seek to shape a new future, we, in NIA, need to continue to make every effort to support all our farmer clienteles along with our other stakeholders.

”

- Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya





The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) celebrated its 58th Founding Anniversary on June 22, 2021 with the theme **“NIA: A Catalyst for Progress with 58 Years of Sustainable Irrigation Development”**.

For the second year around, NIA celebrates its anniversary virtually through various online activities. The morning program is divided into three parts. Part I is the Anniversary Mass at the NIA Chapel led by Rev. Fr. Joseph Dacillo Ciar. The Anniversary Mass is both face-to-face with limited capacity and virtually via Facebook Livestreaming at NIAns Facebook Group.

Part II is the Blessing and Ribbon-Cutting Ceremonies of the newly constructed NIA Executive Lounge located at 5th Floor of DCIEC Building, Arko ng Kasaganahan at Gate 1, NIA Matikas Multipurpose Building located at NIA Grounds beside NIA Covered Court, and NIA Tower Façade at the Serenity Garden, 3rd Floor, Building B.

Part III of the morning program includes an Audio-Visual Presentation (AVP) of NIA's 58 Years entitled “Snippets”, NIA PRAISE and IA Awards for CY 2020, and the Anniversary Messages of NIA Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya, the late National Power Corporation (NAPOCOR) President Pio J. Benavidez, Chairman of the NIA Board of Directors Cabinet Secretary Karlo Alexei B. Nograles, and Secretary William D. Dar of the Department of Agriculture (DA) as the Guest of Honor and Speaker. Intermission numbers were performed by NIA H2O Band.

Meanwhile, the afternoon program includes Tiktok Dance Competition, Mr. and Ms. NIA 2021 Awarding Ceremony, and Online Games. Mr. Jonathan Amiel Nicdao of NIA Region III and Ms. Maricel Magtoto of NIA Region I were crowned as Mr. and Ms. NIA 2021 on the virtual pageant.

Despite the pandemic situation, CY 2020 was a fruitful and productive year for the Agency. For this Year 2021, NIA is determined to outdo its performance in the preceding years.

Truly, NIA has remained faithful to its mandate of providing efficient and reliable irrigation services to the Filipino farmers throughout its 58 years of existence. 🇵🇭



NIA CONDUCTS SIMULTANEOUS TREE PLANTING ACTIVITY NATIONWIDE



The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) held a simultaneous Tree Planting Activity on June 25, 2021 at NIA Field Offices nationwide as part of the Agency's National Greening Program and 58th Founding Anniversary Celebration. The activity was conducted with the theme, "Tubig-Kanlungan ay Pangalagaan, Patuloy na Daloy ng NIA sa Gitna ng Pandemya".

Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, the Environmental Watershed Management Section (EWMS) under the project Planning Division, Administrative Department (PPD-ED), which is currently in charge of the NGP, has limited the number of staff who will participate in the activity. Before leaving, all participants guaranteed that they had taken an antigen test. A total of 32 personnel from NIA Central Office were divided to participate in the exercise. One team attended UPRIIS while the other attended Region IV-A.

A total of 75 officials and employees from the NIA-UPRIIS Head Office and Division III, led by Department Manager Rosalinda B. Bote, along with PAIS-Central Office Acting Department Manager Eden Victoria C. Selva and 15 other NIA Central Office employees, planted 500 rambutan and duhat seedlings at the 6,000-square-meter watershed area of the Upper Tabuating Small Reservoir Irrigation project of NIA.

A total of 1,500 seedlings of bamboo, bayog, teak, coffee, palosapis, yakal, and dungon were also planted

by 100 officials and employees of UPRIIS Dam and Reservoir Division, Divisions II, IV, and V, and Interim Division VI along Decoliat River, Sitio Marikit East, Barangay Lublub, Castaeda, Nueva Ecija. UPRIIS Division I employees are also slated to plant trees in the Macanae Watershed area, which is located in the Municipality of Lupao, Nueva Ecija.

The other team from NIA Central office joined the NIA CALABARZON Regional Office's tree planting exercise, headed by Regional Manager Romeo M. Lopez, in Barangay Calumpang, Liliw, Laguna, which is part of the Sta. Cruz River Irrigation System (Sta. Cruz RIS). Seventy people planted 300 fruit-bearing trees, including duhat, kasoy, guyabano, and rambutan.

A short program was held before the actual tree planting activity to instruct participants on the proper planting method to avoid the mortality of planted seedlings.

Indeed, NIA has lived up to its promise of being a caring institution for both farmers and the environment. NIA Top Management officials, led by Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya, see the action as a platform for revitalizing and protecting the country's watershed areas, caring for Mother Earth, and planting new hope for future generations. It is also a means for us to reconnect with Mother Earth after months of restricted movement and travel. 🌱

Region/ Project	Area (hectares)	Planted Species	Number of Planted Seedlings
CAR	3.55	Coffee, Pine, Mahogany, Gmelina, Cacao, Narra, Molave, Mahogany, Rubber Tree, Tuai, and Calumpit	2,303
Region I	6.39	Bamboo, Guyabano, Atis, Tamarind, Narra	1,800
MARIIS	15.16	Santol, Bamboo, Narra, Eucalyptus, Castanas, Chasa, Umbrella Tree, Mahogany, Fire Tree, Acacia, Bani, Guyabano, Pomelo, Molave, and Tuai	11,929
Region II	5.1132	Guyabano, Mango, Chesa, Santol, Duhat, Guyabano, Atis, Cacao, Bambo, Narra, Talisay, Maragawed, Pakak, Mahogany, Betel Palm, Bugnay, Rambutan, Molave, and Tuai	2,769
UPRIIS	5.18	Guyabano, Jackfruit, Avocado, Bayog, Coffee, Teak, Palosapis, Yakal, Dungon, Duhat, and Rambutan	2,600
Region IV-A	7	Guyabano, Kalamansi, Rambutan, Dao, Narra, Duhat, Kasoy, and Langka	2,350
Region IV-B	2.7166	Bamboo, Narra, Mahogany, Kasoy, and Fruit-Bearing Trees	2,350
Region V	1.9821	Rambutan, Pili, Dao, Narra, Mahogany, Palm Trees, and Molave	280
Region VI	17.1	Forest and Fruit-Bearing Trees	3,112
Region VII	2.2403	Mahogany, Gmelina, Bamboo, Jackfruit, Rambutan, Macopa, Coffee, Narra, Rattan, Mangium, Cacao, Santol, and Tugus	3,560
Region VIII	1	Lawaan, Bagtikan, Bitanghol, Dalingdingan, Kalumpit, Kamagong, Dungon, Mijapi, Tugus, Narra, Baluno, To-og, Yakal, and Saplungan	1,000
Region IX	7.15	Narra, Mahogany, and Molave	2,738
Region XI	2.38	Narra, Mahogany, Bamboo, Malubago, Guyabano, Mangium, Teak, and Ilang-Ilang	1,152
Region XII	6.9	Mahogany, Narra, Guyabano, Bamboo, White Lauan, Apitong, and Bayog	1,843
Region XIII	1.12	White Lauan, Fruit trees, Narra, Mahogany, Acacia, and Mangium	410
CRPIP	0.75	Avocado, Santol, Guyabano, Rambutan, Chico, and Mahogany	400
JRMP-II	2 hectares and 3.4 kilometers	Fruit-Bearing and Non-Fruit Bearing Trees, and Native Trees	3,293
LARISIP	1.5	Fruit-Bearing and Non-Fruit Bearing Trees	1,200
TBBMP-II	1.1	White Lauan, Mangium, and Narra	1,200
TOTAL	90.3322 hectares and 3.4 kilometers		46,289



IAS AND BJMP-BENGUET SIGN MARKETING AGREEMENT UNDER EPAHP



In line with the Enhanced Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty (EPAHP) Program of the National Government with the objectives of mitigating hunger, ensuring food and nutrition security, and reducing poverty in the country, a Marketing Agreement by and between the Benguet Farmers Federation of Irrigators Association (BFFIA) and the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology - Benguet (BJMP-Benguet) was signed on June 28, 2021 at the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) Regional Office in Wangan, La Trinidad, Benguet.

BFFIA will now be the direct suppliers of vegetables

and fruits to BJMP-Benguet. The Marketing Agreement under EPAHP will be of great support to IAs for it will boost their income while providing their produce to Benguet's seven detention centers.

The ceremony was attended by BFFIA officers, headed by IA President Domingo Awas, representatives of the BJMP detention centers, and NIA CAR officials headed by Regional Manager Benito T. Espique, Jr. Together with other EPAHP Partner Agencies, NIA assists its IAs in establishing their linkage with other agencies in providing their services for mutual gain. 🤝



TURNOVER OF BAYABAS SPIP IN LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET



NIA-CAR Regional Manager Benito T. Espique, Jr. hands over the documents for the Bayabas Pump Irrigation System to IA President Councilor Arthur Shontogan.

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) handed over the documents of the Bayabas Pump Irrigation System to Peril Obudan Capjaran Farmers Association Inc. on June 25, 2021. The ceremony took place at the project site in Barangay Pico, La Trinidad, Benguet.

The Bayabas PIS installed a submersible pump at the Bodikewkew Spring in Kapjaran, Pico with a Total Dynamic Head (TDH) of 150 meters and irrigation water was able to reach Sitio Obullan. The project will irrigate five hectares of agricultural land that will benefit 15 farmers and is currently cultivated for cabbage, potato, and sayote.

The ceremony was led by NIA CAR Regional Manager Benito Espique, Jr., NIA Benguet Provincial Head Godofredo Velaque, President of the Irrigators Association Councilor Arthur Shontogan, Barangay Captain Ramon Salda, Ms. Maro Domingo of the Office of Benguet, and Caretaker Eric Yap. The event was witnessed by other local officials, NIA employees, and farmer-beneficiaries.

Regional Manager Engr. Espique, Jr. encouraged the Peril Obudan Capjaran Farmers Association, Inc. to ensure that irrigation facilities are properly operated and maintained so that they can be used to the greatest extent possible and for the longest period of time.

The blessing was led by Rev. Richard Stone Banagui of the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany before it was turned over to the Irrigators Association. During the turnover ceremony, attendees planted coffee and fruit trees along the service area to commemorate also the June 25 as Arbor Day.

The Agency assured that it is doing its best to continue deliver efficient, reliable, and sustainable irrigation service to the Filipino farmers amidst COVID-19 Pandemic. 🌱



NIA CAR Manager Benito Espique, Jr. and Administrative and Finance Division Manager Grace Fanged planted fruit trees along the service area of the Bayabas PIS in Pico, La Trinidad, Benguet.

NIA LAUNCHES COMMUNITY PANTRY



NIA Central Office – As part of the Agency's Corporate Social Responsibility, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) launched the NIA Community Pantry on April 30, 2021 at NIA Grounds, EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City. The activity became successful through the collective efforts of NIA offices nationwide.

Inspired by the Maginhawa Community Pantry and the generosity of NIA Top Management Officials, headed by Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya, different offices and regions shared their various farm produce, rice, and grocery items to the employees of NIA service providers, like tough guards and M8 Manpower Services personnel, who were affected by the pandemic. Similarly, staff of NIA employees' organizations like NIA Cooperative, NIA Employees Association of the Philippines (NIAEASP), and NIA Savings and Loans Association, Inc. (NIASLAI), have received the generosity of the Agency. Contributing their labor for the packing of the food bags are the staff of the Administrative Department and M8 Manpower Services.

Several regional offices are now also operating community pantries to provide assistance in the basic needs of the families in their respective communities. This only proves that in the midst of challenges, the Filipino spirit of bayanihan lives on.

Administrator Visaya took the opportunity to remind all NIA employees about the essence of giving and compassion to other people in these challenging times. 🙏

NIA OBSERVES NATIONAL FLAG DAY

NIA Central Office – The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) is one with the nation in the observance of the National Flag Day from May 28, 2021 to June 12, 2021.

The National Flag Day is celebrated annually in commemoration of the first use of the Philippine Flag after the victory in the Battle of Alapan on May 28, 1898 through Presidential Proclamation No. 374 issued on March 6, 1965. On May 23, 1994, the issuance of Executive Order No. 179 extended the period of the celebration from May 28 to June 12. Under the proclamation, all Filipinos are encouraged to display the Philippine Flag in all offices, agencies, and instruments of government, business establishments, schools, and private homes throughout this period.

NIA Top Management Officials, Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya, Senior Deputy Administrator Abraham B. Bagasin, Deputy Administrator for Engineering and Operations Sector C'zar M. Sulaik, and Deputy Administrator for Administrative and Finance Sector Romeo G. Gan, took the opportunity to remind all NIA employees to continue serving the Filipino farmers with the best irrigation service that they deserve, thus providing vital contribution to the agricultural growth and development of the nation. 🇵🇭

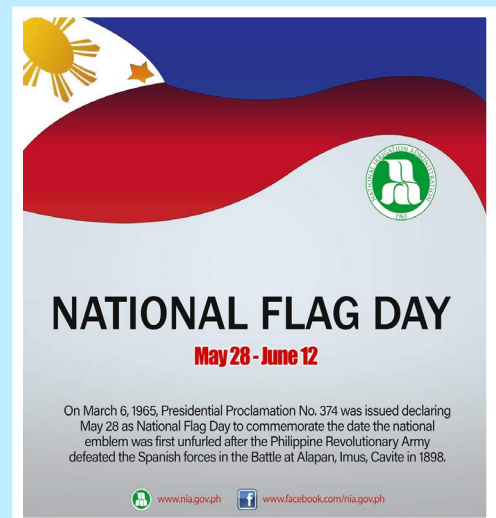




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NIA ORGANIZES COMMUNITY PANTRY

NIA Central Office – Along with the celebration of the Agency's 58th Founding Anniversary and as part of Corporate Social Responsibility, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) organized the NIA Community Pantry on June 15, 2021 in front of NIA Gate 2, EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City. 📷



NIA OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES GET VACCINATED

NIA Central Office – The National Irrigation Administration (NIA), through Quezon City Government's "QC Protektado sa Bakunang Sigurado Program", conducted the first batch of COVID-19 Vaccination on June 17, 2021 at NIA Convention Hall, 5th Floor, IEC Building. A total of 448 officials and employees of NIA Central Office, M8 janitorial personnel, and tough guards under A1, A2, A3, and A4 categories get vaccinated. 📷





Meet the new CORPORATE BOARD SECRETARY

On June 15, 2021, Atty. Michelle Gonzalez Raymundo took her oath of office before Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya as the new Corporate Board Secretary. But who is she?

The third of six daughters born to a lawyer and a businesswoman, Atty. Michelle comes from a family of professionals. Her father, a lawyer, activist, and single father, wanted to make sure that he raised strong women -- and he did: three lawyers, a surgeon, a teacher, and an architect.

Her father always tells her that if one is a professional, one can always find one's way in the world. He - without fail - counsels her to do what is right.

Atty. Michelle earned her degree of Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Communication at the University of the Philippines - Manila in 2005 and then spent the majority of her law student life at UP Law. She completed Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) at the Lyceum of the Philippines University College of Law in 2013, and she was admitted to the Bar in 2017.

Her path to being a lawyer was never easy. The year she was reviewing for the bar, she lost her mother.

For Atty. Michelle, it was also because of her mother's passing that she wanted to make sure that something good happened from that year.

While one can easily assume that it is solely because of her father's influence that Atty. Michelle pursued being a lawyer, reading and writing are her foremost interests. She reads anything and everything. She even writes some poetry.

With the legal profession, you are either speaking or writing, so she sees this as a good venue to practice writing, and a natural and logical path to pursue.

Atty. Michelle also prefers to spend her free time working and earning. In college, she would edit something on the side and she served as a student assistant. In law school, she worked

informally for her father, researching and writing pleadings for him.

That is how Atty. Michelle was trained. His father, himself a good writer, trained her to be very specific about things, to scrutinize every document. He also never tired of telling her to serve the government and the people with all honesty and integrity.

"I saw the need to serve", Atty. Michelle earnestly shared when asked why she ended up joining the government service. In 2015, she worked as a Legal Consultant in the Department of Transportation (DOTr), in 2017 as Project Specialist in the Privatization and Management Office, and in 2020 as Consultant in the House of Representatives. Atty. Michelle believes that the idea of being in a position to help other people and to be able to actually do that is a very powerful motivation. This also finds root in their family's upbringing of always helping people if you can. She also believes that there is a need to be able to say that there are honest people in government and she tries to be one of them.

Joining the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) now, Atty. Michelle did not see that coming. Admittedly, she did not think of it happening like five years ago. But this has been a good opportunity according to her. True to what she believes that in life, *"If you can do it today, why not do it today"*, she advocates and enforces efficiency in work, especially in her jurisdiction. Atty. Michelle tries to ensure that the processes in her office will be as efficient and speedy as possible because for her, as government employees, our fellow Filipinos have the right to demand a level of performance and service from us and we should always deliver.

Atty. Michelle is looking forward, in a safer time, to the opportunity of travelling to different regions, seeing a wider area of the country, and to interact with the immediate stakeholders of the Agency especially the Filipino farmers.

And us? We cannot wait to hear Atty. Michelle sings. She is a soprano by the way. 🎵

CASH DIVISION PERSONNEL'S WORK EXPERIENCE: *At a glance*



SHERYL A. BACANI

**Cashier A
Cash Division, Financial Management Department**

“

I am with NIA for 23 years. I started here as a Clerk Processor B in the Budget and Revenue Division (BRD). Actually, my father was a retired NIA employee. He worked as a Supervising Electronic Technician under the General Services Division, Administrative Department (GSD-AD). In my second year, I was detailed in the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) for nine months which is supposed to be three months lang. They offered me to work with them but my heart belongs here at mas at-home ako rito.

Now, I am Cashier A in Cash Division, promoted last May 2021. Before, I was a Corporate Budget Analyst in the Budget and Revenue Division. I spent two decades of my career in Budget Division. Dito sa Cash Division, it is more on actual, hindi katulad sa Budget Division na more on proposals and estimates. In Cash, kahit five cents ay talagang kina-count kaya sa reporting up to the last cents talagang binubusisi. Overall, as a Cashier A under Disbursement Section, may responsibility is to release checks. Ako ang nagtatawag sa mga empleyado, collectors, supplier and even contractors kung may available checks sila for pick up. Mas exposed ako sa mga tao, 'yon ang mahirap kasi pandemic. At least dito sa office, may minimum protocol tayong sinusunod pero pagdating sa mga tao sa labas, wala silang ganoon kaya doble ingat ang kailangan.

As part of essential workforce, hindi ako puwedeng mag-absent or mag-Work from Home kasi hindi naman puwedeng mag-release ng tseke sa bahay. I am still new to my post, nag-aaral pa ako and I need the guidance of senior employees here. Pagdating sa accountability, lahat ng original documents dito sa amin, dapat intact lahat kasi hahanapan kami ng COA.

As to professional growth, maraming trainings, workshops, seminars, at assessments na pino-provide ang NIA. Mabait ang NIA. Kahit ngayon pandemic makikita natin, hindi lahat ng agencies may mga vitamins na ibinibigay. May service na ihahatid sunder ang mga empleyado at libreng vaccination. Lalo na noong unang ECQ, may libreng food tapos may hazard tapos 'yong iba may overtime pay pa. Kumbaga, alagang-alaga tayo rito sa NIA.

Dapat careful sa mga papel. Kapag dito ka sa Cashiering Services, dapat ay God-fearing, honest, and with integrity. As a frontliner, dapat accommodating, warm, friendly and answer inquiries with utmost professionalism. 🙏

”

CASH DIVISION PERSONNEL'S WORK EXPERIENCE: AT A GLANCE

MARYBETH GOMEZ PUBLICO

Senior Collection Officer
Cash Division, Financial Management Department



“

Forty years in service na ako sa NIA since 1981. Accounting Clerk ako hanggang sa naging Financial Analyst ako sa Accounting Division. Noong nandoon ako sa Accounting ay talagang time pressure talaga roon kasi ang paggawa ng payroll ay talagang regular na ginagawa. Tapos may mga reports pa. Hindi ako makapag-absent kasi lagi kong iniisip ‘yong su-sweldohin ng mga tao. Hindi katulad ngayon dito sa Cash na hindi ako ganoon ka-pressured although marami ring trabaho.

Nag-apply ako rito sa Cash and got hired as a Senior Collection Officer. Ako ‘yong tumatanggap ng mga collection natin, ako ‘yong nangongolekta. May ka-alternate ako, si Donna, kasi in case nga na wala ako ay siya ang gumagawa. Pero kung parehas kaming nandito, ako talaga ang nagresibo. Hindi puwedeng lahat ay hahawak ng resibo kasi accountable ako rito so hindi puwedeng iba ang magreceive, kaming dalawa lang. Gumagawa rin akong report ‘yong tulad ng Cash Position ng NIA, so ang difficulty ko naman doon ay ‘yong report kasi nanggagaling sa field offices so minsan late sila nagpapadala. Kapag may problema akong nae-encounter, tatawagan pa sila tapos saka pa lang ulit nila ipapadala. Hindi naman porke’t Collection Officer ka ay ‘yon lang ang trabaho mo.

Sa Cash Division kasi nacha-challenge ako kasi malalaman mo kung hanggang saan ‘yon cash natin, nachachallenge ako dahil sa bago kong trabaho. Hindi katulad sa Accounting, sa tagal ko na doon parang memoryado ko na lahat ng gagawin. Tapos hindi ako basta-basta pumipirma, si Administrator ang pipirma sa report mong gagawin so dapat maingat talaga. Marami akong natutuhan. Noong nasa Accounting ako noon, napunta muna ako sa paggawa ng report, ‘yong mga Trial Balance. Kumbaga, unti-unti, ang dami kong natutuhan sa trabaho. Nagrecon din ako, then napunta sa paggawa ng payroll. ‘Yong samahan namin doon very close talaga kami kaya ‘di ko naisip na lumipat. Malaking factor ang mga kasama pero sabi ko sa kanila gusto ko rin mag-grow. Ayokong maging stagnant.

Ang advice ko lang is matuto silang mag-aral, pag-aralan ang trabaho, ‘yong mga hindi pa nila masyadong alam. Hindi ka naman perpektong tao, puwede ka naman magkamali. Walang trabahong hindi natututuhan. Kung natutuhan ko ‘yan matututuhan niyo rin basta magtiyaga lang kayo. At saka kung mapagsabihan sila, itake nila ‘yon as a challenge, hindi as negative. Para naman ‘yon sa ikakabuti nila. Mag-aral ka lang ng mag-aral para magawa mo ng mabuti ‘yong trabaho mo at huwag kang titigil sa isa. Halimbawa kung may makita kang mas magandang opportunity, i-grab mo. 📖

”

“

Twenty-two years na ako sa NIA. I was designated as a Data Encoder Controller last March 2021. My daily routine is I am the one preparing cheques for salaries and wages of NIA personnel. Ako rin ang nagre-receive ng mga documents from other departments, filings of documents, and then Landbank and Bank Statement ng NIA. Ako 'yong nagsesegregate para ibigay sa Accounting at saka sa CARP. Nag-aaral pa rin ako regarding sa suppliers and contractors since March pa lang ako na-assign as Data Controller. Ang mahirap na part lang din ay kapag may mga contractor na kumukuha ng cheque. Hahanapin mo pa ang mga signatories.

Galing ako sa private company noon tapos naging OFW ako. Pagdating ko sa Pilipinas, saktong may hiring ang NIA noon. Ang mister ko ay taga-NIA rin. Nirecommend ako ni Mrs. Precilla Grana (retired) na mag-apply. Kaya ayon, nakapasok naman ako. Sa Controllershship Department na ngayon ay Financial Management Department ako na-assign noong una. Hindi na ako nag-isip lumipat pa kasi 'yong mga anak ko college level na kaya kailangang magsettle na rin ako. Kaya memorable din sa akin ang pagkapasok sa NIA. Dahil sa NIA, napagtapos din namin ang aming mga anak.

Tuwing may opportunity to attend seminars, trainings uma-attend kami. 'Yong boss namin ini-encourage talaga kami na umattend. Kaya kapag may in-offer, grab mo na kasi additional knowledge din 'yon. Dito rin sa Cash Division, mababait ang mga naging boss ko at mga kasamahan ko. Ang samahan namin dito ay talagang bonded na kami. Simula pumasok kami, kami na magkakakilala. Ngayon lang kami nahaluan ng bago pero, itong mga bata, tinuturuan namin sila.

Huwag masamain ang tinuturo ng mga matatanda kasi para sa kanila rin 'yan. Para 'yan sa kinabukasan nila. Huwag dibdibin ang problema. Dapat i-open up mo kasi mas masarap 'yong marami kang naririnig na nagbibigay sa iyo ng advice. Kung tama, ilagay mo sa isip mo. Kapag mali, disregard mo kasi sa pamilya, dapat bigayan ang bawat isa. Walang lamangan kasi hindi ka naman makararating sa pupuntahan mo kapag mataas ang tingin mo sa sarili mo. Babagsak at babagsak ka. Pero kung sinusunod mo ang tamang proseso, uunlad at uunlad ka. 🙏

”



MARIA EMELLY N. ODIO

Data Encoder Controller

Cash Division, Financial Management Department

“

‘Yong mother ko is from NIA Region III tapos mayroon siyang kaibigan dito sa Central Office kaya nag-apply ako rito. Nagkataon na ‘yong Department Head dati, si Mrs. Gloria, nangangailangan ng staff so ‘yon natanggap ako. Nagstart ako sa NIA as a Clerk Processor, from the bottom and Contract of Service rin lang ako noon. Then, project charge siya kaya roon pa ako sa Pampanga kumukuha ng sahod. Tuwing payday, maghalf-day ako sa work. Then, after noon, commute na ako para kunin ‘yong sahod sa Sto. Tomas, Pampanga. Minsan nga naaabutan pa ako ng bagyo roon. Siguro around one year na ganoon ang situation ko. Hindi na ako nag-attempt mag-apply pa sa iba kasi na-feel at home na ako rito. ‘Yong dinatnan ko rito, ang turing nila sa akin anak kasi ako ‘yong pinakabata. Ngayon, since na-vacate na ‘yong position ni Ate Eden na Salary Grade 18, in-applyan ko. Then, nakuha ko siya last April 2020.

Noong pandemic, tinawagan ako ng boss namin kung puwedeng pumasok daw ako kasi lockdown during that time. Medyo kritikal ang situation kasi walang service at walang public transportation. Ang naging problema ko noon ay paano nila ma-claim ang sahod nila dahil ang iba nating kasamahan wala pang ATM noon. Dapat may 15 days earned leave ka bago ka makapag-ATM. Kaya nagkaroon ng MC na regardless sa appointment ay mag-ATM na. Knowing na Senior si Ate Eden, hindi siya puwede lumabas kaya ako na lang ang pupunta ng bangko para madala ‘yong sahod natin. Kaya sabi ko, “Sige, that’s part of the job. Dapat gawin ko wholeheartedly.” Dasal lang din ako nang dasal at doble o tripleng pag-iingat ginawa ko.

Memorable rito kapag nilalapitan ka ng tao tapos tatanungin, “May sahod na ba tayo?” Ang isasagot ko, “Meron na!” Alam mo ‘yon. Kapag natutuwa sila, natutuwa ka rin. Naa-appreciate at nakikita nila ang effort namin dito. Ang isa pang nakakatuwa ay nakikilala mo lahat ng tao rito kasi sahod iyon so mami-meet mo silang lahat. Tapos ‘di mo nare-realize friends na pala kayo. Tapos ‘yong experience pa na rito sa Cash Division as one family kami, para lang kaming magkakapatid pero pag sinabing kailangan ito, tutok kami. Sige ibibigay kung ano ang hihingiin ng boss pero kapag nagku-kuwentuhan, para lang kami magkakapatid. So, para sa akin, second home ko na ito.

Luckily, ang mga boss namin, ini-encourage kami na um-attend ng trainings and seminars before and after the pandemic. May mga group dynamics, nami-meet mo rin ang mga kasama mo outside the Division. Ang mga kasama mo sa Department nakikilala mo sila. Nagba-bind din ang relationship ninyo kasi para lang din kayong magkakapamilya.

Love your work. Iyan ang pinakaimportante and siyempre dedicated ka. ‘Yong alam mong kapag kailangan, beforehand i-prepare mo na siya at hindi ka magiging burden sa mga kasama mo para maging magaan ang work. Lalo na rito sa amin, magkakasunod ang trabaho kaya siguro dapat lang na maging dedicated tayo at para maging smooth sailing ang pag-process ng papel. Having a good job is a rare opportunity especially during this time kaya dapat we should love and give importance to our job. 🏠

”



ARMIDA F. ROBLES

Senior Cashier

Cash Division, Financial Management Department

EDEN M. CABIGTING

Cashiering Services Chief A
Cash Division, Financial Management Department



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I am with NIA for almost 42 years. First position ko rito is Clerk B. Naging Secretary din ako, room matagal ako. Noong nagrationalize, nagkaroon ako ng item na Corporate Accounts Analyst, sa Accounting 'yon pero rito ako na-detail. Tapos naging Senior Collection Officer ako, then Senior Cashier and Cashiering Services Chief A. Three years na ako sa current position ko. Ako ang na-assign sa payments of salaries and wages, benefits, and other benefits of NIA employees and officials. Nagdi-disburse din ako pero since magre-retire na ako, nilipat ko na kay Midz 'yon. Lahat ng sweldo, lahat ng salaries, at lahat ng benefits, ako ang naghahandle, dumadaan sa akin.

Working student ako noon at nasa private company. 'Yong kasama ko nagyaya na mag-apply. Sabi ko, ayoko kasi ayoko sa government gawa ng hindi naman maganda sa government noon. Sabi niya tignan lang namin. Tapos ayon nag-apply kami. Then, nagulat ako pinapa-report na ko. Sabi ng kasama ko, i-try ko lang muna ng one week. Noong nagpunta ako, pinaakyat kaagad ako sa Cash Division. Tapos noong nagtry ako rito, hindi na ako makaalis kasi magaan na 'yong loob ko sa trabaho. Hanggang tumagal ako nang tumagal, 'di ko na namalayan. Na-enjoy ko ang trabaho ko hanggang sa katagalan, hindi na ko nakaipag-isip na mag-apply sa iba kasi siyempre ang isip ko rito na lang ako. Since working student pa lang din ako noon, dito maluwag. Naipagsasabay ko ang pag-aaral ko sa work ko kaya hindi na rin ako nag-attempt na mag-apply pa sa iba. Kahit na mababaw [mababa] 'yong starting dito, na-enjoy ko rin kasi mga kasamahan ko rito very close kami. Wala akong masabi na naging problema kasi supportive naman sila, diligent sa trabaho at very professional. Kapag may problema, iniisip ko na talagang kasama sa buhay 'yon. Pag pinagpray ko na, gumagaan na 'yong loob ko. Sa mga boss, wala naman akong na-encounter na difficulties. Siyempre 'yong iba istrikto pero para naman 'yon sa department namin.

Marami kaming na-attend na trainings and seminars. Nakakatulong 'yon kasi kahit papaano, may additional experience and knowledge. Nakakatulong din 'yon sa promotions mo at magagamit mo. Minsan, nakakarating sa ibang lugar ng libre. Provided ng NIA ang fare at accommodation. At least 'yon talaga masasabi ko na kung wala ako sa NIA, hindi ako makakarating sa ibang lugar ng sarili kong pera. Salamat din sa NIA kasi napatapos ko rin ang mga anak ko. Kapag kailangan mo ng pera, may mga associations na magpapaloan sa iyo. Marami kang mahihingian ng tulong tulad din ng GSIS, PAG-IBIG, NIA Coop, at EWPI. Malaking tulong sa akin kaya nagtagal ako. Na-enjoy ko rin ang pag-stay rin dito.

Marami akong memorable experiences. 'Yong mga ka-age group, 'yon sila nag-alisan na, nag-retire na masakit sa dibdib ko. Tapos ako ngayon na aalis na 'ko, nagbigay sila sa akin ng surprise despedida. Parang 'di ko namalayan na ganoon na pala ako katagal dito. Masaya pero malungkot din, mixed emotions.

Dapat ma-ingat sa pagpirma at dapat chine-check din talaga. Dapat kumpleto ang papeles, pirmado lahat ng mga boss. Dapat alert kasi minsan hindi maiiwasan na may nakakaligtaan ka kasi sa dami ng dumadaan na papeles. Dapat talagang i-scrutinize mo lahat. Dapat dedicated ka sa work mo at alam mo dapat lahat. Dati noon, umiikot kami para alam namin ang bawat trabaho ng bawat isa. Kaya kapag may tinanong sa iyo, dapat alam mo. Continue lang nila ang pagiging honest sa isa't-isa, ang pagiging mapagmahal sa kapwa, at kababaang-loob. Dapat magalang ka rin sa mga taong pumapasok dito, i-entertain mo kaypag may itinatanong. 🙏

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CASH DIVISION PERSONNEL'S WORK EXPERIENCE: AT A GLANCE

ELIZABETH A. BENZON

Officer-in-Charge
Cash Division, Financial Management Department



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Nine months pa lang ako sa pagiging Officer-in-Charge (OIC) sa Cash Division pero 12 years na ko rito sa NIA. Nag-start ako sa NIA noong 2008 pero as Contract of Service lang kasi may rationalization pa kasi noong time na 'yon. Nanggaling ako sa Philippine National Bank (PNB). Nag-early retirement ako roon. Nag-apply ako pero ni-refer din ako ng dating manager ng PNB kasi naging kasamahan ko 'yon noong araw. Nagtanong si Mrs. Gloria, boss ng Treasury noon, kasi nangangailangan daw ng Accountant ang NIA. Actually 'yong pagpunta ko rito sa NIA, it was an answered prayer dahil ipinagdasal ko na matanggap ako sa isang government office. Na-assign ako sa Bookkeeping Section, Accounting Division. Na-assign pa ako sandali sa Budget and Revenue Division bago ako napunta rito.

As an OIC Manager, sinu-supervise ko ang daily transactions ng Division. Re-reviewhin pa rin ang mga attachment ng mga tseke bago pirmahan kahit dumaan na ito sa Accounting at sa boss nila. 'Yong mga NTA, ADA 'yan ang mga usually pinipirmahan. Marami ring mga ginagawang report dito. 'Yong mga one-way deposit scheme, mayroon ding RCI Report of Check Issued. Tapos mayroon ding Monthly Cash Position Report. 'Yon naman napupunta 'yon sa DOF kasi nire-require din tayo na magsubmit noon.

Ang nagiging problema natin ngayon dahil pandemic ay ang servicing bank natin na Landbank, laging nala-lockdown. Sina-suggest nila tayo sa ibang Landbank Branch pero ang problema is usually until 12:00 noon lang sila. Gusto nila kapag may dadalhin ay 10:00 AM nandoon na. Pipila ka pa. Hindi katulad sa servicing bank natin na maski medyo late ay kino-consider pa nila. Very accommodating ang Manager ng Landbank at madaling mapakiusapan. Sa mga staff, nakakausap ko naman sila, nagmi-meeting din kami at doon sila nagvo-voice out ng mga concern nila. Nakikinig naman sila sa mga suggestion ko. At saka maganda rin sa mga ito, maski naka-work from home sila nakakagawa sila ng mga kailangan gawin kaya hindi gaano napipilay ang Cash Division. Kapag kinakailangan nilang pumasok, pumapasok naman sila.

Ang pinaka-perks kapag nasa Financial Management Department ka ay parating allowed ka pumunta sa iba't ibang lugar. Ngayon puro virtual, puro webinar. Hindi tulad bago magka-pandemya na nakakaalis pa. Halos nalibot ko na rin ang buong Pilipinas. Ang hindi ko na lang yata napupuntahan ay Region XIII yata 'yon. Kapag nasa Finance ka, 'yon ang maganda. Maiikot mo talaga ang Pilipinas at siyempre, financially natulungan ako ng NIA. Nagkaroon ako ng stable income kasi ako ang breadwinner.

Dapat mayroon kang patience tapos dapat open din siya kung anuman ang isa-suggest ng staff. Kailangan huwag parati 'yong kanya ang igigiit niya kasi siyempre may alam din ang staff kasi sila gumagawa. Alam din nila kung ano ginagawa nila. Although, siyempre paminsan-minsan, igiit mo rin ang sa iyo. Dapat huwag nilang iisipin na kapag nagsasabi ka sa kanila ay nagagalit ka na. Kailangan mo rin talaga ng constant communication sa kanila. 📞

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