



THE OFFICIAL NEWS MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION

CURRENTS

VOLUME 54, NO. 2, 2022



**WE ARE NOW
ISO 45001:2018
CERTIFIED!**



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ABOUT THE COVER

The cover of NIA Currents 2nd Quarter 2022 Issue highlights the ISO 45001:2015 Occupational Health and Safety (OSH) activities of NIA as it gears toward a more secured, more productive, and more employee-friendly government agency. All of these are aimed towards the improvement of organizational processes and public service to the Filipino people.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

For six years, he held the highest and most powerful government office of the land. He led the country to where it is right to be. He was the 16th President of the Republic of the Philippines and he is Rodrigo Roa Duterte.

Spearheading irrigation reforms under the Office of the President, NIA remained true to its mandate as the lead government agency in development of all possible sources of water for irrigation. The Agency supported the “Build, Build, Build” Program envisioned to reduce poverty through massive infrastructure platform. The construction of its big-ticket projects was pushed through to cover more agricultural areas nationwide. The development of renewable energy sources, such as hydropower, solar, and floating solar irrigation projects, benefitted thousands of Filipino farmers. It provided a haven for cost-efficient and environmentally friendly irrigation systems. It also opened new opportunities for agro-tourism, technological advancement, and innovations.

One of the greatest legacies of President Duterte in irrigation sector was the signing of the Republic Act No. 10969 (Free Irrigation Service Act) which promotes comprehensive rural development, equal access to opportunities, and sustained productivity.

Under the law, all farmers with landholdings of eight hectares and below are exempted from paying the Irrigation Service Fees (ISF) for water derived from National and Communal Irrigation Systems (NISs and CIs).

For the status of irrigation development as of December 31, 2021, the total service area developed was 2,042,392.66 hectares (65.28%) compared with the CY 2020 service area of 2,006,054.90 (64.12%) of the total irrigable of 3,128,631 hectares. A 5.96% increase in irrigation development was recorded from CY 2016 to CY 2021.

The accomplishments of NIA under the Duterte Administration have proven that the Agency remains as a catalyst of agricultural productivity and a game changer of the country's socioeconomic development. Indeed, the Duterte Administration has exemplified what true public service really mean – to care for the marginalized sector and for the welfare of the farmers, the agricultural heroes who feed the nation. ∞

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I noticed that your publication, NIA CURRENTS, has now a new image and form. I really appreciate your section “ON THE FIELD” because it features stories of our farmers, our Irrigators Association, and those that are really in the main scene of our agricultural sector. Reading their stories inspires me most and gives me a vast and deep perspective and understanding of their stories, of their lives.

Thank you and wishing to read more of these inspiring stories!

– Jessa

REPLY TO THE LETTER TO THE EDITOR

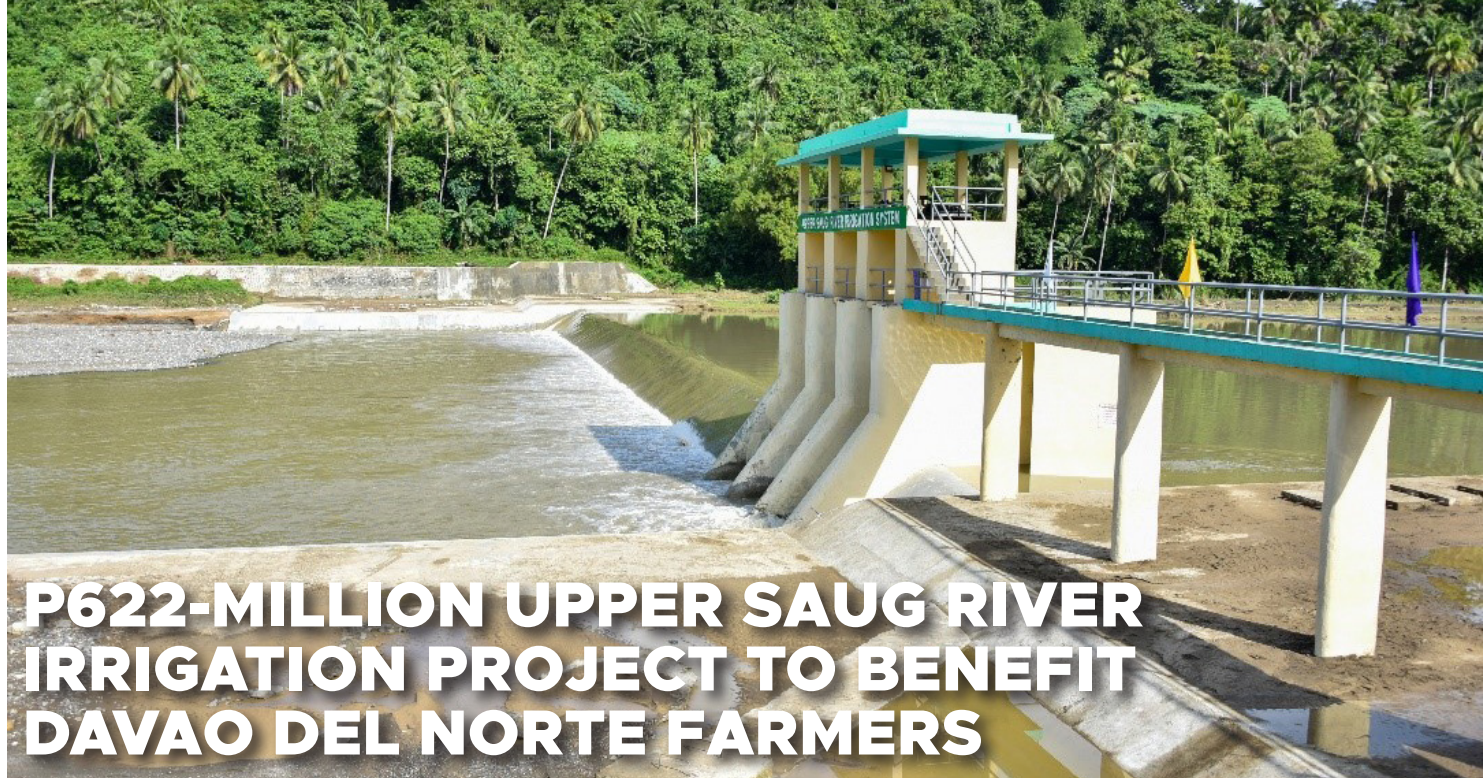
Dear Jessa,

We thank you for being an avid reader of our NIA CURRENTS. You noticed that we have improved our publication, and we hope that you are liking them. We are glad to ignite your heart with our stories featuring our Filipino farmers. Article contributions, especially inspiring and heartfelt stories of our farmers, are welcome from everyone.

You may send the manuscript to PAIS through e-mail at pais@nia.gov.ph. For more inquiries, you may contact our Editorial Team at (02) 8921-3741 local 113.

Thank you!

– The Editor



P622-MILLION UPPER SAUG RIVER IRRIGATION PROJECT TO BENEFIT DAVAO DEL NORTE FARMERS

A total of 310 farmers in the Municipality of New Corella, Davao del Norte will benefit from the recently inaugurated P622-million Upper Saug River Irrigation Project by the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) on April 8, 2022.

The construction of the Upper Saug River Irrigation Project, to provide irrigation service to 980 hectares of agricultural land, started in 2016 and programmed for completion by December 2022. Initially, the completed structures can already serve an area of 407 hectares of farmland with 141 farmer-beneficiaries of San Roque, Sto. Niño, Suawon, Limbaan Irrigators Association (SARONISULIA), Inc. The remaining 8.78 kilometers of Lateral D, E, F, and G Canals and one unit of canal structure will eventually serve an additional area of 573 hectares with 169 farmer-beneficiaries from two IAs. Its components include the construction of a diversion dam and its irrigation facilities, project facility, supplemental drainage, road system, and slope protection works.

NIA Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya, NIA Deputy Administrator for Administrative and Finance Sector Ralph Lauren A. Du, NIA Region XI Manager Jimmy L. Apostol, Davao Del Norte IMO Manager Larry Franada, SARONISULIA President Gil B. Japay, Supervising Institutional Development Officer Renato E. Cosmod, some uniformed personnel, and farmer-beneficiaries were present during the inaugural ceremony.

The event concluded with the pre-recorded video message of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte where he acknowledged the efforts of everyone involved in the implementation of Upper Saug River Irrigation Project. ❧



NIA, DOST INKS MOU ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CLIMATE RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE INITIATIVE PROGRAM



A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Water Resource Management Climate Resilient Infrastructure Initiative Program was signed by the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) between the Philippine Council for Industry, Energy, and Emerging Technologies of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST-PCIEERD) on May 27, 2022 at the NIA Administrator's Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Building A.

The WRMCRII-Program targets to create a harmonized water resource management, disaster resilience, and climate change adaptation and mitigation program based on mutually agreed upon Research and Development (R&D) and Science and Technology (S&T) intervention plan, establish a system where planning, project/program development, and policies conducted by NIA are able to utilize the expertise, tools, and datasets available, as well as new knowledge generated from the WRMCRII-Program component projects, and propose studies for other strategic R&D areas and S&T intervention priorities through the combined expertise and resources of the DOST-PCIEERD and the NIA under the WRMCRII-Program.

The signing of the MOU between NIA, represented by Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya, and the DOST-PCIEERD, represented by Executive Director Dr. Enrico C. Paringit, formalized the cooperation between the NIA and DOST-PCIEERD and delineates the functions in the implementation of

the WRMCRII-Program. There are pre-identified areas for Potential S&T Collaboration. These includes the following: real-time monitoring during floods (sensors/monitoring systems), allocation of flood control in all dams, severe sedimentation-desilting, dam break scenario-affected communities, and inter-agency collaboration on watershed rehabilitation among others.

Also present during the MOU signing are DOST-PCIEERD Chief Research Scientist Engr. Nonilo A. Peña, NIA Deputy Administrator for Engineering and Operations Sector Engr. C'zar M. Sulaik, NIA Operations Department Manager Engr. Delsy J. Revellame, and NIA Corporate Planning Services Manager Rogelia C. Dela Torre. ≈



NIA INAUGURATES THE P990-MILLION BULO DAM IN DRT, BULACAN

Led by Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) inaugurated the P990.37-million Bulo Small Reservoir Irrigation Project in Barangay Kalawakan, Doña Remedios Trinidad, Bulacan on May 20, 2022.

The construction of Bulo Dam started in March 2018 and was completed in March this year. With 314 farmer-beneficiaries, Bulo SRIP will provide irrigation service to 570 hectares of agricultural lands: 35 hectares of farmlands in Barangay Kalawakan in the Municipality of Doña Remedios Trinidad and 535 hectares in Barangay Malibay in the Municipality of San Miguel.

Bulo Dam will also serve as a flood control structure to prevent flooding in the town of San Miguel and adjacent municipalities whenever strong typhoons dump heavy rains in Bulacan. A scenic and fitting venue for recreational activities is also set to be Bulo Dam's another purpose as the Agency ventures to maximize the utilization of its dams and reservoirs

nationwide. Once the water level in Bulo Dam reaches its normal level, NIA will release fingerlings in the reservoir to continuously help the farmers in having extra source of income.

The ribbon cutting and unveiling of marker was initiated by NIA Administrator Visaya along with NIA Deputy Administrator for Administrative and Finance Sector Ralph Lauren A. Du, NIA Region III Manager Josephine B. Salazar, Bulacan 3rd District Representative Lorna Silverio, and 7th Infantry Division Commander MGen Andrew D. Costelo. Rev. Fr. Derick James Vergara of Barangay Kalawakan Catholic Mission presided the blessing of the marker, dam structure, and the gatekeeper's quarter.

Also present in the event were Doña Remedios Trinidad Mayor Marita Flores and Malibay-Kalawakan Irrigators Association (IA) President Sotero Sitchon, together with his IA members benefitting from the project. ~



Photo Courtesy: Lorna Silverio



Photo Courtesy: Lorna Silverio



7.95% INCREASE IN IRRIGATION DEVELOPMENT DURING PRESIDENT DUTERTE'S ADMINISTRATION

During the 198th IATF Task Group on Food Security Virtual Presser with Department of Agriculture Assistant Secretary Noel Ocampo Reyes, National Irrigation Administration (NIA) Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya highlighted that as of December 2021, the NIA recorded 65.28% irrigation development, irrigating 2,042,392.66 hectares of agricultural land nationwide. President Rodrigo Duterte's administration, for the period of 2016-2021, there has been an increase of 311,264.66 hectares or 7.95% increase in irrigation development. Administrator Visaya stressed a record in history, that the status of irrigation development for CY 2021 is 11.68% higher than the irrigation development status 10 years ago (2011).

With 10,401 irrigation systems nationwide, Administrator Visaya cited major irrigation projects completed during President Duterte's term such as the P631-million Barbar Small Reservoir Irrigation Project (SRIP) in Ilocos Sur, benefiting 1,156 farmers, the P645-million Benliw SRIP in Bohol, covering 400 hectares of agricultural land, and the P1.391-billion Upper Malitubog Service Area in North Cotabato, benefiting 2,004 farmers and their families.

Free irrigation was pointed out by ASec. Reyes as one of the Dutertes' legacies. As of December 2021, about 1,033,778 farmers covering about 1,189,503.87 hectares of agricultural land are benefitting under the Free Irrigation Service Act or Republic Act No. 10969 signed into law on February 2, 2018.

IA Model Farm, featuring a small drip irrigation system that serves the agricultural needs of a farm family, emerged as one of the accomplishments of NIA. From CY 2017-2021, there are 34 existing IA Model Farms nationwide, amounting to P51 million.

Under Administrator Visaya's term, NIA pursued the optimization of dams, not just for irrigation purposes but also for agro-tourism, aquaculture, and hydroelectric power generation. On solar-powered irrigation project, NIA has 333 solar-powered irrigation projects nationwide with an aggregate cost of P1.517 billion. These projects can generate up to 4,214.33 horsepower and irrigate 6,482.62 hectares of agricultural land, benefitting 8,467 farmers and their families.

With the transition to the next administration, NIA has ongoing Infrastructure Flagship Projects (IFPs) under the "Build Build Build" program of the government that are targeted for completion such as the P4.372-billion Chico River Pump Irrigation Project in Kalinga inaugurated on June 25, 2022, the P11.21-billion Jalaur River Multipurpose Project - Stage II in Iloilo, and the P5.444-billion Malitubog-Maridagao Irrigation Project - Stage II in North Cotabato.

The 198th IATF Task Group on Food Security Virtual Presser with Assistant Secretary Noel Ocampo Reyes of the Department of Agriculture (DA) was aired on PTV4, RTVM, and DA's Facebook Page on May 31, 2022. ∞

VISION
"A food-secure and resilient with empowered and prosperous farm"

MODERNIZATION

- 5. Diversification
- 6. Credit Support
- 7. Technology & Innovation in
- 8. Farm Mechanization & Infra
- 9. Climate Change Adaptation
- 10. Food Safety & Regulations

INDUSTRIALIZATION

- 11. Agri Industrial Business Cor
- 12. Global Trade, Export Develo
- 13. Postharvest, Processing, Log

PROFESSIONALIZATION

- 14. Agriculture Career System
- 15. Education & Training: Agribu
- 16. Youth & Women Engagemer
- 17. Ease of Doing Business & Tra

NIA CONDUCTS STRATEGIC PLANNING AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT WITH NCIA

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) and the National Confederation of Irrigators Associations (NCIA) convened for a Joint Strategic Planning and Program Development Workshop on June 1-3, 2022 at Penthouse, NIA Central Office, Quezon City.

The NIA-NCIA Joint Strategic Planning and Program Development Workshop aims to provide opportunity for NCIA Officers and Board of Trustees to present CY 2022 1st Quarter accomplishments and formulate strategic plans and programs. Further, issues and concerns of Irrigators Associations (IAs) on project implementation, organization, and operation and maintenance of irrigation systems will be addressed.

Region XII RCIA Federation President Dante P. Cudal raised that, in 2019, there was a surplus of palay in the region. Due to the oversupply of palay, farmers of Region XII were forced to sell their produce up to P11.00 to P12.00 per kilo than the current government support price of P17.00 to P19.00. Mr. Cudal narrated that even the National Food Authority (NFA) cannot accommodate their produce anymore.

Meanwhile, in Region VI, RCIA Federation President Joseph Renato Amponin shared that with Typhoon Agaton affecting the region in April 2022, there was a shortage of rice in Region VI. This caused the delay in planting of our farmers in the region. *"With the existing high price of fertilizer of around P2,000.00 and other farm inputs, this really impacted our farmers in the region."*

With the incoming administration of president-elect Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos, Jr., there is an initiative to lower the price of rice to P20.00 per kilo. NCIA President Remy N. Albano said that it will be feasible as long as the Marcos administration will focus on Research and Development (R&D) on farm inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, and insecticides that will favor our farmers. As to him, quality and/or government-subsidized farm inputs will lower the production expenses of farmers that will lead to the lowering price of rice in the market.

Today, IAs harvest an average of 80 to 100 cavans per hectare. From here, expenses in labor and land preparation to harvesting will be deducted. With the rising farm inputs costs, Mr. Cudal shares that farmers are usually left with only small earnings to just a return of capital at the end.

Region XII RCIA Federation President Dante P. Cudal suggests that if the National Food Authority (NFA) will be the centralized government



arm to buy fresh produce of farmers and be the only one to market them, the P20.00 per kilo of rice will be realized. If this happens, there will be a definite price point in buying palay and selling rice in the market.

For Region VI RCIA Federation President Joseph Renato Amponin, the initiative will be feasible once the Marcos Administration subsidizes their farm inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, insecticides, and fuel most especially in this time that their prices are all-time high. Mr. Amponin says that farmers are both consumers and producers of rice thus, it will always be seeking the balance in the spectrum for the farmers.

As to our Irrigators Associations, the P20.00 per kilo of rice will be a great challenge for the incoming administration on how they will cope to realize this initiative that will favor both the rice consumers and producers, our Filipino farmers.

IAs also call for government subsidies on farm inputs as prices are still increasing, farmers' representation for government policies, and proper coordination of government departments and agencies concerning agriculture to further aid improve the lives of our Filipino farmers.

Among those present in the event were NIA Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya, NIA Deputy Administrator for Engineering and Operations Sector C'zar M. Sulaik, NCIA Officers and Board of Trustees and other NIA Institutional Development Division (IDD) personnel. ~~~



DA AND NIA REUNITE AFTER 8 YEARS



The First Coordination Meeting between the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) and the Department of Agriculture (DA) was conducted on May 12-13, 2022 at NIA Convention Hall, 5th Floor, IEC Building, NIA Central Office after President Rodrigo Roa Duterte signed Executive Order No. 168, series of 2022 on April 25, 2022 transferring NIA to DA as an attached agency from being under the Office of the President (OP) for almost eight years.

NIA contingent is led by its Top Management Officials: Senior Deputy Administrator Benny D. Antiporda, Deputy Administrator for Engineering and Operations Sector C'zar M. Sulaik, and Deputy Administrator for Administrative and Finance Sector Ralph Lauren A. Du, together NIA Central Office Department Managers, Corporate Board Secretary, Regional Managers, and Project Managers nationwide.

DA contingent is led by Undersecretary for Operations Ariel T. Cayan and Assistant Secretary for Operations Arnel V. De Mesa along with their Division Chiefs. They were joined by Regional Executive Directors nationwide and officials of their National Rice Program and National Corn Program.

In his welcome remarks, NIA Deputy Administrator Du said that NIANs are confident that DA will be NIA's partner in progress through efficient development, construction, operation and maintenance of irrigation systems nationwide. In his message, DA Undersecretary Cayan emphasized the importance of irrigation in the agricultural sector.

Now that NIA is with DA again, SDA Antiporda is looking forward that this partnership will be the best. During the morning session, NIA Acting Operations Manager Delsy J. Revellame presented the general information of all irrigation systems nationwide and status of irrigation systems per region. During the open forum, challenges regarding devolution were discussed. During the afternoon session, DA Technical Staff Jemflor Santiago discussed the rice and corn wet season planting status. Updates on fertilizer distribution under the rice program were presented by Mr. Ralph Alan Ceniza while updates under the corn program were discussed by Ms. Riciena Louise Bulingot.

Closing the meeting on the first day, SDA Antiporda said that DA and NIA have only one way to go, and that is success. On the second day, NIA conducted a briefing with DA Secretary William D. Dar. Attendees were NIA Top Management Officials, headed by Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya, Corporate Board Secretary, Department, Regional and Project Managers nationwide.

Administrator Visaya said that irrigation is the backbone of agriculture. Let this backbone be continuously strengthened with the full support of Secretary William Dar and the rest of DA. Working hand-in-hand, we can do better, together. ☺



NIA inks **P238.685-million** contract for the remaining works of **Marimay Earthfill Dam**

NIA Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya and ASC Construction and Concrete Products / Isnag Builders and Development Corporation (Joint Venture) Authorized Managing Officer Engr. Jomarie T. Alawin signed the P238.685-million Contract Agreement for the Construction of Remaining and Additional Works of the Marimay Earthfill Dam as part of the P820-million Marimay Small Reservoir Irrigation Project on June 2, 2022 at the Administrator's Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Building B.

Located in the Municipality of Flora, Apayao, Marimay SRIP includes the construction of a 30-meter high zoned earthfill dam along the Allig River in Sitio Marimay, Barangay Mallig, main canal and laterals including other related structures with a total length of 26,221 meters, project facilities, and access/service roads including right-of-way acquisition. With the target completion by CY 2022, the project covers 1,200 hectares of agricultural land in the barangays of Allig, Mallih, Balluyan, and Sta. Maria, benefitting 326 farmers and their families.

The remaining works of the project include the construction plant, mobilization of construction equipment, demobilization works, diversion and care of river during construction and unwatering foundation, excavation and foundation preparation at dam and spillway areas, dam embankment, reinforcing steel bars, and filter drain (sand and gravel), among others. The additional works include the downgrading of the riverbed, slope protection at left side of outlet works area, and dredging at outlet of existing conduit.

NIA Senior Deputy Administrator Benny D. Antiporda and ASC General Manager Abraham S. Collado witnessed the contract signing. Also present during the event were NIA CAR Regional Manager Benito T. Espique, Jr. and Procurement and Property Division Manager Elaine P. Villanueva. ~~~



EXPERT'S CORNER: DEVOLUTION

Strong Way for Efficient Operations of NIA

ENGR. REYNALDO L. BALOLOY, Acting Manager of Engineering Department

1. What is NIA Devolution Transition Process?

According to the formulated Devolution Transition Plan (DTP), the NIA Central Office, Regional Offices (ROs), and Irrigation Management Offices (IMOs) will organize and assign a Devolution Transition Committee (DTC) and its technical working groups to facilitate overall efforts on the preparation and implementation of DTP and a smooth transition toward fully and permanently devolving communal irrigations to Local Government Units (LGUs) at the start of devolution implementation.

NIA Offices will transact with the LGUs during the devolution implementation through its DTC and its working groups in the manner presented in Figure below.

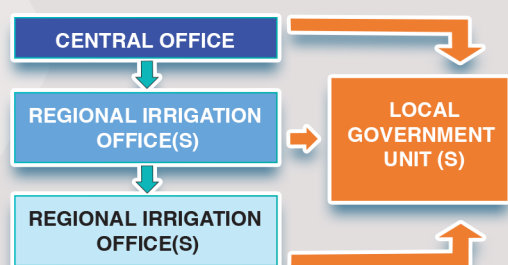


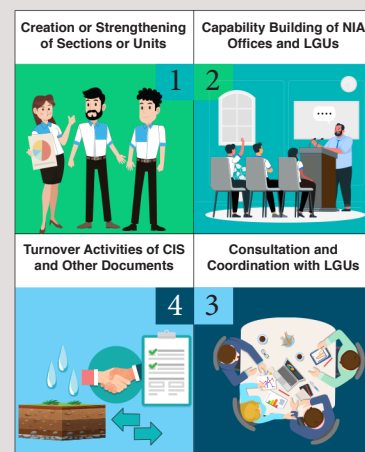
FIGURE 1. STRUCTURE IN THE OVERSEEING FUNCTION OF NIA FOR THE COURSE OF DEVOLUTION (NIA DTP)

To carry out devolution actions for capacity building and technical assistance, NIA Central Office will directly contact with ROs and ROs to IMOs. Affected LGUs may also receive information directly from NIA Central Office, ROs, and IMOs.

The overall plan for the three-year implementation strategy and phasing of devolution transition activities includes the creation or strengthening of planning and construction sections or units, capability building of NIA Offices and LGUs, consultation and coordination with LGUs, and turnover activities operational or functional CIS and other documents shown in Figure 2.

FIGURE 2. STRATEGIES IN DEVOLUTION TRANSITION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The funding for capacity building will cover initiatives for the four irrigation service procedures beginning in May 2022. Officials from LGUs, Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), and other relevant agencies would be coordinated and involved in devolution efforts and the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on Devolution between each LGU and the relevant Irrigators Associations (IAs) and NIA regarding the roles and responsibilities related to the transfer of communal systems.



2. What is the purpose of NIA Devolution Transition Plan?

The Republic Act (RA) No. 7160, otherwise known as the “Local Government Code (LGC) of 1991”, represents a major shift in the local governance in the Philippines, including provisions on the assignment of functions and services from the National Government Agency (NGA) to LGU. The functions, services, and facilities to be fully devolved are those indicated under Section 17 of the LGC of 1991 and other existing laws that subsequently devolved NGA functions to LGUs. To support the efficient implementation of the Supreme Court (SC) Ruling on the Mandanas-Garcia Case and strengthen the autonomy and empowerment of LGUs, the Executive Order (EO) No. 138 or the “Full Devolution of Certain Functions of the Executive Branch to Local Governments, Creation of a Committee on Devolution, and for Other Purposes” was issued by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte on June 1, 2021. It directs the full devolution of certain functions of the Executive Branch to the LGUs. In the case of NIA, devolution of communal irrigations to LGUs are the main purpose of DTP.

3. What are the implications of NIA Devolution Transition Plan Process to:

• The Agency

The implementation of full devolution will initiate strengthening of the current NIA organization to carry out the mandate effectively and efficiently, in all phases of irrigation development. The Agency's implementing unit for the reform is the stronger IMO, despite being its smallest unit. To better meet the demands of the National Irrigation Master Plan (NIMP), Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act of 1997 (AFMA), and Devolution of CISs and CIPs, the planned IMO structure is strengthened with more technical and support personnel.

• Personnel/Manpower

According to the personnel inventory that was completed at NIA field offices in 2020, none of the NIA ROs or IMOs had the discipline needed to take on project preparation through implementation duties. Technical staff from RO and IMO will work directly with LGUs to provide technical support or capacity building. Therefore, in order for the devolution to succeed, it is necessary to strengthen the current staff of the planning and building sections or units for ROs or IMOs, respectively.

To accommodate the related activities and the required technical expertise for sections or units, as required and requested by ROs and IMOs, NIA will create positions or hire the necessary personnel through its Engineering Department, Operations Department, Administrative Department, and Corporate Planning Services.

• Financial/Budget

Budget for operations and maintenance will be diverted to the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) of LGUs, instead to the RO/IMOs yearly allocation.

4. What is the status and target implementation of NIA Devolution?

From FY 2022 to FY 2024, the Devolution Transition Plan will ensure proper continuity of the country's irrigation development and management of communal irrigations to be handled by the LGUs.

PHASE	PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA FOR TURNOVER
I (2022)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Operational or Functional CISs- CIP/CIS that are under restoration and repair for completion in 2022- CIS that is under LGUs with existing ABE unit to perform irrigation development function is preferred- CIS under 1st to 4th Income Class Municipalities- CIS that is under LGUs with completed capacity building and technical assistance activities- Approval of MOA with LGUs
II (2023)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- CIPs that are under restoration and repair for completion in 2023- CIS that is under LGUs with existing ABE unit to perform irrigation development function is preferred- CIS under 1st to 4th Income Class Municipalities- CIS that is under LGUs with completed capacity building and technical assistance activities- Approval of MOA with LGUs
III (2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- CIPs that are under restoration and repair for completion in 2024- CIPs under 5th to 6th Income Class Municipalities- CARP-IC assisted irrigation Projects- CIS under Geographically Isolated and Depressed Areas (GIDA) and with the highest poverty incidences, ranked in top third highest- CIS that is under LGUs with completed capacity building and technical assistance activities- Approval of MOA with LGUs- Other CIPs/CISs are not being turned over in FY 2022 and FY 2023, including all non-operational irrigation systems ❧

AGBULAS, MAGILAS!

The Agbulas Irrigators Association, Inc. (Agbulas IA) organized on May 18, 2017 and registered on August 31, 2018 at the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has now a total membership of 298 farmers, including 60 Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (ARBs), five of whom are its officers and four Board of Directors.

Agbulas IA covers farmers from the four barangays of the town of Sta. Maria, Ilocos Sur which includes Ag-agrao, Butir, Laslasong Sur, and Laslasong Norte with a total service area of 401 hectares of agricultural land. It has palay as their main crop during wet season and tobacco, corn, and high value crops in the succeeding cropping periods. Currently, the association has an asset totalling P7,497,433.55.

Having idealistic, visionary, and determined farmer-members, the Agbulas IA was organized, registered, and started its operation with barely P18,750.00 as its initial fund, collected as membership fees from its members.



With its members showing an incomparable spirit to pursue and succeed the IA is manifesting an unlevelled sense of cooperation among them through bayanihan whenever their irrigation facilities are damaged.

With its laid internal policies having been religiously implemented and enforced strictly, imposing upon them the three times a week working schedule in their operations and maintenance activities and with the constant supervision and guidance of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) to its members, the association slowly but surely grew and pondered. It captured the interest, support and recognition of the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Sta. Maria, Ilocos Sur, the Departments of Agriculture (DA) and Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR).



At present, Agbulas IA possesses the following farm mechanizations and equipment including a multi-purpose building/post-harvest facility, to wit:

22 Units of Diesel Engine Water Pump (RK 70).....distributed by NIA Ilocos Sur IMO
 1 Multipurpose Building.....funded by Sta. Maria LGU
 1 Unit of Tractor (Model 3218).....donated by Sta. Maria LGU
 1 Unit of Tractor.....given by DAR
 35 Units of Electric Pump.....given by DAR



Recently, a son of an Agbulas IA member graduated and completed his training on the Small Engine Repair as TESDA Scholar.

Inaugurated on April 20, 2022, the Family Model Farm was established by NIA Ilocos Sur IMO for Agbulas IA with its green house and open field now planted with variety of high value crops donated by the Department of Education (DepEd) through Sta. Maria National High School, again in recognition of the association's popular advocacy on the introduction of modern farm technologies like the system on drip irrigation to support the vision for a more abundant production! ~~~





NEW HOME OF NIA REGION XII



Another milestone for NIA Region XII as the inauguration of its new office building was held on April 7, 2022 at NIA South Cotabato-Sarangani Irrigation Management Office (SCSIMO) Compound, Koronadal City, South Cotabato. The ceremonial event was graced by NIA Senior Deputy Administrator (SDA) Benny D. Antiporda, together with NIA SOCCSKSARGEN Regional Manager Diosdado A. Rosales and Regional / SCSIMO personnel.



In his speech, SDA Antiporda expressed his utmost gratitude for the hospitality of NIA Region XII employees and reminded all personnel to take good care of the said government facility as it comes from the taxes of the Filipino people. He also extended his sincere words of appreciation to all employees of Region XII for the great endeavor and voiced that without dedication and effort, a new home wouldn't have been possible. He then committed to follow-up the release of the remaining P87-million budget to support the overall completion of the building.

Once completed, the 1,800-square-meter three-storey building worth P220 million will accommodate the transfer of regional office personnel from Midsayap, Cotabato and SCSIMO employees. This will finally establish the new home of NIA Region XII, along with other Regional Offices in Koronadal City, the regional seat and center of the SOCCSKSARGEN Region, by the virtue of Executive Order (EO) 304 issued in March 2004 by then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Subsequently, SDA Antiporda and Regional Manager Rosales attended a press conference with other media partners. SDA Antiporda shared the priority plans of the government for the agricultural sector through irrigation projects to assure the country's food sufficiency.



After the event, SDA Antiporda and several NIA Region XII personnel conducted a site visit at the Euro Hydroelectric Power Plant located at Marbel 1 River Irrigation System (Marbel 1 RIS), Koronadal City, South Cotabato, then moved to Ala RIS Dam 2 located in Bai Saripinang, Bagumbayan, Sultan Kudarat where in the dam automation was proposed. He was able to talk casually with the Irrigators Association (IA) Officers in the said area and one of the major issues raised by the IA was the accumulated siltation in the upstream and downstream portions of the dam.

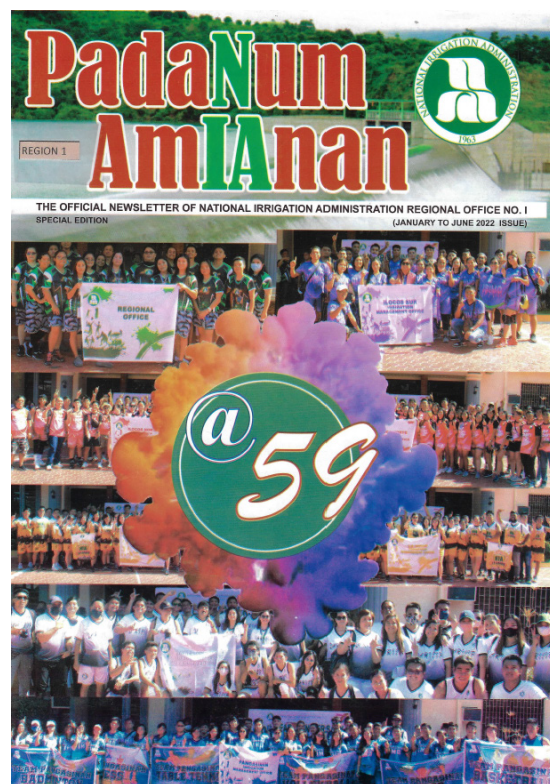
Lastly, SDA Antiporda instructed the NIA Region XII Public Relations Team to come up with video documentation regarding the current situation in support of possible funding at the national level and congratulated them for establishing a strong image of the region. ~~~

AROUND THE CORNER: **PADANUM AMIANAN**

The Official Newsletter of NIA Region I

“Padanum” is an Ilocano word referring to water delivery to sustain farming activities. Directly translating the word, this means “patubig” or “irrigation”. The word can only be associated with farming or planting whether for commercial purposes or backyard gardening. It represents life, especially to farmers and plant growers.

On the other hand, “Amianan” is the Ilocano word for “north” where Region I is geographically located. Thus, “Padanum Amianan” literally means “Irrigation in the North.” Currently, NIA Region I continues to develop, construct, operate, and maintain irrigation systems in the provinces of Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union, and Pangasinan. ☞



WE ARE NOW ISO 45001:2018 CERTIFIED!



The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) recognizes the importance of having a safe and protected working environment for its employees and stakeholders. On June 2, 2022, the Agency successfully acquired the certification on ISO 45001:2018 for Occupational Health and Safety (OHS), a globally recognized certification standard that helps organizations improve employee morale, productivity, and well-being by ensuring their life and safety at work.



On June 3, 2022, the Agency was assessed and registered by Veritas Assurance International, a third-party auditing body headed by their lead auditor, Engr. Paul C. Mondoñedo, who conducted an on-site random sampling audit per ISO 45001:2018 OHS requirements together with Engr. Albert Zaragoza and Ms. Brenda B. Magpantay, Management Specialist of Dynamic Management System and General Services.

Actual Third Party Audit for ISO

The audit scope covers the provision of irrigation services through the development, construction, operation, and maintenance of irrigation systems. This is to confirm that the management system conforms to all requirements of the audit standards, implemented and achieves the Agency's policies, objectives, and evaluation of the ability of the management system to ensure the client organizations meet applicable statutory, regulatory, and contractual requirements.

It was attended by Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya, Senior Deputy Administrator Benny D. Antiporda, Deputy Administrator for Administrative and Finance Sector Ralph Lauren A. Du, Acting Operations Department Manager Engr. Delsy J. Revellame, Administrative Department Manager Atty. Ailynne C. Agtuca-Selda, Safety Officer Engr. Wilhelm S. Tiangco, Head Secretariat Mr. Mark Daniel G. Diosana, and the rest of NIA involved officials.



**SAFETY
FIRST**

14

To achieve the said certification, the Agency conducted a thorough analysis of its operations and processes. It underwent a rigorous evaluation process on quality management system development, documentation reviews, and several audits within other parameters.



Training and Consultation for ISO 45001:2018 with Ms. Brenda B. Magpantay, OHS Consultant



Further, the Internal Services Audit (ISA) of NIA Central Office headed by the ISO Chair, Engr. Reynaldo L. Baloloy and Head Secretariat, Mr. Mark Daniel G. Diosana conducted different ISO-related trainings and seminars for all ISA members in preparation for the actual ISO 45001:2018 Audit together with Ms. Brenda B. Magpantay, Management Specialist of Dynamic Management System and General Services, being the speaker and OHS consultant.

These include the “Documenting Organizational Process for ISO 45001:2018 Occupational Health and Safety Management System” on March 31, April 1, 5, and 7, 2022 at NIA Matikas Hall. “Technical Guidance and Validation of Documentary Requirements” on May 16-20, 2022 at the Conference Room of the Corporate Planning Services.



In addition, the Agency issued Office Memorandum No. 21, Series of 2022, establishing NIA Central Office Emergency Preparedness Response Team (EPR) headed by the Safety Officer and Acting Manager of General Services Division (GSD) under the Administrative Department, Engr. Wilhelm S. Tiangco. The EPR Team is composed of Medical, Security, Communication, Fire Brigade, Evacuation, and Rescue Team responsible for ensuring the safety, and maintaining a good working environment inside or outside the Agency premises, disseminating information for awareness, and responding to potential emergencies that may occur. The formulation of EPR is one of the requirements stated in ISO Clause 8.2 *“The organization shall establish, implement, and maintain process needed to prepare for and respond to any potential emergency situations.”*

Emergency Preparedness Response Team during the Fire Drill Training with Bureau of Fire and Protection (FourFiveCentral) on June 10, 2022



On June 22, 2022, the ISO 45001:2018 Certificate was awarded to NIA Top Officials and was received by Administrator Visaya. The same day as the Culminating Event of the 59th Founding Anniversary of the Agency, held at NIA Matikas Hall with Senator Cynthia Villar as the Guest of Honor and Speaker (GOHAS).



Culminating Event during the 59th NIA Founding Anniversary and Awarding of ISO Certificate to NIA Top Management Officials on June 22, 2022



As the famous quote says from the “Flying Scot” of Formula 1 Racecar Driver, Jackie Stewart, *“It takes leadership to improve safety.”* Acquire and get certified with an ISO 45001:2018 is one of the advocacies of Senior Deputy Administrator Benny D. Antiporda that he wants to impart to NIA. The success of this certification would not be possible without his vision and goal to create a safe working environment for all NIA employees. This also commends the efforts and contribution of Internal Services Audit (ISA), Emergency Preparedness Response (EPR) Team, and support from the rest of NIA Top Officials in working together to make this new milestone of achievement possible.

Indeed, NIA once again proves that the Agency not only provides quality services but is committed to taking action on what’s best for its community, relevant interested parties, and employees that will create an effective and efficient working environment. ~

GETTING TO KNOW WILLIAM D. DAR

THE NEW NIA BOARD CHAIRMAN AND DA SECRETARY

The parents of Dr. William Dollente Dar are both farmers from Barangay Danuman West in the Municipality of Sta. Maria, Ilocos Sur. His uncle, Augustin Dollente, sent him to the Mountain State Agricultural College (MSAC), now known as Benguet State University (BSU), in La Trinidad, Benguet, where he earned the degree of Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Education in 1969 and the degree of Master of Science in Agronomy in 1976. In 1980, he earned his degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Horticulture from the University of the Philippines – Los Baños (UPLB). Since then, he has received eight honorary doctorates (honoris causa) from several state universities and colleges in the Philippines.



His humble beginnings and remarkable education have earned him accolades from local and international organizations. To name a few, he was one of the Philippines' Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) in 1988 and won an Outstanding Administrator Award from the Department of Science and Technology (DOST). In 2014, he earned India's "Outstanding MS Swaminathan Leadership Award". The award was granted to distinguished people who have made significant contributions to agriculture on a worldwide scale, as well as to India's efforts to ensure food security and long-term agricultural sustainability. He was also given a "Pamana ng Pilipino Award" on December 5, 2014 by former President Benigno Aquino III in recognition of exceptional Filipinos living abroad. In December 2016, he and two others received The Outstanding Filipino (TOFIL) Award. His Excellency President Rodrigo Roa Duterte given this award on them for their outstanding achievements and selfless dedication to their profession or vocation, which not only advanced their fields of work but also made a significant difference in the lives of their fellow Filipinos and the country as a whole.

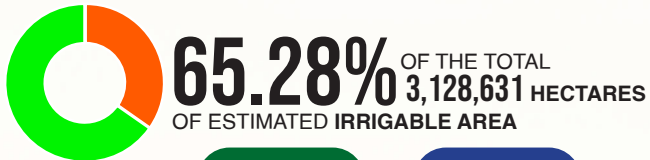
His career history includes working as a distinguished professor at Benguet State University (BSU) and vice president of the same organization from 1985 to 1987. He was the founding Director of the Department of Agriculture – Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR) from 1987 to 1994. He also served as the Executive Director of the DOST Council for Agriculture, Forestry, and Natural Resources Research and Development from 1994 (PCARRD) to 1998. He served as Secretary of Agriculture under former President Joseph Estrada from 1998 to 1999. From 2000 to 2014, Dr. William Dar was the Director General of the International Crop Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), a non-profit, non-political organization that conducts agricultural research for development in Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. He formed the Inang Lupa Movement, Inc. in 2014, which advocates and promotes for agricultural modernization and rural industrialization based on inclusion, science-based, resilient, and market-oriented development.

Dr. Dar was reappointed as the Agriculture Secretary on August 5, 2019, this time under President Rodrigo Duterte, with the vision of a food-secure and resilient Philippines with empowered and prosperous farmers and fisherfolks. ∞



DUTERTE LEGACY

Status of Irrigation Development



NATIONAL
IRRIGATION
SYSTEMS

COMMUNAL
IRRIGATION
SYSTEMS



257

10,144



955,653.79

737,402.32



726,085

565,214

Free Irrigation Service Act

Republic Act No. 10969

8

HECTARES & BELOW

are exempted from paying the Irrigation Service Fees (ISF) for water derived from National and Communal Irrigation Systems (NISs and CIsSs)



1,035,921

FARMERS-BENEFICIARIES



1,214,839.91

HECTARES OF FARMLANDS

NIA transfer to DA:

Executive Order No. 168, s. 2022

NIA transfers from the Office of the President to the Department of Agriculture, NIA looks forward to more inclusive efforts towards the development of the country's agricultural sector.

DEVOLUTION

Executive Order No. 138

(Mandanas-Garcia Supreme Court Ruling)

To fully develop the remaining 1.1 million out of the 3.1 million hectares of potential areas for irrigation

By 2030, about 75% shall have been provided with irrigation facilities.



National Irrigation Master Plan (NIMP)

To fully develop the remaining 1.1 million out of the 3.1 million hectares of potential areas for irrigation

By 2030, about 75% shall have been provided with irrigation facilities.

Infrastructure Flagship Projects



**P13.37-BILLION
BALOG-BALOG
MULTIPURPOSE
PROJECT - PHASE II
(BBMP-II)**



**P3.134-BILLION
NATIONAL IRRIGATION
SYSTEM REHABILITATION
AND IMPROVEMENT
PROJECT (NISRIIP)**



**P11.21-BILLION
JALAU RIVER
MULTIPURPOSE
PROJECT - STAGE II
(JRMP-II)**



**P5.444-BILLION
MALITUBOG-MARIDAGAO
IRRIGATION
PROJECT - STAGE II
(MMIP-II)**



**P3.5-BILLION
LOWER AGNO RIVER
IRRIGATION SYSTEM
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
(LARISIP)**



**P4.372-BILLION
CHICO RIVER PUMP
IRRIGATION PROJECT
(CRPIP)**

Other Projects of NIA



Project Cost



Date of Inauguration



Farmer-beneficiaries



Service Area

Barbar SRIP

P631 million

May 6, 2021

1,156

846 hectares

San Fabian RIS

P150.44 million

May 6, 2021

1,566

2,116 hectares

Pasa SRIP

P1.029 billion

July 5, 2018

619

846 hectares

Benliw SRIP

P814.167 million

October 5, 2021

764

960 hectares

Upper Tabuaring SRIP

P878 million

May 25, 2021

223

700.87 hectares

Sta. Rita SRIP

P814.167 million

October 5, 2021

764

960 hectares

SVIS Lower Sibuguey 1 Extension Project

P981.405 million

1,306

1,495 hectares

SVIS Lower Sibuguey 2 Extension Project

P618.595 million

429

1,147 hectares

Upper Malitubog Service Area (UMSA)

P1,391-billion

2,469.96 hectares



Public-Private Partnership

PUBLIC
PRIVATE
PARTNERSHIP

50 POTENTIAL
PROJECTS

1ST

The P33.75-billion Casecnan Multipurpose Irrigation Project (CMIPP) is the first PPP Project of NIA

BOT

Undertaken through Build-Operate-and-Transfer (BOT) Agreement with Cal Energy Casecnan Water and Energy Company, Inc.

Enhanced Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty (EPAHP)

Total Sales in CY 2021 **46,462,288.00**

Stakeholders' Coverage Meetings **100**

Marketing Agreements **162**

Farmer-Beneficiaries **39,493**

Memoranda of Understanding Signed **66**

Memoranda of Understanding Signed **66**

Value-Added Trainings **34 Batches**

Orientations **158 Batches Nationwide**
663 Irrigators Association/Federations

IA Family Model Farms

CY 2017-2021

32

IA Model Farms with and aggregate cost of P51 million

Farm-to-Market Road

Saysain Road

- P11.2 million Project Cost
- 1.3-Kilometer Service Road
- 40 Farmers of Saysain FIA along with 20 families of GK Village

Resettlement

NIA already completed the construction of relocation sites in JRMP-II in Iloilo and BBMP-II in Tarlac

382 Solar-Powered Irrigation Projects

- Amounting to P3.149 billion
- These projects can generate 4,677.83 horsepower (hp)
- Provide irrigation water supply 7,768.42 hectares of agricultural land
- 12,977 farmer-beneficiaries

379 Identified potential sites for Hydro-Electric Power Plant nationwide

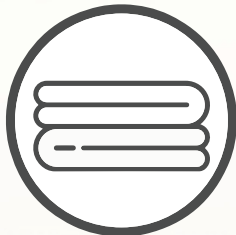
Six are completely operational

- Bulanao Hydroelectric Power Plant
- Pantabangan-Masiway Hydroelectric Power Plant
- MARIIS Main South Canal Hydroelectric Power Plant
- Rizal Hydropower Plant
- Marbel #1 Hydroelectric Plant
- Butao Hydroelectric Power Plant

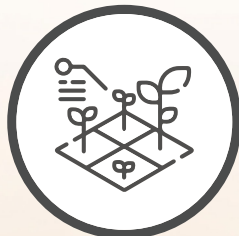
CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION



HDPE Pipes



Concrete Canvas



Diversified Croppings



Alternate Wetting and Drying Technology



Drip Irrigation



Watershed Management

Name: _____
Office/Organization: _____
Address: _____

Please rate this publication based on the following parameters:

EXCELLENT	VERY SATISFACTORY	SATISFACTORY	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT	POOR
5	4	3	2	1

The content is logical and organized.

5 4 3 2 1

The ideas are clearly presented.

5 4 3 2 1

The topics are interesting and relevant.

5 4 3 2 1

The language is appropriate to the target audience.

5 4 3 2 1

The layout is visually pleasing.

5 4 3 2 1

The publication provided additional knowledge and information.

5 4 3 2 1



Letter To The Editor

The Editorial Team encourages readers to circulate articles in this news magazine with proper acknowledgement. Everyone is also invited to contribute articles (with at least four photos/illustrations with credits) and suggest topics, or refer individuals and organizations to be featured. Please email pais@nia.gov.ph or mail to: THE EDITOR, NIA Currents, Public Affairs and Information Staff, NIA Central Office, EDSA, Diliman, 1100 Quezon City.

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pais@nia.gov.ph



nia.gov.ph



Region IX

"Porcausa kun el NIA, ya chene kame cambio na de amun vida especialmente na farming, grande sila kanamun ya dale ayuda".

[Because of NIA, our lives have changed, especially with farming. It was really a big help to us.]



Ruel V. Ledesma
55 years old
President, Bolong San Isidro IA Bolong,
Zamboanga City

MIMAROPA Region

"Ito po ang napapatubigan ng aming solar pump. Ngayon po, gumagana na ang solar pump. Malaking tulong po sa amin. Dati po ay nagsusuyod kami, ngayon po ay hindi na dahil kami po ay nabigyan ng solar pump."



Antonio Bergoniana
55 years old
President, Adlingin Farmers Irrigators Association
Adlingin Pump Irrigation Project
Burgos Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro

IRRIGATORS' TALK

Mandated to develop, construct, operate, and maintain irrigation systems nationwide, the National Irrigation Administration is in close partnership with the farmer-irrigators of the different Irrigators Associations to achieve success in all its endeavors. Knowing how NIA works hand-in-hand with them is significant for the Agency to assess its performance.

Here in this Irrigators' Talk, let us hear from our farmer-irrigators as they share how NIA brought impact in their lives.

Region VIII

"Dako gyud amo pasalamat sa NIA nga gitagaan mi aning solar irrigation project kay dili na mi mugasto og fuel para sa water pump aron makapatubig sa among mga basakan, makaptipid na mi. Sanglit, amo kini ampingan aron muluntad pa ni hantod sa sunod nga henerasyon."

[We are grateful to NIA for giving us this solar-powered irrigation project for we can now save money, since we need not to buy fuel for the water pump just to irrigate our rice lands. Hence, we will diligently manage this project for the benefit of future generation.]



Leonardo S. Abellana
67 years old
President (Pump I),
Kan-ipa CIS
Baybay City, Leyte

Region VI

"Malaki talaga ang naibigay na tulong ng NIA kasi kung walang irigasyon walang kabuhayan ang mga tao dito. Kung walang irigasyon, gutom talaga."



Efren Yales
62 years old
President, Damsite Irrigators'
Association
Bago River Irrigation System,
Bago City, Negros Occidental

Upper Pampanga River Integrated Irrigation Systems

"Nang dumating ang panahon na ang NIA ay nabuo, umangat ang antas ng magsasaka, at naging isang malaking hanapbuhay na ito para sa amin."



Aniano EJ Dela Cruz
62 years old
President, Pula Buliran Irrigators
Association
Pula, Talavera, Nueva Ecija

Region XI

"Dugay-dugay na nga panahon nangandoy ang mga mag-uuma nga makapatubig na diri pinaagi sa NIA. Nagpasalamat kami nga ang damgo sa mga mag-uuma, natuman na gayud. Dili na mi mag sako'g balas. Ang income namo, dili na maadto sa lain. Ang mga mag-uuma karon pirti gayud ang pasalamat, labi na sa NIA."



"In the longest time our dreams as farmers, we hope to have a water supply from NIA. Thankful that we are, these dreams are now fulfilled. No longer will we need to use sacks of sand, and our incomes will no longer be spent on such things. We, the farmers, are so thankful and eternally grateful to NIA. " 222

Benjamin O. Damuag
63 years old
President, Osmeria Ngan Ambawan
Irrigators Association Inc.
Upper Ambawan SIP, Compostela,
Davao del Oro

IKA-59 NA ANIBERSARYO NG NIA

Ipinagdiwang ng National Irrigation Administration ang Ika-59 na Anibersaryo ng Ahensya na may temang “NIA@59: Conquering the Challenges of the New Normal” noong Hunyo 20-22, 2022.

Nagkaroon ng Inter-Color Parade, Palarong Pinoy, at Minor Raffle Games sa unang araw ng selebrasyon na ginanap sa NIA Central Office. Nasundan ito ng NIA Singing Idol Elimination Round sa Convention Hall na inorganisa ng Special Program Committee. Ito ay nilahukan ng mga magagaling na mang-aawit na empleyado ng NIA mula sa iba’t ibang rehiyon.

Sa ikatlong araw ng selebrasyon, Hunyo 22, 2022, ginanap ang pagdiriwang ng Banal na Misa sa NIA Chapel, inagurasyon ng NIA Command Center, at idinaos ang palatuntunan sa NIA Matikas Multipurpose Hall na dinaluhan ng mga natatanging panauhin na malaki ang kontribusyon sa pagpapaunlad ng ating agrikultura. Sa nasabing kaganapan, naghandog ng parangal ang NIA Program on Awards and Incentives for Service Excellence (PRAISE) Committee para sa mga mahuhusay na kawani ng ahensya. Binigyang pugay ang NIA Retirees and Soon-to-Retire NIA Officials and Employees at kinilala ang mga Outstanding Irrigators Associations (IAs). Nagbigay ng kanilang mga mensahe sina Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya, Deputy Administrator for Engineering and Operations Sector C’zar M. Sulaik, at ang panauhing pandangal na si Senator Cynthia A. Villar.

Nang matapos ang palatuntunan sa umaga, ang mga empleyado ng NIA Central Office ay nagkaroon ng kaganapan sa hapon bilang pagpapatuloy ng selebrasyon. Kabilang dito ang NIA Anniversary Ball 2022 na may temang La Filipiniana, kung saan ang mga kasuotan ay alinsunod sa Kulturang Pilipino. Nagkaroon ng pagtatanghal na tinawag na “Camaraderie Dance” na kinabibilangan ng mga piling empleyado mula sa iba’t ibang departamento ng ahensya. Mayroon ding iba’t ibang kompetisyon tulad ng Cultural Dance Competition, NIA Singing Idol Finals, at Lakan at Lakambini ng NIA. Nagbigay rin ng kanyang mensahe si Deputy Administrator for Administrative and Finance Sector Ralph Lauren A. Du.

Ipinagbunyi ng mga empleyado ang kahalagahan ng irigasyon sa pag-usbong ng sektor ng agrikultura sa bansa at sa pagpapayaman ng kulturang Pilipino – isang selebrasyon ng pag-asa sa kabila ng pandemya at mga hamon ng makabagong panahon. ~~~



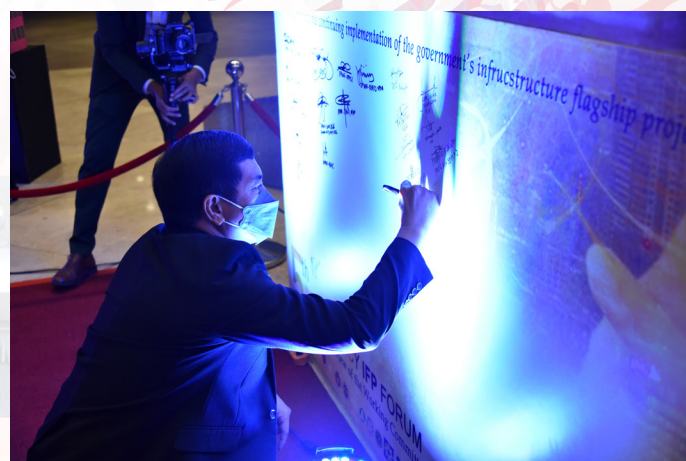
5th Infrastructure Flagship Forum

The Build, Build, Build (BBB) Program is the primary initiative of the Duterte Administration that seeks to usher the “Golden Age of Infrastructure” in the Philippines. It has been said for a long time that the “Achilles’ heel” of Philippine economic development is the country’s insufficient infrastructure.

The Infrastructure Flagship Projects (IFPs) are a subset priority projects identified by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Board Committee on Infrastructure (INFRACOM) and the Investment Coordination Committee (ICC) under the BBB Program.

The 5th Inter-Agency IFP Forum: Final Project Review of the Working Committee for Forward Transition was held on April 28, 2022 at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC), Pasay City by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), together with heads of line and oversight agencies and development partners. It aims to showcase the significant and major outputs of IFPs under the administration of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte. One of which is the presentation of NIA’s accomplishments IFPs, Administrator Ricardo R Visaya together with him during the event are the following: Deputy Administrator for Engineering and Operations Sector Engr. C’zar M. Sulaik, CRPIP Project Manager Engr. Reyvelino Apongol, LARISIP Project Manager Engr. Freddie M. Toquero, JRMP-II Project Manager Engr. Jonel Borres, MMIP-II Acting Project Manager Engr. Reynaldo Sarigumba, BBMP-II Project Manager Engr. Prudencio Santos, Engineering Department Manager Engr. Reynaldo Baloloy, and Project Benefits Monitoring and Evaluation Section (PBMES) Chief Engr. Sweetclaire Gamboa.

The said event was in coordination with the Construction Management Division, Engineering Department and Project Management Offices. The Office of the Public Affairs and Information Staff (PAIS), led by Department Manager Eden Victoria C. Selva, organized the Agency’s booth and distributed flyers and other Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) Materials to the participating agencies. ❧



LIMELIGHT: PANDEMIC VOLUNTEERS

Sa pagsibol at paglaganap ng COVID-19 ay nagdulot ito ng malaking pasanin sa ating lahat. Nagbigay ng banta hindi lamang sa kalusugan nating mga mamamayan, pati na rin sa ekonomiya ng bawat bansa. Dahil sa pandemyang ito ay naunawaan natin ang malaking responsibilidad na kinakaharap ng sektor ng kalusugan. Mas nabigyan natin ng halaga ang trabaho ng mga doktor at nurse. Sila ang naging mandirigma at kalasag natin, mga bagong bayani sa panahon ng pandemya. Kilalanin natin ang ilang nurse na kahit hindi parte ng Medical and Dental Services Team ay hindi nag-atubiling tumulong para sa kapakanan ng mga empleyado.

MARY JOY G. SANTOS

Data Analyst-Controller
Records Section, Human Resources Division

Since nurse ako and hospital-based ang work ko before, ang naging challenge ko lang noong nag-shift ako rito sa NIA ay ang clerical works dahil hindi naman ako masyadong maalam sa computer. In terms naman din sa medical field, siguro mas mahirap ang workload sa hospital lalo na ang shifting ng duties.

Nakapagduty ako as Medical Staff noong NIA Anniversary kasi may games requiring physical activities. Kami ang standby medic sa Gazebo Area. Tapos kapag may vaccination program nag-a-assist din ako sa Medical and Dental Services as requested. In terms of giving advices and medical assistance to our co-workers during this time of pandemic, nire-remind ko sila lagi sa Health and Safety Protocols, sa tamang pagsusuot ng facemask and pag-a-alcohol din palagi. 'Yong mga simple reminders and advices lang din. Minsan, may mga questions sa mga nararamdaman nila, ako ang tinatanong nila.



RENATO A. ULEP, JR.

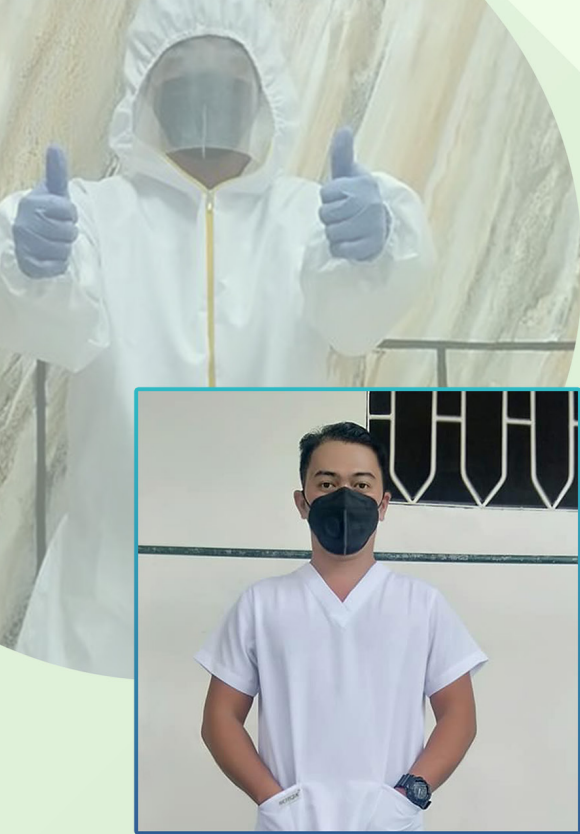
Data Encoder-Controller
Training and Career Development Section,
Human Resources Division

Actually, matagal na ako sa NIA, mga 13 years na, so nasanay na rin ako sa duties and functions dito sa Training Section. Hindi naman mahirap mag-adjust kasi flexible naman ako, kahit anong tulong, kahit hindi siya medical field ay pwede naman ako.

Noong nagpandemic, kailangan ng Medical and Dental Services ng assistance kasi nga kaunti lang ang nurses natin. Isa din iyon sa mga naging motivation ko para magtake-up ng exam, luckily naipasa ko siya last June 2022. Ngayon, willing naman ako na tumulong pa rin.

Wala akong practice sa hospital kaya ang puwede ko lang gawin ay mag-suggest. May inputs ako na puwedeng maibigay sa kanila kapag may queries sila. Kumukuha rin naman ako ng advices sa mga doctors natin para ma-verify na tama ang maibibigay kong information sa kanila. As an employee rito sa NIA, ine-encourage ko ang lahat ng personnel natin na sumunod pa rin sa health protocols during this pandemic para magkaisa ang NIA na malabanan ang virus.





DENNIS B. BALUYOT

Research Analyst A, Legal Services

Nag-apply ako sa NIA as Data Encoder then ang promotion as Legal Researcher ay nakuha ko after 10 years. Hindi naman ganoon kahirap ang naging adjustment ko coming from medical field kahit hospital-based ako noon, as time goes by, matutuhan mo naman lahat. As Legal Researcher, pag-aaralan mo kung applicable ba ang laws and regulations sa mga nagsi-seek ng legal opinions. Ganoon din sa medical field. Mayroon ding sinusunod na laws and procedures but still, malayo siya sa usaping irigasyon at patubig.

During pandemic, Atty. Ailyne asked me na magduty sa clinic dahil alam niya na nurse ako. Hindi naman kaya ng Medical and Dental Services dahil ilan lang sila before. Gumawa ako ng group chat using Facebook Messenger. Hinanap ko ang lahat ng may mga medical profession dito sa NIA at 'yon dumami kami. Kami ang nagche-check ng temperature at nag-aalaga ng mga empleyado na may signs and symptoms kasi may mga kasama tayo na stay-in, walang transportation, at malalayo ang bahay. Hanggang sa magkaroon tayo ng sariling process, ang Daily Health Disclosure Checklist (DHDC). I also assisted on swabbing and vaccination.

PHYLL N. DURAN

Project Coordinator
JRMP-II Coordinating Office

Priority ko ang duties ko as an Engineer kasi iyon ang designation ko. Nagkakaroon ng limit and adjustments 'yon towards giving assistance as nurse sa clinic. Sa weekdays Engineer ako, kaya kapag may meetings ay hindi ako nakakapagduty sa Medical and Dental Services. Pero during weekends ay nag-aassist ako as a nurse.

Atty. Ailyne asked my assistance during that time, kasi marami ang naging COVID-19 positive. Madami na rin ang kailangang i-monitor, tapos nadagdag din ang Daily Health Disclosure Checklist (DHDC) natin. Hindi lang sa time ang naging adjustment ko, sa personality na rin. Sa JRMP-II PCO, technical ang trabaho ko. I am strict and I give instructions, more on assertive ako. Pero tuwing nasa medical ako, iba ang nagiging approach and character ko, passive naman ako. I work as a nurse at lahat ng taong lalapit sa akin regardless of position is ico-consider kong pasyente. I need to ensure that I cater all their demands at sila ang pinagsisilbihan ko. Sila ang boss ko because nursing is giving love and care.

Ang contribution ko, aside sa medical assistance, ay 'yong ginawa kong Excel file noon na nagge-generate ng report, mas madali na namomonitor kung ilan yun may sintomas per day at kung ilan ang pumupunta sa MDS seeking medical advice. I am glad that Atty. Ailyne supported my recommendations and further improved that program through the help of the Management Information Division (MID). ❧



SPOTLIGHT

