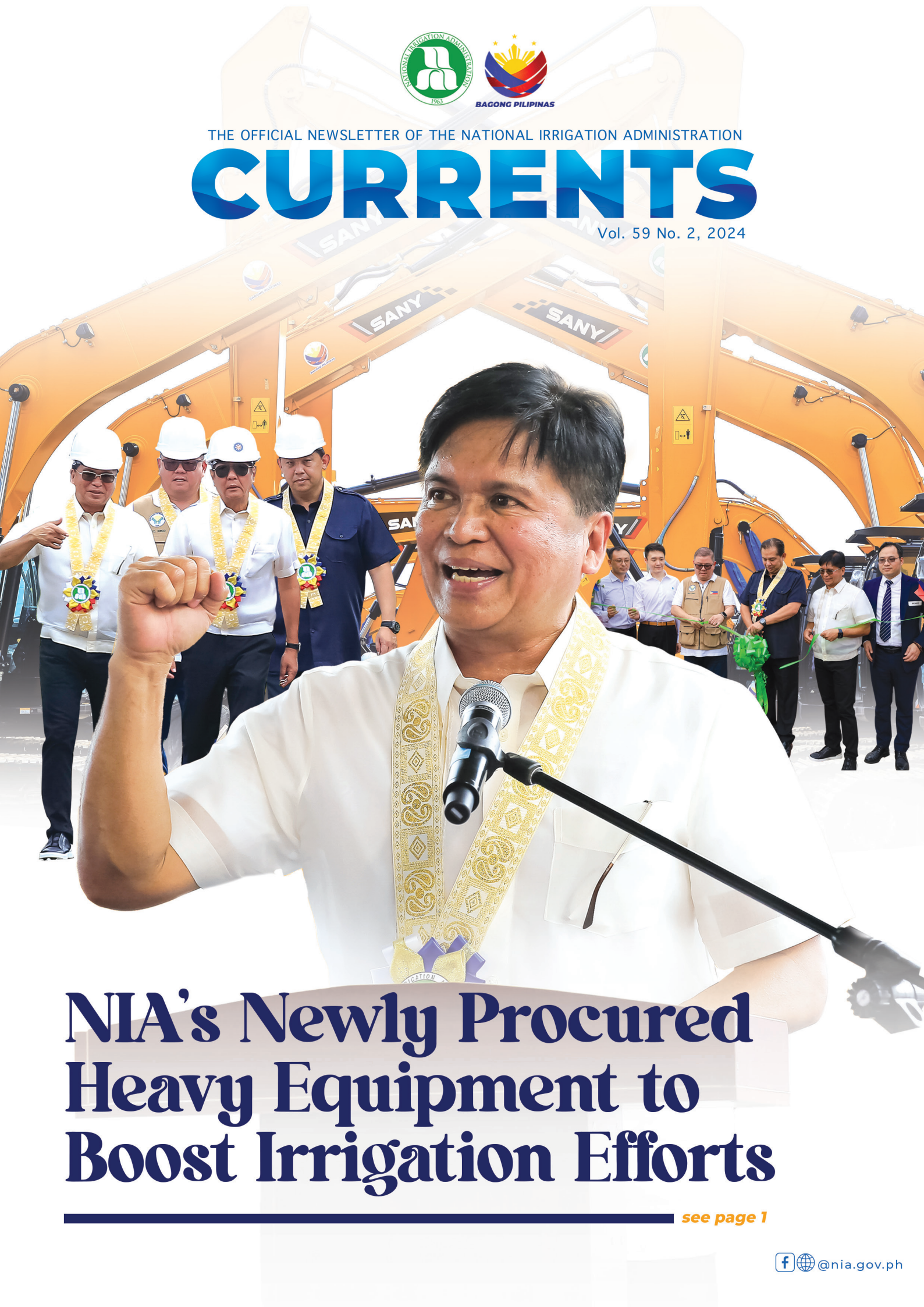




THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION

CURRENTS

Vol. 59 No. 2, 2024



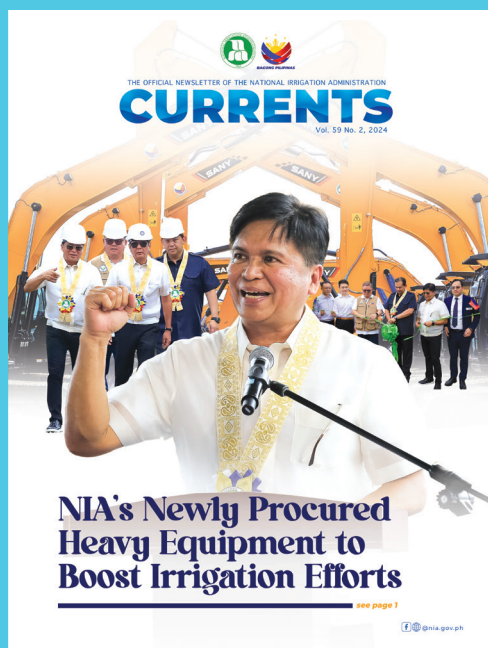
NIA's Newly Procured Heavy Equipment to Boost Irrigation Efforts

see page 1

CONTENTS

NEWS SECTION

- 01** President Marcos leads turnover of NIA's newly procured heavy equipment to boost irrigation efforts
- 03** NIA signs 3 MOUs toward a more sustainable Philippines
- 04** NIA partners with ADB for transformative irrigation development in the Philippines
- 05** NIA and UPLB forge alliance for agricultural modernization and food security
- 06** NIA showcases climate-smart irrigation technologies at the 1st KADIWA ng Pangulo Expo



ABOUT THE COVER

The cover of NIA Currents 2nd Semester 2024 features a portrait of NIA Administrator Engr. Eddie G. Guillen, taken during the Ceremonial Turnover of 148 units of various operations and maintenance (O&M) equipment on August 7, 2024, at Global Construct City, Mexico, Pampanga.

Led by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., the event highlights NIA's efforts to ensure the efficient implementation of irrigation projects. It also underscores the Agency's commitment to advancing agricultural development and maintaining the sustainability of irrigation systems across the country.

FEATURE SECTION

- 07** Dobleng Saya sa NIA!
- 09** Strengthening Integrity in Public Service: NIA Hosts Seminar on the Code of Conduct
- 10** Empowering Efficiency: NIA Central Office Launches Orientation on Quality Procedures for Document Management
- 11** NIA Conducts Annual Flu Vaccination Drive to Promote Employee Health
- 12** Building Bridges: NIA, NCIP, and Tinguians Unite for Sustainable Progress
- 13** NIA Horror Stories
- 15** NIA in Wonderland: A Magical Trick-or-Treat for Employees' Families
- 17** Pop and Glow: NIA's 2024 Christmas Tree Lighting Illuminates More Than Just the Holidays
- 19** Irrigate & Elevate: Paskong Pop sa NIA!
- 23** Serving with Passion: Insights from NIAEASP Members
- 25** Watering Success: The Cantijong Irrigators Association Story
- 27** Around the Corner: NIA Region VII Newsletter



#bayaNIAAn

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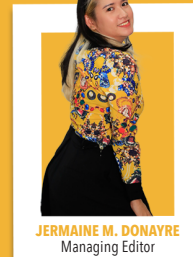
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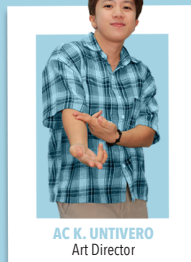


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News Editor

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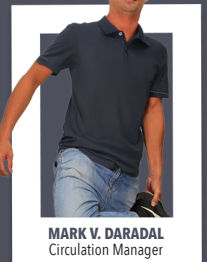


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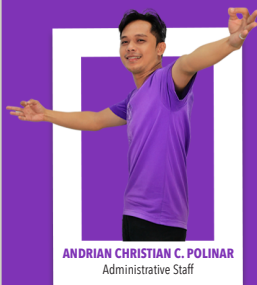
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EDITOR'S NOTE



You are stronger than we have ever known.

In life, you will face moments when you stumble and fall, when things do not go as planned, when mistakes feel impossible to fix, or when the weight of all setbacks seems too much to bear.

It is during these very times of adversity that the greatest opportunities for growth are often hidden.

Redemption is not about erasing the past or pretending those mistakes never happened. It is about accepting them as part of your larger journey and using them as stepping stones toward something better.

Challenges may feel overwhelming, but they are powerful teachers. Yes, they expose your flaws and weaknesses, but they also offer you the chance to rebuild, to rise stronger, and to redefine who you are.

True redemption does not lie in avoiding failures. It lies in confronting it, learning from it, and using that knowledge to move forward. Each setback you experience serves as an opportunity for reinvention, a chance to align more closely with your values and vision in life.

The path toward success requires resilience, humility, and a commitment to growth. It calls you to reflect on the past, to understand your mistakes, and to embrace the idea that every challenge, no matter how discouraging, holds the potential for your transformation. Turning difficulty into opportunity is never easy, but it is always worth it.

Always remember that you are stronger than we all know.
Just keep going. Your story is still unfolding and
the best chapters are yet to come! ~

President Marcos leads turnover of NIA's newly procured heavy equipment to boost irrigation efforts

In a significant move towards uplifting the lives of Filipino farmers and ensuring food security in the country, President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. led the ceremonial turnover of 148 newly procured heavy equipment to NIA Regional Offices on August 7, 2024 in Mexico City, Pampanga.

The newly acquired equipment, valued at P782.132 million, marks the 2nd Tranche of NIA's Three-Year Re-fleeting Program. This initiative is central to the Agency's commitment to fast-tracking irrigation development and addressing the critical needs of farmers nationwide.

Under the guidance of President Marcos, Jr., Administrator Guillen emphasized that this acquisition underscores NIA's resolve to improve the operation and maintenance of irrigation systems.





With these modern tools, we are better equipped to enhance canal desilting operations, ensuring the readiness of irrigation systems for the wet crop season.”

- NIA Administrator Engr. Eddie G. Guillen

The heavy equipment fleet includes excavators, trailer trucks, and dumpers, which will significantly bolster NIA's capacity to manage its 257 National Irrigation Systems (NISs) and 8,802 Communal Irrigation Systems (CISs) across the country. These systems serve as lifelines for Filipino farmers, providing them with reliable irrigation to boost agricultural productivity.

An advocate for agricultural modernization, President Marcos praised NIA's initiatives in aligning with the administration's overarching goal of empowering farmers and securing the nation's food supply.

“Investing in tools and programs that directly benefit our farmers is essential. This is not just about machinery; it's about strengthening the backbone of our economy and ensuring a better future for our farming communities,” the President said.

The turnover ceremony in Pampanga is a testament to the administration's collaborative approach to development, showcasing the synergy between NIA, farmers, and other stakeholders in agriculture.

Through continued investments in infrastructure and equipment, NIA, under the leadership of Administrator Guillen and with the support of President Marcos Jr., remains steadfast in its mission to deliver on its mandate of providing sustainable irrigation solutions. The Agency's efforts symbolize hope and progress for Filipino farmers, paving the way toward a more resilient and food-secure Philippines. 🌾





NIA signs 3 MOUs toward a more sustainable Philippines

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) held a series of ceremonial Memorandum of Agreement signings on November 5, 2024, at the NIA Administrator's Conference Room, NIA Central Office.

Under the leadership of Administrator Engr. Eddie G. Guillen, NIA partnered with Northland Renewable Energy Corporation (NREC) for the long-term lease of NIA's property at the Camiling River Irrigation System Sta. 2+237 in Camiling, Tarlac. This partnership aims to explore the development of a 540-kilowatt-hour mini hydroelectric power plant.

Meanwhile, R-III Energy, Inc. expressed its intention to design, build, operate, and maintain hydropower plants on NIA properties, specifically at the Villa River Project located in the Province of Aurora. The Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC) also indicated its interest in developing a 7-megawatt solar PV system at the Magapit Main Canal in Lal-lo, Cagayan.

With the signing of these three MOUs, NIA continues to contribute to a more sustainable and environmentally friendly Philippines, benefiting both farmers and the Filipino people. ∞



NIA partners with ADB for transformative irrigation development in the Philippines

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) marked a significant milestone as it hosted the Transaction Advisory Services Agreement Signing Ceremony with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on September 18, 2024 at the NIA Central Office Command Center. The event signified a key step toward modernizing the nation's irrigation systems and fostering sustainable agricultural growth.

Officials from NIA, ADB, and key government agencies, including the Office of the Executive Secretary, Department of Finance (DOF), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Department of Energy (DOE), and the Public-Private Partnership Center (PPPC) attended the event. Their presence underscored the strong collaborative effort behind this transformative initiative.

This groundbreaking partnership aims to revolutionize irrigation services in the country by introducing sustainable and efficient systems. By harnessing the expertise and resources of ADB and leveraging the support of government agencies, NIA is paving the way for projects that promise to enhance agricultural productivity, to improve resource management, and to uplift the lives of Filipino farmers.

NIA Administrator Eddie G. Guillen emphasized the importance of this collaboration in addressing the evolving needs of the agricultural sector.



This partnership marks a transformative journey towards sustainable irrigation services that are vital for boosting agricultural productivity and ensuring food security for our nation. Together with ADB and our government partners, we are laying the foundation for a brighter future for our farmers and the agricultural sector."



The Transaction Advisory Services Agreement signified NIA's commitment to exploring innovative solutions to irrigation challenges and its dedication to strengthening partnerships for inclusive and sustainable development. ❧



NIA and UPLB forge alliance for agricultural modernization and food security

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) marked a significant step toward advancing agricultural modernization and sustainability by partnering with the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB). Held on November 15, 2024 at UPLB Campus in Laguna, NIA Administrator Engr. Eddie G. Guillen, UPLB Chancellor Prof. Jose V. Camacho Jr., and Coalition for Agricultural Modernization in the Philippines (CAMP) Chair Dr. Emil Javier convened for the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Academic, Educational, and Technical Collaboration.

This landmark event followed a productive dialogue with CAMP and highlighted a shared commitment to boosting agricultural productivity by enhancing irrigation systems and implementing research-based solutions for sustainable agriculture.

The collaboration outlined a strategic blueprint focused on capacity building, knowledge dissemination, and encouraging the next generation to pursue careers in agriculture and engineering. Key initiatives include strengthening irrigation systems through cutting-edge research and innovative strategies, establishing platforms for sharing best practices and technical expertise, and promoting sustainable agriculture to ensure long-term food security.

"This partnership marks a milestone in our collective pursuit of agricultural excellence. By uniting NIA's expertise in irrigation, UPLB's leadership in academic and technical education, and CAMP's vision for modernization, we are creating a future-ready roadmap to uplift our farmers and secure the nation's food supply," said NIA Administrator Guillen.



The agreement underscores a holistic approach to addressing the challenges in the agricultural sector while fostering an environment that inspires and equips students and professionals to lead transformative change.

The initiative aligns with the national goal of enhancing food security and elevating the quality of life for Filipino farmers, ensuring a sustainable future for agriculture in the Philippines. ❧





NIA showcases climate-smart irrigation technologies at the 1st KADIWA ng Pangulo Expo



The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) took a bold step towards advancing sustainable agriculture through its active participation in the 1st KADIWA ng Pangulo Expo on November 26-28, 2024 in Pasay City, Philippines. The event was held in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture (DA) and other agricultural stakeholders.

NIA's booth at the event features cutting-edge and climate-smart irrigation technologies, including the Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD) Technology, which optimizes water use in rice fields, and Diversified Cropping, a strategy that enhances productivity and resilience against climate change.

The Agency also highlights its Renewable Energy Development Projects, underscoring its commitment to integrating clean energy solutions into the agricultural sector.



Visitors to the booth can explore NIA's key services, such as the Free Irrigation Service Program, designed to alleviate financial burdens on Filipino farmers, and its Convergence Initiatives, which foster collaboration among government agencies to achieve holistic agricultural development.

These efforts reflect the vision of Administrator Engr. Eddie G. Guillen and his advocacy for the Filipino farmers through #bayaNIAn sa #BagongPilipinas, a movement promoting unity and progress in the agricultural sector.

The KADIWA ng Pangulo Expo serves as a platform for government agencies, farmers, and private stakeholders to exchange ideas and innovations, all aimed at enhancing the agricultural landscape of the Philippines. NIA's participation underscores its dedication to empowering farmers and ensuring food security in the country. 🌾





Dobleng Saya Sa NIA!

The sun shone brightly over Cabanatuan City as a significant milestone unfolded at the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) UPRIS grounds. Marking a double celebration, the Agency joined the entire nation in honoring the birthday of President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr., while also launching the transformative Bagong Bayaning Magsasaka (BBM) Rice initiative.

A Grand Celebration with Leaders at the Helm

The event was graced by the presence of esteemed leaders, including NIA Administrator Engr. Eddie G. Guillen, House Speaker Martin Romualdez, Senior Deputy Speaker Aurelio “Dong” D. Gonzales, Jr., and House Committee on Appropriations Chair Elizaldy Co. Their collective commitment underscored the significance of empowering farmers, ensuring food security, and making affordable rice accessible to every Filipino.

The Grand Launching of BBM Rice introduced a revolutionary program aimed at recognizing the vital contributions of farmers—the unsung heroes behind every grain of rice. By bringing affordable rice at P29 per kilo, the initiative directly addresses the needs of the most vulnerable sectors.



NIA Central Office: KADIWA Fever

Simultaneously, the NIA Central Office in Quezon City transformed into a bustling hub as throngs of buyers lined up to purchase affordable rice. Among them were senior citizens, solo parents, persons with special needs, and 4Ps members, all of whom eagerly availed themselves of the subsidized prices.

In a show of nationwide unity, NIA Field Offices also set up KADIWA stalls in their respective areas, bringing this initiative closer to communities across the country. These stalls did more than sell rice; they symbolized a collective effort to bridge the gap between farmers and consumers, fostering direct connections that benefit both parties.

Rice Contract Farming: Farmers as Key Partners

At the heart of this transformative initiative lies the NIA Farming Support Services Program, which highlights the collaboration between the government and Filipino farmers. By ensuring fair prices and providing necessary support, the program empowers farmers to increase productivity and improve their livelihoods.



Administrator Guillen emphasized, *“Sa Bagong Pilipinas, ang mga magsasaka ay ang ating katuwang sa pag-abot ng mas maunlad na kinabukasan.”* His words resonate with the program’s mission to uplift the agricultural sector, paving the way for a more prosperous and food-secure Philippines.

The Promise of a New Philippines

The launch of BBM Rice stands as a testament to the Marcos administration’s vision of a Bagong Pilipinas—one where every Filipino has access to affordable food, and farmers are given the recognition and support they deserve. It also exemplifies the unity and collaboration among key government institutions, legislators, and agricultural stakeholders.

As NIA continues to spearhead initiatives like these, the nation inches closer to a future where no Filipino goes hungry, and every farmer is celebrated as a modern-day hero.

With this groundbreaking event, NIA proves that under its leadership, it is not only irrigating lands but also sowing hope, nurturing partnerships, and harvesting prosperity for all.

Truly, **DOBLENG SAYA SA NIA!** 🌾



29
per kilo

NOT FOR
RESALE

BBM
(Bagong Bayaning Magsasaka)
at NIA
Tungo sa Makabagong Pilipinas





Strengthening Integrity in Public Service: NIA Hosts Seminar on the Code of Conduct

In its commitment to fostering integrity, accountability, and professional excellence, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) conducted three batches of Seminar on the Code of Conduct for its officials and employees at NIA Central Office. This initiative underscores NIA's dedication to building a values-driven agency, where ethical governance is at the forefront of public service.

Laying the Groundwork for a Values-Driven Agency

The seminar kicked off with the first wave of participants on October 16, 2024, gathering at the NIA Central Office Convention Hall. This initial session set the stage for cultivating integrity and accountability, emphasizing the importance of embedding these core values in daily operations.

"This is more than just a seminar; it's a movement toward a culture of excellence and ethical responsibility," remarked one participant.

The enthusiasm and engagement displayed during this session are a testament to NIA's collective commitment to professional growth and ethical governance.

Diving Deeper into Ethics and Accountability

The second batch convened on November 20, 2024 at the NIA Matikas Multipurpose Hall, delving deeper into the regulations and laws shaping ethical conduct in government service. This batch featured an impressive lineup of speakers who provided valuable insights:

- Atty. Lloyd Allain A. Cudal gave a comprehensive discussion on Republic Act (RA) 6713, known as the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees, along with the 2017 Rules on Administrative Cases in the Civil Service.
- Atty. Joseph Adrian L. Toquero tackled special laws, including RA 9485 (Anti-Red Tape Act), RA 3019 (Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act), and RA 11032 (Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act).
- Atty. Nastassja Nicole J. Flores shed light on NIA Memorandum Circulars, helping employees align their actions with the agency's policies and standards.

Participants expressed their appreciation for the comprehensive discussions, which not only clarified the regulatory framework but also inspired them to embody ethical principles in their roles.

Culmination of a Transformative Initiative

The seminar's third and final batch took place on November 27, 2024, promising another wave of engagement and enlightenment. This final session will mark the culmination of NIA's efforts to reinforce ethical standards and foster accountability among its workforce.

Together Towards Transparency and Excellence

NIA Administrator Eddie G. Guillen, known for his advocacy of good governance, emphasized the importance of these seminars in nurturing a culture of transparency and professionalism.

"These seminars are more than a requirement. They are a reflection of our agency's commitment to building trust with the public and ensuring that our actions are always guided by integrity," he said.

As NIA concludes this transformative initiative, the Agency's officials and employees are poised to lead by example, embodying the principles of ethical public service. Together, NIA is not just building irrigation systems. It is building a legacy of excellence, one batch at a time. ∞



Empowering Efficiency: NIA Central Office Launches Orientation on Quality Procedures for Document Management



November 28, 2024 marked the beginning of a transformative two-day orientation on Quality Procedures for Documented Information and Related Systems at the NIA Convention Hall, a vital step toward streamlining operations and advancing records management capabilities within the National Irrigation Administration (NIA).

Designed for Central Office officials and personnel, the session focused on the practicalities of managing documented information in alignment with Memorandum Circular (MC) No. 38, Series of 2024. This circular introduces refined guidelines aimed at bolstering the Agency's document management standards while fostering an environment of continuous improvement.

Participants actively engaged with cutting-edge tools and platforms, including the Online Document Masterlist, Document Management System (DMS), and Computerized Document Tracking System (CDTS). These systems are set to revolutionize how NIA officials handle and access critical information, reducing manual processes and enhancing overall efficiency.

The orientation provided hands-on training to empower personnel, equipping them with the knowledge to seamlessly integrate these systems into daily operations. Sessions emphasized real-world application, ensuring that attendees not only understand the theoretical framework of quality procedures but also develop the practical skills to implement them effectively.

At the heart of the orientation is a shared vision: to create a more agile, efficient, and responsive NIA. By embracing advanced tools and adhering to updated procedures, the agency is poised to set new benchmarks for document management, ensuring that processes remain robust and transparent in the years ahead.

As day one concludes, participants leave energized and equipped with newfound knowledge, ready to apply these learnings to their respective roles. The second day promises even deeper exploration and collaborative discussions, solidifying NIA's reputation as a forward-thinking institution dedicated to progress and innovation.

This orientation is not just a training session—it is a cornerstone in NIA's journey toward operational excellence, reflecting its steadfast commitment to serving the nation with integrity, efficiency, and innovation. 🌊



NIA Conducts Annual Flu Vaccination Drive to Promote Employee Health



In a proactive move to safeguard the health and well-being of its employees, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) Central Office took an important step by organizing its annual flu vaccination drive from October 14-16, 2024. Held at the NIA Matikas Multipurpose Hall, the event was designed to provide free flu vaccines to employees, demonstrating the Agency's commitment to creating a safer and healthier environment for its workforce.



As the flu season was fast approaching, the timing of the event couldn't have been more crucial. By offering the flu vaccine early, NIA ensured that its employees had the opportunity to stay ahead of the potential health risks associated with the flu virus. The drive encouraged staff to take proactive steps in maintaining their health, with the added benefit of reducing the likelihood of workplace absenteeism due to illness.



This vaccination initiative also emphasized NIA's broader mission of promoting public health not only within the workplace but also within the community at large. By providing easy access to flu vaccinations, the Agency took a meaningful step toward building a culture of well-being, fostering a supportive environment where employees are equipped with the necessary tools to stay healthy.

With flu season in full swing, initiatives like these underscore the importance of staying ahead of seasonal illnesses. Employees who participated in the flu vaccination drive were able to arm themselves against the virus, contributing not just to their personal health but also to the collective health of the workplace. ≈



Building Bridges: NIA, NCIP, and Tinguians Unite for Sustainable Progress

In an inspiring demonstration of collaboration and cultural preservation, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), and the Tinguians Indigenous Cultural Communities (ICC) of Nueva Era, Ilocos Norte came together to forge a partnership that promises to unite tradition with progress. The signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), held at the NIA Matikas Multipurpose Hall on November 7, 2024, is a beacon of hope for sustainable irrigation initiatives that honor the rich heritage of indigenous communities.

This historic event was graced by the leadership of NIA Administrator Engr. Eddie G. Guillen and Deputy Administrator for Engineering and Operations Engr. C'zar M. Sulaik. They were joined by NCIP Acting Provincial Officer Atty. Jifford Rosqueta, Nueva Era Municipal Mayor Aldrin R. Garvida, Vice Mayor Caroline A. Garvida, and esteemed Tinguians community leaders. Together, they marked the beginning of a shared journey toward enhancing agricultural productivity while preserving cultural identity.

A Shared Vision of Progress

The MOA signifies more than just an agreement; it embodies a shared vision rooted in mutual respect, inclusivity, and sustainable development. It underscores the importance of integrating indigenous knowledge and practices into modern irrigation systems, ensuring that agricultural advancements do not come at the cost of cultural treasure. For the Tinguians ICC, this partnership is a testament to the recognition of their vital role in shaping sustainable solutions.

Administrator Guillen expressed his deep respect for the Tinguians' enduring relationship with the land and water, emphasizing how these elements form the foundation of both their identity and the agricultural progress envisioned by NIA.

"This partnership is a bridge — a connection between innovation and heritage, ensuring that our progress is not only sustainable but also inclusive," Engr. Guillen said.

Empowering Communities

One of the central pillars of this partnership is community empowerment. By involving the Tinguians ICC and the NCIP in planning and implementing irrigation projects, the agreement ensures that local voices are heard and respected. This collaboration aims to boost agricultural yields and secure livelihoods, all while preserving the cultural and environmental integrity of Nueva Era.



Mayor Aldrin R. Garvida highlighted the importance of partnerships like this in fostering development that benefits everyone. *"This is a proud moment for our municipality and for the Tinguians. It shows what we can achieve when government agencies and indigenous communities work together,"* he remarked.

A Path Toward a Sustainable Future

The MOA also represents a significant step in recognizing the invaluable contributions of indigenous communities to sustainable development. Through this agreement, NIA, NCIP, and the Tinguians ICC reaffirm their commitment to harnessing traditional knowledge alongside modern technologies to create irrigation systems that are efficient, equitable, and environmentally friendly.

The partnership is a model for how development can and should be inclusive, respecting the wisdom of those who have nurtured the land for generations.

Looking Ahead

As the ink dries on the MOA, the journey is just beginning. The partnership between NIA, NCIP, and the Tinguians ICC is a symbol of what can be achieved when respect for heritage meets a commitment to progress. It is a promise of a future where agricultural development flourishes alongside cultural preservation — where every drop of water not only irrigates the land but also nurtures the spirit of a community.

This collaboration is a shining example of how partnerships rooted in mutual respect and shared goals can lead to transformative change. For Nueva Era and the Tinguians ICC, it is a step toward a brighter, more sustainable tomorrow. ∞



NIA HORROR STORIES

Welcome to the darkest corners of the corporate world, where the horrors that lurk in every NIA office come to life. Prepare for scary stories of workplace horror, when the everyday becomes nightmarish.

**Enrico Buenaluz, Human Resources Division**

Naka-overtime ako noon sa HR. Mga panahon iyon na ginagawa pa ang lobby panels and flooring sa labas ng HR. Mag-isa na lang ako kasi past 6 PM na habang gumagawa ako ng budget preparation nang may marinig ako na parang batang umiiyak. Madalas din na nakakakita ako ng shadow figures na lumalakad sa likod ng office ng TCDS at EWBS. One time, habang nasa loob din ako ng comfort room, biglang sumara nang malakas 'yong pinto pero wala namang ibang tao. Same din sa comfort room, bigla ring bumagsak 'yong mop, maayos naman itong nakasandal at wala rin namang hangin na malakas para i-move 'yong mop. After those encounters, though di naman magkakasunod na nangyari, I requested na magpa-blessing sa office. To this day, wala pa naman ulit na nagparamdam.

8w Like Reply

7 🤪👍

**Kerr Sherwin T. Ugang, Procurement and Property Division**

Pagpasok ko mag-isa sa HR dati, may tumutunog na typewriter habang patay lahat ng ilaw kaya napatakbo ako palabas.

8w Like Reply

2 🤪

**Kristine Cleofas-Ofrecio, Human Resources Division**

Sa comfort room ng HR, nang isasara ko na 'yong pinto ng cubicle, may tumutulak. Akala ko may tao, pero pagbukas ko, wala naman.

8w Like Reply

4 🤪👍

**Marky Diosana- IEC**

Pagdating ko sa IEC Office around 8:30 AM, may naririnig akong babae na nagsasalita sa loob ng room namin, parang may kausap sa phone. Pagbukas ko ng door, walang tao sa room.

7w Like Reply

**Dr. Catherine DC. Binag, Medical and Dental Services**

Mayroon akong kukunin sa refrigerator, napalingon ako sa pantry, tapos may nakatalikod na babaeng mahaba ang buhok. Nakasuot ng laboratory gown na almost kasing taas ng kisame at naghuhugas sa lababo. Sumigaw ako sabay takbo.

7w Like Reply

🤪

**Glenn Ortega, Internal Audit Services**

Sabi ng M8 na assigned sa IAS, habang naglilinis siya ng room naming. Wala pang tao noong time na iyon ng may nakita siyang babae. Mahaba ang buhok, nakatalikod, at nakaupo sa upuan ko. Natakot 'yong M8 kaya lumabas. Dahil doon, naglagay ako ng rosary at cross sa table ko. May naririnig ding mga yabag ng paa sa may hallway at mga katok sa wall ng IAS ang mga officemates ko once na inaabot sila ng gabi sa office. Ilang beses na rin na na-experience namin dito na may nanggagaya sa mga mukha namin, doppelganger, wika nga nila.

7w Like Reply

3 🤩🤩

**Sarah De Jesus Frago, Office of the Corporate Board Secretary**

Dalawa lang kaming sumakay ng elevator from 2nd floor. May mga tao na sa elevator bago kami pumasok, mga taga-NWRB. Bumukas 'yong elevator sa 5th floor pero wala namang sumakay.

Pagkasara ng elevator door, sinabi sa amin ng mga taga-NWRB, "Hindi niyo ba kasama 'yong bumaba?" Nagtanong kami, "Sino po?"

Ang reply sa amin, "Iyong bumaba kasi kasabay niyo siyang sumakay."

**Analyn Talingting, Office of the Corporate Board Secretary**

Dito sa Board Office, marami kaming na-experience. May tumatawag sa name namin na ginagaya ang boses ni Atty. Jiselle. Tatawagin isa-isa name namin pero kapag pumunta kami sa office niya, nagtataka siya kung bakit. Lagi naming sinasabi na tawag niya kami kahit hindi naman talaga niya kami tinatawag. Halos lahat po kami naka-experience ng ganyang scenario. Minsan may nakaupo sa upuan ni CorSec, minsan naman sa harap ng information sa tapat ni Ma'am Miya. Meron ding manggigising sa loob ng vault. Marami kaming na-experience pero hindi ko na lalahatin kasi baka matakot na ang mga kasama ko.

7w Like Reply Edited

**Lloyd Alberto Borja, Corporate Planning Services**

Share ko lang ang story ng youngest daughter ko na two years old last October 2023 sa CorPlan Office. Naiwan kami ni Cese sa office para hintayin ang mommy niya na naka-overtime. Past 8:30 PM na kaya nagdecide na lang ako na sa 7/11 na lang maghintay.

Sabi ko sa anak ko na hintayin ako sa table ko at papatayin ko lang mga ilaw sa floor. Hindi pa ko nakakalayo, narinig ko siya "Alis na kami ha, ba-bye kami ha". Pagkakita ko sa kanya na may kinakausap siya, kinuhaan ko agad ng picture. Sabi ko sa kanya, "Nagba-bye ka na? Ok, tara na, uwi na tayo." Sabi niya, "Okay uwi na".

Pagkauwi namin, tinanong ko siya kung sino kinakausap niya sa office ni Lolo Boss (Engr. Reynaldo Nilo). Sabi niya, mumo daw. Tinanong ko kung babae o lalaki. Sabi niya, "Mumo lang, baet (mabait) mumo."

**Rowell Diaz Dula**

Kaka-hire ko lang ng December tapos practice kaagad for Christmas presentation. Hindi ko alam kung ano ang role ko noong una tapos Baby Jesus pala. Then, sa araw ng presentation naka-diaper lang ako. Ang creepy ng itsura ko, imbes na pang-Christmas.

8w Haha Reply Edited

51 🤣

NIA IN WonderLand

A Magical Trick-or-Treat for Employees' Families

In a whimsical celebration of Halloween, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) transformed the NIA Matikas Multipurpose Hall into a fantastical wonderland for its Trick-or-Treat Program on October 29, 2024. With the enchanting theme, "NIA in Wonderland: Down the Rabbit-Hole", the event brought to life the classic tale of "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" by Lewis Carroll, creating a day of magic and joy for the children, grandchildren, and nibblings of NIA employees.



THROUGH THE RABBIT HOLE

The journey began with an imaginative tunnel that set the stage for an unforgettable adventure. Designed to mirror Alice's tumble into Wonderland, the tunnel was brimming with surprises, from twinkling lights to mysterious sounds, sparking wide-eyed wonder among the young participants.

Children emerged into a vibrant, fantastical world where booths inspired by chapters from the beloved novel awaited. Each booth captured the essence of Carroll's narrative, offering a combination of games, treats, and interactive experiences that left both kids and parents mesmerized.

A WONDERLAND OF ACTIVITIES

The booths, each uniquely themed, transported the children deeper into the story. Began with the setting "All in the Golden Afternoon", kids were fascinated and received chocolate gold coins. The booth "Down the Rabbit-Hole" gave away white rabbit candies. The organizers of Pool of Tears brought Sour Patch and Yakee candies. A Caucus-Race and Long Tale invited the kids with their toys. The Rabbit Sends a Little Bill welcomed the kids with 50-peso bill. The Advice from Caterpillar features gummy caterpillars/worms.





Meanwhile, Pig and Pepper booth gave pig sticker sheets and A Mad Tea Party provided bottled green tea. The Queen's Croquet Ground booth prepared doughnuts and gummy eyeballs while The Mock Turtle's Story gave away cookies. The kids were happy to receive prawn crackers at The Lobster Quadrille, as well as tarts from the "Who Stole the Tarts?" booth. The booth hopping ended with Alice's Evidence where kids got their stamps and lunch.

COSTUMES AND CAMARADERIE

The theme came alive as participants donned costumes inspired by the novel's iconic characters. Little Alices, Mad Hatters, and Cheshire Cats filled the hall, while parents joined the fun, some dressing as Wonderland figures themselves. NIA Administrator Guillen and Mayor Georgina Guillen's playful engagement with the activities, alongside Senior Deputy Administrator Suguitan, added a layer of warmth and approachability, making the event even more special for attendees.

STRENGTHENING BONDS THROUGH FUN

The Trick-or-Treat Program exemplified NIA's dedication to fostering camaraderie and joy among its employees and their families. By choosing Alice's Adventures in Wonderland as its theme, the Agency reminded everyone of the magic of storytelling, imagination, and shared experiences. Administrator Guillen expressed his appreciation for the employees' creativity in making the event successful, emphasizing the importance of community and family in creating a positive work environment.

As the day came to an end, the children departed with bags full of goodies, faces lit with joy, and hearts warmed by the magic of Wonderland. For NIA, this celebration was a testament to its values—celebrating the people who make its mission possible while creating cherished memories that go beyond the workplace.

This year's Trick-or-Treat Program was not just a festive event but a shared adventure, where the NIA community walked hand in hand "down the rabbit hole", creating a story they'll all remember for years to come. ♪



POP GLOW



NIA's 2024 Christmas Tree Lighting Illuminates More Than Just the Holidays

NIA Central Office Grounds burst with festive energy and excitement on November 22, 2024, as the Agency kicked off the holiday season with its "Pop and Glow: 2024 NIA Christmas Tree Lighting Program". For the first time in its history, NIA celebrated its iconic Christmas Tree Lighting earlier than usual, blending joyful festivities with its commitment to serve Filipino farmers with efficient, reliable, and sustainable irrigation services.

The evening opened with the highly anticipated Christmas Chorale Competition, which set the tone for the program with melodies of hope, joy, and holiday cheer. Each group delivered heartfelt performances that left the crowd in awe. After a thrilling showcase of talent and camaraderie, the winners were announced:

1st Place

Operations Department with the Special Projects Group



2nd Place

Offices under the Administrator



3rd Place

Engineering Department



Financial Management Department



Administrative Department





Administrator Guillen



SDA Suguitan



DAEO Sulaik

The competition underscored the sense of unity and creativity within the NIA family, highlighting their collective dedication to excellence not just in their work but also in their shared celebrations.

Following the chorale competition, the night reached its peak with the ceremonial lighting of the iconic Spillway Christmas Tree. Designed with pastel colors to match the event's vibrant P-Pop motif, the tree stood tall as a symbol of hope, resilience, and service. Since its debut in 2019, the Spillway Christmas Tree has evolved each year, embodying NIA's commitment to sustainability, cost-effectiveness, and innovation.

The crowd erupted in cheers as the tree came alive with glowing pastel hues, illuminating the grounds and uplifting the spirits of everyone in attendance. A particularly heartwarming moment came when attendees joined together to sing "Just Love Ngayong Christmas," a gesture of unity and shared joy that perfectly captured the holiday spirit.

Adding a historic milestone to the evening, NIA also premiered its first-ever Christmas video, filmed during the event. The video showcases the Agency's values and its commitment to #bayaNIAn and #BagongPilipinas, sending a powerful message of hope and collaboration.

The 2024 NIA Christmas Tree Lighting Program was more than just a festive event—it was a testament to the Agency's dedication to its people and the communities it serves. It reflected not only the joy of the season but also the unwavering resolve of the NIA family to work together for a brighter future for Filipino farmers.

As the pastel-colored lights of the Spillway Christmas Tree glowed against the night sky, they stood as a beacon of NIA's enduring spirit—one that shines brightly through service, innovation, and unity. This holiday season, NIA invites everyone to celebrate the spirit of #bayaNIAn and the promise of a more prosperous #BagongPilipinas. ✨



Irrigate & Elevate

Paskong Pop sa NIA!

With the theme “*Irrigate, Elevate: Paskong Pop sa NIA*”, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) held the NIA Year-End Assessment on December 13, 2024. It is an unforgettable day of good vibes and fun as the NIA employee grooves and sings with Pinoy Pop (P-pop) music.

The event begins with the Thanksgiving Mass at the NIA Chapel, which allowed NIAns to express our gratitude and appreciation for the blessings in our lives as we celebrate another year of hard work and dedication. The Shoot Fest Activity, held at Deparo, Caloocan City, had several NIA employees competing for the Grand Prize while other personnel enjoyed the Wheel of Luck and Raffle Draw, which allowed them to test their luck and win minor prizes.

Thanksgiving Mass





The Special Program Committee and personnel from several departments performed a camaraderie dance to kick off the program. This promotes friendship and solidarity among employees before the competition.

The competition this year featured P-pop songs and all seven ensembles performed musical and dance numbers. Everyone from the Administrative Department, Financial Management Department, Engineering Department, Operations Department, Offices under the Administrator, Special Projects Group and M8 had sent their representatives for the said competition.

The Winners of the Office Competition

Engineering Department 1st Place





Offices under the Administrator 2nd Place



Financial Management Department 3rd Runner-Up



Meanwhile, Mr. Erjhon P. De Vera of Administrative Department and Engr. Loysa A. Mata of the Engineering Department were crowned as Mr. and Ms. NIA Central Office 2024.

The NIA Year-End Assessment will not be completed without the speech of Administrator Engr. Eddie G. Guillen. In his speech, he reminded NIAns of the true essence and spirit of Christmas. *"Ngayong Kapaskuhan, nawa'y magpatuloy ang ating mga naumpisahan, at magsilbing inspirasyon ang mga nakaraang tagumpay upang magsimula nang mas masigasig. Nawa'y mapuno ng pag-asa, pagmamahal, at tagumpay ang espesyal na araw na ito. Ang inyong pagsisikap at pag-aalay ng oras, lakas, at talino ay hindi matatawaran."*

Mr. and Ms. NIA Central Office

**Indeed, Christmas is a time of joy and generosity.
May the music of December inspire all NIAns to
provide the best irrigation service to our farmers. ❄️**

The National Irrigation Administration Employees Association of the Philippines (NIAEASP) plays a vital role in promoting the welfare and interests of employees working in the National Irrigation Administration (NIA). As the sole representative of NIA employees, the Association has been instrumental in advocating for their rights, providing support and assistance, and fostering a positive work environment.

Over the years, NIAEASP has achieved numerous milestones that have significantly impacted the lives of NIA employees. Some of its notable accomplishments include negotiating for better salaries and benefits, providing training and development programs, and advocating for policies that promote employee welfare and job security.

NIAEASP has various committees that handle specific functions and responsibilities. These committees work together to achieve the Association's goals and objectives, ensuring the welfare and interests of NIA employees are protected and promoted.

1. Credit Committee;
2. Membership Committee;
3. Human Resources Management Personnel Selection Board Level 1 and 2;
4. Bids and Awards Committee;
5. Canteen Committee;
6. Committee on Benefits;
7. Committee on Discipline;
8. Committee on Decorum and Investigation;
9. NIA Real Property and Housing Management Committee;
10. Sports Committee
11. Rehabilitation Leave Committee;
12. Uniform/Clothing Allowance Committee; and
13. PDC/Scholarship Committee

What motivates the newly-elected NIAEASP officials to serve and advocate for NIA employees is something we will explore today?



SHERYL A. BACANI
President

A strong commitment advocating employees' right, ensuring their welfare and empowering to have strong VOICE. It's about making meaningful impact and strengthening the NIAEASP's collective power.



JOSE COLLANTES
Vice President

I think my motivation would come from a desire to foster a supportive, collaborative environment. Assisting others succeed and contributing to positive workplace culture is fulfilling.



MARIFI ANTONETTE PIMENTEL
Secretary

To represent, serve and be the voice of my fellow NIA employees.

Serving with Passion: Insights from NIAEASP Members



FARLEY ABROGUENA
Treasurer

The primary motivator is the ability to use financial expertise to contribute to our organization's overall success.



ALTON JOHN REYES
Business Manager

To serve others without reciprocation.



ROMA FLORA
Auditor

I am motivated by the commitment to integrity and transparency. Auditors play a crucial role in ensuring financial accuracy and compliance with regulations, helping to maintain public trust in the organization.



GLEN DEXTER LAURENTE
Sectoral Representative
Engineering and Operations

The chance to make an impact, learning something new, staying curious, having fun and continuous improvement.



MARKY DIOSANA
Public Relations Officer

I am driven by the need to create a safe space that fosters open communication and ensures efficient information sharing. I am driven by the commitment to keep employees well-informed and engaged, while also working to build a more unified and empowered workforce that upholds NIAEASP's mission.



BLANCY DE CASTRO
Sectoral Representative
Administrative and Finance

I am motivated by the opportunity to learn new things and take on new challenges, exploring my own abilities and how I can effectively utilize them. As a sectoral representative, I will be able to make an impact on the welfare of my fellow NIAns.



Watering Success: The Cantijong Irrigators Association Story

In Barangay Poblacion Vieja, Batuan, Bohol, the hum of harvesters fills the air as golden grains of rice are gathered—a wonderful fruit of resilience, planning, and innovation. Among the farmers celebrating this season's bounty is Mr. Jose Llano, former President and current Board of Trustees Member of the Cantijong Irrigators Association (IA).

As one of the beneficiaries of the Cantijong Small Irrigation System (SIS), Mr. Llano's story embodies the transformative power of foresight and community effort.

A Farmer's Response to El Niño

"When we learned that an El Niño phenomenon was approaching, we wasted no time," Mr. Llano recalls during an interview amidst the harvest.

"We immediately started planting to ensure we could harvest before the dry spell arrived," he added.



Understanding the critical nature of timing and planning, Mr. Llano, who cultivates over 1.5 hectares across three lots, knew that a delay in action would spell months of hunger and hardship for his family and the community.

“Imagine six months of drought, followed by another six months of waiting. That’s why we work hard, planning and planting, so we don’t go hungry,” he said.

The Impact of NIA’s Support

Behind this season’s success is the Cantijong SIS, co-managed by the IA and the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) Bohol Office. Once plagued by conflicts over water access, the irrigation system now features concrete canals, ensuring efficient water delivery to farmlands.

“The improvement is remarkable,” Mr. Llano shares. *“Before, water would take about 30 minutes to reach our fields. Now, with the concrete canals, it only takes a few minutes,”* he added.

This improvement has revolutionized farming practices in Poblacion Vieja. The smooth water flow has eliminated disputes among farmers, as members of the association now agree on water schedules facilitated by NIA’s guidance. *“If a water shortage arises, a meeting is called to discuss allocation and delivery schedules. This kind of collaboration and management was impossible before,”* he explains.

A Bountiful Harvest

Standing amidst his rice field, Mr. Llano expresses gratitude for the support that has enabled him and fellow farmers to thrive despite challenges.

“We are truly thankful to NIA. The biggest benefit has been the proper management of water. Farmers no longer struggle or fight over it,” he says. His voice is filled with pride and relief.

The Cantijong SIS has not only increased productivity but has also fostered unity and a sense of shared purpose among farmers.



The Way Forward

As Mr. Llano watches his men reap the fruit of their labor, he reflects on the lessons of preparedness, hard work, and the value of collective effort.

“With the help of NIA, we have proven that even in the face of challenges like El Niño, we can overcome. All it takes is planning, perseverance, and the willingness to adapt.”

Mr. Llano’s story is a beacon of hope for farmers everywhere, illustrating how innovation and collaboration can turn challenges into opportunities and ensure a brighter, more secure future for agricultural communities. ☞



AROUND THE CORNER: NIA REGION VII NEWSLETTER



The Dagayday Newsletter of NIA Region VII has a rich history that dates back to 2010. It was first conceptualized by Mr. Jose Lito F. Lambojon, who was then the Acting Public Relations Officer and is now the Administrative and Finance Division Manager.

In 2010, the Public Affairs and Information Staff, headed by former Department Manager Pilipina P. Bermudez, required all regional offices to create a newsletter. This directive led to the birth of the Dagayday Newsletter, which has since become an essential communication tool for NIA Region VII.

The word “Dagayday” has a unique meaning that is closely related to the concept of irrigation. It means “slow flow of water”, which is a fitting description for a newsletter that aims to provide a steady stream of information to its readers.

Although NIA CARAGA initially shared the same name, “Dagayday” has been used by NIA Region VII since its separation from Region VIII. Despite the challenges, the newsletter has continued to thrive and provide valuable information to its readers. Today, the Dagayday Newsletter remains an important part of NIA Region VII’s communication strategy, keeping stakeholders informed about the latest developments and initiatives in the region. ~~~