



BUHAGAY

Addressing the irrigation needs of our farmers, securing a rice self-sufficient Philippines



2 OUTSTANDING IAS OF REGION 9 AWARDED AS NATIONAL RICE ACHIEVERS

Two (2) Irrigators Association of Zamboanga Peninsula officially received the award as 2019 National Rice Achievers in an Awarding Ceremony led by Agriculture Secretary William Dar on February 26, 2021 held at Zamboanga del Norte Cultural and Sports Center, Dipolog City. The Evergreen Malamboon Farmers Irrigators Association, Inc headed by IA President Nestor Agad was among the five (5) winners of Rice Achievers in the National Irrigation System (NIS) category. Meanwhile, the Azusano Irrigators Association headed by IA President Felix A. Sultan was awarded as one of the five (5) national Rice Achievers under the Communal Irrigation System. Each of the outstanding IAs received One

Million worth of project and Plaque of recognition reward as support to their respective associations.

Apart from the award, the said Irrigators Associations received the full support of the agency as they were accompanied by NIA Region IX management headed by Regional Manager Manuel L. Rañeses to witness the momentous event.

The awarding of Rice Achievers is held annually by the Department of Agriculture to recognize the efforts of top rice producers in the country. It is also one way to motivate and show appreciation to institutions, groups, and individuals for their great significant contributions in providing Filipinos quality and affordable rice. ■

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BALOBOAN SECTOR ORGANIZED

Dumalinao, ZDS – The Institutional Development Unit of Zamboanga del Sur IMO headed by Ms. Ann Maligro successfully organized Baloboan Sector on January 23, 2021. This sector will serve as an extension of Balocan IA, Inc and will consequently take-over the future irrigation system in Brgy Baloboan, Dumalinao, Zamboanga del Sur.

This proposed project named Canunan-Balongating CIS Extension has a total project cost of Php 10M under Triple – E IS (Expansion and Extension of Existing Irrigation System) CY 2021 fund source. Through this project, an additional 40 hectares of newly generated area will supplement the existing 317-hectare Canunan-Balongating CIS, therefore benefitting more farmer beneficiaries in the area.

WHAT IS BUHAGAY?

The word “Buhagay” is a Cebuano word that is used to generally describe abundance as well as to indicate movement in large quantities. It depicts an outflow of resources such as water. The National Irrigation Administration is about to bring water to our farmers, not in restriction but in abundance.

Another way to look at its meaning in the aspect of irrigation is to notice how this word is a combination of two (2) Tagalog words which are “Buhay” and “Bigay”, that is in English, life-giving. Water is life-giving because where water is, life follows – it grows, it nourishes, it appreciates.

In the same way, NIA being an irrigation agency is life-giving as it delivers water to the farmlands through the provision of irrigation facilities consequently feeding the entire rice-eating population.



The meeting was attended by officers and Board of Trustees (BOTs) of BaloCan IA, Inc, Punong Barangay Hon. Jonie Leyson together with his councilor, the Municipal Agriculturist, land owners, and future water users. It was a successful organizational meeting as the officers and members of

as well as future end-users of the system vouch to give their full support for the implementation of the project, and even extended their heartfelt gratitude to NIA for the continuous service despite the hurdles brought about by the pandemic.❏

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NIA REGION IX TURNS OVER ANOTHER SOLAR IRRIGATION

Buenavista, Zamboanga City The National Irrigation Region IX turned over Buenavista CIS to Km 57 Buenavista Lower Irrigators’ Association on March 01, 2021 at Barangay Buenavista, Zamboanga City. This project is the 6th solar powered irrigation system in Zamboanga City which gives hope to eight (8) rain-dependent farmer beneficiaries as they will now be having a reliable and sustainable water supply which will irrigate their five (5) hectares of agricultural land.

This project was inspired by the five (5) other existing solar irrigation systems of Zamboanga City initiated by Congressman Manuel Jose “Mannix” Dalipe – Zamboanga City 2nd District Representative, as part of his community development projects. The Solar Project Irrigation System of

Buenavista CIS is one of the Climate Change Adaptation Projects of NIA Region IX under the leadership of Regional Manager Manuel L. Rañeses. It is programmed under Repair Groundwater Pump Irrigation Systems (GPIS) 2020 with a total project cost of P 6.5-million which covers the construction of reinforced concrete tank, installation of solar water pump, pipelines, CCTV, and perimeter fence. The project was completed under the supervision of ZAMBASULTA Regional Office headed by Acting Manager Bernie L. Rada II with ASAP General Trading Construction Maintenance as the contractor.

The successful Inauguration and Turn-over Ceremony of Buenavista CIS was graced by Regional Manager Manuel Rañeses himself together with Engr. Robert Bernie Rada - Acting Manager of ZAMBASULTA RSO,

Congressman Manuel Dalipe - who strongly supports NIA on all its projects, Councilor John Dalipe, Councilor Miguel Alavar III - Chairman on the Committee of Agriculture, Barangay Chairman Eugene Jumawan, IA officials headed by President Ricardo Francisco, BOT and IA members, and NIA Region IX personnel.

Regional Manager Rañeses expressed his gratitude to the Local Government Unit for its unending support to the agency in achieving its purpose of uplifting the lives of our farmers. He also motivated Km 57 Buenavista Lower IA to not only accept the project but to truly take care of it as their own. Congressman Dalipe on the other hand, conveyed how proud he is for this project as it will help support food security, thus helping our country rise back again in a post pandemic scenario.❏

"KALABASANG PUNO NG SUSTANSYA, NAGBIBIGAY NG HANAP BUHAY SA MAGSASAKA"

With its continuing support to the Enhanced Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty (EPAHP) Program, the NIA-Zamboanga del Norte Regional Sub-Office facilitated the second Marketing Agreement with the first and foremost Food Corporation in Region IX producing the very nutritious Nutribun.

Nutribun is a bread made of 80% natural squash and it was used for feeding programs in the Government particularly in schools to fight against child malnutrition.

Yesterday, March 03, 2021- The Squash Marketing Agreement was successfully conducted between Nagkahiusang Mag-uuma sa Patubigng Zamboanga del Norte IA Federadation



headed IA Federation headed by Engr. Edgardo I. Cohena-IA Federation President and 2442 Phil. Foods Corporation Ltd headed by General Manager-Ms. Maria Amor Damas-Frias.

The activity were attended by Mr. Arman Aquino representative from Department of Science and Technology, Ms. Rosie Lyn R. Bayawa-SIDO NIA Reg-IX, Acting Manager of NIA-ZDN-RSO-Engr. Wilson N. Cabrales, Mr. Dionisio C. Solorio-ZDNRSO IDU-Head,

Supervising Institutional Development Officers and eight IA squash planters.

This negotiation is the victorious start to address the campaign to combat hunger and poverty, and help improve farmers' income not only in the Philippines but all throughout the country. As CabSec Karlo Nograles once said, "Hunger is a silent enemy that can no longer be ignored; maraming apektado, at maraming kailangan tulungan".

53IB SHARES INSIGHTS ON STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION TO NIA REGION 9

The management of NIA Region 9 invited Lt. Col. Jo-Ar Herrera of 53rd Infantry Battalion, Philippine Army to share his insights and expertise on Strategic Communication to the officials and personnel of NIA-9 Regional Office on March 10, 2021.

The talk of Lt. Col. Herrera happened prior to the conduct of the agency's Regional Management Conference. The Guest of Honor and Speaker talked about how Strategic Communication becomes purposeful in fulfilling the mission/objectives of the organization. He explained in details the concepts and competencies that

leader-communicators must practice and possess in order to effectively translate its objectives and gain strategic influence.

As a start, Lt. Col. Herrera showed a glimpse of what they do as public servants and partners in building peaceful communities in collaboration with other agencies, and non-government organizations in the province. In the course of his presentation, he also highlighted the mandate of President Duterte's E.O. 70 Whole-of-Nation Approach to End Local Communist Armed Conflict.

Regional Manager Manuel L. Rañeses expressed his gratitude to the Speaker for not hesitating

to share his expertise in this field. He thanked him for this opportunity as this will help them improve their approach in communicating their purpose and will surely be beneficial to their profession.

On the other hand, Lt. Col. Herrera extended his deepest appreciation for the invitation. He handed copies of the Breaking Free book (a narration of actual accounts of young people's fateful journeys who were recruited and once deceive by the CPP-NPA but were able to surrender and went back to the folds of the law) as a token of his unit's appreciation to National Irrigation Administration in becoming their partner in fulfilling their mandate.



FEATURING: NIA REGION 9'S APERTURE OPTIMISM BOARDS



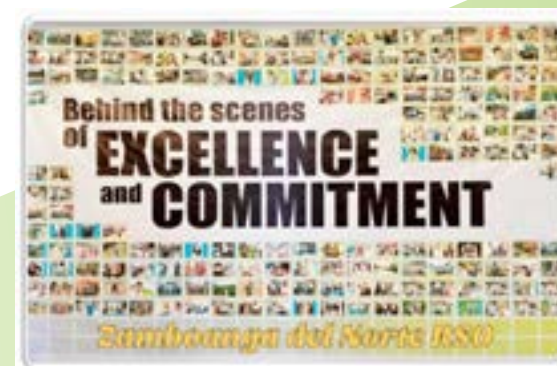
Last January 12, 2021, NIA Region 9 joined all other NIA offices in welcoming the year through the annual conduct of Ushering with the theme, "Fostering Resiliency and Efficiency for Proficient Service Through Innovations and Modernization". True to the #TuloyAngDaloyNIA, the Agency continuously succeeds in being resilient, yet efficient in doing its best in delivering irrigation services to the farmers.

As a symbolism of this year's theme, the NIA Aperture Optimism Board was created to depict behind-the-scenes of excellence and commitment. The Board was filled with photographs that portray joy and optimism of NIA employees who strive towards attaining the vision, mission, goals, and objectives of the agency despite all challenges and adversities encountered, especially during the time of pandemic.

Likewise, the Aperture Optimism Board welcomes the light that we all hope to see in 2021. This is the light that would make the smile of NIAns illuminate- bright smiles of strength, resiliency, achievements,

legacy, creative spirit, and happiness.

Seeing these boards stand in our respective offices, we will all be reminded to stay positive that brighter days are ahead of us, and that we can overcome everything as long as we keep unity and teamwork among us.



2021 NATIONAL WOMEN'S MONTH CELEBRATION

The NIA Region 9 Regional Office joins the 2021 National Women's Month Celebration with the theme, "Juana Laban sa Pandemya: Kaya!". The Office has lined up activities to take part of this annual event, held on March 26, 2021 at the Function Hall of NIA Region 9 building.

The 2021 Women's Month Celebration specifically aimed to engage women as stakeholders of government programs and services; create and facilitate platforms to discuss good practices, gaps, challenges, and commitments, in gender and development; and inspire and empower women and girls to be agents of change.

The occasion included a lecture about Women Empowerment by Ms. Jennylyn R. Cleofe, the Public Relations Officer and at the same time Chairperson, of



GAD Focal Point System TWG of NIA Region 9; an online talk related to Gender Equality and Female Empowerment; film-showing; and health and wellness activity. Apart from the pampering awarded to all female employees, they also received individual personalized tokens in order to make the occasion more memorable to all empowered women of NIA Region 9. ■



#TuloyAngDaloyNIA

NIA-9 ZDS IMO - LABRIS CONDUCTS IA AGRIBUSINESS SEMINAR TO FARMER

The Labangan River Irrigation System (LABRIS) of Zamboanga del Sur IMO, NIA-9 conducted IA Agribusiness Seminar to 30 farmer clienteles of different Irrigators Associations of LABRIS last April 12, 2021 at Lantian Covered Court, Labangan, Zamboanga del Sur.

This is in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture Region IX. Resource speakers were experts Ryan John Corbo, DA's Agriculture Technician, and Edellarie Jouela, Marketing Specialist. The activity aimed to improve the agricultural activity and productivity of farmers in the said municipality.

At the end of the activity, all participating farmers happily received packs of assorted vegetable seeds. ■



Project Profile (of Turned-over Project):

Project Name: Buburay Communal Irrigation System

Location: Buburay, Dimataling, Zamboanga del Sur

Fund Source: RRRECIS 2020

Name of IA: Buburay Irrigators Association, Inc.

Service Area: 30 has (TargetArea)

No. of FBs: 35 Farmer Beneficiaries

Total Project Cost: 2,870,000.00

IDO: Mr. Jeson B. Suaren

PIC: Mr. Mark Joseph Bontia

Project Profile (MOA Signing):

Project Name: Buburay Communal Irrigation System

Location: Buburay, Dimataling, Zamboanga del Sur

Fund Source: EEEICIS 2021

Name of IA: Buburay Irrigators Association, Inc.

Service Area: 30 has (TargetArea)

No. of FBs: 35 Farmer Beneficiaries

Total Project Cost: 7,000,000.00

IDO: Ms. Rhea Mae F. Luspo

PIC: Mr. Mark Joseph Bontia

INAUGURATION AND TURN-OVER CEREMONY, PRECONSTRUCTION CONFERENCE AND MOA SIGNING OF BUBURAY CIS



SOON TO BE OPERATIONAL LOWER SIBUGUEY II RIS

Lower Sibuguey II River Irrigation System (RIS) Extension is already 61.84% accomplished as of April 20, 2021. The construction of the project comprise of fabrication, supply, delivery and installation of barrage gates which is projected to be completed by July 2021.

Lower Sibuguey II RIS Extension is under the direct the supervision of Zamboanga Sibugay Irrigation Management Office headed by Acting Manager Girlie Detalla. It has a total project cost of 31.8 million under Line Projects CY 2017 Fund Source. It is being undertaken by Wassecon Corporation, with Engr. Elvin Belleza as the Project In Charge.



On April 19, 2021, Regional Manager Manuel Rañeses personally inspected the project and met with the contractor in order to provide necessary support so as to fast tract the completion of the said project.

The management ensured that this project be operational the

soonest possible time. The construction of this dam will surely irrigate more farmlands in Zamboanga Sibugay, thus producing more rice for the people and improving the life of our farmers. ■

The Zamboanga del Sur Irrigation Management Office (ZDS IMO) of NIA Region 9 conducted its 1st batch of mass Pre-construction Conference and Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Signing to six (6) barangays under Zamboanga del Sur to benefit from the new irrigation projects of NIA-9 for CY 2021. The activity was held at KCCP Hotel and Convention Center, Pagadian City on May 7, 2021.

The 1st batch of barangays from ZDS to work with NIA for the new irrigation projects are the following:

- 1. Manga 1, Pagadian City – Project Cost: 5M; Irrigable area: 10 has
- 2. Lourdes, Pagadian City – Project Cost: 5M; Irrigable area: 20 has
- 3. Ditoray, Pagadian City – Project Cost: 7.1M; Irrigable area: 10 has
- 4. Canunan Balongating CIS Extn, Baloboan, Dumalinao – Project Cost: 10M; Irrigable area: 30 has;
- 5. Bobuan, Bayog – Project Cost: 10M; Irrigable area: 30 has



6 BARANGAYS OF ZDS TO RECEIVE NEW IRRIGATION PROJECTS FROM NIA THIS YEAR



6. Katipunan CIS Extn, Ramon Magsaysay– Project Cost: 10M; Irrigable area: 30 has

These 47.1 million worth of irrigation projects will irrigate an additional of more or less 130 hectares of agricultural land which will surely increase the yield of our farmers, thus increasing the rice sufficiency of the whole province.

Present during the activity are Hon. Leonilo Boringa, Municipal Mayor of Ramon Magsaysay, ZDS; Hon. Junaflor Sweet Cerilles, Mun. Mayor of Dumalinao. ZDS; Hon. Celso Matias, Mun. Mayor of Bayog; and Hon. Fernando Pameron, City Councilor, Pagadian City. All the local chief executives expressed their appreciation and gratitude to the agency and committed to give their full support throughout the project implementation.

As beneficiaries of these projects , the Irrigators Associations leaders and members are much more grateful as these will give hope for them to be able to produce more for their families and for the community who mainly rely on their harvest.

NIA REGION IX TURNS OVER TALINGA SIP IN ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE



This Sindangan, ZDN – The National Irrigation Administration IX turned over Talinga Small Irrigation Project (SIP) to Ingin Irrigators’ Association, Inc. on February 24, 2021 at Brgy Maras, Sindangan, Zamboanga del Norte.

This project was originally implemented in 2014 in two packages: Package 1 which covers diversion works and Package 2 for canalization and canal structure funder under SIP 2014 amounting to 60 million. Sometime in 2017, the project was terminated by default of the

contractor. On 2018, it was continued through Admin Works and was fully completed on August 2020 through a 20-million support from 2020 SIP Buffer Fund. Because of the cooperation and unity of members, coupled with persistence and transparency shown by officers, Talinga SIP was successfully completed. Soon, it will be fully operational irrigating 90 hectares of agricultural land in Zamboanga del Norte.

The inauguration and turn-over ceremony of Talinga SIP was graced by Regional Manager Manuel Rañeses together with Engr. Wilson Cabrales, Acting Manager of Zamboanga del Norte IMO; Representatives from the Local Government Unit of Zamboanga del Norte and the Municipal Agriculture; IA Officials headed by President Elma Bagsican, BOT and IA members; and NIA-9 personnel.

Regional Manager Rañeses expressed his gratitude to the Local Government Unit for its unending support to the Agency in achieving its purpose of uplifting the lives of our farmers. He also motivated the members of Ingin Irrigators Association, Inc. to not only accept the project but to truly take care of it as their own.

NIA REGION IX TURNS OVER LUMPANAC CIS IN ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY



Imelda, Zamboanga Sibugay – National Irrigation Administration IX turned-over Lumpanac Communal Irrigation System (CIS) to Tiholan Farmers Irrigators Association, Inc. on May 14, 2021 at Brgy. Lumpanac, Imelda, Zamboanga Sibugay.

The project costs 7-million which consists of construction of Drainage System, Protection dike, and Slope its water source from Lumpanac Creek Protection. The irrigation system gets

and is now able to distribute and supply irrigation water to about 90 hectares of agricultural land in the barangay.

The turn-over ceremony was graced by Regional Manager Manuel L. Rañeses together with Engr. Girlie M. Detalla, Acting Manager of Zamboanga Sibugay IMO, Lumpanac Brgy Chairman Hon. Paul John C. Cunting, IA Officials headed by President Monico M. Pupuri, IA members and NIA-9 personnel.

During his speech, RM Rañeses

his insights on how to properly operate and maintain the CIS, and advised to take care of the project and to immediately repair minor damages to avoid bigger problems along the way . He added that NIA-9 will be there to offer help even if the CIS will be devolved to the LGU in the future. Moreover, Acting Manager Detalla emphasized the importance of having a strong association in order for the farmer group to thrive and prosper. She motivated the association to unite for them to reach their goals and potentials. On the other hand, IA President Pupuri was overwhelmed being visited by the Regional Manager for the first time. The association as well as the LGU is thankful to NIA for their support in irrigation and farming. They vowed to take the challenge in improving their association so that they will be able to enjoy the benefits of the government given to well performing associations.

PHOTONEWS



The NAGKAHIUSANG IRRIGATORS' SA TAMBULIG ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR INC. headed by IA President Angel A. Busoy pride of Salug River Irrigation System (SARIS), Zamboanga del Sur IMO-Region IX receives an award during the NIA's 58th Anniversary Celebration via livestreaming for being one of the winners in the Annual Search for Outstanding Performer IA NIS Category nationwide at NIA-SARIS Function Hall, Dipolo, Molave, Zds. The IA was awarded with plaque of recognition, cash incentive and 1 Million worth of IA Model Farm Project.

In photos: Engr. Benedicto O. Pulis, Jr., ZDSIMO Officer In-Charge, Engr. Peter Elvis L. Galleto, Systems Chief, Ms. Melanie Joy Y. Carreon, IDO-A and the very active IA officers of Nagkahiusang Irrigators' sa Tambulig Zamboanga del Sur Inc.

Nagkahiusang Irrigators Association honored as one of the Most Outstanding Irrigators Associations nationwide
LABANGAN, ZDS, June 28 (NIA-9) – The National Irrigation Administration Region 9 (NIA-9) bestowed awards to Nagkahiusang Irrigator's Association (IA) of Tambulig, Zamboanga del Sur for being one of the winners during the Search of Most Outstanding Irrigators Association (IA) CY 2020 for the National Irrigation System (NIS) Category of National Irrigation Administration.

Nagkahiusang IA was honored for their achievement and success in operation and maintenance performance and implementation, financial operation, and organizational discipline and linkages. As a winner, they will be receiving 1 million worth of IA model farm project, a plaque, and P50,000 cash incentive from NIA Central Office, and another plaque and P5,000 reward from the Regional Irrigation Office (RIO). The virtual awarding ceremony was organized by NIA-9 RIO to formally congratulate and recognize the accomplishment of the IA. The management also conveyed appreciation to the Institutional Development Program implementers for their hard work and support that led to the success of the IA winner.



NIA Region 9 particularly the Zamboanga Sibugay Irrigation Management Office (IMO) had the opportunity to share to the general public the plans and programs of the Agency through the Philippine Information Agency (PIA) Sibugay. The Zamboanga Sibugay IMO was represented by Ms. Daren Jean Tubat, Administrative Services Officer and Mr. Rey Anthony Arconada of the Planning and Design Unit. The 40-minute interview covered topics about the Agency's Development Programs, its services, and projects. Also discussed was about the implementation of E.O.

138 - Full devolution of NIA's basic services and facilities to the Local Government Units (LGUs). In behalf of the IMO, Acting Manager Girlie M. Detalla would like to thank the Philippine Information Agency for this opportunity to share NIA's purpose not only to the people of Zamboanga Sibugay but to the nation who has access to social media.

CANAL CLEARING MAINTENANCE AND DESILTING OF MAIN FARM DITCH AT DIPEX IA was conducted last May 28 to June 1, 2021 located in Purok Valley, Dipolo, Molave, Zamboanga del Sur. The activity was a joint endeavor by National Irrigation Administration- Salug River Irrigation System and DIPEX IA headed by IA President Jessie Olazo.



NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION R-IX

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