



In its third year, PRDP further expands reach



Beyond Picturesque. Sitting atop rolling hills overlooking the Chico River, the 15.8-kilometer Bulanao–Amlao farm-to-market road (FMR) in Tabuk City, Kalinga will benefit at least 1,225 households. Among other outcomes, the P196.21 million-worth FMR is also expected to expand existing coffee and rice production areas by about 40 and 30 hectares, respectively. The infrastructure complements the province's integrated coffee processing and marketing subproject under the PRDP's enterprise development component.

Approaching third year into implementation, the Department of Agriculture's Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) has further expanded its reach, engaging 79 out of the 81 provinces in science-based planning and project implementation approaches for agricultural development.

Using value chain analysis and other planning tools, these provinces have crafted their respective provincial commodity investment plans, which serve as the PRDP's basis in identifying viable infrastructure and enterprise development subprojects it will support.

As of June 23, 2017, the PRDP has approved P19.7 billion-worth of infrastructure development subprojects—mostly farm-to-market roads—in 67 of the 81 provinces, benefitting roughly 420,000 households.

Among the completed infrastructure subprojects include 109.3 kilometers of FMR, as well as two potable water systems (PWSs) in Sultan Kudarat and South Cotabato.

Additional 16,257 households are also expected to benefit from PWS subprojects at various stages of procurement and construction.

Engr. Cirilo N. Namoc, the PRDP's national deputy project director said that there are also other type of infrastructures that farming and fishing communities can expect from the Project, including communal irrigation systems, warehouses, and fish landings, among others.

"For instance, we have communal irrigation system subprojects under procurement or construction that will service about 750 hectares of farmlands," Namoc said.

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DA replaces asbestos pipes in Laguna town water system

In a bid to provide accessible, adequate and safe water supply to both farming and non-farming residents of Cavinti town in Laguna, the Department of Agriculture's Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) has started the construction of the municipality's new water system, replacing the worn-out and hazardous asbestos pipes.

Howard Miras, supervisor of the Cavinti waterworks office, said that the deterioration of the pipes, which were installed in the 1950's, has recently become worse, making it more difficult and costlier for the local government unit (LGU) to conduct repairs.

Miras added that there have been recommendations for them to replace the asbestos pipes as the government has long banned the use of the material because of health hazards it poses.

Inhaling or ingesting asbestos fibers may cause mesothelioma, a rare, aggressive cancer that develops

in the lining of certain organs or spaces within the body, known as the mesothelium. Symptoms, which appear after 20–50 years of exposure, are often similar to other diseases, leading to incorrect diagnosis.

But the Cavinti LGU is not only concerned with asbestos contamination but also with other harmful substances and germs that enter the deteriorating pipes.

"Our asbestos pipes have many leaks and these pass through rice fields and creeks. With these leaks, the water may become contaminated," Miras explained.

Miras added that when these pipes are already replaced with PVC (polyvinyl chloride plastic) their apprehension of residents getting sick because of contaminated water will be gone.

"When the [friable] asbestos pipes will be replaced with PVC, contaminants can no longer permeate the water system," Miras said.

Intermittent water supply

Some residents complain that recently, they have been experiencing unsteady water supply, leaving them with no option but to fetch water from nearby houses—sometimes even at midnight or at dawn—and wash their clothes in the river.

Miras explained that the current water system cannot provide continuous water supply to the whole municipality as the leaks on the asbestos pipes reduce the pressure, and consequently, the volume of water reaching the distribution tank.

"Each street has control valves where we control the flow of water—from four to eight hours at a time. There is no 24-hour supply of water here," he said.

Miras said that this problem will be solved as the old pipes will be replaced by PVC pipes.

[Read more on p.3](#) ▶



Water Shortage. With the leaking old asbestos pipes of their municipal water system, the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Cavinti, Laguna currently seeks to augment water volume at their main distribution tank with a deep-well pump. The leaks in the asbestos pipes, which were installed in the 1950's, reduces the volume of water that reaches the tank, causing shortage of water supply in the town. (Photo by Kathrino V. Resurreccion, NPCO InfoACE Unit)

In its third year... (from page 1)

On the other hand, 56 of the 81 provinces have already accessed P825.1 million-worth of approved funding for enterprise development, benefiting about 91,000 households.

Completed subprojects worth P21.08 million under the enterprise development component include microenterprises that support calamity-stricken farming and fishing communities in Luzon and Visayas.

Other micro, small and medium enterprises worth P804.05 million are at various stages of implementation and procurement. Among the medium enterprises now at more than 50 percent implementation

stage include the P32.55-million cassava granules marketing subproject in Polomolok, South Cotabato and the P10.04-million calamansi trading subproject in Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro. Results of preliminary appraisal of emerging outcomes for FMRs show that on the average, travel time has been reduced by 61% or from 16 to 6 minutes per kilometer; hauling cost has been reduced by 47% or from P22 to P12 per sack; and postharvest loss has been reduced by 20%. With improved road connectivity, traffic count has also increased by 112%.

For enterprise development, the preliminary emerging outcomes include, among others, increase in annual income of enterprise group by

126% and increase in the volume of products marketed by 58%.

"We can see that our investments have yielded us our desired outcomes. But more than that, we have reached out to and engaged more LGUs—this time more extensively," Namoc said, stressing that beyond spreading monetary investments across provinces, the PRDP also seeks to introduce new approaches in agricultural governance to LGUs.

"We are especially pleased of the LGUs' receptive attitude towards the new ways of how we do business. This means we have also expanded our foothold for reforms the PRDP strives to advocate," Namoc said. (Jan P. Dacumos, NPCO InfoACE Unit) ■

DA replaces... (from page 2)

"In terms of design, the current system has a six-inches pipe from spring source to storage tank. With the PRDP subproject, the pipe diameter will be gradually reduced from the source to the distribution tank to build pressure," Miras said.

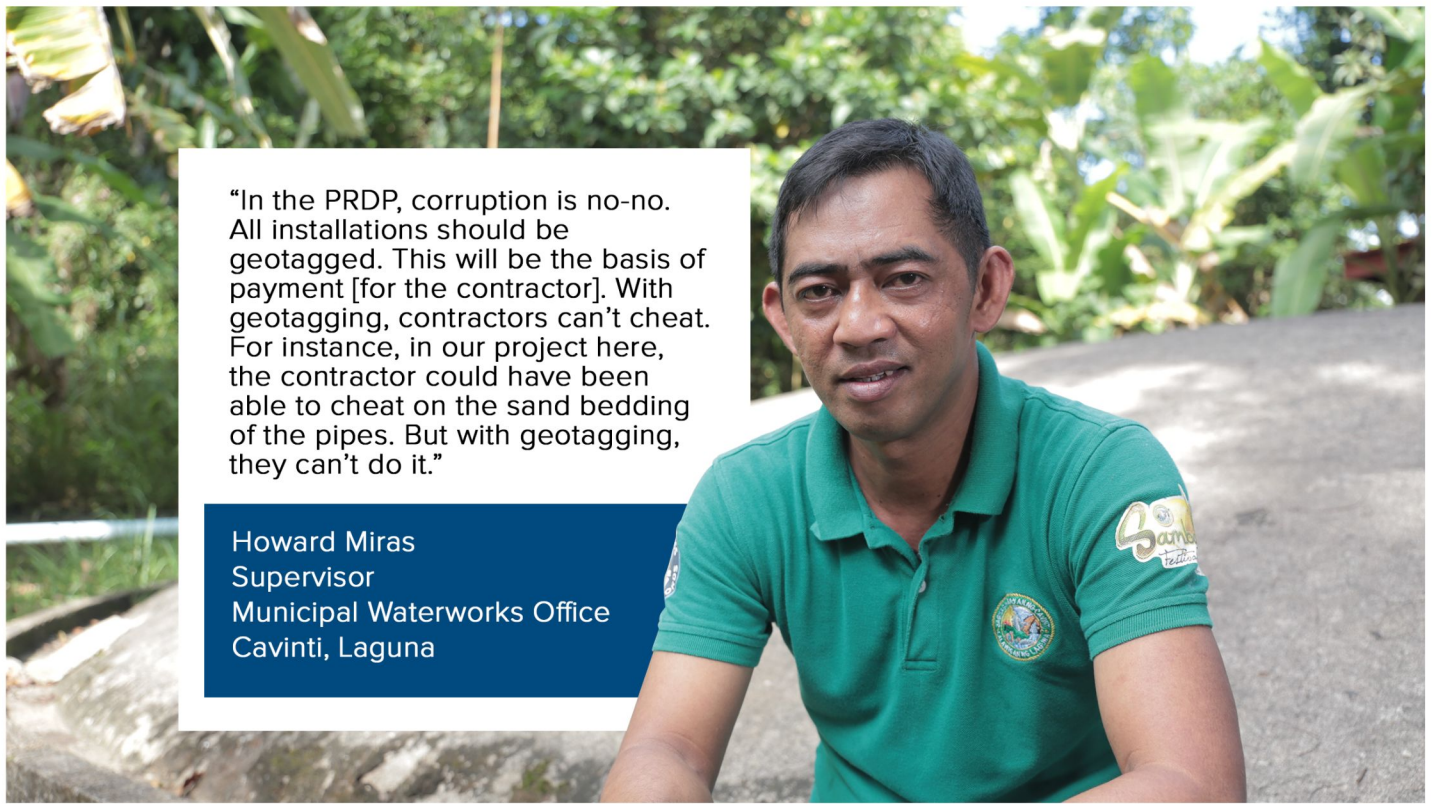
Adelaida Valente, sanitation inspector of Barangay Poblacion

said that with the subproject, residents can save money as they will no longer buy drinking water.

She explained that currently, residents do not drink from the tap; instead, they source drinking water from water refilling stations or directly from springs.

The P26.45 million-worth subproject

will benefit about 2,620 households or 10,490 individuals. It is the second biggest PWS subproject under the PRDP, next to the P73.71-million PWS subproject in Luisiana, also in Laguna, which will benefit at least 4,735 households or 23,675 individuals. (Jan P. Dacumos, NPCO InfoACE Unit)



"In the PRDP, corruption is no-no. All installations should be geotagged. This will be the basis of payment [for the contractor]. With geotagging, contractors can't cheat. For instance, in our project here, the contractor could have been able to cheat on the sand bedding of the pipes. But with geotagging, they can't do it."

Howard Miras
Supervisor
Municipal Waterworks Office
Cavinti, Laguna

LUZON A (North Luzon)

P74.6-M agri warehouses soon to rise in Apayao

P74.6 million-worth of warehouses for rice, corn, coffee and other agricultural produce will soon be constructed in seven municipalities of Apayao to boost the income of farmers in the province.

The construction of the modern storage facilities in Conner, Kabugao, Sta. Marcela, Flora, Pudtol, Luna and Calanasan towns is seen to reduce postharvest losses and product deterioration, and maintain good quality of grains and crops.

With the warehouses, farmers can have ample time to sort out their products into sizes or grades for better pricing, and look out for increase in buying prices. (*Ma Isabel Zabala, RPCO-CAR InfoACE Unit*)

LUZON B (South Luzon)

PRDP subproject to solve Palawan mango pest woe

The P15.43 million-worth mango processing and marketing subproject in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan is expected to solve a long-time problem of the province's mango industry—pulp weevil, a small insect infecting mango fruits.

With the subproject, the Tagumpay Agrarian Auto-Savings Multi-Purpose Cooperative will focus on the marketing of processed mango, rather than selling fresh fruits, which have been placed under confinement in Palawan since 1987 to avoid the spread of the pest to the rest of the country.

“While there is a ban because of the mango pulp weevil in the export of fresh mango out of Palawan, there is no ban in the by-products that can be derived out of the fresh mango,” Puerto Princesa City Mayor Luis Marcaida III said. (*Leira Vic Colongan, RPCO-MIMAROPA InfoACE Unit*)

VISAYAS

PRDP-Eastern Visayas taps academe in subproject monitoring

The PRDP has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Southern Leyte State University

(SLSU), signaling the start of the SLSU's full participation in monitoring PRDP subprojects being implemented in the province.

SLSU President Prose Ivy Yepes said that this will become one of the major activities that will be placed under the university's extension program and will be integrated in the students' on-the-job training.

“[With] the application of the Project's science-based monitoring and transparency tools, this will hopefully instill in them (students) the value of quality work,” Yepes said. (*Rodel G. Macapañas, RPCO-8 InfoACE Unit*)

MINDANAO

Mindanao LGUs emulate PRDP infra project standards

Ensuring that quality and standards are observed in the implementation of their rural infrastructure projects, local government units (LGUs) in Mindanao have espoused measures and regulations patterned after the PRDP.

The Davao del Norte LGU has adopted the training on Infrastructure Quality Monitoring and Durability System (IQMDS), which was introduced by the PRDP. The IQMDS ensures that LGUs and contractors adhere to quality assurance and control indicators in the implementation of infrastructure projects. The LGU has also prescribed standard bunkhouses, which will house important documents needed for inspection, be it for local or external funders.

Meanwhile, in Lanao del Norte, Governor Imelda Quibranza-Dimaporo has issued an executive order creating the Provincial Inspectorate Team, which will apply the PRDP way of the conduct of their inspections and utilize the tools introduced by the Project among them the applied geotagging application. (*Sherwin B. Manual, Mindanao PSO InfoACE Unit*)



— Grievance —
Redress Mechanism

Web-Based GRM System: Social Accountability Online

The PRDP's Web-Based Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) System is an online complement of the process by which the Project gathers and processes complaint, query and feedback—both negative and positive—from beneficiaries, project affected persons and other stakeholders. With the system, arising issues are promptly addressed and efficiently documented.

<http://grm.daprdp.net/grm>

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