



## Behind the scenes in Kalinga's Journey

### *Treading the road to Development*

by Domingo Bakilan, PPMIU Head  
Province of Kalinga



**Kalinga Coffee.** A farmer in Kalinga, the top coffee producer province in the Cordilleras, prepares dried Robusta coffee cherries for processing. Along with heirloom rice (unoy variety), the province has prioritized coffee in their commodity investment plan and has so far clinched P207.37 million-worth of investments from the Department of Agriculture's Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) alone. (Photo by North Luzon PSO InfoACE Unit)

As I hear the concrete mixer turns, then watch closely as it pours out its contents of thoroughly mixed sand, gravel and cement into what has been a road full of mud—and misery—I felt an overwhelming sense of relief. It's happening, really happening. Three of our proposed improvement of muddy, rugged and dusty roads are now being concreted.

It has been three years since we proposed these roads. We all thought that our efforts would become futile, but with patience and perseverance, I can say that we can realize our objectives.

### **Topping the charts**

Out of 62 subprojects proposed in the Cordillera region for funding under

the Department of Agriculture's Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP), the province of Kalinga topped the charts for having submitted 13 infrastructure development subproject proposals comprising 11 farm-to-market roads (FMRs) amounting to P1.36 billion; one FMR with bridge amounting to P80 million; and one enterprise infrastructure amounting to P2.4 million. All in all, the province has proposed about P1.44 billion worth of subprojects to be funded under the PRDP, the highest amount in terms of proposals for the whole North Luzon Cluster. This Cluster is composed of four regions, namely, CAR and Regions I, II and III.

Our ongoing FMR subprojects likewise, topped the charts in terms of aggregate cost, seizing more than P524 million-worth of investment under the Project's infrastructure development (I-BUILD)

component as of first quarter this year.

As for the enterprise development (I-REAP) component, the province was able to have its proposal on coffee processing and marketing approved. The Kalinga Integrated Coffee Processing and Marketing Enterprise, a small enterprise for upgrading/expansion worth P7.3 million, will serve 601 beneficiaries who are members of six cooperatives engaged in coffee business. It is noteworthy that this is the first proposed enterprise ever in North Luzon Cluster to have been submitted for approval—with the World Bank as the approving body issuing the No Objection Letter 1—and be allowed to proceed with the bidding process.

Read more on p.3



## World Bank, PRDP laud Quezon for FMR construction

World Bank and PRDP representatives commended the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Candelaria, Quezon for working closely with the contractor of a major infrastructure development subproject in the province, resulting in a 'good-quality' farm-to-market road (FMR).

The team from the 4th World Bank Implementation Support Mission, during its South Luzon leg, visited the Sta. Catalina Norte–San Isidro–Kinatihan I–Kinatihan II–Pahinga Norte FMR in said town and noticed the superior quality of concrete mixture, which results from the right quality and ratio of materials used.

The mission team however asked the LGU to pay the soonest possible time affected families whose portions of lands were expropriated with the construction of the P93.21 million-worth FMR.

### 20,000 beneficiaries

Stretching 12.48 kilometers, the FMR is the largest construction project in the area, and possibly one of the longest in the entire province, George Suayan, the town's vice mayor said.

"We are really thankful for this project which will benefit 20 thousand residents," Suayan said.

Norma Berendo, barangay captain of San Isidro, said that

farmers in their area had to haul their agricultural produce with difficulty because of the length of the dirt road they had to walk on.

"Even though our barangay is not situated in a mountainous area, we need to hire vehicles to transport our produce—and with difficulty because the drivers usually refuse, particularly during rainy days [when] the traders would [also] refuse to fetch our products," Berendo said.

The PRDP has approved about P1.4 billion-worth of infrastructure development subprojects that will support the province's priority commodities including coconut, dairy cattle, banana and seaweeds. (Alladin S. Diega, NPCO InfoACE Unit) ■



**Halfway to Completion.** Soon, at least 20,000 residents in this part of Candelaria, Quezon will benefit from the construction of the Sta. Catalina Norte–San Isidro–Kinatihan I–Kinatihan II–Pahinga Norte farm-to-market road, which is now 55% complete. (Photo by Joseph R. Caldino, NPCO InfoACE Unit)



## Behind the scenes... (from page 1)

### Political will of the local chief executive

Since the inception of the PRDP, Kalinga was identified as a province with great potential to be a pilot implementer of subprojects—all because of coffee. Our provincial local chief executive (LCE) strongly believes that the PRDP will be the key to fully open the gates to the coffee industry in Kalinga with the improvement of already existing but relatively poor roads from remote coffee production areas. This will then enable us to gain easier access to local and International markets. Moreover, the LCE recognizes the importance of roads in the development of the whole provincial domain.

With this in his heart and mind, through the exercise of his political will, there have been several positive actions taken in support of the PRDP. Among these include the approval of provincial budget allotment to be used for PRDP activities which is separate and distinct from the required provincial equity for each subproject's requirement. This budgetary requirement may have affected the province's budget allotments, but looking into the other side of the coin, it is essential that some funds be set

aside and used specifically for the various activities in PRDP implementation.

### Good relationship of LCE, provincial legislative body

It is of general knowledge that the legislative body makes rules which shall depend on the approval of the head of the executive branch. If there is lack of support from both sides, it would be difficult to come up with agreeable terms. But in our province, the LCE strongly supports what the legislative body recommends with regard to implementation, especially that the purpose is for the progress and development of the province.

### LCE-PPMIU, contractors: partners in development

Recognizing the role of contractors as partners in development, it is imperative that there is also a harmonious relationship among them and the provincial implementers. The Provincial Project Monitoring and Implementing Unit (PPMIU) sees to it that the Project is implemented properly by advocating for the direct beneficiaries to take part in this endeavor.

The Barangay Inspectorate Team (BIT) in each affected barangay are strengthened together with the PPMIU, in cooperation with the Regional Project

Coordinating Office (RPCO). Moreover, the PPMIU, as well as the RPCO, has each assigned resident engineers to guarantee that the construction is being implemented properly. There may have been conflicts but were settled immediately through the mediation of the PPMIUs.

### Above all, patience, commitment, perseverance

Patience, commitment, perseverance, obedience and other factors like personal sacrifices were the strongholds that pushed the PPMIU to go through the feat of achieving this provincial status in the PRDP. It may sound simple, but the struggle we all have to go through can never be quantified.

The road is still long ahead of us. The Province is still anticipating the approval of pipelined subprojects. And if ever these subprojects will be approved, the province will surely be full of concreted roads, the same roads that shall open the doors to agricultural products that are plentiful in the far-flung rural areas. We are hopeful that progress is on its way for the province. As the Governor always says, "The road to progress is the road itself." Many thanks to the PRDP. ■

## P20.13 billion: Top 10 Commodities with Approved Rural Infrastructure (I-BUILD) and Enterprise Development (I-REAP) Subprojects Based on Investment Cost (as of May 5, 2017)

Rank	Commodity	Number of Subprojects	Cost in Million Pesos	Household Beneficiaries
1	Coconut	270	4,281.93	91,365
2	Abaca	72	3,313.64	119,935
3	Banana	54	1,924.19	40,654
4	Rubber	33	1,766.26	28,341
5	Coffee	33	1,446.88	30,092
6	Dairy	34	1,094.41	22,440
7	Cassava	20	877.05	20,340
8	Mango	20	768.28	8,063
9	Rice	42	626.57	47,403
10	Aromatic/Pigmented Rice	8	575.22	8,096
	Others	281	3,458.00	122,949
Total		851	20,132.43	539,677

**Note:** Some subprojects support multiple commodities.

## North Luzon

### PRDP highlights stakeholders' rights in Mountain Province

The PRDP, in its aim to ensure social acceptability of proposed subprojects in Mountain Province, has stressed the rights of stakeholders that must be upheld during a series of consultation activities in Bauko and Barlig towns.

Expected beneficiaries and other stakeholders of proposed subprojects were informed of their rights to participate in designing/redesigning the subprojects, as well as their rights to be compensated if any of their properties will be affected.

Standards and necessary documents required under the PRDP were also discussed, specifically on the compliance with social and environmental safeguards that ensure the protection and conservation of the natural resource base of identified subprojects. (*Elvy S. Taquio, RPCO-CAR InfoACE Unit*)

## South Luzon

### CALABARZON gets more enterprise dev't proposals

The PRDP's regional coordination office in CALABARZON has received more proposals under the Project's enterprise development (I-REAP) component with the advisory board recently approving P51-M subprojects to be implemented in Batangas and Quezon.

"We are glad that we have more enterprise proposals coming from different provinces. It shows that our efforts in encouraging local government units to avail of our component's services are working," CALABARZON's I-REAP Component Head Editha Salvosa said.

The proposals include the P2.9-million coffee production processing in Nasugbu, Batangas; the P6.2-million seaweeds production and marketing in Calatagan, Batangas; the P30.7-million dairy cattle production in Lipa City, Batangas; and the P11.2-million seaweeds production and marketing in Calauag, Quezon. (*Lawrence Albert A. Bariring, RPCO-CALABARZON InfoACE Unit*)

## VISAYAS

### PRDP helps combat poverty in Northern Samar

With strategic infrastructure and enterprise development subprojects, the PRDP has helped Northern Samar, a red-area in terms of typhoon frequency and one of the ten poorest provinces, improve rural livelihoods and combat poverty.

As of May 29, 2017, the PRDP has approved P104.63-million and P19.64-million worth of infrastructure and enterprise development subprojects, respectively. These include microenterprises intended to help farmers recover from typhoons such as the hog fattening and trading projects in San Jose, Mondragon and Allen municipalities. (*Josiah Echano, Northern Samar PPMIU*)

## MINDANAO

### Mindanao bullish of realizing PRDP targets

Three years into the implementation of the PRDP, the Mindanao cluster still remains as top performer in terms of fund allocation and in achieving the project development objectives.

During the 4th World Bank Implementation Support Mission, Deputy Project Director for Mindanao Araceli Morano reported that the cluster posted a total of P7.99-billion worth of approved infrastructure projects or 42 percent of the national allocation of P19.3 billion.

Following Mindanao is the North Luzon cluster with P4.66 billion (24%); South Luzon cluster with P3.69 billion (19%); and the Visayas cluster with P2.97 billion (15%).

"We are doing well in terms of the funds we have accessed from the Project and our accomplishments so far are leading towards the achievement of the project development objectives," Morano said. (*Sherwin B. Manual, Mindanao PSO InfoACE Unit*)



The PRDP received a **Satisfactory** rating from the World Bank during its 4th Implementation Support Mission to the Project



#### Summary of Project Performance Ratings

##### Overall Implementation Progress

Development Objectives  
Project Management  
Procurement  
Monitoring and Evaluation  
Financial Management  
GEF Activities

##### Satisfactory

Satisfactory  
Satisfactory  
Satisfactory  
Highly Satisfactory  
Moderately Satisfactory  
Moderately Satisfactory

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