



## Beyond Agri: FMR seen to ease student transport in S. Leyte town



**Lone Bus.** Along with few other modes of public transportation, this is the only bus that plies the rugged 19.4-kilometer San Roque–Bahay farm-to-market road (FMR) in Liloan, Southern Leyte. With the concreting of the FMR under the Department of Agriculture’s Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP), residents expect that the business sector would invest in more transportation options in the area. (Photo by Kathrino V. Resurreccion, NPCO InfoACE Unit)

From the commodity value chain perspective, it has been intended for the coconut industry—that is to address a constraint in the development of the province’s priority commodity; but needless to say, it will benefit residents a lot, including hundreds of students.

At 19.4 kilometers, stretching across 11 barangays, the concreting of the rugged San Roque–Bahay farm-to-market road (FMR) in Liloan, Southern Leyte under the Department of Agriculture’s Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) will provide ease of mobility to at least 10,500 residents, most of whom are engaged in coconut production and processing.

The FMR also runs along the Cabalian Bay coastline; thus, its improvement, which costs P229.14 million, would also benefit fisherfolk living within its influence area, including additional three barangays of the adjacent San Ricardo municipality.

But beyond agriculture and fisheries, the improved road is also seen to be of advantage to students, and even teachers, who have for years endured the poor road condition in the area.

Jonamel Chavez, a student of the Estela National High School (ENHS) shared that studying for them is challenging as they have limited choice for transportation in going to and from the school.

She said that their lone choice especially in Bahay, the farthest barangay on the Liloan side, is an old bus that only travels in a once-a-day schedule to and from the town proper.

“We have to wake up at 3 a.m. and wait for the bus. If we missed it, we have to walk for hours,” Chavez said.

She added that there are also times when they have to go home walking—until nightfall—as the bus gets filled up with passengers even before it reaches their school.

“During rainy days, our clothes would be soiled. We would be ashamed of going inside the school,” Chavez said.

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## P86.63-million Apayao warehouses to boost farmer-market link

Eight warehouses worth P86.63-million due for construction in Apayao through the Department of Agriculture's Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) are seen to help improve the connectivity of farmers to markets.

Prudencio Bosing, Apayao's provincial agriculturist said that one major issue they face in agricultural development is the distance of Apayao to markets. He shared that individual farmers cannot bring their products to big markets considering hauling costs and required volume.

Bosing shared that currently, traders mostly control farmgate prices. The provincial local government unit (PLGU) expect that this perennial issue can be minimized with the warehouses serving as consolidation centers

for agricultural produce such as coffee and banana.

"Some of banana fruits sold in Pangasinan, Clark and Manila are sourced here. One big issue is that farmers lose potential profits—we can't control the traders," Bosing said.

Bosing added that banana traders usually buy the fruits by piece, not by weight.

"Farmers have decried this system and hoped that one day, the province would build a bagsakan center or warehouse drop-off point where farmers could [collectively] negotiate with buyers," Bosing said.

Marcela Daggay, a farmer from Calafug village in Conner town said that they have always wanted a common facility where they can store or sell their products.

"Traders could then pick up our

products at once. We could save money as we no longer have to pay for hauling fees," Daggay said.

Besides product consolidation and storage, the provincial agriculturist said that the warehouses would also assist the PLGU and local processors in their value-adding efforts.

"In terms of processing, while it is true that farms are here, consolidating the products is challenging. Our local processing industries also have a hard time gathering [raw materials]. With produce consolidated in the warehouses, processors could source their materials from these facilities," Bosing said.

[Read more on p.3](#) 



**Warehouse Soon.** Farming residents of Calafug village in Conner, Apayao show the site where the P9.85 million-worth warehouse will be constructed to serve as a consolidation center for agricultural products such as banana and coffee. Funded through the Department of Agriculture's Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP), it is one of the eight warehouses worth P86.63 million to be constructed in strategic locations in the province. (RPCO-3 InfoACE Unit)



## Integrating Livelihood and Marine Resources Protection

"This project from the PRDP would be of great help since with the fish cages to be provided, the marine protected area will be kept under guard. Illegal fishers would not be able to encroach on the area."

### Nilda Flores

Maliliit na Mangingisda ng Caramay  
Multi-Purpose Cooperative (MMCMPC)

**Microenterprise Name:** Community-Based Green Grouper Livelihood Support Project  
**Location:** Green Island Bay, Roxas, Palawan  
**Cost:** P1.11 million (80% from Global Environment Facility Grant)  
**Beneficiaries:** 48 members



### Beyond Agri... (from page 1)

The sixteen-year-old said that sometimes, her classmates would not want to attend their classes.

"They think that they might not be able to catch a ride and be walking again, anyway," she said.

Chavez hopes that with the PRDP subproject, more vehicles would ply the FMR, ending their hardships in attending school.

Meanwhile, ENHS mathematics teacher Bryan Bulactin said that the poor road condition has negatively

affected student performance.

"Some of them just sleep in class since they have to catch the bus as early as 3 a.m. I have observed that most of the students coming from the [farther] barangays are not that attentive, not focused, and not participative in class," Bulactin shared.

The teacher added that two students had died after they fell from the bus' roof, which is also maximized to load additional passengers.

Bulactin is positive that with the concreting of the road, entrepreneurs

would venture into public transportation business, hence easing their students' transport woes.

"Their only reason of not venturing into this business is the poor road condition. They would lose profits with high maintenance cost," Bulactin said.

The FMR improvement package also comes with the construction of three bridges, which will also address the accident risks faced by students who would alternatively ride on boats during floods just to reach the school. (Jan P. Dacumos, NPCO InfoACE Unit) ■

### P86.63-million Apayao warehouses... (from page 2)

The eight warehouses, according to Bosing, will be erected in strategic locations—carefully selected with a set of prioritization criteria—in each of Apayao's seven municipalities. Luna town, the provincial capital and main commercial center, however, will have two warehouses. Costing between P9.85 million to P12 million,

the construction of the warehouses seeks to increase the income of farmers as buying prices are increased to about 50 percent and losses and product deterioration are reduced from about 25 to 10 percent.

Also, the facilities are also expected to help maintain the quality of grains and other products especially during the wet season.

Bosing said that to ensure sustainability of the subprojects, the PLGU continues to organize and train farmers, enabling them to meet the volume needed once the warehouses become operational. Likewise, farmers' associations will be involved in the operations and maintenance of the facilities. (Jan P. Dacumos, NPCO InfoACE Unit) ■



## North Luzon

### Ilocos LGUs mainstream commodity investment plans

Provincial local government units (LGUs) in the Ilocos Region have started mainstreaming their respective Provincial Commodity Investment Plans (PCIPs), which were crafted under the PRDP, into their provincial plans.

During the mainstreaming activities, interventions identified in the PCIPs, which can be funded by the PLGUs were incorporated into their respective provincial plans, while the government agencies identified interventions which they can fund, provide or cover through their programs, projects and activities.

At present, more than P630-million subprojects listed in the PCIPs of the Ilocos provinces are funded outside PRDP. After the mainstreaming activities, the PCIP-identified subprojects funded outside the PRDP are expected to increase. (*Dessa U. Estrada and Vida V. Cacal, RPCO-1 InfoACE Unit*)

## South Luzon

### Agency collaboration lines up agri investments in Puerto Princesa City

Representatives of the PRDP and relevant government agencies has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to consolidate potential investments for the priority commodities of Puerto Princesa City.

Identified through the Project's Value Chain Analysis (VCA) and presented in the City Commodity Investment Plan (CCIP), Puerto Princesa's priority commodities include cashew, banana (saba), mango, and seaweeds.

The MOU charts the participation of partner agencies in bringing about feasible investments for the development of each priority commodity value chain. The MOU also highlights the academe's contribution in terms of research and development. Through the LGU's collaboration with government and nongovernment agencies, it can continue the implementation of projects identified in the CCIP even outside and after the PRDP. (*Leira Vic Colongan, DA-PRDP MIMAROPA RPCO InfoACE Unit*)

## VISAYAS

### DA chief leads groundbreaking of P130-M Guimaras FMR

Secretary Emmanuel F. Piñol has led the groundbreaking ceremonies for the P130 million-worth farm-to-market road (FMR) subproject implemented by the PRDP in the island province of Guimaras.

The rehabilitation/concreting of 10.87-kilometer Bugnay-Sapal-Maabay FMR will benefit four barangays in three municipalities: Bugnay in Jordan; Constancia and Sapal in San Lorenzo; and Maabay in Sibunag. It will also indirectly benefit at least 10 barangays in four municipalities: Piña, Gaban, Tamborong and Sebario in San Lorenzo; Agsanayan and Tinadtaran in Buenavista; Alaguisoc in Jordan; and Millan, Tanglad and Ayangan in Sibunag.

The PRDP's deputy project director in Western Visayas said that at least 26,000 Guimarasnon farmers will benefit from the PRDP subproject. (*John Paul F. Cadiz, RPCO-6 InfoACE Unit*)

## MINDANAO

### Mindanao LGUs emulate PRDP infra project standards

With the increase of proposals for infrastructure projects in Mindanao, the PRDP has trained implementers on Materials Testing and Quality Control (MTQC) with advanced concrete technology.

The conduct of materials testing is a requirement under PRDP's compliance measures and forms part of the disbursement process for project contractors. The four-day training is designed for project engineers at the LGU level who will also be monitoring and validating ongoing subprojects.

"[The] PRDP is strengthening its infrastructure monitoring system to avoid remove-and-replace orders and time extension in the project implementation," Ricardo Oñate, director of the PRDP Mindanao Project Support Office said. (*Mindanao PSO InfoACE Unit*)



## Harnessing Community Participation in Procurement

Used in regular and Global Environment Facility-assisted enterprise development subprojects, the community participation procurement mode actively involves proponent groups—i.e., farmers' and fisherfolk groups—in procurement planning, actual procurement and contract implementation processes.

- ✓ Encourages participation and inclusion of local expertise
- ✓ Generates employment
- ✓ Promotes the use of local materials and indigenous technologies
- ✓ Increase sense of ownership
- ✓ Empowers communities
- ✓ Improves project sustainability

Cost Threshold: ≤ USD 50,000.00 (PHP 2.5 million)

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