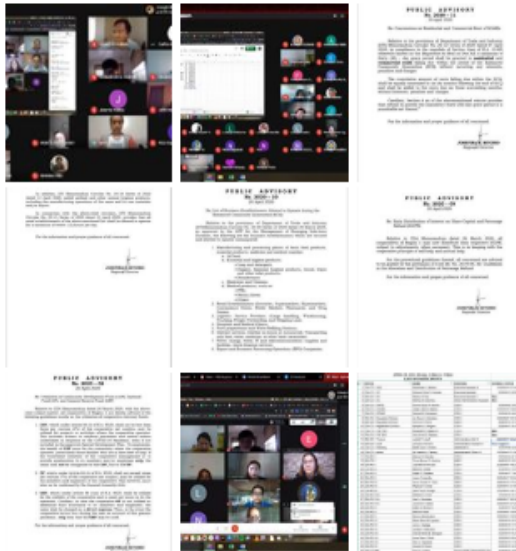


# COOPERATIVES ALL OVER THE COUNTRY GOING THE EXTRA MILE TO SERVE THEIR MEMBERS AND COMMUNITIES AMIDST COVID-19 PANDEMIC: REPORTS FROM **REGION 1**

#CoopsAgainstCOVID19

## We are better if we are together: The CDA Regional Office 1 in Action Amidst COVID19 Pandemic



As the Filipino people struggle against COVID19, the National Government and the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA)-Region 1, for that matter, have created opportunities for its technical personnel to have a structured platform to meet the needs of the clients and to be able to disseminate vital information and updates to them.

The mitigating efforts include Supply and Value-Chain Management through the cooperative and linking the distribution of cooperative agricultural products and services to members and/or communities during this time of National Health Emergency, promoting the Koop Bayanihan Program, as well as providing advisories and assistance, virtually through electronic means, to the cooperatives that are dealing with their own domestic crises.

The CDA has adopted the Work from Home (WFH) scheme which endeavors to keep its personnel safe from the COVID19 threat but at the same continue to provide public service thru permissible means.

In this set-up, field personnel are able to keenly monitor various programs and activities undertaken by the cooperatives in relation to the “Bayanihan to Heal As One Act.”

These activities are documented by way of social media and electronic reports which, in turn, are submitted by the regional office to the central office.

The good news is that cooperatives in the region are actively involved and in support of the efforts of the Government to prevent the spread the unseen enemy (COVID19) and are directly involved in giving assistance in their own communities. The depth of their involvement is truly reflective of the 7<sup>th</sup> Cooperative Principle - “Concern for Community”. They exemplify what the cooperatives stand for as a social enterprise.

During these difficult times, the agency kept track of the assistance extended by the cooperatives in helping the members and communities under the Koop Bayanihan Program. As of April 15, 2020, reports show that 92 cooperatives shelled out about P34,320,022.42, ranging from cash assistance to the frontliners of various LGUs, distribution of relief goods, doing voluntary services to patrol checkpoints, assisting in packing goods for the LGUs, providing meals for frontliners, helping in the disinfection and clean up of communities, providing face masks, and other forms of assistance.



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Specifically, six cooperatives released the interest on share capital and patronage refund of their members amounting to P 16,075,5750.40, three cooperatives spent P 12,150,000.00 from their revolving capital, three cooperatives shared P415,500.00 from their optional fund, five cooperatives provided P27,000.00 as direct expenses, eight cooperatives solicited P137,537.00 and 67 cooperatives utilized P5,514,410.00 from their Community Development Fund.



The best part of all these is that the CDA-Dagupan Extension Office has kept its guard up. While exercising all the necessary precautions, the Finance Section, together with the Regional Director and the Acting Assistant Regional Director, still diligently reported for work just to be able to process the wages of the employees. Thus, notwithstanding the crisis that they are facing, every one still feels motivated to work and continue to serve amidst CoViD19 pandemic. *Van Ian F. Enriquez Sr CDS CRITS*



CDA DEO Personnel



CDA Skeletal Force

**COOPERATIVES IN REGION 1 HELPING THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (IPs)**

Historically, IPs have been subject of discrimination and marginalization from political processes and economic benefit. In this pandemic, the IPs may again face a degree of exclusion in accessing assistance from the mainstream of support services. With this in mind, two cooperatives in the region took the initiative to help the IPs by sharing their resources for their membership and the community. These cooperatives believe that if basic services and socio-economic opportunities are made more accessible to IPs, they can certainly attain the improvement they deserve in the context of sustainable development.



The Bagnos Multi-Purpose Cooperative of Banna, Ilocos Norte, which is popular for its rice coffee product called Banna Blend, distributed relief goods to some one hundred ninety



(190) IPs - Bago communities. The cooperative recognized the needs of the IPs during this precarious time and its assistance is likely to create a lasting positive impression in the community.

On the other hand, the Free Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative of Brgy. Sagayaden Cabugao, Ilocos Sur, distributed relief goods to 50 Indigenous Peoples of Brgy. Nagsingcaoan. The cooperative is community-based and was the Regional Winner of last year's CDA – Gawad Parangal Awards & Recognition Program.



While these cooperatives continue to safeguard the well-being of their members, they are also effectively practicing the 7th cooperative principle, "Concern for Community." In these tough times, the Bagnos Multipurpose Cooperative and the Free Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative directed their attention, not only on the economic side, but also on the social aspect of the organization, by helping others in the community which they have identified to be vulnerable and weak. *Van Ian F. Enriquez, Sr. CDS CRITS.*