

# COOPERATIVES ALL OVER THE COUNTRY GOING THE EXTRA MILE TO SERVE THEIR MEMBERS AND COMMUNITIES AMIDST COVID-19 PANDEMIC: REPORTS FROM **REGION 6**

#CoopsAgainstCOVID19

## BCCDC pools assistance for humanity amidst pandemic crisis

By: Mercy J. Gabasa

Feed the hungry, give drinks to the thirsty, and give alms to the poor are among the corporal works of mercy. Indeed, they are actions by which we can help the poor in their bodily needs - the basic needs of humanity, as we journey together in fighting against the pandemic caused by COVID-19.

Many people and organizations provided various forms of assistance in responding to the call for these works of mercy as the national and local government struggled to contain the COVID 19 pandemic.

The Bacolod City Cooperative Development Council (BCCDC) was among the organizations that responded to the call. It pooled assistance consisting of 50.5 sacks of rice, 5 gallons and 18 liters of alcohol, and 2.5 boxes of groceries from 11 cooperatives in the city last April 20 according to its Chairperson Joselito M. Diaz.

Chairperson Diaz further said that the 1<sup>st</sup> batch of assistance was distributed to 1,600 medical health workers, frontliners and less fortunate Bacolodnons, the “trisykad” and Tricycle drivers that were hardly hit and affected by the COVID – 19 crisis.





BCCLDO personnel & 2 coop-volunteers doing the repacking of relief goods

City Cooperative and Livelihood Development Officer Brenda Burdeos from Bacolod City on the other hand said that the council, under Memorandum Circular No. 2017-01, Series of 2017, is organized and shall serve as a mechanism for collaboration, consultation and coordination in the implementation of various cooperative program and projects. This shows that community concern or social responsibility is a true mandate of the council.

Ms. Burdeos, added that their social responsibility program is actively being implemented and supported by her office in coordination with the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) and its CDS II

Sandra G. Siaton. She also mentioned that Negrosanon Entrepreneur Marketing Cooperative (Neemcoop) and Negros Educators and Advocacy Cooperative volunteered in the repacking, distribution of reliefs goods, and making of face masks.

She is fervently appealing for more cooperatives to support the program by utilizing their Cooperative Development Fund (CDF) intended for Community Concern as inscribed in Article 86 of RA 9520, otherwise known as the Philippine Cooperative Code of the Philippines 2008.

The corporal acts of mercy by BCCDC and cooperatives, which are pooling and giving assistance, are indeed manifestations of the intertwining values of “bayanihan” through cooperativism and the Christian doctrines of sharing and concern for the disadvantaged sectors. Thus, worthy of high respect and appreciation, as per CDA – IEO Regional Director Engr. Doreen C. Ancheta.



The beneficiaries of the relief goods donated by cooperatives