

**COOPERATIVES ALL OVER THE COUNTRY GOING THE EXTRA MILE TO  
SERVE THEIR MEMBERS AND COMMUNITIES AMIDST COVID-19  
PANDEMIC: REPORTS FROM REGION 5  
#CoopAgainstCOVID19**

**COOPERATIVE USES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR A GOOD CAUSE**

*"We all do better when we work together. Our differences do matter, but our common humanity matters more." – Bill Clinton*

The number of recipients who received food packs was more than four times the number of members of this cooperative that helped during the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ). The ECQ began on March 17, 2020 after Catanduanes Acting Governor Shirley A. Abundo issued Executive Order No. 17, series 2020. The Luzon-wide lockdown on the other hand was implemented through the issuance of Presidential Proclamation No. 922 and 929 (series 2020) and R.A. No. 11332.

"Padyak" is a common mode of transportation in the municipality of San Andres. It is stationed in one of the two ports of entry to the province of Catanduanes. Human-powered and environment friendly, it also provided a decent livelihood to many local folks.

Members of the Bayan ng San Andres Credit Cooperatives (BSACCO) were among the many commuters who rode the "padyak" in their almost daily commute to and from their homes. They also suffered from loss of income when public transportation was suspended.



Photo 1. Padyak (source of photo <http://padyaks.com/discover/what-is-a-padyak/>)

The officers of BSACCO seized the opportunity to serve humanity when they decided to utilize their Community Development Fund (CDF) to give life-support to the "padyakeros" and their families. They lost no time in purchasing basic food items, and together with other coop members, repacked these to family-sized bags.



Photo 2. Board Director Carlos Arandia (PWD) gamely joined the repacking of food items.

The Bayan ng San Andres Credit Cooperatives (BSACCO) members are also employees of the San Andres Local Government. Notable among its officers was Director Carlos Z. Arandia, who, although dependent on crutches for his mobility, chose to join in the repacking of food items although he who could have stayed home after doing his responsibility as a board member. His zeal for their project was remarkable.

The BSACCO officers and members gave food packs to 93 “padyak” drivers. This is more than four times the number of the BSACCO coop members. The twenty-three coop members were likewise provided with similar food packs.

The cooperative, ever sensitive to the plight of their members, implemented a loan repayment moratorium during the ECQ. *ODPrivaldos / MIS Naga with CDS II Ophar June V. Dy*  
*Photos used were from the BSACCO, except Photo 1.*



*Photo 3. Distribution of the food packs.*

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