

CLOSING REMARKS FOR COOP FINANCIAL CLUSTER, TAGAYTAY, april 17-18, 2015

Perhaps just a few of us observed that we are only a footnote in in the Philippine Development Plan, and nowhere to be found in SONAs. In the literatures and popular campaign brochures on Financial Inclusion, they forgot to include us. Even though we are here, waging war against poverty and winning as we march. They forgot or maybe, refused to believe, that the cooperative movement is a century old Philippine mass-based movement that dared and still bravely dares to advance inclusive growth and financial inclusion even in the past when these phrases were still not popular and fashionable.

Then we decided to say no to being a footnote but a chapter, and requested NEDA to hear us during our National Convention of Cooperative Development Councils held in Iloilo City last January. As the Coop Centennial Fever draws in, we decided to advance through clusters. And now, we are concluding the first cluster congress among numbers of scheduled cluster congresses this year: the Coop Finance Cluster Congress—the cluster congress of coop bigwigs.

Now what we are writing is not only a chapter but a story that will tell the government and the economic elite, that cooperatives is a significant part of Philippine Economy for without the cooperative movement there will be no real financial inclusion and no genuine inclusive growth. Without cooperatives progress will only redound to the benefit of 50 persons in the Philippines whose total networth represents 26 percent of gross domestic product of our country.

Therefore let us further advance, and loudly say that the Philippine Cooperative Movement is alive and well, and it is the Vanguard of National Financial Inclusion in the countryside and in the urban areas.

Mula po sa Cooperative Development Authority, sa pamumuno ng aming Chairman, Chairman Orlando R. Ravanera, at ng buong Board of Administrators: Mabuhay po ang Kilusang Kooperatiba sa Pilipinas!

RAY R. ELEVAZO
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