

KAWIT DECLARATION
(Luzon Convergence
of CDA, Co-op Federations, and
Co-operative Development Councils)

WE, ALL THE STAKEHOLDERS of the co-operatives in Luzon—gathered today with strong conviction and armed with fervor of our spirit, bringing with us the torch of our collective aspiration to continue the struggle of our forebears in liberating our fellow Filipinos, not from colonization or oppression, but from the clutches of poverty, inequity, culture of apathy, and mendicancy—DO HEREBY DECLARE our firm resolve to advance the essence of Cooperativism as catalyst of development and societal transformation.

We believe that genuine human development can only be achieved through unflinching cooperation between the government and the Co-operative Sector as manifested in the unselfish commitment and the setting aside of the individual parochial interests of all players of co-operative development.

As we embrace innovations, which is the call of the time, towards achieving excellence in all our cooperative endeavors, we pursue meaningful and broad-based process of consultation as hallmark of democratic organization in our continuous quest for solutions to make better life for our people.

Cognizant of our international commitment in attaining the objectives of the Millennium Development Goals, the 10-Year Co-operative Strategic Direction, the Philippine Co-operative Medium-Term Development Plan, and the CDA 3-Point Agenda, we waste no time and leave no stone unturned for their realization.

Anchored on the foundation of trust and mutual respect built through the confidence-building efforts by all concerned, WE FORGE SOLIDARITY AND COMMIT TO DO THE FOLLOWING:

- reach out to ALL primary co-ops;
- respond to their ever-changing needs through provision of quality co-op services and products;
- enable them to become effective marketing channels from the producer to the end-users of products and services of co-ops and their members; and
- get their support in all endeavors of the Co-op Sector towards the envisioned One Co-op Movement, One Vision, One Nation, most especially in ensuring that the Sector has a 20M membership base by 2013.
- pursue the initiative to rationalize the co-op structures, including the CDCs
- pursue the integration of co-op businesses within an industry, or across industries as practicable

- come up with:
 - a focused education program addressing poverty, and
 - a standard competency-based education and training
 - come up with one campaign message from the Co-operative Sector (one branding)
- “Tataya at tatayo ang mga kooperatiba” in terms of numbers and resources
- promote best practices of co-operatives through image-building
- push the transformation of Electric Co-operatives public utilities into genuine co-operatives
- work in ensuring successful CARPER by converting all Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Associations into co-operatives;
- push the transformation of Electric Co-operatives public utilities into genuine co-operatives
- make Cooperativism the path to peace and unity among our people as it cuts across ideology, class, belief, gender and race as it attacks the roots of conflict which are extreme poverty and social injustices, believing that peace cannot be gained through the firepower of guns but only through the strength of the human spirit in unity and harmony through cooperativism.
- pursue sustainable agriculture for purposes of food security and ecological integrity
- push Congress for the Conversion of CDA into a full-fledged department, or at the minimum, to revert it to the Office of the President with increased budget allocation, and support CDA in capacitating all its officers and personnel to fulfill its mandate
- passage of the bill on the creation of the Co-operative Development Office
- consistently adhere to the 3Cs of Tripartite (convergence, collaboration, and complementation of resources)

We now forge our oneness to keep that flame alive so that someday the progeny of our race will make them proud as they tell stories to their children our contributions in laying the foundation of their bright future.

We sign this declaration on the 113th year commemoration of the Philippine Independence, and on the eve of the 150th birth anniversary of our national hero Dr. Jose Rizal.