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**ENGR. CLARO V. MARANAN: The New Man at the Helm**

by Lionel G. Dela Cruz - PAIS-CO

The first day of July became the dawn of a new era in the history of the National Irrigation Administration as a new name was placed upon the Administrator’s chair. Engr. Claro V. Maranan, the former OIC of the NIA’s Office of the Senior Deputy Administrator, took the lead as he was appointed as the new Administrator of the 50-year-old agency. With this very important transition in the agency’s 50-year existence, the future of irrigation development has now been placed in the hands of an experienced public servant, achiever, a warrior of knowledge and improvement, and a true leader.

**A History of Service**

Before entering the National Irrigation Administration, Engr. Maranan has been a true-blue man of service. He started his vows as a public servant in his hometown in Sanaya, Quezon in 1976 as a member of the Municipal Council. After four years as a Municipal Councilor, he then served as a Board Member of the Quezon Provincial Council until 1985. Shortly after venturing into politics, he spent almost a year as the President of the East Orient Development Corporation in 1986. He also had a short stint as Materials Engineer in the Office of the Quezon Provincial Engineer in 1987 and Project Manager/Engineer at the Montalbo & Sons, Incorporated in 1988. Through these experiences, Engr. Maranan developed a more solid foundation as a leader-servant which he then used upon entering government service.

His exposure in government service started in 1989 when he became a Project Engineer of the 4th IBRD Ports Project – Port of Sta. Cruz under the Philippine Ports Authority and from there rose from the ranks taking on positions such as Principal Engineer D, Supervising Engineer B, Senior Internal Control Officer, Chief Internal Control Officer and Acting Technical Assistant, and Acting Manager of the Engineering Services Division until he became the Assistant General Manager of PPA’s Engineering Office in 2005 until 2010. His experience in government service furthered when he was hired as a consultant for the Philippine Fisheries Development Authority in 2011 and later became the agency’s Assistant General Manager. Three months prior to his appointment as new NIA Chief, due to his pristine track record in the other GOCCs, Engr. Maranan was appointed as the OIC for NIA’s Office of the Senior Deputy Administrator.

Taking into account all these positions, no doubt that Engr. Maranan had been prepared to face the gargantuan task of leading the NIA towards increased irrigation and agricultural development. His more than four decades of professional history equipped him sufficiently with the qualities needed by a true public servant – transparency, honesty, and accountability.

**Noteworthy Accomplishments and Achievements**

In his long history of service in both public and private sectors, Engr. Maranan proved that he could impart change and improvement. Among his accomplishments and achievements in the agencies he served were the following:

1. As PPA’s Assistant General Manager for Engineering, he was able to implement a total of 263 capital projects for 10 major Philippine ports;
2. ensured good operating port operations by performing regular repair and maintenance projects;
3. initiated the development of now published engineering standards (now published in 7 volumes of Engineering Standards Manuals) for port and harbour structures to give way to the standardization of engineering processes in PPA;
4. responsible for the promotion of environmental concerns in all PPA ports through the conduct of a search for the Most Environmental-Friendly Port;
5. pushed the PFDA Board to conduct a first-ever comprehensive audit of the Navotas Fish Port Complex that resulted to collection of P63.6M back accounts;
6. championed for transparency, accountability, equity, efficiency, and economy in the procurement process as BAC Chairman in both PPA and PFDA;
7. acted by the CBOP and BBCHD for his organized, systematic, well-managed, and transparent BAC;
8. implemented some health, safety, and security measures in port lease contracts providing a wholesome atmosphere in the ports; and
9. never been involved in anomalies and controversies making him one of the most outstanding public servants in government service.

With all these, the whole NIA anticipates for new heights to reach through Engr. Maranan’s innovation and leadership.

**Immortal Clamor for Knowledge**

Engr. Maranan had been truly a warrior of knowledge and improvement as he continuously grab learning opportunities to back-up his professional experiences and formal education. He graduated with a BS Civil Engineering degree from the Luzonian University Foundation, Inc. in Lucena City and finished a Master in Public Administration degree from the Lyceum of the Philippines in Manila.

Aside from his formal education, he gained more knowledge to improve his skills by attending a vast list of trainings, conferences, and seminars here and abroad including topics such as Gender Audit, Analysis and Mainstreaming, Maritime Safety Conference, Technical Exchange Meetings, Port Engineering Design Standard, Business Correspondence Course, PES Accreditation, BAC Conference, Ports Reform, Information Audit System, Audit Disbursement, Performance Appraisal System, and Internal Audit and Internal Control to name a few.

To date, Engr. Maranan continues to hone his knowledge and skills to respond to the needs of being the chief of NIA.

**‘Excellence in the Making’**

Reviewing all his experiences and achievements, Engr. Maranan proves to be tailor-fit for the leadership. He is undeniably armored with qualities needed by an efficient leader – honesty, humility, a taste for improvement, and a great sense of service. It has been more than two months since he started behind the captain’s wheel and it is evident that he’s steering into the right direction. Since his appointment, he has been marching forward towards the improvement of the agency anchored on the welfare of irrigation and agricultural development. He does not settle for mediocrity as he straightforwardly addresses issues that affects the agency’s performance. Truly, his administration is excellence in the making.
AS NEW NIA CHIEF

(NIA Quezon City/July 9, 2013) - In a simple ceremony held on July 9, 2013 at the IEC Convention Hall, Former NIA OIC to the Senior Deputy Administrator Claro V. Maranan formally steps in as the new man behind NIA’s helm. The turnover immediately succeeded a Board Meeting wherein Maranan was formally named the Vice Chairman of the NIA Board of Directors.

Former Administrator Antonio S. Nangel whose term ended on June 30 passed his post to the newly appointed Chief. Nangel, in his turnover speech, asked Maranan to maintain the excellent performance of the agency.

Maranan, in turn, humbly accepted the flag passed on by Nangel. He said everything has an end while something starts anew. In his acceptance speech, he made it evident that he means business. He pointed out the things that, according to him, he should do in his first day as Administrator. He mentioned that during the Board Meeting, they had already discussed about fast-tracking project implementation by giving greater responsibility to the regional offices. He also emphasized on dam assessments, strategic planning for the Agency, increasing NIA’s collection efficiency, prioritization of employee housing, and austerity measures. His term started on July 1 and will end on June 30, 2014.

The ceremony was attended by the NIA Board of Directors, headed by DA Usec, Deputy Administrators, Regional, Operations, and Project Managers, Department and Division Managers, employees of the agency, and other guests.

July 15, 2013 – Newly appointed Administrator Claro V. Maranan presented his 7-point program during his first Monday as NIA head. With thorough analysis of the current predicament, he conceptualized a master plan consisting of the following strategies: (1) Rapid delivery of irrigation projects, (2) Accurate reporting and monitoring system, (3) Organizational reforms and process innovation, (4) Corporate Financial stability, (5) Empowerment and continuous learning for employees, (6) Comprehensive plan for climate change adaptation and (7) Build stronger commitment to farmers and other stakeholders.

In his first point, Administrator Maranan voiced out his plans to improve the delivery of irrigation projects that had been delayed. He pointed out solutions on how to accelerate the implementation and completion of pending projects to better serve the farmers and meet the agency’s targets.

He had stressed out the importance of having an updated, timely, accurate, and relevant data as NIA’s work relies heavily on it – from feasibility studies, program design, implementation, completion, and especially in determining the agency’s financial status.

His third point addressed the prioritization of the implementation of Strategic Performance Management Systems in 2014. He had called for a strategic planning session to meet and address the agency’s current and upcoming issues.

The administrator also announced his intention in making the agency a financially stable corporation by laying down his plans to make the agency self-sufficient not just for the present but also in the coming years.

To strengthen employee relations, he wanted to create a good and healthy working environment for everyone. He asked NIA employees to sustain their level of established quality of service and to increase their productivity.

With the onset of global warming, NIA must keep up with environmental changes. He turned his attention to a comprehensive climate change program for irrigation to tackle the growing concern on the harmful effects of the rapidly changing and unpredictable weather conditions. He had already assigned a team in charge of this project, who would look at the different programs to enhance irrigation facilities and new design to combat this emerging problem.

Last but not the least, he stressed out the agency’s ultimate goal—to have an everlasting cooperation and understanding with the farmers, as they are the agency’s partner for life.

Amidst all the challenges the agency had been facing, the administrator had chosen to see hope and opportunities for growth and improvement. These strategies will not only get NIA back on its feet; it would also make the agency more productive, more progressive, and more dynamic.

“Nagkakaisa po tayo sa ating gagawin. Sama-sama po tayo,” he concluded.

He only asks for the support of each employee to make all these happen.
Described as low profile yet very decisive and firm man, our Senior Deputy Administrator is an Agricultural Engineer by profession and a multi-awarded public servant. He rose from the ranks, starting as a daily Civil Engineer Aide in 1979 in NIA Region 11 Operations Division. Although a casual employee, he was designated Acting Irrigation Superintendent of Lupon Irrigation System in 1980, to the consternation of many regular engineers. Because of the belief of Regional Manager Cordoba of his capability, a regular position of Assistant Irrigation Engineer was open to fit him in before complaints could be lodged. Four years later, he was promoted to Irrigation Superintendent in the same office.

He was designated OIC Division Manager of the Engineering Division and later transferred to the Operations Division of Region 11 from August 2003 to October 15, 2004. It was him who fought for the equal rights of Agricultural and Civil Engineers to be qualified for the position of Division Manager for Engineering Division.

In 2004, then Administrator Jesus Emmanuel M. Paras, designated him OIC-Regional Manager of NIA Region 6 and subsequently appointed as full-pledged Regional Manager on August 15, 2005 by then Administrator Proceso T. Domingo. On April 8, 2008, he was back to NIA Region XI until his reassignment to NIA Region X on November 1, 2011.

On August 20, 2013, thru a NIA Board Resolution, he was designated Senior Deputy Administrator.

Our Senior Deputy Administrator is an Achiever/Performer

- As OIC-Regional Manager of NIA Region 6, the region attained financial viability for the first time. He also succeeded in uniting the several factions of employees thereat.
- When he was transferred to NIA Region 11, three (3) national grand slam awards for the Most Outstanding IAs in NIS, CIS and CARP-IC categories were received. Two IAs made it to the DA search for Agri-Pinoy Most Outstanding IA-besting other bets nationwide.
- Because of strong NIA-IA partnership, Region 11 attained a record of high average ISF collection efficiency at 95%.
- When he was transferred to NIA Region 10 in November 2011, the region realized a whooping Php 50.1 M net income in CY 2012, from a mere Php 18 M income in 2011, a first for the region. Region 10 is the Most Improved Region under his watch.
- The number of IAs that entered into IMT Contracts jumped from 0 to 71.
- He became President of the prestigious Irrigation Superintendent Association of the Philippines (ISAPHIL) from 2003 to 2005.

His service to the public didn’t end there. He also served as Board of Director of Davao Oriental Electric Cooperative (DORECO), which he helped transformed from small to a large and multi-awarded cooperative. He was also instrumental in organizing the Cooperative Bank of Davao Oriental in 1977.

He is considered the “Father of MINCIA”, a feat no other Regional Manager achieved. He said he is very happy to be considered as one, it comes as a bonus for his efforts and aspiration for Mindanao IAs. He believes in the strength of our farmers especially when organized. He further said, “I will treasure this as an achievement in my career as a NIA employee because it comes from our beloved clientele - the IAs. Many can get recognition for their outstanding work performance but only one individual can get this distinct title as the Father of MINCIA. I am very fortunate to have contributed to the institutional development program of NIA, in pursuit of my advocacy for the empowerment of Irrigators Association.”

He is happily married to Yolanda O. Olarte, also employed with the NIA Region XI holding the position of Principal Engineer A as Head of the Operations Section. They are blessed with four children who are all professionals. The eldest is a Doctor of Medicine, the second a Computer Engineer and a registered Nurse, the third is also a registered Nurse and a businessman and the youngest a registered Radiologic Technologist.

He hails from Digos, Davao del Sur, and finished his BS in Agricultural Engineering from the University of Southern Mindanao in 1979. He passed the Board exams in the same year. He holds a Master in Business Administration and is a Career Executive Officer.
Meet the New Managers on the Block

REGION I

ENGR. RENATO P. MILLAN

by Ms. Kevin L. Francisco - PRO-Region I

Kind, considerate, and a man of action, that is how NIA officials and employees of Region I and Pangasinan IMO describe Engr. Renato Parayno Millan (a.k.a. RPM), OIC-RIM of the Ilocos Region and concurrent Pangasinan IMO Manager.

Engineer Millan was born on January 21, 1950 in Calasiao, Pangasinan. He graduated with a bachelor’s degree in Civil Engineering at the University of Pangasinan in 1973 and passed the Engineering Board Examination in 1976. In September 2009, he finished his Masters at the International Academy of Management and Economics.

From 1973 to 1976, RPM worked at the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH). He entered NIA on January 16, 1976, specifically in Ambayoan-Dipalo RIS (ADRIS of Pangasinan IMO) as an Engineer Trainee.

Because of his hard work, dedication, and strong faith in God, he became the Officer-In-Charge of Pangasinan IMO in 2009. Speculated as the next RIM of Region I, Millan remains humble. In September 2013, a memorandum came from NIA Central Office stating Millan’s appointment as OIC-RIM of Region I.

Now that Millan takes on the reign as Region I’s OIC-RIM, he promised to take his duties and responsibilities to the best he can, and continue Engineer Manuel Colado’s accomplishments in NIA-Region I.

REGION 4A-CALABARZON

ENGR. ROMEO MERLE LOPEZ

by Roscielle Harlette E. Navarro - PAIS-C.O.

Unity. Honesty. Cooperation. Possessing and harnessing these qualities of a musketeer must perhaps be Engineer Romeo Merle Lopez’s secret in rising to the top. Part of the famous D Tres IMOketeros of NIA Region 4A together with Engr. Nicaso Pagdanganan, Jr. and Engr. Hilario Cedeño, he steps up to the position former RIM Romeo Anonuevo left behind.

Engineer Lopez finished his Bachelor’s Degree in Civil Engineering in 1979 at the Luzonian University Foundation. He has a Master’s degree in Public Administration which he started in Trinity College in Quezon City and finished in Union College of Sta. Cruz, Laguna. He is a certified CESO or Career Service Executive.

He started his career in the agency in February 1980 as a Civil Engineering Aide. His commitment and dedication helped him to rise from the ranks. In 2009, during the agency’s implementation of the Rationalization Plan, he was promoted to Division Manager A to head the Laguna-Rizal Irrigation Management Office. In January 2012, he was transferred back to Quezon to lead the Quezon Irrigation Management Office. Prior to his designation on August 16 as the acting Irrigation Manager of NIA-Calabarzon, Engineer Lopez held the position of Division Manager A at the Cavite-Batangas IMO.

In his 33 years of service, he had supervised more than a handful of offices. He is known to be positively demanding—work has to be done properly and finished well ahead of the pressing deadlines. Despite this, his staff and previous co-workers were unanimous in saying that he is generous and kind to everyone. His team and friends describe him as an excellent supervisor and a genuine friend.
It was the first Monday of September, during a turnover ceremony, that Region 4A’s former Laguna-Rical IMO Manager Hilario C. Cedeño assumed his new post as the new Regional Irrigation Manager of NIA Region 10. As an outstanding employee and a constant awardee during NIA’s anniversaries, there is no doubt that Engineer Cedeño can fill the position that Engineer Felix M. Razo vacated.

Engineer Cedeño, also known as “Larry” to his friends and colleagues, started in NIA-Kay Alike Irrigation Project in 1975 as an Engineer Trainee. In 1978 he rose to become the Assistant Construction Engineer and was transferred to Disaít Creek IS a year later. It was in 1984 when he moved to Region IV office as Engineer A. The management, impressed with his performance, saw his potential. He was promoted to Supervising Engineer B at Agos, Infanta, Quezon where he later became manager. He was transferred to Pula Bansud RIS in Oriental Mindoro in 1998 and stayed there until the Agency’s Rationalization Program took place in 2008. He was then assigned to Cavite-Batangas IMO as its Acting IMO Manager before becoming its Division Manager.

HCC is a native of Candelaria, Quezon. He is happily married to Lilia Capili, a former NIA employee. They have two children: Ma. Laurinda and Joseph Emmanuel who gave them four grandchildren - their source of joy and happiness. He pursued his dreams to become a civil engineer and broaden his knowledge when he finished a Master’s Degree in Public Administration. As a manager, he is known as kind, considerate and approachable but is strict when it comes to work.

He is a no non-sense boss, as such did not tolerate frivolousness. He has an astute assessment that once he made up his mind, he will not be able to reverse. But once in a while, one could glimpse gentleness, a great sense of humor, and a truly caring heart – just like a father.

Just before he retires, he shed the façade of a boss and showed the gentleness and kindness that had been his true self.

Truly Boss R1 will be missed.

**The Big Man Retires**

Engr. Romeo R. Añonuevo, fondly called R1 in the region to differentiate from R2 (referring to Engr. Romeo M. Lopez, presently the Acting Regional Manager of Region 4A) – is truly larger than life. A man of surpassing integrity, he had been a strong, dependable pillar in Region 4A. He had led the region to a level where once had been just a dream.

He is a no non-sense boss, as such did not tolerate frivolousness. He has an astute assessment that once he made up his mind, he will not be able to reverse.

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Truly Boss R1 will be missed.

**SINO SI KUYA MEO?**

Sa kanyang bayang pinagpanganakan sa Lumaban, Laguna kilala siya bilang si Kuya Meo. Isang mabait, matulungin at maalalahaning kuya, tiyo, tatay at tunay na kaibigan ng bayan. Ipinanganak noong Setyembre 6 kaya isang kuya, tiyo, tatay at tunay na kaibigan ng bayan. Ipinanganak noong Setyembre 6 kaya isang kuya, tiyo, tatay at tunay na kaibigan ng bayan.

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Newly assigned NIA Assistant Administrators experienced Cordillera’s long and winding road travels and dominantly mountainous views in their inspection of irrigation projects in the region.

Engr. Romeo Anonuevo, NIA Assistant Administrator, and Engr. Dexter Patrocinio, Assistant Administrator for Luzon, together with Engr. Wilfredo Abulencia, technical staff of the Administrator, visited the NIA-CAR lined projects on September 25-27, 2013. This is to gather first-hand concerns and issues on projects for report to the NIA Administrator and facilitate immediate feedback and recommended actions. They are joined by Engr. Benito Espique Jr., Division Manager for Engineering and Operations and Engr. Bradley Grospe, chief of the NIA-CAR Engineering Section.

In their first field inspection as assistant administrators, they had a walk-through/site inspection of the on-going excavation works of the Alfonso Lista Pump Irrigation Project in Alfonso Lista, Ifugao, the service road and canalization works at the Upper Chico River Irrigation System (UCRIS) Extension Project near the border of Kalinga and Isabela, and the Marimay Small Reservoir Irrigation Project in Flora, Apayao. These are multi-year projects aimed at generating new areas for irrigation.

Briefings and dialogues were also held with NIA-CAR personnel involved in the institutional and technical activities of the projects, during which the Central Office visitors conferred and shared their advice, expertise and experiences with them.

According to Engr. Patrocinio, similar activities will also be done in other regions in a bid to fast track project implementation.

Engr. Dexter Patrocinio illustrates on the board a sample design of the irrigation pump that can be used for Alfonso Lista Pump Irrigation Project in Ifugao.

The Assistant Administrators at the construction site of canalization works of Alfonso Lista PIP.

The Assistant Administrators together with NIA-CAR and IMO staff study the general lay out of the Marimay SRIP in Apayao as they stand on an elevation which will be submerged by the soon-to-be-built earth fill dam.

1. Water helps detoxify the body from the effects of long term smoking which helps to eliminate the insidious tar and acidic nicotine from the lungs.

2. Water helps maintain proper muscle tone and prevents sagging skin.

3. It takes a loss of only 1-2 percent of your body’s ideal water content to cause dehydration. Only water truly hydrates the body and alleviates the diseases caused by dehydration.

WHAT’S NEW?

October 2013 - The Public Affairs and Information Staff headed by Department Manager Pilipina P. Bermudez, in cooperation with the Institutional Development Division headed by Manager Bayani P. Ofrecio, facilitated the production of two audio-visual presentations that highlight the successful implementation of NIA’s programs through the success stories of two irrigators associations from UPRIIS and Region 4A.

The said AVPs focus on the two major types of irrigation systems that the NIA manages and operates namely the NIS and CIS. It also highlights the agency’s mandate to transfer the operation and maintenance of these systems to its partners, the irrigators associations.

The AVP for the NIS focused on the successful operation of the MTG PLIVIRISCAF IA of UPRIIS-Division 5 under the Irrigation Management Transfer Model 2 Contract, while the other AVP focuses on the story of Tumbaga I Bucal IA of Region 4A in line with NIA’s CIS implementation.

The production of the said AVPs is also in support of PAIS’s campaign to strengthen the dissemination of information regarding the agency’s programs by maximizing different media forms. The project sought the creative and skillful help of Marcus Phoenix Multimedia Productions, Inc. As of writing, the AVPs are currently undergoing revisions prior to replication and distribution to field offices.

PAIS produces AVPs on NIS and CIS

by Lioneil G. Dela Cruz, NIA PAIS-CO

WATER FACTS AND TIPS

Sources: Business Mirror, Health & Fitness
Administrator Claro V. Maranan led a four-day Strategic Planning (StratPlan) Workshop held at Mansion Garden Hotel, Subic, Zambales on September 30 to October 3, 2013.

The workshop aims to create a shared vision and collective commitment from NIA leaders for the upliftment and transformation of NIA into a high-performing agency. The workshop is considered the first step in crafting the Agency’s Strategic Plan in the next five months.

The welcome message of Administrator Maranan set the context of the workshop. Department Managers, Regional/Operations Managers and selected key staff at the Regional office attended the four-day activity.

NIA leaders revisit NIA’s vision and mission that resulted to the four (4) proposed new Vision-Mission, these are:

1. A dynamic and viable world-class government corporation rendering irrigation related services contributing to the socio-economic growth of the country.
2. NIA a dynamic and viable government corporation rendering a world-class sustainable irrigation in partnership with stakeholders to provide food security.
3. A dynamic and viable government corporation rendering efficient and sustainable irrigation and allied services to provide sufficient food for the nations in collaboration with the stakeholders.
4. The finest irrigation system in Asia.

The proposed Vision will be presented to the Board for approval. Indeed, our leaders are one in taking step to revitalize NIA and prepare for the changing times. Meanwhile, the Mission statements will be reviewed and finalized by the SPG and NIA Team Champions for presentation to NIA ExeCom for their approval.

AWARDS FOR THE 50th NIA ANNIVERSARY SHOOTFEST
by Rocielle Harlette E. Navarro - PAIS, C.O

To uphold the spirit of camaraderie within the NIA community and promote responsible gun ownership, Deputy Administrator for Engineering and Operations Robert C. Suguitan organized the 50th Anniversary Shoot Fest along with gun enthusiasts Major Rafael F. Sahagan Jr, 1Lt. Aristotle Juan C Salas and Guillermo C. Mercado. The executive category was topped by none other than the Deputy Administrator himself, with Mr. Virgilio J Iiao of Region 3 for the Jr Executive Category, and Ms. Angelyn C. Tango of Region 2 emerged as the champion for the Lady Shooters category. The Agno River Integrated Irrigation Project bagged the gold in the team competition. The rest of the winners are as follows:

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<tr>
<th>CATEGORY/ AWARD</th>
<th>NAME</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EXECUTIVE CATEGORY</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd Runner-Up</td>
<td>GERARDO P. CORSIGA (Region 6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st Runner-Up</td>
<td>ALEXANDER G. COLOMA (Casecnan)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Champion</td>
<td>ROBERT C. SUGUITAN (Central Office)</td>
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<td>JR. EXECUTIVE CATEGORY</td>
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<td>2nd Runner-Up</td>
<td>RIZALO F. CONCEPCION (Region 6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st Runner-Up</td>
<td>RAYMUNDO B. APRIL (CAR)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Champion</td>
<td>VIRGILIO J. ILAO (Region 3)</td>
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<td>LADY SHOOTERS CATEGORY</td>
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<td>2nd Runner-Up</td>
<td>ALICE P. JAMES (CAR)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st Runner-Up</td>
<td>MARCELA F. CHOUGWAWI (CAR)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Champion</td>
<td>ANGELYN C. TANGO (Region 2)</td>
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<td>INDIVIDUAL CATEGORY</td>
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<td>STANDARD DIVISION</td>
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<td>2nd Runner-Up</td>
<td>SAMMY CASTRONUEVO (ARIIP)</td>
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<td>1st Runner-Up</td>
<td>ROMEL LEOREN (ARIIP)</td>
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<td>LORETO G. DEL ROSARIO (Region 3)</td>
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<td>EDMIN B. TUBOG (Region 2)</td>
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<td>Champion</td>
<td>GERARDO R. HOMERES (CAR)</td>
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<td>2nd Runner-Up</td>
<td>JONATHAN A. CHICA (Region 5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st Runner-Up</td>
<td>ARMAN P. CARINO (Region 2)</td>
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<td>Champion</td>
<td>DOMINADOR L. MAQUILAO (CAR)</td>
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EVENT ORGANIZER
1. ROBERT C. SUGUITAN
2. MAJOR RAFAEL F. SAHAGUN JR PA
3. 1LT. ARISTOTLE JUAN C SALAS PA
4. GUILLERMO C. MERCADO
Hydropower Project Updates

by Pops Marie S. Dadea, PAIS,-C.O.

One of the priority projects of National Irrigation Administration (NIA) Administrator Claro V. Maranan is the establishment and subsequently the operation of hydroelectric power in the NIA-administered irrigation systems.

The general objective of the project is to maximize the use of irrigation facilities that will sufficiently augment revenue, efficiently sustain Operation and Maintenance activities, effectively empower people, and explore/promote modernization.

Development of a hydropower system has three stages. Stage 1: The Technical Working Group (TWG) shall initially evaluate the proposals of prospective private partners, if found eligible, shall forward the same to the Joint Venture-Selection Committee (JV-SC), Stage 2: Pre-selection and selection process by JV-SC. Conduct of Negotiation between NIA and Private Sector, Conferment of Original Proponent Status and Final Evaluation by the Office of the Administrator and Stage 3: Competitive Challenge and Final Discussions/Negotiations of the most Responsive Offer prior to Recommendation and Award of the JV-SC.

Also the TWG, headed by its Chairman, Engr. Efren S. Roqueza, Operations Department Manager and Vice-Chairman Engr. Milo M. Landicho, Project Planning Division Manager, amended the guidelines on hydropower development in NIA-administered irrigation systems based on the revised guidelines and procedures for entering into Joint Venture Agreements (JVA) between Government and Private Entities.

NIA encourage private participation through JVA without forming JV Company. The following principles shall be observed:

(1) No adverse effect on the irrigation facilities and on water delivery, otherwise with corresponding compensation in case of disturbance or breakdown;

(2) Producing particular product, activity, or service, shall be at no cost to NIA;

(3) No privatization/transfer/divestment of NIA’s properties;

(4) No MOU/MAO with prospective private partners without the competitive selection process;

(5) The JV contract/agreement may be terminated if private sector-partner fails to deliver any major obligation/s prescribed.

Plans for the last quarter of 2013 includes the lecture/orientation of Contractual Joint Venture Guidelines and Procedures, preparation of Terms of Reference for JV Competitive Challenge and project site visit inspection.

“The projection was that by the last quarter of next year (2014) the project will be on its progressive state”, said Mr. Christeto Dinopol, Consultant of the Office of the Administrator.

The need for a hydroelectric power is essential more so in areas where there are fluctuating powers supply and the hydropower system once established is a major contribution NIA can provide to the society, “with Aubrey R. Sarmiento

To benefit 747 farmers, 1B-peso irrigation project breaks ground

by Dorothy Belle C. De Leon, PRO-Region 2

Groundbreaking of Pasa Small Reservoir Irrigation Project (SRIP), in Pasa, Ilagan funded by the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) took place on July 4, 2013.

The Government of South Korea through KOICA gave a whopping USD 21,760,000 grant, the largest grant from Korea so far, for the construction of a 36.7-meter high earthen embankment, impounding dam, appurtenant structures, main canal, laterals, and irrigation network facilities. Of the total project cost of P1,029,093,000, NIA contributed 93.4 million pesos for the construction of two bridges, Project Engineer’s office, right of way negotiations and access road. The PLGU of Isabela and LGU of Ilagan shared 27 million pesos for the installation of electricity and access road, and P 935.6 million pesos came from KOICA.

“Pasa SRIP service area is about 980 hectares to benefit 747 farmers in the barangays of Fuyo, Minabang, Morado, Sta. Victoria, and Pasa, all in the City of Ilagan,” Regional Irrigation Manager Galvez, who briefed everyone on the project, said.

He also informed attendees that the project’s history dates back in 2008 when Korea initiated a five-year program on East Asia Climate Partnership to strengthen cooperation and development strategies to address climate change in partner countries to bolster Green Growth in Asia. In 2010, KOICA approved the provision of a tied grant for the construction of the Pasa SRIP. And on January 24 this year, President Benigno S. Aquino III approved the implementation of the project.

The Ceremonial Groundbreaking was initiated not with the laying of the capsule as originally planned but by fireworks blasting at the dam site. The firing device was set off by Korean Ambassador to the Philippines Lee Hyuk and newly elected Senator Mary Grace Poe-Llamanzares, witnessed by DA Undersecretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat, Isabela Governor Faustino “Bojie” together with Vice Governor Antonio “Tonyboy” Albano, Congressman Rodolfo “Rodito” Albano III of the First District of Isabela, the Local Government Unit of Ilagan led by City Mayor Josemarie Díaz, and NIA Region 2 Regional Manager Vicente E. Galvez.

Gov. Bojie Dy III lauded the people of Korea and KOICA represented by Ambassador Hyuk for this project which could be of great help in adapting to climate change impacts.

Under Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat, who represented DA Secretary Proceso Alcala shared the immense benefit the project may bring.

“The construction of the Pasa SRIP will ensure sustained irrigation to the existing 80 hectares and generate 900 hectares of newly irrigated areas. This will contribute to the national food security target in the Food Staples Sufficiency Plan by 9.441 metric tons annually. Palagi pong tinatamaan ng bagyo at baha ang Isabela at ito pong proyektong ito will decrease the incidence of flood thereby protecting 465 hectares of agriculture land and 434 houses and a forest cover of 500 hectares,” Usec Romulo-Puyat said.

It can be recalled that in 2011, typhoons Juaning, Mina, Pedring, and Quiel wreaked havoc in agricultural crops in Isabela amounting to 3.17 billion pesos and damaged 2.4 billion pesos worth of irrigation facilities. So, Pasa SRIP is relied on to help mitigate flooding.

Meanwhile, Ambassador Hyuk paid tribute to the Filipino soldiers who fought side by side with Korean soldiers for their freedom in 1950s. Ambassador Lee Hyuk is in awe of their dedication and sacrifice. He added that the two countries had deepened their relationship since.

In parting, he said: “Agriculture has been the backbone of our country and economy. This project is an indication of Korea’s strong commitment in helping the Philippines achieve its goal not just in terms of agricultural development but also in mitigating climate change.”

Vital to the operation of the dam is its forest cover. As part of NIA's Watershed Management thrust, RIM Galvez committed Pasa as the primary impact area of the agency’s tree planting activities. As of press time, 5,625 saplings had been planted on Pasa’s watershed.

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NIA Dams defy Earthquake in Bohol

by Luzviminda R. Peñaranda, NIA CO-PAIS

Four major dams in Bohol defied the October 15 earthquake.

“...the effect of the earthquake on the four major dams of Bohol is nothing to worry, tension cracks at crest of the dam is not alarming and are only superficial cracks.” This was the essence of the observation and evaluation made by Dam Consultants, Mr. Gil Cardiel of SN Aboitiz and Mr. Kjell Heggelund of SN Power. The consultants conducted ocular inspection and assessment on October 21-22, 2013 after an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.2 hit Bohol province.

The four (4) major dams such as: Talibon Dam in Talibon; Capayas Dam in Ubay; Bayongan Dam in San Miguel; and, Malinao Dam in Pilar, all in Bohol were able to survive the earthquake that crossed Visayan region.

The earthquake is considered the deadliest in Bohol in 23 years and its released energy is equivalent to 32 Hiroshima bombs, Wikipedia stated. Its aftermath: public structures, private buildings, residential houses, and churches if not collapsed were heavily damaged; the famous Chocolate Hills were not spared, some of its hills were damaged in a landslide; its observation deck was destroyed; roads and bridges were destroyed and rendered impassable; and, communication lines were adversely affected.

In a nutshell, the result of Dam Consultants’ report proved that the Agency has been very diligent in observing and adopting the highest standard in dam construction, as well as maintaining irrigation facilities for efficient irrigation service and irrigation structures that could endure future hazard. Further, the officials aware of the challenges faced by agriculture sector are now pro-active in reducing risks brought about by these events.

JALAUR RIVER MULTIPURPOSE PROJECT:
The Next Big Thing in Iloilo

by Danielle Parian-Pijuan, PRO-Region 6

If there is one huge project that the Province of Iloilo has to watch out for, it is the construction and completion of the Jalaur River Multipurpose Project (JRMP), which is now on its second stage. Not only will this project bring about positive impact on agricultural development, it will also address issues on flood mitigation, power generation, water supply, employment, and promote eco-tourism. As much as the province is aiming for national and global recognition as the Next Big Thing through its development and economic progress, the National Irrigation Administration Region VI is doing its best to enhance its irrigation services in order to substantially contribute in attaining rice self-sufficiency by building this Next Big Thing for NIA and Iloilo.

On January 27, 2013 during the heat of the Dinagyang Festival, the National Irrigation Administration Region VI welcomed His Excellency Korean Ambassador Lee Hyuk in a meeting joined by Senator Franklin Drilon and Governor Arthur Defensor. The meeting highlighted the importance to fast-track the consultancy services in order to speed up the progress of the project in time to meet its target completion on May 2016.

The project, seen as the “Game Changer,” is considered a role model to spearhead the implementation of other huge projects within the Province.
Korean Ambassador Lee Hyuk made a commitment to "...try my best in accelerating the process and address the Korean authorities and companies to help the project meet its schedule."

Also, the Korean Ambassador emphasized that, "We do not forget the contribution the Philippine Government and soldiers have made to protect the freedom and democracy of Korea." He also believes that, "it is the natural responsibility and duty of the Korean Government to make as many eco-economic assistance as possible to the Philippine Government."

Last February 21, 2013 President Benigno S. Aquino III led the ceremonial Groundbreaking of JRMP II in the Iloilo Provincial Capitol. Assisted by Senator Franklin Drilon, Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala, and Governor Arthur Defensor, the President lowered the time capsule of JRMP II. NIA Region VI Regional Manager Gerardo P. Corsiga was also present during the event.

In his speech, the President reiterated the benefits of JRMP including the 6.6 megawatt hydroelectric power plant, supply of potable water for domestic and industrial use within the surrounding communities including Iloilo City, flood mitigation, eco-tourism, and most especially employment opportunities.

"Oras na matapos ang proyekto, apatnapu't tatlong porsyento ng lupang agraryo dito sa Iloilo ang magkakaroon ng irigasyon. Ibig sabihin, inaasahan natin na dodoble ang maaning bigas sa rehiyon at aangat ng tatlumpung porsyento ang produksyon," the President said regarding the rice self sufficiency target to accomplish even before the completion of the project.

"...uunlad ang pangingisda at pati na ang eco-tourism at maiiwasan ang pagbaha dito sa Iloilo. Ito po talaga ang bunga ng Jalaur River Project: pagkain sa mesa ng bawat kabahayan, mga batang hindi na mapipilitang umabsent sa klase nila, mas maraming Ilonggong may trabaho na makikibahagi sa pagpapalago sa ating ekonomiya.", He added.

With the economic assistance lent by the South Korean Government, the support of the Philippine Government, the cooperation of various agricultural sectors, and the fervent services of NIA employees, this Next Big Thing is just within our reach.

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The Human Resources Division (HRD) envisions its role to be in transition from transactional to transformational. They aim to deliver service to their stakeholders that is keeping up with the changing times. To realize their vision, the HRD teamed up with the Management Information Division (MID) of the Corporate Planning Services to create a computer program that will facilitate the flow of documents and generate various relevant data relative to personnel matters.

A computerized Human Resources Management Information System (HRMIS) was developed by the MID in response to the HR’s need for them to be able to focus on more strategic functions. The HRMIS is composed of two modules namely Human Resource Information System and Leave Management Information System. Said modules can fast-track the accomplishment of the Personal Data Sheet and processing of leave applications of every employee. With these systems, the updating and filing of both activities can already be done online. Thus, plantilla of personnel, service records, leave records and daily time records can easily be accessed by the HR staff.

The program for users is currently being presented to all employees to solicit their comments and recommendations before its full implementation. The initial orientation-workshop was conducted on August 28, 2013. Ten batches of the same are set on September 18, 19, 25, 26 and 27, 2013. Two batches are scheduled each day. Meanwhile, the training for the system administrators is scheduled on September 27, 2013.
Farmers of barangays Kauswagan, Aurora, Zamboanga del Sur and San Vicente, Tambuling, Zamboanga del Sur had long dreamt of irrigation to reach their lands – to allow them to increase their production and ultimately increase their household income. In November 2004, their dream came true when Institutional Development Officer (IDO) Ann M. Maligro organized them into an Irrigators Association (IA). Adopting the name of both barangays, the Kauswagan San Vicente Farmers Irrigators Association, Inc. (KASAVIFIA, Inc.) was formed, since then had become an asset to the region as well as to the rice production program of the Philippines. Funded under Agrarian Reform Infrastructure Support Project (ARISP-II), the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) Region 9 constructed a terruvian dam; it covered a total service area of 185 hectares. “Nagsugod na gayud ang kalamboan,” (The development has finally began) as what one of its members referred.

A felt need that was addressed and was met with eagerness from IDOs of NIA, KASAVIFIA as a newly formed association was able to withstand all adversities they faced each year – with problems making them stronger each time. Hence, it was not for long that they started receiving awards. For two consecutive years in 2007 and 2008, they received an Outstanding CARP CIS award at the Regional Level. Thereafter, recognitions from the national level started to pour in. In 2009, KASAVIFIA became one of the CARP Outstanding Irrigators Association awardees, and on the same year they were 4th Runner-Up in Outstanding IA award during NIA’s 47th Anniversary.

In 2010 and 2012, they bagged the 2nd Runner-Up CARP Irrigators Association. With the recent conclusion of NIA’s Golden Anniversary, KASAVIFIA received an award as Most Outstanding IA, 2nd Runner-Up under CARP Category.

Determined to continue this legacy of hardwork and discipline, Mr. Baudelio D. Perez, KASAVIFIA President, makes sure that he himself sets a good example in their community. He shared how he implements good governance by not authorizing IA officers to have back accounts: “All officers must be a good payer, I want to lead by example,” he said. For those members who pay on time or earlier they get to have a 5% discount; another policy in collecting also include paying in kind. These are among the best practices they apply in their association.

Presently, KASAVIFIA has 120 farmer-beneficiaries and their assets have also grown allowing them to generate an income of its own, for instance, by having their farming equipment rented. Meetings and other IA activities are conducted regularly, policy implementation are being monitored at each organizational level. The farmers have seen the importance of their involvement to the collective success of the association and how they reap from them in multitudes.

Truly, no one can ever tell what lies ahead in the future. We can only predict and try to prepare for it. And prepare they did, KASAVIFIA farmers hold strong to their dream, made the right choices, acquired the necessary tools to reach it, and never stops improving themselves. Once a dream, a brighter future is now unfolding before them.

A Brighter Future: An IA Success Story
by Maria Teresa Amaya Empleo, PRO Region 9

“The future belongs to those who believe that it takes sweat, hardwork, and determination to reach your dream.”
- Colin Powell
JEWELS from Region 10

PAITAN IA: SOARING GRANDEUR
by Jennefer R. Agripo - Region 10

Paitan IA is one of the 42 Irrigators Associations in Pulangui River Irrigation System from the Bukidnon Irrigation Management Office under the headship of Division Manager Jimmy L. Apostol. It is also one of the most recognized IAs in the country.

The IA was organized in 1983 as the newly completed irrigation facilities and structures started to draw water from Kulaman River. Farmers gleefully benefited from the improvement as they used to rely on rainfall and once-a-year harvest.

With the collaborative effort and determined commitment of its leaders, Paitan IA has been awarded one of the Most Outstanding IAs in the 1990s. It is a clear proof that even in its early existence, the association has long been active in helping its members uplift their socio-economic lives.

Recently, Paitan IA entered into IMT Model II Contract with NIA-BIMO wherein the association is empowered to operate and maintain their irrigation system and improve their financial viability. Members are more involved in irrigation activities and are more responsible and aware of their obligations. These qualities helped them reach 100% collection efficiency during the Wet and Dry Season of 2012. According to IA President Reynaldo Ilar, “proper management in terms of proper schedule of water delivery combined with effective strategy in the aspect of ISF collection results to outstanding performance.”

ALUBIJID-LOGUILO ISA:
A MILLION PESO Awardee
by Beberly B. Gales - Region 10

The Alubijid-Loguilo Irrigators’ Service Association Incorporated (ALISA, Inc.) in Alubijid, Misamis Oriental is one of the recipients of a P1-Million worth of agricultural machineries during the 2nd Agri-Pinoy Rice Achievers Award on March 15, 2013 at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) in Pasay City.

The awards program was attended by Agriculture Secretary Proceso J. Alcala, DA Undersecretary for Operations Joel S. Rudinas, DA Assistant Secretary Dante Delima, NIA Administrator Antonio S. Nangel, and Bureau of Soils and Water Management Director Silvino Tejad. Also present to witness the prestigious event were the awardees, who were excited to receive their respective awards, under the different categories from 10 provinces and 48 cities across the country.

The Agri-Pinoy Program under the Department of Agriculture intends to support Rice Self-Sufficiency Program of the government through efficient and effective irrigation system and agricultural practices. It also aims to develop and encourage other farmers to emulate strategies and techniques of the IA achievers.
NIACONSULT’s Climate Change Vulnerability Mapping

by Maria Luisa A. Frias, NIA C.O-PAIS

NIACONSULT, Inc. is the Philippines premier Consultancy firm in water resources development, particularly in the field of irrigation. It was established and organized as a subsidiary corporation of the NIA to provide consultancy services in the field of planning, design, project management and construction of irrigation and related water resources development projects, agricultural development, institutional and manpower development, operation and maintenance, water management and other specialty services.

NIA, as an agricultural institution concerned with irrigation development in the country faces a big challenge on how to reduce disruptive consequences to agriculture, particularly climate change. These climate disturbances do not only interrupt water resources but also the demand for water. A change in climate can disturb many related aspects of how the agricultural crops live particularly food production.

More recurrent intense rainfall that bring about torrents and runoffs that devastate watersheds, habitations and infrastructure are already being manifested. Likewise, recurrent droughts which diminish cultivated area, crop yield and agricultural production have become another serious concern.

These devastating phenomena suffice to justify the need to map out geo-specific vulnerability to the impact and consequences of climate change and extremes, as bases for designing appropriate adaptation and disaster risk reduction measures.

For this purpose, NIACONSULT utilizes the pooled expertise acquired by NIA in its 50 years of existence in water resources and irrigation development, making it thoroughly equipped to meet the technical needs of our country whose economy depend greatly in agricultural productivity.

A Climate Change Vulnerability Mapping Project was introduced by NIA Consult to achieve ample readiness in identifying vulnerability and adaptation strategies to climate change impact consequences in agriculture ecosystems and crop suitability watershed boundaries and administrative boundaries. It specifically aims to achieve invaluable references in the form of agricultural vulnerability maps and crop suitability maps up to the watershed, to municipal and barangay levels in consolidated data and mapping methodology.

In this project, NIA Consult tasks are the deliveries of the Land Attribute Mapping that includes developing the thematic maps on land attributes such as administrative boundaries, contours, landforms, soils, climate, geo-hazard, river network, landuse and watershed cover; and the Agro Ecological Zone (AEZ) Mapping that will enhance the existing AEZ based on the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) methodology to include more zones identified that reflect reality on the ground based on crop production potentials as limited by the climatic, edaphic and other biophysical characteristics.

The overall mapping methodology will be based on the circularized framework developed by the DA Systems-Wide Climate Change Office (DASW-CCO) being the main proponent of the Project. On the other hand, NIA will recognize the availability of base maps and satellite imagery that will determine the extent and pace at which the target vulnerability maps can be prepared.

In coordination with Engr. Diony D. Fausto - NIACONSULT, Inc. Philippines

NIA-SNAP conducts validation survey with MEP 2 affected households

by Melissa C. Agbisit, PRO.MARIIS

Personnel from the National Irrigation Administration and SN Aboitiz Power conducted a validation survey with some residents of Alfonso Lista, Ifugao and Ramon, Isabela in line with the MARIIS Reservoir Optimization Project.

The Land Acquisition and Livelihood Restoration Committee composed of NIA and SNAP employees visited the barangays of Namillangan and Sto. Domingo in Alfonso Lista, Ifugao and Gen. Aguinaldo in Ramon, Isabela from September 2-13, 2013 to collect information from 105 respondents who will be affected by the project.

The data gathered from the survey will be used in the preparation of the livelihood restoration package to be offered to each household.

On July 18, 2013, NIA-SNAP conducted a forum with the stakeholders on the proposed project to provide an overview of the Livelihood Restoration Framework and Procedure. Mr. Rodolfo Azanza, Ms. Andrea Madrid, and Atty. Anne Mecias from SNAP and Ms. Pilipina P. Bermudez and Ms. Heartie Navarro from NIA-Central Office presented the updates.

During the forum which was attended by affected households, representatives from the barangay and municipal councils, everyone was assured that the implementation of the project shall be executed to ensure that social impacts on the affected persons are minimal or at the very least, they shall not be worse off because of the project.
**Oda para kay Mang Juan**

by Lionel G. Dela Cruz - NIA PAIS-CO

Photo by: Ana Cristel K. Untivero - NIA PAIS-CO

Hindi pa man dumudukang
ang mga gintong silahe ng araw
mula sa likuran ng ulap at hamog,
nakadudukang na sa bintana
ng malit ninyang kubo si Mang Juan
tangan-tangan ang isang tasa ng kapeng
gigising sa pupung-as-pungas pang takas.

Habang pinapanood
ang mga natitirang all tapped
na naglalaro pa sa karimian,
binibit ng hangin ang halimuyak
ng anihang nakababang -
halimuyak na kay Mang Juan
ay nagdulot ng ngilig at kasabihan.

Dahan-dahang tumatalahan
ang mga naghahuratadong kulilig,
unit-unl ang nanay magbububak sa langit
upang ibuhos ang liwanag
na nagpatingkad sa mga gintaing tulapit
-mga pintak na nagaabang, nagbibintay,
nagsusumamo sa huling haplos
mula sa mga kamay ni Mang Juan.

Habang nagsasayaw ang hangin mula sa Kaniuran,
marahang niyakap ng mga
lipaking kamay ni Mang Juan
ang mga taglang inaruga ng apat na buwan -
apat na buwan ng pagbabalan ng buko,
apat na buwan ng pagkakayo
ng mga talamapaka't palad,
apat na buwan ng paglusong sa lusak,
apat na buwan ng pagkaluto sa tirik na arow.
Apat na buwan ng pagpapagal
na hindi inalintana ng mabagting
na katawan ni Mang Juan.

---

**The brown of it all**

Aside from eating white rice, you should also consider adding more brown rice to your diet. A 1 ½ cup serving only has 108 calories, 2 grams of fat and just 10mg of sodium. Also contained are 5 grams of protein, 14 percent of fiber and just 1 gram of sugar. And unlike the white rice, this one has its hull preserved which has all the necessary nutrients still stored.

Other whole grain foods such as brown rice can also help you lose weight but they also reduce chronic conditions such as heart disease and diabetes. Brown rice can also help you if you are constipated. And if you are feeling tired and sluggish, it can make you more energetic than usual as this has more than 80 percent daily value of the element manganese which helps in the coordination of your muscles.

There are also oils in brown rice which can help lower your cholesterol. If you are trying to lose weight, brown rice is the best to go since according to a study by Harvard researchers, women who have added this to their diet are more likely not to gain weight by 50 percent, which can prevent you from having a heart attack in the process. Best of all, brown rice has selenium and fiber, which can prevent cancer. But even so many benefits, remember that any type of food – even rice when taken too much can be fattening.

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**WORD HUNT**

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**Sources:** Business Mirror, Health & Fitness

**Image Source:** Google

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