

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President



National Irrigation Administration

(Pambansang Pangasiwaan ng Patubig)



NIA TODAY

AN AIDE MEMOIRE

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Administrator
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NIA TODAY an Aide Memoire

(A Synthesis)

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As part of the efforts to continue the growth of the agency, NIA Administrator Dr. Florencio F. Padernal came up with a book entitled "NIA Today an Aide Memoire". The book contains achievements, improvements, and future undertakings vital to the existence of agency.

A 47-page book packed with essential information supported with figures, visuals, tables, and graphs showing the improved NIA today. The material focuses primarily on the great endeavors of the professional journey of Dr. Florencio F. Padernal, as the administrator of NIA for about two years.

The content of the book varies from Status of Irrigation Development down to the future plans and recommendations as a guide for the new management. The book shows the increase of irrigation development during the period of 2014-2015 which then lead to an overwhelming rise of annual budget. An impressive 1.73 million hectares of developed area were achieved by the end of 2015 equivalent to 57.33% of the estimated potential irrigable area. The said progress is projected to continue in 2016 and 2017 as a result of the massive construction of new irrigation systems. Consistently, about 28.75 billion was the approved budget of NIA for 2015 which transcends to 36.18% increase from previous budget. It is seen to continuously upsurge as the current budget for 2016 also increases with 32.74 billion approved. With this trend, our farmers can expect better services and more facilities that will address their concerns.

The cumulative number of Irrigators Associations organized reached 8,199 covering an area of 1.25 million has. consist of 1.04 million farmers in NIS, CIS, and NIP. Out of the organized IAs a total of 2, 609 have entered into different IMT model contracts. NIA through Dr. Padernal also drew up a study on the best irrigation practices in selected Asian countries and Israel. The objective is to learn from the experiences from other countries and compare them with our current practices. Dr. Padernal believes that it will be a great avenue for the agency as a reference for future irrigation policies.

The matter on Irrigation Service Fee (ISF) is also included in the book alongside with collection efficiency. A significant increase in Back Accounts (BA) collection was seen for the years of 2014 and 2015. Meanwhile, NIA exceeded its target of 154% by accomplishing 161% of cropping intensity despite the effect of El Niño.

The country's Irrigation Institutional Development was strengthen continuously through Irrigation Management Transfer (IMT). A project development cycle was also developed by Dr. Padernal

to conveniently execute project and implementation, system operation and maintenance, and irrigation modernization and expansion.

Various improvements also took place including strategic planning, updated baseline data, initiated more resilient climate change measures, prioritized small water reservoirs and water cisterns, conducted seminars on dams safety, periodic fieldworks to personally hear concerns, and quarterly dialogues with key NIA contractors to solve implementation issues.

Previous projects not completed during the past years were successfully implemented in 2015 and 2016. These carry-over projects have also been the priority of the management since it will contribute to generate new areas. NIA also tries to cope up with the current trends of technology with the use of GIS-based computer programs including geo-tagging and LIDAR. Drones have also been useful equipment in capturing aerial images and gathers data on distances, elevations, and profiles.

NIA through Design and Specification Division also abstracted new guidelines for the preparation of conceptual plans and detailed design drawings. Aside from computerization program, the agency comes up with NIA-Interactive Room to address the information/operation management system of the agency.

Preparation for implementation is also underway for the bidding of over 300 potential hydropower sites within its irrigation facilities. An effective management team and public administration is also listed along the primacies of the management. Anchored with this are, sound financial management, improvement in Finance, reforms in Administrative Department, greater professionalism in the selection and appointments of key NIA officials, better overseas training of qualified staff, enhanced capacity-building programs both in entry and executive level, extension of services to deserving NIA employees, assets inventory and valuation, honoring retiring officials through 'Salamat-Mabuhay' program, two-year vehicle re-fleeting program, installation of five new elevators in Central Office, and construction of multipurpose/training centers for employees and farmers.

Other major endeavors of the agency include NIA risk management plan that will guide officials in its operations when it comes to analyzing and mitigating risk factors. The ISO 9001:2008 certification is also a working progress as the agency continues its step towards the finish line. The agency also tries to build stronger framework in the International community like ICID and INWEPF to embark on greater international discussion on some global issues concerning irrigation.

The pursuing actions that the agency is undertaking are included within NIA Ahead. This section tackles vibrantly the future plans and actions of the agency on certain issues and other improvements. Part of the frameworks of irrigation development is the 10-year National and

Provincial Irrigation Master Plans which will substantially reduce irrigation gap nationwide. NIA charter was also proposed to be amended to address current concerns of the agency.

River Basin concept, NIA restructuring, PPP in irrigation projects, and potentials of solar power are also key subjects that the management is taking into accounts. Dr. Padernal also led in developing paper for Agricultural Center of Excellence as a result of the study that was conducted in the best irrigation practices. Proper SARO and NCA scheduling will also be adhered to avoid delays on budget releases.

Delayed projects due to contractors' deficiencies are seriously attended with the new policy that no new contract should be awarded if a contractor has over 15% negative slippage. The issue on Free Irrigation Service Fee was also included on the last part of the book stating some actions that can be undertaken in the event of non-charging of ISF.

These were some of the meat of the actions taken by Dr. Florencio F. Padernal together with his team in attaining a better and improved NIA today. The book will not only serve as delightful pieces of memory but also a guide towards a more grandeur route where the agency is expected to navigate. #