

# Burunyog

A COLLECTION OF STORIES OF  
COMMUNITIES AND STAKEHOLDERS



SAMA-SAMANG PAGKILOS NANG MAY MALASAKIT





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# FOREWORD

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Burunyog is a Bicol word for “unity.” The wholeness of a community has been the most treasured trait of Filipinos for centuries through bayanihan. Being in the community or barangay leads to having good relationship with others while also producing improvements for the future.

This is the living message of Department of Social Welfare and Development Kapit Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (DSWD Kalahi-CIDSS). It is one of the poverty alleviation programs of the Philippine Government that uses Community Driven Development (CDD), a well-known strategy in achieving improved delivery of services and the participation of communities in more inclusive local planning, budgeting and implementation.

This book is the compendium of stories of Bicol Region which features the success of communities in preserving and upholding the bayanihan spirit. These stories show the great impact of DSWD Kalahi-CIDSS in providing opportunities to empower barangays through decision-making as well as implementation community projects.

With Sama-Samang Pagkilos Nang May Malasakit (collective action of communities), the vigor to create a new chapter was able to produce modern-day heroes or community volunteers, who extended their time and effort in rendering their services for the betterment of their communities.

Through this compendium of stories that will be passed down to future generations, their stories will serve not as a legend but a veracious testament of unmeasurable accomplishments, undying devotion, and new dreams of people for the communities.

## MESSAGES FROM KEY PEOPLE





“Ikaw? Ano ba ang kayang mong gawin para sa bayan mo?”

These child’s lines are already ingrained in me that I can’t help but impart this notable account whenever I talk about Kalahi-CIDSS. The child witnessed how volunteerism brought a vital farm-to-market road in a village in Dolores, Quezon through the arduous engagement of his parents.

Empirically, DSWD Kalahi-CIDSS revives the bayanihan spirit in this modern age where Community-Driven Development (CDD) approach is adopted to engage ordinary citizens in the development process. It is an indispensable opportunity for citizens and families to know and help their villages and build projects accordingly.

People from various sectors are given voices to speak about their needs and priorities with the collective effort to solve these issues in partnership with our local officials. Consequently, communities address poverty by using their resources expediently, ensuring quality craftsmanship of their funded infrastructures, and uniting to continuously work together for the common good despite of actual setbacks.

In its 14 years of implementation in Bicol, we have involved thousands of implementers and volunteers in

Kalahi-CIDSS who can vouch that there’s a sweet success after all the toil.

Just before any edifice was erected in a community, all the people placed their valuable contributions and even sacrificed their time and energy for the completion of daunting and arduous tasks. And we laud these people for partaking in this endeavor who made a significant difference in their village to escape from the shackles of poverty.

On the other hand, Kalahi-CIDSS is not only building infrastructures, it also implants important life values and timeless stories that can be transmitted from one generation to another.

Just like the abovementioned story of a road constructed in Dolores wherein the adults were praised and idolized, the road was perceived by a child as a symbol of triumph and even a cause for his proclamation of his pride for his parents’ accomplishments.

Beyond those structures, there are indelible memories that only those involved can narrate. Thus, we have collected assorted stories about DSWD Kalahi-CIDSS from our partners and stakeholders in Bicol who personally wrote their trials and triumphs. We are very fortunate to document these stories of our local heroes in this collection of unique experiences.

As you reach the end of this book, I hope that you would impart even one account from this compendium. I hope that these written memoirs can awaken our spirits and continue our advocacy to enliven our indomitable bayanihan spirit in our hearts, minds and actions despite major or minor setbacks.

“Ikaw? Ano ba ang kayang mong gawin para sa bayan mo?”

**ARNEL B. GARCIA, CESO II**  
Regional Director



The operations of the community-driven development (CDD) approach expanded into a national scale, which was tried and proven effective by DSWD Kalahi-CIDSS.

There are 101 poor municipalities in Bicol under its expansion from 2014 to 2019 with a total grant of Php4,497,448,178.

Community-driven development (CDD) reverts the power in the hands of the people by opening opportunities for informed decisions on locally-identified options for development and by managing resources to implement sub-projects that address needs identified by communities themselves.

People empowerment is tantamount to socio-economic development. The direct involvement of local residents in the development process spur a rapid movement towards progress. Heeding the voices of the poor, and the marginalized and vulnerable sector is the powerful tool for planning deliberate course of action to eradicate poverty with the government.

The DSWD Kalahi-CIDSS boasts of its Community Empowerment- Activity Cycle (CEAC) to ensure that residents are engaged in each stage of its implementation at the grassroots level.

The key CEAC feature that puts premium to the voices of the people is the Participatory Situation Analysis administered onset of the project. In this stage, elected

residents in the community conduct a collaborative assessment of their conditions and needs. Subsequently, the results are validated through the community assembly. As part of the project's thrust, the people are consulted on their development priorities for immediate government intervention.

Furthermore, the highest decision-making body in the project is the community assembly where all major agreements relative to the issues and concerns are discussed and approved based on the consensus of the people.

The adhoc committee formed for the DSWD Kalahi-CIDSS implementation in the villages is called the Barangay Sub-Project Management Committee (BSPMC) which includes non-barangay officials who are trained on project development, community procurement, financial management, operations and management and accountability reporting, etc.

The government acknowledges the significant contribution of the people in the realm of development. There is a great potential in the grassroots with proper guidance and assistance from the national government agencies, local government units, and the private sectors.

The only way to keep them involved is to arm them with the necessary knowledge and skills to push for their own development and DSWD Kalahi-CIDSS has been advocating these initiatives through the CDD approach.

For over 14 years of DSWD Kalahi-CIDSS implementation in Bicol, more people are perceived by the department to be transformed into active citizens. These stories of change have been captured in this compendium of memoirs personally authored by our stakeholders.

These tales of development lead us to the intimate level of discernment that when opportunities and resources are endowed to the grassroots, the power within themselves can transform their communities.

  
**ARWIN O. RAZO**

Assistant Regional Director for Operations



I fight back my tears when I see the deprived IPs get the concrete pathway to replace their muddy and dusty footpath, ignored differently-abled individuals taking active role in community activities, belittled elderly members recognized for their worthy contributions, lifelong powerless housewives becoming active leaders in the community, and apathetic residents transformed into accountable and proactive villagers.

Democratizing the decision-making and management processes through people participation is an indispensable element of development and poverty-reduction.

All sectors have deliberate efforts and decisive actions to repair the tattered lives of the poor, vulnerable, disadvantaged, and the marginalized.

DSWD, through Kalahi-CIDSS, has been reviving the bayanihan spirit by assembling all sectors to provide basic social services to targeted poor areas in the country since 2003.

We have been always proud of strengthened collaboration with ordinary citizens, national government agencies, local government units at the barangay and municipal level, civil society organizations, people's organizations, and private and non-government organizations gathered for the united purpose of making a significant change in the lives of the people.

The contributions of our stakeholders are equally valuable and priceless to spark long-term growth. We never cease to deliver our commitment by implanting the greatest lessons of empowerment to the hearts and minds of the people.

We have already derived notable experiences from our implementers on the ground because of our lengthened existence founded on the Community-Driven Development principles. Hence, we would like to underscore these in our compendium to continuously reveal how bayanihan made a lasting impact.

These tangible and intangible accomplishments are all attributed to all the people who engaged with us despite impediments that we have surmounted hereafter.

Our main thrust is to instill these lessons to our stakeholders who will relentlessly advocate participation, transparency, accountability, and empowerment in the local development processes.

We have high spirits that we can yield sustainable development in the hands of the people by giving them equal opportunities and resources guided by a compassionate government.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marissa M. Paeste".

**MARISSA M. PAESTE**

OIC- Chief, Promotive Services Division

## SUB-PROJECTS ACCORDING TO PROJECT CATEGORY



DATA AS OF NOVEMBER 23, 2018

TOTAL: 2923

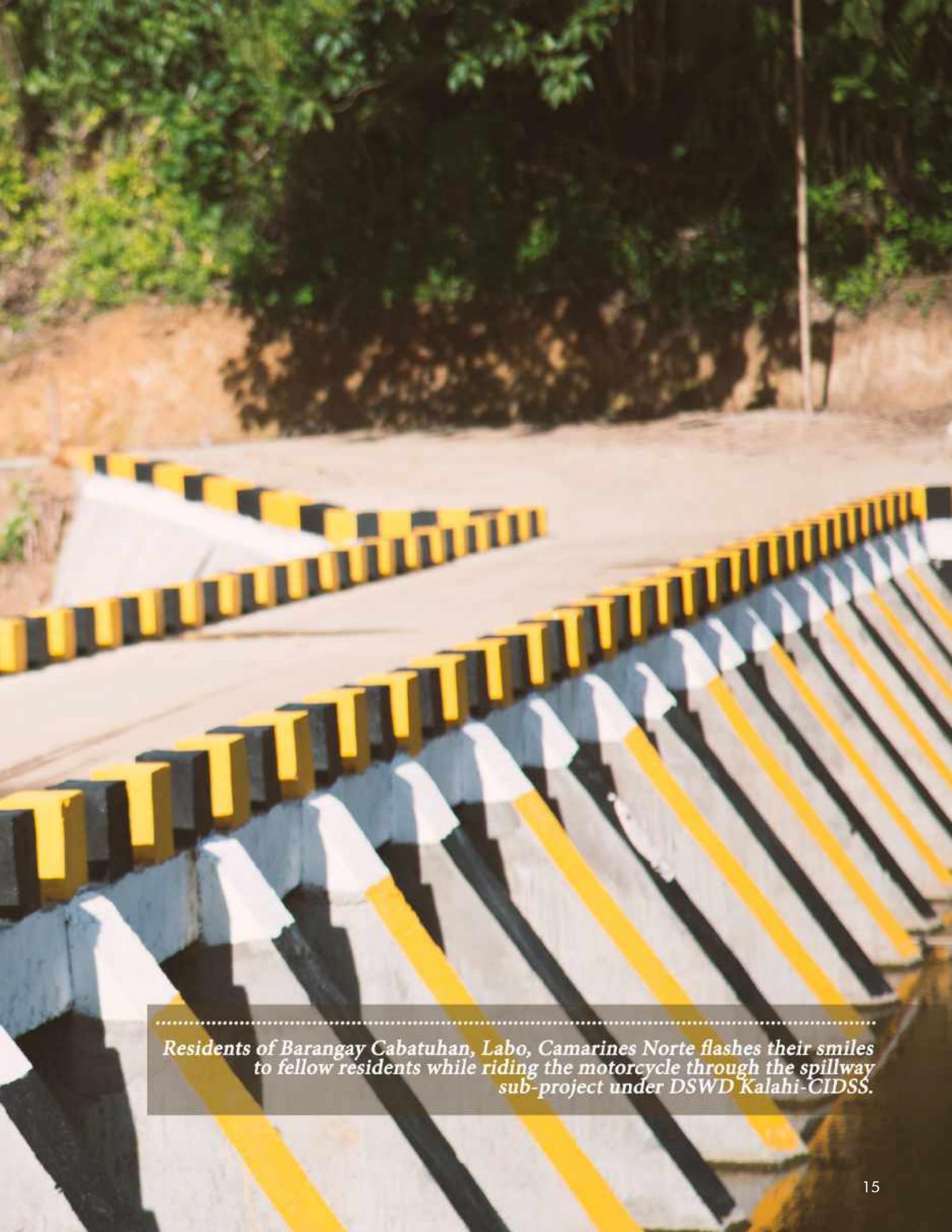
## NUMBER OF SUB-PROJECTS ACCORDING TO PROVINCE



DATA AS OF NOVEMBER 23, 2018

# All hands-on deck: 83 days to build a spillway





Residents of Barangay Cabatuhan, Labo, Camarines Norte flashes their smiles to fellow residents while riding the motorcycle through the spillway sub-project under DSWD Kalahi-CIDSS.



**L**ABO, Camarines Norte—Motorcycle rides going to Barangay Cabatuhan are the most fulfilling experiences for the residents here. Every time passengers pass by the Busig-on River, they can't help but adore the majestic concrete spillway painted in yellow and black. Despite its magnificence, it wasn't easy for the community to complete a project in 223 days, especially that they had a deadline to meet.

This infrastructure project was a product of the collective action or bayanihan of the community. At the other end of the spillway, names of the people involved in the sub-project were written on the big concrete K-shaped landmark that stands for Kalahi.

According to Barangay Captain Dante Balog, Cabatuhan is one of the poorest barangays. The villagers' main livelihood is farming.

He also specified the three main problems that Cabatuhan has experienced: lack of education, lack of livelihood, and accessibility to and from the village.

To solve the community problems, the residents saw the need of constructing a spillway that will serve as bridge to fast-track the services they may acquire at the town proper.

Shirley Yago, 39, community volunteer shared her unforgettable experience when braving to cross the river.

"Noon, kapag tumatawid kami, inaabot kami ng gabi para lang humupa ang ilog kasi napakalalim ng tubig. May balsa naman po pero malakas ang agos ng tubig. (There were times in the past when we spent the night along the road just waiting for the flood to subside. The raft cannot traverse because of the strong current)," Yago recounted.

"Muntik na rin ako mawalan ng buhay kasi nag-bleeding ako noon. Hindi ko nga alam kung aabot pa ako kasi sa hirap tumawid (One time, I thought I was about to die because of excessive bleeding. I didn't think that I would still survive because of the difficulty to cross the river)," she added.

Barangay Captain Balog could also recount times when crossing Busig-on became life threatening.

"May nararanasan kami na mayroon kaming patay sa barangay na hindi mailibing kasi hindi maitawid ang bangkay sa ilog (There was an instance that we were not able to hold a funeral for the dead because of the difficulty to cross the river)," he said.

He also added that pregnant women are forced to give birth in their respective homes which is dangerous.

For the residents of Cabatuhan, the courage to continue for progress has been the most invaluable act of bravery.

With their participation for development, the spillway sub-project was prioritized under the Department of Social Welfare and Development Kapit Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (DSWD Kalahi-CIDSS), a program that helps in empowering communities to be part in decision-making, planning and project implementation, thus, reviving the bayanihan spirit.

### **From 223 to 83 days**

The implementation of spillway has never been easy because the sub-project must be completed by May 2018 before the closing of Asian Development Bank (ADB) funded sub-projects.

According to its program of works, the spillway was expected to be finished in 223 days, but the construction started on March 10, 2018 which was beyond the prescribed deadline.

The community volunteers together with the barangay council come up with a plan that would ensure the speedy construction.

The barangay captain encouraged all skilled construction workers in their area to help in the sub-project.

*"Ang aming manpower sa tulong ng volunteers at mga mamamayan ng Cabatuhan, ay nagawa itong mabilis dahil sa lahat ng aming skilled workers ay dito namin ipinokus maging ang aming ibang projekto sa aming barangay pansamantalang itinigil upang ibuhos namin dito yung labor force (Our village's manpower with the help of volunteers and residents of Cabatuhan was able to meet the deadline. The skilled workers also prioritized the community project. We postpone other ongoing projects in the barangay to pour out the labor force for the sub-project)," Balog explained.*

The community also created a two-shifting system for the workers to cover all tasks needed to complete the construction.

According to Yago, a community volunteer as well as laborer during the construction, they would work from 7:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Also, their two-shifting system were interchanged in two-week interval.

She also said that being a laborer made a great experience for her as a woman.

*"Hindi ko malilimutan na nakaranas ako ng trabaho ng lalaki, na kaya pala ng babae (I won't forget working as a laborer which was believed to be exclusive only for men, but I was able to prove that women can also do the same)," she stated.*

With the efforts of the community, the concrete spillway was finished on May 31, 2018 in which it was completed only in 83 days. That was 140 days earlier compared to the expected day of completion.

It might be considered as a work of miracle, but it is a real manifestation that there are many possibilities in the impossible.

Just like what Tommy Lasorda, well-known former manager of Los Angeles Dodgers, had said that the difference between the impossible and the possible lies in a person's determination.

The will to continue despite facing big problems can be the best experience for a human that life isn't just filled with dreams and aspirations but a sack full of effort.

For Yago, it is the happiest moment for her to achieve something beyond what she has expected.

*"Napakasaya, napakagaan sa loob na nakikita na andiyan ang project. Nakikita ko rin yung pangalan namin na nakapaskil sa may spillway. Ito ay hindi lang sa akin pati rin sa mga anak ko (I felt so happy and fulfilled seeing the project. I am also proud to see my name painted along the spillway. This project won't be just for me but also for my children)," she said.*

The hard work and willpower of the community members became their 83 steps to great fulfillment and start for new developments.



## Tent woman builds classrooms for village

**Anyone on Earth wants to own a safe home with a happy family inside. But fate never seems to favor everyone.**

The Soquino family used to live in a makeshift house made out of anahaw roof and plywood walls before Typhoon Glenda reduced this flimsy abode into rubbles in 2014. Consequently, they received a tent or shelter box from a foreign donor as an aid to the homeless victims of the said typhoon.

This tent turns into a bedroom or a living room, its meager space hardly accommodating six members of the Soquino family with their personal belongings. They would complain of the extreme temperature inside: the blistering hotness or the freezing coldness.

Marites Soquino, 42, a solo parent with five sons, is one of the poor residents of Barangay San Isidro Iraya in Malilipot, Albay. Two of her elementary-grade children are Pantawid Pamilya beneficiaries and regularly receive grants for their education and health.

Her husband abandoned Soquino and their children on March 2012. She assumed the man elope with another woman. This incident, she said, still brings back tears in her eyes.

Though circumstances must have taken away a beautiful life for this woman but her strong character remains.

She barely provides the needs of her family in the absence of a partner who is supposed to share the responsibility of rearing their children.

*"Nagtinda ako dati ning kakanin para mataguyod ko ang pamilya ko (I once sold native delicacies to sustain our living),"* she added.

She takes home at least P3,000 a month as a clerk in a direct selling company in Tabaco City, a city just next to Malilipot. Her mother taught her to sew clothes, a skill that allows her to get extra income as a seamstress at home.

Soquino is fortunate to have diligent sons who share household tasks whenever she's gone for work. She always reminds them: *"Kung maya nindo makatapos mageskwela, magtarabangan kita (If you want to finish studying, let us all work together)."*

## ***Volunteerism and the classrooms***

In 2014, the same year when Typhoon Glenda dismantled the Soquino house, she was elected by her neighbors to lead the group of volunteers who will manage the construction of additional elementary and high school classrooms in their village. It was an offer Soquino never refused despite the ordeal she carries.

On top of her regular loads at home, she also allocates a considerable portion of her time and effort as a volunteer. As the head of the group, she is responsible for the overall management of the classroom implementation and construction. Their group complied with all the documents required to avail of the funding and support from the government.

Her dedication for the community was evident. According to Kristine Rozen, the area coordinator of the classroom project, Soquino did not miss any trainings and seminars relative to the implementation. It was inevitable that she skipped work just to attend to their classroom project. She was even aware that her take home pay will decrease because of this attrition.

Just like any other government projects, the villagers doubted the completion of their classrooms when its construction was put on hold because of the discrepancy with the documentary requirements submitted by the community in 2015. Residents accused Soquino of corruption because of the extended period of interval between the submission of requirements and downloading of funds that will eventually catapult the start of construction.

But she was unfazed and relentlessly aimed to keep the spirits of her co-volunteers high despite of the tirades and criticisms of their neighbors. She would candidly respond to queries by others to invalidate suspicion and malfeasance. Soquino, who claimed to be innocent, kept her calm and remained focused on their primary goal—to erect the additional classrooms.

After the long anticipation in the village, the construction finally began on June 2016 and was finished seven months later, a clear vindication for the wrongfully imputed Soquino.

After all these difficult undertakings, she did not renounce her duty in the village. Until now, Soquino remains a volunteer for an upcoming project, a livelihood training center.

*"Very proud po ako na makitang natapos ang aming proyekto. Masaya po ako na nakakatulong sa barangay. Sa ngayon ay ako pa din ay isang volunteer sa amin (I am quite proud to see the fruits of our labor. I am happy to have helped our village. Up until now, I am still a volunteer in our village)," she said.*



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*Marites Soquino, 42, the woman who lives in a tent for more than two years during an interview last October 2016.*

## ***Life afresh with the neighbors' aid***

Shooting stars do really work for Soquino, who aspires to have a safe dwelling when the construction of her house commenced on February 10, 2017 with the support of her neighbors, friends and relatives.

To those people who witnessed how a destitute woman living in a tent worked her fingers to the bone for the common good of the village, they accorded her of the aid she deserves to receive.

According to Soquino, there are certain individuals who donated cash and cement. She also received some construction materials from the barangay council and her neighbors.

Now, she and her children have temporarily used the galvanized metal roofs donated by the church for their tent while their house is undergoing construction.

Moreover, two of the laborers of their classrooms rendered free service during the first two days of her house's construction. A colleague from another community was also present to assist during the first day of construction while her co-volunteers in Barangay San Isidro Iraya sponsored the meals and snacks for the laborers.

*"Maraming salamat po at nakatayo na po ang anim na poste ng aming bahay. Napaluhha ako sa saya dahil ramdam ko ang tulong niyo* (I am grateful that the six posts for our house are now erected. I was brought to tears because of all your help)," she said.

Though the construction only ensues when she has excess money to purchase cement and pay for the laborers, hope never fizzles for Soquino. She believes that there's always a light at the end of the tunnel.

*"Sigurado ako na kahit pahinto-hinto ay matatapos din ang pangarap namin na bahay* (I am sure that even though we are only working on the construction little by little, we will someday have our dream house)," she added.

For her, the classrooms and her house undergoing construction symbolize unity. And that at a certain moment in her life, the villagers who are fueled by compassion have enliven the bayanihan spirit.

What compels a woman who spent two years of her life living in a tent while building classrooms for her village?

According to Soquino: *"Bako hadlang ang pagtios para makatabang sa kapwa* (Hardships are not hindrances to help others)."

Her genuine concern and sincere intention for her community have sparked inspiration to others and reciprocated her with a tangible effort to at least uplift her from the needy situation.

WELCOME!  
NORTE  
BRGY.  
ILAO NORTE



# **Continuing one's love for the community**



**T**he drive to help the community is one of the most difficult things to sustain especially when one also has so many different priorities in life such as family and career. But according to Cesar Chavez, an American labor leader, [people] cannot seek achievement for [themselves] and forget about progress and prosperity of [their] community.

He also added that people's ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others for their sakes and for one's own.

Coretta King, wife of 1960s civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., also said that the greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members. Many people from different races, religion and gender have proven that collective action is important in the community to take a big leap to a better future, and the residents of Barangay Ilaor Norte could attest to that.

Barangay Ilaor Norte is one of the biggest barangays in the municipality of Oas. The neighborhood is located near Oas' central business district area.

According to Lilia Rances, barangay captain of Ilaor Norte, the community has experienced three main problems—poverty, health and cleanliness.

Since the barangay only receives minimal Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA), they only prioritize the projects that they can cover.

*"Kaunti lang naman ang mga nakalaan na mga gagastusan. Kaya nga nung nakasali kami sa Kalahi, guminhawa na yung mga namomroblema* (Before, we could only fund a few projects. Since joining the Kalahi program, most of the people were able to experience comfort)," she explained.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development Kapit Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (DSWD Kalahi-CIDSS) is a poverty alleviation program of the Philippine government.

It uses the community-driven development (CDD) approach, a globally recognized strategy for achieving service delivery, poverty reduction and good governance outcomes. The program also encourages barangays or communities to participate in more inclusive local planning, budgeting and implementation.

In 2015, the community's drainage canal was included in the prioritized sub-projects of the program in the municipality.

During the construction of the sub-project, not all people supported the intervention. With the complementation of the community volunteers and barangay council, they explained to the residents the importance of the program to the community.

*"Yung mga ibang [residente] ayaw ipagalaw yung mga lugar na dapat pagtrabahuan namin. Sa mabuting pakiusap, naipaliwanag namin sa kanila ang magandang resulta* (Some of the residents do not like to dismantle their areas to give way for the construction. Through dialogue, we have explained to them the good results)," Rances explained.

*"Sabi ko, pinapaganda natin yung canal para continuous ang flow ng tubig at naiintindihan naman nila* (I also said [to them] that we are constructing a drainage system for the continuous flow of wastewater)," the barangay captain expounded.

To ensure that transparency on the construction of drainage canal, the volunteers together with the barangay council continuously update the residents through the barangay assembly.

*"Nagpapatawag kami ng barangay assembly para maintindihan nila kung saan galing itong patrabahong ito kaya sinasabi ko sa kanila na dapat maki-alam sila.* (We are conducting barangay assembly to explain to the residents about the program and how we were able to acquire the funds for the construction so I said to them that they have the right to know)," she explained.

*"Gusto naming (barangay council) na-iinvolve sila kasi partners kami* (We want the residents to involve themselves in the community activities)," Rances said.



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*Dolores Brijuega, one of the community volunteers of Barangay Ilaor Norte, Oas, Albay is committed in maintaining the drainage canal sub-project to assure the cleanliness of their neighborhood.*



## Unceasing Community Service

Upon the completion of the sub-project, the community oversees the maintenance of the drainage system to avoid floods in times of heavy rains. The Red Cross is a community-based organization of the volunteers that continues to clean, dredge, and unclog the canal every month as part of their endeavors in the neighborhood.

"Isa pa sa na very appreciative pa po ang mga kababayan naming dito dahil we have a certain group na Pantawid Pamilya Pilipino Program (4Ps) beneficiaries na nasa ilalim din ng DSWD ay nagkakaroon sila ng monthly na clean and green program (One thing that the community is very appreciative are the group of 4Ps beneficiaries under DSWD who also conducts monthly clean and green program)," said Celia Ragot, barangay councilor.

Aside from the Red Cross and 4Ps beneficiaries, the youth also render community service. Part of their activities is the cleaning the canal.

"Sa ngayon po na (may) climate change na po tayo, ang pina-prioritize na din po namin ay yung kapaligiran namin na maging malinis kaya itong drainage system na ito ay siguradong mapapangalagaan namin ng maigi (Since we are experiencing climate change, we also prioritize the surroundings wherein we are trying to maintain the cleanliness of the drainage system and we assure [you] that we will take care good of it)," Ragot said.

She also added, "Kasi po sa ngayon, collective na ang service naming na ibinibigay sa pamamagitan ng paglinis ng kapaligiran (As of now, we are giving collective service like cleaning for the environment)." The service for the community does not only end with the residents. The Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) of the barangay also gave assistance for the cleanliness of the neighborhood.

"It started [towards the end] of 2017. Nagbigay sila ng pondo para sa beautification at clean and green program kung saan pinadaan nila ito sa contest sa taga-purok. (They gave funds for the beautification and clean and green program by conducting an inter-zone contest)," the barangay councilor said.

Ragot said that the OFWs have promised to continue giving their support to the barangay to continue the clean and green program.

*"Naging aware na sila (OFWs) na maganda pala na makita nila ang barangay na malinis lalo na tuwing mayroong contest. Naisip nila na may katuturan pala ang paglilinis ng kapaligiran (The OFWs became aware that the barangay is indeed beautiful when it is cleaned especially during contests. They also thought that cleaning the surroundings will benefit the residents)," Ragot added.*

Likewise, 59-year-old Dolores Brijuega, president of Red Cross Organization as well as a community volunteer of their barangay, shared her experience in maintaining the cleanliness of their sub-project.

*"Pagkatapos ng bagyo, tinitingnan namin kung may nasira sa drainage canal. Rinereport naming rin sa barangay kung mayroong sira dahil mapapayos ang drainage para walang ma-stagnant na tubig, (After the typhoon, we inspect the drainage for any damages. Then, we report it to the barangay if there are findings to avoid stagnant water)," Brijuega said.*

Brijuega also added that she would often call

for a meeting with the members of Red Cross Organization and other 4Ps beneficiaries to discuss the scheduling of weekly maintenance.

*"Masaya rin kami kasi mayroon ng nagbibigay na dito snacks matapos naming maglinis. (We are also happy because there are people who give us snacks after cleaning the canal)," she narrated.*

The volunteer also imparted her message to fellow volunteers in serving the community. "Ang masasabi ko lang sa kapwa volunteers ay pagbutihan lang nila, at i-maintain ang magandang asal para sa komunidad (For my fellow volunteers, continue to serve and maintain the good deeds for the community)," she noted.

Due to the unwavering love for the community, all sectors despite differences continue to provide collective action not just because for the improvement but the sense of fulfillment.

Fulfillment is not seen through the success of the barangay but the immeasurable smiles of the people as they greet each other every morning.





## The path to Mainit is also for humans

Considering a number of advantages, between the untrodden path and the smooth highway, one will choose the accessible concrete road. One would prefer the easiest way to get to any destination rather than experience troubles during the journey. But a different scenario was given to the people of Barangay Mainit in the municipality of Bato, Camarines Sur.

They would rather take the risk getting through the tough path just to reach the town proper for work or school.

Fifty-nine households make up barangay Mainit, one of the poorest of the 33 barangays in Bato.

The barangay is located in a very remote place with a distance of 11 kilometers starting from downtown Bato.

Residents cross two towns, Nabua and Balatan, before they can reach their secluded abode. Upon reaching Barangay Palo in Balatan, they have to walk for one hour and 15 minutes going to Mainit.

According to former Mayor Jeanette Bernaldez, the barangay experienced difficulties in accessibility and delivery of goods and services because there were no existing roads to connect the village to their own town.

In an interview with housewife Evelyn Gazon, 42, she narrated that the path going to the barangay was only meant for carabaos to walk on since it was very muddy during the rainy season. She furthered that they sometimes experience floods just to reach their barangay.



"Yung iba nga po kumakain na lang sa daan dahil sa inaabot na sila ng gutom bago makaakyat sa amin dahil nga po sa mahirap ang daan (Some people eat in the middle of their journey to the village)," she said.

Even the children find it difficult to tread the muddy path. According to Gazon, teachers often give consideration to students from Barangay Mainit when they attend school with mud-stained uniforms.

Gazon also said that her neighbors cannot seek immediate medical attention from the main town.

"Yung mga taong nagkakaroon ng mga sakit, kailangan pa ilagay sa duyan para pagtulong- tulungan na makarating sa Palo (Those who are ill are transported using makeshift hammock carried by people to Palo)," Cabandongga Evidor, 63, housewife, described.

Evidor also said that some never reach the town proper alive most especially those with worst health condition and those who were involved in accidents.



## THE PATH

Due to the community's longing for proper accessibility, they moved as one to meet their needs. Through DSWD Kapit Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (Kalahi-CIDSS), they were able to construct a 450-meter pathway. As of now, it is already open for motorcycles and three- to four-wheel vehicles.

Kalahi-CIDSS is a poverty alleviation project that uses Community-Driven Development (CDD) strategy to achieve service delivery, poverty reduction and good governance outcomes.

In order to carry out the project, the women in the community managed this since men had their jobs to mind.

*"Kahit wala man yung mga lalaki, naging aktibo yung mga babae na magtrabaho sa proyekto. Kung ano man ang nararapat na gawin, ginagawa naming mga kababaihan* (With the absence of men, women were active to accomplish the project. If any work arises, we try our best to execute it)," Evidor said.

Even the mayor of Bato was very impressed of what the group can accomplish to improve their community.

*"Kahit may mga gawain sila sa kani-kanilang pamilya, hindi sila nagdalawang isip na tumulong sa programa ng DSWD Kalahi-CIDSS* (Even though they have families to tend to, they did not hesitate to help carry out DSWD Kalahi-CIDSS programs)," Municipal Mayor Frank Bernaldez said.

According to housewife Merly Gozo, they pursued the project because they did not want to see their children experience the same circumstances like them.

But, the community was not exempted in experiencing challenges as they implemented the project.

At first, they were not able to find contractors who wanted to apply for bidding due to the village's remote location.

*"Naramdaman ko ang pagod namin kasi hinrap kami kung paano kami makahanap ng contractors. Marami kaming contractors nakuha pero nung nalaman ang location namin, lahat sila back out. Minsan kapag nakausap namin, kaya nagback-out sila kasi baka daw malugi sila* (I also experienced weariness because of contractors backing-out. We were able to find so many contractors but most of them have backed out when they found out the location of the barangay. When we talked to them about the reason, they often said that they might suffer financial loss)," Gazon recounted.

Despite the difficulties, they were able to find a contractor because the procurement team's perseverance to persuade contractors to help them construct the pathway that will contribute to the improvement of accessibility going to the barangay.

*"Sa tulong ng buong barangay, sa tulong ng mga staff, lalong lalo na kay Lord at sa DSWD Kalahi-CIDSS, lubos po ang pasasalamat namin* (With the help of the barangay, Kalahi-CIDSS staff, especially to God and the program, we are very thankful)," Gazon expressed.

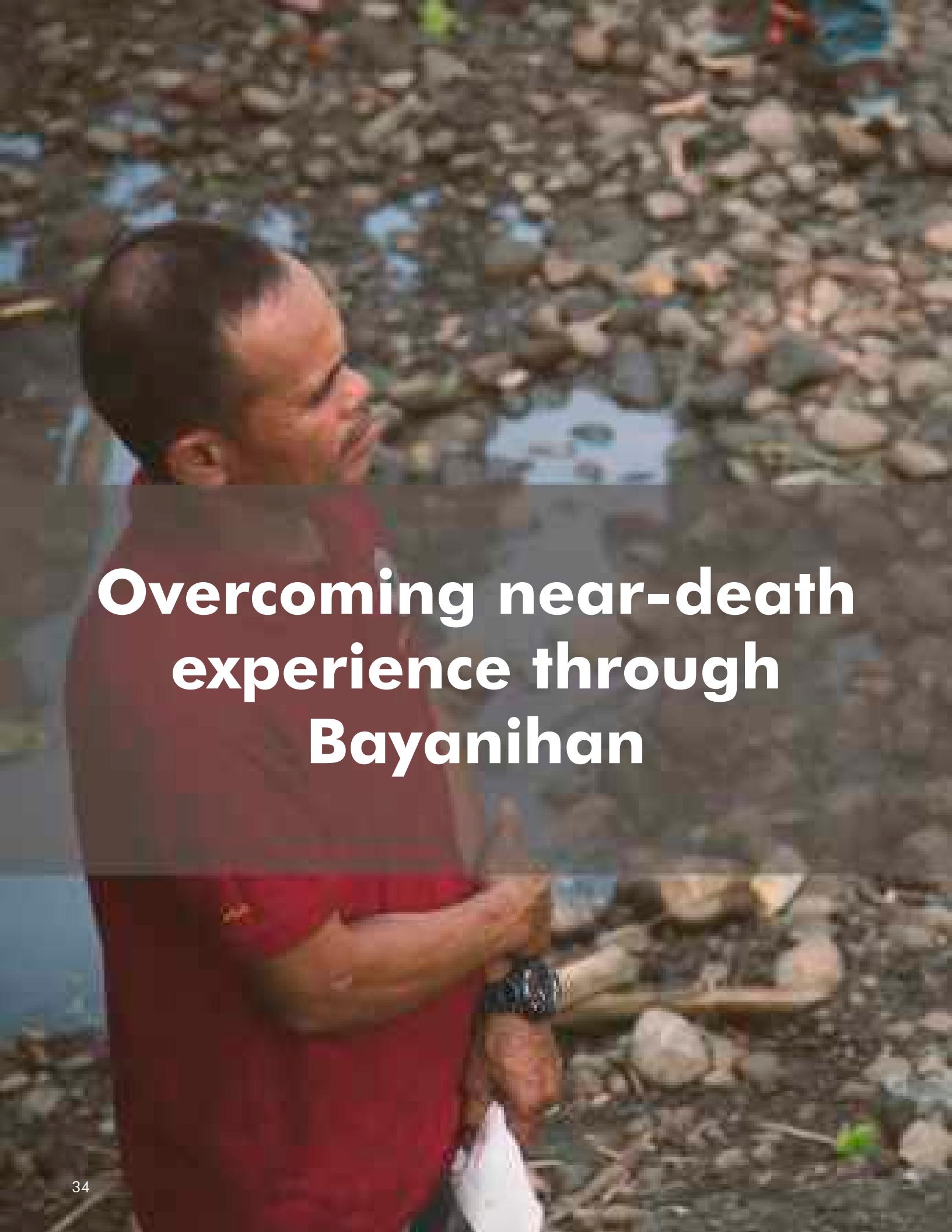
Volunteers are always considered as modern-day heroes because of their willingness to work for their community's welfare.

*"Malaki ang tulong ng volunteers sa amin, kahit wala silang natanggap na incentives.* (The volunteers helped a lot in our community even though they did not receive incentives.) I appreciate their enthusiasm to help in the development of their barangays. For me, they are the unsung heroes of the barangays," former Municipal Mayor Jeanette Bernaldez said.

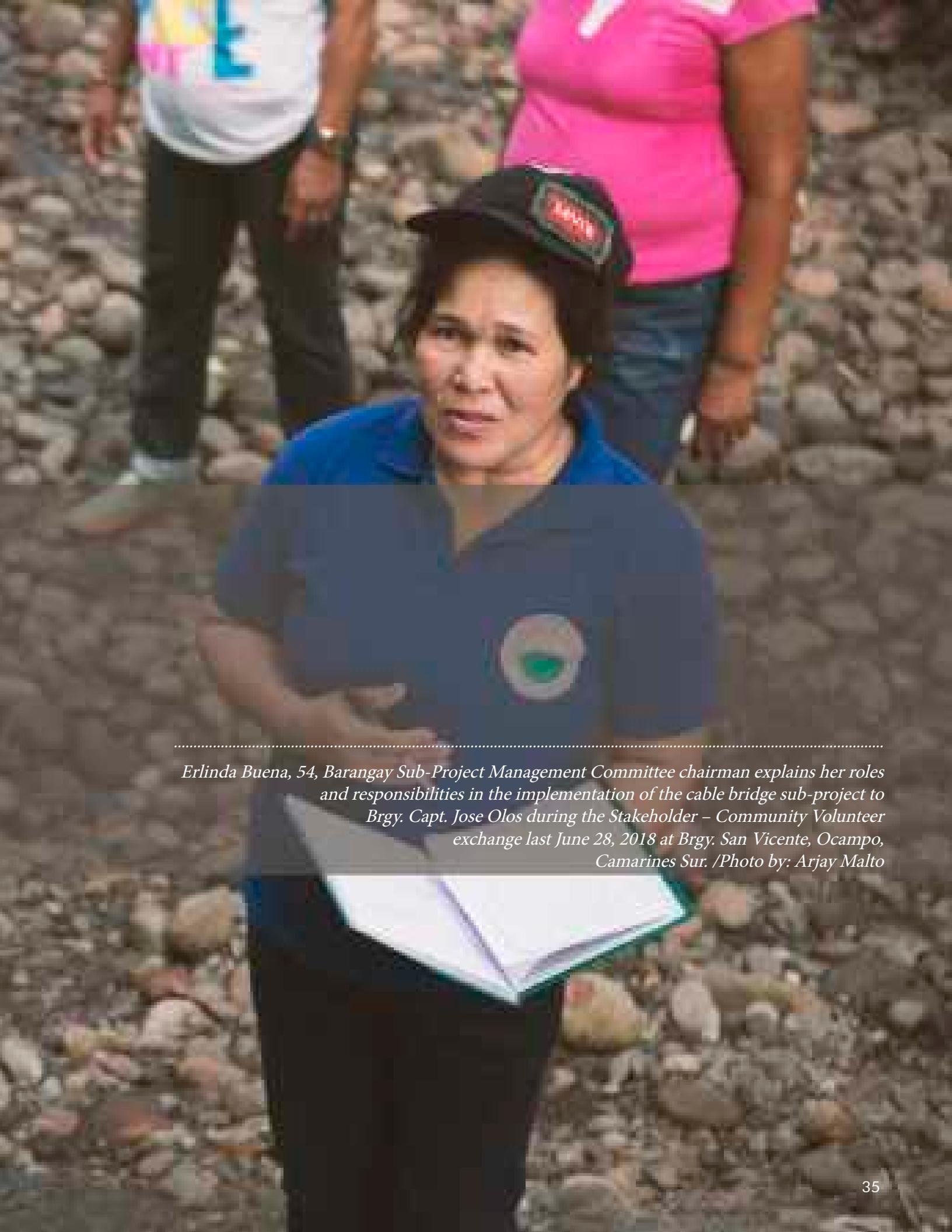
Although the people of Barangay Mainit experienced difficulties during their journey, it is fulfilling for them to see the smiles of their loved ones as they appreciate the developments they made as a community.





A photograph of a person from the waist up, wearing a red long-sleeved shirt. They are outdoors, possibly in a garden or field, surrounded by soil and small plants. Their hands are visible, one near their face and the other reaching towards the ground.

# **Overcoming near-death experience through Bayanihan**



Erlinda Buena, 54, Barangay Sub-Project Management Committee chairman explains her roles and responsibilities in the implementation of the cable bridge sub-project to Brgy. Capt. Jose Olos during the Stakeholder – Community Volunteer exchange last June 28, 2018 at Brgy. San Vicente, Ocampo, Camarines Sur. /Photo by: Arjay Malto





OCAMPO, Camarines Sur – “*Naranasan ko na tumawid ng ilog na hanggang leeg ang tubig dahil sa kailangan ko bumili ng gamot para sa asawa kong mayroong sakit* (I have experienced crossing the river with flood rising up to my neck level because I have to buy medicine for my sick husband),” Leony Fraginal, 63, community volunteer on monitoring and inspection, recounted.

Surrounding the vast rice fields, an ongoing construction of cable bridge keeps the unflagging construction workers busy, carrying heavy sacks of sands to transfer to the other side of the terrain, where community members live, called Sitio Pinacuan, a zone of Brgy. San Vicente.

Just to transport those bags of aggregates, the workers must trek the slope the height of a three-story building. Despite exhaustion, the residents are keen to finish the task with undying vigor since it is a community project.

Before, residents must cross a river just to reach Ocampo town proper. The trip becomes even more difficult during the rainy season as the water level rises.

The residents would often use a raft and rope to help them cross the river. However, it isn't enough to solve their problem because the raft can only handle three people. There is also no assurance that they can cross the river without getting submerged into the water.

“*Kapag binabaha ang aming daanan, hindi na makapasok ang mga bata sa eskwelahan. Minsan hinihintay pa namin ang tubig na bumaba bago sila makapasok* (When the path is flooded, our children cannot go to school. There are times we have to wait for the flood to subside before we can cross the river),” said Nancy Godoy, 56, a community volunteer on procurement.

These residents were the ones who planned, accounted and executed the sub-project—a community project generated from the planning process of Department of Social Welfare and Development Office Kapit Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (DSWD Kalahi-CIDSS). The sub-project was identified through Barangay Assembly or Participatory Situational Analysis (PSA) attended by the residents to determine possible solutions to address the problem or need.

DSWD Kalahi-CIDSS aims to have barangays or communities become empowered to achieve improved access of services and to participate in more inclusive planning, budgeting and implementation.

To implement the sub-project identified, there are community volunteers who work for free. This group of community volunteers is called Barangay Sub-Project Management Committee (BSPMC) which is led by a BSPMC chairman.

As a community volunteer, no one will expect any financial return but the happiness to help the barangay in the improvement of the access of services.

Despite facing difficulties, community volunteers are still full of joy since they can create an infrastructure project that will be used by the community and future generations.

“*Sabi ko nga sa sarili ko, kahit napapagod at nahihirapan, masaya naman ako. Naiisip ko na itong trabahong ibinigay sa akin, hindi ito lang para sa akin pero para sa barangay* (I tell myself that despite being tiring and difficult, I am happy with what I do. I also think that this job is not just for me but for the village as well,” Erlinda Buena, 54, BSPMC chairman explained.

## **Stakeholder-Community Volunteer Exchange Activity**

To appreciate the hard work and sacrifice of the volunteers as well as the endless guidance of the barangay local government unit (BLGU), the barangay participated in the stakeholder- community volunteer activity or Pamumunong Makamasa: Pagkilos na Sama-Sama. This is a nationwide event in celebration of the 4th anniversary of National Community Driven Development Program (N CDDLP) on June 2018.

This activity is like a mirror putting oneself in someone else's shoes as a form of reflection on someone's circumstances and understanding their perspective or point of view. Once we realize the viewpoint, we understand that there's something more in the picture.

San Vicente Barangay Captain Jose Olos, 53, gladly accepted the challenge which is to demonstrate the construction and monitoring of the sub-project. For a day, Olos assisted in the construction of the cable bridge together with the barangay council by shovelling aggregates carried by the council members as well as community volunteers.

*"Nakikita ko na maganda ang pamamal-akad ng proyekto ng mga community volunteers. Sa akin naman sa pag-momonitor, pag-evaluation at pag-implement ng proyekto, nagbibigay ako ng technical assistance at palagi ako updated sa kanila [community volunteers] kasi gusto ko mangyari yung proyekto (I notice that the community volunteers are very good in implementing the project. On the monitoring, evaluation and implementation of the project, I often give technical assistance and I am always updated on their activities)," Olos stated.*

During the activity, the community volunteers and barangay council shared their learnings along the implementation of the sub-project.

*"Nagpapasalamat ako sa mga community volunteers dahil nagkaisa kami dito sa Kalahi pati rin ang barangay (I am grateful to the community volunteers because we are united through Kalahi as well as the whole barangay)," Fraginal said.*

According to Rey Albino, 49, barangay councilor, he sees DSWD Kalahi-CIDSS as a program that greatly helps communities.

*"Alam namin na ang Kalahi, maganda ang kanilang layunin para sa aming komunidad," Albino shared.*

The barangay councilor also cited how the DSWD Kalahi-CIDSS' process gives opportunities to people in improving their communities.

*"Maganda po ang proseso ng Kalahi kasi community ang nagdesisyon. Dahil sa Kalahi, maraming tao ang nabigyan ng pagkakataon pati na ang mga kababaihan na magkaroon ng partisipasyon sa ating buong komunidad (The process of DSWD Kalahi-CIDSS is effective because it gives the community to decide on their projects. Through Kalahi, many people were given opportunities especially women to be part of improving this community)," Albino stated.*

To date, the cable bridge is on its 50 percent physical accomplishment.

Despite their near-death experience, these people stand resilient to improve their community. Their right to decide is not given by others because they were born with it.

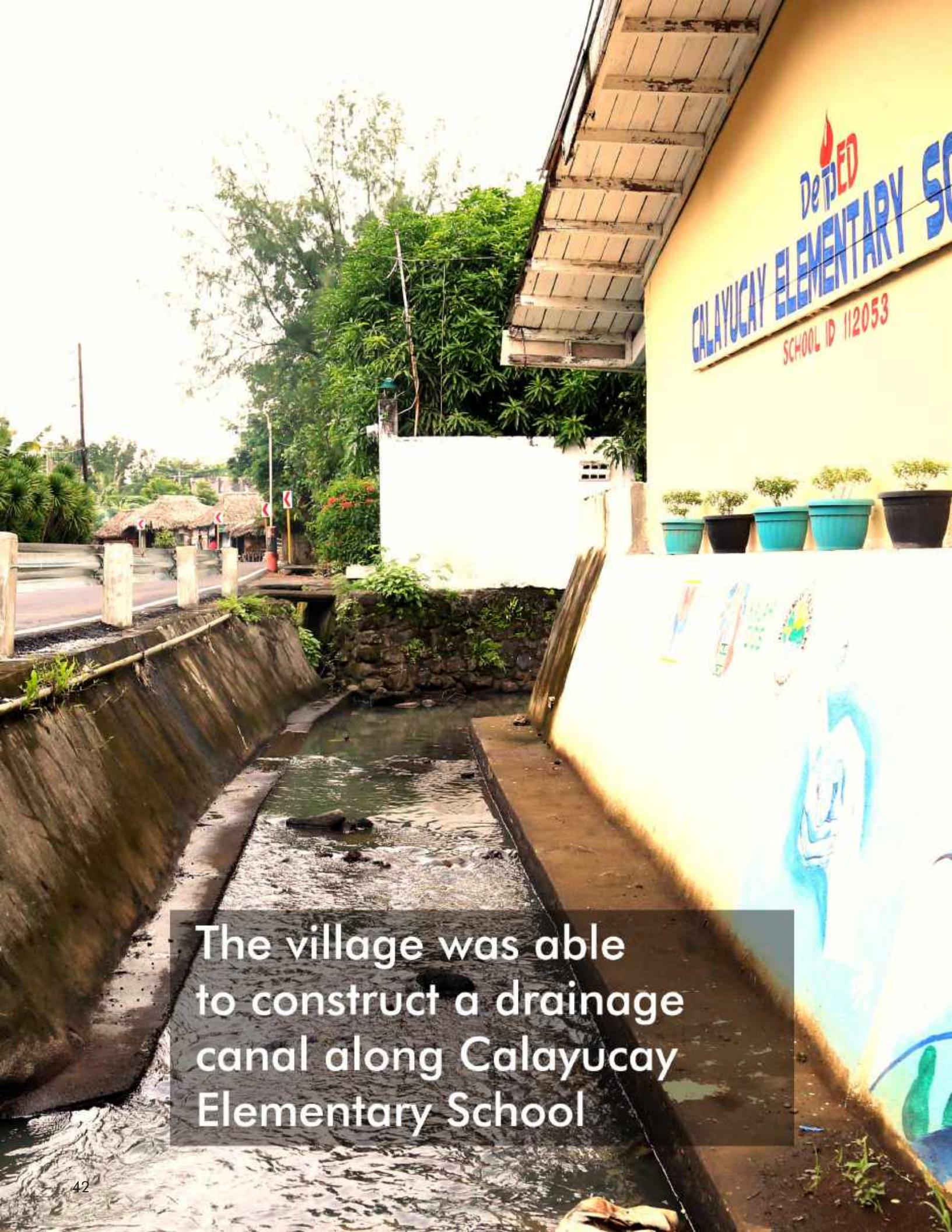


# **The Rugged Laundrywoman with a Big Heart**



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*Fe Biton, 47, a DSWD Kalahi-CIDSS community volunteer, proves that there is fulfillment in helping the community.*



The village was able  
to construct a drainage  
canal along Calayucay  
Elementary School

Life is full of choices. There are many points in life when one needs to choose between X or O, Yes or No, or Push or Pull. Careful decisions on choices will greatly change one's future. The infinite choices and infinite outcomes will certainly define one's life as a human being.

One has many chances to decide whether to remain single or get married; to decide on the number of children when arriving at the decision to have one; and whether to work endlessly to meet needs or just laze around. But, being a woman can be a gift, something innate.

Through the years, the Philippines has been making efforts in creating gender-responsive governance by promoting the Magna Carta of Women (Republic Act 9710), a comprehensive women's rights law that seeks to eliminate discrimination against women by recognizing, protecting, fulfilling and protecting the rights of Filipino women, especially those in the marginalized sector.

The country is also doing equity measures to enable women's participation in the formulation, implementation, and evaluation of policies, plans, and programs for national, regional, and local development.

With these efforts, many women are experiencing privileges particularly in the implementation of programs in the local development. One of the many women experiencing this kind of equity measure is Fe Biton, 47, a solo parent with five children in Barangay Calayucay in Sto. Domingo, Albay.

She is an active community volunteer of Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) under Kapit Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (Kalahi-CIDSS) for three years.

Kalahi-CIDSS is DSWD' poverty alleviation program that uses community-driven development strategy for barangays or communities of targeted municipalities, empowering them to acquire improved access to services and to participate in more inclusive local planning, budgeting, and implementation.

Biton is also part of Pantawid Pamilya Pilipino Program (4Ps), in which three of her children in high school and elementary receive education and health grants.

Despite all these, in 2016, her husband abandoned Biton and their children, a dreadful happening that left a scar in her heart. She assumed that the man had fled with another woman.

Despite this circumstance, she stands firm and sees it as a test for their family.

Biton still continues to work as a laundry-woman, a job she has had for nine years already, at a local resort in Sto. Domingo, Albay. Since she only takes home P150 each day in her laundry work, she provides assistance in catering services for additional income. Through this, she was able to fill the absence of her husband who should have a shared responsibility in nurturing their children with her.

*"Mahirap pero kinakaya siyempre, kailangan mong sikapan* (It's hard but we are coping. Of course, we need to work diligently)," Biton expounded.

## FIRST STEPS

As a community volunteer, Biton worked as a chairman of Monitoring and Inspection Team (MIT), which monitors the progress of sub-project implementation proposed by their community and ensures the deliveries of items or goods purchased are properly stored.

At first, she hesitated joining DSWD Kalahi-CIDSS because she thought it is a waste of time especially when she had her work and her children to mind.

*"Nagdadalawang isip pa ako kung gusto ko o hindi kasi may mga anak ako at naglalabada ako kung saan nakakaistorbo ng oras at wala naman akong makukuha kahit piso, tulong mo lang talaga* (Before, I have doubts on whether to join as a volunteer or not, because I will not receive anything in return)," she explained.

After having it thought through, she took the chance to volunteer, yearning for a new chapter of her life.

In order to balance her work and volunteering, she would ask permission from her boss that in her free hours, she could render her services as a volunteer for the project.

According to Biton, everything changed when she started as a volunteer because she learned many things she thought she never would have.

*"Kasi dati nung labandera ako, hindi ko alam na may kakayanan ako na gawin katuslad ng paghawak ng materyales pangkonstruksyon para sa proyekto* (When I was a laundrywoman, I did not think that I have the ability to manage the construction materials for the project)," she said.

Taking that choice was never easy because she was faced with criticisms questioning her ability as a volunteer. Despite disapproval from others, she showed off her ardent attitude in helping the community.

*"Sabi nila housewife lang ako wala naman daw magagawa pero doon ako naglakas loob na gusto ko ipakita sa kanila na kaya ko makatulong* (Some said that I'm just a housewife who has nothing to contribute but I earned my confidence in order to show them my determination to help others)," she furthered.

## THE IMPRINT THROUGH KALAHİ

The village was able to construct a drainage canal along Calayucay Elementary School. The community volunteers also aimed to finish the construction of school building under DSWD Kalahi-CIDSS.

In every project, there are challenges that arise and the villagers of Barangay Calayucay were not spared.

Some problems encountered were the availability of volunteers for regular meetings and the division of labor.



*"Medyo kami nahirapan lalo na yung mga volunteers na hindi naman lahat available sa meeting at hindi pwedeng gagalaw lang isa dapat lahat sila tulong-tulong* (We experienced difficulties especially when volunteers are not available during meetings. Everyone must work together and not just only one person)," said Florendo Muhammad Ali Gregorio, barangay captain of Caluyucay.

According to Biton, they often called a meeting in order to talk about possible actions to resolve the problems.

*"May konting debatehan pero hindi na namin ito pinapatagal kasi gusto namin masolusyunan agad* (We have a little debate but we did not prolong it because we want to resolve the problem as soon as possible)," Biton shared.

She also described her experience as a volunteer.

*"Minsan gusto mo na magwalk-out parang ayaw mo na mag-volunteer kasi nakakapagod pero kung nakatulong ka sa barangay mo at kapwa mo, parang nakakataba ng puso* (There are instances that I want to walk out and leave the group because of exhaustion but helping the community and fellow citizens makes me feel fulfilled)," she asserted.





## The dead man's wish for his tribe

Jennifer Cron, 32, can still recall how her father lamented about their rugged path: "*Masemento gayud yan, gadan na ako* (I'll be dead before [the road] is paved with cement.)."

She tearfully recounted how she spewed her banter in response to her father's whine and said, "*Patitinampo ko yan. Hilingon mo, tay* (I will construct the road. You'll see.)."

She would like to take her crippled father for a ride on a motorcycle on a cemented road but even a glance of this was impossible now.

The fulfilment to her father's wish was too evasive. The road from Sitio Banaw of Barangay Caranday going to the village's poblacion (downtown area) only have concrete paving in 2014, four years after Cron's father died.

### **The poor village of Caranday**

The agricultural town of Baao is one of the poor municipalities in Camarines Sur with a poverty incidence of 37.35 percent. Out of the 5,729 households, 3,380 are identified as poor in 2011 by the Department of Social Welfare and Development's information management system called Listahanan.

Barangay Caranday is one of the 30 poor villages in Baao. 165 out of its 179 households live below the poverty threshold because most of its residents do not have permanent source of income and could hardly send their children to college.

The residents get their income from farming in this upland area of Baao, but their crops are spoiled when they haul these because of their uneven clay dirt path. This forces them to sell their products such as coconuts, corns, squashes, string beans and bananas at lower prices.

### **Agta's plight in Sitio Banaw**

Cron is a member of the Agta Tagbangon-Simaron community, whose ancestors inhabited these remote mountains of Baao for the longest time. There are 69 Agta households in the area.

She learned how to farm and raise livestock with her husband to support their four children. They hardly earn P2,000 every month from the diminutive pay from tandem since they are working for a landlord's farm.

Caranday is a refuge for food and shelter for the Agtas but their seclusion from the rest of the villagers makes access to education, health and socio-economic activities difficult.

Just like her father, Jennifer wanted a better road to Caranday's poblacion from Sitio Banaw. She traversed either a muddy or dusty track and hurdled big rocks for a grueling 20-minute walk in the steep and winding dirt path.

It was also difficult for students and people needing medical attention to go to poblacion. *"Dipisil talaga. Malumpat ka sa kagagapuan. Eh, kung may alas pa* (It's really hard. You cross over rocks. What if there are snakes?)," she added.

## A daughter's hope

In 2012, hope sparked when she heard about the possibility of getting a road from the Department of Social Welfare and Development Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (DSWD Kalahi-CIDSS), a program that seeks to help alleviate poverty through community-driven development (CDD).

She was quick to attend meetings about this even if it took a 30 minute-walk from their house to the meeting venue. Others would even mock Jennifer's indulgence explaining that she would get nothing from another empty promise but her determination dispelled protests.

*"Magdisidir kita. Sige-sige sana. Ipakita ta na kita desidido tanganing magkatinampo kita* (We should be earnest. We should not stop. Show them that we are serious to get the roads concreted)," she responded to the detractors.

Caranday villagers collaborated with the Agtas to get their 1.19-kilometer road paved in 2014.

As part of DSWD Kalahi-CIDSS process, residents were elected as volunteers to directly manage, implement and construct their road. Jennifer became one of the volunteers and was chosen by the majority as the chairman of the Bids and Awards and Committee (BAC), which determines eligible suppliers of goods, materials, equipment and equipment rental for the construction.

*"Sa sarong project, hindi pwede bumili ng basang* (In this project, we should not procure materials impulsively)," she explained.

Though only a high school graduate, she did more than what was expected of her as the head of BAC. According to Judith Cron, her relative, Jennifer was very participative and active to pursue their road.

*"Nagpa-apod kami ning rabos ta kami man lang makikinabang kaini* (We called for the community's collaborative effort because we are the ones who will benefit from this)," Jennifer said.

She even asked her husband to help in the construction without pay for two days. Five months into her pregnancy, which she was not aware of, she also helped as a worker.

*"Gusto kong makatabang pa ako sa iba* (I would like to help others)," she said.

Judith also a volunteer, agreed to Jennifer that they will leave a legacy to the next generations. They believe that their children will honor them because of the sacrifices they made to give them the convenience that was required for their daily routines.

*"Proud sila na ining tinampo natapos dahil sa kontribusyon ng magulang nila* (They are proud because the road was completed because of their parents' contribution)," Jennifer said.

The road, which amounted to P2,605,811, now benefits the entire population of Caranday and serves access to its neighboring villages, Cristo Rey, Iyagan and Tapol.

*"Kaming mga Agta, mas nabenepriyaran igdi. Pasil na sana ta bakong malaboy. Hindi na mapapagod at mahihirapan yung matatanda* (This road will be of benefit to us Agtas. Since the road is not muddy anymore, it's easier for us. Elders will not get tired and experience difficulty)," Jennifer added.

Jennifer would remember her promise to her crippled father. She said: "Basta naiiling ko ining tinampo, si tatay ang naalala ko (I remember him everytime I see this road)." Now, Jennifer can dream of the next project for the children of Caranday for them to have better lives. She continues to visualize a livable village with electricity, water system and evacuation center for the Agtas and supermarket in Caranday even after she fulfilled her father's wish.

**PWD volunteer redefines limits  
through converging co-village  
folks to build classrooms**



GOA, Cam. Sur—The loud strikes of hammer echo through Matacla Elementary School's (MES) yard. Now, Elmer B. Obias, the community leader, smiles as the project nears completion.

Each room has high ceilings, windows are wide to welcome the sun's light, big enough to put in 40 armchairs, and has toilet inside. Most probably, this will be ready for use in the next academic year. In a little while, the children who used to make do with their old classrooms have new rooms to occupy.

In a little while, the vision that Obias has dreamed of as a kid is coming into reality—the aspiration to leave a legacy, the aspiration to give back to all the help he was bestowed with in his lifetime.

*"Even not in financial aspect, I wasn't expecting that I could be of help to my community, but through KALAHICIDSS, my dream came true,"* shared Obias with big a smile on his face.

And finally, he will witness the golden dregs of the unique wealth he was given through KALAHICIDSS project—that is to serve.

KALAHICIDSS is a project of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) that aims to empower the residents to contribute to the development of their own communities.

*"The project assists families with little to no income, improves camaraderie among the community members, and most of all, it gives everyone the equal chance to help,"* he added.

The new classrooms that are being constructed in MES are the first KALAHICIDSS project granted to Brgy. Matacla, the community that fostered Obias' family for the past years. Besides, Elmer graduated at MES, hence helping in materializing the project is a way to give back to the gift of knowledge he received from this school.

*"This project will show that KALAHICIDSS exists and is not a bogus one. I tried and just ventured on it to be able to prove that it can be materialized,"* he told DSWD.

One could trace on Obias' face the marks of courage. His hands are adorned with calluses wrought by hard labor. But even though his wrinkled smile marks his struggles, deep gratitude still stands out. There is an ambience of joy around him.

*"The said project is through the efforts of our people here and it will benefit our children as they will use it as their classrooms,"* he shared.

Sometimes, others would find it hard to believe how Obias is able to do many things. A man skilled in carpentry, he was able to put up a house for his family by himself. Even the improvised pushcart which he uses to run around different places is a result of his skill. Not once did he ever consider his disability an obstacle.

*"There are some who scoffed at me for being in this project. They said, 'Why would you get that man with disability?' Their mockery was demoralizing but I took it as a challenge and I had to prove them wrong,"* he said.

Meanwhile, Marife Swing, a grade school teacher for 6 years now in MES expressed her gratitude for the nearly-built classrooms intended for Grade 6 pupils.

*"We are looking forward for this classroom because the old ones are not well-lighted. Aside from that, these rooms have toilets,"* Swing said.

## The Challenges

Obias was two years old then when he fell on a slippery, mossy path. He was bed-ridden for days due to high fever and hip fracture. But the temporary paralysis they expected did not get any better. At a young age, he was crippled for life by polio.

Nevertheless, despite hesitations, he struggled to finish school. He completed elementary, continued on to secondary, and was determined to acquire a college degree. He became a self-supporting student selling encyclopedia intended for children. In 1996, he received his diploma for a four-year course in Business Administration at the University of Nueva Caceres in Naga City.





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*Elmer B. Obias, 47, a community leader smiles back as the 1-unit building, 2-room project of DSWD KALAHICIDSS in Matacla Elementary School, Goa Camarines Sur approaches completion.*



**H**e admits that it was difficult for him to land a permanent job because of the idea that he does not fit the standards of society. He shifted from job to job until he was offered the chance to serve at the provincial capitol as a job order employee in 2003. As a radio staff, it was part of his work to deliver commentaries in the radio program of the provincial government. It does not pay well and there was little chance to be regularized but because competing for jobs was difficult, he kept his position for almost six years.

In that particular job, he was earning a meager one per month. The pay he earned was supplemented by his wife's. She works as a maid in San Jose town with a monthly income of PHP3,000.

The Obiases has five children, four of which are studying. The eldest, their 19-year-old son, braved his chance in Manila and is now working as a trucking employee in order to help their family. The second oldest child is 16 years old and is now in Grade 10; the third, who is 15 years old, in Grade 8; the fourth, who is 13, is in Grade 7; and their youngest, who is 11, is in Grade 4. Their eldest son contributes an amount of his earnings to meet all the family's needs.

In addition, the Obiases are a recipient of Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program of DSWD. It is the government's conditional cash transfer grants for the poorest of the poor families. Through this, the family receives PHP3,200 to PHP3,600 every two months depending on the conditionality compliance to the program.

## **Opportunities and New Beginnings**

The family used a portion of the cash grant as a capital in starting a small livelihood. The return is meager, but at least it is regular, Obias said. He buys different kinds of seasonings like pepper, garlic, onions, alum, and chlorine. Obias and his children repack the goods before he delivers it to stores from Barangay Mabalodbalod to Barangay Salvacion.

He reaches far places using his improvised pushcart and sometimes rides the jeepney when the need arises. From sunrise to sunset, he performs his duty as a father.

He sells his repacked items for one peso each. On days when income is good, he takes home as much as P500. On slow days, he only earns P100 to P150. His starting capital for this livelihood is P700.

He considers it a gift to be part of the volunteers at Simon of Cyrene Community Rehabilitation and Development Foundation, Inc., an organization based in Tigaon, Camarines Sur. The organization helps differently-abled persons. Through the group, Obias was able to learn how to make prosthetic legs and even improve on his people skills. Currently, he is regularly invited as a speaker and trainer of differently-abled persons at Simon of Cyrene.

And as if his tapestry of grace will keep unfolding, his attendance to the 4Ps assembly turned out to be a blessing in disguise. Here, he was elected as the chairman of the Barangay Sub-Project Management Committee (BSPMC), which serves as the community-based implementer of the projects of KALAHI-CIDSS.

*"My confidence was enhanced as I was continually exposed to public meetings. Because of joining the seminars, I have met people I never thought I'd be able to meet like the director of DSWD in the region and other higher officials,"* he said.

He says it is a colorful experience to be a member of KALAHI-CIDSS. Each tick of time becomes meaningful. Just when he thought helping was a far-off dream, he was offered many chances to paint colors to his prayer of giving inspiration to others here and now. Of all times, he also does not forget to remind the most important thing—to share.

*"You need to share. Never skimp on what you know or what you have. If they also know something, they will share it, too, because you have served as their example. It is in sharing that motivation begins,"* he said.

More things await Obias as he carries out his duty as a father to his five children and a responsible member to his community. All things considered, helping will not make him any richer and in fact, will only add to his responsibilities. But in his point of view, the calluses that will develop on his hands are still part of the golden dregs of service for others and his community.

*"After you spend years sharing a piece of yourself with others through sincere volunteerism, simple words of appreciation like 'thank you' make it all worth it,"* he concluded.



# How to power up knowledge?



JOSE PANGANIBAN, Camarines Norte—"Life is truly beautiful in simplicity. When we lead a simple life, we achieve an unknown happiness—a happiness that surpasses any other form of happiness," Avijeet Das, poet and writer of New Delhi, India, once said.

Through simple living, one achieves a bigger understanding of the true purpose of life just like in one of the communities in the town of Jose Pangani-ban, Camarines Norte.

Inside the small nipa huts surrounding the trees and crops, the big smiles of the Manides greet their visitors. This tribal group is living in the mountainous part of Barangay Osmeña in the town of Jose Panganiban, Camarines Norte. This 26-hectare land was declared as their ancestral domain.

Currently, there are 52 Manide families living in the said barangay. They still observe the simple living of their tribal group's ancestors because they have a more stress-free life compared to the people living in the city. They also grow their own food and use less modern technology.

According to Joy Del Rosario, former municipal area coordinator (MAC), the community has zero

crime rate. Through this, it shows that simple living makes people realize the opulence of love, the importance life, and the unbridled beauty of the natural world. In the middle of their peaceful community, a daycare center proudly stands. As the door of the daycare center opens, Ricky Noblesala, 24, proudly recounts the infrastructure they have built under the DSWD Kalahi-CIDSS that became their symbol of unity as a tribe.

The Kapit Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (Kalahi-CIDSS) is a DSWD program that seeks to help alleviate poverty through community-driven development (CDD).

According to Noblesala, they saw the need of the tribe to construct a daycare center in order for the young Manides to study and gain new knowledge.

*"Nakita namin na dumarami ang mga batang nangangailangang pumasok sa paaralan subalit malayo ang lalakarin ng mga bata kaya naisip namin ang daycare center (We were able to come up with a daycare center because of the rising number of young Manides who have to walk long distance just to attend school),"* Ricky said.



## **Big Changes**

As of now, there have been many changes not only to the people residing in the main town but also to the community of Manide.

Before, they were shy and afraid of the townspeople due to their bad experiences during their interactions with them such as discrimination and abuse. They were afraid to talk to other people because of their belief that they will be used as slaves.

After the Indigenous People Rights Act (Republic Act 8371) was implemented, there have been changes. The Manides became more confident because of the training or seminars provided by the different agencies explaining to them the benefits they can get as part of the tribal group.

It is important for Noblesala to be part of Kalahi-CIDSS wherein he is one of the community volunteers of the said project.

*"Katulad ng mga seminar na aking dinaluhan, natutunan ko ang simpleng bookkeeping, (Because of the seminars I've attended, I was able to learn simple bookkeeping)," he added*

*Mas natutuunan ko nang pansin bilang katutubo na hindi lang kami umiikot sa aming lupaing ninuno dahil pwede rin kaming makihalubilo, lumabas at ipahay ang aming (Also, I was able to learn that we [Manides] do not only revolve around our ancestral domain because we have the ability to talk, show and share our learnings as a tribal community)," Ricky explained.*

Part of the changes the Manides have experienced is getting formal education, where both and youth and the elders of the tribe were able to learn how to read and to write.

Noblesala was also one those who graduated from college in 2014 with a degree in Bachelor of Science in Agriculture at Camarines Norte State College. Through this, he was able to impart the knowledge he acquired to his fellow Manides.

Moreover, he works as a daycare worker for two years, teaching the young Manides from 8 a.m. until 10:00 AM.





Ricky Noblesala, 24, a Manide, is happily living with his tribe as he sees the new improvements such as the ongoing construction of their access road under DSWD Kalahi-CIDSS.

According to him, the daycare center served a great purpose because the young Manides were able to acquire formal education.

*"Dito sa daycare center, makikita ang kahalagahan ng edukasyon (In the daycare center, you will see the importance of education),"* he said.

Also, he said that the Manides will no longer experience the muddy path when they are going to the town because of the ongoing construction of access road under DSWD Kalahi-CIDSS in their community. The 1.3-kilometer road runs from the Manide village to the daycare center.

The vehicles will not experience immobility anymore when going to the community because the path will be smooth for the delivery of services for the Manides, he said.

### **Being Open to the People Living in the Cities**

Little by little, the Manides became more open when dealing with the people living in the cities. The openness, he said, is also being reciprocated by the townspeople.

According to Ricky, they can now freely talk to the people living in the cities and they are included in the activities of the town.

He also said that they have received great support from the barangay in their tribal activities like the Indigenous Peoples' Week, a celebration during the month of October.

In the eyes of Noblesala, he is full of eagerness to pursue projects that will improve their tribe and he is willing to achieve the needs of their daycare center such as the additional books and supplies for the students.

The community volunteer is positive that there will be a rise of indigenous people finishing college.

*"Sa ngayon kaya na naming patunayan na bilang katutubo may kaalaman na rin kami. Kaya na rin naming makisabayan sa mga tao at alam na rin naming ang mga karapatan ng mga katutubo (As of now, we can already prove to others that as tribespeople, we have acquired knowledge that we can share. Also, we have the capability to protect our rights and welfare of our tribe),"* he said.

With the advancement of technology, the Manides are also adapting to the developments. In fact, Noblesala has a cellphone and Facebook account for faster communication.

Even though there has been continuous change in the society, Ricky will never leave the tribe.

According to him, the tribe is more important as compared to living in the city.

*"Mas masaya ako na kaharap ko ang kapwa ko katutubo. Dito ako lumaki, kaya paninindigan ko na isa akong katutubo. Proud na proud ako na parte ako ng tribo (I am happy living with the tribe. I grew up here [village] so I am proud to be part of this tribe),"* he said.



## The Ripple Effect in San Jose

When one volunteers, she already has an idea of what kind of community she wants to live in. She also has the volition to serve other people because of her unending love for her family, friends, and village.

According to Martin Luther King, Jr., a renowned leader of civil rights movement, everybody can be great because anybody can serve. He also said one doesn't have to have a college degree to serve. The subject, he said, does not have to agree with the verb to serve. One does not have to know the second theory of thermodynamics in physics to serve. Only a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love are necessary.

Volunteerism does not require how much one earned or what degree she's finished. If she has the heart and soul to serve, nobody can question her abilities to help others. Even though she cannot read or she's unable to walk, nobody can stop her from serving.

This is what Barangay San Jose of Donsol, Sorsogon showed when they were given the chance to create improvements in their village.

Barangay San Jose is 45 minutes away from Donsol's main business district through via habal-habal or motorcycle ride, a mode transportation common in this area. One of the barangay's salient features, considering its surroundings, is the hanging bridge overlooking the beautiful sparkling river.

Other than its serene environment, the barangay has its people, who do not fail to flash their warm smiles as people, whether fellow locals or visitors, cross the hanging bridge.

From the bridge, a bamboo raft painted in color green with Balsa (raft) Basa (read) Project signage is seen parked by the riverbank.

The raft is used to reach households living along the riverbank to teach children on how to read or improve their comprehension skills.

## Balsa Basa Project

Started in 2013, the Balsa Basa Project is a floating school and library to reach far-flung area's children, who cannot go to school or must walk for one hour just to reach the school. During weekends, students of Barangay San Jose Elementary School, called as "little teachers," help fellow children to read. They would bring books, supplies, and food when going to the distant neighborhoods.

"*Naisipan ko na mag-initiate ng ganitong gawain na mag-volunteer kasi nakita ko yung hirap ng kanilang buhay* (I initiated this project to help the communities because I have observed the difficulties they have experienced)," said Ryan Homan, 32, head teacher of San Jose Elementary School and founder of Balsa Basa project.

According to Homan, the children who benefitted from this project are also happy to come to school. He also said that they were able to encourage parents to allow their children to study and go to school.

"*Nag-increase na yung cooperation ng mga magulang, almost 100 percent na through bayanihan system* (Parents' cooperation has increased. Almost everyone has participated in the collective action)," he added.

Karen Toledo, 13, student of San Jose Elementary School shared her experience as little teacher or volunteer for the project.

"*Nagsimula ako maging little teacher nung makita ko yung mga bata na hindi pa masyadong marunong magbasa kaya nagpursige ako na matutong magbasa para ako ang magturo sa kanila* (I started as a little teacher because I saw that there were children who did not know how to read properly so I tried my best to learn reading to be able to teach them)," Toledo recounted.

Toledo also shared her dream as a teacher: "*Gusto ko maging guro katulad ni Sir Ryan na nagtuturo sa mga bata na hindi pa marunong magbasa* (I want to be a teacher like Sir Ryan who teaches children how to read)," she explained.

According to Toledo, she became more active as a little teacher because she saw how effective the project to children who wants to learn reading.

Last January, the first Balsa Basa Festival was organized in celebration of fifth anniversary of the project. The anniversary was week-long event recognizing the efforts of the volunteers, parents, teachers and students who contributed to the improvement of their village.

Some of the activities conducted were karera ng mga balsa (raft race), street dancing competitions, musikang pangkabataan (music for the youth), street presentation, and a motorcade. This was to promote tourism as well as inspire other communities that reading can be made possible even in impoverished villages. Aside from the floating school and library, the village put up a vegetable garden, which can be seen upon entering the school premises. The vegetables were used during the feeding program of the school.

A nipa hut was also constructed for students when they read books during their free time. To appreciate the beauty of nature, a reading garden was set up for students who love flowers and plants while reading their books. On the other hand, a ship-like classroom called "*Bangkaaraman*," ("bangka" meaning boat and "kaaraman" meaning knowledge in Bicol) was built to cater to students in kindergarten on learning the letters of the alphabet.



## **Helping As Community Volunteer**

To further help the village, Homan is also the Barangay Sub-Project Management Committee (BSPMC) chairman of the Department of Social Welfare and Development Kapit Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (DSWD Kalahi-CIDSS), a poverty alleviation program that uses the Community Driven Development (CDD) approach to empower barangays or municipalities in achieving improved access to services and to participate in more inclusive local planning, budgeting and implementation.

The community experienced difficulties in traveling because of their muddy terrain. Seeing this as a hindrance, the village members decided to construct a concrete pathway through the program.

According to Homan, it was very tough to encourage people to volunteer for this kind of endeavor.

*"Mahirap mag-convince, naghahanap buhay sila kaya wala silang time* (It is difficult to convince people because they are working so they don't have time for other activities)," he explained.

But the teacher realized that they only need one person to initiate the project to persuade others in helping for the community.

*"Kailangan lang na may isang tao na mag-iinitiate ng isang aktibidad para maraming tao ang gumaya* (We only need one person to start the activity so that many people will follow suit)," the BSPMC chairman advised.

*"May nakakwentuhan akong nanay. Willing siya na mag-volunteer kasi ang sarap sa pakiramdam na makatulong sa isang gawain nang libre para sa komunidad* (I had talked with a mother and she is willing to volunteer because it is fulfilling to help for free in an activity that will improve our community)," he continued.

To Homan, it is important to inculcate to fellow citizens and youth the spirit of volunteerism.

*"Nagkaroon ng mindset tungkol sa pag-vovolunteer na ito ay isang napakagandang kaugalian na i-inculcate sa mga ka-baryo at kabataan kasi ito lang yung kaugaliang Pilipino na ipagmamalaki natin para mapadali ang ating gawain at maging successful ang ating activity* (The community realized that the spirit of volunteerism is a good value to instill to fellow barrio folks and youth because it is one of the values of a Filipino we can boast of for the success of any activity)," Homan stated.

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*Ryan Homan, 32, head teacher and little volunteers of San Jose Elementary School show others that age does not matter in helping the community through education.*

# ISTORYA: MEMOIRS OF BICOLANOS





# MGA KWENTO, KARANASAN, PAGBABAGO SA BUHAY KO AT KOMUNIDAD

Ni: Kgd. Abello T. Frias  
BSPMC - Brgy. Dacu, Mobo, Masbate

**O**ktubre, 2012 nang naipakilala sa bayan ng Mobo ang Kalahi-CIDSS at nagkaroon ng asembliya sa iba't ibang barangay at isa na dito ang aming barangay, ang Dacu, sa "1st Assembly." Kakaunti ang dumalo sa meeting.

Akala nila pangkaraniwang project at pagpupulong lang. Sabi nila, "Pare-pare-ho lang yan, sila sila lang ang nakakaalam, mga opisyal lang ng barangay," ngunit sa kalaunan sa pamamagitan ng sunod sunod na asembliya at sa pagpapaliwanag ng mga kinatawan ng Kalahi-CIDSS sa pangunguna ng area coordinator at mga Community Facilitator (CF) at Municipal Coordinating Team (MCT), naunawaan nila ang tunay na layunin at sistema ng Kalahi-CIDSS. Unti unting dumami ang dumadalo sa mga pagpupulong lalo na nang malaman nila na sila pala ang hahanap o tutukoy ng proyekto.

Nang nagkaroon ng halalan ng mga volunteers, sa umpisa palang, ayaw nila kasi akala nila 'di nila kaya. Pero nang lumaon, lalo na nang maghalal ng Barangay Sub-project Management Committee (BSPMC) doon, ako nahirang na chairman ng barangay sub-project management committee. La-hat ng volunteers ay kabado pa at nag-alala kung kakayanin nila ang trabaho at responsibilidad.

Sa unang cycle, nabigo ang aming barangay na "ma-prioritize" pero noong Municipal Inter-Barangay Form Meeting (MIBF), inimbitahan ng mga kawani ng Kalahi ang iba't ibang sangay ng gobyerno, tulad ng Department of Agriculture (DA), Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), at iba pang ahensiya. Nakilala at nalaman namin ang mga programa nila.

Nalaman din namin ang mga requirement para maka-avail ng kanilang projects. Kailangan pala mag-organize muna ng people's organization na rehistrado sa Community Development Associate (CDA), Securities and Exchange Commission o DOLE. Mula noon nilapitan ko na sila. Una sa DOLE, pinarehistro ang public order (PO) ng aming barangay, ang Dacu Fisherfolk Organization (DAFO) at ipina-audit sa Sangguniang Bayan ng Mobo, in-apply sa mga ahensiya ng gobyerno tulad ng DA-BFAR sa pamamagitan ng programang Integrated Coastal Management Resource Management Project (ICMRMP) Livelihood Project gayundin sa DENR at iba't ibang ahensiya. Sa ngayon recipient na kami ng mga proyekto nila. Salamat sa Kalahi-CIDSS, hindi man kami na-prioritize, na-link naman kami sa ibang ahensiya ng gobyerno.

Sa pangalawang cycle ay sumali ulit kami at hinirang ulit ako bilang BSPMC ng Kalahi project. Sa pagkakataong ito, na-prioritize ang aming barangay. Doon na nasubok ang mga volunteers ayon sa kani-kanilang responsibilidad.

## **Most Difficult Challenge In My Life**

Bilang BSPMC, ako ang nangunguna sa pagkalap ng mga requirement lalo na noong nag back-out ang may-ari ng lupa na bilibhan sana ng barangay na pagtatayuan ng health center. Dalawang araw bago ang deadline ng mga requirement, may bagyo pa pero 'di ako sumuko. Bumabagyo man ay lumakad pa rin ako kahit ayaw akong palabasin ng aking pamilya at nakakuha ng bilibhan isang araw bago ang deadline at hapon na. Mabuti na lang at tinulungan ako ng lokal na gobyerno ng Mobo sa pamamagitan ni Mr. Edgar Castillo. Ginawan ng Deed of Sale at gabi na ay pumunta sa may-ari ng lupa. Bandang ika-8 ng gabi, sa kabilang ng malakas na ulan, pumunta ako sa syudad ng Masbate upang maghanap ng abogado at alas 9 ng gabi na natapos magpanotaryo.

Kinabukasan, alas 8 ng umaga ang deadline. Kailangang i-submit pero tinamaan na ng trangkaso. Bagaman may sakit pinilit pa rin ang sarili para makahabol sa requirement at nagtagumpay. Nalaman ang kakayanan ko at natutong magtrabaho ng under-pressure at maraming natutunan sa Kalahi.

## **Bayanihan**

Nang naliwanagan na ang taong bayan, bumalik ang kaugalian Pilipino na bayanihan sa aming barangay. Nagkaroon ng pagkakaisa, pagtulong sa barangay at pagtitiwala sa mga barangay opisyal.

Taong 2011, nagkaroon ng patimpalak ang local government unit (LGU) ng Mobo. Ito ay ang Search for Most Outstanding Barangay. Nakuha ng aming barangay ang titulong "Best Barangay of Municipality of Mobo" at iginawad din sa aming barangay captain ang "Best Barangay Captain." Doon nalaman ng taong bayan ang kahalagahan ng bayanihan.

## **Koordinasyon, Ugnayan At Pagkakaisa**

Sa pamamagitan din ng Kalahi, naging maayos ang ugnayan ng mga mamamayan sa pagitan ng mga barangay opisyal at lalo na sa LGU Mobo na nagbigay ng counterpart sa Kalahi. Sila rin ang punong abala at tumutulong sa kawani ng Kalahi. Halos lahat ng 20 percent Development Fund ng LGU ay isinakripisyo bilang counterpart sa Kalahi project at nakita ko sa kanila ang transparency ng munisipyo. Nagpapasalamat kami sa LGU Mobo dahil halos lahat ng programa ng iba't ibang project ng gobyerno ang pinasukan nila sa pangunguna ni Mayor Atty. Percival Dias Castillo at ng Sangguniang Bayan sa pangunguna ni Vice Mayor Julius Aban at ibang ahensiya ng munisipyo.

# ACCOMPLISHMENT NG PSA VOLUNTEER

Ni: *Gregoria B. Adan*  
BAC Chairperson

Sa hirap at pagod na pinagdaanan  
PSA Volunteer ay may napatunayan  
Sa tulong din ng mga kinauukulan  
Ngayon proyekto nami'y malapit nang simulan

Sa MIBF na ginanap  
Sampaloc, RANR I ang natanggap  
Dahil nga sa naranasang paghihirap  
Ito lang siguro ang nararapat

Kabarangay labis din ang katuwaan  
Sa proyektong aming nakamtan  
Kaya sila'y pinapasalamatang  
Dahil sa suporta nila, kami'y di pinagdamutan

Hindi lang ito ang una  
Dahil ito'y may kasunod pa  
Sana patuloy ang inyong suporta  
nang sa paggawa, kami'y lalong ganahan pa

Dahil sa KALAHİ-CIDSS, kami ngayo'y may proyekto  
Upang kahit pa'no, barangay naman nami'y umasenso  
Gumabay, tumulong sa masisipag na katuwang  
Sa mga Amerikanong nagbigay ng pondo.

Salamat sir Edgar na guwapo  
At kay sir Manny na malaking tao  
Kay sir Francis na pogì at macho  
Gayundin kay Engr. Monis na matalino

At sa lahat ng tao sa munisipyo Kaming lahat sa inyo ay saludo  
dahil sa tulong na sa ami'y ginawa ni'yo Diyos na ang bahalang gumanti sa inyo  
Hindi na kailangan pang isa-isahin  
Opisyales ng barangay council namin

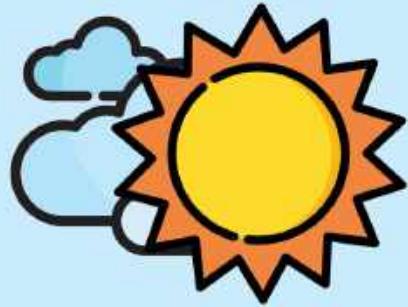
Hindi na kailangan pang isa-isahin  
Opisyales ng barangay council namin  
Pasasalamat ang nais naming iparating  
Dahil sa tiwalang ibinig sa amin.

Ito na ang huling talata  
Sana kayo ay natuwa  
Sa accomplishment naming nagawa  
Dahil sa natanggap nating biyaya

Bukod tanging pagpapala  
Sa Panginoong Lumikha  
Biyaya ng mabuting paggawa  
Lahat nang ito alay sa kanya.



# ALLA D. BENGUET



**A**ko'y isang barangay kagawad sa aming lugar, Pinamalatican, Mobo, Masbate. Isa ako sa mga napili na KALAHİ-CIDSS volunteer, Barangay Representation Team (BRT), at Procurement Team (PT).

Mahirap din na obligasyon ito lalo na ng first cycle na hindi ang aming barangay ang na-prioritize. Umasa pa naman ang komunidad na magkaroon ng proyekto. Kung kaya't nawalan din sila ng pag-asawa at ayaw na rin nila mag-cooperate sa oras na may mga assembly kasi walang kwenta at sagabal pa diumano sa kanilang hanapbhay. Hanggang nagkaroon naman ng second cycle at ang aming barangay ay isa rin sa nabigyan ng pagkakataon na magkaroon ng proyekto. Akala ko madali lang ito sa amin lalo na nga sa akin na volunteer ngunit ito'y isang malaking hamon kasi ang daming dapat unawain at mahabang pasensya sa kapwa barangay council, sa kapwa volunteer at sa komunidad. Maging sa pamilya at gawaing bahay halos nagkulang na ako ng oras sa kanila dahil nga kung oras na pag-canvass ng mga materyales sa iba't ibang mga prospect suppliers na gagamitin sa proyekto. Higit sa lahat, malaking bagay kung may mga importan-teng papeles na dapat pirmahan. Minsan hindi lang ako PT, kundi ang mga gawain ng kasamahan ko bilang volunteer na hindi pa nila nagawa. Tumutulong naman ako o kaya ako na mismo ang gumagawa. Higit sa lahat sa gastusin na hindi maiiwasan na ako ang maglalaan o gumastos ng sariling pera kasi nga hindi naman sapat ang budget namin sa Kalahi, kaya yang panggastos na dapat sa pamilya ay nakukuha ko na rin o inaabuno ko sa mga lakad ko.

Sa procurement, hindi rin madali makipag-deal sa mga supplier, may mga interesado naman at ang iba naman ay hindi. Minsan pa ay pabalik-balik din kami sa pagkuha ng aming mga kina-canvass.

Tiyaga, pagod at tiis ang aming naranasan pero sa kabilang lahat, patuloy pa rin ako sa pagsuporta at pagtulong sa aming proyekto para sa komunidad sapagkat malaking tulong at pagkakataon ito sa aming barangay at progreso ng bayan. Bilang volunteer, ginagawa ko ang dapat para mapaaayos at matapos itong proyekto namin sa tulong ng mga Kalahi-CIDSS volunteers, facilitators, staff, barangay council at lalo na ang komunidad na sa kanila nagsimula ang dapat gawin para maging matagumpay ang proyekto. Ang pinaka-gusto ko sa Kalahi-CIDSS ay ang transparency sa komunidad. Lahat ng mga dokumento ay kumpleto.



# ANECITA L. PAJALLA

Brgy. Villa Paz, Jovellar, Albay

**A**ko si Anecita L. Pajalla ng Villa Paz, Jovellar, Albay. Sa katunayan hindi ako talagang taga-rito, ako ay tubong Pangasinan.

Dumating ako dito sa Barangay Villa Paz noong 1990. Noong bago pa lang ako rito sa aming barangay, akala ko hindi ako tatagal dito kasi walang kuryente at ang pinag-iigibang ng tubig ay nasa isang kilometro ang layo mula sa bahay. Sa tuwing sasapit ang gabi palagi kong iniisip na sana may dumating dito sa aming barangay na tumulong sa amin. Nangangarap ako palagi sa araw-araw, gabi-gabi na dumating ang araw na may magdilang angel na tutulong sa amin. Salamat sa Diyos may dumating na tulong sa amin. Maraming tanong kung sino sila, iyon pala ay mga missionario, mga Bedemtorez mission team sa pamumuno ni Father Oliver Castor, isang missionary priest. Dumating sila dito noong 2003. Isang taon silang nakipamuhay sa amin.

Ang pamamalagi nila sa amin ay naobserbahan nila kung ano ang kailangan sa aming barangay. Nagtanong-tanong sila sa komunidad kung anong gusto nilang magkaroon sa barangay. Ang tugon namin na kung pwede ay water system na para magkaroon kami ng malapit na pag-iigiban. Nagkaisa kami sa barangay na water system na ang itaguyod. Siyempre mahaba rin ang proseso, may seminar, may meeting, at sakripisyong din.

Nung 2005 lalong nagpasalamat kami kasi dumating ang programang Kalahi-CIDSS pero noong una ay wala kaming alam. Nagtanong din sila kung anong dapat na ibigay nilang proyekto sa amin. Ang sagot namin ay ang kalsada. Nakikita namin na talagang putik halos ang daan. Siyempre gaya ng dati may mahabang proseso din. Kahit na mahaba ang aming paghihintay natuwa kami dahil nabigyan ng proyekto ang aming barangay.

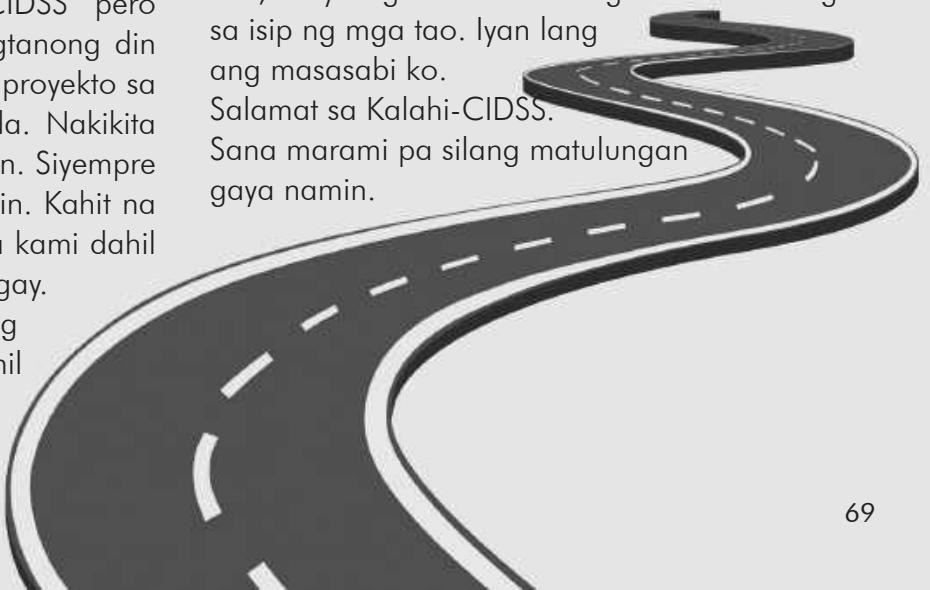
Nung mga taong 2011 hanggang 2012, lalo kaming nagpapasalamat dahil may ikalawang pagkakataon na dumating ang Kalahi-CIDSS.

Napili uli ang aming barangay na mabigyan ng proyekto kaya pinagpatuloy namin ang barangay road. Gustong gusto po namin na matapos ang barangay road kasi talagang ito ang importante sa amin. Kailangan talaga kasi kawawa po yung mga pumapasok na batang nakakarating sa paaralan na maraming tilamsik ng putik ang uniporme nila. Sa ngayon maganda na ang roadway namin, patuloy ang trabaho. Maayos na nalalaman mo kung saan napupunta ang budget. Mahaba ang proseso at dito mo talaga mararamdam na kasama ko ang community volunteers at mararamdam mo na grabe ang pasensya at pagod. Kahit na nandiyan ang budget hindi mo basta-basta makukuha kasi marami pang kailangan na papeles bago maibigay ang pondo, kaya ang ginagawa namin nagkakaisa at nagtutulungan sa barangay. Lahat kami kailangan magtulungan para matapos namin kung anong kailangan namin. Kaya ngayon ay iba na kaysa noon, maraming isasakripisyong mo para makatulong ka sa barangay natin. Sa ngayon kahit na nakakapagod, masaya ako kasi nakatatulong ako at para sa amin din ito. Kami ang makikinabang kaya alam ko na nagkatotoo ang aking panuginip sa haba ng panahon.

Sa aking sarili, minsan napapabayaan ko ang aking pamilya at mga anak ko kasi inuuna ko pa ang obligasyon ko sa barangay kaysa kanila. Pero okay lang na magsakripisyong ka hanggang sa huli, may nagawa ka namang mabuti na nagtatak sa isip ng mga tao. Iyan lang ang masasabi ko.

Salamat sa Kalahi-CIDSS.

Sana marami pa silang matulungan gaya namin.



**BARANGAY SAMPALOC**  
**PSA VOLUNTEER (DSWD KALAHİ CIDSS)**  
*Gregorio B. Adan*  
**BA Volunteer (BAC Chairperson)**

Kaming volunteer ng barangay Sampaloc  
Kalahi-CIDSS ang sa ami'y nag-udyok  
Upang sa programang ito'y makilahok  
Maraming proyekto sa barangay nami'y  
pumasok

Volunteer lang kami sa turing  
Huwag ni'yo naman sanang maliitin  
Sapagkat kami'y may nalalaman din  
Pagtulong na umasenso, barangay natin

Kalahi-CIDSS ang kasagutan  
Sa ating pangangailangan  
Sa tulong ng MCC ng America  
Umaasang tayo'y mabiyayaan

Barangay council, suporta ay ipinakita  
Pagdamay sa amin, kanilang ipinadama  
Kaya naman kakayahang nami'y di ipinagdamot  
sa kanila  
Handog sa pag-unlad ng barangay na sinisinta

Hindi ko rin dapat na kalimutan  
Mga kabbarangay na sila ay pasalamatang  
Partisipasyon sa assembliya ay kinailangan  
Salamat sa inyo, kami'y di ni'yo pinagdamutan  
sa puso naming mga volunteer,  
galak ang nakamtan

Huli man sa talata, di rin pwedeng kalimutan  
Ang tumulong sa amin, di pwedeng laktawan  
Kaya ngayon kami'y marami nang nalalaman

Kalahi-CIDSS ng DSWD na ahensiya  
Sila ang sa amin ay ipinadala  
Sa tulong ng Diyos na dakila  
kami ngayon ay nagkaroon ng biyaya

Salamat sa inyo ng lubos  
Pasasalamat na sa puso ay taos  
Pasasalamat na di maubos-ubos  
tulang ito'y kailangan ng matapos  
Salamat sa Diyos!



# AKO... TUNGO SA PAGBABAGO

*Ni: Benny Millamina*

Pio Duran, Albay

“**H**oy, may meeting daw bukas sa barangay chapel tungkol daw sa programa ng DSWD,” ang usap-usapan ng mga kababaihang nag-uumpukan habang naghihintay sa isa pa nilang kasamahan para pumunta sa bingohan habang ako naman ay papunta doon pagkagaling sa paglalaba. Hindi pa ako nakakatapos magsampay ay may tumatawag naman sa may bakuran namin, isang barangay tanod, nag-iimbita na mag-attend daw ako bukas sa meeting kasi may barangay assembly.

Nag-attend nga ako, community orientation pala yun tungkol sa Kalahi-CIDSS: KKB. Pagkatapos pumili ng mga volunteers na siyang magiging partner at magre-represent ng barangay sa mga gagawing aktibidad nito para magkaroon ng katugunan ang mga problema ng barangay. Napili ako bilang PPT Team Leader at BSPMC Chairman.

Maraming gawain, mahabang proseso. Salamat naman sa wakas nagawa rin lahat. Na-prioritize. Nag-pre-procurement conference at kailangan na ring mag-canvass ng mga material. Ang problema ay wala pamahe ang mga volunteer ng procurement team. Saan kukuha? Sa barangay, naku! Wala na daw pondo kasi ipinang-counterpart na. Sige na nga, sa akin na muna.

Nasimulan ang construction at natapos din sa wakas. May mga pasaway? Oo. Bakit ano nangyari? May mga nagsamantala sa materyales. Paano na ba ito? Dito ako nahasa na pakitunguhan ang mga taong may ginawang mali, na hindi dapat ma-offend o masaktan maibalik lang ang mga nawala para sa kapanan ng mga bata.

Ang pagiging volunteer ay isang investment. A two-way investment of the government for investing on us and for myself also because I was empowered and enhanced.

# COMMUNITY HERO IS ME

Betty C. Sianoya

Libon, Albay

**G**usto kong pasalamat ang Kalahi-CIDSS MT sa kanilang serbisyo at dedikasyon. Ganoon din sa Local Executive bilang matibay na kasangga ng programang ito, at sa Provincial Government of Albay sa counterpart contribution. Ang ating mga barangay officials na nagbigay todo suporta sa programa. Sa ating community volunteers na nagbigay ng libreng serbisyo at nakialam sa mga proyekto at iba pang stakeholders na tumulong, at higit sa lahat sa ating Poong Maykapal na natapos na ang ating proyekto sa barangay.

Ito ay sinimulan noong Enero 23, 2012 at natapos noong Hunyo 29, 2012. Medyo naantala ang patrabaho dahil naubusan ng pondo sa labor cost at nagbayad muna kami sa aggregates at hardware materials. Mabuti na lang at sa tulong ng Kalahi-CIDSS MT representatives barangay official, community volunteers ay tuluy-tuloy na ang patrabaho hanggang sa nagtakda kami ng Inauguration and Turn Over ceremony noong Agosto 1, 2012. Maraming dumalo sa programa ni Mayor Agnes "Bem" P. Dycoco and company, Kalahi-CIDSS MT representatives sa pangunguna ni Madam Fleds Alvarado, community volunteers at mga residente ng barangay.

Ang 90 meters Physical Target Slope Protection Flood Central na may halagang Php 740,000 ay buong puso na tinanggap ng aming barangay bilang instrument na matamo ang tunguhin. Malaking tulong ang maidudulot nito dahil kung sakaling may dumating na masamang panahon ay di na kami makakaranas ng matinding pagbaha.

Ligtas na kami at ang aming pamilya na dulot ng skin disease, LBM, fungi at iba pa, at tuluy-tuloy na ang pag-asenso sa larangan ng hanapbuhay.

Bilang isang BSPMC chairperson, gusto ko ipamahagi sa inyo ang aking mga naranasan simula at hanggang matapos ang proyekto. Nagkakaroon ng BSPMC meeting tuwing Biernes ng 1 p.m. sa BSPMC Office upang i-update ang sub-project implementation sa aming barangay. Lahat ng CVs ay ginampanan ang kani-kanilang trabaho. Kaya naging maayos ang takbo ng patrabaho. Buwan-buwan ay mayroon kaming financial meeting upang i-update ang Physical and Financial Accomplishment of the SPI. Talagang mahirap at masaya para sa akin at kabilang ang aking sakripisyo ay natamo ang layunin ng programa na labis na matutulungan ang mga beneficiary sa barangay.



# BUNGA NG PAGTITIYAGA

*Cony Grefaldeo Carlos  
Juban, Sorsogon*



**T**aong 2007 nang maging volunteer ako ng KALAHI-CIDSS. Nagpatawag noon ng barangay assembly at ako'y naimbita sa nasabing aktibidad.

Nagdalawang isip ako noon na dumalo dahil inisip ko na masasayang lang ang aking oras. Nakumbinsi na rin ako na pumunta dahil kailangan daw ng 100 percent attendance at upang makiusyoso kung para saan ang pagtitipon.

Napag-alaman ko na pangalawang assembliya na pala ang nasabing aktibidad. Nagkaroon ng election of BSP-MC at napili ako bilang BRT member. Nag-react ako sa pagpili sa akin bilang BRT member dahil iniisip ko na malaking abala ito sa aking hanapbuhay. Wala akong nagawa dahil karamihan sa aking barangay ay nagtitiwala raw sa aking kakayahang. Maliban sa pagiging BRT member, napili rin ako bilang chairperson ng Audit and Inventory Team.

Naging abala ako sa pagiging community volunteer at nabawasan ang panahon ko sa paghahanapbuhay. Minsan nahihiya rin ako sa aking mga magulang dahil bihira ko na rin silang matulungan sa gawaing bahay. Ang iba naman sinasabing nagpapakahirap daw ako wala namang nakuhang kabayaran. Kibit-balikat na lang ako sa mga puna ng iba kong kabbarangay. Iniiisip ko na lang ang ginagawa ko ay para sa kapalaran ng aming barangay at para maiangat ang kabuhayan ng mga mahihirap partikular ang mga magsasaka.

Ang proyektong napili ng mga tao para idulog sa KC ay ang "Construction of Irrigation Canal." Ito ang napili para madagdagan ang kita ng mga magsasaka.

Naging mapalad ang aming barangay dahil nabigyan kami ng pagkakataon para maipatupad namin ang proyektong hinahangad. Nagkaroon ng mga pagsasanay para sa volunteers. Noong una, nahihiya akong makihalubilo sa aking kapwa volunteers, ngunit kalaunan ay na-overcome ko na rin ang pagiging mahiyain. Nadagdagan rin ang aking kaalaman dahil sa mga pagsasanay na isinagawa. Natuto akong gumawa ng mga financial transaction at malaking pasasalamat ko sa pagdating ng KC sa aming barangay.

Sa tulong ng aming community facilitator maayos naming nai-patupad ang aming proyekto, ang "Construction of Irrigation

Canal.” Matagumpay na natapos ang proyekto sa pagtutulungan ng mga volunteers.

Makalipas ang ilang linggo, nagpatawag uli ng barangay assembly para i-launch sa barangay ang cycle 2 ng KC-KKB. Tinalakay din sa asembliya ang napagkasunduan ng MCT na magkaroon ng barangay facilitator at ito'y dinaan sa botohan. Ako ang napili bilang BF ng aming barangay. Nag-alangan na naman ako dahil mas malaking responsibilidad ang nakaatang sa akin bilang BF. Napag-usapan din na kailangan i-lobby sa BC ang desisyon na magkaroon ng BF para ito'y mapondohan. Dahil sa kakulangan ng pondo ng aming barangay, hindi naaprubahan ang pag-allocate ng honorarium sa akin bilang BF. Nagserbisyo uli ako bilang volunteer. Naranasan kong maglakad nang napakalayo para lang makakalap ng mga datos bilang paghahanda sa pagsali sa cycle 2 ng KC.

Sariling pera ko rin ang ginagastos ko tuwing pupunta ng MLGU para magsumite ng mga dokumento. Malaking abala sa aking hanapbhay ang pagiging volunteer dahil malaki na ang aking panahon o oras para sa KC. Maraming nangungutya dahil nagpapakahirap daw ako, wala naman napapala. Sinabi ko sa kanila na may napapala ako sa aking ginagawa dahil nakakatulong ako sa komunidad at dagdag sa aking kaalaman.

February 2008 nang ipatawag ako ng MLGU dahil magkakaroon daw ng karagdagang community facilitators. Isa ako sa napili para maging CF. Tinanggap ko ang alok na maging bahagi ng MCT ng Juban. Masaya ako dahil may mga kasama rin ako na kapwa ko volunteers sa kanilang barangay. Hindi naman ako gaanong nahirapan dahil hindi naman kami pinimbayaang mag-isa sa barangay dahil may mga ka-tandem kami na community facilitators na hired ng RPMO at ang iba ay hired ng LGU. Naging CF ako sa loob ng apat na buwan. Kinailangan kong i-give up ang trabaho ko as CF dahil sa Maynila nag-ral ng college ang aking anak at kailangan ko siyang samahan.

Pagkatapos ng apat na taon, muli akong bumalik at nagpasalamat ako dahil tinanggap nila uli ang aking pagbabalik. Natanggap uli ako bilang CF noong April 16, 2012. Malaki ang aking utang na loob sa KC dahil kung walang KC, wala sana akong trabaho sa ngayon.





# EDNA A. MORALES

Jovellar, Albay

**N**ang dumating ang Kalahi-CIDSS sa aming barangay ay masayang-masaya kami at nagpapasalamat dahil natugunan na ang pangangailangan sa aming barangay. Ang tuon ay sa gumuguhong lupa sa likod ng mga bahay na nasa tabing ilog. Ang mga community facilitator at mga coordinator ay kaagad nagsagawa ng barangay assembly at isa ako sa nahirang na volunteer BSPMC sa pagbibigay at pagkakaisa ng mga ideya ng bawat residente ng barangay. Napagkasunduan namin na ang sub-project ay ang Slope Protection (Erosion Control Project) dahil iyon talaga ang pangangailangan ng aming barangay. Dumalo ako sa mga seminar at nakaranas na makisama sa kapwa ko mga volunteer. Masaya at nagkaroon ako ng maraming kaibigan ng iba-ibang barangay at ang importante ay nadvelop ang aking personalidad.

Sa implementasyon ng proyekto, palagi akong nasa lugar, nagbabantay ng mga trabahador bilang time keeper at bodigero pa. Paminsan-minsan pala ay nasusugatan ang aking paa dahil sa maputik na lugar at halos maitim na ako sa pagbabantay sa mga trabahador pero masaya ako at nakakatulong ako sa aming barangay. Kaya lang may pagkakataong na-delay ang trabaho dala ng sama ng panahon, palaging umuulan at baha. Matagal mag-deliver ng mga materyales dala ng ganitong sitwasyon.

Pagkalipas ng ilan buwan, matagumpay na natapos din ang proyekto naming riprap (slope protection) at naiwasan na ang pagguho ng lupa. Siyempre masayang-masaya kami, lahat ng residente ay nakinabang sa proyektong ito.

# SALAMAT KALAHII!

*Fatima Espedido*

LGU - Manito

## **“Ang pagsisilbi nang bukul sa kalooban ay kabayanihan na!”**

Ako ay nakapagtapos din ng pag-aaral sa kolehiyo at nangarap na makapagtrabaho balang araw at umasam na makakuha ng mataas na sashod. Subalit napatunayan ko na bawat isa sa atin ay may nakatakdang landas na tatahakin at may kanya-kanyang kapalaran. Hanggang isang araw ako ay nag-apply at pinalad bilang isa lamang na casual employee noon sa aming LGU—isang institusyon na ang pinakalayunin ay magsilbi sa mamamayan—bagay na kinasiyahan at gustong-gusto ko naman.

Sa loob ng mahigit kumulang pitong taon ko bilang empleyado ng aming munisipyo, ngayon lamang ako napabilang sa isang espesyal na proyekto gaya ng Kalahi-CIDSS. Makamasang Tugon na masasabi at maipagmamalaki ko sa kapwa ko empleyado na ako ay naging parte ng programa at natunghayan ko ang mga pagbabago sa aming komunidad sa bawat indibidwal at mismo sa aking sarili dala ng programang ito.

Sa pagdating ng Kalahi sa aming munisipyo ay isang magandang balita sa bawat-isa sa amin lalo pa’t meron na kaming ideya at magandang karanasan sa unang Kalahi na dumaan sa amin—ang PYP. Sa sariili kong opinyon, hindi man maganda maghambing pero mas mabibigyan ko ng magandang larawan ang Makamasang Tugon sapagkat ako ay naging bahagi at nakita ang bawat hakbang nito hanggang sa isang matagumpay na pagtatapos.

Bilang isang MCT staff, ako kasama ang sampa pa sa MCT, ay naatasan na sa bawat gawain ay dapat na may partisipasyon at makibahagi. Mula nang magkaroon ng municipal orientation naging malinaw ang paglalahad ng kung ano talaga ang KC-MT. Sa aktibidad na ito mas lalo pa akong nasiyahan sa pag-asang marami na naman pala sa aming komunidad ang mabibigyan ng proyekto lalo pa’t karamihan sa aming mga barangay ay umaasa lamang sa IRA kung kaya’t hindi napondohan lahat ang mga malalaking proyekto at kinakailangan talaga ng mga tao sa barangay.

Sa magandang tugon ng mga barangay at LGU, natuloy din ang KC-MT sa amin hanggang sa isa-isa nang ginaganap ang sari-saring aktibidad. Dahil dito, sari-sari ding istorya at mga reaksyon ng mga tao lalo na ang mga volunteer, may masaya, positibo, taas-kilay at mayroon talagang negatibo naman. Habang ako ay nag e-encode ng mga data outputs ng aming mga community facilitators, may isang volunteer sa aming opisina na naghahimutok na nagsabi na, “Ano na itong Kalahi na ito? Parang masamang tugon na sa atin kasi ang daming perhewisyon dulot sa paghahanapbuhay natin? Ako at ang aking mga kasamahan ay natawa lamang at sa isip-isip ko, totoo nga naman! Sa loob-loob ko bakit nga ba naman hindi na lang basta ibigay ang pondo at diretsong ipatayo kung anong proyekto ang angkop sa komunidad. Hindi ganito na sari-saring



training, regular meeting at higit sa lahat itong mga ginagawa kong data banking na ang pinakamadugo ay ang walang kamatayang pagsusumite ng weekly, monthly at quarterly reports. Dahil sa sobra at sunud-sunod na mga aktibidad madalas nahuhuli kami sa pagsusumite ng mga reports.

Nakaka-stress talaga! Buti na lang, dala ng pressure sa texts at e-mails ng mga taga-regional office, nakakapag-submit din kami.

Hanggang isang araw...

"Hoy! May schedule na ng inauguration," sabi ni MM. Kakaibang saya ang aking naramdaman at ako ay nag-volunteer na kung pwede din sumama sa nasabing inauguration. Doon, nakita ko at naramdaman ang emosyon ng mga tao at sa ganung sitwasyon napagtanto ko ang mga kasagutan sa mga himutok at katanungan sa kalagitnaan ng proseso ng Kalahi. Lyon ang mga panahong halos sumuko na ang mga volunteer sa pagproseso ng mga papeles, sa pagtugon sa mga problemang sari-saring naranasan dahil sa patrabaho, sa nauubos na pondo, sa paghahanda ng RFR, at siyempre sa mga pag-aaway dala ng sobrang pressure at mandatong matapos ang proyekto.

Sa kalagitnaan ng Inauguration Program, natawag ang pangalan ng pamilyar na volunteer para magbahagi ng kanyang learnings, insights at experiences sa Kalahi-Makamasang Tugon at sa proyektong natapos. Siya yung volunteer na pagod na pagod na at halos sumuko na at tinawag na "Masamang Tugon" na ang Makamasang Tugon. Sa kanyang paglalahad, naramdaman talaga namin ang taus-puso niyang pagsaludo sa programa na sa katagal na sa kanilang barangay at sa pag-volunteer niya sa Kalahi, noon niya lang naranasan ang mga bagay-bagay ukol sa magandang pagbibigay o pagpapatupad ng proyekto. Dito lubusang nakita ang kanilang partisipasyon mula sa umpisa, sa pag-attend ng mga trainings o workshops at naging bahagi ng Procurement at Bidding Process.

"Isang proseso na tanging si kap at barangay officials lamang ang nakakaalam tuwing may proyekto" ika nga, at ang isa pang maganda ay mula din sa umpisa hanggang sa matapos ang proyekto, nakita mismo namin ang paghahanda ng mga papeles at alam namin kung paano ito ginawa. Natuto kami kahit papaano humawak at tumipa ng makinilya.

At sa dulo ng kanyang talumpati, mangiyak-ngiyak niyang binigkas na "Salamat, Kalahi. Pangangalagaan at paka-iingatan namin ang binigay ninyong proyektong ito." Lyon din naman naalala ko ang sagot sa himutok ko noon na bakit kailangan pa naming mag kondukta ng sari-saring training, daanan ang proseso at i-comply ang bawat isang dokumento. Bakit hindi na lang direktang ibigay ang pondo, maghanap ng kontratista at hayaang magpagawa ng bawat detalye ng proyekto. Hindi hamak na bihasa na sila sa paghawak at sabi pa ni mayor sa loob lang ng tatlong linggo tapos ang proyekto. Higit sa lahat, ang Kalahi-Makamasang Tugon project ay hindi lamang ukol sa pagbibigay ng mga estruktura, datapuwat, pinakamahalaga ay ang mga pagbabago sa mga buhay ng mga tao dala nito at kung paano nito nabigyan ng inspirasyon ang bawat sa. Salamat, Kalahi!

# REALISASYON

*Fedelina C. De Leon*

Juban Sorsogon

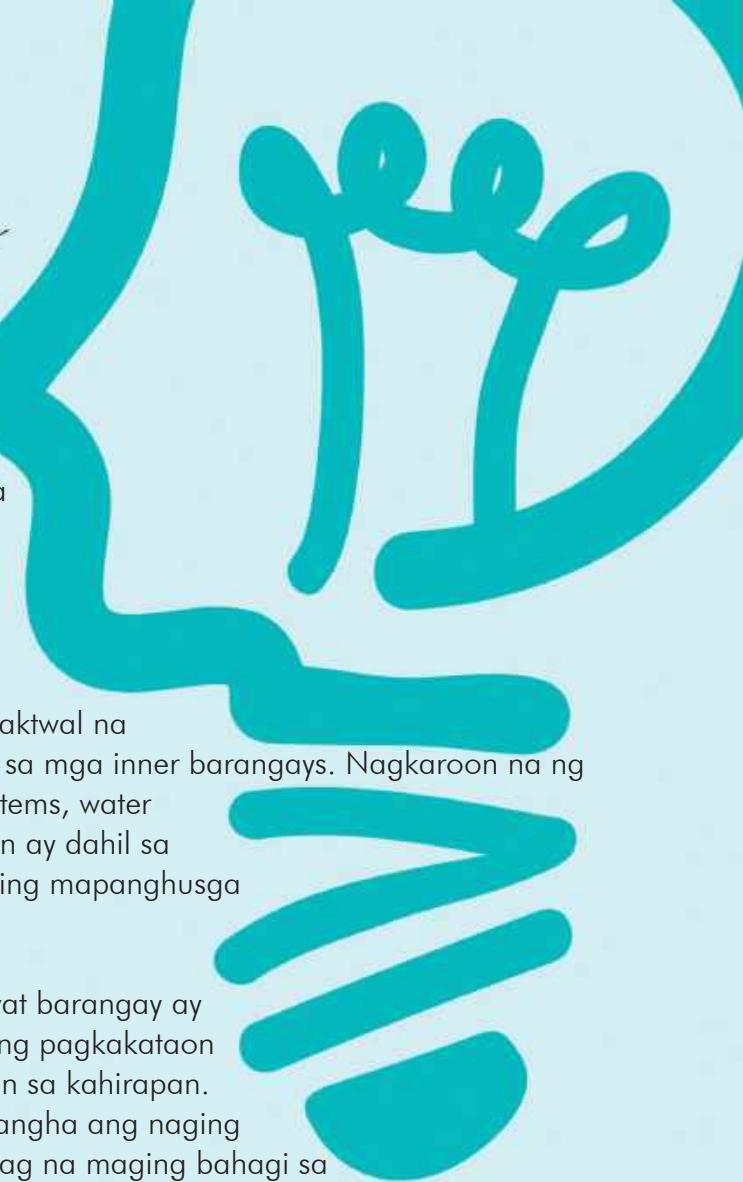
**N**oong una kong narinig ang Kalahi, ni hindi ko alam kung anong ibig sabihin nito. Ito ba ay ka-tribu? Kamag-anak? O ano ba talaga? Akala ko noong una, "proyekto" lang yan ng gobyerno na iilan lang na naman ang makikinabang. Kung sino ang nasa puwesto iyon pa ang mga nabubusog! Negatibong reaksyon!

Pero kalaunan, nag-umpisa nang magsulputan at aktwal na nakikita na namin ang mga pathways, at road concreting sa mga inner barangays. Nagkaroon na ng mga farm to market roads, school buildings, irrigation systems, water system, protected fish sanctuary, wharf, at solar dryers. Iyan ay dahil sa DSWD-Kalahi projects. Ako'y nanliit sa sarili ko dahil naging mapanghusga kaagad ako.

Ang aming munisipyo ay may 25 barangay at bawat barangay ay may kanya-kanyang seryosong problema na kung sa unang pagkakataon kaagad ay iiispin natin na parang wala na yatang solusyon sa kahirapan. Ngunit dahil sa Kalahi projects, unti-until ngunit nakakamangha ang naging mga pagbabago. Gusto kong manahimik na lang at huwag na maging bahagi sa mga nakagalak ng na pagbabago, ngunit sa hindi inaasahang pagkakataon, ako'y naanyayahang dumalo sa isang assembly ng Kalahi-CIDSS MT.

Wala akong ginawa kundi ang makinig at tuluyan nang maintindihan ang layunin ng DSWD-Kalahi-CIDSS MT. Gusto kong lapitan ang sinuman at humingi ng paumanhin sa mali kong kaisipan noon, pero hindi ko magawa sa dahilang ako'y naduwag. Natapos ang asembliya ng aming barangay noong araw na yun na dala ko ang kapaliwanagan at minsang nangarap na rin na sana ang barangay namin ay maging beneficiary din ng Kalahi projects. Kung hindi ako nagkakamali ay taong 2007 iyon. Napag-alaman ko na dapat pala ay granted na kami noon pa ng proyektong water system sa aming barangay, ngunit sa kung anong kadahilahanan ay hindi natuloy. Intriga dito at intriga doon, nandoong pumasok na ang isyu ng politika at kung anu-anong istorya pa.

Sa isang sulok ng aking damdamin, may nausal akong simpleng panalangin, "Sana ay dumating sa punto na pati mga kabbarangay ko ay makuha na rin ang kaliwanagan na nasa akin na." Hindi ko namalayan lumipas na pala ang limang taon. Mayo 2012, noong nagkaroon na naman ng Kalahi assembly, ito na nga ang MT-PODER 7. Sinikap kong maging aktibo at ako nga ay naging miyembro ng BRT. Ang sabi pa nga ng aming facilitator ay ang qualifications daw ng BRT members ay kapal ng mukha. Sabi ko, hindi baleng makapal ang mukha sa may kapakipakinabang na bagay kung ito ay nakatatulong naman sa aming barangay.



Kung ang pagiging isang volunteer ay ang maging daan para ako ay makabawi sa aking naging maling kaisipan laban sa Kalahi projects, buong puso ko itong yayakapin at gagampanan.

Dito ko naramdaman ang pagkilos at pagtrabaho kasama ang ibang volunteers bilang isang pamilya. Ang determinasyon na aking nakita mula sa aming working mayor na si Hon. Jimmy Fragata na nagbigay ng kanyang buong pusong serbisyo para sa aming munisipyo. Ang staff ng Kalahi projects na parang hindi napapagod, facilitators at coordinators na laging “fully charged”, kahit Sabado at Linggo ay todo trabaho para lamang sa katuparan ng mga proyekto. Ang mga sponsors mula pa sa iba’t ibang bansa ay hindi nagdadalawang isip magbigay ng malaking halaga para sa tiwala at paniniwalang kaya nating maging positibo. Iyan po ang naging inspirasyon ko para makilahok sa gawaing ito.

Sa ngayon, walang katumbas na salita maipaabot ko lamang ang taos-pusong pasasalamat sa Kalahi projects. Kahit ang aming barangay, ang Lajong, Juban, Sorsogon ay sa unang pagkakataon pa lang makakatikim ng proyekto kung saan nga prioritized ang “Construction of Water System.” Ako’y kampante at palagay na sa biyayang galing sa Kalahi ay mapapakinabangan at maipapasa pa namin sa mga susunod pang henerasyon.

Sana’y magsanga at dumami pa ang biyaya na maibibigay ng Kalahi projects sa mga susunod pang mga taon upang maging daan para tuluyan na nating malabanan ang kahirapan. Ika nga, “level up” para sa mga Pinoy. Sana’y huwag nang mawala ang mga biyayang ito.

Gabayang nawa ng Poong Maykapal ang mga taong ginawa niyang instrumento para ang DSWD Kalahi-CIDSS projects at manatiling matibay at patuloy nawang tanggapin ng bawat komunidad ang laging bagong pag-asa para sa kaunlaran.

SALAMAT, KALAHİ. DIYOS MABALOS.

# TULONG SULONG SA MASAYANG PAGBABAGO NG BARANGAY

*Jacky E. Edeo*

Community Empowerment Facilitator  
Rapu-Rapu, Albay

**U**nang pagtatrabaho ko sa KC:MT, masaya ako na nagkaroon ng trabaho. May lima akong barangay na hawak.

Nagsimula ako noong July 2011.

Sa una kong punta sa barangay para mag-conduct ng courtesy call ay sumakay kami ng bangka at napakalaki ng alon. Natakot ako kasi first time ko na makapunta sa assigned barangay ko. Sa kabilang lahat, maganda naman ang resulta at pagtanggap nila sa akin sa barangay. Masaya pa sila dahil malaking tulong sa kanila na magkaroon ng KC:MT para matugunan ang kanilang pangangailangan.

Pangalawa kong punta ay ang para sa barangay assembly. Doon nila napagkaisahan kung ano talaga ang pangangailangan ng barangay tulad ng pathway, school building, at iba pa. Sa tulong ng aming municipal monitor na si Sir Jezon Romano at ng municipal financial analyst na si Ms. Janet Agpoon

at lahat ng MIAC at MCT members na pinamunuhan ni Mayor Nora G. Onate, nagkaroon ng magandang resulta kung paano at sino talaga ang tunay na nangangailangan ng tulong. Dumating ang araw na nagkaroon ng MIBF na pipili na kung sino ang karapat-dapat na uunahin sa barangay. Masaya ang lahat dahil madali naming matanggap kung sino ang inuna dahil kahit papano nakatulong kami sa kanila na mas higit na nangangailangan. Para sa akin, mahirap ang pagtanggap ng mga barangay na hindi sila inuna dahil pagod at pawis ang aming puhunan, ngunit sa kabilang lahat nagpasalamat po kami sa DSWD dahil malaking tulong ang naibigay sa aming barangay.

Sa ngayon nagsimula na kami ng pagtatrabaho, masaya ang lahat dahil lahat sila nagtatrabaho sa proyekto na naibigay ng KC:MT. Malaking tulong sa akin na ang aming pangangailangan ay maipatupad.

Para sa akin bilang CF, mahirap talaga ang aming trabaho. Halos nakakalimutan ko na po ang Panginoon o ang pagsimba dahil kahit Linggo ay nagtatrabaho kami. Pagod, sipag at tiyaga ang aming puhunan. Umulan man at umaraw nagtatrabaho kami. May panahon na halos gusto ko nang sumuko kasi mahirap ang paglakbay sa amin. Minsan sabi ko sa aking sarili, ang aking trabaho ay patay o buhay dahil iyon ang aking sinumpaan. Ang mga alon sa pagpunta sa Batan Island ay halos kasingtataas ng mga bahay. Hindi ko alam kung ano ang gagawin habang nasa



bangka ako. Minsan umiiyak ako sa sobrang laki ng alon. Takot na takot talaga ako, ngunit sa kabilang lahat, masaya ako dahil kahit papano nandiyan pa rin si Lord na gumagabay sa akin at sa wakas nakasurive naman. Maganda ang aming proyekto. At ngayon hindi pa tapos ang aming proyekto o ang pagtrabaho sa aking barangay.

Malaking tulong sa amin ang KC:MT dahil naibigay ang aming pangangailangan at malaking tulong sa mga tao o sa komunidad na ang kanilang minimithi ay natupad.

Nagpapasalamat ang lahat sa inyo lalo na ang LGU at BLGU sa tulong ng DSWD dahil marami kayong binuhay at napasayang tao sa buong isla.

Maraming salamat. Diyos na lang ang bahala sa inyo sa lahat ng kabutihang at walang sawang pagsuporta ninyo sa mga taong nangangailangan ng tulong.

God bless you all!



# PAGPAPAHALAGA SA BAWAT ISA

*Jesus Angelo Delfin*  
Malinao, Albay

**N**oon, ang aming bayan pati na ang aming barangay ay pinalalakad ng iilan lamang mula sa malakihan pati na sa kaliit-liitang proyekto.

Ang mga mamamayan ay walang partisipasyon kaya't karamihan sa proyekto ay hindi tumatagal ng maraming taon kung kaya't maikukumpara sa isang bagay na tinayo sa baybaying dagat na sa paghampas ng alon, madaling nasira o tuluyang naglalo ang itinayong gusali o anumang istraktura ang ginawa doon. Noon, ang mga nasa munisipyo kabilang na ang mga opisyales

ng barangay ang siyang nagtatamasa ng mga biyaya o benepisyo na dapat para sa masa o sa sambayanan o mga tao sa aming lugar dahil akala nila ay sila lang dapat ang magpalakad at sila lang ang kwalipikado na sa huli, anuman ang kanilang sabihin, ay dapat sundin ng bawat isa na naninirahan sa kanilang nasasakupan. Masasabi natin na mayroong kaunting pagkadiktador ang namumuno noon sa amin kung kaya't walang asenso o pagbabago sa aming pamahalaan. Salat kami sa impormasyon o anumang bagay na dapat naming malaman kung kaya't maituturing namin na pinagkakaitan kami ng mga namumuno sa amin ng mga bagay na makakapagdulot ng kaunting kasiyahan para maiangat namin nang kahit kaundi ang antas ng aming kabuhayan.

Sa pagdaan ng panahon, ang lahat ay nabago. Wala talagang permanente sa mundong ibabaw. Lahat ay may pagbabago. Taong 2006 nang magkaroon ng proyekto ang DSWD sa pamamagitan ng Kalihi-CIDSS program at sa kauna-unahang pagkakataon ay binigyan ang bawat nakatira sa aming lugar ng boses at partisipasyon sa proyektong pinagkaisahan ng bawat isa sa lugar naming.

Sinasabing priority project na dapat isagawa sa lalong madaling panahon dahil kung maaantala ay magdudulot ito ng malaking perwisyo sa bawat isa sa amin. Hindi ko na matandaan ang mga hakbang na ginawa namin buhat sa pag-uumpisa hanggang matapos ang proyekto. Ang natatandaan ko lang ay mayroon noong barangay general assembly na pinatawag ang lahat ng naninirahan sa aming lugar sa pamamagitan ng aming punong barangay. Kasama ang mga empleyado ng DSWD ng Malinao at ipinaliwanag sa bawat isa sa amin kung ano ang dapat gagawin sa mga darating na araw. Nagkaroon ng pagpipili ng mga taong bubuo sa pagpapalakad ng proyekto. Itinalaga nila ako bilang BSPMC chairman ng proyekto. Maraming beses na ipinatatawag kami ng panandalian para pag-usapan kung ano anong papeles ang dapat ihanda. Kahit nakakapagod, sulit naman dahil sa ngayon ay nakatayo pa rin ang istraktura kahit dinaanan naman ito ng malalaking bagyo gaya ng bagyong Reming noong Nobyembre 30, 2006 at bagyong Juaning noong Hulyo 26, 2011. Masasabi ko na dapat sa darating pang mga panahon ang ganap 100 porsiyentong partisipasyon ng bawat isa sa kanya-kanyang lugar para masiguro na ang mga proyektong itatayo sa kanilang lugar ay tatagal ng maraming taon at pang-habang buhay na pakikinabangan ng bawat isa. Mahalaga ang bawat isa sa pamayanan.

Sino ba ang magpapahalaga sa isang bagay o lugar kundi ang mga taong nakatira sa lugar na iyan. Alan-gan naman na kung kami sa Malinao ay mayroong problema ay pupunta kami sa Manito para hingan sila ng tulong? Siyempre kami't kami lang sa lugar namin ang makakatulong at makapagbibigay ng karampatang solusyon sa aming problema.

Dapat mayroong transparency, accountability, tapat at matuwid na pangangatwiran ang dapat mama-hala sa proyekto para makamit ang tunay na adhikain at masunod ng husto ang plano sa nasambit na proyekto. Ang boses ng masa ay boses ng Diyos. Sa voluntaryong pamamaraan ay masasabi natin sa ating sarili na ganap at kaaya-aya ang buhay natin sa banal na aklat na ang ating Panginoon ay naparito para magsilbi at hindi pag-silbihan. Bukod pa riyang sabi ng ating mahal na Pangulo na "Kayo ang boss ko" tungo sa tuwid na daan. Sa bandang huli, dapat tandaan natin na tayo, bilang mamamayan sa ating lugar, ay may katungkulang na dapat gampanan at iyon ang pagtulong sa bawat isa sa atin sa voluntaryong pamamaraan na sa pamamalakad ng ating local na gobyerno sa ating lugar. Sundin natin ang prinsipyong ito:

Government for the people and not Government POOR the people

Government by the people and not Government BUY the people

Government of the people and not Government OFF the people

And we will not go astray.

# MY REAL EXPERIENCE AS KALAHİ VOLUNTEER

*Joel Cojena*

Cawayan

**N**agsimula ang aking pagiging volunteer taong 2011, buwan ng Hunyo. Una naming dinaluhan ay ang kick-off kasa-ma ang aming barangay captain. Bago kami nakarating sa nasabing pagsubok, napakaputik ng aming dinadaanan patungong main road kasabay nito ang pagbagsak ng malakas na ulan, sapagkat may bagyo ng mga panahong iyon. Nakarating kami sa lugar kung saan gaganapin ang pagpupulong na basa. Nang kami ay pumasok na sa loob, pinagtawanan kami ng iba na neroon dahil basa ang suot naming pantalon. Sinagot na lang namin na okay lang na basa kami basta't nakarating kami ng tama sa oras. Ang nasabing pagpupulong ay dinaluhan ng maraming tao na nasa ahensiya ng gobyerno gaya ng BLGU, MLGU, at ang PLGU. Dumating ang governor ng Masbate para sa sharing ng bawat isa. Dito lumabas na 30 percent ang share ng Kalahi, 15 percent sa PLGU, 10 percent sa MLGU at 5 percent sa BLGU na sinang-ayunan ng lahat dahil naisip namin na napakalaking oportunidad na nito para makakuha ng proyekto.

Marami pa ang mga pagpupulong na nang-yari sa pagiging volunteer ko sa aming barangay, gaya ng 1st MIBF na ginanap sa Mahayahay Complex. Matapos ang ilang buwan nawalan kaming pag-asa na makakuha ng inaasam naming proyekto na ibibigay ng Kalahi. Di naglaon may natanggap kami na text mula sa aming CF na magkakaroon ng B.A. upang dito maibase sa mga attendance ng community para sa karagdagang kailangan para makakuha ng proyekto.



Bilang isang boluntaryo, ako na mismo ang nagpaalam sa mga taga-barangay namin na kailangan ang kanilang presensiya para sa inaasam namin. Bilang B.A., ako ang naging tagapagsalita at dito nagsimula ang pagpili ng mga katungkuluan bilang volunteer.

Isa ako sa napabilang sa P.T. o ang procurement team. Dito luminaw sa akin kung ano ba talaga ang papel ko bilang isang boluntaryo. Nagkaroon kami ng mga training bilang P.T. tulad ng pre-procurement training. Dito napaloob kung ano ang totoong papel ng P.T. May kahirapan pala ang posisyon iyon pero tinanggap ko nang maluwag sa aking kalooban dahil naisip ko na kahit di man ako ang makinabang, maraming kabataan ang matutulungan sa proyektoong aming makukuha. Dumating pa ang maraming pagsasanay para sa preparasyon upang makakuha ng proyekto. May nagsasabing nag-aksaya lang daw ako ng panahon, ano ba raw ang aking makukuha sa pagiging volunteer? Sinagot ko na lang ng konting ngiti sabay sabi, "Okay lang po sapalaran na lang kasi gusto kong makatulong sa barangay natin na magkaroon ng proyekto na mapapakinabangan ng karamihang kabataan na gustong makapag-alaral nang maayos."

Tumulong din ako sa paggawa ng project proposal namin, isinama ako ng aming volunteer ng PPT head para sa pagsubmit ng mga document na kailangan gaya ng una kong naranasan, mahirap ang daan at medyo umuulan nang mga panahong iyon. Ginabi kami sa pag-uwi sa kadahilanang nasiraan kami ng sinsakyan kasabay pa ang kritikal na daanang napakaputik at sira-sira pa. Dumating ang buwan ng November, dito nagtitipon-tipon ang mga barangay para sa PDPRA at upang malaman na rin kung ano ang resulta ng prioritization.

Nagkaroon ng tiangge para sa mga produkto ng bawat kalahok na barangay. May mga programang inihanda ang bawat isa, may sumayaw, kumanta at nag-drama. Nang maglaon ay dumating na ang takda para ianunsyo ang mga barangay na pumasok sa bilang. Kinakabahan ang karamihan sa amin dahil umabot na lang 1 sa unang 10 di pa nabanggit ang aming barangay, ang R.M. Magbalon. Maya-maya tinawag din kami, nakakuha kami ng unang 12.

Napatalon ako sa tuwa, halos maluha sa narinig pero ang lahat ng iyon ay kagalakan dahil nagbunga rin ang aking pinaghironan sa loob ng ilang buwan. Di naglaon nagkaroon ulti ng mga B.A. para maipaalam sa buong pamayanan ng aming barangay na isa sa mga nakakuha ng proyekto. Marami akong natanggap na magagandang papuri. Kung 'di raw dahil sakin, 'di raw makakakuha ng proyekto. Napakasarap pala sa pakiramdam na para bang isa akong bayani sa aming barangay. Minsan nanghihiram ako ng kabayo para masakyan papuntang main road upang makarating sa mga seminars ng mga volunteer.

Sa Cawayan, mas lalo pang sumaya ang aking pakiramdam nang sinimulan ni DAC Valdemoro ang lay-out ng site. Nakaupo ako sa ilalim ng punong mangga. Hindi ko namalayan na tumulo ang aking mala-butil na luha. Natawa ako kasi sobrang napaka-emosyonal ko na pala. Naisip ko kasi na sa loob ng mahigit isang taon ko sa aming barangay, may nagawa akong, sabihin na lang nating maganda sapagkat naisip ko umalis man ako sa lugar na ito o dumating ang araw na bawian ako ng buhay ng Mahal na Diyos, may magandang alaala para sa maiiwan kong pamilya. Sabay halos ang magandang pangyayari na dumating sakin, sapagkat kinabukasan matapos ang unang araw ng pagtatrabajo sa proyekto ay namanhikan ako sa naging mahal ko na asawa.

Sobrang pasasalamat ko sa Maykapal sa dumating na magandang pangyayari sa aking buhay. Nagkatrabaho ako bilang WHSE man o timekeeper. Napakalaking tulong sa aming mag-asawa sa pagsisimula ng bagong yugto ng buhay. Mabilis na lumipas ang mga araw na para bang di na namalayan halos buo na pala ang building na hinahawakan namin at pinaghironan ng karamihan. Mula noon halos 'di ko na mabilang ang mga magandang papuri sa akin, minsan sa umaga napagkamalan pa ako ng mga batang estudyante na guro at bumabati ng magandang umaga. Napatawa ako, di naman nila ako teacher. Paano raw kasi, para akong guro sa pagdala ko ng mga gamit ko sa trabaho—attendance book, construction logbook, DTR, at calculator. Nakalagay lang kasi ito sa lalagyan na bitbit ko lamang na 'pag di mo kilala mapagkamalan mo nga naman talaga.

Sa ngayon, sa awa ng Diyos, natapos ang aming minimithing proyekto—ang one unit school building na may tatlong classroom at Ferrocement Water Tank. Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat sa Kalahi.

Ito ang naging experience sa loob ng panahon ng aking paninilbihan sa lahat. Nawa'y may kapulutan kayong aral sa maikli at madamdamin kong kwento na iginiya sa inyo. Malaking tulong ang nagdaan kong karanasan sa aking buhay para sa panibagong pakikibaka sa hinaharap na kinabukasan. Salamat po nang marami.

# *Panawagan sa Pamayahan*

Sa mga Kabilang ng liping Pilipino  
Ang binhi ng pagbabago ay naipunla na  
    Sa tigang na bayang Pilipinas  
    Muling uusbong ang pag-asa  
Hatid nito'y pagbasag ng katahimikan  
    Upang ang hikahos na bayan  
    Ay kumilos laban sa kahirapan.

Datapuwat malungkot isipin  
Pagsasamantala'y di maantig  
    Nagpapalit anyo  
    Puso'y sintigas ng bato  
Kelan kaya siya'y magbabago  
    Itong makapiling hunyango  
    Nagpapasasa sa dugo ng mga tao.

Punla'y ikalat na, tigang na lupang dagling bungkalin pa  
Batayang kailangan ilahad na  
    Sarili baguhin at makiisa  
    Kalahi-CIDSS ibandila  
    Pinoy gising ka na  
Pamayanan tagumpay ka  
    Ikaw ay pag-asa



# ANG KARANASAN KO SA KALAHİ-CIDSS

*Lery H. Arajo*

Juban, Sorsogon

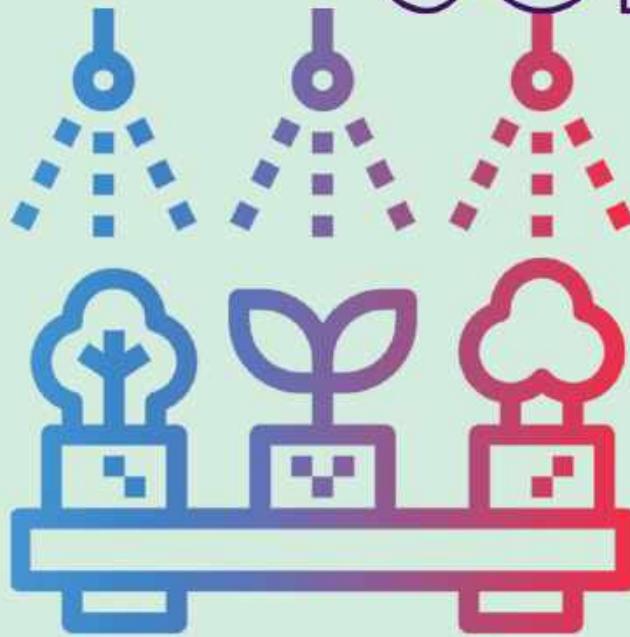


**T**aong 2011 nang magsimula ang Kalahi-CIDSS PAMANA sa aming barangay sa pamamagitan ng barangay assembly.

Tinalakay ang hangarin ng Kalahi-CIDSS na makatulong sa komunidad lalong lalo na sa aming barangay. Nakapasok ako bilang volunteer sa Barangay Anog at sa ibang barangay. Sa tiwala sa akin ng aking mga kabbarangay at sa kakayahan ko siguro, nahalal ako bilang BSPMC chairman ng KC PAMANA. Akala ko simple lang ang aking obligasyon ngunit hindi pala, dahil nakita ko na kailangan pala maging isang magandang lider. Noong hindi pa ako volunteer ng Kalahi-CIDSS, wala akong kaaway ngunit nang magsimula na ang aming project, nagkaroon ako ng kaaway dahil sa maling paratang ngunit ang lahat nang iyon ay nagawa kong solusyunan. Salamat sa KALAHİ-CIDSS at mas lalo akong napalapit sa aking mga kabbarangay. Dahil diyan natutunan ko kung pano ang magpakumbaba sa tulong na rin ng payo ng aking mga kaibigan dahil sa proyektong hatid sa amin ng Kalahi-CIDSS at DSWD. Sa tulong na rin ng butihing mayor, nagkaroon ng konkretong kalsada papunta sa aming paliguan. Dati kasi hirap ang mga mamamayan sa paglaba at pagsalok ng inumin dahil sa maputik at madulas na daan. Ngayon isa na siyang "tourist spot."

Doon ko rin nakita ang pagpupursige ng mga kabbarangay ko para sa ikagaganda ng aming proyekto. Namayani ang pagkakaisa at pagtutulungan. Salamat sa Kalahi-CIDSS at DSWD dahil sa magandang layunin. Maraming tao ang inyong natulungan. Nawa'y magtuloy-tuloy ang inyong magandang programa. Salamat din sa mga namumuno sa aming bayan lalong lalo na sa aming butihing mayor na walang sawang gumagawa ng paraan para matulungan ang mga mamamayan at mapaunlad ang bayan ng Juban.

# SOLAR DRYER



Ni: BSPMC Chairman (Lolito C. Bayna, Jr.)  
Tinapian, Manito, Albay

Dakul na pamilya ang matatabangan  
Kaining proyekto na samong pinagtarabangan  
266 na household iyo ang mabebenipisyuhan  
Parasira asin parauma iyo ang kadaklan

Ining solar dryer bako lang baladan  
Ini samo mang gigibuhon na libangan  
Kan kabataan tanganing bisyo maiwasan  
Iring man an mga gurang sa saindang kaogmahan

Ini dagdag man na pagkakaitaan  
An sisay man na magamit igwang kasuratan  
Tama na asin diit na kantidad samong ikakabit  
Tanganing ang sisay man na magamit samo  
dai madagit

Ining Solar Dryer, simbag man sa pangapudan  
Kan sangguniang bayan kan samong banwaan  
Sa saiyang ordinansang ginibo  
Na bawal nang magbalad sa tinampo

Na kung iiisipon talagang banal na totoo  
Tanganing maimbitaran ang pagka-diskwedo  
Kaining mga biyahero  
Maging mga pasahero

Kaya kami mina-apela sa saindo mga kahimanwa  
Sa DSWD Kalahi-CIDSS, hare man pagpatagasa  
An saindong boot, sa arog ming nagmamawot  
Kan samuyang proyektong liwat na pinagmamawot

Sa pondong itinao samuya  
Ini honra ming dakula  
Lugod man dai kamo magsawa  
Sa Pagtabang sa samuya

Ining sakuyang tula digdi na minatapos  
Lugod man ang saindong pagtabang sa gabos  
Dai matapos-tapos  
Salamat asin Dios Mabalos

**S**a satuyang namomotan  
Director Remia Tapispisan  
Asin sa mga bisita na uya digdi  
Sa pagsaksi sa programang ini

An Tinapian sarong sadit na barangay  
Ini dawa sadit, maghiro sarabay  
Pinagpatahanan kan duwang barangay  
An samong barangay pirming handang dumamay

An samong barangay captain mahigos na tunay  
Idolo kan paratanom, maging samong kabbarangay  
Dakula ang saiyang pangaturogan  
Pasiring sa samong kauswagan

Ining sakong tulang ginibo  
Manungod sa samong proyekto  
An Solar Dryer iyo na ini ho  
Ang inaproba han kada lado

Solar Dryer simbag sa problema han mga parauma  
Sa pagbalad kan produktong saindang nakua  
Digdi sa solar dryer, talagang makakaminos na  
Bako lang sa oras, pati na sa bulsa  
Parasira asin parauma iyo ang kadaklan

# ANG BUNGA NG PAGSASAKRIPISYO

*Conie A. Velez*

**M**agandang kinabukasan at patutunguhan ang hangad ng karamihan sa atin. Minsan gagawin natin ang lahat makamit lamang ang mithiing ito.



Bilang isang guro sa elementarya, naranasan ko ang masarap, masaya at mahirap na buhay ng pakikisalamuha sa mga kabataan. At sa loob ng tatlong taon ng aking pagtuturo ay nagawa kong magturo sa isang makeshift classroom na bubong at pisara lamang ang makikita. Ang classroom na ito ay nasa ilalim ng punong mangga at sa loob ng dalawang taon ay iyon ang naging tahanan ko at ng mga kabataan kapag may klase. Hindi madali sa akin ang ganoong sitwasyon sapagkat minsan ng aking pagtuturo ay kung saan-saan nakatingin ang mga bata at atensyon sa dahilang walang dingding ang aming classroom.

Isang araw, habang kami ay may faculty conference ay sinabi ng aming principal na papasok muli ang Kalahi-CIDSS para sa cycle 2. Binigyan niya kami ng pagkakataong lumahok, nagbabakasakaling sa pagkakataong ito ay ma-prioritize na ang aming barangay sapagkat noong cycle 1 ay hindi kami naka-avail sa kanilang programa.

Nahalal ako bilang BSPMC chairman noong barangay assembly. Sa una ay masaya ako sapagkat ibinigay ng komunidad ang tiwala nila sa akin na pangunahan ko ang programang ito, subalit sa bandang huli ay medyo nahirapan din dahil sa damping problema, sakripisyo at dagdag trabaho para sa akin.

Subalit ang mga ito ay binalewala ko lalo na nang matapos na namin ma-identify ang magiging project namin, ang isang unit ng gusaling pampaaralan na may kumpletong amenities at Ferrocement water tank. Sumilay ang ngiti sa aking labi at sa kapwa ko guro dahil may pagkakataon nang magkaroon ng conducive classroom ang mga mag-aaral na nasa makeshift classroom. Naging tuluy-tuloy ang aming kasiyahan lalo na nang i-announce noong 2nd MIBF na na-prioritize ang aming barangay na mabigyan ng proyekto mula sa Kalahi-CIDSS.

Naging inspirado kaming mga volunteers na lumahok lalo na sa mga seminars at workshop sa Kalahi dahil sa naging resulta. Subalit ang lahat ng ito ay napawi nang malaman naming wala palang pang-counterpart ang barangay dahil ang barangay IRA ay nakalaan na para sa multi-purpose building. Ang aking pananabik at kasiyahan ay naibsan at napalitan ng panlulomo at kalungkutan. Munitik ko nang maisipang magback-out at bahala na lang ang panahon kung bigyan ilit ng DepEd ang aming paaralan ng school building. Subalit isang pangyayari ang nagbibigay lakas at determinasyon sa akin na dapat ipagpatuloy ko kung ano ang aking nasimulan.

Isang araw habang ako ay nagtuturo ay biglang lumakas ang ihip ng hangin at bumuhos ang malakas na ulan. Naantala ang aming klase at ibang mga bata ay nabasa sapagkat walang dingding ang aming classroom. Hindi lamang ito nangyari isang beses subalit nasundan pa ng maraming beses. Gumuhit ang awa sa aking puso at naitanong ko sa aking sarili "Hanggang kailan kaya kami magtituis sa ganitong sitwasyon?" Paano ko kaya maibigay ang dapat sana ay good quality education sa mga bata kung sa bawat pagpatak ng ulan ay nabawasan din ang oportunidad nila na matuto?"

Ang pangyayaring ito ang nag-udyok sa akin na patuloy kong haharapin ang hamon at problema sa pag-implement ng Kalahi-CIDSS Sub-project.

Nagkaroon kami ng barangay assembly at doon ay inilahad naming mga volunteers ang problema ng counterpart. At sa desisyon ng community, bawat household ay magbibigay ng P150 upang mabuo namin ang P95,000 na BLGU counterpart. Nag-set kami ng deadline ng aming counterpart subalit marami ang hindi nakapagbayad sa maraming kadahilanhan. May mga hindi nagbibigay dahil walang sapat na hanapbuhay.

May ayaw ding magbigay dahil para sa kanila project daw ito ng barangay. Ang iba naman hindi nagbigay dahil wala na silang anak na nag-aaral sa elementarya at para sa kanila ay hindi sila makinabang sa itatayong proyekto. Sa madaling sabi ang problema naming ukol sa counterpart ay hindi pa rin natuldukan.

Dahil dito, nagkaroon kami ng panibagong plano para sa aming counterpart. Nag-solicit kami sa mga stakeholders sa aming barangay. Sa awa ng Panginoon, ang dating vice-mayor namin, si Franklinciano R. Serbiso, ay nagbigay ng P10,000. Nasilayan kong muli ang pag-asang mabigyan namin ng magandang classroom ang mga bata. Subalit hindi pa rin sapat. Kulang pa rin ang aming counterpart. At dahil ang mga mag-aaral ang end users ng aming proyekto ay naisipan naming mga teachers at barangay officials na mag-contribute para dito. Bawat guro at barangay official ay nagbigay ng P550, samantalang ang principal at barangay kapitan ay nagbigay ng P2,000 bawat isa sa kanila. Kaming tatlong guro na nagtuturo sa make-shift classroom na siyang gagamit sa classroom kung maitatayo ay nagbigay ng tig-P5,000. Dahil dito ang P95,000.00 na BLGU counterpart ay aming nabuo at nai-download sa aming account.

Patuloy ang takbo ng implementation ng aming proyekto kaakibat ng pagpapatayo nito ay ang walang humpay na problema. May pagkakataon na nahinto ang pagpapatrabaho dahil kinulang ang materials na gagamitin dahil hindi nakapag-haul ang hauler dahil minsan hindi sila magha-haul kung hindi mo sila bigyan ng pang-inom. Bilang BSPMC chairman, ako ang nagbigay ng pera upang magamit nila na pang-inom, para hindi magkaproblema pa ang aming hauling. May pagkakataon din na ang mga volunteers at workers ay nag-aaway. Minsan ang mga workers ay hindi nagre-report dahil delayed ang kanilang suweldo.

Ang mga problemang iyon ay nalusutan namin dahil ang mga volunteer ay nagkakaisa at nagkakaroon ng isang mithiin, ang maitayo ang gusaling pampaaralan. Sa ngayon ay nagamit na namin ang aming proyekto at wala nang batang nababasa sa gitna ng talakayan.

# TUGON

*Ni: Martin San Jose, Jr.*

# M

insan ay may nagsabi sa akin ng ganito, "Tayo ay mga sundalo ni Kristo. Dadalhin niya tayo sa lugar na nais niyang idestino". Nasabi ko tuloy sa aking sarili, tila yata totoo.

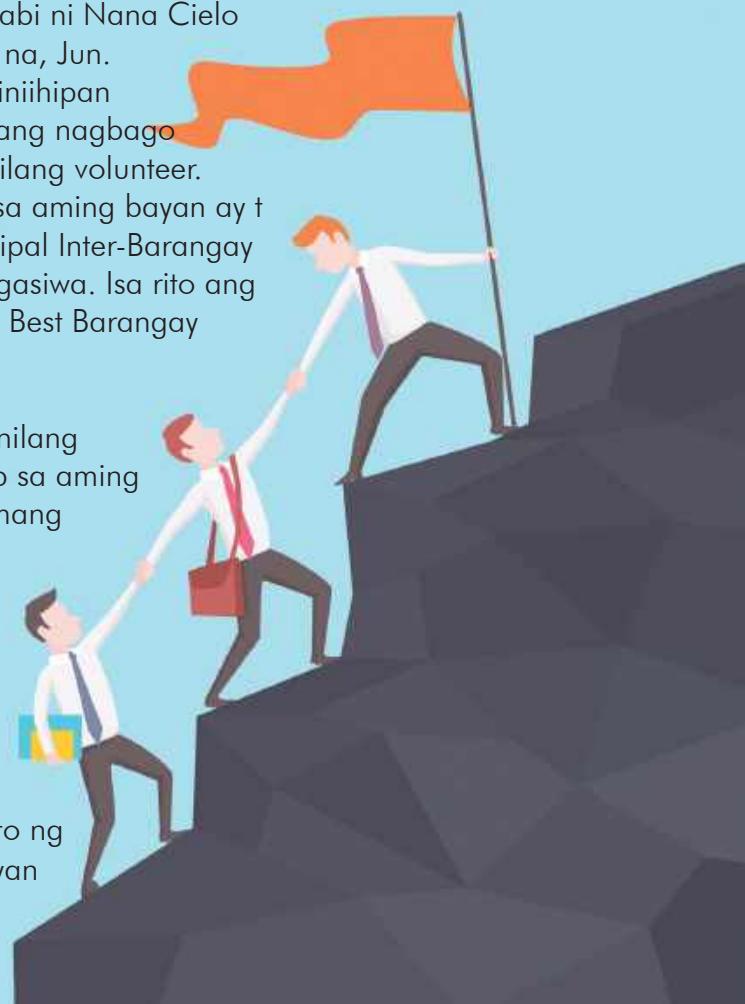
Noong dumating ako dito sa Barangay Hologan sa bayan ng Manito noong taong 2000, nasabi ko sa aking sarili na hindi ito ang lugar para sa akin. Para sa akin, ito ang lugar na masarap puntahan kapag sawa ka na sa ingay ng kabihasnan. Kung bakit ako naririto ay sa kadahilanang dinala ako ng aking mga paa dito upang alagaan ang aking inang may sakit. Umuwi siya rito nang panahon ng kanyang katandaan.

Noong pumanaw siya noong taong 2004, naramdaman kong tila ayoko nang iwan ang lugar na ito. Taong 2005 nang di inaasahang ma-involve ako sa gawain bilang volunteer ng Poder y Prosperidad dela Comunidad. Sa aking pagkakatanda, noon ay bibili lamang ako ng isang pares ng tsinelas ng aking pamangkin. Napadaan ako sa nagaganap na barangay assembly nang bigla akong paupuin ng aking tiyuhi na kagawad. Inis na inis ako noon. Ayoko ng mga ganitong pagtitipon. Ni wala akong ideya sa kung anong mayroon doon. Nadagdagan ang aking inis ng sa Election of BSPMC Officers para sa project na Construction of Level II, Water System ay mahalal ako bilang audit and inventory member. Ni wala talaga akong alam noong mga sandaling yon.

Mabilis namang umusad ang proyekto. Dumalo ako, (sapilitan man) sa mga training o workshop. Nasa 30 percent Physical Accomplishment ang project nang biglaang magresign ang BSPMC chair dahil sa problema sa kalusugan. Isang di malilimitang pangyayari ng pagkaisahan akong ipalit sa umalis na BSPMC chair dahil sa violation. Sabi ni Nana Cielo (isang retired teacher) BSPMC bookkeeper, "Tanggapin mo na, Jun. Nasa likod mo ako." Sa simula, tila ako hibla ng bulak na iniihipan at dinadala sa nais nilang direksyon. Mula noon, tuluyan nang nagbago ang kabanata ng buhay ko. Tuluyan na akong na-involve bilang volunteer. Bagay na nagustuhan ko na rin. Sa tatlong cycle ng Poder sa aming bayan ay tatlóng proyekto rin ang aming nasungkit sa lahat ng Municipal Inter-Barangay Forum (MIBF), dalawa dito ay nasa ilalim ng aking pangangasiwa. Isa rito ang nagbigay sa akin ng karangalan bilang Best Chairman and Best Barangay sa ginanap na Culminating Event noong June 2008.

Sa paglisan ng Poder sa bayan ng Manito, kasama nilang dinala ang aming mga puso. Ibayong lungkot ang lumukob sa aming mga BSPMC Volunteer. Hindi lang naman kasi proyekto lamang ang kanilang naipundar dito sa amin kundi maging ang matibay at mainit na samahang binuo nila sa amin.

Minsan nasabi ko sa aking kapwa volunteer, "Sana magbalik ang Poder. Sana kung hindi man, kahit Kalahi-CIDSS." Lihim ko rin itong ipinanalangin. May mga sandali na napapanood ko sa TV Patrol Legazpi at maging sa Balitang K ni Ms. Korina Sanchez ang tungkol sa proyekto ng Kalahi-CIDSS. Kaya't nasabi kong sana ay dalawin ang bayan



namin ng Kalahi. Ang hirap gumising sa umaga ng wala ka ng pinakakabaalan. Wala akong asawa't anak na pwede kong paglaanan ng pansi.

God is so good that He hears even the silent prayer of a sincere heart. Kahit impit at walang tunog na panalangin ay tinutugon Niya. Yes! Dumating nga ang Kalahi-CIDSS Makamasang Tugon.

Pero bakit ganon? Nang nagsisimula na ang proseso ng Kalahi, bakit para akong naduwag? Kumbaga sa isang sundalo, di pa man ako sumasabak sa giyera ay tila may tama na ako agad ng bala! Ang pakiramdam kong ito ay minabuti kong sarilihin na lamang. Marahil ang isiping iyon ay bunga ng agam-agam na baka sa ngayon ay di na kami ma-prioritize sa ranking. Considering the fact that we've got the three consecutive Poder Projects.

Ayoko ng ganitong pakiramdam kung kaya't kinabukasan nag-usap kami ng BSPMC Chair. Sanib-pwersa kami na gagawin namin ang lahat upang mairaos ang proyekto manalo man o matalo. Kung kaya't ganoon na lamang ang aming katuwaan nang sa muli, sa pang-apat na pagkakataon ay muli naming masungkit ang proyekto. Ang barangay health station na siyang lumabas sa aming ginawang Participatory Situational Analysis.

Pero hindi lahat ng panahon ay maganda. Minsan may mga panahon ng pangungulimlim. Nasa Manila ako para sa aking periodic medical check-up nang makatanggap ako ng balitang nagkaproblema sa implementasyon. Nasa halos 75 percent or 80 percent pa lamang marahil ang Physical Accomplishment ang proyekto nang mag-run out ang budget ng pasuweldo. Ako, bilang tumatayong BSPMC adviser ay nanlumo sa naging takbo ng pangyayari. Hindi ito nailihim sa Kalahi kung kaya't agad na nagpatawag ng emergency meeting ang regional or deputy area coordinator, si Engr. Eric Balines, kasama ang area coordinator na si Engr. Dindo Abellano at mga opisyal ng Kalahi.

Natapos ang nasabing meeting subalit wala

kaming konkretong planong nabuo kung kaya't agad kaming nagpatawag ni BSPMC chair ng isang ecom meeting. Doon ay bumalangkas kami ng isang plano. Isasabuhay namin ang Diwa ng Bayanihan. Kami-kami mismo ang gagawa ng mga naiwang trabaho. Agad naman naming itong ipinag-bigay alam sa aming kapitan na hindi naman nagkait ng tulong at agad kaming binigyan ng isang skilled worker. Ang ilan sa mga kagawad ay katulong ni BSPMC chair sa pagpipintura. Di ko malilimitang maging ang aming barangay record keeper na isang babae ay natutong magpintura ng mga window grills at maging ang baseboard ay siya ang may gawa.

Araw-araw ay naroroon kami sa ginagawang health station bitbit ang pag-asa at paniniwalang kawayan namin ng kapit-bisig ang problemang ito. Hindi nga ba't ito ang simbolo ng logo ng Kalahi? Ang kapit-bisig laban sa kahirapan?

Ang mga araw ng paggawa ay puno ng magagandang alaala. Ang ilan sa mga BSPMC volunteer ay siyang naghahanda ng aming pananghalian. Samantalang iba naman ay salitan sa pag-ako ng aming miryenda. It was indeed a labor of love. Di ko rin naman kasi kayang umuwi at bumalik sa project site dahil lubhang malayo ang aming tirahan na nasa tabing-dagat. Sa paglipas ng bawat araw ay unti-unti na naming nakikita ang bunga ng aming pinagpaguran. In fact, di pa nga ito lubusang naya-yari ay marami na kaming naidaos na mga barangay activities dito. Dito ginanap ang seminar ng family planning, regular na monthly pre-natal ng mga buntis, immunization, outreach program at maging ang barangay nutrition evaluation na isinagawa ng mga taga-region ay dito rin idinaos.

Ito ang lalong nagbigay lakas ng aming pag-pupursige upang magpatuloy. Hindi makakaila na ang proyektong dala ng Kalahi sa amin ay lubhang nakatugon sa pangangailangan ng aming barangay. Datì-rati noong wala pa kaming health station ay pinagdudugtung-dugtong namin ang mga maliliit na lamesa sa barangay hall upang magamit ng mga buntis para sa kanilang buwanang pagsusuri.

Isa lamang ito sa di mabilang na kapakinabangan ng Kalahi project.

Halos patapos na noon ang aming proyekto, may pintura ngunit wala kaming makuha ni BSPMC chair ng magle-lettering ng “KALAHİ-CIDSS-MT” bilang trademark ng Kalahi project.

Isang hapon, bago kami mag-uwian, bigla na lamang naglagay ng hagdan si BSPMC chair at pag-a pang siyang umakyat ng bubong. Palubog na noon ang araw kung kaya’t nakayanan niya ang init ng yero. Pinanood ko siya habang nagugulumihan kung bakit siya umakyat dun. “Bro. Jun, kaya mo po bang umakyat dito?” tanong niya, sabi ko, “Naku! Hindi po.” Pero makalipas ang ilang minuto, out of curiosity umakyat ako ng hagdan pero hanggang sa lagpas gutter lamang ako. Nginig ang tuhod na buong yabang na tumayo ng ilang segundo. Mas mahirap para sa akin ang aking pagapang na pagbaba. Nang sumunod na araw, may isinampang lubid si BSPMC chair sa magkabilang panig ng bubong. Nakatali ang magkabilang dulo sa mga grills ng bintana. Sumunod na araw natagpuan ko na lamang ang aking sarili na nangangatog ang dalawang tuhod, may hawak na pintura at lubid sa kaliwang kamay at brush ng pintura sa kanang kamay. Magkatulong kami sa lettering ng Kalahi-CIDSS-MT Trademark.

Sa apat na proyektong nahawakan ko katulong ang mga BSPMC volunteers, masasabi kong naranasan ko na ang lahat ng hirap sa pagproseso ng mga kinakailangang papeles. Subalit ang umakyat ng bubong ng isang building ay masasabi kong buwis-buhay para sa akin na mayroong fear of heights. Buwis-buhay sapagkat di pa man tapos ang final touch ng lettering ay tila aatakihin na ako sa puso. Marahil dulot ng tension, takot, at pagod. Naospital ako, subalit hindi ito naging dahilan ng aking pagsuko. Ngayon ko pa ba ito maiisip sa dami na ng mga karanasang natamo ko at nagpataas ng antas ng aking pagkatao. Alam kong hindi ito naging madali para sa amin. Napakarami din kaming isinakripisyong upang makitang nakatayo ang Barangay Health Station na ito. Napakalaking kapakinabangan nito sa aming komunidad.

Sa puntong ito ng aking paglalahad ng aking learnings, insight at experiences. Nais kong pasalamat si Gov. Joey Salceda, at ang aming municipal mayor upang ang aming inaasam ay magkaroon ng katuparan. Sa Kalahi-CIDSS-MT, isang di mapapantayang pasasalamat. Sa DSWD na nagsilbing instrumento upang makamit ito, salamat. Salamat rin sa komunidad. Kayo po ang tunay na Community Hero!

# A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE TO CHERISH AS COMMUNITY FACILITATOR

*By: Renante D. Letoda  
Monreal, Masbate*

In my 38 years of existence as a person and in my 12 years of being a government employee in the local government of Monreal, there can be no exciting and challenging than being a community facilitator of Kalahi-CIDSS: MT for almost a year.

Being in the planning office performing my daily assigned tasks is quite relaxing and comforting for I was just confined every day within the four walls of our office. I had a lot of free time and I was under no pressure. Thus, my life seemed boring and monotonous. I admit my personal development growth was slow and my other potentials and skills as a person was stagnant.

Fortunately, when Kalahi-CIDSS: MT came, I was given a chance to work as Community Facilitator, I felt so excited and my willingness to do community immersions rose. For me, it was really my personal desire to perform community works and socialize with different types of people who I believed would give me a good chance to harness my potentials as a social being and develop my ability to be a better person.

One of the most challenging roles in my life which I considered worth cherishing was the first time I visited my assigned barangay as CF to conduct barangay assembly and organize the community volunteers with their assigned committeees. It was really my first time to do such mind-collapsing and heart-at-tacking activity to stand in front of a big number of people, not knowing what kind of personalities they have prior to our meeting.

But because of my enthusiasm to help these people and my desire to know them better, I stood in front of them, tried to be strong and pretended to be okay and showed up my interest to be a part of their community and lived up for their expectations.

With their candid support and participation, I was able to organize the community volunteers orderly and with the help of their willingness to participate, be a part of the project implementation.

Yes, I did a great job and this experience was truly worth-remembering.



# KALAHİ-CIDSS SA BRGY. MAY BUHAY, MAY HANAP-BUHAY, MAKULAY

*Reynan E. Edeo*

Community Facilitator  
Rapu-Rapu, Albay

**P**ara sa akin ang Kalahi-CIDSS ay masasabi kong may buhay, makulay at may hanapbuhay sa komunidad sapagkat nabibigyan ng pagkakataon ang bawat-isa na i-develop ang kanilang mga kasanayan sa pagpapatupad ng tupad ng kanilang sub-project. Nagkakaroon din ang mga residente ng oportunidad na makapag-trabaho sa sarili nilang proyekto. Noong June 2012, ako ay pinalad na makapasok bilang community facilitator. Sa pagsimula ko ng aking trabaho, ako ay medyo nahirapan kung saan ako magsisimula sa tulong ng aming MM na si Jezon P. Romano, kami ay tinuruan ng mga istratehiya o techniques kung paano maging epektibo at mahusay na community facilitators. Sa katunayan, sa pitong CFs, ako lang ang hindi sumailalim sa pagsasanay na ginanap sa Casablanca Hotel pero hindi ako nag-isip ng negatibo sa aking trabaho. Sabi ko sa sarili ko kakayanin ko ang trabahong ito. Kalaunan nasusundan ko naman ang proseso ng Kalahi-CIDSS sa limang hawak kong barangay. Ang Barangay Guadalupe ang pinakamalayo na pinupuntahan ko tuwing may field work. Talagang grabeng tiyaga ang kailangan para lang magsagawa ng barangay assembly. Doon ko naranasan ang kumain ng mga exotic na pagkain tulad ng adobong sawa at bayawak. Sa kasamaang palad, ang kanilang barangay ay hindi na-prioritize ng Kalahi-CIDSS dahil hindi sila nakasama sa criteria setting. Malungkot tanggapin ang implikasyon para sa sarili ko. Masyado akong nasaktan sa isang taon kong pagtatrabajo bilang CF. I learned a lot from Kalahi-CIDSS. Natuto ako kung papaano humawak ng iba't ibang klase ng tao, mayaman man o mahirap. Sa klase ng aming trabaho, mahirap na masarap kung iisipin pero may bungang nakakamtan. Sa lahat ng hirap na aking nararanasan, ito'y nagsisilbing aral para sa akin.



# AKO BILANG ISANG VOLUNTEER

*Wilma Racal Samson*

Brgy. Villa Paz  
Municipality of Jovellar



**S**abihin na natin ang pagtanggap ng isang responsibilidad sa komunidad ay isang bagay na parehong mahirap at masaya. Pagod at pawis ang nakataya para lang makatulong ka madla.

Ganito ko ibabagagi at isasalaysay ang aking sarili.

Ako si Wilma Racal Samson., tatlumpu't isang taong gulang. Ipinanganak noong June 24, 1981. May asawa, lima ang anak, apat na babae at isang lalaki. Kasalukuyang nakatira sa Barangay Villa Paz, Jovellar, Albay. Nakapag-aryl subalit high school lang ang natapos ko. Mula ako sa isang mahirap na pamilya at naninirahan sa isang lugar na malayo sa kabilhasnan. Mahirap ang buhay sa aming lugar dahil tanging pinaggakakitaan lang ng mga tao ay ang pagkokopra, pagtatanim ng iba't ibang uri ng gulay, at kung anu-anong pang pwedeng itanim sa paligid.

Karamihan sa mga kabataan ay hindi nakapag-aryl sa kolehiyo dahilan sa walang panggastos sa matrikula. Marami rin ang mga kabataan na makatapos lang ng high school ay magbibyahe na papunta ng Maynila para makipagsapalaran sa buhay, namamasukan bilang isang katulong, o boy sa mga grocery store, para lang makapagpadala at makatulong sa mga magulang. Ika nga, "Habang may Buhay, may pag-aso, at darating ang isang umaga may hatid na saya."

Maraming taon, araw at mga oportunidad ang dumaan sa amin, ngunit hindi ito nagamit o nai-pabatid sa karamihan dulot ng mga unang taong naninirahan sa aming barangay na naging isa sa mga lider ng mga aktibidades o anumang programang galing sa gobyerno at anumang ahensiya na nagbibigay ng benepisyo sa pangkalahatan. Sabi nga sa kanta, "Sinayang Mo."

Noong tang 1993, ako ay nakagraduate ng elementarya. Mula 1993 hanggang 1997, ako ay nakapag-aryl ng high school, subalit ibang tao ang nag-alaga sa akin at nagpaaral. Nanirahan ako sa ibang tao. Napakahirap pero pinilit ko ang sarili ko upang sa ganon makatapos man lang ako ng high school.

Maraming baha ang sinapit ko noon sa bayan ng Jovellar. Ang ibang bahay, halos malubog nang buo sa baha partikular na sa mga lugar na mababa. Nang makatapos ako ng high school, dumating ako sa puntong 'di ko inaasahan. Nung kukuha sana ako ng form para sa scholarship ay biglang nagulo ang buhay ng taong tumutulong at nagtaguyod sa akin para makapag-aryl ng apat na taon sa high school. Umalis na ako sa kanila, umuwi na ako sa amin sa aking mga magulang. Naisip ko noon na ayokong matambay. Gusto kong makatapos ng college.

Subalit kahit anong pilit ko sa magulang ko na mag-aryl ako ng college, wala talaga silang pera na gagastusin. Ang sabi ng tatay ko, mabuti kung tatagal akong maglakad araw-araw at magbaon ng kamote. Ipilit ko man ang gusto ko, wala pa rin akong magawa. Naisipan ko sa sarili ko noon, "Bahala na. Tiisin na lang dahil ito yata ang tadhana ng kapalaran." Salamat sa Panginoon at natanggap ako bilang cashier sa supermarket sa Sta. Maria, Bulacan.

Doon ko naisip na ang buhay pala ng tao ay hindi biro lang. Maraming pagsubok na kailangan mong tanggapin. Naging masaya ang panahon na iyon para sa akin. Doon ko sinimulan kung paano naging "ako" sa edad na 17 taong gulang. Dumating na sa puntong mahirap ipaliwanag na emosyon pala ang sinasabing "pag-ibig."

Nakilala ko si Aladin Orbaise Samson. Nai-kasal kami sa simbahan at nagkaroon ng limang supling. Ang buhay pala ng tao ay isang paglalakbay. Dumating na ang panahon na magpapaaral na ako ng mga anak ko. Doon na ako nagsimula ng mga achievement ko sa buhay. Isa ako sa parent representative na nagpa-facilitate ng School Feeding Program for Yakap-Aral para sa mga batang kulang sa timbang. And now the biggest thing that God gave me was the opportunity to join this government program.

Ito na ang pagpasok ng Kalahi-CIDSS: Maka-masang Tugon ng DSWD. Noong unang punta nila sa amin, hindi pa ako naging interesado na sumali dahil maraming samu't saring mga bagay-bagay na hindi pa maliwanag sa isip. Wala pa akong gaanong ideya kung ano ang dapat gawin. Paano gagawin? At kung saan-saan nanggagaling ang kanilang pondo? Mainam kong inobserbahan kung paano ang paraan nila sa pagproseso ng proyekto.

Sa ikalawang pagkakataon na pagpunta sila sa aming barangay, mas naging interesado akong malaman ang KALAHIL-CIDSS. Noong una kasi, masyado kaming depressed at disganado sa mga proyekto. Marami ang mga naging survey sa amin, pero 'di talaga maibigay ng maayos ang tamang proyekto sa barangay.

Napakakritikal ang daan sa amin, lubak-lubak, maputik, mabato at makahoy. Daanan ito ng kalabaw at hindi nakakapasok ang mga sasakyain kaya kung meron mang mga taong may sakit, kinalonga lang sa duyan bago pa man makarating sa bayan. Walong kilometro ang nilalakad saka makakasakay pa lang ng dyip papunta ng provincial hospital. Namamatay na ang pasyente dahil 'di naagapan ng karampatang-lunas. Kulang kasi sa mga pasilidadis at gamot ang aming bayan.

Pumunta sila para mag-conduct ng barangay assembly, mag-analyze ng mga proyekto, pumili ng mga volunteers, at mag-prioritize ng proyekto. Una naming namungkahi ang barangay high school. Ang sabi ng mayor ay baka pwedeng ibang project

na lang kasi walang pwedeng pagtayuan ng school building. Nagpatawag ulit ng barangay assembly para palitan ang proyekto kaya nagmungkahi naman kami na kalsada na lang at ito ay napagsuduan ng pangkalahatan.

Kaya ito ang aming proyekto sa ngayon ay ang "Farm to Market Road." Napagbotohan at isa sa naging priority ito ng pitong barangay: Estrella, Maogog, Mamlad, Sinagaran, San Vicente, Villa Paz, at Bautista. Nagsimula na ang implementasyon, nagbaba na ng pondo ang procurement conference, ang lahat ng team ay may kanya-kanyang obligasyon, nagcanvass na at nagserve ng P.O. para sa mga materials at equipment na kakailanganin. Nagkaroon ng groundbreaking ceremonies bago simulan ang proyekto. Nang sinimulan ang trabaho, mas naging excited ang mga tao dahil naganap na ang matagal na hinahangad naming, ang magkaroon ng konkretong daan. Nagkakaroon kami ng regular BSPMC meeting kada una at pangatlong Biernes ng buwan.

Parati akong dumadalo ng mga seminar at workshop. Dito naintindihan ang lahat ang tamang paraan ng pagpapatakbo ng proyekto. Sa ngayon, on-going po ang aming proyekto bagama't hindi pa full accomplishment dahil minsan may epekto sa panahon.

Marami akong naging sad, bad, happy experiences dahil sa proyekto. Minsan ay nakakapagod at minsan ay may mga taong makitid ang pag-iisip at pananaw. Kumbaga, kukumbinsihin mo sila para maging parte sila ng proyekto sa komunidad. Bibigyan mo sila ng ideya para mahikayat sila. Sumasama ako sa mga CF, MCT, AC para pumunta sa mga barangay na nabigyan ng proyekto. Minsan napapabayaan ko ang aking pamilya lalo na ang mga bata. Mas inuuna ko ang obligasyon kaysa sa kanila. Thank God kasi very understanding ang mister ko. Okay lang na magsakripisyo and for the last moment may nagawa kang mabuti na magtatak sa isip ng karamihan. Darating ang isang maliwanag at maayos na daan. Ito ay bunga ng pagsisikap ng mga naging lider sa proyekto.

Tayo ay isang simbolo ng ilaw upang sindihan at magliwanag ang ating pangarap. Isa tayong instrumento na ipinadala ng Panginoon para hubugin at linangin ang ating mga kaalaman at gamitin sa mabuti at wastong paraan. Naging proud ako sa aking sarili dahil kaya ko rin palang makiharap sa mga taong may mataas ang pinag-aran o propesyon.

Naging mahirap ang September 5, 2012 para saakin. Ito ang araw na the best moment o experience ko kasi nakalabas 'yung feelings ko at mas lalong nahasa ang isip ko. Masaya at enjoy ako sa aking trabaho dahil gusto kong ipabatid sa lahat na ang Panginoon at pamilya ang aking inspirasyon para gampanan ang aking tungkulin. Lahat tayo ang materyales o equipment para buuin ang isang programa o proyekto.

Mabuhay Kalahi-CIDSS Program. Andar asin uswag banwaan para sa Kabikolan.





M a g K A L A H I   T a y o   P i l i p i n a s