

DRN: CARAGA-FO-DRMD-DRRMS-F-REP-24-04-12406-S

## MEMORANDUM

**FOR :** **MARI-FLOR A. DOLLAGA-LIBANG**  
Regional Director

**THROUGH :** **JEAN PAUL S. PARAJES, RSW, MSSW**  
OIC-Assistant Regional Director for Operations

**FROM :** **THE RRP-CFTW FOCAL**  
Disaster Response Management Division

**SUBJECT :** **FEEDBACK REPORT ON THE CONDUCTED COORDINATION MEETING WITH PLGU OF AGUSAN DEL SUR ON APRIL 11, 2024 AT THE OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATOR, PROVINCIAL CAPITOL, PATIN-AY, PROSPERIDAD, AGUSAN DEL SUR**

**DATE :** **12 APRIL 2024**

Respectfully submitting herewith, the feedback report for the recently conducted coordination meeting with the PLGU of Agusan del Sur for the implementation of Risk Resiliency Program through Cash-for-Training and Work (RRP-CFTW) project LAWA at BINHI (Local Adaptation to Water Access and Breaking Insufficiency through Nutritious Harvest for the Impoverished) on April 11, 2024 at the Office of the Provincial Administrator, Provincial Capitol, Patin-ay, Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur, to wit;

### ***A. Issues and Concerns***

The following DRMD staff: (1) Ms. Aldie Mae A. Andoy, OIC-DRMD Chief; (2) Ms. Alicia T. Marquiso, DRRS Head; (3) Ms. Rutchel R. Molino, PDO III/RRP Focal; (3) Engr. Oriel M. Jacobe, PDO III/RRP Program Support; (4) Mr. Leo Tristan S. Bagcat, PDO II/Provincial Focal, and; (5) Ms. Ma. Diovelle Salvan, PDO I/Alternate Provincial Focal, both assigned in Agusan del Sur, attended coordination meeting with the PLGU of Agusan del Sur represented by Forester Ronulfo R. Paler, Provincial Administrator; Ms. Maricar L. Prochina, Upland Sustainable Agricultural Development (USAD) Program Coordinator; and, Mr. Julius C. Quijada, Senior Agriculturist. PSWDO Razel O. Montemor was also invited during the meeting, however she and her staff, Edward Lloren were not available at that time.

These were the issues and concerns raised by the PLGU of Agusan del Sur:

1. Request for an exemption from participation in project LAWA or Local Adaptation to Water Access, the phase 1 of the two phases of Stage 2 process in Risk Resiliency Program (RRP) FY 2024 implementation;
2. Request to implement only the project BINHI or Breaking Insufficiency through Nutritious Harvest for the Impoverished, the second phase of the two phases of Stage 2 process in Risk Resiliency Program (RRP) FY 2024 implementation;



3. Validity and reliability of the documents submitted by PLGU-Agusan del Sur justifying the request for an exemption; and,
4. Non-submission of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and signed project proposal of the province of Agusan del Sur to DSWD Field Office Caraga for endorsement to DRMB-Central Office.

### ***B. Highlights of the Discussion***

1. The DRMD team explained to PLGU-Agusan del Sur the importance of implementing the two phases of Stage 2 process of the RRP as these were part of the guidelines of the program.
2. Ms. Molino, the RRP Focal, reiterated the agreements of the February 26, 2024 consultation meeting of DSWD Field Office Caraga with the Provincial Technical Working Group (TWG) of Agusan del Sur and the Municipal Focal Persons of the five (5) target LGUs of which she emphasized that the participants in that meeting agreed to implement the repair/rehabilitation of any multipurpose water infrastructure as part of project LAWA.
3. Forester Paler, the Provincial Administrator, pointed out that Agusan del Sur experienced less impact and adverse effects of El Niño, hence, the interventions proposed through project LAWA especially the establishment of small farm reservoir, which primarily aims to mitigate El Niño-related challenges do not apply to their situation.
4. The DRMD team recognized that Agusan del Sur was not part of the possible El-Niño-affected province as per climate outlook and drought/dry spell assessment report issued by DOST PAG-ASA dated 07 March 2024 but potential for dry conditions by April 2024. However, the DRMD team explained to PLGU-Agusan del Sur that project LAWA was not merely focusing on the construction or repair/rehabilitation of small farm reservoir but they may identify other projects and activities supporting water sufficiency. The team recommended that they can diversify water supplies to their banana plantation project to ensure the operation, maintenance, and sustainability of the project.
5. Forester Paler emphasized that they already have established infrastructure support and has made significant investments particularly in their water system. He added that their existing infrastructure ensured reliable access to clean water for their constituents, mitigating the risks associated with water scarcity during El Niño and hence the interventions planned under project LAWA would duplicate efforts and resources that are already in place.
6. Ms. Andoy, OIC-DRMD Chief reported that the DRMD team reviewed the documents submitted by PLGU-Agusan del Sur team to support their exemption from participation in project LAWA or phase 1 and found inconsistencies in the report and reflected that there are water systems that need to be coordinated to Municipal and Barangay LGUs for possible budget allocation.
7. Forester Paler responded to revise their report and revealed that they do not have any budget in their Annual investment Program (AIP) for realignment to support project LAWA for the construction or repair of any multipurpose water infrastructure for FY 2024 and highlighted that these projects are not identified as their "felt need."
8. Forester Paler stressed that their province's inclusion in project LAWA is unnecessary and may divert resources away from regions that truly need assistance in addressing El Niño-related challenges.



9. Forester Paler requested that their province be exempted from project LAWA (phase 1) and instead, be allowed to pursue project BINHI or phase 2 only, of which they considered as more aligned to their strengths and aspirations, such as planting calamansi, banana, and cacao.
10. Forester Paler underscored that DSWD Field Office Caraga may reallocate the project LAWA allocation to other provinces but if given the chance that the whole amount be reallocated back to them, they will maximize the allocation for project BINHI implementation.
11. Forester Paler denoted that they are more focused on their efforts and resources on addressing other pressing issues that are pertinent to their community's well-being and development.
12. Mr. Bagcat, the assigned Field Office provincial focal, revealed that the reason for the non-submission of MOA and signed project proposal was due to their pending request for an exemption from project LAWA implementation.

### ***C. Agreements Reached***

1. Revise the draft justification letter with the addressee's name to Secretary Rex Gatchalian for his information and further instruction.
2. Technical assistance will be provided by DRMD-RRP focal to revise the report of PLGU-Agusan del Sur for the status of their water system projects.
3. PLGU-Agusan del Sur's request for exemption from project LAWA implementation should be reinforced by a recommendation from DSWD Field Office Caraga.

### ***D. Recommendations***

1. Field Office Caraga to recommend to DRMB-Central Office that PLGU-Agusan del Sur be exempted from project LAWA (phase 1) and be allowed to pursue project BINHI only.
2. Field Office Caraga to recommend to DRMB-Central Office that PLGU-Agusan del Sur be exempted from project LAWA (phase 1) and be allowed to pursue project BINHI maximizing the budget allocation from project LAWA.
3. If the above-mentioned recommendations are not possible, the DRMD team will reallocate the budget for project LAWA of PLGU-Agusan del Sur to other provinces within the region.

### ***E. Photodocumentation***



Forester Ronulfo R. Paler, Provincial Administrator (center in black coat) is explaining here to the Technical Working Group (TWG) members of PLGU-Agusan del Sur to comply with the documents in support of their request for an exemption from participation and implementation of project LAWA.



**From left to right:** Ms. Rutchel R. Molino, RRP Regional Program Focal; Ms. Maricar L. Prochina, USAD Program Coordinator; Ms. Ma. Diovelle P. Salvan, PDO I; Ms. Alicia T. Marquiso, DRRS Head; Mr. Julius C. Quijada, Senior Agriculturist; Mr. Leo Tristan S. Bagcat, PDO II; Engr. Oriel M. Jacobe, PDO III/MATA Support; Forester Ronulfo R. Paler, Provincial Administrator; and, Ms. Aldie Mae A. Andoy, OIC-DRMD Chief.

For your information and further instruction.

Thank you.

**RUTCHEL R. MOLINO, PDO III**  
Focal, RRP-CFTW

Reviewed by:

**ALDIE MAE A. ANDOY, SWO IV**  
OIC-Chief, DRMD

Recommending Approval:

**JEAN PAUL S. PARAJES, RSW, MSSW**  
Assistant Regional Director for Operations

Approved by:

**MARI-FLOR A. DOLLAGA-LIBANG**  
Regional Director