

A Land of Opportunity for Outsiders

The Dulangan Higaonon Ancestral Domain

The *Higaonon* tribe in the Opol¹ and Manticao² municipalities of Misamis Oriental have traditionally practiced small-scale mining in their ancestral domain earning for it the name: *Dulangan*, which means “traditional mining.” Indeed, the ancestral domain of the Dulangan Higaonon tribe is a land of golden opportunity, allowing for a rich variety of economic activity such as mining, agriculture, fisheries, forestry, pasture, and tourism. Unfortunately, it is not the Higaonon tribe members who benefit from the bounty of the land, but outsiders.

The Ancestral Domain of the Dulangan Higaonon

The ancestral domain claim of Dulangan covers an area of more than 24,000 hectares, which according to the elders of the Dulangan Higaonon, should have been 28,000 to 30,000 hectares. This is reflected in records of the Office for the United Nation’s High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), which states that the Dulangan Higaonon are occupants of their ancestral territory in Misamis Oriental.

An estimated 30 percent of the total land area is forest cover while the remaining are farm and pasture lands. There are

¹ Six *barangays* in Opol, Misamis Oriental namely: Nangcaon, Tingalan, Bagoqboc, Awang, Cauyanon, and Limonda

² Two *barangays* in Manticao, Misamis Oriental namely: Mahayahay and Upper Malobog

at least three river systems found in the said domain. Iponan River is the main body of water found at the heart of the ancestral land.

There are around 11,000 people residing in the ancestral domain, majority of which are IPs. Their main source of livelihood is farming, and occasional hunting, gathering, and fishing in Iponan River. Although still relatively rural, economic activities within Dulangan Higaonon ancestral domain is rapidly undergoing industrialization due in part to the rich array of natural resources in the area and to its proximity to urban centers such as Cagayan de Oro City and Iligan City.

Dulangan Unified Higaonon Tribal Organization is the name of their Indigenous Political Structure (IPS) under the leadership of a council composed of the leaders of the eight tribal *barangays*. Its leaders are called *Limbobongan*.³

A heritage of displacement

The Dulangan Higaonon have been subjected to numerous historical experiences of displacement. Even prior the colonization of Northern Mindanao by the Spanish Crown, the Dulangan Higaonon have been subjected to displacement from their ancestral lands by invading Muslim kingdoms from the Sultanates of Lanao and Maguindanao. In these invasions, the Dulangan Higaonon served as the source of slaves for trade.

The Dulangan Higaonon staged uprisings against the Muslim invaders and succeeded to drive them out. Since then, they were able retain relative dominion over their land resisting Spanish, American, and Japanese rule.

³ Tribal chieftain: *Datu* Mampinuhan Norberto Puasan of *Barangay* Nangaon. The council members are *Datu* Fausto Landong of *Barangay* Limonda, *Datu* Maulana Romeo Gican of *Barangay* Cauyonan, *Datu* Mambubulig Roger Sambulay of *Barangay* Mahayahay, *Datu* Els Madrino of *Barangay* Upper Malubog, *Datu* Salansang Faustino Husayan of *Barangay* Tingalan, and *Datu* Tapurok Romel Mansilao of *Barangay* Awang.

It was only until the mid-20th century, upon entry of private individuals and corporations, that they lost control over critical portions of their ancestral domain. Jomorito Goaynon, Chair of the Kalumbay Regional Lumad Organization, says that during a series of land grabs and occupations by cattle ranchers in the 1950s, the Dulangan Higaonon were alternately forced off their land and then able to move back as various landlords came and went, even though the land was now deforested and their communal structure of life fractured.

Laying claim over their ancestral domain

In view of securing their claim over their ancestral domain, the Dulangan Higaonon filed an ancestral domain claim with the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP). It has been 12 years since their ancestral domain claim has been staked at the NCIP (2006). To date, the land has yet to be fully awarded to the Dulangan Higaonon tribe.

The first few years were spent complying with the requirements for the self-delineation process of their ancestral domain claim until they hit a major snag. Tremendous delay was caused by overlapping land claims of outsiders within their ancestral domain.

This was further complicated when the Joint DAR-DENR-LRA-NCIP Administrative Order 01, Series of 2012 (JAO 1) was inked. The JAO 1 stipulates that overlapping land claims of outsiders within ancestral domains shall be considered existing and vested property rights, and shall be excluded/ segregated from the ancestral domain claim. It also stipulates that a Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT) shall only be issued once the overlapping land claims have been resolved and delineated as certified by Certificates of Non-Overlap (CNO) to be issued by the DAR (Department of Agrarian Reform), DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources), and LRA (Land Registration Authority).

To date, the JAO 1 has caused the delay of issuance of CADTs not only of the Dulangan Higaonon, but also of CADTs and Certificate of Ancestral Land Titles (CALTs) of indigenous peoples and indigenous cultural communities (IPs/ICCs) nationwide.

Due to the additional procedural burdens caused by the JAO 1 on the ancestral domain titling process, the Dulangan Higaonon are not able to effectively enforce their claim over their ancestral domain allowing for unhampered entry of outsiders. This has spurred several instances of land grabbing.

Although mandated by the IPRA, it has been the norm that their traditional systems of governance be set aside in matters related to their ancestral domain. Rarely do outsiders make the effort to show due respect to the Dulangan Unified Higaonon Tribal Organization by securing free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) before pursuing any project within the Dulangan Higaonon ancestral domain. This action has led to bloody confrontations.

Contestation from within: inter-tribal conflict

One source of difficulty in securing the CADT for the Dulangan Higaonon ancestral domain is internal conflict. Factions have formed that challenge the leadership of the existing tribal chieftain. This situation has caused difficulty in coming up with a list of families to be enlisted as beneficiaries of the ancestral domain.

In addition to this, another group of IPs based in Cagayan de Oro City has applied for a separate ancestral domain claim over selected *sitios* in Cagayan de Oro City and half of the *barangays* claimed under the Dulangan Higaonon ancestral domain claim in Opol, Misamis Oriental. The Cagayan de Oro-based IPs filed their ancestral domain claim after the Dulangan Higaonon filed theirs in 2006. The former IPs'

leadership is over a tribe of similar Higaonon ancestry and heritage outside of the Dulangan Higaonon.

The leadership of the other group has, in two instances, disrupted community consultations conducted by the NCIP in connection with the delineation of the ancestral domain of the Dulangan Higaonon. In both instances, they abrasively contended that the territory claimed by the Dulangan Higaonon Tribal Organization is illegitimate and belongs to the IPs from Cagayan de Oro City. This has caused confusion among the members of the Dulangan Higaonon Tribal Organization and proved to be a major hurdle in the finalization of the boundaries of their ancestral domain claim.

This has been recently resolved in a conflict resolution process in adherence to Higaonon customary law, and resulted in the setting of boundaries of both IPs' ancestral domain claims. Both ancestral domain claims are now due for perimeter surveys by the NCIP.

Mining in the Dulangan Higaonon ancestral domain

Mining is a traditional source of income dating back to precolonial times where the Higaonon traded their crafts for food and other merchandise from merchant traders, particularly the Chinese. Through the years, mining has transitioned from traditional practices to small and large-scale methods where private companies, foreign, and local including Dulangan Higaonons themselves have invested in harvesting gold ores from the ancestral domain.

As a result, migrants flocked over, increasing the population by hundreds of people every year. Even politicians encroach upon the ancestral domain of the Dulangan Higaonons. This is a big challenge to them as their traditional ways of living are being challenged by the flux of outsiders entering their ancestral domain.

The increase in the population has also triggered conflicts over land tenure. Competition over land and overlapping territorial claims abound. At times, conflict situations boil over, leading to violence between disputing parties.

“Aside from mining, there are a number of overlapping land claims within the Dulangan Higaonon ancestral domain. The local government has declared a reservation area for a water system within the ancestral domain.”

In the scourge of Typhoon *Sendong* (Washi) in 2011, the damage caused by heavy flooding was horrific, killing thousands of people. One of the identified causes of the flooding was the mining from uptown communities which include communities from the Dulangan Higaonon areas. Since then, mining activities have been strictly prohibited in the area.

The policy prohibiting mining in the Dulangan Higaonon ancestral domain was supported by then Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Gina Lopez. Despite these, mining companies are still attempting to continue or start new operations in the ancestral territory outside

of the FPIC process. This is due to the knowledge that the CADT has not yet been issued.

A land torn apart

Aside from mining, there are a number of overlapping land claims within the Dulangan Higaonon ancestral domain. The local government has declared a reservation area for a water system within the ancestral domain. Although the Dulangan Higaonon understand that the project is for the greater good, they still assert that the project should have underwent the proper FPIC process.

Also, Certificates of Land Ownership Award (CLOAs) have been issued to non-IP agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) in the early 1990s within the ancestral domain. After 12

years of issuance and use for agriculture, the ARBs sold the land to the Mindanao Enduro Park.

Encroachment by Agribusiness⁴

Many areas of the Dulangan Higaonon ancestral domain are now planted with oil palm, which some members of the Dulangan Higaonon tribe leased to a certain agribusiness corporation named A. Brown – a trading, real estate, mining and energy, and oil palm cultivation and milling company. This is due in part to the government’s campaign to promote the palm oil industry in the area.

Joseph Paborada, chairman of the local indigenous people’s organizations called *Pangalasag*⁵ petitioned with the DENR for land rights to 520 hectares of an old, abandoned grazing concession they had reclaimed and were farming. But according to both Joseph Paborada and Jomorito Goaynon, the local DENR officials were in negotiation with a pro-corporation organization. The negotiations culminated in the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement allowing A. Brown Energy and Resource Development, Inc. (ABERDI), a subsidiary of A. Brown Corporation, to establish its oil palm plantation on the already-cultivated land under what is called the Community-Based Forest Management (CBFM) program.

Paborada and Goaynon alleged that some residents were tricked into waiving the rights to their land using signatures transferred onto documents they have never read. Many were not made aware of the investment negotiations. This is supported by the statement of the Dulangan Higaonon Tribal Council, that A. Brown upon their entry to the ancestral domain in 2002, did not undergo the correct FPIC process, thereby violating the rights of the tribe over their ancestral domain.

⁴ Excerpts in this sections were paraphrased from an article by Brad Miller in *Mongabay* published on 1 June 2017.

⁵ *Indigenous shield*, then called the Sarahogon Bagoceboc Farmer’s Association

Jomorito Goaynon said that in a 2014 Congressional hearing, it was later revealed that a Community-Based Forest Management Agreement (CBFMA) for the area never existed. The DENR's Assistant Chief of Enforcement Division in Region 10, Sarah Chacon, said in an interview in March 2017 with Mongabay that there is an ongoing investigation into whether ABERDI is operating with the proper permits.

Violence, impunity, and development aggression

ABERDI began clearing the land for its nursery and planting operations in 2010-2011 under its subsidiary, Nakeen Corporation. Pangalasag members say that even those who did not opt to give up their land were barred from entering into their farms by the company's armed guards, who were given what Joseph Paborada called a "shoot to kill" order if anyone trespassed. Paborada said anyone not backing Nakeen's operation was harassed – their crops destroyed or planted over with oil palm, their houses burnt.

One morning in 2010, Edwin Baronggot was working on his land. He recalled how a dump truck and several other vehicles arrived, loaded with armed company guards, government security forces, and members of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI). Shots were fired, he said, and people ran. Baronggot said he was apprehended, beaten by an NBI agent and thrown in jail for two weeks. His case was dismissed three years ago, but he has lost his land and his livelihood. He has not returned to his farm since the incident. He says he lives under the pall of a death threat.

As does Joseph Paborada, whose brother Gilbert, the prior leader of Pangalasag, was shot and killed on October 3, 2012 in Cagayan de Oro City by two men on a motorcycle. Joseph claims his brother was murdered after refusing an offer of PhP 1 million to cease his opposition to the palm oil operation. Then on 2 December 2013, one of the group's founding members, Rolen Langala, was allegedly murdered



by a Bagochoc town councilor, stabbed and shot twice in the head at a community festival, according to the Kalumbay Regional Lumad Organization.

Because of “money and power,” says Joseph Paborada, “the force has continued.” He added that the murders have remained unpunished. Pangalasag members say that the elected town leader of Tingalan, allegedly a supervisor at the plantation, is now driving around in an expensive sports utility vehicle (SUV) and protected by armed security. Tension remains in the community, which is divided over the issue of palm oil.

Militarization of the ancestral domain

An atmosphere of impunity and lack of responsiveness by government agencies has left Paborada and others feeling abandoned and forgotten. He says he has little faith in the squad of soldiers from the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) that are now camped out in the town hall for what Staff Sergeant Felipe Minister told Mongabay was a Civilian-Military Operation under President Rodrigo Duterte’s Development, Support and Security Plan – the new program

being employed to fight the 48-year-old insurgency of the communist New People's Army (NPA).

From past experience, the Dulangan Higaonon regard the military as “protectors of the plantations,” as Paborada puts it, and claim it brands anyone that opposes the palm oil industry as NPA. The Nakeen Corporation suspended its operation in Opol in September 2016, and Joseph Paborada says the community was left with no benefits, broken promises and one alternative: “If the government would not help us, we will seek help from the NPA.”

Prevailing situation

The Dulangan Manobo have been part of the **Joint Action for Land Rights (JALR)** project since 2016. The Balay Alternative Legal Advocates for Development in Mindanao, Inc. (BALAOD Mindanaw) supports the implementation of the project through capacity development interventions; legal counsel; community organizing; and information, education and communication (IEC) campaigns. Also part of the JALR, the Dulangan Higaonon engaged in dialogues with government agencies and the media in 2017: (1) policy dialogue on overlapping land claims in Northern Mindanao in Cagayan de Oro City, (2) local media briefing in Cagayan de Oro City, and (3) national policy dialogue on the JAO 1 in Quezon City.

Members of the Dulangan Higaonon tribe are now actively monitoring the status of the CBFM issues, mining permits, and other resource use instruments within their ancestral domain. This is to ensure that if said resource use instruments expire, they can push for the observance of FPIC.

They are also constantly following up the NCIP on the status of their CADT. In tribal assemblies, they are holding voluntary community discussions about the IPRA and their claim. In a tribal assembly, they invited the NCIP and DENR

to be present for tribe members to be able to air out their sentiments in person. The leadership particularly asked the NCIP to conduct the photo documentation since it is the only lacking document in their folder as indicated in the claim status given to them, but NCIP was not able to adhere to their request accordingly due to lack of personnel.

Call to Action

The Dulangan Higaonon is a case among many that manifest the need to revise the JAO 1. The JAO 1 must be transformed from an abeyance to the issuance of CADTs in the presence of overlapping land claims within ancestral domain claims, to a policy that effectively resolves overlapping land claims within ancestral domains.

Likewise, the clamor of the Dulangan Higaonon and human rights organizations for A. Brown, ABERDI, and, Nakeem to take full accountability for deceiving residents to waive their rights over their land, and for taking the lives, livelihood, and way of life of members of the Dulangan Higaonon tribe, must be heard. Ailene Villarosa, Advocacy Officer for the Rural Missionaries of the Philippines-Northern Mindanao Sub-Region (RMP-NMR) utters: “This is not the type of development people are asking for—the destructive development that will ruin their lives.”

It cannot be overstated that measures to claim justice for the Dulangan Higaonons, and for indigenous peoples and indigenous cultural communities (IPs/ICCs) in general must be undertaken to restore a lasting peace not only in ancestral domains, but nationwide. Many residents affected by the palm oil plantations have been left with meager plots as small as half a hectare to till for their subsistence and livelihood. Joseph Paborada, in a local dialogue process with the local government encapsulates the burning desire of the Dulangan Higaonon: “We want our land back.” ■



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agrarian Reform
Elipit Road, Diliman, Quezon City

NOTICE OF COVERAGE FOR LANDHOLDINGS UNDER PHASE 3-A

Pursuant to the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law or Republic Act (R.A.) No. 6657 as amended by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) is mandated to cover under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) Phase 3-A, the following Landholdings:

Name of Landowner	Last Known Address of Landowner	Title No.	Lot No.	Survey No.	Area	LAD Phasing	Location of the Landholding (Province, Municipality, Barangay)
NAVARRO ABELIA DA. DE CARIAS (Decedent) Represented by: NAVARRO CELISTO G. (Decedent) c/o Heirs of Celestino G. Navarro Kame Alicia Richard Navarro and Audrey Alicia Richard Navarro and Amelia Christine Richard Navarro	244 Hillside Avenue, First Floor, Pinarosa I, 15302, USA	T-41497	4009-A	Pal-245858	3,8911	3A	Misamis Oriental, Cagayan de Oro City, Pagsanjan

Under Phase 3-A actual land acquisition and distribution will be implemented by the DAR in so far as the excess hectareage above ten (10) hectares of the landowner's single aggregate landholding is concerned, however, the landowner may exercise the following options:

1. Choose the landholdings in excess of ten (10) hectares of his/her landholding to be covered under Phase 3-A and the 10-hectares area to be covered coverage under Phase 3-B;
2. Exercise in advance his/her right to retain an area not exceeding five (5) hectares pursuant to Section 6 of RA6657;
3. Offer under Voluntary Offer to Sell (VOS) the aggregate landholding above his/her retention limit for immediate CARP coverage; or
4. Offer under Voluntary Offer to Sell (VOS) the entire landholding, including his/her retention for immediate CARP coverage;

Within thirty (30) calendar days from the date of publication of this NOC, each of the above named landowner must respond to the NOC, manifesting therein the option he/she has chosen (CARPER LAD Form No. 4-A, Landowner's Reply to Notice of Coverings of lands Under Phase 3-A) and submitting the following documents to support his/her option, as may be applicable:

1. Approved Survey Plan or sketch plan certified by a Licensed Geodesic Engineer of the above-mentioned property;
2. Landowner's choice of area in excess of 10 hectares for coverage under Phase 3-A (CARPER LAD Form No. 4-B) and sketch map thereof;
3. Landowner's Letter Offer for VOS (CARPER LAD Form No. 16) and supporting documents;
4. Manifestation to exercise in advance the right to retain an area not exceeding (5) hectares (CARPER LAD Form No. 5), and sketch map of the entire property with destination or shading or any general indication of the area to be retained. The L.O may choose a retention area of the same area that he/she is a period of three (3) days after manifesting his/her desire to exercise the said right. However, in the case of co-owners, who filed a manifestation to NOC, the co-owner or heirs must petition the co-owners to choose a retention area within sixty (60) days from receipt of the notice that automatically authorizes the DAR/DRO to choose the area to be retained. The right landowner or co-owners are advised to comply with the provisions of Section 30-31-32 and 37 of DAR A.O.S. 2011 (CARPER LAD Form No. 5 and 6);
5. List of names of nominated children as preferred beneficiary/ies. (CARPER LAD Form No. 7)
6. List of agricultural lessees, regular and seasonal farmers, and/or tenants in the landholding. (CARPER LAD Form No. 8)
7. Manifestation to apply/petition for exemption/avoidance or protest from CARP Coverage (CARPER LAD Form No. 9) The Application/Petition for Exemption/avoidance or Protest from CARP Coverage may be filed together with the above-referenced Manifestation. It is not filed jointly that L.O can file together registration period shall be considered a waiver or abandonment of his/her/his/her right to file said petition for Exemption or Protest CARP coverage with respect to the landholding covered.

In the case of numbers 5 and 6 above, the failure to reply with the requirements of this NOC within the period shall be a waiver of the landowner's privilege to nominate children as preferred beneficiary/ies and nominate the agricultural lessees, regular and seasonal farmers and/or tenants, if any.

This Notice also serves as notification to whoever has interest on the property as successors or as transferees that he/she should manifest and signify in writing his/her legal interest over the subject property to the DAR Provincial Office within fifteen (15) days from receipt/publication of this Notice of Coverage.

[Signature]
RODOLFO S. MIBUENO
Director, Bureau of Land Acquisition and Distribution

November 15, 2012
Date

Manila Bulletin-Nov. 16, 2012

At the Crossroads of Urbanization

The Struggle for Agrarian Justice of the Pagatpat Asosasyong Mansasaka (PAMA)

Since 1980, members of the Pagatpat Asosasyong Mansasaka (PAMA) were the actual tillers of 5 parcels of agricultural land, totalling 18.6949 hectares in *Barangay* Pagatpat, Cagayan de Oro City, under peaceful and consensual arrangements with the now deceased landowner Amelia G. Navarro. The said parcels of land served as the stage for agrarian unrest between the PAMA and the Jukens Builders and Trade represented by Joselito Talaid.

Profile of the Community: Barangay Pagatpat, Cagayan de Oro City

Barangay Pagatpat is one of the 80 *barangays* in Cagayan de Oro, Misamis Oriental located in the north-central part of the city. The *barangay* is a plain land with a large river (Iponan River) located in the northeast.

Barangay Pagatpat used to be an agricultural community. The major crops grown in the area are corn, banana, rice, coconut, and papaya. At present, many of the agricultural lands have been reclassified into residential lands to cope with the fast-growing population of the city. *Barangay* Pagatpat was identified by the City Government as one of its relocation sites. Recently, a housing project was constructed by the city government. Not less than 1,000 houses were built to cater to informal settlers living in the city. Among

the lands affected by the reclassification of agricultural lands to residential lands are the lands of the PAMA.

Pagatpat Asosasyong Mansasaka (PAMA) and their landholding

PAMA is a farmers' association duly registered with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) under Certificate of Registration No. WMO-X-06-039-2008 and with office address at House No. 375, Zone 7, Pagatpat, Cagayan de Oro City. They are farmers who, since 1980, have been the actual tillers and tenants of five parcels of agricultural land in Pagatpat, Cagayan de Oro City which were then covered by TCT No. T – 43500, T- 43497, T- 43801, T – 43499, and T – 43498, with a total land area of 18.6949 hectares and registered in the name of the late Amelia G. Navarro. The said lands are agricultural and irrigable as per certification by the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) of Cagayan de Oro City.

A peaceful past: Harmony with the landowner

Since 1980, the PAMA planted coconut, bananas, corn, *palay* (rice), mangoes, vegetables, and an orchard of assorted seasonal fruits on their land. During harvest time, the PAMA shared the fruits of their labor with the landowner, Ms. Amelia G. Navarro, under arrangements agreed upon by both parties. In the farmers' times of need, Ms. Navarro time and again, showed acts of compassion towards them. As such, the PAMA considered Ms. Navarro not only as their landowner, but also as their friend.

On 9 February 1991, Ms. Navarro passed away and the same landowner-farmer relationship continued with the landowner's sole heir, Mr. Celestino Navarro, and his subsequent heirs Ms. Karen Alician Rineheart and Ms. Aubrey Alicia Rineheart who resided in the United States of America.

An Abrupt Development

The peace was disturbed in 2007 when Jukens Builders and Trade bulldozed the farmlands of the PAMA and seized the land to make way for socialized housing. Total damage was estimated at one million pesos.

Jukens Builders and Trade was owned by Joselito Talaid, a Mayor of Kadinglan, Bukidnon who claimed that the landholdings of the PAMA were sold to him by the heirs, Ms. Karen Alicia Rineheart and Ms. Aubrey Alicia Rineheart in 2008. Through the years, Jukens Builders and Trade continued to seize the land under the possession of the PAMA until only four hectares remained with them.

Beginning of the Struggle

The PAMA was terrified of the actions of the Jukens Builders and Trade. Ms. Rumelin Calalin, member of PAMA, said that not only did the children cry, but so did the adults, most especially the elderly in the sight of their farmlands, which for more than 20 years they tilled, were leveled, destroyed, and paved.

Alejandro L. Responde, the leader of the PAMA rallied his family and his companions to muster the strength to resist the actions of Jukens Builders and Trade. They sought the counsel and support of civil society organizations (CSOs) and the Church. They were advised to file cases against the Jukens Builders and Trade and as such, on 29 November 2007, the PAMA filed a case of declaration of “Tenancy, Peaceful Possession, Security of Tenure, Damages, and Issuance of Temporary Restraining Order (TRO)” against Amelia G. Navarro, Celestino G. Navarro, and Jukens Builders and Trade (as represented by Joselito J. Talaid) over the land that they till before the Provincial Agrarian Reform Adjudicator (PARAD) of Misamis Oriental docketed

as Department of Agrarian Reform Adjudication Board (DARAB) Case No. X (06) 2041.

The landholdings are covered under the CARP

“An investigation was conducted by the DAR Provincial Office of Misamis Oriental and it was found out that ongoing developments were introduced in the area without prior DAR clearance.”

On 21 January 2008, Provincial Agrarian Reform Officer (PARO) Zoraida Omar Macadindang, Al Hadja of Misamis Oriental, issued a Notice of Coverage (NOC) to the heirs of Amelia G. Navarro placing the entire landholding under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) coverage. Subsequently on 6 February 2008, Alejandro L. Responte et. al. filed before the DAR Region 10 Office a complaint for illegal, premature, and unauthorized conversion against Jukens Builders and Trade for having developed a housing project over the subject land even without the required conversion order from DAR.

At this time, the Jukens Builders and Trade have already constructed a fence around the landholding. A guard house and gate protrude the entrance of the landholding with a conspicuous sign which reads: FATIMA WEST PLAIN SUBDIVISION. Roads have been paved traversing where the farmlands of the PAMA used to be as laborers continue to cut down the remaining fruit bearing trees.

Initial gains

An investigation was conducted by the DAR Provincial Office of Misamis Oriental and it was found out that ongoing developments were introduced in the area without prior DAR clearance. As a result, on 7 July 2008, the Regional Director John M. Maruhom issued a Cease and Desist Order (CDO) against Jukens Builders and Trade to prevent further destruction of the land, lest it be rendered unsuitable for agricultural uses.

Without the compliance of Jukens Builders and Trade, the DAR Region 10 led by Regional Director John Maruhom along with its Provincial and City Field Offices enlisted the help of the Philippine National Police (PNP) Regional Command 10 to impose the CDO on 13 November 2008. Joselito Talaid and Jukens Builders and Trade were forced to stop their operations for seven days.

DAR: A sudden change in tune

Released on 31 October 2008, the decision of the PARAD Atty. Charlito A. Sabuga-a became a major challenge to the struggle of the PAMA for rights over the subject landholdings. DARAB Case No. X(06) 2041 declared the PAMA as not *de jure* tenants effectively ordering them to vacate and demolish their respective houses and farm lots on 31 October 2008. The PAMA appealed against this decision of the DARAB.

In addition, on 27 February 2009, a newly-appointed Acting DAR Regional Director, Felix B. Aguhob issued an order lifting the CDO which emboldened Jukens Builders and Trade to continue the destruction of the agricultural lands despite it being placed under CARP coverage. To this, Joselito Talaid wrote to DAR Region 10 that he intends to apply for Exemption for Land Conversion. The regional office of DAR then accommodated the request by extending the deadline for submission of Application for Land Use Conversion (ALUC) for seven months, expiring on 17 December 2009. In all this, the PAMA was left in the dark.

Upon learning of the lifting of the CDO after a month's time, the PAMA immediately filed a Motion for Reconsideration with the Acting DAR 10 Regional Director on 19 March 2009. After almost one year, the Acting DAR Regional Director issued a resolution dated 22 February 2010 denying the Motion for Reconsideration and affirming the lifting of the CDO.

A mediation process was also initiated by the DAR where the offer of 100-square meter lot, PhP 50,000, and 11 coconuts were offered by the Jukens Builders and Trade. The PAMA rejected the offer as it is not commensurate to the damage done against the PAMA, and citing as well that the process of mediation did not follow the process as prescribed in prevailing policy of the government.

Co-conspirators

Regional Director Aguhob wrote to Joselito Talaid stating that “DAR 10 strongly dissuade Ex-mayor Talaid from undertaking further development activity in the landholding, until and unless his application shall have been finally decided by the DAR Secretary.” In addition, the letter also indicated that Regional Director Aguhob wrote to the PAGIBIG Fund¹ that Mr. Talaid developed only the five hectares of land with no existing tenants and as such, there would be no need for Conversion Clearance from the DAR. This is contrary to the fact that Jukens Builders and Trade developed the whole 14 hectares seized from PAMA. This was coupled by another letter to Fermine Sta. Teresa, Branch Head of the PAGIBIG Fund in Cagayan de Oro issuing his support to Ex-Mayor Talaid’s Loan Application worth PhP 40,000,000 for socialized housing projects in the subject landholdings.

When the PAMA approached Regional Director Aguhob regarding their application to become ARBs of the subject landholdings, Aguhob told the PAMA members that they cannot be considered as such.

The struggle continues

The farmers, through counsel, wrote a letter dated 9 February 2010 asking the DAR Region 10 to effect a Notice of Coverage and to distribute the subject lands to farmer beneficiaries. Immediately after hearing the bid of the

¹ PAGIBIG is a home development mutual fund of the Government of the Philippines.

PAMA, Joselito Talaid applied for Land Use Conversion of the subject lands from agricultural to residential with the Center for Land Use Policy, Planning and Implementation (CLUPPI) under the DAR on 10 February 2010. This is after unlawfully entering and destroying the subject lands for more than three years. Joselito Talaid's application of conversion was opposed by the PAMA through the filing of an Opposition/Objection dated on 8 March 2010 with the CLUPPI.

PAMA with the assistance of Balay Alternative Legal Advocates for Development in Mindanaw, Inc. (BALAOD Mindanaw) in the person of Atty. Roy Lago Salcedo on 19 July 2010, filed an Urgent Motion to Enforce the Cease and Desist Order before the Office of then DAR Secretary Virgillo De Los Reyes enjoining Jukens Builders and Trade to stop developing the subject landholdings. The order also required Jukens Builders and Trade to prove why they should not be liable for undertaking illegal and premature conversion.

The PAMA also pressured the DAR to file a criminal case against Joselito Talaid and Jukens Builders and Trade for engaging in illegal land use conversion and as well, issue the Notice of Coverage over the subject landholdings. As such, on 15 December 2012 the DAR issued a Notice of Coverage for subject landholdings and on the next day, the list of potential ARBs were posted in the *Barangay* Hall and the Information Center in the City Hall of Cagayan de Oro. The members of the PAMA were the ARBs declared in the list to which no opposition was met.

Jukens Builders and Trade resorts to violence

Joselito J. Talaid hired security guards from Tagbagani Security and Investigation Agency on 23 June 2011 to defend the development of Jukens Builder and Trade. These guards were instructed to harass the PAMA and their families. These incidents prompted the farmers through DAR PARO



Office to request for assistance from the PNP-Cagayan de Oro City.

In one instance on 26 April 2012, Alejandro Responte, the leader of the PAMA received an anonymous letter containing the message “Rest in Peace.” Responte said that he was not afraid.

The day after, on 27 April 2012, the Responte residence was showered with bullets by unidentified men. Fortunately, no one was hurt.

To the courts!

In view of having disregarded the requirement in law in filing a conversion application prior to its development in the subject landholding (a complaint for premature conversion against Jukens Builders), a case was filed before

the Municipal Trial Court in Cagayan de Oro City. However, the said case is still on pending resolution.

On 13 September 2012, the DARAB promulgated a decision in DARAB CASE NO. 16067 (Reg. Case No. X (06) 2041) which affirmed the decision of Atty. Charlito A. Sabuga-a. A Motion for Reconsideration (MR) was then filed but was subsequently denied. Thereafter, the decision was raised to the Court of Appeals through a Petition for Review on the Decision of the DARAB in its decision dated 15 December 2014. A Petition for Review on the decision of the Court of Appeals was likewise filed before the Supreme Court (SC) but was again denied by the SC in its resolution dated 25 March 2015.

Thus, the issue on tenancy was finally resolved – the PAMA shall not be considered as *de jure* tenants in the subject landholdings. Despite this, the PAMA persisted to claim their rights over their land under the CARP as they applied as ARBs for the land with the assistance of Mr. Boy Mercado, the City Field Officer of the DAR in Cagayan de Oro City.

Swimming against the tide

On 29 November 2013, the DAR Central Office (DARCO) issued a decision approving the Application for Land Use Conversion of Celestino G. Navarro represented by Joselito Talaid from agricultural to residential use (socialized housing), but subject to certain conditions. On 24 December 2013, PAMA filed a Motion for Reconsideration with the DARCO. No formal response has been earned from the DAR on this matter.

PARO Zoraida O. Macadindang, Al Hadja, on 10 February 2014 endorsed the urgent issuance of a CDO to DAR Regional Director in favor of the PAMA to stop Joselito Talaid or Jukens Builders and Trade from conducting further

developments in the subject lands. This likewise, is yet to be decided upon by the DAR.

Regarding the continuing harassment perpetuated by Jukens Builders and Trade, the Climate Change Congress of the Philippines (CCCP) and the Social Action Center (SAC) of the Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro City, upon request of the affected farmers, organized a dialogue with the members of the Cagayan de Oro City Peace and Development Council including the DAR Region 10 and Joselito Talaid which resulted to an agreement on peaceful co-existence among parties with pending resolution of the case filed before the proper court.

More violence

Despite the commitment made by Joselito Talaid to the CCCP and SAC, Jukens Builders and Trade allegedly committed acts of violence against the PAMA. On 25 May 2014, in the twilight of the night, the banana trees of the PAMA were hacked. On 4 June 2014, a farmer was shot inside the Responde Residence. The day after, 5 June 2014, a bottle with gasoline was thrown, still at the Responde Residence. The bottle was noticed immediately and the spread of the fire was prevented. Another shooting happened on 10 July 2014.

Further acts of violence were committed by Jukens Builders and Trade. A security guard cocked a shotgun to the farmers who were tending their farmlands on 4 August 2014. Three days after, a group of armed men verbally threatened the wife of a member of the PAMA.

Oases of recourse

The struggle was brought to the Malacanang Palace. On 13 November 2015, the CCCP and the SAC of the Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro City, under the leadership

of the Most Reverend Bishop Antonio J. Ledesma S.J. D.D. organized a dialogue with the presence of PESANTE Philippines, Inc., PAMA, and different farmers organization from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao with the DAR-Central Office, Cabinet Member Deputy Executive Secretary (DES) Ronald Geron, DILG Undersecretary Austere Panadero, and representatives from the following departments: Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of Social Work and Development (DSWD), and National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP). The main purpose of the said dialogue is the presentation of the recent land disputes and conflicts between tenants and landowners, harassment against farmers, pending cases, killings of leaders, as well as issues and concerns of indigenous peoples. Furthermore, after thorough deliberation, the representatives from the offices of DAR Undersecretary Bistoyong and Undersecretary Pangulayan came up with the recommendation for the PAMA to expedite the resolution of the Motion for Reconsideration.

The PAMA also received assistance from the **Joint Action for Land Rights (JALR)** project. Under the JALR, the PAMA was provided with capacity development interventions as paralegals focusing on land rights advocacy and monitoring, organizational strengthening, as well as legal counsel with BALAOD Mindanaw, financial support for their land rights advocacy and monitoring activities, and the provision of equipment for securing their landholdings.

Pursuant of the recommendation of Undersecretary Bistoyong and Undersecretary Pangulayan, PARO Zoraida Oram Macadingdang, Al Hadja on 27 July 2016 wrote an endorsement letter to then Secretary Rafael “Ka Paeng” V. Mariano to expedite Resolution of the Motion for Reconsideration on the order granting the Application for Conversion filed by Jukens Builders and Trade over landholdings under CARP Coverage.

The legal battle intensifies

A Motion for Issuance of Writ of Execution and Demolition of the tenants (the PAMA farmers) was filed by Joselito Talaid on 27 October 2016 in connection with the decision dated 31 October 2008 declaring the PAMA not *de jure* tenants of the subject landholding, ordering the PAMA to voluntarily vacate and demolish their respective houses, if there be any, and surrender peacefully the subject landholding to Jukens Builders and Trade. In connection with the Motion of Joselito Talaid, PARO Zoraida Omar Macadindang, Al Hadja on 7 November 2017 wrote an endorsement letter addressed to Secretary Rafael “Ka Paeng” Mariano to investigate the ongoing activity of Jukens Builders and Trade over the subject property despite the fact that a timely motion for reconsideration was filed by the PAMA.

On 23 January 2017, DAR Provincial Office received a Memorandum from the Undersecretary signed by Atty. Marcos D. Risonar, Jr. of DAR. The memo is addressed to PARO Zoraida O. Macadindang ordering her that the CARP coverage of the subject landholdings be continued until it be realized in the issuance of CLOAs to qualified farmer-beneficiaries.

Resistance from Jukens Builders and Trade

The Department of Agrarian Reform Provincial Office (DARPO) and Municipal Agrarian Reform Office (MARO) called a dialogue as requested by PAMA on 13 March 2017. In the dialogue, the MARO agreed to conduct a survey including Segregation, Land-Use, and Subdivision on 22 March 2017 to determine the extent of the development of the housing project, the remaining portions not yet developed, the crops grown, and the actual tillers.

During the scheduled survey, the DARPO survey team was met by a certain Mr. Virgilio G. Arcadio, alleged foreman of

the Jukens Builders and Trade, and security guards of the subdivision. Despite repeated plea from the MARO and the survey team, they were denied entry because they already have an approved conversion order from then DAR Secretary Virgilio delos Reyes. In the sketch map submitted by the survey team it shows that 18.6949 hectares were already consolidated with approved Subdivision plan Pcs-10-004090 dated 6 June 2008 in the name of Fatima West Plain Subdivision.

PAMA received a notice from DARAB on 6 April 2017 informing them of a Resolution for a Motion for Issuance of Writ of Execution and Demolition on the tenancy case. On 12 April 2017, 15 members of PAMA participated in a dialogue with the DAR Provincial and City Offices in the presence of BALAOD Mindanaw. The PAMA was informed of the results of the survey and on the forthcoming recourse of the DAR to render the survey problematic due to the resistance from the Fatima Housing Project, owned by the Jukens Builders and Trade to allow the conduct of a survey on the subject landholdings. The issue at hand shall therefore be referred to the Land Bank of the Philippines for their intervention.

Recent developments

The PAMA sought engagements with the DARCO with the assistance of BALAOD Mindanaw, Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC), and the People's Campaign for Agrarian Reform Network (AR Now!). The DARCO through Undersecretary David Erro obliged their request for a dialogue on 10 September 2017. The request was temporary put on hold due to the rejection of Rafael "Ka Paeng" Mariano as DAR Secretary by the Committee on Appointments in Congress.

The DAR then referred the concerns of the PAMA to Assistant Secretary Lucuis Malsy and Assistant Secretary Elmer Distor who obliged their request for a dialogue



conducted on 9 November 2017. In the dialogue, DARCO committed to facilitate the resolution of the cases of the PAMA lodged with the DAR. As such, on 17 November 2017, the DAR certified the particular case of the PAMA ADM case no. A01'02-X0222-1039 or "Protest for CARP Coverage and Application for Land Use Conversion Order, entitled Celestino G. Navarro et al./Jukens Builders and Trade represented by Joselito Talaid vs. PAMA represented by Mr. Alejandro Responde et. al." as a flashpoint case deserving urgent resolution due to the threat to life and limb against of the PAMA.

Call to action

The PAMA currently occupies only four of the 18 hectares of land they have claims on. Despite this, they are able to sustain their alliances with BALAOD Mindanaw, the Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro, the City Peace and Order Council, and the DAR Provincial and City Offices in the local

level. They are being supported by the ANGOC and the AR Now! in the national level.

The PAMA is monitoring and advocating for favorable and speedy resolution of their cases. They are praying that the DAR: (1) issues and imposes the Cease and Desist Order to Jukens Builders and Trade; and, (2) fast-tracks CARP Coverage on the subject landholdings with PAMA members as the ARBs. ■



When Fear is Replaced by Courage

The Case of the Tinamay Farmers of Misamis Oriental

For years, eight farmers and their families from the village of Mimburahan in Sucbongcogon town, Misamis Oriental province, in the Philippines' southernmost island of Mindanao, lived in fear for their lives and livelihoods

These families are agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) of a 13-hectare land owned by the Anacleto Ranises Trading and Realty Corporation. They were awarded a Certificate of Land Ownership Award (CLOA) under the Philippine Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) in 1998.

No matter how small

To the farmers, ownership even of a small parcel of coconut land is a means to a better life since they were all seasonal farmworkers on Ranises' and nearby coconut plantations, earning around PhP 50 a day.

“We were farmworkers. We owned no land. We were hired to harvest the coconuts and were paid PhP 120 per 1,000 nuts. But most of the time we only harvested 500 nuts in a day so we just earn PhP 60,” Mario Sapa, president of the association and its only paralegal, explains.

Life was hard for the farmers. Aside from their low wages as farmworkers, they only worked one week every three months. To make ends meet, they plant root crops and vegetables and raise pigs and chicken in their backyard.

They also make arrangements with neighboring landowners to plant crops on idle land, mostly rice. However, this is a precarious proposition since the owners can just take back the land anytime they need it.

“There was a time when I have finished land preparation and was ready to plant, then the landowner came and said that he needed the land. I was devastated because I already put much effort and borrowed money for the seeds. It just seemed so unfair,” Rufo Cagas, one of the members, recalled.

Life was so hopeless for these farmers, who existed mostly on dried fish and salted baby shrimps (*ginamos*). So when a 13.2826-hectare parcel of the Anacleto Ranises Trading and Realty Co., with Transfer Certificate of Title (TCT) No. 8099 located in Mimbuaon was placed under CARP coverage on 21 May 1991, and they were named possible beneficiaries, it was as if the heavens were starting to favor them.

A ray of hope

On 21 May 1993, a Notice of Acquisition was then issued to Anacleto Ranises, the President of the Corporation. On 29 August 1994, a Notice of Land Valuation was issued to the Corporation, prompting Ranises to file a case with the DAR contesting the valuation.

Just compensation was determined and later on deposited to a trust account in Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) in the name of Ranises. No appeal was interposed for this resolution.

On 21 December 1998, the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) issued CLOA No. 00238840, and later TCT No. C-8403 covering such land, in favor of Emedio Pila and seven other farmer-beneficiaries.

Owner resistance poses a stumbling block

On 9 May 2005, Anacleto Ranises Trading and Realty Co. filed an action for the “Declaration of Nullity of Titles and CLOAs with Damages” with the Provincial Adjudicator of the DAR Adjudication Board (DARAB), alleging that the true owner of the subject land was not properly notified of the CARP coverage and no just compensation was made. Thus, the corporation claims, the entire proceedings, including the issuance of the CLOA, was null and void.

The farmer-beneficiaries were to be installed on the subject land by DAR on 10 May 2005, but the installation did not push through due to the strong resistance of the landowner who even employed men, presumably armed, to block the installation.

On 25 July 2005, the DARAB Provincial Adjudicator rendered a decision in favor of the corporation and ordered the cancellation of the CLOA. The farmer-beneficiaries filed a motion for reconsideration, but was denied by the DARAB Provincial Adjudicator for being filed out of time.

The farmer-beneficiaries (except for one, a certain Proculo who was the corporation’s caretaker) appealed the decision with the DARAB Central Office which, on 4 October 2006, affirmed the ruling of its provincial adjudicator. The farmer-beneficiaries filed a motion for reconsideration but the same was denied by the DARAB Central.

The farmer-beneficiaries then appealed the decision of the DARAB Central with the Court of Appeals (CA). On 31 August 2012, the CA ruled in favor of the farmer-beneficiaries. The

CA reversed and set aside the previous rulings of the DARAB Central and DARAB Provincial Adjudicator. It upheld and reinstated the CLOA and TCT issued in favor of the farmer-beneficiaries.

The corporation filed a motion for reconsideration but was denied by the CA for being filed out of time, its earlier ruling having become final and executory, and entry of judgment having already recorded in the CA registry.

On 22 June 2016, the former landowner appealed the case with the Supreme Court through a Petition for Review. The case is now pending with the Supreme Court.

Another legal issue the farmers are facing is another case recently filed by other alleged farmworkers of the previous owner. A petition for inclusion and exclusion was filed claiming that some beneficiaries own land in another municipality, thus questioning their qualification as ARBs.

Landowner employs scare tactics

Aside from the legal maneuverings by the previous landowner, they have also been harassed and threatened. Armed men used to be seen roaming in and around the property, presumably to coerce them to abandon their rightful claim to the land.

In another instance of harassment, the coconuts they were transporting to the town were held up by men of the Ranises Corporation, who said that they had no right to harvest the crop since they do not own the land and are therefore stealing.

Good thing that the *barangay* (village) leaders and even the municipal government are on their side, which enabled the transport of the crops to push through.

Finally, installation, and a chance of a better life

Despite the legal impediments and other maneuverings by the previous landowner, the DAR went ahead with the formal installation of the ARBs on 26 November 2015. Thus, for all intents and purposes, the Tinamay farmers are now landowners.

At present, an uneasy peace prevails in the area. The farmers are no longer harassed. They have been driven away other farmers whom the former landowner made to live on their land.

Although not yet prosperous by any means, the Tinamay farmers are now enjoying the fruits of their land. They now eat three square meals a day and can even afford to celebrate special occasions. They can send their children to school.

“We can now even buy *lechon manok* (roasted whole chicken) during birthdays, *fiestas* (feast days of patron saints), Christmas, and New Year’s Day. We can even afford to hire a videoke machine during special occasions,” Sapa declares.

The farmers decided to keep the coconut crop communal. They tend to it and work the harvest, paying themselves the daily rate of PhP 120 a day. They even help out neighboring landless farmers by hiring them during the harvest season.

According to the farmers, they now have peace of mind. They can now dream and plan. Aside from coconut, whose production has dwindled due to non-replanting by the Ranises Corporation, the farmers plan to plant bananas, cacao, ginger, fruit trees particularly *lanzones*, and corn on fallow parts of their land.



As for the most recent legal case against them, the farmers have already filed an answer and are still waiting for the Supreme Court decision, which they hope to be in their favor.

The Tinamay farmers are also in the process of strengthening their organization. They have just completed their vision-mission setting workshop and have applied for registration with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), to be able to access support services and financial assistance from the government.

The Tinamay case is not an isolated one. Many farmer-beneficiaries still have to set foot on their awarded lands due to the intricacies of the agrarian reform process and landowners' refusal to embrace this social justice measure. The Tinamay farmers thus should serve as an inspiration to other groups to persevere, learn their rights under the law, and stand up to the landlords, no matter how afraid they are.

As one of the farmers (Felizarta) succinctly put: "We were once afraid. We were up against powerful people, rich people. But we know our rights. We persevered. We sought help of the local government, who supported us. Now, the fear that we once felt has been replaced by courage". ■

JALR PROJECT PARTNERS



Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC)

Founded in 1979, ANGOC is a regional association of national and regional networks of non-government organizations (NGOs) in Asia actively engaged in food security, agrarian reform, sustainable agriculture, participatory governance, and rural development. ANGOC network members and partners work in 14 Asian countries with an effective reach of some 3,000 NGOs and community-based organizations (CBOs). ANGOC actively engages in joint field programs and policy debates with national governments, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), and international financial institutions (IFIs). ANGOC is the convener of the Land Watch Asia (LWA) campaign. ANGOC is also a member of the International Land Coalition (ILC), the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) and the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN).

33 Mapagsanguni St., Sikatuna Village
Diliman, Quezon City, 1101 Philippines
Phone: (632) 351 0581
Fax: (632) 351 0011
Email: angoc@angoc.org
Website: www.angoc.org



Balay Alternative Legal Advocates for Development in Mindanaw, Inc. (BALAOD Mindanaw)

BALAOD Mindanaw is a non-stock, non-profit legal resource institution providing capacity-building and legal services to its partner communities on resource tenure and other justice issues primarily in Mindanao. It was formally established and registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on 11 August 2000 through the efforts of a small group of individuals, lawyers, paralegals and community organizers.

32E Kalambaguan-Burgos Streets, Barangay 15
Cagayan de Oro City, 9000 Philippines
Phone: (638) 888 03216
Email: balaodmindanaw@gmail.com
Website: balaodmindanaw.org



Kaisahan Tungo sa Kaunlaran ng Kanayunan at Repormang Pansakahan [Solidarity Towards Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, Inc.] (Kaisahan)

Kaisahan is a social development organization promoting a sustainable and humane society through the empowerment of marginalized groups in rural areas, especially among farmers and farmworkers, to undertake their own development, participate fully in democratic processes and demand their rightful share in the stewardship of the land and the fruits of their labor.

38-B Mapagsanguni St., Sikatuna Village
Diliman, Quezon City, 1101 Philippines
Phone: (632) 433 0760
Fax: (632) 921 5436
Email: kaisahan@kaisahan.com.ph
Website: kaisahan.com.ph



People In Need (PIN)

The People in Need (PIN) organization was established in 1992 by a group of Czech war correspondents who were no longer satisfied with merely relaying information about ongoing conflicts and began sending out aid. It gradually became established as a professional humanitarian organization striving to provide aid in troubled regions and support adherence to human rights around the world. Throughout the 25 years of its existence, PIN has become one of the biggest non-profit organizations in Central Europe. In addition to humanitarian aid and human rights, it now also targets education and helps people living in social exclusion. PIN is part of the Alliance2015, a strategic network of seven European non-governmental organizations engaged in humanitarian aid and development projects. This collaboration increases effectivity both in working in the target countries and in campaigns aimed at influencing the attitudes of politicians and the general public in Europe.

Šafaříkova 635/24
120 00, Praha 2
Phone: +420 226 200 400
Fax: +420 226 200 401
Email: mail@peopleinneed.cz
Website: clovekvtsni.cz



Delegation of the European Union to the Philippines

The EU Delegation to the Philippines is one of 140 diplomatic missions that represent the EU across the globe. It aims to strengthen EU-Philippines relations in particular through promoting strong economic and trade ties, developing EU-Philippines dialogue through the recently-signed Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, supporting the Government in its peace efforts in Mindanao, and working with the Philippines' Administration to reach the UN Millennium Development Goals.

30/F Tower 2, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Avenue
Makati City, 1200 Philippines
Phone: (632) 859 5100
Fax: (632) 859 5109
Email: Delegation-Philippines@eeas.europa.eu
Website: eeas.europa.eu/delegations/Philippines

This publication, *Farmers and Indigenous Peoples Defend their Right to Land: Stories from the Field*, compiles narratives of struggles and victories of farmers and indigenous peoples from the provinces of Negros Occidental, Leyte, Bukidon, and Misamis Oriental, in securing their rights to land. These stories touch upon subject matters such as agrarian reform, land conflicts, responsible resource use, ancestral rights to land, and policy reform, and give human faces to them. Cases presented in this book serve to illustrate that while past achievements have been remarkable, there is much left to be done in pursuit of rural development.

This publication has been produced with the assistance of the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of the Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC) and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.