



July 2019 - June 2022

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SPECIAL NEB RESOLUTION NO. 2020-001

AN APPEAL TO THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT TO MAINTAIN THE CURRENT COST-SHARING ARRANGEMENT IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE - PHILIPPINE RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (DA-PRDP) AND EARNESTLY REQUESTS FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE SECOND (2ND) ADDITIONAL FINANCING, IN THE AMOUNT OF USD 280 MILLION, TO BE CONTINUOUSLY MANAGED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LGUs' INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENTERPRISE SUBPROJECTS AMID THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

WHEREAS, the Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP), is a six-year project designed to establish the government platform for a modern, climate-smart and market-oriented agri-fishery sector;

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture (DA) currently partners with LGUs and the private sector for the PRDP in providing key infrastructure, facilities, technology, and information that will raise incomes, productivity, and competitiveness in the countryside;

WHEREAS, the National Government is currently planning to transfer the DA-PRDP's Second (2nd) Additional Financing, in the amount of USD \$ 280 million, from the Department of Agriculture (DA) to the Government Financial Institutions (GFIs) such as Landbank (LBP) or the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP);

WHEREAS, six (6) years into its implementation, the PRDP has been effective in engaging the LGUs in the eighty-one (81) provinces throughout the country to adopt a science-based approach in planning, programming and resource allocation focusing on commodity value chain development and climate change resilience, to wit:

- a) All the eighty-one (81) provinces have their approved Provincial Commodity Investment Plans (PCIPs), of which, PRDP has approved subprojects in seventy-eight (78) provinces. The PCIPs have been effective tools for local planning and resource leveraging from other government agencies and funding institutions;

- b) For infrastructure investments, one hundred eighty-three (183) proponent LGUs have accessed financing in the PRDP through their approved rural infrastructure subprojects amounting to Php 28.37 billion – 61 proponent provinces availing a total of Php 17.99 billion worth of subprojects; 111 proponent municipalities with approved subprojects amounting to Php 9.17 billion; and 11 proponent cities implementing a total of Php 1.2 billion cost of subprojects;
- c) For enterprise development investments, six hundred fifty-five (655) proponent provinces, cities and municipalities have so far received a total of Php 2.37 billion value chain-linked agri-fishery subprojects covering production, processing, trading and consolidation, and marketing segments;

WHEREAS, the current PRDP procedures are evidently working with LGUs utilizing PCIPs as an improved basis for their own budgetary strategy in the local investment plans and for increasingly mobilizing funds to advance investment priorities for agriculture even outside PRDP, thus integrating the PCIP approach on the local planning process;

WHEREAS, the institutional reforms introduced by the PRDP have empowered LGUs to implement enhanced transparency and accountability in the delivery of support services through adoption of innovations like geotagging in validation, monitoring, and supervision of investments while conforming to environmental and social safeguards requirements; organizing citizens monitoring of project activities; and installing grievance redress mechanism for stakeholder monitoring and feedback;

WHEREAS, the abovementioned instruments of institutional reforms have led LGUs to develop and implement compliant and operational subproject investments as evidenced by the positive feedback and emerging socio-economic benefits documented through the rapid appraisal of emerging benefits;

WHEREAS, the onset of the COVID-19 has made LGUs reprioritize and repurpose its budget towards addressing health and social amelioration needs, and are currently struggling, given the depleted budget in the fight against the virus;

WHEREAS, increase in expenditure requirements of LGUs to address the pandemic requires realignment of funding for response against COVID-19 vis-à-vis infrastructure and enterprise projects;

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the additional benefit to LGUs brought about by the final ruling of the Supreme Court on the

LGUs' Internal Revenue Allotment or IRA in the *Mandanans vs. Ochoa*¹ and *Garcia vs. Ochoa*² decisions, which is anticipated to primarily facilitate investments for health programs and social services to efficiently manage the pandemic, the LGUs are in dire need of external interventions and support to afford the implementation of infrastructure and enterprise subprojects which were already identified in their respective approved P/C/MCIPs;

WHEREAS, the additional funding from PRDP through the proposed 2nd Additional Financing under the current management of the Department of Agriculture (DA) will ably address the LGUs' deficiency in funding requirement with respect to their local priorities for agriculture and fisheries investments;

WHEREAS, the counterparting scheme between the DA and LGUs for infrastructure and enterprise subprojects under the PRDP should, therefore, be supported, continued and maintained to help LGUs cope with the COVID-19 pandemic and address the extent of its impact in the succeeding years;

WHEREAS, the removal of the cash LGU equity on the proposed counterparting scheme for enterprise subprojects will further ease up the LGUs' budgetary constraints in providing social services as well as empower the proponent group beneficiaries by giving them ownership on the subproject;

WHEREAS, the PRDP guidelines are efficiently working and have been widely accepted by the LGUs in terms of project identification, procurement, implementation and monitoring and evaluation consistent with its output-based and impact-oriented design, hence changing such guidelines would disrupt the momentum gained over the past six (6) years of its implementation;

WHEREAS, the PRDP is recognized by the DA as an effective transition mechanism towards advancing the economic recovery efforts particularly complementing the Survive, Reboot and Grow strategies of the agriculture sector, and its continued provision of capacity building activities through the different PRDP tools have afforded LGUs to execute systematic and strategic budgeting process with P/C/MCIPs now as their reference in appropriating their local budgets and even for lobbying funding support from other collaborating agencies and funding institutions;

¹ G.R. No. 199802, 03 July 2018.

² G.R. No. 208488, 03 July 2018

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved, that the league appeals to the national government to maintain the current cost-sharing arrangement in the implementation of the Department of Agriculture - Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) and earnestly requests for the approval of the second (2nd) additional financing, in the amount of USD 280 million, to be continuously managed by the Department of Agriculture for the implementation of the LGUs' infrastructure and enterprise subprojects amid the covid-19 pandemic;

RESOLVED FURTHER, that copies of this Resolution be furnished to the Office of the President (OP), and to the Secretaries of the Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Department of Finance (DOF), the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), and the World Bank, for their information, favorable consideration and support.

ADOPTED this 8th day of September, 2020 via a virtual referendum officially conducted by the League of Provinces of the Philippines duly approved by the members of the National Executive Board.

Certified true and correct:



GOV. JOSE R. RIANO

Deputy Secretary-General for Luzon

Attested by:



GOV. PRESBITERO J. VELASCO, JR.
National President



GOV. DAKILA CARLO E. CUA
National Chairman