



RURAL BANKERS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES

21 July 2022

Dear Fellow Rural Bankers,

Greetings!

I have been almost a month into the RBAP Presidency and have been doing mostly organizational stuff. By now, all directors have been commissioned into various committees, and July is designated for all of them to get charged with their respective tasks and plans for the months to come. As of the 18th of July, a new Executive Director (ED), ED Rafael Amparo (attached is his CV or basic information), will be completing our team together with Grace Estira who has been promoted to Office Manager, and 2 other new hires Ms. Monaliza Quindoza and Mikhael Laurente, both researchers by training, the first serving as Communications Officer for RBAP and the latter as main researcher for the Foundation. Coming out of the pandemic, we are preparing our office to better face our regulators and the current issues at hand, and more importantly, to better deliver value-added service to all members. Now, more than ever, I feel we are ready and prepared! Still, on August 11, we will be gathering the employees together with the board of directors and the board of trustees in a 1-day teaming-up exercise. This basically jumpstarts my plan for "One RBAP, Stronger Organization," of working proactively and in sync with one vision as one team.

In the past weeks, there are 3 items to which we have been asked to comment: 1. "An Act strengthening the financing system, including capacity building and organization, for agriculture, fisheries and rural development in the Philippines, repealing for the purpose Republic Act No 10000 or the Agri-Agra reform credit act of 2009"; 2. Draft circular on Adoption of the Standard Business Loan Application Form (SBLAF); and 3. Draft circular on the Guidelines on Recovery Plan for Banks. For future representations by way of position papers, our General Banking Committee, in its proposed charter, has already laid out a clear plan on how to gather as much comments, integrate, add context and data, where needed, and how to write and review our points in order that we can always come up with a well-written position paper. In connection to this, may I solicit names of federation member who can join the think tank group committed to actively read draft circulars and comment on them.

In relation to the capitalization issue, we are still waiting for BSP's action on the position paper we have forwarded, although our think tank is evaluating additional means to mitigate the impact of the new capital requirements, which we will propose to BSP in case we are unable to obtain a favorable decision on our initial appeal.

As for PDIC's Regulatory Issuance 2021-01, we wrote a request to defer its effectivity for our members to December 31, 2022 (thereby giving our members more time to coordinate with their respective core banking software providers), and to consider the current period up to December 31, 2022 as a pilot testing period, within which banks will not be subject to any penalties. We have yet to receive their decision on the request. Meanwhile, Ms. Mona has been tasked to gather information among members, as to the percentage of accomplishment including the difficulty and challenges banks are faced within its efforts to comply.

For your further information, we have also set important dates:

Regular face to face/blended meetings are going back to the bi-monthly schedule beginning this August. To ensure better attendance, we have set it to fall on the 2nd Thursdays and Fridays of the given month. The months in between shall be a good time to hold committee and other meetings;

The BSPC meeting, usually unilaterally set by the BSP, is also being requested to coincide with our board meeting days. Knowing this way in advance should give us time to prepare our agenda; to enable us to achieve maximum effectiveness with our advocacies with BSP, may I request your federation members to actively communicate with the Association on issues they wish to elevate to a larger audience that includes BSP.

The Symposium and National Convention have also been set on November 24-25 and June 7-9 respectively, and

By popular demand, we will continue with federation visits at least on a quarterly basis.

For this purpose, we are looking at the federations that have not been visited in the past year. Rest assured, even if we don't visit your federation soon, you will be well informed, through our website, our various chat group communities, and possibly even through phone calls which I have already asked ED Raffy and Ms. Mona to start doing.

I will be regularly writing to you and all other federation presidents to keep you all in the loop of what is going on with our RBAP. Once I have sat down with our new ED, the simple plans I have set for the year will also be presented for everyone to see. If we commonly see one "Vision," we will be as many in praying for the Lord to bless it. For God's greater glory, we shall be His instruments and will definitely accomplish more!

Thank you very much and more power to your **Confederation/Federation** and to our RBAP.

Very truly yours,



ATTY. MARY ANN TUPASI-SADDUL
President, FY 2022-2023