



RURAL BANKERS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES

14 November 2022

Dear Fellow Rural Bankers,

Greetings!

The past 3 months have been a busy first quarter for the RBAP Board. We now begin to ease our way into more face-to-face encounters as we continue to benefit from the accessibility that virtual meetings provide. We also make use of the more traditional ways of engaging by calls, emails, and letters. Thus, as of date, we managed to have done the following:

1. Submitted 9 position papers and 5 comments on pending house bills in congress;
2. Served 2 letters to PBBM and 7 letters to various agencies (DA, Philguarantee, DTI, LBP, DBP);
3. Sent out 2 SoRa, with this as 3rd, and 2 memos to members: a call for donations and the circular for the Nov 22-23 symposium;
4. We have had 3 regular and 2 emergency board meetings, and around 20 board committee meetings to precede those;
5. We attended 4 legislative meetings on The New RB Act, a bill that is currently filed as HB 2016;
6. We are constantly in touch with our regulator and have met with them in 2 BSPP meetings and 4 other instances, primarily to discuss how rural banks can better cope with the RBSP requirements;
7. Given the option of virtual meetings, more than 30 other meetings have been participated by RBAP through its director representative, myself, or the executive director.
8. Launched the COIA group capacity building seminar which will be rolled out nationwide with a culminating convention on February 2023;
9. Engaged with 4 federations through face-to-face events: CCLR, Bicol Federation, CCVRB, and Iloilo Chamber of Rural Banks, with two (2) more engagements scheduled this November (Confederation of Southern Tagalog Rural Banks and Confederation of Central Luzon Rural Banks);

During these visits or presentations, aside from recent regulatory updates, we present the plans and initiatives for the year 2022-2023, to wit:

- A. Encourage members to revisit our mandate as rural banks; and
- B. Relevant and stronger rural banking industry by:
 - a. Strengthening the Compliance Officers and Internal Auditors COIA group;
 - b. Pursuing and utilizing the AFD Grant to help us in our digitalization journey;
 - c. Increasing collaboration with the government and other agencies with whom we share common goals;
 - d. Continuing to engage the New Generation Bankers (NGB) and immersing them into the real mandate of rural banking at the same time using their talent and vigor in promoting our industry;
 - e. Further developing the Angel Network program, not only as a PCA clinic but as a repository and distribution channel of all available materials and programs that can help capacitate all members.

Giving credit to whom it is due, the Executive Director, Office Manager, and the whole administrative staff play an integral role in putting things in order of priority and ensuring that meetings are held and commitments met. Likewise, the board committees as charged in their respective charters, have been more directed on matters to which they are to perform or exercise their respective mandate oversight on. In the future, the charters will charge the directors with their duties thereby ensuring a smooth transition from one term to another. These charters will be published on our website in order to also inform members of the various tasks or jobs that need to be done once elected into position.

On to current matters, the hovering issue that welcomed me into my term and which remains to be at the center of all discussions and plans, is the RBSP capitalization requirement. In response, we rolled out another program under the Angel Network, which is the follow-up seminar/webinar promised in the last SoRa. Pilot presentation were done in 2 federations and in order to appease members in the demands of clarity and more information on RBSP, we rolled out by way of a webinar on November 07, 2022 the "RBSP Capital Build-Up Program." The webinar was developed with the end in view, of helping us in the following:

1. Perform self or institutional evaluation;
2. Understand the tracks under the RBSP;
3. Determine our point A and be able to make informed decisions and prepare the capital build-up plan or choose the right and feasible track;
4. To plan and execute plans and ensure compliance to RBSP, not only as to capitalization but as to strength and soundness.

Still, in relation to RBSP, we will soon be launching a pairing platform managed by the association. The listing will be accessible to all member banks who wish to find third-party investors or potential merging partners. We also hope that the stronger RBs among us would enlist so that our mandate as rural banks is kept and our commitments to the marginalized, met.

In celebration of the 65th Charter Anniversary, we are also holding the annual Symposium on November 22-23. As of date, we are nearing the maximum capacity of both the face-to-face and virtual platforms. The strong attendance is the best indicator of our desire, as an association, to truly move forward through collaboration and synergy, under a banner of "one team, one vision." From our end at the RBAP board, secretariat, and events committee, the 2-day symposium has been organized to promote just that.

Thank you very much and more power to you, to your **Confederation/Federation**, and to our RBAP. See you at the Symposium!

Very truly yours,



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