

# coop MONITOR

A Quarterly Publication of

**MASS-SPECC**  
 COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT CENTER

## SECURING OUR FUTURE TODAY

In the midst of uncertainty brought about by COVID-19 pandemic, some things have become clearer. First, the much-hoped-for end of coronavirus is no longer expected. Instead, what we are hearing from health experts and those who are looking at the science of pandemics is that the coronavirus will become part of our daily lives. And that we have to learn to live with this virus. In other words, coronavirus will become endemic.

Second, after two years of mobility restrictions imposed by the government to contain the spread of the virus, people have learned to adjust to new ways of living. Nowadays, people have become accustomed to doing



Image Source: <https://baldrigecoach.com/dealing-with-flux-in-the-time-of-covid-19/>

things in the virtual space – online selling and buying, online orders, online payment, etc. Offices have also gone virtual, with online meetings becoming the norm and employees getting adjusted to remote work. Education and training have gone online, not that this is happening only now (online courses and training events have been online for years now) but that they have become pervasive. The thing about these new commercial, work and living arrangements is that people are seeing the benefits and enjoying the convenience afforded by these arrangements.

These new ways of doing things are here to stay. So even when things settle down to what thought leader **April Rinne** refers to as the “next normal” or “whatever is coming” (McKinsey & Co), we will see people more and more becoming comfortable with living, working, and doing things in both physical and virtual space into the future.

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Third, with the fast pace of change around us expected to accelerate further, we will be facing more uncertainties in a future that is often described as “volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous.” Change will affect many aspects of our lives. Ms. Rinne describes our “world in flux” (i.e., continuous moving or flowing): **“Business models are in flux, the future of work is in flux, careers are in flux, education is in flux, financial markets are in flux, demographics are in flux, and the climate is in flux. If any of these topics ring true for you, you’re in the right place.”**

Much of the uncertainty will come from the unpredictability of the natural environment. The existential challenge posed by climate change is very real, with the world community unable to agree on a common action. So individual actions and initiatives taken by responsible members of society really matter now. Big business has recognized this so that, according to one columnist, sustainability has become the new language of business. Recently, we have been reading about companies in the food industry integrating sustainability in their shift to healthier food production, responsible farm practices and animal welfare awareness, and the use of renewable sources in contract growing farms and processing plants.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) has already put out the Sustainable Finance Framework to guide banks in embracing green banking principles to help mitigate the risks from climate change. The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has released its own sustainability reporting guidelines for publicly listed companies. Corporations are urged to not only focus on profits but also put sustainability as one of the pillars of their business.

This proactive response of some responsible sectors of society is what spells hope in the midst of uncertainty. Again, in the words of Ms. Rinne, “in a world of constant change, we need to radically reshape our relationship to uncertainty to sustain a healthy and productive outlook... You can’t control the future, but you can control whether you contribute to a future you’d like to see, which, I hope, includes your own professional wellbeing, success, contribution to society.”

### **What does this all mean to co-operatives?**

This means it can no longer be “business as usual” for co-operatives. Co-op leaders and managers are called upon to be ready for change. This includes the readiness to explore new ways of thinking and doing things. Those long-held beliefs that have driven our decision-making for so long may have to be re-examined, including those assumptions that have informed our planning process for many years. Linear thinking is no longer tenable. Co-op leaders and managers have to be “agile” in their thinking and decision-making. This means being able to adapt quickly to internal as well as external changes.

This applies particularly to members and the co-operative’s dealings with them. The pandemic has changed the lives and livelihoods of many of them.

Those who have been negatively impacted by the pandemic especially need special attention. The co-operative will have to find new solutions to address their needs and change of circumstances. This might involve changes in policies, in the terms of engagement, and even in the way services are delivered to them.

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# 'My #CoopHEROtive Story' tilt 2021 centers on building stronger co-ops in new normal



**T**he “My #CoopHEROtive Story” competition continues to be MASS-SPECC’s flagship platform to showcase visual stories of strength, resilience, and hope of the Mindanawon Co-op Movement.

MASS-SPECC Cooperative Development Center and Coop Youth Parliament (CYP) have recognized Young Mindanawon Cooperators whose visual stories presented the impact of co-operatives in their lives and their pivotal roles in making their co-ops better and stronger through the test of time.

Darwin Mandante bested everyone in the competition and won the grand prize with his entry titled “Koop Ko, Garbo Ko.”

Joana Rose Jaque (Engaging Youth to Co-op Savings) and Abegaile Escolania (Invested Experience) bagged thesecond and third prizes, respectively. Winners receive cash prizes and tokens of recognition from MASS-SPECC Cooperative Development Center.

The participants submitted their recorded videos depicting the Co-op Youth Experience, with the theme, “**Kabatan-onan sa Lig-ong Kooperatiba: Bida sa Pagtigum, Paglaum sa Makabag-ong Panahon.**”

For five minutes or shorter, they were asked to answer the following questions:

- Share your experience on saving in a co-operative.
- As a youth, how can you be of help in strengthening your co-operative?
- As a youth, how are you going to address the challenges of the new normal?
- Finish the sentence: “*Hero ang co-op para sa akoa kay...*”

The short videos have magnified the deeds of the people and the co-ops that have been instrumental in shaping the world around us, especially towards the youth.

This event formed part of Co-op Month, celebrated annually every October across the world to recognize the economic contributions and importance of co-operatives in people’s lives.

MASS-SPECC, the leading and strongest federation of co-operatives in Mindanao, hopes that by sharing and growing together, co-operatives continue to be responsive to the challenges of time, become instrumental to a wholistic recovery from the pandemic, and a beacon of hope in the changing times.



# Tiktok challenge, poster contest urges youth to save in co-ops

**N**ag-Save Ako, Because? — This was the main question thrown at the youth during the celebration of World Savings Day 2021, locally dubbed as “Coop is YOUth.”

## Tiktok challenge for the youth

Primary members and savers, ages 35 and below, submitted their entries for the Tiktok challenge which centered on encouraging the youth to save in co-operatives.

The video entries were in the form of speech, song, dance, and other creative ways to answer the question, bearing the theme, “Save for life, save a life.”

The grand prize was awarded to the entry from Inter-Office Employees and Businessmen Credit Cooperative (IOEBCC) in Butuan City. The second prize went to Jorrel Español of Oro Integrated Cooperative (OIC), and the third prize was given to Rica Mae La Fuente, also from OIC.

The said TikTok challenge was organized by the Co-op Youth Parliament (CYP) in line with World Savings Day (also known as World Thrift Day) on October 31 and the International Co-operatives Month.

## Posters to urge youth to save

For the poster-making contest, entries portrayed the theme of the *World Savings Day* “Save for life, save a life,” using traditional and digital techniques. The contestants submitted their selfies showing the poster they made, a one-minute time-lapse video, and a clear solo picture of the poster itself.

Ace Espinosa was hailed as the winner of the poster-making contest. Judelyn Hardin and Abegaile Escolania ranked second and third, respectively.



Winners of the Tiktok challenge and poster-making contest received cash prizes and tokens of recognition from the MASS-SPECC Cooperative Development Center. Each of the finalists got a Certificate of Participation.

## WSD and Co-op Month

October 31 was declared World Savings (Thrift) Day at the end of the first International Thrift Congress in 1924 in Milan. In the resolutions of the Thrift Congress, it was decided that “World Thrift Day” should be a day devoted to the promotion of savings across the globe. In their efforts to promote thrift, the savings banks also worked with the support of the schools, the clergy, as well as cultural, sports, professional, and women’s associations.

Meanwhile, Co-op Month is celebrated annually every October across the world to recognize the contributions and importance of co-operatives in the economy and people’s lives. For MASS-SPECC and CYP, the event underscored the values and principles shared by co-op members. It served as a social media avenue for educating others about the benefits of belonging to a co-operative.



# New Roof, New Hope: MASS-SPECC runs “Operation Pagtinabangay” to rebuild Odette-hit co-ops, communities

**T**he indomitable spirit of the Filipino nation again was tested in December 2021 by the onslaught of Super Typhoon Odette (internationally known as Rai).

To provide immediate relief and reconstruction materials in Odette-ravaged areas, MASS-SPECC Cooperative Development Center, the largest and oldest federation of co-ops in the Philippines, has organized **“Operation Pagtinabangay: New Roof, New Hope.”**

The operation focuses on providing roofing materials to a 1,000 members from 20 co-ops in the Caraga Region. Each co-op determined (50) deserving households from its members to receive roofing materials.

“In these trying times, may we all be emboldened even more by the co-operative values and principles of sharing and growing together towards an inclusive and holistic recovery,” shares MASS-SPECC CEO Bernadette Toledo.



Each household package is approximately worth PHP3,000, composed of 1 plain sheet, eight corrugated sheets, and 1 kilo of umbrella nails, among other items.

Initially, Operation Pagtinabangay was able to gather and turn over more than PHP800K worth of financial aid, which has been used to purchase roofing materials, and other in-kind donations.



For its 1st wave, Operation Pagtinabangay distributed roofing materials to 205 deserving co-op members and 900 food packs in Surigao City, Surigao del Norte, and Dinagat Province. MASS-SPECC also parlayed cash assistance of Php 50,000 to Socorro Empowered Multi-Purpose Cooperative (SOEMCO) and Bohol Community Multi-Purpose Cooperative.

MASS-SPECC appeals to the generosity of other stakeholders in the co-op movement in the Philippines and across the globe for further financial assistance or donation of roofing materials.

“While we believe that this disaster has added to our struggles in the midst of a global pandemic, we will rise again from the rubbles and ruins of Odette,” says Toledo.

**SEND US YOUR CASH DONATIONS NOW!**

GCash: 0966-4736-387  
LBP-Velez Current Account: 2412-0000-08  
LBP-Capistrano Current Account: 0152-0474-01  
BDO-Velez Checking Account: 2840-0430-21

Please fax or email the deposit slip for issuance of OR.

MASS-SPECC COOP Sharing and growing together COOP NATCCO





AS OF JANUARY 5, 2022

### CASH DONATION:

MASS-SPECC		200,000.00	
CNPL		100,000.00	
BCBMPC		50,000.00	
IOEBCC		50,000.00	
SAFRAGEMC		30,000.00	
Butuan Seeds Producer		5,000.00	435,000.00

### IN-KIND:

SIUFMULCO	(10-Wheeler Truck & Fuel)	15,000.00	
Sto. Niño MPC	(6-Wheeler Truck & Fuel)	10,000.00	25,000.00

### TOTAL DONATIONS

**460,000.00**

### UTILIZATION:

800 packs 10-kilo rice (8 Tons Rice) 304,000.00

Construction Materials for 50 Families:

400 pcs Corrugated Sheets 8', #26	104,000.00	
50 pcs Plain Sheets 8', #26	13,000.00	
50 kilos Umbrella Nails	3,700.00	
50 pcs Vulcaseal	3,950.00	124,650.00

Logistics:

10-Wheeler Truck & Fuel	15,000.00	
6-Wheeler Truck & Fuel	10,000.00	
Freight Charges - Roro (Roundtrip)	7,500.00	
Driver / Labor	1,500.00	34,000.00

### TOTAL UTILIZATION

**462,650.00**

### SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)

**(2,650.00)**



**Our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation goes to all our fellow cooperators who have joined us in showing our support and solidarity to our fellow cooperators in Caraga Region. Donations given after Jan. 5 will be posted in the next publication. May we continue #SharingAndGrowingTogether !**



**T**his report provides cooperators with a rundown of the significant economic highlights and market trends during the fourth and last quarter of 2021 that reflected the profound impacts of the COVID-19 global pandemic and the onslaught of Typhoon Odette in the co-operative movement and Philippine society.

### **BSP LETS BANKS WAIVE ID REQUIREMENT FOR OPENING BASIC DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS**

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas will allow banks to offer basic deposit accounts (BDAs) in 2022 to clients without any IDs to bring more Filipinos into the financial system. Memorandum No. M-2021-065 directs banks to allow clients to open BDAs by presenting a physical or online notarized certification that they do not have a valid ID.

When deposits under a BDA breach the PHP50,000 limit for the account type, the bank is expected to initiate measures to convert the account into a regular deposit account. Under this scenario, the KYC rules for a regular deposit account will already be applied, including the need to present an ID.

A BSP study showed the lack of documentary requirements is among the reasons that prevent Filipinos from becoming part of the formal financial system, although the main hindrance remained the lack of money (45%) followed by the view that they do not need an account (27%). The BSP hopes to bring 70% of Filipino adults into the banked population by 2023.

*Source: Business World*

### **EASED BDA RULES SEEN TO BENEFIT RURAL LENDERS**

BSP's directive allowing banks to let clients open basic deposit accounts without identification documents will help bring unbanked members of rural communities into the formal financial system.

Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines

President Albert T. Concha, Jr. said the move is a welcome development as 88% of their member lenders offer the BDAs. These accounts do not have a maintaining balance and require no more than PHP100 for opening, making it accessible to more individuals.

Banks that will offer BDAs with relaxed Know-Your-Customer requirement for IDs will be given regulatory relief by the BSP, including waiving fees related to the application of Advanced Electronic Payment and Financial Services for 2022.

*Source: Business World*



*Image Source: Business World*

### **BSP SETS POLICIES TO MAKE 'GREEN BANKING' THE NORM**

BSP has issued its Sustainable Finance Framework, which laid down high-level supervisory expectations on the integration of sustainable principles, including environmental, social, and governance considerations in the corporate and risk governance frameworks, business strategies, and operations of banks.

The framework covers the following:

- Responsibilities of the board of directors and senior management in leading and institutionalizing the sustainability principles across the organization



- Adoption of the environmental and social risk management system, which should include policies, procedures, and tools to identify, assess, monitor, and mitigate exposures to environmental and social risks

- Disclosure requirements, which will enhance market discipline and promote transparency by requiring disclosure of several elements of the banks' sustainability agenda in their annual reports.

Banks were given a three-year transition period to fully comply with the expectations under the new scheme while being encouraged to disclose their initiatives or progress in sustainability earlier than the deadline.

The BSP also issued in October 2021 a circular detailing expectations for the setting of strategic environmental and social objectives for the bank's credit operations and to ensure that material environmental and social risks are captured in the banks' internal capital planning process.

Source: *INQUIRER.net*



Image Source: *KPMG China*

### **BSP URGES LENDERS TO LOOK INTO CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS IN LIGHT OF TYPHOON ODETTE**

Typhoon Odette's impact brings to light the need for financial institutions to include climate change and environmental risks in assessing their financial position in cases of significant weather disturbances.

The BSP, through Circular 1128, directed banks to implement procedures that will take into account environmental and social risks in their credit

exposures. Assessment should also include the possible impact of such risk on banks' operations. This means lenders should gauge their capability to withstand disruptions, resume operations, and continue to provide services.

In November, the Department of Finance said climate-related hazards caused damage worth PHP506.1B to the country over the past decade. Data from the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council as of December 27 showed agricultural damage caused by Typhoon Odette reached PHP5.32B. Meanwhile, infrastructure damage is estimated at PHP16.7B. Reported deaths caused by the typhoon reached 389, while 571,000 were displaced.

Source: *Business World*



Image Source: <http://www.changemag-diinsider.com>

### **FOOD DIRECT-BUYING IRR STALLED, FREEZING BILLIONS WORTH OF FUNDS**

The multibillion-peso allocation for a program to buy food directly from farmers and fisherfolk remains on hold because the guidelines governing the purchases have not been completed. Senator Francis Pangilinan noted the delay of the guidelines means the intended beneficiaries of the Sagip Saka Act of 2019 cannot access funds worth PHP41B from the 2021 budget.

He said the delay stems from the Government Procurement Policy Board's (GPPB) failure to complete the implementing rules and regulations for the law. The GPPB needs to review and amend its negotiated procurement guidelines to implement the law, which was signed in October 2019.

The GPBB said that it would ask its members to expedite their comments on the draft.

Source: *Business World*



## GOV'T TIGHTENS RULES FOR ACCREDITATION OF MICROFINANCE GROUPS

The Microfinance NGO Regulatory Council (MNRC) said the eligibility requirements for accrediting microfinance non-government organizations (MF-NGO) in 2022 to 2025 will include a fund balance of PHP1M at any given time and incorporation documents identifying the NGO as specifically organized to offer microfinance services.

MF-NGOs must have corporate and trade names that include the word "microfinance." Applicants may refer to the formats outlined in MNRC Memorandum Circular No. 1, Series of 2017.

The applicant must also designate another NGO as the receiver of its net assets in the event of dissolution or to the government for public use or whatever determination a court might arrive at. The articles must bar any member, officer, organizer, or person from being named a beneficiary of the MF-NGO's property or income.

No trustee is allowed to receive compensation or remuneration, while administrative expenses may not exceed 30% of total costs each year. To be accredited, applicants must submit a copy of their operations or product manuals, specific program objectives "to reach the poor," a functioning management information system, and at least 2,500 active microfinance clients.

*Source: Business World*

## INTEREST RATE CAPPED FOR LENDING, FINANCING FIRMS' LOW-VALUE LOANS

BSP has approved a limit on interest rates imposed for short-term credit granted by financing firms to protect low-income borrowers from predatory lending practices that impose elevated interest rates.

The Monetary Board has set a nominal interest rate of 6% per month or 0.2% per day for covered short-term loans. Meanwhile, effective interest rates are capped at 15% or 0.5% per day.

The nominal interest rate is imposed on a loan without other fees, while the effective interest rate includes handling and verification fees, among others.

The cap will only be applicable to unsecured, general-purpose loans worth PHP10,000 offered by lending and financing firms and their online lending platforms. Covered loans will be those that have a tenor of up to four months.

*Source: Business World*

## PH THINK TANK STUDY: POVERTY ERADICATION DOABLE IN 2030 IF...

It is possible for the Philippines to wipe out chronic poverty but only if it uplifted the most vulnerable populations, especially in the agriculture sector, and made itself more disaster-resilient, according to the state-run think tank Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS).

The transient poor included those who temporarily slid to poverty due to shocks like the COVID-19 pandemic and natural disasters.

The latest Philippine Statistics Authority data released this month showed that the nationwide poverty rate rose to 23.7%— equivalent to 26.1M Filipinos — in the first half of 2021, from 21.1% or 22.3M poor Filipinos during the same period in 2018, mainly due to the prolonged COVID-19 pandemic plus high food prices at the start of 2021. The onslaught of Typhoon Odette was expected to aggravate transient poverty.

On top of its AmBisyon Natin 2040 long-term vision aimed at making the country a prosperous, middle-class society where no one is poor 19 years from now, the Philippines had also committed to the United Nations' (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SGD), one of which was to wipe out poverty by 2030.

*Source: INQUIRER.net*



*Image Source: <https://www.update.ph/2016/04/neda-launches-ambisyon-natin-2040-for-continuity-of-ph-development>*





Image Source: <https://the-ken.com>

## **WB: REMOTE LEARNING JACKED-UP LEARNING POVERTY IN PH TO 90% IN 2021**

School children in the Philippines struggled with remote learning, aggravating learning poverty in the country to a new high of 90% amid the prolonged COVID-19 pandemic, a new World Bank report showed.

Citing preliminary evidence, the World Bank said in a November 18 statement that its report titled “Remote Learning During COVID-19: Lessons for Today” found out that “while remote learning has not been equally effective everywhere, hybrid learning is here to stay.”

Due to one of the most stringent and longest lockdowns in the region, the Philippines stopped in-person schooling and relied on online classes or its hybrid, wherein students answered “modules” or watched television or listened to the radio for lessons.

The World Bank said that in March 2021, remote learning in the Philippines covered only 20% of households with school children — the lowest rate alongside Ethiopia.

This jacked-up learning poverty — the share of 10-year-olds who cannot read nor understand a simple story — in the country, which was estimated to have risen to as much as 90% as of August, World Bank calculations showed. In 2019 or before COVID-19 struck, learning poverty in the Philippines was already a high of 69.5%.

Source: *INQUIRER.net*

## **SMART LIVELIHOOD PROGRAMS BOOST FARMERS, CO-OPS IN 2021**

PLDT’s wireless arm Smart Communications, Inc. (Smart)’s sustainable livelihood initiatives for the agriculture and co-operative sectors have benefited more than 6,500 farmers and over 80 co-operatives nationwide in 2021 via the Buy Local, Digital Farmers Program (DFP), and Smart Coops programs.

Championing corporate RICEponsibility, Smart’s Buy Local campaign is a farm-to-market initiative ensuring small-scale farmers access to capital funding and guaranteed markets, including PLDT and Smart’s employees, partner companies with rice subsidy programs, and the general public.

As of the end of 2021, BuyLocal generated PHP8M in gross sales for 4,208 farmers and has raised more than PHP330,000 for the farmers’ sustainability fund as capital support for 72 farmers. Crops purchased from 14 farming communities in Luzon were donated by PLDT and Smart and its employees and partners to community pantries, relief operations, and vulnerable families through a community-based feeding program in partnership with Coca-Cola Foundation Philippines and Philippine Business for Social Progress.

BuyLocal enabled vegetable farmers struggling with oversupply to sell their surplus to employees and companies and provided additional income opportunities to marginalized groups such as an Aeta community from Zambales and a group of women seamstresses in Quezon City.

With over 100 digital literacy training sessions conducted in 2021, Smart trained over 4,000 participants, including over 2,100 farmers and youth, 2,100 co-op members, and around 100 agri-extension workers.

These initiatives to empower Filipino farmers and co-operatives through technology are part of the PLDT Group’s long-standing commitment to help attain the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 1 – No Poverty and Goal 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth.

Source: *INQUIRER.net Brand Room*

In general, co-operatives have to think of changes in their product and service offerings, now that members have been exposed to new ways by which businesses have engaged with customers, changing their behavior in the process. Competition has, in fact, become more intense, with old and new companies employing technology to create innovative products and services that are increasingly attracting customers. Digitalization is now embedded in the business models of these companies. Co-operatives that are outside of this trend or even those just playing catch up may be left behind permanently.

But, even more important, there is change that has to happen at the more fundamental level: For a long time, co-operatives defined their success in terms of growth that was focused on the co-operative itself and its business. Growth was measured in terms of increase in assets, in loan portfolio, in income and other financial indicators. Even members' benefits were measured mostly in financial terms – increase in dividends and patronage refunds, and increase in total loans granted and, therefore, in the volume of loans. Very little attention was given to what all this growth means to individual members. Growth figures, in fact, have hidden the fact that many members have remained poor or have not benefitted from such growth.

This has to change. After all, members are the source of capital and income of the co-operative, and their fortunes determine the quality of co-op growth. Real success can only be achieved when members – that is, all members – can say that their lives have improved because of the co-operative. The vision of the co-operative movement in Mindanao of ***“all members enjoy better of life”*** is the beginning of this new orientation to success. Concrete indicators and measures have already been agreed upon, and MASS SPECC is putting in place the system of monitoring the achievement of this vision on a yearly basis.

Then, there is the issue of sustainability. Are co-operatives contributing seriously to the protection of the environment? *Odette not only destroyed the lives and livelihoods of people but also the co-operatives in the areas affected by the super typhoon. It was a reminder that climate change is real and natural disasters will happen again (the Philippines is the 3rd most disaster-prone country in the world). But to paraphrase Ms. Rinne, we cannot control these natural disasters, but we can control our contribution to mitigating these disruptive events. Co-operatives have to be active participants in the efforts of responsible sectors of our society to make sustainability part of our business. RMV*



*"Co-operatives have to be active participants in the efforts of responsible sectors of our society to make sustainability part of our business."*

Image Source: <https://blog.pressreader.com/hybrid-future-event-industry>





## SMELTING A BETTER FUTURE

*“We really need to have great patience, especially when we are handling the people working for us. We need to take good care of them. If not for them, our business is nothing.”*

Elenita and her husband, Joel, took over the blacksmith business of Elenita’s father, and through their ingenuity, they have developed their enterprise into what is now known as “**Villarta’s Blacksmith Tools Manufacturing.**”

Being members of MSU-IIT NMPC since 2015, they have been availing the co-op’s financial services to expand their business. They sold machetes wholesale and retail in Linamon, Iligan, and Baloi, among other areas. In the past, their major concern was the lack of materials, but they have eventually found a supplier from Zamboanga who provides them with what they need for their business.



*Elenita Villarta, 2020 MICMA (Nanlimbasog Category) Grand Winner*



The couple has purchased “molye” (rims of the tires) for the manufacturing of machetes. The co-operative has also helped not just their business but also their family, especially for the education of their daughter. Elenita and Joel worked together to grow their business.

As Elenita said, “We really need to have great patience, especially when we are handling the people working for us. We need to take good care of them. If not for them, our business is nothing.” At present, aside from their blacksmith business, they have established a mini grocery store and an eatery.

*\*The Nanlimbasog Category of MICMA is open to micro-entrepreneurs who successfully started a business that is now a reliable source of income for the family. Asset size of the microenterprise should have a market value of not more than P300,000.00, inclusive of those rising from loans, but exclusive of the land on which the particular business entity’s office, plant, and equipment are situated. For more info about MICMA, visit our website with this link: <https://mass-specc.coop/about-micma/>*

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Management System  
ISO 9001:2015



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