

MGA KWENTO NG

# PagSibol



When it comes to  
SUSTAINABLE PARTNERSHIPS

**THE GRASS  
IS GREENER**  
in CENTRAL LUZON



## SPECIAL EDITION



on the notable partnership-building initiative  
of DSWD Field Office III for Livelihood Skills  
Training Providers in the Region



# About the Cover

## "Luntian na Pangarap"

In Central Luzon, green is the color of hope.

Amidst the numerous partnership-building initiatives of the DSWD SLP in the country, we are called to cultivate idle lands and discover unexplored terrains.

With the sustained efforts of the Association of Skills Livelihood Providers (ASLP), we are enjoined to graze on greener pastures, with abundance of enthusiasm.

Central Luzon has a story to tell. Let's listen.



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# FOREWORD

Livelihood opportunities are powerful tools to fight poverty and inequality.

Cognizant of this, the Department of Social Welfare and Development through its Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) focuses on capability-building initiatives and skills training modalities for the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program and SLP participants so that they may be able to increase their income and competitive skills. Eventually, enable them to have alternative sources of livelihood which shall help improve their socio-economic wellbeing and self-reliance.

In the spirit of convergence and sustainable partnership-building, the DSWD SLP together with its wide network of reputable and notable partners and stakeholders untiringly strive to come up with gainful and efficient mechanisms so as to respond to the dynamics of livelihood development in the local context. With the help of more thinking heads, helping hands, and mindful hearts, we are gradually harvesting the fruits of our efforts- and this is evidently coming into life through the wonderful stories of change and growth emanating from the grassroots.

Awareness-building and sustained efforts are keys to effectively translate concepts and ideas into profitable and productive opportunities. As we become more aware of how notable partnerships are sustained, we become more challenged on how we may be able to replicate these strategies so that we can ignite a bigger impact and a stronger positive change in the benefit of our program participants.

We embark on a thrilling journey, in the pursuit of genuine and selfless service- today, all roads lead to Central Luzon. Through the steadfast efforts of the DSWD Field Office III and the SLP Regional Program Management Office, we can now proudly say and testify that sustainable partnerships do exist, and it has yet to grow bigger and greener. My friends, let us, once more, be astonished how we got to this point and how farther we could go. With the meager resources that DSWD has, it is indeed a blessing that we meet people who share the same mission and vision that we have.

As we set foot on good soil, we are delightfully convinced that yes, the grass can become greener in time. But this is not where it ends, after laying out the greener pasture, the next challenge is to make flowers bloom.



# MGA KWENTO NG PagSibol

The Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) aligns its communication strategy to the Sustainable Livelihood Framework (SLF) and focuses on affirming the growth of SLP participant's capabilities and bridging livelihood opportunities towards inclusive economic development.

To further celebrate the early wins and the big impact of SLP in the lives of our program participants, the "Mga Kwento ng PagSibol" (MKP) creates an enabling and empowering platform so as to spark up the hope that the marginalized and vulnerable sectors do have a great chance in life. From humble beginnings to rewarding transformations.

'Mula sa PagSibol hanggang sa PagSulong'

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# Stories of Change & Growth



Firmly Rooted in  
Cultivated Soil



Behind the Tall,  
Green Grass



Budding  
Opportunities



Nurturing  
the Land



Grazing on  
Greener Pastures

WHEN IT COMES TO  
SUSTAINABLE PARTNERSHIPS

# THE GRASS IS GREENER IN CENTRAL LUZON

Enhancing human assets through technical-vocational and life skills trainings and extending social assets through membership and participation in the Sustainable Livelihood Program Associations (SLPAs) and community groups are among the main program objectives of SLP.

Through assessing and acquiring necessary assets to engage in and maintain thriving livelihoods, it is deemed that SLP participants shall be provided with capability-building to improve their socio-economic conditions. Accordingly, an active collaboration between the program implementers and the stakeholders with whom partnerships have been established is vital towards successfully achieving this goal. 🌱

## FIRMLY ROOTED IN CULTIVATED SOIL

In 2016-2017, the SLP encountered a significant increase in regional targets which resulted to an influx of implementation activities in the Field Offices, including the provision of skills training to identified program participants.

However, a number of issues and irregularities surfaced because of certain program limitations. Hence, the need to devise an effective strategy that could help increase the accountability among stakeholders and improve the service delivery to program participants became an urgent concern.



The Sustainable Livelihood Program-Regional Program Management Office (SLP-RPMO) of DSWD Field Office III led by Vencie P. Virtulfo (Regional Program Coordinator) with the assistance of Ferdinand Jorge M. Canlas (Private Sector Partnership Officer), positively responded to the call through the guidance of the then Regional Director (now the National Program Manager of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program) Gemma B. Gabuya. There was indeed a vast land which needed to be tilled.

Among the concrete actions taken to ensure the credibility of possible service providers included the conduct of on-site validations, certification and operational assessment from the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), and the submission of essential credentials and documents in line with the requisites for SLP partnership-building initiatives. Service providers who were able to comply with these requirements eventually formalized partnerships with the DSWD through an Institutional Arrangement which clearly defined the roles and responsibilities, as well as the various areas and points of engagement.

As the number of partner service providers, offering an array of livelihood skills trainings and related courses, significantly increased over time, the thought of organizing them into an association was initiated by DSWD Field Office III.

Hence, on 6 June 2018 the Association of Livelihood Service Providers (ASLP) was firmly planted on good soil. To further solidify its would-be role in the standardized implementation of processes, services, and livelihood projects, the association has lived up to their vision and mission, shedding warm sunlight over the once infertile fields of effective and efficient partnership initiatives.

## Vision



ASLP visualizes a new breed of SLP participants achieving economic independence and social responsibility through active partnership among themselves, with partner Technical-Vocational Institutions (TVIs), thereby eliminating poverty through a responsive, participative, and mutual support mechanism



## Mission



To achieve this vision, ASLP will imbibe the values of integrity and responsibility in the implementation of projects and programs; create an atmosphere of mutual interdependence to assist each member, and serve as watchdogs against corruption and irresponsible practices in the implementation of the DSWD programs







*Photo above shows the ASLP officers with their regular consultation dialogue with Director Gemma B. Gabuya; The photo below presents the ASLP officers together with Mr. Ferdinand Canlas (SLP Private Sector Partnership Officer)*

Moreover, like any other institutions or organized groups, ASLP observes an organizational structure composed of elected officers who assist in ensuring the smooth flow of all association-related matters.

Edgardo R. Santiago has been serving as the current president of ASLP since 2018. With him are: Louie Baisa (Vice-President), Marie Jean G. Gonzales (Secretary), Richel C. Kalaw (Assistant Secretary), Remedios R. Uriarte (Treasurer), and Ronald J. Camacho (Auditor and Zambales PRO). Six of the seven provinces in the region are also well-represented by their Public Relations Officers (PROs) to ensure proper coordination of activities – Ernesto N. Acuña (Bataan), Marinel V. Simsuangco (Bulacan), Emmarie P. Dulay (Nueva Ecija), Arlene B. Samson (Pampanga), (Zambales) and Vilma M. Pabon (Tarlac).



# BEHIND THE TALL, GREEN GRASS



*In one of the massive graduations spearheaded by ASLP member TVIs, the photo shows the program participants who have completed their NC II courses holding their certificates with pride and joy.*

One of ASLP's notable contributions include the addressing of gaps on accountability among the program implementers and partner stakeholders. While it does not guarantee a hundred percent flaw-free system management, there is much confidence that with the strengthened transparency mechanisms, the risks on project implementation irregularities may be reduced.

Another significant contribution worthy to mention is ASLP's resource-augmentation practices which is aimed to ensure optimal service-quality. Setting doable and practical standards has allowed both the service providers and their participants to widen their knowledge and competencies in various fields of expertise.

Through this, the SLP participants are provided not only with options where they can further develop and hone their innate skills, but also to acquire new techniques and abilities which they can later improve on.

Thus, providing cross-cutting employment opportunities in the longer run.

Above all, the establishment of ASLP has fostered a sense of commitment and unity among DSWD and partner TVIs.

Promoting equality and equity in distribution of project loads or assignments for implementation has also been observed to eliminate unhealthy culture of competition among TVIs.

ASLP had been established not simply to organize DSWD-accredited training institutions, but more specifically to serve and protect the interest of the program participants and their families.

Perhaps, developing a "greater sense of co-responsibility" has become the most important intangible accomplishment which ASLP has achieved so far. 🌱





# budding OPPORTUNITIES

With only a year and a half since ASLP's establishment in 2018, several milestones have already been unlocked and advocacy of their mission continues to flourish.

As a matter of fact, (dated from June 2018 to March 2019) a total of **3,168** trained participants have already received competency-based skills training on different technical-vocational fields, based on the June 2018- March 2019 SLP Field Office III implementation report. The 3,168 bled bright green as it color the efforts of ASLP and DSWD SLP with hues of hope and enthusiasm.


*The photo shows one of the DSWD SLP participants on her practicum on beauty care cum spa services skills training*

Furthermore, the trained SLP participants underwent certain National Certificate II (NC II) skills trainings on Beauty Care, Bread and Pastry Production, Carpentry, Cookery, Dressmaking, Electronic Products Assembly and Servicing, Food and Beverage Services, Hairdressing, HEO-Backhoe Loader Operations, Hilot Massage Services, Household and Personal Care Products – Micro-Entrepreneurial, Meat Processing, Shielded Metal Arc Welding.



As of January 2019, the following DSWD-accredited TVIs, from all Central Luzon provinces, have joined ASLP's roster:

Acuña Welding Institute, AIT Advanced Institute Technology of Tarlac City, Inc., AKARUI Technical School Foundation, Inc., AMA Computer Learning Center, Asia Pacific College of Business and Arts, Inc., ATEC Technological College Guiguinto/Apalit, Center for Authentic Learning and Innovations, Inc., Colegio De San Gabriel Archangel, Craftman's Techvoc School, Inc., First Magcor School of Technology, Inc., Floriana Bao-Sandian Technical Vocational School Foundaion, Global Citi College Elizabeth Campus, Inc., Headwaters College Elizabeth Campus, Inc., Holy Child of Mary College, JVF Center for Technical Studies and Assessment, Inc., Microsity College of Business and Technology, Inc., Mother Elizabeth Academy of Technical Studies, Inc., Olarte's of Science and Technology, Inc., Richwell Colleges, Inc., Skill & Knowledge Enriching Institute, Inc., Skill Power Institute Inc., St. Benilde Center for Global Competence, Inc., Tarlac School of Art and Trade, Inc., and Xavier International College of Arts and Technical Sciences, Inc.

Also, ASLP widens their green meadows through collective and consultative dialogues with other partners including National Government Agencies (NGAs), Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), and other TVIs. 

## nurturing the land

The success of any project is measured not only on the number of commendations or applause but more so on the impact it has created to the target program participants. The stories of change and growth of the green-tinged participants served as the morning-dews to ASLP's grazing fields.

Daryl Niric, program participant of skills training provided by AMA Computer Learning Center (ACLC) Guagua, Pampanga, recalls how he first understood the meaning of poverty. As a young boy, he who would usually serve *kamote* (sweet potato) and coffee as afternoon snacks for his father who has been sweating under the scorching heat of the sun.



ASLP's official member TVIs together with the DSWD Field Office III officials and staff during one of their partnership conventions and consultation dialogues



Daryl's mother would always remind him not to complain about their condition and just be optimistic about their future, instead.

“

After the skills training, I immediately landed a job. We are no longer eat *kamote* most of the time. Aside from coffee, I am now able to serve my father with other refreshments, thanks to the opportunity given to me by DSWD SLP and ASLP

”

teary-eyed Daryl expressed. He now works as a housekeeping staff at Bliss Hotel, San Fernando City, Pampanga.

On the other hand, Rocelyn Dizon also had a share of challenges when it comes to job-seeking. She recalled how hard it was for her to land a gainful job considering her advanced age. This did not stop her. Through the DSWD SLP – ASLP partnership efforts, Rocelyn was able to complete the course on Contact Center Services NC II at Xavier International College of Arts and Technical Sciences and was eventually given a chance to easily apply to a reputable employer without discrimination. She now enjoys being one of the Customer Service Representatives at Sutherland, Angeles City, Pampanga.

At the heart of Sitio Caldera, Brgy. Sulipan, Apalit, Pampanga rose the story of Victoria Torres, a mother who discovered new opportunities and source of living.

By utilizing her acquired skills on Cookery, implemented by Skill Power Institute, Inc., Victoria, at present, prepares food for various occasions to support her family's daily needs. Her NC II boosted her confidence and empowered her to establish her own food business. Aside from having a small-scale catering services, she is also a sells and distributes some of her homemade delicacies as far as Davao. Her business eventually grew from monthly to weekly deliveries.

Nenita Cruz of Brgy. Tukod, San Rafael, Bulacan also expressed her gratitude to DSWD-SLP, Local Government Unit of San Gabriel, and Colegio de San Gabriel Archangel providing her with quality training which enabled her to gain the necessary skills and materials for sewing. With more skillful hands, Nenita now earns Php 800.00 to Php 1,500.00 weekly.

“

Hindi ko lubos akalain na ang pagtatahi ng bag at shorts at pag-re-repair ng damit ay makakatulong upang magkaraoon kami ng maginhawang buhay

”

*“I never thought that sewing and repairing bags and shorts would lead us to having a better life”*

Nenita exclaimed as she finishes sewing her 25th product for the day. 🌱



# Grazing on Greener Pastures

Indeed, building and maintaining effective partnerships between and among institutions and other stakeholders play a crucial role in the ensuring the efficiency and accountability in the service delivery to target program participants. When the goal is clearly defined, each stakeholder, whether from the private or public sector, may be able to effectively produce positive results, benefiting not only themselves, but the small communities as well. It may be safe to say that it takes effective management mechanisms to steer all program partners and stakeholders to the right, weeded path.

While ASLP recognizes the birth-pains that come with sustainable partnership development, it has already ploughed and planted with firm roots, gainful skills, knowledge, and values to the lives of the SLP participants.

The story of ASLP's change and growth leads us to the key elements of people empowerment, collective involvement, and co-responsibility. Through these, the DSWD-SLP and ASLP remain faithful to their commitment to contribute in improving the economic sufficiency of target individuals, families, and communities in developing employable skills, securing gainful employment, earning steady, and attaining sufficient resources.

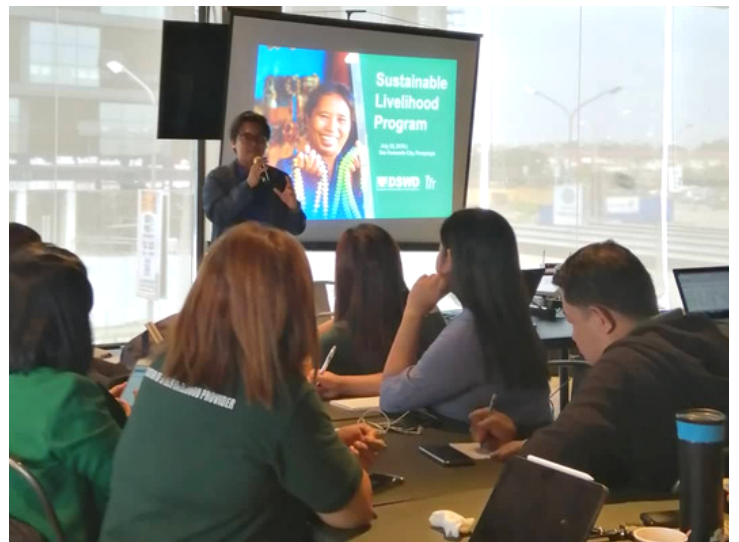
**We have yet to see flowers bloom while the grass becomes greener in Central Luzon.**



One of the numerous SLP commencement exercises in Nueva Ecija province in partnership with ASLP member TVIs



ASLP generously partake in the most recent DSWD Handog-Serbisyo in Field Office III- Central Luzon



Continuously sharpening the saw, ASLP received training on effective documentation, provided by Mr. Donards Kim Tanedo (SLP National Program Management Office)





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With this partnership of the DSWD and the ASLP, the project implementation mechanisms shall be further strengthened to uplift the lives of the poor so that they may be able to fulfill their dreams and acquire a dignified source of living. We hope this organization will always be a part of DSWD in reaching their shared vision and mission. DSWD SLP gives us purpose and guidance to help our fellow Filipino achieve a better life

”

- Edgardo R. Santiago  
ASLP President





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