

## PRESS RELEASE

### HGM performs project in the Philippines...



KALAHI-CIDSS MOA SIGNING. Aklan Governor Carlito S. Marquez (seated, middle) signs a Memorandum of Agreement with Madalag Mayor Rex Gubatina (seated, left) and DSWD Region 6 Regional Director Minda B. Brigoli (seated, right) for the implementation of anti-poverty projects in the Municipality of Madalag, funded by Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) and supervised by Millennium Challenge Account-Philippines (MCA-P. Witnessing the ceremony were (standing, from left) Tomas Cabueños, KC-MCC Deputy National Project Manager; Ma. Victoria E. Añonuevo MCA-P Managing Director and CEO; John A. Polk, MCC Deputy Resident Country Director, MCA-P KC Director Andres K. Moll; and Joel Galicia, KC-MCC Regional Project Manager. Lower photo shows Libacao Mayor Charito I. Navarosa signing the MOA.

This signing is a result of the Municipality selection process led by the Washington, DC based HGM Management and Technologies, Inc. and its local partner ARMDEV in the Philippines.

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#### **Province of Aklan and two municipalities first to sign MOA for MCC's \$120-Million anti-poverty projects**

The Province of Aklan and the municipalities of Libacdao and Madalag recently signed two separate Memoranda of Agreement (MOA) with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) for the implementation of anti-poverty projects under DSWD's Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan - Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (KALAHI-CIDSS) using the \$120-million grant from Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC).

One MOA was signed by Aklan Governor Carlito S. Marquez, Libacdao Mayor Charito I. Navarosa and DSWD Region 6 Regional Director Minda B. Brigoli and another was signed by Marquez, Brigoli and Madalag Mayor Rex Gubatina. MCC Deputy Country Resident Director John A. Polk and Ma. Victoria E. Añonuevo, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Millennium Challenge Account-Philippines (MCA-P), witnessed the signing.

## *PRESS RELEASE*

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Libacao and Madalag are two of the 19 guaranteed municipalities all over the Philippines that will receive grants from MCC through the KALAHI-CIDSS project starting this year. For its first cycle in 2011, Libacao will get P11.25 million for its 25 barangays while Madalag will get P10.8 million for its 24 barangays. The municipalities have three cycles (or three years) to implement KALAHI-CIDSS projects under the supervision of DSWD and MCA-P.

Five other municipalities were selected to receive MCC grants starting 2012. These are Ibaday, New Washington, Makato, Batan and Tangalan.

Governor Marquez said the MCC support "is the key to unlock the chains of poverty in Aklan and will help bridge the gap between the rich and the poor" in the province. The provincial government has set aside counterpart funds for the two municipalities. Libacao and Madalag, on the other hand, will put up their counterpart funds in the form of labor or in kind.

Mayors Navarosa and Gubatina welcomed the grants and said these "will give inspiration and hope to the people, especially those who live in the uplands."

MCA-P's Añonuevo said the MOA signing was "one big step towards reducing poverty in the two municipalities and shows the strong cooperation between and among the local governments and their people." She called on the Aklanons to work together to fulfill their dream of poverty reduction through sustainable economic growth."

Aside from community sub-projects, the grant also will finance activities for capacity building and institutional support as well as for monitoring and evaluation. Sub-projects will be identified through a participatory, transparent and open process of community prioritization. Barangay assemblies and consultations with non-government organizations, civil society organizations and people's organization will be held to identify and prioritize infrastructure sub-projects that will be implemented in the communities.

MCC's Polk said, "Every burden is lighter when shared, and while the communities themselves will be doing the heavy lifting, we hope our participation can provide a little lift in the effort to promote sustainable, inclusive growth in the Philippines."

DSWD's Brigoli said the government agency is committed to helping achieve the goal of the Aquino administration to reduce the number of Filipinos living below poverty line. She said KALAHI-CIDSS was just one of DSWD's anti-poverty reduction programs in Aklan.

Brigoli swore into office members of the Provincial Inter-Agency Committee, chaired by Governor Marquez, to provide technical support to the local government units in project preparation, implementation and monitoring.