

## **9th ALGOA and 4th GAOD Summits Opening Ceremony**

Kauswagan, Lanao del Norte

05 June 2023 (9:30 A.M. – 11:45 A.M.)

### *Message of Support for the ALGOA-LOAMCP-Ph Academy*

To Ms. Karen Mapusua, President of IFOAM-Organics International  
Mr. Mathew John, IFOAM-Organics Asia President,  
Mr. Salvatore Basile, Co-President of GAOD,  
Mr. Song In hern, Mayor of Goesan County,  
DILG Secretary Benjamin Abalos,  
DA Undersecretary Zamzamin Ampatuan,  
Hon. Imelda Quibranza, Governor of Lanao del Norte,  
Hon. Khalid Dimaporo, Congressman of the 1st District of Lanao del Norte,  
Hon. Rommel Arnado, Mayor of Kauswagan, Lanao del Norte,

To all other distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, a blessed day to everyone.

First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mayor Rommel Arnado as the new ALGOA President. I can vouch for Mayor Arnado's dedication and capabilities to lead the organization as I witness what he has done to Kauswagan and to LOAMCP-Ph, and his contributions as one of the National Organic Agriculture Board (NOAB) directors.

To Mayor Rommel, it is another hat in addition to the hats that you are wearing now but I believe that you will give your one (1) hundred percent to every role you take be it as a mayor, NOAB director, and president of LOAMCP-Ph and ALGOA.

Through this one-week event, we recognize every sector of the society as part of our movement to promote organic agriculture in the world. We have event solely for women, youth, and policymakers. As we recognize the potential and contribution of every sector, it is a notable effort to be heavily involved local government executives and officials in this global campaign.

The government, both national and local, is responsible to ensure the general welfare of their people. In the Philippines, under Section 16 of Republic Act (RA) No. 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991, Local Government Units (LGUs) are mandated to ensure and support the preservation and enrichment of culture, promote health and safety, enhance the right of the people to a balanced ecology, among other things. Relatively, Organic Agriculture greatly contributes in ensuring the welfare of the public and the community as a whole by employing chemical-free, natural and ecological farming.

Having unparalleled influence and local autonomy within their respective jurisdiction to implement different programs and policies that will be beneficial to the community, it is

very timely to enjoin and strengthen the involvement of LGUs in the promotion of organic agriculture in the country through this ALGOA-LOAMCP-Ph Academy.

I am truly happy and grateful for this partnership between ALGOA and LOAMCP-Ph to establish an Academy that will undertake capacity-building programs for local government executives and officials and will document, disseminate and develop good organic policies. I know that this initiative will be a big help to the national government to further strengthen organic agriculture industry in Asia, especially in the Philippines.

We, at the National Organic Agriculture Program, has programs and activities involving LGUs to encourage them to support and implement organic agriculture projects within their respective jurisdiction. Currently, we are lobbying for the institutionalization of local organic agriculture ordinances through the conduct of information caravan. To date, we already visited 22 provinces and 214 cities and municipalities and discussed with them their roles and responsibilities in accordance to RA No. 10068, otherwise known as Organic Agriculture Act of 2010, as amended by RA 11511 and Joint Memorandum Circular No. 01, series of 2021.

We also include LGU as one of our beneficiaries in our Organic Agriculture Livelihood Project, wherein we provide at least five (5) million pesos financial assistance. Further, we are working with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) for the amendment of the guidelines of the Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG), particularly the assessment criteria to include organic agriculture reforms among the governance areas.

Having the same goal, rest assured that the NOAP will provide support to the academy and link this institution to other possible partners, from both public and private sectors. We can partner together, through our National Organic Agriculture Board, the policymaking body of the NOAP, in crafting sound policies for the betterment of the organic industry.

I believe, through this Academy and other programs that we implement, we will enjoin more LGUs to be organic supporters and practitioners like Kauswagan and other members of LOAMCP-Ph.

Together, let us transform the agricultural sector towards sustainable food production and consumption that is safe, healthy, affordable and accessible food for every Filipino without harming biodiversity and our environment.

Thank you and wishing us all a productive day ahead!