

**Municipality of Sibagat's 43<sup>rd</sup> Founding Anniversary, 21<sup>st</sup> Bagat Festival,  
and 2023 Organic Congress**

Sibagat, Agusan del Sur 30 January 2023

Message of Dir. Bernadette F. San Juan

Maayung adlaw kaninyong tanan!

It gives me great pleasure to extend my congratulations to the people of this humble yet vibrant Municipality of Sibagat as you celebrate your 43<sup>rd</sup> Founding Anniversary and revel to your 21<sup>st</sup> Bagat Festival.

And as the Director of the National Organic Agriculture Program or NOAP, I am delighted that you will also hold your 2023 Organic Congress with the theme, "Support Organic Agriculture for our Sustainable Future"

Sibatgnons are known to the world as amicable and caring people which reflects on how you take care of your citizens and of your resources especially the environment.

Over the past decades, your town is hailed as a major producer of agricultural products such as coconut, banana, vegetables and especially, abaca in the province. However, you also have your fair share of challenges in the agri-sector but these didn't disfigure your principles and goals.

I believe that your rich indigenous practices crucially grapple for you to remain a staunch believer and supporter of organic farming— practicing a total chemical-free farming to achieve a safer and sustainable produce and products for the present and future generations.

Your courage, hard work, diligence, and dedication— the cornerstones of your town, deserve the people's gratitude and admiration.

Rest assured that the NOAP got the Sibagatnons' back. I am a witness of how committed you are hence we will continue supporting your ventures and endeavours.

Verily, the Program through our Regional Field Office in CARAGA is set to distribute interventions this 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2023. A hauling vehicle will be given to the Sibagat Organic Farmers Association; a solar powered irrigation system for the Tag-Oyango Multi-Purpose Cooperative; and 4 units of shredder machines for the San Isidro II, Banana Growers Association.

Also, we are looking forward for the construction of the 2-storey OA Hub Building this coming October!

Sibagat is an epitome of a steadfast community and I am hoping that more municipalities, and even cities and provinces will be inspired and will also adopt organic farming practices for a more sustainable country.

This is one of my greatest dreams and I am confident that through our collective effort and initiatives advocating for organic farming practices, this dream will be realized and there will be a brighter future with hope ahead of us!

Daghang salamat!