

RPMC-TWG MONITORING IN ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE

The Regional Project Monitoring Committee IX-Technical Working Group (RPMC IX -TWG) conducted field monitoring of foreign assisted projects in Zamboanga del Norte from September 27 – October 01, 2004. The Team was composed of DBM, PMS and NEDA and implementing agency representatives (DPWH, DAR, TESDA, WMCIP and SPMO-PBP).

Projects monitored include the Tulay ng Pangulo, the Presidential Bridge Project of the DPWH, the Solar Power Technology Support (SPOTS) and Western Mindanao Community Initiatives Project (WMCIP) Projects of DAR and the ADB-assisted project of TESDA at the Dipolog School of Fisheries. The group also inspected the Austrian Equipment Grant to the Jose Rizal Memorial Hospital.

A. The President's Bridge Program - DPWH

The Department of Public Works and Highways IX (DPWH IX) is currently upgrading a number of bridges along the national highways. The Team monitored four (4) on-going UK-Assisted bridges in the municipalities of Labason and Gotalac, Zamboanga del Norte. It is noted that the advent of the rainy season and considering that most bridge building activities are done in the open, further delays in the project completion will be expected. Deliveries of steel components were on going at the time of monitoring.

- **The Osukan Bridge, Labason**

This is a 12-meter steel modular bridge project with approaches with a total project cost of P 3.0 million. Steel component is UK-supplied and the substructures are to be provided by the national government as counterpart. Completion is expected by the end of October 2004. DPWH reports an accomplishment of 88.07%, however, the Team's estimate is more or less fifty percent as only one of two concrete piers was completed and the steelworks are on-going. Steel sections/girders are already on site.

The delay in fund releases and power lines obstructing the on-going works caused the delay of the project.

- **Labason Bridge, Labason**

This is a P14.4 million Steel Truss Bridge Project under contract with Unitec Builders, Inc. The project is on-going but experiencing delay due to right-of-way payments and valuation problems. Houses near and at both approaches are not yet demolished. At the time of inspection, one concrete

pier was completed while work on the other pier was temporarily suspended to support/reinforce approach embankment of existing Bailey Bridge. The Team observed that the contractor has no field office and only a crane was in operation at the time of the visit. Target date of completion is December 2004.

- **Kipit I Bridge, Labason**

This is a short-span bridge (about 12-m) along the Labason-Gutalac national road section. This Project is implemented by administration by the DPWH-DE and is also experiencing delay due, in part, to the power line problem. At the time of the project visit, it was still on pile-driving stage. The crane for pile-driving was non-operational. A number of concrete piles were also ready for driving. No steel component are available yet at site. The Team approximates accomplishment at only less than twenty percent (20%). Target date for completion is November 2004.

- **Sibalik II Bridge, Gutalac**

This is a 66-linear meter Steel Truss Bridge implemented by administration by DPWH-DE with a total cost of P11.66 million. One concrete pier was already completed and a redesign of the other foundation was made due to the presence of rock structure at site. This is one of the reasons for the delay. No steel component at the site yet. The Team estimates the accomplishment at less than thirty (30) percent. The Project is targeted for completion by November 2004.





Existing Labason Bailey Bridge



Existing Bridge Approach Embankment Being Reinforced/Protected @ Labason Bridge





B. Tulay ng Pangulo sa SZOPAD

The UK-assisted Tulay ng Pangulo sa SZOPAD/Mindanao is being implemented in the region by the Department of Public Works and Highways through the Special Project Management Office – President’s Bridge Program. The group monitored six (6) completed modular steel bridges, namely Denoyan Bridge, Siayan; Dicuyong and Tigbao Bridges, Sindangan; Sinaad Bridge, Osmeña; Sulangon and Barra-Minaog Bridge in Dapitan City and Dipolog City respectively.

Although all were completed at record performance, the Team has a number of comments and observations, among which are:

1. All the bridges were already turned over to the respective LGUs and being utilized by the people except for the Barra-Minaog Bridge (this is the bridge that will link a new road from the airport to Dipolog City). This project was not endorsed by the RDC due to the river’s wide span (not within the PBP criteria). However, an instruction from PGMA effected the bridge construction. Moreover, according to the SPMO-PBP engineer, there is no immediate program yet for the road construction by the LGU.

2. The **Sinaad Bridge** is constructed in a very remote area serving only three barangays (roads is only up to one barangay). The 7-km road leading to the barangays is rough, steep and winding, which made the delivery of materials difficult. The SPMO-PBP had to resort to double handling in the delivery of bridge materials to site.

3. The pier foundation of the **Dicuyong Bridge** indicated some degree of erosion. This is due to the changing course/direction of the river flow. The SPMO-PBP engineer informed the group that in such case the foundation is not supported on piles. The DPWH engineer accompanying the Team commented that with this type of soil structure piles should have been driven so that the footing will not be damaged by erosion.

Given the above observations on the SPMO-PBP, the Team recommends the following:

1. In the identification of sites for the Program, priority should be given to sites where utilization of the project is immediate and would benefit a wider number of the population.
2. The consultant should conduct a thorough site investigation to ascertain actual field conditions as inputs in the design of the bridges for a more effective and responsive output. It should also consult with other agencies particularly the DPWH and the LGUs, which have enough knowledge and experiences of the local situations.





The rough, steep and winding road to Sinaad, Osmeña



The newly completed Sinaad Bridge



C. Solar Power Technology Support (SPOTS) Project – SPOTS is a Spanish Government-assisted Project which aims to address rural poverty, increase agricultural productivity and improve socio-economic welfare of agrarian reform communities (ARCs). It has three components, namely, solar electrification, agribusiness development and institutional development. The Project is implemented in six (6) ARCs in Zamboanga del Norte: SIGILO, MARCELO, SEPANSUPA, TRIPLE “MS”, SBLS Growth Center and SIAYAN EAST. The Project is still in its implementation phase.

The Project consists of eight (8) solar packages with the following application:

Solar Electrification

- Home Lighting System

Agri-business/Agri-development Application

- Agri Water System
- AC-10 Block of Power

Social (Support to community facilities)

- Potable Water System
- Health Center Package
- School Package
- Barangay Hall Package
- Communal Lighting Package

The Team inspected only the SIGILO ARC and the Project Depot located at the Poblacion of Jose Dalman Municipality. Four barangays (Sigamok, Ilijan, Marupay and Dinasan) in the SIGILO ARC are recipients of the Project.

The following are the observations and comments on the Project:

1. The Project is well implemented in the areas visited by the Team
2. The Team was not able to observe the operation of the vaccine fridge in the health centers as the assigned midwives were out of the respective centers at the time of the visit;
3. The beneficiaries for the home lighting system are thankful to the government for this project as they can already extend their working and study times;
4. The entire community in Barangay Dinasan is glad to have all the SPOTS projects completed; and
5. The water system in Barangay Marupay was not yet operational at the time of the visit although the elevated water tank and intake box were already completed due to the problem of water delivery to the tank (the spring discharge is below than the specified minimum). Accordingly, the contractor is still making adjustments/redesign to the pumping system. The batteries for the pump were detached from the system and allow the pump to operate only during the day. In this respect, the Team recommended that instead of detaching the battery from the system, retain the battery so that the system can pump water continuously even during night time.





Audio Visual Package for Elementary Schools



An Example of the Community Lighting System



D. Western Mindanao Community Initiatives Project (WMCIP), Zamboanga del Norte

The Project implements various types of infrastructure projects like farm-to-market roads, water supply, irrigation, post harvest facilities and multi-

purpose construction in ARCs in six municipalities in the province, namely Katipunan, Godod, L. Postigo, Roxas, Siayan and Sindangan. These projects are implemented by WMCIP ZDN Site Operations Units in coordination with the local government units. The Team monitored seven (7) projects in Siayan and Roxas. The following projects were monitored:

- *Concreting of Dumpilas Barangay Road, Siayan, ZDN*
- *Spring Development, Dumpilas, Siayan, ZDN*
- *Construction of Hanging Bridge, Poblacion, Siayan, ZDN*
- *Rehab./Impv't of Capase-Sindutan Road, Roxas, ZDN*
- *Spring Development (Level II), Capase, Roxas, ZDN*
- *Rehab/Improvement of Sindutan-Moliton-Canibongan Road, Roxas, ZDN*
- *Rehab./Impv't of sindutan-Sibatog-Marupay Road, Roxas, ZDN*

In Siayan, the Team together with Mayor Siasico as well as the WMCIP personnel met with the barangay officials and project beneficiaries. The people were happy and thankful to the government for the project. On the other hand, the WMCIP is really impressed with the support the people of the municipality extended to the success of the Project. Contrary to the observations in Zamboanga Sibugay, the Team noted the remarkable performance of the projects. Most of these projects were turned over late last year or during the first quarter of 2004. Only the Capase Spring Development Project is still on going due to leaks. This leak is caused by high pipe pressure midway between the water source and the reservoir tank. WMCIP will install pressure breaker to resolve the problem.



The RPMG-TWG Consulting with the Community in Siayan, ZDN



The Team Savoring the Water in One of the Tap Stands



Hanging Bridge @ Poblacion, Siayan, ZDN



D. Others

The Team also monitored the ADB Assisted Construction/Refurbishment of the Dipolog School of Fisheries (DSF) Center of Excellence Building Project. It also inspected the equipment grant of the Austrian Government to the Jose Rizal Memorial Hospital (JRMH) in Dapitan City.

The **DSF Project** involves the construction of a 500-square meter single storey building consisting of a laboratory, lecture room and audiovisual room. It also includes the construction of the long span single arc roof for the fish hatchery. The Project experienced delays due to late release of billings. The Project is targeted for completion by the end of November 2004.

As regards the **DJRMH Grant**, the Team inspected the 5 units of hospital equipment, namely, infant incubator, syringe pump, urine analyzer, infusion pump and operating room lamp. These equipment are already in used except for the urine analyzer which is not being used as this equipment require a distinct brand of strip not available locally. Also, examination takes longer than conventional facility. The hospital was thankful to have these equipment and inquired from the Team how they can further requests for additional grants. The Team suggested that they come up with the proposal and submit it to the DOH for appropriate action.



The long-span single arc roof of the fish hatchery @ DSF



The new DSF Center of Excellence Building



The Infant Incubator @ DJRMH



The Installed Operation Room Lamp @ DJRMH