Bakery project supports 40 parents

Story and Photos by Elyrose S. Naorbe

FORTY parents in the municipality of Bingawan, Iloilo benefited from Cameleon Association Inc.’s Bakery Project which aims to support the women sector’s livelihood program.

The Cameleon Livelihood Parents Association (CPLA), which was constructed more than two years ago in the aftermath of Super Typhoon Yolanda, is funded by Cameleon.

The non-government organization provided the building, baking tools and equipment, and starting capital for the parents to begin their business.

The beneficiaries make banana and squash muffins, pies, pizzas, and cakes. They can sell more than 100 muffins everyday aside from special orders from different schools and organizations.

They can generate P1,000 every day from their special muffins only. Their products are also in demand, especially among students and government employees around the bakery.

The products are supplied by farmer members who own an organic farm that plants different varieties of fruits and vegetables.

The project building is divided into three areas – canteen, eatery, and bakery. Every department has its own managing team that facilitates the business flow.

Most of their bakers and members underwent training in various skills such as cooking, baking, manicure and pedicure and even in massage.

During the site visit last Jan. 19, 2017, Cameleon’s Executive Director Sabine Claudio and the members of the CPLA showing their products during the site visit in Bingawan.
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President Jean Pierre Jolivot said they are amazed by the ongoing project because of its consistency. They also lauded the livelihood coordinator Candelaria Santillana for the smooth implementation of the project.

“I’m very happy because it’s not usual that an organization like this can last for more than a year. These parents are very dedicated to their work. I’m also thankful that the support of the local government unit (LGU) is solid. This is a best example of a successful partnered project. We can now say that indeed, private organizations can work well with the government,” shared Claudio.

Meanwhile, Mayor Mark Plagata of Bingawan said the project helped the community especially the parents of Candelier scholars.

“We’re very thankful for this project because it supports the needs of the members and helps them on their daily income. The LGU is very supportive for this project and they’re always welcome to approach us every time they want,” Palabrica added.

The team is also planning to export or showcase their products across the region but they said they need to become consistent of the products to maintain its quality and unique Bingawan taste. In fact, they’ve joined the Produkto Lokal in Iloilo last month wherein Ilonggos got the chance to taste their products.

“When we exhibited our products in Iloilo City, we are very happy with the response of the consumers and we went home early because all our products were sold in just a short period of time,” said president Rosette Dela Cruz.

Baker Lorliny Tibon also said the project is important to them because it helps them especially in supporting the school needs of their children.

“Because of this project, we can now send our children to school and give them the things they need,” she added.

The project was also sponsored by the Lions Club, Oudenaarde Belgium, Australian Embassy, Metrobank Training Agencies, Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Passi Trade School, Iloilo Science and University Technology (ISAT-U), and Puratos.

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governing contractualization, hindi sila kasama dun,” he said.

In October, the Information Technology and Business Process Outsourcing Association of the Philippines (IBPAP) said wiping out contractualization would deter foreign investors from infusing fresh capital in the country.

“A total ban on contractualization will be discouraging for investors,” IBPAP Executive Director for External Affairs Genny Marcial said.

What is clear is that companies must still follow labor laws and regularize employees who fit the standards, Cruz said. “Regular employment status mo no if you are performing jobs that are necessary and desirable.”

The administration of President Rodrigo R. Duterte will no longer allow companies to employ more than 10 percent of the workforce under contractualization, Labor Secretary Silvestre H. Bello III also said in June 2016.

PMAP President Ramon Segismundo mirrors the position, saying companies must toe the line of laws that govern employment.

“Workers of service providers rendering non-essential and/or industry specific services should be accorded regular employment status by their employers in compliance with existing laws and rulings by the Supreme Court,” he said in a statement. (GMA News)