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VALUING THE FACES OF

Volunteerism

Winners of the 2017 Agricultural and Fishery Council (AFC) Outstanding Chairpersons and Secretariat-Coordinators reminisced the night they

have received their awards. They also shared their lessons learned and gave their two cents to the aspirants of the Search.

⇒ That night

While rushing into the stage to receive the award, I was wondering if the master of ceremony read the name of the winner right.

It was mixed feelings of disbelief, happiness, gratitude and oblation. Never did I expect that I would win the Search. It was like winning in a lotto draw.

When my RAFC family insisted to forward my name to the search, I hesitantly said yes with conditions. They should not pressure me to secure documents and to do things outside my usual routines, but it was my RAFC family who absorbed all the pressures, tensions and pain of uncertainties in preparing for the search.

⇒ Lessons learned

There is no such thing as a sole winner. Winner has many individuals behind him. Always give your best even if your best may not be good enough for others. Giving your best is surely rewarded either here on earth or up there above.

Love and enjoy your work and the company of people you work with and the company of people you work for.

⇒ Your two cents

After receiving the award, while recognitions, appreciations and belongingness are human needs, "living life to the full" is not limited to such. The 60 thousand check that you will receive will surely be fast spent. The plaque that will be awarded to you will

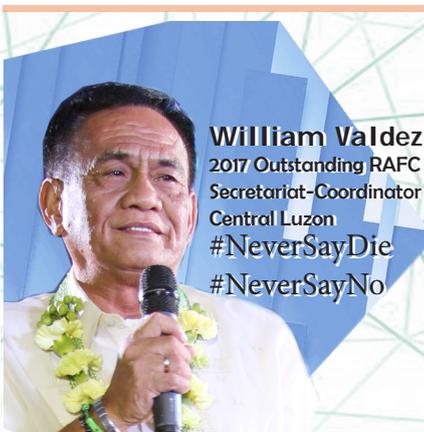
Dionisio Baulista
2017 Outstanding
RAFC Chairperson
SOCSKSARGEN
#SoarHigh



eventually rust.

The honor and applause that will be accorded to you that night, in a year or two will soon be forgotten.

So, why strive for what is temporary and fleeting. Strive instead for what is eternal.



William Valdez
2017 Outstanding RAFC
Secretariat-Coordinator
Central Luzon
#NeverSayDie
#NeverSayNo

administration to encourage people empowerment. That is why I am very happy to receive the award.

⇒ Lessons learned

Be humble. As one of the remaining pioneers of AFC Coordinators, *sa pagtatyaga*, I know that in God's time, *natanggap ko rin ang award na ito*.

⇒ Your two cents

Always do their best and God will do the rest.

Lagi lang tayong magsilbi sa mga AFCs, hindi mababalewa ang ating mga pagtatyaga. We know that AFCs are neglected in some way, but through this award, nakakatulong ito na ma-boost ang morale ng bawat isa sa atin.

⇒ That night

I was very excited. I have been in the service as an AFC Coordinator since the administration of Cory Aquino. AFC was then the way of the new

Bebito Matuguinas
2017 Outstanding PAFC
Chairperson
Eastern Visayas Region
#Maglingkod



⇒ That night

Noong tinawag ang pangalan ko bilang Outstanding PAFC Chairperson ay masayang-masaya na may kahalong kaba at pasasalamat kay Lord at sa lahat ng tumulong at nagpray na ako ay manalo bilang Outstanding PAFC Chairperson.

Lessons learned

Ang pinakamahalang natutunan ko ay sa kabila ng mga pagsubok, lalo na sa pamilya, sakripisyo talaga ang pagiging volunteer. Kahit pito ang anak ko at ordinaryong magsasaka at mangingisda lamang ako ay masigasig pa rin akong tumutulong sa kapwa kong magsasaka at mangingisda tulad ng pagshare ko sa mga

bagong natutunan ko galing sa training. Napamahal na sa akin ang pagiging AFC family/member, kahit mahirap dahil volunteer ay mayroon pong kaakibat na tagumpay.

Your two cents

Ang payo ko po sa mga naghahangad na manalo sa Search ay magpatuloy lang tayo sa gawain bilang isang AFC.

Sa pagtulong sa ating kapwa, walang talo, lahat ay panalo. Sa pagsali sa Search, isipin natin na kung para sayo talagang para sa iyo, iyo talaga yan. To God be the glory!

That night

I was overwhelmed, elated, mixed feelings. *Hindi ako makapaniwala na mananalo ako dahil very unexpected talaga.*

Lessons learned

I learned that the essence of volunteerism comes with strong collaboration and partnership between

government and private sector. We are fortunate that we have PCAF to assist us in this initiative.

Your two cents

Nais kong sabihin sa mga naghahangad na manalo na magtrabaho ng walang kapalit na pera. Let us work extra miles, love the work, do your best and God will do the rest.

Mercedita Quiamco
2017 Outstanding PAFC
Secretariat-Coordinator
Davao Oriental, Davao Region
#Blessed



Stephen Divinagracia
2017 Outstanding MAFC
Chairperson
South Cotabato,
SOCSKSARGEN
#BoluntaryongMalasakit

That night

Nabigla ako nung tawagin ang pangalan ko. Di ko sukat akalain na ako ang nanalo dahil ito ang unang subok ko sa patimpalak at napag-alaman ko na ang ibang katunggali ay nominee na sa mga

nakaraang taon at matagal na rin sa AFC. Mixed emotions. *Hindi ako nakapasalita nang maayos at ang nasabi ko lang ay ang pasasalamat ko sa PCAF, DA-Region XII, RAFC 12 at higit sa lahat ang LGU-Tampakan kasama na ang OMAG Tampakan at higit sa lahat ang MAFC Tampakan.*

Lessons learned

Natutunan kong magtiwala lang sa sariling kakayahan dahil sa ganitong paligsahan hindi sinusukat kung gaano ka na katagal sa panungkulan sa AFC, batayan dito ang performance, achievements at quality ng accomplishment na aligned sa mission and vision ng Kagawaran ng Agrikultura. Higit sa lahat dapat lagi tayong handa sa hamon ng buhay.

Your two cents

Ang maipayo ko lang sa mga naghahangad na manalo sa Search ay taos pusong tanggapin ang katungkulan bilang AFC Chairperson at Coordinator.

Isa-isip na boluntaryong ang gawaing ito at walang hinihintay na kapalit. Bilang Chairperson, dapat hands-on at aktibo sa mga AFC activities at maging involve sa LGU decision-making bilang member ng Local Development Council para sa kapakanan ng mga farmers at fisherfolks.

Huwag din nating kalimutang bigyang halaga ang kontribusyon ng ating mga members, bigyang pansin ang kanilang hinaing na personal man o pangkalahatan.

That night

Although I already felt that my name will be announced that night, when I was called, I still completely gone blank.

When I came up on the stage, I cannot hide my excitement on the realization that I was the winner of that national search.

Lessons learned

As a committed government servant, I always work and serve no matter what the compensation is.

I believe that for every accomplishment, there is a reward, it is either here on earth or in heaven. So when I won as an Outstanding MAFC Coordinator, the more that I cherished my work and the council as my family.

Your two cents

For those who aspires to be the winner of the Search, I advised them to work hard and be proud of being a coordinator or a chairperson, because in this endeavor, we lift up the farmers and fisherfolks as being the backbone of our society.

Louisa Carbonel
2017 Outstanding MAFC
Secretariat-Coordinator
Bakun, Benguet
Cordillera Administrative
Region
#Aktibo

