



When One Door Closes, Another One Opens



The Success Story of Ms. Lyn Sirag and her Crispy Amik Production

Tinagtag or Lokot-Lokot is a known local muslim delicacy which is made up of rice, water, and sugar. It is often served during special occasions like Eid'l Fitr or the end of the fasting period of Ramadan.

The same local delicacy started the success of Ms. Lyn Sirag of the Bai Lyn Food Products, which sells crispy amik in Polomolok, South Cotabato.



In 2016, Ms. Sirag started her crispy amik production to sustain their basic needs when her family had to stop the operation of their rice and corn farm due to pest infestation.

She initially sold her products to friends and neighbors, which eventually reached store stands along the national highway of Tupi, South Cotabato.

In 2018, due to the increased demand of the product, Ms. Sirag sought the assistance of Public Employment Service Office (PESO) of Polomolok for a livelihood enhancement.

“May nakapagsabi po sa akin na pumunta ng PESO para humingi ng kabuhayan galing DOLE. Agad naman po akong natulungan dahil nakita po nila ang aking pagsusumikap,” Lyn shared.



The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) provided her a kabuhayan enhancement assistance through the DOLE Integrated Livelihood Program (DILP) worth ₱7,950.00 which was used to buy wok, steamer, gas



stove, hand mixer, stainless steel trays, as well as a garden umbrella for her amik stand.

She was also provided with trainings in food handling and financial management by the DOLE.

“Malaking tulong po ito sa amin noon lalo na hindi sapat ang pinapadala ng asawa ko mula Saudi. Nabigyan po ako ng panibagong pag-asa,” she tearfully added.



Through the intervention of the Department, as well as the help of other government agencies like the Department of Trade and Industry through its Polomolok Negosyo Center, she was able to venture into product distribution for the SM Pasalubong Center, Sweet Valley Pasalubong Center, and Gold Anchor Shell Station in General Santos City.

Moreover, her products were also distributed at Maguindanao Restaurant in Tacurong, Sultan Kudarat, Denmark Terminal, Pasalubong Center at the Yellow Bus Lines Terminal, Tuazon

Halo-Halo in Saravia, JJ Fruit Stand in Koronadal City, Quick Stop Grocery, Ezra Pasalubong Center in South Cotabato, as well as Phoenix Mega Gas Station and JR Eatery located in General Santos City.

According to Ms. Sirag, her sales increased by 60% as of December 2019 since the start of her business operations. She now receives almost ₱18,000.00 net income per month.

Aside from an increased income, her business generated employment in her community. To meet the demands of her customers, she hired three workers to help her in the production of crispy amik. She also purchased additional equipment which includes gas burners, grinder, drying pan, casseroles, among others.

“Nakakuha rin po kami ng second hand na sasakyan, pang-deliver ng aming mga produkto sa aming mga customer,” Lyn added.

More than that, she was able to send her children to college. She proudly shared that through the business, her two daughters were able to graduate BS in Agronomy in Mindanao State University, and BS in Business Administration Major in Operation Management in STI College - General Santos City, respectively.

Not only her children were able to go to school, but also her family members.

“Si Tita Bai Lyn po ang nagpapaaral sa akin sa tulong po ng Crispy Amik Production,” said Fairah Taha, one of Ms. Sirag’s nieces.

Now, Ms. Sirag aspires to do more. She hopes to further grow and improve their business ventures, not just for herself but for her family as well.

She also wishes that her story will gain more attention to be able to help more people in terms of employment, more so in inspiring them to start their own businesses.

Indeed, the DILP does not just provide livelihood assistance, but also gives hope and inspiration for people to achieve their dreams.

“Maraming salamat po sa inyong [DOLE] tulong, unti unti po naming nakamit ang aming mga hangarin sa buhay. Para sa mga kasamahang may maliliit na negosyo, wag po kayong mawalan ng pag-asa, sipag at tiyaga,” Ms. Sirag shared.



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