United States Agency for International Development

President Gloria Macapagal- Arroyo

United States Ambassador Kristie A. Kenney

Turn-over and Inauguration

Jolo Airport Runway Improvement Project
Jolo Water Supply System Upgrading Project

Sulu Province, Mindanao

December 14, 2009

Jolo Airport Runway Improvement Project Turn-Over and Inauguration

Jolo Airport, Jolo, Sulu

Above: Ambassador Kenney interviewed by members of the press upon her arrival at Jolo Airport.

Upper right photo: U.S. Ambassador Kristie A. Kenney discusses the impact on the province of the Jolo Water Supply Upgrading Project with (l-r) USAID Acting Mission Director Elzadia Washington; Dr. Charles Feibel, Chief of Party of USAID's Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM) Program, which implemented the airport runway improvement and water system upgrade projects; Undersecretary Nabil Tan, Deputy Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process; Sulu Governor Abdusakur Tan; Robert Barnes, USAID Economic Growth Advisor; and Jolo Mayor Hussin Amin.

Lower right: U.S. Ambassador Kenney in a light moment with (l-r) Gov. Tan; Usec. Tan; Mayor Amin; Secretary Jesus Dureza, Presidential Adviser on Mindanao Affairs; and Mr. Barnes.

Jolo Airport Runway Improvement Project Turn-Over and Inauguration

Jolo Airport, Jolo, Sulu

Upper left photo: President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo arrives at the Jolo Airport to inaugurate the facility's upgraded runway, which was completed by USAID's GEM Program in partnership with the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) and the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP). Under GEM's Regional Impact Project component, the runway was extended from 1,200 meters to 1,845 meters, and widened from 18 meters to 30 meters, and is now all concrete.

Lower left: President Arroyo is welcomed by Ambassador Kenney and Mayor Amin.

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Jolo Airport, Jolo, Sulu

Right: President Arroyo and Ambassador Kenney (center) lead the inauguration of the Jolo Runway Improvement Project, together with (r-l): Usec. Tan; Acting Mission Director Washington; Social Welfare and Development Undersecretary Esperanza Cabral; Sec. Dureza; Congressman Yusoph Jikiri (Sulu, 1st District); Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap; Gov. Tan; Agrarian Reform Secretary Nasser Pangandaman; Congressman Monir Arbison (Sulu, 2nd District); Mayor Amin; Acting Administrator Daniel Landingin of the Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA); and CAAP Director-General Ruben Ciron.

Left: President Arroyo and Ambassador Kenney are briefed by Engr. Carlos Tan, GEM Program Manager for Infrastructure Development, on completed and ongoing GEM projects in the Sulu Archipelago. Also in photo are Gov. Tan, Mayor Amin and Mr. Barnes.

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Jolo Airport, Jolo, Sulu

Left photo: President Arroyo, Ambassador Kenney and Gov. Tan unveil the airport project marker.

Right photo: President Arroyo and Ambassador Kenney in a light moment.

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Jolo Airport, Jolo, Sulu

Above photo: In her remarks, Ambassador Kenney thanked the Philippine Government and the people of Sulu "for the great partnership" that has led to the successful completion of the project. Ambassador Kenney said the improved facility will be a boon to the economy of Sulu, as it will help attract more tourists and outside investments. Seated onstage are (l-r): Pres. Arroyo, Gov. Tan. Congressman Jikiri, Mayor Amin, Sec. Cabral, Acting Mission Director Washington and Sec. Pangandaman.

Lower left: In her keynote address, President Arroyo noted that the positive developments in Sulu are a testament to the strong relationship between the Philippine and U.S. Governments. "This partnership has produced great wonders for the province," she said. The President pointed out that both the Jolo runway and water improvement projects dovetail with the 10-point development agenda of the national government aimed at developing the economic potential of Sulu.

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Jolo Airport, Jolo, Sulu

Left photo: Ambassador Kenney presents a certificate of completion to Alex Bulicatin, Interim General Manager of the Jolo Mainland Water District, to mark the turn-over of the Jolo Water System Improvement Project to the people of Sulu. Looking on are Pres. Arroyo, Gov. Tan and Mr. Landingin of LWUA.

The water system project has improved the water supply for an estimated 27,000 residents in Jolo municipality and adjacent barangays in the municipalities of Indanan and Patikul, and is expected to have beneficial effects on public health and local businesses.

Right: Gov. Tan presents a token of appreciation to Ambassador Kenney, as president Arroyo looks on.

The water improvement components provided by the U.S. Government through the GEM Program include the upgrading of the existing pumping system at Kiram Spring, the construction of a 200-cubic meter concrete water reservoir, and the installation of a water supply pipeline segment to the reservoir totaling about 1,690 meters.

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Ambassador Kenney interacts with Jolo residents.