

## **COMMUNITY COMMITMENT TO THE PROJECT**

### **Mr. Charles Zevallos –Mayor - Municipality of Punchana**

I thank Mr. Cole and Mr. Marcos Alegre for inviting me to this meeting, I have listened very carefully the expositions that many persons gave, authorities as the Minister, Mr. Carlos Herrera, Vice Minister, Mr. Sergio Ugarte, they have talked about many things, but they don't know the reality of our region; if they have been there, they have been an hour, half hour or ten minutes, and then went away. They haven't lived what they have to live. Some friends are very eager for the solar panel, that's going to be a lot of future; this is going to be a lot of hope and something else for my people. They have talked about 28% referring to the lack of lighting or the lack of electricity, I say, that is lacking much more. I was at the meeting with all the mayors of the Loreto regions two weeks ago approximately, all the majors have been, so they are now, then I was the host and I told them "welcome to my district", and I asked them, that a major stands up and tell me if he has electrification 24 hours a day, nobody raised it. Imagine, it was incredible, and who has an airplane here, raise your hand, nobody, it happened so that day in that meeting.

Well, Padre Cocha is a very hard-working village that is devoted to the craftsmanship 60%, to the fishing 10%, to the agriculture 5%, there are workers that devote 20%, to a public entity 5%, but, what is happening with the agriculture right now? what is happening with fishing?, they need energy. They, for example, cannot kill some animals or go fishing and go with their nets, only can take fish to survive, they cannot take their fish to Iquitos, the trip lasts 15 minutes until they sell it, they have spoilt, in change if we have a frigorific or, "as Marcos said" an ice factory until getting to the port, that is going to bring hope, that is what happen in another town that I was a week ago. Sargento Lores is the headquarters of Momom River, to go to Iquitos or from my district or from Punchana it lasts an hour and a half or two hours. Well, we were in Sargento, and we were in this town and what happened I said that this town had cattle-breeding, how good cattle-breeding it has, then we are going to make an artesian well, we make the artesian well and it turned out that there was hard water, we go to two hundred meters more in the jungle and we dug and we had hard water, there was not fresh water, and the persona that wanted to go to drink water, had to go to the river, but it is dangerous sometimes that water is polluted with malaria or with dengue. We need potable water that it would be possible with electrification.

Referring to the electrification I was with several majors, and I told them that make me get several letters to see what municipality or district wanted electrification, they got 20 letters from 20 Municipalities from districts and provinces, needing 500 solar energies. They have electric fluid from 6 pm until 10 pm, and after, all day they do not have energy all day long, they cannot progress, Loreto cannot progress, because if a village doesn't have energy 24 hours a day is not productive and it does not progress. That is why I ask you and I ask all the authorities that are present to support these solar energies, which are the future for our region and exclusively for Loreto.

Loreto is an industrial zone and because of its woods, but to take out the wood of Loreto is very expensive, is very difficult to take it out, we have there Venezuela, Costa Rica, and triplayeras, in the coast is cheaper, because they have highways, the authorities themselves, the authorities from Lima, care about only in Lima, the coast and the highlands, but they do not care about the jungle, they say that we have to worry about the ecology, about the resources and we have to protect them. We are number one in birds, number two in apes, number six in mammals, I want to tell you that we have 1700 species, we have 34 species in apes, we are number three in mammals, that are 361 species here in the jungle, we are number four in butterflies, we have more than 50 species, we are number five in reptiles, that are 297 species, we are number five in ferns, we have more than 20,000 in all Peru, and especially in the jungle, and we are number five in amphibians, we have 251 species, and we are rich in fish, with a very great protein.

You can see an Amazonian boy from the jungle eating yucca, banana, and fish almost all day and they are very intelligent, I want to make it clear, not the one who eats chicken, not the one who eats canned food, eats fish and you'll see, is the future and there is a good quantity of fish in the river of our Amazonian zone, as they are apache, gamitana, boquichico. There is some prehistoric, that is the carachama, it is an ugly fish, but it has a lot of phosphorous much rich vitamins, for example, in my district of Punchana we have become National Champions in Volleyball, Imagine, you should have seen a pale small girl for one you do not give a penny, and they come here from the cost, we defeat them.

I want to tell all of you my district open its doors to all of you to visit us. Tourisms is the salvation of Loreto if we want that anymore trees are cut, but there is injustice also, the Indians we have, Boras people, they live burning trees, to come in their boats to sell in the ports; people of the Minister of Energy and Mines, come, other persons come to confiscate them, not to the ones that bring logs, trees and woods in quantities, they pass, it enters a truck of woods and we don't not know if they pay taxes, but we don't know they come to Lima or they reinvest something in Loreto, not even a sol, that is too bad.

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We have 35 communities, small settlements in our whole district that do not have electrification, and if they have it, only have 3% or 4% their generator, but they do not have energy 24 hours a day. It would be healthy to see this program of Padre Cocha, to see if we have implement more small settlements.

RAPS Project is very good, I have read it, I have seen it, is something ambitious I said that at the majors meetings, we are going to be the first district that a small settlement has electricity 24 hours a day, and it is going to be the envy of all the provinces or districts of my regions.

I want to thank Mr. Marcos Alegre, I want to thank all of you for inviting me and I wait you in my district, Charles Zevallos will wait you with open arms. Thanks a lot.