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Volume II No. 02



GOV. PACOY INTENSIFIES PGS IN LU

LA UNION AGRI-TOURISM "PASALUBONG" CENTER OPENS



Serving as One-Stop-Shop that sells genuine La Union Products, the La Union Agri-tourism Pasalubong Center was blessed and inaugurated on March 27, 2017.

Located at the ground floor of the Mabanag Justice Hall Building near the City Plaza of San Fernando, it is one of the projects spearheaded by Governor Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III in line with his Vision for the province "La Union: the Heart of Agri-tourism in Northern Luzon by 2025."

Gov. Pacoy, Vice-Gov. Aureo Augusto Q. Nisce, Sangguniang Panlalawigan Members and Department Heads led the ceremonial cutting of the ribbon. Rev. Fr. Roberto B. L. Collado led the blessing of the facility. Also present were representatives from the component Local Government Units, line agencies, private institutions and tourism-related organizations.

The Center houses an information

desk, which caters to inquiries and concerns of tourists and locales alike; a Multimedia Room where guests can watch different Audio Visual presentations about La Union; a Conference Room where agri-tourism-related meetings for small groups can be held; and a display area for La Union Products.

Available products include honey; dried fish; buyos or tupig; fresh carabao milk; brown and red rice; bangus in olive oil; turmeric, ginger and malunggay powder; Tapey or rice wine, basi, iloco vinegar; chili sauce; and many more. Souvenir products include woodcrafts; La Union shirts and key-chains; products made of abel and silk; bamboo baskets; crochet products; colored soft brooms.

The center is being manned by the Provincial Information and Tourism Office from 9:00 in the morning until 6:00 in the evening daily.

[Joanna C. Guerrero]

City of San Fernando, La Union – To align the development efforts of its component Local Government Units (LGUs) with its vision to become the Heart of Agri-Tourism in Northern Luzon by 2025, the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) conducted a Performance Governance System (PGS) Mini-Boot Camp on April 5-7, 2017 at the Agora Events Center, Thunderbird Resorts and Hotel.

In his presentation titled, "The La Union Transformative Governance Journey," Governor Francisco Emmanuel Pacoy R. Ortega III illustrated the importance of determining the schemes fit for a specific vision. He emphasized that the La Union Transformative Governance Roadmap (LUTGR) presents a unique and valuable position for La Union which banks on different set of activities to make La Union, the heart of Agri-tourism in Northern Luzon by 2025. He explained to the participants composed of Planning, Tourism and Agricultural Officers the dis-

tinct competitive position for La Union. Gov. Pacoy further explained the importance of the LGUs' relation to one another especially in the identified Tourism Circuits. He enjoined everyone to be God-loving, people-oriented, accountable and committed, as these core values will make participants catalysts for sustainable and inclusive development for the improvement of the life of the people of La Union.

He assured that when La Union attains the position as the preferred Agri-tourism destination in Northern Luzon through appropriate core and support activities, the competitiveness and quality of life in La Union will improve.

On the other hand, Mr. Chris Zaens and Mr. Francis Gentoral from the Institute for Solidarity in Asia (ISA) presented topics titled "Building our Dream Philippines and Growth of Governance Advocacy," "Primer on the Performance Governance System," "Understanding

the Agri-Tourism Circuit Approach," "Risk Assessment and Management" and Fundamentals of Strategy Design and Setting the Gears for Execution." Other topics were "Case Study: The La Union Agri-Tourism Circuit" presented by Mr. Adamor L. Dagang, La Union Provincial Information & Tourism Officer and "The Multi-Sectoral Governance Council" presented by Mr. Gerry Parlan.

The participants who were grouped based on the identified five La Union Tourism Circuits were also challenged to come up with a Trailblazer Project. They will be competing for the project based on innovation; social impact and contribution to the tourism circuits and realization of the vision of the province.

Other activities included an Aloha Night where time-pressured presentations were presented by the competing groups and an Amazing Race where fun ways to discover the tourism potentials of La Union were given.

[Israel O. Rudio]

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Message from the Governor

Savoring the Love of La Union

Nine months have passed since I was sworn in as the Governor of fair La Union. We have already set our hearts beating as one and continuously as we spread love in the whole province.

We are already ISO 9001:2015 Certified; we are now on our way to completing the Compliance Stage of the Performance Governance System; we are now polishing the support strategies of our Vision to make La Union the Heart of Agri-Tourism in Northern Luzon by 2025; and most importantly, we are constantly making the Provincial Government of La Union closer to our people through the "I Love La Union, I Love My Barangay" Outreach Program.

Formerly called Operation Rang-ay iti Barangay (ORB), the outreach program has already spread love through public service in seven component Local Government Units namely, City of San Fernando (Barangay Canaoay), Caba, Sudipen, Aringay, Santol, Bangar and San Gabriel. We have already showered love to almost 30,000 constituents, most of whom are indigents. Almost 12,000 hygiene kits and supplemental feeding were accorded to Day Care pupils; almost 300 Persons With Disabilities (PWDs) were reached-out; at least 10,424 indigents were afforded medical and dental services; and almost 600 packs of certified vegetables seeds were given to farmers.

Saan a mabayadan iti aniaman a pirak dagiti isem a nakitak kadagiti rupa dagiti lallakay, babbaket, agsaksakit, ububbing, mannalon ken mangngalap a napaayan iti ayat. Inspirasion ko dagitoy nga isem tapnu magunpontayo iti arapaap tayo a napintas a kalidad iti panagbiagi para iti tunggal maysa a taga La Union.

Namnamentayo a mataginayon ti ayat ditoy Probinsia ti La Union!

Agay-ayat kadakayo amin,

FRANCISCO EMMANUEL "PACOY" R. ORTEGA III
Gobernador

LA UNION WELCOMES NEW PNP REGIONAL DIRECTOR



La Union led by Governor Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III welcomed the newly-installed Director of PNP Regional Office I, PCSupt. Charlo C. Collado, in a simple ceremony on March 16, 2017 at the Speaker Pro-Tempore Francisco I. Ortega Legislative Building and Session Hall, City of San Fernando, La Union.

After introducing the Sangguniang Panlalawigan Members, Vice Gov. Aureo Augusto Q. Nisce welcomed the visitors which include Mayors of La Union.

In his speech Gov. Pacoy fondly shared stories from his brief stint at the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) and a humbling encounter with PCSupt. Collado. He expressed appreciation for his stay at the PMA in shaping his character and values which he demon-

strates in the provincial government. Governor Pacoy envisions the Province of La Union as a close knit community where people are always safe and sound. As such, he reassured Police Chief Superintendent Collado of the continued assistance, support, and full cooperation of the PGLU in the renewed efforts of the PNP and the Duterte Administration in cracking down on illegal drugs.

In return, the new PRO-1 Chief expressed his thanks to the attendees of the event and swore them service with regularity and smooth coordination with key agencies to perform effective and efficient police operations. The Regional Director concluded his message of gratitude by promising to the Mayors that he will personally visit every city and municipal-ity of La Union to clearly

evaluate and further improve peace and order in the province.

Police Chief Superintendent Collado, born and raised in Pudtol, Apayao, is a member of PMA Class of 1986. Collado served all throughout the country holding different positions in his career. In the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), he served as Abra Police Provincial Director and Baguio City Police Deputy for Administration. In Crame, he served as the Acting Director of the Intelligence Group. In the south, he was designated as Officer-in-Charge in Police Regional Office X in Northern Mindanao. He also served as the Police Attaché of the Philippines to Malaysia. He is a recipient of multiple commendations from the public and private sector for his colorful 30 years in police service. [Marcel A. Florentino]



Provincial Administrator Dr. Geoffrey Tilan imparts the Message of Governor Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III to the participants of the Lingayen Marine Key Biodiversity Summit on April 19, 2017 at Hotel Ariana, Bauang, La Union. Gov. Pacoy emphasized the importance of a healthy ecosystem in the realization of the vision of the province to be the heart of agri-tourism in Northern Luzon by 2025. [Joanna Cruz Guerrero]

GOV. PACOY REMINDS PGLU EMPLOYEES TO WORK AS TEAM

Governor Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III gave commendation to the efforts and achievements of the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) employees for the past months during the 1st Monday Flag Raising Ceremony held on April 3, 2017 at the Provincial Capitol Grounds, San Fernando City, La Union.

"You are all my children and as the Father of the province, I want my children to be happy," Gov. Pacoy said as he appreciated their commitment as his partners in attaining his Vision to make La Union the Heart of Agri-tourism in Northern Luzon by 2025.

Gov. Pacoy also thanked God for the many

blessings received for the past month. He stated that March is a good and productive month for it started with the celebration of La Union Foundation Anniversary, the month when PGLU got ISO Certified, re-launched the Honeybee Center, and inaugurated the Pasalubong Center and other infrastructure projects.

During the ceremony, PGLU also gave commendation to PGLU retirees. They are Crisostomo L. Estosta, Dental Aide of the Provincial Health Office (PHO) who rendered 34 yrs of service; Trinidad M. de Guzman, Nurse II, 26 yrs of service; Teofilo M. Collado Jr., Dental Aide, 34 yrs of service; Lydia L. Guerrero,

Administrative Aide I from the Office of the Provincial Agriculture, 41 yrs of service; Cressida G. Nonan, Nurse IV of the Naguilian District Hospital, 41 yrs of service and Rogelio Q. Masabe Administrative Aide I of the Rosario District Hospital, 28 yrs of service.

Gov. Pacoy, as a role model of a good father to his children, reminded his PGLU family to be a TEAM which for him is an acronym, which means "Together Achieves More." He enjoins everybody to continue to excel in what they are doing for the Love of La Union.

[Lorena Luna]



Gov. Pacoy presents the Transformative Governance Framework to Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) employees during the Transformative Governance Framework cascading session on April 17, 2017 at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union. [Wendell Tangalin]

PGLU ADOPTS 4-DAY WORKWEEK SCHEME

The Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) adopted the 4-Day Workweek scheme in providing services to the public. A memorandum issued by Governor Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III dated April 6, 2017 was passed directing such scheme to be followed by PGLU employees starting on April 17, 2017 until June 02, 2017.

The Compressed Workweek Scheme will be on Mondays through Thursdays from 7:00AM to 6:00PM and will cover offices providing administrative, financial, legislative, and technical services. Medical, rescue and security services will resume with their regular schedules.

The policy was adopted to reduce operational expenses and fossil fuel emissions by conserving electricity, as a

response to the increase of electric demands and price hikes during summer. It will also increase job satisfaction and productivity by granting three (3) rest days to employees which in a way will reduce levels of stress and prevent occupational burnout. In addition, the policy was adopted to strengthen the Filipino core value of familism among employees while remaining competitive in accommodating and exceeding client's expectations.

With an aim to provide effective and efficient local governance, the PGLU headed by Governor Pacoy continues to provide quality service to its people through strategic ways and vital plans without sacrificing the satisfaction that the public deserves.

[Darlene Joy Acosta]



Gov. Pacoy (right) shares light moments with the Regional Search Committee (RSC) for the Search for Cleanest, Safest and Greenest LGU (Provincial Category) during their Validation/Assessment Visit for the RDC Performance Awards for CY 2016 on April 17, 2017 at the Provincial Health Office Conference Room, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union. [Wendell B. Tangalin]



Officials of the Provincial Government of Biliran paid a Courtesy Call to Gov. Pacoy on April 19, 2017 at the Office of the Governor, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union. Also in the picture are Provincial Administrator Dr. Geoffrey S. Tilan and Dr. Fernando A. Astom of La Union Medical Center. [Rizalde Buenaventura]

GOBERNADOR PACOY, NANGIWARAS ITI AYAT IDIAY SAN GABRIEL, LU



Nangipaay iti ragsak ken ayat ti Probinsial a Gobierno ti La Union (PGLU) nga idadauloan ni Gobernador Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III kadagiti umili ti San Gabriel, La Union babaen iti I Love La Union, "I Love My Barangay" outreach program a naisayangkat idi Abril 28, 2017 iti San Gabriel Municipal Auditorium.

Iti bitlana, inyebkasna iti panagya-manna kadagiti umili ti San Gabriel nga idadauloan ni Mayor Herminigildo M. Velasco, MD, MPM, gapo iti agtultuloy a panagarakupda kaniiana agraman iti kapusona a ni ABONO Party-list Representative Vini Nola A. Ortega. Inyunay-unay-na nga datoy nga ayat ket agtultuloy met laeng a mapaayan met laeng iti ayat babaen iti naduma-duma a programa, proyekto ken aktibidad iti panagdura-as.

Pinadayawanna pay iti agtultuloy a panagpannakkal dagiti umili iti kulturada kas kameng iti Indigenous Peoples (IP). Insiguradona iti talek iti PGLU iti kabaellan dagiti IP kas iti panagtalekna kenni Dr. Geoffrey S. Tilan, iti Provincial Administrator iti PGLU.

Sakbay iti bitla ni Gob. Pacoy, nagyan met ni Ms. Mila Laudencia-Camboa, Provincial Population Officer iti PGLU

ken focal person iti "I Love La Union, I Love My Barangay," iti suporta iti Municipipio iti San Gabriel a pangpanguloan ni Mayor Velasco iti nasao nga outreach program. Inpalagipna a dagiti bukel iti nateng a naipaay iti outreach program kadagiti barangay ket umaydanto pasyaren kalpasan a maimula ken dumakkel tapno maikkan dagiti mannalon iti naan-anay a tarabay. Datoy ket kas panagipaay iti suporta iti San Gabriel a mabigbigbig nga Upland Vegetables Capital of La Union a napateg a paset iti La Union Central Tourism Circuit. Iti nasao a lawlaw ket maysa a Core Strategy iti La Union Transformative Governance Roadmap tapnu magunod iti probinsia iti sirmata a "La Union, the Heart of Agri-Tourism in Northern Luzon by 2025."

Ti "I Love La Union, I Love My Barangay" ket dati a maaw-awagan iti Operation Rang-ay iti Barangay (ORB) a pinadur-as ni pasado Gobernador Manuel "Manoling" C. Ortega. Tapnu agtultuloy iti naalibtak a panagipaay iti tulong, pinadakkal pay ni Gob. Pacoy iti nasao a programa a naipaayan iti Siudad ti San Fernando ken Ili ti Bangar, Aringay, Santol, Caba ken San Gabriel.

[Israel O. Rudio]



The evening of the people of Barangay Calumbaya, Bauang, La Union was invigorated during the visit of Gov. Pacoy and wife ABONO Party-list Representative Vini Nola A. Ortega during the coronation night of Little Mr. and Ms. Calumbaya on April 4, 2017 on the occasion of their Barangay Fiesta. [Rizalde Buenaventura]



Gov. Pacoy and wife ABONO Party-list Representative Vini Nola A. Ortega was welcomed in Barangay Urayong, Bauang, La Union during their Barangay Fiesta on March 5, 2017. [Rizalde Buenaventura]



The Police Officers of Police Regional Office 1 commemorated Christ's Passion through reenactment of the Sacred Passion of Jesus Christ on Holy Tuesday, April 11, 2017. The procession started at St. William Parish Church and ended at the La Union Provincial Capitol Grounds where they immediately celebrated the Holy Mass. Inset photo shows Vice Governor Aureo Augusto Q. Nisce imparting his message about the proper observation of Holy Week. [Loren M. Obillo/ Abraham Bautista]



Gov. Pacoy (sitting at the center) pose with "I Love La Union" hand gesture together with BM Manuel Victor "Mannix" R. Ortega Jr. (standing at the left) and the pupils of the Provincial Government of La Union Sponsored Child Development Center during the latter's Moving Up Ceremonies at the Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union on April 6, 2017. [Wendell B. Tangalin]



Gov. Pacoy shares his love as he donates blood during the 5th Mobile Blood Donation dubbed "Alay Sagip Buhay" on March 7, 2017 at the Caba District Hospital. [Wendell B. Tangalin]



Gov. Pacoy and his wife ABONO Party-list Representative Vini Nola A. Ortega exchange pleasantries with Mayor Juan Carlo S. Medina during the 1st Regular Regional Development Council-1 Full Council Meeting on March 28, 2017 at the Oasis Country Resort, City of San Fernando, La Union. [Wendell B. Tangalin]



Newly assigned National Bureau of Investigation Regional Office-1 (NBI-RO1) Director Atty. Tomas Enrile (left) pays a courtesy call on Gov. Pacoy (center) on April 24, 2017 at the Office of the Governor, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union. [Wendell B. Tangalin]



Gov. Pacoy congratulates the people of Rosario for a successful celebration of their Barangay Night during the 10th Lubian Festival on April 18, 2017 at the Gymnasium of Rosario, La Union. [Wendell B. Tangalin]



Gov. Pacoy, SPM Francisco Ortega Jr. and SPM Christian Rivera taste honey during the Re-Launching of the La Union Apiculture Program at the La Union Honeybee Center, Bacnotan, La Union on March 27, 2017. Also in photo is DTI-La Union Director Daria Mingaracal. [Rizalde Buenaventura]



Gov. Pacoy and ABONO Party-list Representative Vini Nola Ortega (5th and 7th from left) together with teachers and local officials pose with "I Love La Union" hand gesture during the Inauguration and Blessing of Classroom at Sta. Rita East Elementary School, Aringay, La Union on March 23, 2017. The classroom was blessed by Diocesan Priest Rev. Fr. Eric Ferrer (6th from left). [Rizalde Buenaventura]



Gov. Pacoy and Vice Gov. Aureo Augusto Q. Nisce lead the cutting of ribbon during the Opening of the La Union Agri-Tourism Center on March 27, 2017 at the Mabanag Justice Hall, City of San Fernando, La Union. Also in the picture are ABONO Party-list Representative Vini Nola A. Ortega, 1st District Representative Pablo C. Ortega, Board Member Francisco C. Ortega Jr., Board Member Reynaldo M. Mosuela and other members of Sanguniang Panlalawigan. [Loren M. Obillo]



SPREADING OVERFLOWING LOVE Gov. Pacoy, hands over a pay check to Aubrey Cabarrubias, student of Lorma Colleges Inc., on April 25, 2017 at the Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union. Said check serves as her incentive for representing La Union during the 2016 International Year of Pulses Arts and Design Competition. [Wendell B. Tangalin]



Gov. Pacoy poses with "I Love La Union" hand gesture during the distribution of farm machineries, tools & equipment to the Farmers Association and Barangays of La Union on April 5, 2017 at Provincial Capitol Ground, San Fernando City, La Union. [Wendell B. Tangalin]



SPREADING THE LOVE AMONG STUDENTS Gov. Pacoy and ABONO Party-list Representative Vini Nola A. Ortega, pose with "I Love La Union" hand gesture for photo ops together with ABONO Party-list Scholars on April 26, 2017 at the Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union. [Wendell B. Tangalin]



SPREADING THE LOVE AMONG SICK Cong. Sandra Y. Eriguel (left) and BM Christian Rivera (right) assist Gov. Pacoy (center) during the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new buildings of La Union Medical Center on April 26, 2017. [Wendell B. Tangalin]



Gov. Pacoy delivers his message during the 18th Institute of Integrated Electrical Engineers Northern Luzon Regional Conference on March 3, 2017 at Thunderbird Resort, City of San Fernando, La Union. [Wendell B. Tangalin]



Gov. Pacoy delivers his message during the giving of shelter financial assistance on March 28, 2017 at the Civic Center of Naguilian, La Union. [Loren M. Obillo]



Gov. Pacoy presents the La Union Transformative Governance Framework to employees of the Hospitals of the Provincial Government of La Union during a Strategy Alignment Session on April 26, 2017 at the La Union Technology and Livelihood Development Training Center, City of San Fernando, La Union. [Wendell B. Tangalin]



Gov. Pacoy (4th from left) and wife ABONO Party-list Representative Vini Nola A. Ortega (6th from left), lead the cutting of the ribbon during the Inauguration and Blessing of the Decentralized Wastewater Treatment at Rosario District Hospital on March 23, 2017. [Rizalde Buenaventura]

KINASAGANA DAGITI PROBINSIA ITI DELUBIO, MAPABILEG ITI PLUC

Siudad ti Baguio - In-dauloan iti Department of the Interior and Local Government-Regional Office I (DILG-RO I) iti dua-aldaw nga ensayo nga addaan titulo a "Strengthening the PLUC: Provincial Disaster Preparedness Dialogue" a naisayangkat idi Abril 18 ken 19, 2017 iti Chalet Hotel.

Inyunay-unay ni Dir. James F. Padrlan ti DILG-RO I kadagiti nakipaset a Provincial Tourism Officer, Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator, Provincial Disaster and Risk Reduction Management Officer ken Provincial Agriculturist iti Region I iti kinapateg iti naalibtak a Provincial Land Use Committee (PLUC). Kas mayasa a tarabay iti panagdur-as, iti PLUC ket kasapul-an a napasapas a mangadal kadagiti Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) iti ili agraman dagiti component city. Dagiti CLUP ket kasapul-an a makasungbat kadagiti agdama ken masakbayan a kasapul-an dagiti kagimongan aglalo kadagiti pangta ti Climate Change. Inpalagipna pay a dagiti

epekto iti Climate Change iti aglawlaw ket makaapekto kadagiti gannuat dagiti lokal a gobierno para iti panagdur-as. Isu a kasapul-an launay nga addaan iti plano kontra Climate Change dagiti CLUP. Babaen iti Expanded PLUC, karaman met a nagsanay dagiti mangibagbag ti National Commission on Indigenous People (NCIP), Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) ken Department of Agriculture (DA).

Dagiti suheto ket pakabilangan iti "Revisiting the Legal Basis of the Planning Process," Overview of Mainstreaming the Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Change Adaptation Using the Climate and Disaster Risk Assessment Process in the Comprehensive Development Plan and Comprehensive Land Use Plan," nga inpaay iti DILG-RO I ken "Framework for Mainstreaming Climate and Disaster Risks in the CLUP 12 Step Process" nga inpaay met iti Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board nga idadauloan ni Dir. Teresita

V. Galacgac.

Inbaga ni Mr. Bobby Valdriz, Provincial Disaster and Risk Reduction Management Officer ti La Union a napateg iti panna-kaunay-unay ti Climate Change para iti panagsa-gana iti CLUP gapu iti epektona iti bagyo agraman iti uram gapu iti napudot a panawen. Babaen iti CLUP nga addaan iti wayat kontra Climate Change, manannama a makasagana dagiti component Local Government Units ti La Union kontra delubio. Kinuna met ni Dr. Mauro A. Libatique, Jr., Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator iti probinsia, a babaen iti panagsanay, napasapasen a maaprobaran ken mailinia dagiti CLUP iti component LGUs iti sir-mata ti probinsia a "La Union, the Heart of Agri-Tourism in Northern Luzon by 2025." Maysa datoy kadagiti core strategy iti La Union Transformative Governance ni Gobernador Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III tapno magun-od iti nasao a sir-mata. [Israel O. Rudio]



Mr. Alvin Cruz, Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Officer II and Operations Officer of the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRMO) briefs validators of the Regional Search for the Cleanest, Greenest and Safest Province on the efforts of PDRMO in maintaining safety in La Union on April 17, 2017 at the PHO Conference Room. The PDRMO led by Mr. Bobby Valdriz, has been conducting extensive safety and emergency assistance to tourists in La Union to help Governor Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III realize the vision of the province which is, "La Union, the Heart of Agri-Tourism in Northern Luzon by 2025." [Rizalde Buenaventura]

GOVERNOR FERRO GRACES INAUGURATION OF SCHOOL AND JAIL FACILITIES

Governor Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III and wife, ABONO Party-list Representative Vini Nola A. Ortega, led the inauguration of a classroom at Sta. Rita East Elem. School in Arin-gay, La Union.

The classroom has a 68 square meter area located in a 7x9 square meter building. It was completed and made possible through the joint effort of the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) and the Administrative staff of the school to provide an additional classroom for the K-12 teaching program.

Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III then proceeded to the La Union Provincial Jail (LUPJ) in Camansi, San Fernando City, for the inauguration of LUPJ

Administration Building. LUPJ Warden Rimas Calixto also showed to Gov. Pacoy the Gulayan at Talipapa sa Bilangan at the correctional facility. The Trailblaze Project of the Yellow Army was conceptualized to inspire inmates to become productive and contribute to the realization of the La Union Central Tourism Circuit. The Talipapa located at the main entrance of the LUPJ sells organic vegetables to cyclists going to Bacsil Ridge. It is open every Saturday from 7:30 am to 9:30 am. Half of the harvest augments the food ration of the inmates.

Inmates were also taught with Saemul Undong, the Korean Technology of community development that instills self-help and pride in communities.

GOVERNOR'S DIARY

MARCH 1, 2017

-Panmadayaw 2017-Diego Silang Hall, Capitol Building

MARCH 2, 2017

-Anniversary Ecumenical Thanksgiving Prayer: 2017-Provincial Capitol

-Anniversary Flag Raising Program-Provincial Capitol

-Search for Mutia ti La Union 2017-City Plaza Auditorium, City of San Fernando

MARCH 3, 2017

-18th IEE northern Luzon regional Conference-Thunderbird Resorts and Casinos, CSF

-Cash for Work Distribution for Ago-Ago Civic Center

-Awarding of Winners for the Best Booth for the Agri-Trade Fair 2017 and Search for Cleanest and Greenest Municipality of the Province of La Union- People's Hall, CSF

MARCH 4, 2017

-Opening Ceremonies of the 2017 Region 1 Athletic Association-Bantay, Ilocos Sur

MARCH 6, 2017

-First Monday Flag Raising Ceremony-Capitol Grounds, CSF

-Cabinet Meeting-Diego Silang Hall, Capitol Building

-Blood Donation-Caba District Hospital-Caba, La Union

-Saranay Distribution-Office of the Governor, Capitol Building, CSF

MARCH 8, 2017

-I Love La Union: I Love My Barangay-Santol, La Union

-Regional Budget Review and Consultation for FY 2018-DBM RO1 Conference Hall, CSF

MARCH 9, 2017

-Distribution of Checks for Scholars-Diego Silang Hall, Capitol Building, CSF

MARCH 10, 2017

-Strategic Alignment Session-LUTLDC, City of San Fernando, La Union

MARCH 14, 2017

-Zuellig Governor's Circle -St. Giles Hotel, Makati City

MARCH 15, 2017

-JFP 3rd General Assembly-Centennial B Room, Manila Hotel, One Rizal, Manila

MARCH 16, 2017

-Strategy Alignment Session Diego Silang Hall, Capitol Building, CSF

-Emergency Shelter Assistance, Cash For Work and Long Sleeves for TODA Distribution-Balaoan, La Union

-Saranay Distribution Office of the Governor, Capitol Building, CSF

MARCH 17, 2017 (Friday)

-Gov. Pacoy Cup San Vicente Firing Range, City of San Fernando, La Union

-Dep-Ed Night of Baguila Baguila Municipal Hall, Baguila, La Union

MARCH 18, 2017

-Brgy. Talogtog Fiesta-San Juan, La Union

-Brgy. Acao Fiesta-Bauang, La Union

MARCH 20, 2017

-I Love La Union: I Love My Barangay-Bangar, La Union

-Emergency Shelter Assistance Distribution for San Juan-San Juan, La Union

-Turn Over of Solar Lamps and Shirts for the Earth Hour in Balaoan-Balaoan, La Union

-Coronation of Ms. City of San Fernando 2017-City of San Fernando, La Union

MARCH 21, 2017

-Strategy Alignment Session-City of San Fernando, La Union

-Provincial Development Council Meeting-Provincial Capitol

-CICOSAT Commencement Exercises-City of San Fernando, La Union

MARCH 22, 2017

-1st Quarter Regional Peace and Order Council Meeting-Laoag City, Ilocos Norte

MARCH 23, 2017

-Inauguration of 1 Unit Classroom-Aringay, La Union

-Inauguration of Decentralized Wastewater Treatment-Rosario, La Union

-Inauguration of Administration Building Roofing-City of San Fernando, La Union

MARCH 24, 2017

-Launching of Dial 911-Capitol Building, City of San Fernando, La Union

MARCH 25, 2017

-Earth Hour-Balaoan, La Union

MARCH 27, 2017

-Soft Launching of PasaLUBong Center-City of San Fernando, La Union

-Relaunching of Honey Center-Bacnotan, La Union

MARCH 28, 2017

-Emergency Shelter Assistance Distribution for Naguilan-Naguilan, La Union

MARCH 29, 2017

-Inauguration of Tobacco Farmers Multi-purpose Building Paycopoc, Bauang

-Inauguration of Castilagan-Bail Road, Sto. Tomas, La Union

MARCH 30, 2017

-Distribution of Laptops to Brgy. Captains of Bauang-Provincial Capitol, CSF

-Distribution of Stipends to Bacnotan National High School-Bacnotan, La Union

-Distribution of Stipends to Castor Z. Concepcion Memorial National High School-Balaoan

-Distribution of Stipends to Luna National High School-Luna, La Union

-Distribution of Stipends to Regional Science High School-Bangar, La Union

MARCH 31, 2017

-Distribution of Stipends to Sto. Tomas National High School-Sto. Tomas, La Union

-Distribution of Stipends to Don Elpidio Quirino Memorial National High School-Agoog

-Distribution of Stipends to Aringay National High School-Aringay, La Union

-Distribution of Stipends to Don Eulogio de Guzman Memorial National High School-Bauang

-Distribution of Stipends to Naguilan National High School-Naguilan, La Union

-Continuation of ESA Distribution for Tubao-Tubao, La Union

APRIL 1, 2017

-Brgy. Fiesta of Brgy. San Luis-Pugo, La Union

-Brgy. Fiesta of Brgy. Paycopoc-San Juan, La Union

APRIL 3, 2017

-First Monday Flag Raising Ceremony-Capitol Grounds, CSF

-Cabinet Meeting-Capitol Building, CSF

-LUMC Board Meeting-Capitol Building, CSF

APRIL 6, 2017

-Distribution of Farm Equipment-Capitol Grounds, City of San Fernando, La Union

-Distribution of Scholarship Checks-Capitol Building, City of San Fernando, La Union

-PGS Bootcamp-Thunderbird Resorts, City of San Fernando, La Union

-Brgy. Fiesta of Brgy. Urayong-Bauang, La Union

-Brgy. Fiesta of Brgy. Calumbaya-Bauang, La Union

APRIL 18, 2017

-Induction of New Set of Officers of the Municipal Assessors' League of La Union-San Juan

-Presentation of Agriculture Sustainability Initiatives-Capitol Building, CSF

-Barangay Night of the Municipality of Rosario

APRIL 19, 2017

-MOA Signing with National Food Authority-Capitol Building, CSF

APRIL 20, 2017

-3rd Provincial Convention of Service Providers and Child Development Workers-Baguio City

-Mutia Ti San Gabriel, La Union

APRIL 21, 2017

-Brgy. Fiesta of Brgy. Pacpacac, San Juan

APRIL 22, 2017

-44th Founding Anniversary of Balaoan District Hospital

-Brgy. Fiesta of Brgy. Tubod, Sto. Tomas, La Union

-Tri-Barangay Fiesta of Brgy. Lubing, Dinanum and Castilgan, San Juan, La Union

APRIL 23, 2017

-Brgy. Fiesta of Brgy. Dulao, Aringay, La Union

-Brgy. Fiesta of Brgy. Sta. Rosa, San Juan, La Union

APRIL 24, 2017

-Brgy. Fiesta of Brgy. Upper San Agustin, Bauang, La Union

-Brgy. Fiesta of Brgy. Dangdangla, San Juan, La Union

APRIL 25, 2017

-Brgy. Fiesta of Brgy. Ilocanos Norte, CSF, La Union

-Rabui iti Umili Sto. Tomas, La Union

APRIL 26, 2017

-Strategy Alignment Session/ Cascading Session LUTLDC, CSF

-Distribution of ABONO Scholarships-Capitol Building, CSF

-Brgy. Fiesta of Brgy. Nagyubuyuban, San Juan

-Brgy. Fiesta of Brgy. Cabaraoan, San Juan, La Union

-Brgy. Fiesta of Brgy. San Simon East, Aringay, La Union

APRIL 27, 2017

-Ribbon Cutting and Blessing of LUMC Buildings-LUMC, Agoog, La Union

-Distribution of Emergency Shelter Assistance Checks for Luna Luna, La Union

-Brgy. Fiesta of Brgy. Lingsat, CSF, La Union Brgy. Lingsat, CSF, La Union

-Oath Taking Ceremony of the Association of Tenants and Vendors of Rosario Public Market, Inc. and Rosario Alliance of Tricycle Operators/ Drivers-Rosario, La Union

-Brgy. Fiesta of Brgy. Calincamasan, San Juan

APRIL 28, 2017

-I Love La Union: I Love My Barangay San Gabriel, La Union

-Ground Breaking of ITRMC Rehab Center ITRMC, City of San Fernando, La Union

-Brgy. Fiesta of Brgy. Pilar, Bauang, La Union

-Brgy. Fiesta of Brgy. Padalagan, City of San Fernando, La Union

-Brgy. Fiesta of Brgy. Tococ, Sto. Tomas, La Union

-Brgy. Fiesta of Brgy. Ilocanos Sur, City of San Fernando, La Union

-Brgy. Fiesta of Brgy. Pugo, Bauang, La Union

-Brgy. Fiesta of Brgy. Urbiztondo, San Juan, La Union

APRIL 29, 2017

-PEDAS Training Closing Ceremony Hotel Ariana, Bauang, La Union

-Brgy. Fiesta of Brgy. Dili, Bauang, La Union

-Brgy. Fiesta of Brgy. Sta. Monica, Bauang, La Union

-Brgy. Fiesta of Brgy. Boy-utan, Bauang, La Union

-Brgy. Fiesta of Brgy. Bail, Sto. Tomas, La Union

-Brgy. Fiesta of Brgy. Sta. Cecilia, Aringay, La Union

-Brgy. Fiesta of Brgy. Catbaengan, City of San Fernando, La Union

-Brgy. Fiesta of Brgy. Rissing, Bangar, La Union

-Brgy. Fiesta of Brgy. Dallangayan Oeste, CSF, La Union

-Brgy. Fiesta of Brgy. Parian Este, Bauang, La Union

-Brgy. Fiesta of Brgy. Duplas, San Juan, La Union

-Brgy. Fiesta of Brgy. Porco, City of San Fernando, La Union

APRIL 30, 2017

-Brgy. Fiesta of Brgy. Pongpong, Sto. Tomas, La Union

-Brgy. Fiesta of Brgy. Parian Oeste, Bauang, La Union

-68th Foundation Anniversary of the Municipality of Santol, La Union

-Brgy. Fiesta of Brgy. Bagbag, Bauang, La Union

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF LA UNION - FINANCIAL REPORT

FDP Form 6 - Trust Fund Utilization

CONSOLIDATED QUARTERLY REPORT ON GOVERNMENT PROJECTS, PROGRAMS or ACTIVITIES FOR THE FIRST QUARTER, CY 2017

Province: LA UNION

Program or Project	Location	Total Cost	Date Started	Target Completion Date	Project Status		No. of Extensions, if any	Remarks
					% of Completion	Total Cost Incurred to Date		
Maternal Newborn Child Health and Nutrition (MNCNH)	La Union	2,036,752.00	01/01/16	06/30/17	89%	1,822,520.00		
Supplementary Feeding Program	La Union	624,000.00	06/01/15	03/31/17	100%	624,000.00		
Annual Operational Plan	La Union	1,650,000.00	01/01/17	12/31/17	14%	235,963.00		
Cash for Work (CW) Project	La Union	40,331,300.00	11/01/16	03/31/17	92%	37,285,600.00		
Emergency Shelter Assistance (ESA) Project	La Union	133,050,000.00	11/01/16	03/31/17	87%	115,170,000.00		
Rehabilitation & Improvement of Bagbag-Sta. Monica Road	La Union	17,500,000.00	02/29/16	04/26/17	94%	14,167,177.05	213 calendar days	
Rehabilitation & Improvement of Santol-San Gabriel Road	La Union	17,500,000.00	02/29/16	05/24/17	78.28%	17,500,000.00	232 calendar days	
Rehabilitation of Balaoan-Santol Road	La Union	17,500,000.00	02/29/16	05/19/17	80.66%	17,500,000.00	253 calendar days	
Rehabilitation of Caba-Naguilian Road	La Union	10,573,338.58	02/29/16	02/28/17	100%	2,236,705.86	256 calendar days	

We hereby certify that we have reviewed the contents and hereby attest to the veracity and correctness of the data or information contained in this document.

Prepared by:

Francisca M. Pungtilan
Provincial Accountant

Approved by:

Francisco Emmanuel R. Ortega III
Provincial Governor

FDP Form 7 - 20% Component of the IRA Utilization

20% COMPONENT OF THE IRA UTILIZATION FOR THE 1st QUARTER CY 2017

Province of La Union

Program or Project	Location	Total Cost	Date Started	Target Completion Date	Project Status		No. of Extensions, if any	Remarks
					% of Completion	Total Cost Incurred to Date		
Social Development								
Medical and Dental Equipment for I love La Union I love my Barangay (formerly ORB)	La Union	10,000,000.00	1/31/2017	12/31/2017	0%			
Barangay Assistance Program	La Union	17,959,103.00	1/31/2017	12/31/2017	0%			
Improvement of Hospital and Health Centers	La Union	45,450,000.00	1/31/2017	12/31/2017	2%	718,968.96		
Improvement of Other Structures	La Union	20,000,000.00	1/31/2017	12/31/2017	2%	469,032.88		
Procurement of Hospital Equipment for the Five (5) District Hospitals and La Union Medical Center	La Union	60,500,000.00	1/31/2017	12/31/2017	0%			
Sub-total		153,909,103.00				1,188,001.84		
Economic Development								
Repair of Provincial Roads and Bridges	La Union	10,000,000.00	1/31/2017	12/31/2017	0%			
Eco-Tourism, Trade and Investment center	La Union	5,000,000.00	1/31/2017	12/31/2017	0%			
Operationalize management and operations of Honey Center	La Union	5,000,000.00	1/31/2017	12/31/2017	0%			
Construction/Improvement/ Rehabilitation of Irrigation Projects	La Union	10,000,000.00	1/31/2017	12/31/2017	0%			
Tourism site development	La Union	3,500,000.00	1/31/2017	12/31/2017	0%			
Organizing Tourism Events (both fabrications)	La Union	1,500,000.00	1/31/2017	12/31/2017	0%			
Lot and building for livestock auction market	La Union	15,000,000.00	1/31/2017	12/31/2017	0%			
Sub-total		50,000,000.00				-		
Environment Development						-		
Solid Waste Management	La Union	1,375,000.00	1/31/2017	12/31/2017	0%			
Source Reduction/Segregation Program	La Union	3,000,000.00	1/31/2017	12/31/2017	0%			
Strengthening of the Integrated Coastal Resources Management and Conservation Project	La Union	3,020,000.00	1/31/2017	12/31/2017	0%			
Sub-total		7,395,000.00				-		
Grand Total		211,304,103.00				1,188,001.84		

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF LA UNION - FINANCIAL REPORT

FDP Form 9 - Statement of Cash Flow
(COA Form)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the First Quarter Ended March 31, 2017
Province: LA UNION

Cash Flows from Operating Activities:

Cash Inflows:

Collection from taxpayers	60,274,516.61
Share from Internal Revenue Collections	264,130,128.00
Receipts from sale of goods or services	33,628,266.93
Interest Income	2,458,263.31
Other Receipts	97,172,748.48
Total Cash Inflow	457,663,923.33

Cash Outflows:

Payments -	
To suppliers/creditors	98,084,787.03
To employees	53,582,175.15
Other Expenses	279,323,797.68
Total Cash Outflow	430,990,759.86

Net Cash from Operating Activities 26,673,163.47

Cash Flows from Investing Activities:

Cash Inflows:

From Sale of Property, Plant and Equipment	-
From Sale of Debt Securities of Other Entities	-
From Collection of Principal on Loans to Other Entities	-
Total Cash Inflow	-

Cash Outflows:

To Purchase Property, Plant and Equipment	41,075,895.84
To Purchase Debt Securities of Other Entities	-
To Grant/Make Loans to Other Entities	-
Total Cash Outflow	41,075,895.84

Net Cash from Investing Activities (41,075,895.84)

Cash Flows from Financing Activities:

Cash Inflows:

From Issuance of Debt Securities	-
From Acquisition of Loan	-
Total Cash Inflow	-

Cash Outflows:

Payment of Loan Amortization	353,394.63
Interest Expense	90,225.35
Total Cash Outflow	443,619.98

Net Cash from Financing Activities (443,619.98)

Net Increase in Cash (14,846,352.35)

Cash at Beginning of the Period 1,029,979,677.47

Cash at the End of the Period 1,015,133,325.12

Prepared by:

Francisca M. Pungtilan
FRANCISCA M. PUNGILAN
Provincial Accountant

FDP Form 11 - SEF Utilization

(SEF Budget Accountability Form No. 1)

SEF UTILIZATION

First Quarter, CY 2017

Province - LA UNION

Receipt from SEF 31,668,142.50

Less: DISBURSEMENTS (broken down by expense class and by object of expenditure)

Personal Services

Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses

Travelling Expenses - Local	2,000.00
Representation Expenses	5,597,550.00
Other Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses	1,703,400.00

Capital Outlay

Financial Expenses

Total Disbursements 7,302,950.00

Balance 24,365,192.50

We hereby certify that we have reviewed the contents and hereby attest to the veracity and correctness of the data or information contained in this document.

Francisca M. Pungtilan
FRANCISCA M. PUNGILAN
Provincial Accountant

Francisco Emmanuel R. Ortega III
FRANCISCO EMMANUEL R. ORTEGA III
Provincial Governor

FDP Form 12- Unliquidated Cash Advances

UNLIQUIDATED CASH ADVANCES

For the First Quarter, CY 2017

Province, City or Municipality: LA UNION

Name of Debtor (in alphabetical order)	Amount Balance	Date Granted	Purpose	Amount Due					
				Less than 30 days	31-90 days	91-365 days	Over 1 year	Over 2 years	3 years and above
Ballesteros, Rhea	73,760.00	Mar. 21, 2017	TEV- Batanes		73,760.00				
Camarao, Marvin	52,120.00	Mar. 28, 2017	TEV- Mandaluyong		52,120.00				
Casagay, Paul	6,640.00	Feb. 01, 2017	TEV- Baguio		6,640.00				
Deilnado, Michaela	64,243.72	Mar. 26, 2017	TEV- Korea		64,243.72				
Delos Santos, Kevin	1,227.00	Mar. 15, 2017	TEV- Baguio		1,227.00				
Dulay, Anne Girlie	6,400.00	Mar. 29, 2017	TEV- Pugo, LU		6,400.00				
Estal, Alvin	9,580.00	Mar. 13, 2017	TEV- Manila		9,580.00				
Flores, Lyndoff	8,706.96	Mar. 11, 2017	TEV- Mandaluyong		8,706.96				
Gapsin, Bryan	7,988.00	Mar. 15, 2017	TEV- Baguio		7,988.00				
Maglaya, Remelina	23,040.00	Mar. 12, 2017	TEV- Baguio		23,040.00				
Manabat, Julius	7,680.00	Feb. 13, 2017	TEV- Manila		7,680.00				
Martinez, Aicel	7,890.00	Mar. 15, 2017	TEV- Baguio		7,890.00				
Rimando, Donato	17,940.00	Mar. 15, 2017	TEV- Davao		17,940.00				
Rudio, Israel	37,600.00	Feb. 15, 2017	TEV- Bataan		37,600.00				
Salazar, Filma	7,320.00	Mar. 13, 2017	TEV- Manila		7,320.00				
Soriano, Geraldine	15,560.00	Mar. 29, 2017	TEV- Legaspi		15,560.00				
Ugma, Rudolf	8,280.00	Mar. 15, 2017	TEV- Baguio		8,280.00				
Total	355,975.68				304,055.68	51,920.00			

We hereby certify that we have reviewed the contents and hereby attest to the veracity and correctness of the data or information contained in this document.

Francisca M. Pungtilan
FRANCISCA M. PUNGILAN
Provincial Accountant

Francisco Emmanuel R. Ortega III
FRANCISCO EMMANUEL R. ORTEGA III
Provincial Governor

FDP Form 13- Manpower Complement

MANPOWER COMPLEMENT

Republic of the Philippines
Budget Year 2017
First Quarter
Province of La Union

Nature of Appointment or Employment	Number	Compensation and Other Benefits		Total
		Salaries and Wages	Other Monetary Benefits	
I. Permanent	1,216	71,762,485.69	21,572,243.79	93,334,729.48
II. Contractual				
III. Job Order/Contract Service	478	8,716,664.42		8,716,664.42
Grand Total	1,694	80,479,150.11	21,572,243.79	102,051,393.90

We hereby certify that we have reviewed the contents and hereby attest to the veracity and correctness of the data or information contained in this document.

Theresa C. Feraren
Theresa C. FERAREN
Supervising Administrative Officer
Human Resource Management Division

Francisca M. Pungtilan
FRANCISCA M. PUNGILAN
Provincial Accountant

Francisco Emmanuel R. Ortega III
FRANCISCO EMMANUEL R. ORTEGA III
Provincial Governor

Notes:

- Contractual personnel are those whose employment in the government is in accordance with a special contract to undertake a specific work or job, requiring special or technical skills not available in the employing agency, to be accomplished within a specific period, which in no case shall exceed one year, and performs or accomplishes the specific work or job, under his own responsibility with a minimum of direction and supervision from the hiring agency. [Source: PRESIDENTIAL DECREE No. 807 October 6, 1975]
- Contract of Services/Job Orders are employees whose services rendered are not considered governments services and do not enjoy the benefits enjoyed by government employees. The job order covers piece work or intermittent job of short duration not exceeding six months on a daily basis. [Source: Omnibus Rules Implementing Book V of E.O. No. 292 and Other Pertinent Civil Service Laws]

Note:

Permanent Position - includes coterminous but plantilla position; permanent casual but plantilla position
Contractual - includes consultant, compensation from PS
Job Order/Contract Service - includes Casual; compensation from MDOP; coterminous but NOT plantilla position

911 HOTLINE LAUNCHED IN LA UNION



Gov. Pacoy delivers his message during the Inauguration and Blessing of Bail- Casilagan Road, Sto. Tomas, La Union on March 29, 2017. [Wendell B. Tangalin]

LUVWI CELEBRATES WOMEN'S MONTH

La Union Vibrant Women, Inc. (LUVWI) Celebrated Women's Month by increasing their faith and hope through the intercession of our "NUESTRA SEÑORA VIRGEN DEL MAR CAUTIVA."

In 1845, Fr. Santiago Romero (Araujo), OSA, Parish priest of Holy Guardian Angels Parish, Santo Tomas, La Union, propagated the devotion to the blessed Virgin Mary entitled "Virgin of the Rosaries". He asked some sculptors in Manila to curve three statues for the Enshrinement at the parish church. One for the Blessed Mother, one for the St. Michael the Archangel, and the another one for the Holy Guardian Angels.

In July of that year, the statues were packed in three boxes and hurriedly sent to Santo Tomas by sailboat named "Matutina" via West Philippine Sea. Somewhere near Bolinao, Pangasinan, sea pirates from Jolo who customarily killed Christians in those days attacked the "Matutina".

The pirates seized all their belongings. They opened their baggage, including the three boxes containing the Holy Statues. They mocked at the statues and cut the left forearm of the statue of the Blessed Mother then threw the three boxes into the sea.

Two of the three boxes sank while the box containing the Blessed Mother's statue floated to the shores of Bolinao, Pangasinan. Christian soldier found the box with the Holy Statue amazingly dry. They brought the statue to the parish priest of Bolinao. He noticed the address "Santo Tomas, La

Union" that was inscribed on the box. So, he hurriedly wrote to Fr. Santiago who turn stated in his reply requesting for the delivery of the Holy Image to Santo Tomas.

The Christian soldiers, reaching the shores of Barraca, Poblacion, Santo Tomas, La Union delivered the Holy Statue of the Blessed Mother on July 19, 1845. The Holy Image was brought to the Parish church amidst music and ringing of church bells then enshrined at the altar for public devotion. Since then, numerous miracles, conversion and cures including safe and fast childbirth were attributed to her.

The Augustinian priests that came after the Dominicans intensified the propagation of the devotion to the Blessed Mother. Fr. Lorenzo Rodriguez, an Augustinian, had replaced the Holy Statue's lost arm with a golden forearm. It was said however, that it did not fit to the body of the statue and was observed to have shrunk every day until it completely fell off the statue on the third day. So he ordered another ivory arm to replace the golden forearm but the same thing happened. Therefore, what the devotees did was to tie the ivory forearm with a metal string to avoid falling off. This remain until now for all who come to venerate and see the image of the Blessed Mother.

With this Holy Image, the Blessed Mother is venerated as "Virgen del Mar Cautiva" (Virgin Captive by the Sea) the patroness of Santo Tomas, La Union owing to her mysterious story by the sea.

Our devotion to the

image of the Blessed Mother started to flourish in the town. From 1845, miracles attributed to her were documented by the Augustinian Priests who propagated the devotion. These documents still exist and are kept in the present novena prayer and the histories were written by Augustinian writer Fr. Rufino Redondo, OSA, in 1890. Worth mentioning to their novena prayer indicated are the particular miraculous interventions which happened to particular people of our time. Easy and safe childbearing, cures, petitions and conversion were attributed to her.

We always hear women empowerment and what does it really mean? For LUVWI, aside from women's equal rights, privileges and positions as the men, LUVWI wanted to strengthen the faith of members through prayers and devotion to the Blessed Mother. Women play vital role in the family and one way of coping with the tribulations in life is through prayers.

LUVWI Provincial Officers brought the replica of the image of Nuestra Señora Virgen del Mar Curtiva to all towns. They went to two towns a day from March 13-19, one town at 2:30 PM for the Holy Rosary and another town at 5:00 PM for the Holy Mass.

LUVWI Officers thanked all the Members, Municipal Chairwomen and Presidents who attended and special thanks to Mayor Arturo Valdriz of San Juan, Mayor Priscilla Martin of Pugo and Mayor Marietta C. Carbonell of Santo Tomas who were present during the activity.



TOUR OPERATORS OF THE PHILIPPINES EXPLORE LA UNION

The Alliance of Legitimate Tour Operators of the Philippines (ALTOP) conducted a two-day familiarization tour in La Union on April 25 to 26, 2017. Said tour was arranged by the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) through the Provincial Information and Tourism Office (PITO) in coordination with Ms. Almira Nzewunwa, Business Manager of ALTOP.

First day of the tour included visits to Basilica Minore and Mushroom Culture and Production in Agoo, Rocapor Farm in Rosario and Lomboy Farm in Bauang, La Union. They also visited the newly opened Pasalubong Center after having a courtesy call with Governor Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III at the Provincial Capitol located at the City of San Fernando.

Destinations on the second day of the tour included Bamboo Industry in Brgy. Abut, San Fernando City, Red Clay Pottery in San Juan, Riverfarm in Bacnotan, Sericulture Research and Devel-

opment Institute in Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University – North La Union Campus (DMMMSU – NLUC), Bacnotan, Sericulture Research and Development Institute in Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University – North La Union Campus (DMMMSU – NLUC), Bacnotan, La Union. They also had a side trip in the municipality of Bangar and bought loomwoven cloths or "abel". They offered their prayers at Namacpacan Church and witnessed a mesmerizing sunset in Bahay na Bato both in Luna.

The ALTOP assessed tourism sites that they can offer to their clients that may boost the tourism industry of the province. The results of the familiarization tour will provide relevant inputs to future planning endeavors of the province and concerned entities which affirms Gov. Pacoy's Transformative Governance Roadmap of making La Union the Heart of Agri-tourism in Northern Luzon by 2025. [Darlene Joy Acosta]



Gov. Pacoy hands over a Mark of Gratitude to Ms. Almira Nzewunwa of the Alliance of Legitimate Tour Operators of the Philippines on April 25, 2017 at the Office of the Governor, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union for her support to La Union tourism promotion activities by bringing a pool of tour operators from all over the Philippines for a 2-day familiarization tour in La Union on April 24-25, 2017. [Rizalde Buenaventura]

LA UNION COUNCIL FOR LANGUAGE AND CULTURE CONVENES



The La Union Council for Language and Culture (LUCLC) convened on April 25, 2017 at the Speaker Pro-Tempore, Legislative Building, City of San Fernando, La Union. The Council is headed by the Provincial Governor Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III.

Chief of Staff of the Office of the Provincial Governor (OPG), Ms. Geraldine Joy R. Ortega and Provincial Information and Tourism Officer, Mr. Adamor L. Dagang presided over the meeting rooting on LUCLC Reorganization; Emphasis on Culture Promotion Aspect of the LUCLC; Activities and schedule of Ayat Festival; and Nominations for Kampeon ti Lengguage as the

main agenda.

The council also talked about the empowerment on the use of the Ilocano Language in schools especially the Secondary and Tertiary levels. This kind of implementation is one way of preserving our native tongue.

"Awan dakes na nu nalaing tayo agilocano, awan dakes na nu nalaing tayo agtagalog, ngem iti dakes na nu malipatan tayo iti agilocano," said Dr. Elizabeth Caliwanagan, Associate Professor of the University of the Philippines Baguio and one of the members of the council. She even emphasized that Ilocano is a language with different dialects.

The meeting did not only revolve around the

Iloco Language, but it also tackled about the preservation of different industry of the province which represents its culture. One example is the preservation of the "Abel" of Bangar. According to Ms. Ortega, an Abel Blanket in New York cost 50,000 dollar.

Ayat Festival was tentatively moved in August as part of the Buwan ng Wika Celebration. It will cover various activities that promotes the Iloco Language such as Iskribalo, a scrabble game of Ilocano words; Kantarap, an Iloco Song composition contest; and La Union Henyo a localized version of the famous Pinoy Henyo. [Arnel O. Mamaril and Jhonilla P. Sibolboro]

LA UNION TAKES PART IN EARTH HOUR 2017

The Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) together with partner agencies and stakeholders conducted a La Union-wide motorcade on March 23, 8:30 A.M. to raise awareness on Earth Hour which was culminated with the theme "Balaoan Unplugged: This Earth Hour, Shine a Light on Climate Action" on March 25, 2017 at the Public Market Grounds, Balaoan, La Union.

In her opening remarks, Balaoan Mayor Aleli U. Concepcion welcomed the attendees to the event. She reported on their environmental projects that include the Sanitary Landfill model in particular, which the local government of Balaoan has implemented towards environment protection and preservation.

Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III thanked the participation of all the attendees especially the people of Balaoan for hosting the event. In his message, Governor Pacoy put emphasis that Earth Hour is about celebrating life. He talked about appreciating the miracle of life being possible considering the vast-

ness of the universe.

For her part, ABONO Party-List Representative Vini Nola A. Ortega advised to take into heart a quote which had a profound effect in her that goes, "Humans need the earth to continue living but the earth can live without humans."

A candle lighting ceremony where the materials were made from several tin cans collected from barangays of Balaoan. It was led by the Governor along with other local officials. This year's Earth Hour program concluded with a commitment signing participated by the key figures present.

Earth Hour is an annual event organized by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) towards raising awareness for the planet by encouraging the participants to turn off their lights for an hour. It started in 2007 as a lights-off event in Sydney, Australia. Since then, it has been participated by more than 7,000 cities and towns across 172 countries worldwide.

[Marcel A. Florentino]



Gov. Pacoy, ABONO Party-list Representative Vini Nola A. Ortega and their daughter Samantha Ortega, light the candles during the celebration of Earth Hour on March 25, 2017 at the Plaza of Balaoan, La Union. [Rizalde Buenaventura]



Gov. Pacoy and his wife ABONO Party-list Representative Vini Nola A. Ortega (4th and 3rd from left, front row) lead the cutting of ribbon during the Inauguration and Blessing of Construction of Tobacco farmers multi-purpose training center at Bauang, La Union on March 29, 2017. [Wendell B. Tangalin]



Vice Governor Aureo Augusto Q. Nisce imparts his message to the participants of Twins Day on March 17, 2017 at Ortega Gymnasium, City of San Fernando, La Union. The Twins Day Celebration is spearheaded by the Provincial Government of La Union through the Provincial Population Office. [Rizalde Buenaventura]