



POLICE AWARDEE. Gov. Pacoy shakes hand with PO2 Ryan E. Ponce, one of the recipients of the 10 Outstanding Police Officers Award, on October 26, 2017 at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union. In the said event, Gov. Pacoy recognized diligent efforts of La Union Police Officers. Also in photo are immediate past Governor Manuel Ortega, Vice Governor Aureo Augusto Q. Nisce and PSSUPT Leo M. Francisco, LUPPO Provincial Director.

PGLU HONORS 10 OUTSTANDING POLICE OFFICERS OF LA UNION

The Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) led by Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III gave recognition to the Ten Outstanding Police Officers in the Province of La Union during the ceremony held on October 26, 2017 at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union. The event was attended by Vice Governor Aureo Augusto Q. Nisce, Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) Members, Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) Provincial Director Paulino G. Lalata, PGLU personnel and the families of the Honorees.

Governor Pacoy congratulated the awardees and thanked them for their passion, excellence, and courage in serving the people of La Union. He further stated that the success of the province is due to the stability and security provided by policemen who lay their lives on the line.

PSSUPT Leo M. Francisco, La Union Police Provincial Police Director, said that the award should serve as a challenge in encouraging the brave men and

women of PNP to work harder and to put their best foot forward in protecting and serving the people.

The 2017 Ten Outstanding Police Officers in their respective fields are PSUPT John P Charongen – Investigation; PCINSP Mariabel L Mamuyac – Criminalistics; PCINSP Silverio L Ordinado Jr – Police Community Relations; PSINSP Manuel T Ambrocio – Administrative Management; PCINSP Rex B Buyucan – Special Operations; PO3 Raymond P Peña – Human Resource Management Division; PCINSP Bernard E Pagaduan – Intelligence; PO2 Ryan E Ponce – Anti-Narcotics; and PCINSP Elmer P Pajac – Medical and PO2 Isagani C San Juan – Traffic Management; PSUPT John P Charongen spoke on behalf of the Honorees expressing gratitude for the recognition and the support of the PGLU.

The recognition program was created by virtue of SP Ordinance No. 25-2012, as amended by SP Ordinance 119-2017, and conferred under SP Resolution No. 477, S. 2017.

-Marcel Florentino

LA UNION SURFING BREAK - HALL OF FAMER FOR BEST SPORTS TOURISM EVENT IN THE PHILIPPINES

La Union Surfing Break (LUSB) was adjudged as Best Tourism Event in the Philippines (Sports Category) as conferred by the Department of Tourism and the Association of Tourism Officers of the Philippines (DOT-ATOP) during the 18th ATOP National Convention Pearl Awards on October 6, 2017 at Iloilo Convention Center, Iloilo City.

The Hall of Fame Award was also given to La Union Surfing Break for having won the same award for three consecutive years. It bagged the same award in year 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016 and 2nd place in 2014 for the same category.

The ATOP Pearl Awards is an award-giving body designed to honor creative works and exceptional services of the people in the tourism industry. The award is a

manifestation of the remarkable practices, innovations and projects of Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) which is a vital part of a fast growing and active tourism industry in the province. It recognizes the effort of the people behind the success of the event and it sends a strong message to the constituents that their ingenious works and distinctive services and its cause are not going to be declined nor taken for granted but are remembered.

LUSB is a multi-sectoral tourism project of the PGLU in partnership with DOT – RO1, Municipal Government of San Juan, La Union Conventions and Visitors Bureau, San Juan Resort Restaurant Hotel Association, Inc. and La Union Surf Club.

-Darlene Joy V. Acosta



Department of Tourism Region I Director, Martin S. Valera and La Union Information and Tourism Officer, Mr. Adamor L. Dagang (fourth and fifth from left), lead the La Union delegation in receiving the Hall of Fame Award for La Union Surfing Break as National Champion for Best Tourism Event in the Philippines (Sports Category) conferred by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and the Association of Tourism Officers of the Philippines (ATOP) during the 18th ATOP National Convention Pearl Awards on October 6, 2017 at Iloilo Convention Center, Iloilo City.



Message from the Governor

PANAGADAL KEN PANAGAYAT TI PAGESASAO NGA ILOKO

Ti pagsasao ket makuna a maysa kadagiti pakabigbigan ti maysa nga ili ken dagiti umili. Isu ti pakakitaan iti kinabaknang ti kultura ti maysa a lugar. Isu met iti mangpatibker ti panagkaykaysa dagiti umindeg tapno agkikinaawatan ken agiinnayatda.

Napateg unay a masurotayo ken pagrang-ayen ti bukod tayo a pagsasao nga Iloko / Ilokano ta isu ti mangyasideg kadatayo iti kultura ken nagramotantayo.

Ditoy La Union, naiyuddang tayon ti maysa a paglintegang a mangpatibker ti pagsasao nga Ilokano. Addan ti ordinansa a maawagan a Local Language Code of La Union wemno ti Iloko Code nga isu ti mangpreserba, mangtaginayon ken mangital-o ti panagusar ti Iloko / Ilokano ken daduma pay a pagsasao ditoy probinsia.

Ti Ayat Festival ti maysa kadagiti wagas iti panagrambak iti kinabaknang ti kultura ken pagsasaotayo kas maysa a probinsia. Naduma duma nga aktibidad ti naisagana para iti daytoy a selebrasion. Adda iti Street Dancing, La Union Henio, Salip ti Deklamasion, ken Ilokano Choral.

Ay-ayatek a kaprobinsian, sapay ta pagpisaen ket saan tay' koma itulok a malipatan ti bukod tayo a pagsasao. No man pay mapan tay iti sabali a lugar ditoy Pilipinas man wemno ballasiw taaw, italo ken sipapannakel tayo nga ipakaamo a datayo a taga La Union ket ipatpateg-tayo ti pagsasao nga Ilokano/ Iloko.

Agay-ayat kadakayo amin,

FRANCISCO EMMANUEL "PACOY" R. ORTEGA III
Gobernador



SHARING THE LOVE. (L-R) Santol Mayor Magno A. Wailan, Sangguniang Panlalawigan Member Maria Annabelle S. De Guzman, Mr. Joseph M. De Guzman (representative of Cong. Pablo C. Ortega), and Provincial Administrator Dr. Geoffrey S. Tilan greet recipients of land titles during the Indigenous Peoples Development Caravan on October 27, 2017 in the Municipality of Santol, La Union.

PGLU CONDUCTS IP CARAVAN

In celebration of the Indigenous Peoples (IP) Week in the province of La Union and the 20th Year Anniversary of the Indigenous People Rights Act (IPRA Law, Republic Act 8371), the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) led by Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III held a whole day IP Development Caravan on October 27, 2017 in Santol, La Union. The program was organized with Governor Pacoy's priority of providing assistance and support to the programs that empower the indigenous peoples to ensure their continuing development and growth.

Sangguniang Panlalawigan Member Maria Annabelle S. De Guzman, Chairman of the SP Committee on People's Organizations, Indigenous People's Organizations, and Non-Government Organizations, spoke of a message of love where she also sang an Iloko version of the song "The More We Get Together," emphasizing more on the importance of working together as family.

Hon. Pablo C. Ortega, 1st District Representative of La Union, through his repre-

sentative, communicated the openness of his office to address the needs of the indigenous peoples of La Union. He said that they are very much welcome to approach his office for assistance.

Provincial Administrator Dr. Geoffrey S. Tilan, SP Member Maria Annabelle S. De Guzman, Santol Mayor Magno A. Wailan, and other elected officials actively took part in the cultural dance performance presented during the program.

The IP Development Caravan program was conducted in partnership with several national line agencies and had numerous activities including medical-dental services, distribution of land titles, orientation on IP-related services of regional line agencies, and distribution of assorted seedlings and vegetable seeds. The Chiefs of Hospitals of the District Hospitals under PGLU personally rendered their medical services to attendees in need. An open forum discussing the services available to the indigenous people was also conducted by the different agencies present. - Marcel A. Florentino



Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III is represented by Provincial Administrator Geoffrey S. Tilan and Provincial Information & Tourism Officer Adamor L. Dagang, in receiving a Plaque of Recognition for La Union for its rigid implementation of International Organization for Standardization (ISO) specifications in the delivery of public service throughout the province during the International Conference on Public Sector Productivity held on October 11, 2017 at the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) Conference Center, Tagaytay City.

GOV. PACOY COMMITS TO TRANSFORMATIVE EDUCATION

Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III recognized the hardwork and sacrifices of the members of the La Union Federation of Parents-Teachers Association (LUFPTA) during the LUFPTA 10th Congress on October 3, 2017 at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union. In his message, Gov. Pacoy vowed to strengthen the academic sector as part of his transformative governance program as he said, "I am a parent, I am an educator, I am one with you." Pledging his utmost support and commitment to the LUFPTA Officers, he affirms to bring innovation and transformation in creating more programs, projects and activities for the welfare of every student in public schools.

Chairman of Sangguniang Panlalawigan Committee on Education, Hon. Nancy Corazon M. Bacurnay encouraged the LUFPTA officers to work together with PGLU in its responsibility to provide opportunities for the people in the province. Schools Division Superintendent of La Union Dr. Rowena C. Banzon led the induction of the newly elected officers of LUFPTA namely, Jose "JP" Ping-ay Jr. as President; Dra. Rowina C. Aguilan as Vice-President of North; Shyla C. Cabebe as Vice-President of South; Pamela Mae R. Alejo as Secretary; Donnie V. Navarro as Treasurer; Gonzalo J. Abat Jr as Auditor and Rodolfo W. Bucac as P.R.O.

The new members of the Board of Directors are Mario Abando, Laborty C. Lerot, Felix D. Leal, Ernesto P. Mata, Ruben H. Suguitan, Brenda Marie Gonzales, Delia A. Valdez, Cherry Lynne Flores, Noemi S. Lidem, Rolando Rosimo, Dra. Maritess Galacio, and Benjie Rullepa.

-Hana Josua C. Martinez



I AM A PARENT, I AM AN EDUCATOR, I AM ONE WITH YOU. Gov. Pacoy recognizes the hardworking members of La Union Federation of Parents-Teachers Association (LUFPTA) during the LUFPTA 10th Congress on October 3, 2017 at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union. In his message, Gov. Pacoy vowed to strengthen the academic sector as part of his transformative governance program.

PGLU STRENGTHENS COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION

The Provincial Government of La Union represented by Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Commission on Human Rights- Region I (CHR-ROI) for the purpose of strengthening the Human rights Action Team (HRAC) and the Human Rights Action Center (HRAC) on Thursday, July 31, 2017 at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union.

CHR-ROI Regional Director Atty. Harold D. Kub-arón signed the MOA in behalf of the Commission on Human Rights, Region I.

The signed MOA defines the roles and responsibilities of both PGLU and CHR-ROI in building a culture of human rights within the Province of La Union through the establishment of mechanisms for human rights promotion and protection.

Both parties shall work hand in hand in the implementation of continuing programs of education and training, research and information on human rights protection.

The CHO-ROI shall also develop information, education and communication (IEC) materials and standard training modules on human rights, access to justice and rule of law that can be reproduced and disseminated by La Union Human Rights Action Team (LUHRAC). Granting the request of the Honorable Governor to be meritorious, the Sangguniang Panlalawigan reckons to support the conduct of programs and activities of both PGLU and CHO-ROI.

The HRAC and HRAC were duly created under Sangguniang Panlalawigan Ordinance No. 085-2016. -Hana Josua C. Martinez



GOV. PACOY WELCOMES MAYOR FROM HAWAII. Gov. Pacoy shares La Union culture while handing over a token to Kawaii, Hawaii Mayor Bernard Carvalho, Jr. during a Welcome Dinner for him on Tuesday, September 12, 2017 at the Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union. Also in photo is Vice Governor Aureo Q. Nisce.

SP COMMITTEE TACKLES PROPER POULTRY AND PIGGERY MANAGEMENT

The Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) Committee on Agriculture headed by SPM Bellarmin Flores II held a committee hearing to discuss the management of poultry and piggeries in the province of La Union on October 19, 2017 at the SP Conference Room of Speaker Pro Tempore Francisco I. Ortega Provincial Legislative Building and Session Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union.

Invited to the said committee hearing are the veterinarians, sanitary inspectors and agriculturists of the 19 municipalities and 1 city of the province as well as representatives from the Department of Health (DOH) Regional Office 1, Environmental Management Bureau Regional Office 1 and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region 1. The group is assembled to address some reports that there are poultry and piggeries that are mismanaged and are causing foul stench to their respective nearby residential areas. SPM Flores encouraged the participants to give their inputs and suggestions as these will be used by the SP to come-up with an effective and efficient legislative measures. He also added that the industry is essential to the province's vision of becoming the Heart of Agri-Tourism in Northern Luzon by 2025.

The representative of the DOH Regional Office 1 ensured the members of the committee that they are conducting an annual training for the municipal and city

Sanitary inspectors in terms of implementing the Sanitation Code of the Philippines. The representatives of the DENR meanwhile have informed the committee about the steps for these poultry and piggeries to be able to acquire and/or renew their Environmental Compliance Certificate or ECC. To give insight on their part, the attending sanitary inspectors as well as the agriculturists were given the privilege to expound their procedures in inspecting these poultry and piggeries in their respective areas of responsibilities.

An initial ocular inspection was conducted by the SP Committee on Health spearheaded by SPM Ruperto A. Rillera Jr. on September 6, 2017 at the height of the Bird Flu outbreak in Central Luzon region. The committee conducted the inspections as preventive measure to ensure that poultry in the province are bird-flu free as well as to prevent the outbreak of the said disease. Visited poultry farms include Nutri-egg Farm located in Barangay Bato, Nagauihan; and Alwit Farm, Chickenville and Ana's Farm in Pugo, Bauang, La Union. Due to some negative findings during the initial ocular inspection, the Committee on Agriculture together with the municipal and city sanitation officers, agriculturists and veterinarians agreed to schedule a provincewide ocular inspection of poultry farms and piggeries.

-Jiroh Joy D. Marbella



PGLU BRIDGES GAP WITH NATIONAL LINE AGENCIES



BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN LGUS AND REGIONAL LINE AGENCIES. Gov. Pacoy convened the second phase of bridging the gap sessions among the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) and various regional line agencies on Thursday, September 14, 2017 at the Diego Silang, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union.

The Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) headed by Governor Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III welcomes the participants of the Bridging the Gap: Convergence of Agencies Part II on September 14, 2017 at the Diego Silang Hall, Capitol Building, City of San Fernando La Union.

Banking on the success from the 1st phase of Bridging the Gap, the Provincial Strategy Office spearheaded the integration of the different initiatives of PGLU in partnership with the different Regional Line Agencies (RLAs) who support the vision of the province championing transformative governance.

This program aims to align initiative programs with the RLAs for investment and development. This will also promote the programs of the province for sustainability and improvements of the public services.

The event was participated in by the different RLA such as the Department of Tourism Region 1; Department of Agrarian Reform; Department of Energy; Department of Social Welfare and Development; Department of Public Works and Highways; Department of Health; Provincial Information Agency; Department of Trade and Industry; Department of Labor and Employment; Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines; Land Transportation Office; Cooperative Development Authority; Philippine Ports Authority; Department of Agriculture; Department of Information and Communications Technology; Department of Budget and Management; Commission on Higher Education; National Food Authority; Technical Education and Skills Development Authority; Bureau of Local Government Finance; Philippine Population Man-

agement Program; Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board; Philippine Statistics Authority; Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Department of Science and Technology; National Irrigation Administration; Civil Service Commission; Department of Environment and Natural Resources; Department of the Interior and Local Government and the Department of Agrarian Reform.

Gov. Pacoy in his speech conveyed his gratitude to the RLA "Our joint efforts shall be compensated through the thought of successfully serving our fellow countrymen. All of these are possible thanks to your enthusiasm and commitment in public service." he said. - Lorena C. Luna

GOV. PACOY RECOGNIZES PNP CLASS OFFICERS OF CLASS 2017-01

Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III acknowledged the efforts of the Philippine National Police (PNP) being the defenders of law and keepers of peace during the Induction of Class Officers of the Public Safety Senior Leadership Class 2017-01 Alpha and Bravo on October 13, 2017 at the National Police Training Institute RTC1 Multi-Purpose Hall, Aringay, La Union.

As Guest of Honor and Speaker, Gov. Pacoy commended the class officers for their commitment that comes with the authority to enforce the law, which according to him is vital to La Union's thrust in keeping the province safe and secure.

In line with President Rodrigo Duterte's all-out war on criminality, Gov. Pacoy enjoined the officers to remain strong in the continuous fight against those who threaten peace and



order. "Our vision is for La Union to become the Heart of Agri-Tourism in Northern Luzon by 2025. Growth from the grassroots and the success of our provincial development strategy is dependent on the peace and order that you all provide," said Gov. Pacoy. Moreover, Gov. Pacoy also motivated them to

strive harder in enforcing the law to achieve the dream of peace, progress and prosperity across the region. He challenged the PNP Class Officers to solidify further their crusade on security and law enforcement after all, according to him, all of them are champions of public service and good governance. -Hana Josua C. Martinez



The Sangguniang Panlalawigan Members led by Vice-Governor Aureo Augusto Q. Nisce pose for a photo ops with the Ten Outstanding Public School Teachers of the Province of La Union 2017 during the conferment ceremony held on October 4, 2017 at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union. Also in the photo are DepEd Officials.



Gov. Pacoy together with Vice Governor Aureo Augusto Q. Nisce, immediate past Governor Manuel Ortega and the Members of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan pose for a photo ops with the Ten Outstanding Police Officers on October 26, 2017 at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union during the Conferment of the 2017 Ten Most Outstanding Police Officers in the province of La Union. PSSUPT Leo M Francisco, PSSUPT Reynaldo M Tamondong and DILG-LU Director Paulino G. Lalata.



The Provincial Government of La Union represented by Gov. Pacoy signs a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Commission on Audit (COA) represented by Assistant Commissioner Delfin P. Aguilar on October 25, 2017 at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union. The lease agreement is about the construction of COA Provincial Satellite Auditing Office (PSAO) which will be situated at the PGLU property in Barangay Sevilla, City of San Fernando, La Union.



Gov. Pacoy gives an inspiring message to the members of Mamamayang Ayaw sa Anomalya, Mamamayang Ayaw sa Iligal na Droga (MASAMASID) during the strengthening of Masa Masid Teams on October 20, 2017 at the Municipality of San Gabriel, La Union.



Gov. Pacoy gives an inspiring message on empowering marginalized groups and uplifting their economic status and quality of life during the Cooperative Month Culminating Program and Awarding Ceremonies on October 26, 2017 at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union.



Gov. Pacoy together with Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) ASec Nestor Quinsay check the operations of the La Union 911 on October 24, 2017 at the La Union Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union. The 911 Hotline which was launched earlier this year, aims to ensure immediate rescue and disaster response during emergencies.



Gov. Pacoy pays respect to the remains of Private First Class Jethro Fil Culhi Estacio (Inf) PA, Scout Ranger Class 200-2016, during the latter's wake in their residence in Barangay Paraspas, Rosario, La Union on October 25, 2017. PCF Estacio is one of the brave men of the Philippine Army who fought against Maute terrorists in Marawi City.



Gov. Pacoy hands over the donation of ARMSCOR Global Defense Inc. (ARMSCOR) to PSSupt Charlo Collado Regional Director of Philippine National Police Regional Office 1 (PNP-RO1) on October 19, 2017 at the Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union. The said donation includes Information Technology (IT) Equipment given to PNP Civil Security Group to support its role in maintaining peace and order in the region. Also in photo is Gina Marie Angangco, Senior Executive Vice President and Deputy Chief Executive Officer of ARMSCOR.



Gov. Pacoy welcomes the attendees to the 4th Regional Rural Improvement Club (RIC) and Coordinators Congress on October 12, 2017 at the Marand Resort and Spa, Bacuit Sur, Bauang, La Union.



Gov. Pacoy receives a Plaque of Recognition from Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Secretary Silvestre Bello III for La Union Provincial Public Employment Service Office being Top Performer in Region I (1st Class Province Category) on October 13, 2017 during the Awarding of Livelihood Projects at the CICOSAT Covered Court, Brgy. Lingat, City of San Fernando, La Union. Said award qualifies the province for nomination to 2016 National Best PESO award. Also in photo are San Fernando City Mayor Hermenegildo Gualberto, PSEO La Union Manager Charito Dator and other DOLE officials.

10 OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS OF LA UNION FOR 2017, RECOGNIZED

In a conferment ceremony, the Provincial Government of La Union awarded the 10 Outstanding Public School Teachers for the year 2017 on October 4, 2017 at the Diego Silang Hall of the Provincial Capitol of La Union.

The Outstanding Public School Teachers in the Elementary Category include Ms. Victoria S. Flores of Payocpoc Elementary School, Bauang, La Union; Ms. Lysabel D. Tolentino of Caba Elementary School, Caba, La Union; Ms. Merlene C. Gaona of Zaragosa Elementary School, Bacnotan, La Union; Mr. Emerson E. Nimes of Rosario Integrated School, Rosario, La Union; Ms. Carol D. Villanueva of Dallangayan Elementary School, City of San Fernando, La Union; and Ms. Lailanie A. Madayag of San Juan Elementary School, San Juan, La Union.

In the Secondary Level, the awardees include Ms. Dixie G. Morente of La Union National High School, City of San Fernando, La Union; Mr. Danilo A. Estacio of Luna National High School, Luna, La Union; Mr. Albert L. Miña of San Gabriel National High School, San Gabriel, La Union; and Mr. Elmundo C. Taberdo of Don Eulogio De Guzman Memorial National High School, Bauang, La Union.

Sangguniang Panlalawigan Member Nancy Corazon M. Bacunay gave a brief overview of the award being the SP Chair of the Committee on Education and Culture. The award was given in recognition of their extraordinary services and unparalleled dedication to their profession as well as their inspiring leadership resulting to unmatched performance that greatly contributes to excellence in education in the province. Since its creation under SP Ordinance 001-2007, the PGLU has conferred 90 outstanding teachers. Some awardees were also recipient of national awards after the local recognition.

Vice-Governor Aureo Augusto Q. Nisce gave both the Welcome & Opening Remarks for and on behalf of Honorable Governor Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III. He underscored that teachers perform the noblest task because they create the future generations. He also recalled how his past teachers have molded him to become a responsible citizen of today.

The ordinance creating the said award is due for amendment as there were suggestions to include private schools, ALS, SPED and Senior High for the K-12 program.

Sangguniang Panlalawigan Member -Jiroh Joy D. Marbella

REGIONAL BLOOD CENTER SOON TO RISE



Gov. Pacoy and Regional Director Myrna C. Cabotaje of the Department of Health Region 1 (DOH-RO1) lead PGLU Department Heads and Chief of Hospitals and Stakeholders in the Blessing and Ground Breaking Ceremony of the Regional Blood Center (RBC) on October 18, 2017 at Sevilla, City of San Fernando, La Union. The said RBC aims to ensure adequate supply of safe blood to the entire Region I and adjacent areas. Also in photo is City of San Fernando Mayor Dong Gualberto.

The Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) led by Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III together with the Department of Health (DOH) held a groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of a Regional Blood Center on October 18, 2017 at Barangay Sevilla, City of San Fernando, La Union.

Approximately 4000 square meter lot was donated by the PGLU to DOH. Construction shall begin within the year. DOH Region 1 Director Dr. Myrna C. Cabotaje, who spoke in behalf of Usec. Hermingildo V. Valle, expressed gratitude for the donation and the continued support of PGLU during the program held at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union. Dr. Cabotaje reminded, "Giving blood is giving the most precious gift to another person, a gift that will extend the life of the sick while at the same time, reinvigorating the giver." She said that the challenge is to recruit as many individuals that will become regular

voluntary unpaid donors to guarantee sufficient supply of healthy blood to meet the provincial and regional demand.

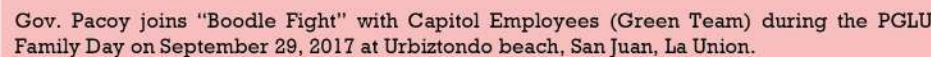
Governor Pacoy, in his message, stated the importance of quality healthcare as a priority pillar in transformative governance. "Our passion and commitment to healthcare is the purest form and extension for our love of La Union," the Governor added. In the spirit of love and sharing, he appealed to the attendees to donate blood to the bloodletting activity that immediately followed the program at the Diego Silang Hall.

Construction of the Regional Blood Center is part of the National Voluntary Blood Services Program (NVBSP) brought about by Republic Act No. 7719, also known as the National Blood Services Act of 1994, which aims to establish blood centers in key areas of the nation and to have a sufficient supply of safe blood through voluntary blood donation.

-Marcel A. Florentino



Provincial Health Officer Dr. Hector T. Beñas (left) leads the Provincial Task Force Against Emerging & Re-Emerging Diseases meeting on September 13, 2017 at the La Union Technology and Livelihood Development Center (LUTLDC) in the City of San Fernando, La Union. The meeting focused on updates on the current situation of the Avian Flu or Bird Flu and other diseases to prevent unnecessary public fear and panic.



12TH LA UNION SURFING BREAK PRESENTS: NEW WAVE MUSIC FESTIVAL

The 12th La Union Surfing Break (LUSB12) held last October 27-29, 2017 at the shores of Urbizondo, San Juan and Galongen-Quirino in Bacnotan, La Union, was indeed a week-end of music, party, food, surfing and a new wave of activities. The annual 3-day beach festival was a massive celebration of the beach and surf lifestyle attracting thousands and growing exponentially every year.

This year's event was highlighted by various activities presented by the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU), organized by La Union Conventions and Visitors Bureau (LUCVB) and for the benefit of LU Soul. Activities such as Grub Crawl, Comedy Break and the euphoric feeling of the New Wave Live Music Festival made everyone party all night. Local products were also offered in the Ridge to Reef Community Market in Urbiz Gardens for those who wanted to bring home not just memories, but souvenirs from the event.

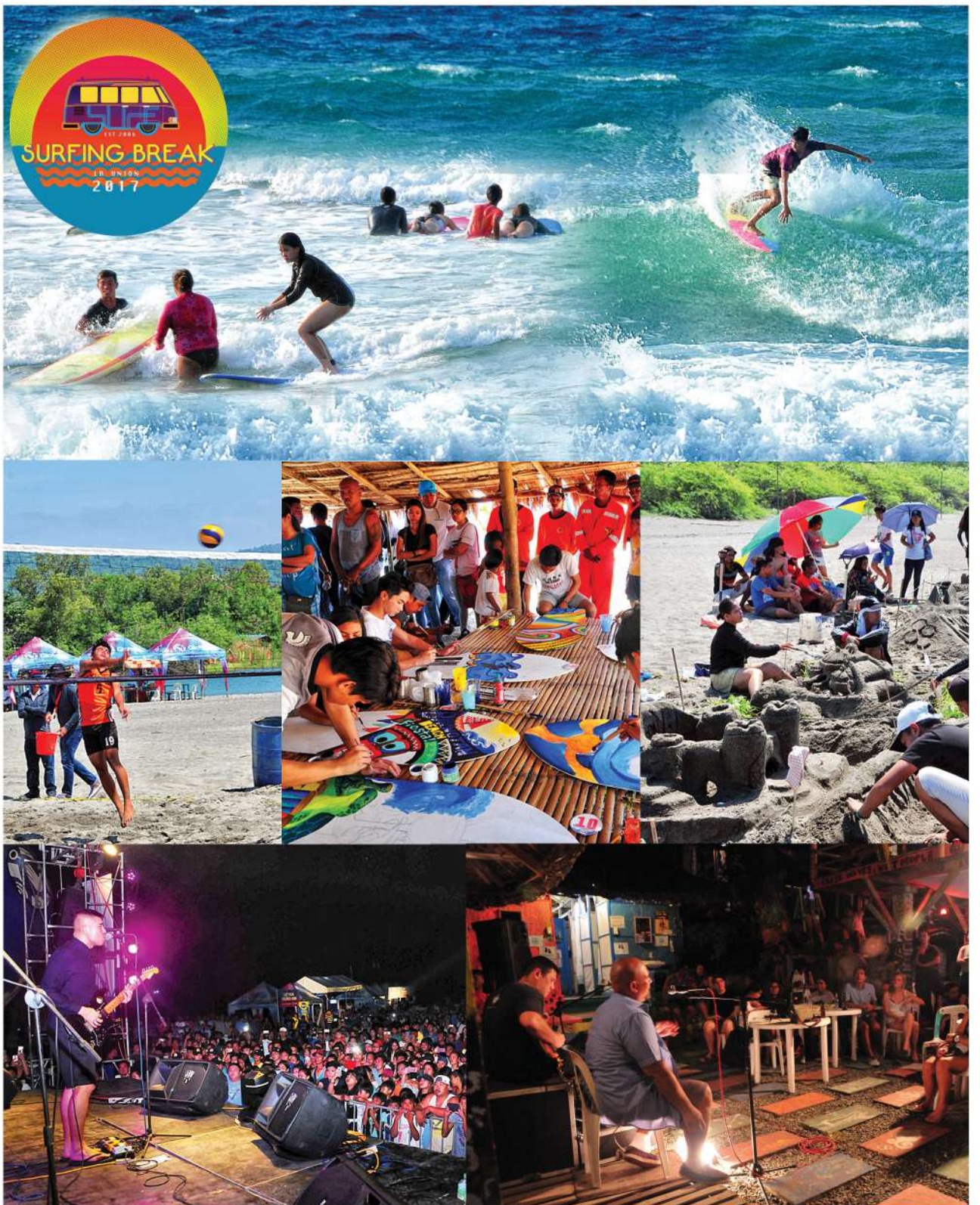
As part of the advocacy of LUSB, both locals and tourists welcomed the sea turtles this season through Mangrove Planting and Pawikan Workshop in the Sustainably Stoked Eco Tourism Movement. It sets as a reminder that La Union is an active nesting site for pawikans and it is everyone's responsibility to help protect the fifth longest shoreline in the planet.

And for the 2nd time in LUSB's history, La Union Adventure Team (LUAT) partnered with the organizers as they battle it out for the

Downhill Break Biking Competition. The event was completed by Surfing Lessons as everyone can experience the thrill of riding a wave.

Meanwhile, tourists and party-goers gathered at Galongen-Quirino Beach for the Beach Break Bacnotan Beach Fiesta. Elimination for Beach Volleyball happened during the day and a Beach Party with the band Hale in the evening marked the opening of the LUSB12-Bacnotan Leg. On the next day, various activities were conducted simultaneously such as the launching of Kayak Adventure, Surfboard Paddling Race, Sand Castle Building Contest, Surfboard Design Competition and Beach Volleyball Championship Tournament which were participated in by surfers, individuals, schools and local government units.

LUSB12 is a multi-sectoral tourism event jointly organized by the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU), Department of Tourism- Region 1 (DOT-R1), La Union Conventions and Visitors Bureau (LUCVB), Municipality of San Juan, Municipality of Bacnotan and La Union Surf Club (LUSC). The event was also supported by Philippine National Police (PNP), Philippine Red Cross- La Union Chapter, and Philippine Coast Guard (PCG). This year's event sponsors were San Miguel Corporation, TPLEX, Havaianas, Northern Cement, Klean Kanteen, ABONO PartyList and San Juan Resort Restaurant and Hotel Association (SJRRHASS). - Darlene Joy V. Acosta



LA UNION STAGES 7TH AYAT FESTIVAL

On its seventh year, the Provincial Government of La Union headed by Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III held its 7th Ayat Festival which officially opened on September 15, 2017 in Agoo, La Union with the theme, "Sang-sangkamaysa a Panagpitik Dagiti Puso nga Agay-Ayat iti La Union."

To introduce a festive ambiance during the opening of the Ayat Festival, the Street Dancing Competition and La Union - Henio Elimination Round were unrrolled. The street dancing was participated in by group of students from the various municipalities in the province while the La Union Henio, which was adopted from the classic game Pinoy Henio of Eat Bulaga but used Ilokano words, was participated in by pairs of students from the elementary and secondary levels.

On September 19, the Salip ti Deklamasyon and Ilokano Chorale - Elimination Round were held at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol simultaneous with the Iskribiloko Competition at Don Pacoy Gymnasium, San Fernando City, La Union. The Salip ti Deklamasyon is a competition for Elementary and High School students who rendered piece in the Ilokano language while the Ilokano Chorale is a competition for group of secondary students who sang either Contemporary Ilokano Songs, adaptation of English/Filipino songs and original Iloko song compositions. The Iskribiloko, an

Ilokano version of Scrabble, was joined in by secondary level students and adults.

The festival culminated on October 10, 2017 at Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol where the finals of the Ilokano Chorale and La Union Henio took place. The awarding ceremony for the different activities followed immediately in the afternoon.

Crislyn M. Pastor & Jacquelyn R. Ustari of Burgos for the High School category and Lorenzo L. Bacani & Ruth R. Bacani of Bauang for the Adult Category emerged as champion for the Iskribiloko; Naoemi B. Del Moral of Sudipen and Erich Jean J. Cuello of Bauang for the Salip ti Deklamasyon in the elementary and secondary levels respectively; Kyl Cassey M. Angala & Divine B. Macanas of Sudipen and Robelson Anderson & Alvin Cabanela of San Juan for La Union Henio; the municipality of Santo Tomas for the Street Dancing Competition and the Municipality of Bauang for the Ilokano Chorale. Winners received cash prize and trophy awarded by Vice Governor Aureo Augusto Nisce and Office of the Governor - Chief of Staff Ms. Geraldine Joy Ortega.

The Ayat festival aims to boost La Union's local language, culture, and showcase local talents in line with the celebration of Tourism Month and Culture month conducted during September and October, respectively. -Arnel O. Mamari

CENTRAL TOURISM CIRCUIT GOT THE BEST GOVERNANCE TRAILBLAZER PROJECT

The Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) headed by Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III gave recognition to the outstanding performance of each component Local Government Unit (LGU) who actively participated in the creation of their respective circuits' Governance Trailblazer Project on Monday, September 4, 2017 during the PGLU's First Monday Flag Raising Program at the Provincial Capitol Grounds, City of San Fernando, La Union.

Among the La Union tourism circuits, Central Tourism Circuit garnered the Best Governance Trailblazer Project. They were rewarded for their months of planning, implementation and documentation of each Governance Trailblazer Project from five competing teams. Said projects were application of their learnings from the 2nd PGLU Mini Boot Camp which was participated in by planning officers, tour-

ism officers, agriculturists of the 20 Component LGUs conducted last April 5-7, 2017 at Agora, Thunderbird, City of San Fernando, La Union. The said Boot Camp laid the fundamentals including strategy designs, development, implementation, management review which fostered teamwork among each tourism circuits.

The winning team is composed of delegates from the City of San Fernando and the Municipalities of San Juan, San Gabriel and Bacnotan. They developed the Agri-Venture of Central ELYU which aims to advance the sectors of Agriculture infused with Adventure to promote tourism which will generate additional income and job opportunities for the people. In line with the project are day tour, three days and two nights accommodation and "What's New in Central Elyu?" relay. The Finishers will receive a souvenir shirt and a trophy.

Projects of other tourism circuits include Northern Circuit Passport for Northern Circuit which includes Sudipen, Bangar, Luna, Balaon and Santol as members

"The La Union Central Eastern Pasalubong Center" for Central Eastern Circuit which compose of Bagulin, Burgos, Naguilian and Bauang as members.

Kawayan sa Pangrangan for South Eastern Circuit comprised by Tubao, Pugo, Santo Tomas and Rosario as members.

The Trailblazer Projects are jumpstart in realizing the vision for La Union to become the Heart of Agri-Tourism by 2025.

To affirm his utmost commitment and accountability, Gov. Pacoy vows to strengthen all other participating Governance Trailblazer Projects from all component LGUs to promote the sectors of agriculture and tourism in the province.

-Hana Josua C. Martinez