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LA UNION QUEENS. Mutia ti La Union 2018 Ms. Donnabelle Erno (middle) from the City of San Fernando poses with (L-R) First Runner Up Ms. Zeah Pala de Luna, Mutia ti Kalikasan Ms. Alec Flores of Sto. Tomas, Mutia ti Turismo Ms. Vea Lalas of Agoo and Second Runner Up Ms. Zhandra Manongdo of Aringay during the grand coronation night on March 2, 2018 at the Poro Point Baywalk, City of San Fernando, La Union.

LA UNION CELEBRATES 168TH FOUNDATION ANNIVERSARY

Marcel A. Florentino

Celebrating the 168th Founding Anniversary of the Province with the theme "Spread the Love," Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III together with Vice Governor Aureo Augusto Q. Nisce and the Sangguniang Panlalawigan Members led the Flag Raising Ceremony on March 2, 2018 at the Provincial Capitol Grounds, City of San Fernando, La Union.

In his message, Gov. Pacoy thanked and honored the men and women of La Union from the past to present who contributed to what makes La Union today. The Governor also declared that he is aiming for more achievements and greater prosperity for the province when he proclaimed, "We will Spread the love far and wide and inspire in everyone the love for La Union. We have it in our hands. We have it in our hearts to fulfill our destiny from whence it was founded 168 years ago, La Union, the land and people of love, concord, and unity."

The Foundation Anniversary Celebration was eventful. In pursuit of the vision of making La Union the Heart of Agri-Tourism in Northern Luzon, the 1st Agri-Tourism Festival was launched on February 19, 2018 in front of the City Hall, City of San Fernando, La Union. The launching was attended by Department of



Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Secretary Mark A. Villar who shared ongoing and future development plans for the benefit of the province. Representing the city and the different municipalities of the province, colorful and ingenious booths were put up where the City of San Fernando bagged the prize for the Best Agri - Tourism Booth and the Central Tourism Circuit (San Fernando, San Juan, San Gabriel, and Bacnotan) won in the circuit category. The Agri - Tourism Festival also featured a showcase of different presentations from the tourism circuits of La Union. The South Eastern Tourism Circuit (Pugo, Rosario, Tubao) took home the grand prize for their performance.

On the same day, the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist and the Office of the Provincial Veterinarian conducted the Pinakalympics, a search for the largest and healthiest crops and farm animals throughout the province.

On the next day, February 20, 2018 at the same venue, the Love your Pets Day was spearheaded by the Office of the Provincial Veterinarian in honor of man's best friend and in commemoration of the Year of the Dog. The program included free anti-rabies vaccination and

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THE FIRST AGRI-TOURISM FESTIVAL

Mario Eliseo O. Casimiro

As the 168th Foundation Anniversary of La Union unlocks on February 19, 2018, big events such as the 1st Agri-Tourism Festival had caught the admiration of guests, visitors, tourists and even investors as they gather in front of the City Hall of San Fernando, La Union for a two week showcase of One-Town-One-Product, agri-tourism destinations and LGU festivals of the 19 municipalities and lone city of the province.

In its initial appearance as a "Festival," the event had practically introduced innovations and new initiatives where every LGU of La Union had to drumbeat the finest stand as advocate of an agri-tourism hub. From a trade fair to a festival the anniversary opening activity had delivered a well-informed constituent of La Union on at every local government unit has to offer while making them more comfortable during their stint in the province.

As the event components like PINAKALympics contest (e.g. vegetables, root-crops, livestock, Best LGU/ Circuit Booth Competition, and Festival of Festivals Competition thrive on the streets and event venue, one has to stop and imagine on how every locality manages



La Union leaders headed by Gov. Pacoy Ortega III and Vice Governor Aureo Augusto Q. Nisce together with DPWH Secretary Mark Villar lead the Opening of the first ever Agri-Tourism Festival in the province on February 19, 2018 in front of the City Hall of San Fernando, La Union. Said event is part of the activities of the 168th Foundation Anniversary of La Union.

its way to entice and visit their places. Native products and their by-products were on display and on sale where nearly everyone visiting the area takes hold of it and had a taste to their delight.

Exploring La Union thru the Festival was a rare opportunity for everyone to experience and enjoy. Having been an

institution as an annual anniversary affair, it had levelled-up from a mere ordinary trade fair into a comprehensive and well-defined agri-tourism package that spelled-out what the present provincial administration is currently heralding. The undiscovered were discovered. The native food stuff which are out of the

marketplace were known and many more indicators of La Union's hidden richness and pride.

While the provincial government is true enough to its pledge to make a continuing "push" to attain that vision, people from all walks of life are becoming aggressive as co-planners and players in reaching out to all those who believe in the Governor's mantra- "I Love La Union and Everything I Do Is For The Love of La Union".

Truly sustaining what was started and jumpstart that needs to be done, Governor Francisco Emmanuel R. Ortega III, duly supported by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of La Union headed by Vice Governor Aureo Augusto Q. Nisce and the strong partnership of the national and local officials, La Union will always be a province of a united and compassionate people where love occupies the highest priority in the heart and mind of everyone.

Today and in the years ahead, the inclusive and tight teamwork now in place shall clearly light the path towards a more improved and refined AGRI-TOURISM FESTIVAL OF LA UNION by 2019 and beyond.



PAMMADAYAW 2018

FALLEN MARAWI HERO, ASSOCIATE JUSTICE AND LT GENERALS AMONG PGLU HONOREES

Jane T. Flores

PFC Jethro Estacio, the Scout Ranger from Parasapas, Rosario, La Union who sacrificed his life in holding the line and covered for his fellow soldiers as they would recover and protect the hostages. His body was mangled and burned by terrorists, while some parts had been removed. It took almost a week to have found and recovered the remains of Jethro, almost unrecognizable, evident of so much suffering and ordeal. Jethro has been confirmed by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan as one of the honorees (posthumous award) for this year's Pammadayaw.

Annually, during its foundation anniversary, the Provincial Government of La Union honors those who have greatly contributed for the progress and development of the Province and its people. It likewise recognizes the men and women who hail from La Union whose bravery and heroism made a great impact not only to the peace and order in the province but to the whole country as well.

This year, for PGLU's 168th foundation anniversary, there are 36 awardees. There are three awardees for the Saranay Award, the highest award given by the province, to include LT GEN ROLANDO JOSELITO D. BAUTISTA, the Commanding General of the Philippine Army; HON. SAMUEL R. MARTIRES, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the Philippines and LT GEN GLORIOSO V. MIRANDA, Retired Commanding General of the Philippine Army and currently a member of the Board of Directors of the Bases Conversion Development Authority. The Diego Silang Award, an award given to non-resident of the province has only one recipient, who is ENGR. ASHLEY ANTONIO from the Department of Health-RO1.

Governor Francisco Emmanuel R. Ortega III, Vice Governor Aureo Augusto Q. Nisce said as he acknowledged the distinct contributions of the awardees for the province of La Union.

There are 27 La Union Service Awardees, 20 of which are the soldiers who hail from La Union and fought during the Marawi siege, to include, PFC JETHRO FIL C. ESTACIO (Posthumous Award); PFC HERMAN D. ABAT, PFC



"Pacoy" R. Ortega III congratulated all the awardees and thanked them for giving honor to the province and for their contribution in the progress of La Union. He gave special mention to the brave awardees from the Armed Forces of the Philippines who hail from La Union, he thanked their courage and valor during the battle for the liberation of Marawi.

"Your likes are the role models of our younger generations. You are the treasured assets of La Union and we need more people like you in our society," Vice Governor Aureo Augusto Q. Nisce said as he acknowledged the distinct contributions of the awardees for the province of La Union.

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JOMAR B. ABUAN, SGT DIONY C. ANDRADA, 1LT MARK ROLLY BAGANI, CPL MARLON M. BANAYAG, SGT DANILLO V. BANEZ, CPL JESUS A. CARRERA, CPL JOHN CARLO V. DISO, 2LT JORDAN C. ESTACIO, SGT ROMNICK C. ESTACIO, PVT DENVER D. ESTOESTA, SGT JERRY B. GAGUCAS, MAJ RICK L. GANUELAS, CPL CHRISTOPHER GIL N. GARCIA, SGT TEDDY A. MACADENDEN, CPL DHARYL NODORA, PVT RANDALL IAN A. RIVERA and PFC KLEPT A. VELASCO.

The Regional Director of DBM - RO1, DIR. NENITA A. FAILON is also among the LUSA and ATTY. EMMANUEL LORENZO J. MAPILI (POSTHUMOUS AWARD), MS. MARITES BALBIN NUVAL, president of the OFW association in Hongkong, MS. MARY EU ANN R. ORDOÑO, head of the Special Olympics-La Union Chapter; BRIG. GEN. PERFECTO M. RIMANDO, JR., Commander, 5th Infantry (Star) Division, Philippine Army and PCSupt ROMULO E. SAPITULA,

the current Regional Director of the PNP-RO1.

The Abel Award, which is a recognition to NGOs and/or CSOs which are based outside the province but had helped in the implementation of various programs of the PGLU is awarded to SCIENCE OF IDENTITY FOUNDATION COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE FOR RESPONSIBLE EXISTENCE (SIFCARE). It is based in Makati City and currently headed by Mrs. Milagros Celeste. SIFCARE implements programs such as the CURMA or the protection and preservation of the habitat of the pawikans in San Juan, La Union.

The Lupong Tagapamayapa of Parian, City of San Fernando, La Union has maintained its high level of performance in the solution of disputes as well as maintenance of peace and order in the barangay, thus, for its third year, the Most Outstanding Lupong Tagapamayapa award is again conferred to them.

There are two awardees for the Kampeon ti Lengguage; for the media category is the Bombo Radyo-La Union headed by its station manager, Elmer Tubiera and under education category, Ms. Elsa Calado, Education Supervisor of San Fernando City Division, DepEd.

Gwenysa Bamboo Enterprises owned by spouses, Dale and Betty Ramos of Tubao, La Union is this year's Most Outstanding Entreprenoy Award. They sell products such as soap, shampoo, cookies, supplements, etc. from the activated bamboo charcoal technology.

The awarding ceremonies will be held on March 1, 2018; 2:00 in the afternoon at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol, San Fernando City, La Union as part of the activities of the 168th Foundation Anniversary of the province, with this year's theme, "Spread the Love."



Gov Pacoy congratulates the awardees and their families.



Vice Gov Aureo Augusto Q. Nisce welcomes awardees and guests.



Supreme Court Associate Justice Samuel R. Martires delivers his message in behalf of the awardees.



THE SARANAY AWARDEES



THE LA UNION SERVICE AWARDEES



MOST OUTSTANDING LUPONG TAGAPAMAYAPA AWARDEE



SPREAD THE LOVE. Gov. Pacoy, Vice Governor Aureo Augusto Q. Nisce, and Sangguniang Panlalawigan Members lead the singing of the National Anthem during the Flag Raising Ceremony in celebration of the 168th Founding Anniversary of the Province on March 2, 2018 at the Provincial Capitol Grounds, City of San Fernando, La Union.



HAPPY 54th ANNIVERSARY SLC. In support of his daughter who is one of the participants and one of La Union's finest educational institutions, Gov. Pacoy watches the performance of the students of Saint Louis College (SLC) during their Parade of Lights on February 27, 2018 in the City of San Fernando, La Union.



PRODUCING WORLD-CLASS WORKERS. Celebrating the 168th Foundation Anniversary of the Province, Vice Governor Aureo Augusto Q. Nisce addresses the competitors, attendees, and visitors of the 9th Provincial Skills Olympics conducted by the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) in partnership with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) on February 28, 2018 at the Pacoy Ortega Gym, City of San Fernando, La Union.



PASSION FOR CREATION. Contestants showcase their talents during the first La Union Agri-Tourism Art Competition on February 27, 2018 in front of the La Union Agri-Tourism Center, Mabanag Justice Hall Building, City of San Fernando, La Union. It was led by the Provincial Tourism Office in coordination with the Office of Board Member Christian Rivera.



TWINNING. Kids perform for the Dance Contest during the Twins and Multiple Births Day Celebration on March 9, 2018 at the Pacoy Ortega Gym, City of San Fernando, La Union. The program which is part of the 168th Anniversary Celebration of La Union was led by the Provincial Population Office.



SPREAD THE LOVE. In celebration of 168th Foundation Anniversary of La Union, attendees with their beloved pets take part in the Love Your Pets Day Program spearheaded by the Office of the Provincial Veterinarian on February 20, 2018 in front City Hall, City of San Fernando, La Union.

THOUSAND JOBS OFFERED AT MEGA FAIR

Hana Josua C. Martinez



MEGA JOBS FAIR. Gov. Pacoy guarantees to prioritize job placement and employment programs for the people during the Mega Jobs Fair on February 20, 2018 at the Father Burgos Gym, Saint Louis College, City of San Fernando, La Union. He also vows to strengthen the strategies and initiatives of the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) to further improve the economic state of the province.

As part of the celebration of La Union's 168th Foundation Anniversary, the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) through the Public Employment Service Office (PESO) in partnership with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and joint efforts of several key government agencies, local and private companies held a Mega Jobs Fair at the Burgos Gym, Saint Louis College, Carlatan, City of San Fernando, La Union, Tuesday, February 20, 2017.

Present in the said event are Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega, Board Member Ruperto A. Rillera Jr., Chairman of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan Labor and Employment Committee, Provincial Social Welfare and Development Officer Ranilo P. Ipac, and Public Employment Service Office Manager Charito Dator.

Gov. Pacoy assured that his administration will continue to prioritize job placement and employment programs for the greater good of the people. He guaranteed to strengthen the strategies and initiatives in order to further improve La Union's economic state.

"As a mandate to the transformative governance program, our vision is to transform La Union to become the Heart of Agri-Tourism in Northern Luzon. We will transform our province to be the

preferred Agri-Investment and Tourism destination in the North," Gov. Pacoy said. PESO Manager Charito Dator thanked the recruitment partners and government agencies for their relentless effort in the success of said event.

Among the top job vacancies on the list are customer service representatives, promodisers / merchandisers, sales associates, cashiers, management trainees, production operators, waiters/waitresses, drivers, electricians, office clerks, accounting staffs, supervisors, etc. while top overseas jobs include nurses, factory workers, carpenters, electricians, heavy equipment operators, cooks, waiters / waitresses, machinists, backhoe operators, trailer drivers, physical therapists, civil engineers, nursing aides, technicians, mechanical engineers, mason, etc.

For overseas jobs, a total of 4517 vacancies were offered by 10 recruitment agencies while 2207 local job vacancies were offered by 45 private establishments. A total of 1005 job applicants registered; 628 for local employment and 352 for overseas employment. As per assessment, 710 applicants qualified, 741 applicants were slated for further interview and 102 were hired on the spot.

LOVE YOUR PETS DAY HELD

Marcel A. Florentino

Commemorating the Year of the Dog and being part of the foundation anniversary activities, the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) led by Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III held the "Love your Pets Day" program on February 20, 2018 in front of the City Hall, City of San Fernando, La Union. The Office of the Provincial Veterinarian (OPVET) headed by Dr. Nida N. Gapuz spearheaded the program.

The Governor graced the event expounding on the theme for this year's anniversary, "Spread the Love." "Spread the love not just to fellow people but also to creatures big and small," the Governor stated in his message. He also shared a quote from renowned French novelist Anatole France that goes, "Until one has loved an animal, a part of one's soul remains unawakened." Gov. Pacoy said that he relates to the extraordinary affection people give their animal friends as his family too, loves and cares for a large number of different pets in their household.

The Love your Pets Day activities include dog walking, blessing, and free anti-rabies vaccination. A short contest for various categories also followed. The adjudged winners are: for the Best in the Small Breed Category, a Chihuahua accompanied by Conrado Apusen III; for the Best in Large Breed Category, a Bull Mastiff owned by Virgin Jianco C. Apilado; and for the Best Dressed, a Chihuahua by Prisca Liwanag.

FOUNDATION ANNIVERSARY....

seeking the best dressed, and best in small and large breed category dogs as well as some special awards.

With over four thousand job vacancies due to partnerships with government and recruitment agencies, the La Union Mega Jobs Fair was also held on the 20th at the Father Burgos Gym, Saint Louis College, City of San Fernando, La Union. Over a thousand aspirants flocked the event seeking local and overseas employment.

February 27, 2018 was a day for appreciation of art with the launching of the 1st La Union Agri - Tourism Art Competition at the La Union Agri-Tourism Pasalubong Center, City of San Fernando, La Union. Francis M. Espenilla bagged the grand prize in the Amateur 1 (Kids) category while Jennica Venice A. Gurtiza got the grand prize in the Amateur 2 (Teens) category. Darryl Arthur S. Casugay won the grand prize in the Professional category.

The Saranay Award, the highest award conferred by the PGLU, was bestowed to the following: Supreme Court Associate Justice Samuel R. Martires for his exceptional contributions to the judiciary; Major General Rolando Joselito D. Bautista; and Lieutenant General

Glorioso V. Miranda for their contributions to the safety and security of the province and country. The annual Pamamayaw 2018 Awards Ceremony was held on March 1, 2018 at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union. Displaying remarkable bravery and fortitude, soldiers hailing from La Union who served in the liberation of Marawi each received the La Union Service Award (LUSA).

The 168th Foundation Anniversary Celebrations culminated at the Poro Point Baywalk on March 2, 2018 with the star-studded Mutia ti La Union 2018 attended by around thirty thousand people where City of San Fernando candidate, Ms. Donna Erno, successfully brought home the crown while a live performance by Bamboo concluded the night.

The Provincial Population Office spearheaded the Twins Day Celebration on March 9, 2018 at the Pacoy Ortega Gym, City of San Fernando, La Union. The annual event aims to celebrate multiple births while promoting safe pregnancy and maternal health care.

For upcoming events, the Sillag 2018 "Festival of Lights" will open on the April 6, 2018 at Poro Point Baywalk, City of San Fernando, La Union.



BUILDING THE FUTURE. Gov. Pacoy and Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Secretary Mark A. Villar review the progress of the ongoing construction of the La Union Convention Center and other infrastructure projects during their site visit at Barangay Sevilla, City of San Fernando, La Union on February 19, 2018.



ENSURING SAFETY AND SECURITY. Preparing for the Grand Coronation Night of the Mutia ti La Union 2018, Gov. Pacoy briefs members of the Philippine National Police (PNP), Philippine Air Force (PAF), Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), Office of Civil Defense (OCD), Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office (PDRRMO) and other participating responders of the Safety and Security Committee during the Deployment of Troops and Equipment on February 28, 2018 at Baywalk, Poro Point, City of San Fernando, La Union.

MS. CITY OF SAN FERNANDO IS MUTIA TI LA UNION 2018

Joanna C. Guerrero



MUTIA TI LA UNION 2018. Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III, Ilocos Norte Gov. Imee R. Marcos, ABONO Party-List Rep. Vini Nola A. Ortega, and Mutia ti La Union 2017 Ms. Carina Carifio pose with the newly crowned Mutia ti La Union 2018 Ms. Donnabelle Erno.

Donnabelle Erno of the City of San Fernando was crowned as Mutia ti La Union 2018 during the pageant coronation night last March 2 held for the first time in Poro Point Baywalk, Poro Point Freeport Zone, City of San Fernando, La Union.

Erno, 19, and a 3rd year college student at Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University, is said to have put a dot to the 6-year consecutive wins of the Municipality of Agoo in the said pageant. She is the third lady from the said city who have won the prestigious title since the pageant started in the late 70s.

Aside from her exotic morena looks and pixie haircut, Erno impressed the judges with her undeniably oozing confidence and grace on stage which made her consistently top the swimsuit and evening gown competitions. She also got the crowd when she answered the

question thrown by one of the judges and Star Magic actress Julia Baretto, "Ano mas importante? Mahal ka? O mahal mo?" with "Well, for me, it's important that I love that person because I know time will come he will love me back not because I offer so much, not because I did everything. But one day, he will realize that the one person doing the efforts for him is the one who could truly love him forever. And if forever doesn't exist, then for a lifetime."

After giving a good fight, Ms. Vealalas of Agoo, landed as Mutia ti Turismo and Ms. Alec Alexis Flores of Santo Tomas as Mutia ti Kalikasan and the Miss Radiant Smile award. Ms. Zeah Nestle Pala of Luna, who also won Ms. Beautiful Hair and People's Choice Award landed as 1st runner-up and Ms. Zandra Manongdo of Aringay, who won Miss Body Beautiful and Miss Beautiful Skin, landed as 2nd

runner-up.

Other ladies who joined the Top 10 finalists were Ms. Alyssa Orfano from Caba; Naya Trinidad from Rosario who also got Smart Texter's Choice Award; Carm Marquez of Santol; Jen Yadyadoc from San Juan; and Katrina Isidro from Sudipen who also got the Miss Photogenic award.

Other special awards given were Miss Friendship which was awarded to Ms. Issa Corpuz of Bangar; Ms Talent which was awarded to Ms. Zhanita Itchon of San Gabriel; and Miss Toyota conferred to Ms. Ann Madayag of Bauang.

The show, which lasted for about two and a half hours, was graced by big names in showbiz and politics. Aside from Ms. Barretto, Ilocos Norte Governor Imee Marcos, basketball star Alvin Patrimonio, legendary actor Gabby Concepcion and

Miss International 2017 Kylie Verzosa also served as panel of judges. Kapamilya Star, Gerald Anderson serenaded the girls in their evening gowns and Showtime star and concert princess Anne Curtis entertained the crowd with her own rendition of various "birit songs." Kapamilya Stars Luis Manzano and Alex Gonzaga served as pageant hosts.

After the pageant, a concert by singer-composer, Bamboo, took place at the same venue. The Philippine National Police estimated approximately 30,000 crowd during the event.

Mutia ti La Union 2018 is one of the highlights of the 168th Foundation Anniversary of the Province of La Union which celebrates and showcases the innate beauty, unique traits and peculiarity of the people of La Union which are considered as the province's competitive strengths.



IP CARAVAN BARANGAY AROSIP, BACNOTAN. Gov. Pacoy participates in the traditional dance during the Indigenous Peoples Caravan held on February 23, 2018 at Barangay Arosip, Bacnotan La Union. Right Photo: Gov. Pacoy shares stories with one of the tribal leaders of Brgy. Arosip.



ASSISTANCE TO IP OF ROSARIO, LA UNION IN PURCHASING AN AMBULANCE. In aid of purchasing an ambulance, Gov. Pacoy presents a check to the Indigenous People of Rosario, La Union on February 27, 2018 at the Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union.



Gov. Pacoy imparts his development plans, programs and solicited active participation of the members of La Chamber of Real Estate & Builders' Associations, Inc., La Union- Chapter (CREBA-LU) and Real Estate Brokers Association of the Philippines, La Union- Chapter (REBAP-LU) during their joint business meeting on February 15, 2018 at Sea & Sky Hotel and Restaurant, City of San Fernando, La Union. Gov. Pacoy is the Guest of Honor and Speaker in the said event.



Gov. Pacoy together with his family greets Most Rev. Jose Elmer Mangalino, the New Auxiliary Bishop of Lingayen-Dagupan on February 10, 2018 after the ceremonial procession in honor of Saint William the Hermit. The province's first family served as Hermana Mayor for the said feast.



GIFT GIVING PROGRAM FOR SENIOR CITIZENS - SUDIPEN. Gov. Pacoy greets the crowd during the Gift Giving - Pilipinong May Puso Program on February 2, 2018 in Sudipen, La Union. The Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) and the ABONO Party-List represented by Hon. Vini Nola A. Ortega have partnered with Pilipinong May Puso Foundation (PMPP) for the benefit of senior citizens in Sudipen. The PMPP was founded by Ms. Wen Velasco in honor of President Rodrigo R. Duterte's mother, Nanay Soleng.



PDP LABAN MEMBERSHIP SEMINAR. Gov. Pacoy together with ABONO Party-List Representative Vini Nola A. Ortega, Davao City 1st Representative Karlo Alexei B. Nograles, other elected officials and attendees poses with the "Duterte Fist" gesture in support of the President's advocacies during the PDP-Laban Basic Membership Seminar on February 2, 2018 in Brgy. Lubing, San Juan, La Union.

PUBLIC SCHOOL IN SAN GABRIEL RECEIVES NEW CLASSROOM BUILDING

Hana Josua C. Martinez



Gov. Pacoy, San Gabriel Mayor Hermingildo M. Velasco and District Supervisor Reed M. Deleña hand over a symbolic key to Head Teacher Lydia L. Manzano during the Blessing & Turn-over of the New 3-Classroom Building at Padang Primary School, San Gabriel, La Union on February 9, 2018.

The Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) together with the Municipal Government of San Gabriel and Department of Education-La Union Schools Division Office (LUSDO) turns over 3 Classroom Building to Padang Primary School, San Gabriel, La Union on February 9, 2018. The said classrooms are donations of these agencies in support with the mandate of good governance and the advocacy to promote transformative education.

Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III, San Gabriel Mayor Hermingildo M. Velasco; Dr. Rowena C. Banzon, Schools Division Superintendent and Mr. Reed Delena, District Supervisor and Rev. Jonathan C. Obar led the ceremonial blessing and inauguration of the said classrooms.

Gov. Pacoy lauded the

students, Parents-Teachers Association (PTA) and faculty members of Padang Primary School for their unwavering initiative to maintain a resilient heart and mind towards the realization of the administration's projects and advocacies.

"Unay unay maragsakanan nga umay ditoy makita kayo amin, tatta imay dagiti parabor nga naited iti nadumaduma nga ahensya iti Gobierno para kadagiti daytoy pagadalan," said Gov. Pacoy. "Nakitak apo nga adda iti initiativeyo ket sapay koma itutuloyyo dayta. More than the classrooms, more than the equipment a maited kadakayo, ti importante apo ket diay adda ti unneg ti puspusotayo ta no adda iti kapanunutan tayo ti nasayaat, ado apo iti maaramid tayo a pagsayaatan,"

With this, Ms. Lydia L.

Manzano, Head Teacher of Padang Primary School expressed her utmost gratitude to these agencies which made extensive efforts to provide the students with spacious and well-ventilated classrooms conducive for learning.

Gov. Pacoy also emphasized the administration's vision to make La Union as the Heart of Agri-Tourism in Northern Luzon by 2028 which according to him, will only be realized through the harmonizing ardor and diligence of teachers, Municipal Government of San Gabriel, School Division Supervisors and Department Heads. With the accountability to promote transformation, Gov. Pacoy extended his earnest desire and commitment, in behalf of his father, past Governor Manuel "Manoling" Ortega.

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LOTUS VALLEY WOWS PGLU EXECS

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From the usual Thursday menu of fish, meat (either chicken or pork/beef) and vegetables, Governor Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III, Vice Governor Aureo Augusto Q. Nisce and all the Sangguniang Panlalawigan Members tried out with so much gusto an all plant-based dish for lunch during its first out-of-office session and its 84th Regular Session at Lotus Valley at Barangay Dasay, San Juan, La Union.

La Union officials got to experience a fresh forest cool breeze (fresh from last night's rain), breath - taking and informative tour around the biodiverse-agro-forest farm of Mr. Tobee Tamayo. He showed the variety of plants, trees including the varieties of bamboos grown in the farm and its beautiful lotus plants and flowers. The cottages, whose materials except for the nails and cement were all sourced from the farm. The designs of the cottages were made to stand all-weather even the strongest winds from typhoons and allow natural light penetration and air circulation, thus it requires minimum use of electricity. "You don't plant a tree, you plant a forest..." Mr. Tamayo stressed as he passionately narrated to the PGLU officials his struggles with the local farmers in developing the 8.5 hectare property which he acquired in 2007.

The nutritional break for lunch was the highlight of the visit. The plate was teeming with healthy and freshly harvested all plant-based menu including



HEALTH IS WEALTH. Sangguniang Panlalawigan Members Bellarmin A. Flores II, Manuel Victor "Mannix" R. Ortega Jr., Francisco Paolo P. Ortega V, and Carlo Castor U. Concepcion (from left to right) enjoy a hearty plant-based meal during their 84th Regular Session held on February 8, 2018 at the Lotus Valley Farm, Barangay Dasay, San Juan, La Union. In pursuit of the vision of making La Union the Heart of Agri-Tourism in Northern Luzon by 2025, the out-of-office session was held to familiarize La Union Officials with the tourism potential of Lotus Valley Farm.

black rice, Thai-salad, veggie laing, buko lasagna, cauliflower pakora, tofu seaweed tempura and the gluten barbeque that was really mistaken for a real grilled barbeque. For their dessert were the mango and buko tart that were so tempting to the bite. Their drinks were choices of refreshing ginger forest tea, currypata with calamansi tea and vishnukanta or the sabong ti samsamping with pandan blue drink. It was indeed a lunch so delicious yet so healthy. The menu was indeed a must-try not only by tourists but locals who prefer a healthier diet for longevity.

The Provincial Officials got a brief chance to ask Mr. Tamayo's workings and their programs with the Provincial Agriculturist's Office but promised to extensively elaborate the same during a committee hearing. The whole experience was indeed refreshing and invigorating and at the same time, inspiring and challenging. With Mr. Tamayo's knowledge, skills and related experiences with an effective partnership with the PGLU and its stakeholders, the province of La Union is getting closer to the realization of its vision to position La Union as the Heart of Agri-Tourism in Northern Luzon by 2025. Mr. Tamayo is currently the Consultant to the Office of the Governor on Sustainable Apiculture, Agriculture and Natural Resources Development and the owner of the Lotus Valley – a wellness and healing farm.



Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) officials headed by Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III and Vice Gov. Aureo Augusto Q. Nisce grace the inauguration and blessing of the new PGLU Tourist Coaster on February 8, 2018. Said vehicle was acquired through the Performance Challenge Fund given by the Department of the Interior and Local Government to PGLU for being a Seal of Good Local Governance awardee in 2016.



BEAUTY OF NATURE. Gov. Pacoy and the Sangguniang Panlalawigan Members led by Vice Governor Aureo Augusto Q. Nisce are toured around Lotus Valley by Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) Consultant Mr. Tobee Tamayo during the site visit and out-of-office session held by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan on February 8, 2018 at Lotus Valley Farm, Barangay Dasay, San Juan, La Union.

