

# BARO A TIMEK

## ITI KAPITOLIO

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Volume III No. 03



**HEALTHY LA UNION.** Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III and 2nd District Representative Sandra Y. Eriguel lead the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony during the Inauguration of the Decentralised Waste Water Treatment System (DEWATS) Facility and Tuberculosis – Directly Observed Treatment, Short course (TB-DOTS) Clinic, and Signage of the Caba District Hospital (CDH) on March 8, 2018 in Caba, La Union. Also in photo are ABONO Party-List Representative Vini Nola A. Ortega, former 2nd District Representative Eufanio C. Eriguel, and CDH Chief of Hospital Dr. Gretchen F. Aromin. **Story on page 2.**

## PGLU PARTNERS WITH PHILTOA IN AGRI-TOURISM PROMOTION

Joy Ann L. Gurtiza

To strengthen the brand of La Union being an Agri-Tourism hub, the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) headed by Governor Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III forged partnership with the Philippine Tour Operators (PhilTOA) led by Mr. Cesar R. Cruz through the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement on March 15, 2018 at the Fira Beach Cub, Thunderbird Resorts - Poro Point, City of San Fernando, La Union.

Said document define the roles of each party in the promotion of La Union's vision to be the Heart of Agri-Tourism in Northern Luzon by 2025.

PGLU in partnership with the Department of Tourism (DOT) – Region 1, hosted a three-day province wide Agri-Tourism Familiarization Tour (Fam Tour) on March 15 – 17, 2018. On March 15, 2018 for the Members of PhilTOA which consisted of industry stakeholders such as accommodation establishment owners, travel agencies, tour operators and transportation sector all around the Philippines. Said tour aims to familiarize PhilTOA Members with the variety of tourism products the province has to offer

and to come up with a La Union tour package to sell to a bigger market.

Highlights of the tour included a visit to the province's major pilgrimage destinations such as the Shrine of Nuestra Senora Virgen Del Mar Cautiva in Sto. Tomas; Basilica Minor of Our Lady of Charity in Agoo; Saints Peter and Paul Parish in Bauang; Ma-Cho Temple in San Fernando; the Shrine of Our Lady of Namacpacan in Luna and St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Bacnotan. The group also experienced the province's natural and man-made wonders such as the PuGad in Pugo; Thunderbird Resort, Poro Point Lighthouse and Baywalk, Halo Halo de Iloko – Balay, Provincial Capitol and La Union Agri-Tourism Center in San Fernando; Camp Spencer, Stone-Hand Art Gallery, Baluarte and Pebble Beach in Luna; Urbiztondo Beach and Pottery Industry in San Juan and the 50-feet high Tangadan Falls in San Gabriel. Showcasing La Union's craftsmanship and excellence, the participants also immersed themselves to a variety of creative industries and products of the province such as the, Loomweaving in



Bangar; Apiculture and Sericulture Industries and Riverfarm in Bacnotan; and Grape-picking in Bauang.

Gov. Pacoy expressed his gratitude to PhilTOA for its commitment to developing Agri-Tourism packages for the province. He stressed that the success of the branding and marketing of Agri-Tourism strategy lies on partnership and collaboration with the key players of tourism and travel industry

such as PhilTOA.

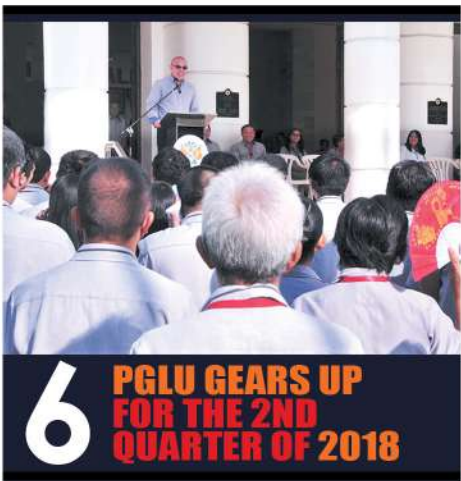
Prior the familiarization tour, a Core Group Forum was held on February 20, 2018 at the PhilTOA Office, Cityland Tower, Makati City. Mr. Cruz emphasized that a well-planned itinerary (tour package) will create more business resulting from reputation of the tour operator for reliability and high quality service and reputation of the local government in tourism development.



**3 EARTH HOUR 2018**



**5 PGLU LAUNCHES NEWLY REFINISHED WEBSITE**



**6 PGLU GEARS UP FOR THE 2ND QUARTER OF 2018**



**8 PEACE AND ORDER STATUS OF LA UNION REVIEWED**



## NEW FACILITIES IN CABA DISTRICT HOSPITAL INAGURATED

Marcel A. Florentino

As part of the 44th Foundation Anniversary of Caba District Hospital (CDH) led by Chief of Hospital Gretchen F. Aromin, the hospital's new facilities such as Decentralised Waste Water Treatment System (DEWATS) and the Tuberculosis – Directly Observed Treatment, Short course (TB-DOTS) Clinic was inaugurated on March 8, 2018.

Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" Ortega III thanked 2nd District Representative Sandra Y. Eriguel and the local government unit of Caba led by Mayor Philip Caesar P. Crispino for contributing to the development of the said hospital. He then congratulated the employees of Caba District Hospital headed by Dr. Aromin for the years of health service. In conclusion, the Governor parted with a reminder saying that everybody has a role and should play it well in order to bring more progress and development to La Union.

TB-DOTS is the internationally recommended highly efficient and effective

effective strategy as well as being a cost-effective treatment in combatting tuberculosis. The opening of the TB-DOTS Clinic in CDH is an addition to better serve the medical needs of people of La Union through preventing the spread of tuberculosis.

DEWATS is important in containing infections and the treatment and recycling of waste water. Water processed by DEWATS is still not safe for drinking however it may be recycled to be good enough for watering plants and flushing toilets. Right now, CDH DEWATS is currently at phase one but they are the only hospital equipped with pre-fabricated fiberglass chambers embedded underground which are more durable and effective in preventing leakages.

A new site marker coupled with the inauguration of both DEWATS and TB-DOTS Clinic goes with their anniversary's theme "Breakthrough @ 44 of Health Service" and in providing modern and high quality healthcare.

## PGLU CAPACITATES HEAD FOR TRANSFORMATIVE RESULTS-BASED MONITORING

Editha A. Cardenas

The Provincial Government of La Union conducted a Capability Building for Transformative Results Based Monitoring and Evaluation (RBME) on April 16-18, 2018 at the Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union.

Said activity was a refresher course and the use of statistics of RBME. It aims to enhance the capability of the participants in the monitoring and evaluation of the progress of implementation of their annual work plans and budgets and programs and projects. It also aims to develop their skills in monitoring development results, including field validation and problem solving activities within their M&E process and set their M&E work plan for 2018 with 1st Quarter assessment of progress.

Workshops and group discussion were conducted on the preparation of project Log Frame; monitoring procedures; preparing a project result matrix and budget and financial utilization.

The participants also conducted field visits to selected projects implemented by PGLU in order to have a hands-on experience on the actual process of monitoring and evaluation of projects. The projects visited include the La Union Agri-tourism Center, Freedom Park, Provincial Health Office and Provincial Assessor's Office, all located in the City of San Fernando.

"It takes leadership commitment to achieve a better performing organization plus redeployment of resources to build M&E systems, plus individuals who are committed to improve public sector performance, so, it comes down to a combination of institutional capacity and political will," said Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III as echoed by consultant Agnes Grace A. Cargamento who served as overall facilitator during the three-day activity. Other resource persons during the training were Mr. Jessie Miranda, Economic Development Specialist from NEDA-ROI and Governor's Consultant on Planning & Development Marilyn Castino.

The training was participated in by Department Heads, Chiefs of Hospitals, Division Chiefs and designated Monitoring and Evaluation Officers of the various PGLU departments/offices and district hospitals.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY GOV.** Celebrating life, Gov. Pacoy and his family plant bani seedlings on March 26, 2018 at the Filipino-Chinese Friendship Pagoda in the City of San Fernando, La Union.



**MOVING FORWARD.** Provincial Information and Tourism Officer Adamor L. Dagang welcomes participants to the 2018 Cities and Municipalities Competitiveness Index Briefing and Orientation held on April 5, 2018 at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol Building, City Of San Fernando, La Union.



**SCHOLAR GRANTEES.** Gov. Pacoy and Cong. Vini Nola A. Ortega pose with the ABONO Scholars during the distribution of scholarship grants for said scholars on April 3, 2018 at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol, City Of San Fernando, La Union.



Gov. Pacoy hands over a check to Caba Mayor Philip Caesar P. Crispino as the municipality's prize for being a Cleanest, Safest and Greenest (CSAG) Awardee in 2017 on April 3, 2018 at the Office of the Provincial Governor, Capitol Building, City of San Fernando, La Union. Also in the photo are Sangguniang Bayan Members of Caba, La Union.



**TESTAMENT OF LOVE.** Gov. Pacoy imparts to the faculty members and students of Bangbangol National High School the importance of education during the inauguration of newly-built facilities of said school on April 4, 2018.



Gov. Pacoy listens attentively to the presentation of Vice Chairman Leonardo N. Quito, Jr. of the Metro San Fernando Water District-La Union about the Integrated Water and Waste Program (IWWP) on April 3, 2018 at the Office of the Provincial Governor, Capitol Building, City of San Fernando, La Union.

# LU DADS HONOR WOMEN DURING ITS 88TH SESSION

Jiroh Joy D. Marbella



**WOMEN IN ACTION.** BM Annabelle S. De Guzman and BM Nancy Corazon M. Bacunay deliver their privilege speech centered on the topic of woman empowerment and protection on March 8, 2018 at the Speaker Pro Tempore Francisco I. Ortega Legislative Building and Session Hall.

In celebration of the International Women's Day, Vice-Governor Aureo Augusto Q. Nisce, for a moment, yielded his chair as presiding officer to the two lady board members, SPM Maria Annabelle S. De Guzman and SPM Nancy Corazon M. Bacunay as a gesture of giving honor to women during the SP's 88th Regular Session on March 8, 2018 at the Speaker Pro Tempore Francisco I. Ortega Legislative Building and Session Hall. Both the women legislators delivered their respective privilege speeches centered on the topic of women empowerment and protection as well as the call to revisit the Gender and Development Code of the Province of La Union (SP Ord. 071-2015).

They urged the Sangguniang Panlalawigan to seek out the help of the executive branch of the province in getting an update on the status of implementation of the said code problems encountered and/or provisions that need to be revised/amended as well as the impact to the lives of women in the province.

SPN Nancy Corazon Bacunay, encouraged all Local Government Units, Government Organizations, Non Government Organizations and

Civil Service Organizations to observe International Women's Month with a series of social service programs to promote the development of women in

different sectors like livelihood assistance, health and wellness, participation environment protection, trainings on risk reduction management

and seminars about women's rights.

SPM De Guzman shared some statistics taken from The Philippine Statistics Office where it revealed that although women are higher than men in terms of functional literacy rate at 92%-88%, they are still behind in terms of Labor Force Participation Rate at 46.2%-76.2% and the percentage of Occupied Elective Positions with women only at 21.5% while men are at 78.5% as of March 2018.

Based on the statistics from the Philippine National Police, violence against women dropped from 12, 304 reported cases in 2016, to 10, 262 reported cases in 2017, but still considered as high prevalence.

SPM De Guzman also quoted two popular empowered women in the person of Margaret Thatcher and Angelina Jolie-Pitt. To close her speech she left a quote for the board and audience to ponder on "We, women do not aspire that we should be higher than men or stronger than men or more empowered than men, we wanted a society where women are loved and respected and seen not as an object of desire but truly a co-equal, partner of transformative change. It is our hope that, that society is the Province of La Union."

## LA UNION TURNS-OFF LIGHTS FOR EARTH HOUR

Robert Albert J. B. Pasion

The people of La Union led by Governor Francisco Emmanuel R. Ortega III joined in the celebration of Earth Hour 2018 by turning off the lights from 8:30 pm to 9:30pm on March 24, 2018.

Also a program hosted by the Local Government Unit of Bauang on the said date was held. It revolved on the theme "Raniag Bauang" and it has an official social media hashtag #Connect2Earth.

Being a mother herself, ABONO Party-List Representative Vini Nola A. Ortega appealed to the audience to take care of Mother Earth just as they care for each one's mothers, and to be committed in helping out and stopping the destruction of Mother Nature not just through participating in Earth Hour, but through little ways that may be integrated in our day to day lives.

Bauang Municipal Mayor Martin P. De Guzman III asked the people to join him in praying the "Prayer for Mother Nature in Sustaining Our Planet Earth". He also expressed his joy that the Municipality of Bauang was chosen to host the Earth Hour in the Province of La Union.

Gov. Pacoy who was serenaded by the crowd for his upcoming birthday in the said event thanked the participation of all the attendees especially the people of Bauang for being the host. In his message, he emphasized how beautiful the planet earth is

and he talked about the importance of earth, life, and how blessed we are to be a part of it. He added, "Everything is connected. La Union is our home. Let us continue to love our home."

A candle lighting ceremony where the materials were made from recycled tin cans was led by the Governor along with other local officials. Earth Hour 2018 program concluded with a commitment signing participated by the key figures present. Also the BAGGAK Band entertained audience with different genres of music, coupled by a film viewing showcasing the beauty of the Municipality of Bauang, La Union.

Blessing was earlier done by Rev. Ronald Raymond O. Chan, Parish Priest and Bauang Vice Mayor Bonifacio Molinao welcomed the guests and participants.

Earth Hour is a worldwide movement organized by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). The event is held annually encouraging individuals, communities, and businesses to turn off non-essential electric lights for one hour, from 8:30 - 9:30 PM on a specific day towards the end of March or March's last Saturday, as a symbol of commitment to the planet. Occasionally, in years when Holy Saturday falls on the last Saturday of March, Earth Hour is moved a week early rather than its traditional date.



## PESO GATHERS MORE JOBS FOR LA UNION

Rowell B. Timoteo

The City Government of San Fernando in coordination with the Provincial Government of La Union through the Public Employment Service Office (PESO) conducted the San Fernando City People's Job Fair held on April 17, 2018 at the CSI Mall, Biday, City of San Fernando, La Union. Guests during the event are DOLE – RO I Regional Director Nathaniel V. Lacambra, Hon. Alfredo Pablo R. Ortega, City Vice Mayor & Hon. Antonio Jucar, City Councilor/Chairman, Committee on Workforce Development.

There were 43 employers who participated both for local and overseas employment. Participating agencies were not only from the province of La Union but also from other cities/provinces like Baguio City, Pangasinan, Tarlac City and Metro Manila. As per record, there were 2,863 local job vacancies and 2,600 job vacancies for overseas offered for jobseekers. Local jobs available include customer and technical service representatives, clerks, sales representatives, managers, supervisors, marketing personnel, hotel workers, engineers, electricians, cashiers, skilled and non-skilled workers and others. Job vacancies for abroad/overseas employment were skilled/construction workers, medical courses, service crew/factory workers, drivers, computer related courses for deployment in Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, New Zealand and Taiwan. A total of 414 registered jobseekers (291 for local employment and 123 for overseas employment) were interviewed while 31 lucky jobseekers were Hired on the Spot (HOTS). There will be a follow-up with the employers to get the job-placement result.

The PESO – La Union also rendered technical assistance to the Local Government Unit of Sudipen in conducting their Jobs Fair held on April 24, 2018 at the ABC Hall, Municipal Hall, Sudipen, La Union as part of the celebration of Annual Kawayan Festival 2018.

Jobs Fair is an employment facilitation strategy to fast track the meeting of job seekers, local & overseas employment agencies in our venue at a specific date to reduce cost, time and effort particularly on the part of applicants. Job fairs are open to all unemployed, skilled and unskilled workers, college graduates, graduates of training institutions, displaced workers and employees seeking advancement.







**TOGETHER WITH FAITH, LOVE, UNITY AND SOLIDARITY.** Gov. Pacoy punches in as the Guest of Honor and Speaker during the declaration of Sudipen as a "Drug-Free" Municipality held at the Sudipen Municipal Gym, La Union on April 25, 2018. In support of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte's all-out war against illegal drugs, the Local Government Unit of Sudipen, La Union under the leadership of Hon. Alexander O. Buquing, Municipal Mayor/MADAC Chairman, is working actively with all the sectors of the community to institute mechanisms, programs, activities to effectively put an end to the drug menace in Sudipen.



**ONWARDS TO PROGRESS.** Gov. Pacoy ABONO Party-List Representative Vini Nola A. Ortega, and Former 2nd District Representative Eufanio C. Eriguel lead the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony during the Inauguration and Blessing of the San Manuel Sur Farm-to-Market Road held on March 23, 2018 in Agoo, La Union. Also in photo is Provincial Engineer Elizabeth P. Sias.



Gov. Pacoy hands over a Plaque of Merit to PSI Leoncio P. Alcantara Jr. for the 101st Maritime Police Station for being adjudged as RMU 1 Maritime Police Station of the year 2017 on April 3, 2018 at the Office of the Provincial Governor, Capitol Building, City of San Fernando, La Union.



Gov. Pacoy and ABONO Party-list Representative Vini Nola Ortega turn over five computer units to the National Bureau of Investigation on April 17, 2018 at the Provincial Capitol Building, City of San Fernando, La Union.



**GOOD WILL WIN. WE WILL WIN!** Gov. Pacoy leads in flashing the "I Love La Union" sign as the Guest of Honor and Speaker during the declaration of Caba as a "Drug-Free" Municipality held at Diego Silang Civic Center and Historical Park and Eco-Tourism Plaza, Caba, La Union on April 26, 2018.



**EVERYTHING I DO IS FOR THE LOVE OF LA UNION.** Gov. Pacoy shares plans for further improvement of the province during the Inauguration and Blessing of the newly rehabilitated/upgraded Bail-Casilagan Road held on March 23, 2018 in Bail Elementary School, Sto. Tomas, La Union. Also in photo is ABONO Party-List Representative Vini Nola A. Ortega.



**NDH - Lorma Partnership.** Naguilian District Hospital (NDH) Chief & Hospital Dr. Eleanor G. Dacanay hands over a token to Dr. Romeo G. Molano, Jr. Chief of Hospital, cardiologist of Lorma Medical Center (LMC), one of the Resource Speakers of NDH-LMC's Symposium on Acute Coronary Syndrome and its Immediate Management at the Senior Citizen Conference Room, Naguilian, La Union on April 19, 2018. The Symposium was attended by NDH partners in the Service Delivery Network from the Municipalities of Naguilian, Bagulin, Bauang and Burgos comprising the Central Eastern Agri-tourism Circuit of La Union.



Employees from Naguilian District Hospital (NDH) Nursing Service Department (NSD) flashes the "I Love La Union" sign during the First Ever Orientation on Policies and Protocols on April 16, 17 & 20, 2018 at the Old Senior Citizen's Office in Natividad, Naguilian, La Union. This event was launched to make hospital personnel aware of NSD's mission, vision, goals; policies and procedures.

## PGLU INFO OFFICERS UNDERGO TRAINING

Marcel A. Florentino



University of the Philippines Open University Chancellor Dr. Melinda dP. Bandalaria discusses Social Media Marketing for Development to the members of the Governor's Press Corps April 12, 2018, of the News Writing and Social Media Marketing Seminar-Workshop in Hotel Veniz, Baguio City.

The Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) through the Provincial Information and Tourism Office (PTIO) led by Adamor L. Dagang conducted the reorganization and training for the Governor's Press Corps (GPC) from April 10 to 12, 2018 at the Hotel Veniz, Baguio City. This was attended by 45 members from selected offices and hospitals under PGLU.

The first day of training consisted of teambuilding exercises facilitated by Dr. Mark Anthony Latoja, Retail Manager of Globe Telecom and an experienced trainer, while Dr. Cecilia Fe Abalos, Associate Professor at the University of the Philippines (UP) Baguio, served as the main speaker as she discussed the basics of Development Communication.

More writing exercises followed on the second day of training as Jason Paolo Telles, Instructor for Broadcast Communication at UP Baguio, taught the fundamental principles in

Newswriting and Photo Captioning.

The third and last day was dedicated to keeping up with the latest space for media consumption. Participants learned Social Media Marketing for Development from UP Open University Chancellor Dr. Melinda dP. Bandalaria.

In his message, Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III stressed on the vital role of GPC being front and center in the promotion, marketing, and awareness campaign towards the vision of making La Union the Heart of Agri-Tourism in Northern Luzon by 2025.

The Governor's Press Corps was formed pursuant to Executive Order No. 009 Series of 2008 by immediate past Governor Manuel C. Ortega. It aims to deliver complete, accurate and timely information on the various development initiatives, programs, and projects that the PGLU is implementing for the welfare of the people.

## PGLU LAUNCHES NEWLY REFURBISHED WEBSITE

Jamie Rose N. Mifa

The Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) headed by Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III introduced the new template of the official website of La Union in line with the province's vision to be the "Heart of Agri-Tourism in Northern Luzon by 2025" during the 4th Cabinet's Meeting on April 10, 2018 at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol Building, City of San Fernando, La Union.

The Province of La Union's www.launion.gov.ph domain name was accepted and registered at the Department of Science and Technology-Advanced Science and Technology Institute since 2005. Through the years, web hosting were accommodated by external providers done by Lorma Colleges and LivCom Technologies. But with the improvement of hardware infrastructure of the PGLU, the Information and Communication Technology Division (ICTD) implemented in-house web hosting last September

2017. The National Government initiated a Government Web Template of the iGovPhil Program which aims to enhance effectiveness, efficiency and transparency of Government through interconnectivity. The province chose to use Wordpress which is the easiest and most powerful website Content Management System in existence today. It is also low cost and open-source. An application of Search Engine Optimization to optimize online content so that search engines can show the website as a top result for searches. The new website will provide constituents, researchers, travelers and bidders a better user experience.

Agri-Tourism information as well as news releases, videos and reports for transparency and accountability were uploaded. Different articles which features the La Union Agri-Tourism Circuits and Tourism Packages were also included. Through the website, there will be information exchange and availability of the province's products and services.



Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III introduces the new template of the official website of La Union in line with province's vision to be the "Heart of Agri-Tourism in

## ANNUAL ITR CY 2017: FILED, PAID AND SUBMITTED

Karen Kate M. Peñaflor

The Office of the Provincial Accountant (OPAcc) submitted to the Bureau of Internal Revenue - Revenue District Office (BIR-RDO) No. 3 the Annual Income Tax Returns (ITRs) CY 2017 of Job Order (JO) and Contract of Service (COS) personnel of the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU).

OPAcc submitted to BIR the first batch of said documents on April 13, 2018 while second batch was submitted on April 16, 2018. A total of 308 JO and COS personnel have already submitted their ITRs.

This is in compliance to BIR Revenue

Memorandum Circular No. 69-2017 and in pursuant to the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997 on the filing and payment of Annual ITR on or before April 15 of the ensuing year.

JO and COS personnel were reminded of the Revenue Memorandum Circular No. 19-2018, where in taxpayers using the Electronic Platform in filing tax return or the eBIRForms for the JO and COS personnel of the PGLU, shall submit the ITRs and attachments to the RDO office within 15 days from the date of eFiling.

## PGLU HOST LUPPO CASCADING OF RECOVERY AND WELLNESS PROGRAM

Marcel A. Florentino



**SERVICE WITH DIGNITY.** Police Community Relationships Group Director PCSUPT Rhodel O. Sermonia, who serves as Guest of Honor and Speaker during the Cascading of the Philippine National Police Recovery and Wellness Program, discusses the importance of strong leadership from the Local Government Units in the success of the war on drugs on April 16, 2018 at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union.

In support of the war on drugs, the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) led by Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III hosted the La Union Police Provincial Office's (LUPPO) Cascading of the Philippine National Police (PNP) Recovery and Wellness Program on April 16, 2018 at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union.

Gov. Pacoy reiterated the commitment of La Union against illegal drugs through various activities. The PGLU conducted province and even hosted region-wide dangerous drugs summits. It also fully supports several programs such as the strengthening Anti-Drug Abuse Councils (ADACs) Mamamayang Ayaw Sa Anomalya, Mamamayang Ayaw Sa Illegal na Droga (MASA-MASID), Barangay Based Rehabilitation Program of Bauang, Oplan Panagbabaliw of Aringay, "Talikuhan na ang Droga Ngayon na" of Santol, "Simula ng Pagbabago" of Caba, the treatment and rehabilitation center at the Ilocos Training and Regional Medical Center, and other programs. The Governor, represented by Provincial Jail Warden Rimas Calixto, expressed his optimism that with the leadership of

the police and the PGLU's all-out support, the spirits and souls of those who have surrendered to the mission of love, recovery, and wellness will be saved and the war on drugs will be a success.

Police Community Relations Group Director Police Chief Superintendent Rhodel O. Sermonia, the main speaker, hailed from the National Headquarters of the PNP. He reported that Operation Tokhang "Katok at Pakiusap" resulted to 8 million houses visited and around 1.3 million surrenders. PCSUPT Sermonia is going all over the country to promote a holistic approach in helping the drug users through a well-developed community-based recovery program.


According to the Department of Health, as reported by Sermonia, 90 percent of drug users may be fully rehabilitated through these recovery and wellness programs.

Encouraging more action and programs, PCSUPT Sermonia congratulated La Union for their organized ADACs. He concluded by stressing the importance of strong leadership at different levels of the government to properly promote the full recovery of drug addicts.



Northern Luzon by 2025" during the 4th Cabinet's Meeting on April 10, 2018 at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol Building, City of San Fernando, La Union.





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# PEACE AND ORDER STATUS OF LA UNION REVIEWED

Jane T. Flores

Governor Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III convened the Provincial Peace and Order Council (PPOC), La Union Anti-Drug Abuse Council (LUADAC) and the Council of the Five Pillar of Criminal Justice System (CFPCJS) in a joint meeting at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union on April 24, 2018.

In the said meeting, PSupt. John F. Charongen of the La Union Police Provincial Office (LUPPO) reported the State of the Peace and Order Situation of the Province for the 1st Quarter of CY 2018. He said, the Province of La Union continues to enjoy a peaceful environment which is attributed to the collective efforts of the local government units, the community and the law enforcement units.

Likewise, Agent Darnel L. Bacate, Provincial Officer of PDEA-La Union, reported the Anti-illegal Drug Situation of the Province for the 1st Quarter of CY 2018. He reported that there are four municipalities in the Province of La Union that were declared drug-free to include the municipalities of Burgos, Bagulin, Rosario and Balaoan. He also informed that the municipalities of Sudipen and



Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III presides over the Joint Meeting of the Provincial Peace and Order Council (PPOC), La Union Anti-Drug Abuse Council (LUADAC) and the Council of the Five Pillar of Criminal Justice System (CFPCJS) held at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union on April 24, 2018. Seated from L-R: LUPPO Provincial Director PSSupt Genaro V. Sapiera, Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III, PDEA-La Union Provincial Officer Darnel L. Bacate and DILG-LU Representative Calvin Lubrin.

Caba are expected to be declared drug-free this week.

The CY 2018 1st Quarter Status of the La Union Major Cases Filed in Court or under Prosecution and the Status of Cases of Provincial Jail Inmates were reported by Provincial Prosecutor Danilo C. Bumacod and PJW Rimas G. Calixto, respectively.

In response to the reports of Prosecutor Bumacod and PJW Calixto, RTC Executive Judge Alpino Florendo presented the Actions Taken on RTC Cases and Proposals to Facilitate Action. He also reported the Summary of Criminal Cases Filed and Disposed for the 1st Quarter. Judge Florendo commended the efforts of the LUPPO and PDEA-RO1 in their campaign against illegal drugs as he reported that there was a considerable drop in the number of drug cases filed this year as compared to the previous years.

Forhis part, Gov. Pacoy thanked all the Council members and urged them to keep up the good work because "Battles may have been won, but the war is not yet over," he said.

The PPOC, LUADAC and the CFPCJS are special bodies in the Provincial Government of La Union chaired by Gov. Pacoy Ortega.

## GANDA PULIS 2018 CANDIDATES VISIT LA UNION



BEAUTY AND ADVOCACY. Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III and PCSUPT Rhodel O Sermonia flash the I love La Union gesture with Ganda Pulis 2018 Candidates. They highlighted La Union as a Drug-Free province with the joint effort of Philippine National Police and

Multisectoral Community during the Provincial Government of La Union's Flag Raising Ceremony at the La Union Provincial Capitol on April 16, 2018.



Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III presents Provincial Government of La Union's tokens of gratitude to the 26 Ganda Pulis 2018 Candidates during the Welcome Dinner held on April 16, 2018 at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union.



Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III introduces the Guest of Honor and Speaker, PCSUPT Rhodel O Sermonia during the Provincial Government of La Union's Flag Raising Ceremony at the La Union Provincial Capitol on April 16, 2018.



PMA BROTHERS. Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III gives a token of appreciation to his Philippine Military Academy comrade and Police Community Relationships Group Director, PCSUPT Rhodel O Sermonia during the Ganda Pulis 2018 Welcome Dinner on April 16, 2018 at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union. Such token is Provincial Government of La Union's expression of gratitude to Philippine National Police for choosing La Union as one of the destinations of Ganda Pulis 2018 candidates during their Nationwide tour.