



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE PROVINCE OF LA UNION

# BARO A TIMEK

ITI KAPITOLIO



Volume III No. 06



Participants of the three-day Farm Tourism (Fun Farms) Seminar – Workshop pose with their certificates of completion after the said event held at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union on July 12, 2018. Also in the photo are Provincial

Administrator Ms. Jennifer Joan O. Manguiat, Training Facilitator Mr. Keneth C. De Gracia of Costales Farms, Ms. Evangeline Dadat of DOT – R1 and Mr. Toby Tamayo, PGLU Consultant on Environmental Initiatives.

## LA UNION FARM OWNERS INTRODUCED TO FARM TOURISM

Omme Atiyah B. Gonting

To mechanize on the vision of the province, 58 farm owners participated in the three – day Farm Tourism (Fun Farms) Seminar – Workshop on July 10 – 12, 2018 at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union.

Said seminar was conducted by the Provincial Government of La Union with the initiative of the Provincial Information and Tourism Office (PITO) together with the Department of Tourism Region 1 (DOT-R1). In total, 98 participants composed of farm owners, municipal agriculturists, municipal tourism officers, and representatives from private sectors of the province attended the seminar.

Ms. Desiree Duran, owner of Duran Farms in Bulacan and the guest speaker, shared her story of success on farming as she developed her business into an Agri-Tourism destination in their locality. Ms. Duran was one of the people who

became a millionaire because of Agri-Tourism. She motivated farm owners to develop and innovate techniques and activities that will make tourists enjoy their farm visit.

Mr. Keneth C. De Gracia, manager of Costales Farms, lead lecturer, imparted his knowledge on organic farming and specifically farm tourism. Costales Farm is the first Agri-Tourism site in the country, also an accredited private extension service provider for the Agriculture Training Institute (ATI) of the Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), and Department of Tourism (DOT). He also lectured on the basics and importance of farm tourism service management and effective customer service; basic tour guiding methods; farm to table

concept and farm stay; safety risk management; farm safety plan; how to maximize the support given by the government to their respective farms; ways on how to market farm tourism products, sustainability of farm tourism destinations and manpower management; and the need to register and comply for accreditation of their farms to the various government agencies to ensure quality service of their establishments. He also demonstrated some techniques in financial management and farm development funding in connection to tour costing and making tour packages.

The participants were tasked to make tour packages with corresponding costing based on a tourism circuit assigned to them and presented their outputs to the speaker.

Provincial Information and Tourism Officer Mr. Adamor Dagang discussed La Union's Vision to be the "Heart of Agri-Tourism in Northern Luzon by 2025" and relayed Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III 's challenge to the industry while he emphasized the significant role of farmers and farm owners in realizing the vision of the province.

"The seminar cultivated an atmosphere of camaraderie and collaboration amongst key stakeholders while encouraging constructive criticisms to ensure, at the least, a cohesive understanding and focus on La Union's vision," said Ms. Gracia Lomboy, manager of Lomboy Farms and President of Bauang Grape Growers Association, commending the Provincial Government of La Union for the conducting said training.



# LU CELEBRATES 2ND SANGLAD FESTIVAL

Camille R. Bumatay



CELEBRATION OF FAITH. La Union celebrates the 2nd Sanglad Festival in commemoration of the 173rd Anniversary of the Arrival of the Image of Nuestra Señora Birhen Del Mar Cautiva through land and fluvial processions in Sto. Tomas, La Union on July 19, 2018.

La Union celebrated the 2nd Sanglad Festival on July 19, 2018 in commemoration of the 173rd anniversary of the arrival of the image of Nuestra Señora Birhen Del Mar Cautiva in La Union. The celebration also featured the First Grand Marian Exhibit in La Union held at Holy Guardian Angels Parish, Santo Tomas, La Union from July 10-22, 2018 exhibiting over 80 images of Virgin Mary.

The Sanglad Festival reenacted the arrival of Nuestra Señora Virgen del Mar Cautiva at Santo Tomas, La Union in 1845 through a fluvial parade at Brgy. Raos of the said town. Despite the heavy downpour of rain, almost 3,000 pilgrims and residents witnessed the fluvial parade and joined in the celebration.

Also in attendance in said festival are Sangguniang Panlalawigan Member Nancy Corazon Bacurnay and Provincial Assessor Engr. Arnulfo Cacho who are both devotees of Nuestra Señora Virgen

Del Mar Cautiva.

Parish Priest Fr. Edwin Fontanilla said, "We thought of having this festival so that we can promote all the more the miraculous image of Nuestra Señora Birhen Del Mar Cautiva. This festival can be a way of promoting her not only in our province but internationally."

Other activities done during the celebration were thanksgiving mass, procession from church to Brgy. Barraca, Holy Mass at the landing shrine, procession from Brgy. Barraca to Brgy. Raos, presentation of Daing Festival 2018 winners and celebrity show.

Nuestra Señora Birhen Del Mar Cautiva or the Virgin Captive of the Sea owes the name to her mysterious story by the sea. On July 19, 1845, the holy image of the Blessed Mother was brought to the parish church of Sto. Tomas. Since then, numerous miracles, conversions and cures, including safe and easy childbirth, were attributed to her.

# AGRI-TOURISM STRATEGY OF LA UNION RECOGNIZED BY GLOBAL AUDIENCE

Darlene Joy Acosta

The Agri-Tourism Strategy of the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) was discussed impressing participants of the Global Farm Tourism Summit 2018 (GFTS2018) on July 17 to 19, 2018 at Summit Ridge Hotel, Tagaytay City, Cavite.

Echoing the vision of Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III, La Union Information and Tourism Officer, Mr. Adamor L. Dagang, shared how Gov. Pacoy involved stakeholders to actively participate the Agri-Tourism journey of the Province. He discussed the strategies employed and programs prioritized resulting to early gains and accomplishments.

Dr. Mina T. Gabor, President of the International School of Sustainable Tourism (ISST), invited Gov. Pacoy as Resource Person on the topic Empowering Local Government Units (LGUs) for Farm Tourism since La Union is recognized as one of the LGUs that is championing Farm Tourism in the country.

The Global Farm Tourism Summit 2018, a first-of-its-kind event in the country, is a two-day conference and one-day farm visit to International Institute

of Rural Reconstruction Complex. It brought together world organizations, leaders, innovations, icons, researchers, entrepreneurs, agriculture, tourism and environment. Experts hailing from Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries shared new trends, techniques, and experiences in establishing and developing market tool, adaptation and resiliency plan, farm guide, and strategic plans.

The three-day conference included lecture-discussions, panel and plenary sessions, open floor Q&A sessions and farm visit designed to provide a venue for participants to learn from internationally recognized leaders, specialists, icons and models in both agriculture and tourism.

GFTS aims to increase awareness on the benefits of adding a tourism component to farms, share best practices and success stories from local and international experts. The event was timely and significant to the continuing efforts of the Provincial Government of La Union in making La Union the Heart of Agri-Tourism in Northern Luzon by 2025.



LA UNION AT THE GLOBAL FARM TOURISM SUMMIT. Provincial Information and Tourism Officer, Mr. Adamor L. Dagang, shares the Agri-tourism journey of the Province of La Union as envisioned by Gov. Pacoy during the second day of the three-day Global Farm Tourism Summit held on July 17-19, 2018 at the Summit Ridge Hotel, Tagaytay City. Gov. Pacoy, was invited by the International School of Sustainable Tourism (ISST) President Dr. Mina T. Gabor as lecturer on Empowering Local Government Units for Farm Tourism being one of the LGUs that is championing Farm Tourism.

# LA UNION LIGA NG MGA BARANGAY ELECTS OFFICERS

Camille R. Bumatay



Gov. Pacoy administers the oath of newly-elected officers of the Liga ng mga Barangay Provincial Chapter on July 30, 2018 at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol Building, City of San Fernando, La Union.

The Liga ng mga Barangay Provincial Chapter elected their new set of officers on July 30, 2018 at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol Building, City of San Fernando, La Union supervised by the Department of the Interior and Local Government. Unopposed, Brgy. Chairperson Geraldine "Denny" R. Ortega of Canaay, City of San Fernando, La Union was elected as the league's president with a total votes of 20 out of 20.

Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III administered the oath of Ms. Ortega along with other elected officers including Ms. Erwina C. Eriguel of Agoo as Vice-President; Mr. Edgar B. Ferido of Bangar as Auditor; and the Board of Directors composed of Mr. Romeo M. Estolas, Jr. of San Gabriel, Mr. Dionisio T. Velasco of San Juan, Ms. Lorma L. Sibuma of Aringay, Mr. Jofre F. Hipol of Naguilian, Mr. Reynaldo C. Carbone of Santo Tomas, Mr. Amiel John U. Concepcion of Balaoan, Mr. Antonio F. Bautista, Jr. of Luna, and Mr. Noel T. Gallardo of Bauang.

Known for her dedication in promoting goodwill specially for women and children, Madame Denny is the Chairperson of La Union Vibrant Women, Inc. (LUWVI) which is recognized by the Department of Social Welfare and Development Region I as a social welfare and development agency for the poor, vulnerable and disadvantaged women in the Province of La Union. She continues to develop more charitable programs that uplift the lives, capabilities, attitudes and cultural characteristics of the people of La Union.

Madame Denny will assume the seat of the Liga Chapter President in the Sangguniang Panlalawigan as Ex-Officio Member and will take oath on August 2, 2018 at the Speaker Pro-Tempore Francisco I. Ortega Provincial Legislative Building and Session Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union.

The Liga ng mga Barangay Provincial Chapter is composed of elected presidents of the Liga ng mga Barangay Municipal Chapters from the different towns in La Union. It aims to empower the basic unit of Governance to ensure the welfare of the quality of lives of the people.

# PGLU, ABONO PARTY-LIST BREED 2ND BATCH OF GRADUATES

Omme Atiyah B. Gonting



ALAGANG ABONO. Cong. Vini Nola A. Ortega hands over a Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) National Certificate to one of the ABONO scholars who graduated with Hilot Wellness Massage NC II during their Commencement Exercise held at the Diego Silang Hall, Capitol Building, City of San Fernando, La Union on July 19, 2018.

"We have to equip you with the right tools para harapin ang kinabukasan," said Cong. Vini Nola A. Ortega in her speech during the Commencement Exercise of the 2nd Batch of ABONO Party-list Scholars held at the Diego Silang Hall, Capitol Building, City of San Fernando, La Union on July 19, 2018.

She stressed that she and Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III believed that this project of ABONO Party-list and the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) in partnership with Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) La Union will be one of the solutions to lessen if not to eradicate poverty. Cong. Vini also extended her appreciation to all who attended the event and to the students for giving her the chance to help them in their education. She also relayed Gov. Pacoy's message of congratulations to the graduates.

In line with the commencement of the scholars, the PGLU provided them starter

kits to which they can use to exercise their enhanced skills.

139 scholars graduated in this second batch where in 15 scholars finished the Barista Course and 24 Shielded Metal Arc Welding Course at Bauang Training Center and Services, Inc; 20 for Hilot Wellness Massage Course at the International Spiritual Material Therapeutic Massage of San Fernando City La Union; 20 for Bread and Pastry Production Cours and 20 Cookery Course at La Union Colleges of Science and Technology, Inc; 20 for Hilot Wellness Massage Course at The Great Provider Educational Center of Northern Luzon, Inc.; and 20 scholars of Hilot Wellness Massage Course at Francisco L. Alquintey Training Center.

Also in attendance to the event is the Provincial Director of TESDA La Union Ms. Socorro Galanto and Bauang Vice Mayor Hon. Bonifacio Malinao who also expressed their support to the future skilled workers.

# LA UNION TRAINS ON ITAPS AND ROAD ASSET MANAGEMENT

Francis Michael C. Eslava



Delegates from the Province of La Union headed by Provincial Assessor Engr. Arnulfo A. Cacho participate in the workshop on Road Asset Management and Promoting Transparency and Integrity under the Conditional Matching Grant to Provinces program at Venus Parkview Hotel, Baguio City from June 9 to 13, 2018. In said workshop, topics discussed were integrity, transparency and accountability in public service; corruption and proper filing of Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net; and road asset management.

The Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) participated in the workshop on Road Asset Management and Promoting Transparency and Integrity under the Conditional Matching Grant Program (CMGP) hosted by the Department of Interior and Local Government-Office of the Project Development Services (DILG-OPDS). The training was held on July 9 to 13, 2018 at Venus Parkview Hotel, Kisad Road, Baguio City.

The delegation, headed by the PGLU Provincial Assessor Engr. Arnulfo A. Cacho, consisted of representatives from the Office of the Provincial Accountant, Provincial Engineering Office and the Provincial General Services Office. Counterpart offices from 14 provinces in Regions 1, 2 and the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) also attended the workshop.

Integrity Center of the Office of the Ombudsman Director Lourdes P. Salazar facilitated the workshop on Integrity, Transparency and Accountability in Public Services (ITAPS). Director from the Office of the Ombudsman-Office of the Special Prosecutor Atty. Janet Leah M Ramos facilitated the workshop on Anti-Graft and Corruption Practices (R.A. 3019) and The

Norms of Conduct of Public Officials and Employees (R.A. 6713) including the proper filling-up of the Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth (SALN). DILG-Conditional Matching Grant for Provinces (DILG-CMGP) Gemma M. Borreros tackled the basics and framework of the Local Road Asset Management. Auditor for the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Atty. Benjamin Saguid provided the participants with the overview of the Commission on Audit (COA) Circular No. 2015-008 "Accounting and Reporting Guidelines on the Local Roads Asset Management System." Finally, COA Auditor for CAR Nikki D. Awilan facilitated the workshop on the preparation of the documentary requirements for the CMGP.

The five-day workshop was developed by the DILG-OPDS in line with the CMGP to ensure the proper inventory and booking of Local Road Assets of the provinces, to address the gaps of road right of ways and for the streamlined documentary requirements of the provinces in compliance to CMGP.

After the training, the participants are expected to uphold the public trust of the constituents while the offices invited are expected to comply with the COA Memo 2015 -008.

# LA UNION CAPACITATES FUTURE ENTREPRENEURS

RAJ B. Pasion



Mr. John Chan, Chairman of MSMED Council-La Union Chapter, gives inspirational message to the participants of the 2018 Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise (MSME) Development Week at the La Union Agri-Tourism Center on July 17, 2018. (Photo credit to Agoo Negosyo Center).

La Union celebrated the 2018 Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise (MSME) Development Week at the La Union Agri-Tourism Center on July 17, 2018. Said Celebration aims to capacitate people who wanted to learn how to start up their own business and become an entrepreneur.

The celebration of MSMED Week 2018 is meant to bring focus and attention to the work and impact on La Union's MSMEs and how businessmen from La Union could strengthen and expand the benefits they provide for the people and province.

In the capacity training for business owners, Department of Trade and Industry's "7Ms" and Models of Negosyo were tackled. Said celebration also offered the participants with free pampering services such as manicure, pedicure and body massage after the program.

Also, Gov. Pacoy hoped that the celebration will inspire more cooperatives to begin and grow across





La Union Vibrant Women, Inc. (LUVWI) Chairperson Geraldine R. Ortega encourages students of Carcarmay Elementary School to practice proper personal hygiene on July 11, 2018 at Bacnotan, La Union. LUVWI also led lectures on Prevention of Common Diseases Affecting Children on different elementary schools in La Union.



Provincial Administrator Ms. Jennifer Joan O. Manguiat and Human Resources Management Officer Ms. Evangeline S. Mendoza hear out the issues and concerns of provincial midwives with regards to their duties and functions in the municipal level during the Quarterly Meeting of Midwives held at the La Union Technology and Livelihood Development Center, City of San Fernando, La Union on July 25, 2018.



Liga ng mga Barangay Provincial Chapter conducted their election on July 30, 2018 at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol Building, City of San Fernando, La Union. Newly elected officers were Ms. Geraldine R. Ortega as President; Ms. Erwina C. Eriguera as Vice-President; Mr. Edgar B. Ferido as Auditor; and the Board of Directors is composed of Mr. Romeo M. Estolas, Jr., Mr. Dionisio T. Velasco, Ms. Lorma L. Sibuma, Mr. Jofre F. Hipol, Mr. Reynaldo C. Carbonell, Mr. Amiel John U. Concepcion, Mr. Antonio F. Bautista, Jr., and Mr. Noel T. Gallardo.



Gov. Pacoy highlights the practice of good governance in the Municipality of San Gabriel which makes them truly deserving of the Seed Capital Fund awarded to five Sustainable Livelihood Program Beneficiaries in San Gabriel La Union on July 18, 2018 at the said municipality's Covered Court. The said award was given by the Provincial Government of La Union in partnership with ABONO Party-List and Department of Social Welfare and Development.



FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND LIFE. Board Member Nancy Bacurnay delivers the message of Gov. Pacoy during the first day of the Capacity Building Seminar of La Union Human Rights Action Team (LUHRAcT) held at Hotel Ariana, Bauang, La Union on July 30, 2018.



Bacnotan District Hospital (BDH) Chief Dr. Zenserly D. Pagaduan, and other BDH personnel teach day care pupils and their parents about the importance of proper hand-washing to prevent diseases and spread of infection during the Nutrition Month Celebration at Brgy. Cabarsican, Bacnotan, La Union on July 19, 2018.



PROMOTING LA UNION IN THE GLOBAL MARKET. Provincial Information and Tourism Office staff promote La Union as the Heart of Agri-Tourism in Northern Luzon by 2025 as envisioned by Gov. Pacoy to guests during the International Travel Festival (ITF) held in Cebu City on July 13-15, 2018.



ABONO Party-list Rep. Vini Nola A. Ortega serves as the Guest of Honor and Speaker during the Regional Gawad Kalasag 2018 Awarding Ceremony on July 27, 2018 at Oasis Country Resort, City of San Fernando, La Union. She lauded the commitment of local Disaster Risk Reduction Management Councils, organizations, groups and individuals who work to ensure the protection and welfare of all constituents in times of disasters and calamities.



PARTNERS. Gov. Pacoy highlights that the Philippine Army is an essential partner in nation building in his speech as the Guest of Honor and Speaker during the Battalion Commanders' Symposium 2018 of Philippine Army Northern Luzon Command on July 20, 2018 at the Fontana Leisure Parks and Casino, Clark, Pampanga.

## SP CHECKS LU ROADS' STATUS

Jiroh Joy D. Marbella



The ocular inspection team, led by Sangguniang Panlalawigan Member Annabelle S. De Guzman, witnesses the actual pruning and cutting of a dead acacia tree that pose as obstruction along the Manila North Road during the inspection on the status of widened roads conducted by the joint forces of DPWH 1st Engineering District and Municipal Risk Reduction and Management Office of Bacnotan La Union on July 6, 2018 at San Martin, Bacnotan, La Union.

The Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) Committee on Public Works and Utilities chaired by SP Member (SPM) Maria Annabelle S. De Guzman, conducted another round of ocular inspection of national highways in the Province of La Union dubbed as "The Kalsada Program: My Road, My Responsibility." The lady legislator was once again joined by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), La Union Police Provincial Office (LUPPO), Kyeoryong-Policarpio Joint Venture (KPJV), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Provincial Environment Office (PENRO) and media partner Bombo Radyo La Union.

The inspection aimed to check the status of widened roads, revisit areas where road obstructions are prevalent and update on the status of ongoing projects and constructions. It also aimed to witness the cutting of dead and alive trees that pose as obstructions along the Manila North Road (MNR). Through the ocular inspection, it was learned that almost 80% of roads in the 1st district were already widened. Parts of Balaogan and Bangar roads are currently under road widening works while the roads of Sudipen are on deck to be started. Bridges in Bangar and Balaogan are on the early stages of rehabilitation and widening while Taboc Bridge in San Juan is halfway done.

SPM De Guzman also led the team in inspecting a construction site in Santiago, Bauang, La Union, where massive mudflow recently took place causing traffic congestion. SPM De Guzman instructed the DPWH to work on the area to prevent erosion in the future which might pose danger to motorists.

SPM De Guzman assured that the SP Committee will continue to monitor status of the province's highways. "The advocacy of Kalsada Program will live and the vision that one day, the long stretch of national highway, that Manila North Road from Rosario to Sudipen will be one of the smoothest, fastest, hassle-free roads to travel within the entire Philippines," she said.

## BDH CELEBRATES NATIONAL BLOOD DONOR'S MONTH

Melanie Holt



In celebration of the National Blood Donor's Month, officers of the Regional Special Training Unit I - Police Regional Office in Camp Brig. General Oscar Florendo, voluntarily donate their blood during the blood letting activity in partnership with the Philippine Red Cross - La Union - San Fernando City Chapter on July 21, 2018 at BDH, Bacnotan, La Union.

Bacnotan District Blood Transfusion Committee, and Dr. Fred Allison U. Concepcion, internist and member of said committee, set an example for the hospital staff in donating their blood.

July has been designated as the National Blood Donor's Month pursuant to Presidential Proclamation No. 1021, dated July 9, 1997, and the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the National Blood Services Act of 1994 (RA 7719). The observance aims to build public awareness of the need for quality and safe blood, honor and recognize blood donors, and encourage regular blood donation.

In the Declaration of Policy of RA 7719, it was mentioned that in order to promote public health, the state should promote and encourage voluntary blood donation by the citizenry and to instill public consciousness of the principle that blood donation is a humanitarian act; provide for adequate, safe, affordable and equitable distribution of supply of blood and blood products; inform the public of the need for voluntary blood donation to curb the hazards caused by the commercial sale of blood; and teach the benefits and rationale of voluntary blood donation in the existing health subjects of the formal education system in all public and private schools, in the elementary, high school and college levels as well as the non-formal education system.







# NAPOLCOM OFFICIALS JOIN SP QUESTION HOUR

Jane T. Flores

The Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) of La Union during its 106th Regular Session on July 12, 2018 at the Speaker Pro-Tempore Francisco I. Ortega Provincial Legislative Building and Session Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union had Commissioner Zenonida F. Brosas of the National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM) – Head Office as its Resource Speaker.

NAPOLCOM Region 1 Director Evangeline R. Almirante, Assistant Regional Director Atty. Arnold Mina, Atty. Monday Samson and Acting Technical Service Chief Adrian Velasco, from La Union Police Provincial Office (LUPPO), Deputy Provincial Director for Administration, Supt. Richmond Tadina were also present in said session.

Director Brosas was invited by the SP to present its institutional mandate as a commission, which is to administer and control the Philippine National Police based on existing laws, circulars and other enabling laws, from the examination, recruitment, promotion, retirement and even disability or death of Philippine National Police (PNP) members.

Among other topics discussed is Section 64 of Republic Act 8551 that provides the Automatic Deputation of Local Government Executives as Commission Representatives. Director Almirante explained that the Governors and Mayors, upon having been elected and qualified as such are automatically deputized as representatives of the National Police Commission in their respective jurisdiction.

She mentioned that the Local Chief Executives (LCE) who has knowledge of illegal gambling operations and/or activities within his/her area of responsibilities but fails or refuses to stop the same shall be held administratively and/or criminally liable.

It was likewise presented that the commission has developed the Police



National Police Commission Region 1 Dir. Evangeline R. Almirante explains the mandate as well as the different programs and projects of the commission particularly in controlling the men and women in uniform.

Disciplinary Information System (PDMIS) in the central office and all regional offices, which shall automate monitoring of police administrative disciplinary cases and shall ensure real-time and accurate the reporting of case statistics.

From 2015 to June 2018, a total of 213 Summary Dismissal Cases were filed before the regional office. Based on records, the most offense charged against erring police officers are violation of RA 9262, violation against women and children for non-support, another is illegal arrest and third is loss of issued firearm.

Another topic discussed was Republic Act 6975 as amended by 8551 which provides that the Commission has the power to examine and audit, and thereafter establish the standards for such purposes on a continuing basis, the

performance, activities, and facilities of all police agencies throughout the country.

For the year 2018, the regions' Inspection and Monitoring team has already inspected the provinces of Ilocos Norte and Ilocos Sur. The Commission provides Police Benefits Claim for those who died in the performance of service and for those who are permanently disabled. For the year 2017, the regional office released Php 5,185,168.41 for death benefits claim.

The Commission also gives scholarship grant to children of police officers who were wounded on police operation or killed in police operation.

The National Police Commission focuses on inter-pillar coordination. Thus the creation and implementation of the Prosecution, Law Enforcement and Community Coordinating Service

Seminar-Workshops or the PROLECCS.

Director Almirante explained that the PROLECCS is a forum for the PNP and the prosecutors to identify gray areas on legal and procedural matters affecting case build-up. She reported that NAPOLCOM – Region 1 had already conducted the PROLECCS in the provinces of La Union, Pangasinan and Ilocos Norte.

The third topic discussed was about women in the police force. Through the enactment of Republic Act 8551, she said that the success of women in policing has created a new image of the profession and the role of a police officer. In Police Regional Office 1, of the 7,243 police officers, 6,092 (84.11%) are men while 1,151 (15.89%) are women. Five policewomen are holding high positions in LUPPO.

Aside from enriching the police officers in their mandate to serve and protect the people, they also encourage and strengthen partnership between the community and PNP by highlighting the PNP's capability as a leader and partner of the community in the maintenance of peace and order.

NAPOLCOM also highlights the image of the police as a family man/woman. Thus, the NAPOLCOM has the Search for Model PNP Families.

Another topic discussed was the Community and Service-Oriented Policing System or CSOP System, focusing on the cooperation, collaboration, coordination and commitment of the three pillars- LCEs, PNP and the community for the effective delivery of the basic services to the citizenry.

Overall, the presentation wraps up with the statement that indeed crime prevention is everybody's concern. So over and above its mandate, NAPOLCOM is enhancing the police service to become efficient and effective protector of human rights.

## PGLU CHILD DEVT. CENTER OBSERVES NUTRITION MONTH

RAJ B. Pasion

The Provincial Government of La Union Employee's Child Development Center under the Provincial Social Welfare Department Office (PSWDO) celebrated Nutrition Month on July 16, 2018 at the La Union Technology and Livelihood Development Center (LUTLDC), City of San Fernando, La Union.

Said celebration started with a vegetable planting activity at the LUTLDC grounds by the preschoolers supervised by school teacher Ms. Lerma L. Navarro. They planted vegetables such as patola, okra, string beans, squash seeds, and camote tops.

After the planting activity, Teacher Lerma, reminded the preschoolers as those will not do them to water their plants every

school day. "This planting activity will teach them to be care takers of our Mother Nature and be a good citizen. The harvested vegetables will be used later for PSWDO's Supplemental Feeding Program," Teacher Lerma said.

As part of said celebration, Guest of Honor and Speaker Dr. Josephine Libao talked about Health and Wellness for the children and the important role of parents and guardians in monitoring their child's health. Parents and guardians eagerly listened to what Dr. Libao discussed. She then encouraged the mothers to avoid feeding and giving junk foods to their children as those will not do them any good mentally and

physically. Dr. Libao suggested to turn to natural and organic options and give children the nutrition they need for an immune system that will lead to good health and healthy lifestyle.

The theme for this year's celebration is, "Ugaliing Magtanim, Sapat na Nutrisyon Aanihin!" It speaks about improving the food consumption of Filipinos and advocating self-sufficiency through backyard gardening.

Nutrition Month is a special health awareness campaign pursuant to Presidential Decree 491 or the Nutrition Act of the Philippines. The National Nutrition Council (NNC) leads the launching of the celebration every year with a specific message to the people.



HEALTHFUL! Pupils of the Provincial Government of La Union Employees' Child Development Center performs a dance and song number about Go, Glow and Grow foods in their vegetable and fruit themed costumes during the Nutrition Month Celebration held at the La Union Technology and Livelihood Development Center, Guerrero Road, City of San Fernando, La Union on July 16, 2018.

## PGLU EMPOWERS PWDS

Camille R. Bumatay

The Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU), through the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office and in cooperation with Pederasyon ng mga May Kapansanan sa La Union, celebrated the 40th National Disability and Prevention Week through a program held on July 17, 2018 at the La Union Technology and Livelihood Development Center, Guerrero Road, City of San Fernando, La Union.

The program with the theme, "Kakayahan at Kasanayan Para sa Kabuhayan Tungo sa Kaunlaran," was participated in by over 110 participants composed of persons with disabilities (PWDs), regional line agencies, Local Government Units, and provincial government employees. It aims to inform the PWDs with their updated rights and privileges.

On behalf of Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III, Sangguniang Panlalawigan Member (SPM) and Social Welfare Services Chairman Bellarmin A. Flores II inspired the PWDs by saying that they have to enjoy

the life that God has given them despite their disabilities. He also gave assurance of the help of the PGLU to aid their needs. SPM Flores also iterated the privileges of the PWDs such as discounts, priority lanes, protection from abuse, financial assistance and equal opportunities.

Nurse V Ms. Helen Posilero of Department of Health Region 1 discussed the updates on Health and Wellness Program of PWD Laws while PWD Focal Person Ms. Edwina Masi of the Department of Social Welfare and Development discussed the updates on Disability Laws and Programs.

An open forum was also held to address questions and concerns of the PWD participants.

The National Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation (NDPR) Week is an annual celebration of the national government being spearheaded by then National Commission Concerning Disabled Persons (NCCDP) by virtue of Proclamation No. 1870 issued in June 22, 1979 by then President Ferdinand E. Marcos.



Nurse V Ms. Helen Posilero of the Department of Health Region 1 listens to a question of a deaf participant as an interpreter relays the answer during the open forum of the 40th National Disability and Prevention Week Celebration held on July 17, 2018 at the La Union Technology and Livelihood Development Center, Guerrero Road, City of San Fernando, La Union.