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BARO A TIMEK ITU KAPITOLIO



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Sto. Tomas' Daing Festival dancers, perform their winning dance moves during the Streetdance Showdown as part of the Opening Program of the 8th Ayat Festival on August 13, 2018 at the Bacnotan Plaza Covered Court, Poblacion, Bacnotan, La Union. Team Daing

successfully bagged the champ as they showcased Sto. Tomas' rich culture and history, with its iconic dried fish processing as the highlight of their performance. This is their second consecutive wins.

LA UNION PROMOTES LOVE FOR ILOKO AT THE 8TH AYAT FESTIVAL

Ommie Atiyah B. Gonting and Joy Ann L. Gurtiza

In preserving the language, culture and the arts of the Ilokano, the Provincial Government of La Union led by Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III staged the 8th Ayat Festival with theme, "Pabaknangen ti Kultura ken Lengguahe nga Ilokano (Enriching the Ilokano Language and Culture)" on various schedules in August 2018.

The festival featured six competitions, namely Street Dancing Competition; Ilokano Chorale; Iskrabiloko (Ilokano Scrabble); La Union Henio; Salip ti Deklamasion (Ilokano Declamation); and Ilokano Essay Writing.

The Opening Ceremony kicked off with the Street Dancing Showdown in Bacnotan, La Union on August 13, 2018. Schools from seven municipalities and one city of the province competed. Participants of this event showcased a reflection of their town's culture and traditions. Hailed as grand champion was Santo Tomas with their performance highlighting their annual Daing Festival.

Tailing behind were San Fernando City's Pindangan Festival and Caba's Timpuyog Festival as First Runner-up and Second Runner-up, respectively.

Also part of the opening day was the La Union Henio Version 2, a question and answer game of casually chosen Ilokano terminologies that include history, traditions and general information about the province. It was participated in by most of the municipalities of the province. Winners in the elementary category were Pugo as champion; and Bangar, Bacnotan and Sudipen as runners-up. In the high school category, garnering the championship was Bacnotan, while runners up were Santo Tomas, Santol and San Juan.

The Salip ti Deklamasion took place at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol Building, City of San Fernando, La Union on August 23, 2018. In the elementary category, the champion was Bagulin's Lynellah P. Bogais, and runners up were the speakers from Sudipen, San

Gabriel, and San Fernando City. Topping the high school category was Sudipen's Favienne Angelie D. Sudario, while runners up were representatives from Bauang, Pugo and Bangar.

On the same day, the Iskrabiloko took place at the Ortega Gymnasium, City of San Fernando, La Union. It is a scrabble game incorporated with Ilokano words to test the players' vocabulary skills. In the high school category, emerging as champion were the players from Aringay, and runners up were from Bangar, Santol, and Agoo. In the adult category, Bacnotan's players won as champion, and runners up were from Naguilian, Aringay, and Bagulin.

The Ilokano Essay Writing was held at the Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union on August 24, 2018. It was participated in by Grade 6 and Grade 10 students, who expressed their thoughts in their 500-word essays. For the Grade 6 category, Sudipen's Aizalyn F. Monis won as champion, while runners

up were writers from Balaoan, Caba, and Agoo. For the Grade 10 category, Agoo's Mikaella Maglaya emerged as champion, while runners up were from San Gabriel, Bauang, and Burgos.

The Ilokano Chorale Competition on August 24, 2018 at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol Building, City of San Fernando, La Union showcased the singing prowess of 13 competing teams, which performed pure Ilokano songs. Besting the teams were Sudipen, and runners up were Balaoan, Bauang, and Bacnotan.

The Ayat Festival is an annual celebration of the Iloko Language reflecting series of events celebrating and nurturing local language, culture and arts. This is in compliance with the the Local Language Code of La Union, also known as the Iloko Code, a comprehensive policy establishing Iloko as the official provincial language and institutionalizing its practice along with other national and official languages.



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PGLU DONATES MULTICABS TO THE TOURIST HUB MUNICIPALITY IN LU

Marionne Guerrero



SERVICE ON WHEELS. Gov. Pacoy drives one of the turned-over multicabs around the Provincial Capitol Grounds during the ceremonial distribution of 24 multi-purpose vehicles on August 1, 2018 at the Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union.

Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III led the ceremonial distribution of 24 multicab vehicles to different barangays of the Municipality of San Juan, La Union on August 1, 2018 at the Capitol Grounds, City of San Fernando, La Union.

In a turnover ceremony, Gov. Pacoy handed over the symbolic keys to the Punong Barangays of Bugbugcao, Cabaroan, Cacapan, Caculangan, Calincamasan, Casilagan, Dasay, Duplas, Guinguinabang, Ili Norte, Ili Sur, Legleg, Lubing, Nadsaag, Naguituban, Nagyubuyuban, Pacpacac, Panicsican, San Felipe, Sta. Rosa, Stc. Rosario, Taboc, Talogtog and Urbiztondo.

The respective barangay leaders of said municipality personally received the keys on behalf of their respective constituents. After the ceremony, Gov. Pacoy personally drove one multicab around the Capitol grounds.

San Juan Mayor Arturo P. Valdriz along with San Juan Sangguniang Bayan Member Reginald Nang attended the event.

The multicabs were turned over in the form of a deed of donation to the recipients in fulfillment of the province's pledge to donate new vehicles for the

municipality's 24 barangays to be used for the preservation of peace and order as well as for emergency purposes as tourist arrivals continue to increase due to it being the Surfing Capital of the North.

The multi-purpose vehicles are Suzuki Super Carry Utility Vehicles multicabs with siren and base radio which Gov. Pacoy highlighted as needed to further achieve the vision of La Union to be the heart of Agri-Tourism in Northern Luzon by 2025.

The barangay executives were reminded that the use of government vehicles other than for official business is a violation to laws including Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act (Republic Act No. 3019), Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees (RA 6713), Revised Administrative Code of the Philippines, Commission on Audit (COA) circulars, Government Accounting and Auditing Manual, among others.

Mayor Valdriz and the respective punong barangays of San Juan expressed their gratitude to the governor for the donation of the multicabs.

PGLU AWARDS GOVERNANCE TRAILBLAZING REGIONAL LINE AGENCY TEAMS

Vanessa Badua

The Provincial of Agri-Tourism in Northern Government of La Union Luzon by 2025.

(PGLU) recognized the After four months of efforts of the four planning and participating teams for the implementation, PGLU Search for the Most awarded the Green Team Outstanding Governance for being the Champion for Trailblazer Project of the said search. Their project, Regional Line Agencies the "Tourist "Adventour (RLAs) during the First Map," aims to establish Monday Flag Raising tourist maps in order to Ceremony on August 6, promote the Agri-Tourism 2018 at the Provincial industry in the province Capitol Grounds, City of and make the industry San Fernando La Union. more vibrant which

The said program was consequently leads to launched during the third increased economic Performance Governance development.

System (PGS) Mini Boot Furthermore, the team Camp for RLAs on January also enhanced the tour 29-31, 2018. As an packages being offered by application of the learnings from the said camp, the four Local Government Units (LGUs) within the teams composed of Central Circuit. These maps participants from different were erected along the RLAs have identified and roads of San Fernando City, developed their novel, San Juan, Bacnotan and San innovative, and impactful Gabriel.

Governance Trailblazer The Green Team is Projects geared towards La composed of Mr. Francis Union becoming the Heart Greg A. Buccat of Bureau of

Fisheries and Aquatic Resources; Ms. Victoria A. Ordoño of the Department of Trade and Industry; Ms. Zenaida L. Garcillan of Philippine Statistics Authority; Ms. Jayralyn Y. Siddayao of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency; and Mr. Marlon C. Runas of Caba District Hospital.

PGLU also awarded the Blue Team for being the first runner-up with their project, "Blue K-9: Manong Driver V2.0"; Orange Team with their project "Bukirin, Pasyalan na rin" as the 2nd runner-up; and Yellow Team with their project "Stone-Art Landmark" as the 3rd runner-up.

The implemented projects of the teams are expected to be sustained, supported, or even turned over to the responsible government units or communities concerned.



PGLU awards the four participating teams for the Search for the Most Outstanding Governance Trailblazer Project of the Regional Line Agencies (RLAs) during the First Monday Flag Raising Ceremony on August 6, 2018 at the Provincial Capitol Grounds, City of San Fernando, La Union.



The La Union Police Provincial Office (LUPPO) presents to Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III and ABONO Party-list Representative Vini Nola A. Ortega its new patrol vehicle on August 9, 2018 at the Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union. The unit is one of the eight patrol vehicles awarded to them by the Department of the Interior and Local Government through the initiative of Cong. Vini. The vehicles will be used by the Municipalities of Naguilan, Bauang, Aringay, Pugo, San Juan, San Gabriel, Luna, and LUPPO.



Gov. Pacoy and Ilocos Norte Gov. Imee Marcos visit the City Market of San Fernando, La Union and checked for price inflations during their City Market Tour on August 8, 2018.

LA UNION EYES 2018 SGLG NATIONAL AWARD

Editha A. Cardenas

The Province of La Union was evaluated for the 2018 Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG) National Award on August 20, 2018 at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union and was congratulated for being a potential winner by the National Validation and Certification Audit Team was headed by Mr. Dino A. Ponsaran, LGOO VII of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)-Region VI.

The activity was attended by the different Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) department heads, Chiefs of Hospitals and other key officials. Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III delivered an accounting of the performance of the Province to defend its bid to the 2018 DILG-SGLG National Award.

"We must continue to blaze the trail...we must keep on innovating...we must persist to lead the way in this path laden with challenge. We shall stay the course in faith, in courage...together. We are not La Union for nothing!" Gov. Pacoy said emphasizing about team effort of all stakeholders. "I need everyone to work with me because I understand that everyone is important in the great and transformative mission that I have chosen," he added.

On the other hand, Mr. Ponsaran expressed his appreciation to the presentation of the governor and according to him, he personally witnessed how passionate the governor is in his transformative efforts to institutionalize good governance in the province. "The presentation was a manifestation that



Gov. Pacoy delivers a comprehensive report about the Province of La Union's profile and major accomplishments to defend the province's bid to the 2018 Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG) National Award during the 2018 SGLG National Validation and Certification Audit conducted by the SGLG National Validation Team headed by their Team Leader Dino A. Ponsaran, LGOO VII from the Department of the Interior and Local Government -Region VI on August 20, 2018 at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union.

SGLG is just within your reach. You have been doing your best and the time to reap is now," Mr. Ponsaran said. He assured that they have gathered enough documents and evidences to support the province's bid for this year's SGLG National Award. He emphasized however that the National Assessment Team (NAT) has the final say if the province will make it or not. Nonetheless, he congratulated the province for being a potential winner.

Other activities conducted to validate the Province of La Union's bid include the review of documents focusing on some indicators such as Financial Administration, Disaster Preparedness, Social Protection, Peace and Order, Business Friendliness and Competitiveness, Environmental Management and Tourism, Culture and the Arts. Some local functionaries were also interviewed like the Provincial Planning & Development Coordinator, Provincial Social Welfare & Development Officer, Provincial Treasurer, Provincial Accountant and Provincial Budget Officer, among others. The validators were also toured around the province's Agri-Tourism sites.

The SGLG symbolizes integrity and good performance through continuing governance reform and sustained local development. It is an emerging and progressive assessment system to give distinction to remarkable local government performance across several areas.

La Union has been a recipient of the prestigious award for two consecutive years in 2016 and 2017.

PGLU PROMOTES TRANSPARENCY THROUGH THE GOVERNOR'S PRESS CORPS

Joy Ann L. Gurtiza



Members of the Governor Press Corps (GPC) convene for their first meeting on August 14, 2018 at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union. GPC is a group that provides relevant, timely, and accurate news about the projects, programs and activities of the Provincial Government of La Union to its citizens.

With the aim of Gov. Francisco Emmanuel efficient process of Development "Pacoy" R. Ortega III to information dissemination Communication all was also tackled. C o m m u n i c a t i o n

developmental programs of the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) to the citizenry, the Governor's Press Corps (GPC) presided the meeting in lieu of GPC Vice-Chair and convened on August 14, Provincial Information and Tourism Officer Adamor L. Dagang. She discussed Executive Order No. 13, "Providing for the Reorganization and Strengthening of the Governor's Press Corps" and underscored the key role of GPC in strengthening the active participation of the people through effective and efficient information dissemination of the first semester. Planning of various developmental

programs of PGLU. "We are efficient process of Development Communication practitioners and the people must know about the efforts of PGLU for them", she said. With the revitalization of GPC, it is expected that transparency of transactions and access to information in the province would further improve. The GPC is holding another meeting in October. GPC is a group of information officers in the PGLU who are mandated to document all PPAs of their respective departments in cooperation with the Provincial Information and Tourism Office.



The elected Little Governor, John Philip M. Oriel from the Municipality of Sudipen (left) and Little Vice-Governor, Edlyn G. Yumul of the City of San Fernando (right) sit beside Vice-Governor Aureo Augusto Q. Nisce (center) as he presided the joint session of the Provincial Youth Officials and the 21st Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) on August 16, 2018 at the Speaker Pro Tempore Francisco I. Ortega Legislative Building and Session Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union. The joint session activity aims to orient the elected provincial youth officials as to the workings of their counterparts and basic conduct of governance. This will somehow give them an idea how it is being a governor, vice-governor or SP members.



The Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG) National Validating Team, accompanied by Asst. Provincial Administrator Arvin Camacho, conducts an on-site visit and validation at the Provincial Evacuation Center, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union on August 20, 2018. On said onsite visit, amenities and equipment in the center were evaluated.



Gov. Pacoy and Vice-Gov. Nisce pay a courtesy visit to Bishop Daniel Oca Presto on August 28, 2018 at the Diocesan Chancery Office, City of San Fernando, La Union



ABONO Party-list Representative Vini Nola A. Ortega and Regional Development Council 1 (RDC1) Chairperson Juan Carlo S. Medina spearhead the RDC1 and House of Representatives Developmental Dialogue at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union on August 31, 2018. Discussed in the dialogue are the plans for a more developed and progressive Region 1.



FOR THE LOVE OF LA UNION. Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office (PSWDO) staff packs relief goods on August 14, 2018 at the PSWDO, Guerrero Road Capitol Site, City of San Fernando, La Union to be distributed to areas affected by the Monsoon and typhoon Karding. Also volunteered to join the repacking are Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III's daughters Raphaella Veronica and Samantha Urielle.



Gov. Pacoy together with Vice-Gov. Nisce and the Sangguniang Panlalawigan Members present the Resolution of Condolence to the bereaved family of Mr. Avelino Lomboy former Provincial Agriculturist of La Union and known as "Grape King of the Philippines" at the Lomboy Residence, Bauang, La Union on August 16, 2018. The Provincial Government of La Union mourns the passing of Mr. Lomboy acknowledging his great contribution to the Agri-Tourism of the province.



SP Committee on Tourism chaired by Board Member Christian Rivera conducts a Committee Hearing on the Proposed Policy on the Mandatory Reporting of Tourism Statistical Data and Department of Tourism-Accreditation of Tourism Establishments in La Union on July 26, 2018 at the Cong. Eufanio "Franny" C. Eriguel Hall of the Speaker Pro-Tempore Francisco I. Ortega Legislative Building and Session Hall, City of San Fernando, La Union.



Staffs from the Office of the Provincial Governor-Environment and Natural Resources Unit in partnership with Local Government Unit of Pugo, La Union conduct a creek clean up drive in Brgy. Poblacion East and Brgy. Cares, Pugo La Union on August 22, 2018. This is to prevent flooding during this rainy season.



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Gov. Pacoy discusses the Provincial Government of La Union's vision to place La Union as the Heart of Agri-Tourism in Northern Luzon by 2025 to the municipal officials and private partners of the Local Government Unit of San Juan, La Union headed by Mayor Arturo P. Valdez during the Municipal Development Strategy Workshop on August 9, 2018 at Kahuna Resort, San Juan, La Union.



Engr. Ericson Mammag of the Department of Agriculture Central Office talks about the enhancement of farm to market roads during the three-day training on Operation and Maintenance of Farm to Market Roads participated in by the Provincial Government of La Union through the Staff of the Provincial Engineering Office and General Services Office at Hotel Ariana, Bauang, La Union on August 14-16 2018.



SPM Gary Pinzon visits the evacuees from different barangays of Bauang, La Union who voluntarily sought refuge at the Central East Evacuation Center on August 26, 2018. A total of 181 families were provided with food packs and non-food items.



The Provincial Government of La Union - Environment and Natural Resources Unit (ENRU) delivers mahogany, cupang and adaan seedlings to the Local Government Unit of San Gabriel on August 21, 2018 as part of its Forest Resource Management Program and Climate Change Mitigation initiative. A total of 600 seedlings were delivered.



Old Sudipen National High School Chorale performs their winning piece during the Chorale Competition held at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol Building, City of San Fernando, La Union on August 24, 2018. The competition is one of the activities of Ayat Festival 2018. Said group bested 12 other contestants from various municipalities of La Union.



LOVE IN A BUCKET. Gov. Pacoy spearheads the program I Love La Union, I Love My Barangay at the Municipal Covered Court of Pugo, La Union on August 23, 2018 by leading the distribution of buckets of goods to the residents of the municipality. The program also includes Medical and Dental Services, Wellness Massage, Legal Aid, Seeds and Seedling Distribution, and Supplemental Feeding Program.



In line with the Sports Development Program of the PGLU, SPM Bellarmin A. Flores II distributes sports equipment to seven high schools in Rosario, La Union during their 2018 Secondary Schools District Meet on August 23-24, 2018 at the Rosario Farmers Civic Center, Rosario, La Union.



SALAKOG. As Gov. Pacoy envisions a healthy and happy La Union by 2022, pregnant women performs "Sala iti Masikog" during the Search for Healthy Mom, Happy Mom 2018 of the Provincial Health Office held at the Civic Center of Naguilian, La Union on August 29, 2018. The dance is a safe, gentle and fun way to exercise during pregnancy that helps tone muscles, stay flexible and gives heart a workout.



Participants enter their word pieces, which are purely iloko during the Ayat Festival's Iskrabiloko Tournament held at Ortega Gym, City of San Fernando La Union on August 23, 2018.

LA UNION HOSTS REGIONAL MEETING ON PEACE AND ORDER

Camille R. Bumatay



Gov. Pacoy highlighted peace, order and safety as major priority to achieve all the goals of the provinces in Region 1 during the 2nd Regular Regional Peace and Order Council (RPOC) Meeting at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union.

The Provincial Government of La Union, headed by Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III, hosted the Second Regular Regional Peace and Order Council (RPOC) 1 meeting on August 8, 2018 at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union.

Gov. Pacoy emphasized the role of RPOC in the reduction of Regional Total Crime Index for 49.06% for the first quarter of this year compared to 2017. "The existence of the Regional Peace and Order Council is a clear manifestation of our commitment to secure and protect the lives of and wellbeing of each and every citizen under our watch," he said.

RPOC Chairperson Gov. Maria Imelda Josefa "Imee" R. Marcos agreed to Gov. Pacoy saying, "...we are among the most peaceful of the regions in the archipelago...because we spend so much time and energy discussing peace and order."

During said meeting, Police Regional

Office 1 gave an update about the Road and Safety Summit, illegal gambling, and the protocol on the availment of Security Detail by Government Officials while the Department of Education discussed about the guidelines and protocols on suspension of classes and work due to typhoons and other weather disturbances and calamities.

Other matters such as the National ID System, reinforced validation of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte's narco list, creation of Department of Disaster Management, and the Philippine National Police's (PNP's) cleaning of the ranks were also discussed.

Also in attendance during the meeting are representatives from the Armed Forces of the Philippines, PNP, Regional Line Agencies, League of Municipalities of the Philippines, and Non-government Sector.

RPOC provides an avenue for public leaders to convene and develop plans and strategies for the advancement of peace and order within the region.

LU SK SPEARHEADS LINGGO NG KABATAAN 2018

Jiroh Joy D. Marbella

The Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) Federation of La Union, headed by its president, Ex-officio Sangguniang Panlalawigan Member (SPM) Alyssa Kristine B. Sibuma celebrated Linggo ng Kabataan (LNK) 2018 on August 7-12, 2018 with the theme: "Safe Spaces for Youth."

Various activities were held during the culmination program on August 12, 2018 in celebration of the International Youth Day (IYD).

This year's theme aims to increase the awareness of the Filipino youth on "safe space." Also, it advocates the role of the SK in governance to ensure the development of safe space for the youth.

To open the week-long celebration, the Provincial Youth Officials were elected on August 7, 2018 at the Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) Lobby, Provincial Capitol. Elected as Little Governor is John Philip M. Oriel from the Municipality of Sudipen, Little Vice-Governor is Edlyn G. Yumul, from the City of San Fernando, the Little Sangguniang Panlalawigan Members from the 1st District are: Efrén S. Valdez from Balaocan, Audrey Mae B. Orplano from Bacnotan, Kidd E. Villas from Bangar, Kharyl B. Ramirez from San Juan

and Janvier M. Binay-an from San Gabriel. For the 2nd District, Little SPMs are Mark Douvee Calintang from Agoo, Trina Franzell G. Puapo from Rosario, Nikka Joy G. Abenoja of Naguilian, Jomar S. Lachica from Santo Tomas and Aila Marie P. Rualo from Tubao. Little Philippine Councilors League President is Lilibeth C. Camacho from Aringay, Youth Association of Barangay Captains President is Ronald G. Luyan from Santol, Youth SK President is Dion B. Gustilo from Bauang, Youth SK Vice-President is Ana Katrina N. Ventura of Pugo, Youth SK Auditor is Elnor C. Mable and Youth SK Public Relations Officer is Mae Ann L. Nobleza of Luna.

As indicated in RA 10742, there shall be an election of youth counterparts of the provincial officials. The said participants should be in-school youths aged 13-17 years old, and must be bona fide residents of La Union. This activity aims to orient the elected provincial youth officials as to the workings of their counterparts and basic conduct of governance. This will somehow give them an idea how it is being a governor, vice-governor or sanggunian members.

A Short-and-Sweet Play Competition was also held with the City of San Fernando emerging as the champion followed by the Municipality of Balaocan and Bacnotan as the 1st runners-up and 2nd runner-up, respectively, held at the SP Lobby, Speaker Pro Tempore Francisco I. Ortega Legislative Building and Session Hall. Contest pieces are loaded with heavy messages and depictions of what the youth of today are experiencing and the current problem about illegal drugs and criminality.

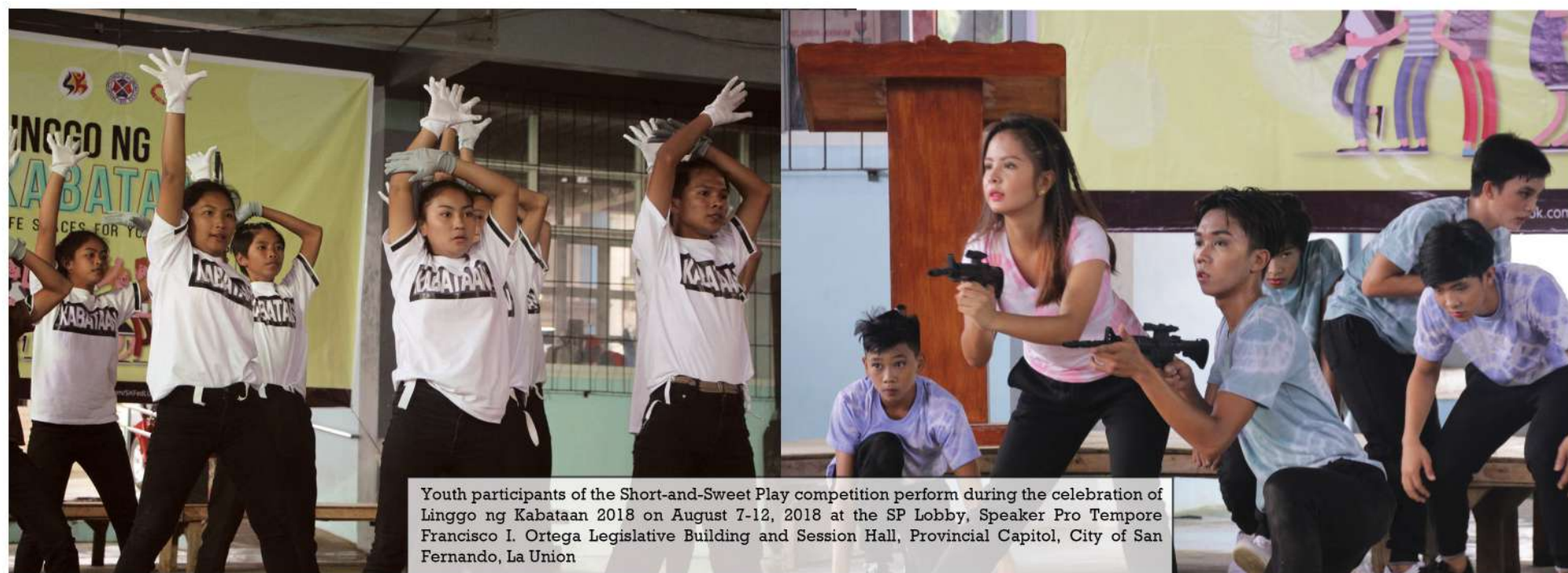
Simultaneous events were held, such as Spoken Word Poetry Contest, Wall Painting Contest and Essay Writing Contest. Declared as winner of the Spoken Word Poetry Contest was Rena Aries Ramos from the Municipality of Bacnotan. Meanwhile, at the Pasalubong Center of Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU), the City of San Fernando won the Wall Painting Contest. For the Essay Writing Contest, the representative from Bangar, Alden Lloyd Moskito, bagged 1st place.

The culmination and awarding program of the LNK 2018 was held at the Municipality of Santol, La Union on August

12, 2018 where the Sayaw Kalye dance competition was also held. The group representing the Municipality of Bacnotan was declared the champion, while the representatives from Bauang and Naguilian placed as 1st and 2nd runner-up, respectively. The culmination program also officially awarded the winners of the Short-and-sweet Play competition, Spoken Word Poetry Contest, Wall Painting Contest and Essay Writing Contest.

According to SPM Sibuma, "The Sangguniang Kabataan of La Union believes that it is important for the youth to express themselves in whatever form or medium they want. That is why we are giving them the chance to do so by conducting activities such as essay-writing, spoken poetry, wall-painting, and sayaw kalye."

Aside from the celebration of the LNK 2018, the SK Federation of La Union also lined up the Joint Session of the Youth Sangguniang Panlalawigan together with the 21st Sangguniang Panlalawigan of La Union and the presentation of the proposed project of the Provincial Youth Officers.



Youth participants of the Short-and-Sweet Play competition perform during the celebration of Linggo ng Kabataan 2018 on August 7-12, 2018 at the SP Lobby, Speaker Pro Tempore Francisco I. Ortega Legislative Building and Session Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union

SEARCH FOR BARANGAYS BEST SANITATION PRACTICE IS ON

Glenda R. Cabautan



Barangay Officials of Barangay Balbalayang, San Gabriel, La Union headed by Punong Barangay Marcos Milan share their innovative sanitation programs and practices to the Provincial Validators for the Search for Barangay with Best Sanitation Practices during the onsite random validation on August 17, 2018.

The Provincial Government of La Union through the Provincial Health Office (PHO), conducts the yearly search for best sanitation practices for barangays. The winners will be representing the province in the 2018 National Search for Barangay with Best Sanitation Practices (NSBBSP) set this last quarter of the year.

The search intends to challenge all Local Government Units (LGUs) to showcase their best practices on sanitation, water supply and other local initiatives related to environmental health. Specifically, the search aims to highlight the importance and benefits of using sanitary toilets as well as the provision of adequate and safe water supply, encourage LGUs to initiate and promote activities on sanitation and recognize exemplary LGUs with best practices on sanitation.

The Provincial Validators Team conducting onsite random validation of households and facilities is composed of the Provincial Sanitary Engineer, Provincial Supervising Sanitation Inspector and Health and Promotions Officer.

There are three categories for said contest namely Category 1 for Barangays with less than 250 households; Category 2

with 251 to 500 households; and Category 3 with more than 500 households. Criteria for judging include sanitary toilet coverage, water supply, improvement in toilet coverage for the last two years, approved Barangay budget for water and sanitation projects and programs, WASH practices in public establishments and schools in the barangay and other local sanitation initiatives or projects such as solid waste management, wastewater management, clean and green or beautification project, legislative support, ordinances on sanitation and community participation.

All barangays are qualified to join except barangays with 100% toilet coverage for the last two years and previous NSBBSP awardees.

This search was organized by the Department of Health to give due recognition to Barangays which gives priority to water supply and sanitation programs and demonstrates good practices on these programs.

The search is a continuous effort to increase focus on investment and accelerate actions to improve sanitation for all. This also aims to increase awareness on the importance of sanitation.

LA UNION ATHLETES HAUL 64 MEDALS IN THE 2018 SPECIAL OLYMPICS NATIONAL GAMES

Rafael C. Mosuela

Athletes from the province of La Union stamped their class by snaring 34 gold, 24 silver, six bronze medals during the recently concluded Special Olympics National Games held at the sprawling ground of the Quirino Sports Complex, Bantay, Ilocos Sur from August 1 to 4, 2018.

A total of 160 intellectually disabled athletes from 11 Special Olympics chapters, which include La Union, CALABARZON, Occidental Mindoro, Iloilo, Mandaue, Vigan City, Palawan, NCR South, NCR North, competed in Aquatics, Athletics, Bocce, Basketball, Soccer 5A-side, Soccer 7A-side, Rhythmic Gymnastics and Artistic Gymnastics. La Union sent out 34 athletes from the different parts of the province.

Among those athletes are multi-gold medalists Janice Trinidad who won three golds in the 50, 100 and 200-meter dashes; Carlito Naoe, who got three golds in the 50, 100 and 200-meter dashes; and Shiela Galvez who got a gold in Bocce singles division. Team La Union who snared gold in Relay and Team La Union also got gold in the Bocce

The other medalists were Glienes Tamondon who got gold, silver, and bronze medals in 50m, 100m, and 200m and Harold Jay Comilang who garnered two silver and one bronze medals in 50m, 100m and 200m.

According to Special Olympics President, Ms. Delia Ortega, Special Olympics Philippines continues with dedication and enthusiasm in fulfilling its mission to provide year round sports training and athlete competition in a variety of Olympic type sports for children and adults with intellectual disability, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in sharing gifts, skills and friendships with



their families, other special Olympics athletes and the community.

Ms. Ortega also said that some athletes who are competing in this year's Special Olympics Philippines National Games dream of being selected to represent the Philippines at the 2019 Special Olympics Summer World Games in Abu Dhabi, UAE in March next year. "It is the dream of any athletes to compete for their country on the world stage and wish them all well as they begin that journey here," she said. However, she stressed that it is important to remember that success is not only measured in medals. By being a part of the National Games, they have already proven that they are remarkable athletes who have courage, determination and perseverance in the face of challenges.

The Provincial Government of La Union under the leadership of Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III has been very supportive to the undertakings of the Special Olympics Philippines - La Union especially in their participation in international events.

Last August 16, Vice Governor Aureo Augusto Q. Nisce welcomed the athletes who paid a courtesy call during the Regular Session of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan.

The Special Olympics is a global movement that empowers people with intellectual disability to become accepted and valued members of their communities, which leads to a more respectful and inclusive society through a transformative power and joy of sports.

The Special Olympics is now on its 50th year since it was founded in Maryland by Eunice Kennedy Shriver whose own member of her family had down syndrome.

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ROSARIO INTEGRATED SCHOOL BAGS INTERNATIONAL AWARD

Cristina C. Marvida

The Provincial Government of La Union commended 28 learners, seven coaches and the Principal of Rosario Integrated School (RIS), Rosario, La Union for bagging the highest class honors in the 2017 International Year of Sustainable Tourism and Development Art and Design Competition during the 108th Regular Sangguniang Panlalawigan Session of the 21st Sangguniang Panlalawigan of La Union on July 26, 2018 at the Speaker Pro-Tempore Francisco I. Ortega Provincial Legislative Building and Session Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union.

SP commendation was expressed through SP Resolution No. 151-2018 authored by all Sangguniang Panlalawigan Members with appropriate cash incentives pursuant to SP Ordinance No. 072-2015 as a reward for bringing honor not only to the province but also to the whole nation.

According to Mr. Ryan F. Gapuz, journalism adviser of the said school, seven groups from their school landed in the first to third class honors qualifying them to receive an award in Sha Tin Town Hall, New Territories, Hong Kong on March 17, 2018.

Mr. Marlon D. Salazar, the head coach of the delegation, led the submission of entries and outputs from elementary to high school. RIS Learners Ericson T. Agustin, Louie Ace I. Paneda, Earl John D. Tavor and Jermaine P. Ubongen with their Artwork entitled "Milestone" bagged the 1st Class Honours together with Aljay G. Agustin, Genevive B. Castillo, Enrico G. Casuga and Hannah Revina E. Gravez with their artwork "Roadtrip to Success" and Angelo Charles F. Acosta, Celyn B. Gravez, Mary Rose E. Martines, Noriely

C. Pasillao with their artwork "The Tree of Development" also landed on the 1st Class Honours respectively.

2nd Class Honours were garnered by Sharmaine A. Dulay, Phoebe Grace C. Esteban, John Reyvi E. Gravez and Leander Brean R. Javier with their output "Tourism and Development with a Heart."

Jan Francis M. Cacananta, Michael Aaron S. Delizo, Danica M. Estacio, Alfredo Rhejun G. Pimentel with their artwork "Silver Lining" and Edward L. Calonge Jr., Angela M. Lachica, Romer Elixer I. Mabitazan, and John Angelo P. Sobremonte with their artwork "Sustaining a balance Society" and Aira Almogela, Jennifer Balangue, Adler Quiming and John Zamora with their artwork entitled "The Unity Ship" landed on the 3rd Class Honours respectively.

The honorees were coached by Marlon D. Salazar, Lailyn N. Valdez, Evelyn S. Villanueva, Pamela P. Quezada, Rhea G. Pimentel, Edmar C. Nalalta and Evangeline M. Estabillo.

The delegation of RIS consisted of 16 members including seven learners spearheaded by Dr. Alicia F. Aprecio, Principal IV and Dr. Alejo R. De Sesto, Public School District Supervisor attended the prize presentation ceremonies and art exhibit on March 17, 2018 at Sha Tin Town Hall, New Territories, Hong Kong.

The Po Leung Kuk, founded as the Society for the Protection of Women and Children, is a charitable organization in Hong Kong that provides support for orphaned children, education and other services. "Po Leung," translating literally as protection of the young and the innocent, represents the core vision of the organization.



PGLU CELEBRATES NUTRITION MONTH

Renerose Beninsig

The Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) through the Provincial Nutrition Division celebrated the 2018 Nutrition Month on August 10, 2018 held at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol Building, City of San Fernando, La Union. Said celebration is pursuant to Section 7 of Presidential Decree No. 491 creating a National Nutrition Counsel and for other purposes.

This year's theme "Ugaliing Magtanim, Sapat na Nutrisyon Aanihin" aims to improve the healthy food consumption of Filipinos, food security and to as self-sufficient as possible with backyard gardening. The theme focuses on food production served at home, products coming planted by families on their own backyard or farm. Some of these vegetables or fruit crops can even sell to help generate additional

income especially for the less privileged ones.

250 participants coming from the different towns of La Union attended the event. As part of the celebration, PGLU awarded deserving and outstanding municipalities and Barangay Nutrition Scholars.

The Local Government Unit (LGU) of Balaoan was awarded as the Municipal Green Banner Awardee and received a trophy. Best Performing LGUs were Municipality of Agoo as 1st-Runner Up; Municipality of Rosario as 2nd-Runner Up; Municipality of Aringay as 3rd-Runner Up and Municipality of Luna as 4th-Runner Up.

The Municipality of San Gabriel bagged the Nutrition Honor Award and received a Certificate of Appreciation.

Ms. Aurelia O. Aguilar from Barangay Oaqui #3,

Luna, La Union was awarded as the Provincial Outstanding Barangay Nutrition Scholar (BNS) she received a cash prize of Php 10,000.00 and a trophy; Ms. Lily R. Sabado of Burgos, La Union; Ms. Redelia M. Cabral of Rosario La Union; Ms. Esperanza A. Rulloda of Aringay, La Union; and Ms. Imelda V. Bacani of San Juan, La Union placed as the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Runner Ups respectively. They also received a trophy and cash. Participating BNSs were also given 2,000 each as consolation prizes.

These were the results of the evaluation and monitoring conducted by the National Nutrition Council- Regional Office I and the Provincial Nutrition Committee last April and May 2018. The Provincial Nutrition Planning and Evaluation Team were also recognized during the event.



On Behalf of Gov. Pacoy, Board Member Ruperto Rillera explains the importance of a healthy community and as well as the Ordinances that have been recently approved by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan about health during the Provincial Nutrition Month Celebration on August 10, 2018 at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union.

PGLU STRENGTHENS LGU COLLABORATION IN LOCAL TOURISM PLANNING

Darlene Joy V. Acosta

The Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) together with its 20 component Local Government Units (LGUs) and the Department of Tourism – Region I (DOT-R1) worked hand in hand in crafting the respective LGUs' Tourism Development Plans during the Local Tourism Development Planning Writeshop held on August 26 to 28, 2018 at Legend Villas, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila.

Provincial Information and Tourism Officer, Mr. Adamor L. Dagang shared how Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III came up with the province's vision. "He found out together with the core team in consultation with stakeholders the two strengths of the province. One is tourism. Nakita na nga we are already enjoying good tourism output when it comes to tourism arrivals and also

nakita na ti potential tay ti agriculture. That's why nag-marry iti agriculture and tourism" Mr. Dagang said.

In said writeshop, the LGUs were grouped according to Northern, Central, Central Eastern, South and South Eastern Circuits. The Tourism Officers, Agriculturists and Planning and Development Coordinators of the LGUs were tasked to finalize their workshop assignments and LGU tourism profiles given during the Pre-Writeshop Activity conducted at Aureo Resort, City of San Fernando, La Union on August 3, 2018.

Tourism Operations Officer II Mr. Ramon Tiongco of the Department of Tourism – Office of Tourism Development Planning, Research and Information Management (DOT-OTDPRIM) discussed the updates and developments of the

pre-writeshop activity and the steps in creating the plans. This includes the Consolidation of Sites Evaluated; Prioritization and Ranking of Sites per Circuit; Problem Analysis and Problem Identification; Objectives, Strategies and Target Setting; Circuit Development; Target Marketing and Forecasting; Selecting Target Markets; Strategic Action Planning; and Writing the Plan and Formulation of Action Plan. He also gave workshop activities every after discussion.

DOT-R1 Director Martin S. Valera congratulated everyone for participating actively and exerting efforts in developing Local Tourism Development Plans.

The implementation and development of Gov. Pacoy's Agri-Tourism vision starts and flourishes in the component LGUs.

They will all be at the forefront of the province's Agri-Tourism strategy, the province enables them to succeed. The Governor assured that the LGUs have PGLU's full support, intensively and extensively to make them exert their full efforts to align their component LGU tourism master plans including annual investment plans with the Provincial Tourism Development Plan and the National Tourism Development Plan.

The workshop is expected to reinforce the province's role to enable the LGUs as key players in driving economic dynamism and competitiveness with agriculture and tourism as main pillars of our vision to make La Union the Heart of Agri-Tourism in Northern Luzon by 2025.