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LA UNION CAPITOL



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PGLU BRINGS TOURISM STAKEHOLDERS TO PHILIPPINE TRAVEL EXPO



La Union delegates composed of tour operators, tour guides, hotel & restaurant owners and tourism officers, promote and offer La Union products, unique tourism packages and services to mallgoers during the 29th Philippine Travel Mart held on August 31 – September 2, 2018 at the La Union Pavilion in SMX Convention Center, Mall of Asia, Pasay City.

Joy Ann L. Gurtiza

With an aim to extensively promote the province's vision to be the Heart of Agri-Tourism in Northern Luzon by 2025, Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III invited various tourism stakeholders in La Union to join the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) for the 29th Philippine Travel Mart (PTM) with the theme "New Paradise Found... and the Fun Continues" on August 31 – September 2, 2018 at the SMX Convention Center, Mall of Asia, Pasay City.

This year, PGLU acquired a Pavilion booth space to accommodate PGLU's tourism partner organizations in

marketing the Agri-tourism destinations in the province. The La Union Alliance of Travel and Tour Agencies, La Union Tourism Officers Association, Association of Tour Guides in La Union, La Union Hotels, Resorts and Restaurants Association and Poro Point Management Corporation joined forces in selling La Union tour packages that offer the province's sun-sea-sand, Agri-Tourism, cultural heritage tourism, food tourism, and more.

The La Union Pavilion was designed highlighting the wide range of attractions, products, services and activities that the province has to offer. It

featured the different tourism sites, cultural heritage, one-town-one-product and local food tasting. On the last day, local TV personality Derek Ramsay was there to help promote the tourist destinations in the province. This enticed more tourists and mallgoers to drop by in the booth.

The Provincial Information and Tourism Office (PITO) staff, as the marketing team, led the La Union delegates in the three-day activities. Branding and marketing collaterals were given away and La Union Tourism Audio Visual Presentations were featured.

Overall, the participants from the

province were able to generate a grand total worth of Php540,960.00 sales. Briggs Kaith Travel and Tours earned the largest sales which amounted to Php78,500.00 followed by Aureo Hotel with sales worth Php41,400.00. This resulted in actual booking, some with purchased plane tickets and potential arrivals in the coming months.

PTM is the longest running travel exhibition organized by the Philippine Tour Operators Association in partnership with the Department of Tourism featuring exhibits, cultural shows, business meetings, national costume competition, and quiz bee.



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GOV. PACOY LEADS INAUGURATION OF 1ST BALAY SILANGAN IN REGION I

Renerose A. Beninsig

Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" Ortega III led the inauguration of the first "Bahay Silangan" in Region I, housed at the new Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) Satellite Office, in Sta. Barbara, Agoo, La Union on September 12, 2018.

The "Bahay Silangan" is a shelter that offers temporary refuge to surrendered drug personalities. It aims to reform them into self-sufficient and law-abiding members of the society.

Along with the PDEA shelter, Gov. Pacoy also led the inauguration of Agoo Outpatient Drug Rehabilitation Center (AODRC), first Local Government Unit (LGU)-based outpatient rehabilitation facility for victims of illegal drugs in Region I.

Gov. Pacoy expressed support to the project in the combat against illegal drugs. "The campaign against illegal drugs has always been the priority program of the province to help transform the lives of the people of La Union," he said.

The Guest of Honor in the activity was Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force Usec. Jimmy L. Manabat. He said that the facility provides every surrenderee the second chance that they deserve.



Gov. Pacoy, Congresswoman Sandra Eriguel and Agoo Mayor Stefanie Ann Eriguel lead the ceremonial ribbon cutting to mark the opening of the Out-Patient Drug Rehabilitation Center and PDEA Satellite Office in Agoo, La Union on September 12, 2018.

"Illegal drugs should not be the kind of business of the people," he added.

Also joining Gov. Pacoy and Usec. Manabat were Second District Representative Hon. Sandra Y. Eriguel, PDEA Regional Director Bryan Babang, Department of Health Regional Assistant Director Dr. Edwin Sanchez, Agoo Mayor Stefanie Ann Y. Eriguel, Provincial Health Officer Dr. Hector T. Beñas and other officials.

For the LGU's part, Mayor Eriguel said the campaign against illegal drugs will remain unrelenting. "Agoo is focused in its campaign in Resiliency, Health, Anti-Illegal Drugs and Against Crime," she said.

The AODRC and the Bahay Silangan are for individuals with substance abuse problem who are keen for self-rehabilitation. The facilities allow the clients to continue working and caring for their family while benefiting from peer-oriented, structured therapeutic program.

The AODRC was the former Agoo Municipal Health Office, which was renovated and re-structured to be a drug rehab center. The AODRC, the PDEA Satellite Office and the Bahay Silangan are located just behind the Municipal Hall.

SP SUPPORTS LU YOUTH LEADER FOR SSEAYP

Jane T. Flores

Sangguninang Panlalawigan (SP) Committee on Youth Affairs, chaired by the Provincial SK Federation President Alyssa Kristine B. Sibuma, conducted a committee hearing on September 6, 2018 at the Cong. Eufanio C. Eriguel Hall, Speaker Pro-Tempore Francisco I. Ortega Provincial Legislative Building and Session Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union to discuss the sponsorship for financial assistance to augment needed expenses for Mr. Le Marc B. Preposi's participation to the 45th Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Program (SSEAYP).

Mr. Preposi is one of the 28 participating youth chosen by the National Youth Commission and was likewise elected as the Youth Leader of the Philippine contingent. He is a resident of barangay Mameltac, San Fernando City, La Union and one of the participants from



SK Provincial Federation President Alyssa Kristine B. Sibuma sponsors a resolution granting financial assistance to Mr. Le Marc Preposi to defray his expenses for his participation to the 45th Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Program (SSEAYP) from September 23 to October 22, 2018 for the pre-departure training and from October 23 to December 15, 2018 in Japan, Brunei Darussalam, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. Said resolution was unanimously approved under SP Resolution No. 551-2018.

Region 1. They will have their pre-departure training from September 23 to October 22, 2018 and the SSEAYP will be held on October 23 to December 15, 2018 in Japan, Brunei Darussalam, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam aboard cruise ship MS Nippon Maru.

SPM Sibuma motioned for the grant of financial assistance and was unanimously approved by the August Body through SP Resolution No. 551-2018.

Mr. Preposi committed to return to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan and share his learnings from his experiences and possibly propose legislative measures based from the best practices of the countries they will visit.

The SSEAYP, now on its 45th year, is an annual cultural exchange program among the youth in the ASEAN and Japan that seeks to promote goodwill, friendship, and mutual understanding.

The Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) in partnership with the National Commission on Culture and the Arts (NCCA) conducted the Dap-ayan Folk Dance Workshop on September 17 to 19, 2018 at the Consuelo Hall, Sea and Sky College, City of San Fernando, La Union.

Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III ensures his support to the activity in his message relayed by Provincial Tourism Officer Adamor L. Dagang. "We will have several cultural activities for the NCCA and PGLU this coming October until December and also next year, so we have more activities...this is only the first. Hopefully we can have more series of Dance Workshops, not only Dance but also other performing arts," he said.

The workshop was participated in by teachers and students of various schools in La Union such as President Elpidio Quirino National High School; Aringay National High School; Casacristo National High School; Burgos National High School; Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University-Mid La Union Campus Laboratory High School; Old Sudipen National High School; and Rosario Integrated School.

President of the Philippine Folk Dance Society, Rodel M. Fronda, together with

Dance Director of Sining Bulakenyo, Merlin M. Eusebio, served as trainers during the three-day workshop. They shared their knowledge, skills and talent to the participants by educating them to learn discipline, rhythm, focus, determination, precision, self-confidence and valuing the culture behind the dance.

Warm-up exercises and discussions on the basic and fundamental steps of folk dance were taught by the trainers. They demonstrated the Ba Ingles, Himig sa Nayon, Cariñosa and Sua Ku Sua dances. The participants were also grouped into four to showcase their performance for the Final Dance Presentation during the Culminating Activity.

The dance workshop aims to revive the interest of the youth for old Filipino dances. With this start, the PGLU plans to establish a pool of local dancers to help the province in attaining its vision to make La Union the Heart of Agri-tourism in Northern Luzon by 2025.

Earlier this year, the Dap-ayan Project was launched with the aim to develop a year-long local culture and arts program that considers the important cultural assets of La Union. The Dap-ayan Folk Dance Workshop is the first activity executed from the fund given by NCCA aside from the launching program.

LU ENRICHES CULTURE THROUGH FOLK DANCE WORKSHOP

Darlene Joy V. Acosta



President of the Philippine Folk Dance Society Rodel M. Fronda teaches the participants of the Dap-ayan Folk Dance Workshop with the basic and fundamental steps in Folk Dancing at the Consuelo Hall, Sea and Sky Hotel, City of San Fernando, La Union on September 17 to 19, 2018.

PGLU PARTICIPATES IN 1ST REGIONAL TOURISM CRISIS MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM

Joy Ann L. Gurtiza



La Union Tourism Officers formulate their crisis management plan during the Regional Tourism Crisis Management Symposium conducted by the Department of Tourism - Region 1 on September 19, 2018 at the Agora Events Center, Thunderbird Resorts, Poro Point, City of San Fernando, La Union. The symposium highlighted the promotion of the stability of the tourism industry in times of adversity.

With the aim to strengthen tourism resiliency, the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) participated in the first Regional Tourism Crisis Management Symposium conducted by the Department of Tourism (DOT) Region 1 on September 19, 2018 at the Agora Events Center, Thunderbird Resorts, Poro Point, City of San Fernando La Union.

Tourism Officers from Local Government Units (LGUs), DOT-accredited tour guides, tour operators, hotels and other tourism-related establishments from all over Region 1 attended the symposium.

"Crisis management is important if we have to sustain the upward trend of tourism in the region. By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail," DOT - Office of Industry Manpower Development Director Nelly Nita N. Dillera said during her keynote presentation. "Disasters and emergencies could greatly affect tourist arrivals, tourism receipts, the employment and the economy of the country... tourism industries must need to be adapted, equipped and be more resilient in addressing these challenges," she added.

Topics discussed in the symposium include Understanding Crisis Management and the Tourism Industry and How to Draft an Emergency or Crisis Management Plan in the Regional and Local Tourism Industry that were tackled by FLOUR Philippines Security and Business Continuity Manager Henry Teodoro M. Hernia. He stressed the role of tourism in the Philippines and how the

country would be vulnerable without it.

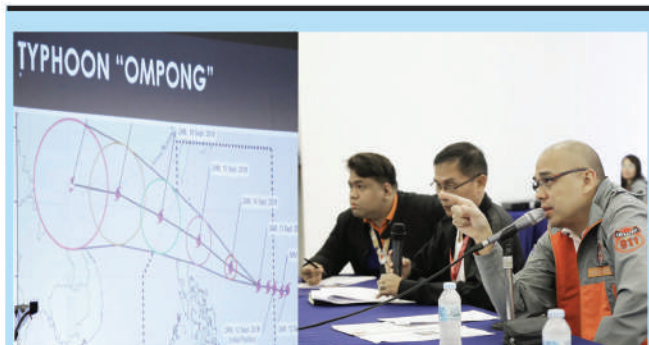
The topic on the Emergency Management in the Tourism Industry was discussed by Safety and Security Consultant Eugene Boco. He said that LGUs and business establishments must understand the risk profile of the country and their respective areas. He added that this understanding is important to come up with an effective crisis and emergency plan.

The Situational Awareness or the Previous Incidents that made an impact on tourism industry was tackled by the Acting Head of the Office of Civil Defense Region 1 Elvis R. Quitag. He encouraged stakeholders to be involved by learning the ways of prevention, management, and mitigation in the events of crises.

A workshop on the formulation of crisis management plan and draft of tourism crisis management plan were also presented during the symposium.

The Tourism Crisis Management Symposium is one of the programs of DOT - Tourism Regulation, Coordination, and Resource Generation to provide ideas to participants about tourism crisis and on how to manage it effectively.

PGLU took part in the said symposium since crisis management is integral to the successful implementation of tourism programs in the province to achieve the vision of Gov. Francisco "Pacoy" R. Ortega III for La Union to be the Heart of Agri-Tourism in Northern Luzon by 2025.



Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III calls an Emergency Response and Preparedness Meeting to reinforce La Union's readiness for Typhoon "Ompog" on September 13, 2018 at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union. He emphasized the roles of Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office and each Provincial Department Response Unit in the preservation of the safety and protection of the people of La Union in anticipation of the typhoon. Photos by: OPG-Media and Public Information Unit.

LA UNION JOBS FAIR 2018 ATTRACTS OVER 800 JOBSEEKERS

Rowell B. Timoteo



As part of its celebration of the 2018 Civil Service Month, the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) headed by Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III held the La Union Jobs Fair on September 26, 2018 at the Saint Louis College Gym, City of San Fernando, La Union. The activity aimed to provide jobseekers avenue to find their dream careers.

In coordination with Department of Labor & Employment (DOLE), Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), and other stakeholders, the PGLU through the Public Employment Service Office (PESO) staged the jobs fair which attracted a total of 836 registered applicants;

457 of them applied for local employment and 379 for overseas.

The jobs fair has also given instant jobs to 76 applicants who were hired on the spot. Other applicants were shortlisted for further interview.

The jobs fair pooled a total of 2,731 overseas job vacancies from 10 overseas recruitment agencies; and another 1,485 local job vacancies from 36 business establishments and employers.

Among the local jobs offered include service crews, drivers, customer service representatives, sales agents, and Information Technology personnel. For the overseas employment, jobs offered

were in the fields of construction, factory work, medical services, and food services, in countries such as Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, China, Taiwan, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Japan, New Zealand, and Singapore.

Also part of the jobs fair were 13 line agencies and non-government organizations which rendered counseling, technical advice and other assistance to the jobseekers.

Speaking on behalf of Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III, Board Member Reynaldo M. Mosuela, Committee Chairman on Labor & Employment, expressed his gratitude to all the participants in the jobs fair.

LU BATANG PINOY ATHLETES EARNED 23 MEDALS IN NATIONAL GAMES

Jiroh Joy D. Marbella

Athletes from the province proved their mettle as they brought home a total of 23 medals during the Batang Pinoy National Finals hosted by Baguio City and co-hosted by the Province of Benguet on September 15 - 21, 2018.

The representatives from the Province of La Union hauled medals in the events swimming, archery and karatedo.

In swimming, Johan Carlos Aguilan won gold medals in 1800 m Freestyle, 400 m Freestyle and 50 m Freestyle while bagging silver medals in 100 m Freestyle and 200 m Freestyle. Lady Samantha Jhunace Corpuz got two golds in the ladies categories of 400 m Freestyle and 200 m Freestyle, while finishing with the Silver Medals on the 800 m Freestyle, 100 m Freestyle and the 400 Individual Medley. In total, the young swimmers from La Union garnered five golds and five silvers.

Archers from the Province hauled the most number of medals. Gold Medalists are Carleen Sophia Flores, who bagged gold medal in 20 meters Qualification Round and 20 meters Olympic Round, while Francine Sophia Navon won a gold medal in 30 meters Qualification Round and 30 meters Olympic Round. Rand Jewel Cariaso got a silver medal in the meter Distance Category, while Shanylle Samson

bagged a silver medal in 50 meter distance category. The team composed of Shanylle Samson, Deiniel Eirrielle Abuan and Rogelene Faith Arellano snatched a silver medal for the Cub Category Team event. The LU Archers likewise bagged five bronze medals mostly coming from team events.

Athlete Andrei Jharenze Luis Agtarap placed 3rd and got a bronze medal in the 8-9 Girls Advance Kata Event in the sport Karatedo.

For the entire event, the Province of La Union ranked 19th out of 155 participating provinces, cities and municipalities, improving its rank from last year's 35th out of 148.

The Sangguniang Panlalawigan of La Union passed Resolution No. 575-2018 to commend the outstanding performance of the youth athletes and a cash incentive for victory they brought to the province.

Organized by the Philippine Sports Commission, Batang Pinoy is the national youth sports competition of the Philippines for athletes under 15 years old. Unlike other sporting events which are competitions for school based athletes, the Batang Pinoy is an open competition for both school-based and the out-of-school youth.



Gov. Pacoy and the mayors of Component Local Government Units in La Union intently listen to the presentation on the La Union Wireless Mesh High Speed Local Network Backbone on September 7, 2018 at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union. The project aims to establish high-speed wireless mesh infrastructure that cuts across the province.



PREPARED AGOO. Gov. Pacoy and Department of Public Works and Highways Regional Director- Regional Office 1 Ronnel M. Tan inspect the newly inaugurated Agoo Evacuation Center in Agoo, La Union on September 12, 2018. The evacuation center is essential in achieving a Disaster Resilient Province by 2022.



PUBLIC SERVICE ABOVE SELF. Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III expresses his gratitude to the Philippine Councilors League La Union (PCL-LU) Chapter members headed by BM Francisco Paolo P. Ortega V for their continued support to his vision for La Union to be the Heart of Agri-Tourism in Northern Luzon by 2025 during the PCL Annual Provincial Congress held at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union on September 10, 2018.



Gov. Pacoy turns over a multi-purpose vehicle to Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Officer Aureliano F. Rulloda III on September 13, 2018 at the Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union. The vehicle will be used in reinforcing the safety and protection of the people in the province and in building a Disaster Resilient Province by 2022.



AVIATION IN LA UNION. Gov. Pacoy leads the groundbreaking of the site for the construction of the hangar by the Alpha Aviation Group (AAG) International Center for Aviation Training at the San Fernando Airport Compound, Brgy. Canaoay, City of San Fernando, La Union on September 26, 2018. With the construction of the hangar, La Union aims to become the premier aviation training hub in the region.



PRAYER AND ACTION. Gov. Pacoy prays for the safety of the police officers who will render services to ensure public safety in relation to the onset of typhoon "Ompong," during his visit to the Philippine National Police Regional Office 1, City of San Fernando, La Union on September 14, 2018.



Provincial Legal Officer Atty. Dominique Jose S. Puzon delivers the message of Gov. Pacoy during the opening ceremony of the Enhanced Justice on Wheels 2018 at Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University, South La Union Campus, Agoo, La Union on September 20, 2018. In the speech, Gov. Pacoy highlighted the importance of bringing legal services to the people.



Provincial Board Member Geraldine R. Ortega leads in the distribution of relief goods to the residents of Brgy. Canaoay, City of San Fernando, La Union, on September 19, 2018, days after the onslaught of typhoon "Ompong." Among the donors were 1590 Energy Corporation; Toyota La Union; Senator Cynthia Villar and spouse former senator Manny Villar; and the Provincial Government of La Union. The beneficiaries belong to the thousands who evacuated due to threat of storm surge.



POLICE SERVICE ANNIVERSARY. Gov. Pacoy exchanges pleasantries with Dir. Gen. Oscar Albayalde, Chief of the Philippine National Police (PNP), during the celebration of the 117th Police Service Anniversary at the PNP Regional Office 1, City of San Fernando, La Union on September 25, 2018.



Gov. Pacoy hands over a Cignus Radio Walkie Talkie to Platoon leader PCINSP Fredilex A Marron of Special Weapons and Tactics La Union Police Provincial Office on September 24, 2018 at Canaoay, City of San Fernando, La Union. A total of 20 pieces of Walkie Talkies were turned over for the first and second districts of La Union.



ALAGANG BDH. Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III meets centenarian Apo Lucia Badua during the Bacnotan District Hospital (BDH) 43rd Foundation Anniversary on September 24, 2018 at BDH, Bacnotan, La Union. A regular client of BDH, Apo Lucia is a resident of Galongon, Bacnotan, La Union who will celebrate her 100th birthday on September 27, 2018.



The Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPAg) - Fishery Services Unit conducts a Mangrove Planting and Coastal Clean-up at Barangay Pandan, Bacnotan, La Union on September 18, 2018. Barangay Officials and the municipality's Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council members also participated in the activities to protect shorelines from damages brought by storm winds, waves, and floods.

LA UNION, OPAG NATIONAL AWARDEES ON FISHERIES

Mario Eliseo O. Casimiro

The Province of La Union and the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPAg) were adjudged as the country's Best Fishery Program Implementers for 2018 during the Awarding Ceremonies in celebration of the 55th Fish Conservation Week held on September 17, 2018 at the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR)-Central Office, Quezon City.

The national awards, dubbed "GAWAD PAGKILALA" were bestowed to BFAR institutional partners and individuals in recognition of their efforts and

initiatives which gradually supported the national government's continued advocacy for sustainable management of fisheries and aquatic resources, particularly in the campaign against illegal fishing.

La Union, under the leadership of Governor Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III, stands as one of the frontline advocates and implementers of a well-defined and strategic fishery management system that continues to respond to pressing and

immediate concerns of the marginalized fisher-folks.

Gov. Pacoy had always considered fisheries, duly aligned with his Agri-Tourism vision, as one of his top priority projects as enshrined in the over-all Provincial Development Master Plan with the OPAG serving as the lead implementing department of the Provincial Government of La Union.

Executive Assistant II Justino F. Casuga, and OPAG Fishery Unit Head-Leony O. Gagni jointly received the said awards on behalf of Gov. Pacoy.



The Provincial Government of La Union through the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist receive the 2018 National Awards on Gawad Pagkilala at Pasasalamat from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) for their continuous support in fisheries protection and conservation during the celebration of the 55th Fish Conservation Week on September 17, 2018 at the PCA Compound, Diliman, Quezon City.

PGLU LEVELS UP DIGITAL LITERACY IN ROSARIO, LA UNION

Camille R. Bumatay

The Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) under the leadership of Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III, in partnership with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), launched the Technology for Economic Development (Tech4ED) Center in Rosario Municipal Library, Rosario, La Union on September 24, 2018 during the La Union Public Librarians Association's (LUPLA) Monthly Meeting.

The Tech4ED center aims to level up the digital literacy in Rosario through its eight segments namely eEduSkills, eAssist, eAssess, eAgri, Marketplace, eGovServ, eHealth, and Gender and Development which facilitates easier web access for grassroots development and opportunities.

DICT - La Union Field Team Leader Engr. Romeo Panes donated three computer units with a printer to augment the needs of the Municipal Library in order to promote the Tech4ED Center.

Present to witness the signing and turnover of donation were Rosario Vice

Mayor Allan S. Sabangan, Sangguniang Bayan Member Michael Viray, Provincial Librarian Marissa D. Acosta, and Municipal Public Librarians in La Union.

SBM Viray, on behalf of the Municipality of Rosario, thanked PGLU, Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III, and DICT for opening the Tech4ED in their library.

Rosario's Tech4ED Center is the fifth of its kind in La Union. Other libraries with Tech4ED Centers are Provincial and City Libraries in the City of San Fernando, La Union; Agoo Municipal Library; and Bauang Municipal Library. The province is looking forward to establishing more Tech4ED centers in other municipalities in the province.

The Center supports the mission of PGLU to be the catalyst for sustainable and inclusive development that improves the quality of lives of the people because it promotes inclusive growth and poverty reduction by providing access points for individual communities to bridge the digital and education gaps.



Provincial Budget Officer Catherine Franco reviews the prepared budget of various departments in the Provincial Government of La Union during the Provincial Budget Hearing conducted on September 25, 2018 at the Provincial Health Office Conference Room, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union.

LA UNION RECEIVES DOH RECOGNITION AS MALARIA-FREE

Glenda R. Cabauatan

The Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) has received recognition from the Department of Health (DOH) for achieving the Malaria-free status in 2017, during the Integrated Disease-free Zones Awarding Ceremony held on September 13, 2018 at the Heritage Hotel, Pasay City.

The DOH presented a plaque of recognition to the PGLU, through Engr. Glenda Cabauatan, Provincial Malaria Coordinator, who represented Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III.

The recognition also comes with a P1 Million grant, which will fund La Union's sustainable program against Malaria.

Only 10 provinces in the country received such recognition. Along with La Union are the provinces of Ilocos Norte, Pangasinan, Nueva Vizcaya, Bataan, Misamis Oriental, Compostela Valley, South Cotabato, Surigao Del Sur and Mountain Province.

As a Malaria-free province, La Union recorded no indigenous malaria cases in the last five years. Through effective health governance, the province has also proven that it can sustain its Malaria-free status in the long run.

The recognition is credited to the collective efforts of all malaria



MALARIA FREE. Engr. Glenda Cabauatan, provincial Malaria coordinator (2nd from left), in behalf of Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III receives a plaque for the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) from the Department of Health (DOH) for achieving the Malaria-free status in 2017, during the Integrated Disease-free Zones Awarding Ceremony in Pasay City on September 13, 2018.

stakeholders through conduct of malaria border operations through activities such as indoor residual spraying of houses, distribution of long lasting insecticide treated nets, bednet treatment, and

carabao-bait trap to identify the presence of malaria vectors. The province also conducted information and education campaign (IEC) through community assemblies, distribution of IEC materials,

functional referral system, capacity building and establishment malaria brigade in some endemic municipalities and barangays.

To sustain the province's Malaria Control Program, an ordinance establishing the Malaria Elimination Hub was passed. Other strategies include increased vigilance, strengthened surveillance units, improved partnership and coordination with stakeholders, capacity building, strengthened active case detection, and intensified IEC and promotion activities. The province will also embark on continuous vector surveillance especially in vulnerable areas, where there is probability of importation of source of infection.

It has been a long bid for the province to be declared as Malaria-free. In 2007, the province almost achieved this status after no indigenous malaria case was recorded from 2002 to 2006, but failed to get the recognition after an outbreak happened in Burgos town months before the declaration. In 2013, the province sought the DOH's recognition again, but three indigenous cases were noted during the evaluation.



To prevent tooth decay and maintain excellent dental health in children, Dr. Ma. Asuncion Marichu C. Catin of the Provincial Health Office conducts lecture and Dental Fluoride Treatment to Day Care learners held at the Provincial Government of La Union Employees Child Development Center on September 17, 2018.

"TAMBAY" ORDINANCE IN LA UNION INTENSIFIED

Jane T. Flores

The Province of La is in the company of a Union has been responsible adult who is implementing its either his or her parent, anti-loitering ordinance guardian, custodian, a through Sangguniang relative within the third Panlalawigan Ordinance degree of consanguinity or 2-2008. The amendment affinity, teacher or through SP Ordinance No. 146-2018 increased its professor, law enforcement officer, provincial, city, penalties against parents, municipal or barangay guardians or custodians of official.

Provisions on exemptions, enforcement and disposition of fines has not been amended, thus the content of the former version of the ordinance is still enforceable. Under exemptions, this ordinance shall not apply during fiestas, Christmas season and other festivities or special occasions declared by the municipal or city mayor in its territorial jurisdiction, or by the provincial governor through an official declaration.

The ordinance shall be enforced by the La Union Provincial Police Office, the police department of each City or Municipality and Barangay Tanods. Violators shall be immediately placed under the preventive custody and supervision of the Department of Labor and Employment; emergency cases; and when the minor

each city or municipality until he or she is turned over to the parents, guardians or legal custodian. The Municipal Social Worker should make a social case study of the family of the minor to be submitted to the Provincial Council for the Protection of Children.

This policy is not only in response to the call of President Rodrigo Duterte and the Department of the Interior and Local Government to intensify the campaign against illegal drugs and other threats by revisiting and implementing stricter policies but also to reduce crimes within those specified hours in the ordinance as observed and recorded by police authorities.

Said amendment was crafted upon the call of SP Member Ruperto A. Rillera in a privilege speech and consequently drafted by SP Member Reynaldo M. Mosuela, chairman of SP Committee on Laws, Rules and Privileges.

The ordinance awaits its publication and copy furnished to appropriate authorities and Local Government Units before its full implementation.



National Immunization Program Managers from the Rural Health Units, City Health and Wellness Clinic, and La Union District Hospitals attend the Ligtas Tigdas Supplemental Immunization Activity (LTSIA) Orientation conducted by the Provincial Health Office in coordination with the Department of Health Regional Office I (DOH-ROI) held at the DOH Conference Room, City of San Fernando, La Union on September 7, 2018. The campaign aims to address pockets of measles outbreaks in the province.



ABC President Geraldine R. Ortega listens while Mr. Jose Rosario, 4th Year Law Student of Saint Louis College explains his views on the Proposed Anti-Disturbance Ordinance during the Joint Committee Hearing lead by the Committee on Social Services on September 6, 2018 held at Cong. Eufanio "Franny" C. Eriguel Hall, Speaker Pro-Tempore Francisco I. Ortega, Provincial Legislative Building and Session Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union



Raphaelle Veronica A. Ortega, on behalf of ABONO Partylist Representative Vini Nola Ortega, highlights the roles and functions of Balaan Sangguniang Kabataan Officials as public servants during the "Live to Lead: Empowering Youth" Seminar on September 27, 2018 at Balaan Municipal Hall, Balaan La Union.

"OMPONG" LEAVES LA UNION WITH ZERO CASUALTY

Joanna C. Guerrero

After crossing through Northern Luzon overnight, typhoon "Ompong" left no casualties, announced Gov. Francisco "Pacoy" R. Ortega III on Monday, September 17, 2018 during the post-disaster meeting at the La Union Agri-Tourism Center, City of San Fernando, La Union.

Ompong made a landfall in Cagayan on Saturday morning, September 15, affecting nearby provinces in Northern Luzon including the Province of La Union, which was put under Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal number 2. PAG-ASA immediately lifted the storm signal upon exit of the typhoon on Sunday, September 16.

Gov. Pacoy congratulated all those who rendered services during the preparation and the onset of the typhoon. He further said that zero casualty was



Responders from the La Union Rescue send-off the evacuees in the morning of September 16, 2018 after the End of Danger Siren rang, which marks that La Union is already free from risks brought by Typhoon Ompong

attained because of the joint efforts of the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) workforce and other external partners.

Though there is no recorded casualty in the province, around 30,000 families consisting of more than a hundred thousand individuals were affected in terms of evacuation and livelihood. Also, millions of agricultural and infrastructure damages were noted during the post-typhoon damage assessment. This resulted to the declaration of the province under State of Calamity on September 18, 2018 through SP Resolution No. 568-2018.

With said declaration, the PGLU was able to use the emergency fund in providing relief assistance to the affected residents. Prices of basic commodities were also automatically frozen at their prevailing prices.



The Rapid Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis (RDNA) Team convene before deployment to various evacuation centers in La Union on September 15, 2018 at the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRMO) Operations Center. Said teams were divided into three groups tasked to determine the extent of damage and needs requirements in the Northern, Central and Southern parts of La Union.



SECURING THE CAPITAL. Gov. Pacoy checks on the operations taking place at the City Hall of San Fernando on September 14, 2018, a total of 256 families have already been evacuated in 13 evacuation areas in the city.

BACNOTAN DISTRICT HOSPITAL PERSONNEL ENHANCE SKILLS IN BASIC LIFE SUPPORT

Melanie Holt

With the aim to capacitate employees of Bacnotan District Hospital (BDH) in life-saving techniques, they participated in the Basic Life Support (BLS) Training conducted by Ilocos Training Regional and Medical Center – Health Emergency Management Staff (ITRMC – HEMS) at BDH, Bacnotan, La Union on September 6 – 7, 2018.

"We are committed to continuously hone the skills of our personnel to make them more competitive and more able in teaching people in the community especially in the tourism sites as our contribution in the vision of the governor in making the province, the Heart of Agri-Tourism in Northern Luzon by 2025," said BDH Chief Dr. Zenserly D. Pagaduan.

Such BLS training for healthcare providers is regularly conducted among hospital personnel to refresh their life-saving expertise in times of emergencies. In return, they will impart these to people in the community as part of the strategic project of the hospital, "Provision of First Aid and Basic Life



Personnel of Bacnotan District Hospital (BDH) demonstrate their skills in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) on a dummy infant during the Basic Life Support (BLS) Training on September 6, 2018 at the said hospital. Such training is regularly conducted among hospital personnel to refresh their life-saving expertise in times of emergencies and in return impart these to people in the community as part of the strategic project of the hospital, "Provision of First Aid and Basic Life Support (BLS) Training to residents of the Central Agri-Tourism Circuit."

Support (BLS) Training to residents of the Central Agri-Tourism Circuit."

This strategic project of BDH was done to equip the locals with basic knowledge, skills and attitude to perform with confidence the basic life support techniques to save lives; to reduce time-related causes of aggravating issues from receipt of injury to initiation of medical care since this is one of the most important elements in the prevention of death and further complications; and to reduce complications brought about by the lack of skillsof the rescuers immediately handling such emergencies.

A total of 20 personnel were trained. Principles of emergency care; Introduction to BLS; use of automated external defibrillator; removal of foreign body airway obstruction, rescue breathing, and cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) were among the topics taught. Return demonstrations on rescue breathing and CPR of infant and adult were specifically performed.

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PGLU CELEBRATES FAMILY DAY 2018

Camille R. Bumatay

The Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU), led by Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III, conducted PGLU Family Day 2018 on September 28, 2018 at Pugo Adventure, Pugo, La Union.

More than a thousand employees participated in the celebration which was conducted in pursuant to The Civil Service Commission's (CSC) Memorandum Circular No. 6, s. 2018 enjoining all government agencies and bureaus to actively participate in their 117th anniversary celebration which include National Family Week.

Provincial Administrator Jennifer Joan Maguiat encouraged participants to enjoy the program and activities prepared for them and said, "Today is a fun day...let's make the most out of it."

Activities for the PGLU Family Day 2018 started with a Zumba which was



ONE TEAM, ONE FAMILY. Gov. Pacoy talks about the importance of connection among all Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) employees in his message during the PGLU Family Day 2018 at Pugad, Pugo, La Union on September 28, 2018.

participated in by all PGLU employees present. Participants also competed for games including Amazing Race, Breaking the Pot, Bring Me, and Bingo. Therapeutic Massage was also offered sponsored by ABONO Party-list Rep. Vini Nola A. Ortega.

Gov. Pacoy highlighted the connection of each of the PGLU employees and said, "This is family day, so it only means that we are all part one big family...we are all connected."

The program ended with the announcement of winners and awarding of prizes. The employees were also given time to enjoy the swimming pools for free and other amenities for a special discount.

The family day celebration also intends to tighten the bond of PGLU employees towards a stronger workforce to achieve the vision to position La Union as the Heart of Agri-Tourism in Northern Luzon by 2025.

LA UNION TOURISM STAKEHOLDERS JOIN THE 5TH REGIONAL TOURISM CONVENTION

Darlene Joy V. Acosta

The Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) together with La Union tourism stakeholders joined the 5th Regional Tourism Convention on September 27-29, 2018 in Vigan City, Ilocos Sur with the theme "Tourism and the Digital Transformation."

With the aim to help position the province as the Heart of Agri-Tourism in Northern Luzon by 2025, around 50 officers and members of the La Union Tourism Officers Association (LUTOA), La Union Alliance of Travel and Tour Agencies (LUATTA), Association of Tour Guides in La Union (AsTG-LU) and Provincial and Municipal Tourism Office staff attended said convention.

The City Government of Vigan hosted a welcome reception, where the highlight was the induction of officers for Region 1 Professional Tour Guides Association (R1PTGA), Region 1 Travel and Tour Agencies Association (R1TTAA) and Region 1 Tourism Officers Association (R1TOA). LUATTA's Angeline Go and Crestin Lucman took oath as Treasurer and Auditor, respectively, for R1TTAA. AsTG-LU Pres. Xavier Mercado was elected as Auditor for R1PTGA and LUTOA Pres. Daryl Dacumos as La Union Representative for R1TOA.

Topics on Culinary Tourism, Data Mining, Tourist's Sentiments via

Rapidminer, Clark Freeport Zone MAGTravel Experience and Promotion, Branding and Internal Assessment as Imperatives for Sustainable Development and Planning were discussed during the Tourism Convention Proper at Plaza Maestro Convention Center. Outstanding Local Government Unit (LGU) partners in tourism development and promotions were recognized at the Tourism Industry Fellowship and Governor's Night.

To further encourage responsible tourism, Industry Immersion and Corporate Social Responsibility Activity where conducted through different kinds of tours including Metro Vigan Tour, One Direction Tour, The SK Experience, La Mesa Ilocos and Department of Tourism Accredited Tour Operators Benchmarking.

The convention was participated in by tourism officers of various LGUs, the academe, national government agencies, DOT - accredited tourism entities, and other tourism-related organizations in the region. It has become a common ground for the regional tourism practitioners to exchange ideas, discuss issues and challenges confronting the industry, and has strengthened the cooperation among the various tourism stakeholders in the development, promotion and sustainability of tourism in Region 1.

PUGO LAND USE PLAN READY FOR APPROVAL

Joy Ann L. Gurtiza

The Provincial Land Use Committee (PLUC), together with the local government unit (LGU) of Pugo and its Municipal Development Council, gathered for a Consultation Meeting on the approval of the proposed Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) of the Municipality of Pugo, La Union on September 25, 2018 at the Flying V Conference Hall, Pugo, La Union.

Pugo Mayor Priscilla M. Martin, who presented the plan, emphasized that the development policies and regulations are considered in the plan. Under the CLUP, land uses were designated and zoned as residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, watersheds or forest reservation, parks and others.

The LGU Pugo is planning to expand upland agriculture where its mountain soil and slope are stable particularly in the barangays of Ambanganon, Cares, Ambalite and Palina. It also seek the expansion of burley tobacco production areas in Macasoas Norte & Sur, Palina, San Luis, Cuenca, Poblacion East, Cares and Ambanganon.

The LGU is likewise considering promotion of agriculture and eco-based tourism to create jobs and encourage agri-based livelihood for sustainability. Mayor Martin also aims for the development of agri-related enterprises

like pasalubong center for additional employment and income of the people considering Pugo's role in the tourism development of La Union.

The proposed CLUP also includes the development of mini, micro and small-scale agri-eco tourism enterprises and locates them in the identified growth centers identified as industrial zones in Ambalite, Cuenca, Duplas, Macasoas Norte, Saytan, Tavora East and Tavora Proper.

The CLUP is the basis on the use of land within a locality. It is used by the Local Chief Executive, Sangguniang Bayan members, and other departments in the LGU that deals with land utilization such as the Municipal Planning and Development Office and the Municipal Engineering Office for better decision-making in transacting with potential investors. The CLUP is also used to study the future developments of a municipality in the coming years.

The PLUC comprises of the Provincial Planning and Development Office, Provincial Tourism Office, Provincial Agriculture Office, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office, Provincial Engineering Office and the Department of Trade and Industry - La Union.



Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator Dr. Mauro A. Libatique, Jr. discusses the purpose of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) and its importance in the context of the development control function during the Consultation Meeting on the Approval of the Proposed CLUP of the Municipality of Pugo on September 25, 2018 at the Flying V Conference Hall, Pugo, La Union.

LU TO BUILD SHELTER FOR HOMELESS ELDERS, MINORS

Rhea Matilde A. Ballesteros

Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) Member Reynaldo M. Mosuela authored an ordinance creating *Sangbayan ti La Union* or House in La Union for the homeless, abandoned and neglected senior citizens, minors and others in the province to be located within the premises of the Balaogan District Hospital, Bungol, Balaogan, La Union. Said ordinance was approved on third and final reading on September 6, 2018 during the 114th Regular Session of the 21st SP of La Union.

Rising cases of abandonment and neglect of the elderly and minors and the proliferation of "taong grasa" or homeless rugged beggar in the province were identified as some of the reasons for enacting the ordinance.

The ordinance provides that the *Sangbayan ti La Union* will be operated and managed by the Provincial

Government through the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office (PSWDO) in cooperation with the Provincial Health Office and Balaogan District Hospital.

An initial fund of P5,000,000.00 will be appropriated to build the *Sangbayan ti La Union* and for the operation and maintenance of the facility.

Aside from shelter, the home is envisioned to provide health care, recreational, cultural, religious and vocational activities that will help improve the well-being of the vulnerable sectors in the society.

Sangbayan is an Iloko word which means a place where one may lodge and in this ordinance, it shall mean a place where the homeless, abandoned and neglected senior citizens, minors and others could be sheltered and cared for.