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the most prestigious pageant in the province, the Mutia ti La Union. Anne Margareth "Meghan" V. Sanglay, March 2, 2019 held at Poro Point Baywalk, City of San Fernando, La Union.

Meghan is a 21 year old, 4th year nursing student at Lorma Colleges. On 2017, she represented the Philippines in Supertalent of the World, an International pageant held at Korea. She also joined Mutia ti La Union 2015 and landed as the 1st Runner-up.

With her grace and confidence, she the title, she also won the Miss Soiltech award.

With her wit, Meghan dazzled the

of Sudipen finally clinched the crown of portion. She answered the question "What Thunderbird Awards, landed as the 2nd is the greatest blessing you've received in Runner Up. life and why?" with "The greatest blessing that I have received in life is to be able to Dalmacio of Agoo who also won Miss representative of the said municipality, stand in the Mutia ti La Union stage again. I Sillag and Beautiful Skin awards; Ms. bagged the title Mutia ti La Union 2019 on can say that I have faced rejections, Angelita Soliven from Santo Tomas, Ms. criticisms before but now I came back Jessica Estillore of Naquilian; Ms. Aleeya the crown facing it stronger, braver and Bulong of Balaoan. empowered."

the pageant. Ms. Kristine Aquino of and Miss 1590; Ms. Nerissa Shawyer from Bangar was crowned as Mutia ti Turismo Rosario got the People's Choice Award; and received the Miss Beautiful Hair and Ms. Emalyn Fontanilla of Bacnotan was award while Ms. Ethel Abellanosa of awarded Best in Talent. Tubao was crowned Mutia ti Kalikasan. was able to impress the judges. Aside from Ms. Rebecca Estrada of Pugo got the 1st Big names in showbiz such as. Luis Runner Up and also won Ms. Photogenic, Manzano and Bayani Agbayani served as Best in Swimsuit and Evening Gown the hosts; Actress Jodi Sta. Maria, Miss awards while Ms. Mari Jo Quilon of San World 2013 Megan Young, Actor Paulo

After years of waiting, the Municipality crowd during the question and answer Fernando City, who won the Miss CSI and Avelino, Veteran Photographer Raymond

Other top 10 finalists were Ms. Camille stronger and braver. Now, I am worthy of Sampaga from Luna and Ms. Rosenda

Ms. Dimple Martin of Bauang was Four other ladies stood out during chosen as Miss Friendship, Miss Toyota

The show was a star-studded event.

Isaac and Miss International 1979 Melanie Marquez served as the panel of judges while actress Julia Baretto entertained the crowd through a duet song with Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacov" R. Ortega III. Also Actor Matteo Guidicelli serenaded the candidates in their evening gowns. Also spotted in the audience were singer Pops Fernandez and actress Marjorie Baretto. After the pageant, a concert was also held in the same stage by Ex Batallion.

Mutia ti La Union 2019 is one of the highlights of the 169th Foundation Anniversary which served as an opportunity for young women to make an impact on the community with their advocacies on women and youth empowerment, protection of environment, healthy lifestyle, among others.

LU 169TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED IN PRAYER, FLAG RAISING PROGRAM

Camille R. Bumatay, OPG-MPIU



In celebration of the 169th La Union Foundation Anniversary, Gov. Pacoy spearheads the raising of the Philippine Flag during the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Prayer and Simultaneous Flag Raising Program on March 2, 2019 at the Capitol Grounds, City of San Fernando, La Union.

the Diocese of San Fernando de La Union; our forbearers." Mr. Rufo A. Baro, 1st Counselor of San Ernesto Brother Mabasa, Community and Pastor Brennus H. Paragas Council. of the United Christian Church of the Philippines.

Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III Fernando, La Union.

The Province of La Union together highlighted that the collaboration of all with its 20 component Local Government leaders, stakeholders and constituents Units (LGUs) celebrated the 169th La was the key for La Union's years of Union Foundation Anniversary through an success saying, "We are La Union, the land Ecumenical Thanksgiving Prayer and created by the consensus for unity peace Simultaneous Flag Raising Program at the and love, concord and amity." He also Provincial Capitol Grounds, City of San renewed his commitment to serve the Fernando, La Union on March 2, 2019. province saying, "Today, on our 169th The Ecumenical Thanksgiving Prayer Anniversary, I renew my love to all of you was led by Religious Leaders including and honor my commitment to uphold the Most Reverend Bishop Daniel O. Presto of legacy brought down through the ages by

Gov. Pacoy together with the Fernando La Union Stake of The Church of provincial officials led the raising of the Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; Mr. Sheil Philippine Flag as the Provincial Sainal Kumal Macapundag, President of Government of La Union (PGLU) Family the Muslim Association-La Union Chapter; Choir sang the Philippine National the Anthem. This was followed by the Tagapangasiwa ng Distrito ng La Union of simultaneous raising of the flag of La the Iglesia ni Cristo; and Pastor Timothy Union and the flags of the 20 LGUs led by Lee Warden of San Fernando Christian the Municipal and City Mayors and

The ceremony ended with a Eucharistic Mass held at the Diego Silang In his speech, Gov. Francisco Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San

LUMC SPORTSFEST 2019 KICKS OFF

Ariane Erin C. Amparo, GPC-LUMC

In its belief that one of the driving forces that allow the delivery of quality health care services to its clientele is a healthy body and a sound mind, the La Union Medical Center (LUMC), through its Gender and Development (GAD) Program, has officially opened its third Sportsfest on March 1, 2019 in Agoo, La Union.

The opening ceremony highlighted by a Fun Run that was participated in by the employees and players of the seven participating teams together with their team captains. Several activities, which include ball games, individual and team sports were lined up to provide the employees opportunities to showcase their competencies.

LUMC employees registered in the different ball games and sports activities that aim to strengthen the bond among



La Union Medical Center (LUMC) employees registered in the different ball games and sports activities take the oath of sportsmanship and team spirit during LUMC's 3rd Sportsfest on March 1, 2019 in Agoo, La Union.

them and to imbue the value of team spirit to everyone.

Dr. Joseph Mannix F. Galimba stressed in his opening remarks the importance of developing the employees' character and determination to excel in carrying out their functions.

The competition runs for the entire month of March and shall continue until April 2019 during LUMC's 17th Anniversary celebration.

LUMC Sportsfest 2019 is just one of the many activities being conducted by the hospital for its employees under the leadership of Chief Executive Officer Dr. Glenn Ernest M. Fonbuena. The hospital also does regular technical trainings for its staff and undertakes community-based projects like tree-planting, medical missions and feeding programs.

SIGNIFICANCE OF TWINS AND MULTIPLE BIRTHS IN LA UNION, RECOGNIZED

Helen Sabado, GPC-PPO



A HEART FOR TWINS. Gov. Pacoy mingles with one pair of twins participating in the Twins and other Multi-Births Day Celebration on March 26, 2019 at the Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union. Around 230 twins and 3 triplets from the different municipalities of La Union participated in the event.

As Resolution No. 202-2007 declared occasion that highlighted their unique and March of every year as La Union Twins Day, the Provincial Government of La Union through the Provincial Population of abilities and talents of different twins Office celebrated the Twins and Multiple Births Day on March 26, 2019 at the Capitol Grounds, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union.

This activity, which aims to attain significant results through discussions, dialogue, and socialization among the twins and concerned government personnel, was graced by Hon. Vini Nola A. Ortega, ABONO Party-list Representative who is also a mother of twin daughters. She is joined by Dr. Josephine Ruedas, Provincial Health Officer of the Province of Ilocos Norte who represented Gov. Imee R. Marcos. Both served as Guests of Honor and Speakers.

Around 230 twins and 3 triplets from the different municipalities of La Union gathered in attendance during this special

valuable significance to the province.

Part of the program were presentation with engaging competitions, parlor games and raffle draws that gave them fun and excitement in bringing out the spirit of camaraderie among all participants.

The 85 year old fraternal twins from the Municipality of Balaoan were identified as the oldest participants and the 8 month identical twins from the Municipality of Santol came as the youngest of the participants.

The program ended with the inspirational message from Gov. Francisco Emmanuel R. Ortega III who was also celebrating his birthday at that time. According to him, as a father of twins himself, he knows the struggle of raising them so he encouraged the parents to be more patient and be extra loving to their

PROVINCIAL GIS CLUSTER ESTABLISHED

Ma. Ashley A. Ebreo, GPC-ICTU



Mr. Adel Evangelista of Geodata Systems Technologies presents the proposed Provincial Geographic Information System Cluster to all concerned Department Heads, Officers-in-Charge and employees of the Provincial Government of La Union on March 14, 2019 at the Agri-Tourism Center, City of San Fernando, La Union.

With the aim to connect all the 19 municipalities and one city of La Union to the province in terms of data management, the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) headed by Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III will be adopting the Geographic Information System (GIS) within this year.

The new system is geared towards a better and smarter decision making, government transaction, knowledge management sharing, and a more efficient organization.

Having a GIS allows an organization to expand GIS investment from provincial to municipal level. It also has the ability to facilitate planning, monitoring, and geo-tagging of provincial facilities and services. Finally, it helps the Local Government Units to earn more revenue such as in Real Property Tax by helping the Municipal Assessors in easily

locating and identifying properties and owners.

Mr. Adel Evangelista of Geodata Systems Technologies, discussed about the benefits of having the GIS as a tool in monitoring the different management status of the province while Ms. Patricia Algora gave an overview on the ArcGIS platform and its applications.

For better understanding, a short demo on how to use, navigate, monitor, edit, and customize the ArcGIS platform and its applications was also conducted.

This information system will be a big help to improve accuracy and currency of data, modernize workflows, and support citizen engagements. Indeed ArcGIS is a must-have in the province and in the municipalities to attain the vision of a friendly knowledge management sharing within the province and to its constituents.

FORMER SK CHAIRMAN, ONE OF LA UNION SERVICE AWARDEES

Jane T. Flores, GPC-SP



Former La Union Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) Chairman Charlie P. Cruz, Ph.D. was one of the La Union Service awardees during the Pammadayaw 2019 on March 1, 2019 at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union. He has been serving as the only Filipino Lecturer on Medical Laboratory Sciences of the University of Wyoming,

Casper, Wyoming, USA.

Nominated by Sangguniang Panlalawigan Member Francisco Paolo P. Ortega V, Dr. Cruz is a former SK Chairperson of Barangay Saoay, San Fernando City, La Union.

Before trying his luck abroad, he taught as Medical Technology Instructor at Lorma Colleges and authored various

textbooks and medical laboratory manuals in Nursing and Medical Technology Science. He also worked as Clinical Laboratory Science University Lecturer at the Shaqra University in Saudi Arabia. From 2016 to present, with strict and rigid evaluation on lecturers of the university, Dr. Cruz has maintained an outstanding rating to be retained as a lecturer at the University of Wyoming.

During his stint as SK Chairperson, he has implemented various laudable youth programs and projects that earned him as the Most Outstanding SK Chairperson of the Province and City Excellence Award in 2017.

As an Overseas Filipino Worker (OFW), he has inspired, helped and supported his fellow professors and kababayan land a good job abroad and extended financial assistance to people in need. He extends help to his fellow OFWs who are struggling with finances and their respective careers inasmuch as he himself struggled during his beginnings in a foreign land. His experiences and support to his fellow OFWs earned him as finalist to the Huwarang OFW by the The 700 Club Asia. He recently initiated a reunion of the SK Chairpersons of the City of San Fernando batch 1996-2002 and proposed a grand reunion and a project to help the city and the province through its social welfare programs.

He dreamt of becoming a medical doctor but because of poverty, he had to embrace a course and a career that later landed him great opportunities, that eventually alleviated their family status and became an opportunity to help

The members of the Committee on Awards unanimously endorsed his nomination as being one of the La Union Service Awardees as his performance in a globally-known university did not only give honor and recognition to him and his family but also to the province.

2ND LA UNION AGRI-TOURISM

Joy Ann L. Gurtiza, GPC-PIO

As part of the 169th La Union Agri-Tourism Village within the Provincial Capitol Complex as it organized the 2nd Agri-Tourism Festival.

and a Lighting Ceremony of the the Agri-Tourism Village where booths of the 20 component LGUs of the province and 30 participating stalls of the Agri-Tourism Governance System of the province, the Village Bazaar were officially opened to LGUs the public. The event gathered more than 400 participants from the municipalities and lone city composed of their local and Provincial Capitol Building and conducted government agencies.

Foundation Anniversary celebration, the Agri-Tourism Festival was the Search for Bougainvillea Show through Centerpiece Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) Best Agri-Tourism Booth wherein each and Bridal Bouquet Making Contests Bouquet Making Contest was awarded to successfully put-up the first-ever LGU was given their respective booth that they decorated with indigenous and other raw materials while highlighting its unique agriculture and tourism sites, The festival officially opened on products and services. A couple of February 22 through a Pyromusical Show thousand attendees and visitors witnessed showcase of the One-Town-One-Product (OTOP).

> As an element in the Performance which were clustered by Agri-Tourism circuits, also performed from February 23 to March 4 in front of the

One of the highlights of the Parade of Lights, ELYUlympics, and respectively declared in the Provincial Ordinance DMMMS-NLUC as Second Runner-up. No. 001-2002.

Runner-up.

Moreover, the Grand Prize for the Other activities such as Art Competition, Mid La Union Campus (DMMMSU-MLUC), Luzon by 2025.

The Grand Winner for the Bridal were also conducted. Bougainvillea is Saint Louis College followed by the official flower of the province as DMMMSU-MLUC as First Runner-up and

The Agri-Tourism Festival concluded The Best Agri-Tourism Booth on the night of March 9 as a grand display Champion was awarded to the City of San of fireworks lightening up the sky. The Fernando followed by the Municipality of various activities were held in partnership Bauang as First Runner-up and with the Provincial Agriculture Office and Municipality of Bangar as Second Provincial Information Office - Tourism Operations Unit.

PGLU has high hopes to double the Centerpiece Making Contest was given to activities and further publicize the festival Sea and Sky College while First and next year. Through teamwork and Second Runners-up were given to commitment among the component LGUs, barangay officials and other guests and circuit programs by showcasing their Polytechnic College of La Union and Don the province will achieve its vision to be national festivals, culture, traditions and OTOPs. Mariano Marcos Memorial State University the Heart of Agri-Tourism in Northern



Balaoan District Hospital (BLDH) Chief of Hospital Dr. Mark Anthony S. Tomboc together with the Inspection Team from the Office of the Governor inspects the newly purchased Anesthesia Machine on March 14, 2019 in Balaoan, La Union. The equipment is provided by the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) under the Provincial Development Fund to ensure efficient and quality service to patients who need surgical operation.



Ex officio Board Member and La Union Liga ng mga Barangay President Geraldine "Denny" R. Ortega and Vice President Erwina C. Eriguel greet one of the Barangay Captains of Agoo during the distribution of aid to Barangays at the Eriguel Sports Complex, Agoo, La Union on March 22, 2019. All barangays of the 19 other Local Government Units of La Union have also received same aid.



FIRE & EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS. This Fire Prevention Month, Bacnotan District Hospital (BDH) led by members of the Fire/Earthquake and Disaster Management Committee, chaired by Dr. Raul E. Sagun, conducts a fire and earthquake drill, in partnership with Bacnotan Fire Station on March 13, 2019 in Bacnotan, La Union. Participants were taught to remember the acronym RACE (Rescue, Alarm, Contain, Extinguish) in case of fire and the Drop, Cover and Hold position to save themselves and reduce the risk of injury.



Around 600 participants joined the Barangay Health Workers (BHW) Congress with the theme BHWs: KaagaPHAy sa Kalusugan ng Bawat Pilipino held at San Juan Gymnasium, San Juan, La Union on March 28, 2019. The activity aimed to familiarize the BHWs on the Philippine Health Agenda's (PHA's) current directions and strategies to effectively perform their roles and responsibilities as frontline workers that support the implementation of health services in the community.



Tourism Officers from the Municipalities of Aringay, Agoo, Caba, Bauang and San Gabriel present directions and initiatives of their respective municipalities for the first batch of Tourism Development Plan Review on March 14-22, 2019 at the Tourism Operations Conference Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union.



To ensure better future for La Union youth and higher literacy rate in the province, ABONO Party-list Representative Vini Nola A. Ortega spearheads the distribution of scholarship grants to the first batch of ABONO scholars on March 22, 2019 at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union.



Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) personnel join the Women's Month Celebration Fun Walk and Zumba organized by Region I Advocates for Gender Equality Incorporated (RAGE-I) with the theme "We Make Change Work for Women" on March 8, 2019 held in the City of San Fernando, La Union. After the Zumba Session, an open forum discussing advocacies on advancing women's rights and gender equality, and ending discrimination against women was conducted. The celebration aims to celebrate the achievements of women and girls in various fields and recognize their contributions in society.



Provincial Administrator Jennifer Joan O. Manguiat expresses the readiness of La Union in building new partnerships with tourism stakeholders all over the country as well as the whole world as she delivers the speech of Gov. Pacoy during the Welcome Dinner for the Philippine Travel Agencies Association on March 28, 2019 at Thunderbird Resort, City of San Fernando, La Union.

LA UNION PREPARES FOR 9TH AYAT FESTIVAL

Vice O. Mamaril, GPC-PIO

The La Union Council for Language and Culture (LUCLC), headed by Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III, convened on March 19, 2019 at the Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) Lobby, Speaker Pro Tempore Francisco I. Ortega Provincial Legislative Building and Session Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union in preparation for the 9th Ayat Festival Celebration.

The meeting was presided by Provincial Information Officer, Mr. Adamor L. Dagang and was attended by the members of LUCLC. As part of the festivity, the usual activities that promotes the Iloco Language and Culture such as Iskrabiloko, a scrabble game of Ilocano words; La Union Henio Version 2; and Salip ti Deklamasion will be held. The said festivity will be a month-long celebration on the month of August.

For this year, a new set of activities was proposed to be part of the festival. The Retrato Exhibit, a photo contest which will focus on Natural, Cultural and Adventure sites of the province;



AYAT FESTIVAL 2019. Provincial Information Officer Mr. Adamor L. Dagang spearheads the discussion of activities for the upcoming Ayat Festival 2019 during the La Union Council for Language and Culture meeting held at the Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) Lobby, Speaker Pro Tempore Francisco I. Ortega Provincial Legislative Building and Session Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union on March 19, 2019.

IlokOlympics, a series of larong ng lahi games; Letter Writing Contest; Timek ti Ayat Solo Vocal Competition, a singing competition wherein the piece will be Ilokano; Sayawit, a combination of Ilokano song and dance presentation; and the Abel Fashion Show, which will showcase the Abel industry of the province through a fashion show design contest were proposed.

To be able to familiarize the youth about culture and arts, participants of the activities will be students from Elementary and Junior High School in the province.

The Ayat Festival is a series of events celebrating and fostering local language, culture and talent, in accordance with the Provincial Ordinance 026-2012, the Local Language Code of La Union otherwise known as the Iloko Code, a comprehensive policy establishing Ilokano as the official provincial language and institutionalizing its use along with other national and official languages.



BE PREPARED, BE ALERT, BE SAFE. In observance of Fire Prevention Month, Balaoan District Hospital (BLDH), partnering with Balaoan Bureau of Fire Protection, conducts an Earthquake and Fire Drill on March 21, 2019 in Balaoan, La Union. The drill's objective is to help the Disaster Management Committee of BLDH to design a specific response plan for earthquakes and fire and to train them to properly responsed during earthquakes. During the orientation, Senior Fire Officer Ferdinand L. Fabian stressed the importance of participating in the drill and taking it seriously so that when actual disaster strikes, all employees will know what to do.



PROSTATE CARE FOR HIM. Adult and Pediatric Urologist Dr. Neddy Lee Lim discusses the importance of maintaining a healthy prostate through regular check-ups especially when you reach 40 years old during his lecture on male genito-urinary tract diseases at Bacnotan District Hospital (BDH) on March 26, 2019. Almost 90 individuals attended the activity composed of mainly male patients. Dr. Lim also provided free consultation.



Veterinarian I Dr. Romuelda C. Mangaser of the Office of the Provincial Veterinarian discusses the Preventive Plans and Activities for African Swine Fever (ASF) and Avian Influenza (AI) during the Lecture on AI and ASF at the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 1, Sevilla, City of San Fernando, La Union on March 22, 2019. The activity aims to give overview and updates on ASF and AI in order to prevent it from entering in the province.



Participants of Youth for You (U4U) Teen Trail Activity engage in the Teen Chat Activity on March 7, 2019 at the Diego Silang Hall, City of San Fernando, La Union. With the aim to deliver critical information to Filipino teens to prevent teen pregnancy, reduce the prevalence of sexually transmitted infections and help them become competent and responsible adults, this activity was spearheaded by the Provincial Population Office as a part of the 169th La Union Founding Anniversary. Simultaneous activities were conducted such as Teen Chat, Teen Code, Power of You, #bakasBukas Exhibit and Teen Tunes.

LU LOLOS AND LOLAS CELEBRATE SENIOR'S NIGHT

William R. Garcia IV. GPC-OPAS

In celebration of the 169th Founding Anniversary of La Union, around 360 members of the Federation of Senior Citizen's Association of La Union (FSCALU) joined the Senior's Night on March 6, 2019 at the Capitol Grounds, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union.

On behalf of Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III, the event started with a welcome message from Provincial Social Welfare and Development Officer, Mr. Ranilo P. Ipac. He noted that while some people have reached the age of retirement, they must always be actively engaged in the task of nation building. Mr. Ipac

added that this could be done through the wisdom honed from years of experience on the job and in life, by helping them to sustain their values, or by helping young people to sustain the timeless values that shape our society. "It could also mean inculcating values of love and patriotism in the younger generation and encouraging the sustenance of a cohesive, caring and inclusive society," he said.

Department of Social Welfare and Development Assistant Regional Director Nora Dela Paz said, "To see the elderly as a critical asset in our program for nation building, we want to bring their talents, their experiences, their networks out there in helping us address areas of need in the country, in our province, and in our own localities."

Representatives from 19 Local Government Units (LGUs) competed and showcased their talents in singing, playing different instruments, dancing and a mixture of song and poems, all in the Iloko vernacular.

Mr. Wilfredo Rivera of LGU Agoo won the first place with P20,000.00 cash prize and a plaque, followed by Mr. Danilo Mupas of LGU Bangar with P15,000.00 cash prize and Mr. Reynaldo Fangon of LGU Rosario with P10,000.00 in third place. The others

went home with P2,000.00 as consolation prizes.

One of Gov. Pacoy's initiative through the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) is focused on looking at ways on how the PGLU can do a better job in ensuring a life of independence, engagement, support which is constructive for the senior citizens in the population. That through such activities, it would help build camaraderie and help build their own sense of usefulness and give them a greater sense of vitality to do other things with their families and friends that make a more cohesive and productive society.

PGLU INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY UPGRADED

Jamie Rose N. Mifa and Ma. Ashley A. Ebreo, GPC-ICTU



The Information and Communications Technology Unit (ICTU), takes the lead in upgrading ICT assests providing 66 desktop computers, six projectors, eight laptops and 27 ink-based printers for the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) offices on March 11-19, 2019 at the Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union.

The Information and Communication Technology Unit (ICTU) is mandated to desktop computers, 15 ink-based provide responsive and accountable ICT printers, 15 dot matrix printers, five Services to improve the operations of the Provincial Government processes. While the Province-wide Wireless Mesh High the Speed Local Network installation that will interlink the 20 Local Government Units of Operations Management Information the province is ongoing, the ICTU also System (iHOMIS) as part of their upgrades the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) by improving its ICT assets to increase productivity and services.

distributed a total of three projectors, three High lumens projectors, 66 Standard User Desktops, two Power User Desktops, eight laptops, and 27 ink-based printers to be utilized by the 30 departments and because it will ensure one is to one units of PGLU.

In addition, five tower servers, 44 document scanners with feeder and five flatbed scanners will be utilized by five district hospitals in preparation for their Integrated Hospital qualification to PhilHealth and Department of Health (DOH) requirements.

The upgrade is part of the PGLU Wide As a part of the project, the ICTU Area Network Support Project. Through this project, PGLU will be able to increase its productivity and improve its working protocol not only because applications and programs will load faster, but also computer user ratio.

LA UNION MEN WEAR HEELS OR WOMEN EMPOWERMEN

Renerose Beninsig, GPC-PHO

Women's Month Celebration with the theme "Women Making HERstory. We Make Change Work for Women," the Rural Health Unit of Bangar, La Union in coordination with the Provincial Government of La Union through the Provincial Health Office conducted Men in Heels Modeling and Fun Walk at the Sangguniang Bayan Mini Gym, Bangar, La Union on March 22, 2019.

Male participants from the Philippine National Police, Bureau of Fire Protection, Barangay Council and Municipal Government employees of Bangar wore heels to show men's unity with women in promoting gender sensitivity, and rethinking their attitudes towards women.

Around 30 men in heels walked around the town plaza and showcased their talent and modeling skills in heels. The wearing of heels symbolizes the struggles of women today- may it be from violence, inequality or some other forms. Also, different games were conducted in

In observance of the National line with the daily roles and work of women in the society.

> "Daytoy nga aktibidad tatta nga aldaw ket ipariknana kaniatayo a lallaki a haan a bareng bareng ti responsibilidad ti maysa nga ina iti uneg ti balay ken kagimungan," Bangar Vice Mayor Virgilio Dabalos said during the event.

The event ended with the awarding of winners and giving of Certificate of Appreciation to the participants. Men in Heels Walkathon Champion Roel Flores from the Philippine National Police (PNP) received a cash prize, sash, trophy, and mobile phone. Salvador Rilloraza and Cherwin Manzano both from the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management of Bangar won 1st and 2nd runner-up respectively took home cash prize, trophy and sash. Cash prizes were also given for special awards which include Highest in Heels won by Ruben Sagandoy from PNP and King of the Runway (Cat walk) won by Flores.



MEN IN HEELS. Men participants from The Philippine National Police, Bureau of Fire Protection, Bangar Barangay Council, and Bangar Municipal Hall walk in their high heels during the Men in Heels Modeling and Fun Walk held on Bangar, La Union on March 22, 2019. Said activity conducted by the Rural Health Unit of Bangar in coordination with Provincial Health Office was done in celebration of the National Women's Month.

PGLU FORGES PARTNERSHIP WITH PHILIPPINE TRAVEL AGENCIES

Vice Mamaril, GPC-PIO



Gov. Pacoy and ABONO Party-List Representative Vini Nola A. Ortega pose for posterity with the member of the Philippine Travel Agencies Association, headed by their Vice President for inbound Angel A. Lao, after enjoying the seafood specialties of River Farm Seafood Restaurant in Baroro, Bacnotan, La Union on March 29, 2019. A total of 72 travel agencies from all around the country visited La Union from March 28-30, 2019 to discover places they can include in their tour packages.

To further strengthen and promote the Immersion Tour showcasing the Stone tourism industry of the province, the Hand Art Gallery in Luna, Naguilian Basi Provincial Government of La Union (PGLII) and Silverworks, Abel Bangar and headed by Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III collaborated with the Philippine Travel Agencies Association (PTAA) for a three-day La Union Familiarization Tour held on March 28-30, 2019 in the province.

Participated in by around 80 participants, the tour included a Pilgrimage Tour showcasing the various churches in La Union such as the Nuestra Señora Virgen Del Mar Cautiva in Santo Tomas; Basilica Minore of Our Lady of Charity in Agoo; Shrine of Our Lady of Namacpacan in Luna; St. Christopher Parish Church in Bangar; St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Bacnotan; and the Macho Temple in the City of San Fernando. They also went on a Farm Tour at Grape Farm in Bauang; Gastronomical Tour in major local restaurants such as Halo Halo De Iloko and Riverfarm Restaurants; Nature and Adventure Tour at Agoo Eco-Fun World, Pugo Adventure and San Juan Surfing Area; and Arts and Crafts Bacnotan Sericulture and Apiculture Industry.

A Business to Business Meeting (B2B) between PTAA and the different Tourism Stakeholders of the province was hosted by Department of Tourism - Region 1 in the second day. It was a day of networking and opportunity for the province's industry players to explore new opportunities and strengthen ties in a venue that compliments perfect mix for leisure, meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions.

The PTAA is an organization born out of union of the national associations of outbound travel agencies and inbound tour operators. Founded to foster unity in the travel industry and to promote the welfare of its members and the traveling public, PTAA has more than 500 members and works closely with government agencies. It is widely recognized by international airlines, hotels, resorts, insurance, and cruise companies.

SP LA UNION PROPOSES CANCER, KIDNEY DISEASE PATIENTS SUPPORT

Cristina C. Marvida, GPC-SP

Sangguniang Panlalawigan Member (SPM) Bellarmin A. Flores II delivered two privilege speeches discussing the Health and Social concerns of Filipinos afflicted with renal disease and cancer. The first discourse entitled "Renal Disease: A Death Sentence?" was delivered on the 136th session and the second one with the title "Fighting Cancer - the dreaded disease" was delivered on the 137th session of the 21st Sangguniang Panlalawigan of the province. Renal disease and cancer are two of the top causes of death among Filipinos according to the Department of

The legislator mentioned that the

province can help the disease-stricken patients and their families by providing financial assistance to them. He urged his colleagues to increase the budget for financial assistance for the indigent patients. He also espoused the formation of a strong support group for the patients and their family, an association which aims to help patients especially those who are incapable of sustaining their treatment and/or their medication. The association can also be an instrument in promoting advocacy to have families and friends of patients to be more caring, understanding and supportive in the patient's battle.

Renal disease or chronic kidney disease (CKD) can be treated with dialysis, a treatment that uses artificial devices to perform the function of the kidney which is enough to sustain life. Dialysis performed on a patient needs to be adequate and on a regular basis. Patients without sufficient dialysis becomes weak, malnourished and unable to work. They exist only until the next dialysis treatment. Hence, dialysis is a bridge between life and death for CKD patients.

On the other hand, SPM Flores added that cancer patients may undergo chemotherapy treatment, it is a powerful treatment that kills growing cancer cells but it can also harm healthy cells and it has numerous side effects on the body. Thus, patients suffering from both diseases suffer anxiety and depression. On the financial side of the treatments, both are costly.

BM Flores proposed that a resolution be passed, asking Congress to immediately pass the Free Dialysis Bill which is one concrete step in helping patients. He ended his speech by exhorting his colleagues to pray for the patients affected with the disease for them to survive and enjoy their extended

PROVINCIAL LIBRARY HOSTS TECH4ED CENTER MANAGER'S TRAINING

Camille R. Bumatav, OPG-MPIU

With Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III's aim to upgrade the digital literacy in La Union, the Provincial Library in partnership with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) hosted the Technology for Economic Development (Tech4ED) Center Manager's Training dubbed as "Retooling of Knowledge Workers" on March 13-15, 2019 at the Provincial Library, LUPAC Bldg., City of San Fernando, La Union.

A total of 30 participants composed of Tech4ED Center Managers and their staff attended the three-day training which was composed of five modules namely Module 1: The Tech4ED Project; Module 2: The Tech4ED Center; Module 3: Center Management; Module 4: Center Operations; and Module 5: Evaluation of Centers. Discussions on Cyber Security, Photography and Videography were also included in the activity.

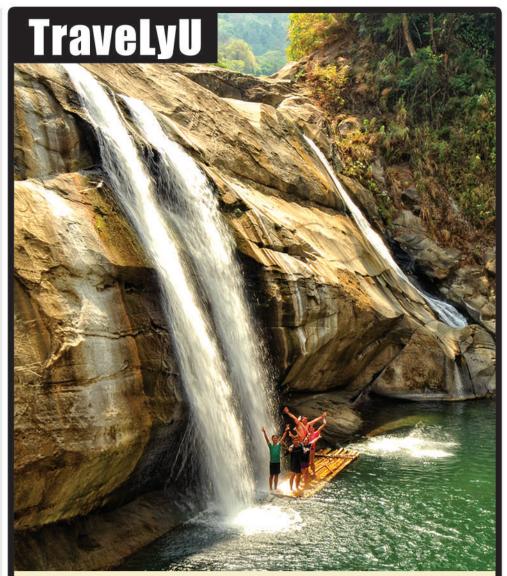
"We are thankful because we have a government that complements tradition with innovation...this training initiated by the DICT is a testament that through the support of the government, and aided with our commitment and dedication as government librarians, we give new hope to our public libraries," said Provincial Librarian Marissa Acosta during the opening program.

In La Union, seven public libraries

are offering Tech4Ed services. These are La Union Provincial Library; City of San Fernando Public Library; Dr. Eufranio Chan Eriguel Congressional E-Library (Agoo); Aringay Municipal E-Library and Information Center; Manuel E. Arguilla Silid Karunungan at Kultura (Bauang); Rosario Municipal Library; and Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University.

During the closing program, Media and Public Information Unit Chief, Joanna C. Guerrero ensured the newly-trained Tech4ED Center managers of the support they can get from the Provincial Government of La Union saying, "As Center Managers, Gov. Pacoy recognizes our partnership with you in the attainment of his vision geared toward Agri-Tourism, thus, be assured of his full support in your endeavors." She further thanked DICT Regional Operation Office Luzon Cluster 1 OIC-Director Engr. Antonio Edward E. Padre, who was also present during the activity.

After the training, it is expected that Tech4ED Centers will better provide services to their clients and communities to bridge the digital and education divide by giving access to information, communication, technology, government services, non-formal education, skills training, telehealth, job markets, and business portals resulting to inclusive growth in the province.



TANGADAN FALLS: HIDDEN TREASURE OF LA UNION

Vice Mamaril, GPC-PIO

La Union is known for its beautiful beaches and waves, very ideal for surfers and beach lovers. But aside waterfalls. For the shorter route, one has from being known as the Surfing Capital to trek for 30 minutes while on the longer of the North, there are lots of waterfalls in the province. The Tangadan Falls is one of the hidden treasures of La Union that is becoming popular today. It is located in Barangay Amontoc, San Gabriel. La Union.

How to get there? From the Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union, tourists need to travel 30 - 40 minutes to reach San Gabriel. For safety and security purposes, visitors and travelers are requested to visit San Gabriel Municipal Hall first where one can pay the environmental fee and acquire assistance of a local guides.

There are two routes going to the route, one needs to walk for an hour passing the rice fields and crossing the

Be amazed with the 50 ft. deep falls with its two cascades and gushing waterfalls. One can also ride a bamboo boat to get through the small cave behind the flowing water of the falls.

Be astonished while standing on top of the waterfalls which is a perfect spot for picture taking. Come, relax and unwind and feel the beauty of nature with Tangadan Falls - the hidden treasure of La Union.

PROVINCIAL ASSESSOR'S OFFICE EMPLOYEE RETURNS LOST AND FOUND CHECK

William R. Garcia IV, GPC-OPASS

headed by Provincial Assessor Engr. of La Union (PGLU), was the one who Arnulfo A. Cacho returned a check found the check. In an interview, she said amounting to Php100,000 found at the Receiving Area of the Provincial Assessor's Office on March 4, 2019.

The check was found when an employee was cleaning the office in the afternoon in which she immediately reported the lost brown envelope to the Administrative Office. The envelope was later found to contain documents and a pay to cash check.

Ms. Maria Ana P. Navarro, a casual

The Provincial Assessor's Office employee of the Provincial Government "I was cleaning the Office before I went home when I found a brown envelope under the chair."

In a CCTV Footage, the owners were seen holding the brown envelope while requesting for an Annotation of Mortgage at the Receiving Area of the Provincial Assessor's Office.

The check owners were identified to be residents of Barangay Pagdalagan Sur, Bauang, La Union.

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LU CONFERS AWARDS TO OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Rhea Matilde A. Ballesteros, GPC-SP

In celebration of the 169th Foundation Anniversary of La Union, the Provincial conferred the institutional awards to 46 individuals and organizations during the Pammadayaw 2019 held at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union on March 1, 2019.

The Conferment of Awards dubbed as "Pammadayaw" is an annual search and recognition of distinguished and qualified individuals and service organizations within and outside La Union for their outstanding achievements which contributed to the attainment of peace, unity and prosperity of the province and its people.

The Saranay Award is the highest award conferred to individuals who are residents of La Union; La Union Service Award is the second highest award conferred to private citizens and public officials who are residents of La Union; Diego Silang Award is conferred to qualified individuals are non-residents of the who province; Abel Award is awarded to Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), Private Institutions/Associations and Government Organizations (GOs) based outside the Province of La Union; Basi Award is awarded to NGOs Private Institutions/Associations and GOs based within the Province of La Union; Most Outstanding Entrepinoy Award aims to give recognition to enterprises and entrepreneurs La Union; and Most Outstanding Lupong Tagapamayapa Award recognizes exemplary performance of the Lupong Tagapamayapa in its implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay Barangay Justice System.

This year's recipient of the Saranay Award was Atty. Benjamin P. Sapitula, former President of Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University from July 15, 2010 to February 8, 2019.

The La Union Service Awardees included Judge Editha G. Miña - Aguba Regional Trial Court Judge National Capital Region Judicial Region, from



Atty. Benjamin P. Sapitula, former president of Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University in Bacnotan, La Union, receives the Saranay Award during the Pammadayaw 2019 at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union on March 1, 2019. Saranay Award is the highest award conferred during the annual awarding ceremony given to persons and organizations who have exhibited the highest degree of excellence in their chosen fields of endeavor and have raised the competitive image of La Union. Atty. Sapitula was joined by his family and his successor, Dr. Jaime I. Manuel, Jr.

Bangar; Brig. Gen. Florante M. Amano of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Dr. Gualberto T. Basco, Head, Emergency Room - Ilocos Training and Regional Medical Center Rescue Team (ER-ITRMC); Dr. Charlie P. Cruz, Filipino Academic Professional Lecturer, University of Wyoming and Former SK Chairperson of Saoay; Mr. Pancracio Q. Nisce, President and Manager of Rural Bank of Bauang and District Governor of Rotary International; Mr. Reynaldo Q. Nisce, National Director, Chamber of Real Estate and Builders' Association, Inc.; Arch. Le Marc B. Preposi, Youth Leader of the Philippine Contingent of the 45th SSEAYP, all from the City of San Fernando; Mr. Rodrigo Dela Peña, Jr., Literary Writer from Balaoan; and Ms. Joanne F. Ponsoy, News Anchor, GMA TV 10 - Dagupan City from Naguillian.

They have been recognized for bringing honor, prestige and recognition to the province through excellence and distinction in the pursuit of their work and profession.

21 civic organizations were given the Basi Award. They are Agoo Lions Club; Gifted Learning Centre Campus Lions Club; JCI Naguilian Basi; JCI San Fernando Saluyot; Ilocos Training and Regional Medical Center Rescue Team; La Union (Host) Lions Club; Lorma Campus Lions Club; LU LD International Lions Club; 103rd Ready Reserve Infantry Battalion; Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary -Auxiliary District of CGADNWLZN; Philippine Red Cross- La Union Chapter; Rotary Club of Agoo; Rotary Club of Bauang; Rotary Club of Metro Rosario; Rotary Club of Metro San Fernando; Rotary Club of San Fernando City North; Rotary Club of San Fernando La Union Inc.; Rotary Club of San Juan; Rotary Club of Southern La Union (Aringay); San Fernando (LU) Lions Club; and Zonta Club of La Union.

The Diego Silang Award was given to Dr. Eduardo M. Badua III, Medical Center Chief of the ITRMC; and Dr. Cherry Maglaya-Lee, President of Maglaya Medical-Legal Missions, Inc.; while the lone awardee for the Abel Award is the Maglaya Medical-Legal Missions, Inc.

The Most Outstanding Entrepinoy Award was given to businessmen or entrepreneurs whose leadership, dynamism and professionalism fulfill

social responsibilities and profound impact on the lives of the people of La Union. The awardees are Bangar Loom Weavers Association; Bauang Crochet Association; Inc. Familiar Table Artisan Chocolate and Café; Halo-Halo de Iloko; JND Healthy Foods; Kambak Resto and Grill; Hub; Lomboy Lemon Farms; Makkan Ilocano Restaurant; Mosuela Liner; and Sagat Crust Food House.

In recognition of its exemplary performance particularly in the effective and efficient operation and promotion of the Katarungang Pambarangay objectives, the Most Outstanding Lupong Tagapamayapa Award was given to Barangay Catbangen of the City of San Fernando, La Union.

On behalf of all the awardees, Atty. Benjamin P. Sapitula expressed his gratitude to the provincial officials for recognition. He enumerated various achievements accomplishments during his term as the University President of DMMMSU including implementing and projects, producing programs topnotchers in various fields, and making DMMMSU known of its academic excellence not only in the Region but in the country as well which he believed were the reasons for having coveted the most prestigious award. Likewise, he encouraged his fellow awardees to continue their cooperation and support to achieve the lifelong dream of prosperity for the people of La Union.

Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III, in his speech delivered by Sangguniang Panlalawigan Member Maria Annabelle S. De Guzman, said that the Pammadayaw is the avenue to reward the commitment to service and recognize the significant contributions the awardees have made in the development of the community. He considered them the best partner of transformative governance the province has been aspiring for. Lastly, he enjoined the awardees to remain committed and continue to work and be inspired with love.

CDH HOLDS 4TH ADOLESCENT HEALTH AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT OUTREACH PROGRAM

Marlon C. Runas, GPC-CDH



PLEDGE TO WIN WAR AGAINST ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE. Grade 7-12 students of San Jose National High School pledge to promote the rational use of antimicrobials responsibly during the 4th Adolescent Health and Youth Development Outreach Program at San Jose National High School, San Jose, Caba, La Union on March 11, 2019.

conducted an Adolescent Health and positively. She encouraged the youth to Youth Development Community Outreach Program at San Jose National High School (SINHS), San Jose, Caba, La Union on March 11, 2019.

A total of 385 students from Grade 7-12 of SJNHS actively participated in the various activities which included lectures on Adolescent Development, Violence Against Women and Children, Women Empowerment, Awareness on Smoking Cessation, Mobile Blood Donation, Anti-Rabies Awareness, handwashing lecture and demonstration, HIV Awareness, Ear Care, question and answer portion, dance number, signing of the Pledge of Support to CDH's Anti-Smoking Brigade Advocacy and Anti-microbial Stewardship.

Chief of Hospital Dr. Gretchen F. Aromin introduced the hospital's Health Adolescent and Youth Development Program in her inspirational message to the youth. She emphasized that as the future leaders, they should be aware of the issues and challenges that the youth are facing today and

Caba District Hospital (CDH) respond to such accordingly and support the various programs of the hospital specifically the Adolescent Health and Youth Development Program to help the institution and the Province of La Union in achieving its vision to become a Healthy and Happy La Union by 2022.

The highlight of the activity was the signing of the Pledge of Support to the Anti-Smoking Brigade by the SJNHS faculty, headed by Principal Precila Carreon, and the pledge to promote the rational use of antimicrobials responsibly signed by the students.

The Provincial Government of La Union, led by Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" Ortega III, and Caba District Hospital recognize the vital role of all adolescents in the society now and in the future. Advocacy for their welfare includes physical, mental and social wellbeing, imposition of reproductive health rights and provision of empowerment opportunities to prepare them to be productive members of the community.