

BARO A

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE PROVINCE OF LA UNION

TIMEK**ITI KAPITOLIO**

GOV. PACOY ADDRESSES PROVINCE, AIMS FOR STRONGER LA UNION

Camille R. Bumatay, PIO

Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III addressed the constituents presenting the accomplishments of the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU), where the Province stands at the moment and its plans moving forward in his State of the Province Address (SOPA) 2020 on September 1, 2020 at the Sangguniang Panlalawigan Session Hall, City of San Fernando, La Union.

He presented PGLU initiatives geared towards improved quality of lives of the people including Elevated Organizational Performance; Efficient Fiscal Mobilization; Strengthened Research and Policy Infrastructure; Culture of Innovation; Governance Partnerships; and ICT to Improve Public Service Delivery.

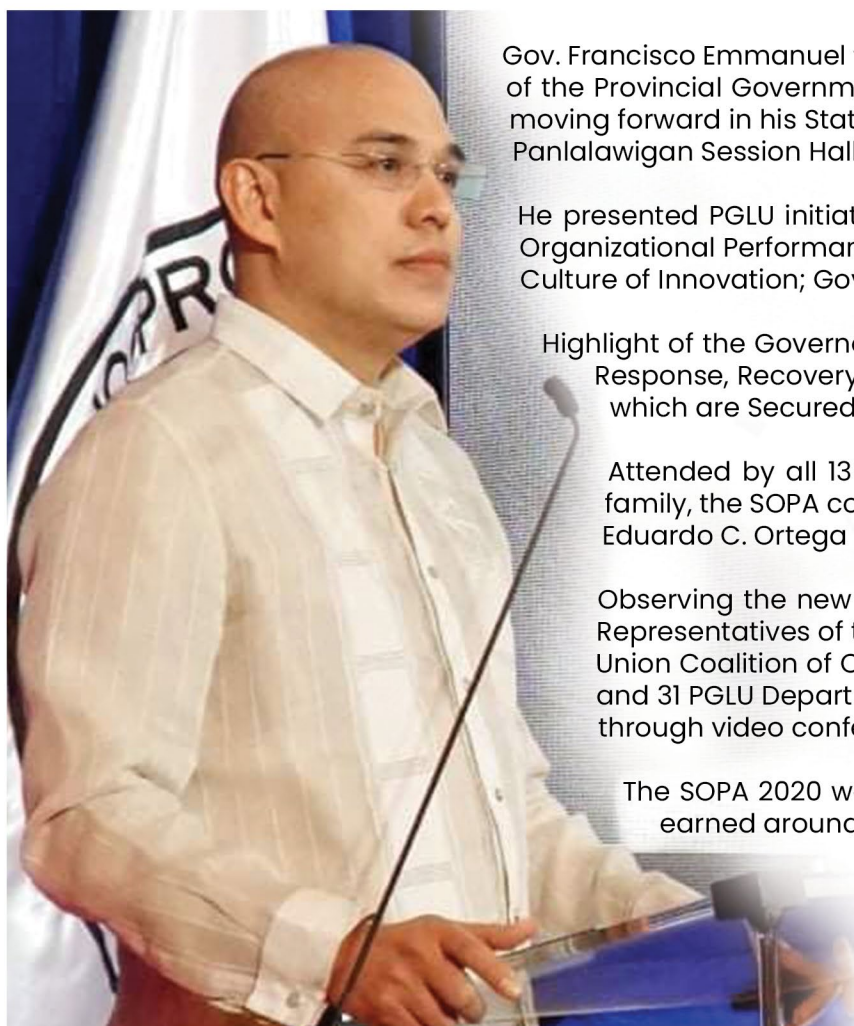
Highlight of the Governor's speech was the updated strategy, "Stronger La Union: Provincial Strategy on Response, Recovery, and Local Economic Development." He discussed the focus of the new strategy which are Secured La Union; Self-Sufficient La Union; and Sustainable La Union.

Attended by all 13 Board Members, First District Representative Pablo Ortega, and the Governor's family, the SOPA conducted during the 62nd Session of the 22nd SP was presided by Vice Gov. Mario Eduardo C. Ortega who also received the SOPA report from the Governor.

Observing the new normal protocols, Second District Representative Sandra Eriguel; 20 Mayors; 58 Representatives of the National Government Agencies; 4 Uniformed Personnel; 21 members of the La Union Coalition of Civil Society Organizations; 6 members of the Multi-Sectoral Governance Council; and 31 PGLU Department Heads, Chiefs of Hospitals, Unit Heads, and Consultants attended the event through video conferencing.

The SOPA 2020 was also aired through Facebook Live and Bombo Radyo for the general public. It earned around 33,700 Views with 1,400 Reactions, 460 Comments, and 432 Shares.

Gov. Pacoy expressed his gratitude to every Kaprobinsiaan, especially the Frontliners for battling the CoViD-19, as he also motivated everyone to work together for a "Stronger La Union, despite the adversities at present and in the future; Stronger La Union, seeking to advance even greater than it already is; Stronger La Union, a Province Worth Living In."



GOV. PACOY PINASALAMATAN ANG MGA FRONTLINERS, HEALTH WORKERS

Camille R. Bumatay, PIO

Sa ngalan ng buong Probinsya ng La Union, personal na ipinarating ni Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III ang pasasalamat sa mga frontliners at health workers sa kanyang pag-iikot sa unang distrito ng probinsya noong Agosto 12, 2020.

Binisita ng gobernador ang border checkpoint sa ng bayan ng Sudipen at ang mga District Hospitals sa mga bayan ng Balaoan at Bacnotan.

Ang bawat isa sa kanila ay nagbigay ng tuloy-tuloy na serbisyo sa pagsugpo ng COVID-19 simula pa nang ideklara ang Enhanced Community Quarantine sa Luzon. Inanyayahan ni Gov. Pacoy ang bawat isa na magdasal para sa patuloy na pagkakaisa ng lahat ng kaprobinsiaan upang magapi ang COVID-19. Siniguro din ng gobernador na buo ang kanyang suporta kasama ng buong Provincial Government of La Union para sa kanila.

Mahalaga para kay Gov.



Pacoy ang masigurong nasa mabuting kalagayan ang mga health workers at frontliners at upang mangyari ito, pinapahalagahan niya ang pagbisita sa kanila. Matatandaang kabilang ang mga frontliners sa mga naunang binisita ng gobernador noong naguumpisa ang pandemya upang mabigyan sila ng mga personal protective equipment at hygiene kits.

Susunod na bibisitahin ng gobernador at mga ospital at boundary checkpoints sa pangalawang distrito ng La Union.

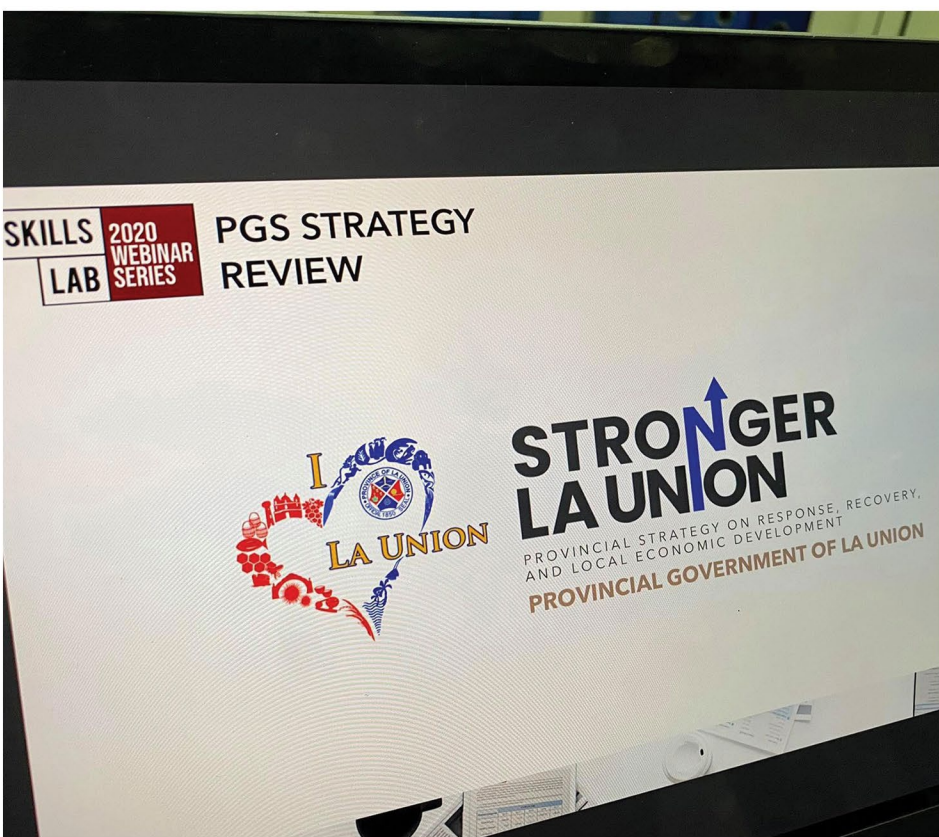
Upang ipakita ang suporta sa mga frontliner at health worker at para hindi sila panghihinan ng loob sa labang ito, ang bawat isa sa atin ay dapat gampanan ang tungkulin sa pagsunod sa Minimum Health Standards at pagdarasal para sa buong probinsya. Sa paraang ito makakamit natin ang Stronger La Union.

PGLU ADVOCATES TRANSFORMATIVE GOVERNANCE AMID COVID-19 CRISIS

The Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) shared its strategy assessment and refresh process in developing the Stronger La Union: Provincial Strategy on Response, Recovery and Local Economic Development to governance partners during the Skills Lab on PGS Strategy Review hosted by the Institute for Solidarity in Asia (ISA) on August 4, 2020.

The PGS Strategy Review course aims to help organizations in assessing the impact of the pandemic, understanding the process for reframing their strategies and developing their refreshed strategy based on their pandemic response continuum status.

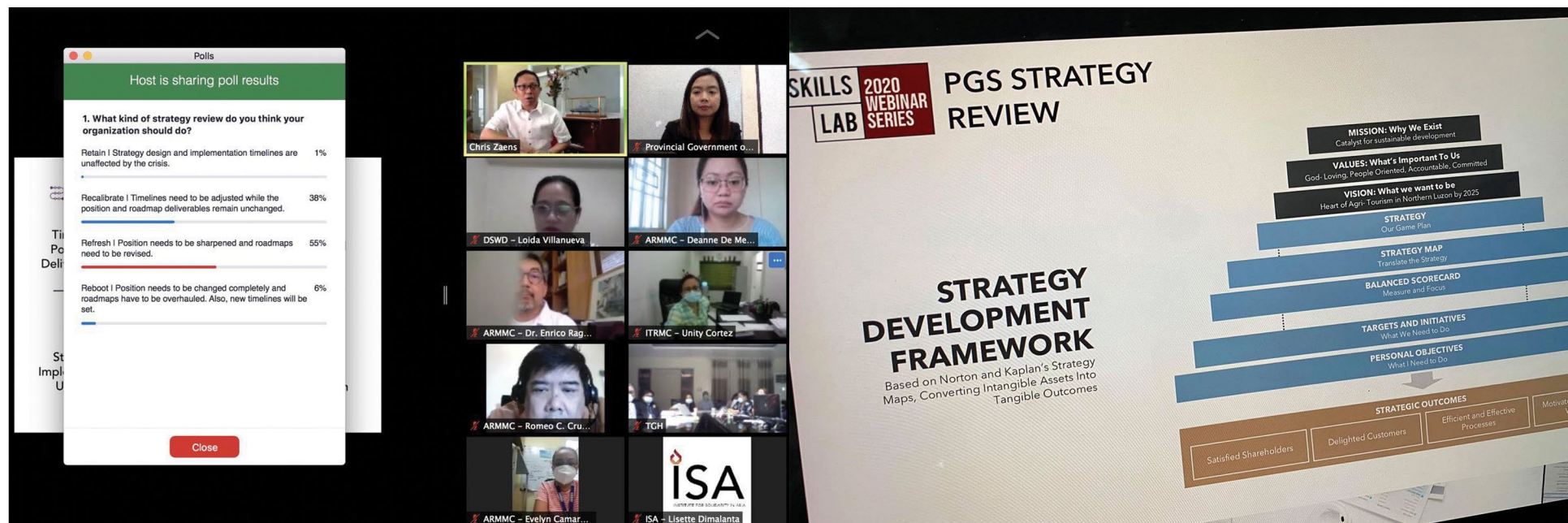
Around 100 delegates participated in the session to include professionals and strategy management officers



from 17 hospitals around the country, two national government agencies, one local government unit and one learning institution.

In the session, the PGLU, through the Office for Provincial Strategy, presented its strategy cascading framework, and alignment matrix to global and national plans. Moreover, some of the sectoral roadmaps, initiatives, and best practices of the Province were also discussed. Acknowledging the fact that we heal as one, the Provincial Government of La Union shall continue to work more closely with governance partners and stakeholders.

As we reach more institutions in our advocacy of transformative governance, let us also solidify our unity as one Province because we are Stronger Together!



OPG-ENRU SPEARHEADS INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEAN-UP CELEBRATION 2020

Grace Libong, GPC-ENRU

Amidst the worldwide CoVID-19 Pandemic, the Office of the Provincial Governor-Environment and Natural Resources Unit (OPG-ENRU) conducted an underwater clean up activity in celebration of the International Coastal Clean-up (ICC) 2020 on September 19, 2020 along the coastline of Paraair and Almeida, Balaoan, La Union.

ICC is the largest volunteer effort for ocean's health. It is being celebrated worldwide every third Saturday of September by virtue of Presidential Proclamation No. 470, S. 2003.

The activity was done in partnership with the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist-Fishery Division, Municipal and Barangay Local Government Units of Paraair and Almeida, Balaoan, La Union including Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council and fishermen.

There were 40 participants in the activity. To ensure health and safety protocols, the activity was done in three groups to observe physical distancing. The first group performed underwater clean up in the area of Immuki Island, the second group performed waste picking along shoreline of Barangay Paraair while the last group also collected waste in the shoreline of Almeida.

At the end of the activity, the first group were able to collect 5.5 kilograms of residual waste which include CD, garments, plastic, broken bottle and rubber. On the other hand, group 2 and group 3 collected 11 kilograms of residual waste, mostly garments and recyclable waste, 7 pcs of plastic bottles.

Given the little amount of waste collected along the 300 meters shoreline of Barangay Paraair and Almeida, it is observed that the area is well-maintained. The waste was then handed to barangay officials for proper disposal.



LA UNION INFRA PROJECTS CONTINUES CONSTRUCTION

The Provincial Project Monitoring Committee (PPMC) conducted Actual Site Monitoring for CY 2020 of various infrastructure projects in the Province of La Union on September 8, 2020 for the first district and on September 15, 2020 for the second district.

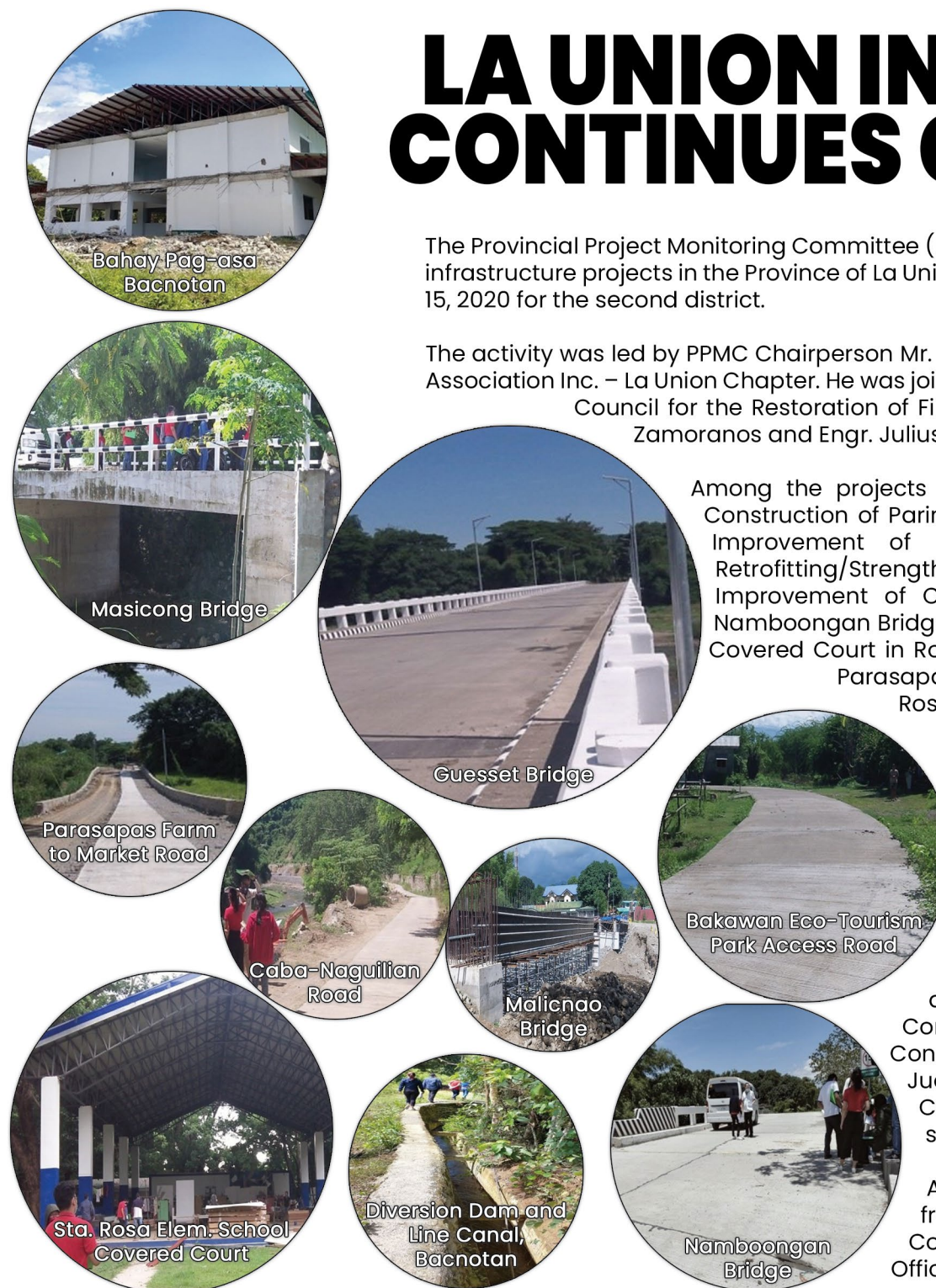
The activity was led by PPMC Chairperson Mr. Reynaldo Q. Nisce of the Chamber of Real Estate and Builder's Association Inc. - La Union Chapter. He was joined by Members of the Committee, Engr. Larry L. Cabatic of the Council for the Restoration of Filipino Values and DILG-La Union represented by Engr. Ariel C. Zamoranos and Engr. Julius JJ C. Ganaden.

Among the projects monitored and evaluated in the second district were the Construction of Paringao National High School Multi-Purpose Covered Court and Improvement of Bakawan Eco-Tourism Park Access Road in Bauang; Retrofitting/Strengthening of Guesset Bridge in Naguilian; Rehabilitation and Improvement of Caba-Naguilian Road (Phase II) in Caba; Construction of Namboongan Bridge in Sto. Tomas; Construction of Tanglag National High School Covered Court in Rosario; Rehabilitation of Parasapas Farm to Market Road and Parasapas Bridge in Rosario; and Construction of Malicnao Bridge in Rosario.

The monitoring revealed that the Rehabilitation of Bridge Namboongan, Construction of Tanglag National High School Covered Court, Retrofitting/Strengthening of Guesset Bridge were already completed and others are still on going.

Among the projects monitored and evaluated in the first district were Construction of Masicong Bridge in the City of San Fernando; Construction of Diversion Dam and Line Cana and Construction of Bahay-Pagasa (Phase 2) in Bacnotan; and Construction of Bacsayan Elementary School Covered Court, and Construction of Sta. Rosa Elementary School Covered Court in San Juan. Said projects were already completed except for the Construction of Bahay Pag-asa (Phase 2) in Bacnotan which is still on going.

Also present in the monitoring activity were representatives from the Office of the Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator, Provincial Treasurer's Office, Provincial Budget Office and Provincial Engineer's Office.



BURGOS, TUBAO COVID-19 CONTAINMENT INITIATIVES ASSESSED

Camille R. Bumatay, PIO

Through the availability of data gathered from quality assessments of CoViD-19 initiatives, the Provincial Incident Management Team (PIMT) discussed how they can provide assistance to the Local Government Units (LGUs) of Burgos and Tubao on August 13, 2020 given the sudden surge of confirmed CoViD-19 cases in the municipalities.

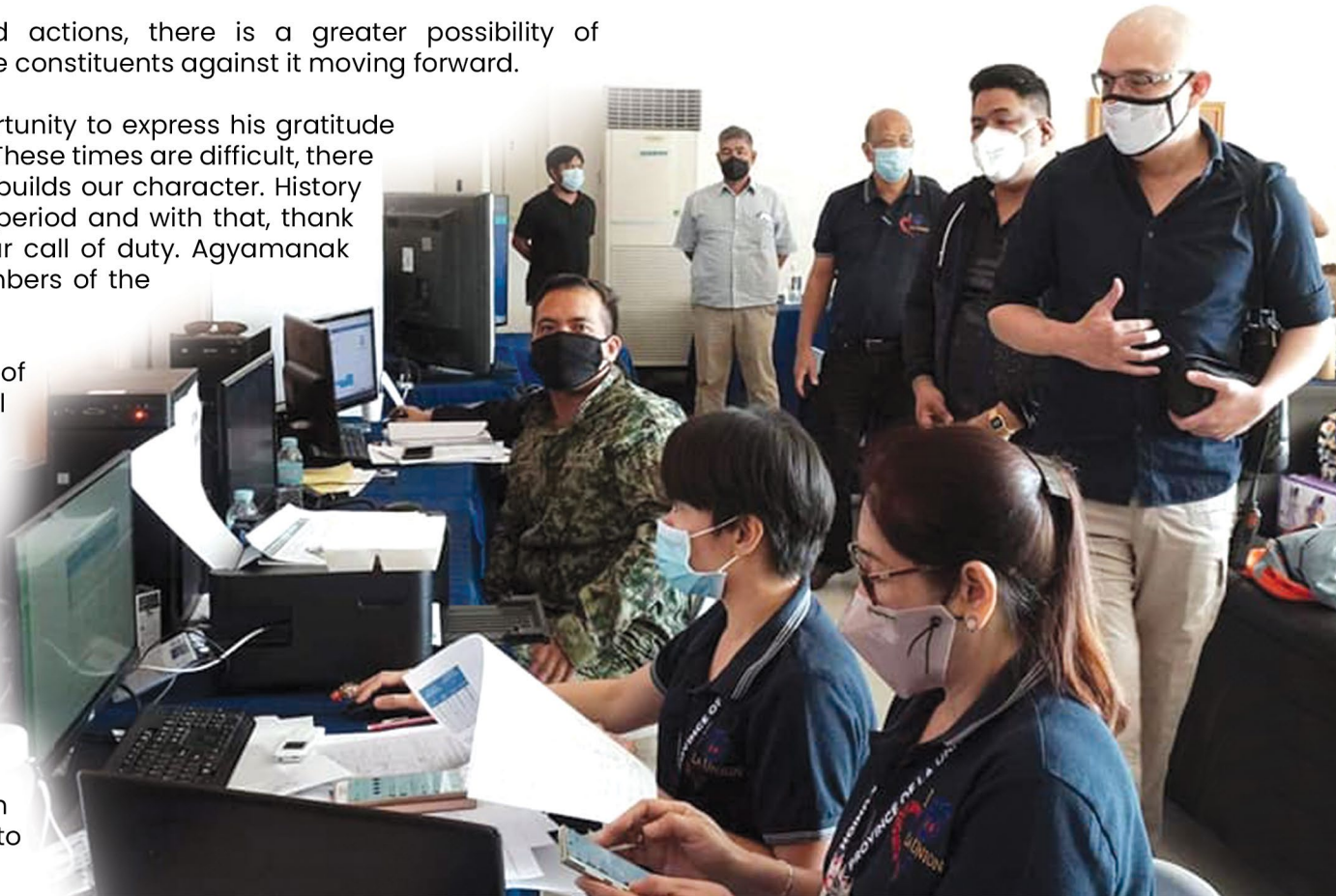
The discussion was based on the findings and observations of the team in the conducted quality assessment in CoViD-19 operations in said municipalities. Evaluated were the LGUs' Emergency Operations Centers; Contact Tracing Teams; Diagnostics and Testing Teams; and Patient Management and Monitoring Teams.

Through the team's recommended actions, there is a greater possibility of containment of the virus protecting more constituents against it moving forward.

Moreover, Gov. Pacoy took the opportunity to express his gratitude and boost the morale of the frontliners. "These times are difficult, there are anxiety and fear but this crisis also builds our character. History will record whatever we do during this period and with that, thank you for always choosing to answer your call of duty. Agyamanak and I pray for you," he said to the members of the PIMT.

The PIMT is composed of the Office of the Provincial Governor, Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, Provincial Health Office, Office of the Provincial Strategy, Information and Communications Technology Unit and the Philippine National Police.

The Provincial Government of La Union continues to provide assistance to all LGUs to ensure a secured province for each and every kaprobinsiaan. Be with us and show your support by following the minimum health standards and by praying for everyone to get through this.



STRONGER TIES WITH CITY PNP. Incoming officer in charge of City of San Fernando Police Station PMAJ LAWRENCE L GANUELAS and outgoing Acting COP PLTCOL PERCIVAL R PINEDA pay a courtesy visit to Gov. Pacoy on August 28, 2020 at the Office of the Provincial Governor, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union.

Gov. Pacoy expressed his gratitude to PLTCOL PINEDA for his service and wished him well in his future endeavors. Looking forward for future partnerships, he congratulated PMAJ GANUELAS as he hands both officers their tokens of gratitude from the Province of La Union.

The Provincial Government of La Union continues its collaborative work with the City Government of San Fernando and all municipalities of La Union to ensure peace and order in the whole province and secure the lives of the people as we build a Stronger La Union.



RESPECT TO OUR HEROES. In this time of pandemic, it is very timely to commemorate the sacrifices of our National Heroes as they continuously serve as inspiration to each of us to do our part in building a better nation.

In celebration of the National Heroes' Day, the Provincial Government of La Union pays respect to Philippine National Heroes through a wreath laying activity at the Heroes Hill and Freedom Park, City of San Fernando, La Union on August 31, 2020.

Remembering our national heroes and their deeds is a way to keep the fire burning in creating new heroes of the present time. We salute our healthcare workers, frontliners, OFWs, and all those who are rendering their tireless services to the people in these trying times.

Let us do our part as heroes in our own way in building a Stronger La Union.

LA UNION LAYS OUT TOURISM ACTIVITIES AMID PANDEMIC

Rafael Mosuela, GPC-SP

The La Union Provincial Tourism Office headed by Mr. Adamor Dagang presented the plans for the anticipated tourism bubble between Provinces in Region 1 and the City of Baguio dubbed as "The Ridge and Reef" travel corridor during the session of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan on September 29, 2020.

Mr. Dagang said the province is ready for the gradual opening of tourism set in two phases that include Phase 1 as Intra-Corridor Travel aimed to be completed in two months; and Phase 2 for the expanded travel corridor projected months after the launch.

Specific areas covered in the province allowed to travel for leisure in La Union are San Juan, Bauang and San Gabriel. The types of tours organized include five-day tours featuring mini-circuits within provinces; pre-arranged "staycations" or "workstations" (work at hotels/resorts) with stays longer than five days; and weddings or small event destinations (less than five days), as arranged by Department of Tourism (DOT) accredited local tour operators assisted by DOT and local government unit tourism offices. Also during the guided tours, they must follow the itinerary which should be strict and curated.



In the time being, day tours (those not staying overnight) and do-it-yourself tours are not allowed. Tourist movement will be closely monitored by a tour operator and hotel management in all areas.

During travel, documents will be checked electronically or they can print it out and show it in border stop, and then after the border they will be required to go to the tourist one stop shop. The La Union Visitor Information and Travel Assistance (NAPANAM) application will be used to register and approve incoming tourists in the planned partial opening of tourism to the three areas.

Not allowed to travel to the Baguio-Pangasinan-La Union-Ilocos Sur-Ilocos Norte (BLUPISIN) Travel Corridor are individuals aged 60 years and above (may be modified any time with the advice from medical and health agencies), pregnant women, and individuals with existing high-risk health conditions.

Travels are on first-come-first-served basis, tourist registrants during the initial phase will be 50 tourists allowed in La Union.

Pit stops have been identified for tourist for quick rest or snacks. A green lane for tourist will be established to promote the safe travel and seamless interconnectivity of land voyage in respective territorial jurisdiction, subject however, to various health and safety protocols.

BDH DRAWS ATTENTION TO BREASTFEEDING BENEFITS IN PANDEMIC

Venus F. Avecilla, GPC - BDH

"Ang init ng kalinga ng isang ina ay maipapakita sa pagpapasuso at ang bigkis ng pagmamahal ng isang ina ay di masusukat, may pagsubok mang pagdaanan katulad ng pandemyang CoViD 19." - Venisse Campos.

August marks Breastfeeding Month for women all over the globe. Bacnotan District Hospital Bacnotan Breastfeeding Committee headed by Dr. Resie Aurea Pimpinio conducted an Online Short Essay Writing Contest to celebrate the said activity which was participated in by followers of the Facebook page "Bacnotan Breastfeeding Group".

Venisse Campos, student of Christ the King College and Dennis Lim, Accountant II of Bacnotan District Hospital emerged as winners of the contest. They were awarded with certificates and medals. Their winning essay will be used for BDH Breastfeeding IEC materials to encourage more women to breastfeed their babies.

Breastfeeding is cost-effective yet offers short and long term health benefits for both mother and baby. Babies' benefits from breastfeeding include lowered risk for conditions such as allergies, asthma, obesity, Type 2 Diabetes and sudden Infant Death Syndrome while mothers' benefits include mother's healing after childbirth trauma and lowered risk of diseases such as Breast Cancer, Ovarian Cancer and Type 2 Diabetes.

Promotion of breastfeeding in time of pandemic is advised as babies can't get CoViD-19 from breast milk. However, it is important to practice Infection and Prevention Control measures to ensure safe breastfeeding including wearing of mask when breastfeeding; sanitizing / handwashing before breastfeeding; and keeping distance from others when breastfeeding.



In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the La Union Medical Center (LUMC) shows its support to the National Breastfeeding Month and International Breastfeeding Week Celebrations through simultaneous breastfeeding of mothers at the Obstetrics-Gynecology ward of LUMC on August 7, 2020.

National Breastfeeding Month and International Breastfeeding Week are both observed in August and this year's themes focus on the benefits of breastfeeding.

The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends exclusive breastfeeding starting within one hour after birth until a baby is six months old. Nutritious complementary foods should then be added while continuing to breastfeed for up to two years or beyond. Breastfeeding boosts a range of physical, emotional, and other benefits for both mother and child. -Ariane Erin C. Amparo, GPC-LUMC

GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR COVID-19 CONTACT TRACING IN LA UNION STRENGTHENED

In an effort to strengthen disease surveillance through contact tracing, the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) aims to enhance its existing CoViD-19 Dashboard for a more in-depth and evidence-based analysis to facilitate proactive, faster and efficient tracing of CoViD-19 contacts.

As a result of the first meeting of the PGLU led by Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III with Mayor Benjamin Magalong, the appointed Contact Tracing Czar of the country, the City Government of Baguio's Contact Tracing Team cascaded the Baguio City's Contact Tracing Application System with selected personnel from the La Union Police Provincial Office (LUPPO) and the Provincial Incident Management Team (PIMT) of the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU).

Mr. Francis Camarao, Information Systems Analyst and Mr. Shan-ry D. Roberts, Data Analyst, members of the City Government of Baguio contact tracing team presented the Contact Tracing e-System used by Baguio City to the PIMT of the PGLU with the Deputy Incident Commander Alvin A. Cruz on August 5, 2020, at the Incident Command Post, Provincial Capitol Building, City of San



Fernando, La Union. Features of the said system are the CoViD-19 Data Collection Tool, Geographic Information System (GIS) Platform, and the Analytical Tool-Link Analysis.

The GIS captures, stores, manipulates, analyzes, manages, and presents all types of geographical data related to CoViD-19 cases. It overlays CoViD-19 affected areas, district/barangay affectations, areas of checkpoints and lockdowns, barangay health centers, hospitals, satellite markets, and other critical facilities. Through this system, one can visualize CoViD-19 data in many ways that reveal relationships, patterns, and trends and its confirmed cases and its possible spread of infections.

The Analytical Tool-Link Analysis provides different views on how one patient could infect or transfer the virus to others by looking into their daily activities. It shows gaps and creates more opportunities on how to properly track down close contacts of the patient through the timeline.

Through Mr. Gerry Binás-o, the Information Communications Technology Unit (ICTU) Head, the PGLU shall conduct a pilot study in the Province with the City of San Fernando as the first LGU beneficiary.

PRE-SOPA DIALOGUE SERIES KICKS-OFF

STRONGER TOGETHER. The Provincial Government of La Union continues on its Transformative Governance journey, banking on the strength of continuous improvement and innovation through efficient government systems and governance partnerships. For the purpose of identifying points of convergence with its partners and stakeholders, PGLU introduces the Pre-State of the Province Address (Pre-SOPA) Dialogue Series.

As the Champion of Transformative Governance, Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III presents before the Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) the updated strategy, "Stronger La Union: Provincial Strategy on Response, Recovery, and Local Economic Development" during the first Pre-SOPA Dialogue on August 4, 2020.

During the dialogue, the Governor presented the status of CoViD-19 in the Province, and the current strategies to administer and properly handle the crisis while protecting the health and safety of every Kaprobinsiaan. Given the crisis being faced by Province, the vision to be The Heart of Agri-Tourism in Northern Luzon by 2025 has been enhanced. Leveraging the local economic enablers: agriculture and tourism, the recalibrated strategy now includes crisis response, mitigation, management, and recovery.

The Governor, together with the SP, has been able to discuss support and core processes objectives of the strategy needed to attain the focus of positioning La Union as a secure, self-sufficient, and sustainable Province. These are all needed to achieve the overarching goal of improving the quality of life in a province worth living in. As the Governor declared, the Province has already achieved much since the start of the Transformation Journey, yet the Province will yet to improve its chances not only in survival but also in succession.

The SP, through the leadership of Vice Governor Mario Eduardo C. Ortega, expressed their sincerest appreciation and gratitude to the commendable leadership and hard work of the Governor. Moreover, the Honorable Body pledged their commitment and full support to the Governor and his plans for the Provincial Government to become a stronger institution equipped to build a stronger La Union for its people.



LU ORDINANCE PRESCRIBES NEW NORMAL OPERATIONS FOR LU ACCOMMODATIONS

Rafael Mosuela, GPC-SP

The Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) approved an ordinance that prescribes the operations of hotels and other accommodation establishments under the new normal on August 28, 2020.

Vice Gov. Mario Ortega together with the members of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) approved Ordinance No. 227 series of 2020 Prescribing The Operations of Hotels and Other Accommodation Establishments Under New Normal and Penalizing the Violations Thereof.

The said ordinance is anchored on the Department of Tourism (DOT) Memorandum Circular No. 2020-002 providing health and safety guidelines governing the operations of accommodation establishments under the new normal.

The new ordinance shall apply to all Accommodation Establishments in the Province of La Union in areas where a community quarantine is no longer in place.

Under the ordinance, those who violate the provisions shall be

penalized with a fine of P2,000.00 for first infraction; a fine of P3,000.00 for second infraction; and a fine of P5,000.00 or an imprisonment of not exceeding one year, or both in the discretion of the court for the third and succeeding infractions.

Accommodation establishments shall report to the DOT Regional Office I every two weeks with the number of guests who have developed the symptoms of the illness, if any; and number of guests who were transferred to the appropriate facility, if any.

BM Christian Rivera, the author of the ordinance explained that the main objective of the PGLU is to protect and promote tourism as an indispensable element of the national economy and an industry of national interest and importance which must be harnessed as an engine of economic growth.

He added that to carry out the declared national policy of mitigating the transmission of CoViD-19 pandemic, the adoption of Health and Safety Guidelines for accommodation establishments registered under the DOT must be prescribed.



PARTNERSHIP WITH PRIVATE ENTERPRISES. As it holds its ground in the persistent fight against CoViD-19, the Provincial Government of La Union is grateful to its partners in extending help to every Kaprobinsiaan. Among these partners are local entrepreneurs, like Jayson Tan and Nelson Go who donated 1,000 pieces of face shield to PGLU on September 9, 2020. Received by Gov. Pacoy, the donations shall help the PGLU in its continuing operations against CoViD-19, in line with the goal to build a Stronger La Union.



TRANSPARENCY IS INTEGRAL FOR CRISIS RECOVERY. The Provincial Government of La Union believes that transparency and accountability are essential components in crisis recovery and transformation. As such, the PGLU affirms its commitment to uphold good governance by keeping its strong ties with the Commission on Audit (COA). On September 16, 2020, Gov. Pacoy met with COA Regional Office I key officers led by OIC-Regional Dir. Chito C. Janaban, during their entrance conference at the Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union. In the conference, the COA lauded the excellent fiscal management practices of the PGLU, as attested by the PGLU's 2019 Good Financial Housekeeping award, a recognition conferred by DILG on February 2020.

LA UNION REGULATES PROVINCIAL TOUR GUIDES, COORDINATORS, ESCORTS

Jiroh Joy D. Marbella, GPC-SP

The Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) of La Union unanimously approved on third and final reading the draft ordinance regulating the operation of Provincial Tourist Guides, Coordinators and Tourist Escorts on August 18, 2020 in preparation of the reopening of tourism activities once the nationwide community quarantine is lifted brought by the Coronavirus pandemic.

SPM Christian I. Rivera, principal author, said that the ordinance is needed to ensure that future tourists visiting the province will be assisted with high quality services by highly trained, highly qualified and trustworthy individuals.

Under the ordinance, no person shall act as a provincial tourist guide in the Province of La

Union unless he is a Filipino citizen, a resident of the province for at least three consecutive years, is accredited by the Department of Tourism and registered with the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU). Meanwhile, tour escorts and coordinators also need to be registered with PGLU.

Provincial Tourist Guides are qualified individuals to lead tourists, local or foreign, to desired destinations to two or more towns in the province and provide them information they need to know. They can either be freelancers or employees of any tourism-related establishments within the province. Tour Coordinators, meanwhile, are qualified individuals that are either freelancers or employees of any tourism-related

establishment and agency within the province that make arrangements in providing various recreational activities to tourists. Tourist Escorts are qualified individuals that provide assistance to tourists while in transit going to any tourist establishments, destinations or while they are attending any activity within La Union.

Tourist service providers, both foreign and those from outside of La Union who aspire to provide tour services to their clients to any towns in La Union are required to coordinate with La Union Provincial Tourism Office who will then provide them with accredited and registered Provincial Tour Guides/Escorts or coordinators.

A fine of P5, 000.00 for the first and second offenses will be

imposed to any person who is not qualified and registered to provide provincial tour services but is performing the task. For third and subsequent offenses, the offender will be fined with P5, 000.00 or an imprisonment of not exceeding 30 days or both at the discretion of the court.

Meanwhile, for tourist services who fail to coordinate with the LUPTO, they shall be charged with fine of P500.00 for the first offense, P1,000.00 on second offense and P2,000.00 on third and subsequent offenses.

The LUPTO will be responsible for the registration of new tourist guides, coordinators and escorts and shall likewise monitor the implementation of the said ordinance.

LA UNION DEFENDS MOST BUSINESS FRIENDLY LGU BID

Mia Jayn Ochoco, GPC-LEEIPU

As one of the finalists of the 2020 Most Business Friendly Local Government Unit, the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) headed by Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III virtually presented the province's entry to the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) for the final judging on September 28, 2020 at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union.

Gov. Pacoy presented the province's significant initiatives and programs in order to mitigate the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. He further emphasized on the innovations taken by the PGLU to address the major challenges and successfully recover, restore, increase and explore other avenues for business.

"Our winning formula rests on our openness to communicate, collaborate, and share best-practices with the private sector in our recovery planning process to ensure that inclusive growth can still be achieved amid these trying times," said Gov. Pacoy.

The Governor was joined by Office of the Provincial Strategy Asst. Chief Noemi R. Jucar; Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator Michaela Louise T. Delfinado; Provincial Information Officer Adamor L. Dagang; Provincial Agriculturist Ramon Laudencia III; and Designate Assistant Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Officer Alvin C. Cruz.

The Most Business Friendly Award submission of La Union was spearheaded by the Local Economic Enterprise and Investment Promotions Unit headed by Ms. Charito C. Dator. The conferment of the award is scheduled on October 7-8, 2020 during the Philippine Business Conference.



LA UNION PREPARES FOR CENSUS, NATIONAL ID REGISTRATION

Camille R. Bumtaty, PIO

In his visit in the Province of La Union, Usec. Claire Dennis S. Mapa of the National Statistician and Civil Registrar General met with Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III through a video conference on August 25, 2020 to discuss their upcoming programs in the province.

Usec. Mapa conducted a field inspection in the province in preparation for the 2020 Census of Population and Housing which will commence on September 1, 2020 and the National ID Registration which will start on October 12, 2020.

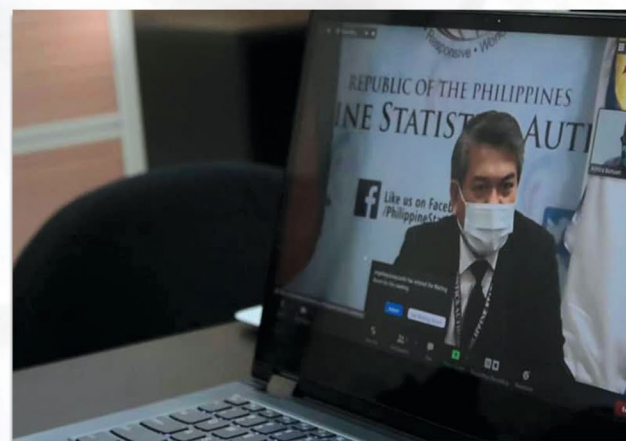
The undersecretary informed the Governor that the National ID Registration will cover around 130,000 households in La Union which is more than 50% of the total households in the province as part of the pilot batch.

Gov. Pacoy was assured of the observance of the minimum health standards in the conduct of census by their field personnel. He said that face masks and face shields will be worn and physical distancing will be strictly observed.

"We need to learn to co-exist with the virus, at the same time, tuloy parin ang trabaho natin," said Gov. Pacoy as he mentioned that the Provincial Government of La Union will provide the requested storage space facility and transportation requirements in carrying out the program. He also said that resolutions to support the endeavors are on the way.

Usec. Mapa expressed his gratitude for the support from Office of the Provincial Governor and the Local Chief Executives in La Union in the conduct of the projects.

"We are partners Usec., and we believe in convergence and collaboration among agencies of the government whether regional, national or local," said Gov. Pacoy in anticipation of the success of the programs.



PAGSUSULONG NG EDUKASYON SA GITNA NG PANDEMYA SA PINAGTIBAY NA SILID-AKLATAN

Justin Paul D. Marbella, PIO

Patuloy ang Pamahalaang Panlalawigan ng La Union sa paglinang ng dunong sa pamamagitan ng pagpapatibay ng serbisyo ng Panlalawigan Silid-Aklatan.

Kamakailan ay tumanggap ng parangal si Provincial Librarian Marissa D. Acosta mula sa National Library of the Philippines (NLP) sa isinagawang patimpalak para sa 2020 Gawad Parangal sa Natatanging Propesyunal na Tagapangasiwa sa Pamublikong Aklatan.

Iginawad ni Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III ang medalya mula sa NLP, bilang bahagi ng 'virtual awarding ceremony' na isinagawa noong ika-25 ng Agosto, 2020.

Sa pamamagitan ng ating silid-aklatan, ang Pamahalaang Panlalawigan ay patuloy ng maghahatid ng serbisyo sa pagpapaunlad ng kaalaman ng mga mag-aaral, mananaliksik at iba pa, sa kabila ng umiiral na pandemya.

Bukas ang La Union Provincial Library mula alas-8 ng umaga hanggang alas-4 ng hapon Lunes-Huwebes, at hanggang alas-12 ng tanghali tuwing Biyernes. Striktong ipinatutupad ang 'minimum public health standards' para sa mga bibisita sa aklatan para sa kaligtasan ng kalusugan ng lahat.



Frontliners in various hospitals and checkpoints in the Province of La Union receive simple treats from the Provincial Government of La Union in a surprise visit in their posts on August 17, 2020.

Gov. Pacoy commends the frontline workers as he reiterated that they should remain firm and resolute in the implementation of protocols while the province continues to battle against COVID-19. La Union is now under Modified General Community Quarantine, but PGLU ensures strict implementation of local action as a part of the continuing COVID-19 mitigation efforts.

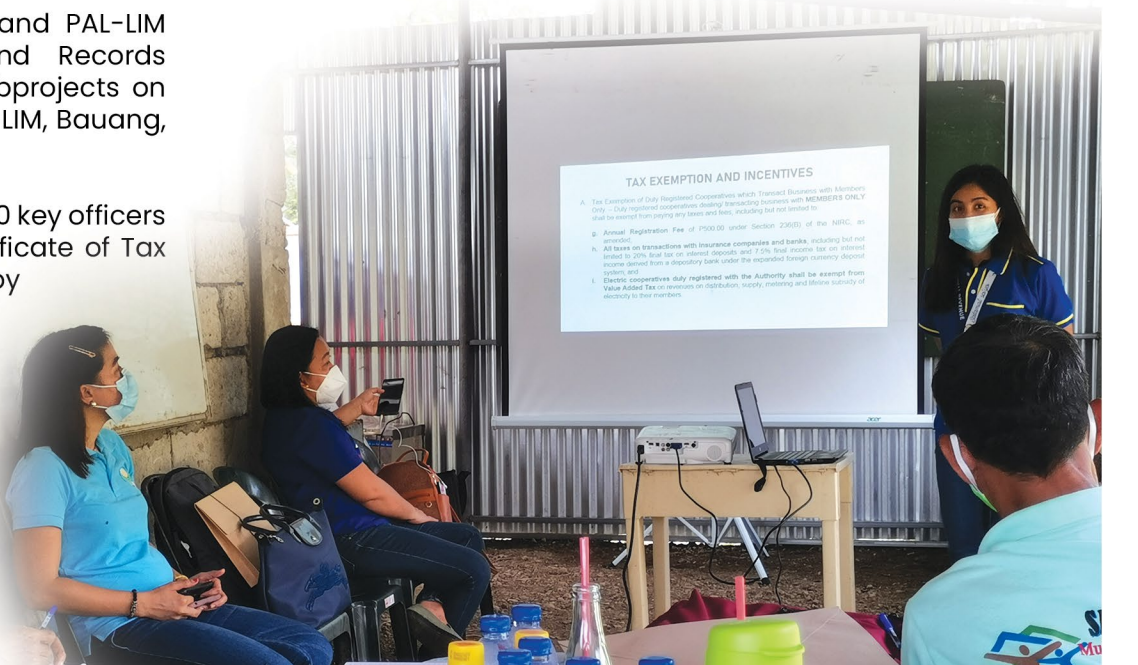
PGLU EQUIPS ENHANCING PROPONENT GROUPS UNDER IREAP SUBPROJECTS

Vanessa c. Badua, GPC-OPAG

In support to the Investment in Rural Enterprise and Agriculture and Fisheries Productivity (IREAP), the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist collaborates with the Regional Project Coordination Office 1 to capacitate two members from San Fermin Agrarian Reform Cooperative and PAL-LIM Multi-purpose Cooperative by joining the Taxation and Records Management Training for Proponent Group under IREAP Subprojects on September 3-4, 2020 at San Fermin, Caba, La Union and PAL-LIM, Bauang, La Union respectively.

As proponent group of Philippine Rural Development Project, 20 key officers of the cooperatives were trained on the application of Certificate of Tax Exemption by Bureau of Internal Revenue La Union staff led by Ms. Anna Rose R. Lloren and additional topic on how to input and manage transaction records under IREAP Subprojects discussed by Mr. Mark C. Palaganas of Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 1. The objective of the said training was to achieve better implementation of the IREAP-PRDP subprojects to cooperatives.

There is also a need for improving of cooperatives capacity and functionality in managing subproject implementation; focus on the institutional development; and strengthen coordination among the implementing agencies.



203 PGLU SCHOLARS RECEIVE CASH ASSISTANCE

Justin Paul Marbella, PIO



Scholars under the La Union Education Assistance and Scholarship Program receive their cash assistance from the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) amounting to P10,000 each, on September 16-18, 2020.

The PGLU facilitated the distribution of cash assistance to the scholars in the city/municipal

halls of their respective Local Government Units. Proper minimum health standards were observed, such as wearing of facemasks, physical distancing and hand disinfection.

The college-level scholars were supposed to receive the said cash assistance during the second semester of Academic Year 2019-2020, but distribution

was halted due to community quarantine imposed in the face of the CoViD-19 pandemic.

The cash assistance shall serve to support the studies of the scholars, who belong to low-income families. Currently, they are all enrolled in their respective colleges and universities in the province, under the online or 'blended' learning

scheme.

Gov. Pacoy emphasizes the PGLU's thrust on educational governance. In the midst of the challenges of the pandemic, the PGLU shall continue to support capable and goal-driven students and learners, who are determined in helping build a Stronger La Union.

SP APPROVES ORDINANCE PROHIBITING CONTRABANDS IN LU JAILS

Rhea Matilde A. Ballesteros, GPC – SP

With 13 unanimous affirmative votes and no dissenting vote, Ordinance Prohibiting Sneaking-in or Smuggling of Contrabands in Detention Facilities, Jails, Reformatory Centers, Halfway Houses and Shelters was approved on third and final reading during the 64th Regular Session of the 22nd Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) on September 15, 2020.

SPM Maria Annabelle S. de Guzman, principal author of the said ordinance said during the series of committee hearings and public hearing that the ordinance aims to eradicate prohibited items being snatched inside jails and other similar facilities and to ensure the safety of individuals, persons deprived of liberties, center or facility officers, staff and workers through heightened security in these facilities.

The ordinance prohibits the sneaking-in of dangerous drugs and paraphernalia, and other items such as but not limited to alcoholic beverages, cellular and mobile phones, video or still camera, cigarettes, paper clip, cutter, sex toys, pornographic materials, tattoo instruments, gambling paraphernalia, pointed and sharpened objects such as barbecue sticks, metal spoons and forks; petroleum jelly, lighters, syringe, shaver, excessive quantity of medicines, excessive amount of money, more than P2,000.00 pesos, unnecessary electric appliances, and clothes in excess of what is allowed.

Any person/s caught violating this ordinance will be fined P5,000.00 for the first offense. For the second offense and succeeding offenses, the individual will be fined P5,000.00 or imprisonment of not more than one year or both in the discretion of the court.

Likewise, personnel of detention facilities, jails, reformatory centers, halfway houses and shelters who, through negligence or through connivance with visitors, caused the entry of contrabands, shall be charged administratively and criminally under existing applicable national laws.

With the enactment of this ordinance, it is hoped that peace, order, security and safety in the province will be maintained and the comfort and convenience of the people will be preserved, especially in curbing the proliferation of prohibited drugs and reduction of criminality, thus, making La Union a province worth living in.



PGLU OFFICES DEVELOP SECTORAL PLANS FOR A STRONGER LA UNION

Loren Obillo, GPC-OPS

The Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU), headed by Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III, through the Office for Provincial Strategy (OPS), kickstarted the series of consultation sessions on the development of the Stronger La Union Sectoral Roadmaps, Scorecards and Initiatives on September 14, 2020 at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union.

During the session, the OPS cascaded the new La Union Transformative Governance Roadmap, Stronger La Union: Provincial Strategy on Response, Recovery, and Local Economic Development. Moreover, the global alignment of the strategy through the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals and national alignment through the Philippine Development Plan and the Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag-asa Program were briefly discussed.

Moreover, the offices and work units finalized their respective



The PGLU Offices are developing the sectoral roadmaps, scorecards and initiatives of the new La Union Transformative Governance Roadmap during the Consultation Session lead by Gov. Pacoy and facilitated by the Office for Provincial Strategy at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union. Said series started on September 14 and will run until September 25, 2020.

sectoral roadmaps, scorecards and initiatives. The sectoral roadmap is a communication tool to cascade and show the relationship among identified strategic objectives. On the other hand, a scorecard is a tool that measures the performance of the Province through its identified indicators and targets. Lastly, the strategic initiatives consists of high-impact programs, projects and activities of the Province to achieve breakthrough results.

The series will continue until September 25, 2020. Through this program, the Provincial Government illustrates the significance of updating our plans for a more relevant reference in program development and policy formulation.

As we strengthen our efforts in the Provincial Government, we enjoin our Kaprobinsiaans to work with us in building a Stronger La Union.

SPLU CHECKS DEPED, CHED READINESS ON ONLINE EDUCATION

Rhea Matilde A. Ballesteros, GPC-SP

With the aim to ensure readiness of La Union in the opening of classes, the 22nd Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) invited officials of the Commission on Higher Education, Region I and Department of Education on August 18, 2020 to brief the lawmakers on the status of their preparation for the opening of classes.

CHED-RO1 OIC-Regional Director Dr. Rogelio T. Galera, Jr. and Schools Division Superintendent of La Union Schools Division Office Atty. Donato D. Balderas, Jr., served as Resource Speakers during the

60th Regular Session held at the SP Session Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union.

Dir. Galera explained the flexible learning initiatives, projects and trainings of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in the region particularly in the Province of La Union under the new arrangement while Atty. Balderas presented the different strategies that will be implemented by DepEd Schools for the current school year.

To ensure good internet connectivity in the province, La Union Provincial Officer Mr. Hipolito Palaganas of the

Department of Information and Communications Technology also presented the plans and programs of the said agency to enhance internet connectivity in the province which includes the Free Wi-Fi for All Program in partnership with the Telecommunications and Local Government Units.

Also present during the session were representatives of the major internet providers in the province, PLDT and Converge, who offered their respective proposals and services to the education department to ensure fast and reliable internet connections in schools and

communities that will aid them in their implementation of distance learning programs.

The SP through Vice Gov. Mario Eduardo C. Ortega assured its full support in performing the education arm's mandates of giving quality and accessible education for all in the new normal through legislation.

As the Provincial Government of La Union ensures the harmonious working relationship of different agencies to improve the quality of education in the province, we also call for each kaprobinsiaan's help in building a Stronger La Union.



EDITORIAL BOARD

BARO A THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE PROVINCE OF LA UNION
TIMEK LA UNION
ITI KAPITOLIO

SECRETARIAT
 PROVINCIAL INFORMATION OFFICE
 CAPITOL BUILDING, AGUILA RD., SAN FERNANDO CITY, LA UNION
 (072) 888-2797 | (072)242-5550 LOC. 269-272
 INFO@LAUNION.GOV.PH | WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/LGULAUNION

GOV. FRANCISCO EMMANUEL "PACOT" R. ORTEGA III
 CHAIRMAN

VICE GOV. MARIO EDUARDO C. ORTEGA
 VICE-CHAIRMAN

MEMBERS:
 HON. FRANCISCO PAOLO P. ORTEGA V
 HON. JONATHAN JUSTO A. ORRIS
 HON. GARY M. FINEON
 HON. JENNIFER C. MOSUELA
 HON. GERARD O. OSTREA
 HON. NANCY CORAZON M. BACURNAY
 HON. MA. ANNABELLE S. DE GUZMAN
 HON. CHRISTIAN I. RIVERA
 HON. FRANK O. SIBUMA
 HON. ABRAHAM P. REMANDO
 HON. RUPERTO A. BELLEA, JR.
 HON. GERALDINE R. ORTEGA
 HON. ALYSSA KRISTINE B. SIBUMA

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:
 ADAMOR E. DAGANG

EDITORS:
 CAMILLE R. BUMATAY | JUSTIN PAUL MARBELLA | MAEVE N. ZAFRA

WRITERS:
 GOVERNOR'S PRESS CORPS

LAYOUT AND DESIGN:
 MIDAR D. LABARRETE | MARK ANTHONY F. ARTIENDA | JEROME F. MARZAN

PHOTOGRAPHY:
 WENDELLE B. TANGALIN | REYALDE A. BUENAVENTURA
 JEFFERSON V. LORENZO | JOHN RUSSELL B. BARRIENTOS

CIRCULATION:
 EARL RYAN THOMAS P. SAGUYAN | JOJI M. RUBAN | CHRISTIAN O. REBULTAN

EDITORIAL/TECHNICAL ADVISER:
 AGNES ORACE A. CARGAMONTO

PGLU EXPANDS COVID-19 TREATMENT, ISOLATION THROUGH HOME OF HOPE BAUANG

Justin Paul D. Marbella, PIO

The Provincial Government of La Union expanded its capacity for treatment and isolation of suspected Corona Virus Disease (CoViD-19) patients in the province, as it inaugurated the “Home of Hope” Regional Isolation and Treatment Facility in Acao, Bauang, La Union on September 16, 2020.

The facility is a 50-bed capacity that shall cater also to close contacts of suspected CoViD-19 patients, and returning residents (previously called “locally-stranded individuals”) who fail to present documentary requirements upon their entry to La Union borders.

The Home of Hope Bauang is a facility of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Regional Office 1 led by Engr. Ronnel M. Tan, who entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the PGLU to formalize the partnership on this CoViD-19 mitigation initiative.

Also part of the initiative is the Regional Task Force (RTF) on CoViD-19, led by Office of Civil Defense (OCD) Region 1 Director Eugene Cabrera. The RTF may endorse COVID-19 patients who are not residents of, but are staying in, La Union due to business, profession, or school reasons.

The PGLU, meanwhile, shall primarily manage the operation and maintenance of the facility, including the provision of nurses, doctors, and other related personnel. The 20 component Local Government Units (LGUs) may also endorse patients to the facility.

In his speech, Gov. Francisco Emmanuel “Pacoy” R. Ortega III emphasized the PGLU’s thrust to strengthen its healthcare services, which is integral to its revamped Transformative Governance Roadmap, “Stronger La Union: Provincial Strategy on Response, Recovery and Local Economic Development.”

The facility’s inauguration was also witnessed by Department of Health Center for Health Development Region 1 Assistant Regional Director Dr. Mar Wynn Bello, Bauang Mayor Mechie Lomboy-De Guzman, and officers from PGLU, OCD and DPWH.



RIDGE AND REEF TOURISM CORRIDOR OF REGION-1 LAUNCHED

Gov. Francisco Emmanuel “Pacoy” R. Ortega III attends the launching of the Ridge and Reef Tourism Corridor of Region 1 provinces and the City of Baguio on September 22, 2020 at Baguio Convention Center, Baguio City.

The online portal Visitor Information and Travel App (VISITA) funded by the Tourism Promotions Board was also officially launched. Booths showcasing destinations and products of Baguio City and the Provinces of La Union, Pangasinan, Ilocos Sur and Ilocos Norte were featured.

Department of Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat, Ilocos Norte Gov. Matthew Manotoc, Baguio City Mayor Benjamin Magalong, DOT Region 1 Director Joseph Francisco Ortega, DOT CAR OIC Director Jovi Ganongan and other officials and tourism stakeholders of Baguio City and Region 1 provinces graced the occasion.

Provincial delegation was led by the La Union Provincial Tourism Office (LUPTO) headed by Mr. Adamor Dagang together with the officers of La Union Alliance of Travel and Tour Agencies (LUATTA).

