

BARO A TIMIK ITI KAPITOLIO



EDUCATIONAL GOVERNANCE IN THE 'NEW NORMAL'. Gov. Pacoy presides the meeting of the Provincial School Board (PSB) on June 19, 2020 at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union. In the meeting, the PSB discussed its strategic initiatives in the implementation of the Provincial Government of La Union's educational programs, in partnership with the Department of Education La Union Schools Division Office, in the 'new normal.'

PGLU REVAMPS STRATEGY, AIMS FOR STRONGER LA UNION

Camille R. Bumatay, PIO

The Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) Senior Transformative Leadership Team (STLT) approved the Provincial Strategy for a Stronger La Union during the team's meeting on June 23, 2020 at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union.

Provincial Administrator and STLT Focal Person Agnes Grace A.

Cargamento led the team in the review and approval of the Provincial Strategy, titled "Stronger La Union", which was presented by Office for Provincial Strategy (OPS) OIC-Assistant Chief Noemi R. Jucar. The strategy weaves together the measures for response, recovery and local economic development (LED) that will be realized through

establishing La Union as a Secured, Self-Sufficient, and Sustainable Province moving forward to the New Normal. Specifically, there were 12 strategic objectives identified that focus on Organizational Development, Crisis Response, and LED enabler industries, Agriculture and Tourism. The STLT also discussed learnings and best

practices during PGLU CoViD-19 operations, which shall serve as basis in the execution of the revamped strategy.

After the approval of the Provincial Strategy, corresponding roadmaps, scorecards and strategic initiatives shall be developed to ensure effective management and implementation.



STRONGER LA UNION. Provincial Administrator and Senior Transformative Leadership Team (STLT) Focal Person Agnes Grace A. Cargamento leads the STLT's review and approval of the proposed revised La Union Transformative Governance Roadmap during the team's meeting on June 23, 2020 at the Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union. With the objective to establish La Union as a Secured, Self-Sufficient and Sustainable Province, the proposed roadmap features a revamped strategy that incorporates elements on Response, Recovery, and Local Economic Development as we move forward to the New Normal.

DETECT, ISOLATE, TREAT, REINTEGRATE (DITR) STRATEGY- LA UNION'S COUNTER COVID-19 RESPONSE

Maeve N. Zafra, PIO

The Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU), through the leadership of Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III, is committed to building a resilient La Union and counter the spread of CoViD-19.

Through the Contact Tracing Team (CTT), Diagnostics and Testing Team (DTT), Patient Management and Monitoring Team (PMMT), and the Health Care Provider Network (HCPN), the province carries out the Detect-Isolate-Treat-Reintegrate (DITR) Strategy to ensure that suspect, probable and confirmed CoViD-19 cases are properly monitored and managed.

Detect

Due to the strengthened contact tracing and testing initiatives in La Union by the PGLU and its component LGUs, the province recorded a spike in the number of confirmed cases. The CTTs are immediately activated when a new case is reported. Consequently, the Provincial DTT provides assistance to the LGUs to ensure the prompt and effective conduct of swabbing to suspects and contacts. Swab booths have also been installed in all five District Hospitals as well as the La Union Medical Center.

Isolate and Treat

Upon detection, the confirmed CoViD-19 patients with no or mild symptoms are isolated and transferred to the District Hospitals for monitoring and treatment while



severe or critical cases are admitted at the Ilocos Training and Regional Medical Center (ITRMC). Moreover, close contacts and suspect cases are isolated either through home quarantine or the LIGTAS (Local Isolation and General Treatment Areas) CoViD Centers. To date, we have a total bed capacity of 403 situated in all the component LGUs and including the Provincial CoViD Center or the Home of Hope.

In order to efficiently manage and prevent the exhaustion of the facilities, through the strengthened HCPN, the Province now has its system of referral and download of patients between or among facilities fully operational.

Reintegrate

The reintegration of the patients to the community remains of utmost importance. Patients are ensured to have fully recovered to prevent the potential spread of the virus and causing fear and discrimination. In support to this, the Province enacted Sangguniang Panlalawigan Ordinance No. 216-2020 prohibiting any form of discrimination to recovered patients, among others.

The DITR strategy can only be more effective in preventing the spread of the virus if the community cooperates and participates in disease surveillance and detection.

Be one with us in building a Stronger La Union! The pandemic is far from over but so should our persistence and dedication to move forward and rise above the situation.

FACE-TO-FACE SESSION RESUMES IN SP LU

Rhea Matilde A. Ballesteros, GPC-SP

As La Union transitioned to Modified General Community Quarantine (MGCQ) wherein more flexible guidelines were set by the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID), the 22nd Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) of La Union resumes its face-to-face session on June 2, 2020 at the SP Session Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union.

The said session records 100% attendance of the members and the legislators observed health and safety protocols such as wearing of face masks and physical distancing.

Also, during the session, two resolutions of condolences and two resolutions of financial assistance were approved, 23 proposed measures and communications were referred to the concerned committees, 13 Committee Reports



were delivered, two ordinances were approved on Second Reading and another two were also deferred and one urgent request of the Honorable Governor was considered and approved.

Due to the threat of CoViD-19 and the imposition of stringent quarantine protocols, the conduct of SP Regular Sessions were done via e-governance set-up or virtual conferencing on March 17 to May 26, 2020. However, the new set-up did not stop the members from producing 16 legislative measures to fight COVID-19.

Vice Gov. Mario Eduardo C. Ortega who presided the session said that the face-to-face session will continue in order for the members to have better interaction, discussion and sharing of ideas in coming up with more responsive and meaningful pieces of legislation.

TULONG PARA SA LSI, PROTEKSYON PARA SA BUONG PROBINSYA

Noemi R. Jucar, OPS



From the very beginning of the pandemic, Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III champions helping our Kaprobinsiaan who needs assistance given the resources that the Provincial Government has. "Lahat ng mangangailangan ng tulong, tutulungan natin sa abot ng ating makakaya," the Governor always reiterates to his team. One of the programs the Provincial Government supports is the Hatid Tulong Program of the National Government. Through the program, Locally-Stranded Individuals (LSIs) from various areas who wish to go home to the Province are repatriated.

Following a well-defined system and enforcing strict protocols, LSIs are given the warmest welcome while preventing the transmission and spread of the virus in the Province. The Province expects LSIs coming from Manila thus preparations were made to include establishing a drop-off area, deploying support teams, ensuring the readiness of isolation facilities, sourcing the necessary logistics and equipment, as well as coordinating with the hospitals to anticipate possible referral of patients.

The readiness and strength of the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) to provide assistance to LSIs is made possible through working coherently with its governance partners to include the Philippine National Police, Bureau of Fire Protection, Office of Civil Defense, Department of Health, Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Philippine Information Agency, and the Presidential Management Staff. On July 26, 2020, a total of 21 LSIs were assisted. They arrived in two batches, at 7:17pm and 11:53pm successively. The first batch was comprised of four returnees to Bacnotan, four to Agoo, and one each to Caba and Naguilian; while the second batch is composed of seven (7) returnees to Agoo and three (3) to Naguilian.



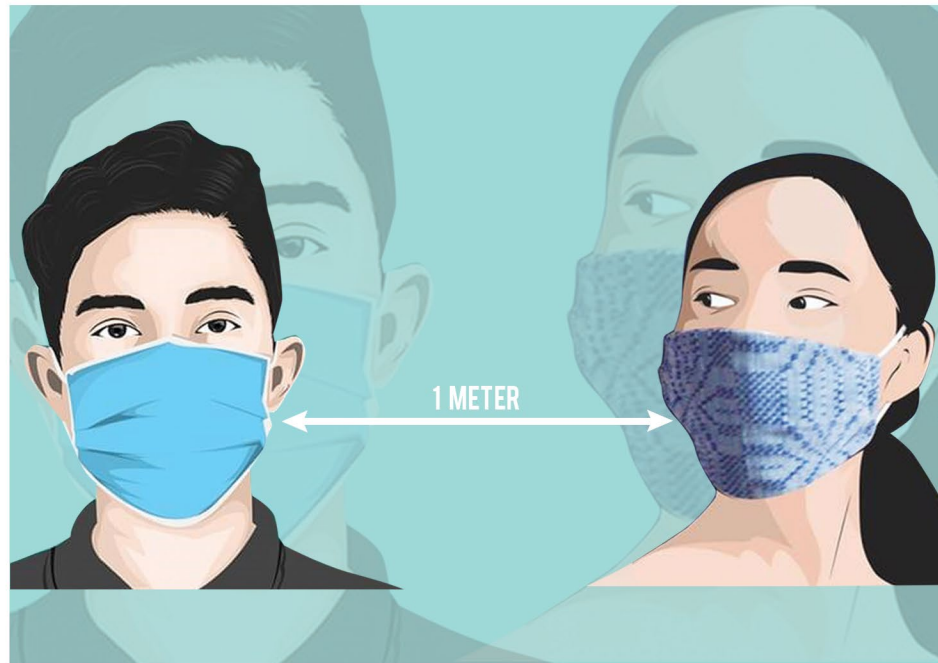
They were subjected to strict screening and orientation, decontamination protocols and triage procedures as they arrived at the checkpoint in Rosario. The 11 Agoo residents were transferred and housed in their isolation facility through the initiative of the Municipal Government of Agoo while the other nine LSIs together with an LSI returning to San Gabriel who was intercepted at Bauang, and the two drivers of the service bus coming from Manila who happen to be residents of City of San Fernando, are now isolated and taken care of at the Home of Hope: Provincial Isolation Facility.

At the facility, hygiene kits, food, and other amenities are provided and their health status are monitored by health care personnel. They shall also undergo Reverse Transcription-Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) Test as the LSIs only had Rapid Test in Manila. If the test result shows negative, the LSI shall be allowed to go home, but should strictly impose upon themselves the 14-day self-isolation. Their respective Barangay Health Emergency Response Teams (BHRTs) shall monitor them daily up to the completion of their quarantine period. On the other hand, if the test result shows positive, the patient will be referred to appropriate health care facility for monitoring and treatment.

To date, a total of 128 LSIs were assisted by the Province together with the component Local Government Units (LGUs) and other governance partners, 79 of which were through our initiated-program, Awid Kaprobinsiaan, while 49 were through the Hatid Tulong program. The PGLU is committed to ensuring the welfare of every kaprobinsiaan, including those who desire to rebuild their lives here in their home province. We shall uphold the spirit of hospitality and compassion, while enforcing strict health protocols to safeguard public safety and security. All these in our common goal to build a Stronger La Union.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING, MASK ARE MUST IN LA UNION

Rhea Matilde A. Ballesteros, GPC-SP



specifications and proper use as recommended by the DOH. However, if face masks are not available, the use of indigenous, reusable, homemade or do-it-yourself masks, face shields,

handkerchiefs or such other protective equipment which can lessen transmission and/or infection of CoViD-19 are allowed.

Aside from the mandatory wearing of face masks, the

ordinance also mandates the observance and stringent practice of physical distancing of at least one meter from other persons during the enhanced community quarantine or while the threat of CoViD-19 is still persisting.

Persons found violating the said ordinance will be fined P2,000.00 while P5,000.00 for heads of offices/agencies or managers of business establishments for the first infraction, and P5,000.00 for the subsequent infractions for both.

The City and Municipal Mayors of the component Local Government Units of the province through their respective Punong Barangays and PNP personnel are authorized to strictly enforce or ensure the compliance of the provisions of the ordinance.

Likewise, all government offices and facilities and all private commercial establishments are mandated to strictly implement this policy.

PEACE, ORDER; FIGHT AGAINST DRUG, REBEL IN LU REVISITED

Camille R. Bumatay, PIO



Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) – La Union Provincial Director Virgilio P. Sison reports that the Province of La Union and all its component Local Government Units have established their Ending Local Communist Armed Conflict Task Force through Executive Orders or Resolutions during the Provincial Peace and Order Council and La Union Anti-Drug Abuse Council joint meeting through video teleconferencing on June 22, 2020.

The Provincial Peace and Order Council (PPOC) and La Union Anti-Drug Abuse Council (LUADAC) reinforce peace and order in the province through the conduct of a joint meeting through video teleconferencing on June 22, 2020 to discuss the councils' action plans on peace and order moving forward.

Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) – La Union Provincial Director Virgilio P. Sison gave an update on the establishment of Ending Local Communist Armed Conflict Task Force by Component Local Government Units (LGUs) wherein all LGUs of La Union have established their task force through Executive Orders or Resolutions.

Dir. Sison also presented the DILG-Administered Packages for Former Rebels and Receiving Units which must be processed online through the Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program Information System.

The 2020-2022 Peace, Order and Public Safety (POPS) Plan was also presented wherein it was noted that only five Municipalities namely Agoo, Aringay, Bauang, Sto. Tomas and Tubao have completely encoded in the POPSP - Policy Compliance Monitoring System.

With the recent developments brought about by the CoViD-19 pandemic, adjustments for the Anti-Drug Abuse Council Audit were presented where La Union was lauded for getting an Ideal Functionality from the last audit.

PMAJ Danilo Ligayo of the La Union Police Provincial Office (LUPPO) presented their Anti-Criminality and Administrative Projects wherein the joint council approved the funding. Among the

anti-criminality projects are Alertness and Readiness Intensification by using Warning Accessories against Would-be criminal/offender Along the street (ARIWAWA); Enhancement of the Tactical Operations Center and Radio Communication System (SKYWAY); and Kabataan Kontra Droga At Terrorismo (KKDAT).

Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) – La Union Intelligence Officer III Dheo A. Tabor presented their Barangay Drug Clearing Enhancement and Conformity Program which also got an approval for its funding. He ended his presentation with the accomplishment report of PDEA – La Union for the first semester of 2020 wherein 29 anti-drug operations resulted to the arrest of nine High Value Targets including four High Impact Operation.

When asked by PPOC/LUADAC Chairman Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III about the general peace and order situation in the province, LUPPO Provincial Director PCol. Jay R. Cumigad responded that generally, crimes and offenses all went down with the deployment of uniformed personnel in the borders of the province and with the citizens staying inside residences.

Gov. Pacoy ended the meeting saying that he will present the La Union Recovery Plan to the Provincial Development Council on June 25, 2020. He encouraged everyone to observe the Minimum Health Standards and said, "We have to accept and change our mind-set. The earlier we accept that, the faster we can move forward."



BUILDING ROADS, BUILDING FUTURE. Gov. Pacoy graces the Inauguration of the Rosario Exit of the Tarlac-Pangasinan-La Union Expressway (TPLEX) on July 15, 2020. The TPLEX Rosario Exit opens with the hopes for economic and tourism growth in North Luzon.

Present during the event were San Miguel Corporation President and COO Mr. Ramon S. Ang; Executive Secretary Salvador C. Medialdea; Department of Transportation Secretary Arthur P. Tugade; Department of Finance Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez; Department of Budget and Management Secretary Wendel E. Avisado; Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Secretary Carlito Galvez, Jr.; Bases Conversion and Development Authority President and CEO Vivencio B. Dizon; Presidential Spokesperson Harry L. Roque, Jr.; Presidential Communications Operations Office Undersecretary Lorraine T. Badoy; Pangasinan 5th District Representative Ramon V. Guico III; Pangasinan Gov. Amado I. Espino III; La Union 2nd District Representative Sandra Y. Eriguel; and Rosario, La Union Mayor Bellarmin A. Flores II.



ALLIES IN CRISIS RECOVERY. Gov. Pacoy meets with his mistahs in the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) who are now officials in the Philippine Air Force (PAF), namely MGEN Connor Anthony D Canlas Sr, AFP, Commander of the Air Defense Command; and BGEN Augustine S Malinit, AFP, Wing Commander, 580th Aircraft Control and Warning Wing, as they paid a courtesy visit at the Governor's Office on June 19, 2020. The PAF officials were joined by their fellow mistah, PBGEN Rodolfo S Azurin Jr, Philippine National Police Regional Office 1 Director. The officials expressed to Gov. Pacoy their full support to the Provincial Government of La Union in its endeavors on crisis recovery. Also in the photo is Capt Gregor Mendel Panoelo, Consultant to the Governor.



REINFORCEMENT FOR PGLU's COVID OPERATIONS. Officers from the 81st Infantry Battalion, Philippine Army (81st IB, PA) namely Commanding Officer LTC RODRIGO A MARINAS, Company Commander 1LT CESAR L MENOR, and MAJ ROGELIO A DUMBRIGUE JR (OS), present to Gov. Pacoy the accomplishments of the 81st IB, PA as they provided help in the CoViD-19 operations of the province, in a courtesy call on June 15, 2020 at the Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union. Gov. Pacoy expressed his gratitude to the army officers for providing reinforcement for the relief operations and checkpoint management of the Provincial Government of La Union.



To guarantee continued safety in the province, representatives from the Provincial Government of La Union monitors the checkpoints in the entry and exit points in the Second District of La Union on June 16, 2020.

Manning the checkpoints in Tubao, Rosario and Pugo boundaries were from the Provincial Health Office and Provincial Disaster and Risk Reduction and Management Office, Philippine National Police, Philippine Army and Bureau of Fire Protection.

Observed in the monitoring were their compliance to checkpoint protocols and minimum public health standards.



LEVERAGING PARTNERSHIPS TO FIGHT COVID-19. Gov. Pacoy convened City of San Fernando Mayor Alfredo Ortega, Baguio City Councilor Francisco Roberto Ortega VI, Philippine National Police (PNP) Regional Office 1 Dir. PBGEN Rodolfo S Azurin Jr, PNP Provincial Dir. PCOL Jay R Cumigad, Department of Health CoViD-19 Focal Person Dr. Rheuel Bobis, Regional Epidemiologist Dr. Rosario Pamintuan, Provincial Health Officer Dr. Eduardo Posadas, Designate Assistant PDRMO Alvin Cruz and City of San Fernando Health Officer Dr. Allyn Pacio on July 18, 2020 to meet with Baguio City Mayor Benjamin Magalong, who has been appointed by President Duterte as the country's contact tracing czar, to discuss strategies for the province to intensify its contact tracing as a means to contain CoViD-19.

Given the recent spike in the number of CoViD-19 cases, the Province aims to solidify its efforts through further capacitating its Provincial Contact Tracing Team (CTT), strengthening partnerships with the component LGU CTTs and the Philippine National Police, enhancing current data systems to be utilized for contact tracing and adapting Baguio City's CoViD-19 Incident Management Workflow, among others.



The Office of the Provincial Assessor's Assessment team, joined by OIC-Municipal Assessor Rhonda O. Genetiano of Rosario, La Union inspects the Real Properties of Tarlac-Pangasinan-La Union Expressway (TPLEX) tollgate situated at Brgy. Nangcamotian, Rosario, La Union on July 6, 2020. The 11.45km final phase of the expressway between Rosario and Pozzurrubio, Pangasinan opens on July 15, 2020 which is expected to reduce the travel time of motorists from La Union to Manila to three-and-a-half hours.

LU PROVINCIAL BOARD SUPPORTS CIVIL SERVICE ELIGIBILITIES FOR QUALIFIED FRONTLINERS

Rafael C. Mosuela, GPC-SP

The Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) of La Union passed a resolution supporting the enactment by the Congress of the Philippines of a law granting civil service eligibilities to qualified frontliners in the fight against the pandemic CoViD-19.

Board Member (BM) Jennifer C. Mosuela sponsored the resolution which was supported by the whole members of the SP.

BM Mosuela said that one incentive for the health workers, volunteers and other frontliners, and as a manifestation of gratitude of their sacrifices and heroism in the fight against the dreaded virus, is the grant of civil service eligibilities

to those who are qualified.

She further stated that the Congress of the Philippines had done it before with the enactment of laws granting civil service eligibilities to those who had served in the government service for 10 years or more; to qualified members of the Sanggunian and the Sangguniang Kabataan as well as to the Barangay Health Workers.

Once the bill becomes a law, many health workers in the province will benefit, granting them possible job permanency.

The said resolution no. 584-2020 was approved on June 2, 2020.



To ensure public safety, San Juan Municipal Mayor Arturo Valdez and Vice Mayor Mannix Ortega led the inspection of various accommodation establishments and restaurants in San Juan, La Union on June 16, 2020. The said monitoring assessed their compliance to Health & Safety Standards set by the government. Joining the municipal officials were Mr. Adamor Dagang representing Gov. Pacoy, Department of Tourism Region 1 Monitoring Team, and representatives of the Department of Trade and Industry Region 1, MDRMO, PNP, BFP, Business Licensing Office, and Tourism Office.



The Provincial Government of La Union turns over to the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Pugo its donation of one glass shredder and one plastic shredder for the LGU's Sanitary Landfill, on July 9, 2020. Likewise, the PGLU turned over the prizes to LGU-winners of the 2018 Provincial Search for the Cleanest, Safest, and Greenest Local Government Unit and Municipal Bodies of Water. Bangar received one plastic shredder while Bauang received three grass cutters as their prizes.



FRIENDSHIP IN HARDSHIP. To help local households in this CoViD-19 pandemic and in honor of the 45th Anniversary of China-Philippines diplomatic relations, the Consulate of the People's Republic of China in Laoag donates 200 cavans of premium rice to the Province of La Union on June 9, 2020.



On July 13, 2020, Gov. Pacoy convenes the Provincial Core Team Against CoViD-19 (PCTAC) 2020 at Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union.

During the meeting, the PCTAC discussed the current situation in the province and the different committees provided updates on the implementation of the strengthened counter CoViD-19 response measures.

These include strengthening the border checkpoints and ensuring the strict adherence to protocols especially with the opening of the TPLEX Rosario-Exit, intensifying the strategic communication efforts to continually provide timely and significant information to the public, and efficiently mobilizing manpower and logistical resources to maintain control over the crisis.

The Provincial Government remains resolute in the fight against this pandemic. We will work towards building a stronger La Union even under uncertain times.



PATULOY ANG PAGSULONG NG EDUKASYON SA GITNA NG PANDEMYA

Justin Paul D. Marbella, PIO

As the Department of Education (DepEd) gears up for the scheduled opening of classes on August 24, 2020, the Provincial School Board (PSB) of the Province of La Union chaired by Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III held its regular meeting via Zoom on July 22, 2020 to discuss preparations undertaken for DepEd's "blended learning" initiatives.

In the meeting presided PSB Co-Chair and DepEd La Union Schools Division Superintendent, Atty. Donato Balderas Jr., the PSB discussed the status of its 2020 programs and proposals for 2021. These include the activities aligned to the DepEd's Learning Continuity Plan, which seeks to ensure that

students' learning progresses amidst the pandemic.

The PSB also tackled the plans on the procurement of teaching equipment, tools and materials to aid teachers and learners in the virtual learning sessions.

Gov. Pacoy expressed his full support to the endeavors of the PSB, as the Provincial Government remains resolute in its initiatives for transformative educational governance. The Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) believes that through their uninterrupted learning and education, our youth and learners can contribute in building a Stronger La Union.



KALUSUGAN NG MGA KABATAAN, PATULOY NA ISINUSULONG NG LA UNION

Justin Paul D. Marbella, PIO

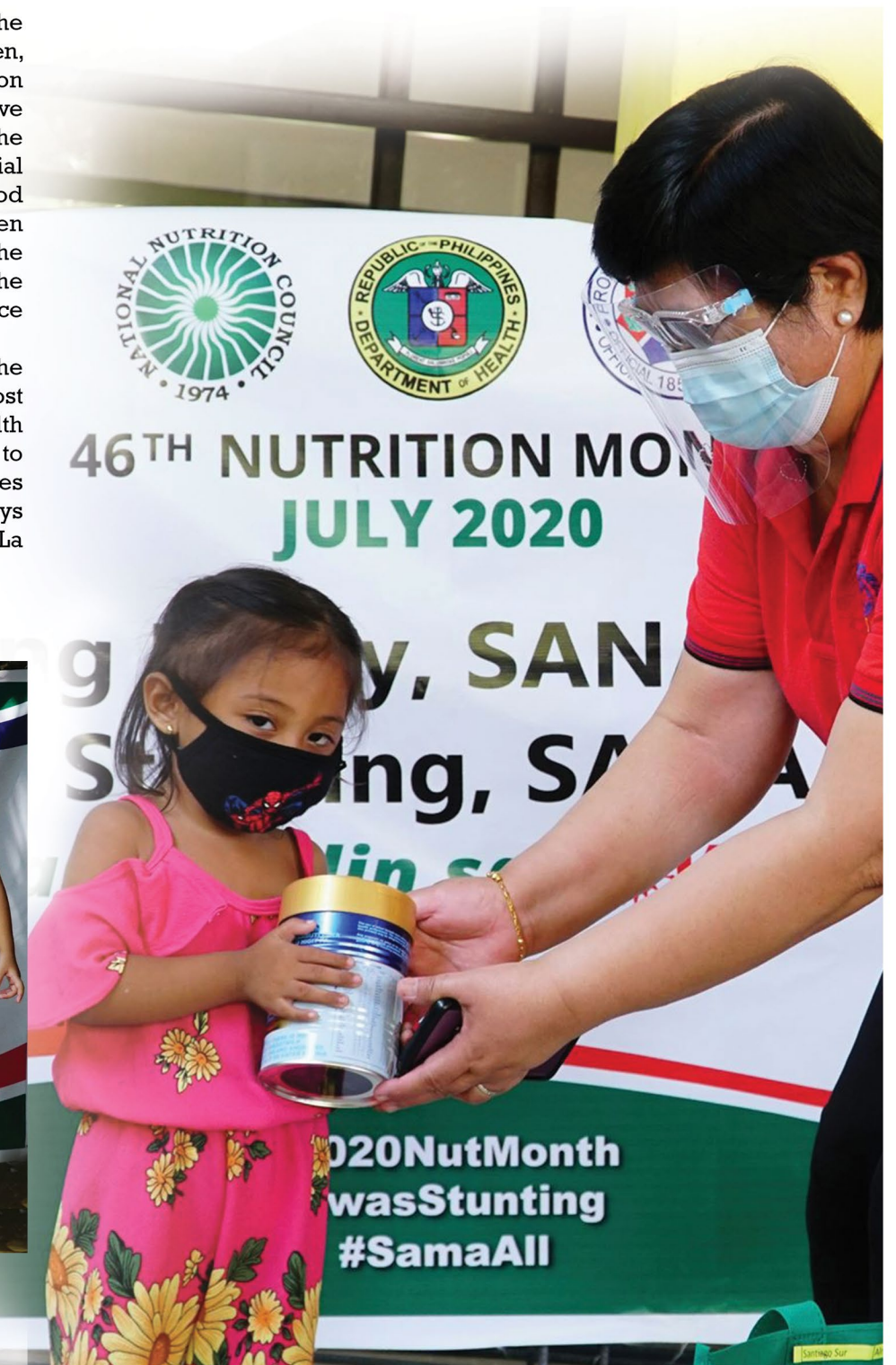
The Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU), through the Provincial Health Office (PHO), remains resolute in its efforts to promote health and wellness among the constituents, most especially children who are among the most vulnerable from CoViD-19.

To cap the celebration of the National Nutrition Month this July, the PHO has distributed 'nutrition bags' to 22 kids in Brgy. Santiago Norte and Santiago Sur in the City of San Fernando, La Union on July 28, 2020.

The bags contained vitamins, slippers, pajamas, and nutritional snacks. The kids, who were all below five years old, also received hygiene kits composed of toothbrush, toothpaste, bath soap, face towel and face mask.

To guide the parents in the nutritional rearing of their children, they were given with information materials such as on Executive Order 004-2007 that highlights the importance of the provincial vegetable, malunggay, to good nutrition; anti-dengue tips; the Ten "Kumainments" promulgated by the National Nutrition Council; and the promotion of Iron-fortified rice consumption.

The PGLU recognizes the importance of nutrition, most especially now in this global health crisis. As such, we shall continue to promote our governance initiatives on health, as part of our journeys towards building a Stronger La Union.



INTER-LGU ACTION PLAN AGAINST COVID-19 DISCUSSED

Camille R. Bumatay, PIO

TOGETHER ON BOARD. To discuss updates on the status of CoViD-19 and strategies to move forward in combating the virus, Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III meets with the Local Chief Executives of the component Local Government Units (LGUs) of the province through a virtual conference on July 24, 2020.

Also tackled in the meeting were inter-LGU challenges given the imposition of Enhanced Community Quarantine in the City of San Fernando and the Municipality of Caba and how to address the same while remaining aligned with the National Government directives.

The Hatid Tulong Program plan

was also presented as Locally-Stranded Individuals are expected to arrive on Sunday, July 26, 2020. This is to ensure that necessary protocols to include isolation and testing to prevent the transmission and spread of the virus will be strictly enforced.

Also present during the meeting were PNP Provincial Director PCOL Jay R. Cumigad and the members of the Provincial Core Team Against CoViD-19 (PCTAC).

Through the continued unity and coherent actions among all the LGUs, stakeholders and constituents, we can win against the pandemic and look forward to a stronger La Union.



LA UNION INTENSIFIES BORDER CONTROL, TIGHTENS MOVEMENT WITHIN PROVINCE

Maeve N. Zafra, PIO

The Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU), through Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III directive, intensifies border control in the seven entry and exit points in La Union following the spike of CoViD-19 cases in the province.

Border Control

The existing manpower at the checkpoints in Sudipen, Tubao, Pugo, Burgos, Bani in Rosario, Udiao in Rosario, and TPLEX Rosario – Exit were augmented to continually enhance operations while maintaining their health and well-being. Around five Philippine National Police (PNP) personnel, three BFP personnel, and two personnel from the Provincial Government were deployed on the identified checkpoints.

LSIs, Non-APOR and Repatriates Checkpoint personnel strictly monitors individuals entering the province making sure that necessary documents are complete and presented. Stricter protocols are enforced for Locally Stranded Individuals (LSIs) and Non-Authorized Persons Outside Residence (Non-APOR) as they are required to undergo triage



procedures.

PGLU is also working closely with the component LGUs, PNP, BFP, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), and the Overseas Workers Welfare Association (OWWA) to help repatriates through the Tulong Kaprobinsiaan Program following a set guidelines to prevent the spread of the virus in the Province.

Moreover, since the Province has activated its Health Care Provider Network (HCPN), the system to accommodate travelers showing symptoms, Non-APOR and OFWs with incomplete documents is fully-operational to ensure immediate isolation, testing, and treatment, as necessary. Should there be an incomplete presentation of documents, the receiving LGU directs the traveler to the isolation facilities and quarantine procedures are implemented.

As the government continues to uphold its duties to preserve the welfare of its citizens, Kaprobinsiaan are urged to adhere to the minimum health standards and continue their cooperation with the local government, especially in these uncertain times.



CURRENT OPERATIONS ON CHECKPOINTS ASSESSED

Camille R. Bumatay, PIO

The Provincial Government together with its governance partners continue to strengthen its concerted efforts to protect the health and safety of the constituents amid challenges and difficulties.

Particularly, in our quarantine control points, teams are deployed composed of the Philippine National Police, Bureau of Fire Protection and the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) to man and implement checkpoint protocols to include review of documents and conduct of triage procedures as well as ensure observance of minimum public health standards among travellers. Moreover, to assess the current operations and identify the necessary support for the different



teams in the quarantine control points, Gov. Pacoy sends a monitoring team headed by its Provincial Core Team Against CoViD-19 (PCTAC) Sub-Committee Head on Checkpoint and Security, Capt Gregor Mendel Panelo on July 28, 2020.

The PGLU shall continue to work more rhythmically and harmoniously with its governance partners to continue with its objective of protecting the welfare of the people given its resources and capabilities.

Our Kaprobinsiaan are encouraged to continue being vigilant and engaged with the government because together, when you are #WithUs, we are stronger!



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PDC APPROVES UPDATED LA UNION TRANSFORMATIVE GOVERNANCE ROADMAP

Mariel Mina and Editha Cardenas, GPC-PPDO

The updated La Union Transformative Governance Roadmap was unanimously approved by the Provincial Development Council as Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III convened the 1st Semester meeting of the Council (PDC) for CY 2020 via Zoom Conference on June 25, 2020 at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union.

The new La Union Transformative Governance Roadmap is entitled **STRONGER LA UNION: Provincial Strategy on Response, Recovery and Economic Development** focusing on positioning La Union as a secured, self-sufficient and sustainable province. "I desire to establish La Union as a province worth living in," the Governor stressed in his presentation.

During the said meeting, Gov. Pacoy updated the Council members on the Status of CoViD-19 in La Union. He also reported on how the province stood strong amid the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ), General Community Quarantine (GCQ) and Modified General Community Quarantine (MGCQ) by presenting the CoViD-19 Accomplishment Report.



Gov. Pacoy, being the Provincial Development Council Chairperson, presides meeting online on June 25, 2020 at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol building, City of San Fernando, La Union. In said meeting, the updated La Union Transformative Governance Roadmap was unanimously approved by the council.

"The CoViD-19 cannot and will not divide us rather it will make our bond stronger than ever. Therefore, let us do our part in making sure that La Union remains safe and protected from CoViD-19 and from anything that defies our strength and identity

as a province. Let us continue to become an example to the world how unity can overcome obstacles and challenges regardless of its magnitude, intensity and enormity," Gov. Ortega said in his message.

On the said meeting, the PDC

members also approved Supplemental Annual Investment Programs vital for CoViD-19 Response Programs and for Programs/Projects/Activities that are aligned and relevant to the recovery and economic development strategy of the province.

The last agenda of the meeting was the nomination of members of the Provincial Project Monitoring Committee (PPMC). The following representatives of the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) were nominated by the body to become members of the PPMC: Engr. Larry Cabatic of the Council for the Restoration of Filipino Values; Architect Ronald S. Dy of the Rotary Club of San Fernando (La Union), Inc.; Engr. Robert Sanchez of the La Union Alliance of Travel and Tour Agencies; and Ms. Lina Flor G. Hizon of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of La Union.

Present during the meeting were the City/Municipal Mayors, representatives of some Local Government Units, representatives of the representatives of the First and Second Districts of the province, representatives from the CSOs, and key department heads of the Provincial Government of La Union.

PGLU ENSURES SAFE ENTRY OF RETURNING OFWS

Justin Paul D. Marbella, PIO



The Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) and its governance partners ensure strict implementation of protocols on the entry of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) to the province, to protect the health safety and security of the general public.

PGLU emphasizes that OFWs who are locals of La Union should still be warmly welcomed as they arrive home and should not be hindered entry. However, proper protocols have to be enforced to prevent the potential transmission of the virus by these individuals who come from countries with high risk of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (CoViD-19).

The PGLU provides support to the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration Regional Welfare Office 1 (OWWA RWOI) in assisting OFWs as they arrive in the provincial border during their homeward travel.

As of July 31, 2020, the OWWA has facilitated the arrival of 1,212 OFWs in the province, coming mostly from Hongkong and Middle East. This is through the OWWA's Hatid-Sundo Program, which started on March 18, 2020.

These OFWs arrive at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) in Pasay City or the Clark International Airport in Pampanga. Upon their airport arrival, they are brought the OWWA-chartered quarantine facilities where they

undergo swab test and wait for the result.

When the OFWs receive negative result from their Reverse Transcription- Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) test, they are then ferried by the OWWA to their respective home provinces. OFWs who yield positive from the RT-PCR are not allowed to travel to their home province, until they recover from the disease.

The PGLU, meanwhile, facilitates the triaging of the arriving OFWs upon their arrival at the provincial border in Rosario. OFWs who show symptoms are brought to the local isolation facilities. However, all arriving OFWs assisted so far were cleared at the checkpoint, and thus allowed to proceed home.

When they arrive home, the OFWs are still required to complete their 14-day home quarantine, which is being monitored by the Barangay Health Emergency Response Team (BHERT) of their respective communities.

While it enforces stringent protocols for arriving OFWs, the PGLU also emphasizes the values of compassion of hospitality. Hence, the OFWs should be welcomed with love, because after all, they are our kaprobinsiaan who are toiling hard abroad to provide for their families. Nevertheless, even when far from home, they are also instrumental in our bid in building a Stronger La Union.