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LA UNION **#BAKUNAMUNA** PROGRAM EXPANDS, OPENS 3 MEGA VACCINATION SITES

By: Camille R. Bumatay, PIO

La Union continues to thoroughly expand the province's #BakunaMuna Program as it undertakes another milestone in opening three La Union Mega Vaccination Sites on June 22, 2021 at the Father Burgos Gym, Saint Louis College (SLC) in the City of San Fernando and on June 23, 2021 at La Union Medical Center (LUMC)

in Agoo and at Bacnotan District Hospital (BDH) in Bacnotan.

Ensuring the observance of the Minimum Health Standards, the SLC site can cater to about 400 individuals per day with enough ventilation and social distancing. On the other hand, the LUMC and BDH can cater to about 250

individuals each vaccination site per day. The mega vaccination sites will play an integral role in Provincial Government of La Union's (PGLU's) key objectives in its CoViD-19 Immunization Program.

Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III expressed his gratitude to Saint Louis College led by Fr. Ramon Caluza for offering their gymnasium as the venue for the groundbreaking activity and to the Chiefs of Hospital of LUMC and BDH as well as all partner agencies and frontliners for their support to the

#BakunaMuna Program of the PGLU. He added, "Sa ating sites, sinigurado ang efficient vaccination process sa pamamagitan ng establishment ng vaccine stations, proper ventilation, emergency vehicles on standby, installment ng data management system, provision of relevant strategic communication materials, at appropriate facilities such as comfort rooms, water stations and parking areas."

As of June 30, 2021, the three mega vaccination sites have inoculated about 4,500 individuals through the PGLU vaccination team. The three sites added to the existing 21 vaccination sites in La Union. Each local government unit has one vaccination site, while the City of San Fernando, La Union, has two vaccination sites.

The PGLU continues to innovate and partner with stakeholders in order to achieve herd immunity the fastest possible time. With the opening of the new vaccination site, the province is optimistic that the vaccination of kaprobinsiaan will be fast tracked and the rest of the La Union population will be protected from the virus.



PGLU COMPLETES FIRST ROLL-OUT OF PFIZER; 1,170 KAPROBINSIAAN INOCULATED

Shairalene B. Guerrero, PIO

The Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) successfully administers the vaccination of 1,170 individuals who received the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine at the Saint Louis College Mega Vaccination Site.

PGLU began the roll-out of Pfizer for the A1 (medical frontliners), A2 (senior citizens), and A3 (with comorbidities) priority groups on June 22, 2021, after receiving a total of three trays of the Pfizer vaccine from the Department of Health (DOH) on June 18, 2021.

There are three mega vaccination sites in the Province of La Union, one at the City of San Fernando; one at La Union Medical Center located at Agoo;



and one at Bacnotan District Hospital (BDH) in Bacnotan. Each mega vaccination sites have catchment areas. One vaccination site was also established in each local government unit (LGUs) in the Province of La Union.

Meanwhile, two of the Province's Mega Vaccination Sites - LUMC and BDH continue to roll out CoViD-19 Pfizer to the residents.

The Provincial Government of La Union, through the leadership of Gov. Pacoy Ortega, continues to deliver efficient public health services. With the #BakunaMuna program, PGLU aims to build a stronger community for a #StrongerLaUnion.

LA UNION UPDATES INVESTMENT AND INCENTIVES CODE

Mia Jayn Ochoco, GPC-LEEIPU

With the aim to bolster economic activities and attract investors amidst the pandemic, the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) along with the Department of Trade and Industry - La Union (DTI-LU) is extending technical assistance to component Local Government Units (LGUs) to update their Local Investment and Incentives Code (LIIC).

As the La Union Investment and Incentives Board (LUIIB) secretariat, the Local Economic Enterprise and Investment Promotions Unit (LEEIPU) headed by Ms. Charito C. Dator assisted in the creation of a Technical Working Group (TWG) to guide in updating their LIIC during their monthly meeting held on May 7, 2021 via video conferencing.

The TWG, headed by DTI-LU Provincial Director, Merlie D. Membrere, will also assist the LGUs in crafting the Implementing Rules and Regulations of their LIIC.

	A	B	C	D	E
RPT	Province 35% 3 years	Agoo 1 year Machinery and Equipment Used for Environment Protection and Pollution Control	Aringay 2 years (SE) 4 years (ME) 6 years (LE) Machinery and equipment used for pollution control and environmental protection	Bacnotan NONE	Baguio NONE
Transfer Tax	2 years	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE
Franchise Tax	2 years	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE
Amusement Tax	3 years	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE
Fiscal Incentives					

The TWG aspires to align the LIICs with the recently signed Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises Act, producing more competitive incentives and attracting investors to make the Province of La Union a preferred investment area.

The La Union Investment and Incentives Board Meeting was presided by Vice Chairperson Lina Flor G. Hizon. Also present were other board members: Sangguniang Panlalawigan Member Jonathan Justo A. Orros; Engr. Cherish Rillera-Caasi representing Mayor Stefanie Ann Eriguel; Mr. Cesar Ocampo; Mr. Ronald Dy; and Dr. Catherine Bada representing Atty. Felix S. Racadio. Guests from the PGLU who served as resource persons in their field of expertise were Provincial Legal Officer Atty. Dominique Jose S. Puzon; Atty. Marion Guerrero; and Acting Provincial Treasurer Janet Molina.

PGLU CONTINUES TO ESTABLISH WELL-INFORMED COMMUNITIES TO ACHIEVE HERD IMMUNITY

Maeve N. Zafra, PIO

The Advocacy, Demand Generation, and Social Mobilization Group (ADGSMG) of the CoViD-19 Vaccination Program Task Force (CVP-TF) continues to inform and engage different sectors in order to increase CoViD-19 vaccine uptake in La Union.

Sector-Focused Discussion

On May 13, 2021, the group convened the Senior Citizen Association Presidents from the Municipality of San Gabriel to empower the senior citizen leaders. The Focused Group Discussion provided credible and verified information to enlighten the senior citizens and avoid CoViD-19 vaccine misinformation.

Convergence with Local Government Counterparts

The ADGSMG also converged with Advocacy and Demand Generation Officers of the component Local Government Units (LGUs) wherein they discussed the challenges and shared best practices to increase the vaccine demand in their respective areas. These sessions shall serve as avenue to communicate with our counterparts, strengthen our strategies, and enable our LGUs. The CVP-TF shall continue to champion data-driven approaches to communicate the province's CoViD-19 vaccination campaign - **Bakuna Muna**.



ORDINANCE INSTITUTIONALIZING THE LA UNION YOUTH CONGRESS ON HUMAN RIGHTS APPROVED

Rhea Matilde A. Ballesteros, GPC-SP

The 22nd Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) approved on its third and final reading the Draft Ordinance No. 281-2021, "Institutionalizing the La Union Youth Congress on Human Rights" during its 97th Regular Session on May 4, 2021 at the SP Session Hall, City of San Fernando, La Union.

SPM Nancy Corazon M. Bacurnay, principal author of the said ordinance, explained that the human rights congress started in 2002 under the leadership of former SPM Henry A. Bacurnay, Jr., coined as "Youth Jam on Human Rights" as part of the observance of the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and at the same was revived during BM Nancy's stint as SPM on 2013 as "Youth Congress on Human Rights" to further promote the importance of human rights in the province especially to the youth.

Considering that the said program has promoted human rights education, made students aware of their human rights and duties and inculcated in them the promotion and protection of human rights, SPM Nancy Bacurnay proposed through an ordinance for its institutionalization to ensure the sustainable

implementation of the program.

The ordinance mandates the conduct of an annual gathering of high school student leaders in the province every first Saturday and Sunday of December, if the

current situation permits. They shall participate in a two-day seminar and team building activities which will provide them knowledge, skills and direction to advocate and put into action positive changes on social,

political and human rights issues in their respective schools and communities.

Likewise, the ordinance provides that the Provincial Government of La Union, through the Provincial Legal Office (PLO) and other concerned and collaborating offices shall be the main implementers of the program. The support, assistance, advice and participation of the Department of Education, Commission on Human Rights-Region I and the SP Committee on Justice and Human Rights shall be sought during the planning and implementation of the said congress.

A monitoring and post activity evaluation/assessment one month after the activity spearheaded by the PLO is also provided in the ordinance.

The passage of the ordinance will increase public awareness on human rights issues to promote and protect human rights through the conduct of public education and seminars among the youth in the province that will eventually make them advocates of human rights.



Board Member Nancy Corazon M. Bacurnay, Principal Author of the ordinance "Institutionalizing the La Union Youth Congress on Human Rights" moves for its approval on 2nd Reading during the 97th Regular Session of the 22nd Sangguniang Panlalawigan on May 4, 2021. The ordinance provides for the conduct of an annual gathering of high school student leaders in the province every first Saturday and Sunday of December, if the current situation permits. Identified participants shall join in a two-day seminar and team building activities which will provide them knowledge, skills and direction to advocate and put into action positive changes on social, political and human rights issues in their respective schools and communities.

PGLU SUPPORTS LUEPA's BUENA MANO FAIR

Camille R. Bumatay, PIO and Mia Jayn Ochoco, GPC-LEEIPU

In its continuous effort to facilitate crisis recovery, the Provincial Government of La Union extends support to La Union Entrepreneurs for Progress Association, Inc. (LUEPA) as it opens on May 7, 2021 the Buena Mano by LUEPA Bazaar at CSI The City Mall, City of San Fernando, La Union which was open until May 23, 2021.

20 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) exhibitors showcase their local products including five food and 15 non-food exhibitors.

In his message, Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III highlighted, "This Buena Mano event is reflective of our initiatives on Transformative Governance.



Now more than ever, these trade fairs take a deeper meaning as they now become a vital platform for our local entrepreneurs to bounce back from the sudden halt caused by the pandemic."

Members of LUEPA are graduates of Department of Trade and Industry's (DTI's) Kapatid Mentor ME program headed by President Gemma Go. Also present in the opening program were Board Member Gerard Ostrea and DTI La Union Provincial Director Merlie Membrere. This trade fair is one way of helping MSMEs to bounce back amidst the pandemic.

The minimum health standards are strictly being observed at the venue.

LA UNION LEVELS UP RESCUE OPERATIONS

Camille R. Bumatay, PIO



To step up the game of relief and response in the Province of La Union, Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office personnel underwent an Air-to-Ground Operations Seminar - Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Training conducted by the Philippine Air Force (PAF) with the Tactical Operations Group 1 and 505 Air Rescue Squadron Air Mobility Wing on May 31, 2021 at Barangay Bungro, City of San Fernando, La Union.

The participants were trained in marshalling air rescue efforts which includes communicating with aircraft pilots and in assisting in the aircraft landing during relief, response and evacuation operations and in far flung areas of the province not reachable by land vehicles.

"Nakakaempower ang mga ganitong training kasi ang pagresponde para kang papasok sa war zone kaya mahalaga 'yung pupunta ka doon na handa, mas confident kami. Laging sinasabi ni Gov. Pacoy na parte ng operations yung siguraduhing ligtas 'din kaming mga rescuers," said Michael Angelo Dy Yaco, one of the rescuers-trainees.

Representatives of the training team CPT Ruben Paleyan PAF; LTC Jack Ray M. Mosomos PAF; and ILT Archie A. Dumloan PAF also paid a courtesy call to Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III assuring the continuous alignment and support of the PAF and the Provincial Government of La Union.

PGLU JOINS THE CELEBRATION OF WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY, PHILIPPINE ENVIRONMENT MONTH

Diana E. Jutba, GPC-ENRO

The Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) through the Provincial Government - Environment and Natural Resources Office (PG-ENRO) celebrates World Environment Day and Philippine Environment Month with the theme "Sama-samang Pagkilos, Sama-samang Paghilom, Ikaw, Ako, Tayo ang Kalikasan" on June 24, 2021 through a duathlon (cycling and running) competition among PGLU employees.

The activity was conducted at the Poro Point Baywalk with a total distance of 18.8 kilometers which consists of three laps of cycling and one lap of running. 13 individuals from various offices participated in the activity.

All of the participants received a bamboo tumbler. The champions for men and women categories received a cash award of Php 5,000.00; the 1st runners-up received Php 3,000.00; and the 2nd runners-up received Php 1,000.00 each.



In the men's category, Mr. Warren Casil of Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRRMO) won first place followed by Mr. Roland Faminialagao of Provincial Planning and Development Office at second place, and Mr. Ronald Talagtag of PDRRMO at third place.

In women's category, the champion was Ms. Gezelle Butola of Office of the Provincial Agriculturist, followed by Ms. Mariella Guray of Office of Provincial Governor, and Ms. Marian Carino of Sangguniang Panlalawigan.

The said activity aims to raise environmental consciousness and instill participation or collective action from individuals which will eventually result in an impactful contribution towards environmental protection. The bamboo tumbler aims to symbolize shifting from old habits into eco-friendly choices such as single-use to reusable items and purchasing environment-friendly products.

COVID-19 DATA SERVES AS LA UNION'S TOOL TO FIGHT PANDEMIC

Camille R. Bumatay, PIO

Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III highlights the importance of efficient data management in the province's fight against the CoViD-19 Pandemic as the members of the Provincial Core Team Against COVID-19 (PCTAC) reported updates during their virtual meeting on May 6, 2021.

As of May 5, 2021, out of the 353 isolation beds of the hospitals in the province, 49% is currently occupied. While there are 154 admissions in the Local CoViD-19 Centers (LCCs) with 37 LSIs, 6 close contacts, 9 suspects and 102 confirmed positive cases. The LCCs have 26.23% occupancy rate, the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) Home of Hope in Sevilla, City of San Fernando has 41.67 occupancy rate while the PGLU Home of Hope in Acao, Bauang has no admission at present and is undergoing extensive disinfection.

Gov. Pacoy explained that accurate data gathering will aid the PGLU in managing its resources in a more efficient manner.

Also reported in the meeting was the expanded mass testing in the province with 4.76% positivity rate which is much lower than the national positivity rate which is over 10%.

One of the notable points in the

meeting showed that there is still a room for improvement in terms of contact tracing wherein the proposed gap solution is to tap some of the 60 project-based nurses (PBN) of PLGU and DepEd nurses to serve as contact tracers.



The PGLU is targeting to assign two PBNs in each municipality and four PBNs in the City of San Fernando. Four PBNs were also assigned to each CoViD-19 Facility - District Hospitals and six for the La Union Medical Center.

The Daily Attack Rate of the province is at 2.72 new cases per 100,000 population while the two-week growth rate is at -76.33% indicating that La Union is at low epidemic risk level or Modified General Community Quarantine.

In terms of the CoViD-19 vaccination in the province, 62.76% of the total eligible population group A1 have already been immunized while 4.29% of the eligible population under A2, La Union being the only province in Region 1 that has started with the priority group A2.

"Public service is about trust...I appreciate the work of everyone and I am just here if you need me," said Gov. Pacoy in his message.

MSGC CELEBRATES ARBOR DAY, CONDUCTS TREE PLANTING ACTIVITY

Loren Obillo, GPC-OPS

As external champions of the Agri-Tourism Strategy of La Union, the Multi-Sectoral Governance Council (MSGC), aligning with #KalikasanNaman, celebrated Arbor Day by planting more than 120 seedlings of Native Trees (Bani Tree, Narra Tree) along Baroro River Watershed on June 25, 2021.

During the activity, the MSGC were able to discuss the importance of planting native trees, and the importance of protecting La Union's watersheds in championing environmental awareness, protection, conservation, rehabilitation, and management.



The activity was made possible by the collaboration of MSGC with the Provincial Government-Environment and Natural Resources Office (PG-ENRO), Local Government of Bacnotan, Municipal Fishery and Aquatic Resources Management Council, Bantay Dagat, and the Barangay officials of Brgy. Baroro.

Moving forward, the MSGC commits to continuously implement programs, projects, and activities that will establish a Stronger La Union, a Province worth living in.

KAUNLARAN SA AGRIKULTURA, NEGOSYO AT TRABAHO SA LA UNION

Loren Obillo, GPC-OPS

The Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPAg) and Local Economic Enterprise and Investment Promotions Unit (LEEIPU) refine their commitments to the Province's Stronger La Union Strategy by undergoing Strategic Execution Workshops on June 10 and 17, respectively at the Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union.

With the theme, "Reaping Stronger Results for a Stronger La Union," the workshops aims to assess and identify the office's current operations for enhancement, revisit their strategic initiatives, and finalize their list of high-impact Programs, Projects, and Activities (PPAs).

Provincial Agriculturist Col. Ramon F. Laudencia and LEEIPU head Ms. Charito C. Dator, together with their respective key staff members, participated in the workshops. Said activities were led by Gov. Pacoy together with Provincial Administrator Agnes Grace A. Cargamento, Provincial Planner Michaela Louise T. Delfinado, and facilitated by the Office for Provincial Strategy headed by Assistant Chief Noemi R. Jucar.



Through the workshop, the participating offices were able to conduct environmental scanning to identify their strengths and weaknesses which is necessary in identifying their high-impact PPAs, to include Backyard/Community Gardening, Establishment of Farm Schools, and Market Matching for OPAg, and Investment Portal, conduct of Start-Up Competition, Employment programs, and Micro Small and Medium Enterprises Congress for LEEIPU. Follow-up sessions and consultations shall be conducted to ensure achievement of the workshops' objectives.

Gov. Pacoy emphasized to the participants that as public servants, everyone is expected to keep improving and strive to become better versions of themselves to deliver better performances. He added, "I say all these because, at the end of the day, as I always say, we are working for the people of La Union... And our people deserve the best public service there is."

The workshop will be another leap for the PGLU as we continue our pursuit for transformative good governance in order to build a Stronger La Union: a Province worth living in.

PGLU AND AGENCY PARTNERS INTENSIFY EFFORTS TO REDUCE AIR POLLUTION

Diana E. Jutba, GPC-ENRO

In adherence to the Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999, the Provincial Government of La Union, through the Environment and Natural Resources Office partnered with the Land Transportation Office Regional Office I (LTO-I), Environmental Management Bureau Regional Office I (EMB-I), Philippine National Police Highway Patrol Group and the Local Government Unit of San Juan, La Union in conducting a roadside Vehicle Emission Testing on June 18, 2021 at Brgy. Ili Sur, San Juan, La Union.

The emission test was initiated by the EMB-I using their gas analyzer for gas-fueled vehicles and opacimeter for diesel-fueled vehicles. A total of 66 vehicles were inspected and tested. Three



gas-fueled vehicles and six diesel-fueled vehicles failed the emission test. The drivers were apprehended by LTO and were advised to check-up vehicles that failed the test.

The activity aims to ensure that vehicles in La Union are strictly complying with the health and safety guidelines of the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board, including the

roadworthiness standard. Smoke belching is not only harmful to the environment, but it also poses health problems since breathing polluted air would lead to numerous illnesses.

As stated in Section 1 (Roadside Inspection) of Rule XXXV (Roadside Inspection of Motor Vehicles) of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Republic Act 8749 also known as the Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999, vehicles found emitting excessive smoke while operating in any public highway shall be subjected to an emission test by properly equipped enforcement teams from LTO or its duly deputized agents. Violators will be subject to fines/penalties.

PGLU CREATES INNOVATION FOR JOBS FACILITATION

Rowell B. Timoteo, GPC - PESO

The Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) through the successful collaboration of the Public Employment Service Office (PESO) and the Information & Communications Technology Unit created the La Union Find Jobs Employment Portal. It is a free job application website that aims to improve the local labor and employment condition in the province covering all the municipalities/city with operating PESOs. The system allows jobseekers to connect with potential employers. It is easier and more efficient to fill a job vacancy. Job postings are categorized by work type, making them easier to search.

The La Union Find Jobs Portal had



its soft launching on June 23, 2021 with 689 various job vacancies available for local and overseas from the 33 different employers within La Union and nearby provinces. The system was also presented to the representatives of the Department of Labor & Employment and to the different LGU PESO Managers on June 11, 2021 through video conference.

The PGLU will continue to develop technology-rich innovations in providing employment services as we enter in the new normal. The La Union Jobs Portal is simple and user-friendly in which each and every Kaprobinsiaan can access the said portal.

PGLU, LGUS PARTNER TO STEP-UP LOCAL CULTURAL MAPPING PROJECTS

Lorena C. Luna, GPC-LUPTO

In the continuing pursuit of preserving and promoting La Union culture, arts and language, the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) officially grants Cultural Mapping financial assistance to the local government units (LGUs) of Bagulin and San Gabriel through the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on May 12, 2021 via video conferencing.

The virtual MOA signing was attended by Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III, Bagulin Mayor Virigilio C. Flor, San Gabriel Mayor Herminigildo M. Velasco, and their respective culture and arts/tourism focal persons.

During the program facilitated by the La Union Provincial Tourism Office (LUPTO), Gov. Pacoy expressed his full support to local cultural mapping projects in the province and asserted its utmost importance in protecting cultural heritage. "With the dynamic understanding of our culture, we as a province can move forward and advance to the demands of the times," he said.

Each partnering LGU will receive Php 250,000.00 in financial assistance to roll out the cultural

mapping projects in their localities, through the collaboration and technical assistance of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts.

As a concluding part of the program, the culture and arts/tourism focal persons of the Municipality of Bauang and City of San Fernando who earlier launched their cultural mapping

projects, shared their progress reports. Bauang identified 307 heritage elements for field mapping, 155 or 50.49% of which have already been validated through the first follow up. On the other hand, the City of San Fernando was able to ascertain 227 local heritage elements, of which 132 or 58.15% are ready for NCCA's final review. Both LGU representatives expressed that as their teams went through the different cultural mapping phases, they discovered and learned more about their localities. These LGUs realize that having a concrete and updated cultural database can only be achieved through sustained and unified efforts to map culture and heritage properties.

Republic Act No. 10066 or the National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009, states that the LGUs, through their cultural offices, shall maintain an inventory of cultural property under its jurisdiction. PGLU and partnering LGUs recognize the true worth of cultural mapping as a systematic approach in identifying, recording and classifying the cultural properties or resources of the community in order to describe, visualize and understand them.



Cultural Mapping financial assistance to the local government units (LGUs) of Bagulin and San Gabriel through the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) by Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III, Bagulin Mayor Virigilio C. Flor, and San Gabriel Mayor Herminigildo M. Velasco on May 12, 2021 via video conferencing. The two LGUs will now join the Municipality of Bauang and City of San Fernando who are currently conducting their cultural mapping projects.

PGLU CONTINUES TO EQUIP MORE ESSENTIAL WORKERS ON THE COVID-19 VACCINE

Maeve N. Zafra, PIO

The Provincial Advocacy, Demand Generation, and Social Mobilization Group (ADGSMG) of the CoViD-19 Vaccination Program Task Force (CVP-TF) held its fifth Focus Group Discussion (FGD) yesterday, May 24, 2021, with the frontline essential workers of the La Union Provincial Jail (LUPJ).

Since the LUPJ is classified under CoViD-19 vaccine Priority Group A1.7, the ADGSMG emphasizes building greater immunity to minimize the risks of exposure to the virus and of contracting severe CoViD-19.



During the discussion, the team clarified vaccine myths and misinformation and provided credible and reliable information on the CoViD-19 vaccines, its benefits, safety and efficacy, and side effects.

The CVP-TF champions data-driven approaches in communicating the CoViD-19 Vaccination Program of La Union - Bakuna Muna.

Tayo ay muling babangon bilang isang probinsya kapag #BakunaMuna.

PGLU STRENGTHENS AIR QUALITY MONITORING IN LA UNION

Diana E. Jutba, GPC-ENRO



As part of the Provincial Government of La Union's bid to promote ecological integrity and environmental protection through the #KalikasanNaman campaign and to strengthen the compliance to RA 8749, also known as Philippine Clean Air Act, the Provincial Government - Environment and Natural Resources Office (PG-ENRO) purchased a PQ200 Ambient Air Particulate Sampler.

The equipment, which can monitor PM 2.5 and PM 10 concentrations in the atmosphere, will be used to monitor the particulate matter 10

and 2.5 concentration in the province, specifically to areas or undertakings where emission and dust particles can impact nearby communities such as busy roads and quarry sites.

The monitoring results will be helpful for project implementers and policy makers to design programs to abate air pollution, and also for the general public to be informed about the quality of air they are breathing. PG-ENRO and Provincial General Services Office personnel underwent training on May 20, 2021 on the use of the said equipment.

GOV. PACOY IMPARTS LEADERSHIP INSIGHTS TO FELLOW PUBLIC SERVANTS

Loren Obillo, GPC-OPS

To advance the principles of transformative governance, Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III was invited as a resource speaker at the ISA Practitioners' Online Conference on June 26, 2021.

The conference serves as the culminating activity of the Young Leadership Program, a pilot-run online-based 20-module certificate course in public governance, launched by the Institute for Solidarity in Asia in partnership with the University of Asia and the Pacific. The program was participated in by professional leaders from various government agencies and private sectors in the country with the aim to help participants enhance strategic thinking and implementation, hone leadership skills and instill values and ethics of good governance.



During the online conference, Gov. Pacoy imparted the Province's journey towards transformation, including the challenges of shaking the

comfort zones and eventually winning the hearts and minds of the people which led the Province to advance its public service delivery through the

years. He stated, "While our eyes are set on the breakthrough results, we were also very particular with undergoing the necessary process. As they say, hold the vision, trust the process."

In conclusion, Gov. Pacoy urged the participants to be leaders who strive and make a positive impact that cuts across all borders of the community. He said, "Our legacy shall not be measured by the heights we have reached nor the awards we have gathered. Let our legacy be seen in the success of our people and the lives we have impacted."

The PGLU shall continue to strengthen collaboration and synergy with other professional leaders from the public and private sector in order to create a stronger force onwards building a #StrongerLaUnion.

PGLU-ENRO SPEARHEADS MONTH OF THE OCEAN, INTERNATIONAL BIODIVERSITY DAY CELEBRATION 2021

Grace Libong, GPC-ENRO

In celebration of the Month of the Ocean and International Biodiversity Day 2021, the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) conducts the SCUBAsurero Ocean Clean-up Program on May 21 and 28, 2021 at Fish Sanctuary, Pagdalagan, Bauang, La Union and Kasay Marine Protected area (MPAs) San Agustin and Canaoay, City of San Fernando, La Union.

The activity, which aims to remove wastes and/or debris under water as well as to document diversity and status of life within the MPAs, is promoting the Provincial Government of La Union's #KalikasanNaman campaign on fostering ecological integrity and clean and healthy environment.

As an output, 25 SCUBA Divers collected approximately 87 kilograms (wet weight) solid wastes. Out of these, 12 kilograms from underwater and shoreline of Pagdalagan Fish Sanctuary while 75 kilograms collected beneath

kasay MPA, San Agustin, CSFLU.

Most waste collected were residual wastes such as plastic wrappers/packaging, sachet, cloth, diapers, napkins, plastic spoon/fork, rubbers/footwears as well as recyclable waste like

metals, tin cans, and bicycle spare parts/wires.

Observed biodiversity in the area includes different types of fishes, corals and seaweeds belonging to genus of green, brown and red algae like Sea grapes, Sea

cactus, Spindle weed, Sea Sponge and others. Observed fishes includes Ampig, Dalagang bukid, Bagsang, Kitkit, Balaki, Sungayan, Moorish Idol, Butterfly fish and Moral Eel. Likewise, observed coral reef species include lettuce Corals, Mound and Boulder Corals, Flower Pot Coral, Table Coral and other associated marine organisms like Sea Anemone and giant clam. A coral-eating starfish, Crown-of-thorns is also observed in part of Kasay MPA (Canaoay) to be removed.

The SCUBAsurero team was composed of divers from the Provincial Government Environment and Natural Resources Office, Provincial Disaster and Risk Reduction Management Office, Office of the Provincial Agriculturist-Fishery Division. They were joined by the City-ENRO, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Philippine Coast Guard/Axillary and the Local Government of Bauang, La Union.



In celebration of the Ocean Month and International Biodiversity Day 2021, the Provincial Government of La Union conducts the SCUBAsurero Ocean Clean-up Program on May 21 and 28, 2021 at Fish Sanctuary, Pagdalagan, Bauang, La Union and Kasay Marine Protected area San Agustin and Canaoay, City of San Fernando, La Union. 25 SCUBA Divers collected approximately 87 kilograms (wet weight) solid wastes. Out of these, 12 kilograms from underwater and shoreline of Pagdalagan Fish Sanctuary while 75 kilograms collected beneath kasay MPA, San Agustin, CSFLU.

WATCHTOWER DECLARATION MARKER UNVEILED IN BALAOAN, LA UNION

Joy Ann L. Gurtiza, GPC-LUPTO

As part of the cultural and historical site conservation and rehabilitation program, the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) headed by Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III through the La Union Provincial Tourism Office (LUPTO) - Culture and Arts Section together with the Municipal Government of Balaoan, and the National Museum of the Philippines (NMP) unveiled the Almeida Watchtower declaration marker on June 25, 2021 in Barangay Almeida, Balaoan, La Union.

The marker containing the NMP seal and the text declaration is placed on a cement pedestal just in front of the tower's entrance.

The Almeida Watchtower in Balaoan is one of the five remaining La Union watchtowers along with the Moro Watchtower in the City of San Fernando City, the Baluarte Watchtower in Luna, and the watchtowers in the

municipalities of Bacnotan and San Juan. It was collectively declared as a National Cultural Treasure by the NMP in 2014 by virtue of Museum Declaration No. 04-2014. These watchtowers were made of coral limestones and bricks built during the Spanish colonial period which served to protect communities from predators from the sea.

On behalf of NMP Director General Jeremy Barns, NMP Vigan Regional Office's Supervising Administrative Officer Paolo Mar A. Chan extended his congratulatory message and expressed his support to the local government units (LGUs) of Balaoan and La Union for the protection and preservation of the watchtower. He said that as custodians of a promising future for the people, they will strive to continue working together with LGUs in protecting, conserving and promoting the culture and heritage. Mayor Aleli U. Concepcion, for her part,

underscored the significance of the historical marker. She believes that with its perfect location overlooking the Darigayos Cove, the marker will help deepen the people's appreciation and understanding of history. She also said that it will become one of the tourist attractions not only in the locality but also in the whole province once the tourism industry operation goes full swing.

Others present during the unveiling rites were LUPTO

Officer-in-Charge Arthur S. Cortez, Jr., Barangay Almeida officials headed by Brgy. Captain Moises G. Torres, the landowners, Juliet David and former Registrar of Deeds, Atty. Pablito M. Valdez, together with his wife Marietta Almeida-Valdez.

The PGLU has a continuing mandate through the "Bantayan Ang Mga Bantayan" program to ensure protection and conservation of cultural and historical sites in the province.



PGLU HOSTS LABOR EDUCATION, CAREER GUIDANCE WEBINAR FOR FIRST TIME JOBSEEKERS

Rowell B. Timoteo, GPC-PESO

As the graduation season approaches, the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) through the Public Employment Service Office (PESO) in collaboration with the Institution of Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University (DMMMSU) successfully facilitated a video conference webinar on Labor Education and Career Guidance for First Time Jobseekers on May 28, 2021.

134 college graduating students from the different campuses of DMMMSU participated in the webinar while 2,100 viewers streamed the program from the Facebook Page of DMMMSU-MLUC. They were enlightened and educated on the topics discussed which include the First Time Jobseekers Assistance Act; Right of Workers; Importance/Objectives of the Career Service Examination; Membership and Social Security System (SSS) Benefits, and PHILHEALTH Universal Health Care Law and Benefits.

The PESO-La Union invited resource speakers Senior Labor and Employment Officer Ms. Ester P. Prepose and Foreign National Labor Inspector Engr. Rommel L.

Austria of the Department of Labor and Employment – La Union Field Office; Supervising Human Resource Specialist Ms. Imelda A. Sabado of the Civil Service Commission – Regional Office I; Branch Manager Mr. Francisco F. Pentecostes of SSS-La Union; and Chief Social Insurance Officer Ms. Jerlyn M. Felipe of PHILHEALTH Local Health

Insurance Office La Union.

Gov. Francisco Emmanuel “Pacoy” R. Ortega III extended his warmest congratulations to the college graduating students of DMMMSU saying, “As we now move onwards crisis recovery and transformation, opportunities such as this is our way of ensuring that you are equipped with

required knowledge and skill sets in securing a job after graduation...Makakaasa kayong ang inyong Pamahalaang Panlalawigan ay laging handa at buo ang suporta sa mga programang nagsusulong ng hanapbuhay para sa mga kaprobinsiaan.”

DMMMSU President, Dr. Jaime I. Manuel, Jr., mentioned in his message that this webinar is very timely as it prepares the graduating students in the world of work and said, “I therefore enjoin you to make the most of this webinar by assimilating every insight and information shared to you by our invited speakers. Learn as much from them and capture ideas relevant to your chosen path which may serve as a useful guide to your future career.”

DMMMSU President, Dr. Jaime I. Manuel, Jr., also congratulated the PGLU through the PESO-La Union for spearheading this event. “This is a very laudable activity as it is in line with the initiative of the Province of La Union to execute its transformative governance roadmap in order to build a Stronger La Union.”



Representatives from the different government agencies discuss during the Labor Education and Career Guidance Webinar for First Time Jobseekers on May 28, 2021 at 5/F LUPAC Bldg., City of San Fernando, La Union. 134 college graduating students from the different campuses of Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University (DMMMSU) participated in the webinar while 2,100 viewers streamed the program from the Facebook Page of DMMMSU-MLUC.

PGLU RECEIVES ENVIRONMENT RECOGNITIONS

Shairalene B. Guerrero, PIO



The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) recognizes the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) for the PGLU’s valuable contribution in exerting efforts to help carry out the closure of open dumpsites in the Province of La Union.

Gov. Francisco Emmanuel “Pacoy” Ortega III received the award on June 23, 2021, at the Provincial Governor’s Office. PGLU achieved 100% compliance with the provisions of Section 37 of Republic Act 9003 “Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of

2000.” The certificate of recognition was given on June 22, 2021, at the Diego Silang Hall, City of San Fernando, La Union. PGLU will continue to foster partnership and campaigns of the DENR in addressing environmental issues and enforcing environmental laws.

The Provincial Government of La Union also intensifies the #KalikasanNaman campaign and other eco-friendly initiatives because every Kaprobinsiaan deserves a healthy Province worth living in.

PGLU JOINS WORLD BLOOD DONOR DAY

Camille R. Bumatay, PIO

To advocate the benefit of voluntary blood donation and in celebration of the World Blood Donor Day on June 14, 2021, the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) collected 25 units of blood through the conduct of Mobile Blood Donation Program for PGLU Employees at the Sangguniang Panlalawigan Building, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union.

Several employees signified their intention to donate and 25 were classified as eligible donors. The activity was conducted with the assistance of the Department of Health National Voluntary Blood Services Program.

Participants and facilitators observed the minimum health standards all throughout the activity.



SP APPROVES MEASURES TO CONTROL ASF

Rhea Matilde A. Ballesteros, GPC – SP

As part of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan’s counterpart in controlling and preventing the further spread of the African Swine Fever (ASF) disease in the province, the 22nd Sangguniang Panlalawigan approved in third and final reading the Draft Ordinance No. 295-2021, entitled, Provincial Ordinance For Intensified African Swine Fever (ASF) Disease Control Program during its 101st Regular Session on June 1, 2021.

Due to an outbreak of ASF in the province as confirmed by the Department of Agriculture (DA) from March 6, 2020 to November 5, 2020, SPM Geraldine R. Ortega, Chairperson of the SP Committee on Agriculture and Aquatic Resources proposed for the enactment of an ordinance for the intensification of ASF control program which includes the provision on the adoption of ASF Task Force; Accreditation/ registration of designated key ASF frontliners who will serve as Biosecurity Officers; allocation of supplemental counterpart fund and penalties and sanction.

The ordinance aims to establish an effective ASF monitoring, surveillance and reporting system; strengthen biosecurity

measures at the farm level and border control; intensify awareness campaigns and other capacity building activities; strengthen and institutionalize Municipal and Barangay engagement for ASF prevention and control; assist in the recovery and repopulation of previously affected areas and to generate and mobilize resources for an effective implementation of the program.



The 22nd Sangguniang Panlalawigan approves Provincial Ordinance for Intensified African Swine Fever (ASF) Disease Control Program principally authored by SPM Geraldine R. Ortega during its 101st Regular Session on June 1, 2021. The ordinance aims to intensify ASF control program which includes the adoption of ASF Task Force; Accreditation/registration of designated key ASF frontliners who will act as Biosecurity Officers; and allocation of supplemental counterpart fund as well as penalties and sanction.

Likewise, the said ordinance prohibits the tampering and falsification of required animal and meat shipping documents such as Hog Transport Pass, Veterinary Shipping Permit, Veterinary Health Certificate, Certificate of Free Status on ASF and Laboratory test result for ASF; falsification of weekly negative disease monitoring report and biosecurity evaluation report; concealment of information;

removal of diseased animals from quarantine area; non-reporting and delay of reporting; interference/disobedience to persons in authority; refusal to farm inspection and conduct of surveillance.

An amount of P500,000.00 will be allocated annually for the purchase of PPEs, laboratory sample collecting equipment, disinfectants, and other materials needed for the activities to control the spread of the disease.

Penalties on the violation of this ordinance are set to P1,000.00 for the first infraction; P2,000.00 for the second infraction; and P5,000.00 or imprisonment of not more than one year or both in the discretion of the court for the third and succeeding infractions.

ASF is a highly contagious viral disease of domestic and wild pigs that is currently affecting the local hog industry of the province and the country as a whole. The passage of the ordinance and its efficient implementation will effectively control, manage, and contain ASF, thereby paving at-once the recovery of the province’ swine industry.

PGLU STRENGTHENS PEACE AND ORDER COORDINATION THROUGH JOINT MEETING

Mariel Faye Mina, GPC-PPDO

Governor Francisco Emmanuel “Pacoy” R. Ortega III the Chair of the Provincial Peace and Order Council (PPOC) and La Union Anti-Drug Abuse Council (LUADAC) together with Department of the Interior and Local Governance (DILG) Provincial Director Virgilio P. Sison and members of the council convened for the 2nd Quarter Joint Meeting via video conferencing on June 28, 2021.

During the meeting, the La Union Provincial Police Office provided an update on the peace and order situation of the Province, which was reported to be manageable with the decrease of crime incidents for the 1st Semester of 2021. The 81st Infantry Brigade, Philippine Army also reported their agency’s accomplishments.

The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency also updated the council on their accomplishments and the on-going anti-drug campaign on the implementation of the Barangay Drug Clearing Program in the Province. Out of 490 drug-affected barangays, a total of 429 or 87.5% were already cleared; 61 or 12.5% remaining drug-affected barangays; and 75 unaffected barangays.

DILG PD Sison shared that the Barangay Payocpoc Sur, Bauang, La Union emerged as regional winner of the annual search for outstanding Lupon under the Lupong Tagapamayapa Incentives and Awards (LTIA) 2021 Program-1st to 3nd income class municipality category. A video presentation of their winning entry was presented during the conference.



LA UNION CAPS ENVIRONMENT MONTH WITH RECOGNITION

Camille R. Bumatay, PIO



With the province’s exceptional initiatives and contribution in promoting environmental protection, conservation and development, Gov. Pacoy receives a Plaque of Recognition from Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region 1 Regional Executive Director Atty. Crizaldy M. Barcelo, on June 30, 2021 at the Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union.

As the Environment Month 2021 concludes, the award recognizes the successful implementation of the Provincial Government of La

Union (PGLU) of various environmental programs, projects and activities as proven by the attainment of Best and Cleanest River in the Country by the Municipality of Naguilian. The award was attained with the concerted efforts of the DENR, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office, PGLU and the municipal government.

The PGLU commits to continue its #KalikasanNaman campaign for a continuous environmental sustainability ultimately leading to a #StrongerLaUnion.

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PGLU AWARDS INAIG DOKUFEST, BOUGAINVILLEA GARDEN CONTEST WINNERS

Joy Ann L. Gurtiza, GPC-LUPTO

Capping the Philippine Environment Month celebration of the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU), the La Union Provincial Tourism Office (LUPTO) – Culture and Arts Section recognized the winners of INAIG: Dokyu-Kalikasan Fest and Bougainvillea Garden Landscape Competition through a virtual Awarding Ceremonies on June 30, 2021 aired via Facebook Live.

Winners of the Bougainvillea Garden Landscape Competition are the Municipalities of Caba, Naguilian and Rosario as First, Second and Third Places respectively. Top three LGU winners received plaques and cash prizes. The bougainvillea gardens of the Municipalities of Bauang and Bangar were awarded Governor Special Citations for Excellence. While the Municipalities of Tubao and Santo Tomas won Governor Special Citations for Community Involvement.

For INAIG Dokyu-Kalikasan Fest’s premier run, the Festival Jury awarded the Naisangsangayan a Dokumentario or Outstanding Documentary to “Arapaap: Pebble Pickers” produced by Imatang Productions led by Mr. Kelvin C. Villanueva. The same production team won Gapuanan ti Uni (Achievement in Sound), Kalikasan Naman Gapuanan iti Adbokasia (Achievement in Advocacy) and Gapuanan iti Iskrip (Achievement in Script).

Pukkaw ti Napukaw” by Marco Campos of Sinelikha Productions clinched Gapuanan iti Sinematograpia (Achievement in Cinematography) and

Pammadayaw para ti Teknikal a Kinalaing (Citation for Technical Achievement) plums. The narrative documentary “Agsala” by Vernon Albert Cabading of

Sherwil Ryge Productions emerged as Pili ti Tattao (People’s Choice). All winners will receive a plaque and cash prize from PGLU.

Gov. Francisco Emmanuel “Pacoy” R. Ortega III congratulated all the participating LGUs and everyone present virtually. He expressed his warm gratitude to all the PGLU employees, particularly the collaborating teams under the LUPTO who led the activities. “Be reminded that victory comes not to the team with the best players, but to the team with the players who work best together. Stand by your confidence that the Provincial Government of La Union will support you every step of the way. Let us continue living up to our mission for our beloved province on raising awareness and preservation of our natural heritage and endowments to a Stronger La Union, a province worth living in,” Gov. Pacoy highlighted.

Anchored in the advocacy “Kalikasan Naman” and tagline “Tatak LUCAL” (La Union Culture, Arts and Language): Endowed and Proud,” the INAIG Dokyu-Kalikasan Fest aims to engage local cinematographers and filmmakers in the promotion of the province’s natural heritage; whereas the Bougainvillea Garden Landscape Competition aims to promote bougainvillea as the official flower and strengthen its propagation in the province.



LU TOURISM REOPENS RE-ORIENTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS HELD

Joy Ann L. Gurtiza, GPC-LUPTO

The Provincial Government of La Union through the La Union Provincial Tourism Office (LUPTO) – Tourism Planning, Research and Information Management Section conducted a re-orientation and dialogue with industry stakeholders on May 21, 2021 via video conferencing.

The online meeting was attended by representatives from the Department of Tourism (DOT) – Region I; Provincial Disaster and Risk-Reduction Management Office; LGUs; and various tourism organizations such as La Union Alliance for Tour and Travel Agencies; La Union Hotel Resort and Restaurant Association; San Juan Resort Restaurant and Hotel Association; Association of Active Tour Guides in La Union; Association of Tourism Industries and Networks in La Union;

La Union Conventions and Visitors Bureau; and other tourism-related establishments in the province.

LUPTO Officer-in-Charge Arthur S. Cortez, Jr. emphasized the importance of everyone’s compliance with tourism guidelines as the province is trying to safely and gradually reopen. LUPTO Administrative Officer V Julius A. Manabat discussed the tourism guidelines and protocols as well as additional requirements for tourism reopening and clarified that vaccination card is not an alternative for negative RT-PCR result for tourists. Senior Tourism Operations Officer, Hanzel D. Guerrero, Jr. meanwhile presented the salient provisions of Sangguniang Panlalawigan Ordinance No. 289-2021 which is

imposing mandatory compliance with the minimum public health standards in the province of La Union, institutionalizing registration of the NAPANAM System of all individuals and establishments as scanning points, and prescribing penalties for violations of the said ordinance.

Issues and concerns of stakeholders were raised during the open forum. They committed to adapt to the evolving needs and requirements essential to the reopening. LGUs committed to keep their tourism sites and attractions compliant to the Public Health Standards. Hotels/ Accommodations Operators requested to lower the administrative fees charged by travel and tour companies and recommended to create fees based on the classification of

accommodations. With this, LUATTA and the accommodation establishments agreed to schedule another meeting for them to further finalize their business rates.

The province officially reopened its borders on May 22, 2021 to leisure travelers from Luzon residents. This is in accordance with the Executive Order 27 of the province issued by Gov. Francisco Emmanuel “Pacoy” R. Ortega III lifting the restriction on border entry for tourists.

As the province continues to slowly ease travel with health and safety protocols in place, PGLU is hopeful that visitor arrivals to the province will make its steady climb to reach pre-pandemic figures.



To entertain and lessen the pain and burden that the patients feel, Naguilian District Hospital (NDH) employees put smiley stickers on their face shields and face masks on May 10, 2021. Since wearing face masks and face shields hides the smiles of employees, OIC–Chief of Hospital Dr. Eduardo S. Posadas encouraged hospital staff to put the emoticons to represent the smiles under the facemasks of NDH employees. Patients expressed their appreciation of the simple gesture and said that it is cute and the smiley is contagious.



Kas panangipakita iti agtultuloy a panangsalaknib iti Provincial Government of La Union kadagiti kaprobinsiaan kontra CoViD-19, inbilin ni Gov. Pacoy ti panagiwaras iti Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) para kadagiti health workers kadagiti amin nga ili ken ciudad, ken iti 576 barangay tapno maprotektaranda kastamet dagiti kliente iti masakupanda.

Iti sumatotal, ti naiwaras a PPEs ket 18,280 bote iti 70% Isopropyl Alcohol a maysa litro; 19,280 pidaso ti KN95 Face Mask; 5,960 karton ti Disposable/Surgical Facemask a 3 ply nga addaan 50 pares kada box; 3,080 karton ti Examination Gloves nga addaan 50 pares kada box; 18,280 pidaso ti Disposable Gown; 18,280 pidaso ti Face Shield; 36,560 pidaso ti Surgical Cap; ken 36,560 pidaso ti Disposable Shoe Cover.

POLLUTION LOAD ASSESSED IN LGU BAGULIN, LA UNION

Grace Libong, GPC-ENRO

In its bid to promote the Initiative of the Naguilian River System-Water Quality Management area (NRS-WQMA) which is to comply with the water quality guidelines, the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) through the Environment and Natural Resources Office in partnership with Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) – Environmental Management Bureau – Region I conducted a workshop on the Pollution Load Assessment of Naguilian River System on May 25, 2021 at Suyo, Bagulin, La Union.

The Pollution Load Assessment aimed to quantify the volume of wastewater being discharged to the Naguilian River; to provide information on the waste load contributions on surface water within each tributary; and to specify how, where and what kind of waste loads are produced in the catchment, and the kind and amount of treatment it undergoes, and the final waste loads on surface water entering the river system.

The workshop and lectures were actively participated in by 13 employees/office heads from the local government units (LGU) of Bagulin. As an output of the activity, participants were able to

refresh on the salient features of the RA 9275 otherwise known as the “Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004.” The discussion revolved on the need for the clean water act, declaration of policy, sewage collection, treatment and disposal, water quality management areas, usage of fresh water, classification of water bodies, wastewater discharge permit and prohibited acts as well as fines, damages and penalties.

Further, 1st Quarter Water Quality

Monitoring results of the NRS-WQMA were also presented. PG-ENRO personnel discussed the status of solid waste management in La Union which includes the creation of Environment and Natural Resources Office; establishment of sanitary landfill; material recovery facility; composting facility; plastic regulation/prohibition ordinance; issuance of Citation Ticket/penalties; residual waste diversion and special waste management.

To attain its objective in assessing sources of pollution, DENR presented the background and matrix for the Pollution Load Assessment of Naguilian River System. DENR-EMB Director Ma. Dorica Nas-Hipe, stated that when it comes to water pollution, an LGU cannot solve it alone and coming together is a great beginning while EnP Annaly Rosario-Valdes, OIC of PG-ENRO discussed the importance of strengthened collaboration between and among LGUs and National Agencies in order to attain environmental goal.

Municipal Mayor Virgilio C. Flor who participated in the workshop assured that LGU Bagulin, with the help of its constituent, shall do its best to assist and participate in any development effort pertaining to the environment. Further, he committed to accomplish and submit the needed data for the assessment of pollution load of the Bagulin River as tributaries of the Naguilian River. As moving forward, PGLU-ENRO also ensure to sustain its technical assistance in solid waste management, fresh water, as well as quarrying management and other environmental development effort that the LGU may desired to achieve.



Pollution Load Assessed in LGU Bagulin, La Union. The Provincial Government – Environment and Natural Resources Office in partnership with DENR – Environmental Management Bureau–Region I conducted a workshop where in participants were taught on how to make a matrix on the Pollution Load Assessment of Naguilian River System on May 25, 2021 at Suyo, Bagulin, La Union.

PGLU REPS CAPACITATED ON GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORY

Diana E. Jutba, GPC-ENRO

The Local Climate Change Action Plan (LCCAP)-Technical Working Group (TWG) of the Province attended an Online training-workshop on Entity Level Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory and Community Level Greenhouse Gas Inventory led by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Environmental Management Bureau Regional Office No. I through video conferencing on May 27-28, 2021.

The two-day webinar focused on the Overview of Climate Change Act; Policies and National Programs; Introduction of Entity GHG Inventory; and Community Level GHG Inventory.

The online training-workshop aimed to improve the participants’ capacity, knowledge, and understanding of the basic concepts of climate change and accounting entity and community level GHG emissions from different sources that would be useful as a planning tool in developing mitigating actions within their jurisdiction and for the updating of the Provincial LCCAP.

The LCCAP-TWG is composed of the Office of Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator; Office of the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management; Office of the Provincial Agriculturist; Office of the

Provincial Health Officer; Office of the Provincial Engineer; Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office; Provincial Budget Office; Provincial Government-Environment

and Natural Resources Office; OPG-Office for Provincial Strategy; and Office of Provincial General Services.



PGLU AWARDS CLEANEST, SAFEST, GREENEST LGUs; BODIES OF WATER

Camille R. Bumatay, PIO

After series of site validation and evaluation of different Local Government Units and Municipal Bodies of Water, winners of the Search for Cleanest, Safest and Greenest (CSG) Local Government Units (LGUs) of La Union 2019 received their prizes

on June 1, 2021 in front of the La Union Agri-Tourism Center, City of San Fernando, La Union.

Awardees for the First to Third Class Municipalities were Agoo – 1st Place winning Tornado 2.6C Dropside; Bacnotan – 2nd Place

winning Tornado M5.2C Dropside; and Balaoan – 3rd Place winning Tornado 2.6C Dropside. For the Fourth to Fifth Class Municipalities, Sudipen and Burgos secured the third place where a Tornado 4.4C Mini Dump Truck and Gratour MT 11.5L

Dropside were their prizes respectively. Finally, for the Municipal Bodies of Water, Bulalakaw Falls of Bagulin –1st place won a Tornado 4.4C Mini Dump Truck; while Baroro River of Bacnotan – 2nd place and Immuki Island of Balaoan – 3rd place had the value of their prizes added to their prizes as CSG Awardees.



OIC, PG-ENRO EnP. Annalyn Rosario-Valdez echoed Gov. Francisco Emmanuel “Pacoy” R. Ortega III’s message that the project is in support to the attainment of the vision to position La Union as the Heart of Agri-Tourism in Northern Luzon by 2025.

With the aim to mobilize all sectors of the society in transforming and helping their communities into clean, safe and green areas, Executive Order No. 05, series of 2019 updates the Provincial Search Committee for the Search for CSG LGUs in the Province of La Union.

LU DISTRICT HOSPITALS CONTINUE TO UPGRADE SERVICES; TO UNDERGO STRATEGIC TARGETING WRITESHOPS

Loren Obillo, GPC-OPS

Amidst the challenges of the pandemic, all five District Hospitals in Balaoan, Bacnotan, Naguilian, Caba, and Rosario, together with the La Union Medical Center in Agoo continue to upgrade its services by undergoing Strategic Targeting Writeshops (STWs) with the theme, "Ramp Up: Performance through Alignment."

Naguilian District Hospital, represented by its management committee headed by Provincial Health Office/ Acting Chief of Hospital Dr. Eduardo S. Posadas, make up the pilot session of the program which was held at the Provincial Capitol yesterday, June 14, 2021. The writeshop was led by Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III together with Provincial Administrator Agnes Grace A. Cargamento, Provincial Planner Michaela Louise T. Delfinado, and facilitated by the Office for Provincial Strategy headed by Assistant Chief



Noemi R. Jucar.

The writeshop aims to ensure optimal operations of the whole health care system of the Province amidst the challenges brought by the pandemic. This is

done through the assessment of hospital operations, alignment of their vision and mission to the Province's strategic thrust, and crafting of their hospital development and sustainability plans to warrant complementation

of efforts and maximized performance.

In his speech, Gov. Pacoy acknowledged the commendable efforts of the District Hospitals over the course of the pandemic, but emphasized that they can do more through their alignment. He added, "We can take this commendable performance to the next level through our alignment because we can only move the Province forward if we take the steps together... We can only build a Stronger Province if we exert stronger performances together."

The Provincial Government intends to conduct STW sessions with the rest of its hospitals over the following weeks. Through the continuous upgrading of the Province's health care services, we will establish a #StrongerLaUnion, a Province worth living in.

LA UNION CONDUCTS FIRST VIRTUAL JOBS FAIR

Rowell Timoteo, GPC-PESO

As the CoViD-19 pandemic continuously affects employment and the economy as a whole, the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU), through the Public Employment Service Office (PESO) in coordination with the Information & Communications Technology Unit (ICTU), organized and hosted the first La Union Virtual Jobs Fair 2021 interviewing 110 applicants on May 24 and 25, 2021.

More than 400 jobseekers registered online for the La Union Virtual Job Fair. The list of the jobseekers registered were then forwarded to the corresponding employers for shortlisting. On May 24 and 25, 2021, 110 shortlisted jobseekers underwent virtual job interviews with the three participating employers via video conference. Job openings available were clerical staff, audit staff, area operation specialist, field staff, cashier, receiving clerk, sales clerk, assistant store manager, sign shop artist,

administrative officer, store supervisor, business center agent.

In addition, one employer who was in need of bagger, package counter, janitor, warehouseman and technician was also invited by PESO-La Union to join the job fair. The representative in-charge of the manpower pooling physically interviewed seven

jobseekers on May 24, 2021 at PESO-La Union Office where all interviewees were hired on the spot.

Ms. Charito C. Dator, Provincial PESO Manager, complimented the jobseekers and the interviewers from three private companies participating in the virtual job fair and added, "Marami pa tayong mga jobs fair

na gagawin...para mabigyan natin ng maraming job opportunities pa para sa ang ating mga aplikante at mga kababayan dito sa Probinsya ng La Union."

As the La Union Virtual Jobs Fair concluded, one of the representative of the three participating agencies, Ms. Rosalie B. Castro, HR Specialist, congratulated PGLU under the leadership of Gov. Pacoy Ortega for the successful conduct of the activity and said, "It is a good initiative, and I appreciate it so much kasi kami yung nauna at hopefully meron po ulit."

The PGLU continuously tightens partnership with agencies to find ways of initiating and improving machineries of providing opportunities for the acceleration of the employment recovery process to lift the employability status of active jobseekers in the province of La Union.



PGLU FOR CONTAINER GARDENING, ENSURES FOOD SECURITY

Rafael C. Mosuela, GPC-SP

During the 96th Regular session of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, the members approved SP Ordinance no. 292-2021, requiring all Punong Barangays of the province to include container gardening among their urban agriculture programs enjoining all households in their area of responsibility for food sustainability.

Board Member Geraldine R. Ortega President of Liga ng mga Barangay- La Union Chapter and author of the ordinance said that while the impacts of CoViD-19 are still felt, the Province of La Union is now faced with the challenge on how to make nutritious food available and accessible to every household's table to avoid hunger and food insufficiency.

According to BM Ortega, the major travel restrictions and community lockdown had



caused the closures of many businesses and loss of employment, livelihood and reduction of income, thus reducing food availability and leaving the poor at risk of hunger and malnutrition. "Through the practice of urban gardening, you have direct choice over what you grow and eat, and you'll be able to provide yourself with a stable and healthy food supply," she added.

Another objective of the ordinance is to convince the people to contribute in improving the supply of organically produced crops in the province and help generate additional income.

Container gardening also helped beautify and keep the surroundings clean with the use of recycled containers instead of dumping the same in the garbage sites.