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BUKSAN ANG BUKAS: GOV PACOY DELIVERS SOPA 2021

Camille R. Bumatay, PIO

"Yesterday may leave a long-lasting scar among all of us, but we remain persistent in conquering the present to pave the way for a better tomorrow." – Gov. Pacoy

With high hopes for the future and equipped with the established transformative governance, Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III addressed the constituents presenting the accomplishments of the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) and the plans ahead through the 2021 State of the Province Address (SOPA) on September 28, 2021 at the Sangguniang Panlalawigan Building, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union.

Governance Rooted in Love

Gov. Pacoy highlighted that the PGLU has entered the Institutionalization Stage of the Performance Governance System (PGS); continued partnerships with the Multi-Sectoral Governance Council and La Union Coalition of Civil Society Organizations. The province also utilizes systems such as the Elyunite Life Satisfaction Survey, ISO Integrated Management System and Link.Biz Portal.

Efficient Management of Peace and Order

He also presented PGLU initiatives geared towards improved peace and order showing 38.4% decrease in crime volume and maintained high rates for crime clearance and solution efficiency resulting to La Union remaining to be Insurgency Free. The Provincial Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict Action Plan was also adopted.

Strengthened Health Operations

Gov. Pacoy reported on the CoViD-19 Status of the province and the Prevention, Detection, Isolation and Treatment and Reintegration or the PDITR Strategy to combat the virus. He also tackled non-CoViD-19 health programs.

Reinforced Disaster Risk Reduction

As part of the Resilient Communities Center being established, the La Union Peace, Order and Public Safety Building and

La Union 911 Public Safety Answering Point remains operational.

Thriving Social Services

Service delivery most especially to the vulnerable sectors of children, women, elderly, persons with disability and indigenous people were also discussed including the relief operations of the province in times of disasters.

Sufficient Agriculture

The province is supply-efficient in terms of Agriculture. Under the sector, the #AgreeSaAgri campaign, African Swine Fever assistance, and the establishment of La Union Animal Diagnostic Laboratory, and Agri-Modernization Plan were also tackled.

Enhanced Business and Employment

Piloted were the FindJobs La Union, Online job fairs, and La Union Investment Plan: Thrive in La Union for business and employment reflecting in the province being rank 1 in Region 1, rank 1 in Northern Luzon and rank 13 in the country for the Most Competitive Province. La Union is also one of the National Finalists of Most Business Friendly LGU Award.

Innovations in Tourism

Innovations in tourism were reported with several of its programs including LGUs for Tourism Development Planning, Oplan PUKSA (Passion and Unity for Keeping Safe Attractions),



Ridge and Reef Travel Corridor, Love La Union Digital Travel and Tourism Expo. La Union is also 9th of the Top 10 Provinces across the country with the highest compliance of Local Culture Inventory submission for the year 2020.

Breakthroughs in Environment

With Gov. Pacoy's passion for environmental preservation, the PGLU launched the Kalikasan Naman campaign. He reported that the Province has the most number of approved Solid Waste Management Plan in Region 1 and 1st place for the Naguilian River under the DENR's R.I.V.E.R.s for Life Award. Latest initiatives include the Thousand Tree Challenge, the Tree Education and Inventory Project, and the utilization of an Air Quality Grading Equipment.

Attended by all 13 Board Members, the SOPA conducted during the 118th Session of the 22nd SP was presided by Vice Gov. Mario Eduardo C. Ortega who also received the SOPA report from the Governor. This year's SOPA theme is "Bukasan ang Bukas" reflecting the hope the future has in store capitalizing on the unity of the people of La Union.

Observing the new normal protocols, guests joined the session via video conferencing including First District

Representative Pablo C. Ortega, Second District Representative Sandra Eriguel; Mayors; Vice Mayors; Sangguniang Bayan Members; National Government Agencies; Uniformed Personnel; La Union Coalition of Civil Society Organization; Multi-Sectoral Governance Council; Association of Barangay Captains; Sangguniang Kabataan; Local Faith Leaders; PGLU Department Heads, Chiefs of Hospitals, Unit Heads, and Consultants.

The SOPA 2020 was also aired through Facebook, Aksyon Radyo and MyFM for the general public. The Facebook live earned around 31,600 Views with 62,700, Reach 4,302 Reactions 1,400 Engagements, 946 Shares, and 1,505 Comments.

Offering a prayer, Gov. Pacoy ended his speech with the hope of a brighter future with the present established strengths of the province saying, "We owe yesterday for where we are today. I say this because it has pushed us beyond our limits and opened new doors for us to explore. We courageously faced and responded to the demands of our constituents and sought to deliver services and resources to the people who needed it most...at the time that they needed it most and right where they needed it most."



SP COMMITTEE ON TRADE CONDUCTS OCULAR INSPECTION, FGD IN SJ POTTERY INDUSTRY

Rhea Matilde A. Ballesteros, GPC – SP

The Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) Committee on Trade, Commerce and Industry jointly with the Committee on Ways and Means and Committee on Laws, Rules and Privileges conducted an ocular inspection with Focus Group Discussion (FGD) at the pottery industry of Taboc, San Juan, La Union on September 3, 2021.

The inspection aimed to determine the status of the makers, producers and stall owners of pots at the said barangay and to check on the implementation of SP Resolution No. 628-2021 approving the Municipal Ordinance No. 05-2021 of the Sangguniang Bayan of San Juan, La Union, entitled: "An Ordinance Regulating the Sale of Clay Pottery Products in the Municipality of San Juan, La Union."

Present during the inspection were SPM Jonathan Justo A. Orros, Chairperson of the Committee on Trade and Industry; SPM Nancy Corazon M. Bacurnay, Chairperson of the Committee on Education and Culture; Dir. Grace F. Baluyan, Regional Director of Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Region I; Dir. Merlie D. Membrere, Provincial Director, DTI- La Union; Ms. Charito R. Dator, La Union Economic Enterprise and

Investments Promotion Unit; representatives of Local Government Unit (LGU) San Juan; Taboc Barangay Council; and the Officers and Members of Taboc Mannamili Association.

Mr. Raymond Nachor together with the officers and members of the Taboc Mannamili Association showed the inspection team the five sites where the pots are craftically made giving brief information about the art. Likewise, one of the members of the association made a demonstration on how pots are made.

After the inspection, an FGD was conducted wherein the team shared their experiences, observations and recommendations about the activity and the industry. Among the observations were: the residents are cohesive and dedicated to make the industry thrive; there is a strong support from the component LGU and DTI, which provided machinery through their Shared Service Facilities; the industry is family-based, wherein they make pots right in their doorsteps; most potters are women and elderly; most of them make use of the traditional way of making pots, which is manually done and labor intensive; structures where they make clay pots are sporadic, not

conductive and safe; and pottery products being produced locally are of traditional designs and sizes.

Meanwhile, the members of the association also aired their sentiments particularly on the logistics, trainings, technical and financial support they needed to increase and advance their production which will eventually sustain and improve the pottery industry.

To address these gaps, the team recommended for a deeper study of the pottery industry of San Juan; establishment of a Research and Development and a more structured facility for

self-reliance; strengthen the organization; conduct of product development and marketing trainings by the DTI and other agencies to make their products more competitive; and strong support and collaboration of the LGUs, national agencies and the organization.

The ocular inspection was one of the recommendations of the joint committees during their review of Municipal Ordinance No. 05-2021 of the Sangguniang Bayan of San Juan, La Union, entitled: "An Ordinance Regulating the Sale of Clay Pottery Products in the Municipality of San Juan, La Union."



PGLU CONTINUES STRONGER YOU, STRONGER LU CAMPAIGN

Camille R. Bumatay, PIO



As we recognize that now is not the time to be complacent, rather a time to continue what we have started in this fight against the CoViD-19 pandemic, we have distributed #StrongerYouStrongerLU materials to our component Local Government Units (LGUs) and mall establishments in the province to remind everyone of the continuous observance of the minimum health standards.

We have distributed posters, tarpaulins, social distancing markers, and video materials for LED and TV. All these materials help us reiterate the observance of health protocols in public spaces.

Our #StrongerYouStrongerLU

campaign recognizes the value of your contributions in rising above the effects of the pandemic and in being prepared for any of the virus' variants that may develop.

Our partner LGUs and mall establishments were keen in promoting the campaign and immediately installed the signages on prominent areas and played audio visual materials in their LED screens.

We continue to acknowledge your role in our recovery. Let us continue to observe the minimum health standards and get vaccinated when it's our turn. Together we have built a stronger La Union and together we will welcome better days ahead.

PGLU-LEEIPU GEARS UP FOR 20TH LA UNION FAIREST

Mia Jayn Ochoco, GPC-LEEIPU

The Provincial Government of La Union, through the Local Economic Enterprise and Investment Promotions Unit (LEEIPU) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), is in full gear for the upcoming 20th La Union Fairest to start on November 16, 2021 at Robinson's Place, City of San Fernando, La Union.

La Union's Fairest serves as a platform for the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) of the province to showcase their products, expand their market scope, and increase revenue. Started in November 2001, it has been a tradition for the local MSMEs to showcase their product and services. It has been a symbol of the unity of the business community and the government.

Part of this year's La Union's Fairest, the Online OTOP Hub La Union will be re-launched and aims to include more MSMEs featured on the website. The online OTOP Hub is a flagship access to the digital platform as the business community utilizes the "new normal" way of marketing to pave the way to recovery. Furthermore, the online OTOP hub aspires to promote and market OTOP and local products as it caters to the OTOPpreneurs in the province.

The annual La Union's Fairest Trade Fair is a testament to the commitment of the Provincial Government of La Union towards the development of MSMEs as part of the business sector's contribution in building a Stronger La Union, a province worth living in.



PGLU RE-ORIENTS LUPPO ON PROVINCIAL ORDINANCE NO. 217-2020

Jane Joy F. Mandia, GPC-PTO

Recognizing the critical role of the La Union Police Provincial Office (LUPPO) in the implementation of various Ordinances in the Province, the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) headed by Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" Ortega III, through the Provincial Treasurer, Ms. Janet D. Molina, conducted a re-orientation of the LUPPO to address issues and concerns, and the proper implementation of Provincial Ordinance 217-2020, Prescribing the Use and Issuance Of The Provincial Ordinance Violation Receipt (POVR), on September 7, 2021 via video conferencing.

The said webinar was attended by local police officials from the different municipalities of La Union headed by Police Provincial Director P/COL Jonathan Calixto represented by PLTCOL Luis Liban, and employees from the Provincial Government-Environment and Natural Resources Office

and the Provincial Treasurer's Office (PTO).

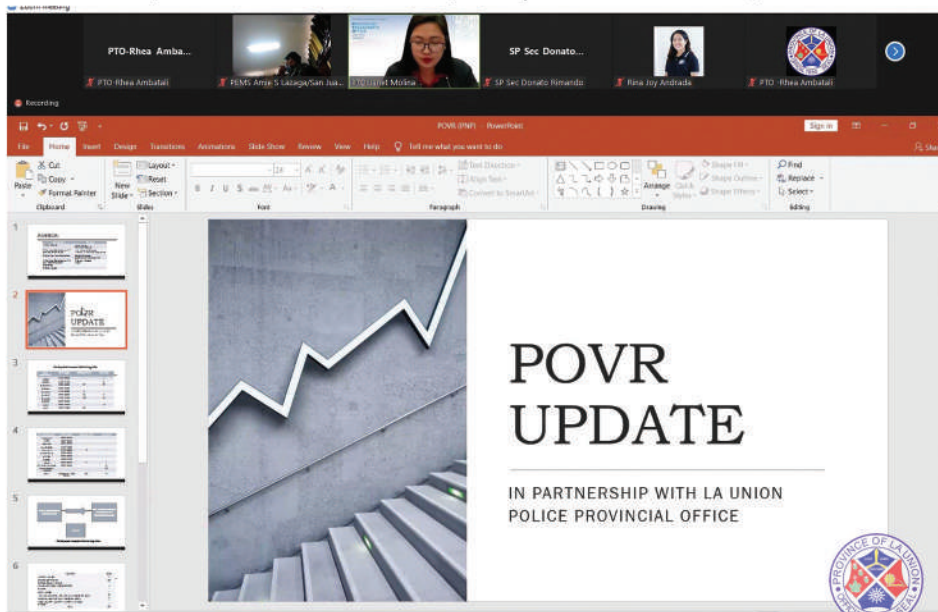
Atty. Marrion Guerrero of the Provincial Legal Office discussed the draft Implementing Rules and Regulations of Provincial Ordinance No. 217-2020. Meanwhile, Mr. Donato Rimando,

Secretary to the Sanggunian, presented various Provincial Ordinances which are commonly violated such as Provincial Ordinance No. 132-2018, known as the wearing of high visibility vest when riding motorcycles, e-bikes, tricycles and bicycles on specified time; Provincial

Ordinance No. 215-2020, requiring the mandatory use of face mask and social distancing within the province during enhanced or basic community quarantine; Provincial Ordinance 230-2020 known as the Anti-Road Obstruction Ordinance.

In addition, Miss Rina Joy Andrada, Local Treasury Operations Officer I of the Revenue Operations Unit-PTO, tackled Provincial Ordinance No. 274-2021 known as the Regulation on The Extraction, Disposition, Utilization and Processing of Quarry and other Mineral Resources within the Province of La Union. Stiff penalties will be implemented for any violation of such.

Provincial Treasurer Molina reiterated during the meeting that the strict implementation of the POVR and collection of fines and penalties is mainly to ensure peace, safety and security of residents and visitors in La Union.



PGLU REINFORCES COVID-19 DETECTION; TRAINS MORE SWABBERS

Camille R. Bumatay, PIO

With the aim to further improve the detection of CoViD-19 cases in the province and increase the collection of specimens, a Training and Actual Demo on Proper Specimen Collection, Packaging and Storage on the procedure in handling and dealing with CoViD-19 was spearheaded by the Provincial Health Office (PHO) at the Home of Hope Provincial Isolation Facility, Acao, Bauang, La Union.

A total of 75 participants joined the said training where an Orientation on the Fundamentals of Biosafety and Biosecurity was also done. The Department of Health headed the conduct of training. The participants are practicing medical-related professionals from the PHO and component local government units who can now be tapped as swabbers.

There were six participants from PHO, 10 from Agoo, seven from Bacnotan, one from Bagulin, two from Balaoan, five from Bauang, two from Burgos, 22 from the City of San Fernando, two from Luna, three from Naguilian, four from Pugo, three from Rosario, four from Santo Tomas, and four from Sudipen.

To ensure adherence to health protocols, an online discussion was conducted on October 15, 2021 and the face-to-face demonstration was conducted on four batches on October 20 and 21, morning and afternoon sessions.

The activity is in accordance to the Prevention-Detection-Isolation-Treatment-Reintegration Strategy of the Provincial Government in accordance with the IATF Guidelines.



WHO, DOH VISIT LU TO SCALE-UP EFFORTS IN NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM; PGLU RECOGNIZED FOR ITS COVID-19 RESPONSE

Shairalene B. Guerrero, PIO



While the whole world continues to face the challenge of the global CoViD-19 pandemic, the World Health Organization (WHO) also continues to provide consultation and assistance to the provinces' strategic response to prevent further outbreaks of other infectious diseases.

WHO representative, Dr. Sukadero Neupane, Western Pacific Region Consultant, and a team from Department of Health, visited the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU), on October 20, 2021, to discuss assistance in the prioritization of childhood immunization programs in the province.

Dr. Neupane stressed the need of children to receive their vaccine from measles-rubella, polio, and other infectious diseases. WHO also provided insights in delivering health care services such as reaching out to the remote communities who are least likely to visit health centers and keeping vaccine supplies safe and effective.

Moreover, Dr. Neupane also inspected the PGLU's clinic where CoViD-19 vaccines are being stored. He commended the province's response to the CoViD-19 pandemic, in formulating a dedicated vaccination program task force and preparedness, especially in the ready storage and administration of any vaccine brand.

While the country continues to fight with the CoViD-19 pandemic, WHO is committed to its goal of universal access to all relevant vaccines for all at risk. Moreover, they continue to ensure that routine immunization is undisrupted during the ongoing pandemic.

Amidst the CoViD-19 pandemic, the PGLU also remains proactive in delivering equal public health service to all Kaprobinsiaan. PGLU will continue to partner with national agencies to address immunity gaps and scale up necessary efforts to protect children's health, especially in these unprecedented times.



LA UNION'S AYAT FESTIVAL 2021 RECOGNIZED LANGUAGE CHAMPS, YOUNG HISTORIANS

Camille R. Bumatay, PIO

Through virtual festivities and healthy competition, we continue to promote and expand our local languages here in La Union as we concluded the annual month-long celebration of Ayat Festival on September 15, 2021 through virtual closing and awarding ceremonies.

With the theme, "AGASEM (Agas ken Isem): Iloko para iti Naan-andur, Natibtibker a La Union," we aim to continue to spread appreciation and use of our Iloko language including other local laguages such as Bago, Ibaloi and Kankana-ey.

During the program, we have recognized the young history wizards through the Saririt History Quiz Awarding Ceremony wherein hailed champions were Lara Janelle R. Mendoza of Luna II Cluster for Elementary Students Category; Fraenchezqa Reida O. Mico of Bangar Cluster for Secondary Students Category; and Jayson F. Borja of Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) Federation of Tubao for the SK Officials Category.

We also gave due appreciation and recognition for the contributions of local individuals and groups in the advancement of the local languages in La Union through the Kampeon ti Lengguahe Awards.

For the Individual Category, we have awarded the distinction to Ms. Djuna R. Alcantara from the City of San Fernando for

her willingness to conduct free online Iloko lectures in the time of pandemic among her other Iloko language advocacies.

On the other hand, we also gave recognition to the Local Government of Agoos for the Kampeon ti Lengguahe Group Category as they have adopted their local Ayat Festival celebration with the same objective to prosper our local languages.

Despite the hurdles of the new normal, we do not set aside the value of promoting our language, arts, history and culture. Together with the La Union Council for Culture and the Arts Language and La Union Provincial Tourism Office-Culture and the Arts Section, let us continue to be proud of our local languages and preserve it until the next generations.



LUMC CELEBRATES WORLD PATIENT SAFETY DAY

Ariane Erin C. Amparo, GPC-LUMC

The Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) through the La Union Medical Center (LUMC) joined the celebration of the World Patient Safety Day on September 17, 2021 with the theme "Safe Maternal and Newborn Care" by conducting lectures for expectant and new mothers.

The lectures aimed to raise awareness on the issues of maternal and newborn safety, particularly during childbirth, ensure safe maternal and newborn care during childbirth and advocate the adoption of best practices at the point of care to prevent avoidable risks and harm to all women and newborn during childbirth.

Focusing on women in pregnancy and around the time of birth, Dr. Bernadette M. Lizada and Dr. Kaezel Lauigan, both from the OB-Gyne Department put emphasis that all expectant

mothers attend all consults during pregnancy and after childbirth, be actively involved in their own care and the care for their baby, be able to communicate openly with their health care team, secure support from their partner, family and community and be prepared mentally and physically for childbirth and few days after birth. They were also encouraged to seek health care in health

facilities despite the adversaries brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. On one hand, Dr. Terence John C. Fang from the Pediatrics Department discussed essential intrapartum newborn care or otherwise known as "unang yakap," sudden infant death syndrome and breastfeeding.

The World Patient Safety Day is an official campaign of the World Health Organization (WHO) for all

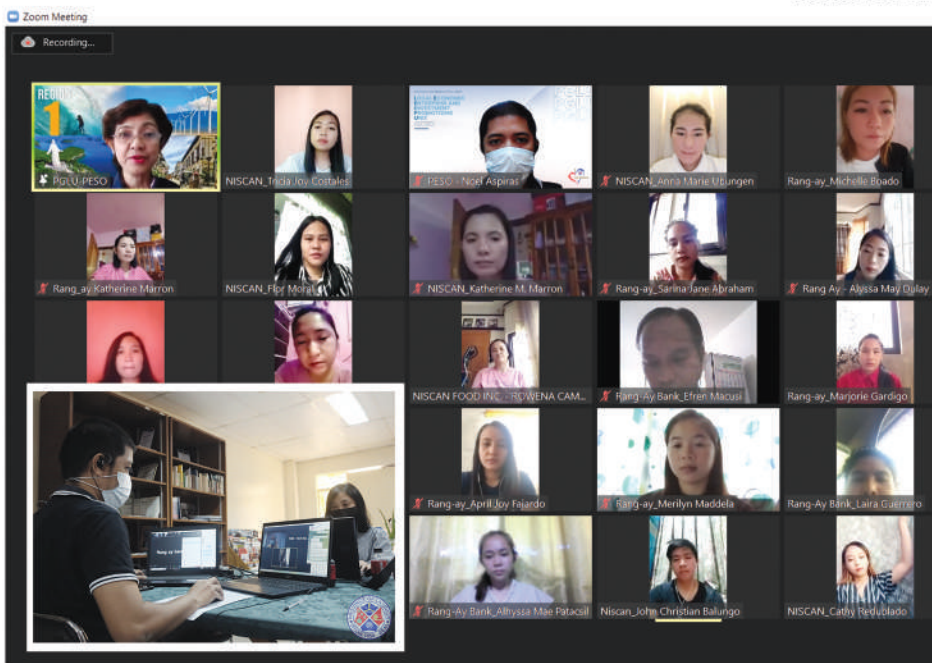
stakeholders in the healthcare system to work together to improve patient safety. It recognizes the scale of avoidable harm linked with medical errors. Established by the World Health Assembly in 2019 through resolution WHA72.6 on "Global action on patient safety," it is observed annually on 17 September with the objective of enhancing global understanding of patient safety. Each year, a new theme is selected to shed light on a priority patient safety area where action is needed to reduce avoidable harm in health care and achieve universal health coverage.

Heading the direction of Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III, the LUMC and all District Hospitals of the province are renewing commitments to continuously look for ways to ensure safety of patients most especially during the time of pandemic.



PESO CONDUCTS 2ND LA UNION VIRTUAL JOBS FAIR

Rowell B. Timoteo, GPC-PESO



The Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) through the Public Employment Service Office in partnership with the Information Communications and Technology Unit conducted the 2nd La Union Virtual Jobs Fair on September 29 and 30, 2021 via video conferencing to continue providing employment opportunities to kaprobinsiaan amidst the pandemic.

Local Jobs available were cashier, kitchen staff, information technology personnel, visual artist, clerical staff, audit staff, area operation specialist, field staff, staff pharmacist, medical technologist, and radiologic technologist. There were four employers that participated for local employment and 57 registered jobseekers were interviewed. Employers will give updates to applicants for the job-placement result.

The 2nd La Union Virtual Jobs Fair is a continuing employment facilitation strategy of the PGLU to connect job seekers and employment recruitment agencies in a virtual recruitment platform at a specific date to reduce cost, time and effort particularly in the part of applicants. This program of the PGLU is open to all unemployed, skilled and unskilled workers, college graduates, graduates of training institutions, displaced workers seeking employment during this COVID-19 crisis.

LA UNION COASTAL, "SCUBASURERO" UNDERWATER CLEAN-UP ACTIVITY CONDUCTED

Camille R. Bumatay, PIO and Grace Libong, GPC-ENRO

Kaprobinsiaan, we have joined the whole world in the celebration of the International Coastal Clean-up Day as we have initiated our very own La Union Coastal and "SCUBAsurero" Underwater Clean-up Activity on September 18, 2021.

Together with our partners from the Philippine National Police and Municipal and Barangay Local Government Units of Santo

Tomas, La Union, we have cleared the coastal Barangays of Baybay, Cabaroan and Narvacan of the said town.

With wider scope and more volunteers for the activity this year, we have amassed a total of 154kg of residual waste. 147kg of which was collected from the 5km stretch of the beach area while 7kg of garbage were collected underwater.



We have gathered common items such as single-use plastics including food wrappers, grocery bags, straws, plastic beverage bottle and caps and cigarette butts and lighter. Also observed and picked by volunteers were discarded fishing gears including ropes and fishing nets. Smaller wastes such as foam, glass and plastic pieces were also noted. Unusual items in the area included used diapers, rubber slippers and disposable facemasks which poses health risks. After the activity, we handed all collected wastes to barangay official for proper disposal.

Finally, to complement the coastal clean-up activity, we have also conducted a beach planting activity where we have planted 250 seedlings of Bittaog Trees to increase vegetation in coastal areas and to serve as protection from erosion.

Throughout the activity, we have observed the minimum health standards to ensure the safety of all the participants.

It is essential that amidst the situation brought by the CoViD-19 pandemic, we remain steadfast in fulfilling our roles as environmental stewards as we continue to choose #KalikasanNaman.

PGLU, DELINQUENT TAXPAYERS MAY NOW ENTER INTO COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Rafael C. Mosuela, GPC-SP

As a way to extend help to kaprobinsiaan in the recovery from the effects of the pandemic, the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) is now allowing delinquent taxpayers to enter

into a compromise agreement for the payment of real property tax delinquencies in installment.

In an ordinance authored by Board Member Christian I. Rivera, the Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) grants the authority to Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III through the Provincial Treasurer, to enter into a Compromise Agreement with delinquent taxpayers for the

payment of real property tax delinquencies to help taxpayers that are affected by the implementation of different Community Quarantine Status brought about by the CoViD-19 pandemic given that businesses were interrupted and sources of livelihood have been affected.

The ordinance was approved by the SP during its regular session on September 7, 2021, held at the SP Building, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union.

It is stated in section 192 of RA. No. 7160 otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, Local Government Units (LGUs) may, through ordinances duly approved, grant tax exemptions, incentives or relief under such terms and conditions as they may deem necessary.

Further, it was emphasized in Section 151 of BLGF Local Treasury Operations Manual it is necessary that tax delinquents be allowed to enter into a compromise agreement with the Provincial Governor through the Provincial Treasurer for the payment of delinquent taxes in installment, subject however to

the conditions set forth in the ordinance.

Under Section 5 of the same ordinance, the real property tax delinquents must file an Application/Offer for Compromise Agreement with the Office of the Governor through the Provincial Treasurer within 24 months from the effectivity of this Ordinance.

It was also emphasized in the ordinance that taxpayers may avail of the discounts provided in the payment of current RPT. However, in case of breach of compromise, payment made for current RPT shall be reversed and treated as additional payment for the delinquency and the taxpayer shall not be allowed to sell, transfer, encumber or in any manner dispose of the property unless otherwise such real property tax obligations were fully settled and paid.

"The measure was made to help taxpayers from the impact caused by the virus and the community quarantine that has impacted the daily lives of our constituents in the province, affecting their means of livelihood," said BM Rivera said.



PGLU FURTHER REACHES OUT FOR ENVI CONCERNS RESOLUTION

Diana E. Jutba, GPC-ENRO

Environmental issues and concerns, such as solid waste management, wastewater management, community-based sanitation, water quality monitoring, greening program and native tree planting activity, artificial reef deployment, and energy conservation, were discussed as the Provincial Government of La Union – Environment and Natural Resources Office (PG-ENRO) initiated a follow-up consultation meeting with concerned Local Government Units (LGUs). The consultation was conducted following the discussions during the "Time with Governor" program.

The consultation meetings were conducted with LGU-Santol on June 28, 2021; followed by LGU-Agoo on July 1, 2021; LGU-Balaoan on July 13, 2021; LGU-Rosario on August 31, 2021; LGU-Sto. Tomas on September 1, 2021; and LGU-Pugo on September 23, 2021.

Concerned PGLU offices-the Provincial Health Office and the Provincial Engineering Office, were invited during the consultation meeting while concerned departments of the LGUs including their Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator, Municipal Agriculturist Officer, Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Officer, and Municipal Health Officer were also present.



GOV. PACOY GRACES PNP PRO 1 SERVICE ANNIVERSARY; SOLIDIFIES STRONG TIES WITH R1 COPS

Camille R. Bumatay, PIO

Recognizing his relentless commitment in upholding peace and order in La Union and Region 1, the leadership of the Philippine National Police Regional Office 1 (PRO 1) selected Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III to serve as the Guest of Honor and Speaker during the 120th Police Service Anniversary of PRO 1 on October 28, 2021 at PRO 1 Grandstand, Camp BGEN Oscar M Florendo, Parian, City of San Fernando, La Union.

As the Chairperson of the Regional Peace and Order Council, Gov. Pacoy expressed his appreciation for the strong ties of the PNP and the Provincial Government saying, "Allow me to give my sincerest gratitude for the years of working together for the protection and safekeeping of our constituents. You have been one

of our strongest allies in enforcing the law and upholding peace and order. I salute all of you as I have witnessed how you performed beyond expectation and over the limitations."



With the celebration's theme, "Hangad na Kalinisan sa Kapulisan, Kapaligiran, at Komunidad; Ibayong Gagampanan para sa Pangkapulisang Integridad," Gov. Pacoy and PNP PRO 1 Regional

Director PBGEN Emmanuel B Peralta presented the Recognition for the six Unit, nine Individual, and 19 Special Unit Awardees.

A memento and Plaque of Appreciation was also awarded to Gov. Pacoy by PBGEN Peralta as he expressed his gratitude, on behalf of the PNP PRO 1 for the strong support the governor has given them through the years.

Gov. Pacoy, in return, further committed to uphold the passion and commitment of the men and women in uniform.

The Provincial Government of La Union recognizes the principal role of peace and order in the community's recovery and development. This is essential in building a Stronger La Union, a province worth living in.

PGLU CELEBRATES GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES WEEK

Office for the Provincial Strategy

In line with the celebration of the 121st Philippine Service Commission Anniversary, the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) conducted the #BidaKawani: Stronger Ties with Government Employees on September 21, 2021 via Zoom Conference.

A total of 300 participants from Regional and Provincial Line Agencies in the Province registered for the event. The program is aimed at strengthening solidarity among government organizations in La Union through connecting, commending and celebrating our very own public servants who continue to carry out their mission to bring positive impact on the lives of every Kaprobinsiaan.

Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III recognized the unwavering dedication of all #BidaKawani who goes above and beyond their call of duty to serve the people in the midst of the pandemic. He stated, "All these require grit and hard work

and we may sometimes feel that we are pushed to our limits, but let us not forget that we can always take a pause to reignite our passion and remain anchored to our purpose."

During the program, government employees were able to take a break from their usual work routine through creating meaningful bonds, acknowledging their strengths and celebrating their wins with fellow public

servants. The participants engaged in various engaging activities and took part in identifying current issues, proposing solutions and sharing existing programs of their agencies to address the identified challenges in their respective fields.

The participants expressed their gratitude for the said event. Ms. Joyce M. Delos Santos of DILG Regional Office 1 shared,

"Nakakatuwa pong isipin na possible po pala ang zoom event with the sole purpose to uplift ang spirit ng bawat isa, at mag-enjoy at relax. Ang commitment ko as a public servant is to strive to make myself better and to put my heart in everything that I do."

"I am very happy to have attended this event because we were able to have a break and have fun. It is also a great venue to share inputs on our concerns and existing programs to address these. Our office will continue to give full support to PGLU because the Provincial Government has also been very supportive to us," shared Ms. Mary Ann Escoto of DENR Regional Office 1.

Indeed, as the Provincial Government, we are not just persistent in advocating for transformative governance, but also acknowledge that meaningful rest and intentional self-care are necessary to become stronger people for a #StrongerLaUnion.



LA UNION RECOGNIZES SAMPUNG ULIRANG NAKATATANDA NG LA UNION

Zenaida D. Sellem, GPC – PSWDO

As one of the highlights in celebration of the 2021 Elderly Filipino Week, the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) headed by Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III through the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office (PSWDO) recognized the winners of the search for Sangapulo a Naisangangayan a Nataengan iti Probinsia iti La Union on October 14, 2021 via Video Conferencing.

Recognized elderlies in La Union were Judge Joven F. Costales of Naguilian; SBM. Gabriel A. Sotto of Bauang; Cecilia G. Reyes of Luna; Ma. Minda L. Fontanilla of Bacnotan; Teresita R. Rivera of Santo Tomas; Teresita O. Opeña of Santol; Natividad A. Pelaez of the City of San Fernando; Felicitas M. Macazo of Bangar; Ley M. Buquing of Sudipen; and Rogelio E. Tangalin of Agoo.

With the theme, "MahALAGA sina Lolo at Lola ngayong Pandemya," Gov. Pacoy spearheaded the recognition of the remarkable involvement and significance of elderlies to the society even during the present COVID-19 crisis.

Two of the 10 Provincial Awardees, Mr. Sotto of Bauang and Ms. Reyes of Luna were also conferred as National Awardees in the 31st Sampung Ulirang Nakakatanda by the Coalition of Services of the Elderly.

The selection of the awardees was based on Significant Contribution/Impact of Projects (50%), Sustainability of service/Project (30%), and Innovativeness of Projects/Service (20%).

The activity was the First Awarding Ceremony held in Pursuant to Ordinance No. 178-2019 which was participated in online by 31 Senior Citizens and 123 viewers.



PGLU EMPOWERS LOCAL FARMERS; HANDS CORN PLANTERS

Camille R. Bumatay, PIO and Vanessa Badua, OPAG

To help La Union farmers in their production, income generation, and recovery, Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III spearheaded the turning over of 30 units of corn planters to La Union Corn Growers and Farmers Association, Inc. on October 21, 2021 at the Municipality of Bacnotan, La Union. The activity is aligned to the vision of the province to position La Union as the Heart of Agri-Tourism in Northern Luzon by 2025.

As a part of the Time with Gov initiative, the program also served as an open dialogue of Gov. Pacoy and the local farmers discussing their current situations and needs.

The association-recipients of the corn planters were Bacnotan Corn Cluster Association; Salbasaca Irrigators Association; San Martin, Palayamanin Farmers Association Inc.; Balaoan La Union Corn Growers Association Inc.; Bangar Corn and Peanut Growers Association; Brgy. Saoyay Farmers Association; Barangobong Farmers Association; Lubing Farmers Association of San Juan

La Union Inc.; Calincamasan Farmers Association Inc.; New Dangdangla San Juan La Union Farmers Association Inc.; Paagan Irrigators Association Inc.; Sudipen La Union Corn Farmers Association Inc.; Bless our Organic Association; Macalva Neighborhood Investment Multi-Purpose Cooperative; Samahang Magpapalay at Magmamais ng San Antonio Inc.; Sta. Cecilia Multi-Purpose Cooperative; Timpuyog Ti Mannalon iti Sta.

Lucia Inc.; MLGU- Bagulin; Timpuyog ti Mannalon Farmers Association; Palintucang Farmers Association, Palintucang; San Jose Multi-Purpose Cooperative; CNS Naguilian Farmers and Irrigators Association; Tavora Proper Farmers Association; Inabaan Sur Planters irrigators Association Inc.; Casilagan Eastern Farmers Association; Leones East Farmers Association Inc.; Masaganang Tubao La Union Farmers Producers Association

Inc.; and Halog West Producers Cooperative Inc.

In his message, Gov. Pacoy extended his utmost gratitude to the farmers who are the forefront of the Agri-Tourism Strategy of the province. He also assured them of his full support through the continuous provision of farm to market roads, farm supplies and equipment, and other assistance based on their needs assessment. The fund used for the program was from La Union's 2020 National Corn Quality Award.

Joining the turning over ceremony were First District Board Member Paolo Ortega, Bacnotan Mayor Francisco Angelito Fontanilla, Provincial Agriculturist Col. Ramon F. Laudencia and Association President Eduardo C. Balanag with some local farmers.

La Union farmers remain as one of the top priorities of the provincial government along with other sectors as the province moves forward to a Stronger La Union, a province worth living in.



BOOSTING DOMESTIC TOURISM WITH I'M INLUV TRAVEL FAIR

La Union Provincial Tourism Office

The Provincial Government of La Union and the Provincial Government of Ilocos Norte, in realization of their collaborative partnership on Tourism Marketing and Promotions, held the I'm INLUV Travel Fair on October 8 to 10, 2021 at Robinson's Place, San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte.

The three-day event aims to showcase the best of La Union and Ilocos Norte and promote domestic tourism. Discounted tour packages and local products were offered for grabs during the event.

Gov. Matthew Joseph Marcos Manotoc and Vice Gov. Cecilia Araneta Marcos led the opening of the I'm INLUV Travel Fair. In his speech, Gov. Manotoc said that the travel fair is the start of making the tourism industry get

back on its feet and helping the affected enterprises recover.

Meanwhile, Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III said in his recorded video message that the event is a

reminder that tourism and economic development in general are not matters of competition but of collaboration. He said further that the partnership of La Union and Ilocos Norte should be an

inspiration to all local government units in the country to foster healthy relationships among each other and embody the Filipino spirit of Bayanihan.

The opening ceremony was participated in by various local officials of Ilocos Norte, representatives from the Department of Tourism Region 1, La Union Provincial Tourism Office and members of the Ilocos Norte Travel Agencies Association.

The La Union leg of the I'm INLUV Travel Fair is scheduled to coincide with the celebration of the La Union Surfing Break by the end of October. This strategic partnership between two premier destinations in the north is expected to give a big boost towards the revival of their local tourism industries.



FIRST MALL-BASED LU PROVINCIAL VACCINATION SITE OPENS FOR PUBLIC INOCULATION

Camille R. Bumatay, PIO

With the continuous effort of the Provincial Government of La Union headed by Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III to ramp up the number of inoculated kaprobinsiaan against the CoViD-19 virus through its #BakunaMuna program, the province opened on October 19, 2021, its first mall-based Provincial Vaccination Site in the 4th Level of Robinsons Place La Union, City of San Fernando, La Union inoculating kaprobinsiaan who are 18 years old and above.

"Sa patuloy na pagdami ng ating vaccination sites at pagbaba ng edad na maaaring tumanggap ng bakuna kontra CoViD-19, tayo ay umaasa na lalo pang mapapababa ang kaso ng positibo sa CoViD-19 sa ating probinsya," Gov. Pacoy expressed in his message during the opening program of the vaccination site as he expressed his gratitude to the Robinsons Place La Union and the La Union Vaccination Team for relentlessly dedicating their resources, time and effort to achieve herd immunity.

Gov. Pacoy also shared that La Union was visited by representatives from the World Health Organization because of the best practices of the province including the formation of a dedicated vaccination program task force and the preparedness of the province most especially in the ready storage and administration of any vaccine brand.

The new vaccination site operates from Monday-Friday from 8:00AM-5:00PM and will accommodate registrants in the website <https://vaccines.launion.gov.ph/> in their chosen schedule.

La Union Vaccination Program Operations Manager Dr. Dan William Dacanay shared that the province has already inoculated 38% of the eligible population with the target to reach 70% by December 2021.

In return, Store Manager Ms. Diane Orpilla of the Robinsons Place La Union expressed their excitement and full support to the vaccination program of the province with hopes to see more mall-goes once herd immunity is reached.

Only Senior Citizens are accommodated as walk-ins while the rest of the population is required to register in the website to book their schedule. Random vaccine brands are being administered on site.

With the coming together of private and public entities in the province, we are expediting the vaccination of our eligible group with high hopes for the fastest economic and social recovery.



LIMITED FACE-TO-FACE CLASSES PAGSAGSAGANAAN ITI LA UNION BABAEN ITI PANAGBAKUNA LABAN COVID-19

Camille R. Bumatay, PIO and Renerose Beninsig, PHO

Kas panagsagana iti umadanin a panaglukat iti limited face-to-face classes ditoy Probinsia iti La Union, inaprubaran ni Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III iti panangisayangkat ti panagbakuna kadagiti naduma-duma nga unibersidad ditoy probinsia. Idi Oktubre 21, 2021 ket addan iti suma total a 752 doses a naitudok a CoViD-19 Vaccines.

Nagserbi ti Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University (DMMMSU) Mid ken South La Union campuses kas dua a vaccination sites para kadagiti estudiant, manursuro ken staff dagiti lima a tertiary schools ti probinsia a pakaibilangan iti DMMMSU; Polytechnic College of La Union; Philippine College of Northwestern Luzon; Southern Ilocos College of Arts and Technology; ken La Union College

of Science and Technology. Iti Provincial Government of La Union Vaccination team iti nang-administer iti bakuna.

Iti mensahe ni Gov. Pacoy, impaayna ti naimpusan a panagyamanna kadagiti amin a sektor nga agtinnulong a mabakuna dagiti kaprobinsiaan. Ken innayonna, "With this, we are once again taking another milestone in the global effort to end the pandemic as we venture on the vaccination in the academe most especially to the students. This day marks another step to ramp up our vaccination efforts with our end goal to reach herd immunity."

Iti tulong iti Department of Health ken Commission of Higher Education Region I, maysa iti La Union kadagiti probinsia a kaunaan a nagbakuna kadagiti estudiant para iti umasidag a panaglukat iti face-to-face classes.

Daytoy a ganwat ket mangipaay namnama kadagiti kaprobinsiaan a no agtultuloy iti panagkaykaysa ket maragpattayo iti herd immunity. As of October 22, 2021, addan iti 40.22% ti nabakunaan iti probinsia ket maallukoy pay iti dadduma nga agparegister iti www.vaccine.launion.gov.ph



LA UNION VIES FOR MOST BUSINESS-FRIENDLY LGU AWARD

Mia Jayn Ochoco, GPC-LEEIPU

As one of the finalists for 2021 Most Business-Friendly Local Government Units, the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) headed by Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III virtually presented the province's bid to the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) for the final judging on October 7, 2021.

Gov. Pacoy presented the province's significant initiatives and programs to address the major challenges and the disruption caused by the CoViD-19 in order to mitigate the negative impacts and successfully restore and increase the business operations within the province amidst the pandemic. The governance tools and innovative systems which are part of the culture of the governance in La Union were discussed during the final judging.

With the theme, "LGU's Innovative Response for the Recovery and Growth of Business," Gov. Pacoy further emphasized the initiatives of the PGLU such as employment opportunities; avenues for local enterprise and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises to reach wider markets and generate greater income; infrastructures that support health and safety while also fostering local businesses and partnership with public and private sectors to attain sustainable development. "Without a doubt, a balance between response, recovery, and local economic development is the key to establishing a #StrongerLaUnion, a province worth living in," Gov Pacoy said.

The Governor was joined by Provincial Administrator Agnes Grace A. Cargamento; Office of the Provincial Strategy Asst. Chief Noemi R. Jucar; Provincial Planning and Development

Coordinator Michaela Louise T. Delfinado; Provincial Information Officer Adamor L. Dagang; Senior Agriculturist Rosemarie P. Garcia representing Provincial Agriculturist Ramon Laudencia III; Provincial Treasurer Janet D. Molina; and Acting Supervising Tourism Operations Officer Julius Manabat representing Provincial Tourism OIC Arthur S. Cortez, Jr.

The Most Business Friendly Award submission of La Union was spearheaded by the Local Economic Enterprise and Investment Promotions Unit headed by Ms. Charito C. Dator. The announcement and Conferment of the Award will be done during the 47th Philippine Business Conference on November 18, 2021.



PGLU BAGS DIGITAL GOVERNANCE AWARDS 2021

Jamie Rose N. Mifa, GPC-ICTU



The Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) was awarded as Second Place winner nationwide in the Province Category for G2G Best in LGU Empowerment Award for NAPANAM Contact Tracer System at the Digital Governance Awards (DGA) 2021. The awarding ceremony was held via video conference on October 29, 2021.

Two other entries of PGLU were finalists in G2I Best in Government Internal Operations Award and G2P Best in CoViD-19 Pandemic Response Award for Personnel Management Information System (PMIS and PMISv2) and La Union CoViD-19 Response Hub, respectively.

A total of 66 Local Government Units (LGUs) consisting of 13 Provinces, 33 Cities and 36 Municipalities with 106 entries vied for the 15 awards given. This is the 3rd year that the PGLU participated in the said ICT awards and recognition. The DGA is an annual search for best practices in local government units in utilizing information and

communications technology (ICT) to effectively and efficiently deliver its public services directly to its constituents and to its business stakeholders. DGA is a joint project of the Department of Information and Communications Technology, the National ICT Confederation of the Philippines and Department of Interior and Local Government.

All LGUs were commended and acknowledged for their meritorious passion to drive digital innovation in the performance of their mandate, fulfillment of their responsibilities to various stakeholders and deliver their public services to its constituents.

Through the leadership of Gov. Francisco Emmanuel R. Ortega III, the Provincial Government of La Union Information and Communications Technology Unit headed by Mr. Gerry D. Binas-o will continue to improve its ICT practices with the aim for a more innovative and excellent quality of public service for the Province of La Union.

PNP KATUWANG NG PGLU SA MAS PINAIGTING NA PAGPAPATUPAD NG PUBLIC HEALTH PROTOCOLS

Shairalene Guerrero, PIO

Alinsunod sa kahilingan ni Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" Ortega III, iniutos ni La Union Police Provincial Director PCOL Jonathan Calixto ang deployment ng karagdagang personnel simula ika-1 ng Oktubre, 2021 sa ibat-ibang bayan. Ito ay upang makatulong ang pulisya sa mga Local Government Units (LGUs) sa pagpapatupad ng mga checkpoints lalo na sa Lungsod ng San Fernando at mga bayan ng Agoo, Balaoan, Bauang at Sudipen, La Union na nagpapatupad ng Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine (MECQ).

Ang pagtalaga ng karagdagang police visibility sa mga naturang LGUs ay hiniling ni Gov. Pacoy matapos matalakay ito noong pinulong niya ang mga Mayors kasama ang Provincial Core Team Against CoViD-19, at bago pinirmahan ang Executive Order No. 47 series of 2021.

Gayundin, mas paiigtingin ang pagpapatupad ng public health protocol sa probinsya upang mapigilan ang pagkalat ng CoViD-19. Sisiguraduhin din ng pulisya ang pagpapatupad ng curfew hours mula alas 9:00 ng gabi hanggang alas 5:00 ng umaga sa mga lugar na nasa MECQ.

Ayon pa kay PCOL Calixto, ang LUPPO ay laging nakahanda upang tumulong sa PGLU at iba't-ibang mga bayan sa implementasyon ng naturang Executive Order. Ang mga bayan naman ng Aringay, Bacnotan, Bagulin, Burgos, Caba, Luna, San Juan at Santo Tomas ay nasa GCQ. At ang

mga natitirang LGU ay mananatili sa MGCQ.

Samantala, mas paiigtingin ng Provincial Government of La Union ang #DisiplinaKoma Campaign na naglalayong hikayatin ang bawat mamamayan na makiiisa sa pagsugpo ng CoViD-19. Ang disiplinadong Kaprobinsiaan sa panahon ng pandemya ay malaking bahagi sa pagpigil ng pagkalat ng sakit sa La Union.

Hinihiling naman ni Gov Pacoy Ortega sa mga Kaprobinsiaan na patuloy na makipagtulungan sa pamahalaan upang

maiwasan ang paglaganap ng sakit sa pamamagitan ng pagtalima sa mga protocols kahit anong community quarantine man ang umiiral sa kanilang bayan. Aniya, ang bawat mamamayan ay may malaking parte sa patuloy na paglaban sa sakit. Ang pagprotekta sa kanilang mga sarili, pamilya, at komunidad ay malaking bagay.

Muli ding pinasalamatan ng Gobernador ang mga opisyal ng barangay at munisipyo/lungsod na walang-pagod na nagbabantay sa kanilang mga lugar kaagapay ang mga myembro ng PNP.



DEALING WITH THE AFTERMATH: RELIEF, CLEARING OPERATIONS SA LA UNION NAGPATULOY

Camille R. Bumatay, PIO



Tumila ang ulan ngunit tuluy-tuloy ang pagtutulongan. Ngayong nakalabas na sa Philippine Area of Responsibility ang Severe Tropical Storm #MaringPH, clearing and relief operations naman ang pinagtuunan ng pansin ng Provincial Government of La Union alinsunod sa direktiba ni Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III.

Ang Provincial Engineering Office ay nagsagawa ng clearing activities sa mga daanan, tulay, at pasilidad sa Bacnotan at San Juan.

Walang humpay naman ang repacking at relief distribution ng Provincial General Services Office. Nagpamahagi ng 1,500 relief packs sa Luna; 1,000 sa Tubao; 1,000 sa Bauang; at 1,000 sa Naguilian. Para sa mga labis na nasalanta ng bagyo, binigyan ng tig-300 na foodpacks at 300 bottled water ang mga Munisipalidad ng Bangar at Luna. Patuloy parin ang pagbibigay ng food packs sa iba pang mga bayan.

Sa kasalukuyan ay wala nang Tropical Storm Signal sa probinsya. Bukas naman ang La Union Agri-Tourism Center mula 8:00AM hanggang 5:00PM para sa monetary at in-kind donations para sa mga nasalanta.

Sa ating pagkakaisa, tayo ay mas malakas at mas matatag. We are the united, we are #StrongerLaUnion.

TULOY-TULOY ANG RESCUE, PATROL AT RELIEF OPERATIONS; NASA 927 NA PAMILYA LIGTAS NA NAILIKAS

Shairalene B. Guerrero, PIO

Taos-puso ang pasasalamat sa ating rescue, patrol and relief teams na walang humpay ang sakripisyo at pagtutulongan sa gitna ng pananalasa ng Severe Tropical Storm #MaringPH.

Simula gabi ng Oktubre 11, 2021 nasa 927 na pamilya na ang narescue at nadala sa evacuation center at 5,763 foodpacks ang patuloy na pinapadala sa ating mga munisipyo.

Alinsunod sa direktiba ni Gov. Pacoy patuloy rin ang pagsasagawa ng assessment and monitoring, response interventions at contingency planning ng iba't-ibang opisina ng PGLU para masiguro na

naagapan ang mga pangangailangan sa iba't-ibang sektor at makapaghanda para sa rehabilitation efforts.

Pinapayuhan ang bawat Kaprobinsiaan na maging maingat pa rin at maging alerto, lalong-lalo na ang mga mamamayang naninirahan sa tabing-ilog, tabing-bundok at sa mga coastal areas ng probinsya.

Hindi tumitigil ang PGLU sa pag-abot ng tulong sa gitna ng bagyo habang patuloy parin na nilalaban ang banta ng CoViD-19. Hinihiling po namin ang patuloy na pakikipagtulungan dahil tayo ay mas malakas dahil magkasama tayo!



PGLU FINANCIAL REPORT 3RD QUARTER 2021

FDP Form 7 - 20% Component of the IRA Utilization

20% COMPONENT OF THE IRA UTILIZATION FOR THE 3RD QUARTER OF CY 2021

Programs/Projects/Activities	Location	Original Appropriation	Date Started	Target Completion Date	Project Status		No. of Extensions, if any	Remarks
					% of Completion	Total Cost Incurred to date		
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT								
Fabrication of COVID-19 Isolation Wards of RDH, BLDH and NDH	La Union	1,250,000.00	1/1/2021	12/31/2021	0.00%	-		
COVID-19 Disinfecting Machine	La Union	7,000,000.00	1/1/2021	12/31/2021	99.71%	6,980,000.00		
Drugs and Medicines (COVID-19)	La Union	1,750,000.00	1/1/2021	12/31/2021	0.00%	-		
Medical Supplies, Devices and Disinfectants (COVID-19)	La Union	3,000,000.00	1/1/2021	12/31/2021	22.80%	684,000.00		
Personal Protective Equipment (COVID-19)	La Union	2,000,000.00	1/1/2021	12/31/2021	0.00%	-		
Purchase of COVID19 Vaccines	La Union	17,379,933.86	1/1/2021	12/31/2021	0.00%	-		
Purchase of six (6) units Pharmaceutical Refrigerators and three (3) units Ultra Low Freezers for storage of COVID 19 Vaccines	La Union	7,842,000.00	1/1/2021	12/31/2021	98.70%	7,740,000.00		
Transportation Services for PGLU Frontliners and Health Workers (Van)	La Union	1,260,000.00	1/1/2021	12/31/2021	80.71%	1,017,000.00		
Food for the PGLU Isolation Facilities	La Union	3,148,000.00	1/1/2021	12/31/2021	0.00%	-		
Food for Frontliners and Quality Control Points	La Union	3,045,600.00	1/1/2021	12/31/2021	73.02%	2,223,929.50		
Home of Hope Supplies		2,260,101.72	1/1/2021	12/31/2021	-	-		
COVID-19 PPEs and Supplies requirement for the 20 LGUs		1,954,157.80	1/1/2021	12/31/2021	-	-		
COVID-19 PPEs and Supplies requirement for the 576 Barangays		5,226,990.00	1/1/2021	12/31/2021	-	-		
COVID-19 Medicines		15,443,010.00	1/1/2021	12/31/2021	-	-		
Provision of Home Accommodation, Shuttle Services and Other Assistance to Frontliners (Rent Expense)		2,870,400.00	1/1/2021	12/31/2021	-	-		
Provision of Food Allowance for Border Control and Isolation Facilities		3,322,350.00	1/1/2021	12/31/2021	-	-		
Barangay Ambulance/Multi-Purpose Vehicle		24,400,000.00	1/1/2021	12/31/2021	-	-		
Provision and maintenance of resources such as PPEs and essential drugs and medicines, vaccines, lab and medical supplies and disinfectants: COVID-19 PPEs and Supplies requirement for the 20 LGUs		9,180,842.40	1/1/2021	12/31/2021	-	-		
COVID-19 Manpower Augmentation Program: Hiring of Project-Based Frontliners		23,511,056.82	1/1/2021	12/31/2021	-	3,289,718.33		
Provision of Tent or Temporary Shelter Facility (Rental of Isolation Facility)		2,332,000.00	1/1/2021	12/31/2021	-	-		
Upgrading and equipping of PGLU Hospitals and Isolation Facilities		12,200,000.00	1/1/2021	12/31/2021	-	-		
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT								
Maintenance of Roads and Bridges	La Union	30,000,000.00	1/1/2021	12/31/2021	57.37%	17,209,661.00		
Tourism Sites/Facility Infrastructure Development	La Union	5,000,000.00	1/1/2021	12/31/2021	0.00%	-		
Culture and Heritage Enhancement	La Union	5,000,000.00	1/1/2021	12/31/2021	0.00%	-		
Loan Repayments (Purchase of Lot 1590)	La Union	87,373,678.20	1/1/2021	12/31/2021	74.79%	65,346,979.56		
ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT								
Conduct of the Search for the Cleanest, Safest and Greenest LGUs in the Province [Project]	La Union	4,704,400.00	1/1/2021	12/31/2021	0.00%	-		
Establishment of Materials Recovery Facility	La Union	3,000,000.00	1/1/2021	12/31/2021	0.00%	-		
Assistance to LGUs in the establishment of Land Fill		9,500,000.00				4,060,548.41		
SUBTOTAL		294,954,520.60			36.80%	108,551,836.80	-	

We hereby certify that we have reviewed the contents and hereby attest to the veracity and correctness of the data or information contained in this

ATTY. ALBERT F. PADILLA, CPA
Provincial Accountant

FRANCISCO EMMANUEL R. ORTEGA III
Provincial Governor

FDP Form 8 - Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund Utilization (COA Form)

LOCAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT FUND UTILIZATION For the 3rd Quarter, CY 2021 Province: LA UNION

Particulars	LRRRMF		NDRRMF	From Other LGUs	From Other Sources	Total
	Quick Response Fund (QRF) 30%	Mitigation Fund 70%				
A. Sources of Funds (Unutilized Balances)						
Current Appropriations	3,204,002.00	40,083,979.00				43,287,981.00
Continuing Appropriations		11,123,128.18				11,123,128.18
Previous Year's Appropriations transferred to the Special Trust Fund		2,830,827.66				2,830,827.66
Total Funds Available	3,204,002.00	54,037,934.84	-	-	-	57,241,936.84
B. Utilization						
Payment to King's Safetynet Inc. for the Fire Search Rescue Equipment and Hazardous Materials and Rescue Animal Search and Rescue Tools for use at PDRRMO.		562,750.00				562,750.00
Payment to Toyota La Union for the Preventive Maintenance of PDRRMO vehicle		36,443.39				36,443.39
Payment to King's Safetynet Inc for the purchase of uniforms to be used by staff and volunteers during disaster and emergency response.		424,200.00				424,200.00
Payment to Metrovision Customized Printing & Gen. Mdse for the non-frod items to be used as stockpile of PGLU.		554,400.00				554,400.00
Payment to Asia Motor Works for the repair of Rescue Vehicle with plate no. A5 H739 assigned to PDRRMO. V# 2674 ch# 2025708		61,400.00				61,400.00
Total Utilization	-	1,639,193.39	-	-	-	1,639,193.39
Unutilized Balance	3,204,002.00	52,398,741.45	-	-	-	55,602,743.45

I hereby certify that I have reviewed the contents and hereby attest to the veracity and correctness of the data or information contained in this document.

ATTY. ALBERT F. PADILLA, CPA
Provincial Accountant

FDP Form 13- Manpower Complement

MANPOWER COMPLEMENT Republic of the Philippines Budget Year 2021 Third Quarter

Nature of Appointment or Employment	Number	Compensation and Other Benefits		Total
		Salaries and Wages	Other Monetary Benefits	
I. Permanent	1,465	315,998,740.83	137,761,856.09	453,760,596.92
II. Contractual				
III. Job Order/Contract Service	469	46,195,097.49	6,908,520.00	53,103,617.49
Grand Total	1,934	362,193,838.32	144,670,376.09	506,864,214.41

We hereby certify that we have reviewed the contents and hereby attest to the veracity and correctness of the data or information contained in the document.

AGNES GRAE A. CARGAMENTO
Provincial Administrator

ATTY. ALBERT F. PADILLA, CPA
Provincial Accountant

FRANCISCO EMMANUEL R. ORTEGA III
Provincial Governor

Notes:

- Contractual personnel are those whose employment in the government is in accordance with a special contract to undertake a specific work or job, requiring special or technical skills not available in the employing agency, to be accomplished within a specific period, which in no case shall exceed one year, and performs or accomplishes the specific work or job, under his own responsibility with a minimum of direction and supervision from the hiring agency. (Source: PRESIDENTIAL DECREE No. 807 October 6, 1975)
- Contract of Services/Job Orders are employees whose services rendered are not considered governments services and do not enjoy the benefits enjoyed by government employees. The job order covers piece work or intermittent job of short duration not exceeding six months on a daily basis. (Source: Omnibus Rules Implementing Book V of E.O. No. 292 and Other Pertinent Civil Service Laws)

Note:

- Permanent Position - Includes coterminous but plantilla position; permanent casual but plantilla position
- Contractual - Includes consultant, compensation from PS
- Job Order/Contract Service - Includes Casual; compensation from MOOE; coterminous but NOT plantilla position

FDP Form 9 - Statement of Cash Flow (COA Form)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS For the Third Quarter Ended September 30, 2021 Province: LA UNION

Cash Flows from Operating Activities:

Cash Inflows:

Collection from Taxpayers	19,808,048.87
Share from Internal Revenue Collections	368,693,151.00
Share from GOCCs (PAGCOR and PCSO)	
Share from Tobacco Excise Tax (RA 7171 and 8240)	25,000,000.00
Receipts from business/service income	29,936,835.30
Collection of Receivables	7,845,834.02
Receipt of Interest Income	1,153,663.26
Other Receipts	135,352,779.72
Total Cash Inflow	587,790,312.17

Cash Outflows:

Payment of Expenses	2,056,750.85
Payments to Suppliers/Creditors	146,760,821.80
Payments to Employees	155,424,449.65
Other Disbursements	61,814,534.47
Total Cash Outflow	366,056,556.77

Net Cash from Operating Activities

221,733,755.40

Cash Flows from Investing Activities:

Cash Inflows:

From Sale of Property, Plant and Equipment	40,450.00
From Sale of Debt Securities of Other Entities	-
From Collection of Principal on Loans to Other Entities	-
Total Cash Inflow	40,450.00

Cash Outflows:

To Purchase/Construction of Investments Property	2,385,305.72
To Purchase/Construction of Property, Plant and Equipment Infrastructures	192,386,895.11
To Purchase Debt Securities of Other Entities	-
To Grant/Make Loans to Other Entities	-
Total Cash Outflow	194,772,200.83

Net Cash from Investing Activities

(194,731,750.83)

Cash Flows from Financing Activities

Cash Inflows:

From Issuance of Debt Securities	-
From Acquisition of Loan	-
Total Cash Inflow	-

Cash Outflows:

Payment of Loan Amortization	20,184,991.38
Interest Expense	8,906,979.49
Other Financial Charges	-
Total Cash Outflow	29,091,970.87

Net Cash from Financing Activities

(29,091,970.87)

Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash

(2,089,966.30)

Cash at Beginning of the Period

1,400,919,715.97

Cash at the End of the Period

1,398,829,749.67

Prepared by:

ATTY. ALBERT F. PADILLA, CPA
Provincial Accountant

FDP Form 12- Unliquidated Cash Advances

UNLIQUIDATED CASH ADVANCES For the Third Quarter, CY 2021

Province, City or Municipality: LA UNION

Name of Debtor (in alphabetical order)	Amount Balance	Date Granted	Purpose	Amount Due					
				Current			Past Due		
				Less than 30 days	31-90 days	91-365 days	Over 1 year	Over 2 years	3 years and above
Aquino, Maribel	10,000.00	08/24/21	Training-Aug. 23-27, Oct. 11-15, 2021		10,000.00				
Defillado, Mechavia Louise T	20,000.00	08/24/21	Training-Aug. 23-27, Oct. 11-15, 2021		20,000.00				
Mita, Janine Rose N	18,218.80	09/09/21	Training-Sep. 21-22, 2021		18,218.80				
Obligacion, Laramie C.	15,000.00	09/14/21	Training- Oct. 11-15, 2021		15,000.00				
Rimando, Donato A.	300,000.00	09/09/21	Training- Sep. 1-3, 8-10, 15-17, 2021		300,000.00				
Aquino, Brenda	51,179.00	09/17/21	Phishhealth Refund		51,179.00				
Aquino, Brenda	16,631.18	09/23/21	Grant of Cash Advance for RDH Dietary Supplies		16,631.18				
Aljara, Ma. Carmencita	35,503.00	09/15/21	Prisoner's Food Allowance		35,503.00				
Aljara, Ma. Carmencita	49,500.00	09/09/21	Youth Offender's Food Subistence of Bahay Pag-Asa		49,500.00				
Fernandez, Charito	42,807.50	09/20/21	Grant of Cash Advance for NDH Dietary Supplies		42,807.50				
Fernandez, Charito	27,815.10	09/21/21	Grant of Cash Advance for NDH MOOE		27,815.10				
Hakog, Sentinella	22,111.40	09/14/21	Grant of Cash Advance for RDH Dietary Supplies		22,111.40				
Hakog, Sentinella	32,929.75	09/30/21	Grant of Cash Advance for RDH Dietary Supplies		32,929.75				
Hakog, Sentinella	1,783.25	09/30/21	Grant of Cash Advance for RDH MOOE		1,783.25				
Nuesca, Nathaniel Edward	5,482.36	08/10/21	Withdrawal for Field & Current Operating Expenses		5,482.36				
Nuesca, Nathaniel Edward	9,000.00	09/09/21	Withdrawal for payment of Prizes of Sport		9,000.00				
Nuesca, Nathaniel Edward	79,000.00	08/29/21	Withdrawal for payment of Prizes and Honorarium during the 131st PCS Anniversary Celebration		79,000.00				
Occasion, Genoveva	2,355.08	09/08/21	Grant of Cash Advance for RDH MOOE		2,355.08				
Occasion, Genoveva	43,402.00	09/24/21	Grant of Cash Advance for RDH Dietary Supplies		43,402.00				
Remendo, Nora	8,788.97	09/08/21	Grant of Cash Advance for RDH MOOE		8,788.97				
Remendo, Nora	25,401.86	09/21/21	Grant of Cash Advance for RDH Dietary Supplies		25,401.86				
Remendo, Nora	19,754.83	09/21/21	Grant of Cash Advance for RDH MOOE		19,754.83				
Total	834,451.88				798,989.32	35,482.36	-	-	-

We hereby certify that we have reviewed the contents and hereby attest to the veracity and correctness of the data or information contained in this document.

ATTY. ALBERT F. PADILLA, CPA
Provincial Accountant

FRANCISCO EMMANUEL R. ORTEGA III
Provincial Governor

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FDP Form 6 - Trust Fund Utilization							
CONSOLIDATED QUARTERLY REPORT ON GOVERNMENT PROJECTS, PROGRAMS OR ACTIVITIES FOR THE THIRD QUARTER, CY 2021							
Province: LA UNION							
Program or Project	Location	Total Cost	Date Started	Target Completion Date	Project Status % of Completion Total Cost Incurred to Date	No. of Extensions, If any	Remarks
Performance Challenge Fund - Procurement of Two Rescue Vehicle	La Union	7,000,000.00	12/02/19	12/02/21	100.00%	7,000,000.00	
Medical Assistance Program	La Union	5,851,734.00	01/09/18	12/31/21	98.92%	5,788,581.04	
Completion of Annex Building, Renovation of Old Building, and Completion/Renovation and Modification of Operating Room of Balaocan District Hospital	La Union	10,000,000.00	12/16/20	12/16/21	100.00%	10,000,000.00	
Construction of Communal Toilets in Coastal Areas	La Union	800,000.00	01/01/19	12/31/21	0.00%	-	
Delivery of Basic Health Services to Indigenous Cultural Communities	La Union	200,000.00	01/01/18	12/31/21	81.05%	162,100.00	
Provincial Malaria Elimination & Response/Sustenance of the Malaria Status of the Province	La Union	1,000,000.00	01/31/19	12/31/21	0.00%	-	
Excellence Award for Kalusugang Pangkalahatan	La Union	200,000.00	05/02/16	12/31/21	95.26%	190,520.00	
Improvement of DOTs Services & Operations in the LGU Hospitals	La Union	600,000.00	05/05/15	12/31/21	49.85%	299,100.00	
Maternal Newborn Child Health and Nutrition (MNCNH)	La Union	2,036,752.00	12/04/14	12/31/21	98.21%	2,000,379.39	
Dap-Ayan for Tourism Culture and the Arts	La Union	900,000.00	04/28/18	12/31/20	100.00%	900,000.00	
National Quality Corn Achievers Award 2019	La Union	3,000,000.00	02/05/20	12/31/21	82.85%	2,485,496.00	
Pilipine Rural Development Project - I-Build Projects	La Union	99,335,231.84	12/26/19	12/31/21	91.44%	90,829,365.03	
Pilipine Rural Development Project - Green Carabao Mango Production, Consolidation and Marketing Enterprise	La Union	8,424,652.38	10/12/18	12/31/21	51.71%	4,356,402.68	
Pilipine Rural Development Project - Mungbean Enterprise	La Union	2,650,868.37	12/10/19	12/31/21	80.34%	2,129,748.37	
Rice Achievers Award 2015-2016	La Union	4,000,000.00	01/01/18	12/31/21	66.89%	2,675,654.00	
RWMHEEF SHARE (ER 1-94/1590 Energy Corporation)	La Union	7,552,968.09	10/14/20	12/31/21	0.00%	-	
DLF Share (ER 1-94/1590 Energy Corporation)	La Union	2,228,983.54	02/23/21	12/31/21	6.93%	154,380.30	
EF Share (ER 1-94/1590 Energy Corporation)	La Union	378,934.64	06/01/20	12/31/21	99.59%	377,365.36	
LGSF-Assistance to Indigent Individuals or Families	La Union	25,000,000.00	01/31/19	12/31/21	98.69%	24,673,500.00	
Rehabilitation and Improvement of Caba-Nagullian Road Phase II	La Union	40,000,000.00	10/07/19	07/24/20	100.00%	40,000,000.00	292 calendar days
Rehabilitation and Improvement of Santol-San Gabriel Road Phase III	La Union	25,000,000.00	10/07/19	07/17/20	100.00%	25,000,000.00	285 calendar days
Rehabilitation and Improvement of Balaocan-Santol Road Phase II	La Union	24,578,111.00	10/16/19	07/02/20	100.00%	24,578,111.00	261 calendar days
Rehabilitation and Improvement of Poblacion (Aringay)-Caliklip	La Union	50,000,000.00	08/11/20	03/23/21	100.00%	50,000,000.00	14 calendar days
Rehabilitation and Improvement of Sto. Tomas-Ago-Tubao	La Union	42,793,838.00	08/11/20	03/08/21	100.00%	42,793,838.00	55 calendar days
Rehabilitation and Improvement of Sto. Tomas-Ago-Tubao Road Phase II	La Union	35,000,000.00	08/20/21	01/31/22	0.00%	-	
Fixed Tranche Work and Financial Plan 2021 of the Provincial Health Office	La Union	1,367,056.00	01/01/21	12/31/21	0.00%	-	
Construction of Isolation Facility at Balaocan District Hospital	La Union	6,600,947.87	12/20/20	05/18/21	100.00%	6,600,947.87	
LGSF- Disaster Rehabilitation and Construction Assistance Program (DRRAP)	La Union	600,728.00	02/23/21	12/31/21	0.00%	-	

We hereby certify that we have reviewed the contents and hereby attest to the veracity and correctness of the data or information contained in this document.

Prepared by:  **ATTY. ALBERT F. PADILLA, CPA**
Provincial Accountant

Approved by:  **FRANCISCO EMMANUEL R. ORTEGA III**
Provincial Governor

FDP Form 11 - SEF Utilization (SEF Budget Accountability Form No. 1)	
SEF UTILIZATION Third Quarter, CY 2021	
Province - LA UNION	
Receipt from SEF	76,351,592.09
Less : DISBURSEMENTS (broken down by expense class and by object of expenditure)	
Personal Services	
Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses	
Other Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses	1,260,000.00
Capital Outlay	
Construction in Progress - Buildings and Other Structures	3,305,307.00
Financial Expenses	
Total Disbursements	4,565,307.00
Balance	71,786,285.09

We hereby certify that we have reviewed the contents and hereby attest to the veracity and correctness of the data or information contained in this document.


ATTY. ALBERT F. PADILLA, CPA
Provincial Accountant


FRANCISCO EMMANUEL R. ORTEGA III
Provincial Governor

DONATION DRIVE PARA SA MGA BIKTIMA NG BAGYO AT BAHAGYAN

Shairalene B. Guerrero, PIO

Dagsa ang tulong na natatanggap ng mga Kaprobinsiaang lubhang naapektohan ng Tropical Storm #MaringPH mula sa iba't-ibang organisasyon, ahensya ng gobyerno at mga volunteers mula ibat-ibang bahagi ng bansa.

Tinawag na "Panagkaykaysa Para iti La Union," layon ng nasabing donation drive na katukin ang bawat puso upang magbahagi ng kanilang makakaya para sa mga nasalanta ng bagyo at baha.

As of October 20, 2021, halos 6 milyong halaga ng in-kind donations na ang natanggap ng Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) mula sa iba't-ibang ahensya ng gobyerno, organisasyon at mga indibidwal.

Ang mga donasyon na natanggap ay naglalaman ng food and beverages, mga gamot, disinfectants, hygiene kits, personal protective equipments.

Ang mga donasyon ay ipapamahagi sa mga pamilyang lubos na naapektuhan ng bagyo.

Bagamat naideklara ang state of calamity sa Probinsya ng La Union, tinitiyak ni Gov. Pacoy ang pagpapaigting ng recovery efforts para sa mga Kaprobinsiaan. Gayundin naglaan ng kaukulang pondo ang PGLU para sa mga magsasaka at mangingisda na nawalan ng kabuhayan.

Samantala, tinatanggap pa rin ang mga donasyon sa Pasalubong Center sa lungsod ng San Fernando, mula 8AM-5PM, Lunes-Biyernes, para sa mga nagnanais magbigay ng tulong.

Matindi ang naging pinsala ng bagyong #MaringPH sa ating probinsya, hindi nito nawasak ang bayanihang mayroon sa bawat sa Kaprobinsiaan.

Ang pagtutulungan, pagkakaisa at pagmamalasakit ang dahil kung bakit patuloy tayong #StrongerLaUnion. Ito ang nagpapatunay na anumang bagyo ang dumating, sa lahat ng panahon #WeAreLaUnion, at dahil tayo ay magkakasama, makakabangon muli ang ating La Union.



PG-ENRO CONDUCTS QUARRY CHECKPOINT AT NIGHT TIME

Diana E. Jutba, GPC-ENRO



For stricter implementation of anti-illegal quarrying activity in La Union, the Provincial Government of La Union through the Environment and Natural Resources Office (PG-ENRO) conducted a spot quarry checkpoint at the exit and entry points of La Union at night time to catch violators who take advantage of the night.

The team, composed of PG-ENRO quarry monitoring team and municipal police officers, established a night checkpoint at Bacnotan, La Union on September 9, 2021 and at Pugo, La Union on September 22, 2021.

Violations on Provincial Ordinance No. 274-2021 or the Regulation on the Extraction, Disposition, Utilization, and Processing of Quarry and other Mineral Resources Ordinance of 2020 such as no cover, misdeclaration, and no delivery receipts presented at the checkpoint were some of the violations noted and apprehended. Provincial Ordinance Violation Receipts were issued to a total of four violators/haulers.

PGLU ROLLS-OUT SINING GALING FOR RECOVERY AND HEALING

Joy Ann L. Gurtiza, GPC-LUPTO

To preserve and promote local culture and traditions, including the creative and artistic expressions of local arts community in the province, the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) through the La Union Provincial Tourism Office (LUPTO) officially launched the Sining Galing for Recovery and Healing capacity development program with Open Space Arts as initial component.

Partnering with Department of Tourism - Region 1 (DOT-ROI), Boysen Philippines and TPLEX, the Open Space Arts component comprises of a Training Phase session facilitated by arts mentors, and an Application Phase activity dubbed as MARIS TI AGLAWLaU: Pride of Place Mural Painting Competition participated by local government units (LGUs).

To prepare for the mural competition, the LUPTO-Culture and Arts Section and DOT-RI validation team conducted a site ocular visit to LGUs' prospect mural locations which resulted in

a hundred percent participation rate of all LGUs in the province.

In a coordination meeting with all the LGUs, LUPTO Officer-in-Charge Arthur S. Cortez, Jr., on behalf of Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III, extended his gratitude to all the LGUs for their participation and continuing support to the initiatives of the provincial government in particular with the tourism,

culture and arts promotions and development.

DOT-ROI Senior Tourism Operations Officer Gay Nora Marie Gapas, Engr. Vergel Dyoco of Boysen Philippines, and Engr. Ser Anthony Bravo of TPLEX also attended the meeting.

More than 70 local visual artists participated in the online Training Phase session broadcasted via Love La Union Facebook page.

Arch. Rossano "Bobby" G. Baradi, instructor of Saint Louis College of San Fernando, and Cesar "Ciano" B. Dumo, a local visual artist and owner of Ciano Umok, served as mentors. They facilitated discussions and shared their experiences and expertise on mural art theories and concepts, and the creative life of an artist in the midst of crises.

MARIS TI AGLAWLaU: Pride of Place Mural Painting Competition shall serve as the component's Application Phase where trained visual artists will demonstrate their learnings through creation of mural artworks in their corresponding LGUs' pride of place which will commence this November 2021.

As the province is still fatigued by the longevity of CoViD-19 pandemic, PGLU is hopeful that this initiative will somehow supplement the government's recovery and resiliency programs focused in the communities towards building a Stronger La Union - a province worth living in.



LUNA-BASED WRITER SNAGS NATIONAL ESSAY CHAMPIONSHIP; OFFERS WIN FOR LA UNION'S MARING REHABILITATION

Joy Ann L. Gurtiza, GPC-LUPTO

Camille R. Bumatay, a resident of Luna, La Union and a staff of the Provincial Information Office, bested more than 200 other contestants from other cities and provinces in the Philippines to claim the top prize during the Parangal at Pamana: The 3rd Freedom of Information (FOI) Multi-Arts Festival 2021.

With the subject focused on the importance of access to information, Bumatay's essay entitled "FOI: Painting a Legacy of Truth, Trust and Transparency" was also picked as the Reader's Choice Award as she received 2 plaques, gift certificates and FOI merchandise.

"With all the needed tools at hand by virtue of the FOI, there is no reason for us not to complete our masterpiece of transparency and settle for merely changing things. We need to get involved in demanding accountability of the government," Bumatay emphasized in her piece.

As a member of the Provincial Government of La Union's Governor Press Corps and an advocate of FOI herself, Bumatay believes that public access to information is really important as technological advancements continue to grow and information is

dispersed rapidly. "We all need information that we can trust, particularly in this time of pandemic and calamity, and to help look after our mental and physical health," Bumatay emphasized in an interview.

Through this national recognition, she hopes that her win will somehow inspire her hometown Luna in the continuing rehabilitation and recovery efforts from the onslaught of typhoon Maring. "The only thing that keeps us going is hope, so don't lose it. Life can be challenging, especially these times. Let's keep working and moving forward for the love of La Union," Bumatay said.

The FOI Multi-Arts Festival is a month-long annual event hosted by FOI - Project Management Office under the Presidential Communications Operations Office showcasing the creativity of Filipino artists and hobbyists in depicting the value of access to information in democracy, and manifesting the government's transparency legacy through visual, literary, and performing arts. PGLU is one with FOI - PMO in reinforcing the implementation of access to information laws as well as promoting FOI as a basic human right.



NDH'S NEWLY-IMPROVED OBSTETRICS WARD TO IMPROVE OB PATIENTS EXPERIENCE

Angelica Real, GPC-NDH



To deliver high-quality medical services to every Kaprobinsiaan, the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) upgraded Naguilian District Hospital (NDH) Obstetrics-Gynecology (OB) Ward facility. Hospital Chief Dr. Eduardo Posadas led the opening ceremony on September 10, 2021. Rev. Fr. Albert C. Feliciano of Saint Augustine Parish Church led the prayer service and blessing.

Said facility was improved to support the government's thrust to strengthen quality healthcare services embodying the NDH Values C.A.R.E.S (Compassionate, Accountable, Responsible and Efficient Service). It caters to patients 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and is located beside the Nurses Station.

The newly-improved facility is all about serving OB patients better. The OB Ward was arranged in accordance with DOH Policies for COVID19.

The PGLU under the leadership of Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III is committed to upgrading health facilities to cater to the needs of Kaprobinsiaan, especially in these trying times.