



# #TATAKLUCAL PRODUCTS EARNED OVER 1.2 MILLION PESOS IN SALU-SALU AGRI-TOURISM FAIR

La Union Provincial Tourism Office

Local products and farm produce exhibited during the week-long staging of the Saluad La Union para Serbisio, Agri-Turismo, Lako ken Oportunidad (SaLU-SALO) Agri-Tourism Fair generated total sales of over 1.2 Million Pesos from February 28 to March 6, 2022 at CSI Mall-La Union, City of San Fernando, La Union.

In his speech during the closing program, Mr. Arthur S. Cortez, Jr., Economic Dynamism and Competitiveness Sector Head and OIC of the La Union Provincial Tourism Office also announced that the event was able to assist 127 jobseekers, and distributed a total of 2,905 tree seedlings and 821 seed packs.

The fair aimed to promote tourism destinations, farm produce and investment opportunities to help Micro Small and Medium Enterprises penetrate a wider market and be able to regain the losses from CoViD-19 pandemic.

The local government units adorned their booths with decorations that highlighted their culture and tourism destinations. Various items were on sale from fresh fruits and vegetables to processed delicacies such as dried fish, chips, jams and many more.

Each LGU also made presentations that gave a festive vibe to the event. Dances, song numbers and gimmicks like raffle and trivia games were held to engage more people to come and visit the trade fair.

All booths and LGU presentations were judged to determine the winners of the Best Booth and Best LGU Presentation. The City of San Fernando was adjudged to have the best booth followed by the Municipality of Sudipen as 1st Runner-up and Municipality of Bangar as 2nd Runner-up.

The Municipality of Sudipen emerged victorious having won as the Best LGU Presentation while the Municipalities of Balaoan and Rosario placed 1st and 2nd Runners-up, respectively.

SaLU-SALO also featured job placement services where vacant job postings were displayed and interested applicants submitted their applications and documents. It also featured distribution of tree seedlings and vegetable seeds for those who are interested to try urban farming and gardening.

The SaLU-SALO was held in celebration of the 172nd La Union Foundation Anniversary and was a convergence of all 19 towns and lone city of La Union La Unay.



**PAGE 3**

**LA UNION AS 8TH MOST COMPETITIVE PROVINCE NATIONWIDE: FOUNDATION OF A #STRONGERLAUNION**

**PAGE 7**

**PGLU, LU MUNICIPALITIES BAG ADAC PERFORMANCE AWARDS**

## BAYANIHAN IN LA UNION SECURES SAFETY OF KAPROBINSIAAN FOLLOWING FIRE

Camille R. Bumatay, PIO

Affected families of the fire incident in Barangay III, City of San Fernando, La Union are now safe as the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU), headed by Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III, continues to extend assistance for their recovery.

On January 22, 2022, nine out of the 17 total affected families continue to stay in one of the hostel of La Union as the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office provided them with medical check-up and additional surgical masks. Minimum Health Standards were also reiterated for their safety against the CoVID-19.

Victims were assisted and may stay in the hostel until January 24 while families who will be in need of temporary shelter beyond January 24, the PGLU secured the approval of the Department of Education for the utilization of the Ilocanos Elementary School as evacuation center provided with their own bathroom.

Food sufficiency for the victims is



continuously ensured by the PGLU, local officials and the barangay council. Volunteers led by La Union Vibrant Women Inc. San Fernando Chapter President Rafy Ortega-David and Board Member Paolo Ortega are also set to distribute clean clothes and hot meals.

It can be recalled that on January 21, Gov. Pacoy Ortega directed the immediate provision of emergency assistance of the PGLU Disaster Response Team in extinguishing the fire. Emergency packs donated by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council to the Province of La Union were readily distributed. P15,000 financial assistance, meals, and clean clothes were also distributed immediately to the victims.

With the continuous coming together of public and private stakeholders, the victims will be on recovery from the aftermath of fire. The Provincial Government of La Union is always ready to respond in emergencies such as this proving the resilience of a Stronger La Union.

## PROVINCE'S TOP PERFORMING REVENUE GENERATING LGUs RECOGNIZED BY PGLU

Jane Joy F. Mandia, GPC-PTO

The efforts to further improve revenue generation of the Treasury Offices of the 19 Municipalities of La Union have paid off after the Provincial Government, through Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III, awarded plaques of recognition to Top Performing Local Government Units (LGUs) of the province in terms of Local Revenue Generation.

Spearheaded by Provincial Treasurer Janet D. Molina, the said recognition ceremony was virtually conducted and attended

by the Municipal Treasurers and Municipal Assessors together with their respective Mayors.

Amid the evolving coronavirus pandemic, the different LGUs have exceeded their targets in their collections for the Fiscal Year 2020.

The Municipalities were awarded according to their Classes. Among the Class One Municipalities, Bauang ranked first for Real Property Tax with a 206.11% collection efficiency while

Naguilian ranked first for Tax on Business and Other Taxes with 113.71% collection efficiency. The Municipality of Agoo garnered two awards and ranked first for both Fees and Charges with 127.57% collection efficiency and Receipts from Economic Enterprise with 120.59% collection efficiency. Aside from plaques of recognition, winning LGUs were also awarded with printers.

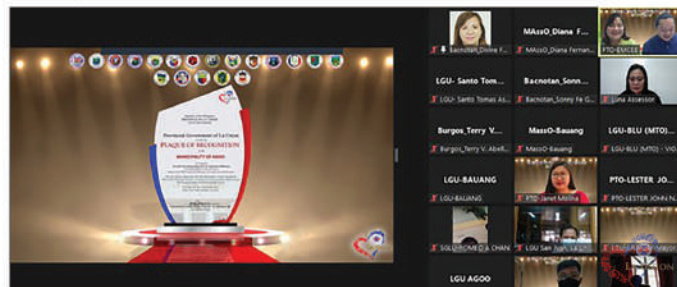
For the Municipalities classified as Class Two and Three, Aringay ranked first in two categories garnering 227.97% collection efficiency for Real Property Tax and 105.91% collection efficiency for Fees and Charges. Luna ranked first for Tax on Business and Other Taxes with 123.05% collection efficiency while San Juan ranked first for Receipts from Economic Enterprise with 142.87% collection efficiency.

For Class Four and Five Municipalities, Pugo topped others for Real Property Tax collection

with 177.67% collection efficiency. Santol ranked first for Tax on business and Other Taxes with 129.45% Collection efficiency as well as with Fees and Charges with 148.43% Collection efficiency. Santo Tomas ranked first for Receipts from Economic Enterprise with 231.59% collection efficiency.

Special Recognition was given to the Municipality of Bacnotan as the overall top performer in Nominal Collection in Real Property Tax with 144.71% collection efficiency and was awarded with a plaque and a set of desktop computer and printer.

The Office of the Provincial Assessor with the help of the 19 Municipal Assessor's Office also played a great role in helping the great performance of the LGUs in exceeding their collection targets with their comprehensive assessment of Real Properties within La Union in support for the Revenue Generation Program of the Province.



## FIRST COOP ONLINE PUBLIC CONSULTATION IN LU CONVENED

Sangguniang Panlalawigan

La Union Sangguniang Panlalawigan's Committee on Cooperatives chaired by Board Member Gerard G. Ostrea organized the first Public Consultation of registered cooperatives in the province via online video conference.

Attended by almost 50 registered participants, the activity aimed to check on the status of local cooperatives, address their concerns and monitor their programs, projects and services as part of their recovery response amidst the pandemic. Further, said activity is part of the public consultation targets of the committee to draw inputs from this sector that could be used as aid of legislation.

"When community members collaborate and learn to rely on themselves and their abilities to act collectively to improve their personal situations and the well-being of their community, they are empowered," said BM Ostrea.

Indeed, this public consultation is a key vehicle in empowering the province's cooperatives.

In adherence to minimum health standards, the Committee designed an online survey sheet prior to the scheduled public consultation which was made available and easily accessible online for all registered cooperatives in the province. Participating Cooperatives were given a week to discuss among their officers and members and to fill in the survey form with their inputs. A total of 42 cooperatives answered the form indicating their concerns, program and policy recommendations, assistance needed from the Committee on Cooperatives and other interventions needed from different agencies, offices and persons.

The SP Committee on Cooperatives has consolidated the feedback of the cooperatives. Need for capacity training and assistance on capital, machineries, office

equipment and vehicles were among the top concerns of the participating cooperatives. Moreover, simplification of the Cooperative Development Authority Reports and transparency in the management of Cooperatives were raised.

The Provincial Legal Office, Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator, Office of the Provincial Agriculturist and the SP

Secretariat were also tapped for their expertise on the matters at hand. The public consultation went smoothly and a very interactive open forum pursued thereafter.

The recommendations gathered during said public consultation will be submitted for agenda during the plenary session of the SP and will be discussed in detail at the committee level.



## PGLU LAUNCHES NEW VERSION OF NAPANAM

Ma. Ashley A. Ebreo, GPC-ICTU

As the CoViD-19 pandemic continuously affects the world, the Province of La Union stands still and stronger as the Provincial Government launches the version 2.0 of the NAPANAM Contact Tracing System.

PGLU-Information and Communication Technology Unit (ICTU) headed by Mr. Gerry D. Binas-o, has started introducing the said system to the NAPANAM Focal Personnel and Surveillance Team of the different Local Government Units (LGUs) of the province who are already carrying-out their training on the new version starting January 26, 2022 until February 16, 2022. Pilot LGUs for NAPANAM 2.0 are Balaoan, Luna, Naguilian, San Gabriel, San Juan, and City of San Fernando.

The new version consists of new features which includes Self-Check-in and CoViD-19 Vaccination information.

The Self-Check-in feature has the



capability of checking-in into a specific establishment by simply scanning the QR Code provided in the entrance of an establishment. This process can only be done alone by the customer and after which, this check-in will be presented upon entering the establishment.

Next is the CoViD-19 Vaccination information, feature that has the capability to detect whether a NAPANAM holder is vaccinated or not as the system was integrated in the CoViD-19 vaccination system of the PGLU.

Along with these new features, the said system also has its new interface with some other changes on the module of the system.

The PGLU always makes sure to perform at the top of their best to enhance and develop new innovative ideas/processes that can help in mitigating the effects of the CoViD-19 crisis.

## LA UNION AS 8TH MOST COMPETITIVE PROVINCE NATIONWIDE: FOUNDATION OF A STRONGER LA UNION

John Elysar Martin, PIO

Living its mission as catalyst of sustainable and inclusive development that improves the quality of life of the people, the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) was recognized as the 8th Most Competitive Province nationwide in the recently-concluded Cities and Municipalities Competitiveness Index Awarding and Recognition Ceremony spearheaded by the Department of Trade and Industry at the Sevilla Center, City of San Fernando, La Union on February 8, 2022 in a hybrid set-up.

From rank 13 last 2020, the Province of La Union advanced to National Top 10 of the most competitive provinces in 2021 based on the four pillars of good governance in terms of economic dynamism, infrastructure, resiliency, government efficiency under the leadership of Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III.

Gov. Pacoy stressed in his message that these recognitions

are proof that the Provincial Government remains steadfast in its commitment to provide the highest sense of public service that all Kaprobinsiaan deserve.

The award was received by the Local Economic Enterprise and Investment Promotions Unit headed by Ms. Charito Dator.

This achievement manifests the exerted collaborative effort of every local chief executives in the province who supported and participated in the success of the endeavor. Other component local government units (LGUs) in the Province were also recognized for garnering different awards.

LGU Pugo bagged the Top 7 Over-all Economic Competitiveness, Top 2 in the Resiliency Pillar, Top 7 in Economic Dynamism, and Top 17 in Government Efficiency Pillar; LGU Agoo ranked 14 in Overall Competitiveness while gaining the Top 8 in Resiliency Pillar and Top 12 in Government Efficiency;

LGU Santo Tomas was Top 2 in the Resiliency Pillar; LGU Burgos captured the Top 9 in Resiliency Pillar; LGU Bacnotan got the Top 19 Resiliency Pillar; LGU Bauang was Top 19 in the Government Efficiency Pillar; LGU Rosario placed 11 in the Resiliency Pillar; LGU San Juan was Top 12 most improved LGU; and the City Government of San Fernando was Top 9 in Resiliency and Top 14 in Government Efficiency Pillars.

The Cities and Municipalities Competitiveness Index is an annual ranking of Philippine cities and municipalities developed by the National Competitiveness Council. For this year, an additional pillar on innovation will be added making up a total of five governance pillars.

The PGLU remains committed in improving in the different competitiveness pillars because these serve as foundation of a Stronger La Union, a province worth living in.



## LA UNION UNITES FOR SIMULTANEOUS CLEAN-UP ACTIVITY

Diana E. Jutba, GCP-PG-ENRO



In celebration of the National Zero Waste Month with the theme "Fast Tracking the Total Solid Waste Management Solution for a Sustainable-Driven Philippines," the Provincial Government La Union together with the 20 component Local Government Units (LGUs) conducted a simultaneous clean-up activity dubbed as "Pagna Pagna para iti Basura."

The Provincial Government's Pagna Pagna para iti Basura aims to instill in the community the habit of keeping the environment litter-free and promote regular clean-up drives in the community.

A total of 1,281 participants composed of residents, barangay councils, Bureau of Fire Protection, Philippine National Police, Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program Beneficiaries, representatives from the municipal/city and provincial government, and representatives from non-government organizations joined the activity.

A total 2,179.25 kilograms of trash were collected. Most of the trash collected were styropor/styrofoam, plastic bags, cigarette butts, and food wrappers. Used disposable face masks also added to the list of frequently found waste materials. The participants cleaned the roadsides, plazas, waterways, rivers and shorelines.

Through the Presidential Proclamation No. 760 dated May 5, 2014, every month of January was declared as National Zero Waste Month. This serves as a reminder to be mindful of the waste produced in support for PGLU's Kalikasan Naman Campaign.

## LA UNION PILOTS 5-11 Y/O COVID-19 JABS; 558 INOCULATED ON DAY 1

John Elysar Martin, PIO and Renerose Beninsig, GPC-PHO

With the aim to increase protection of kids against CoViD-19, the Provincial Government of La Union's #BakunaMuna Program has expanded with the help of the Department of Health - Center for Health and Development 1 as it began the pediatric vaccination rollout for children aged 5-11 years old in the Province on February 14, 2022.

To officially start the activity, a simultaneous

ceremonial vaccination was held in three hospitals in the province including La Union Medical Center (LUMC), Ilocos Training and Regional Medical Center (ITRMC), and Lorma Medical Center being identified as first vaccination sites for the said age group.

The vaccination areas were converted into colorful and playful venues decorated with balloons. Freebies were given and

cosplayers were present to entertain and encourage children to get inoculated.

The vaccinees were accompanied by their parents or guardians who signed a waiver and were asked to present birth certificate and school ID. A medical certificate was required if the vaccinee is with comorbidities.

LUMC was able to vaccinate 138 kids; 118 for Lorma; and 302 for ITRMC totalling to 558 children inoculated on the first day.

Pfizer is the only vaccine brand approved by the Food and Drugs Administration for the said age group. Pediatricians also assure parents that CoViD-19 vaccines are safe and effective for kids.

To ensure strict monitoring of any adverse side effects, vaccination sites for the said age group are located in hospitals. District Hospitals in La Union are also expected to roll out the vaccination of the same age group soon.

The PGLU continues to strengthen the vaccination drive in the province in order to reach herd immunity. PGLU expresses support to the national government's effort to combat CoViD-19 and urge everyone to get vaccinated for their protection.



## SP OFFICIALS, EMPLOYEES CELEBRATE BIBLE WEEK

Rhea Matilde A. Ballesteros, GPC - SP

In observance of Bible Week, Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) Officials and employees participated in the virtual Bible Sharing on January 28, 2022 via video conferencing.

With the theme "God's Love Heals a Suffering World," the Bible Sharing aims to recognize the importance of the Bible in bringing inspiration, knowledge and positive changes to the lives of the officials and employees especially this trying time. Likewise, it allows them to become closer to God as it builds unity, understanding and better relationships among the SP officials and employees.

"Bible study is a personal journey in discovering the meaning of the passages in the Bible," goes the words of wisdom imparted by Provincial Secretary Donato A. Rimando. He added that the words of God from the Bible will serve the SP officials and officials and guide them in their lives that

will make a positive impact in their work, family and community.

Senior Pastor Ramon C. Del Valle of the Victory Christian Fellowship of the City of San Fernando, La Union facilitated the Bible Study and Sharing. He encouraged the participants to have a heart like "Onesiphorus," the one who is willing to risk his own life, safety and freedom for the sake of others.

The participants were also assigned in small groups for sharing and reflecting on showing mercy and compassion to the people around them and in what ways they need mercy in their personal lives.

In recognition of the significance of the Holy Bible in molding the spiritual, moral and social values of the people of La Union, the SP declared the last week of January of every year as Bible Week in the province encouraging offices and places of work, both public and private, to conduct a daily prayer and Bible Reading.



## LU ARTS, CRAFTS, TALENTS FEATURED IN SIRMATA ARTS FEST

John Elysar Martin, PIO

In Celebration of the National Arts Month this February, the Provincial Government of La Union through the La Union Provincial Tourism Office in collaboration with Ciano Umok Café Art Gallery launched the Sirmata Art Festival 2022 at Brgy. Palugsi Limmansangan, Bauang on February 12, 2022.

The celebration sets to showcase and recognize various masterpieces of local artists in the Province of La Union as well as to foster creativity and love for art to all Kaprobinsiaan.

Local artists from different towns gathered to celebrate and exhibit their creations that depict a deeper meaning on environment, timely issues on the upcoming election, pandemic crisis and daily living. This only proves that Art is alive even during pandemic that draws inspiration, passion and interest from the aspiring artists.

Board Member Christian Rivera, Reigning Mutia ti La Union 2020 Maria Divina Villanueva and Bauang Mayor Dr. Menchie De Guzman joined the celebration.

Local artist Cesar Dumo, the owner of Ciano Umok and organizer of the Art Fest, said that

despite the limitations in conducting exhibits, they were still able to continue their art advocacy and their mission. He also looks forward in one of their goals to establish La Union as an Art Hub in the North. This possible progress will help develop skills of aspiring artists in the province as

well as to widely introduce art in the communities.

The festival is open until April 15, 2022 featuring different activities which include art talk and workshop, live sketching, art merchandise, and art exhibit. Everyone is enjoined to participate and celebrate the festival to continue on polishing their talents especially the youth.

Sirmata which is an Iloko term for vision explains that artists envision possible developments within the community for the future through portraying their work of art.

The PGLU remains steadfast in providing full support to local artists in different aspects as they are truly valued for their contributions in improving the lives of people and bringing change through their creative crafts.



## LU PROVINCIAL LIBRARY LAUDED FOR 2021 REPORTS; CONTINUES TO ADVANCE SERVICES

Camille R. Bumatay, PIO

As an ever-evolving and improving knowledge resource center, the La Union Provincial Library (LUPL) under the Provincial Government of La Union was identified by the National Library of the Philippines (NLP) as among the Provincial Libraries in the Philippines to complete their Monthly Reports for 2021. This is the 23rd year that said library was identified by the NLP as report completer.

Despite the CoViD-19 pandemic, a total of 4,210 library users were served by the LUPL. Coping with the demand of the pandemic, the LUPL has adopted different online services to continuously cater to clients including the LUPL WebOPAC (Online Public Access Catalogue) which facilitates searching and availing resources in the library online through the link [www.laup.launion.gov.ph](http://www.laup.launion.gov.ph). Newspaper Clippings about La Union published in national and local newspapers are also accessible in the same site.

The Knowledge Hub, [launion.gov.ph/knowledge-hub](http://launion.gov.ph/knowledge-hub), in the PGLU website also provides for the use of the NLP Electronic Resources. The NLP extends its electronic resources, including EBSCOhost, Gale ebooks, GIG

Publishing, Digital Library Solutions, BritannicaLibrary, PressReader, Tekno-Aklatan, Emerald Publishing, MyLegalWhiz, Proquest and De Gruyter, to be used by the general public through public libraries and reading centers.

For a more accessible and hassle-free remote communication with library staff, the Online Library Inquiry Service was also launched to allow clients to submit library-related questions and receive answers via email through the link [bit.ly/LibraryLU](mailto:bit.ly/LibraryLU).

Aside from its vast print resources, it also offers free access to internet and computers. It also serves as La Union Provincial Library Inquiry Service for Education, Employment, Entrepreneurs, and Economic Development (Tech4Ed) Center in partnership with the Department of Information and Communications Technology.

Observing CoViD-19 protocols, the LUPL located at the 5th Floor, LUPAC Building, City of San Fernando, La Union is open from 8AM to 5PM Mondays to Thursdays and 8AM to 12NN on Fridays. Minimum health standards are strictly observed and disinfection are conducted regularly.



## LA UNION ARTISTS ADORN OPEN SPACES WITH MURALS; WINNING ARTWORKS RECOGNIZED

Joy Ann L. Gurtiza, GPC-LUPTO

Two months after the contest launch, 16 colorful artworks of participating Local Government Units (LGUs) for the MARIS ITI AGLAWLaU: Pride of Place Mural Painting Competition were judged and recognized. Led by the La Union Provincial Tourism Office (LUPTO) - Culture and Arts Section (CAS), the competition forms part of Sining Galing for

Recovery and Healing program of the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) which aims to continue, preserve, and support the cultural and artistic expressions of the local arts community towards creative recovery.

Supported by Department of Tourism (DOT) - Region I, Boysen Philippines and San Miguel

Corporation - (SMC) Infrastructure, participating LGUs include the City of San Fernando and Municipalities of Agoo, Aringay, Bacnotan, Bagulin, Balaoan, Bangar, Burgos, Caba, Luna, Naguilian, Rosario, San Juan, Santo Tomas, Santol and Tubao.

Dumo of Artist Guild of La Union, including Ms. Arlene Mercado and Ms. Sarah Villamil of DOT - Region I served as the panel of judges.

On behalf of Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega, LUPTO Officer-in-Charge Arthur S. Cortez, Jr. expressed his warm gratitude to all the participating stakeholders who attended the Awarding Ceremony on December 15, 2021. "We, at the PGLU, recognize the efforts of the 16 participating LGUs and beautifying our open spaces... Let us continue to champion excellence and local genius in the way we do our personal and communal endeavors," Mr. Cortez highlighted.

PGLU hopes that these programs shall supplement the local and national government's recovery and reintegration efforts towards building a Stronger La Union - a province worth living in.

LGU Santo Tomas bagged the first place and DOT Region I's Choice Award. While LGU Bangar and LGU San Juan completed the Top 3 winners. Included in the top 10 artworks are the murals of LGUs Bagulin, Balaoan, San Fernando, Santol, Rosario, Luna and Tubao. LGU Bagulin further received the SMC Infrastructure's Choice Award. Winners were chosen based on thematic approach, visual creativity and quality, artistry, execution and technique including the social media engagement of posted entries' photos.

Arch. Paulo Martinez of United Architects of the Philippines - La Union Chapter, Cesar "Ciano"



## LU AIMS FOR HIGHER ICT PROFICIENCY

Ma. Ashley A. Ebreo, GPC-ICTU

As a part of the 172nd Foundation Anniversary of the Province of La Union, the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) in partnership with the Department of Information and Communications Technology - Regional Office 1 (DICT-RO1) conducted an ICT Proficiency Diagnostic Exam for Computer Programming on February 21, 2022 held at the La Union Provincial Library LUPAC Building, City of San Fernando, La Union.

The said examination was designed to gauge the competency of an individual to perform Programming or System Analysis and Design function.

Eight examinees took the written examination which will assess their knowledge in Programming.

This consists of questions on program simulation, number system, data structures, Object-Oriented Programming concepts and others.

Examinees with a passing rate of 80% on the said examination will proceed to the ICT Proficiency Certification Examination or hands-on exam which is a six-hour application development using the examinee's preferred language.

The PGLU continues its commitment in raising the ICT bar of excellence by producing a knowledgeable and skilled IT Professionals that will help La Union become a smart and innovative province that is truly #LaUnionLaUnay.



# PGLU NANGIDAULO ITI ROAD CLEARING OPERATION, KALSADA NATALGEDEN A PAGNAAN

John Elysar Martin, PIO ken Engr. Emille Martinez, GPC-PEO



Impasigurado iti Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) babaen iti panangidaulo ni Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III ti kinalatged dagiti dumaldalan a motorista ken residente kalpasan iti napasamak a panagreggaay ken mudslide iti daga idi Enero 30, 2022 idia Brgy. Biday, siyudad iti San Fernando, La Union gapu iti napasaran a napigsa a panagtutudo a gubway iti makunkuna a Frontal System gappu iti panagsabat iti nabara ken nalammiis nga angin.

Dagus a nangipaay iti tulong ti PGLU, babaen iti manpower aggapu iti Provincial Engineering Office kasta met dagiti machineries kas iti water truck, wheel loader, ken dump truck

tapno naan-anay a maikkat iti pitak iti paset ti diversion road a naapektaran ti mudslide. Kadwa iti PEO dagiti Barangay officials ken dagiti volunteers a nangdalis iti kalsada.

Aggtutuloy met ti panagrikos ken panag-monitor iti PGLU ditoy Probinsia tapno marespondean dagiti residente a naapektaran ti panagtutudo. Inpanamnama iti PGLU kadagiti Kaprobinsiaan iti napasas nga aksyon kadagiti pakaseknan dagiti residente ditoy Probinsia nangruna no adda dagiti kalamidad.

Mapalpalagipan iti amin nga agannad ken agtalinaed a natalged. Mabalin laeng a tumawag iti La Union Rescue 911 wenno La Union rescue mobile 0998-961-1519/ (072) 607-8723/911.

## 22ND SP MAINTAINS HIGH LEGISLATIVE PERFORMANCE EFFICIENCY DESPITE THE PANDEMIC

Jiroh Joy D. Marbella, GPC-SP

The 22nd Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) headed by Vice-Governor Mario Eduardo C. Ortega has maintained its high-performance rating by achieving almost all of its targets for the year 2021.

Despite the challenges under implemented safety protocols and health standards, the SP managed to conduct all 52 regular sessions and 4 special sessions, thus, acing the year vis-a-vis its targets and mandated tasks and responsibilities.

With the active committees headed by the Provincial Board Members, the SP was able to enact 80 provincial ordinances for 2021. Thirty-one of these were aligned and/or supportive of the vision and the initiatives of the province.

Aside from passing ordinances, the SP, under the Local Government Code, is mandated to accredit Non-Government Organizations, Civil Society Organizations and Private Organizations that are vital partners of the local government in the implementation of various programs and projects for the people. Last year, after meticulously assessing requirements of organizations wanting to be authorized, the SP has awarded accreditation to 21 of them that shall be one with the PGLU in

making La Union a province worth living in.

The Office of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan also commits its support of the "Stronger La Union Road Map". Formulation, amendments and review of ordinances relative to this were fully accomplished. However, due to pandemic, public consultation and review of ordinances relative to Stronger La Union Road Map was conducted online. An online training course on Legislative Empowerment through Virtual Learning Exercises in Local Policy Making and Applied Research was also conducted to set standards on Monitoring of Researches Compliant. Moreso, the Legislative Information System (LIS) is already 100% fully developed adding to the easement in monitoring communications and modules endorsed to the office.

Overall, the 22nd Sangguniang Panlalawigan fared well and can be considered exceptional in terms of achieving its set targets for the year 2021 as well as in comparison to the accomplishments of 2020, despite the challenges of the National and Global Health Emergency brought by Covid-19. The SP commits to perform and work for the love of our beloved province, La Union and for the greater glory of God.

## ABTC CONDUCTS LECTURE ON ANIMAL BITE TREATMENT

Angelica Real, GPC-NDH

To raise awareness on prevention, control and elimination of rabies in the community, Animal Bite Treatment Center Medical Coordinator and Provincial Medical Officer III Dr. Diana Jean Escalo, conducted a lecture on Animal Bite Treatment at the of the Naguilian District Hospital (NDH) Outpatient Department.

Dr. Escalo thoroughly discussed the viral disease caused by Rabies including its signs and symptoms and immediate treatment when bitten by a rabies-carrier animal. She also

stressed to avoid common practices in treating animal bite such as sucking the wound by your mouth, application of any foreign material over the wound and resorting to "tandok" instead of getting vaccines.

During the lecture, Dr. Escalo stressed important points on RA 9482 or "The Anti Rabies Act of 2007" and reminded everyone to be a responsible pet owner.

She also reminded the patients to treat any potential exposure to rabies seriously.

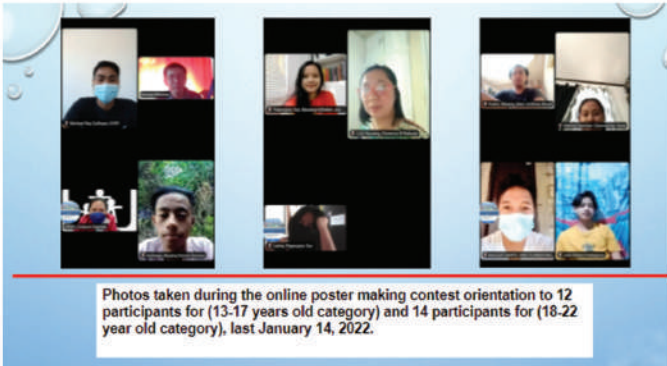


# LU'S CLEAN COAST PROJECT, INC. ENGAGES YOUTH IN WASTE MANAGEMENT ADVOCACY

Diana E. Jutba, GPC-ENRO

The Clean Coasts Project in La Union, Inc. initiated a poster-making contest among the youths residing in three coastal project areas of the province to showcase their talent and creativity as well as to provide them an avenue to with express their views and opinions with the theme "Nadalus a baybay, Nasalun-at nga ili."

A total of 26 youth actively participated in the activity. Due to travel restrictions and following the COVID-19 health protocols, the competition was held online and two categories were



Photos taken during the online poster making contest orientation to 12 participants for (13-17 years old category) and 14 participants for (18-22 year old category), last January 14, 2022.

organized. Category A is for ages 13-17 years old and category B is for the ages 18-22 years old. Among the participants, the winner in Category A was Ms. Mhelanie A. Batuhan, 14 years old from Brgy. Dalumpinas Oeste, City of San Fernando in the person and the winner in Category B is Ms. Edhelen Joy G. Antalan, 18 year-old resident of Brgy. Payocpoc Sur, Bauang.

The winners received cash prizes and certificates. Representatives from the Jaime V. Ongpin Foundation, Inc. presented the awards to the winners.

## PGLU, LU MUNICIPALITIES BAG ADAC PERFORMANCE AWARDS

Geraldine B. Salazar-Lucero, PIO

Under the leadership of Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III, the Provincial Government of La Union remains committed to the National Government's Anti-Illegal Drug Campaign through its exemplary efforts to combat illegal drugs in the province as evident in the recently-concluded Regional Anti-Drug Abuse Council (ADAC)

Performance Award for CY 2019 and 2020 led by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).

After garnering high functionality points for two consecutive years in accordance to the ADAC Performance Audit of the DILG, the PGLU was among the awardees during the said

Awarding Ceremony held online on January 31, 2022. This was followed by the turning over of the two plaques to Gov. Pacoy by DILG Provincial Director Reggie R. Colisao. The PGLU has been a consistent awardee since the start of ADAC Awards in 2017.

The PGLU also takes pride as some municipalities in the province were likewise given the same recognition. Municipalities of Luna, Sudipen, Burgos, Rosario, Bacnotan, Santol, Caba, Balaoan, Bagulin, San Juan and Santo Tomas passed the ADAC assessment for 2019 while Municipalities of Agoo, Bacnotan, Balaoan, Bangar, Burgos, Caba, Luna, Naguilian, San Juan, Santol and Tubao passed for 2020.

ADAC Awards are given to the LGUs in recognition of their exemplary efforts in the performance of their duties, responsibilities, supervision, and control in implementing the national government's anti-illegal drug campaign.

The PGLU will continue in improving its performance and best practices as well as assessing the effectiveness of the ordinances in its battle against illegal drugs ensuring to all kapobinsaan that We Are La Union, and we shall continue to move forward in building a Stronger La Union, a province worth living in.



## LU YOUTH FARMERS DOMINATE YOUNG FARMERS CHALLENGE

Sangguniang Panlalawigan

The Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) has recognized three young farmers who topped the provincial search for Young Farmers Challenge Fund: Kabataang Agribiz Competitive Grant Assistance Program. They are Mr. Antonio B. Fontanilla, Jr., Ms. Veberly T. Jubilo and Mr. Frederick M. Uyaan.

The competition began on May 2021 with around 2,000 applicants. These young farmers, with the strong support of their respective families, submitted their enterprises to the Department of Agriculture and after a rigorous application process were hailed as Regional Winners and thus represented Region 1 in the national level. These young farmers received cash prizes amounting to Php 50,000.00 each for a start-up capital on their respective enterprises.

The nation-wide search on Young Farmers Challenge was designed to encourage Filipino youth to engage in agriculture and agri-fishery and aims to develop and inspire young adults to venture in farming business while providing more opportunities to earn and improve leadership skills and competence in running farm-based enterprise.

The said competition is a competitive financial grant assistance program open to all interested youth who want to venture in agri-fishery-based enterprises. In the challenge, the participants submitted their agri-business model canvas which focused

on innovative micro to small scale agribusiness ideas with profitable potential.

Mr. Antonio B. Fontanilla, Jr., who is from Barangay Bugbucao, San Juan, La Union is the owner and the manager of ABF Integrated Farm that propagates and produces organic farm fruits and vegetables. Meanwhile, Ms. Veberly T. Jubilo and Mr. Frederick M. Uyaan are from Barangay Tallipugo, Balaoan, La Union. They are co-owners and managers of La Sierra Mushroom Farm that produces organic mushrooms and other products. The success and achievements of these young farmers are essential in moving closer to

achieve the vision of the province to be "The Heart of AgriTourism in Northern Luzon by 2025."

Mr. Antonio B. Fontanilla together with Mr. Frederick M. Uyaan and Ms. Veberly T. Jubilo, represented Region 1 in the first National Young Farmer's Summit, wherein, the enterprise of Mr. Frederick Uyaan and Ms. Veberly T. Jubilo was among the Top 15 finalists and received Php 150,000.00 as cash grant. The PGLU is beaming with pride and honor to the achievements of these young farmers of today's generation who will surely help in positioning La Union as the Heart of Agri-Tourism in Northern Luzon by 2025.



## PDRMO CONTINUES TO CAPACITATE FIRST RESPONDERS

Camille R. Bumatay, PIO

To further capacitate first responders in times of disaster and emergency, the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) through the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office conducted First Aid and Basic Life Support (FABLS) Training on February 16-18, 2022 in Santo Tomas, La Union.

A total of 43 participants from transport groups, Sangguniang Kabataan, and the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Member Agency has completed the training.

Among the FABLS discussions during the training were Shock, Soft Tissue Injuries, Burns, Bandaging Techniques for Bone,



Joint, Muscle Injury; Immobilization Techniques; Spine Board Management; Poisoning; Environmental Emergencies; Nose Bleeding; Patient Handling; Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation; and Foreign Body Obstruction Management. Hands-on application of the topics learned were also conducted for better recall.

While the PGLU ensures 24-hour availability and readiness of rescue and response through the 911 emergency hotline in the province, it also recognizes the crucial role of first responders who are more likely available in the area. Thus, trainings such as these are essential in building resilience in the province.

## BDH ROLLS OUT RESBAKUNA KIDS DRIVE

Venus F. Avecilla, GPC- BCDH

To achieve a majority of fully vaccinated Filipinos, Bacnotan District Hospital (BDH), headed by Dr. Zenserly D. Pagaduan, started its Pediatric Vaccination for kids aged 5-11 on February 16, 2022.

The vaccination area was turned into a children's party themed playground to entice the vaccinees. La Union Police Provincial Office Mascot, Police Lieutenant Diego, was also invited to grace the activity and lighten up the mood of the young vaccinees. A dance number was also presented by two bubbly BDH Manong Ambulance Drivers Hesus Linos Balingit and Ivan Kenneth Obillo.

The vaccination team of BDH inoculated 94 excited boys and



girls who were gifted with stuffed toys and loot bags. After getting their vaccines, they gladly posed for a picture. Department of Health representatives were also present during the event.

As requisite, the vaccinees were accompanied by their parents or guardians who were required to sign waivers and submit birth certificates.

With this vaccination roll out, the young vaccinees were provided protection against the deadly disease. Coupled with the continuous adherence to the minimum public health standards, we La Union is now gearing towards a safer community in hopes to achieve herd immunity.

## LU ARTISTS' SONG NOMINATED FOR 34TH AWIT AWARDS

Joy Ann L. Gurtiza, GPC-LUPTO

Distinct as being the only Iloko-Filipino song in the roster, Warner Music Philippines' "Agsardeng" (Iloko. to stop) co-composed by rising musician and artist Aby Esteban with piano instrumentation by Jan Danielle Gurion- both native of La Union, had been nominated at 34th Awit Awards - one of Philippine music industry's highest recognizing bodies.

Esteban, who was born in Bauang, La Union, and TJ Paelon who met during one of PhilPop Bootcamp back in 2019, co-penned the emotional song about anti-domestic violence on women during the onset of the pandemic in 2020. Interpreted by Miss Ramonne, a native of Ilocos Norte, the song clinched the nomination for "Best Performance by a Female Recording Artist," alongside with Star Music and Viva artists Regine Velasquez- Alcasid, Moira dela Torre, KZ Tandingan, Shaina Opimar and the eventual winner Keiko Necesario, from an initial list of 300 entries.

"Agsardeng," an empowering piece, spiced with rhyming witty lyrics in Filipino and Iloko, follows the story of a person who is stuck

in recurring abuse, and finally decides to emancipate from its trappings to start anew. "We wanted to write a socially relevant yet easily to understand pop song that could hopefully serve as a voice and inspiration to those who have survived and are still experiencing gender-based and domestic violence," Esteban mentioned during an interview with La Union Provincial Tourism Office - Culture and the Arts Unit.

The composers used Iloko and Filipino lyrics in an attempt to convey both the regional and global appeal of their entry, while catering to contemporary listening standards. Paelon added, "For us, it's all about bridging the gap between Filipino and Ilocano [languages] so everyone can appreciate this song and also appreciate the beauty of Iloko which makes up a very large portion of the North Luzon cluster."

On the other hand, record producer Shadiel Chan shared that they are very particular about melding northern native instruments with vintage-sounding synthesizers and electronic pop music elements to recreate their version of a modern lullaby for the overall sound of the song.

With the recognition, the collaborating team hopes to inspire new and young composers from North Luzon to continue improving and yielding their own creative and musical composition and production-be it with local language, Filipino or even English songs.

"Agsardeng" was officially released on November 6, 2020 on all digital and streaming platforms worldwide via PhilPop in partnership with Warner Music. Awit Awards is the Philippines' longest-running music award- giving body spearheaded by the Philippine Association of the Record Industry that recognizes Filipino performing artists and the people behind the making of Filipino recorded music. It is also considered Filipino pop music's counterpart of the Grammy Awards.



## LA UNION COMMEMORATES 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF GOMBURZA MARTYRDOM

La Union Provincial Tourism Office

The Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) and the Municipal Government of Burgos, La Union joined the nation in remembering the 150<sup>th</sup> martyrdom anniversary of Frs. Jose Burgos, Mariano Gomes, and Jacinto Zamora known as the GOMBURZA, through a wreath laying ceremony in front of Burgos Town Hall, on February 17, 2022.

Municipality of Burgos Mayor Robert B. Madarang, Jr. and Mr. Arthur S. Cortez, Jr., LUPTO Officer-in-Charge representing Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III offered the wreath in front of the monument of Fr. Burgos during a flag raising ceremony attended by municipal employees and officers of Burgos Police Station. With the theme, "GOMBURZA: Pamana ng Paglilingkod at Pag-aalay," Mayor Madarang emphasized the significance in commemorating the heroic sacrifice of Fr. Burgos from which the town was named after. Mr. Cortez underscored PGLU's commitment in the preservation of cultural and historical identity of the province towards a Stronger La Union.

Fr. Burgos, believed to be the most prominent among the three, was seen fulfilling the interests of the secular Filipino priests during the 19th century. Burgos' intelligence and influence are reflected in his studies and recognitions gained, finishing five degrees and two doctorates at a young age. GOMBURZA's martyrdom in 1872 cemented their legacy in Philippine history. The unfair trial they received awakened the Filipinos to abusive Spanish treatment, igniting a desire to be free from oppressions.



## VAXCERTPH CARAVAN PARA ITI KAPROBINSIAAN

Ma. Ashley A. Ebreo, GPC-ICTU

As part of the month-long celebration for the 172nd Foundation Anniversary of the Province La Union, The Office of the Provincial Governor – Information and Communications Technology Unit (OPG-ICTU) in partnership with the Department of Information and Communications Technology Luzon Cluster 1 La Union Office I kick-started the VaxCertPH Caravan for the residents of La Union during the Aldaw iti Kaprobinsiaan 2022 program on February 26, 2022 at the Mabanag Hall Parking Area, City of San Fernando, La Union.

VaxCertPH Caravan is a week-long distribution of Vaccination Certificate (VaxCert) that includes free printing of Vaccination Certificate to all vaccinated in the province, and counterchecking of problem in missing information



during retrieval of VaxCert.

The said caravan is one of the services that the residents can avail during the said program in return for their love and support to the Province La Union.

A total of 150 individuals were assisted in retrieving and printing their VaxCertPH, 108 walk-ins and 42 registered pick-ups.

VaxCertPH serves as the country's vaccine certificate system under the DICT and Department of Health. It aims to represent the certificate holder's vaccination status. Currently, the system covers only fully vaccinated individuals. Furthermore, the VaxCertPH Caravan will last until March 4, 2022 at the Robinsons Place, City of San Fernando, La Union.

## PGLU RECEIVES 2022 HERITAGE MONTH GRANT FROM NCCA

Joy Ann L. Gurtiza, GPC-LUPTO

Committed in preserving and promoting local culture and traditions, the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) welcomes 2022 with a funding grant from the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) as a result of the National Heritage Month (NHM) 2022 Call for Proposals Competitive Grants.

Through the initiative of the La Union Provincial Tourism Office-Culture and the Arts Unit, the project entitled "TAWID TAOID: La Union Heritage Month Programs" was approved by the NCCA Board of Commissioners with a counterpart fund amounting to Php 266,000.00.

Encompassing tangible and intangible heritage of the province, the TAWID TAOID initiative shall be a significant stride to the essential core of the PGLU strategy in support to its vision of becoming the "Heart of Agri-Tourism in Northern Luzon by 2025."

The project, which will be rolled out in May 2022, envisions to establish encompassing platforms

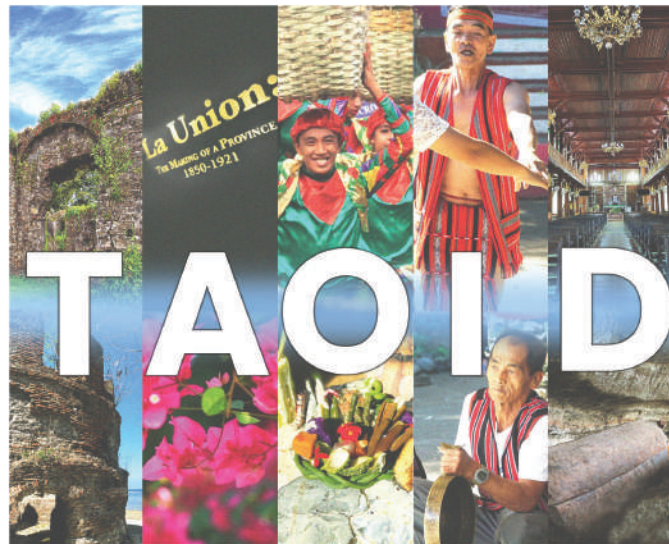
to support diverse and sustainable heritage-centered programs, projects and activities in the spirit of "Pamanang Lokal: Binhi ng Kulturang Pilipino" from 2022 and beyond. With the active involvement of the local

community and stakeholders, TAWID TAOID components include the crafting of local heritage conservation ordinance, installation of local heritage markers, conferment of Kalilibnosan (Iloko, the most

beautiful) Heritage Awards and conduct of La Union Annual Taoid Youth Camp.

NHM is celebrated every month of May by virtue of Presidential Proclamation No. 439 to highlight the importance of preserving and promoting local heritage within a community and its impact in shaping Philippine cultural identity. It also aims to encourage the Filipino nation in promoting and caring for their local heritage, help stakeholders identify distinct cultural resources of their community, and generate interest in programs relative to heritage conservation.

PGLU is one with NCCA in its vision in building "A Filipino people with strong sense of nationhood and deeper respect for cultural diversity." Through diverse culture and the arts PPAs this year, the PGLU shall be steadfast in sustaining and promoting local cultural properties, historical identity, and creative expressions, content and products towards a Stronger La Union, a province worth-living in.



## PGLU AWARDS ALMOST 11M-WORTH INCENTIVES TO LU VACCS DRIVERS

Camille R. Bumatay, PIO



10 local government units (LGUs) of La Union secured 1 Million-worth of programs, projects and activities and 50,000 worth of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) for their frontliners while a total of 60 kaprobinsiaan received a P5,000-worth of food packs as part of the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) Vaccination Incentives Program (VIP).

The PGLU VIP aims to increase the vaccination statistics in the province by incentivising LGUs with at least 80% of their target population inoculated until December 8, 2021. Aside from the LGUs, individual winners composed of 20 Senior Citizens, 20 from the General Public, and 20 from the 12-17 Age Group also won P5,000 worth of food packs.

LGUs receiving the 1 Million-worth of programs, projects and activities and 50,000 worth of PPEs are Agoo, Bacnotan, Balaoan, Bangar, Burgos, Caba, City of San Fernando, San Juan, Sudipen, and Tubao. They will be preparing projects proposals aligned with the Stronger La Union Strategy for the approval and funding of the PGLU.

Individual winners drawn from all vaccinated kaprobinsiaan who have received their first dose on or before December 8, 2021 have also started claiming their box of prizes. As of January 11, 2022, the province is at 77.02% to herd immunity for fully vaccinated and 90.75% for partially vaccinated.

With the collaboration of the PGLU and all component LGUs and the consistent participation of kaprobinsiaan and other stakeholders, herd immunity is within reach and we shall all together build a Stronger La Union, a province worth living in.

# LA UNION KICKS OFF 172ND FOUNDATION ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION; OPENS HEROES PARK MURAL ART

La Union Provincial Tourism Office

The Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) officially opens the celebration of the 172nd La Union Foundation Anniversary (LUFA) with the theme "LA UNION LA UNAY: Naggapu iti Ayat, Gapu iti Ayat" through a ribbon cutting ceremony officially inaugurating the Heroes Park Stairway Mural Painting on February 21, 2022 at the Heroes Park, Guerrero Road, City of San Fernando, La Union.

Graced by attending Sangguninang Panlalawigan board members, heads of offices led by Provincial Administrator Agnes Grace Cargamento, staff and project partners, the mural opening also celebrates the National Arts Month, as well as the 30th anniversary of PGLU's mural project partner – the United Architects of the Philippines (UAP) – La Union Chapter.

La Union Provincial Tourism Office Officer-in-Charge Arthur S. Cortez, Jr. narrated that the mural piece features the artistic representations of bougainvillea, beach waves, bamboo, Bauang grapes, virginia tobacco leaves, mountain ranges, and abel-inspired sunrise to celebrate the flourishing Agri-Tourism industry and cultural heritage of La Union as a province.

The piece is highlighted with the Baybayin of the word "bannuar," Iloko word for hero, befitting tribute for the monuments of nine local and national heroes in the park.

In a speech delivered by PA Cargamento, Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III conveyed his gratitude for stakeholders attending the momentous event in celebration of the 172nd LUFA. Gov. Pacoy further congratulated the efforts of the people behind the success of another remarkable development for the art and tourism sector in La Union.

Chapter President Arch. Michael Juganas underscored UAP-La Union's commitment to serve the community and help preserve and promote the rich heritage including structures and sites. Arch. Juganas also acknowledged the active partnership of Davies Philippines Paints, including the architecture students and graduates of Saint Louis College of San Fernando, La Union.

The PGLU continues its commitment for culture and arts to flourish in the province that is truly La Union La Unay.



## TIMEK CARTOONS

Illustrations by: William Garcia IV, GPC-OPAss



### EDITORIAL BOARD

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

SECRETARIAT  
 PROVINCIAL INFORMATION OFFICE  
 CAPITOL BUILDING, AGUILA RD., SAN FERNANDO CITY, LA UNION  
 (072) 888-2797 | (072) 242-5556 LOC. 269-272  
 INFO@LAUNION.GOV.PH | WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/LGULAUNION

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

VICE GOV. MARIO EDUARDO C. ORTEGA  
 VICE-CHAIRMAN

MEMBERS:  
 HON. FRANCISCO PASLO P. ORTEGA V  
 HON. JONATHAN JUSTO A. ORSOS  
 HON. GARY N. PINZON  
 HON. JENNIFER C. MACIELA  
 HON. GERARD C. ORTEGA  
 HON. NANCY CORAZON M. BACURANAY  
 HON. MA. ANABARELLA S. DE GUZMAN  
 HON. CHRISTIAN I. RIVERA  
 HON. FRANKIE O. SIBUMA  
 HON. ABRILIAN P. ROMANDO  
 HON. MARIA ROSARIO ESTROBENA P. SIBCE  
 HON. GERALDINE R. ORTEGA  
 HON. ALYSSA KRISTINE B. SIBUMA

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
 CAMILLE R. BUNATAY

EDITORS:  
 MAEVE N. ZAFRA | GERALDINE R. SALAZAR-LUCERO  
 SHARALINE B. GUERRERO | JOHN KEYSAR C. MARTIN

WRITERS:  
 GOVERNOR'S PRESS CORPS

LAYOUT AND DESIGN:  
 MARK ANTHONY F. FORTIENDA | JEROME F. MARZAN

PHOTOGRAPHY:  
 WENDELL B. TANGALIN | KEZADIE A. BUNAVENTURA  
 JEFFERSON Y. LORENZO | EDGAR C. BACANI

CIRCULATION:  
 EARL RYAN THOMAS P. SACUTAN | JOJI M. BUBAN | CHRISTIAN G. REBUTAN  
 JULIE ANN A. TEAÑO | ARLENE D. MODAG

EDITORIAL/TECHNICAL ADVISER:  
 AGNES GRACE A. CARGAMENTO | LEZA C. ESTRELLA

## PGLU-ENRO SPEARHEADS MANGROVE PLANTING IN CELEBRATION OF WORLD WETLANDS DAY

Grace Libong, GPC-ENRO

In support to the Kalikasan Naman campaign, the Provincial Government of La Union's forefront program on fostering ecological integrity, and clean and healthy environment, the Provincial Government-Environment and Natural Resources (PG-ENRO) strengthens its programs and initiatives on environmental advocacies through celebrating environmental events such as World Wetlands Day.

Celebrated annually every 2nd of February, this year's World Wetlands Day theme is "Wetlands Action for People and Nature" highlighting the importance of actions that ensure the conservation and sustainable management of wetlands and to raise global awareness about its vital role for people and the planet.

With this, the PG-ENRO headed by

Enp. Annalyn Rosario-Valddez in partnership with the Local Government Unit of Luna led by the designated Municipal Environmental and Natural Resources Alfonso Viernes together with the Barangay Council and Health Workers 4Ps and Pila Elementary School jointly conducted mangrove planting on Feb 2, 11, 18 and 25, 2022. 119 participants were able to plant 870 mangroves in the wetland area of Sitio Cabugbugan, Pila, Luna, La Union.

Wetlands are essential in providing water-related ecosystem services. They help purify water, provide shelter for juvenile fish and other animals, protect biodiversity and many more. Thus, PG-ENRO encourages every kaprobinsiaan to engage themselves in protecting wetlands in our province.



## PGLU AWARDS GREEN TOURISM COMPLIANCE SEAL TO 18 LU TOURISM ENTERPRISES

Joy Ann L. Gurtiza, GPC-LUPTO

To recognize the efforts and support of tourism stakeholders in enforcing and complying with the health standards and environment-friendly practices, the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) awarded the Bougainvillea Seal of Compliance to 18 tourism enterprises in La Union through the Green Tourism Enterprises program (GTEP).

The provincial flower bougainvillea symbolizes the amalgamation of tourism, environment, and identity, the compliance seal affirms that establishments observe minimum health standards set forth by the national and local government in order to gradually regain trust and confidence among tourists.

These establishments also possess the Department of Tourism (DOT) Accreditation Certificate and necessary permits. Valid for one year, the seal also speaks of the quality standard of stakeholders in their tourism operations and services. To monitor continuous regulatory compliance and utmost hospitality standards, a

yearly inspection shall be conducted or as often as necessary by the La Union Provincial Tourism Office (LUPTO) - Tourism Planning, Research and Information Management Section.

The validation team from LUPTO and Provincial Government - Environment and Natural Resources Office collaboratively conducted a two-day spot ocular inspection to assess the level of compliance of shortlisted establishments.

Kahuna Hotel Café and Restaurant in San Juan and San Luis Del Mar in Bauang, Agoo's Taihao Restaurant, and Ibit's Integrated Farm located in the City of San Fernando were recognized as Outstanding Green Tourism Enterprises. These establishments shall receive Health and Safety, and Environmental Protection Incentive Package worth Php 50,000.

Grouped into three categories namely Accommodation Establishment,

Food Establishment and Farm Tourism categories, compliance seal recipients were Agoo Swimmers World and Resort Corp., Del Carmen Bread and Breakfast, Infinity Garden Resort, Innerville Resort Hotel and Pavilion, Splash Town Waterpark and Resort, Ice Tea Rue Restaurant, Taihao Restaurant, La Sofia Grill and Restaurant and Sweets n' Sips located in Agoo; Maritoni Bali Suites and Villas, and San Luis del Mar in Bauang; Creesante Hostel, and Kahuna Beach Resort in San Juan; Carol R Apartments in Bacnotan; Ordono's Farm Resort in Balaoan; Villa Navarro Beach in Caba; Vlenice's Resort in Naguillian; and Ibit's Integrated Farm in the City of San Fernando as the only recipient for the Farm Tourism Category.

The PGLU believes that the resiliency and adaptiveness of all stakeholders on matters of public health and environmental protection are key drivers toward building a Stronger La Union and holistic recovery initiatives for the province's tourism industry.



## PDRMO UPSKILLS AGOO WATER RESPONDERS

Camille R. Bumatay, PIO



To ensure readiness in water-related emergencies at any time, the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRMO) conducted a five-day Basic Water Rescue with Watercraft Operations Training to 24 volunteers identified by the Local Government of Agoo on February 21-25, 2022 in Agoo, La Union.

To ensure and maintain a quality response of DRRM volunteers, participants were trained on First Aid and Basic Life Support; Incident Command System Introduction; Life Saving Techniques; Swimming Strokes; and Jetski Operations. Actual applications of their learning were done in scenario-based simulation activities where trainers gave rescue experience-based tips and techniques.

Through the training, the PDRMO was able to capacitate their

DRRM counterparts in the local government who are readily available in the vicinity in times of water-related emergencies while they await for rescue augmentation from the province if needed.

"Masaya kaming despite sa existence ng pandemic, natuloy na ulit ang ganitong trainings kung saan naibabahagi namin ang knowledge at skills namin sa kapwa naming emergency responders na nasa community. Kasi kahit pandemic, mayroon pa rin namang emergency situations lalo na sa dagat," shared one of the trainers Mr. Rafael Lim.

The Provincial Government of La Union is committed in ensuring a safe constituency by multiplying workforce through capacity building in the local communities. All these to attain a Disaster-Resilient Province by 2025.

# PGLU GIVES BACK TO KAPROBISIAAN THROUGH FREE SERVICES

As part of the 172nd Founding Anniversary of the Province of La Union, the Provincial Government has provided free services to the people through Aldaw iti Kaprobinsiaan on February 26, 2022 in Mabanag Grounds, City of San Fernando, La Union serving 675 total constituents.

Started in 2020, Aldaw iti Kaprobinsiaan is now one of the highlights of the annual foundation anniversary serving people in the province as giving back for their love and support to the Province.

Spearheaded by Provincial Offices, different services were offered such as Medical Consultation, Dental Services, CoViD-19 Vaccination, Legal Assistance, Real Property Assessment, Pet Consultation and Treatment, and Rabies Vaccination. Constituents were also given free

seeds and seedlings so they could grow trees and harvest their food.

The Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) has also partnered with some Regional-line Agencies to extend their services to the people. Department of Information and Communications Technology launched their VaxCert Printing

while Department of Tourism had their Mobile Accreditation for Tourism Establishments. Technical Education and Skills Development Authority pampered some constituents by giving free manicure, pedicure and haircut.

Information Drive on PGLU Programs and Services as well as

Tourism Promotions also happened in the activity. Attendees were given grocery packs as tokens of participation and support.

In his message, Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III congratulated the whole province for reaching another milestone. He also acknowledged all kaprobinsiaan for being part of the province's success, "Throughout the years, La Union has remained on top of its game – Governance, Economy, Tourism and People. This was made possible with your undying support and love."

This year's La Union Foundation Anniversary is a reminder of hope and unity as together we continue to move forward and reinvigorate our spirits as we recover from this pandemic.



# PGLU POWERS UP: JOINTLY CONDUCTED ANNUAL STRATEGY REVIEW, 2021 ELA UPDATE

Office of the Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator and Office of the Provincial Strategy

The Provincial Government of La Union conducted the Annual Strategy Review and 2021 Executive-Legislative Agenda (ELA) Updates with the theme "Power Up! Raise Your Game" on February 23-24, 2022 via Video Conferencing.

The two-day activity was packed with the presentation of the Province's Stronger La Union Strategy, updates on the ELA Accomplishments on the operational targets, Status of Legislations, and Sectoral and Stronger La Union Scorecard. Additionally, updates on the Strategic Communication Activities, milestones by the Multi-Sectoral Governance Council (MSGC) and Senior Transformative Leadership Team, and Governance Outreach projects and programs were also presented.

One of the highlights of this activity was the Governance Trailblazer Awards, which acknowledged the efforts of individuals and offices who have successfully documented and implemented their set targets in 2021.

The Office of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan (OSP) and the Provincial Information Office (PIO) were recognized as the overall Governance Trailblazer Awardees with at least 90% rating and emerged as top among offices under Brackets B and C, respectively.

A total of six PGLU Offices were recognized as Governance Achiever Awardees that reached at least 85% rating and this

includes Provincial Treasurer's Office (PTO), Information and Communication Technology Unit, Provincial Health Office (PHO), Provincial General Services Office (PGSO), PIO and OSP.

Also recognized were eight employees from the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist, Office of the Provincial Veterinarian, Office of the Provincial Assessor, PHO, PGSO, PTO, OSP and PIO as Best

Documenters. Mr. Jericho Paolo Zafra of the Office for the Provincial Strategy was also named as Best Mentor/Coach for 2021.

During the message of the Governance Champion, Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III, he congratulated all the Offices for their efforts in the implementation of various PPAs in 2021. He also recognized the relentless support of the CSOs and MSGC in the different undertakings of the Province. Gov. Ortega said that he is proud of what the PGLU has achieved. He likewise emphasized that all the presented accomplishments showed that the organization has matured coupled with everyone's faith to the journey to be the "Heart of Agri-Tourism in Northern Luzon by 2025."

Also present in the activity were Vice Gov. Mario Eduardo C. Ortega, members of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, Department Heads and key officials as well as development partners from the Civil Society Organizations and the MSGC.



# LA UNION DOCUMENTARY PARTICIPATES IN NCCA'S CINEMA REHIYON

Joy Ann L. Gurtiza, GPC-LUPTO

From over 200 submissions around the country, the documentary film "ARAPAAP (Dream): Pebble Pickers" produced by the Provincial Government of

La Union (PGLU) and Imatang Production was chosen as an official selection for the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) Cinema Rehiyon 14.

Directed by Kelvin C. Villanueva, ARAPAAP will be screened through online film screenings on Vimeo, and at selected physical venues from February 25 to March 31, 2022 as part of the Best of Regions Film Programming: Panlantanw, and the continuing celebration of the National Arts Month 2022.

The documentary set in the pebble beach communities of Luna, La Union presents the stories of three generations of pebble pickers and their circumstances in the midst of livelihood, sustainability and environmental concerns. Recipient of the Naisangangayan a Dokumentaryo (Outstanding Documentary), ARAPAAP was one of the five festival entries for last year's premier of PGLU's INAIG: Dokyu-Kalikasan Fest conducted by the La Union Provincial Tourism Office – Culture and the Arts Unit. The documentary also won Achievements in Script, Sound and Kalikasan Naman Advocacy in the same festival.

As a school-based film producer, Villanueva and his team are honored to represent La Union in the national cinema platform. They hope that this milestone would encourage local filmmakers to tell stories that matter and bring impact to the lives of their fellow Kaprobinsiaans and the rest of the country. "This achievement is also to honor those who make a positive impact in the film, music and performing arts locally. This festival has become a great venue for us filmmakers from the different regions to showcase our works," Villanueva said in an interview.

A flagship program of NCCA – National Committee on Cinema, Cinema Rehiyon carries the overall theme of the National Arts Month "Sining ng Pag-Asa" on its 14th year. The festival provides an opportunity for regional filmmakers—first-timers, veterans, amateurs, professionals to build networks and exhibit their films to a wider audience.

