



RDC-1 CHRONICLE

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Regional Development
Updates

RPMES Status

Reg'l News

Iloko
corner



Feature Stories

LGUs in
FOCUS

Inside Stories

THE CHRONICLE

The RDC Chronicle is published on a quarterly basis by RDC-1 which highlights government programs and projects, success stories, events and matters concerning the various sectors of development.

WHAT'S INSIDE

This issue focuses on report on the region's economic performance, status of project proposals and projects implemented, and news and feature stories from the RDC members particularly the local government units and line agencies.

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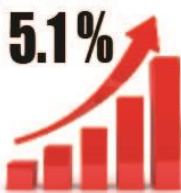


Snapshot of the Economy

The region's economy recorded an upbeat performance

Inflation

moved at a much faster pace



Alcoholic beverages and tobacco registered the highest inflation rate at 24.3% due to the imposition of higher excise tax on alcohol and tobacco products under the implementation of sin tax law.



4.7%

Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages



24.3%

Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco



1.7%

Clothing and footwear



7.2%

Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels



1.9%

Furnishing, Household Equipment and Routine Maintenance of the House



2.9%

Health



7.1%

Transport



0.2%

Communication



0.8%

Recreation and Culture



1.9%

Education



3.0%

Restaurant and Miscellaneous Goods and Services

Employment Status

Employment up, Unemployment down in Q2 2018 compared to Q2 2017

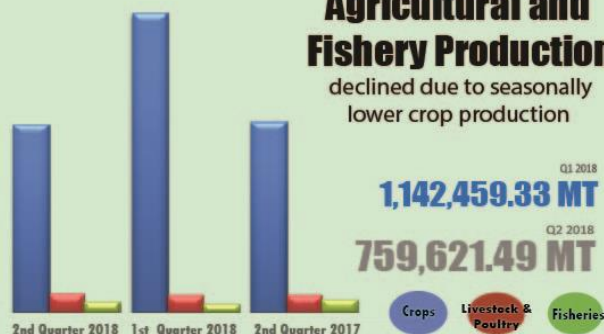


92.7%

Employment situation in the region is improving, recording higher employment rate (92.7%) and lower unemployment rate (7.3%) compared to employment figures during the same period last year.

Agricultural and Fishery Production

declined due to seasonally lower crop production



Investment

declined

The Top 3 Investments in Leading Industries



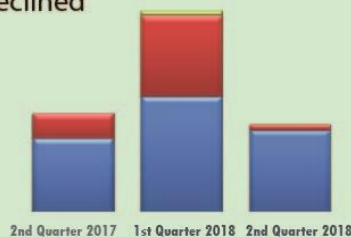
Agri-based
PhP 58.2 million



Food Processing
PhP 26.0 million



Furniture and wood products
PhP 10.6 million



Export

dropped to
US\$ 6.14 million



Among the provinces, the value of exports was highest in **La Union** for the period at **US\$ 5.86 million**. These were all agri-products.

Mineral Production

notably higher

Sand & Gravel Higher production

was due to the various road projects in the region.



Mineral Products
of the Iloos Region

The production for Limestone, Shale, Bentonite, Sand & Gravel, and Cement were **higher** compared to their previous quarter levels.

Power Consumption

increased

750.13 million kWh

recorded in Region 1. All provinces registered higher power consumption.



Pangasinan continued to share more than half of the region's total power consumption (**57%**) during the period

RDC-1 endorses 151 road projects for 2019 funding under the Convergence Programs

The Regional Development Council-1 endorsed a total of 151 major road projects for 2019 funding to the Secretaries of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Tourism (DOT) and Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) through Resolution Nos. 44 and 45 Series of 2018 in its meeting last June 27, 2018 at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Convention Hall in San Fernando City, La Union.

Eighty-six projects are under the DOT-DPWH Convergence Program or the Tourism Road Infrastructure Program (TRIP) while 65 of these projects are under the DTI-DPWH Convergence Program or the Roads Levering Linkages for Industry and Trade (ROLL IT).

The DOT-DPWH Convergence Program is in line with Section 34 of the Tourism Act of 2009 (RA 9593) where the Department of Tourism is tasked to coordinate with the Department of Public Works and Highways and the Department of Transportation in the establishment of a tourism infrastructure program in the respective work programs of said agencies in accordance with the National Tourism Development Plan (NTDP) and local government initiatives. The DTI-DPWH Convergence Program on the other hand, is envisioned to further fuel the recent high growth of domestic investments as well as the surge in foreign direct investments, through more road projects funded within the Duterte Administration.

Since 2012, there are 418 road projects endorsed by RDC-1 for funding: 353 under the DOT-DPWH Convergence Program and 65 under the DTI-DPWH Convergence Program.

Convergence Program	No. of RDC-Endorsed Projects			
	2012*	2013-2017	2018**	Total
DOT-DPWH	16	251	86	353
Ilocos Norte		74	29	103
Ilocos Sur		30	15	45
La Union		53	22	75
Pangasinan		94	20	114
DTI-DPWH	-	-	65	65
Ilocos Norte	-	-	13	13
Ilocos Sur	-	-	25	25
La Union	-	-	10	10
Pangasinan	-	-	17	17

*No data on provincial disaggregation

**Approved and endorsed for 2019 by RDC-1 last June 27, 2018

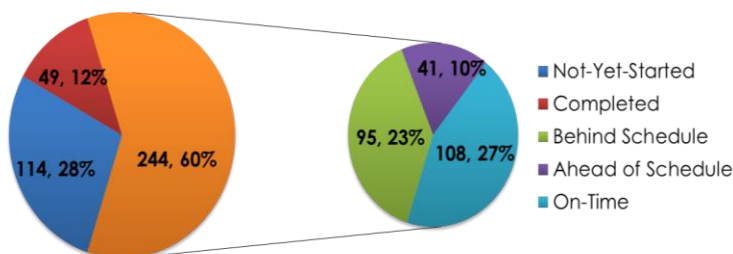
As of August 31, 2018, 15 projects have been completed and 50 projects are currently being implemented under the DOT-DPWH Convergence Program. No projects were endorsed by the RDC under the DTI-DPWH Convergence Program for the past years since the Memorandum of Agreement between the agencies was only signed in 2016.

**By: Project Development, Investment
Programming, and Budgeting Division ,
NEDA RO1**

Project Status based on RPMES

OVERALL PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

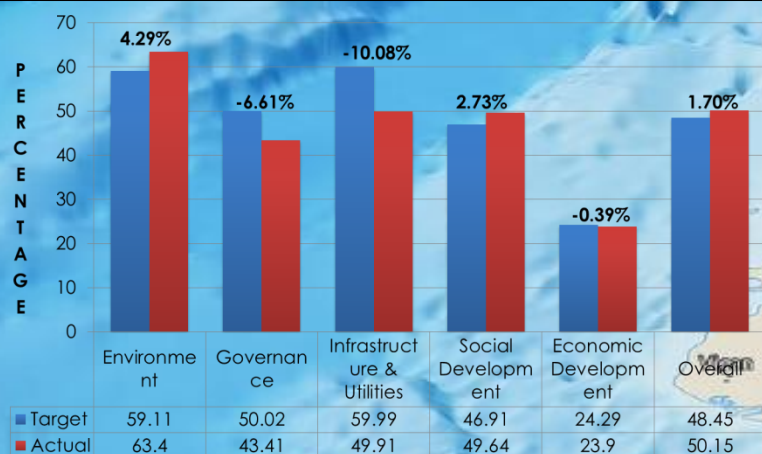
TOTAL NUMBER OF PROJECTS = 407



A total of 407 projects was enrolled in the Regional Project Monitoring and Evaluation System (RPMES) Monitoring Plan by 26 implementing agencies - 16 RLAs, 4 SCUs, 3 PLGUs, 2 GOCCs and 1 hospital.

At the end of the 2nd quarter, 49 or 12.04 percent of the total number of projects had been completed and 114 or 28 percent are yet to be implemented in the succeeding quarters. The other 244 projects or around 60 percent were in various stages of completion. One hundred eight (108) projects were within schedule, 41 were ahead of schedule and 95 were behind schedule.

PHYSICAL ACCOMPLISHMENT BY SECTOR (%)



Overall, the region's project physical accomplishment was 50.15 percent surpassing the 2nd quarter target of 48.45 percent by 1.70 percentage points. Across sectors, the Environment sector showed the highest physical accomplishment of 63.4 percent or 4.29 percent higher with the economic sector reporting the lowest at 23.90 percent.

Out of the programmed amount of P8.053 billion, releases totaled P3.804 billion for a funding support of a little more than 47 percent. Expenditures, on the other hand, totaled P3.502 billion, accounting for an expenditure rate of more than 92 percent. While the Governance sector posted a 100 percent expenditure rate, the Economic Development Sector had the lowest at 64.8 percent.

A total of 110,749 persons were employed during the period. The Infrastructure sector contributed the biggest share with more than 96 percent.

Sector	Programmed Amount (P M)	Q2 Re-releases (P M)	Funding Support (%)	Total Expenditure (P M)	Expenditure Rate (%)
Environment	247.91	142.39	57.44	140.88	98.94
Governance	1.38	0.203	37.04	0.203	100
Infrastructure	2,536.10	1,458.07	57.49	1,284.56	88.10
Social Dev	4,218.35	1,902.94	45.11	1,881.59	98.88
Economic	1,050.23	301.04	28.66	195.07	64.8
OVERALL	8,053.97	3,804.643	47.24	3,502.303	92.05

Sector	Employment Generated
Environment	2,410
Governance	-
Infrastructure	106,812
Social Dev	256
Economic Dev	1,271
OVERALL	110,749

By: Project Monitoring and
Evaluation Division, NEDA RO1

REGIONAL PROJECT VISITS



The Regional Project Monitoring Committee (RPMC) Secretariat conducts project field inspection on the Improvement of Naguilian-San Fernando Road (Naguilian Section) project implemented by the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU). The road project spans 1.07 kilometers, costing P30 million, funded under RA 7171.



Start of road project in Naguilian, La Union area commonly known as Honeymoon Road.

Project Title: Improvement of Naguilian-San Fernando, PGLU
 Short Description: Portland Cement Concrete Pavement (PCCP) road improvement.
 Length: 1.07 km
 Carriageway Width: 6.1 m
 Road thickness: 9".
 Project Cost: P 30 million
 Project Status: 70 percent completed (as of August 29, 2018)
 Est. Date of Comp: Fourth Quarter of 2018
 Date of Inspection: August 17, 2018
 Monitoring Team: Engr. Jeremiah Chor Miranda, Ms. Maria Veronica Eslao, Mr. Chester Erestingcol



Start of road project. Ongoing earth-filling of fish pens traversed by the road project.



End of road project and adjoining start of Phase IV. Ongoing earth-filling of fish pens traversed by the road project.

Project Title: Construction of Bypass and Diversion Roads – Lingayen Bypass Road Phase I and III incl. ROW, DPWH
 Location: Lingayen, Pangasinan
 Short Description: Portland Cement Concrete Pavement (PCCP) road opening
 Length: 0.9453 km (Phase I); 0.9897 km (Phase III)
 Four-lane road
 Average height of embankment: 3m
 Project Cost: P 185 million
 Project Status: 37.26 percent as of August 15, 2018 (Phase I), 30.32 percent as of August 15, 2018 (Phase III)
 Est. Date of Comp: November 16, 2018
 Date of Inspection: August 17, 2018
 Monitoring Team: Ms. Melanie C. Untalasco, Mr. Freynon N. Perez, Ms. Maria Veronica Eslao, Mr. Chester Erestingcol

By: Project Monitoring and Evaluation Division, NEDA RO1

NDRRMC holds '3rd Quarter NSED'

By: Francis Wakefield, Manila Bulletin

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) conducted the 3rd Quarter Nationwide Simultaneous Earthquake Drill (NSED) at the Plaza Burgos, Vigan City, Ilocos Sur last 16 August 2018.

The drill commenced at exactly 2 o'clock in the afternoon where hundred of residents along Plaza Burgos performed the duck, cover and hold as an initial response to a magnitude 7.2 earthquake generated along the Abra River Fault with intensity VIII. The scenario was derived from the PHILVOCS Earthquake Intensity Scale (PEIS).

According to the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) Public Affairs, various scenarios during the drill focused on the impacts of the earthquake on the Heritage Village of Vigan City.

Immediately, the emergency Operations Center of Public Safety and City DRRM Council, as well as the Incident Command Post of the Local Incident Management Tea, were established. Subsequently, the Emergency Response Cluster was activated to coordinate efforts related to the incident.

Rapid Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis Teams were also deployed to assess disaster-stricken communities, particularly at the Heritage Village. Search, rescue and retrieval operations, fire suppression, vehicle extrication, looting incident, collapsed structure and high angle rescue were among the other incidents depicted.

NDRRMC Executive Director and Civil Defense Administrator Usec Ricardo B Jalad graced the event as guest of honor and speaker. He, along with Ilocos Sur Governor Ryan Luis V Singson, Vigan City Mayor Juan Carlo Medina, Director Rodolfo Encabo, DSWD and Deputy Director Bartolome Bautista, DOST-PHIVOLCS joined in the pressing of the ceremonial button signaling the start of the exercise, simultaneous in all the regional pilot areas nationwide.

"It is better to be redundant in our preparations than being caught flat-footed, the lives of millions are literally at stake, and we should never leave it to chance. Let us make disaster-preparedness part of our consciousness and regular habits," Jalad said in his message.



PCC conducts roadshow in Region 1

By: John F. Gagucas

To mainstream National Competition Law and Policy, the Philippine Competition Commission (PCC) in partnership with NEDA, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the City Government of San Fernando (SFC), La Union, conducted a roadshow on Philippine Competition Act (PCA) for local stakeholders at Kahuna Hotel, San Juan, La Union on 30 August 2018.

The PCA serves as the primary competition law in the Philippines for promoting and protecting competitive markets. The enactment of the PCA and the creation of the PCC, aims to promote economic efficiency and ensure fair and healthy market competition where everyone across the country can contribute to and benefit from economic developments.

“One of our top priorities in the city is supporting our local entrepreneurs not only showcasing their skills and culture but giving them the opportunity to grow through business without leaving the comforts of their homes,” said SFC Mayor Herminigildo Gualberto as he welcomed participants during the roadshow.

During the event, the PCC which is a newly constituted independent quasi-judicial body mandated to implement the national competition policy, presented the Philippine Competition Landscape that covers the Republic Act 10677, about PCA and PCC, benefits of competition, PCA prohibitions such as anti-competitive agreements, abuse of dominant position, and anti-competitive mergers and acquisitions. Prior to that, NEDA Director Nestor G. Rillon also presented the Chapter 16 component of the Regional Development Plan 2017-2022 on Leveling the playing field through a National Competition Policy.

An open forum was also done to better understand the PCA and address various issues on the subject matter which were substantially addressed. Although there were some information which were not disclosed to public especially those undergoing investigations. The



Dr. Benjamin E. Radoc, Jr., Director IV, Economics Office-PCC (2nd from the right) and Mayor Hermenegildo A. Gualberto of San Fernando City, led the ribbon-cutting for the PCC Exhibit. Also included are Dir. Nestor G. Rillon, NEDA-RO1 (rightmost), Dir. Jennilyn C. Role of PIA, ARD Daria R. Mingaracal of DTI RO1, City Administrator Ernesto V. Datuin of SFC and ARD Donald James Gawe of NEDA.

PCA encouraged the public to report to them malicious activities that violate competition policies.

ARD Daria R. Mingaracal of DTI closed the activity by urging everyone to support the PCA and to take part in building strong and competitive markets not just in Region 1 but in the whole country.

Participants to the roadshow include RLAs, private sector representatives, from the business sector and civil society organizations, academe, professional organizations, LGUs, media and other stakeholders.

An exhibit was also unveiled at the 2nd floor lobby of the City Hall of San Fernando City, La Union.

RDC-1 and HORs in Region 1, strengthen partnership thru a development dialogue

The Regional Development Council-1 and the members of the House of Representatives (HORs) in the region conducted a development dialogue at the Provincial Government of La Union on August 31, 2018 with RDC-1 Chairperson Juan Carlo S. Medina of Vigan City as presiding officer, in aim to further strengthen partnership that advances development efforts in Region 1.

Hon. Vini Nola Ortega of the Abono Partylist as Lead Convenor during the meeting emphasized the vital role of HORs, the Council and the various institutions in providing equal opportunities for growth and development of the region's constituents. "God has given each of you a gift from His great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another", she quoted as she urged everyone to capitalize on the rare occasion and to spark change for the people.

The dialogue commenced with the discussion on actions taken during the 2017 Advisory Committee held at Batasang Pambansa. Medina noted that the concerns raised during that time were acted upon.

During the dialogue, RDC Vice-Chairperson and NEDA Director, Nestor G. Rillon presented the snapshot of the region's economic performance, status of major on-going projects in 2018, the major programs and projects for 2018-2019 by geographic location and by sector, and the major resolutions approved and endorsed by RDC-1 in 2018. He said that the region's development efforts are embodied in the Regional Development Plan 2017-2022, to which the HOR play a crucial role in pushing for the implementation of strategic programs and legislative agenda included in the plan.

Furthermore, the proposed programs and projects of agencies that passed through the Regional Budget Consultation are forwarded to their



respective agency central offices where the HOR can look into, to further align their priorities with that of the region's thrusts. He also said that the Regional Development Budget Coordinating Committee (RDBCC) of the RDC-1 is exploring the possibility of increasing the number of entities which they can cover during the budget consultation.

Other concerns during the undertaking include project status, housing issues, cooperatives role in regional development, free irrigation law, and land conversions which were substantially addressed in the dialogue.

ARD Donald James Gawew, RDC Secretary and NEDA Assistant Regional Director commended the conduct of the activity and stressed that the dialogue was a perfect venue for coordination and communication since legislative and executive exchanges were done. Likewise, he said that it is an opportunity to raise legislative measures that the RDC-1 would want to push for possible sponsorship of the HORs. On the same manner, the HORs can update RDC members of their development programs where RDC can provide an even broader support with the rest of RDCs nationwide.

On the part of HORs, six (6) out of the 12 legislative districts and two (2) out of the five(5) Party List Representatives were represented while RDC-1 Executive Committee composed of the heads of the Sectoral Committees and private sector representatives attended on behalf of the RDC-1.

By: John F. Gagucas

By: Esperanza C. Tinaza, DPWH



DPWH Region 1 Top Performer in Absorptive Capacity

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Region 1 is the top performer in Absorptive Capacity (AC) with 91.76% AC as of July 31, 2018. This was learned during the Regional Director's meeting in Region VIII at Summit Hotel, Tacloban City where DPWH top performers implementing offices with 73% & above target AC were recognized by DPWH Secretary Mark A. Villar. For 2018, Region 1 has been topping the rank since January except for the month of February.

Absorptive capacity (obligation versus allotment) is measured by the ability to obligate the allotments received from DPWH Central Office and Department of Budget and Management. The measurement of Absorptive Capacity is in compliance to President Rodrigo Duterte's instruction for full implementation and full utilization of government budget. DPWH Region IV-A is ranked second with 89.58% AC, comes next is DPWH Region II with 87.57% AC, ranked 4th is DPWH Cordillera Administrative Region with 86.85%, ranked 5th is DPWH Region VI with 85.51%, ranked 6th DPWH Region XIII with 84.98%, ranked 7th DPWH Region XI with 84.36% ;ranked 8th is DPWH IV-B with 83.37%, ranked 9th is Region III with 81.16% , ranked 10th is DPWH Region VII with 81.03%, ranked 11th DPWH Region VIII, ranked 12th is DPWH Region X with 80.57%, ranked 13th is Region XII with 79.06%, ranked 14th is DPWH Region V with 78.77%.



Two Pangasinan inventions featured at 2018 NSTW

Two inventors from Pangasinan proudly showed off their inventions during the weeklong celebration of the 2018 National Science and Technology Week from July 17-21, 2018 at the World Trade Center, Pasay City, Metro Manila.

Dr. Catalina C. Platon, a former Professor of the Pangasinan State University (PSU)-Bayambang Campus and the present Director of Intellectual Property Research Utilization of PSU-Lingayen exhibited her Instructional Multiple Binaural Acoustic Stethoscope (IMBAS). IMBAS is a stethoscope composed of three binaurals which can be used by three persons simultaneously during medical assessments.

Dr. Platon explained that the instructional device will contribute much for easier teaching and learning for both students and teachers, and eventually lessen time and effort during assessment period.

Meanwhile, the Tendo Mathematical Game Device of Mr. Booby F. Cabe from San Fabian, Pangasinan wowed exhibit viewers. The Tendo is a combination of basic operation of numbers from 0 to 9.



This requires the players to set an answer or Result Number, and locate all the equations whose answer falls to the players' Result Number by connecting the numbers and operations in the 5x5 dices.

The two inventions were exhibited at the Science and Technology Innovation (STI) at Home during the 5-day NSTW celebration and gathered positive feedbacks and appreciation from the viewers.

The inventors are optimistic in pushing for the commercialization of the technologies in order to benefit its target users.

By: Florde Liza L. Alida, DOST
RO1



DA-R01 successfully launches Corporate Plan



Proving once more as the Department of Agriculture top performing region and sustaining its vision as prime-mover in the development of the agriculture sector, the DA-Ilocos Region launched its Corporate Plan at the DA Regional Field Office 1 (DA-RFO1) Roofdeck, Sevilla, San Fernando City, La Union in August 2018.

DA-RFU 1 is the first DA regional field office in the country to craft its own corporate plan.

With the theme, ***“A Big Leap to the Future: DA Ilocos Region in the next five years,”*** the creation of the Corporate Plan is a reflection of the DA-RFO whole system’s aspiration of what to achieve in the next five years, how to do it in tandem with its partners in agricultural development, all for the benefit of the entire agriculture sector.

Some of the Regional Line Agencies, Regional Management Council, Local Government Unit partners in agriculture programs implementation, SUCs, Civil Society Organization and private sector representatives, joined the DA-RFO 1 Family in the launching of the Corporate Plan. This is a prelude to the goal of the DA Ilocos to become ISO 9001:2015 certified.

In his message during the launching program, Dir. Lucrecio Alviar, Jr., who happens to celebrate his first year anniversary with the DA-RFO 1 as Regional Executive Director, stressed his grateful appreciation to the men and women of DA Ilocos

for giving their full support in his leadership which led the agency to become the top-performing DA regional office among the 16 regional offices nationwide.

He likewise enjoined everyone present in the event to help execute the plan, “Because no matter how good the plan is, if it will not be properly executed, it is useless,” Alviar said.

Regional Technical Directors Erlinda Manipon and Orlando Lorenzana shared the same thoughts of how the Corporate Plan will serve as an integral guide for DA-RFO 1 to be more effective, efficient and relevant service-provider to the agri-stakeholders in the region.

Impressed with the initiative of the DA-RFO 1, PhilRice Batac-Branch Manager, Reynaldo Castro, National Economic and Development Authority Regional Director Nestor Rillon, Ilocos Norte Provincial Agriculturist Norma Lagmay, Ilocos Sur Polytechnic State College representative, Mr. Armando Diga, Integrated Laboratories Division Chief, Ms. Consuelo Belarmino and Regional Agriculture and Fishery Council Chairman Mr. Vincent Adorna expressed their congratulations to the DA-RFO 1 through their impressions made during the event. They lauded the leadership of Dir. Alviar for giving inspiration and a unified direction to all the key players of the agri-sector in the region.

Meanwhile, as part of the launching program, DA awarded Mr. El Tubon and Mr. Richard Regacho, staff of the Regional Agriculture Engineering Division and the Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Division respectively, as winners of the DA-Corporate Hymn and Logo Contest. Mr. Tubon and Mr. Regacho received from DA a certificate of recognition and a cash prize of P50,000.00 and P10,000.00, respectively. As winners, Mr. Tubon’s composition is now adopted as the DA Ilocos Hymn to be sang during the flag raising ceremonies while the Corporate logo designed by Mr. Regacho shall be used in all the DA-RFO1’s information and communication materials which will provide a unique identity for the DA Ilocos Region.

By: DA Regional Office 1

DOT urges IN farms to join agri-tourism industry

In support of the government's rural economic development plan, the Department of Tourism (DOT) has partnered with the Ilocos Norte Travel Agencies Association (INTAA) to encourage farm owners to venture into agri-tourism business thru a workshop held at Northview Hotel, Laoag City last July 2018.

Trixie Ablan, spokesperson of the INTAA said that they plan to upgrade the tourism packages offered in IN so it would include DOT-accredited farm sites.

Farm owners and tour operators in the province are gearing up to strengthen agri-tourism industry following the conduct of a 3-day seminar workshop dubbed as, "Ilocanos to Farm Tourism," attended by 32 farm owners from the province.

"There are so many farms in the province, such as in Dingras, Burgos and Adams. We intend to promote these local farms as additional itinerary to our Laoag-Vigan tourism package," said Ablan, as she reported that the new tour packages will be in close coordination with farm owners ready to join the tourism business.

"A farm before was just ordinary but now, we are grateful that we are exposed to a seminar like this. We learned a lot on how to promote our products, especially now that we have begun processing our fruits into wine, and dried mangoes," said Ricardo Tolentino who manages 10 mango plantations located in various parts of the province.

After the seminar-workshop, Tolentino said he plans to add tourism amenities, such as visitors' function hall and comfort rooms to three of his mango farms in Barangays Barit and Dungal in Laoag and in neighboring Vintar town.

The Tolentino farm features an integrated farming system, offering sweet mangoes during the fruit season and some value-adding products, such as mango wine and dried mangoes.

Also, Ron and Aurora Cook, owners of an animal farm in Santa Maria Village, Laoag City, said they gained a lot of valuable information on how to get into the business.



The seminar topics include an introduction to farm tourism in the Philippines, getting ready for tourist arrivals, maximizing government support, marketing of farm tourism enterprise, sustainability in tourism development, manpower management, tourism services management, farm safety, climate-smart agriculture, inclusive business and community-based tourism, financing a farm tourism enterprise, tour packaging and pricing.

Evangeline Dadat, Supervising Tourism Office of DOT Region 1 expressed hope that more farm owners would be able to enter the tourism industry as she assured them that the DOT is always ready to assist.

She added that farm tourism sites need to be accredited by the DOT to further strengthen their business in terms of promotions, marketing and training for free.

Keneth de Gracia, Tourism and Training Director of the Costales Nature Farms in Laguna, shared several tips on how to turn farm sites into a must-go place for local and foreign tourists.

"North Luzon has a big potential for farm tourism, considering the high number of tourist arrivals. The market is already there," de Gracia said, adding that tour operators can help owners market their farms as tourist destinations. **(PNA)**



Vigan City, 1 other town in Ilocos Sur get **CROWN** award



The City of Vigan and Santa in Ilocos Sur received the highest national award on nutrition program implementation, being the Consistent Regional Outstanding Winner on Nutrition (CROWN) for the city and municipal category, respectively.

As CROWN awardee, both Vigan City and Santa received a cash prize amounting to P500,000.00 and a trophy during the awarding rites held at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) in Manila on July 3, 2018.

During the Regional Gawad Parangal ng Nutrisyon 2018 held at the Vigan Convention Center, the National Nutrition Council (NNC) officials led by Deputy Executive Director Azucena M. Dayanghirang also awarded the two LGUs the green banner award and a trophy for being the regional outstanding nutrition program implementer for calendar year 2017.

Region 1 NNC Coordinator Eileen B. Blanco said Vigan City and Santa received the CROWN award after they won the regional green banner award for three consecutive years from 2015 to 2017.

Vigan City Mayor Juan Carlo S. Medina expressed elation for being a recipient of the CROWN award for 2017. He assured the continuing all-out support of the city government on nutrition programs toward 'Healthy Bigueno for a Healthy

Heritage Community' and to achieve Nutrition Honor Award (NHA).

"Each year, Vigan City continues to innovate and improve its interventions to meet the health and nutrition needs of the Biguenos," he said.

"We continue to apply the 'womb to tomb' strategy across all ages to provide health and nutrition services pertinent to them, and we ensure the development of our children by providing access to the best nutrition services the city can provide," he added.

Among the continuing nutrition programs of Vigan to sustain the campaign against malnutrition are the following: Information Education Campaign (IEC) on 10 Kumainments, overweight and obesity prevention and management, the Pinggang Pinoy, personal hygiene and sanitation, fertility awareness, HIV-AIDS awareness, the launching of the Child First Project which has three components: women health drive that highlights 'an Egg a day, 120 supplemental feeding for pregnant teenage health drive; the launching of the Buntis Appreciation Day and the intensified breastfeeding promotion.

Medina said these nutrition programs and activities greatly contributed to the decrease in malnutrition incidence rate in the city from 16.6 percent in 2015 to 8 percent in 2017.

For Santa, which is a 4th class municipality, Mayor Jesus Bueno, Jr. said the nutrition programs and activities are incorporated in their SANTA SMILES, which means Sustainable Municipality where individuals live in a Livable Environment and Society; and the SANTA CARES.

Mayor Bueno said the full implementation of the nutrition programs in his town resulted in the decrease of stunting incidence rate among children from 5.37 percent in 2015 to 4.88 percent in 2017.

Global audience recognizes Agri-Tourism Strategy of La Union

By: Darlene Joy Acosta

The Agri-Tourism Strategy of the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) was discussed impressing participants of the Global Farm Tourism Summit 2018 (GFTS2018) on July 17 to 19, 2018 at Summit Ridge Hotel, Tagaytay City, Cavite.

Echoing the vision of Gov. Francisco Emmanuel “Pacoy” R. Ortega III, La Union Information and Tourism Officer, Mr. Adamor L. Dagang, shared how Gov. Pacoy involved stakeholders to actively participate the Agri-Tourism journey of the Province. He discussed the strategies employed and programs prioritized resulting to early gains and accomplishments.

Dr. Mina T. Gabor, President of the International School of Sustainable Tourism (ISST), invited Gov. Pacoy as Resource Person on the topic Empowering Local Government Units (LGUs) for Farm Tourism since La Union is recognized as one of the LGUs that is championing Farm Tourism in the country.

The Global Farm Tourism Summit 2018, a first-of-its-kind event in the country, is a two-day conference and one-day farm visit to International Institute of Rural Reconstruction Complex. It brought together world organizations, leaders, innovations, icons, researchers, entrepreneurs, agriculture, tourism and environment. Experts hailing from Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

countries shared new trends, techniques, and experiences in establishing and developing market tool, adaptation and resiliency plan, farm guide, and strategic plans.



LA UNION AT THE GLOBAL FARM TOURISM SUMMIT. Provincial Information and Tourism Officer, Mr. Adamor L. Dagang, shares the Agri-tourism journey of the Province of La Union as envisioned by Gov. Pacoy during the second day of the three-day Global Farm Tourism Summit held on July 17-19, 2018 at the Summit Ridge Hotel, Tagaytay City. Gov. Pacoy, was invited by the International School of Sustainable Tourism (ISST) President Dr. Mina T. Gabor as lecturer on Empowering Local Government Units for Farm Tourism being one of the LGUs that is championing Farm Tourism.

The three-day conference included lecture-discussions, panel and plenary sessions, open floor Q&A sessions and farm visit designed to provide a venue for participants to learn from internationally recognized leaders, specialists, icons and models in both agriculture and tourism.

GFTS aims to increase awareness on the benefits of adding a tourism component to farms, share best practices and success stories from local and international experts. The event was timely and significant to the continuing efforts of the Provincial Government of La Union in making La Union the Heart of Agri-Tourism in Northern Luzon by 2025.



La Union promotes **LOVE** for ILOKO at the 8th AYAT Festival

By: Omme Atiyah B. Gonting and Joy Ann L. Gurtiza



Sto. Tomas' Daing Festival dancers, perform their winning dance moves during the Streetdance Showdown as part of the Opening Program of the 8th Ayat Festival on August 13, 2018 at the Bacnotan Plaza Covered Court, Poblacion, Bacnotan, La Union. Team Daing successfully bagged the champ as they showcased Sto. Tomas' rich culture and history, with its iconic dried fish processing as the highlight of their performance. This is their second consecutive wins.

In preserving the language, culture and the arts of the Ilokano, the Province of La Union led by Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III staged the 8th Ayat Festival with theme, "Pabaknangen ti Kultura ken Lengguahe nga Ilokano (Enriching the Ilokano Language and Culture)" on August 2018. The festival featured six competitions, namely: Street Dancing; Ilokano Chorale; Iskrabiloko (Ilokano Scrabble); La Union Henio; Salip ti Deklamasion (Ilokano Declamation); and Ilokano Essay Writing.

The event kicked off with the Street Dancing Showdown in Bacnotan, La Union on August 13, 2018. Schools from seven municipalities and one city of the province competed. Participants showcased a reflection of their town's culture and traditions. Hailed as grand champion was Santo Tomas with their Daing Festival. Tailing behind were San Fernando City's Pindangan Festival and Caba's Timpuyog Festival as First Runner-up and Second Runner-up, respectively.

Also part of the opening day was the La Union Henio Version 2, a question and answer game of casually chosen Ilokano terminologies that include history, traditions and general information about the province. Winners in the elementary category

were Pugo as champion; and Bangar, Bacnotan and Sudipen as runners-up. In the high school category, garnering the championship was Bacnotan, while runners up were Santo Tomas, Santol and San Juan.

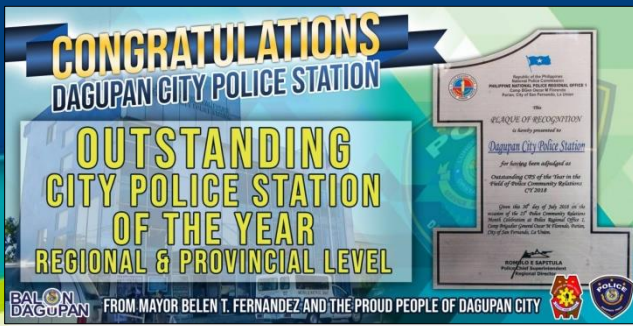
The Salip ti Deklamasion took place at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol Building, City of San Fernando, La Union on August 23, 2018. In the elementary category, the champion was Bagulin's Lynellah P. Bogais, and runners up were the speakers from Sudipen, San Gabriel, and San Fernando City. Topping the high school category was Sudipen's Favienne Angelie D. Sudario, while runners up were representatives from Bauang, Pugo and Bangar.

The Iskrabiloko took place at the Ortega Gymnasium, City of San Fernando, La Union. It is a scrabble game incorporated with Ilokano words to test the players' vocabulary skills. In the high school category, emerging as champion were the players from Aringay, and runners up were from Bangar, Santol, and Agoo. In the adult category, Bacnotan's players won as champion, and runners up were from Naguilian, Aringay, and Bagulin.

The Ilokano Essay Writing was held at the Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union on August 24, 2018. It was participated in by Grade 6 and Grade 10 students. For the Grade 6 category, Sudipen's Aizalyn F. Monis won as champion, while runners up were writers from Balaoan, Caba, and Agoo. For the Grade 10 category, Agoo's Mikaella Maglaya emerged as champion, while runners up were from San Gabriel, Bauang, and Burgos.

The Ilokano Chorale Competition on August 24, 2018 at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol Building, City of San Fernando, La Union showcased the singing prowess of 13 competing teams. Besting the teams were Sudipen, and runners up were Balaoan, Bauang, and Bacnotan.

The Ayat Festival is an annual celebration of the Iloko Language reflecting series of events celebrating and nurturing local language, culture and arts. This is in compliance with the the Local Language Code of La Union, also known as the Iloko Code, a comprehensive policy establishing Iloko as the official provincial language and institutionalizing its practice along with other national and official languages.



Dagupan PNP is Region and Province's Outstanding Police Station

By: Verdelle De Vera/CIO

The Dagupan City Police Station was adjudged as the region's and the province's Outstanding City Police Station of the year in the field of Police Community Relations during an awarding ceremony held at the Police Regional Office (PRO) 1 in San Fernando, La Union on July 30, 2018.

P/Supt. Jandale Sulit, chief of police of Dagupan, personally received the award during the ceremony.

The Dagupan City Police Station was among five awardees in the province.

These include national awardee Pangasinan Police Provincial Office as Outstanding PPO of the Year and individual regional awardees, namely: PSSUPT Ronald Lee, PD (Pangasinan PPO) as Outstanding Senior PCO of the Year; PCI Norman Florentino, PPCRO (Pangasinan PPO) as Outstanding Junior PCO of the Year; and SPO3 Reggie Fernandez, PCR PNCO (Alaminos CPS) as Outstanding PCR Senior PNCO of the Year.

The awarding, which aimed to recognize police stations and individuals in the field of Police Community Relations, was held during the 23rd celebration of the Police Community Relations Month.



Dagupan City is National Literacy Awardee

By: Verdelle De Vera/CIO

The city of Dagupan received another national award after being adjudged as one of the most outstanding local government units (LGUs) under the independent component city category in the field of literacy.

Mayor Belen T. Fernandez, Bryan Kua and Marcelino D. Fernandez, President and Vice President, respectively, of the Liga ng mga Barangay, received the award and cash incentive of P40,000 during the 2018 National Literacy Awards held at Hotel Supreme Convention Plaza in Baguio City on September 6, 2018.

Also present were the Department of Education (DepEd) Dagupan Schools Division Superintendent Dr. Lorna G. Bugayong, Chief Education Supervisor Venus Estonillo, City Social Welfare and Development (CSWD) Officer Leah Aquino, City Planning and Development Officer (CPDO) Josephine Corpuz and members of the local literacy council.

This is the first time Dagupan City was recognized with the National Literacy Awards after having been adjudged as regional awardee for the second time since 2016.

In her speech, Dr. Emelyn Libunao of the Philippine Information Agency (PIA) gave recognition to the local government's brand of unlimited service to its constituents when she presented the award.

"This is for the literacy initiatives that are unstoppable unliserbisyo – the literacy initiatives of Dagupan City," said Libunao.

Mayor Belen T. Fernandez said that the award will serve as an inspiration for the local government to continue working and providing opportunities for Dagupenos through the city's literacy programs.

Other outstanding LGUs awarded under the Independent Component City category include Naga City, Bayugan City, Panabo City and Santiago City.

Meanwhile, outstanding LGUs belonging to the 4th to 6th and 1st to 3rd class municipalities as well as highly urbanized cities were also awarded during the event.

Bayanihan works in Apang, Alilem, Ilocos Sur



Dubbed as “Bayanihan sa Apang”, various local and national sectors joined forces with the community volunteers in Apang, Alilem, Ilocos Sur during the construction of the suspension bridge, a sub-project of Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan - Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services or Kalahi-CIDSS of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Field Office 1.

Around sixty (60) participants simultaneously pulled the main cable steel wires across Bakun River, the site of the sub-project, in a display of “bayanihan” or unity and cooperation, a famous Filipino tradition.

The event is a brainchild of the community volunteers who suggested the use of physical labor in laying the main cable steel wires during a barangay assembly because of the presence of boulders along the river bank that made impossible for the use of heavy equipment.

The participants are Municipal Officials and Employees together with Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Justice (DOJ), Commission on Election (COMELEC) and the Philippine National Police (PNP).

Staff from other DSWD programs like the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (PPPP) and the Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) also took part in the said activity.

By: Ruperto A. Sabalo, Jr., Social Marketing Officer, Kalahi-CIDSS

Santa Maria, Ilocos Sur fisherfolks gain additional income through DSWD-SLP

With traditional technology and experience on sea urchin aquaculture and the availability of natural resources in the community, 15 Pantawid Pamilya beneficiaries of the Nalvoracay Pantawid Business Club sought intervention from the Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) of DSWD to improve their livelihood and increase their produce. They underwent a 5-day Skills Training on Sea Urchin Production and received cages and sea urchin fingerlings as starter kits.

As soon as they started operating, the group assigned rotating schedules for task management among members to distribute responsibilities such as feeding and harvesting since they also have other livelihood activities to attend to. The group can harvest an average of 7 kilos of urchins per day which is sold at PhP120.00 per kilo. They sell their harvest at the local market, other times the buyers personally go to their project site to buy.

Together with the other members of the Association, the Nalvoracay Pantawid Business Club will receive PhP400,000.00 Seed Capital Fund from SLP which will be utilized to expand their chosen enterprises on goat raising, fish vending, sari-sari store management, broiler production, and sea urchin culture. **By: Janine Joy B. Altero, Social Marketing Officer, Sustainable Livelihood Program**



LGU-P'snan eyes 4th SGLG Award

By: Mark Gerry Naval Oblanca

The provincial government of Pangasinan gained good remarks from validators sent by the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) for the 2018 Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG) national validation.

"Excellence on local governance is your way of life," said Local Government Monitoring and Evaluation Division Chief Dino Ponsaran of DILG-Regional Office VI during the SGLG national validation held at the Pangasinan Capitol Resort Hotel on August 23, 2018.

"If excellence in local governance is your way of life, what can hinder you from getting your 4th SGLG?," Ponsaran further said during the open formalities, held before he led the document review, and onsite visits of offices for the validation.

Gunning for the province's fourth SGLG award, Gov. Amado I. Espino III along with Provincial Administrator Nimrod S. Camba, led provincial government department heads in providing the SGLG validators proofs in compliance with the seven assessment area.

Since 2015 when the SGLG was launched by the DILG, Pangasinan has been a consistent passer, bagging the SGLG Award (2015, 2016 and 2017).

For 2018, the SGLG elevates the assessment criteria from '4+1' to 'ALL-IN'. With this, an LGU vying for the SGLG must pass all areas of: financial administration, disaster preparedness, social protection, peace and order, business-friendliness and competitiveness, environmental management, and tourism, culture and the arts.

Aside from these areas, an LGU has to demonstrate the positive results of its reform efforts, taking into account local leadership and the cohesive action of the entire workforce.

Governor Espino underscored the concerted efforts of the Capitol workforce – the rank and file



Governor Amado I. Espino III expresses hopes for the province of Pangasinan to bag its fourth SGLG award during the opening formalities of the national validation for the 2018 SGLG.

employees, department heads, and the provincial officials – in propelling the province's growth and development.

"We will continue the good work, not only for us, but for the next generations of Pangasinenses," said Espino, as he dedicated the roster of awards conferred to the province to every Pangasinense. Meanwhile, DILG provincial director Agnes De Leon hailed Pangasinan for being recognized as top implementer in the country of the Conditional Matching Grant to Provinces.

De Leon disclosed that even the DILG has been presenting the governance assessment report of Pangasinan as example during the presentation of the agency's flagship programs.

With Ponsaran and De Leon during the SGLG validation were Ildefonso Oranejo, and Aubrey Faraon, also from DILG (RO VI), and Hope Ordoño of DILG Regional Office 1.



First LGU-operated drug rehab center opens in Agoo

By: William June Garcia, TMT

AGOO, La Union: The country's first local government unit-operated drug rehabilitation center opened in La Union.

The out-patient rehabilitation center also includes Balay Silangan, satellite office and reformation center of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) near the rehab center, which will cater to the needs of drug users from La Union and nearby towns of Pangasinan.

It will be the first Reformation Center established in Northern Luzon to be used as a temporary shelter for drug dependents who surrendered to authorities and who are in the process of rehabilitation. Agoo Mayor Stefanie Eriguel and La Union Second District Representative Sandra Y. Eriguel initiated the project in cooperation with PDEA, the Department of Health and other agencies.

"Drug offenders here are given livelihood skills training, and various reformatory programs to prepare them to become renewed and productive citizens upon their reintegration into society," Rep. Eriguel said.

Gov. Francisco Emmanuel 'Pacoy' Ortega III, Undersecretary Jimmy Manabat of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Commission, who was represented by Director Ismael Fajardo, Jr., and Bryan Babang, PDEA Deputy Director for General Administration and PDEA Regional Director, attended the inauguration of the two facilities.



PGIN taps cultural agencies, DPWH to stop demolition of Spanish-era bridge

By: PGIN-CMO

The Provincial Government of Ilocos Norte (PGIN) has coordinated with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), National Museum, and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) to stop the demolition of *Puente de Barit*.

Social media has drawn attention to road development projects of the DPWH IN 1st Engineering District, which include the demolition and replacement of the Puente de Barit, a 200-year-old bridge built during the Spanish era.

However, Republic Act (RA) 10066, "An Act Providing for the Protection and Conservation of the National Cultural Heritage, Strengthening the NCCA and its Affiliated Cultural Agencies," mandates the protection of heritage structures.

"It's very unfortunate that incidents like this happen, especially in our province where culture and heritage are sources of livelihood for a lot of people. The bridge in Barit is an important heritage structure for the province," remarked Provincial



Photo credit: Mr. Bernard Joseph Guerrero

Tourism Officer, Mr. Aianree B. Raquel. The partial demolition of the bridge gathered different reaction from Ilocano netizens, which many calling for its preservation.

In the end, DPWH Secretary Mark Villar has already ordered DPWH IN to stop the demolition, while NCCA, NHCP, and National Museum will send experts to assess the damage and take proper action.

Panagreggaay ti daga mabalinen nga iballaag

By: Imelda C. Rivero, FGL/ICR, PIA- IS

Nagbettak ti daga iti Barangay Amguid, Candon City. Limned ti daga iti tengnga ti kataltalonan iti Sta. Lucia, Ilocos Sur. Adda pay insidente ti panagreggaay kadagiti sabali a lugar iti Ilocos Sur.

Napasamak dagitoy gapu ti isasangbay ti napigsa a tudo idi Agosto 11-16, 2018 a pinarnuay ti nepnep iti Luzon ken ti kaadda ti *low pressure area*, segun kenni Engr. Michael Chan, agdama a hepe ti Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (PDRPMC) iti Ilocos Sur.

Ngem mabalinen nga iballaag ti panagreggay ti daga babaen kadagiti instrumento wenno babaen kadagiti resulta ti panagsukisok dagiti eksperto.

Kinuna ni Dr. Dymphna Nolasco-Javier iti University of the Philippines Baguio nga adda dagiti wagas ken instrumento a mabalin nga usaren tapno maammuan no asidegen nga aggreggay ti turod wenno bantay.

"Maibilang ti *moisture sensor* ken ti *tilt sensor* kadagiti instrumento nga us-usaren dagiti pagilian a kas iti Italia a pangrikna ti kinadam-eg ti daga," kinuna ni Javier.

Ngem awan pay ti kastoy nga instrumento a maus-usar ditoy Pilipinas. Daytoy ti idaw-dawat dagiti lokal a sientista a maaddaan koma met ti Pilipinas tapno mapakadaan dagiti insidente ti panagreggaay. Aglalo ta nasurok a 20 a bagyo ti mailis-lista a sumangsangbay iti pagilian iti kada tawen. Dagitoy ngamin a bagyo ti mangpakaro ti panagdusodos wenno panagreggaay ti daga.

Malaksid kadagiti nadakamat nga instrumento, adu pay ti mabalin nga aramiden dagiti maseknan nga ahensia tapno maammuan dagiti lugar a dandanin aggreggay.

Segun ti resulta ti panagadal nga inaramid ti grupo ni Javier, adu ti maitulong dagiti agindeg ken amin a sektor ti komunidad tapno maliklikan ti pannakabiktima iti panagreggaay ti daga.

Mairaman ditoy ti kankanayon a panangdalus kadagiti pagtarayan ti danum; pannakasurot ti orihinal a pagnaan ti danum; panagmula ti kayo iti



bakras dagiti bantay, ken panangpasardeng ti panagminas.

Pinasingkedan met ti Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) ti Rehion 1 nga idauluan ni Socrates Gaerlan, Chief Geologist, a ti saan nga agsarday a panagtutudo gapu iti nepnep ti makaigapu ti panagreggaay ti daga iti Barangay Amguid, Candon City idi Agosto 16.

Kabayatanna, nangisayangkat pay ti grupo ni Javier ti maysa a panagsukisok tapno maammuan ti epekto ti kinaadu ti tudo iti panagreggaay iti Baguio City babaen iti *Rapid appraisal of rainfall threshold and selected landslides in Baguio, Philippines*.

Mabalin a tuladen dagiti opisina ti gobierno kas iti Ilocos Sur daytoy a panagsukisok tapno maadal dagiti lugar a mabalin nga aggreggay no tiempo ti tudtudo. Iti kasta masalluadan ti biag ken ti sanikua dagiti lumugar.

Basar pay ti resulta ti panagadal, saan laeng a dagiti natural a rason ti makagapu iti panagreggaay ngem ketdi gapu pay iti aramid ti tao a nakaibuisan ti ginasut a biag ken pannakapukaw ti riniriw a gatad ti sanikua.

Iti kultura ken ti kinapanglaw ti makagapu no apay nga adu ti pamilia a mabikbiktima gapu iti panagreggaay ti daga. Ta ngamin saan a kayat a panawan ti maysa a pamilia ti lugarda gapu ta natawid daytoy. Kinapanglaw met ti mangisungsung kadagiti dadduma a pamilia nga agipatakder ti pagtaenganda iti bakras ti turod wenno bantay gapu ta awan igatangda ti daga.

Kamaudianna, kinuna ni Javier a napateg a mapakaammuan dagiti umili ti kinatalged dagiti lugar a nakaipatakderan wenno pakaipatakderanto ti pagtaenganda basar kadagiti resulta ti panagadal dagiti eksperto tapno maliklikan ti panagbalin a biktima ti panagreggaay ti daga.