



RDC-1 CHRONICLE

AMBISYON
NATIN 2040

4th Quarter 2018 A publication of the **Regional Development Council, Region 1** Volume 29 Number 20

**The stories of success continue
in REGION 1**



**Tungo sa..
Matatag,
Maginhawa at
Panatag na Buhay
para sa LAHAT!**



THE CHRONICLE

The RDC Chronicle is published on a quarterly basis by RDC-1. It 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.

EDITORIAL BOARD

DIR. NESTOR G. RILLON
ARD DONALD JAMES GAWÉ
Consultants

DR. IRENEA B. UBUNGEN
Editor-in-Chief

JOHN F. GAGUCAS
*Issue and Managing Editor
and Lay-out Artist*


RACQUEL T. ATAWÉ
MARISSA GOROSPE
CAROLINE CASTRO
GIDEON D. NUESCA
Section Editors


CRISTINA CARINO
MYLA D. JUCAR
Circulation

RDC Members, LGUs, RLAs and Media - *Contributors*

CONTACT US

National Economic and Development Authority, Regional Office 1
Guerrero Road, San Fernando City La Union

 (072) 888-5501 * (072) 888-2679 *(072) 888-2680 * (072) 607-5266

 (072) 888-2708

 nedaregionaloffice1@gmail.com

 ilocos.neda.gov.ph



National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Regional Office 1
Policy Formulation and Planning Division (PFPD)

Snapshot of the Region's Economy

3rd Quarter CY 2018

Inflation

moved at a much faster pace

The region's inflation rate further accelerated to **7.1%** as prices of all major commodity groups went up except Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels; Furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house; Education; and Restaurant and miscellaneous goods and services.



Employment Status

improved



Agriculture & Fishery Production

decreased



Lower agriculture and fishery production in the region was recorded during the period at **311,275 MT.**

The region's lower production was due to the damages brought by Typhoon Ompong and the Southwest Monsoon.



Investments

increased significantly

Ilocos Region recorded a total of **PHP 2,258.3M** worth of investments during the third quarter of CY 2018.



PHP 1,017.7M were recorded investments in leading industries. Bulk of which, **47.7%** came from construction industries.

Export Receipts

almost doubled



TOBACCO is the Region's major export commodity with **92.0%** share and a total of **USD 10.5M** worth of export receipts.

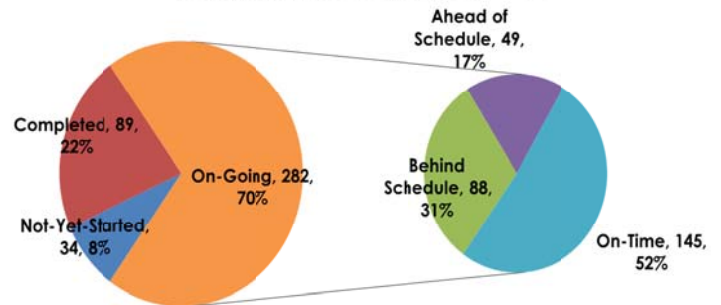
Project Status based on RPMES

A total of 405 projects was enrolled in the Regional Project Monitoring and Evaluation System (RPMES) Monitoring Plan by 25 implementing agencies - 16 RLAs, 3 SCUs, 3 PLGUs, 2 GOCCs and 1 hospital.

Eighty nine projects were already completed as the 3rd quarter ended. This is 22 percent of the total 405 projects targeted for completion in 2018. Thirty four or around eight percent are yet to be implemented in the last quarter of the year. The remaining 282 or around 70 percent of the total projects were in various phases of completion. Of the 282 on-going projects, 88 or 31 percent were behind schedule, 49 or 17 percent were ahead of schedule and 145 or 52 percent were on time.

OVERALL PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

TOTAL NUMBER OF PROJECTS = 405



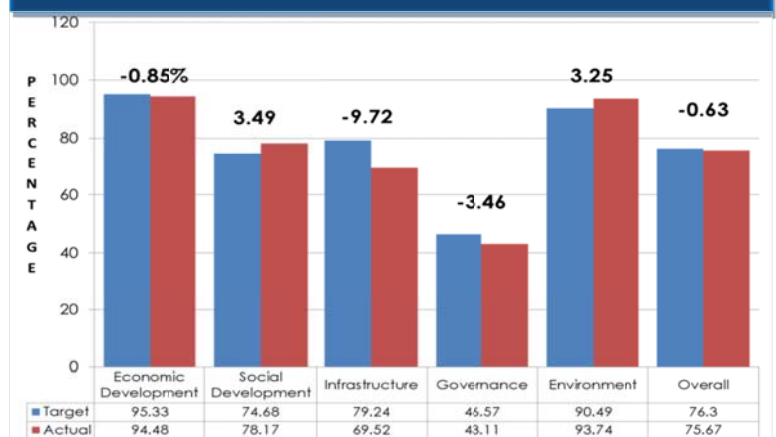
In terms of physical accomplishment by sector, only the Social Development and Environment Sectors posted positive slippages. The Infrastructure sector exhibited the highest negative slippage at 9.72 percent, followed by the Governance Sector with 3.46 percent and Economic Sector with 0.85 percent.

Overall, physical performance was 75.67 percent, short by 0.63 percent of the 76.3 percent target for the quarter.

With regard to financial accomplishment, out of P8.559 billion allotted for the year, total releases reached a little less than six billion pesos (P5.972 B), indicating a funding support of 69.78 percent. Expenditures amounted to P5.908 billion, representing almost 99 percent fund utilization.

There were 148,748 persons employed from the projects during the period. Again, the Infrastructure Sector contributed the biggest share with almost 94 percent.

PHYSICAL ACCOMPLISHMENT BY SECTOR (%)



| Sector | Pro-grammed Amount (P M) | Releases as of the quarter (P M) | Funding Support (%) | Total Expenditure (P M) | Expenditure Rate (%) |
|----------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Environment | 247.90 | 221.70 | 89.43 | 206.53 | 93.16 |
| Governance | 1.23 | 0.65 | 52.71 | 0.65 | 100.00 |
| Infrastructure | 2,974.40 | 1,766.48 | 59.39 | 1,744.6 | 98.76 |
| Social Dev | 4,286.06 | 2,985.27 | 69.65 | 2,959.27 | 99.13 |
| Economic Dev | 1,049.94 | 998.54 | 95.10 | 994.37 | 99.58 |
| OVERALL | 8,559.53 | 5,972.64 | 69.78 | 5,908.78 | 98.93 |

| 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

Experts Give Green Light to Tri-City Ferry System Initiative

By: EnP Richard Rivera

The initial assessment of experts invited in the second Technical Working Group (TWG) last September 18, 2018 on the Tri-City Ferry System Initiative (TCFSI), showed that the Lingayen Gulf is navigable. Dir. Sonia Malaluan and Dir. Ramon Hernandez of Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) Central Office and Capt. Herbert Catapang of the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA) noted that Lingayen Gulf has similar characteristics with Manila Bay. The three resource persons however emphasized that additional information on the conditions of the gulf like size of waves, depth, among others, need to be identified as these information are also needed in identifying the type of craft.

Dir. Malaluan discussed the basic considerations in establishing the Ferry System which shall include the following: market, port infrastructure, technical aspects and communications plan. She challenged the TWG to come-up with an action plan along the above aspects to ensure a holistic approach. She lauded the RDC for ensuring an inter-agency approach and suggested lead agencies for each of the aspect. She expressed her agency's support on the initiative.

Dir. Hernandez on his part discussed the technical aspects in choosing the types of boats while Capt. Catapang discussed his initial assessment on the depth of the gulf especially the existing ports as well as other considerations that the TWG needs to look into such as security, light houses, among others.

The three cities represented by EnP Eduardo A. Garcia (Alaminos), Engr. Josephine Corpuz (Dagupan City) and EnP Rizalina Cristobal (San Fernando City) shared the status of possible ports to be used as well as the plans to upgrade existing ports or to construct.

The schedule of the sea trial being organized by the DOT will be announced later.

NEDA 1, as the Chair of the Technical Working Group (TWG) on the Tri-City Ferry System Initiative (TCFSI), together with DOT 1 (Co-Chair), organized the second TWG Meeting. The meeting was also attended by MARINA Region 1, PPA and Coast Guard.



RDC-1 inks 10 REZ, endorses three others

The Regional Development Council-1 approved 10 resolutions and endorsed three others during its 3rd regular full council meeting at Ariana Hotel, Bauang, La Union on September 26, 2018.

Among the resolutions approved include the following: 1) Creation of the Technical Working Group (TWG) on Ecozone Development; 2) BLGF MC No. 11-001-2015 and DILG MC No. 2017-16 on the Exemption of Cooperatives from the payment of local taxes, fees and charges; 3) Establishment of a Weighbridge Station along the Manila North Road (MNR); 4) National Indigenous Peoples (IP) Month celebration; 5) Requesting the DBM to implement the Supreme Court decision on the automatic release of the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) to the LGUs; 6) Requesting DILG to enjoin the compliance of all LGUs to create their Local Housing Board (LHB); 7) Completing/Updating of CLUPs and Supporting the Land Use and Zoning Information System (LUZIS) Development Program of the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB); 8) CY 2018 National Statistics Month (NSM) celebration; 9) Fast tracking the Gender and Development (GAD) Focal Point System (GFPS) of the Ilocos Region; and 10) Ilocos Regional Development Agenda (RDA) 2018-2020.

On the other hand, the RDC-1 endorsed the establishment of an Ecozone in Suyo, Ilocos Sur. The project was presented by Mayor Samuel B. Subagan, Jr. of Suyo and had the opportunity to seek the assistance of all agencies concerned on the project to facilitate the establishment of said ecozone. Also, the council supported the creation of the Department of Culture through a resolution which will redound to the improvement of operations and better access to programs and projects related to culture and arts in the region. Aside from that, the committee also endorsed a resolution encouraging local government units (LGUs) to enter into a Memorandum of Partnership Agreement with DENR to facilitate titling lands for housing. This will improve LGUs capability of land management and administration.

Further, the participants were informed on the status of the effects of several typhoons that hit the region including the most recent one, Typhoon Ondoy, the Tri-City Ferry System Initiative, Investment Promotions Group, Formulation of Traffic Management Strategy, Results of the Cities and Municipalities Competitiveness Index (CMCI) 2018: Results and Key Action Areas and the draft DILG-NEDA Joint Memorandum Circular on the Localization of the PDP 2017-2022 and Sustainable Development Goals.

Participants in the meeting include members of the RDC (both voting and non-voting), private sector representatives, LGUs, academe and other guests who shared relevant information.



RDC-1 pushes for Economic Zone Development

The RDC 1 approved the creation of a Technical Working Group (TWG) on economic zone development during its 3rd Full Council Meeting held on 26 September 2018 in Hotel Ariana, Bauang, La Union.

The TWG, tasked to facilitate the issuance of various government clearances and permits, is composed of NEDA as the Chair, DOT as the Co-Chair, PEZA as the Vice-Chair, and HLURB, DA, DAR, NIA, DTI, DENR, NCIP, EMB, MGB, Provincial Local Government Units (PLGUs) and Private Sector Representatives (PSRs) for Infrastructure and Environment as members.

One of the potential economic zones identified in the region is located in Suyo, Ilocos Sur. The Local Government Unit (LGU) has secured a pre-qualification clearance from PEZA through Board Resolution No. 18-369 dated 1 August 2018 for the declaration of a 1,882,343 square meter lot in Mt. Tapao as a Mixed-use

Special Economic Zone for Manufacturing, Agro-industrial, and Information Technology (IT).

The proposed economic zone is expected to enhance local tourism, provide employment opportunities, increase local and national revenues, improve the quality of life of the community, promote harmonious relationship and empowerment among stakeholders particularly in the municipality of Suyo as well as in the adjacent municipalities and cities of the province of Ilocos Sur.

Furthermore, the establishment of economic zones in the region is supportive of its thrust of expanding economic opportunities in the Agriculture, Industry and Services sectors through the expected inflow of investments from local and international investors and locators in the economic zone.



RDC-1 goes to Suyo IS in its 4th Qtr Meeting

With the aim of bringing the Regional Development Council (RDC) closer to the grassroots, RDC Chairperson Mayor Juan Carlo Medina, accepted the invitation of Mayor Samuel B. Subagan, Jr. of the municipality of Suyo in Ilocos Sur to host the 4th quarter Regional Development Council-1 meeting on 29 November 2018. The meeting was an opportunity for the municipal government unit and other LGU-based development partners to promote their thrusts, programs and projects and eventually forge partnerships.

In the meeting, Mayor Subagan expressed the desire of his constituents for the immediate Presidential Proclamation of the Suyo Economic Zone. He is thankful to the RDC for creating the Technical Working Group on Ecozone Development but lamented on the complex requirements. He expressed optimism that the realization of ecozone shall enhance local tourism, provide employment opportunities, increase local and national revenues, improve the quality of life of the community, and empowerment of the marginalized sectors.

During the meeting, the RDC-1 approved the proposal to conduct the Provincial Development Convergence Fora (PDCF) in the four provinces and the independent city of Dagupan prior to the conduct of their respective State of the Provincial/City Address. The Council also endorsed the following resolutions: (1) Institutionalization of the Local Government Unit (LGU) Income Classification, the passage of Senate Bill 234 and House Bill 923, (2) Region 1 Strategic Investment Promotion Plan; (3) Region 1 Rehabilitation and Recovery Plan for Typhoon Ompong; (4) Encouraging all Government Instrumentalities to Patronize and Promote the Use of the products of Filipino Inventors Society Producer Cooperative (FISPC) and other accredited Filipino science-based organizations in order to Further Promote Invention and Innovation; (5) Expressing gratitude to the Municipality of Suyo under the leadership of Mayor Subagan for initiating the RDC and Local Development Council interface; (6) Congratulating the RDC-1 Chairperson, Mayor Juan Carlo S. Medina of Vigan City, Ilocos Sur for topping the National Career Executive Service Written Examination (CES WE) and for Promoting Excellence in Public Service.

As part of other matters, representatives from the FISPC were invited to present some of their products such as the Portable Solar Dryer (PORTASOL) that aims to respond to the problems on drying palay along the Manila-North-Road (MNR) and the Disaster Visibility Information System (DVIS) which aims to complement the efforts of various stakeholders in disaster preparedness. The RDC members found the products as relevant innovations that will help the farmers as well as frontline workers.

Also presented in the meeting were the National Sewerage and Septage Management Program and important events, celebration and commemoration for the months of November and December by DPWH and the Secretariat, respectively. The RLAs also made announcements and called for the support of agencies on their activities.

Articles By: RDC-1 Secretariat

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT UPDATES



Mayor Samuel B. Subangan, Jr. thanks the RDC-1 for its support for the establishment of an Economic Zone at Suyo, Ilocos Sur



RDC-1 Officials headed by Chairperson Mayor Juan Carlo S. Medina of Vigan City confers resolution of thanks to the good Mayor Subangan for hosting the 4th quarter meeting of the RDC-1.



Ms. Divina Quemi, PSR-Cooperatives, as she reads the resolution of thanks to the good Mayor of Suyo, Ilocos Sur.



RDC Officials: Mayor Juan Carlo S. Medina – RDC-1 Chairperson (2nd from left), RD Nestor G. Rillon, ARD Donald James Gawe together with Mayor Subangan of Suyo, Ilocos Sur.

Financial consumers learned how to be protected

By: **Therese Ethel E. Jularbal**
BSP La Union Regional Office

In time with the celebration of the Consumer Welfare Month, BSP La Union Regional Office (LURO) organized an Economic and Financial Learning Session on the topic “Consumer Protection” on October 25, 2018. Rene Carlo Joaquin Boot, Bank Officer IV of the Financial Consumer Protection, Department of Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas – Manila, discussed how the BSP protects the rights of financial consumers based on the standards of conduct – disclosure and transparency, protection of client information, fair treatment, financial education and awareness, and effective recourse. He also explained the Consumer Assistance Mechanism or the steps to be undertaken by the clients when filing complaints, inquiries or requests concerning BSP-supervised financial institutions. The participants were also reminded of the different types of frauds and scams occurring in the country.

True to its purpose of spurring appreciation of economic and financial concepts and issues and stimulating intellectual discussions between the BSP and its stakeholders, the participants took the

opportunity to raise their queries which sparked discussions on relevant issues. The learning session was attended by 114 participants from the academe, financial institutions, government agencies, local government units and BSP LURO.



NEDA stages 2018 EFLW talkshow

By: John F. Gagucas



In line with the celebration of the 2018 Economic and Financial Literacy Week (EFLW), the NEDA Regional Office 1 staged a talk show at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas San Fernando City, La Union on November 20, 2018. The discussions in the talk show revolved around issues and matters concerning financial literacy, Philippine national ID system, inflation, gross regional domestic product, and Ambisyon Natin 2040.

During the discussions, Atty. Shiela O. De Guzman of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) informed the body of the newly enacted law on national ID system or the Republic Act 11055 or known as “An Act establishing the Philippine Identification System (PhilSys).” She said that the PhilSys shall serve as foundational identification system to provide a valid proof of identity for all citizens and resident aliens as means of simplifying public and private transactions; a social and economic platform which shall serve as the link in the promotion of seamless service delivery, enhancing administrative governance, reducing corruption, strengthening financial inclusion, and promoting ease of doing business. Although there were reactions from audience when she mentioned that the law is not mandatory, she remains very hopeful that everybody shall be covered if government and private institutions shall require said ID in all forms of transactions.

Atty. Olive Cornejo and Ms. Malou Manaois of BSP Dagupan branch, enlightened participants on financial literacy. They emphasized the need to save in the banks for future purposes. They also encouraged participants to invest their money in reputable investment firms. They said that the BSP will be very willing to provide free lectures and discussion on their central banking



and financial inclusion advocacies to schools and organizations in the region.

Ms. Zenaida Garcillan of PSA also informed the body of the region’s economic performance and how it is connected to the national ID system. She said that the need for ID to transact with banks that entails financial inclusion that is closely linked with the region’s economy. She further emphasized that PSA Region 1 estimates financial intermediation in the whole country and Region 1 grew by 7.0 percentage points. Financial intermediation covers banking institutions, non-banking institutions, insurance and auxiliary. On inflation, she mentioned that the region reached a high inflation of 8.6 percent due to the volatility of some commodities such as fuel, rice, meat and fish. The excise tax on cigarettes and alcohol also contribute to high inflation rate. However, she said that inflation may ease in the following months due to some measures being established by the government.

As a wrap-up, the discussions were closely related to the country’s Long Term Vision or **Ambisyon Natin 2040** of a **Matatag, Maginhawa at Panatag na Buhay** para sa lahat. The event was hosted by Ms. Mila Abuan, Chairperson of Development Communications Support Committee of the Regional Development Council and Ms. Joanne Namnama Parrocha Dilim of the Philippine Information Agency.

Pangasinan bags 4th SGLG award

By: Mark Gerry Naval Oblanca

Pangasinan under the Espino administration continues the legacy of excellence in good governance made evident with the fourth Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG) award conferred by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) to the province.

Governor Amado I. Espino, III received the 2018 SGLG from DILG Secretary Eduardo Año during the awarding rites held on November 6 at the Manila Hotel. Senators Loren B. Legarda and Edgardo M. Angara, who co-authored the SGLG Act in the Senate, joined the DILG secretary in the awarding ceremony.

For winning the 2018 SGLG, the province of Pangasinan has accessed the Php7 million Performance Challenge Fund (PCF), a cash incentive to help finance high-capital investment projects.

“Our awardees performed exceptionally, providing best services to people who deserve no less,” DILG Sec. Año said, as he hailed the SGLG passers as “cut above the rest.”

The DILG secretary looks forward to the institutionalization of the SGLG with the backing up of Senators Legarda and Angara who co-authored the SGLG Act in the Senate. Congressmen Luis Raymund Villafuerte, and Jose Garcia are counterpart authors of the said act in the House of Representatives.

The provincial government received the SGLG for four years in a row (in 2015 under the administration of former governor and now 5th district Representative Amado T. Espino, Jr.; and in 2016, 2017 and 2018 under the present leadership).

Assisting Governor Espino in receiving the 2018 SGLG were: Vice Governor Jose Ferdinand Z. Calimlim, Jr., Provincial Planning and Development Officer Benita Pizarro, and DILG Provincial Director Agnes de Leon.

The SGLG is conferred by the DILG to a Local Government Unit (LGU) for successfully passing the ALL-IN criteria of the seal, which include the seven core components: financial administration, disaster preparedness, social protection, peace and order, business friendliness and competitiveness, environmental protection, and tourism, culture and the arts.

Since last year, Pangasinan province has registered the highest number of SGLG recipient LGUs among all the



provinces in the whole country with 25 (this year) including the provincial LGU.

SGLG recipient municipal/city LGUs include: Agno, Aguilar, Alcala, Anda, Balungao, Bayambang, Binalonan, Bugallon, Burgos, Calasiao, Infanta, Lingayen, Malasiqui, Mangaldan, Mangatarem, Natividad, San Manuel, San Nicolas, Sta. Maria, Tayug, Umingan, Urbiztondo, Villasis, and Alaminos City. A municipal LGU is granted Php3.2 million PCF, while a city LGU receives Php5.1 million.

Out of the 1,682 assessed LGUs nationwide, only 263 have substantially met the 2018 SGLG criteria.



Pangasinan adjudged Best NSM Province Implementer

By: Shiela May C. De Guzman

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan – Maintaining its laudable performance, the province of Pangasinan has been adjudged regional champion in this year’s search for Best National Statistics Month (NSM) Province Implementer by the Regional Statistics Committee (RSC) of the RDC-1.

Representing Governor Amado I. Espino, III, Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator (PPDC) Benita M. Pizarro received the 2018 Best NSM Province Implementer regional award from

Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) OIC – Chief Administrative Officer and RSC Vice Chairperson Atty. Sheila O. De Guzman during the closing ceremony of the 29th National Statistics Month on October 29 at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas in San Fernando City, La Union. A cash award from the RDC-1 was also given to the winning province.

In her message, Atty. De Guzman commended all LGUs for their continuous support to the annual staging of the NSM which promotes the importance of statistics in all sectors and elicit public participation in upgrading the standards and quality of statistics in the society.

Secondary and tertiary students who represented the province prevailed over the 11 competition categories of the contested NSM events, including: oratorical contest, essay writing, poster and slogan making, statistics quiz and jingle making contest.

Championship tilts of Pangasinan are as follows:

- Poster-Slogan Making (Secondary and Tertiary): Angelo Joshua Pamo of Alaminos City National High School and Joe Alaizon Castillo of Panpacific University North Philippines Tayug.
- Essay-Writing Contest (Secondary): Ceedrick John Viray Nunez of Alaminos NHS
- Jingle-Making Contest (Secondary and Tertiary): Calasiao Comprehensive National High School and Kingfisher School of Business and Finance.

Other winners include: **oration (secondary & tertiary level)** – Rovecel Margaux Radovan from Alaminos City NHS (2nd place) and Lea Joy S. Fernando from Pangasinan State University – Alaminos City (4th place), respectively; **statistical quiz contest (secondary & tertiary level)** – Iramia Laza, Alyssa Mae Castillo and Marvin David Angelo Bullaga from Bayambang NHS (4th place) and Joanalen Cacatian, Renzo Sison and Ronald Paul Aragona from Kingfisher School of Business and Finance (2nd place), respectively; **essay writing contest (tertiary level and employee category)** – Reika Mae Pascua from PSU – Alaminos City (2nd place) and Diana Rose C. Purganan from DepEd Alaminos City (4th place), respectively.

It can be recalled that the province of Pangasinan has been cited as Best NSM province implementer for three consecutive years covering the following periods: 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2014, 2015, 2016 following the successful conduct of provincial NSM celebration. The second regional NSM HOF of the province was conferred last year.

This year's 29th NSM celebration is anchored on the theme: "Exploring Philippine Wonders in Numbers: Statistics Toward Sustainable Tourism Development ("Pagtuklas sa Ganda ng Pilipinas sa Pamamagitan ng mga Numero Estadistika para sa Likas-Kayang Pag-unlad ng Turismo").



Living a better quality of life with DSWD-SLP

By: Janine Joy B. Altero, Social Marketing Officer
Sustainable Livelihood Program



From a Barangay Sanitary Inspector receiving a PhP500.00 monthly honorarium, Romela de Vera is now earning an additional PhP 2,000.00 to PhP 3,000.00 monthly from her sari-sari store through the provision of PhP 10,000.00 start-up capital from the Sustainable Livelihood

Program (SLP) of the Department of Social Welfare and Development Field Office 1.

Romela was among the 113 SLP participants in Brgy. Subusub, Rosario, La Union who underwent Skills Training on Hairdressing in 2015 but she shifted to sari-sari store management after seeing a viable business opportunity on the said enterprise. Her house is located in a congested area where the next nearest sari-sari store is about 180 meters away.

Due to the high demand, she expanded her business to general merchandise selling ready-to-wear clothes, slippers, bags, and purified drinking water. She also sells burgers and street foods earning an additional average monthly income of PhP2,000.00. Her combined income from retailing and snack vending greatly contributes to her husband's average monthly income of PhP5,000.00 from personal driving which is utilized for the family's daily needs and schooling of their five children. Most of the family's savings were utilized for house expansion and acquisition of home appliances.

"Talaga nga dakkel ti tulong ti SLP ta limmag-an ti panagbiagmi uray kaskasano. Saan kami nga agproblema ti gastosenmi ti inaldaw ken ti panagbasa dagiti ubbing ta adda daytoy a livelihood (SLP is truly a big help, we are somehow living in a more comfortable life now. We no longer worry about our needs because

we have this profitable livelihood)," said Romela. She is now planning to expand her enterprise by adding rice to her range of merchandise.

On the other hand, 83 program participants from various barangays in Rosario, La Union underwent Skills Training on general merchandise/sari-sari store management in 2015.



Promotion of Healthy Lifestyle: "Go for Health for a Healthy Region 1"

By: Giezel Peralta (LRD Nurse)



The Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) Unit of the DOH-Center for Health Development I, headed by the Regional Director Dr. Valeriano Jesus V. Lopez, came up with an activity dubbed as: Promotion of Healthy Lifestyle "Go 4 Health for a Healthy Region I", that would help reduce NCDs in the entire region. The advocacy campaign includes Zumba and lectures.

4.21% of the total population of the Region are affected with hypertension and 0.85% have Diabetes Mellitus as of the third quarter of 2018. Hypertension is also the third leading cause of mortality for the last five years within the region. These diseases are caused by preventable risk factors such as **Physical Inactivity, Unhealthy Diet, Smoking and Harmful use of Alcohol** that can be addressed through lifestyle modification.

The Lifestyle Related Diseases Nurses and Advocates also conducted a video shoot in the different tourist spots in the entire Region to strengthen the campaign against NCDs. This also aims to promote tourism. The video shoot which will be distributed to all Local Government Unit (LGUs) for advocacy.

Ilocos Sur bags 3rd SGLG Award

By: PGIS Information Office



Ilocos Sur assured its place belonging to the 263 LGUs that received the Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG) in 2018. This feat was achieved in the roster of top LGUs even as the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) has raised the criteria for the award.

“No need for words, this award wrapped up all of our achievements in the total development of Ilocos Sur because we only want quality service for our fellow Ilocosurians, only the best of the best were given this recognition. With this award Ilocosurians are the true winners!” said Gov. Ryan Singson.

The following were the number and percentage of passers: a) provinces – 17 out of 81 or 21%; b) cities - 39 out of 145 or 27%; c) municipalities – 207 out of 1,489 or 14%. This year, Region 1 got the most SGLG awardees with 51 followed by Region III with 43 and Region IV-A with 24.

“Congratulations to the 2018 awardees for besting the ‘all-in’ assessment criteria of SGLG. This is a testimony that LGUs in our country are continuously striving to improve the quality of service to the people,” DILG Secretary Eduardo Año said in a statement.

Sec. Año specially mentioned the province of Ilocos Sur that despite the devastation of Typhoon Ompong, Gov. Singson created a power house team who had exemplified extra-ordinary team work that earned the prestigious SGLG.

Instead of using the previous assessment method called “4+1” where LGUs need to pass four core areas and one essential area, the department has required LGUs to pass in all the seven areas used in the latest assessment.

Aside from increasing the requirements, the department also imposed stricter rules on the seven governance areas, which cover financial administration; disaster preparedness, social protection; peace and order; business-friendliness, and competitiveness, environmental management, and tourism, culture and the arts.

Governor Ryan stressed that the cash award will be allotted for the construction of school building of Santa Central School after it was burned down last October 24, 2018.

The SGLG awarding was held at the Tent City Manila Hotel on November 6, 2018. (www.ilocossur.gov.ph)

La Union hosts National CREBA Convetion

By: Raj B. Pasion, OPG-MPIU

The Province of La Union hosted the Chamber of Real Estate and Builder's Association, Incorporated (CREBA) 27th Annual National Convention held on October 18, 2018 at the Thunderbird Resorts and Casino, Poro Point, City of San Fernando, La Union. It was attended by more than 300 participants including CREBA associates from different places of the Philippines.

In his speech, Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III extended his appreciation to CREBA's National Chairman Mr. Charlie Gorayeb and La Union Chapter President Mr. Reynaldo Q. Nisce for choosing the Province of La Union as the venue the convention. Gov. Pacoy talked about the province's vision to become the Heart of Agri-Tourism in Northern Luzon by 2025 through the development of nationally competitive and sustainable tourist circuits. He also emphasized on how La Union gives importance to investors through PGLU's programs to ensure ease in doing business. "I am delighted that La Union shares the same principles in aiming to uplift the quality of lives of our people not only in the province, but of the whole country," he said.

The National Convention tackled about Legislative Updates on Housing and Real Estate Development. It also highlighted CREBA's agenda for housing which is "A Home for Every Filipino." Emerging Markets and Best Practices to Sustain Real estate Growth; Achieving the Country's Public-Private Housing Vision; Monetary Policies to Sustain the Real Estate Boom; Raising the Bar for World-Class Philippine Real Estate Profession were also discussed.

CREBA's vision is to enable its members to effectively fulfill their respective roles in land and housing development by initiating cooperation with government and other economic and social sectors towards formulation of programs and policies that would foster national development.



Gov. Ortega III together with City of San Fernando Mayor Hermenegildo "Dong" A. Gualberto and the members of CREBA during the 2018 CREBA National Convention .



La Union shines in North Philippines Travel Expo

By: Julius Manabat, GPC-PTour

The Province of La Union was hailed as the third Best Booth for the LGU Category during the North Philippine Travel Expo (NorthPhil) at SM City Clark, Angeles, Pampanga on November 16 to 18, 2018.

For this year, La Union was exhibited as an Agri-Tourism Hub in Northern Luzon. Flyers of La Union Packages from the Travel and Tour Agencies were given out to clients. To highlight the province, a La Union Trivia Hour was held. Tourism Promotional Videos were shown on the event's LED Wall followed by trivia questions to be answered by the audience that shall in turn wins a prize.

NorthPhil is a three-day event showcasing pavilions and exhibit booths of popular, new and emerging tourism destinations, attractions, travel-related products and services in North of Manila. It is a Department of Tourism-led event in partnership with the Association of Tourism Officers of Central Luzon (ATOCEL) and the Philippine Exhibitions and Trade Corporation (PETCO).

Around 104 booths were available for tourism related entities, LGUs, traders (SMEs), DOT offices, and foreign convention and visitors bureaus.

Asingan sheltered workshop promotes empowerment among OPs and PWDs

By: Jaesem Ryan A. Gaces, Information Officer II/Pantawid Pamilya

"Mula nang sumali ako rito (sheltered workshop (SW)), napagtanto kong may silbi at nakakaambag pa rin kami sa komunidad kahit na matanda na kami at may kapansanan," Aurora Pastor, 60, testified.

Aurora is orthopedically handicapped and enjoys making dishwashing liquids. She is proud of her product because it is good for cleaning tiles.

Aurora is one of the 17 trainees at the Sheltered Workshop for Older Persons (OPs) and Persons with Disability (PWDs) who availed skills training on commercial cooking, candle production, sewing, mug printing, massage therapy, among others.

The SW is one of the best practices of the Municipality of Asingan, Pangasinan that caters to all interested and qualified OPs and PWDs as a stepping stone to become trainees at the Area 1 Vocational Rehabilitation Center (AVRC 1) of the Department of Social Welfare and Development Field Office 1 (DSWD FO 1). This is a pilot project of the DSWD Central Office through the Social Technology Bureau in coordination with the Asingan. It is a community-based facility designed to provide work training and productive employment for OPs and PWDs by producing and selling goods or services.

According to Asingan Municipal Social Welfare and Development Officer Teresa O. Mamalio, since the shelter was established in 2006, 75 clients were already served, and some of them are now employed and running their own businesses.

She is also honored that other municipalities in Region 1 are replicating the Sheltered Workshop. Atty. Joshua V. Viray, Acting Mayor, emphasized that the OP and PWD sectors should be given priority.



Orthopedically handicapped trainees at the SW namely (L-R): George Aguilar, 65; Francisco Sanchez, 65; and Aurora Pastor together with Ms. Alicia Uson, a mother of a Child with Disability.

Gov. Ryan Singson is CSC Pagasa Regional Awardee

By: PGIS Information Office

Governor Ryan Singson was given the Civil Service Commission PAGASA award (Regional level) in the 2018 Search for Outstanding Government Officials and Employees during the Pamadayaw 2018, Awarding for Length of Service at the Vigan Convention Center today September 21, 2018.

Civil Service Commission Pagasa (Pagasa) Award is conferred upon an individual or group of individuals for outstanding contribution/s resulting from an idea or performance that directly benefit more than one department of the government.

Gov. Singson was unable to personally receive the award 14th day of September because he was then visiting the municipalities that were affected by typhoon Ompong.

"The award symbolizes the quality of service we are providing for the people of Ilocos Sur, and this will inspire me more to extend my service to the Ilocosurians," Governor Ryan Singson said.

Leading the dignitaries present in the awarding ceremony were CSC Region-1 Director Hedy Jose Lardizabal (CSC ROI), Ilocos Sur provincial CSC head Marichu Cuison, Vice Mayor Lulu Bacquiran of Vigan and others. (www.ilocosur.gov.ph)

Ilocos Norte tops 2018 Best Tourism-Oriented LGU

By: Edison Justin Deus

After two consecutive runner-up finishes, the Province of Ilocos Norte won first place in the 2018 Best Tourism-Oriented Local Government Unit (LGU) Category of the 13th Association of Tourism Officers in the Philippines and Department of Tourism (ATOP-DOT) Pearl Awards at the Limketkai Luxe Hotel, Cagayan de Oro City on October 5, 2018.

The Pearl Awards for Best Tourism Practices of the Philippines was part of the ATOP National Convention, recognizing the efforts of LGUs towards the advancement of the country's tourism industry.

"Since we started, we have accomplished the fundamental requirements for a well-functioning LGU in terms of tourism. We have legislations such as tourism, investment, cultural and environmental codes, and we have established permanent positions for local tourism officers," said Mr. Aian B. Raquel, provincial tourism officer and head of the Ilocos Norte Tourism Office (INTO).

"It's important that the executives have significant accomplishments in terms of administration and legislation," he added, recognizing the support of Ilocos Norte Governor Imee R. Marcos

For years, the province has been keen on implementing strategies for the protection and conservation of cultural properties, including the establishment of new venues and platforms for local artists, and promotion of the province's cultural sites, products, and events.

Finalists include the province of Samar and province of Davao del Norte, which won third and second place, respectively.

IN's pioneer tourism programs recognized

In particular, Pearl Awards' screening committee commended the INTO's Summer Tourism Program that immerses both the young and elderly as tour guides in different museums and churches in the province. "This is the first effort in the country, specifically in the tourism sector, that employs senior citizens as tour



guides in museums and churches. This is very special because it shows that our provincial policy on inclusivity is applied in that we employ very diverse demographics—from youth to senior citizens " Raquel said.

Fees and rentals of government-owned tourist destinations such as the *Kapurpurawan* rock formation, Malacañang of the North, *Paseo de Paoay*, *La Tabacalera* Lifestyle Center, Cape Bojeador Lighthouse, and the Ilocano Heroes Hall all contribute to provincial revenue. Moreover, ATOP-DOT cited the Media Incentives Desk (MID), an initiative of Governor Marcos. MID pioneered film tourism in the province through an exchange of benefits and promotion coordinated among LGUs, private establishments, and production companies looking to film within Ilocos Norte.

Last year, Artikulo Uno Productions, the maker of historical epic "Goyo: Ang Batang Heneral" filmed in the different municipalities of the province. Also, television series "Bagani," and several local and international travel magazine shows; cult classics "Himala," "Ang Panday," and "Temptation Island" have also used Ilocos Norte as a shoot location over the years.

Pangasinan receives Hall of Fame Award for quality corn production

By; PGPang-PIO



The Province of Pangasinan, led by Governor Amado I. Espino, III received the Hall of Fame award from the Department of Agriculture for having won the Quality Corn Achievers Award for the last three consecutive years in 2016, 2017 and 2018.

The event, keynoted by Senator Cynthia Villar, was held on November 15 at D' Leonor Inland Resort in Davao City.

As a hall of fame awardee, the province received a P5 million cash prize which, according Espino will be used to further boost the corn industry in the province to ensure bountiful harvest of corn farmers.

The other provinces which also received the Achievers' Awards were: Zamboanga del Sur (also a Hall of Famer), Cagayan, Agusan del Sur and Bukidnon.

Two municipalities from Pangasinan were also Hall of Famers on Quality Corn Achievers award, namely: Sto. Tomas and Alcala.

Board Member Liberato Z. Villegas, committee chairman on Agriculture and Agrarian Reform and Provincial Agriculturist Dalisay Moya, also a recipient

of the Hall of Fame Award as an outstanding Provincial Agriculturist joined Governor Espino in the awarding.

Other awardees from Pangasinan, include:

Outstanding Provincial Corn Coordinator
– Venancio B. Valeroso (Hall of Famer)

Outstanding Municipal/City Agriculturist
– Chrisanto G. Balila (Sto. Tomas)
– Edgardo G. Tugas (Hall of Famer, Alcala)

Outstanding Municipal/City Corn Coordinators
– Ramil R. Bustamante (Sto. Tomas)
– Elizabeth B. Tubera (Hall of Famer, Alcala)

Outstanding Agricultural Extension Workers
– Johnathan D. Dominguez (Hall of Famer, San Nicolas)
– Zosima G. Belmonte (San Quintin)
– Alicia S. Noche (Sta. Barbara)
– Enrique J. Manaois, Jr. (Balungao)

Pangasinan earlier bagged the Hall of Fame Rice Achievers Award in 2015 after successively winning the national contest in year's 2012,2013 and 2014. (PIO)

Anduyan Bridge, Aringay-Tubao Alternate Road Inaugurated

By: Emille Martinez, GPC-PEO

The 360 lineal meter Anduyan Bridge along Anduyan-Rizal-San Pascual-Nangalesan-Asin Road in Tubao, La Union and the 14.24km Aringay-Tubao Alternate Route leading to Asin Hot Spring and Baguio City were inaugurated on November 26, 2018.

The inauguration was attended by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Secretary Mark A. Villar, DPWH Region 1 Director Ronnel M. Tan, Department of Tourism (DOT) Region 1 Director Martin S. Valera, Municipal Mayor of Tubao, La Union Hon. Dante S. Garcia, Barangay Officials and residents of Tubao, La Union.

Gov. Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" R. Ortega III, represented by Provincial Engineer Elizabeth P. Sias, emphasized the roles of the projects for the progress and development of the province saying, "The construction of the Aringay-Tubao Alternate Road and the Anduyan Bridge further reinforces the crucial role of La Union as an administrative, economic and commercial center in North Luzon."

The project construction started on May 22, 2015 and was completed on May 31, 2018 with a total cost of almost Php494M. These projects will benefit 4,008 motorists per day and lessen traffic congestion along Agoo-Baguio City Road.

The Anduyan Bridge and the Aringay-Tubao Alternate Route will also reduce travel time from two hours to 35 minutes contributing to the vision of the Province of La Union to become "The Heart of Agri-Tourism in Northern Luzon by 2025," by attracting more investors and tourists to visit La Union for tourism, investment and leisure.



NEW ALTERNATE ROUTE AND BRIDGE LEADING TO BENGUET AND BAGUIO CITY NOW OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

DPWH Secretary Mark A. Villar formally opened two major infrastructure projects in the province of La Union on November 26, 2018. The Aringay-Tubao alternate road and Anduyan Bridge will reduce travel time from Tubao, La Union to Asin Hot Spring, Tuba, Benguet from 2 hours to 35 minutes and travel time from Tubao to Baguio City from 2 hours 25 minutes to 1 hour.



Gurong Bigueña: Isa sa 10 Ulirang Guro sa Filipino 2018

By: Imelda Rivero



Ang natatanging Biguena at Ilocana ng rehiyon uno na si Maria Jesusa Ridor – Unciano ang isa sa mga 10 Ulirang Guro sa Filipino sa 2018 na pararangalan ng Komisyon ng Wikang Filipino (KWF).

“Labis akong natutuwa at nagagalak dahil mayroon na rin

akong katunayang maipagmamalaki sa Ilocos Sur, lalo na sa Vigan City na aking lugar ng kapanganakan,” sabi ni Unciano.

Sa kategoryang kolehiyo nanalo si Unciano, 53, bilang propesora ng University of Northern Philippines (UNP), Vigan. Sa loob ng 32 taon na pagtuturo ng Filipino mula 1983, nakapagturo siya sa Saint William’s Institute at sa Ilocos Sur National High School, ang pinakamalaking paaralang sekundarya sa probinsiya na may higit 8,000 estudyante sa taong ito.

“Sa pagkilala sa akin, nangangahulugang ipagpatuloy ang misyong tumulong upang mahalin ang wika bilang salamin ng identidad di lamang ng mga Ilokano kundi ng buong Filipino,” aniya.

Ang kaniyang mga saliksik na tumulong upang mapili siya ay kabilang ang ‘Stress Proneness of CTE Faculty of University of Northern Philippines,’ ‘Adal ko, Iburay Ko, Akem Ko ti Mangisuro,’ ‘Numeracy-Literacy Program of CTE-UNP: An Assessment’ (2014), ‘Dietary Practices and Academic Performance of the College of Teacher Education Students’ (2015), at ‘Solid Waste Management Practices Among the Youth of the First District of Ilocos Sur’ (2018).

Para kay Unciano, ang pinakamagandang nagawa niyang libro na kasama ang mga kapwa niya guro sa UNP ay ang mga workbook sa K to 12 kurikulum para sa grado 10, ang ‘Patnubay ng Guro’ at ‘Modyul Para sa Mag-aaral.’

Ginawa din nila ang mga librong tulad ng ‘Masining na Pagpapahayag,’ ‘Sining ng Komunikayong Pang-akademiko,’ ‘Pagbasa at Pagsulat Tungo sa Pananaliksik,’ ‘Panitikan ng Pilipinas,’ at ang pinakabagong nagawa sa 2018, ‘Kontekstwalisadong Komunikasyon sa Filipino’ para sa bagong kurikulum ng edukasyon.

Hindi lang siya isang masugid na mananaliksik, adbayer pa si Unciano ng masteral tesis, matagumpay na coach sa mga sinalihan ng mga mag-aaral sa literatura, oral at pagsulat sa jurnalismo sa mga lokal at nasyonal na kompetisyon.

Nagampanan din niya ang kanyang tungkulin bilang naging adbayer ng konsehong mag-aaral, koordineytor ng programang pag-unlad ng mga grupong mag-aaral at pagsasanay para sa pag-unlad ng kasarian sa mga ibang parte ng probinsiya, at sa kasalukuyan ang paghawak niya sa Department of Languages and Humanities for Instruction and Research.

Ayon sa KWF, ang Ulirang Guro sa Filipino ang taunang gawad na ibinibigay nito sa mga pili at karapat-dapat na guro na ginagamit ang Filipino bilang midyum ng pagtuturo.

Alinsunod sa layunin ng KWF na manghikayat at magpalaganap ng wikang Filipino sa pamamagitan ng mga insentibo, mga grant, at mga gawad, hinahangad ng tanggapan na makilala at maipagparangalan ang mga natatanging guro sa Filipino na nagpamalas ng angking husay, talino, at dedikasyon sa pagpapalaganap at promosyon ng Wikang Filipino at/o mga wika at kultura sa kanilang komunidad.

Guro ang pundasyon ng sibilisasyon, ayon pa rin sa KWF, at sa ganitong pananaw isinilang ang Gawad Ulirang Guro sa Filipino.

Kinikilala rin nito ang mga pambihirang gawain ng guro, sa mga anyong gaya ng akademikong ugnayan, saliksik, at pagpapalaganap ng wika upang mahikayat ang bagong henerasyon ng kabataan na kasangkapanin ang Filipino at iba pang wikang katutubo sa mataas na antas at tungo sa ganap na kapakinabangan ng mga mamamayang Filipino. (JNPD/ICR/PIA1 Ilocos Sur)