

OPINION

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BBM'S SON TO ENTER POLITICS. Ferdinand Alexander "Sandro" Marcos (center) is presented to the public in Sarrat, Ilocos Norte by his political clan led by parents Bongbong and Liza Marcos. Sandro is eyeing the seat in Ilocos Norte's first congressional district, now occupied by incumbent Rep. Ria Fariñas, daughter of former Congressman Rodolfo Fariñas. (Photo courtesy of Laoag City Information Office/text by Ilocos Sentinel) See related story below

* * * * *

IN: The country's first province to get int'l Safe Travels stamp

- Awarded by World Travel and Tourism Council citing its health-safety protocols amid COVID pandemic

Ilocos Norte is the first province in the Philippines to be awarded the prestigious World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) Safe Travels Stamp for adopting globally recognized health and safety protocols during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The WTTC Safe Travels Stamp is the world's first safety and hygiene earmark given to tourism institutions and industries that assist travelers in recognizing governments and businesses that implement global health standardized guidelines.

Some local accommodations and individual tourist

destinations in the country have likewise earned the WTTC Stamp.

The WTTC and the Department of Tourism have certified the province's application, instead of individual attractions, based on its impressive initiatives, Ilocos

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2 bridge projects in I.N. near completion--DAR

LAOAG CITY, Sept. 16 (PIA) -- Two bridge projects in Ilocos Norte, the Malituek Bridge in Burgos town and Sumader Bridge in Batac City, both under the "Tulay ng Pangulo Para sa Kaunlarang Pang-agrario" (TPKP) of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), are now nearing completion, officials

said.

During the "Danggay iti Panagdur-as" radio program of the Philippine Information Agency Ilocos Norte Information Center, DAR Ilocos Norte head Engr. Vic Ines said the twin bridges are now almost complete for public use.

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Young sacristan hangs self in the convent room

Priests and nuns were shocked to learn that a young sacristan allegedly hanged himself in the convent room of the Our Lady of Lourdes parish church in Banayoyo, Ilocos Sur, a Sept. 9 police report said.

P/Lt. Melvin Trinidad, chief of the Banayoyo PNP station, reported that the victim used a belt in hanging himself inside the convent room at 7 o'clock in the evening.

A girlfriend told investigators that suspected depression apparently drove the victim to end his life.

The victim, a native of Tagudin, Ilocos Sur, worked in the convent, and at the same time, he attended online classes in the school at San Fernando, La Union, investigators said. (tri-media report)

BBM's son Sandro to run for Congress

- It will be a "battle royale" if he faces Rep. Ria Farinas, RCF's daughter

SARRAT, Ilocos Norte (Sept. 14) -- Ferdinand Alexander "Sandro" Marcos has announced his political plan to run for congressman of Ilocos Norte's 1st District in the 2022 elections.

Sandro, the eldest son of former Senator Bongbong Marcos, publicly declared on Tuesday, Sept. 14, 2021 his political plan during

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Ilocos Sentinel Newspaper is published weekly in Laoag City, Ilocos Norte since Year 2006. It is widely circulated in Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, CAR and the entire Philippines. The clan Guiangs behind this paper are the proud direct descendants of DON MARTIN GUIANG, founder of the town of Paoay, Ilocos Norte and first chief executive of Paoay town (1701-1704).

Editorial:

DepEd celebrates victories on blended learning

The Department of Education has formally opened no face-to-face classes in public schools for the SY 2021-2022 on September 13 under the online/blended learning scheme for the second straight year amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

As such, over 24 million Filipino students started classes in their homes under the online and module program despite the majority of them lack the technology – no gadgets and no internet access for the digital learners.

Education Secretary Leonor Briones proudly claims that the new school opening of no face-to-face classes for the second year in a row amid the contagion is a “celebration of victories and successes.”

“[There] is much success to celebrate and build on. We did what was considered impossible in five months. We translated printed material into TV, radio, cell phone, tablet; and yes, utilized walkie-talkies for remote schools,” she said referring to last year’s school year.

As the second year of classes under a new normal commenced, we are optimistic that fewer complaints will be hurled against the DepEd people, as everyone expects them to have already perfected or almost perfected the system.

As of September 13, DepEd data showed 24,603,822 public and private school students have registered so far. The figure is 93.8% of last school year’s more than 26.2 million students.

Hence, DepEd extended the enrollment period until September 30 to accommodate more students, who for some justified reasons failed to enroll on time.

Indeed, whatever reason or challenges each one of us is facing, we, Filipinos, always put education first and foremost in our priorities aside from food and shelter. (IS)



WORD ALIVE

by Fr. Bel R. San Luis, SVD

Leaders should show good example

One time I was talking with a barangay chairman. I asked him why he keeps on running for the top barangay position.

His reply was: “I want people to have a high regard for me and my family. I want people to recognize me.” I admired the man’s frank response but I felt that his motive was self-centered and not the primary objective of serving his constituents.

Some people think of greatness in terms of titles and high positions, or outstanding achievements worthy of appreciation.

That’s fine if they are truly deserving. But you should not boast or brag about your accomplishment. Jesus Christ says, “He who humbles himself shall be exalted...He who exalts himself shall be humbled.

The “Titanic” was the biggest ship ever built during its

time. The owners bragged it was so big and fitted with a double steel plate that not even God could sink it. But on its maiden voyage in the Atlantic Ocean from London to New York accompanied by much pomp and fanfare, the huge ship hit an iceberg which opened a gaping hole on its side that caused it to sink to its sea grave.

As the Proverb said: “Pride goes before the before the fall!” In the book of Sirach, the prophet exhorts, “Conduct your affairs with humility...The greater you are, the more humble you should be and you will find favor with God.”

Aside from doing service with humility, what’s important is that people in authority like public servants, religious leaders, employers, parents, and teachers should lead by GOOD EXAMPLE. For instance, public servants

(Note: Fr. San Luis hails from Laoag City. He served as President of Divine Word College of Laoag in the 1980s. His new turf is the Christ The King Seminary in Quezon City. Thank you, Father Bel for sharing your weekly column for the Ilocos Sentinel.—Editor)

should exemplify honesty, justice, and transparency. How can they expect their constituents to be honest, just, or obey the laws if they themselves are dishonest and law-breakers?

Or, how can parents and teachers teach honesty and moral conduct to their children and students if they are prone to lying, unfaithful, and are engaged in drinking, gambling, and other vices?

As the saying goes, “I don’t hear what you are teaching because I cannot see it in your action.”

There are parents who are really charitable and exemplary. Let me quote an inspiring email letter which I received from a couple. It was in response to my appeal for help in my Manila Bulletin

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THE ILOCANO EDUCATOR

by Eduardo Teodoro “Jet” B. Ramos, Jr.

Accent shaming: a worldwide social and cultural disease

(Last of four parts)

Eduardo Teodoro “Jet” B. Ramos, Jr., MAELED, LPT is the corporate communications associate of MFI Polytechnic Institute, Inc. and the training manager and partner of JFE Teacher Training Services and JFER Training and Development Services. He is also a founding member, the publicity and communications head, and a member of the board of trustees of Philippine Advocates for Consultants and Trainers, Inc. (PACT, Inc.), a non-profit association of consultants and trainers in the Philippines. Apart from being a teacher for 13 years now, he is a character actor, inspirational speaker, corporate trainer, researcher in linguistics, and a media practitioner, being the host of VOICE OF THE TEACHERS RADIO (airing on Sundays from 1:00 to 2:00 PM over DWDD 1134 AM). For comments, suggestions, and inquiries, please contact Jet at (0917)648-43-28 and (0928)439-76-90. You may send him an email to edteo.ramos@yahoo.com or message him on Facebook (Jet Ramos).

(continued from September 12, 2021)

Going back to what we have talked about, I would like to underscore that accent shaming is a phenomenon that is not only unacceptable but also despicable. However, such an occurrence cannot be easily nipped in the bud because it has happened since time immemorial. So many of us are guilty of this and we do not realize that accent shaming does cause a major domino effect.

Though I promised you that I would give top ten (10) accent shaming people, I gave only six (please forgive me). Hence, I am giving four (4) more for your information and awareness:

1. **Language teachers of yore** – These harbingers of linguistic elitism in our society deserve to be guillotined because they do not realize how damaging their anti-Philippine language acts can really be. They insist that those who have crystal-clear accents and can enunciate every word and syllable with rapid-fire precision are intelligent. How stupid can they be, for Christ’s sakes! These types of old-school and backward-thinking language teachers must be hit on the head with a mallet to put much sense into their hollow shells!

2. **Media practitioners who disdain reporting in Filipino and other local languages** – These idiotic elitists who are supposed to be full-fledged members of the fourth estate protecting the interests of the nation are not really patriotic and catholic. They do not realize that learning one’s own language apart from English increases their versatility and facility in language use. They think that English is the supreme language, not realizing that we are not in the age anymore of colonization. If they keep on thinking that English is the supreme language, brace yourselves for lynching from the general public. I do not need to name names (but let me give you one clue: most of them come from Jesuit, elite schools) because I suppose that these media practitioners have the affective facility to reflect on their elitist attitudes and mindsets.

3. **High-and-mighty diplomats and officials from Western countries** – Americans and British, and Australians and Canadians to some extent, are particularly guilty of accent shaming. Though I have not personally experienced any verbal jabs from them (ostensibly because I have American,

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Red Cross opens a Bakuna Center in Ilocos Norte

The Philippine Red Cross (PRC) plays a major role in the National COVID-19 Vaccination Initiative as the humanitarian organization has opened its 21st Bakuna Center last September 16, 2021.

PRC opened a Bakuna Center in Robinsons Ilocos Norte to cater to those residing in the Municipality of San Nicholas, and the nearby areas. By the end of the day, 399 people were vaccinated by the PRC staff and volunteers from PRC Ilocos Norte Chapter.

“Mabisa ang lahat ng bakuna at nakakaligtas ito ng buhay. Hinihikayat ko ang lahat ng Pilipino na magpabakuna na ngayon, ito ang ating solution sa COVID-19” reiterates

Senator Richard Gordon. Additionally, the PRC has also vaccinated a total of 3,055 individuals in the Bakuna Centers and Bakuna Buses that were in operation yesterday, September 18, 2021.

As of September 18, 2021, the PRC has vaccinated 233,142 individuals in its 21 Bakuna Centers and 16 Bakuna Buses Nationwide. PRC Bakuna Centers as of September 16, 2021.

NCR PRC PLMC Mandaluyong PRC EDSA Boni PRC Pasay Chapter PRC Port Area PRC Manila – KABAKA PRC Manila -Letran PRC QC – Ever Commonwealth

PRC Rizal – Arcovia Mall Pasig PRC Rizal – SanLo Mall Makati

North Luzon PRC Tarlac City Walk Mall PRC Bulacan -BSU PRC Olongapo – Harbor Point PRC Bataan – Penelco PRC Ilocos Norte – Robinsons

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HVC Exponent Gas Station Batac-Banna Road Batac City

NEWSBIT Farmer fatally hacked in the neck--police SOLSONA, Ilocos Norte, Sept. 16, 2021--A farmer was almost beheaded when his co-worker hacked him in the neck during a bolo attack at Brgy. Bagbag, this town, a PNP spot report said. Police said the victim, 42, was declared dead on arrival at the Piddig district hospital. Barangay officials held the suspect, 23, and later surrendered him to the police authorities. Investigation showed that the victim’s alleged frequent scolding against the suspect apparently led to the bolo attack. The victim and the suspect are both natives of Cabugao, Ilocos Sur. (tri-media report)

IN: The country’s...(page 1)

Norte Tourism officer in charge Xavier Ruiz said.. Records showed that Ilocos Norte is one of the first tourist destinations in the Philippines to reopen during the pandemic. The province co-pioneered the Ridge and Reef Tourism Corridor for the Region I provinces and Baguio City.

Norte towns’ quarantine classification was de-escalated through a localized General Community declaration by Governor Matthew Marcos Manotoc, INTO released travel guidelines for the opening of local destinations for internal tourists. Specifically, Ilocos Norte residents of all ages who are generally healthy are now allowed to take day tours.

“They have recognized the presence of safety nets for stakeholders in the industry, specifically the establishment of a tourists’ triage, the regular conduct of hotel inspections, and our pioneering effort to prioritize tourism workers in our vaccine rollout,” Ruiz explained.

Tour participants are required to present a valid identification card, have a SafePass QR Code, and a negative antigen test result for those coming from areas in the province under Modified General Community Quarantine.

Meanwhile, the Provincial Government of Ilocos Norte (PGIN), through the Ilocos Norte Trade and Investment Center and INTO, reopened the application for “Stay IN,” a project which aims to help local resorts and hotels recover from the effect of the pandemic by inviting local authorized persons outside residence and other qualified individuals for “workation” or “studycation.”

Previously, to safely reopen the industry and restore the public’s confidence in travel, PGIN, INTO and the Provincial health Office vaccinated nearly 2,000 tourism workers, particularly tour guides, hospitality personnel, event organizers, food service providers, tour agencies, freelance creative workers, MSMEs, local food delivery drivers, and other tourism-related workers.

Stay IN requires applicants to have a SafePass QR Code, a negative antigen test result, and a booking confirmation from accredited tourism establishments, among others.

As most Ilocos Norte is one of the first provinces that inoculated its tourism sector for herd immunity. (Edison Justin B. Deus, PGIN-CMO)

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The Ilocano.....(page 2)

Spanish, and German blood), I really feel for my fellow Asians (yes, I also have Filipino, Chinese, and Japanese blood) and other non-Westerners just because they are being discriminated for their accent. These members of the upper crust and the upper rung of governance can be compared to bigots from the Old American South because they are too blinded by their ineffable prejudice, just like the late Governor Huey Long of Louisiana.

4. All other bigots in general – These people are undoubtedly stupid. You may find these sorts of Neanderthals at work, within your neighborhood, in media, in government, in school, or even in church. People who shame others for their accent are bound to die from sheer jealousy and are now subjects of our collective wrath.

Now, to educate you all on how we combat accent shaming, these are simple tips on how to fall in to the linguistic discrimination trap:

1. Never ask how one has learned how to speak good English. – Westerners, especially Americans, are very much guilty of this. Such a compliment is backhanded and is replete with racial undertones. Just take one for who he/she is, not for his/her linguistic dexterity especially in English.

2. Model proper pronunciation, stress, and intonation. – We teachers must not focus mainly on accent reduction but on fluidity. Those training centers that seek to eliminate so-called “non-American” or “non-British” accents must keep in mind that linguistic diversity is here to stay and is the order of the day.

3. Do not criticize or call out people for their accent. – We are not perfect, period.

4. Do not correct people outright for their slips of the tongue or other linguistic mistakes. – This is utterly shameful because people deserve to be affirmed, not treated as incompetent or infirm.

5. Never interrupt others, especially those whose accents are different from ours. – We exist not only to speak but to listen and to understand others. Forgive me for being guilty of this before, but now I

have changed ever since I became a teacher.

6. Never drive children to tears for not speaking fluently. – We parents tend to be guilty of this, not knowing that we are creating little vengadors and vengadoras.

7. Avoid using others’ accents to belittle and to mock them. – Except for demonstration or educational purposes, we do not have the right to belittle others’ accents just to make them lose their marbles. This is different from what JoKoy, Rex Navarrete, or Russell Peters do because these comedians are basing their material on their experiences and are just doing so to entertain other people.

8. Read up on different varieties of English and of other languages. – We cannot afford to be linguistically, culturally, and racially ignorant these days. Start with Google, but see to it that you read up on credible sources.

9. Travel, travel, travel. – Travel not to show cultural and linguistic dominance but to assimilate with others. What it does is that it widens our horizons and opens our hearts to others.

10. Be understanding of others’ linguistic faux pas and mistakes. – The main point is for us to understand other people and to make them feel loved, respected, and valued. Period.

There you have it, my friends! Let us open our minds and hearts as we embrace linguistic diversity! Remember this: Accent is not a liability but a part of one’s identity.

Agyamanak ket dios ti agngina! Ay ayatenka! Next week, I will share with you the ways on how to minimize, if not totally eradicate, accent shaming. Watch out for it!

If you have suggestions in terms of the education-related topics that you want me to feature, please feel free to send me an email to edteo.ramos@yahoo.com or to coachjet.inspirations@gmail.com and I will reply to you as soon as I receive your email.

DENR proposes P25.29-B budget for 'green growth recovery' in 2022

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is seeking a P25.29-billion budget for 2022 to bankroll programs that will steer the national government's agenda toward green growth.

Secretary Roy A. Cimatu presented the DENR's 2022 proposed budget during the budget hearing of the House Committee on Appropriations on Monday, Sept. 13.

Cimatu said the proposed budget will help the department fulfill its water resilience and water security programs to adapt to climate change and recover from the setback caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

"We shall be focusing on the strategic thrust of water resilience and water security to heighten integrated watershed management, promote sustainable livelihood for the upland communities, address pollution, protect wildlife and biodiversity," he pointed out.

Cimatu underscored the need for the government to pursue transformative actions by embracing green growth in addressing the unprecedented tasks toward recovery.

"The DENR's thrust in 2022 will strengthen the foundation for strategic investments in nature that

is seen to promote not just economic growth, but green growth for a more equitable and sustainable future for the country," he said.

The DENR chief said that priority support will also be given to 24 provinces with high susceptibility to climate hazards and high poverty incidences. These are Masbate, Sorsogon, Negros Oriental, Northern Samar, Eastern Samar, Western Samar, Sarangani, Surigao del Sur, Surigao del Norte, Dinagat Islands, Southern Leyte, Zamboanga del Norte, Bukidnon, North Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao, Sulu, Lanao del Sur, Apayao, Kalinga, Mountain Province, Ifugao, Catanduanes and Siquijor.

Metro Manila, Metro Cebu, Metro Iloilo, and Metro Davao are also part of the "priority geographic focus" to address the carrying capacities of these major urban hubs.

During the budget deliberation, DENR Undersecretary for Finance, Information Systems and Climate Change Atty. Analiza Rebueta-Teh said the DENR's proposed budget is 7 percent higher than the agency's 2021 approved budget of P23.59 billion.

Based on the DENR's proposed budget, P9.7

billion will be allocated to its 10 priority programs consisting of the Enhanced National Greening Program, P3.7 billion; Enhanced Biodiversity Conservation, P1.01 billion; Manila Bay Rehabilitation, P1.67 billion; Solid Waste Management, P1.07 billion; Clean Air, P143 million; Clean Water, P315.49 million; Intensified Forest Protection and Anti-illegal logging, P696.4 million; Improved Land Administration and Management, P415.3 million; Geo-Hazard, Groundwater Assessment and Responsible Mining, P407.7 million; and Scaling Up of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management Programs, P271.8 million.

Cagayan de Oro 2nd District Rep. Rufus Rodriguez recommended increasing the DENR's proposed budget, asking Cimatu to submit the DENR's proposed augmentation, particularly for the 10 priority programs.

"That is not fair to the DENR which is working

hard for our environment," Rodriguez said.

He lamented over "why only 7 percent" was the increase from DENR's 2021 budget, citing that the agency has performed well despite a meager budget and the ongoing pandemic.

"We understand that this was due to the limited fiscal space. But we agree with you that we really have to invest more on environment and natural resources management if you want to recover from the pandemic and promote green growth amidst this health crisis, Mr. Chair," Teh said.

For the past 10 years, DENR's approved budget has been less than 1 percent of the national appropriations.

Aklan Rep. Teodorico Haresco, Jr. who sponsored the DENR's proposed budget, has supported Rodriguez's proposal.

Haresco also pointed out that Buhay Partylist Rep. Jose Atienza backed the additional appropriations for the DENR's proposed budget for 2022. ###

BBM's son.....(page 1)

a small gathering of supporters held in this town, the birthplace of his grandfather, the late President Ferdinand Edralin Marcos.

If the plan pushes through, his platform of government includes more local job opportunities and fast economic recovery, among others.

Present during the Sarrat gathering were Sandro's parents Bongbong and Liza Marcos, Governor Matthew Marcos Manotoc, Vice Gov. Cecilia Araneta-Marcos, Laoag City Mayor Michael Marcos Keon, Rep. Angelo Marcos Barba (2nd district, Ilocos Norte), and several town mayors.

Sandro graduated with a Master's degree in Development Studies from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

As an experience, he worked as a member of the legislative staff House

Majority Leader Rep. Martin Romualdez.

At present, he serves as the economic consultant of Governor Manotoc.

As this developed, political analysts foresee a "battle royale" in case the young Marcos clashes against incumbent Rep. Ria Fariñas, daughter of former Governor-Congressman Rodolfo C. Fariñas.

Aside from the duo, who knows a dark horse, prominent or obscure in politics, may emerge and also join the political fray.

The rookie Sandro will have to use a potent strategy to match the political clout of the Fariñases in the province's first congressional district, the analysts said.

They said that the two scions are equally youthful and energetic, hence, watching them in the political arena is an exciting scenario to behold come 2022 local polls. (IS)

Grenade blast: 1 killed, 1 wounded in Currimao

CURRIMAO, Ilocos Norte, Sept. 13, 2021-- A hand grenade accidentally exploded resulting in the death of a politician's caretaker and injury of his companion at Poblacion 2, this town, lawmen reported.

P/Lt. Irineo Sibicao, Jr., the town police chief, identified the fatality as Jomer Herera, 30, and the wounded companion as Rico Santos.

He said the grenade blast severely mutilated the fatality's body including his private parts. He died on the spot.

His companion was declared in stable condition while being treated of his injuries at the hospital in Batac City.

Investigation showed that the Herera was allegedly toying with the grenade while resting in a hut together with Santos when the grenade went wrong and accidentally exploded in his hand.

The incident occurred in a politician's compound where Herera and his father are the property caretakers, the investigators said. (tri-media report)



Word Alive.....(page 2)

column for some poor Covid patients. The couple responded, saying: "My husband and I celebrated our 25th Wedding Anniversary last July. ***

"In these hard times, we decided not to celebrate it lavishly. We went to church and asked a priest to bless us. We decided that we will just give the money we would be spending to the needy. ***

"We are also in a crisis right now. But we know there are a lot more of our fellowmen who are hard up and in need of help." They added: "I hope that our children will follow the good examples we have done." ***

Today's laugh. A Japanese tourist was riding around Manila on a taxi. He said: "This is Toyota...Made in Japan. Very fast." Seeing a car pass by, he remarked: "Ah, that's Mitsubishi...Made in Japan. Very fast." Oh, another car, Suzuki, passing. Made in Japan. Very fast." ***

On reaching his destination, the Japanese was flabbergasted to see the

fare amounting P3,000. "Why fare so high!" the passenger blurted. ***

The driver tapped the meter and said, "Taxi meter, made in Japan. Very fast!" ***

St. Philip Neri once said: "Human pride is the hardest to die. It dies 10 minutes after one is dead." ***

A man wrote a letter to the BIR: "I have been unable to sleep knowing that I cheated on my taxes. I have enclosed a cheque for P10,000. If I still can't sleep, I'll pay the rest." ***

Appeal for COVID patients. Let me thank those who responded to my appeal for financial assistance for poor COVID patients. I am appealing further since our funds are depleting. Any amount will be highly appreciated. ***

The Lord said, "Whatever you did to the least of My brethren, you did it for Me" (Mt. 25,40). For inquiry, e-mail me at: belsvd@gmail.com or call 09175501886.

Two bridges.....(page 1)

He said it's a part of the special projects of the agrarian agency that would benefit the farmers in the transport of their agricultural crops as well as the local residents in their travel needs.

"Patapos na po ang mga ito. Ilalagay na lamang nila ang mga 'finishing touches'. Hopefully, our DAR Secretary could come to the province for the official turnover of the projects to the beneficiaries," said Ines.

Spanning 28.8 linear meters, the "Tulay ng Pangulo" bridge in Barangay Buduan, Burgos is seen to benefit 195 households. Its project cost was Php 7,331,423.17.

On the other hand, the Sumader bridge in Batac

City is 34.2 linear meters long and a boon to the 302 households. It was funded to the tune of Php 8,687,568.15.

With the help of the Department of Public Works and Highways, the Tulay ng Pangulo aims to promote "rural development in agrarian reform communities, enhance productivity and income through reduced marketing cost, and alleviate poverty among agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) and agrarian reform areas."

The DAR provincial head hopes to officially turn over the bridge projects before the end of September or early October this year. (Ma. Joreina Therese A. Blanco /PIA Ilocos Norte)

DOLE GIP hones promising breed of civil servants in Region 1

Government service has always been an esteemed profession, more so now when the role of the government in the nation's crisis recovery comes deeply crucial.

Recognizing the need to constantly develop human resources for the government, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) has long been implementing a program that taps into the potentials of the country's youth to become the next trailblazers in public service.

This is the Government Internship Program or GIP.

It seeks to provide young workers the opportunity to demonstrate their talents and skills in the field of public service with the goal of attracting the best and the brightest to pursue a career in government service.

A component of the government's Kabataan 2000 project under Executive Order No. 139 Series of 1993, the GIP allows individuals aged 18-30 years old to have a glimpse of the 'world of work' in various government offices. In the local levels, the GIP employers are usually regional line agencies

(RLAs) and local government units (LGUs).

GIP interns are employed for a duration of three to six months. They receive a daily stipend worth the prevailing regional minimum wage rate. In Region 1, that's P340.00 per day.

For young jobseekers in Region 1, the DOLE GIP is touted as a potential springboard to landing into viable posts in the government.

"I remember how my classmates and I really yearned to be part of the program," said Alfer Jade Organista, 27, who was among the first batch of GIP interns during its launch in 2014. "For us fresh graduates, the GIP was a prized opportunity in paving our path to becoming public servants."

Organista served as GIP intern at the LGU Santa Cruz, Ilocos Sur. With his hard work and dedication, he rose from the ranks as Administrative Aide IV, and now Labor and Employment Officer I of the LGU's Public Employment Services Office (PESO).

He is a licensed professional teacher, but now intends to continue

servicing his LGU where he now feels a great sense of belongingness and fulfillment.

Such is also the story of Leizel Licaycay-Licayan, 29, of LGU San Fernando, City, La Union. Also a licensed professional teacher, she is now GAD Specialist III – a position she was able to earn by first starting as a GIP intern.

"GIP gave me this opportunity to discover my potentials and prove my worth. I am excited to serve and deliver more, not only for my personal growth, but to the people of my city whom I am duty-bound to serve," Licaycay-Licayan shares.

Since the GIP's inception in 2014, DOLE Regional Office 1 has

already produced 11,878 GIP interns.

"We are glad to note these success stories of our former GIP interns, who now personify the vision of the program – to help build a strong and robust workforce for the Philippine Civil Service," DOLE RO1 Regional Director Atty. Evelyn Ramos said.

"With the leadership of our Secretary Silvestre H. Bello III, the DOLE is resolute in its mission to not only promote gainful employment opportunities, but foster dynamic human resources, which remains to be our country's greatest resource," RD Ramos underscored. (By Justin Paul Marbella with reports from Sherwin Abalos and Dionne Cleo Cruz)

DOLE-GIP hones promising breed of Civil Servants in Region 1

Government service has always been regarded as a noble profession, more so now when the role of the government in the nation's crisis recovery comes in deeply crucial.

Recognizing the need to constantly develop human resources for the government, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) has long been implementing a program that taps into the potentials of the country's youth to become the next trailblazers in public service.

This is Government Internship Program or GIP.

It seeks to provide young workers the opportunity to demonstrate their talents and skills in the field of public service with the goal of attracting the best and the brightest to pursue a career in government service.

A component of the government's Kabataan 2000 project under Executive Order No. 139 Series of 1993, the GIP allows individuals aged 18-30 years old to have a glimpse of the 'world of work' in various government offices. In the local levels, the GIP employers are usually regional line agencies (RLAs) and local government units (LGUs).

GIP interns are employed for a duration of three to six months. They receive a daily stipend worth the prevailing regional minimum wage rate. In Region 1, that's P340.00 per day.

For young jobseekers in Region 1, the DOLE GIP is touted as a potential springboard to landing into viable posts in the government.

"I remember how my classmates and I really yearned to be part of the program," said Alfer Jade Organista, 27, who was among the first batch of GIP interns during its launch in 2014. "For us fresh graduates,

the GIP was a prized opportunity in paving our path to becoming public servants."

Organista served as GIP intern at the LGU Santa Cruz, Ilocos Sur. With his hard work and dedication, he rose from the ranks as Administrative Aide IV, and now Labor and Employment Officer I of the LGU's Public Employment Services Office (PESO).

He is a licensed professional teacher, but now intends to continue serving his LGU where he now feels a great sense of belongingness and fulfillment.

Such is also the story of Leizel Licaycay-Licayan, 29, of LGU San Fernando, City, La Union. Also a licensed professional teacher, she is now GAD Specialist III – a position she was able to earn by first starting as a GIP intern.

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"With the leadership of our Secretary Silvestre H. Bello III, the DOLE is resolute in its mission to not only promote gainful employment opportunities, but foster dynamic human resources, which remains to be our country's greatest resource," RD Ramos underscored. END/Justin Paul Marbella with reports from Sherwin Abalos and Dionne Cleo Cruz.

DEED OF ADJUDICATION WITH ABSOLUTE SALE

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of deceased JUAN MENOR pertaining to a parcel of land designated as Lot No. 209, CAD-445-D, situated at Bgy. Nagbacalan, Paoay, Ilocos Norte, covered by Original Certificate of Title No. P-56856 was the subject of Deed of Adjudication with Absolute Sale executed by his heirs before Notary Public Atty. Jose Roy B. Raval; Doc. No. 127; Page No. 26; Book No. IV; Series of 2021.

Sept. 13, 20 & 27, 2021*Ilocos Sentinel

DEED OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of deceased GALILEO G. SUGA pertaining to a MOTOR VEHICLE described as follows: Make:HONDA; Series: TMX 1559; Year: 2010; MV File No. 0112-0000031604; Plate No.: 4737 AV; Chassis No.: KB509127238 has been extrajudicially settled by his sole heir Lina Suga as per instrument executed before Notary Public Atty. Julius Harvey P. Balbas; Doc. No. 244; Page No. 49; Book No. XX; Series of 2021.

Aug. 30, Sept. 6 & Sept. 13, 2021*Ilocos Sentinel

AFFIDAVIT OF CLAIM WITH WAIVER OF RIGHTS

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of deceased CRESENCIA D. BALLUNGAY pertaining to a BANK DEPOSIT at Philippine Veterans Bank - Laoag Branch under Savings Account Nos. 0044327635102 and 044018000010 was the subject of Affidavit of Claim with Waiver of Rights executed by her surviving heirs Edgar Ballungay and Kristoffer D. Ballungay executed before Notary Public Atty. Kristine Amber Corpuz Aurelio; Doc. No. 345; Page No. 70; Book No. II; Series of 2021.

Sept. 13, 20 & 27, 2021*Ilocos Sentinel

WAIVER OF RIGHTS

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of deceased FLORENCIO C. IBON pertaining to a MOTOR VEHICLE described as follows: Make: HONDA; TYPE OF BODY: Motorcycle with Sidecar; ENGINE NO.: KB509E 218832; Chassis No.: KB509 218834; YEAR MODEL: 2011; PLATE NUMBER: 3625 AW; MV File No. 0124-00000090638; SIDECAR NO.: 0450-21 was the subject of Waiver of Rights executed by his immediate heir Elizar Q. Ibon executed before Notary Public Atty. John John P. Felipe; Doc. No.279; Page No. 56; Book No. CCXVII; Series of 2021.

Sept. 13, 20 & 27, 2021*Ilocos Sentinel

R.A. 9048 Form 10.1 (LCRO)
Republic of the Philippines
Local Civil Registry Office
Province of Ilocos Norte
Municipality of Pagudpud

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that **GODFREY DE GUZMAN FAYLOGNA** has filed with this office a petition for change of first name from "**GODFRE**" to "**GODFREY**" in the Certificate of Live Birth of **GODFRE DE GUZMAN FAYLOGNA** who was born on **October 10, 1965** at **Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte** and whose parents are **ELOY FAYLOGNA** and **REMEDIOS DE GUZMAN**.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this Office not later than **September 20, 2021**.

(Sgd.) **RODEL R. RAGONJAN**
Municipal Civil Registrar

September 6-12, 2021 &
September 13-19, 2021*Ilocos Sentinel

95% of Region I....(back page)

province in the region. Kapihan sa Ilocos that (VHS/PIA Pangasinan)

PHOTO: Regional Director Emmanuel B. Peralta of the Police Regional Office 1 announced during the

vaccination roll-out among police force in Region is now at 95 percent.(VENUS MAY H. SARMIENTO/PIA Pangasinan)

DEED OF ADJUDICATION WITH SALE

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of deceased JOSE AGBUNAG and FLORIDA AGBUNAG pertaining to a parcel of land designated as Lot No. 55, BSD-012817-000961. VLT, being a portion of Lot H-120756,, situated at Brgy. San Juan, Municipality of Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte, covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. C-1022 has been adjudicated by their heir and simultaneously sold unto Sps. Reyno Julito Sabio and Rumileyn Sabio as per instrument executed before Notary Public Atty. Nestor T. Corpuz; Doc. No. 385; Page No. 78; Book No. XX; Series of 2021.

Aug. 30, Sept. 6 & Sept. 13, 2021*Ilocos Sentinel

DEED OF ADJUDICATION WITH SALE

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of deceased CARMEN ALMAZAN and JUAN SALES pertaining to a parcel of land designated as Lot No. 1652-d, PSD-01-061220, being a portion of Lot 1652, Cad 195, Laoag Cadastre, L.R.C. Rec. No. 1144, situated in Barangay Balacad, Laoag City, covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. T-38478 has been adjudicated by their heirs and simultaneously sold unto Rey Carlos M. Fariñas as per instrument executed before Notary Public Atty. Bernie Francis B. Constantino; Doc. No. 26; Page No. 6; Book No. LXXXIV; Series of 2021.

Sept. 6, 13 & 20, 2021*Ilocos Sentinel

DEED OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT AND ABSOLUTE SALE

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of deceased SPOUSES CRISOGONO C. VALLESTEROS and FLORA CAMPOS VALLESTEROS pertaining to a parcel of land designated as Lot No. 22039 of the Cadastral Survey of Laoag, situated in the Poblacion (Barrio of San Bernabe), Municipality of Laoag (now Laoag City), covered by T.C.T. No. T-2268 has been adjudicated by their heirs and simultaneously sold unto Rogelio M. Domingo as per instrument executed before Notary Public Atty. Juan Conrado A. Respicio II; Doc. No. 164; Page No. 33; Book No. CCCLXXV; Series of 2014.

Sept. 6, 13 & 20, 2021*Ilocos Sentinel

DEED OF ADJUDICATION WITH ABSOLUTE SALE

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of deceased MARIO M. ALCANTARA pertaining to a parcel of land designated as Lot No. 12314, Cad-398, situated at Brgy. 16 Quiling Sur, Batac City, covered by Original Certificate of Title No. P53328 has been adjudicated by his heirs and simultaneously sold unto John Carlo M. Nery as per instrument executed before Notary Public Atty. Julius Harvey P. Balbas; Doc. No. 102; Page No. 21; Book No. XIV; Series of 2021.

Sept. 6, 13 & 20, 2021*Ilocos Sentinel

DEED OF EXTRAJUDICIAL OF ESTATE WITH SALE

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of deceased MANUEL DADIZ and JUANITA CORPUZ DADIZ pertaining to a parcel of land designated as Lot No. 18013-27, Csd 1-002069 OLT, being a portion of Lot 18013 Cad 307-D, situated at Barrio San Lorenzo, Municipality of San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte has been extrajudicially settled among their heirs and simultaneously sold unto Henry William M. Guillermo as per instrument executed before Notary Public Atty. Luciano R. Caraang; Doc. No. 04; Page No. 01; Book No. CXCIII; Series of 2021.

Sept. 6-12, Sept. 13-19 & Sept. 20-26, 2021*Ilocos Sentinel

DEED OF ADJUDICATION

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of deceased Benedicta Salvador, Pablo Soriano, Jose Tumaneng, Marcelino Tumaneng, Guillermo Tumaneng, Modesto Tumaneng, Adan Soriano, Lourdes Soriano, Encarnacion Soriano, Dominador Soriano and Saturnino Soriano pertaining to their respective shares over a parcel of land designated as Lot No. 22034 of the Cadastral Survey of Laoag, situated in the Barrio of San Bernabe and Vira, Laoag City, covered by Original Certificate of Title No. 19154 has been adjudicated by their legal heir SATURNINO T. SORIANO as per instrument executed before Notary Public Atty. Alfredo A. Madamba; Doc. No. 3340; Page No. 48; Book No. VII; Series of 1995.

Sept. 6, 13 & 20, 2021*Ilocos Sentinel

DEED OF ADJUDICATION

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of deceased ADRIANA AGUIGAM pertaining to a parcel of land designated as Lot No. 32032, situated at Brgy. Camguidan, Batac, Ilocos Norte, covered by Original Certificate of Title (P-16744) 2021000052 has been adjudicated by his heirs and simultaneously sold unto John Carlo M. Nery as per instrument executed before Notary Public Atty. Windell D. Chua; Doc. No. 5; Page No. 2; Book No. CLXXXVIII; Series of 2021.

Sept. 6, 13 & 20, 2021*Ilocos Sentinel

DEED OF ADJUDICATION WITH SALE

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of deceased DEOGRACIAS PASION pertaining to her share over a parcel of land designated as Lot No. 22042 of the Cadastral Survey of Laoag, situated in the Poblacion (Barrio of San Bernabe), Municipality of Laoag (now Laoag City), covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. T-1702 has been adjudicated by her legal heir and simultaneously sold a portion of said lot equivalent to 1,437.54 sq. m. unto Spouses Rogelio M. Domingo and Marilyn P. Domingo as per instrument executed before Notary Public Atty. Kathleen Ann A. Bonador-Gumiran; Doc. No. 365; Page No. 72; Book No. VIII; Series of 2021.

Sept. 6, 13 & 20, 2021*Ilocos Sentinel

DEED OF ADJUDICATION WITH ABSOLUTE SALE

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of deceased GELACIO EUGENIO and SANTIAGO EUGENIO pertaining to a parcel of land designated as Lot No. 22037, with improvements thereon, situated in the Poblacion (Barrio of San Bernabe), City of Laoag, covered by Original Certificate of Title No. 22385 has been adjudicated by their heirs and simultaneously sold unto Rogelio Miguel Domingo as per instrument executed before Notary Public Atty. Jason Bader LL. Perera; Doc. No. 471; Page No. 95; Book No. 241; Series of 2017.

Sept. 6, 13 & 20, 2021*Ilocos Sentinel

78 electronics.....(page 7)

adopted the new normal and established livelihood through online businesses setting them as an example. “We, at the Congress, help provide more opportunities for the Filipino people especially with the pandemic we are facing. So I allotted funds to the TESDA for the implementation of various skills training to 511 people who are interested in training for the 16 identified skill qualifications,” she added. (Joyah Mae C. Quimoyog/PIA Ilocos Sur)

New building.....(page 7)

Affairs Office (PDAO) and Senior Citizens Affairs Office. The provincial government is now in the process of completing all necessary equipment for the multi-purpose building to become fully operational, the PSWDO chief further stated in the report. The basic sector building is one of the three buildings inaugurated by the provincial government led by Governor Amado Espino III on September 15. The two others are the Provincial Youth Development Centre and the Children’s Library and Information Center. “Malaking tulong po ang mga ito sa probinsya ng Pangasinan gayundin sa mga kababayan natin na mapagsisilbihan ng mga building na ito.” Governor Espino said. The provincial chief executive expressed his gratitude to national government agencies and private sectors, including: the Department of Energy, Department of the Interior and Local Government, and Team Energy Sual for helping fund the three projects. (VENUS MAY H. SARMIENTO /PIA Pangasinan)

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La Union partners.....(page 7)

he stated. Also, incentives were established to further encourage more people to donate blood. Further, while the LGU is in charge of convincing people, personnel of the DOH CHD-1 and the ITRMC worked on the technical side and facilitated the collection, as well as managed the blood donations. Mauro A. Marzan, regional blood coordinator, said these units of blood gathered from the municipality will be given to ITRMC. “Ang mga dugo na nakolekta natin sa bayan ng San Gabriel ay mapupunta sa ITRMC na gagamitin ng mga pasyente natin na nangailangan ng dugo gaya ng mga may cancer, dengue o naaksidente at kinakailangang masalanan,” Marzan said. He also cited that deferred donors were immediately given the proper medical intervention. “Yung mga na-defer dahil sa iba’t-ibang mga rason gaya ng mababa ang hemoglobin o may mataas na presyon ay agad nating ipinagbibigay-alam sa LGU para mabigyan ng tamang medikasyon,” he stated. Meanwhile, the organizers assured that the minimum public health protocols were strictly observed during the activity to prevent possible transmission of the coronavirus 2019. (By: Caren Grace Cabanayan/PIA La Union)



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AFP reports.....(back page)

halfway house also serves as a venue for livelihood training and psycho-socio debriefing of the ex-rebels before reintegration into mainstream society. “True to its promise of hope and reconciliation, the government continues to deliver programs and projects that address the causes of grievances of our people. We are also reiterating our call to the remnants of the communist terrorists to lay down their arms and abandon the armed violence. Think of your family and your future. You deserve a much better life together with your family in a peaceful and progressive community,” Burgos stressed. Earlier, NOLCOM reported the surrender of 602 former rebels in Northern and Central Luzon from Jan. 1 to Sept. 5 this year. (Freddie G. Lazaro/PIA I)

ILOCOS SUR



LA UNION



PANGASINAN

78 electronics service training scholars get starter kits

VIGAN CITY, Ilocos Sur (PIA) - - A total of 78 scholars of the Special Training for Employment Program (STEP) from the towns of Salcedo and Sta. Cruz, Ilocos Sur received free starter kits from the Technical Education and Skills Development (TESDA).

Twenty-three scholars of Service Industrial Electronic Modules, Products and Systems (Leading to Electronic Product Assembly and Servicing (EPAS) NCII) from barangay Pias, Salcedo received tool kits on September 16 while 50 scholars of Service Consumer Electronic Products and Systems (Leading to EPAS NCII) from barangays Ubbog, Salcedo and Calaoaan, Sta. Cruz received tool kits on September 17.

Each recipient received a unit of volt-ohm meter (Multitester) analog, one set each of soldering iron and screw driver, and one piece each

of long nose plier, diagonal cutting plier, desoldering pump/solder sucker and wire stripper with cutter.

The scholars trained in 2019 under the STEP, which is funded by the office of Ilocos Sur Second District Representative Kristine Singson.

With the challenges brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic, Rep. Singson hoped the scholars will be able to make a living out of the skill they learned and the tool kits given to them.

"The STEP have helped develop your skills and with the tool kits provided to you, we hope you continue your livelihood or come up with one. These tool kits are for you, use these to establish a better future not just for your family but for the community as well," Rep. Singson said in her message to the recipients.

She added that amid the pandemic, some have

(Pls. turn to page 6)

LA UNION

La Union partners with DOH, ITRMC for blood donation drive

SAN GABRIEL, La Union, Sept. 14 (PIA) - The Local Government of San Gabriel, in partnership with the Ilocos Center for Health Development and the Ilocos Training and Regional Medical Center collected a total of 83 blood bags through a blood-letting activity launched here on Thursday.

Thirty-one of these blood units were donated by individuals with Blood Type B, 29 bags from persons with Blood Type O, 22 units from residents with Blood Type A, and three bags from AB Blood Type donors.

Though a hundred individuals were registered as potential donors, only 85 have qualified for phlebotomy because 15 were deferred mostly due to low hemoglobin while few have failed the interview.

According to Mayor Herminigildo M. Velasco, this blood donation drive would greatly help ensure adequate supply of blood

for the town's people who might be in need of it, as well as for the patients of various health facilities in the province.

"Kailangan natin masiguro na kung may mangangailangan na kababayan natin ng dugo ay hindi na maproblema pa kung saan hahanap," Velasco said.

The local government has long been a constant partner and advocate of the blood donation activity.

Velasco said the LGU worked hard through the years on the intensified information campaign to instill into people's minds the importance of blood and convince them to participate in this noble activity.

"We made the community aware how important blood is by giving them the right information or the data that matters, and from there, they can realize its significance and so later they decide on their own,"

(Pls. turn to page 6)

DTI- La Union celebs World Bamboo Day

In celebration of World Bamboo Day 2021 and Philippine Bamboo Month, with the theme "Alay ng Bayan sa Inang Kalikasan, Kawayan", DTI La Union Provincial Office, in partnership with Center for Bamboo Development, Inc., conducted a Bamboo Planting Activity cum Advocacy on Agro-Forestry Model Using Bamboo on September 17, 2021 at CBDI Farm, Ambalite, Pugo, La Union. The activity served as an avenue to promote the growth of the bamboo industry and to appreciate the significant contribution of the bamboo industry to the Philippine economy. It has built and strengthened the linkage and network among the bamboo stakeholders/MSMEs, LGUs, private agencies and NGAs in the province of La Union who joined the activity.

Bamboo Month emphasizes the growing need to promote the value and importance of bamboo in the lives of the Filipinos. Bamboo is a non-timber forest product with a wide array of uses and benefits. It can be a source of food, building material for the construction of houses, a raw material for fabrics, and can play an important role in soil erosion control, land rehabilitation and water conservation. Also, it is one of the sustainable resources that encompasses different aspects especially to the environment.

The conduct of bamboo advocacy programs will support the Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Roadmap's vision of a progressive, dynamic, productive, and globally competitive bamboo industry. (DTI-Ilocos Region)

LA UNION

DAR turns over P1-million solar-powered irrigation to La Union farmers

SAN FERNANDO CITY, Sept. 15 (PIA) -- Farmer-members of the Mangan Agrarian Reform Cooperative in Santol, La Union will now enjoy a solar-powered irrigation system (SPIS) from the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR).

DAR Secretary John R. Castriciones led the inauguration and turn-over ceremony of the P1-million irrigation system on Sept. 14 in Mangan village in Santol, La Union.

"Mayroong 75 na agrarian reform beneficiaries ang mabibiyayaan ng proyektong patubig na ito lalo na sa panahon ng El Niño," Castriciones said.

Unlike the traditional way of irrigating farms with a gasoline-powered engine pump, the SPIS is an environmentally friendly solar-powered system that lowers farmers' output costs.

Implemented as part of the DAR's Climate Resilient Farm Productivity Support Project, SPIS aims to

assist agrarian reform beneficiary organizations (ARBOs) in far-flung areas with irrigating their farmlands up to five hectares in order to enhance productivity even during the dry months.

Benny Arellano, one of the project beneficiaries, expressed gratitude to the national government through the DAR for the initiative.

"Napakaganda ng proyektong ito at nakita natin na sa pagkakagawano, talagang matagal na gagamitin ng mga beneficiary. Kaya nagpapasalamat ako sa programang ito dahil siguradong makakatulong ito sa aming pagsasaka," Arellano, also Mangan village chairperson, said.

Castriciones also provided farm machinery, equipment, and farm implements to eight additional ARBOs in La Union at the DAR La Union Provincial Office, this city, shortly after the SPIS turn-over event in Santol. (Joanne Namnama P. Dilim/PIA La Union)

New building for seniors, PWDs and GAD rises in Pangasinan

The provincial government of Pangasinan inaugurated a new two-storey multi purpose building for the basic sectors to provide a one-stop shop for assistive services for persons with disabilities, senior citizens and women and children, among others.

The building, which has a project area of 767.30 square meters, will be administered by the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office (PSWDO), according to a report from the Provincial Information Office.

PSWDO Chief Emilio P. Samson Jr. stated that all services inside the multi-

purpose building will be free of charge, such as the provision of eyeglasses and hearing aids for elders and persons with disabilities (PWDs); holistic physical rehabilitation for PWDs through Stimulation Therapeutic Activity Center; psychological assessment, counselling support for violence against women and children (VAWC); and Prosthesis and Assistive Device Manufacturing Center.

Samson added that the multi-purpose building, located within the PSWDO compound, will also house the Persons with Disability

(Pls. turn to page 6)

PANGASINAN

Dagupan City reports 8 Delta variant cases

DAGUPAN CITY, Sept. 15 (PIA) - The City Government of Dagupan confirmed on Wednesday that eight cases of the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) Delta variant have been monitored in the city.

According to the Dagupan City Public Information Office (PIO), Mayor Marc Brian Lim was informed by the Department of Health (DOH) through a letter from the Ilocos Center for Health Development (CHD-1) that new cases were reported by the Philippine Genome Center (PGC) and notified the DOH Epidemiology Bureau office on September 14, 2021.

The report said the eight new cases tested positive for Covid-19 Delta variant as of August 16, 2021.

According to Lim, even before the city received confirmation from the DOH that there is a Delta variant in Dagupan, the steps taken by the city government since last month are already based on the assumption that there is a Delta variant in the city.

"Tandaan po natin na itong genome sequencing ay lumalabas three to four weeks late, kaya ito po 'yong mga kaso natin noong Agosto pa. Kaya ang dapat na maging policy ng siyudad ay i-assume na Delta variant na talaga ang umiikot dahil 'yan lamang

ang rason sa pagdami ng mga kaso nitong mga nakaraang linggo," said Lim.

On Tuesday, the city recorded 59 new confirmed cases bringing the total active Covid-19 cases to 975.

"Kung titingnan natin ang datos sa buong Pilipinas, more than 80 percent na po sa umiikot na Covid-19 ay Delta variant," Lim said.

Lim added that the most important thing is that all Dagupeños must continue to be careful so that the transmission of the Covid-19 virus will be reduced.

Lim appealed for the public's discipline in following the health protocols such as proper wearing of facemask and faceshield, regular handwashing and practicing physical distancing.

"Kung susunod po tayo sa lahat ng patakaran na inilalabas ng pamahalaang lungsod, siguradong mas mapapabilis po natin ang pagbaba ng bilang ng mga kaso," added Lim.

Likewise, Dr. Ophelia Rivera, the city's Covid-19 focal person, said three of the positive Delta variant cases were medical frontliners, whose conditions are still being determined because it has been almost a month since they were isolated in various facilities. (ELSHA MARIE S. ARGUEL/PIA Pangasinan)



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Vol. 16 No. 16 Laoag City, Ilocos Norte, Philippines September 13-19, 2021

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PRO1 Regional Director B/Gen. Emmanuel Peralta, assisted by Vice Mayor Eduardo Toquero of Sta. Lucia, Ilocos Sur, and Ilocos Sur Police Provincial Director P/Col. Wilson Doromal, turned over the PRO1 Impact Projects to the people of Barangay Paoc Norte, Sta. Lucia, Ilocos Sur during a ceremony held on September 17, 2021. (Photo courtesy of PRO1)

AFP reports completion of 8 halfway houses for ex-rebels in NL

SAN FERNANDO CITY, La Union, Sept. 15 (PIA) - - The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has reported the completion of construction of eight halfway houses in Northern Luzon.

Major Israel O. Galorio, public information officer of the Northern Luzon Command (NOLCOM) of the AFP, said these newly-constructed halfway houses have complete amenities and furniture.

"These halfway houses are just waiting for electricity and water connection to make them fully operational," Galorio said.

Of the eight halfway houses completed, three are built in Region 1 located in Bantay, Ilocos Sur; Laoag City, Ilocos Norte; and Burgos, Pangasinan. The five other halfway houses were built in Lallo, Cagayan; Cabarroguis, Quirino; Lagangilang, Abra; Bontoc, Mt. Province; and Tabuk City, Kalinga. These halfway houses can accommodate 271 individuals.

For Northern Luzon, a total of 11 halfway houses are programmed to be built for ex-rebels. The remaining three halfway houses are nearly completing their construction. These houses are located in Ilagan City, Isabela; Kiangnan, Ifugao;

and Luna, Apayao.

Lieutenant General Arnulfo Marcelo B. Burgos Jr., the NOLCOM chief, commended the local government units responsible for fast-tracking the completion of the halfway houses.

"The timely completion of the halfway houses is a welcome development in the government's fight against the communist terrorists. I commend the local government units and partner agencies responsible for the speedy completion of the projects, as it manifests their strong desire and unwavering commitment to end local communist armed conflict in their respective locality," said LtGen. Burgos.

"The completion of these halfway houses exhibit the government's sincerity to address the plight of our people who have been deceived by the communist terrorists to support their false cause," Burgos added.

The construction of the halfway house is part of the Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program (ECLIP) of the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF ELCAC). It aims to provide temporary shelter to former rebels and their families while processing their enrollment to ECLIP. The

(Pls. turn to page 6)

95% of Region I police force now vaccinated vs. COVID-19

Vaccination roll-out among police force in Region I is now at 95 percent, as announced by the Police Regional Office 1.

Regional Director Emmanuel B. Peralta said out of the 9,700-strong police force, more than 5,000 have completed the vaccination while some 4,000 have received the first dose of the vaccine.

The remaining 200

plus employees have not received the jab due to various reasons like -pregnancy, comorbidity and those currently infected with the virus.

"Every week naman ay may nadadagdag na nababakunahan sa second dose kaya malapit na rin makumpleto ng mababakunahan lahat ng ating kapulisan para sa kanilang proteksyon," Peralta said

during the Kapihan sa Ilocos organized by the Philippine Information Agency.

Peralta sadly announced, however, that in the last two weeks, three police officers in the region have died due to COVID-19. Peralta said one is from La Union and two are from Pangasinan.

"Nakakalungkot na sa hanay ng kapulisan, nagkaroon tayo ng tatlong

casualties sa nakaraang dalawang linggo dahil sa COVID-19," Peralta said.

The regional director enjoined the public to continue observing minimum public health standards and assured everyone that the police force will implement strict measures according to the guidelines on every quarantine status of every

(Pls. turn to page 5)

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