

TIMON

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF DILG REGION XIII

VISION

The Department is the primary catalyst for excellence in local governance that nurtures self-reliant, progressive, orderly, safe, and globally-comprehensive communities sustained by God-centered and empowered citizenry.

MISSION

The Department shall promote peace and order, ensure public safety and strengthen capability of local government units through active people participation and a professionalized corps of civil servants.



Mayor Bonifacio Ondona of Cagwait, Surigao del Sur is shown receiving the Gawad Pamana ng Lahi Award from Secretary Jesse Robredo at the PICC. Other winners are the province of Agusan del Norte and Surigao City

DILG awards Gawad Pamana ng Lahi 2011 Winners

The DILG awarded the Gawad Pamana ng Lahi 2011 winners during the Biyaheng Pinoy Celebration, last October at the Philippine International Convention Center, Manila.

This award was given as a recognition of exemplary performance in local governance based on the different indicators: a.) average result of the service areas of the local governance performance management system for 2010, b.) result of the seal of good housekeeping in 2011, c.) innovations introduced for the last three years and d.) regional or national awards/distinctions received in 2010.

Agusan del Norte emerged as the winner for the provincial level and was given a cash award in the amount of three million pesos (Php3,000,000.00). In the case of cities, Surigao City is the winner and was also given a cash award of two million pesos (Php2,000,000.00). Lastly, Cagwait, Surigao del Sur is the winner for the municipal level category and received one million pesos (Php1,000,000.00) cash award.

The prizes were taken from the

Performance Challenge Fund of the DILG and are governed by certain policies as provided for by the General Appropriations Act of 2011 and will be used by the winners to finance projects that are geared towards the attainment of the MDGs, local economic development or those that relate to adaptation to climate change and preparedness for disasters. MCAMS

DILG to LGUs: Revisit implementation of ARTA Law

Butuan City- The Department of the Interior and Local Government Region XIII, in partnership with the Local Government Academy (LGA) and the Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional Para el Desarrollo (AECID) through the *Strengthening Local Governments in the Philippines (SLGP) Project*, call on the local government units of Region XIII (Caraga) to review implementation of the provisions of Republic Act 9485 also known as the Anti-Red Tape Act of 2007 during the conduct of the Forum dubbed as: *"Governance Forum Towards Transparent and Efficient Frontline Services"* recently at the Goat2geder Hotel and Restaurant. *continue to page 2...*

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HAPPY HALLOWEEN



Editor's Notes

Mary Christine Anthonette M. Salise

When we were little, we used to change our plain day clothes to rainy day attire while armed with umbrellas when we see gloomy skies. We were still able to predict the weather for the entire day just by looking at the skies or interpreting the signs. Days passed when we had to rely on weather forecasting just to know sunny, rainy and stormy days. And as of this time, weather forecasts have become so unreliable that we are not able to foresee the weather condition for the entire week and even for the day.

This is one notable manifestation of the impacts of climate change brought about by the destruction of our environment by a force so great that the life expectancy of the planet is getting shorter - MAN. Had we become kinder to mother nature, we would not have experienced the devastating results of typhoons Ondoy, Pedring and Quiel, to name a few.

Preemptive/preventive evacuation is considered one of the keys to reduce the damage especially to a Third World country like the Philippines, which is vulnerable to the effects of climate change. This is mainly because of the geographic exposure, low income and greater reliance on climate sensitive sectors, particularly agriculture since the latter is our primary source of income. People exposed to the most severe climate-related hazards are often those least able to cope with the associated impacts, due to the limited adaptive capacity. This in turn poses multiple threats to economic growth and poverty reduction. Have you watched the news lately? You can see people who fell victim to floods, landslides, extremes of the La Niña and El Niño phenomena that cause damage to crops, livelihood and infrastructure. What then are the national and the local governments doing to allay these hazards? How do we at least limit the effects while we can still do so?

Our local government units play a major role in limiting the ecological destruction for the benefit of their constituents. Preemptive/preventive evacuation should not always be the case despite that it limits the effects but still it does not cure the damage. LGUs may further adopt risk management strategies in addressing the impacts of climate change such as "climate-proofing" infrastructure projects.

Climate proofing is a process that employs a risk-based approach that has a lot of phases. However, it is not just an end state; and while the objective may be quite impossible to attain, vision-empowered operational steps towards achieving a protected society is surely an attainable goal.



Such steps are designed to minimize, if not eliminate, the unwanted consequences of atypical weather or climate. The process involves activities designed to prevent and address the adverse effects of global climate change as well as sea-level rise, changing climate variability in coastal and marine areas through risk assessment, adaptation planning, and policy development, by climate proofing infrastructure, and through community and other development initiatives.

This process involves preparation/design of adaptation measures at the project level as well as capacity building, including institutional strengthening and human resources development for adaptation. People will be equipped with the relevant knowledge and techniques based on the adaptive assessment of the LGU, which in turn taps and maximizes the financial and human resources for a better mobilization of climate change adaptation initiatives. It follows an integrated approach through the active and sustained engagement of various experts and stakeholders from the scientific community, decision makers, and public and private sector operators, as well as non-government organizations and representatives of civil society organizations.

This approach has not yet been fully institutionalized in the Philippines. That is why in the eventuality of a tropical storm hitting our shores, vast devastation and tragedy ensues. Perhaps the devastation serves as an eye-opener for us Filipinos, especially our local leaders, to at least stand together now and consciously exert a unified effort to prevent not only the loss of properties but also the loss of lives.

After all, an ounce of prevention is still better than a pound of cure, and that no amount of cure will make a difference once there is already loss. So if you really think you are Filipino enough to admit your mistakes, then do what you can to correct them.



ARTA implementation... From page 1

The forum was participated by representatives from six (6) cities and eight (8) selected municipalities which exhibited high implementation of R.A.9485. The purpose of the forum is to present and integrate the results of the recently conducted survey on ARTA implementation from the selected cities and municipalities of the region. The survey generated and identified possible recommendations in strengthening the implementation of the ARTA Law and was conducted by DILG XIII to assess the compliance of the abovementioned LGUs to the Anti-Red Tape Act as well as measure the level of satisfaction of their customers/clientele.

DILG Assistant Regional Director Lilibeth A. Famacion said that before the passage of the ARTA Law, red tape was too rampant and fixers greet taxpayers or clients transacting business in the city/municipal halls. To avoid ubiquitous and long queues, clients usually bribe fixers or unscrupulous public servants to do business for them. ARD Famacion also said that the civil society organizations (CSOs) play an integral part in enhancing the Anti-Red Tape Act to ensure transparency and good governance.

The Anti-Red Tape Act aims to eliminate red tape, graft and corruption through transparency, accountability and predictability by simplifying frontline procedures and formulating service standards to be observed in every transaction. The DILG in partnership with the Civil Service Commission and other agencies is responsible in monitoring implementation of the ARTA.

DILG XIII conducts forum on Poverty Reduction with CSO-LGU partners

The Department of the Interior and Local Government Region XIII, in its commitment to aggressively scale up interventions through the active involvement and participation of non-government organizations in achieving transparency, accountability, participation and performance in governance, conducted a forum dubbed as "Localizing Poverty Reduction: Convergence Forum of CSO-LGU Partners" on October 6-7, 2011, Luciana Convention

Center, this City.

DILG Regional Director, Atty. Rene K. Burdeos, said that the forum aims to strengthen and enhance Local Government -Civil Society Organization collaboration as active partners in local governance geared towards attaining empowered and accountable local government units.

He further said that through the forum, the DILG was able to iden-

tify and determine factors that either reinforce or hinder the maturation of the partnerships, to be able to come up with a Mutual Plan of Action-which will serve as their roadmap, for further promotion of civic consciousness and regular partnership workshops. The participants for the forum were the following: CSO City/Provincial Officers, League Presidents and Multi-Stakeholders Advisory Committee members. **MCAMS**



Participants identify factors that hinder the strengthening of CSO-LGU partnership

3-day Workshop on Updating Government Policies, Systems and Procedures for Punong Barangays and Secretaries

To further equip the punong barangays and barangay secretaries with the necessary knowledge, skills and attitude to make them more effective partners for effective governance, a 3-day seminar-workshop on the updating of Government Policies, Systems and Procedures for Punong Barangays and Barangay Secretaries was jointly conducted by the Municipalities of San Francisco, Esperanza and Sibagat Agusan del Sur recently at the White Beach Resort, Tagcatong, Carmen, Agusan del Norte. The seminar focused on the relevance of Barangay Government Performance Management

System and Citizen's Charter in a barangay government; culture of transparency, responsiveness, accountability and participation in the barangay; and skills in drafting minutes, resolution, ordinance; and reporting. Other topics discussed were the proper recording and filing of records and the role of Punong Barangays in the implementation of government programs and projects. Participants underwent workshops on the preparation of the State of Barangay Governance Report (SBGR) and on the basic steps and procedures in conducting a session. The Participants also role played

their respective duties, functions, and responsibility in their areas of jurisdiction. Speakers for the 3-day training were LGMED Division Chief Donald Seronay, LGOO V Arturo Bombeo, LGOO V Alice Robles, LGOO V Daniel Longaquit, LGOO V Mary Nol Aban and LGOO V Madolyn V. Lim. Participants expressed their gratitude to the DILG for initiating the seminar as their basic questions regarding their roles and functions were clarified. DILG Provincial Director Arleen Ann R. Sanchez graced the final day of the undertaking and distributed the Certificates of Completion to the participants. **MARY NOL P. ABAN**

20th Year of the Local Government Code

The landmark legislation on local autonomy and decentralization known as the Local Government Code of 1991 marked its 20th year celebration on the 10th of October 2011 with the theme, Local Government Code: 20 Years of Gains Towards A More Meaningful Autonomy. The celebration aims to reflect the two decades of accomplishments made possible by the Local Government Code highlighting the continuing challenges in local governance and explore possibilities for future evolution of the code provision to enhance local autonomy toward national development. Local Government Units were strongly encouraged to hold appropriate and fitting ceremonies to make the celebration more meaningful. To coincide with this celebration, the conduct of the mandatory Barangay Assembly every October was held on October 9, 2011 pursuant to Proclamation No. 260 which was issued by the President on September 30, 2011. Barangay Officials were enjoined to hold the Barangay Assembly on October 9, 2011 instead of the 3rd Saturday of October.

DILG XIII supports simultaneous Opening Ceremony of the CSC Month, the National Filipino Family and Crime Prevention Week

The Department of the Interior and Local Government Region XIII joined the Civil Service Commission, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the National Police Commission and the Philippine National Police in the simultaneous Opening Ceremony of the 111th Philippine Civil Service Anniversary, the National Filipino Family Week and the National Crime Prevention Week celebrations.

The Program kicked-off with a walkathon participated by government agencies, socio-civic organizations and academic institutions showing signs of unity, support and participation in the advocacies of each sponsoring organization. A Hataw Dance Exercise sponsored by the Rotary Club of Midtown Butuan added color to the event as participants dance to the tunes of hitbacks from the 80s and to the grind of present times.

The DILG supports the Napolcom and the Philippine National Police from pre to post activities by providing technical assistance in the conduct of information drive for

students on crime prevention topics.

In his closing message, DILG Regional Director, Atty. Rene K. Burdeos thanked the participants for the support extended to the sponsoring agencies.

"This is the first time in Caraga that the sponsoring agencies have converged together and agreed to have a joint kick-off," RD Burdeos said in his speech.

"I do hope that these agencies will continue their advocacies in this triple celebration especially in crime prevention," he added.

A press conference held at the DILG Butuan City Office wrapped the Opening Ceremony. Those present during the press con were: DILG Regional Director-Atty. Rene K. Burdeos, NAPOLCOM Regional Director - Atty. Remeneo D. Valenzuela, PDEA Regional Director-Mr. Joel Plaza, CHR Regional Director-Atty. Marlyn Pintor, PNP Information Officer-PSupt Martin S Gamba, BJMP Officials-Jail Senior Inspector Paas and Jail Inspector Parnay. **MCAMS**



PSupt Martin Gamba of the PNP, Atty. Marlyn Pintor of the CHR, Atty. Remeneo Valenzuela of the Napolcom and Atty. Rene K. Burdeos of the DILG answer questions during the Press Conference

Words to Live By...

By: Lucia B. Garrido - Supervising Admin Officer

The time will come when our hearts will stop beating. Nobody knows when will be the end of our time here on earth. Death will come anytime to everyone. Maybe, some of us could say that this circumstance seems unfair. The end of our earthly body is not the end of the story. The truth is... we are created not for the time but for eternity and eternity offers only two—heaven and hell. As a child of God we ought to shape the future where to go. In heaven or hell?

The Bible says, "God has planted eternity in the human heart; Ecclesiastes 3:11". God has prepared a better place for His people to live in forever. In (II Corinthians 5:1) it says, "When in this tent we live in, our body here on earth is torn down, God will have a house in Heaven for us to live in, a home He Himself has made, which will last forever".

God wants His children to join HIM in eternity. That is in Heaven where there is no more pain, sorrow, rejection, and tear. Our

Two Lupons in Caraga adjudged as National Finalist in LTIA CY 2011

The Lupong Tagapamayapa of Brgy. Poblacion, Barobo, Surigao del Sur and Brgy. Quezon, Mainit, Surigao del Norte were selected by the Lupong Tagapamayapa Incentives Awards (LTIA) National Awards Committee (NAC) as National Finalists for the 1st to 3rd Class Municipalities Category and 4th to 6th Class Municipalities Category, respectively. As national finalists for this year's search for outstanding lupons, the members of the LTIA National Board of Judges (NBOJ) and National Secretariat conducted an on-site validation visits to the said lupons last August 24, 2011 and September 6, 2011, respectively.

The validating team that visited the Lupong Tagapamayapa of Brgy. Poblacion, Barobo, Surigao del Sur were composed of Hon. Bernardo P. Abesamis, former Justice of the Court of Appeals and now Chairman of the Board of the Career Service Executive Board (CESB), Asst. Director Mariano A. Gabito and Mr. Celso Batalla, both

from DILG-BLGS. While the team that visited the Lupong Tagapamayapa of Brgy. Quezon, Mainit, Surigao del Norte were composed of Fiscal Rosalina P. Aquino of DOJ, Dir. Myrna Medina of NAPOLCOM and Ms. Estelita Brondial of DILG-BLGS.

The national finalists that were visited by the validating teams were the top three lupons in their respective categories. "The national finalists will be sure winners of a Presidential and Cash Awards to be awarded in Malacañang," said Justice Abesamis. The Lupong Tagapamayapa Incentives Awards (LTIA) was established since 1997 as a means to institutionalize a system of granting economic benefits and other incentives to the Lupong Tagapamayapa that demonstrates exemplary performance in settling disputes at the grassroots level. The assessment period for this year's search covered the 3rd and 4th Quarters of CY 2009 and 1st to 4th Quarters of CY 2011. **RAY GREGORY F. JARANILLA-LGOO V / LTIA Anchor Person**

3 CARAGA LGUs receive Php 28M Grant for Water Supply System Projects

The municipalities of Si-bagat, La Paz and Prosperidad of the province of Agusan del Sur were among the 115 local government units nationwide identified by the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) based on the National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction to receive the Php 28M water supply system project.

The program known as the "Sagana at Ligtas na Tubig sa Lahat," is designed to provide grant financing and capacity building for the implementation of water supply projects in waterless municipalities; in poorest

barangays with high level of waterborne diseases, in resettlement areas and public health centers without access to safe water.

The Department of Health – Center for Health Development (DOH-CHD) is responsible for the provision of grant financing for the implementation of the projects, the DILG is responsible for enhancing the capacity of the LGUs and water service providers to plan, implement and operate the projects, and the NAPC is responsible for the overall coordination and monitoring of the Program.

Through Capacity Building Activities conducted by DILG, DOH and NAPC, the 3-LGU beneficiaries had already completed and submitted their Simplified Feasibility Study (SFS) which were approved by DOH-CHD for recommendation on the

release of 40% fund to be used for the preparation of the Detailed Engineering Design (DED). Said LGUs also fully complied with the Full Disclosure Policy (FDP) as one of the requirements on the approval of the subprojects. **LGOO IV Engr. Renelou F. Jaranilla**



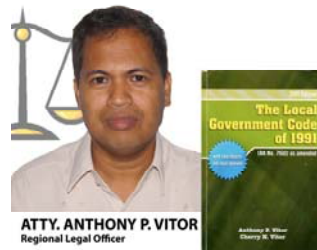
Words to Live By...

body is just a temporary residence of the spirit and all things in this planet will pass away. "Those in frequent contact with the things of the world should make good use of them without becoming attached to them for this world and all it contain will pass away. —1 Corinthians 7:31"

Most of all, we need to know more about HIM. Our love relationship with God is so important than any other thing in this world. Despite of our unrighteousness, God still loves us so much. He knows what is best for us today and in the future. We can come to Him anytime and request through our prayers to save us and help us even in the most difficult situations. Philippians 4:6—"Be anxious for nothing but in everything by prayer and supplications with thanksgiving let your requests be known to God." Because of His love for us, there is a great promise! In the book of John, chapter 3, verse 16; it says "He gave His one and only Son, Jesus Christ, that anyone believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." Glory to God!

Legally Speaking...

by Atty. Anthony P. Vitor, MDR



Issues:

- Who has the legal authority to represent a municipality in lawsuits?
- If an unauthorized lawyer represents a municipality what is the effect of his participation in the proceedings; and
- May a local government official secure the services of a private counsel in an action filed against him in an official capacity?

First Issue: Who is Authorized to represent municipality in its Lawsuits?

In *Ramos, et.al.vs. Court of Appeals (G.R. No. 99425 March 3, 1997)* the Supreme Court

ruled that private attorneys cannot represent a province or municipality in lawsuits even if the service is gratis neither may they do so even in collaboration with authorized government lawyers. This is anchored on the principle that only accountable public officers may act for and in behalf of public entities and that public funds should not be expanded to hire private lawyers. The provincial fiscal, provincial legal officer and municipal legal officer should represent a municipality in its lawsuits unless disqualified

The prosecutor is disqualified to represent the municipality when: the original jurisdiction of case involving the municipality is vested in the Supreme Court, the municipality is a party adverse to the provincial government or to some other municipality in the same province, and in a case involving the

municipality, he, or his wife, or child, is pecuniarily involved, as heir legatee, creditor or otherwise.

With regard to the legal officer, Section 481 (3)(i) of the Local Government Code provides that he "represents the local government unit in all civil actions and special proceedings wherein the local government unit or any official thereof, in his official capacity, is a party: Provided, That, in actions or proceedings where a component city or municipality is a party adverse to the provincial government or to another component city or municipality, a special legal officer may be employed to represent the adverse party".

Second Issue: Effect on Proceedings by Adoption of Unauthorized Representation Although a municipality may not hire a private lawyer to represent it in litigations, in the interest of... *continue to page 8*

Bunawan : Home of the Biggest Rescued Salt-Water Crocodile

Arturo O. Bombeo – MLGOO, Bunawan, Agusan del Sur



Once, it was just a town only known as the gateway to Agusan Marsh but its fate turns and changes when the 21- foot - long and 2,370 pounds crocodile was captured. Now, Bunawan, Agusan del Sur is widely known worldwide as the Home of the Biggest Salt-Water Crocodile in captivity.

Bunawan is located at the southeastern side of the landlocked province of Agusan del Sur in the Caraga Region. Resting at 8°17' latitude and 125 ° 52' and 126 ° 13' longitudes. It is bounded on the north by the Municipality of Rosario; on the east and south by the municipalities of Trento, Sta. Josefa and Veruela; and on the west by the Municipalities of Loreto and La Paz. It is 49 kilometers away from the Provincial Government Center in Patin-ay, Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur and 126 and 163 kilometers from Butuan and Davao Cities respectively. It has a total land area of 51,218 hectares. In the recent census, it has a total population of 36,205. It is composed of 10 barangays; 5 of which are located along the National Highway: Libertad, Bunawan Brook, San Andres, Consuelo, and San Teodoro while the other 5 barangays are situated along the Simulao River: Imelda, Mambalili, Poblacion, San Marcos, and Nueva Era.

In 2009, an incident in the marshland struck the whole community. A certain 12-year old girl was beheaded and killed by a crocodile while sitting aboard a small boat. The tragedy prompted the Local Government Unit of Bunawan through the leadership of the former Mayor Gilbert G. Elorde, the older brother of the incumbent mayor, to lay out a plan for the capture of the crocodile before it could victimize more residents living along the creek. In a matter of days, the initial stage of the plan was implemented – the construction of the crocodile's cage.

After two years of trial and error in building a cage strong enough to hold the giant reptile, the most durable cage was finally completed. Meanwhile, another attack of the crocodile was reported. The victim was a young carabao tied along the riverbank. Witnesses tried to help and save the carabao by pulling its rope but their collective strength could not even equal the strength of the starving reptile.

The present local administration pursued the plan of the previous administration commissioning experts from the Palawan Wildlife Rescue and Conservation Center to help capture the crocodile alive. And at 2:30 A.M. of September 3, 2011 at Barangay Nueva Era, Bunawan, the crocodile was successfully ensnared with the help of about a hundred town folks.

According to Mayor Edwin G. Elorde, the LGU rescued the crocodile from the rage and vengeance of the people residing along the creek who reportedly were planning to hunt and kill it themselves to stop it from inflicting further damage to them and to their livelihood.

The rescued crocodile is a male and is named "Lolong" as derived from the nickname of Ernesto Goloran Cañete, the team leader of the experts from Palawan, who died of a heart attack while working on the captivity.

After captivity, "Lolong" was brought to its temporary sanctuary at Sitio Masapya, Barangay Consuelo, Bunawan, Agusan del Sur. Security forces and barangay tanods are mobilized and assigned in the area to ensure the security of the crocodile as well as of the people visiting the place for viewing.

"Lolong" is the biggest saltwater crocodile in captivity worldwide, beating the one captured in Australia which is only 17 ft. long.

With the help of advanced communication technology, news about "Lolong" instantly spread all over the world. Local and international personalities visit the place to see for their very own eyes the biggest salt-water crocodile in the world. Personalities such as Vice President Jejomar Binay, Senator Antonio Trillanes IV, Directors of different government agencies, and news anchors from different television stations including CNN, were among those who flocked to Bunawan.

"Lolong" is now a famous star and with that, benefits are pouring out in the Municipality of Bunawan. An estimated PhP 40,000.00 to PhP 50,000.00 daily income from the entrance fee to the cage (PhP 20.00 for adult and PhP 15.00 for children) goes to the LGU's treasury. Also, local government officials' horizon has widened on the potentials of eco-tourism. The Guinness Book of World Record is planning to visit "Lolong" which the local officials perceived as another opportunity for the municipality.

The experts from Palawan have not really proven if "Lolong" is responsible for killing the child and the young carabao because reports say that numerous crocodiles allegedly proliferate in Agusan Marsh.

Currently, the LGU is making more improvements in the area where "Lolong" is placed. A bigger cage is now being constructed for the female crocodile which according to reports is much bigger and heavier than "Lolong", and prepared in advance. Local officials are planning to build the area as an Eco-park and Wildlife Conservation Center similar to that in Palawan. The plan, if realized, would further augment local income which would be used to finance not only tourism but also the total town development.



DILG XIII Assistant Regional Director Lilibeth A. Famacion with Bunawan Municipal Mayor Edwin G. Elorde

KITCHARAO COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER—a school of hope for the Kitcharaonons



A picture of a typical day in the Kitcharao

Community Learning Center (CLC), located along the highway in Barangay San Roque, Kitcharao, Agusan del Norte, includes a group of learners---a mother of ten, a member of a mamanwa tribe, an out-of-school youth, an elder, a laborer, a househelper, a househusband, etc.—all gathered together as beneficiaries for a series of learning sessions from the CLC. The sessions conducted are designed to capacitate them with basic education in an informal setting to prepare them for the Alternative Learning System (ALS) Accreditation and Equivalency (A & E) Test.

Passing the ALS A&E Paper and Pencil Test will enable the beneficiaries receive a certificate/diploma from the Department of Education, certifying to their competencies as comparable to the graduates of the formal school system. Elementary level passers already become qualified to enroll in high school while secondary level passers can now enroll in college.

The Kitcharao CLC offers classrooms designed for those who could not attend formal schools for a number of reasons. It also gives you a classroom environment accommodating enough for students who choose to attend CLC classes than enroll in formal schools to avoid getting bullied by regular students for exceeding the normal academic age requirement.

The learning center adopted the ALS Curriculum which has five (5) learning strands that are life-long skills oriented, to wit: communication skills, development of self and a sense of community, critical thinking and problem solving, expanding one's world vision, and sustainable use of resources/productivity.

The CLC Manager, Ms. Maribel E. Grino, mans the CLC, trains and monitors the CLC facilitators who conduct learning sessions utilizing a handful of ALS Programs.

It is the municipality and the barangays which ensure the sustainability of the CLC and provide funding support for its operationalization in the hope of uplifting the lives of its constituents from a high poverty incidence by increasing literacy and enhancing skills for livelihood opportunities .

Kitcharao's aim of affording every children the education it deserves gives ripples of hope to the people of the Municipality as shown by the increasing number of enrollees over a span of five years. It is amazing to note that ALL ENROLLEES are COMPLETERS since the completion rate at the Kitcharao CLC reaches a 100%. It can also be seen in the Accreditation and Equivalency Results that there is an increasing trend of passing rate among the completers who took the A & E Test conducted by the Department of Education. It simply proves that there is no reason enough to stop each student from learning; not to mention the varying degree of circumstance possessed by each and every student.

There are many good stories that came out of every individual success. These stories are instruments for the number of recognitions Kitcharao CLC has already earned since its operation. In the 2008 National Literacy Awards, the Municipality of Kitcharao was commended as an Outstanding Literacy Implementing Local Government Unit (Class B). In 2009, the DepEd Caraga recognized the Kitcharao CLC as the Most Functional Community Learning Center. That same year, KCLC was awarded as the 1st Place Most Functional Community Learning Center at the national level. In 2010, it was again awarded as the Most Functional CLC in the Region and also nominated to the national level.

Nevertheless, with or without recognition, what matters in the heart of the Municipality of Kitcharao is the fulfillment that is drawn out of experience in giving diplomas to those who thought they could never have and make them take a big leap.

Agnor bags regional award on Gawad Pamana ng Lahi

Another feather is added to its cap when the province of Agusan del Norte recently bagged the prestigious Regional Gawad Pamana ng Lahi Award of the DILG. The Gawad is a total award system and is conferred annually to a province, City and Municipality for exemplary performance in Administrative Governance, Social Governance, Economic Governance and Environmental Governance that can be found in the Local Government Performance Management System (LGPMSS). Agusan del Norte bested 4 other provinces in CARAGA region in the Provincial Level Category in terms of: a.) Average result of the service areas of the local governance performance management system for 2010; b.) Result for the seal of good housekeeping in 2011; c.) Innovation introduced for the last 3 years, and d.) Regional or national award/citations received in 2010. Governor

Erlope John M. Amante received the Plaque of Exemplary Performance and a check worth 3 million pesos in behalf of the province on October 11, 2011 at the PICC Plenary Hall in Pasay City during the culminating activity of the Biyaheng Pinoy, a year-long celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Local Government Code. With him receiving the award were Vice Governor Enrico R. Corvera and Provincial Administrator Percianita G. Racho. The award received is a testament to the provincial officials' and employees effort over the years in keeping with the mandate of ensuring the general welfare of the people and of being a responsible local government in the advancement of economic prosperity, social well-being and environmental integrity. It can be recalled that Agusan del Norte received a national

distinction in 2008 when it won the People's Choice Award for the outstanding presentation of its Website. In 2010, it received the Best Performance Health Program and Best Blood Collection Unit, for the regional level. Moreover, the province also met the requirements for the Seal of Good Housekeeping and has introduced significant innovations within the last 3 years such as the implementation of Participatory Initiative in Governance (PING) and the Province-wide Computerization Project. These were the major considerations in judging process that made the province excel among the contenders. Hopefully, Agusan del Norte will capture the same award in 2012 and will thus vie for the national award. Search for the National Award will be implemented starting next year. **LG00 VI Ellen Vee P. Chua—PIO**

Legally...

substantial justice however, a municipality may adopt the work already performed in good faith by such private lawyer, which work is beneficial to it (1) provided that no injustice it thereby heaped on the adverse party and (2) provided further that no compensation in any guise is paid therefore by said municipality to the private lawyer. Unless so expressly adopted, the private lawyers work cannot bind the municipality (*Ramos, et.al. vs. Court of Appeals (G.R. No. 99425 March 3, 1997)*).

Third Issue: May a local government official secure the services of a private counsel in an action filed against him in an official capacity?

It depends on the nature and the relief sought to be considered. When a public officer is sued in his private capacity, he may engage the services of a private counsel. Nevertheless, the Supreme Court approved the representation by private counsel of a provincial governor sued in his official capacity, where the complaint contained other allegations and a prayer for moral damages, which, if due from defendant, must be satisfied by him in his private capacity (*Albuera, et.al. vs. Torres, G.R. No. L-9634, October 30, 1957*).

Customer Service (LG00 V Ray Gregory F. Jaranilla); and d.) Records Management and 5 S Process (Planning Officer Sheila D. Jaramillo.) A workshop on Monitoring and Knowledge Management Audit is scheduled to be conducted by the DILG Regional Assessment team in November.

The program is a joint effort of the DILG Butuan City and the DILG Regional Office XIII Local Governance Regional Resource Center (LGRRC). **LG00 V/City Information Officer Dulce Amor M. Moran**

8 LGUs completed two-day Orientation on DRRM and CCA

Butuan City— Eight local government units (LGUs) in Caraga Region have completed the two-day Basic Orientation on Disaster Risk Reduction Management and Climate Change Adaptation for LGUs recently at the Almont Hotel's Inland Resort, this city. The eight LGUs were the city of Surigao and the municipalities of Dapa, Gigaquit and Socorro in the province of Surigao del Norte, the city of Bislig and the municipalities of San Agustin and Barobo in the province of Surigao del Sur and the municipality of San Jose in the province of Dinagat Islands. Participants from each LGU were composed of the Mayor, Administrator, Planning and Development Coordinator, Social Welfare and Development Officer, Health Officer, Agriculturist, Engineer, Budget Officer, Liga President, NGO representative, DepEd Supervisor and the Local Government Operations Officer. The activity was conducted by the Local Government Acad-

emy (LGA) of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) under the project "Strengthening Local Governments in the Philippines" funded by the Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AECID).

It aims to enhance LGU's capacity to better understand the concept of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. It also aims to familiarize DRRM Act of 2010 (RA 10121) and CCA Act of 2009 (RA 9729) including the different local and international frameworks, tools and techniques to facilitate planning and developing local DRR/CCA actions. **(RAY GREGORY F. JARANILLA-LG00 V / RDRMCA Action Officer)**

DILG provides capdev assistance to Congressional District Office (1st District)

In response to the capacity development needs of the Congressional District Office of the 1st District- Butuan City and Las Nieves, the Department of the Interior and Local Government Region XIII prepared a capacity building program for the personnel and staff of the said constituency office. The program has 3 phases which include: a.) pre-assessment and profiling; b.) "Workshop on the Strengthening of the Operations of the Congressional Office" which was conducted last September 30-October 1, 2011; c.) Finalization and Printing of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP); and d.) Monitoring and Evaluation (Knowledge Management Audit). During the 2-day workshop, the following topics were discussed : a.) Norms of Public Service and Servant Leadership (City Director Romeo A. Solis); b.) Service Standards (LG00 IV Emmylou P. Burias); c.)

Employee's Corner

By: JACKY MELLORIN



In line with the PCSA's (Philippine Civil Service Anniversary) activities, the DILG Region XIII, had implemented the 5S method.

The 5s originates from Japan, by formal definition "5S is the name of a workplace organization methodology that uses a list of five Japanese words which are *seiri, seiton, seiso, s e i k e t s u* and *shitsuke*. Transliterated or translated into English, they all start with the letter "S". The list describes how to organize a work space for efficiency and effectiveness by identifying and storing the items used, maintaining the area and items, and sustaining the new order. The decision-making process usually comes from a dialogue about standardization which builds a clear understanding among employees of how work should be done. It also instills ownership of the process in each employee." (Wikipedia)

The Personnel Division of the agency spearheaded the activity along with the other members from respective divisions in explaining the necessity of such a method for an efficient and highly organized workplace. It was then followed by a weekly assessment of each personnel's workstation. But what are the reactions and insights of the employees of the office who underwent the assessment? Here are the things that they wanted to share to us...

ORD: "The process made me realize that I can work well when my files are organized and my workplace is clean."

"I can find my things better when its messy."

"It harmonizes individual and organizational workflow"

LGMED: "Happy >> learned significant things especially discipline

"...improved my organizational skills"

"In terms of assessment it was rather challenging as you are tasked to assess things that are personal, espe-

cially when it comes to your bosses' tables, who wouldn't sweat a few drops?"

LGCCD: "Some employees have not been graded due to travels and other significant reasons"

"The participants have no definite knowledge on the scoring system for evaluation."

"5s method is very helpful in imposing discipline among personnel in achieving cleanliness and productivity."

LGCCD had even placed their suggestions and recommendations for the betterment of the assessment, which is highly commendable despite their busy schedules.

"The rater shall devise a rating form and present it to the participants for comments and improvement and feedback must be given to personnel concerned on his / her rating (s). so that appropriate action could be done to address shortcomings.

With this article, we would like to thank all of the employees who took the time to answer our questions and to represent their respective divisions as well. And as a little brain teaser, just to check if you read well, can you identify which statements from the employees above is say, contradicting to the 5s method? If you can't then you haven't been reading seriously.:D Here's a clue, it's in the first three comments. God bless.

RD Burdeos to local execs: "Employ Rationalized Planning System"



DILG Regional Director Atty. Rene K. Burdeos reminded local officials during the 69th Caraga Regional Development Council Meeting held in Tandag City, Surigao del Sur, recently to make use of the Rationalized Planning System (RPS) in crafting their respective local development plans.

RD Burdeos said that local government units

can call national line agencies for the presentation of their programs and projects for the possible harmonization in their local plans. Under RPS, all stakeholders in the locality including national government agencies form part of the expanded technical working group of the functional sectoral committee concerned.

It has been envisioned that the municipal/city comprehensive development plan captures/ harmonizes plans, programs and projects of all stakeholders as it strengthens links of planning, budgeting, investment programs and expenditures management as being articulated by the Joint Memorandum Circular No. 1 series of 2007 among DILG, NEDA, DBM, and DOF.



5s evaluators check office files of DILG XIII personnel

CPP NPA hostilities against two Mining Firms in Surigao del Norte

Camp Rafael C Rodriguez, Libertad, Butuan City... Around 10:30 AM, October 3, 2011, two hundred (200) heavily armed members of the CPP, NPA and NDF (CNN) under unknown leader raided Taganito Mining Corporation situated in Claver, Surigao del Norte. Report received that the Resident Manager of Taganito Mining Corporation, Mr Jose B Anievas, together with other unidentified VIPs and security guards were allegedly taken by the CNN. While two managers of said Mining company were also

taken by the CNN on-board one Grandia color gray van and proceeded to the project area of Taganito Mining in Hayanggabon, Claver, Surigao del Norte. Other group of CNN also conducted road block at Baoy Bridge situated at the boundary of Claver-Gigaquit, one in Brgy Hayanggabon, one in Sitio Capangan, Barangay Urbiztondo and at Claver Public Cemetery, all of Claver, Surigao del Norte.

Further, at the same time and date, The Platinum Metals Group Corporation lo-

cated at Sito Kinalababan, Cagdianao, Claver, Surigao del Norte was also attacked by more or less two hundred (200) fully armed CNN. Security guards of said company were disarmed.

Around 10:40 AM September 3, 2011, joint elements of Hayanggabon Patrol Base, 13th RPSB, Claver Municipal Police Station and troops from DRC, 4ID, PA proceeded to Taganito, Claver for reinforcement. Two Huey helicopters from Philippine Airforce took off from Davao City to

Claver for air support to the responding troops thereat.

Police Regional Office 13 Director, PCSUPT REYNALDO S RAFAL condemned these terroristic acts of the CNN. The PNP and AFP are on top of the situation. RD RAFAL also requested the cooperation of the citizenry to immediately report to the Police any suspicious persons or situation to the nearest police station. PSUPT Martin M Gamba

RMCC in Action



DILG Family visits Inmates of Provincial Jail

"Wala kamo gikalimtan sa Gobyerno!" said Provincial Director Arleen Ann Sanchez to the inmates of Agusan del Sur Provincial Jail.

PD Arleen Ann Sanchez and staff of the DILG Agusan del Sur (Local Government Sector), SPO1 Leonides Yaoyao and PO1 Genevieve Romero of the Philippine National Police, SInsp Augusto Cesar of the Bureau of Fire Protection, and JO3 Bernardino Palen of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology recently visited the one hundred ninety five (195) inmates of the Agusan del Sur Provincial Jail.

The activity is one of the identified activities in the observance of the 17th National Crime Prevention Week (NCPW), supported by the Provincial Government of Agusan del Sur. It aims to relay the message of hope to the persons behind bars and the message that the Government is concern about their welfare.

In his talk, Mr. Ga, Jail Warden, explained the 17th NCPW theme and encouraged the inmates to

include crime prevention as their mission so that crimes will no longer proliferate and will be totally knocked out. As one of the 5 pillars of the criminal justice systems, correction and rehabilitation, institutes reformative and productive activities for the inmates so that they will be accepted once mainstreamed back to society.

With the event, the 195 inmates charged with murder, rape, robbery, and drugs received spiritual inputs from Pastor Rympha Pulmones, Head Intercessor of the Evangelical Mission of the Philippines-Agusan del Sur Chapter. Also, each of them received a bag of goods containing face towel, toothbrush, soaps, toothpastes, and shampoos. (RENA L. NAGUITA-LGOO V/Provincial Information Officer of DILG Agusan del Sur)



PD Sanchez distributes a bag of goods to the inmates



BFP receives firetruck from Sta. Josefa, Agusan del Sur

The Municipal Government of Sta. Josefa, Agusan del Sur, donated one (1) unit firetruck to the Bureau of Fire Protection during the celebration of the municipality's "Taphag Festival."

Sta. Josefa Municipal Mayor, Hon. Glenn M. Plaza graced the turnover ceremony for the donated firetruck as it was received by SINP AUGUST CESAR N KINZAO, pursuant to Resolution No. 244-2011, a resolution thanking the Provincial Fire Marshall, for his exemplary contribution to the municipality in assisting Sta. Josefa not only in the field of fire protective services but also in the cultural heritage of the municipality as well as in exemplifying the spirit of dedication, excellence in public service, and inter-governmental cooperation.

DILGODOKU

FOR THE PERIOD: AUGUST-OCTOBER

Difficulty Level:



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ANSWERS TO THE LAST ISSUE

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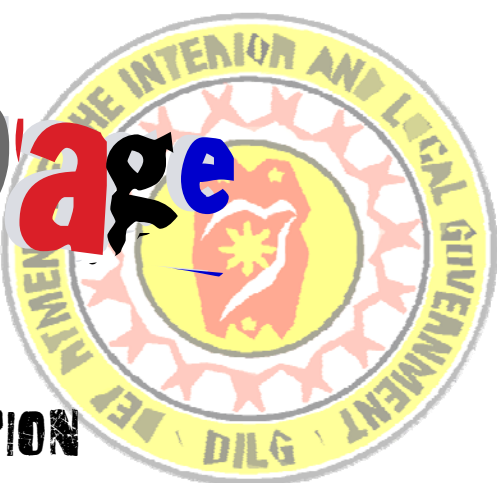
Featured ICT TACT Team Member

Jelotz

Her close friends would call her "Boss Lot", but don't even think she's got a hole in her soul because she's always "whole". A whole soul and a whole heart, that's what. Jelotz would blurt out "kalay-kalay!" as she raises her "kilay-kilay" and exchanges jokes and jests within the office. She gets the job done with finesse and a laughter that is as contagious as scarlet fever. She's definitely the "Madam Anna" of the Regional Office because of her wide knowledge and lengthy experience with the DILG. Kuha mo?



fun page



POETRY IN MOTION

By: Mr. Arvin Silvosa

Life Is A Basketball Game

Sometimes you lose, some-
times you win
Sometimes you get bruises
and wounds on your skin,
Sometimes you're on top,
sometimes you're under
But these things happen and
it makes you wonder,

Life is like basketball, it goes
up and down
One second you smile, the
next you frown,
The referee blows a whistle
and you heed the call
At times you're the player,
but often you're the ball,

Passed around, dribbled,
slammed and shot
If you could have swells, you'd
have a lot,
We keep living the lives as
hard court heroes
But looking at the scores, we
all got zeroes,

Life is meaningless if we don't
know how to play
The basketball of our lives
that we live today,
We must play by the rules or
else we'll end up
Seeing the whole game come
to a stop,

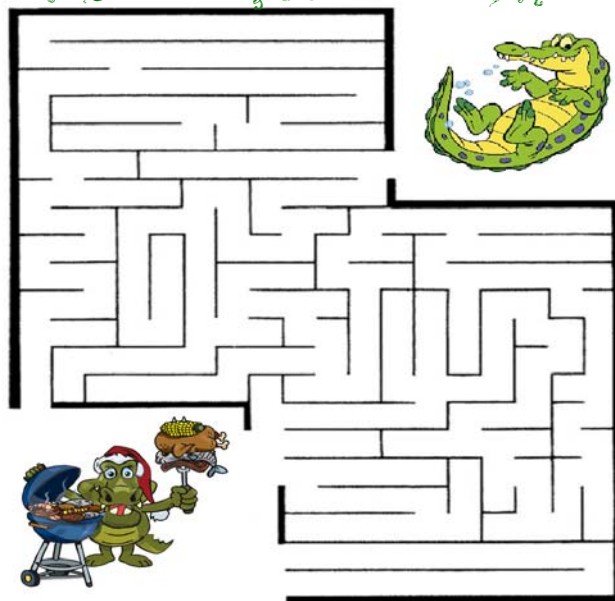
We have to listen to what our
coach has to say
His words are our battlecry, he
shouts as we play,
He has his strategies and plans
which are our guide
As we excel in our efforts and
in winged feet we ride,

It's all part of life, the ultimate
game
In which we're in the hall of
fame and not of shame,
We are all victors and we are
all winners
But we have to ask forgiveness
for we are also sinners,

One thing that keeps us going
is our love for life
There is always an ending to
every pain and strife,
We have different teams and
different players
But, all of us, we all pray the
very same prayers,

Life is like a very long basket-
ball game
Of which in reality our dreams
became,
We go back to the bench and
him we approach
Standing there smiling, God is
everybody's coach.

Help LOLONG find his MEAL



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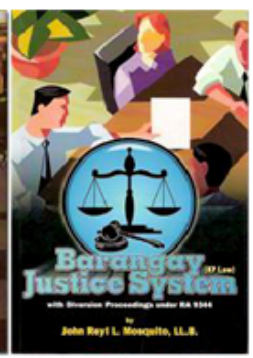
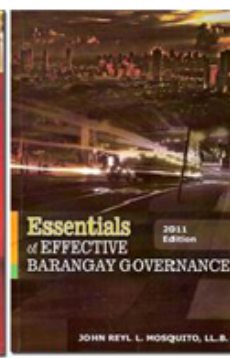
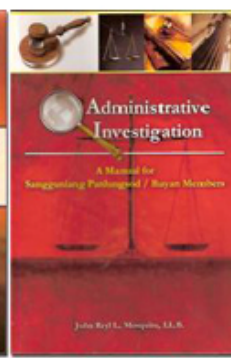
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CONGRATULATIONS PUERTO PRINCESA UNDERGROUND RIVER AS ONE OF THE NEW 7 WONDERS OF NATURE



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