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Women of Caraga and the *Tuwid na Daan*



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Director's Notes

Empowering Women sa Tuwid na Daan

Banner this year's theme: *"Kababaihan: Gabay sa Pagtahak sa Tuwid na Daan"*, we celebrated the Women's Month Celebration in the month of March.

Two important dimensions are underscored in the theme. First is the acceleration of women's participation in governance and second is enhancing gender perspective in upholding good governance.

It is our collective pride that women are recognized to take the lead on our journey to a great nation. But before we move on how to do this, allow me to dissect the true definition of *"Tuwid na Daan"*. These two famous words of our President Benigno Simeon Aquino III are not merely parts of a slogan to propagandize his administration but an honest mantra that will lead the nation to straight path to greatness. It is leveling the playing field by undoing the mistakes of the past. A past that is riddled with graft and corruption, errant public officials who encouraged anomalous business deals and extract bribes to provide the service due to the public.

The *"Tuwid na Daan"* is a government of reforms and unbroken laws. And where does this place women to lead the way for *"Tuwid na Daan"*?

According to Rina Jimenez-David in her column *"At Large"* in Philippine Daily Inquirer, *"Women are more vulnerable to the impact of corruption than men particularly in public service"*. Corruption can be particularly harsh on women. It harms poor sections of the population. Since women make-up majority of the poor, they are likely to be affected more severely.

Women often face social, cultural, political and institutional discrimination. Corruption makes it difficult for women to access public goods and services. Every peso stolen would mean inadequate health services for women, less birthing clinics, absence of half-way houses, less opportunities for access to education and many other social services.

So this government which has made the anti-corruption drive a centerpiece program through *"Tuwid na Daan"* has enjoined women to play a big role in fighting corruption. Women around the globe are now recognized for their valuable contributions. Even the King of Saudi Arabia, an extra-conservative male dominated kingdom had slowly empowered women by granting them seats in the country's top advisory council.

So what can women do to accelerate women's participation in governance? What can we contribute to *"Tuwid na Daan"*?

Our program Bottom-up Budgeting (BuB), an anti-poverty program enjoins Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) together with the participation of local government units in coming-up with the Local Poverty Reduction Action Plans (LPRAPs). One of the basic sectors required to participate is the women's group and they have been actively doing this. With this program, their voices and aspirations are being heard.

Women voters should also closely scrutinize incumbents and candidates during elections so they can choose wisely those that can help advance women concerns and issues.

Women have the right to demand good governance from their leaders and let leaders be transparent.

Our women leaders on the other hand, should raise the bar of leadership through practicing the *"tsinelas leadership"* of late Sec. Jesse M. Robredo. To be a servant leader is to be a servant first who contributes to the well-being of people and community. It is the willingness to wade in floods and travel to the most far-flung areas to be with the most disadvantaged people. It is to break down the barriers and be acceptable and accessible to those they serve.

I salute all women in whatever class or status they are who continue to be the torches in leading the way to *"Tuwid na Daan"* for us to reach *"Bayang Maunlad"*.

Lilibeth A. Famacion, CESO IV
Regional Director

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About the cover

Gender and Development (GAD) is a movement gaining momentum as people acknowledge more and more the rightful place of women in society—as equals of men.

As March is considered Women's Month, this issue pays tribute to women, particularly those who are influential and play vital roles in the administration's thrust for the *Daang Matuwid*.

The Department of the Interior and Local Government Caraga Regional Office (DILG XIII) is one in saying:

"Kababaihan: Gabay sa Pagtahak sa Tuwid na Daan."

In Photo (clockwise from top-right): DSWD RD Minda B. Brigoli, CHR RD Marylin M. Pintor, DA RD Edna M. Mabeza, NSO RD Rosalina C. Celeste-Apura, DILG RD Lilibeth A. Famacion, DOT RD Leticia dela Cruz-Tan, NEDA RD Carmencita S. Cochingco, DOST RD Dominga D. Mallonga, CDA RD Manuela E. Pelaez, OCD RD Liza R. Mazo, and CHED RD Isabela L. Mahler.



Cover Design by Stat I Don Manuelo O. Patrimonio

Director Famacion:

"Women are key players of good governance"

"Our local women leaders are partners when faced with the region's ultimate problem—POVERTY. We were one vigorous spirit that combated its spiteful effects until our efforts paid off: Caraga is no longer the country's poorest region, albeit eleventh among seventeen regions. May this triumph continue to remind us that we will never consider gender as a hindrance in our drive towards attaining development and inclusive growth."

—Carmencita S. Cochingco,
Regional Director, NEDA Caraga



Regional Director Lilibeth A. Famacion of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Region 13 (CARAGA), guest speaker during the opening ceremony of the Women's Month Celebration at Guingona's Park, Butuan City on March 1, 2013.

Regional Director Lilibeth A. Famacion of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Region 13 (CARAGA) emphasized in her message as a guest speaker during the opening ceremony of the Caraga regionwide 2013 Women's Month Celebration held at Guingona Park, Butuan on March 1, 2013 that "Women are the key players of good governance."

Anchored on the theme, "*Kababaihan: Gabaya sa Pagtahak sa Tuwid na Daan*", Director Famacion stressed two important dimensions underscored of the theme. First is the acceleration of women's participation in governance and second, the enhancement of gender perspective in upholding good governance accentuated the efforts of women in being servant leaders.

"It is our collective pride that we are recognized to take the lead on our journey to a great nation. Our government which made the anti-corruption drive a centerpiece program through 'tuwid na daan' has enjoined women to play a big role in fighting corruption," she said.

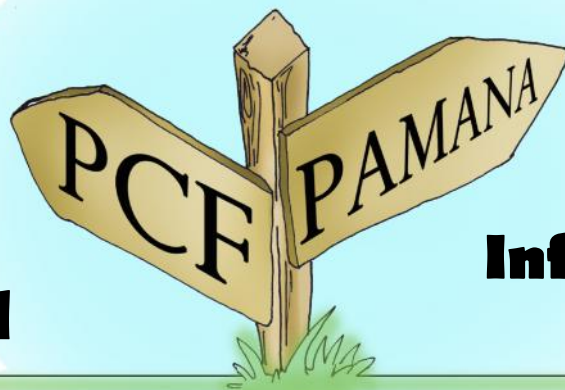
"When there is corruption, it is women who are more vulnerable. It is the women who face social, cultural, political institutional discrimination and suffer debarment to access public goods and services. The women have the right to demand good governance since women are the key players in good governance and in making the way towards nation-building," she added.

Atty. Marilyn M. Pintor, Regional Director of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) – Caraga Region said that one of the objectives is to highlight the leadership role of women, particularly in conflict-free resolution and its role in good governance.

The event was a kick-off activity for the month-long Women's Month and Fire Prevention Month celebration. It was participated by regional line agencies, private sectors and civil society organizations (CSOs), all of which are members of Caraga Regional Development Council (RDC) - Gender and Development Coordinating Committee (GADCC) **(Florian Faith Jr. P. Bayawa, LGOO II, DILG 13)**



Php 17 M PCF Released



8 DILG- PAMANA Infra Projects for SDN

Caraga Region – Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Region 13 (CARAGA) has released a total of Php 17 M to Butuan City and to the Provinces of Agusan del Sur and Surigao del Sur for being recipients of the Performance Challenge Fund (PCF).

Regional Director Lilibeth A. Famacion said that PCF is a performance-based incentive conferred to LGUs for being passers of the Seal of Good Housekeeping (SGH). “This is to stimulate their performance in putting premium on development initiatives for their constituents”, she added.

The city government of Butuan through City Mayor Ferdinand M. Amante, Jr. received the PCF check worth Php 3 M for the Establishment of Fountain with Sound and Information System at Guingona Park (known as Rizal Park) of Butuan City on February 1, 2013 at the DILG Regional Office.

Likewise, the Province of Agusan del Sur received on February 12, 2013 at the Office of the Governor, Government Center, Patin-ay, Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur, the PCF check worth Php 7 M to fund the Construction of Upgrade Bio-sand Filter Facilities and the Establishment of Rainwater Collection. The check was handed by Director Famacion and received by Governor Adolph Edward G. Plaza with the presence of DILG-AdS Provincial Director Arleen Ann R. Sanchez and LGOO VI Elva Theresa D. Velmonte.

Governor Johnny M. Pimentel of the Province of Surigao del Sur also received during the Regional Peace and Order Council (RPOC) Meeting at Big Daddy’s Restaurant, Butuan City on February 13, 2013, the Php 7 M PCF check for the Rehabilitation / Repair of Brgy. Dughan-Causwagon-San Roque-Gamut Farm-to-Market Road of the Municipality of Barobo, Surigao del Sur.

PCF is the banner program of DILG which is aimed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and to initiate local development projects for tourism and local economic development through road network maintenance and compliance to the objectives of the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010 and the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000. *(Florian Faith Jr. P. Bayawa, LGOO II, DILG 13)*



LARGER PHOTO: DILG Regional Director hands over Php 3M PCF check to Butuan City Mayor Ferdinand M. Amante.
INSET PHOTO: Same check for Php 7M being handed to Gov. Adolph Edward G. Plaza in Patin-ay, Agusan del Sur

The Province of Surigao del Norte receives Php 105, 071, 401.47 from the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Region 13 (CARAGA) for the implementation of PAMANA (Payapa at Masaganang PamayaNan) Projects on March 26, 2013 at the DILG Regional Office, Libertad, I City.

PAMANA, as a peace-building initiative of the government in conflict-affected areas, supports the implementation of programs and projects identified in the Provincial Peace and Development Framework Plan of Surigao del Norte. This is done through the Pillar 3 of PAMANA, which is aimed at addressing Regional Development through the implementation of infrastructure projects, such as road access and bridge construction in remote areas where development is hampered because of inaccessibility.

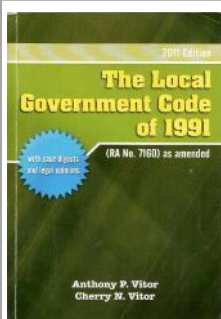
DILG Regional Director Lilibeth A. Famacion handed the check to Mr. Eusebio B. Lisondra, Jr., PAMANA Focal Person of the Province of Surigao del Norte. RD Famacion said that the DILG-PAMANA fund is for the implementation of infrastructure projects which ensures participation and inclusion of the community in the conflict-affected areas. Through this mechanism, the PAMANA objectives, such as poverty-reduction, capacity-building and improved governance will be achieved.

PAMANA Projects in the Province of Surigao del Norte (SDN) include the (1)Construction of Campo-Little Baguio Road in Bacuag, SDN; (2) Rehabilitation of Pili-Karihatag Road in Malimono, SDN; (3)Rehabilitation of Pinaypayan-Brazil Road in -i, Surigao City; (4)Rehabilitation of Cantapoy-Villariza Road in Malimono, SDN; (5)Rehabilitation of Diaz-Magtangale Road in San Francisco, SDN; (6)Construction of 50 meter Bailey Bridge Cantugas in Mainit, SDN; (7)Construction of Banban-Magsaysay in Placer Road in Placer, SDN; and (8)Rehabilitation of Antipolo-Tuburan-Quezon in Del Carmen, SDN.

The implementation of PAMANA projects is part of President Benigno Simon Aquino III’s social contract with the Filipino people in broadly-seeking just and lasting peace in Mindanao through a rapid, inclusive and sustained economic growth. *(Florian Faith Jr. P. Bayawa, LGOO II, DILG 13)*



DILG Regional Director Lilibeth A. Famacion hands the check for the Php 105 M DILG-PAMANA fund (first tranche) to Mr. Eusebio B. Lisondra, Jr., PAMANA Focal Person of the Province of Surigao del Norte.



PARTISAN BARANGAY ELECTIVE OFFICIALS



By Atty. Anthony P. Vitor, MDR

Many constituents queried this Office on whether barangay elective officials can actively campaign for or against a certain national or local officials for this coming May 13, 2013 National and Local Synchronized Elections. Commission on Elections (COMELEC) Commissioner Rene Sarmiento stated that barangay elective officials cannot campaign because the nature of barangay elections are non-partisan and a Comelec resolution will be issued to clarify this matter (www.philstar.com, Jan. 25, 2013). But up to now, no resolution has been issued. In the absence of such resolution, we have to rely on the opinion from the DILG regarding this matter on the partisanship of barangay elective officials.

The question on whether barangay elective officials can campaign for the coming election may be answered by Section 38 of the Batas Pambansa Blg. (Omnibus Election Code), which state

Sec. 38. Conduct of election. - The barangay election shall be non-partisan, and shall be conducted in an expeditious and inexpensive manner.

No person who files a certificate of candidacy shall represent or allow himself to be represented as a candidate of any political party or any other organization; and no political party, political group, political committee, civil group, professional, or other organization or organized group of whatever nature shall intervene in his nomination or in the filing of his certificate of candidacy or give aid or support, directly or indirectly, material or otherwise favorable to or against his campaign for election: Provided, That this provision shall not apply to the members of the family of a candidate within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity nor to the personal campaign staff of the

candidate which shall not be more than one for every one hundred registered voters in his barangay: Provided, however, That without prejudice to any liability that may be incurred, no permit to hold a public meeting shall be denied on the ground that the provisions of this paragraph may or will be violated.

Nothing in this section, however, shall be construed as in any manner affecting or constituting an impairment of the freedom of individuals to support or oppose any candidate for any barangay office.

Based on the foregoing, any person who files a certificate of candidacy for any elective barangay position is prohibited from representing or allowing himself to be represented as a candidate of any political party or any other organization. The law explicitly provides the prohibition applies only at the time of filing of a candidate's certificate of candidacy for elective barangay position. Thus, it is clear that what is prohibited under the law is for a person to run and be elected in a barangay elective position under a political party.

Nowhere can we find in the aforementioned provision of law that the prohibition on partisanship shall be made general so as to encompass absolute prohibition against barangay elective officials from affiliating and ultimately, becoming members of any political party. On the contrary, there are many legal justifications to conclude that, in fact, they can affiliate.

To conclude that barangay elective officials are prohibited from affiliating and becoming members of any political party would be violative of the right of any person to associate as guaranteed under Section 8, Article III of the Constitution, which provides

Section 8. The rights of the people, including those employed in the public and private sectors, to form unions, associations or societies for purposes not contrary to law shall not be abridged."

The term "associations" mentioned therein includes political parties, and others. Well settled is the rule that the right to form these associations, including the right to join the same [Nachura, *Outline Reviewer in Political Law*, (2006)].

It is true that in the first paragraph of the aforementioned Section 38 of the Omnibus Election Code, barangay elections were made to be non-partisan in nature. Let it be noted, however, that the word "non-partisan" herein refers to the phrase "barangay election." To our mind, if it was really the intention of the legislature to generally prohibit barangay elective officials from affiliating and ultimately, becoming members of any political party, they should have used the term "barangay elective official" instead of "barangay election." Obviously, the phrase "barangay elective official" differs from "barangay election." The former pertains to persons while the latter pertains to a political event.

To conclude that barangay elective officials are prohibited from affiliating and becoming members of any political party would render nugatory the Memorandum Circular No. 02, series of 1992, issued by the Civil Service Commission (CSC) which clarifies that the inhibitions on government officials and employees from engaging in any electioneering or in any partisan political activities or campaign shall not be made to apply to elective officials, among others. The term "election campaign" or "partisan political activity" refers to an act designed to promote the election or defeat of a particular candidate (Sec. 79 (b). OEC), (DILG Opinion No. 17, s. 2007).



Revitalization of Dinagat Day Care Centers

By LG00 II Jacky A. Mellorin

Dinagat, PDI - The plight of an ineffective pre-school education due to discomfort and inconvenience is now beginning to subside for Barangays Magsaysay and Cab-ilan of the Municipality of Dinagat, Province of Dinagat Islands as their daycare centers' rehabilitation had been sped up by the municipal government through the aid of the Performance Challenge Fund (PCF) granted by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).

Before the rehabilitation of these day care centers, pupils from both barangays would transfer their learning activities to the multi-purpose building or the gymnasium when rain or extreme heat insists upon the weather. Not to mention the discomfort brought by broken floorboards, pale, blotchy paint jobs, and decrepit ceilings.

The assistance of the PCF grant worth Php 1,000,000.00, accessed by the Municipality through the Seal of Good

Housekeeping (a seal given to LGUs with commendable performance in local governance), filled up the financial gaps of 52.65% worth Php 211,000.00 and 26.50% worth Php 53,000 for the rehabilitation costs of the 48 sq. m. Day Care Center of Brgy. Magsaysay worth 400,000.00 pesos and the 36.25 sq. m. Day Care Center of Brgy. Cab-ilan worth Php 200, 000.00 pesos.

Residents of these barangays ponder on the sudden influx of children attending day care from 4-6 years old and even underage children ineligible for day care education. This has been observed by the local populace despite the absence of numerical data. This bears indication of the creed, "*great education begins in the primordial core*" which, in the case of Barangays Magsaysay and Cab-ilan of Dinagat, is fortunately fulfilled through the Performance Challenge Fund.



Building Road to Progress in Jabonga

By LG00 II Ian Reigh M. Elimanco



Agusan del Norte's PCF -Funded Project in Jabonga entitled "Concreting and Re-blocking of Puyo-Colorado Provincial Road (Phase 1 & II) was already completed last June 8, 2012. The Project – costing **Six (6) Million Pesos**, is a collaborative effort between the Provincial Government of Agusan del Norte and the Department of the Interior and Local Government(DILG)- Caraga Region. As counterpart to the Province-Funded Phase I of the Project worth 3Million , the PCF through the DILG granted 3Million for the Phase II of the Project.

"The Puyo-Colorado Provincial Road is one vital road network leading to the unique coastal and lakeside Municipality of Jabonga, which is a major eco-tourism hub and a significant contributor to the agro-forestry and fishery sector of the provincial economy," says Mr. Rofel C. Cabaltera, PGDH-PPDO of Agusan del Norte. The route leads to the scenic Lake Mainit and to the panoramic view of Mt. Mabaho. Moreover, the road is also a crucial link to the coastal barangays of Sto. Nino, Magdago-oc and San Vicente wherein you can enjoy the blue waters of Butuan Bay and the rich aqua-culture products.

"After the completion of the project, the volume of vehicle traffic in the route

has considerably increased and more investor and tourist have visited our locality," exclaims Engr. Ramon M. Lagura , the MPDC of Jabonga, attributing these factors to the improved road.

This is affirmed by Hon. Alfredo Morano Jr. , Punong Barangay of Colorado, Jabonga. *"Before the concreting, the road was muddy especially during rainy seasons; and dusty during dry season. We are thankful to Gov. Amante and the DILG for implementing the project. Now, it's easier to bring our agricultural produce to the market"* he shared in the dialect.

"The newly built road provides easy access to the proposed site of 1. 9 billion Hydro-Electric Power Plant to be established by the First Generation Power Corporation in Jabonga ," added Mrs. Trofina P. Besada, Planning Officer IV, PPDO.

This contributes to Jabonga's goal to be the center of eco-tourism and investment hub of Caraga Region. In this sense, the project is true to the intent of PCF, that is, to alleviate poverty in the countryside thru the attainment of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

DILG Employees Coop Elects New BODs

The Department of the Interior and Local Government Employees Multi-Purpose Cooperative (DILG-EMPC) has elected new Board of Directors (BODs) and presented the Financial & Accomplishment Reports along with the release of dividends and Patronage Funds to its members during the DILG General Assembly held at Pietros Square, Capitol-Bonbon Road, Butuan City on March 11-12, 2013.

LG00 VI Jocelyn Jayoma is the newly-elected DILG-EMPC BOD Chairperson. Also elected were the Provincial BODs, namely: LG00 VI Joseph Porgatorio for Surigao del Sur and LG00 V Jimylen Ballicud for Surigao del Norte.

Outgoing BOD Chairperson Atty. Anthony P. Vitor formally turned over his duties and responsibilities to Ms. Jayoma.

Retained in their positions as BODs are LG00 V Cynthia T. Binondo of the Province of Agusan del Norte, LG00 V Daniel Longaquit of the Province of Agusan del Sur and LG00 V Alma M. Tiempo of Butuan City.

DILG-EMPC Manager Annabel F. Yangson presented the cooperative's Accomplishment Report highlighting the cooperative's Net Surplus for the year 2012, which is worth PhP 916,232.92. It was distributed as patronage funds and dividends to its members inclusive of the Member's Savings Operation (MSO).

Atty. Vitor announced the new policies of the Cooperative in order to strengthen the operations as well as set the direction for the coop. This include the coop's membership classification into A,B,C, and D. Class A members are those who have worth PhP 40,000.00 Capital Build-up (CBU), with no underpayments in all loan facilities, no non-payment in all loan facilities and regularly attending coop assembly. Class B members are those who have less than PhP 40,000.00 CBU with the rest of the qualifications the same ; the Class A. Class C members are those who, regardless of the amount of the CBU, have at least 1-3 underpayments in all loan facilities with a maximum of 3 non-payments within 6 months in all loan facilities and who are not attending coop assemblies. Class D members are those who, regardless of the amount of the CBU, have more than 3 underpayments within 6 months in all loan facilities with the rest of the qualifications the same as the Cla membership classification

Among those policies discussed by Atty. Vitor before 181 coop members are the schedule of loan releases, processing of CBU withdrawal, method of collection, check encashment and the organization of the Core Management Team composed of the BOD Chairperson, Manager, Credit Communication Chair and the Audit Chair. *(Florian Faith Jr. P.*

Bayawa, LG00 II, DILG 13)

PROMOTION / TRANSFER / REAPPOINTMENT



	PROMOTION	FROM	TO	OS
JAN. 7	YANGSON, ANNABEL F.	LG00 V	LG00 VI	CABN, ADN
JAN. 7	BESONA, CECILIA B.	LG00 V	LG00 VI	RO
JAN. 7	GEMAO, CELEDONIA M.	LG00 V	LG00 VI	San Jose, PDI
JAN. 7	ACABAL, ROWENA S.	LG00 V	LG00 VI	PDI
JAN. 7	O BENZA, NATHANIEL T.	ADMIN. AIDE IV	LG00 II	ADS

	TRANSFER	FROM	TO	OS
JAN. 7	APRESTO, LUTH EDMUND M.	STAT II	LG00 III	RO

	PROMOTION	FROM	TO	OS
FEB. 5	SALISE, MARY CHRISTINE ANTHONETTE MARTIREZ	LG00 II	LG00 V	Carmen, ADN
FEB. 5	LAM, JASON RYAN R.	LG00 II	LG00 V	Sta. Josefa, ADS
FEB. 5	LIM, CHARLES, JR. V.	LG00 II	LG00 V	Bunawan, ADS
FEB. 5	GULTIANO, ERNIE Y.	LG00 II	LG00 V	Lanuza, SDS
FEB. 5	GULTIANO, MARICHELLE O.	LG00 II	LG00 V	Cagwait, SDS
FEB. 5	MORENO, JANE G.	LG00 II	LG00 V	Hinatuan, SDS

SILG Mar Roxas Meets DILG 13 Personnel

By: Florian Faith Jr. P. Bayawa, LG00 II, DILG 13

Secretary of the Interior and Local Government Mar Roxas meets DILG 13 (CARAGA) personnel at Surigao City Airport on March 27, 2013.

Headed by DILG 13 OIC-Asst. Regional Director Donald A. Sero-nay, SILG Roxas and party were warmly received by the DILG family including the Interior sectors, such as Officials from the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) and the Philippine National Police.

SILG Roxas asked for situational updates in the region and directed the DILG employees in the local government sector especially the interior sector to stand guard in illegal logging activities. He was

also concerned with the peace and order situation of conflict-affected areas in the region and gave marching orders to resolve issues before the condition aggravates.

Together with Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC) Secretary Emilio "Jun" Abaya, SILG Roxas graced the activity dubbed as **"Bringing the Government to the People"** (*Bangon Dinagat Para Sa Bag-ong Kaug-maon!*) in the Province of Dinagat Islands (PDI) highlighting the turn-over ceremony of seventy-seven (77) Multi-cab units and the ceremonial awarding of five (5) ports to barangays in the province through the Office of Representative Arlene "Kaka" J. Bag-ao, Caretaker/Legislative Liaison Officer of Lone District of PDI.





DILG Caraga's Regional Assembly Strengthens Clustering Approach

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Region 13 (CARAGA) holds Regional Assembly of all its personnel for two days, March 11-12, 2013 at Pietros Square, Capitol-Bonbon Diversion Road, Butuan City.

The assembly was purposely conducted to strengthen the clustering approach adopted by the office in order to efficiently implement the program and projects of the Department.

The Strategic Performance Management System (SPMS) as a replacement to the Personnel Performance Evaluation System (PES) was discussed by Ms. Fe Jennifer B. Perez, Personnel Specialist of Caraga and the Chief of the Training Division of the Civil Service Institute of the Civil Service Commission. She also included the important reminders in the filing of the employees' Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Networth (SALN).

Report of administrative matters was presented by Ms. Lucia B. Garrido particu-

larly on the proceeds of the contribution from personnel last December, 2012 for the Pablo victims.

Assistant Regional Director Donald A. Seronay reiterated the office policy the liquidation of cash advances of personnel which must be done within five days after the official travel, submission of administrative requirements, Department's new policy on the practice of profession and other administrative concerns.

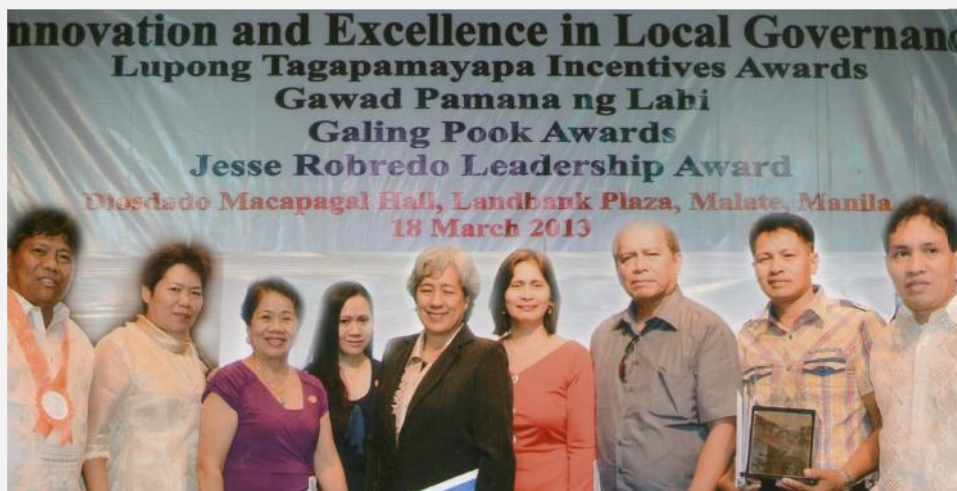
Planning Officer Elenita Mandap presented the policy guidelines in the preparation of F.Y. 2013 Operations Plan and Budget vis-à-vis the revised targets of the office putting emphasis on the Department's programs that requires the accomplishment of its targets at the end of the first semester.

Concerns for the Local Capability and Development Division (LGDD) was presented by LGDD Division Chief Charissa T. Guerta while the Local Government

Monitoring and Evaluation Division (LGMED) matters was presented by its Asst. Division Chief Jocelyn Jayoma on behalf of LGMED Chief Ray Gregory F. Jaranilla.

Department's programs such as the Bottom-up Budgeting (BuB), Payapa at Masaganang Pamayanan Para sa Lahat (PAMANA), Sagana at Ligtas na Tubig (SALINTUBIG) and Provincial Road Management Facility (PRMF) were presented by the Regional Focal persons: LGOO VI Jocelyn Jayoma, LGOO V Annabelle Ivy Boquerin, LGOO V Renelou F. Jaranilla, and LGOO VI Cecilia T. Besona, respectively.

ARD Seronay, for the final activity the guidelines for the workshop per provincial office concerning their strategic action plan in the strengthening of their clusters in terms of communication, cluster structure, transparency of cluster operations, internal policies (i.e. Continuing Education, Performance Management System), assignment of program and projects (e.g. Who will handle specific program functions? support mechanisms, and resources needed for the attainment of the plans. *(Florian Faith Jr. P. Bayawa, LGOO II, DILG 13)*



PB Raul Carampatana (Left-most) of San Vicente, Butuan City and ARD Donald Seronay (Right-most) together with other contingents during the awarding ceremony



PB Jose Mozar (Center) of Quezon, Mainit and ARD Donald Seronay (Left) also present to receive the award.

Caraga Barangay Bags National Prize for Lupong Tagapamayapa Incentives Award

By Stat I Don Manuelo O. Patrimonio

Caraga was yet again recognized for exemplary performance during the national awarding ceremony entitled, "Recognizing Innovation and Excellence In Local Governance: 2012 Lupong Tagapamayapa Incentives Awards, 2012 Gawad Pamana ng Lahi, Galing Pook Awards 2012 and 1st Jesse Robredo Leadership Awards", last March 18, 2013 at the Diosdado Macapagal Hall, Malate, Manila.

Barangay San Vicente of Butuan City was conferred the LTIA National Award for the Highly Urbanized Cities category besting all other entries from across country. P300,000.00 in cash plus a plaque were awarded to the San Vicente.

Another Caraga entry, Barangay Quezon of Mainit, Surigao Del Norte, was also proclaimed 1st Runner-Up of the 4th to 6th Class Municipalities category.

P100,000.00 in cash and a plaque were conferred to them.

These, along with other winners of the Caraga Region-level selection, were our entries to the national awards. These were: Brgy. Telaje of Tandag, Surigao del Sur (Component Cities category); and Brgy. Poblacion of Barobo, Surigao del Sur (1st to 3rd Class Municipalities category). Butuan City and Mainit emerged victorious.



P18 M SALINTUBIG Fund Released

Caraga Region – The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Region 13 (CARAGA) released PhP 18 M under the SALINTUBIG Program, known as “*Sagana at Ligtas na Tubig Para sa Lahat*” to the Municipalities of Bunawan, Esperanza, Talacogon, Trento and Veruela of Agusan del Sur; Municipality of Cantilan, Surigao del Sur; and Municipality of Tubajon, Province of Dinagat Islands. The releases of checks were given during the Salintubig Project Updates and Consultation Meeting at Mabe’s Savory Place, San Francisco, Agusan del Sur on March 14, 2013.

DILG Asst. Regional Director Donald A. Seronay with DILG-Agusan Del Sur Provincial Director Arleen Ann R. Sanchez handed the checks to recipient municipalities. Mayor Genito B. Guardo of Cantilan, Surigao del Sur, Mayor Gilbert G. Elorde of Bunawan, Agusan del Sur and Vice Mayor Rodolfo B. Bosque of Talacogon, Agusan del Sur were present during the awarding of checks.

ARD Seronay in his message emphasized that water is life. He said that the LGUs in Caraga region is very much fortunate to be receiving potable water system projects through DILG. “This project will continue to be granted by our government until 2016 beginning 2012”, he added.

On the other hand, PD Sanchez stressed that the basic need of the people should be provided to them. “Water, which is our basic need should be among the priority list of our government’s concern”, said PD Sanchez.

DILG Regional Focal Person for the Salintubig program Engr. Renelou F. Jaranilla provided the expectation setting for the activity. He emphasized that there are twenty-seven (27) local government units (LGUs) with a total of sixty-five (65) water system projects for this year.

The following LGUs received the Salintubig fund:



Release of check to Mayor Genito B. Guardo of Cantilan, Surigao del Sur worth PhP 1,250,000.00 by ARD Donald Seronay, PD Arleen Sanchez.



Release of check to Mayor Gilbert G. Elorde of Bunawan, Agusan del Sur worth PhP 3,500,000.00 by ARD Donald Seronay, PD Arleen Sanchez



Release of check to the Municipality of Esperanza, Agusan del Sur worth PhP 1,500,000.00 by ARD Donald Seronay, PD Arleen Sanchez and DILG 13 SALINTUBIG Regional Focal Person Engr. Renelou F. Jaranilla

LGUs	Amount
Bunawan, Agusan del Sur	PhP 3,500,000.00
Esperanza, Agusan del Sur	1,500,000.00
Trento, Agusan del Sur	3,500,000.00
Talacogon, Agusan del Sur	3,500,000.00
Veruela, Agusan del Sur	3,500,000.00
Cantilan, Surigao del Sur	1,250,000.00
Tubajon, Dinagat Islands	1,250,000.00
TOTAL	PhP 18,000,000.00

The SALINTUBIG program of the Department is designed to provide a grant for financing and capacity building in the implementation of water supply projects in waterless municipalities, in poorest barangays with high level of waterborne diseases, in resettlement areas and in public health centers without access to safe and adequate water.

This program under President Benigno Simeon Aquino III is one of the banner programs of the Department in improving the quality of life of the Filipino people especially in waterless areas in the country. **(Florian Faith Jr. P. Bayawa, LGOO II, DILG 13)**



CARRASCAL:

Mitigating the Adverse Effects of Mining through Good Governance



By LG00 V Joseph L. Urge1

oversee mining activities within the area. The establishment of community-based mechanisms such as the creation of the Multi-Partite Monitoring Teams composed of different sectors: the Mines and Geo-Sciences Bureau (MGB), the local government, and private organizations ensure that all mining companies take full responsibility in complying all the conditions required for the issuance of the Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC).

To best address the challenges brought by mining activities, the Municipality enacted Ordinance No. 03, s. 2013 entitled "AN ORDINANCE IMPOSING ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARD FEE ON ALL COMMERCIAL VESSELS LOADING MINERAL ORES WITHIN THE MUNICIPAL WATERS OF CARRASCAL INCLUDING BARGES TRANSPORTING ORES FROM THE CAUSEWAY TO THE VESSEL". The term "Environmental Hazard" means the *risk or chance of the sea and marine life being damaged by the spillage of oil, lubricants and other wastes being discharged by commercial vessels and barges in the operation and maintenance of their crafts.*

The collection of the Environmental Hazard Fee collected from the commercial vessels and barges shall serve as (1) revenue of the municipality and source of funds for social services, specifically in providing livelihood to fishermen/farmers; (2) to install the markers for maneuvering the boat before anchoring to prevent damage to corals; (3) to control spill (in case of major oil spill) and the clean-up of the affected area; (4) to use for the filing of charges in court against the vessel or crew, which caused the spill; and (5) to keep the municipal water of Carrascal clean.

As a result, Social Development and Management Programs (SDMP) have been implemented to provide additional sources of funds to subsidize projects identified by the community themselves. More than PhP 15 M has been appropriated by the local government in implementing agricultural and livelihood projects with forty-one recipient People's Organizations, including cooperatives.

The environmental condition of Carrascal has been sustained as close monitoring and constant supervision has been observed. The Carrascal Nickel Corporation, for instance has supported the National Greening Program (NGP) with a total of 160,625 trees planted. Mining companies have been supportive to the Solid Waste Management Program of the government who has provided cash incentive for barangays that implement it. In fact, Brgy. Babuyan achieved the Regional Award and garnered the 3rd Place for a Barangay with the Best Sanitation Practices in the national level by the Department of Health (DOH).

Presently, the local government of Carrascal is pushing for sustainable development. It sees mining not as an environmental hazard but an opportunity to improve the lives of the residents. The bottom line is that the local government, through its initiatives in upholding social, economic and environmental good governance principles has found an effective means of regulating mining operations in the area.

Carrascal, Surigao del Sur – The impact of mining activities within the municipality's jurisdiction has been the priority concern of the local government in terms of effectively managing the result of its operations, such as not to harm the environment.

But after deliberation, the Municipality of Carrascal opened its economy for mining companies to operate with the expectation of receiving socio-economic benefits. This include generating jobs to relatively reduce poverty; augmenting local income to provide better and adequate services to the people; and increasing the revenue of the community as new opportunities and more investors surge to the municipality.

Contrary to this is the risk of facing the adverse effects of mining to the environment. The underlying challenges to these are the potential disruption of the hydrological balance and aquifers, possible collapse of the underground shaft, pollution, erosion, siltation and contamination of soil, loss of biodiversity and others.

This prompted the local government to closely monitor and

ALL SET FOR A SAFE AND SECURE ELECTIONS

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Region 13 (CARAGA) joins Unity Walk and Prayer Rally for a Secure and Fair Elections (SAFE) 2013. The unity walk and prayer rally is a kick-off activity, which marks the start of the election period. The early walk on Sunday, 13th of January 2013 started from Guingona's Park to Agusan del Norte covered court this city with the drumbeat of the PNP Band.

The newly seated Philippine National Police (PNP) Chief Getulio P. Napeñas of this region, in his message, emphasized that the 2013 Elections is a political exercise which must be safe, secure and fair enough. He assured the voters that the PNP together with other agencies involved for the elections will work in unity to achieve a peaceful conduct of the elections.

There was a lighting of the Unity Candles during the prayers offered by various religious leaders in the region. Participating agencies aside from the PNP were the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Com-



mission on Elections (COMELEC), Department of Education (DepEd), City Government of Butuan and religious groups.

Atty. April Joy Balano, Provincial Election Supervisor of Agusan del Norte led the signing of the Unity Pledge on behalf of Commission on Elections (COMELEC)

Regional Director Francisco G. Pobe to manifest the firm intent of the vote uphold the integrity of the election process and to elevate the level of maturity of the Filipino electorates by holding candidates to a law-abiding campaign. **(Florian Faith Jr. P. Bayawa, LGOO II)**

Caraga Anti-Poverty Team Coaches LPRAT for 2014 BuB Projects



The Regional Poverty Reduction Action Team (RPRAT) chaired by Regional Director Lilibeth A. Famacion of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) together with the RPRAT implementing agencies has called upon the attention of Local Poverty Reduction Action Teams (LPRAT) of Local Government Units (LGUs) to revise, replace or modify proposed anti-poverty projects for F.Y. 2014 Bottom-up Budgeting (BuB) on March 7-8, 2013 at Dotties Place Hotel and Restaurant.

The provincial coaching was based

on the result of RPRAT's thorough review and scrutiny of the proposed anti-poverty projects submitted by the LPRATs. It was found out that there were some erroneous entries in the Project List and Project Briefs and some proposed projects are not within the menu of programs of the implementing agencies or cannot be proposed as BuB projects as expressly stipulated in the Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) No. 3. In addition, some LPRATs did not conform to the prescribed percentage of LGU counterparts.

DILG Caraga OIC-Asst. Regional Di-

rector Donald A. Seronay, in his message said that the Provincial Coaching will provide the venue for clarification revision and replacement of ineligible proposed projects with the implementing agencies.

The first day of the provincial coaching was intended for selected LGUs of Agusan del Norte (including the city of Butuan), Surigao del Norte and Dinagat Islands, while the second day was for the selected LGUs of Agusan del Sur and Surigao del Sur.

Part of the provincial coaching was the reiteration of the salient features of JMC No. 3 discussed by DILG LGOO VI Jocelyn Jayoma, such as the correct entries of the Local Poverty Reduction Action Plan (LPRAP) and their corresponding Project Briefs, which must include the complete details of the eligible proposed projects.

The revised LPRAPs of the LPRATs will be submitted on or before March 12, 2013 to the DILG Regional Office both in hard and soft copies in MS Word, Excel and PDF formats for consolidation and integration to the respective plans of the implementing agencies. **(Florian Faith Jr. P. Bayawa, LGOO II, DILG 13)**



Initiates Peace-Building Interventions in Caraga

The Payapa at Masaganang PamayaNan, known as PAMANA is the national government's peace and development framework to respond and strengthen peace building, reconstruction and development in conflict-affected areas (CAAs).

On March 22, 2013, the Office of the Presidential Adviser of the Peace Process (OPAPP) with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Region 13 (CARAGA) initiated the PAMANA Regional Programming to come-up with a list of peace-building projects for fiscal year 2014 at Almont Hotel's Inland Resort, Butuan City.

DILG Regional Director Lilibeth A. Famacion in her message takes a firm commitment in ensuring that the PAMANA intervention will create an environment for the achievement of lasting peace in the conflict-affected areas in the region.

Present also during the activity was OPAPP's over-all coordinator, Director Maria Eileen A. Jose who informed the participants that her long stint in this kind of work brought her face to face with the CPP, NPA and NDF's (C/N/N).

The programming process at the regional level aimed to identify priority projects with corresponding budget allocation for inclusion in the PAMANA Program in 2014. The projects will be endorsed to the partner agencies for inclusion in their budget submission to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) not later than 15th of April 2013.

PAMANA Area Manager Mr. Oliver M. Binancilan discussed the updates on the major issues underpinning - vulnerability of Caraga region. Based on the latest status of the region, there has been lack or absence of road connectivity, poor delivery of basic social services (particularly of health, water, education and electricity), limited livelihood opportunities, insurgency issues, presence of mining and logging activities that are target of extortion activities and propaganda of C/N/N, and large IP population with lack of tenurial instrument and security in managing ancestral domain.

To address those problems and issues, the PAMANA interventions focused its priorities in improving the presence of security on highly vulnerable areas, strengthening of Peace and Order Councils, Policy Reforms, improving the advocacy on government programs, addressing mining and logging issues, sustainable livelihood support, implementation of access roads, and improved delivery of basic social services.

Participating agencies to the PAMANA Regional Programming are the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Justice (DOJ), Philippine National Police (PNP) and Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) for security; Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Education (DepEd) and Department of Health (DOH) for social services; Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and Technical Education Skills and Development Authority (TESDA) for livelihood and employment; Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), DA, National Irrigation Administration (NIA) and National Electrification Authority (NEA) for infrastructure; DENR, Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) for IP areas; Provincial Government, PAMANA focal persons and PAMANA Oversight Committee converged to generate the list of priority projects for 2014 programming.

The activity include discussions on ways to tighten convergence of efforts along (a) complementation of programs; (b) coordination and implementation; (c) communication and advocacy; and (d) monitoring of PAMANA projects in the conflict-affected areas according to the latest security assessment. **(Florian Faith Jr. P. Bayawa, LGOO II, DILG 13)**



Discussions on status updates and proposed PAMANA interventions for F.Y. Regional Level Programing with the Regional Line Agencies, including the AFP in Caraga.

RDRRMC Caraga Launches Disaster Risk Reduction & Management Plan



(From Left to Right) DOST RD Dominga Mallonga, NEDA ARD Mylah Cariño, Former OCD RD Blanche Gober USEC Eduardo del Rosario—Exec. Director of National DRRMC and DSWD SWO Ana Semancio present the newly launched DRRM

The Caraga Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (RDRRMC) chaired by the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) and Vice-Chaired by four agencies, such as the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) for Disaster Preparedness, Department of Science and Technology (DOST) for Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) for Disaster Response and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) for Disaster Rehabilitation and Recovery with other member agencies in the government and private sector including Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) launched on February 28, 2013 the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Plan for CY 2013-2017 at Almont Hotel's Inland Resort, Butuan City.

The DRRM Plan of Caraga contains four thematic areas in Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, Disaster Preparedness, Disaster Response and

Disaster Rehabilitation which accumulated a total of twenty-two (22) outcomes, forty-nine (49) outputs and one hundred thirty-seven (137) activities all set for the five plan. This will provide a strategic direction for effective disaster risk reduction and management at the local level in the next five years.

OCD Director Blanche T. Goben-ciong, also the Chairperson of RDRRMC presented the impact and outcomes of the four thematic areas, while DILG Director Lilibeth A. Famacion, DOST Director Dominga D. Mallonga, DSWD Director Minda B. Brigoli, and NEDA Director Carmencita S. Cochingco revealed the key major outputs and activities of the DRRM Plan.

USEC Eduardo D. Del Rosario, Executive Director of the National DRRMC graced the event to formally receive and acknowledge the approved RDRRM Plan of the Council. The thrust of the four thematic areas are as follows:

Disaster Prevention and Mitigation – Avoid hazards and mitigate their potential impacts by reducing vulnerabilities and exposure, and enhancing capacities of communities;

Disaster Preparedness – Establish and strengthen capacities of communities to anticipate, cope and recover from the negative impacts of emergency occurrences and disasters;

Disaster Response – Provide life preservation and meet the basic subsistence needs of affected population based in acceptable standards during or immediately after a disaster;

Disaster Rehabilitation and Recovery – Restore and improve facilities, livelihood and living conditions and organizational capacities of affected communities, and reduced disaster risks in accordance with the “building back better” principle.

The DRRM Plan is in line with the goals of the region for the attainment of the country's overall DRRM vision of “*Safer, adaptive and disaster resilient Filipino communities towards sustainable development.*” As such, it is aimed at making the region disaster resilient against natural hazards and disasters, including man-made disasters. **(Florian Faith Jr. P. Bayawa, LGOO II, DILG 13)**

NAPC USec Labajo Gives Policy Directions to RPRAT

With the concerted efforts of the twelve implementing Regional Line Agencies in Caraga, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Region 13 headed by Regional Director Lilibeth A. Famacion as the Chairperson of the Regional Poverty Reduction Action Team (RPRAT) prepares for a head start in the review and validation of anti-poverty projects to be implemented in the year 2014 and in monitoring projects of this year's implementation.

Undersecretary Marie Labajo of the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) attended the RPRAT meeting on February 22, 2013 at Pietros Square, Diversion Road, Butuan City. She emphasized the need to promote evidence-based plans to let the community themselves realize the impact of the projects. The purpose of her visit was to cascade the relevant information framed by the national government for the implementation, as well as for the review and validation of the Bottom-up Budgeting (BuB) for the implementation of Anti-Poverty projects.

"The very aim of the BuB is to make the government agencies more responsive to the needs of the community. This is to address the demands of the grassroots and to let the people decide what they need to address their destitute situation," USec Labajo said.

The BuB is an approach of formulating the budget proposal of agencies, taking into consideration the development needs of poor cities/municipalities as identified in their respective local poverty reduction action plans that shall be formulated with strong participation of basic sector organizations and other civil society organizations. The programs and projects identified by LGUs through the BuB process will be funded through the national budget.

Issues such as the manner of reviewing the project proposals for the 2014

implementation were responded by Director Famacion and USec Labajo, particularly on projects which are not within the menu of the implementing agencies. USec Labajo clarified that the implementing agencies cannot outright reject a project once proposed by the Local Poverty Reduction Action Team (LPRAT), composed of local government unit (LGU) representatives and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the municipality. She said that once the proposed project falls within the regular program of the agency, then this can be funded. For proposed projects that cannot be sufficiently funded because it has already exceeded the budget cap, this can be substituted by another project that is within the budget limit.

The RPRAT is expected to meet again on February 27, 2013 to finalize the review of the proposed projects. The implementing agencies of the BuB for 2014 are the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Energy (DOE),

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Tourism (DOT), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), and Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).

For coordination and oversight, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Budget and Management (DBM), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) worked hand in hand in setting the policy direction for the RPRAT.

As the Chair and secretariat of RPRAT, the DILG shall consolidate the revised list of priority poverty reduction projects reviewed by the implementing agencies for submission to NAPC. **(Florian Faith Jr. P. Bayawa, LGOO II, DILG 13)**



NAPC Usec Mari Labajo, DILG 13 RD Lilibeth Famacion and DBM 13 RD Gerard Achilles Bravo during the RPRAT Reviews and Validation at Pietros Square, Imadejas, Butuan City

Tickle your BRAIN

Sudoku helps improve your solving skills and strategy. Why won't you try to tickle your brain with this game?



GAME CORNER

Answer to previous puzzle:



Source:

<http://www.sudoku-solver.net/index.php?randomsudoku=y&lang=English>
(January 24, 2013)

MARCH 30 IS BARANGAY ASSEMBLY DAY



Barangay Assembly at Brgy. Ambago, Butuan City conducted on March 30, 2013



Discussions on significant issues concerns affecting the barangay such as, but not limited to disaster preparedness, solid waste management, peace and order situation particularly on the proliferation of activities pertaining to illegal drugs in the barangay are amply encouraged. Barangay officials may also undertake other activities deemed necessary and appropriate on that day. In addition, they are enjoined to prepare barangay assembly posters or banners to be posted on conspicuous places in the locality.

Slated on March 30, 2013 is the conduct of Barangay Assembly Day for all barangays across the country in their respective jurisdiction for the first semester this year. This is pursuant to Proclamation No. 260, Series of 2011, which declares the last Saturday of March and the third Saturday of October as Barangay Assembly Days.

In connection thereto, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) issued Memorandum Circular No. 2013-23 dated March 18, 2013 for the conduct of Barangay Assembly for the first semester of calendar year (C.Y.) 2013 to cause its widest dissemination and to ensure the conduct of said activity.

The institutionalization of barangay assembly day nationwide is one of the major component programs of the *Biyaheng Pinoy: Tapat na Palakad, Bayang Maunlad* launched on October 10, 2010 by the DILG. Likewise, this is to drumbeat the celebration of the 20th year of the local autonomy in the Philippines, and to institutionalize the norms of transparency, responsiveness, accountability and participation at the barangay level as stipulated in Proclamation No. 260.

As mandated by Sections 397 and 398 of the Local Government Code of 1991, every barangay is enjoined to undertake a barangay assembly day to hear and discuss the semestral report of the Sangguniang Barangay concerning its activities and finances as well as problems affecting the barangay. It shall also initiate legislative processes by recommending to the Sangguniang Barangay the adoption of measures for the welfare of the barangay and the city or municipality concerned;

decide on the adoption of initiative as a legal process whereby the registered voters of the barangay may directly propose, enact or amend any ordinance; and lastly, hear and pass upon the semestral report of the Sangguniang Barangay concerning its activities and finances.

Punong Barangays are going to deliver their State of Barangay Address (SOBA), with emphasis on (1) C.Y. 2012 Second Semester Accomplishments; (2) C.Y. 2012 Second Semester Financial Report to include, among others, the Itemized Monthly Collections and Disbursement and the Summary of Income and Expenditures; and (3) Updates on C.Y. 2013 on-going programs and projects.

In line with the conduct of Barangay Assembly Day, the barangays shall undertake compliance to DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2010-149 dated December 14, 2010 re: Posting of Barangay Budget, Statement of Income and Expenditures and other Barangay Financial Transactions and Annual Procurement Plan.

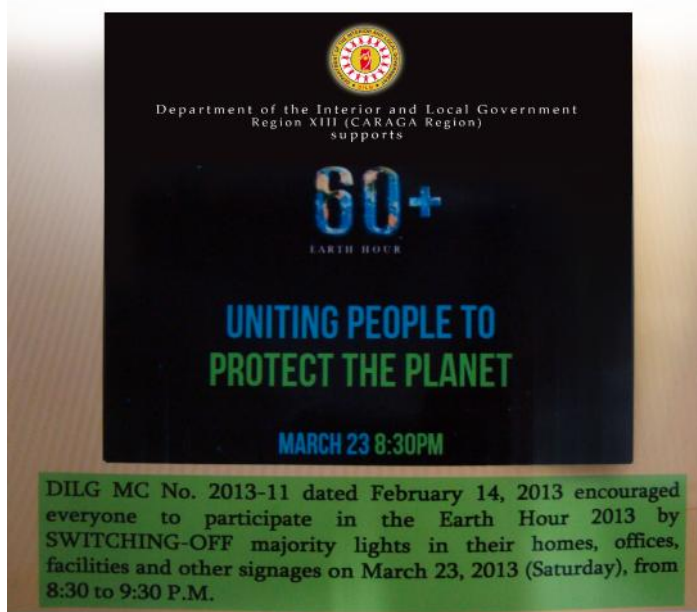
It is further mentioned in Proclamation No. 260 that all City/Municipal Mayors are enjoined to ensure compliance and maximum participation of all barangays in the said undertaking by conducting barangay assemblies in their respective jurisdiction. In so doing, they are tasked to post or hang the barangay assembly posters or banners in various conspicuous places.

Barangay Officials who failed to conduct a barangay assembly may face administrative case from a complaint filed by any resident of the barangay, concerned citizen, governmental or non-governmental entity before the Sangguniang Panlungsod or Sangguniang Bayan concerned pursuant to Section 61 of the LG Code or to the Office of the Ombudsman pursuant to Administrative Order No. 07, otherwise known as "Rules of Procedure of the Office of the Ombudsman" dated April 10, 1990. (**Florian Faith Jr. P. Bayawa, LGOO II, DILG 13**)



Barangay Assembly at Brgy. Babag, Butuan City conducted on March 30, 2013

DILG Caraga Observes Earth Hour



By taking a firm stand on various environmental issues and taking action for the environment in order to ensure a sustainable future, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Region 13 (CARAGA) unites with the rest of the country in the observance of Earth Hour Campaign 2013 on March 23, 2013.

The Earth Hour Campaign runs from 8:30-9:30 p.m. last Saturday by switching-off majority of the lights in the homes, offices, facilities and signages. By doing so, there will be significant power saving and most importantly, there will also be greater prospects for meaningful and sustained actions against climate change as it has resulted in previous years.

2013

DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2013-11 dated February 14, 2013 was issued to all Provincial Governors, City Mayors, Municipal Mayors and Punong Barangays to encourage their participation in the Earth Hour campaign. As such, other activities include the use of various communication channels to promote Earth Hour campaign 2013 in official websites, community newsletters, blogs, use of Earth Day logo for posters and other information, education and communication materials.

With the Department's role in disaster preparedness and readiness, it undertakes a successful initiative to advocate the care for environment through Earth Hour campaign. This will improve the pernicious situation of our environment as highlighted in the activity. *(Florian Faith Jr. P. Bayawa, LG00 II, DILG 13)*



DILG AgSur Joins Fire Prevention Month Celebration



Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)-Agusan del Sur led by LG00 VI-Program Manager Roberto E. Sion joined the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) as they celebrate the National Fire Prevention Month (NFBPM) this March.

The kick-off ceremony was held in front of the Municipal Hall, San Francisco,

Agusan del Sur on March 01, 2013. It commenced at around 6:00 a.m. with a Unity Walk entitled "walk for a fire free and fire safe nation" and was followed by a short program.

The activity was participated by the BFP personnel as the leading agency, DILG, PNP, LGU-San Francisco local officials and employees, SARAS, PHILSAGA Volunteer Fire Bri-

By LG00 II Ferdy Benigno R. Avila

gade, SCAN International, REACT Phils, KARANCHO, WASFADSC and Barangay Volunteer Fire Brigade who were all enthusiastic during the occasion.

One of the highlights of the program was the turnover of personal protective and fighting equipment by Caraga Regional Director SSUPT Mario Socorro C Timonera as the guest of honor and assisted by BFP-Agusan del Sur Provincial Director SINSP Augusto Cesar N. Kinazo to San Francisco Fire Station and Talacogon Fire Station. San Francisco Mayor Jenny D. De Asis and Talacogon Mayor Isaias C. Masendo were also present during the ceremony.

Per Presidential Proclamation No. 115-a, March was declared as the Fire Prevention Month because of the alarming increase of fire incidents nation-

wide being the hottest month of the year.

This activity aims to increase the level of awareness of the public on the ways to prevent fires and save lives and properties.

The theme for this year's Fire Prevention Month is "Sunog at Sakuna Paghandaan, Kalikasan ay Pangalagaan nang Matamasa and Pag-unlad ng Bayan".

According to the BFP management, they will continue to instill the importance of safety by influencing the people to get involved since fire prevention is everybody's concern.



DILG Caraga Joins Red Cross Million Volunteer Run

Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Region 13 (CARAGA) official joined several other government, non-government agencies, academic institutions and other sectors in Butuan City and the Province of Agusan del Norte in the Million Volunteer Run launched by the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) on February 10, 2013.

With the theme dubbed as "I Choose to Run to Save Lives", the Million Volunteer Run is a fun run to demonstrate that our country leads in championing the spirit of volunteerism as a means of saving lives. The run kicked off from Butuan City Sports Complex at Brgy. Libertad going to Capitol Grounds of the Province of Agusan del Norte. It was a simultaneous event held at strategic areas all throughout the country.

The proceeds of the funds will go to PNRCs critical humanitarian services. This is to support the country's need to ad-



dress disaster preparedness and response, health and welfare, and voluntary blood donation.

Atty. Felixberto L. Guiritan, Chairperson of PNRC – Butuan City and Agusan del Norte Chapter said that the Million Volunteer Run will establish and strengthen strategic partnerships with different sectors in order build a strong community fueled with

the fire of volunteerism.

An awarding ceremony to top ten runners who reached the finish line culminated the event. The PNRC-Butuan City and Agusan del Norte Chapter also awarded with plaques and certificate the agencies, sectors and outstanding individuals who regularly volunteered in donating blood the Red Cross. **(Florian Faith Jr. P. Bayawa, LG00 II)**



With the firm commitment to achieve the Millennium Development Goals in reducing child mortality and improving maternal health, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) regional office personnel ran during the nationwide Philhealth Run on February 17, 2013 assembled at the Sports Complex Ground, Libertad, Butuan City.

The proceeds of the event will support the national and regional institutions promoting the protection of mother and children in this country. **(Florian Faith Jr. P. Bayawa,**

17th Taphagan Festival Highlights PDSG Mass Oath Taking

By LG00 V Jason Ryan R. Lam

This year's 48th Foundation Day (Araw ng Sta. Josefa) and 17th Taphagan Festival of the Municipality of Sta. Josefa, Agusan del Sur highlights the Mass Oath taking of the Purok Disaster Support Group (PDSG) administered by Municipal Mayor Glenn M. Plaza during its culmination. Among the guests that witnessed the said activity were Hon. Evelyn P. Mellana, Hon. Adolph Edward G. Plaza, Hon. Gilbert G. Elorde, Hon. Salimar T. Mondejar, Hon. Richard M. Plaza, Hon. Pablo O. Plaza and representatives from national and local agencies.

It bears the theme: "Katawhan Hiusahon sa Kalamidad Andamon" (*enjoining the community for disaster preparedness*). The PDSG members received Red Cross Insurance, IDs and identity T-shirts for their group.

The PDSG serves as disaster volunteers that formed the Disaster Action Committees and Staff Committees of every purok in the Municipality in accord-

ance to Republic Act 10121, otherwise known as the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010.

In connection with this, more than 1,600 disaster volunteers underwent an Orientation on Early Warning System and Evacuation Planning on February 19 to March 7, 2013 conducted by the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (MDRRMC) of Sta. Josefa, Agusan del Sur.

The said celebration also acknowledged and commended the efforts and valuable contributions of different stakeholders to the development of the Municipality of Sta. Josefa, Agusan del Sur through the distribution of Sangguniang Bayan Resolutions. There were also a Municipal wide Mass, blood-letting activity, live band concert and a fireworks display that concluded this year's Taphagan Festival. **(LG00 V Jason Ryan Lam, MLG00 – Sta. Josefa)**



Staff Development

TITLE	DATES	LOCATION	PARTICIPANTS
Training Workshop on Vulnerability Risk Assessment for Davao and Butuan Cluster	Jan 7-10	Davao	LG MED & Butuan Staff
Leadership Development for Officials of DILG at the Regional and Provincial Offices	Jan 13-18	Tagaytay	RD, ARD
Annual Closing of Books and Consultative Confere	Jan 21-26	Manila	Accountant & RBO
Hands-on Workshop on Govt Manpower Info. System	Jan 24-25	Manila	HRMO
14th National Lawyer's Convention & Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Semin	Jan 16-19	Davao City	Attorney I
Leadership Development for Officials of DILG at the Regional and Provincial Offices	Jan 28-Feb 1	Tagaytay	PDs/CDs
Mindanao Development Forum	Feb 1	Davao	LG MED Staff
Inter-Local Cooperation Cookbook and Diagnostic T	Feb 4-6	Cebu	Info. Officer
Orientation on Localization of CN.	Feb 5-6	Manila	LG MED Staff
Regional Orientation on B	Feb 7	Cagayan de Oro	RD, ARD, PDs, BUB Staff and C/MLGOOs
1st School of the 7 Habits Application of Manag	Feb 13-14	Manila	ARD & Division Chiefs
Upscaling Target for 2013: A BPLS Planning Workshop	Feb 20-21	Manila	LG MED Chief
Forum on LEIPO Roles & LED Structures	Feb 21-22		LG MED Staff
FDP Performance Review	Feb 27-Mar 1	Manila	I.T. Officer
Pantawid Pamilya Regional Directors Consultati	March 4-9	Baguio	RD
Conference-Workshop DILG Local Government Sector Governance Roadmap Setting CY 2016	March 10-15	Tagaytay	RD
3-Day Writeshop on the Preparation of National Report on LGU Responsiveness to the MDGs	March 12-14	Mandaluyong	LG MED Staff
Preventive Maintenance (Phas	March 12	Butuan	Drivers
National Workshop on Disaster Preparedn	March 12-14	Laguna	LG MED Chief, FDP Prov'l Focal Persons
Pre-Summit for DRRM for LCEs	March 14-15	Manila	DRRM Focal Person
Orientation Workshop for Regional IT	March 14-15	Manila	I.T. Officer
Communicating PAMANA Resl	March 19-21	Davao	Info. Officer
Coaches Orientation and LED for LGU Curricul	March 19-21	Manila	ARD and LG MED Staff
Summit on DRRM on LCE	March 20	Manila	DRRM Focal Person



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DILG Region XIII



Words to live by

by **Ms. Lucia B. Garrido, CPA**
Supervising Admin. Officer

The secret of blessing is giving. The Bible says, *"Bring to the storehouse a full tenth of what you earn so there will be food in my house. Test me in this, says the Lord All - Powerfull. I will open the windows of heaven for you and pour out all the blessings you need."* - **Mala-chi 3:10.**

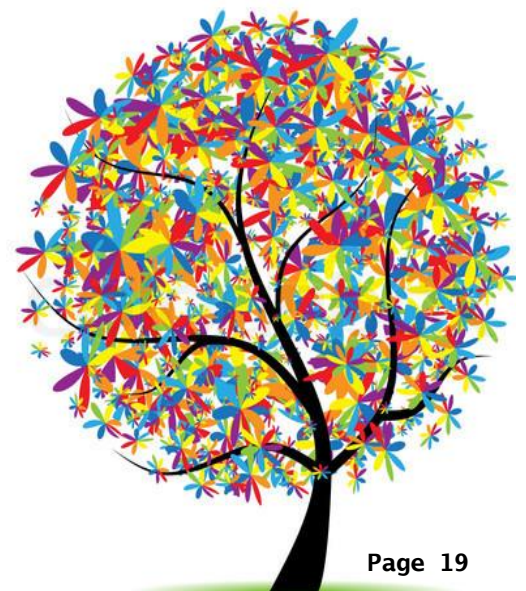
We believe and acknowledge that God owns everything in this world. We do not own anything but we are only the caretakers of his creation. God calls us to give a portion of our income through ministry. We are also commanded to support each other and give to those in need of our help. This is a test of our faith and

character. In the book of Proverbs 11:25, it says: *"Whoever gives to others will get richer, those who help others will themselves be helped."*

Many folds of blessings will come when we are generous of our resources above and beyond. Apostle Paul also points out that *"God loves a cheerful giver"* - **2 Corinthians 9:7.** God wants us to be a better steward in all areas of our finances. As God commanded us to give joyfully and passionately, He will also bless His people abundantly.

Just remember that the Lord is always faithful to meet all our needs in special and unexpected ways.

PRAISE GOD!



FACES of DILG 13

BATCH 40



BATCH 44



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