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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF ISABELA



SOPAn
so good!

Isabela Governor Faustino G. Dy III basks in the glow of a thunderous applause from the gallery after delivering his ULAT NI BRO STATE OF THE PROVINCE ADDRESS before the 38th Session of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, while the intricate official seal of the Province engraved in the podium glistens like gold amid a sea of blue, symbolic of Isabela's beauty, majesty and grandeur.

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So far so good!

FGD III marks fourth year in office delivers State of the Province Address

Imbued with the courage and resilience of a battle-scarred public servant, he braved nature's wrath and insisted on delivering his most important speech on the same day a tropical depression was raging through Northern Luzon. True to form, he stood his ground, rose to the occasion and stole the thunder from tropical storm Henry.

On July 22 or a little over one year into his second term as local chief executive of the country's second largest province, Isabela Governor Faustino G. Dy III delivered his *Ulat ni BRO STATE OF THE PROVINCE ADDRESS* during the 38th Session of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan. The political rite patterned after the president's State of the Nation Address was graced by distinguished guests from government, the religious, the judiciary, academe, civil society, business, the banking community, media and the agriculture sector.

Municipal and City Mayors led by LMP President Mayor Rodolfo Albano came in full force, while Isabela Second District Congresswoman Ana Cristina Go and former Congressman Santiago Respicio, twelve regional directors of national line agencies and high ranking officials of the Philippine Army, the Philippine National Police and the Bureau of Fire Protection were among the dignitaries present.

The Sangguniang Panlalawigan literally rolled the red carpet for the governor's arrival. To the strains of Edward William Elgar's *Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1*, Dy entered the session hall named after his father ushered in by

a team of lady legislators. He was accompanied by Mrs. Mary Ann Dy, resplendent in a flowing black number, a study in understated elegance. The audience rose and broke into an applause.

After a rousing welcome from the members of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, he was introduced by Vice Governor Antonio Albano, the Presiding Officer of the province's premier local legislative council.

"...nais ko po munang ipadama ang aking pasasalamat at pagpupugay sa aking partner sa Provincial Government, kagalang-galang Bisce Gobernador ..."

Dapper and dignified in an exquisite barong Filipino, the governor took to the podium and delivered his speech entitled *ULATNI BRO 2014: Apat na Taong Pagkalinga at Pagpupugay sa Isabeleño*. For at least fifty five minutes, interrupted by

seventy one rounds of applause, the governor articulated his administration's accomplishments and awards over the last four years and his agenda and aspirations for the people of Isabela for the remainder of his second term. For the most part, he spoke in elegant Filipino interspersed with just the right dose of English.

He first thanked Vice Governor Albano and the members of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan. "*Sa pagbubukas*

ng aking ulat, nais ko po munang ipadama ang aking pasasalamat at pagpupugay sa aking partner sa Provincial Government, kagalang-galang Bise Gobernador TonyPet Albano, na walang sawang sumusuporta sa lahat ng mga polisiya, programa, at proyekto natin, at ang mga kasamahan niya sa Sangguniang Panlalawigan na tumutulong para maipatupad natin ang ating layunin sa Isabela.” He also thanked his official family, patiently enumerating the names of his department heads, while saving the best for last. “Ang lagi kong inaasahan sa anumang oras ng pagtawag ng mga nangangailangan na laging nakahandang maglingkod at umakasyon sa mga hinaing, ang ating Provincial Administrator, salamat Atty Noel Lopez,” he said, his deep and rich baritone voice, quivering a bit. He went on to thank everybody in the audience, including the religious, whom he considers “our moral compass.”

“Gratitude was the recurring theme of his message,” said Professor Precilo Buslig of the Saint Ferdinand College. “It’s a virtue that reflects the humility of a great leader who insists on attributing his administration’s accomplishments to his partners in governance and the people instead of grabbing all the credit, as some politicians are wont to do,” he added.

After setting the tone of his SOPA, he heralded the bountiful harvest of national and regional awards given to the province of Isabela over a period of four years, proud testament to the provincial government’s sterling performance in governance, especially in the fields of education, cooperative development, health, agriculture, fiscal management, disaster preparedness, trade, and culture and the arts.

Kalinga sa Magsasaka

The governor once again paid tribute to Isabela farmers, acknowledging that our bounty rests heavily on their shoulders.

“We want our farmers to feel good about their role in our economic development. We want them to be inspired and to feel that their Provincial Government cares for them and for their families. Dahil pagdating sa food security at supply ng de kalidad na bigas, at dahil napakaraming industriyang umaasa sa ating primera klaseng mais, ang tibay at kasipagan ng ating mga magsasaka ang sinasandalan ng Isabela at ng malaking bahagi ng ating bansa. Muli, ang aming taos pusong pasasalamat sa ating mga magsasaka,” he said.

“Mula noong 2012 na ipinatupad natin ang BRO Agriculture Program, mayroong nang 143,262 farmers at mga kooperatiba na lumahok at napaglingkuran sa ilalim ng BRO Farmer Assistance Program at sa mga labing-isang component projects nito,” he added.

The Governor also revealed that the provincial government is now engaged in talks with officials of the Home Development Mutual Fund to finalize the inclusion of PAG-IBIG benefits and services in the program.

In 2012, the Isabela Provincial Cooperative Development Office was hailed by the Cooperative Development Authority as the best in the Philippines. The province has also clinched all the Rice Achievers and Corn Achievers Awards given by the Department of Agriculture - honors which clearly affirm the local government’s immense support to the agriculture sector.

Dy cited the FARMERS’ CONGRESS SA BARANGAY and the DAGDAG KITA PARA SA MGA MAGSASAKA Caravan, as vehicles to bring government closer to the people. “Dadalhin namin ang Kapitolyo sa mga barangay” has become his administration’s battlecry.

“Hindi na kailangan ng ating mga Small Farmers na gumastos pa para ilakbay ang kanilang mga produkto papunta sa Buying Centers ng NFA. 26 barangays have initially been identified to host the Dagdag Kita Caravan. May 23 barangays pa po ang nakalista para dalawin ng Caravan,” he said. “Sa pamamagitan din ng sistemang ito ay nakatitiyak po tayo na magkakaroon ng stock ang NFA para sa mga panahon ng krisis at kalamidad. An average volume of 3,000 cavans of rice is purchased by NFA per barangay, kaya’t malaki ang maiaambag ng Isabela sa food security dahil dito sa Caravan.”

Kalinga sa Kabataan

To break the vicious cycle of poverty, Dy vowed to pursue the provincial government’s ONE COLLEGE SCHOLAR PER FARMING FAMILY POLICY through the BRO-Ed program. The program continues to benefit some 16,000 academic and non-academic scholars enrolled in different colleges and universities in Luzon, 10,000 of whom are sons and daughters of small farmers. According to the governor, BRO-Ed has sponsored more than 213 Million Pesos in tuition fees and miscellaneous expenses of its scholars.

Meanwhile, the provincial government has allocated almost 80 Million Pesos in the last four years to fund the construction and repairs of elementary and high school buildings across Isabela to complement DepEd initiatives.

Kalingang Pangkalusugan

Dy also asserted that the provincial government remains steadfast in its commitment to promote the health and well-being of the people of Isabela through an overhaul of the hospital system, increase in the number of medical specialists and nurses and a constant upgrade in hospital facilities and equipments. “We have succeeded in restoring the people’s faith and confidence in our public hospitals,” he said.

“There are now 170,000 Healthcare members, including 127,000 indigents, and more than 850 thousand beneficiaries, because of the multiplier-effect of the Program. From 2011 to 2013, almost 50 Million Pesos in provincial funds have been utilized to settle the different hospital services of Healthcare members,” he added.

Kalingang Panlipunan

The Dy-Albano administration continues to obtain high marks in social protection — a core area of governance. Right in the heart of the Isabela Provincial Capitol compound is a complex of centers and institutions for the marginalized sectors of society ranging from women, children, senior citizens to persons with disabilities.

“May bagong gusali po tayong naitayo na magsilbing kanlungan para sa mga kapatid nating Persons with Disability o PWDs. Hindi na po kailangang pumunta

ng Maynila sapagkat mayroon na po tayong Orthopedic supplies shop na gagawa ng mga artipisyal na paa o binti para magamit ng ating mga kalalawigan na may kapansanan,” he said. “Naipagawa at napaganda na rin natin ang ating Senior Citizens building para mas makapagbigay tayo ng maayos na serbisyo sa ating mga mahal na lolo at lola.”

The governor enumerated the province’s child friendly facilities which include the Model Day Care Center and the Women and Children Protection Center which drew raves from child rights champion Atty. Katrina Legarda. He also mentioned the issuance of Executive Orders for the creation of a Local Child Protection Council and the Provincial Council Against Trafficking and Violence Against Women and their Children, “Tayo po sa Isabela ang may pinakakumpleto at may pinakamatatag na mga batas at programa para bigyan ng proteksyon 24/7 ang ating mga kabataan at kababaihan,” he exclaimed.

Kalingang Proteksyon Laban sa Kalamidad

The governor seemed proudest of his administration’s accomplishments in disaster risk reduction management and climate change adaptation (DRRM – CCA).

“The Provincial Government’s aggressive stance to create a disaster-prepared and disaster-resilient constituency, the PDRRMC of the province has been awarded the Gawad Kalasag (Seal of Disaster Preparedness), - the best in Region 2 for two years now. Muling kinilala sa taong ito ang ating PDRRMC at nagkamit ng 99.75% na grado para sa 2014 Gawad Kalasag, ang ibig sabihin po nito ay nangingibabaw tayo sa paghahanda laban sa kalamidad,” he said with pride.

The province also merited the prestigious *Bakas Parangal ng Kadakilaan* given by the NDRRMC in recognition of PDRRMC Isabela’s humanitarian missions.

Early on, he took the opportunity to urge DepEd officials to integrate DRRM education into the school curricula of basic education. The measure is designed to nurture a culture of preparedness among the next generation of Isabeleños.

Kalingang Pangkalikasan at Kapayapaan

Governor Dy was at his most passionate in discussing environmental concerns and peace and order.

“Hindi po tayo tumigil magmula nang inilabas natin ang 2010 at ang bagong Executive Order na nagpapalawak sa partisipasyon ng Task Force on Environment Protection kasama ang PNP, AFP, DOJ, DENR, at mga taga pribadong sector sa pagtupad ng ating hangaring proteksyunan ang ating kagubatan,” he said.

“Patuloy po nating paninindigan ang ating ipinaglalaman na pangalagaan ang yaman ng ating kalikasan – “No Logging, No Coal Mining policy” pa rin po ang stand ng provincial government!” he quipped. Dy was among the very first LCEs in the country to have imposed a No Logging policy.

“Ang kalusugan ng ating kapaligiran ay karugtong ng tagumpay at pag-unlad ng ating lalawigan. Ang hangad nating bawat Isabeleño ay magkaroon ng matahimik, maayos, mapayapang lugar at magkaroon ng disentang pamumuhay. Sa tulong ng bawat isa, sa paniniwala sa ating

sariling kakayahan, kabalikat natin ang PNP na mapanatili nating ligtas at matiwasay ang apat na sulok ng ating lalawigang Isabela,” he added.

Dy commended the PNP, LTO and LNB for the implementation and enforcement of EO No. 18 which resulted in the sharp decrease in vehicular accidents and a significant decline in the incidence of crimes. “Katulad ng Executive Order Number 18 na kung ginagampanan lang natin ang ating mahahalagang tungkulin sa ating bayan, hindang hindi na aabot na may mahuhuling mahigit 3,000 hindi nakarehistrong motorsiklo, at mga motorsiklong minamaneho ng mga menor de edad at walang mga drivers license,” he rued. “Salamat sa LTO, PNP at Liga ng mga Barangay sa matagumpay na pagpapatupad ng EO 18,” he said.

The governor also announced that Isabela is a member of an elite circle of the country’s Most Business-Friendly Provinces. He noted the mushrooming of malls and the very impressive turn-out of business investors in the province. “The political stability and sustained peace and order in the province have created a predictable business environment. Ito ang naka-akit sa mga investors na mamuhunan sa Isabela kaya napapansin natin ang pagdagsa ng mga mamumuhunan dito sa ating lalawigan nitong mga nakaraang taon. The intensified campaign to protect the province has also made Isabela one of the healthiest and safest places to live in,” he said.

Pagkalinga sa Kulturang Isabeleño

Dy envisions the province as the new center of AGRICulture. Under his watch, Isabela is undergoing a cultural renaissance of sorts while proving its supremacy in the field of agriculture.

“The Provincial government endeavors for the new generation of Isabeleños to acquire expertise in new technologies but with a fully developed fundamental sense of heritage. Hence, we made it a key program of the provincial government to promote the local culture and heritage,” he said. “Kaya naman po ngayon, ipinagmamalaki na natin ang ating lalawigan sa paraang nararapat lamang - ang makilala ito bilang bagong sentro ng agri kultura. Sinasalamain nito ang pangunguna natin sa agrikultura at pagkakaroon ng mayamang kultura at maharlika kasaysayan.”

The SOPA’s closing was vintage Governor Bojie.

“Mangibabaw sana sa bawat puso at kaisipan natin ang positibong pananaw, ang pagsusumikap, pagmamalasakit, pakikiramay, pagpapakumbaba, pagmamahal, paggalang, tibay, at talino ... dahil iyan po ang mga likas na pagkatao at yaman ng Isabeleño. Harinawa’y maipagpatuloy natin ang ating magagandang layunin at sama-sama nating tahakin ang panibagong bukas para sa mas masaya, mas masigla, at mas nagkakaisang maunlad na lalawigang Isabela,” he said.

Outside the Isabela Provincial Capitol, the majestic sun emerged from the billowing clouds to radiate the optimism and euphoria of the spectators who just witnessed a provincial government in full-throttle.

Basking in the glow of a rapturous applause from the gallery, the governor flashed a triumphant smile, shook the hands of his vice governor and descended the stage to the warm embrace of family, friends and the grateful people of Isabela.

Not only did he deliver his SOPA splendidly.

As governor, he delivered. And that is the crux of the matter.



SEALED WITH A FIST

Vice Governor Tonypet Albano, Presiding Officer of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, accords Governor Faustino Dy III a rousing welcome with a firm handshake, prior to the latter's State of the Province Address. Political pundits attribute the success of the Dy-Albano administration to the excellent relations between the executive and the local legislature.



AFTER YOU

Both dapper in their identical barong Filipino, Governor Faustino Dy III and Vice Governor Tonypet Albano seem to march in cadence to the beat of only one drum as they descend the stage following the former's State of the Province Address. The gentlemen's matching mien, the same direction of their gaze and their synchronized steps are reflective of the excellent relations between the institutions they represent, anchored on mutual respect, cooperation and the relentless desire to serve the people of Isabela.

images, impressions and insights..

The STATE OF THE PROVINCE ADDRESS of the Hon. GOVERNOR FAUSTINO G. DY III

The Governor's State of the Province Address cannot be more reflective of the progressive stance of the Province of Isabela in achieving the goals of all-inclusive growth, agricultural productivity and food sufficiency, and in battling the persistent challenges of poverty, hunger and illiteracy. The provincial government is steadily advancing the interests of all Isabeleños regardless of their political, social and spiritual inclinations. Likewise, more interesting is the fact that Gov. Dy and the entire provincial government is taking visible steps in preserving that distinct culture of Isabela and how all of us as Isabeleños can use it as a unifying factor for more progress and peace. Thank you Governor for your sincere report on our province!

Rodolfo B. Albano, Jr.
Municipal Mayor of Cabagan and
President, League of Municipalities of the
Philippines - Isabela Chapter

The State of the Province Address of the Governor Hon. Faustino G. Dy III is an extensive report on where we are now in our journey towards his dream of a progressive, well balanced agri-based province.

The Address was clearly delivered, highly informative and very interesting as it focused on how the Provincial Government nurtured its constituents especially the small farmers in order to become a very productive sector contributing significantly to development.

It was inspiring because he acknowledged the efforts of all offices under him for delivering the best services to the Isabeleños. In fact, it uplifted our spirits when he recognized our office as one of the Departments that contributed to his accomplishments.

It was also very challenging when he sought our support to the future plan for our fellow Isabeleños.

The governor is really a very good leader, a visionary and hard worker. Congratulations po!

Angelo C. Masu, D.V.M.
Provincial Veterinarian

The Department of the Interior and Local Government commends the Hon. Faustino G. Dy, III for his State of the Province Address last July 22, 2014. The SOPA is the best occasion to inform the people of Isabela, in compliance to the express provision of the Philippine Constitution, for the constituents to be informed of the programs and services of the government and of the accomplishments of the people whom they elected to office. But more than being informed, the people of Isabela should be INSPIRED by the achievements of the provincial leadership as lengthily shared by the governor during his address. More than being informed, the people of Isabela should be more motivated to actively participate in local governance knowing of the excellent and good governance being practiced by their local officials. Our CONGRATULATIONS to Gov. Dy and the officials of Isabela. More power!"

Marlo L. Triguera
Regional Director, DILG RO2

His administration's numerous accomplishments mentioned in the SOPA in the areas of environment, health, education, agriculture, tourism, livelihood and disaster risk reduction and management are very laudable. What stood out, though, in the governor's SOPA were the BRO projects wherein the farmers and their families are the beneficiaries that ultimately redound to the benefit of the province in particular and the country in general. Congratulations!

Norma C. Tabara
Regional Director - OCD RO2

Even the simplest act of looking about nature is itself a strong form of environmental protection. The governor is an essential bridge between environmental concerns and all the members of society. I express my happiness in his SOPA for bringing environmental stories to the forefront of public perception. And these stories help to maintain pressure to our environmental partners to keep their word to protect the environment. With these, I would like to acknowledge the efforts of the leaders particularly the Isabela Environmental Forest Protection Task Force for spearheading the environmental activities in ensuring sustainable protection of the environment and natural resources. This should be an eye-opener and may we appreciate people who can fight for what they believe in without fear, who can bring forth a sense of hope for everyone to do their share despite the obstacles in preserving and protecting our environment. May you all be an inspiration.

William C. Savella
Provincial Environment & Natural Resources
Officer

The honorable governor was very impressive in the delivery of the SOPA. The accolade does not only refer to the excellent delivery by him but to include the use of the state-of-the-art technology and the list of awards received by the province during the years of his administration. Very impressive too are the visible accomplishments in the field of agriculture. This, above the ordinary as the provincial government acknowledged the fact that without the farmers, Isabela has not been known in the field of agriculture. Last but not the least, every Isabeleño feels safe in his home and in public places because of the focus on disaster preparedness and mitigation. Immediately after the SOPA, the DepEd for its part issued a memorandum on the implementation of a 15-minute inclusion of disaster preparedness and mitigation everyday in classes. Indeed, the SOPA in 2014 was unforgettable. It was different from the previous years and makes every Isabeleño proud of being part of a province known for good governance.

Edna A. Pasamante, Ph.D.
OIC - Schools Division Superintendent

The ambience had a touch of classiness with the majestic accessories on the stage. The personnel of the Provincial Capitol were very accommodating and cordial. The governor's speech was very substantial and was supported by facts. Moreover, the language was straight to the point and is very comprehensible. It featured his accomplishments for a certain period of time.

Sofone S. Carino, Ph.D.
President
St. Ferdinand College

Masasabi ko lang, 'yung SOPA o 'yung State of the Province Address ay positibo. Impressive ang reaksiyon ko doon sa mga nabanggit ng ating mahal na gobernador. Impressive dahil nabanggit niya ang progress ng bawat departamento, current status ng probinsiya at maging 'yung mga plano na na-implement at iimplement pa lang niya. So, sa akin, impressive ang nabanggit na address ng ating mahal na gobernador sa kanyang SOPA. In-acknowledge din ng ating mahal na gobernador ang joint efforts ng bawat departamento na nangangahulugan lang na it would not be possible without the efforts of the different departments.

Atty. Francis James E. Meer
Provincial Legal Officer

We gladly express our respect and admiration to the leadership of Governor Faustino Dy III in tandem with Vice Governor Tonypet Albano for the BRO Program that has been instituted in the province. BRO is a fruition of a committed and purposeful leadership in the province that is being realized in tandem with development partners in the public and the private sectors and with evident support from the communities.

As highlighted by the Hon. Governor during his State of the Province Address (SOPA) last 22 July 2014, the BRO Program exemplifies excellence in local governance. Through the BRO Program, the provincial leadership has laid out and has been successfully implementing a comprehensive and cohesive set of development interventions that have been strategically designed to harness the numerous potentials of the province and address the general welfare needs of the populace. The laudable accomplishments of the province particularly along agriculture, health care, education, social welfare, livelihood and poverty alleviation through the BRO Program as manifested through the various awards and citations it has received for the past 4 years has made the province a truly significant player in nation-building. This is made more relevant with the current administration's thrust of attaining rapid, sustained and inclusive growth nationwide.

We are also optimistic that the provincial government of Isabela shall continue to be at the forefront in the region's pursuit of excellence in local governance as it continues to initiate and introduce more innovations along public service delivery and local development administration that will benefit not only the province of Isabela but Region 02 as a whole.

Kudos and more power!

Maryanne E.R. Darangay
Regional Director, NEDA RO2

A niche, which is being carved out from lives of the vast majority that is basically agricultural blended with the province's majestic cultural heritage, is a strong foundation of resiliency and a great leap to progress.

Noteworthy also was the execution and physical set up. As usual, I have one word for it, elegance, Order, safety and global competitiveness - truly Isabelang Kay Ganda! In all the PGI's sterling achievements, the AgriKultura for me is a totally impressive singular innovative revolution which started to cultivate in us all Isabeleños.

Eduardo A. Durwin
Provincial Director, DILG - Isabela



Governor Dy's speech is an expression of his strong passion to service and compassion to the people of Isabela from all walks of life. He is ably manning the steering wheel, directing the journey of Isabela towards sustainable development. I felt his humility when he started his speech by acknowledging the people and his staff supporting and working behind him. He attributed the successes of his administration not just to himself but also gave to his strong support system. Towards the end of his speech, the Governor urges the Isabeleños to have a strong sense of heritage and deep love for the province. He also reminded the youth to acquire expertise in new fields and technologies. I can say the message reaches out to the hearts of everyone as the governor delivers with clarity and sincerity.

Rewing D. Arungay
Director II, CSC - Isabela Field Office

Definitely 'yung programa natin sa Provincial Capitol compared to the previous administration ay mas broad ngayon especially 'yung sa BRO na ini-incorporate lahat ng mga programs ng ating provincial government. Nakikita natin, lalo na sa education, na diyan talaga nag-umpisa ang BRO at talagang massive na po ang tinutulungan ng ating provincial government. Nabanggit din ni governor 'yung regarding sa PAG-IBIG na ipaparehisto niya halos lahat ng ating mga farmers. Napakalaking pera ang inilalabas ng ating provincial government para lang makatulong sa ating mga magsasaka. Iyan ang isang bagong programa na narinig ko na kakaiba. Binigyang pansin din ni governor ang mga nagmomotorsiklo na mga menor de edad. Kagaya dito sa aking bayan, talagang zero na at wala nang menor de edad na nagmamaneho dito at hinuhuli na naming lahat. Dati, halos every week, may lumalapit sa aming humihingi ng pambili ng bakal dahil naaksidente sa motor ngunit simula nang mangyari ang programa, sa awa ng Diyos... to date, wala pang humihingi sa amin ng pambili ng bakal. Matagal ko nang kakilala si Gov at talagang galit siya sa mga illegal loggers at sino ba ang hindi magagalit? 'Yung environment natin ay nakikita natin talaga, 'yung climate change ay nangyayari na. Hopefully, we start planting trees and of course nakikita natin na nagbu-boom ang economy dito sa ating probinsya. May Shoemart na dito, the first Shoemart in Region 2. Bakit Isabela ang napili? Dito, na-foresee ng mga investors na talagang boom na boom ang economy natin dito sa Isabela. 'Yung dream project ng ating provincial government na mabuksan ang road going to Palanan, 'yun na lang ang hindi ko naringin doon sa speech niya pero nasa pipeline na e. Malapit na talagang maumpisahan 'yung proyekto.

Jimmy Atayate
Municipal Mayor
Luna, Isabela

The State of the Province Address of our Governor is excellent where every felt need of our constituents have been met and the continuity of all the programs like the BRO programs were all stated there. As far as our department is concerned, 'yun namang legislative and executive agenda were all met by what the governor had said in his SOPA. Excellent, maganda ang delivery and all the substance, the content were all there.

Manuel "Boyong" R. Santos
Secretary to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan

The reception was very organized. The physical arrangement, particularly the stage was very elegant and classy. As to the speech of the Governor, the information about the accomplishments and direction of the province was very comprehensive. The Provincial Government's performance under the leadership of Gov. Faustino "Bojie" G. Dy III is impressive.

Elena C. Ariola, Ph.D.
Vice President
St. Ferdinand College

The 4th State of the Province Address of the Honorable Governor Faustino G. Dy III last July 22, 2014 resembles a speech delivered in the august halls of the US Congress - with his dashing looks made more dignified by the neat and sleek barong that he wore during the occasion; the refurbished F.N.Dy Hall, which was so elegantly set up; the decent and appreciative audience led by the members of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan headed by the equally handsome Vice Governor Tonypet Albano and the very favorable weather on that special day.

The SOPA began with the Governor honoring and thanking people who have helped him in attaining the present status of the province - rich and productive, stable and secure, peaceful and orderly and with hope for a better, more progressive Isabela. With such gesture, it showed how humble our dear Governor is... that he would not attribute the success he has achieved in his 4-year administration solely to himself but ascribe it in the people who partnered with him in his journey.

To be specifically mentioned in this SOPA, I felt I was in Cloud 9! But similarly, it was a humbling experience for me, to be recognized by the man who deserves all the applauds and cheers for a very good and marvelous job done! Hats off to you, our dear Governor Bojie!!!

God bless ISABELA... God bless our leaders!

Ma. Theresa A. Flores
Provincial Treasurer

Governor Faustino G. Dy III successfully delivered his State of the Province Address held at the Provincial Capitol, City of Ilagan, Isabela. Governor Dy really did his best to make his ULAT ni BRO 2014 - Apat na taong Pagkalinga at Pagpupugay sa Isabeleño a very comprehensive report.

He started his speech with Pasasalamat at Pagpupugay to his partner Vice Governor Tonypet T. Albano and to all the department heads of the Provincial Government emphasizing their support and hard work. It was the best venue to show his gratitude.

Governor Dy highlighted the achievements of the administration by mentioning the numerous awards received by the Provincial Government as well as the different noble programs on agriculture, health, social services, calamity efforts and environmental protection and cultural promotion. SOPA 2014 was a very sincere and humble delivery of Governor Dy's speech doing his best for all Isabeleños and hopeful for a bright future that awaits Isabela as long as there is oneness and cooperation among the people.

Lucia M. Ambatani
Provincial Social Welfare & Development Officer

Napakaganda ng SOPA na binigkas ng ating mahal na gobernador. At least, lahat ng effort ng bawat departamento ay na-recognize. Doon sa mandato ng opisina, nandoon talaga 'yung sinabi niyang mga special projects at 'yung Task Force na nandiyan parati simula noong umupo siya bilang gobernador ay isa sa kanyang priority programs. Sa coal mining, ganoon na talaga ang stand niya noong umupo siya. Ito nga ay 'yung pagbabawal ng coal mining. Hindi naman niya sinabi in general na bawal ang mining pero specific lang for coal. Ito 'yung mga nakukuha natin doon sa bayan ng Cauayan, Naguilian, Soliven at San Mariano at hanggang ngayon, talagang nanindigan tayo sa policy na ito. Sa Task Force, so far maganda at tuloy-tuloy naman 'yung operation natin. Sa katunayan, nag-augment pa tayo ng additional manpower para at least mas mapalawak natin yung nacocoveran natin.

Geromimo P. Cabacanan, Jr.
Environment and Natural Resources Officer

Agriculture is the backbone of the province of Isabela. It is very interesting and delightful to know the vision of this administration to promote and enrich the farming industry through its ongoing programs and projects to address the plight of our farmers and improve their lives. Moreover, these programs will likewise bolster other business sectors that will help boost and strengthen the economic stability of the province.

To endow almost three hundred million pesos on education to subsidize the needs of the less fortunate but deserving youths to earn a degree is a very impressive decision that this administration has ventured into because education is the bedrock for sustainable development and is essential to ensure that children and youth become active citizens. It is a key aspect in the implementation of any new comprehensive human development and for reducing extreme poverty. This administration deserves a lot of credit for what it has done for the province. To be recognized across the country and in the international community is exceptional.

Evelyn C. Costales, Ph.D.
District Engineer
DPWH-Isabela 1st DEO

The SOPA was very impressive. The priority projects were tangible that would be a springboard for the attainment of sustainable growth and development for the Province of Isabela. For the venue - it's SUPERB and for the stage - it's IMPECCABLE.

Preclaro L. Buslag, Ph.D.
Dean, Graduate School
St. Ferdinand College

The SOPA was sincerely written with thoroughly crafted style. The Governor has been consistently true to his words and has displayed genuine support to his constituency. Eloquently delivered, it matched the Governor's melodic personality.

Indeed, in the past decade and now, no governor reaped the highest approval rating than Hon. Faustino G. Dy III. It was manifested by the resounding applause and nod of all those present.

BRO, as expected, is responsible for most of the good things that we Isabeleños have by the grace of the Almighty.

Liza C. Castillo
OIC - Provincial Cooperative Development Officer

The State of the Province Address of Hon. Faustino G. Dy II is one worthy of praise and applauded because he touched the heart of every Isabeleño. In his speech, I see a governor who delivered well the needs of every Isabeleño. What catches me most was when he mentioned his official family one by one which only shows he is a good "Captain who never abandons his ship." His numerous accomplishments matched the grand stage where he stood when he delivered his SOPA. The orderliness was maintained as the participants took their assigned seats. The various programs enumerated by the Governor received praises from the audience and roared all over with awe. One participant even said, "The governor is one with a compassionate heart to his kapwa Isabeleño," to which I agree.

To our beloved Governor, I salute you for a job well done!

Elen M. Pastava
Provincial Budget Officer



• **KALINGA SA MAGSASAKA** • 143,262 benefited from **ERO** Farmer Assistance Program • 10,000 college scholars from farming families • 8,150 hectares of farmland are now insured with PCIC • 2,360 farmers coordinated with NFA thru **ERO Pantawid Pamasaha and Ayuda sa Presyo** • 5,000 small farmers registered with **ERO-SSSM** • 11,572 farmers availed loans under **ERO-LAMFP** • 447 beneficiaries under **ERO-Paiwi** • 140,000 beneficiaries under **ERO-Livelihood** • **KALINGA SA KABATAAN** • 16,000 academic and non-academic scholars • sponsored P213M in tuition expenses of scholars • allocated **PSOM** fund for constructions and repairs of school buildings • **KALINGANG PANGKALUSUGAN** • 170,000 Healthcare members - 127,000 indigents and more than 850,000 beneficiaries • **PSOM** subsidy for different hospital services of Healthcare members • **June 15 as Isabela Dengu**

THE STATE OF THE PROVINCE ADDRESS

Day declaration • Regional Awardee Integrated Disease Surveillance Most Outstanding Performance Surveillance (2013) • **KALINGANG PANLIPUNAN** • new buildings for PWDs with orthopedic supplies used to manufacture artificial legs • constructed Senior Citizens building • more comfortable Model Day Care School for the creation of Local Child Protection and Provincial Council Against Women and Their Children • continuous coord-Migrants Workers Assistance Unit • **KALINGANG PROTEK-** • 1st LGU to issue an EO imposing a liquor ban before, during and after **Change Summit in 2012** • DART 831 serving as 24/7 mobile emergency regional finals of 2014 Gawad Kalasag search • DART-Compostela Valley and Cagayan de Oro • biggest PLGU team to typhoon Yolanda victims in Tacleban and Leyte • Convergence Project for Irrigation in San Agustin, and their families • Generation Project at Brgy. Pasa, could generate 980 hectares River Irrigation Project, an Project in partnership with **KALINGANG PANG-KALI-** "No Logging, No Coal" • Successful implementation of EO No. 18 Search for Top Ten Most Business other business establishments • **PAGKALINGA** • construction of the Queen Isabela as the new center of AGRI-culture •

Most Outstanding Performance in Phil. and Response (2012) and in Vaccine Preventable Disease

with orthopedic supplies used to manufacture artificial and Women and Children Protection Center • **issued an EO Against Trafficking and Violence** nation with DFA and OWWA through **SIYON LABAN SA KALAMIDAD** • typhoons • 1st LGU to organize a Climate • PDRRMC Isabela obtained 99.75% in the PDRMMC sent relief and rescue operations to send relief and rescue operations • 4 Small Water Impounding Projects through Jones and Cordon for 400 farmers • \$22M grant Hydro-Electric Power Ilagan City from KOICA that irrigation • Ilagan River and Tumaini ongoing Hydropower Convergence DA, DENR, DAR, NIA and DOE • **KASAN AT KAPAYAPAAN** • Mining" policy • **Earthquake Preparedness** • 3 consecutive years National Finalist-Friendly LGUs • mushrooming of malls and **SA KULTURANG ISABELEÑO** • Isabela Park • furtherance of fortified the Isabela Culture and Arts Council •



INFOCUS
IN-DEPTH NEWS, FACTUAL AND RIGHT ON TARGET

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EDITORIAL

DRRM-CCA 101

Governor Faustino Dy III was just being consistent when he urged DepEd Isabela officials to devote fifteen minutes daily to teaching Disaster Risk Reduction and Management and Climate Change Adaptation (DRRM-CCA) in order to empower and afford students a clearer grasp of the concepts of disaster preparedness. He could not have chosen a better venue than his traditional State of the Province Address (SOPA) if only to underscore the sense of urgency of his request.

Under the Dy-Albano administration, Isabela continues to blaze the trail in DRRM-CCA in the Cagayan Valley Region. Raves from the DILG Secretary, two Gawad Kalasag trophies, a prestigious *Bakas Parangal ng Kadakilaan* award from the NDRRMC and an unprecedented 99.75 rating from the Office of Civil Defense prove beyond a doubt that the provincial government is right on target.

OIC Schools Division Superintendent Edna Pasamonte certainly did not disappoint. Acting with remarkable dispatch, she issued a memorandum circular to all school administrators in public and private elementary and high schools to integrate into the school curricula DRRM-CCA basic education. Within ten days after the SOPA, the Local School Board was convened and a DRRM forum among school administrators and educators was conducted as a prelude to the first ever Provincial DRRM-CCA Educators' Summit slated in September. These chain of events triggered by the governor's speech happened with lightning speed and

with the precision and passion of public servants who clearly understand the impacts and ramifications of present climate change realities.

In light therefore of the dearth in DRRM-CCA education, it behooves the provincial government and DepEd Isabela to consolidate their resources in adopting policies and measures aimed at integrating the subject into the school curricula. The memorandum circular and the forthcoming Summit are steps in the right direction.

The legal basis is clear and unequivocal. Section 14 of RA 10121 mandates DepEd, among other government agencies, to pursue such integration. The legislative intent is to raise awareness and intensify preparedness among the country's most vulnerable sector. While RA 10121 is our blueprint for survival, DRRM-CCA 101 is our children's survival kit once they leave our homes and venture beyond their comfort zones.

The goal is to raise a generation deeply steeped in the culture of preparedness. The vision is to build safer and more climate resilient communities and enable the people, especially the youth, to rise above disasters. Desperate times indeed call for desperate measures. Let us do today what should have been done four years ago – seek the help of our educators on a matter that could spell the difference between our children's death and survival.

State of the art

On July 22, 2014, Vice Governor Antonio Albano banged the gavel to mark the opening of the 38th Regular Session of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan for the traditional State of the Province Address (SOPA) of Governor Faustino Dy III. The Isabela Provincial Capitol Amphitheater, named after Dy patriarch former Governor Faustino N. Dy and home to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, was refurbished to suit the gravitas of the occasion.

In record time, a special team of engineers, artists and carpenters plus an army of utility workers, all led by Provincial Administrator Noel Manuel Lopez, transformed the SP Session Hall into a venue worthy of a presidential inauguration.

Three massive and imposing blue pillars with cornices painted in gold stood tall against a backdrop of immaculate white draperies flowing and cascading down the fully carpeted floor. Lush foliage of white roses, chrysanthemums and anthuriums adorned the stage, a perfect foil to the pillars which have come to symbolize the power and enduring strength of our government institutions.

A handsome podium made of wood and blue German leather was custom-made for the governor's most important speech to date. It occupied a place of honor right smack in the middle of the huge stage bearing the intricate official seal of the province, which glistened like gold, symbolic of the beauty, majesty and grandeur of the province. Large mirrors reflected images of the audience as the governor spoke. These were accentuated by large laurel leaves, tribute to a multi-awarded provincial government. The



organizers also rolled the red carpet leading to a huge Official Seal of Isabela painstakingly handpainted on a piece of green rug.

Walls were repainted white with a touch of red and blue, accentuated by the majestic sun and three stars – elements in the Philippine flag which further enhanced the stately and dignified look of the mighty halls of the province's premier legislature.

Two giant television sets were installed in strategic areas in both wings of the hall to afford the guests a better view of the proceedings from the gallery. Additional air-conditioning units were installed to keep the room temperature in check. The mezzanine also underwent repairs and now boasts of two new air-conditioning units and electric fans to boot. It was reserved for officials of the PNP, AFP and the BFP garbed in their finest regalia which added pomp and ceremony to the event.

A few minutes before the opening of the session, PA Lopez was seen in a huddle with Vice Governor Albano, accompanied by other members of the SP, very pleased at the SP Session Hall's makeover.

"The vice governor loves the session hall's new look," gushed Secretary to the SP Manuel Santos. "It's certainly worth the wait," he added. For three weeks prior to the SOPA, the Sanggunian had to conduct its regular

sessions at the Balay, the official residence of the governor and the vice governor.

As expected, the venue drew raves from the dignitaries and other guests. Vice President Elena Ariola of the St. Ferdinand College was very impressed. "The physical arrangement, particularly the stage was very elegant and classy," she said. "Noteworthy was the physical set-up. I have only one word for it – elegance. That sums it all up. Truly, Isabelang Kay Ganda!" added DILG Provincial Director Elpidio Durwin.

In July 2010, shortly after they assumed office, Gov. Dy and then Vice Governor Rodolfo Albano, both fresh from their stints in Congress, decided to move the Sangguniang Panlalawigan to the Capitol amphitheater to suit the institution's grandeur and to accommodate Isabeleños who would wish to witness the proceedings.

PA Lopez is a CPA-lawyer by training but loves to indulge in artistic pursuits despite his gruelling schedule. "Refurbishing the SP Session Hall for the Governor's SOPA is our way of expressing our respect for revered institutions like the Office of the Governor and the Sangguniang Panlalawigan," he said.



Queen Isabela reigns as “breakthrough governor” breaks ground in **AGRI-culture**



BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME

And come they did, in droves. Governor Faustino Dy III addresses the people of Isabela who filled every square inch of the colossal Queen Isabela Park arena, touted as the “*biggest LGU-built arena*” in the country during the inauguration of the park as DILG Mar Roxas, Vice Governor Tonypet Albano and Isabela Green Ladies Organization President Mary Ann Dy look on.

It was a day of pomp and ceremony.

Finally, after one hundred fifty-eight years, the people of Isabela enthroned Queen Isabella II of Spain in her place of honor in the front and center of the sprawling eight hectare compound of the Isabela Provincial Capitol, the province’s seat of power.

Basking in the glory of the province’s rich cultural heritage and taking great pride in her immense agricultural prowess, the people of Isabela led by Governor Faustino Dy III and Vice Governor Tonypet Albano celebrated the province’s 158th Founding Anniversary, focusing on the theme “*Isabela: ang pagsibol ng bagong sentro ng AGRIkultura*”.

DILG Secretary Mar A. Roxas, Belgian Ambassador Roland Van Remoortele and former senator and currently Climate Change Commissioner Heherson Alvarez led other dignitaries in gracing the historic occasion highlighted by the unveiling of the Queen Isabela II monument and the inauguration of the Queen Isabela Park. The memorial is a majestic and elaborate work of art painstakingly fashioned by hand by Joel Pragas, one of the best and most prolific artists ever

to grace Isabela’s local art scene.

The Park was built in honor of Queen Isabella II of Spain after whom the province of Isabela was named through a royal decree issued by the King of Spain on May 1, 1856. It’s a magnificent megastructure which includes a colossal amphitheatre designed to serve as venue for the leisure, cultural and tourism activities of the province. It features eco-friendly and self-sustaining green design, while the rear portion has a landscaped lagoon with natural spring water.

“*Ang pagdiriwang ngayong taon ay lubhang makahulugan sa atin pong lalawigan sapagkat ngayon po natin nakita ang kaganapan ng isang pangarap, ang isang liwasan na para sa lahat, para sa Isabeleño at para sa ating mga bisita, ang Queen Isabela Park.*” Dy said in his first ever speech in the province’s latest landmark. “*Ang magandang liwasan na ito ay hugis bilog na sumasagisag sa walang tigil na pagsulong ng atin pong lalawigan. Ang waring mga hagdan-hagdang lupang upuan na nakapalibot dito ay simbolo na mayroong pag-angat ng buhay ng ating mga mamamayan lalo na ng ating mga magbubukid - ang tahimik nating mga bayani sa kanayunan,*” he said as he lavished Isabela farmers with praises.

Top agriculture officials of the country attribute Isabela’s outstanding performance in rice and corn production to the provincial government’s immense support to small farmers.

“*Mabuhay ang Isabela! Happy Anniversary Isabela!*” exclaimed keynote speaker DILG Mar Roxas, a few minutes after he led the unveiling of the monument. He also lauded Isabela officials for harnessing the province’s supremacy in agriculture while engaging in cultural development initiatives, thus the distinction as the country’s emerging center of agriculture.

In September 2013, Isabela was build as City of Charm to the Philippines’ Country of Honor during the 10th China-ASEAN Exposition in Nanning, China.

Dy envisions the park as a “*center for the Isabeleños creative pursuits*” and a venue that will inspire the “*full flowering of the arts and the flourish of our culture.*”

“*As repositories of the majority and nobility of our race, we offer our unshakeable faith in the glory of our history and the immense possibilities of our desired future,*” he said.



**MALACAÑAN PALACE
Manila**



MESSAGE

My warmest greetings to the people of the Province of Isabela as you commemorate your 158th Founding Anniversary.

The Province of Isabela is blessed with the bounties of both land and sea; its soil is fertile, its mountains abound with natural wealth, and its waters teem with life. It also boasts a long history and a vibrant culture, which makes it a place that is as rich with character as it is with resources. May you harness these advantages in pursuing your goals, that you may fulfill your aspirations and in doing so, help build a more equitably progressive nation.

The past century-and-a-half has witnessed how the Isabelinos, with unity, industry, and determination, transformed Isabela into the productive province that it is today. May you demonstrate these same qualities as you write another chapter in your history and look forward to a future of prosperity and inclusive growth.

I wish you a happy and meaningful anniversary.

BENIGNO S. AQUINO

MANILA

THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES



**Republic of the Philippines
Office of the Vice President**



MESSAGE

I offer my heartfelt congratulations and praises to the people of Isabela on your 158th Founding Anniversary.

The variety of distinguished accolades that the Province has received throughout the years only exhibits the local government's firmness of purpose and the people's natural aptitudes and productive cooperation.

As your fellow Isabelino, I yearn for our province's continued progress and prosperity. May you continue to be a reflection of the Philippine's agricultural prowess and administrative efficiency. May you also take part and enjoy the festivities that befit the bountiful province of Isabela.

Ta pavvurulû tam ngamin arayyu y pakangayan na provincia tam. Dios ta nicamu ngamin nga wawwaragi!

JEJOMAR C. BINAY

COCONUT PALACE, F. MA. GUERRERO ST.,
CCP COMPLEX, PASAY CITY



ISABELA:
ang pagsibol
ng bagong sentro ng
AGRIkultura



Learning the ropes

Governor Faustino G. Dy III, Honorary Chairman of the 2014 Isabela Day Executive Committee briefs DILG Secretary Mar Roxas before the unveiling of the Queen Isabela II monument and the opening of the sprawling Queen Isabela Park, the highlights of the 158th Isabela Day Celebration.

Seat of Power

Governor Faustino Dy III and Vice Governor Antonio Albano present the *Grand Butaca Seat of Nobility* to Guest of Honor Secretary Mar Roxas in elaborate ceremonies marking the 158th Founding Anniversary of the Province of Isabela.



The glorious effulgence of fireworks

A spectacular fireworks display, a staple in Isabela's grand celebrations, heightens the drama achieved by the interplay of music, water and light, a fitting backdrop to the majestic Queen Isabela II Monument which holds court in the front and center of the sprawling compound of the Isabela Provincial Capitol, the province's seat of power.

Belgian envoy graces Isabela Day rites lauds Dy's visionary leadership

His Excellency Roland Van Remoortele, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium in the Philippines, graced the 158th Founding Anniversary of the Province of Isabela as guest of honor during the inauguration of the first ever Permaculture Learning Resource Center (PLRC) cum Provincial Organic Trading Post in Region II, constructed within the Isabela Provincial Capitol compound. The ambassador also joined a host of other dignitaries led by DILG Secretary Mar Roxas and former Senator now Climate Change Commissioner Heherson Alvarez during the unveiling of the Queen Isabela Monument and the inauguration of the Queen Isabela Park.



Permaculture is a program undertaken by the provincial government of Isabela in partnership with Antwerp, a province in the Kingdom of Belgium, aimed at institutionalizing sustainable development using permaculture as its guiding framework to address the current issues that are prevalent in the province of Isabela. According to Bert Peeters, Liaison of the Province of Antwerp, the program aims to promote the quality of life of the people utilizing environmentally and ecologically apt technologies available.

Addressing Governor Faustino Dy III, *"your visionary leadership of the province is remarkable, and I deeply appreciate the assistance you extend to the PLRC, making it a tool for improving the lives of local farmers and cooperatives,"* the ambassador said.

Van Remoortele commended Dy for making the project a reality. *"There are agricultural methods that Isabela may adopt which can minimize transaction cost and energy,"* he stressed. *"You have it all locally and at the same time, people learn new skills...people improve their skills. All these available resources make me proud to be here,"* he added.

In a letter to Governor Dy after his two-day visit, the diplomat expressed his gratitude for his *"most enjoyable and enriching"* visit to the province of Isabela.

"Once again, my deepest appreciation and sincere thanks for making my first visit to the Province of Isabela such an enjoyable

experience, and I hope we can continue to foster the bonds of friendship and cooperation between Belgium and the Province of Isabela, both at a personal and official level," he wrote.

The visit is a prelude to the signing of a sisterhood agreement between Isabela and Antwerp slated early next year.

Van Remoortele is the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium to the Philippines and a Distinguished Fellow of New Westminster College. He is a diplomat at Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation.

He earned a Masters degree in Latin and Greek in 1970 from the Bischoppelijk College Veurne and has language proficiency in Dutch, French and English. His skills and expertise include international relations, foreign affairs, diplomacy, economic diplomacy, foreign policy and European Union. His honors, awards and decorations include the Knight in the Order of the Crown – Belgium, Officer in the Order of the Crown – Belgium, Commander in the Order of the Crown – Belgium, Commander in the Order of Leopold – Belgium, Distinguished Fellow of New Westminster College – Canada, Knight Commander of the Order of Rizal (KCOR) – Philippines, and the Order of Sikatuna – Philippines.

The Ambassador was with his spouse Sylvia Van Remoortele. Upon the invitation of Dy, the couple promised to be back in August to join in the governor's birthday celebration.

"your visionary leadership of the province is remarkable..."





Volunteer Capital of the Philippines raises P1M for Isabela Red Cross

When Isabeleños see red, they take to the streets to engage in activities that promote physical development in order to raise precious funds for their favorite charity – the Philippine Red Cross (PRC).

True to form, the province of Isabela, touted as the volunteer capital of the Philippines, raised a total of P1,008,750.00 through the Family Fun Run and the Padyak Isabeleño Fun Bike, two of the highlights in a series of major activities leading to the 158th Founding Anniversary of the Province of Isabela.

Provincial Administrator and PRC Isabela Chapter BOD Chair Noel Manuel Lopez turned over the check representing the proceeds to PRC Chapter Administrator Antonita Asis in simple rites held recently at the Isabela Provincial Capitol.

Asis vowed to use the funds judiciously in the implementation of the chapter's six major services which include blood services, disaster management services, safety services, health services, social services, Red Cross youth and volunteer services. *"Napakalaking bagay po itong naitulong sa amin ng probinsya ng Isabela. Maipagpapatuloy na namin ang lahat ng programang kailangan naming gawin,"* she said.

She also expressed the urgency of upgrading the Red Cross'

Blood Service Center and renew its blood bank's license to operate, and the need to continue conducting disaster management trainings for students and volunteers.

Over eight thousand men, women and children trooped to the Isabela Police Provincial Office where the event's opening salvo was held. A mix of local officials led by

"In the 2013 Bayani Challenge, the biggest volunteer movement in the country's history, the province of Isabela posted the highest number of enlisted volunteers..."

Gov. Faustino Dy III and Provincial Administrator Noel Manuel Lopez, government employees, young professionals, police officers, students, private individuals, health buffs and even children, senior citizens and persons with disabilities flooded Ilagan City's major thoroughfare and negotiated the 2 kilometer stretch

leading to the Isabela Provincial Capitol for the awarding of special prizes.

Allan Galam bagged first prize in the men's category while Maricar Gammad was declared champion in the women's category.

Meanwhile, a total of two hundred eighteen bikers competed in the Padyak Isabeleño Fun Bike which drew biking enthusiasts from as far as Nueva Vizcaya. First prize winner Dennis Pelerio hails from this province known for its steep mountains and perilous ravines.

Born in 1947, the Philippine Red Cross is the premier humanitarian organization in the country committed to provide quality life-saving services that protect the life and dignity especially of indigent Filipinos in vulnerable situations.

In the 2013 Bayani Challenge, the biggest volunteer movement in the country's history, the province of Isabela posted the highest number of enlisted volunteers at 11,500 of the over 80,000 who participated in the event, thus, affirming her distinction as the volunteer capital of the Philippines.



Bambanti Festival float, lumutang sa Aliwan Fiesta 2014

Lumutang ng husto ang galing at pagkamalikhain ng Isabeleño matapos tanghaling kampeon ang Isabela Bambanti Festival float sa Aliwan Fiesta 2014 na ginanap kamakailan sa lungsod ng Pasay. Tinalo ng likha ng lalawigan ng Isabela ang labing-anim na kalahok mula sa iba't ibang panig ng kapuluan kabilang ang *Utanon Festival* float ng Cebu at ang *Indayog ti Sabsabong* ng Baguio City.

Ang bayan ng Luna ang kumatawan sa lalawigan ng Isabela matapos tanghaling Kampeon sa Bambanti Festival noong Enero. Ayon kay Mayor Jimmy Atayde ng naturang bayan, sa labimpitong pabolosong float na kumatawan sa iba't-ibang festivals sa Luzon, Visayas at Mindanao, lutang na lutang ang ganda ng Isabela float na pinatingkad ng maliliit na butil ng bigas, mais at munggo. Hila ng dalawang matitikas na kalabaw, inilarawan ng float ang iba't-ibang aspeto at proseso ng pagsasaka katuwang ang bambanti na siyang simbolo ng galing, sipag, tatag, at pagkamapagmatyag ng lahing Isabeleño. Tampok din dito ang St. Mathias Church ng Tumauini na itinayo noong 1707, isa sa mga pinakalumang simbahan sa Pilipinas at kilala dahil sa kanyang kakaibang cylindrical bell tower at ang Magat Dam na tinaguriang pinakamalaki sa buong Southeast Asia.

Inialay ni Mayor Atayde ang tagumpay nila sa mga Isabeleño lalong-lalo na kina Governor Dy at Vice Governor Albano. Nagsadya ang

mga opisyal ng lalawigan sa Maynila at nakipagsiksikan sa libo-libong streetdancers at manonood sa kahabaan ng Roxas Boulevard upang magbigay suporta sa team Luna, Isabela.

Si Atayde ang nagdisenyo at namahala sa paggawa ng nasabing float. Ayon sa Municipal Tourism Officer ng Luna, muling nagpamalas ng kanyang pagiging *hands-on* ang nasabing alkalde sa kanilang paghahanda para sa naturang kumpetisyon.

Nakamit ng Isabela Bambanti float ang halagang kalahating milyong piso bilang premyo. Mula sa Maynila, inuwi ang float at dinala sa harap ng bagong pinasinayaang Queen Isabela Park upang matunghayan din ng mga Isabeleño na nakiisa sa pagdiriwang ng ika-158 na Anibersaryo ng Araw ng Isabela.

Ang Aliwan Fiesta ay tinaguriang "*The Mother of All Fiestas*," kung saan nagtitipon-tipon ang mga kinatawan ng iba't-ibang festivals sa buong bansa sa

Star City Complex sa siyudad ng Pasay sa patimpalak ng street dance parade at festival float at ang Search for Ms. Aliwan. Ito ay sa ilalim ng pamamahala ng Manila Broadcasting Company (MBC) kasama ang Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP), gayundin ang mga lungsod ng Maynila at Pasay. Ang Aliwan Fiesta ay nagsimula noong 2003 upang ipakita sa buong mundo ang mayamang kultura at tradisyon ng Pilipinas. Ang mga lalawigang sumasali dito ay nagkakaroon ng pagkakataong mai-promote o maipakita, hindi lamang ang mayamang kultura, kundi pati na rin ang ekonomiya at turismo ng kani-kanilang lugar.

Ayon kay Governor Faustino Dy III, ang tagumpay ng Isabela sa Aliwan Fiesta ay isa na namang patunay sa pagsibol ng lalawigan ng Isabela bilang bagong sentro ng AGRIkultura.



Isabela scales greater heights in disaster preparedness hosts first PROVINCIAL DRRM SUMMIT

The Summit started on a high note!

A 99.75% over-all rating in the Gawad Kalasag regional finals and a back-to-back win in the prestigious competition provided the provincial government of Isabela with just the right push as it embarked on its first ever Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Summit held June 24 – 25, 2014.

Some four hundred local chief executives, DRRM experts, policy makers, scientists, AFP, PNP and BFP officials and personnel, rescuers and representatives of the private sector converged at the Governor Faustino N. Dy Session Hall of the Isabela Provincial Capitol for the two-day summit initiated by the Office of Civil Defense Region 2 in partnership with the PDRRMC and DILG – Isabela.

The Summit was aimed at strengthening linkages and harnessing inter-agency cooperation among partners and stakeholders in order to build safer and more resilient communities in the province of Isabela.

In his message before the delegates, Isabela Governor and PDRRMC Chair Faustino Dy III underscored the primordial duty of government to uphold the people's constitutional right to life and property. *"Isinasagawa po natin ang Summit na ito dahil naniniwala po tayo sa kahalagahan ng buhay ng bawat isa sa ating nasasakupan. Hindi natin maatim na mawala o ipagsapalaran ang kahit isang buhay,"* he stressed.

Dy recalled the devastation wrought by super typhoon Juan in the coastal area in October 2010, or only three months into his first term as governor. *"Ang bayan ng Maconacon ay tinamaan ng storm surge. Ang sabi ng kanilang dating mayor, umatras ng hanggang 50 metro ang tubig-dagat at pagkatapos nito'y isang napakalaking alon ang humampas sa bayan ng Maconacon,"* he said.

"Isinasagawa po natin ang Summit na ito dahil naniniwala po tayo sa kahalagahan ng buhay ng bawat isa sa ating nasasakupan..."

The governor expressed gratitude that the onslaught, the strength of which is comparable to Yolanda, resulted in only one casualty, attributing the same to the people's preparedness amid disasters.

He admitted that the *Juan experience* sowed fear in the hearts of local leaders, the same fear that inspired the provincial government to push for the immediate construction of four typhoon-proof evacuation centers for the four coastal municipalities that requires a total cost of 80 million pesos. This is in addition to the 27 million peso multi-purpose evacuation center now undergoing construction at the Isabela Provincial Capitol compound. Dy also cited the gains of the province in the realm of disaster preparedness and thanked the PDRRMC members, the local chief executives, the leadership of the OCD and DILG, civil society and all the participants for the success of the Summit.

Not one who rests on his laurels, Dy constantly raises the bar in disaster preparedness in the grassroots, amid the imminent threat of climate change. OCD Regional Director Norma C. Talosig lauded the local chief executive for consistently aiming for excellence in local governance. *"The provincial government of Isabela does not settle for anything less. Puro excellent po ang gusto. Kaya nga po sila binigyan ng 99.75 sa Gawad Kalasag regional evaluation,"* she declared.

Meanwhile, DILG Provincial Director Elpidio Durwin reminded the local chief executives of the province to carry out emergency measures before, during and in the aftermath of any disaster to hasten up recovery and promote the general welfare.

DRRM experts from the OCD and DOST comprised the pool of speakers while the summit's highlight was the signing of the DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT FOR DRRM ACTION by the participants led by Dy and Vice Governor Tonypet Albano.

All time high!

PDRRMC Isabela garners **99.75** in Gawad Kalasag regional finals



It was 0.25 shy of a perfect score but certainly very impressive nonetheless.

The Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council of the province of Isabela obtained 99.75% in the 2014 Gawad Kalasag Search for Excellence in Disaster Risk Reduction and Humanitarian Assistance regional finals and was adjudged Best PDRRMC in Region II, thus, earning a berth in the national finals, while affirming its predominance in disaster preparedness in the Cagayan Valley region.

This was disclosed by Office of Civil Defense Regional Director Norma C. Talosig, Chairperson of the Regional Evaluating Committee, in her message before some four hundred participants to the first Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Summit which opened June 24, 2014 at the Gov. Faustino N. Dy Session Hall, Isabela Provincial Capitol.

It was a back-to-back victory for the province, having been given the same honors in 2013 after beating the provinces of Cagayan and Nueva Vizcaya.

Initiated in 1998, Gawad Kalasag is the NDRRMC's recognition scheme in its search for excellence on DRRM and humanitarian assistance. It is a mechanism in obtaining sustained commitment and support by recognizing exceptional contributions of DRRM practitioners in strengthening the resilience and adaptive capacities of communities

to disaster risks. The search was conceived to encourage the participation of various stakeholders in crafting and implementing DRRM programs aimed at protecting and shielding high risk communities against hazards.

"The rating should not lull us into complacency. Instead, it should inspire us to work even harder, because if we don't, people may perish..."

Isabela Governor and Council Chair Faustino Dy III conveyed his gratitude to the leadership of OCD for the province's latest feat, but amid the victory, was more sober in analyzing the consequences of meriting a near perfect score. "Our collective efforts have paid off," he enthused, "ngunit marami pa tayong dapat gawin upang higit pang mapalakas ang PDRRMC at masiguro ang kaligtasan ng mga mamamayang Isabeleño sa anumang sakuna," he added.

"The rating should not lull us into complacency. Instead, it should

inspire us to work even harder, because if we don't, people may perish," he cautioned the participants to the DRRM Summit, a joint undertaking of OCD and the provincial government.

Dy's first executive order was for the reorganization of the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council which later evolved into the PDRRMC, a clear indication of the chief executive's sense of priorities and the policy direction of his administration. He established the PDRRMO and DART 831 which operate 24/7, sought the passage of an ordinance banning liquor during typhoons, intensified the training of personnel and invested heavily in state-of-the-art and top-of-the-line facilities, gadgets and equipments essential to disaster preparedness.

In 2012, the Isabela Rescue Team was also awarded the prestigious *Bakas Parangal ng Kadakilaan* by the NDRRMC for its Project: Rescuers Without Borders.





Five typhoon-proof evacuation centers worth P107M, to rise in Isabela

Isabela continues to blaze the trail in disaster preparedness.

Five typhoon-proof evacuation centers worth one hundred seven million pesos are set to rise in the country's second largest province – one in each of the four coastal municipalities worth twenty million pesos each and another in the Isabela Provincial Capitol compound. The provincial government will invest at least ninety million pesos in these projects designed to further strengthen and intensify disaster preparedness in the province.

This development was announced by Governor Faustino Dy III during the ground breaking ceremonies of the twenty-seven million peso Multi-Purpose Evacuation Center in the capitol compound, a priority project of the provincial government in partnership with DSWD RO2 which extended a ten million peso grant and DILG RO2 which provided seven million pesos in *performance challenge fund*.

Once completed, the project is touted to be the first ever PLGU-constructed evacuation center in the country.

"Hindi natin maatim ang kahit na isang buhay ang mawala", said the governor in his message before employees of the provincial government and guests led by DILG Provincial Director Elpidio Durwin, Frank Lopez of DSWD Region II and Fr. Alden Zulueta who led the blessing of the construction site. *"Lahat ng paraan ay ating gagawin upang maging handa sa anumang sakuna ang mamamayang*

Isabeleño," he promised.

Dy stressed that the plan to construct the evacuation centers in Palanan, Maconacon, Dinapigue and Divilacan was conceptualized long before the onslaught of typhoon Yolanda. *"The Yolanda experience has strengthened our resolve to pursue and finish the project at the soonest possible time,"* he added.

The local chief executive issued a directive to expedite the construction of the centers while Vice Governor Tonypet Albano gave his assurance that the Sangguniang Panlalawigan has already appropriated funds for the projects.

"...because in the midst of disasters, the victims should be treated with dignity"

PSWDO Lucila Ambatali described the Center as composed of two buildings with a total of 2,119.56 square meters in floor area. The Evacuation and Multi-Purpose Center is a three-storey affair while a separate building is devoted to the birthing area and other purposes. Amenities include a communal kitchen, breastfeeding areas, treatment rooms, a labor room, a delivery room, a mini pharmacy, quarters for doctors and paramedics, a storage room for prepositioned goods, a laundry area, a huge dining area adjacent to the kitchen, separate shower rooms for male and female, and sleeping quarters for the evacuees. The Center is very near the capitol gymnasium which could easily accommodate two thousand individuals.

"The center is fully equipped with facilities designed to make life easier and more convenient for evacuees.



Adequate provisions for food will also be made available because in the midst of disasters, the victims should be treated with dignity," she said.

Meanwhile, Director Durwin hopes that the project becomes a white elephant. *"Sana'y hindi na natin kailanganin pang gamitin ang evacuation center na ito,"* he said. Durwin lauded the pioneering efforts of the Dy-Albano administration in disaster preparedness. *"Tunay nga pong trail blazer ang lalawigan ng Isabela,"* he exclaimed.

According to Provincial Administrator Noel Manuel R. Lopez, under normal conditions, the multi-purpose center shall be used as venue for trainings conducted by the PDRRMO. *"This is a prelude to the establishment of the Isabela Rescue Academy (IRA), Governor Dy's brainchild. The governor is bent on instilling a culture of preparedness among the people of Isabela,"* he said.

PDRRMO's equipage takes center stage anew



PDRRMO Isabela's top-of-the-line state-of-the-art vehicles, equipments and gadgets took center stage once again at the Summit dubbed "Iba na ang Panahon: Science for Safer Communities" conducted by the Department of Science and Technology in collaboration with the Department of the Interior and Local Government and the Office of Civil Defense.

Some 250 delegates from LGUs in the Cagayan Valley region and representatives of the academe converged at the Pulsar Hotel in Tuguegarao City for the two-day summit graced by eminent scientists and experts led by Dr. Renato Solidum of PHIVOLCS and Dir. Landrico Dalida, Jr. of PAGASA. Secretary Manuel Mamba, Presidential Legislative Liaison was keynote speaker.

The summit was aimed at providing awareness on new technologies and mitigation measures on the occurrence of natural calamities and disasters as well as timely information in the use of science-based technologies and gadgets to prevent or minimize the loss of lives.

Upon the request of DOST Regional Director Urdujah Tejada, the equipments were displayed at the venue to enable the participants to better appreciate the importance of the resources in their disaster preparedness initiatives. PDRRMO and DART 831 personnel conducted a demonstration on how the equipments are used and addressed questions raised by the participants.

The equipments have become constant fixtures in huge and very important events like the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Management Summit in Tuguegarao City and the first Regional Climate Change Summit hosted by

the province of Isabela.

Governor Faustino Dy expressed gratitude for the interest generated by the PDRRMO's equipage.

"Participation in such exhibits is part of our advocacy, our way of encouraging local executives in the Cagayan Valley region to invest in these equipments in order to strengthen disaster preparedness in their respective localities," he said.

PDRRMO Isabela is gaining a sterling reputation in the country for its excellent vehicles and equipments. *"Our crown jewel is a fleet of eight top-of-the-line fully equipped ambulance units which could easily double as a mini-hospital, certainly the best of its kind in the market,"* Provincial Administrator Noel Manuel Lopez disclosed. *"Two of these vehicles have gone to as far as the province of Leyte in November 2013 as part of the Team Isabela Leyte Relief Mission in the aftermath of typhoon Yolanda,"* he added.

According to Provincial Budget Officer Elsa Pastrana, thirty million pesos in local government support fund courtesy of the DILG was used in the purchase of DRRM equipments. *"The provincial government has so far invested a total of two hundred eighty-one million pesos, and the governor intends to invest even more, to intensify disaster preparedness in the province of Isabela,"* she quipped.

"Participation in such exhibits is part of our advocacy, our way of encouraging local executives in the Cagayan Valley region to invest in these equipments in order to strengthen disaster preparedness in their respective localities..."

VG Albano: Let us invest in people

Vice Governor Tonypet Albano enjoined the participants to the first Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Summit to invest in our most important resource – people. *“I know that there are many other things we need to invest upon, but it is most important that we invest in people,”* he stressed.

Albano underscored the wisdom in attending trainings like the DRRM Summit. *“It is important for each municipality to send their representatives, even their mayors and officials, to gain knowledge in all aspects, especially in terms of disaster risk management,”* he added.

In his message, Albano discussed the willingness and the desire of Governor Dy and the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, of which he is the Presiding Officer, to invest even more in DRRM facilities and equipments.

“I am happy to report that we have allotted a substantial amount for the evacuation centers of the four coastal towns,” he said. He shared his fears that a super typhoon like Yolanda *“might visit us again.”* He rued the fact that in Tacloban, people who sought refuge in evacuation centers perished.

The vice governor also saw the urgent need to upgrade DRRM facilities. *“In terms of equipments, we already have one of the best in the country. We already have water systems and purifiers. We already have the boats and the machineries . . . but what interests me more is a mobile tent hospital, and we are on the verge of purchasing one,”* he revealed. *“In the event of a serious disaster, we can put up a tent where doctors can perform surgery or other medical procedures just like in our provincial hospital,”* he added.

Tent hospitals were used in the province of Leyte in the aftermath of Yolanda as an alternative to the health facilities which were devastated



and rendered useless by the super typhoon’s deadly wrath.

After his message, the vice governor affixed his signature in the Declaration of Commitment for DRRM Action. Organizers thanked Albano for allowing them to use the SP Session Hall on the same day that the Council was scheduled to conduct its regular session. The vice governor and the SP members graciously transferred to the Balay. *“It’s the least we can do for a very worthy endeavor,”* Albano assured the organizers.

Albano graduated from the University of California with a Political Science degree and pursued graduate studies at the John

F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He is a prime mover of Couples for Christ and the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He was Head Executive Assistant of the Energy Regulatory Commission and rose to national prominence as spokesman of a major political party before running for the vice governorship to succeed brother Rodito who staged a comeback as Congressman of the First District of Isabela.

“...there are many other things we need to invest upon, but it is most important that we invest in people...”

Pundits opine that Governor Dy has found another formidable ally in the young vice governor, especially in one of the core areas of governance - disaster preparedness.

“Napakahusay, napakaevolved at napakamature ng DRRM initiatives ng Isabela” - Roxas



“Napakahusay, napakaevolved at napakamature.” Ganito isinalarawan ni DILG Secretary Mar Roxas ang disaster risk reduction initiatives ng pamahalaang panlalawigan ng Isabela sa kanyang mensahe sa joint meeting ng Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (PDRRMC) at Provincial Peace and Order Council (PPOC) na ginanap kamakailan sa Balay, Isabela Provincial Capitol.

Si Roxas ang panauhing pandangal sa pagpapasinaya ng Queen Isabela Park kaugnay ng pagdiriwang ng ika-isang daan at limampu’t walong anibersaryo ng pagkakatatag ng lalawigan ng Isabela.

Sa naturang pulong na pinangunahan ni Gov. Faustino G. Dy III, Chairman ng PDRRMC at PPOC, at dinaluhan nina Vice Gov. Tony pet Albano, Regional Director Marlo Iringan ng DILG Region 2, League of Municipalities Isabela Chapter President Mayor Rodolfo Albano, Liga ng mga Barangay President Francis Faustino “Kiko” Dy, gayundin ng mga Mayors at mga miyembro ng Sangguniang Panlalawigan ng Isabela, nagbigay ng ulat si PNP Provincial Director Sotero DG Ramos Jr. hinggil sa peace and order situation ng lalawigan ng Isabela. Nagbigay din ng ulat ang PDRRMC Secretariat na nakatuon sa mga proyekto at programa ng Konseho.

“Nakikita ko ang inyong pursigidong pagnanais at pagsisikap na mag-intervene properly dito sa risk reduction management,” ang pambungad na pananalita ni Roxas. Pinuri ng Kalihim ang “Project: Rescuers without Borders” ng lalawigan at sa paglulunsad nito ng mga relief at rescue operation sa iba’t ibang panig ng bansa. *“Laking tuwa ko na makita na ‘yung sa disaster risk reduction efforts ninyo ay evolved na evolved, mature at saka hindi lamang*

natutugunan ‘yung pangangailangan ninyo dito sa Isabela pero nakaka-contribute na sa pagtugon sa pangangailangan ng iba pang mga lugar. Hanggang sa Visayas, hanggang sa Mindanao. Doon sa Davao sa kapanahunan ng Pablo, hanggang dito sa Tacloban, Leyte sa kapanahunan ni Yolanda,” litanya ng kalihim. *“So talagang napakahusay, napakaevolved, napakamature ng inyong disaster risk reduction efforts na nakakatulong na kayo sa labas,”* mariin pa niyang sinabi.

“Nakikita ko ang inyong pursigidong pagnanais at pagsisikap...”

Si Roxas ang Vice Chairperson for Disaster Preparedness ng National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC). Itinalaga siya ni Pangulong Aquino na manguna sa relief and rescue operations na isinagawa sa mga lalawigang nasalanta ng bagyong Yolanda.

Ang lalawigan ng Isabela ang isa sa mga pinakaunang nagpadala ng rescue and relief mission sa lalawigan ng Leyte matapos itong hagupitin ng isa sa pinakamalakas na bagyo sa kasaysayan. Ito ay binuo ng mahigit isang daan at limampung volunteers na doktor, nars, social worker, PNP at BFP personnel, mga kinatawan ng Philippine Red Cross at kawani ng pamahalaang panlalawigan ng Isabela sa pangunguna nina Provincial Administrator Noel Manuel R. Lopez at PGSO Rodrigo Sawit.

Climate change champion commends Isabela's CCA initiatives

Senator Loren Legarda, Chair of the Senate Committees on Environment and Climate Change, lauded the Provincial Government of Isabela for its climate change adaptation initiatives and for initiating and hosting the first REGIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE SUMMIT in partnership with the Department of the Interior and Local Government.

Some two hundred local leaders and policy makers, scientists and experts from government and the private sector representing the provinces of Isabela, Cagayan, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, and the neighboring provinces of Ifugao and Kalinga recently converged at the Isabela Provincial Capitol to harmonize efforts and concretize measures to mitigate the effects of flooding along the Cagayan River Basin.

“I am particularly impressed with the sincerity and readiness of stakeholders in Region II, led by the Province of Isabela, to cooperate in raising awareness in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation among local government leaders and in forging local government commitment to action,” the senator said in her message to the delegates. *“Never before in our history have humans worked together to avert a global catastrophe, as what we now attempt to achieve with the challenge of climate change.”*

“The fusion of socio-economic realities and extreme climatic events has confounded gallant attempts by governments. We cannot, however, be caught off-balance and discouraged, and instead, try to match our best intentions with a resolve to scale up efforts in disaster risk reduction. As a nation that has consistently gone up in global rankings on vulnerability to climate change impacts, we have more reasons to work double time,” she posed this challenge to the participants.

She further stressed that disaster risk reduction essentially means genuine development – development that is sustainable and economic growth that is resilient. *“The people expect good governance. But let me assure you that governing with effective disaster risk reduction is certainly a mark of good local governance,”* she reiterated.

Now on her third term as senator, Legarda chairs the Committee on Climate Change, Environment and Natural Resources, and Cultural Communities. She worked for the enactment of laws on environmental governance like the Clean Air Act, the Solid Waste Management Act, the Climate Change Act and the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act.

In 2000, the World Economic Forum held in Davos named her as one of the Global Leaders for Tomorrow. In 2008, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) appointed her as its Regional Champion for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation in Asia and the Pacific during the 3rd Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in December 2008 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SENATE
PASAY CITY

Hon. Loren Legarda
SENATOR

MESSAGE Regional Climate Change Summit (Region II)

I wish to extend my warmest greetings to the local government of the Province of Isabela for organizing this Regional Climate Change Summit.

Never before in our history have humans proactively worked together to avert a global catastrophe, as what we now attempt to achieve with the challenge of climate change.

Disaster risks, by all indications, are increasing exponentially due to the warming climate. The fusion of socio-economic realities and extreme climatic events has confounded gallant attempts by governments. We cannot, however, be caught off-balance and discouraged, and instead, try to match our best intentions with a resolve to scale up efforts in disaster risk reduction. As a nation that has consistently gone up in global rankings on vulnerability to climate change impacts, we have more reasons to work double time.

I am particularly impressed with the sincerity and readiness of stakeholders in Region II, led by the Province of Isabela, to cooperate in raising awareness in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation among local government leaders and in forging local government commitment to action.

It is critical that the increased attention, interest, and sense of urgency in responding to the challenges posed by climate change and disaster risks are translated to local actions that effectively reduce disaster vulnerability.

Committing to make cities and municipalities disaster-resilient means increasing our investments in disaster risk reduction, conducting and sharing risk assessments, establishing effective and efficient early warning systems, and protecting our ecosystems, among other actions.

The challenge is to link disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation to national engine development—development that is sustainable and economic growth that is resilient.

As government leaders, we have the moral responsibility to usher and achieve genuine development for the country and our communities.

The people expect good governance. But let me assure you that governing with effective disaster risk reduction is certainly a mark of good local governance.

The people expect a better life, a brighter future. Let me further assure you that there is no better way to realize that aspiration than planning rightly and pursuing development that promotes equitable and sustainable growth and good care of the environment.

Delivering well in these two expectations is a legacy which you could certainly be proud of. I wish for the success of this regional summit and may we all work together for a safe, green, and resilient Philippines.



LOREN LEGARDA
SENATOR



Araw ng Kalayaan, pinagdiwang sa Palanan

Bilang pagbabalik tanaw at paggunita sa ilang di malilimutang yugto ng ating kasaysayan, sa Palanan, Isabela pinagdiwang ng pamahalaang panlalawigan ang ika-isang daan at labing anim na anibersaryo ng Araw ng Kalayaan ng Republika ng Pilipinas.

Katuwang ang halos isang daang opisyal at kawani ng pamahalaang panlalawigan, dinala ni Governor Faustino Dy III ang mga benepisyo ng BRO at mga serbisyo ng Kapitolyo sa pamamagitan ng Farmers' Congress sa Barangay.

“Katulad ng aking pangako, dinala natin ang Kapitolyo sa mga barangay ng Palanan upang higit pang mailapit ang pamahalaan sa mga mamamayan,” ang sabi ni Dy sa mga dumalo sa Kongreso na ginanap sa Palanan Community Center.

Walang pagsidlan ang tuwa ng mga opisyal at mga mamamayan sa malasakit at pagmamahal na ipinamalas ng gobernador at ng kanyang team na kailangan pang sumakay ng chopper at chartered planes upang marating ang farmers' congress.

Namahagi si Dy ng P150,000 bilang *aid to barangay* sa bawat isa sa labimpitong barangay ng Palanan. Bukod dito ay nanguna rin ang PDRRMC-DART 831 sa pagsagawa ng mga pagsasanay kaugnay ng *disaster preparedness* para sa mga opisyal ng barangay. Dinagsa ang medical mission at nagsagawa rin ng free legal aide service ang mga abogado ng Provincial Legal Office. Maging ang mga alagang aso ay binakunahan rin ng mga kawani ng Provincial Veterinary Office.

Maliban sa bayan ng Palanan, ang pamahalaang panlalawigan ng Isabela ay nakapagdaos na rin ng Farmers' Congress sa iba pang coastal towns gaya ng Divilacan, Maconacon at Dinapigue na pawang nakatanggap ng mga proyekto at serbisyong naglalayong maiangat ang antas ng kabuhayan ng mga maliliit na magsasaka.

Masaya namang ibinalita ni Dy ang pagpapatayo ng typhoon-proof evacuation center sa bayan ng Palanan na nagkakahalaga ng dalawampung milyong piso, isa sa apat na ipapatayo sa coastal Isabela.

Ang Palanan ay itinuturing na *last stand* ni General Emilio Aguinaldo. Si Aguinaldo ang pinuno ng rebolusyon na nagdeklara ng kalayaan ng bansang Pilipinas mula sa kamay ng mga mananakop sa kanyang tahanan sa Kawit, Cavite noong ika-12 ng Hunyo 1898. Sa bayan ng Palanan nagtago si Aguinaldo hanggang sa mahuli siya ng puwersa ng mga Amerikano na pinangunahan ni General Funston ng Estados Unidos. Ito'y naganap noong ika-23 ng Marso 1901, tatlong taon matapos maideklara ang kalayaan ng Pilipinas.



“Dapat gayahin ang Isabela!” -Sec. Kiko

“Dapat, ang ibang LGU at iba pang ahensiya ng gobyerno na may kinalaman sa mga magsasaka ay pumunta dito sa Isabela para makita kung ano ang ginagawa ng mga pinuno dito.” Ito ang naging pahayag ni Secretary Francis “Kiko” Pangilinan, Presidential Assistant for Food Security and Agricultural Modernization sa kanyang pagdalaw noong ika-26 ng Hulyo sa Regional Office ng NIA-MARIIS, sa lungsod ng Cauayan.

Pinuri ng kalihim ang matinding suporta ng pamahalaang panlalawigan sa sektor ng agrikultura matapos talakayin ni Governor Faustino Dy III ang mga benepisyo ng programang Bojie-Rodito Opportunities (BRO) for Small Farmers, ang flagship project ng administrasyong Dy-Albano na naglalayong maitaas ang antas ng pamumuhay ng mga maliliit na magsasaka.

“Napakaganda ng ginagawa para sa mga magsasaka dito sa Isabela,” aniya.

“Alam niyo, marami rin ang mga magagandang LGU sa ating bansa subalit napakaliit o hindi nila masyadong binibigyan ng pansin ang sektor ng agrikultura,” paliwanag ng dating senador. *“Pero dito sa lalawigan ninyo ay napakaganda at talagang kayo ay binibigyan ng halaga ng inyong mga pinuno,”* dagdag pa niya.

“Number one kayo sa corn production, number two kayo sa rice... eh ‘pag napalawak pa ang sakahan dito ay malamang, kayo na ang magiging rice granary ng bansa,” paglalahad pa ng bagong kalihim.

Pinasalamatan din at pinuri pa ni Pangilinan ang mga Isabeño, lalong-lalo na ang mga magsasaka dahil sa napakalaking ambag nila upang maseguro ang sapat na pagkain ng sambayanang Pilipino.

Bilang tugon, ay muling tiniyak ni Governor Dy na patuloy na magbibigay suporta at ayuda ang pamahalaang panlalawigan sa mga maliliit na magsasaka sa pamamagitan ng programang BRO.

Matapos ang simpleng palatuntunan ay nagsagawa ng aerial survey si Pangilinan sa mga sakahan sa lalawigan upang malaman kung paano makakatulong ang kanyang tanggapan sa sektor ng agrikultura.

Noong Mayo ay itinalaga ni Pangulong Aquino si Pangilinan bilang Presidential Assistant for Food Security and Agricultural Modernization na may ranggong Kalihim. Sa pamamagitan ng EO 175, inilipat sa Office of the President ang National Food Authority (NFA), National Irrigation Administration (NIA), Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), at ang Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA), mga ahensiyang nasa ilalim na ng pamamahala ni Pangilinan.

Sa kanyang pangalawang termino bilang senador, si Pangilinan ay naging Chair ng Senate Committee on Agriculture and Food.

FARMERS' CONGRESS CARAVAN CONTINUES

The Isabela Provincial Capitol continues to conquer even the remotest villages through its flagship program - the FARMERS CONGRESS SA BARANGAY, now on its third wave, an innovative way of bringing government closer to the people and intensifying as well as



DELFIN ALBANO 03.11.14



SAN MANUEL 06.27.14



ALICIA 04.30.14



BENITO SOLIVEN 05.16.14



BURGOS 04.10.14



NAGUILIAN 03.18.14



CABATUAN 07.18.14



SAN GUILLERMO



MALLIG 06.17.14



SAN AGUSTIN 07.4.14

MOVES TO CONQUER THE COUNTRYSIDE

speeding-up the delivery of a huge package of benefits and services to small farmers in the 1,018 barangays of the province of Isabela. The program is envisioned to empower small farmers, and increase their productivity, in order to boost the agricultural economy of the country's top corn producer and emerging rice granary.



SAN MATEO 05.13.14



DIVILACAN 04.02.14



MACONACON 04.03.14



GAMU 07.25.14



QUEZON 06.20.14



03.21.14



PALANAN 06.11.14



DINAPIGUE 07.11.14



**MEDICAL / DE
MISSION**



LUNA 04.22.14

Cong. Albano, tuloy ang suporta sa maliliit na magsasaka



Hindi pa rin kumukupas, bagkus ay lalo pang tumitindi ang malasakit at pagmamahal ng dating bise gobernador sa mga small farmers ng lalawigan ng Isabela.

Pansamantalang iniwan ni Congressman Rodito Albano III ang Kamara de Representante upang bigyang suporta ang programang sinimulan nila ng kanyang matalik na kaibigan at mahigpit na kaalyado sa pulitika na si Gov. Faustino Dy III, ang Bojie-Rodito Albano Opportunities for Small Farmers o BRO.

“Nagpapasalamat ako sa ating gobernador at pinagpapatuloy niya ang mga programa na aming sinimulan noong ako pa ang kanyang bise gobernador. Wala kaming ibang inisip kundi ang pagsilbihan kayo, nang maiangat ang antas ng inyong kabuhayan dahil yan ang pangako namin sa inyo.” Ito ang binigyang diin ni Albano sa kanyang talumpati sa harap ng mga magsasaka sa isinagawang Dagdag Kita Para Sa Magsasaka Caravan sa Brgy. Villa Imelda sa siyudad ng Ilagan kamakailan.

“Magtutulungan kaming mga congressmen dito sa Isabela upang madagdagan pa ang pondo na dapat ilaan para sa ganitong programa nang sa gayon ay lalo pang tumaas ang presyo ng inyong mga produktong palay at mais,” dagdag pa ni Albano. Kasama ni Albano sina Governor Dy at IBAP Party List Representative Bebot Bello sa nasabing caravan. Nangako rin si Albano na makikipagtulungan siya sa mga kongresista ng Isabela upang patuloy na maisaayos ang mga farm-to-market roads upang higit pang mapabilis ang paglabas ng mga produkto mula sa kanayunan.

Ang Caravan ay isang programa ng pamahalaang panlalawigan kaagapay ang National Food Authority (NFA) na naglalayong tulungan ang mga maliliit na magsasaka sa mga liblib na barangay. Sa ilalim ng programa ay binibili ng pamahalaang panlalawigan at ng NFA ang produktong palay at mais ng maliliit na magsasaka sa mas pinalawig at pinagsamang Ayuda sa Presyo at Pantatawid Pamasaha program ng BRO.

Ayon sa tala ng Office of the Provincial Agriculturist, nakapagbenta ng higit sa 500,000 kilo ng

mais ang 247 magsasaka mula sa 43 barangays sa lungsod ng Cauayan at Ilagan at mga bayan ng San Mariano at Jones.

“Ang mga ganitong uri ng programa ang siyang daan upang maipaabot sa mga malalayong lugar ang mga magagandang hakbang ng pamahalaan na siyang magpapaangat sa antas ng kabuhayan ng mga maliliit na magsasaka upang unti-unti, kundi man tuluyang mawala ang kahirapan sa kanayunan,” dagdag pa ni Albano.

Sisikapin din umano ni Albano na makipag-ugnayan at hikayatin ang pamunuan ng NFA na magbukas ng mga tanggapan sa mga maliliit na bayan upang higit pang mapadali ang pagbenta ng mga magsasaka sa kanilang mga produkto.

Ang NFA ay isang sangay ng pamahalaan na tumitiyak sa food security o kasapatan ng pagkain sa bansa, pangunahin na ang palay at mais. Sa mga panahon na sobra ang suplay sa pangangailangan, bumababa ang presyo ng mga produktong palay at mais. Layunin ng Caravan na mailapit ang NFA

sa mga magsasaka, gaano man sila kalayo, maiwasan ang mga middlemen at maitaas ng husto ang maaaring kitain ng mga maliliit na magsasaka.

Ang BRO ang pangunahing programa ng administrasyong Dy-Albano na naglalayong maitaas ang antas ng pamumuhay at maisulong ang dangal ng maliliit na magsasaka maging ng mga manggagawa sa sektor ng pagsasaka sa lalawigan ng Isabela, sa pamamagitan ng mga ayuda at suporta kabilang ang loan assistance (BRO-LAMFP), livelihood assistance (BRO-Livelihood), crop insurance (BRO-PSP), ayuda sa presyo (BRO-ASAP), pantawid pamasaha (BRO-PPP), health coverage (BRO-PH), animal dispersal (Paiwi ni BRO), accident insurance (BRO-PNB Gen), SSS coverage (BRO-SSSM), health insurance (BRO-Healthcare) at college scholarship program para sa mga anak ng maliliit na magsasaka (BRO-Ed).

“...Wala kaming ibang inisip kundi ang pagsilbihan kayo, nang maiangat ang antas ng inyong kabuhayan dahil yan ang pangako namin sa inyo.”



"Isang daan libong dahilan upang magdiwang ang mga barangay"

"Tunay ngang nakakataba ng puso ang suportang patuloy na ibinibigay ng pamahalaang panlalawigan sa 1,018 barangay na bumubuo sa lalawigan ng Isabela. May isang daan libong dahilan na naman upang magdiwang ang mga barangay."

Ito ang naging pahayag ni Francis Faustino "Kiko" A. Dy, Pangulo ng Liga ng mga Barangay (LMB) Isabela Chapter sa kanilang 12th LMB Provincial Convention na ginanap kamakailan sa CAP John Hay Trade and Cultural Center sa lungsod ng Baguio kung saan nagtipon-tipon ang humigit kumulang sa isang libong punong barangay ng lalawigan.

Nagbigay pugay at nagpasalamat ang batang Dy sa P100,000 aid to barangay na ipinamamahagi ng pangasiwaang Dy-Albano sa lahat ng barangay kada taon na nakalaan sa mga infrastructure projects na mapapakinabangan ng kanilang mga nasasakupan. Malaking tulong aniya ang pondong ito lalong-lalo na sa mga barangay na maliit lang ang natatanggap na Internal Revenue Allotment o IRA.

*"Marami po tayong inihanda upang matugunan natin ang hamon ng ating temang **Ako at ang Barangay, Sabay sa Paglaktay**. Dito natin ipapamalas ang malaking papel na dapat gampanan ng barangay sa pagbuo ng isang payapa at maunlad*

na lalawigan sa pamamagitan ng isahang pagkilos mula sa ating hanay na sumasabay at tumutugon sa mga proyektong pangkaunlaran na itinataguyod ng pamahalaan," ang hamon ni Dy sa kanyang mga kapwa kapitan.

"Let us raise the standards of governance in the grassroots, and be

"Let us raise the standards of governance in the grassroots, and be the role models that we ought to be."

the role models that we ought to be. Let us join forces in proving that we are deserving of the people's trust and confidence," dagdag pa ng bagong pangulo ng LMB Isabela na umuupo din bilang Ex-Officio member sa Sangguniang Panlalawigan.

Si Dy ay nahalal na punong barangay ng Brgy. San Fabian at nanalong Pangulo ng LMB Municipal Federation ng Echague

bago siya tuluyang manalo bilang pangulo ng LMB-Isabela sa halalan na pinangasiwaan ng DILG at COMELEC.

Nakagawian na ni Gov. Dy ang pamamahagi ng tig P100,000 sa mga barangay sa kanyang distrito noong siya'y Congressman pa lamang, isang tradisyong lalo pa niyang pinalawig nang siya'y mahalal na punong panlalawigan. Kadalasan, ay sa mga Farmers' Congress niya ibinabahagi ang mga tseke, kaagapay si Vice Gov. Albano.

Kamakailan lang ay inihayag ni Dy na gagawing P150,000 na kada taon ang *aid to barangay*, na siya namang lalo pang ikinagalak ng mga opisyal ng barangay.

Kabilang sina Gov. Faustino Dy III, Vice Gov. Tony Alapan, Provincial Administrator Noel Manuel Lopez, Sen. Cynthia Villar, Cong. Bebot Bello ng IBAP, at mga kinatawan ng OWWA, PDRRMO Isabela at DILG sa mga opisyal na dumalo sa nasabing convention.

A COVENANT

AMONG OFFICIALS COMPRISING THE LIGA NG MGA
BARANGAY SA PILIPINAS - ISABELA CHAPTER

We, the 1,018 strong Liga ng mga Barangay sa Pilipinas – Isabela Chapter, representing the best interest of our respective constituency, bound by the same vision, and inspired by the same purpose, hereby declare that:

The barangay is the country's most basic political unit, crucial to the efficient, effective and speedy delivery of basic services to the people;

As such, we govern from the grassroots, closest to the people from which all government authority emanates, hence, the most accurate barometer of the pulse of the masses;

We are aware of the immense power that we wield and from which enormous responsibilities spring;

We commit ourselves to the highest ideals of public service and shall endeavor to strengthen the barangays as the foundation on which other institutions are built;

We commit ourselves to the present leadership of the Provincial Government of Isabela and to all its thrusts and goals, grateful for its overwhelming support to the ranks of barangay officials and our constituents.

In solidarity with national and local officials and every decent Filipino who care for Mother Earth, we affirm our commitment to the urgent task of restoring the beauty of God's creation;

We denounce the senseless degradation of our natural habitat;

We condemn illegal logging, timber poaching and other activities that threaten the very core of our ecological system;

We cherish sustainability - meeting the needs of people without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs;

We resolve to support reforestation efforts and initiatives aimed at protecting endangered species;

We shall pursue programs that advance water conservation efforts and provide venues for proper waste management advocacies.

*F*urthermore, we take pride in a province that basks in the glory of law and order;

We denounce crime and lawlessness for they threaten the peace and quiet of our villages, the safety of our children and the growth and development of our communities;

We condemn the proliferation of drugs that lead to the decay of society's moral fiber;

*F*inally, we assert the majesty and supremacy of the law and dedicate all our efforts in the pursuit of safer and more decent communities towards a more progressive Isabela.

*S*igned this 3rd day of March in the year of our Lord, two thousand and fourteen at CAP John Hay Convention Center, Baguio City.

ISANG BUKAS NA LIHAM MULA KAY
FRANCIS FAUSTINO A. DY
PANGULO
LIGA NG MGA BARANGAY SA PILIPINAS
ISABELA CHAPTER



Sa Aking mga Kabwa Punong Barangay

Tayo ay kumakatawan sa tagumpay at tiwala. Ipinagdiriwang natin ang tagumpay dahil sa tiwalang iginawad ng ating mga kabarangay. Ipinagkatiwala nila sa atin ang pamumuno at pamamalakad ng ating komunidad. Ito ay mandato na malugod nating tinanggap at dapat pag-ingatan. Dahil dito, nais kong ipaalala sa lahat na kaakibat ng kapangyarihan ay responsibilidad. Ayon nga sa isang kasabihan, “With great power comes great responsibility.”

Layunin ng ating lipunan na isulong ang maunlad na pamumuhay sa isang maayos, payapa, makatarungan at maka-Diyos na komunidad. Ito ang pangunahing batayan kung bakit tayo nandito sa ating kinalalagyan. Tayo ang mga pinunong direktang nakakaugnayan at nakakasalamuha ng mga tao sa ating barangay. Tayo ang kanilang unang sandigan sa oras ng kanilang pangangailangan, katulad ng kanilang iba’t ibang karaingan at hinaing, may kaugnayan man sa pamilya o sa pamayanan.

Tayo ay humahawak din ng kapangyarihang magpairal ng mga quasi-judicial functions na angkop sa pambarangay na antas. Ito ay bukod pa sa administratibong pamamalakad sa ating nasasakupan, na kaakibat ng ating pagiging Punong Barangay. Ito ay maliban pa sa paniniyak na maihatid natin ang mga pangunahing serbisyo ng pamahalaan sa mga mamamayan.

Muli’t muli ay hinihiling ko na magtulungan tayong lahat sa Liga ng mga Barangay sa nagkakaisang Lalawigan ng Isabela. Hinihiling ko na suportahan natin ng lubusan ang mga programang ating ipinapatupad upang makamit ang mga adhikain ng ating Liga nang lalo pang maisulong ang pangkalahatang kagalingan ng bawat punong barangay.

Asahan ninyo na anumang pangangailangan ng ating Liga na kinakailangang idulog sa mga nakatataas na pinuno ng pamahalaan ay ipapaabot natin sa kanilang kaalaman upang magkaroon ng agarang katugunan.

Panatilihin natin ang bukas na komunikasyon para sa lahat anumang oras. Makakaasa kayong laging nakabukas ang pintuan ng aking tanggapan sa lahat ng panahon. Kung sakaling paminsan-minsan ako ay hindi ninyo maabutan sa tanggapan dahil sa mga opisyal kong mga lakarin ay mayroon pong laging haharap sa inyo mula sa aking mga pinagkakatiwalaang tauhan upang kayo’y pagsilbihan at alamin ang mga pangangailangan ng inyong mga barangay.

Isulong natin ang nagkakaisang Isabela! Ikaw, ako at ang Barangay, sabay sa paglakbay! Mabuhay tayong lahat.

Sumasagay,
Kapitan Kiko



Kaligtasan sa highway, mas pinaigting ng EO 18



“Ang hangad nating mga Isabeleño ay magkaroon ng tahimik, maayos at mapayapang lugar at disenteng pamumuhay,” ito ang binigyang diin ni Governor Faustino Dy III sa kanyang State of the Province Address (SOPA) kaugnay ng usaping kaayusan sa mga lansangan at kapayapaan ng mga komunidad.

Dahil dito, pinag-utos ni Dy na lalo pang paigtingin ang pagpapatupad ng EO18 na naglalayong mabawasan ang mataas na insidente ng mga aksidente sa lansangan, matapos maiulat na ang napakalaking bahagdan nito ay kinasasangkutan ng mga menor de edad.

Sa ilalim ng naturang EO, ang Land Transportation Office (LTO) at Philippine Isabela Provincial Police Office (IPPO) ay kailangang magtulungan sa paghuli ng mga hindi lisensyadong driver at pagkukumpiska ng mga hindi rehistradong motorsiklo at mga motorsiklong minamaneho ng mga menor de edad. Katuwang sa pagmomonitor dito ang Liga ng mga Barangay sa Pilipinas (LMB) at Public Safety Office ng Pamahalaang Panlalawigan ng Isabela.

Iniulat ng IPPO na sa unang buwan pa lamang ng pagpapatupad ng naturang EO, ay higit sa tatlong libong violators na ang naitala. *“Kung ginagampanan lang natin ang ating nakatakdang tungkulin sa ating bayan, hindang hindi na aabot na may mahuhuling mahigit na 3,000 hindi nakarehistrong motorsiklo at mga motorsiklong minamaneho ng mga menor de edad at walang mga driver’s license,”* malungkot na sambit ni Dy.

Ayon kay dating LMB President Napoleon Hernandez, napapanahon ang EO18 dahil nasisiguro ang kaligtasan ng

mga motorista lalong-lalo na ng mga kabataan. Nilinaw pa ni Hernandez na hangad ng kautusan hindi lamang ang kaligtasan sa mga lansangan kundi maging ang pagbaba ng krimen. Karaniwan na ang paggamit ng mga masasamang loob ng motorsiklo sa pagsagawa ng krimen lalong-lalo na sa Kamaynilaan.

Sa bayan ng Luna, masayang ibinalita ni Mayor Jimmy Atayde na wala nang nagmomotorsiklong menor de edad sa kanilang bayan dahil sa patuloy na pagpapatupad ng EO18. *“Dati, kada linggo ay may lumalapit sa aming tanggapan upang humingi ng pambili ng “bakal” dahil naaksidente sa motor. Ngayon, dahil sa EO18, zero na ang aksidenteng sangkot ang mga minors na nagmamaneho ng motorsiklo,”* patunay pa ng alkalde.

Samantala, pinasalamatan at pinarangalan ng pamahalaang panlalawigan ng Isabela ang LTO, IPPO at LMB dahil sa kanilang pakikiisa at pakikipagtulungan sa pagpapatupad ng kautusan.

Sa ilalim ng Local Government Code of 1991, ang punong panlalawigan ay may kapangyarihang magtakda o magpatupad ng mga kautusang humihiling sa mga ahensiya ng pamahalaan na hulihin o supilin ang mga lumalabag sa batas upang maprotektahan ang kapakanan ng publiko.

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ISANG PAANYAYA...

May mga karanasan ba kayong nakaka-inspire?

na lalo pang magpapaigting sa inyong paglilingkod bilang pinuno o kawani ng pamahalaan, mga kaganapan at matagumpay na proyekto o programa na nais ninyong ibahagi?

Inaanyayahan ng Editorial Board ang mga department heads, mga kawani at mga mambabasa na magpadala ng artikulo para mailathala sa Isabela INFOcus.



MAILBOX



Upang matiyak na karapat-dapat na ilimbag ang inyong artikulo, nais namin kayong hikayatin na obserbahan ang ilang mga gabay at panuntunan. Inaasahan naming makakatulong sa inyo ang mga sumusunod sa paghahanda ng inyong artikulo:

1 Tumatanggap ang Editorial Board ng mga artikulo mula sa mga department heads at mga kawani ng pamahalaang panlalawigan. Ipadala ang inyong artikulo sa e-mail address na:

letters_info@yahoo.com

o personal na ipadala sa:

**Letters to the Editor
c/o ISABELA INFOcus
Provincial Information Office
3rd Floor, Capitol Building
Alibagu, Ilagan City, Isabela**

2 Ang mga paksa kaugnay sa mga matagumpay na mga programa at proyektong ipinatutupad ng inyong tanggapan, mga karanasang nagbibigay inspirasyon para sa iba pang pinuno o kawani ay kinalulugdan ng Editorial Board.

3 Bilang pangkalahatang patakaran, hindi ilalathala ang mga isyung kontrobersiyal, nakakasama ng loob, nanghuhusga laban sa anumang grupo o tao, hindi tiyak o mga usaping personal.

4 Mas mainam na samahan ng larawan at paliwanag ang inyong artikulo. Dapat ipahiwatig ng larawan ang layunin ng artikulo. Iwasan ang "firing squad" na larawan.

5 Sa pagsusumite ng artikulo, mangyaring isama ang mga impormasyon kung paano kayo maaring makontak o makaugnayan.

6 Isinasaayos o iwinawasto ang artikulo para sa kaliwanagan, haba at kaangkupan batay o ayon sa mga gabay at panuntunan ng Editorial Board.

Maligayang Pagsusulat!





ISABELA GOES GLOBAL!

Siyudad ng Cauayan, tinanghal na Best Holiday Destination of the World Mayor Dy, Manager of the Year



Personal na tinanggap ni Punong Lungsod Bernard Dy ang mga parangal bilang Best Holiday Destination/Resort at Top Hospitality Website sa ginanap na *Star on Health and Wellness Tourism Summit* sa Grand Hotel Del Iles Borromees, Stresam, Italy noong Hulyo 1 – 3, 2014. Tinanggap din ni Dy ang parangal bilang Manager of the Year. Ang naturang summit ay dinaluhan ng mga delegado ng tatlung bansa.

Layunin ng “*Stars of Health, Wellness and Tourism Contest*” na tuklasin ang mga makabagong pamamaraan ng medisina, recreation, industriya at turismo at ipakilala sa buong mundo ang mga regional leaders na nangunguna sa larangan ng resort and hotel management, travel at health care.

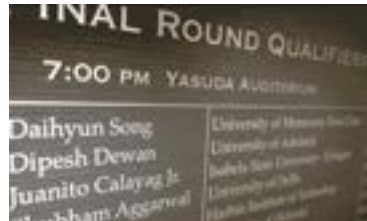
Nasungkit ng lungsod ng Cauayan ang parangal na *Best Holiday Destination* batay sa mga pamantayan na itinakda ng mga organizers. Ang mga criteria o batayan sa pagpili ay alinsunod sa *geographical position* o ang magandang lokasyon nito, *region's international image* o ang pangkalahatang imahe nito sa Timog Silangang Asya, *positive tourist dynamic* o ang mga proyekto at programa para mapaunlad ang turismo, *traveller's reference and recommendations* o ang positibong mga puna at rekomendasyon mula sa mga turista, *support of natural and historic sites* o mga programang sumusuporta para mapreserba at mapaunlad ang mga likas at makasaysayang lugar, *high level of tourist infrastructure* o ang pagkakaroon ng magagandang pasilidad kagaya ng mga hotel, restaurants at malls, gayundin ang *cultural programmes, festivals, fairs* o ang mga programang nagpapaunlad sa turismo at kultura ng lungsod.

Kasama ng lungsod ng Cauayan na tumanggap ng kahalintulad na parangal ang Municipal Council ng Seberang, Perai, Malaysia; Sungai Petani Council ng Malaysia at Semarang Municipality ng Indonesia.

Ang Summit of Leaders ay itinatag ng Europe Business Assembly sa Oxford, United Kingdom noong 2004. Ito ay isang pandaigdigang samahan kung saan mahigit na sa 6,000 na delegado mula sa 56 na bansa ang lumahok sa iba't ibang programa simula nang maitatag ito. Kadalasan, ang Summit o mga pagpupulong ay isinasagawa sa mauunlad na mga siyudad kagaya ng Moscow, London, Vienna, Barcelona, Dublin at Montreux na dinadaluhan ng mga dalubhasa sa negosyo, investors at mga scientist kung saan pinag-uusapan ang mga makabagong teknolohiya, pagpapaunlad ng negosyo, at mga makabagong kaisipan.

Si Governor Faustino Dy III ay dating alkalde ng noo'y bayan ng Cauayan. Sa ilalim ng kanyang administrasyon, tuluyan itong naging siyudad noong Marso 2001.

Isabeleño is world champ



(Top) Juanito Calayag with the other international delegates during the University Scholars Academic Convention in Australia.

(Left) A shot at the electronic board with the list of Final Round Qualifiers

A young Isabeleño proved his mettle in the world stage.

Math wizard Juanito Calayag Jr. was declared Champion in the International Math and Science Olympiad 2014 held at the Tokyo University of Technology in Tokyo, Japan last March 15 – 16, 2014, besting 434 student-delegates from 87 countries worldwide.

Calayag, a third year Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Engineering student at the Isabela State University in Echague was part of the nine-member Philippine delegation who competed in the said Olympiad. Leading the Philippine team was coach Engr. Nicamor Serrano, and three students from University of Sto. Tomas, one from Ateneo de Manila University, one from Catanduanes State University, one from the University of the Philippines in Diliman and one from the University of San Carlos Cebu. Calayag received \$1,000 and a trophy for his triumph in the said international competition. Second place was a student from the University of Minnesota Twin Cities in the USA while Third place went to the representatives of the University of Delhi in India.

Aside from being a math wizard, Calayag is also a student-writer. He copped fourth place in the Essay Writing Competition during the International Youth and Educators Summit held last February 7 – 10, 2014 at Eurotel Hotel in Boracay Island in Aklan. A representative from Bataan Peninsula State University won first place, while second and third place went to the University of Indonesia and the Univerutas Negeri Yogkarata, respectively. The University of the Philippines Baguio garnered fifth place. Earlier, he was the over-all individual highest pointer, prevailing over other student-writers in Cagayan Valley during the Region 02 Higher Education Press Conference on Dec. 1 - 3, 2013 held at Kimikarlai Hotel in Tuguegarao City.

In October 2013, Calayag represented the Philippines in the University Scholars Academic Convention held at the University of Melbourne in Melbourne, Australia, along with six other delegates from the University of San Carlos Cebu, University of Santo Tomas, Ateneo de Manila University and University of the Philippines in Diliman.