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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF ISABELA



BRO BACK IN CONGRESS

Former Barangay Captain, three-term Mayor, three-term Congressman, and incumbent Governor Faustino G. Dy III is back in congress. Known for his pro-farmer policies and programs, Dy addressed the farmer delegates during the grand launch of the third wave of FARMERS' CONGRESS SA BARANGAY held at the Roxas Astrodome in Roxas, Isabela.

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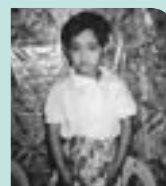
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- Governor Dy

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2014 FARMERS' CONGRESS

"Dadalhin namin ang Kapitolyo sa mga barangay" - Governor Dy

Governor Faustino G. Dy III is back in Congress!

The former barangay captain and three-term Congressman vowed to bring the provincial government even closer to the people and intensify as well as speed-up the delivery of a huge package of benefits and services to small farmers in the 1,018 villages of the Province of Isabela through the FARMERS' CONGRESS SA BARANGAY, now on its third wave.

In his message before some 1,800 farmer delegates to the Congress who converged at the Roxas Astrodome on February 27, Dy underscored Isabela farmers' immense contribution in sustaining the province's dominance in rice, corn and even mungo production, in strengthening the Philippines' agricultural economy and in ensuring food security in the region and the rest of the archipelago.

"Ang Farmers' Congress ay isang behikulo upang mas mabilis na maipaabot sa mga barangay ang mga benepisyo at serbisyong nararapat para sa ating mga magsasaka. Ito rin po ay isang paraan upang magbigay pugay sa kanilang kasipagan, kadakilaan at kabayanihan" he said.

Farmers' Congress is a caravan of benefits and special services for marginalized farmers delivered practically right at their doorsteps by a two hundred-men team led by Gov. Dy, Vice Gov. Tony T. Albano, Provincial Administrator Noel Manuel

R. Lopez, department heads, employees of the provincial government as well as representatives of the NFA, SSS, PhilHealth, PCIC and PNB, among other government agencies.

BRO is an all encompassing, comprehensive and revolutionary program which boasts of eleven components ranging from loan assistance (BRO-LAMFP), livelihood assistance (BRO-Livelihood), crop insurance (BRO-PSP), price subsidy (BRO-ASAP), transport subsidy (BRO-PPP), health coverage (BRO-PH), animal

"...isang paraan upang magbigay pugay sa kanilang kasipagan, kadakilaan at kabayanihan"

dispersal (Paiwi ni BRO), accident insurance (BRO-PNB Gen), SSS coverage (BRO-SSSM), health insurance (BRO-Healthcare), and college scholarship program for sons and daughters of small farmers (BRO-Ed).

In addition to these benefits, the organizers also conducted a medical and dental mission and blood letting activity courtesy of the Isabela Provincial Health Office, as well as a free legal aid service through the Provincial Legal Office. The Provincial Treasury, Office of the Provincial Assessor and the Environment and Natural Resources Office also put up their respective booths to address the farmers' other needs, queries and concerns. The Provincial Accounting and Budget Offices conducted a training for Barangay Treasurers and Bookkeepers while the PDRRMO presented

the services of DART 831 before members of BDRRMCs.

Dy attributes the province's excellent performance in rice and corn production to the diligence and industry of Isabela farmers. "Last year, the province clinched two prestigious national awards given by the Department of Agriculture – the 2013 National Quality Corn Achievers Award and the 2013 Agri Pinoy Rice Achievers Award Natatanging Lalawigan. *Kailangan nating tapatan ng matinding suporta ang mga sakripisyong ipinapamalas ng ating maliliit na magsasaka upang patuloy tayong magtagumpay sa larangan ng agrikultura,*" he says with pride. Isabela was also declared Region II's Champion Province in the 2011 Gawad Saka.

"Hindi malayong maging Agriculture Capital ng Pilipinas ang lalawigan ng Isabela", DA Regional Director Lucrecio Alviar declares. He lauded the dedication and commitment of local officials led by Dy and Albano and local leaders led by Roxas Mayor Benedict Calderon for the successful implementation of programs and initiatives aimed at promoting the interest of marginalized farmers.

According to PA Lopez, the Congress will tour two cities and thirty three municipalities to include the four coastal towns of Isabela.

Next stop is Delfin Albano on March 11, 2014.

Grains Capital of the Philippines Marks Countryside Development Month

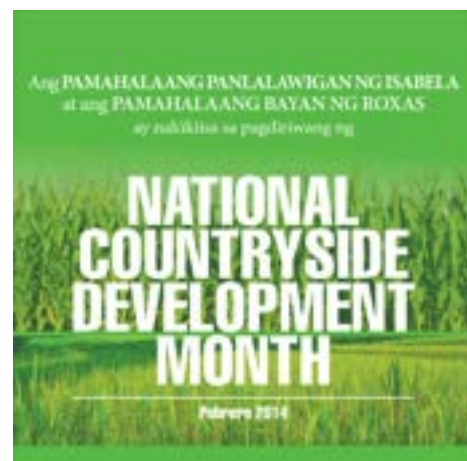
Isabela, the acknowledged grains capital of the Philippines, joined the rest of the country in the observance of Countryside Development Month during the grand launch of the FARMERS' CONGRESS SA BARANGAY last February 27 at the Roxas Astrodome in Roxas, Isabela. The observance is pursuant to Proclamation No. 212 issued by President Aquino in August 2011 "DECLARING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY AS COUNTRYSIDE DEVELOPMENT MONTH".

The measure aims to ensure that the framework for countryside development is consistent with the Philippine Development Plan for 2011 – 2016. The Proclamation also states in part, that countryside development with focus on private initiative will encourage an effective, sustained and valuable development program that will provide gainful employment, ensure food security and enable families to improve their standard of living.

Gov. Faustino G. Dy III, who has been in the forefront of serious efforts to institutionalize pro-farmer programs and

policies said that the best way to observe Countryside Development Month is to push for more benefits and services for Isabela's small farmers, through the FARMERS' CONGRESS SA BARANGAY, which is now on its third wave.

"The observance of Countryside Development Month to coincide with the grand launch of the FARMERS' CONGRESS SA BARANGAY is most apt, and we could have not chosen a better venue than the municipality named after former President Roxas for these two big events," he said.



"Kung nais nating makamit ng ating bansa ang tunay na kaunlaran, magumpisa po tayo sa kanayunan" he declares.

Latest data from the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics reveal that Isabela is the country's top corn producing province and is a close second to Nueva Ecija in terms of rice production, thus, the monicker "grains capital of the Philippines".

CORN (YELLOW): 2012 RANKING OF PROVINCES BASED ON PRODUCTION AND AREA HARVESTED.

RANK	PROVINCE	PRODUCTION (MT)			PROVINCE	PRODUCTION (MT)		
		ABSOLUTE VALUE	SHARE TO TOTAL, %	CUMULATIVE SHARE TO TOTAL %		ABSOLUTE VALUE	SHARE TO TOTAL, %	CUMULATIVE SHARE TO TOTAL %
	PHILIPPINES	5,241,325	100.00		PHILIPPINES	1,282,244	100.00	
1	ISABELA	1,183,123	22.57		ISABELA	259,750	20.26	
2	BUKIDNON	780,267	14.89	37.46	BUKIDNON	164,554	12.83	33.09
3	CAGAYAN	396,658	7.57	45.03	SOUTH COTABATO	113,930	8.89	41.98
4	SOUTH COTABATO	382,249	7.29	52.32	NORTH COTABATO	98,891	7.71	49.69
5	NORTH COTABATO	316,920	6.05	58.37	CAGAYAN	96,098	7.49	57.18
6	PANGASINAN	264,335	5.04	63.41	SULTAN KUDARAT	60,038	4.68	61.87
7	SULTAN KUDARAT	189,111	3.61	67.02	PANGASINAN	45,263	3.53	65.40
8	QUIRINO	166,280	3.17	70.19	QUIRINO	38,020	2.97	68.36
9	ILOILO	145,273	2.77	72.96	CAMARINES SUR	34,340	2.68	71.04
10	CAMARINES SUR	126,638	2.42	75.38	ILOILO	31,321	2.44	73.48

PALAY (TOTAL): 2012 RANKING OF PROVINCES BASED ON PRODUCTION AND AREA HARVESTED.

	PHILIPPINES	18,439,406	100.00		PHILIPPINES	4,746,082	100.00	
1	NUEVA ECIJA	1,672,666	9.07		NUEVA ECIJA	315,376	6.64	
2	ISABELA	1,249,873	6.78	15.85	ISABELA	286,618	6.04	12.68
3	PANGASINAN	1,065,036	5.78	21.63	PANGASINAN	255,628	5.39	18.07
4	CAGAYAN	829,737	4.50	26.13	ILOILO	250,791	5.28	23.35
5	ILOILO	822,452	4.46	30.59	CAGAYAN	216,578	4.56	27.92
6	CAMARINES SUR	601,479	3.26	33.85	CAMARINES SUR	159,105	3.35	31.27
7	TARLAC	585,077	3.17	37.02	MAGUINDANAO	156,428	3.30	34.57
8	NORTH COTABATO	525,675	2.85	39.87	TARLAC	134,864	2.84	37.41
9	LEYTE	502,746	2.73	42.60	NORTH COTABATO	130,205	2.74	40.15
10	NEGROS OCCIDENTAL	477,969	2.59	45.19	LEYTE	128,140	2.70	42.85

SOURCE: Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS)

SA NGALAN NG SERBISYONG TOTOO Si Vice-Governor Tonypet Albano, Idolo ng bawat Isabeleño

BY: REY MEL C. RESOSO



Kasaysayan ang saksi kung gaano kamahal ng pamilyang Albano ang mga Isabeleño. Patunay rito ang ilang dekadang paninilbihan at pagtulong nila na mapaunlad at makilala ang Isabela sa larangan ng pamumuno, ekonomiya, at politika. Ang pamilyang Albano, iginagalang at iniidolo sa buong lalawigan ng Isabela at maging sa buong bansa.

Hindi lingid sa lahat na tila ba kadikit na ng pangalang Albano ang salitang serbisyo. Ang tatak na sinimulan ni Delfin, itinaguyod ni Rudy, pinanindigan ni Rodito, at ngayon naman ay ipinagpapatuloy ng isa sa pinakamahasay sa kanilang larangan at iniluklok ng taumbayan sa pangalawa sa pinakamataas na katungkulan sa pamahalaang panlalawigan – si Tonypet, ang tumatayong partner ni Gov. Bojie Dy at ang bagong Albano na kakatawan at magpapatunay na kapag “Tatak Albano, Serbisyon Totoo.”

Nakilala sa tawag na Tonypet, si Antonio Taguinod Albano ay hindi bago sa ating lahat. Una siyang nakilala bilang presidente at CEO ng noon ay sikat na TV channel na RPN 9. Nanilbihan bilang Cabinet Secretary ng dating Pangulong Arroyo at naging presidente ng isang charity foundation para sa mga kabataan, ang Josefina T. Albano Foundation.

Hindi man gaanong naging aktibo sa larangan ng politika ang ating idolo, iginugol ni Vice-Governor Tonypet ang kanyang oras at sarili sa pagpapaunlad ng kanyang kaalaman kaya naman kumuha siya ng executive courses sa Harvard John F. Kennedy School of Government. At tila ba itinadhana na magamit niya ang kanyang galing at karunungan natamo sa matiyagang pag-aaral nang

magkaisa ang mamamayan ng Isabela upang maihalal siya bilang bise-gobernador nitong nakaraang taon.

Maipagmamalaki din ang likas na pagiging bukas-palad ni Vice-Governor Tonypet dahil sa adhikain niyang makatulong sa mga maralita sa pamamagitan ng proyektong simpleng pabahay para sa kanila. Isa siya sa mga nanguna sa pagpapasinaya at pagsisimula ng programang Gawad Kalinga (Gawad Kalinga Community Foundation, Inc.), isang national-based movement na naglalayong bawasan kung hindi man wakasan ang kahirapan sa bansa at ibalik ang dignidad ng limang milyong maralitang pamilyang Pilipino. Ang adhikain niyang ito na marahil ay hindi alam ng marami ay isa lamang sa maraming pang patunay na may malasakit ang ating idolo sa mahihirap at kapus-palad.

Ang pagiging simple ng ating bida sa aspetong personal ay kahanga-hanga. Sa matikas na tindig nito at matatamis na ngiti, tila ba isang artista ang ating bise-gobernador na sapat na sa pormang T-Shirt at maong na pantalon lamang. Ang kaniyang mahusay na pananalita at pakikipanayam ay hinahangaan kung kaya naman paborito siyang imbitahan sa maraming programa sa local man o national TV. Ang kakaibang karisma na ito ay patuloy na umaani hindi lamang ng maraming palakpakan kundi ng mataas na respeto at pagkilala. Dagdag pa rito, ang kanyang pagiging madasalin na patutunayan ng kanyang pagiging miyembro ng Couples for Christ.

Sa kasalukuyan, abala ang 48 na taong gulang na lider sa pakikipagkaisa sa ka-tandem niyang si Gov. Bojie sa pagtupad ng mga pangarap ng mga Isabeleño sa ating kapitolyo. Bilang magaling na Presiding Officer ng Sangguniang Panlalawigan, pinapangunahan at isinusulong niya ang maraming batas at resolusyon para sa kapakanan ng mga mamamayan ng Isabela. Isa na rito ang pagbibigay ng malaking pondo sa BRO Sagut Kadagiti Mannalon Program, isang packaged program na sasagot sa lahat ng suliranin at pangangailangan ng maliliit na magsasaka gaya ng Provincial Healthcare para sa pangkalusugan; Loan Assistance para sa mga magsasaka; College Scholarship para sa kanilang mga anak; at iba pang mga programang sumasagot sa pangangailangan ng ating mga magsasaka.

Sa pagpapatuloy ng kanyang pagsisilbi bilang ating bise-gobernador, pinanghahawakan at pinaninindigan ng ating idolo ang pangako ng kanyang pagiging Tatak Albano – ang paghahatid ng pagmamahal at ngiti sa labi ng bawat Isabeleño sa ngalan ng serbisyon totoo!



**MALACAÑAN PALACE
Manila**



MESSAGE

My warmest greetings to the Province of Isabela as you celebrate the **2014 Bambanti Festival**.

This gathering is indeed a fitting venue for Isabela to launch its very own publication - **Isabela INFOcus** - to affirm its people's potential in steering the province towards an even more vibrant tomorrow. May this significant stride in accountability uphold the trust among your citizens, which has allowed you to achieve your goals and make your aspirations tangible.

Nation-building is a people's enterprise, one that is sustained by the solidarity and resolve of every single fellowman. As our country evolves and continuously undergoes reform, let us remain cognizant of our own transformation; let us strive to empower ourselves as members of our communities and as true agents of our nation's revitalization.

May you have a joyous and meaningful celebration.

BENIGNO S. AQUINO

MANILA
January 2014

THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES



**Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ISABELA
City of Ilagan
Office of the Governor**



DUMANUN KAYO, APO!

That is "Tuloy po kayo" in Ilocano, one of the many tongues we speak here in Isabela, where you can find the most interesting mix of sub-cultural groups and a people unmatched for their industry, survivor-spirit, and predisposition to please. WELCOME to a land unsurpassed in its agricultural prowess and unspoiled natural environment.

Sinasagisag po ng BAMBANTI o Scarescrow ang kasipagan, kahandaan, tibay, at kagandahang-loob ng lahing Isabeleño, gayon din ang yaman at kaunlaran ng Isabela bunga ng lakas ng agrikultura dito. Dahil dito at sa patuloy nating pag-ani ng papuri at patangal para sa Good Governance, Disaster Preparedness, at sa pagpapatupad ng batas laban sa Graft and Corruption, taos-puso at puspusan tayong nagpapasalamat muli sa pamamagitan ng BAMBANTI FESTIVAL.

Join us as we celebrate and give thanks for economic stability, and our remarkable natural and human capital. As the Almighty has poured these upon us, so shall we share our joy with all of you today and in the coming days.

ISANG MASAYANG PAGBISITAAT PAGDIRIWANG NG BAMBANTI FESTIVAL SA INYONG LAHAT!

Gov. FAUSTINO "BOJIE" G. DY III



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



MESSAGE

My warmest greetings to the people of Isabela and congratulations as you celebrate this year's Bambanti festival.

I am glad that the provincial government of Isabela has continued to pay tribute to the agricultural roots of the province through this festival. As a son of Isabela, it gives me great pleasure to see the creativity and rich culture of the Queen Province of the North showcased in such a spectacular fashion.

I pray that the Bambanti Festival will help keep the heritage of our people alive and foster peace and progress as it brings together all Isabelinos. Paguffunattam y paprogreso na Isabela!

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

JEJOMAR C. BINAY



**Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ISABELA
City of Ilagan
Office of the Vice Governor**



MADDULO KAMU!

That is the Ibanag "Welcome!", in the dialect spoken by the Ibanags who comprise the 2nd biggest cultural sub-group in Isabela, next to Ilocanos.

For 2014, we wish for you to experience Isabela through the BAMBANTI FESTIVAL as the mirror of the all-around creativity of Isabeleños, and the diligence, generosity, and love for tradition they pour into their artistry, as demonstrated in the activities, competitions, and agri-eco tourism booths featured in the 3-day festival. Our banner festival will not only enrich your understanding of our culture; it will also open your encounters with other cultures in the northern part of the country.

We, Isabeleños, are as distinct in our resilience and survivor-spirit as we are in expressing thanksgiving. We likewise wish for you to witness this and enjoy a truly unforgettable Festival with us.

Maligayang pagbisita at pakikipamista sa amin. Muli, tanggapin ninyo ang aming pasasalamat sa salitang Ibanag... MABBALO!

Vice Governor ANTONIO T. ALBANO
Chairperson, festival Executive Committee

THE “BREAKTHROUGH” GOVERNOR – FAUSTINO “BOJIE” G. DY III OF THE PROVINCE OF ISABELA

“My Administration is committed to sustain our unmatched agricultural prowess and status as a world-class food/grain producer, readiness as a premier trade and investment location, enthusiasm in preserving our prized natural environment, recognized excellence in good governance and service delivery, and our distinction as a people content, happy, and enriched by a culture rooted in nobility.” – Gov. Dy at the presentation of Finalists for the Top Ten Business-Friendly LGUs

Governor Faustino “Bojie” G. Dy III’s rise to the leadership of the Province of Isabela was the result of three decades of education in the realm of public service. This started in 1980, the year he was voted Chairman of the Kabataang Barangay in Cauayan City’s District 1. The immersion led to his election as Barangay Captain, the first elective position he held. Three years after, he clinched the Mayoralty seat of Cauayan and went on to become the President of the Isabela Chapter of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines.

Governor Dy cemented his place among the most trusted names in Isabela’s political history when after three (3) consecutive terms in the House of Representatives, the people of Isabela ensured his victory in the Gubernatorial polls in 2010. His impressive debut as an LGU Chief Executive paved the path for an easy second term win in May of this year.

A province that is not only reputed as the Number 1 Corn and Rice Producer and Supplier but also as a world-class agro-industrial and eco-tourism hub is Governor Dy’s aspiration for Isabela. His immediate leadership goals are for ensuring and sustaining Isabela’s economic stability, ecological balance, healthcare system, peace and order and security of the province, professionalization of the government workforce, and the delivery of basic services.

BREAKTHROUGHS, INNOVATIONS, FORESIGHT

His first term as Governor was a period of sterling accomplishments. It was also a time for him to be known as a “Breakthrough Governor”, for implementing revolutionary programs and initiatives such as his administration policies of granting “One College Scholarship Per Farming Family” and expanding the coverage of the Provincial College Scholarship Program to include a non-honors component. These policies significantly increased the number of provincial scholars from 568 to 12,000.

His innovativeness and foresight fueled the banner program of his Administration, the **BRO SMALL FARMER PROGRAM**, which is the most comprehensive and first of its kind pro-farmer program in the Philippines. This addresses the most urgent and important small farmers’ needs like college scholarship for their children, transport and seed subsidy, free healthcare coverage up to P150,000.00



and free Philhealth membership, livelihood loan facility, accident insurance, and social security coverage. Two years into its continuing implementation, and after effecting the infusion of technology and training to modernize agriculture, and the establishment of modern post-harvest facilities and mini-dam irrigation facilities, the province of Isabela remains the 10th richest province in the country, the Top corn and rice producer, and one of the biggest contributors to national food security – proof of the viability and sustainability of his initiatives and of the significant impact of the program on agricultural productivity. This fact was acknowledged by the Philippine Government which recognized Isabela as the 2011 Overall Regional GAWAD SAKA Champion, and the Outstanding Province in the Agri-Pinoy Rice Achievers Award in March 2013.

Aside from bagging the 2011 Seal of Good Housekeeping for good governance and sound fiscal management, and a citation as the Region’s Most Outstanding Anti-Red Tape Act Implementer for 2012. Isabela also obtained the highest marks in the regional competition for Disaster Preparedness, with its Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (PDRPMC) adjudged as Most Outstanding PDRPMC in the 2012 Regional Gawad Kalasag. Isabela now has the most active, highly trained, responsive, and best-equipped 24/7 rescue team in the Region 02, because of the Disaster Action and Response Team or DART 831. Disaster and risk reduction and management are now concrete concepts to students, school teachers, and residents in the barangay level because of the trainings and orientation activities conducted pursuant to Governor Dy’s directives. The Provincial Government has also conducted seminars and workshops to ensure that search and rescue workers are sufficiently trained and equipped with the knowledge required in calamity situations.

Governor Dy’s Executive Order creating the PROVINCIAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OR PCDC made Isabela the pilot province in Region 2 to establish and institutionalize a provincial cooperative council. As a result of this initiative, the cooperative office of the Provincial Government regularly studies proposals for possible funding, helping many marginalized residents realize their entrepreneurial aspirations. This has earned for the province the recognition as 2012’s MOST OUTSTANDING LGU COOPERATIVE OFFICE in the Philippines.

In the Health sector, Governor Dy acted with urgency in ordering the rehabilitation and improvement of all public hospitals operated by the Provincial Government, supplementing hospital resources, increasing bed capacities and mobile health services. He also restored the Isabeleños’ PROVINCIAL HEALTHCARE COVERAGE, now with more than 150,000 members and 800,000 beneficiaries, assuring them of 100% coverage of their health and medical treatment expenses. Regular conduct of Nutrition Summits, Local Health Board Meetings, Maternal and Child Health trainings and reviews, and the intensification of campaigns against Dengue Fever and Communicable Diseases, are being faithfully carried out in the elimination of threats to Public Health.



The improvement of social services and the completion of the Women and Children Protection Center were among the key priorities of the Dy Administration. The Governor also ordered the increase of subsidies for food allowance of jail inmates and residents of shelters for women and children. An Advisory Committee was created to oversee the implementation of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program of the DSWD. The Provincial Government likewise released counterpart funds for the construction of other DSWD core shelter projects. The Provincial Migrants Desk became a full office Section under Governor Dy and is now operating 24/7, accommodating the concerns of migrant workers and their families, and establishing links between and among government agencies and foreign offices.

Tasks Forces on Illegal Drugs, Crime, and Environment Protection were created in Gov Dy’s first weeks in office, to promote an atmosphere of safety, security, and forest resource management within Isabela. He also reestablished support for the PNP-Isabela’s essential mobile equipment, operating funds, and other resources, and ordered the reactivation of the Peace and Order Council that now works for the creation of a business climate that is more attractive to investments. One of the safest and healthiest environments to live in, Isabela is now benefitting from the Governor’s directives to the Task Force on Environmental Protection. Logging and small-scale mining bans have been issued, massive reforestation has commenced, and violators of environmental laws are prosecuted with determination, with environment law enforcers and stakeholders continually undergoing paralegal training under the Governor’s directive.

SUPERBRAND OF LEADERSHIP

The home of Southeast Asia’s biggest hydroelectric dam, biggest grains processing facility, biggest lounge chair, site of forestlands with one of the highest biodiversities in the world, the province of Isabela is a land of superlatives. It is also a province that does not seem likely to rest on its feats. It is poised to become the country’s next major tourism and business zone, with Governor Dy’s aggressive pursuit of sound agriculture and pro-people and environment policies, plus a program to develop Isabela’s coastal region into a self-sustaining recreational and hospitality region.

The Governor’s performance in local governance may be likened to achieving a tough balancing act; a healthy balance between visible and tangible physical reforms that the public can appreciate, and a high level of internal fitness that impresses upon government auditors a sensible resource management. It is a balance between the sustainability of his initiatives and the needs of his constituents; and between Isabela’s abundant economic future and the health of its natural environment.

More than just a work ethic, this concern for balance is a mission for the Governor, encouraged by decades of his immersion in public service, and nourished by lessons he learned along the way. Isabeleños can sleep tight, assured that there will only be brighter chapters ahead in Isabela’s history, under Governor Dy’s brand of leadership.**

“World Class!”

Isabeleños' spirit soars as Phl's emerging agriculture capital celebrates 2014 Bambanti Festival



IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO OPEN A FESTIVAL. Governor Faustino Dy III and EXECOM Chairman Vice Governor Tony Alapan cut the ceremonial ribbon to mark the opening of the Bambanti Village Agri-Eco Tourism and Trade Exhibit at the Isabela Provincial Capitol Compound. The tandem was accompanied by, from left to right, Madam Cecille Dy, S.P. Member Nadja Vicencio of Malabon City, Vice Mayor Vedasto Villanueva, Vice Mayor Roberto Agcaoili, S.P. Member Ric Justice Angobung, Mayor Jaime Atayde, Mayor Bernard Dy, S.P. Member Karen Abuan. (Back row) S.P. Member Rolly Tugade, Mayor Darryl Gascon and Mayor Charlton L. Uy (partly hidden).

Intricately designed and jazzed-up giant scarecrows once again lorded it over the Bambanti Village, like royal guards in the Isabela Provincial Capitol, where thousands of spectators trooped to take part in this year's BAMBANTI FESTIVAL, the premier festival of the province of Isabela. The lowly bambanti, the central figure in the province's vast and fertile land once again took center stage in this year's bambanti season, for it best represents the most remarkable attributes of the Isabeleños, the same qualities that helped propel the province to its present status as the Philippines number one grains producer and fast emerging agriculture capital of the Philippines.

Governor Faustino G. Dy III, under whose watch the province is undergoing a cultural renaissance of sorts, shares that the bambanti serves as the ultimate symbol of the diligence, industry, vigilance and resilience of the people

of Isabela. *“Kahit ano pang unos o pagsubok ang dumating sa ating buhay, nananatili tayong matatag, nakatayo at di natitinag katulad ng bambanti.”*

Locals and tourists came in droves for the rare opportunity to explore proudly made-in-Isabela unique finds and great buys in the different agro-ecotourism booths, and to savor the wealth of flavors of delectable cuisine courtesy of local master kusineros.

But it was the street dance competition that made this year's Bambanti the biggest and the most unforgettable to date. Municipal and city contingents flooded the streets leading to the Isabela Sports Complex while braving the cold January afternoon and what looked like an impending heavy downpour that caused frayed nerves among the organizers. Garbed in elaborate costumes in the most vibrant and festive of colors, revelers gyrated to the beat of whistles, gongs, and drums, like a huge

kaleidoscope in perfect rhythm with the cacophony of tribal music, drawing oohs and aahs from the audience who jostled for seats and craned their necks for a better vista of the grand spectacle. At certain points of the presentation, the multitude spontaneously rose to their feet and burst in thunderous applause.

In keeping with the province's Catholic moorings, the festivities kicked-off with a Thanksgiving Mass held at the St. Michael Parish in Gamu, Isabela. Vice Governor and Festival EXECOM Chair Tony Alapan led the people in prayer to the faint strains of Gospel music. “Bambanti is a festival of faith and a gesture of gratitude to a God who has been so good to the people of Isabela,” he enthused before the start of an elaborate opening ceremony that entailed over a thousand performers and extensive and rigorous dance workshops under the tutelage of future national artist for dance Douglas Nierras, Artistic

Director of Powerdance fame. Painstaking preparations climaxed in a riveting performance truly worthy of the standing ovation that ensued.

“*Nakakapangilabot ang performance ng mga bata,*” echoed Mrs. Malou Agsunod, a Filipino teacher at the Isabela National High School. The grand revelry was capped by a breathtaking fireworks display, a matter of tradition in the province's major celebrations.

“Last year's Bambanti Festival was perfect. This year, we raised the bar even further,” quipped a euphoric Luna Mayor Jimmy Atayde after his contingent was adjudged grand winner among all participating municipalities. During his term as Sangguniang Panlalawigan member, Atayde sponsored the passage of an ordinance devoting January 27 – 31 of every year to the celebration, in an effort to help institutionalize the Bambanti as Isabela's banner festival.

Meanwhile, arch-rivals Ilagan and Cauayan tied in the city category in a hotly contested fight which observers dubbed *battle royale*.

Dy attributes the huge success of the festival to the cooperation and support of the municipalities and cities. *“Harinawa'y lalo pang lumakas ang ating pagmamalasakit sa bawat isa at ang pag-uunawaaan ng bawat mamamayan upang lalo pang sumulong ang lalawigan ng Isabela.”* Now on his second term, Dy won the governorship riding on the crest of a *Nagkakaisang Isabela*.

In a huddle with top DOT officials after the ceremonies, Gov. Dy and Vice Gov. Alapan proposed a regional celebration of the next Bambanti Festival, an initiative fast gaining ground among local officials and pillars of the local tourism industry in the region. “The scarecrow is not only a symbol of the people of Isabela, it also personifies the agricultural heritage of the Cagayan Valley region. Let us celebrate the valley's supremacy in the field of agriculture and affirm her crucial role in the attainment of food security in the country,” Dy asserts.

Describing the festival, DOT Regional Director Blessida Diwa summed it all up in only three words.

“Truly world class!”

Village Rises with Giant Bambantis, Master Kusineros, as Colors Flood the Streets in Isabela's BAMBANTI FESTIVAL 2014

By: RODESSA DAUGOY-LACHICA



Foodies and hunters of organic treasures such as munggo, white sand, puca shell, or corn-based ornaments, home and lifestyle accessories and crafts were also in for unbelievable bargains and rare finds in the Bambanti (Scarecrow) Festival Village fronting the Provincial Capitol in Ilagan City where tourists flocked and grabbed an easy munch during the three-day celebration of Isabela's Bambanti Festival, the "Mother of all Festivals" in the province.

Governor Faustino "Bojie" G. Dy III, under whose administration Isabela became known as a *bona fide* tourist and premier investment hub in northern Philippines, ensured the holding of this year's Bambanti Festival to be the most profound Bambanti celebration ever, in a manner that should mirror not just agricultural prowess, tradition, and the charming culture of Isabeleños.

"It's also time we showcase our creativity in the kitchen because we have Master Cooks and Chefs who can whip up excellent dishes and delicacies worthy of space in hotel and bar menus in the big cities. *Kailangang mangibabaw ngayon ang pagkamalikhain*

natin sa lahat ng aspeto ng sining at kultura, mula sa kalye kung saan tayo may street dancing hanggang sa pagtatayo ng isang masayang village na may mga higanteng bambanti na nagsasalamin sa pagkakakilanlan ng bawat siyudad at bayan. Buksan natin ang ating mga pinto sa mga turistang mahilig sa mga likhang pambahay mula sa indigenous materials,

at patuluyin natin sila sa ating kusina para sa kumpletong pagraranas nila sa galing at talino ng lahing Isabeleño," he shares.

Isabela's 34 towns and two cities put up and opened the agro-tourism Village on Day 1, January 29th, as a venue for competition in creativity, and products for exhibit and sale, with each distinctly designed booth-hut raising its own giant *bambanti*, the figure that symbolizes Isabela's agricultural wealth, Isabeleños' outstanding work ethic, and

also bared the holding of the yearly *Festival King and Queen Pageant, Search for Singing Idol and Glee*, and the staging of the Awarding Ceremonies for the same, as well as for the *Booth Competition, Bambanti Installation, Streetdancing, and Isabela Master Kusinero* on Day 3.

Locals were treated to a Grand Concert Party by OPM rock icon Bamboo Mañalac, which concluded with a stunning fireworks display, all at the Isabela Sports Complex.

"We want the rest of the country to feel our gratitude and see how the Isabela fiesta experience is unlike any thanksgiving party they have been to."

unyielding survivor-spirit. Streets were awash with the most vibrant of colors when the much-anticipated Douglas Nierras-choreographed street dancing by city and town delegations commenced on Day 2.

Festival Execom Chair and Vice Governor Antonio "Tonypet" T. Albano

The 2014 Bambanti Festival is an annual depiction of the Isabeleños' cultural soul and generous display of gratitude as a people reaping the fruits of a robust economy and relishing the rewards of a prize-winning governance.

"We want the rest of the country to feel our gratitude and see how the Isabela fiesta experience is unlike any thanksgiving party they have been to," the Governor was quoted saying. Indeed it was.

Dy, Albano to push for Bambanti FestiValley next year



Euphoric over the unprecedented success of the 2014 Bambanti Festival, Governor Faustino Dy III and Festival Execom Chair Vice Governor Tony pet Albano are proposing the holding of a regional scarecrow festival next year, and they already have a name for it – Bambanti FestiValley.

Coined by Luna Mayor Jimmy Atayde, FestiValley is a play of words which wittily captures the essence of a single festival for the five provinces of the Cagayan Valley region – Batanes, Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya and Quirino, a move fast gaining ground among tourism and local officials.

“The Bambanti is not only a symbol of the diligence, industry, vigilance and resilience of the people of Isabela, it also personifies the agricultural heritage of the rest of the Cagayan Valley region,” Dy asserts. “*Sana’y maging simbolo ng pagkakaisa ng mga mamamayan ng mga lalawigang bumubuo sa Lambak ng Cagayan ang ating Bambanti.*”

ng Cagayan ang ating Bambanti.”

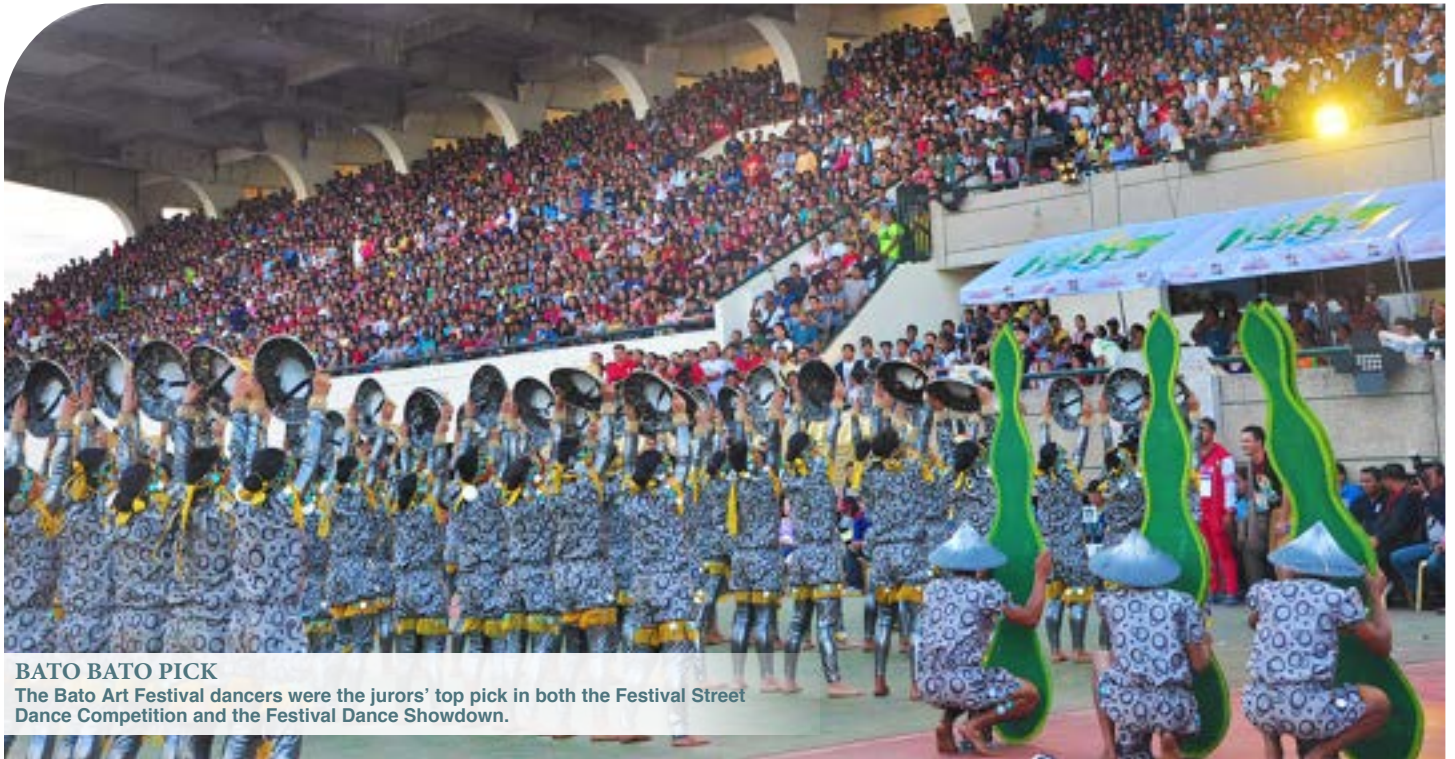
In March 2011, the first ever scarecrow festival of Region II was held at the SMC Convention Center in celebration of twenty years of the National Trade Fair focused on the theme pappabalo or thanksgiving.

Cagayan Valley debuted as the National Trade Fair’s (NTF) first ever fiesta region.

Isabela took the lead in the initiative and made a very impressive showing with its officials, personnel and local performers coming full force for a rare opportunity to showcase the province’s rich cultural heritage and immense potentials for tourism and investments.

Isabela’s strong showing in the 2011 NTF led to its selection a representative of the Philippines to the 10th China-ASEAN Exposition held September last year in Nanning, China, make even more significant by the fact that Philippines is *Country of Honor*.

Dark horse Luna gallops its way to a dazzling finish



BATO BATO PICK

The Bato Art Festival dancers were the jurors' top pick in both the Festival Street Dance Competition and the Festival Dance Showdown.

Looks like the year of the wood horse is shaping up to be the banner year of the Municipality of Luna.

What started as a let's-just-have-some-fun participation in the 2014 Bambanti Festival competitions ended up in Luna's romping away with the over-all championship in the municipal category besting bigger and more affluent LGUs, certainly no mean feat for what is considered the smallest town in the country's second largest province.

While Mayor Jimmy Atayde attributes their sweet victory to the remarkable work ethic and excellent teamwork among the members of the creative team, the latter insist they certainly could have not done it without the hands-on and multitasking local chief executive who juggled governance and involvement in the creative process --- from conceptualization to execution, while providing moral and logistical support to the performers all throughout the rigorous



SWEET VICTORY A jubilant Team Luna led by Mayor Jaime N. Atayde receives its award from Governor Dy, Vice Governor Albano and DOT Regional Director Blessida Diwa as the Grand Champion in the Municipality Category.

rehearsals which started as early as November last year. Despite the municipal government's tremendous

less than Governor Dy, Vice Governor Albano and other dignitaries while a great majority of the audience

tossed in the air in keeping with the "flying high" theme of the celebration.

“Just give it your best and have some fun!”

assistance to its contingent, the performers were not pressured to win. *“Just give it your best and have some fun!”* he reminded his protégés.

Give their best they did. It was an awesome performance which merited a standing ovation from no

instinctively followed suit.

Such mindset worked in their favor during the actual performance because they came out relaxed, confident and very professional, especially in the death-defying routine where some of them were

Inspired by Luna's performance in this year's Bambanti, Atayde admits that he is already cooking up something for next year's festival.

With such a dedicated team, gifted and disciplined performers and a mayor deeply steeped in his constituents' culture and arts initiatives, imagine what heights Luna could conquer in the future.

The 2014 BAMBANTI FESTIVAL

Honor Roll

MUNICIPAL CATEGORY



GIANT BAMBANTI

CITY CATEGORY



DANCE SHOWDOWN

CITY CATEGORY



MUNICIPAL CATEGORY



MUNICIPAL CATEGORY



AGRI-ECOTOURISM BOOTH

CITY CATEGORY



FESTIVAL STREET DANCE

CITY CATEGORY



MUNICIPAL CATEGORY



FESTIVAL KING & QUEEN



1st Place
Luna



1st Place
Cauayan



2nd Place
San Mateo



2nd Place
Luna



3rd Place
Sta Maria



3rd Place
Ilagan

GLEE



1st Place
Ilagan

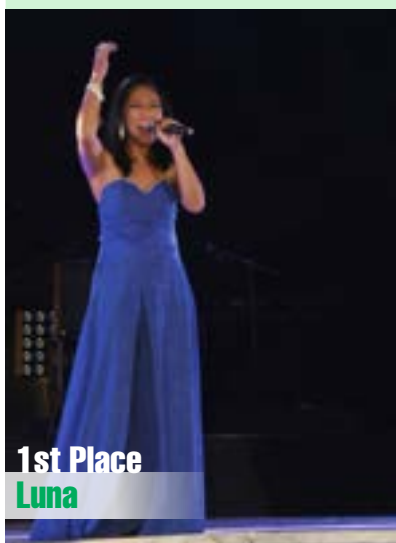


2nd Place
Ramon



3rd Place
Sta Maria

SINGING IDOL



1st Place
Luna



2nd Place
Cauayan



3rd Place
Ilagan

OVER ALL CHAMPIONS

MUNICIPAL CATEGORY



Luna



San Mateo



Quirino

CITY CATEGORY



Ilagan



Cauayan

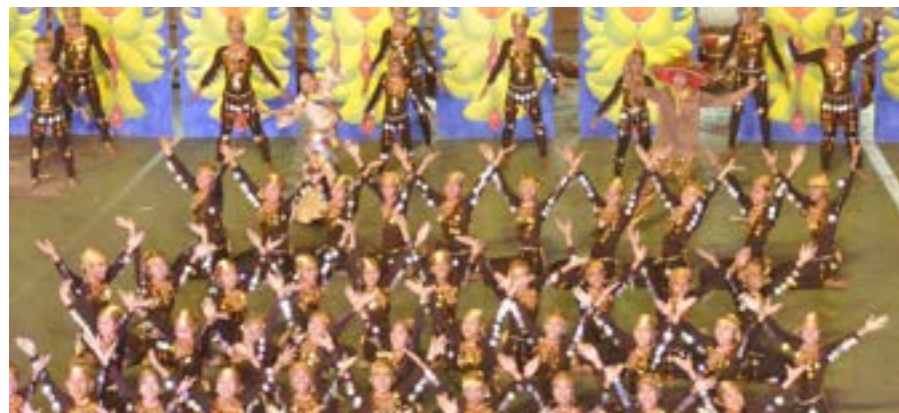


“The bambanti, the central figure in our vast and fertile land towering over our lush rice and cornfields, and the ultimate symbol of the diligence, industry, vigilance, and resilience of the Isabeleños, once again takes center stage in this year’s Bambanti season.”





FESTIVAL SNAPSHOTS



Isabela **A**merits Star

2010 REGIONAL TOP LOCAL REVENUE EARNER for having attained Highest Collection Efficiency (Province Category) • 2011 SEAL OF GOOD HOUSEKEEPING • 2011 CHAMPION PROVINCE, Gawad Saka Regional Level • 2011 REGIONAL TOP LOCAL REVENUE EARNER (Province Category) • 2011 REGIONAL TOP LOCAL COLLECTOR on Economic Enterprises for having attained Highest Collection Efficiency (Province Category) • 2011 REGIONAL TOP LOCAL COLLECTOR on Economic Enterprises for having attained Highest Collection Efficiency (Province Category) • 2011 REGIONAL TOP LOCAL COLLECTOR on Fees and Charges • 2011 NATIONAL FINALIST, Search for Most Business Friendly LGU • 2012 NATIONAL RICE ACHIEVERS AWARD • 2012 NATIONAL WINNER, Most Outstanding LGU Cooperative Development Office in the Philippines • 2012 CDA Gawad Parangal - OUTSTANDING LOCAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE IN REGION 2 • 2012 REGIONAL TOP LOCAL REVENUE EARNER for having attained Highest Collection Efficiency (Province Category) • 2012 MOST OUTSTANDING ANTI-RED TAPE ACT IMPLEMENTER IN REGION 2 • 2012 BAKAS PARANGAL NG KADAKILAAN sa pambihirang kakayahang ipinamalas sa maagap na pagtugon sa Sambayanang Pilipino mula sa malawakang pagbaha at pag-ulan dulot ng Habagat noong ika-7 hanggang ika-10 ng Agosto taong 2012 • 2012 REGIONAL CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION, Most Outstanding Performance in Philippine Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (PIDSR) • 2012 NATIONAL FINALIST, Search for Most Business Friendly LGU • 2013 NATIONAL QUALITY CORN ACHIEVERS AWARDS • 2013 NATATANGING LALAWIGAN, 2013 Agri Pinoy National Rice Achievers Awards • 2013 MOST OUTSTANDING ANTI-RED



ISABELA'S AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS for 2013

The Philippines' CITY OF CHARM, 2013 China – ASEAN Exposition, Nanning, China • **The Philippines' NUMBER ONE GRAINS PRODUCER**, Certified by the Department of Agriculture • **The Emerging VOLUNTEER CAPITAL OF THE PHILIPPINES**, 2013 Bayani Challenge • **2013 NATIONAL QUALITY CORN ACHIEVERS AWARD**, Given by the Department of Agriculture • **NATATANGING LALAWIGAN**, 2013 Agri Pinoy National Rice Achievers' Awards, Given by the Department of Agriculture • **2013 MOST OUTSTANDING LOCAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE in Region II**, Given by the Cooperative Development Authority • **2013 BEST ANTI-RED TAPE ACT IMPLEMENTER in Region II**, Given by the Department of the Interior and Local Government • **2013 Gawad KALASAG MOST OUTSTANDING PROVINCIAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (PDRMRC) in Region II**, Given by the Office of Civil Defense • **SECOND PLACER**, National Search for OUTSTANDING LOCAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE, Given by the Cooperative Development Authority



straight A^s in 2010-2013 Report Card

Awards Accolades Achievements Accomplishments

TAPE ACT IMPLEMENTER IN REGION 2 • 2013 Gawad Kalasag, MOST OUTSTANDING PROVINCIAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT COUNCIL IN REGION 2 • 2013 CDA Gawad Parangal - OUTSTANDING LOCAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE IN REGION 2 • 2013 2ND PLACER, National Search for Outstanding Local Cooperative Development Office • 2013 The Philippines' CITY OF CHARM, 10th China-ASEAN Exposition held on September 3-6, 2013 in Nanning, China • 2013 NATIONAL FINALIST, Search for Most Business Friendly LGU • 2013 NATIONAL CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION, Most Outstanding Performance in Vaccine Preventable Disease Surveillance (VPDS)

"We have the seal that truly matters and a string of awards to boot - proud testament to our enduring commitment to the highest ideals of public service, humbly dedicated to the good people of the province of Isabela."

-The PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF ISABELA



FESTIVAL ROYALTY ADDS POMP AND PAGEANTRY TO 2014 BAMBANTI

For a province named after Spanish royalty, enthroning a queen and her consort to grace its banner festival is certainly par for the royal course.

To add more pomp and pageantry to the already elaborate festivities, the organizers of the 2014 Bambanti launched the Search for Festival King and Queen, the embodiment of the best qualities of the people of Isabela – poise and regal bearing under pressure, dignity and resilience in the midst of adversity, the serenity that springs from deep spirituality and religious moorings and the innate beauty of a people so steeped in their glorious history and rich cultural heritage.

The much awaited street dancing competition transformed the huge Isabela Sports Complex into a veritable sea of dazzling colors. Spectators were engulfed in a whirlwind of breathtaking visuals and a cacophony of tribal sounds that intensified the revelry. On cue, the red carpet was rolled for the grand entrance of seventeen pairs of muses and their escorts representing their respective kingdoms, all heirs and heiresses apparent to the thrones.

They danced and pranced and twisted and turned and pirouetted and waved their dainty hands and paraded in their fabulous if not flamboyant costumes that dazzled and enthralled their subjects.

And when the competition was finally over, His Excellency Alfredo A. Pascual Jr. of the Municipality of Luna and Her Excellency Jessabel M. Evangelista of the City of Cauayan were proclaimed 2014 Bambanti



Festival King and Queen.

King Alfred is a BS Criminology student at the Isabela Colleges of Arts and Trades (ICAT) in Cauayan City. Painfully shy, he is the reluctant king. The desire to bring honor to his municipality provided him the confidence to march with the mien of monarchs.

Queen Jessabel was first runner-up in the 2013 Mutya ng Cauayan search. During the street dance competition, she ran barefoot, was tossed and turned like a commoner, but still managed to maintain her equanimity and poise. This was not lost on the jurors who preferred a working queen just like the modern day royals of Windsor.

Her regal demeanor, daring and grace and her willingness to undergo rigid training made her a cinch for the pivotal role and not even bouts with asthma could have stopped this lovely lady from claiming her rightful throne as the reigning queen of the 2014 Bambanti Festival.

Together, they make a magnificent pair - dashing and beautiful, their commanding presence infuses youthful exuberance to a cultural heritage deeply rooted in the glorious history of a majestic province destined to reign . . . forever!

THE

BAMBANTI CHRONICLES

2014 Ms. Supranational is Santa Maria's source of pride

They simply can't have enough of 2014 Ms. Supranational Mutya Datul!

The proud people of the municipality of Santa Maria built a towering figure of a lovely maiden made of various indigenous materials, perhaps the most beautiful scarecrow that ever stood regally on the face of the earth, which enthralled locals and tourists who flocked to the Bambanti Village.

The most photographed and perhaps the most famous Isabeleña of her generation conquered the hearts of million of beauty contest enthusiasts across the globe after winning the 2013 Ms Supranational title, the first Filipina and first Asian to have done so.

Tale of two cities

The battle royale between Cauayan City and the City of Ilagan (in alphabetical order) ended in a tie.

Ilagan was the Grand Champion among municipalities in the 2012 Isabela Day Celebration, while Cauayan City emerged over-all champion in the city category during the 2013 Bambanti festival.

In the booth competition, the two cities tried to outfly each other in keeping with the festival theme "Flying High". Cauayan featured its airport, the only one in the province, while Ilagan built a corn inspired spacecraft. In a show of goodwill and magnanimity, former Cauayan City Mayor and incumbent Isabela Governor Faustino G. Dy III joined Ilagan Mayor Jay Diaz in the rocket launch for a virtual travel to outer space.

10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 0!

Bambanti's best and brightest off to festival of festivals

After testing the waters in the 2014 Bambanti festival, the phenomenal Bato-Bato Arts Festival dancers of powerhouse Luna will compete in this year's Aliwan festival.

Aliwan Festival is an annual event that gathers different cultural festivals of the Philippines in Star City Complex in Pasay City wherein contingents compete in dance parade and float competitions, as well as in a beauty pageant. Organized by Manila Broadcasting Company (MBC) together with Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) and the cities of Manila and Pasay, the event is dubbed as "The Mother of All Fiestas," with prizes totaling to P3 million (roughly US\$70,000). Aliwan Festival, which began in 2003, aims to showcase the different Filipino cultures and heritage not only to the people in Metro Manila but also



Isabela INFOcus presents
2013's TOP TEN STORIES!

Vivid visuals and vignettes of the Philippines'

Queen Province

Celebrating

the clear vision of our leaders

the vitality of our faith

the vibrancy of our institutions

the vigilance of our citizenry

the vestiges of our rich cultural heritage

the vigor of our agricultural economy

the valiance of our public servants

the valor of our soldiers, police officers and rescuers

the village leaders who govern in the grassroots

the values imparted by our educators

the vote of confidence of the business community

the fearless views of an unbridled press

the validation of the people's trust and confidence

the spirit of volunteerism among the youth

and the imminent **Victory** of a province
destined to reign!

Viva Isabela!



MALACAÑAN PALACE
Manila



MESSAGE

Our region's recent economic performance demonstrates the potential of our peoples, galvanized by shared goals and guided by integrity and accountability. We welcome this opportune time for our nations to further advance, for our industries to expand, and for our citizens to take part in our continued revitalization. With all these, the future we have long aspired for has come at hand.

The 10th China-ASEAN Exposition is a venue for us to showcase the many opportunities for cooperation and collaboration afforded by this period of growth. May our delegates uphold our distinction before the participants, as they attest to the positive outlook of business in the Philippines. May Isabela – our province representative – embody the charm of our regions, the vibrancy of our heritage, and the enhanced experience in our country. Let their collective efforts capture our strengths: our beautiful islands and verdant countryside; emerging sectors and energized markets; our increasingly level business landscape; and most importantly, the unwavering spirit of Filipinos.

Together, we continue to transform our country and the region: Let us reap the fruits of hard work, harmony, and mutual respect, towards the realization of a more equitably progressive and empowered tomorrow.


BENIGNO S. AQUINO III

MANILA
3 September 2013

THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES



Republic of the Philippines
Office of the Vice President



MESSAGE

My warmest greetings to my fellow Isabelinos. Congratulations on Isabela's being chosen as the country's representative in the 10th China-ASEAN Exposition.

Kuruk tu taddayta kakastan ta ngamin nga provincia tam. (Isabela is truly our of the most beautiful provinces in the country.) The beauty of Isabela is made even more charming because of the warmth of its people. It is truly the Province of Charm and it warms my heart that I am always welcomed with open arms when I come to visit.

May this expo showcase the wealth, industry and beauty of the queen province of the Philippines to the ASEAN and to the rest of the world. I have no doubt that as the next agro-industrial hub and major tourist destination in Northern Philippines, Isabela will prove why it's more fun in the Philippines.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!


JEJOMAR C. BINAY

Charm Offensive



Amidst a raging row between the Philippines and China over the West Philippine Seas, the province of Isabela made waves at the 10th China-ASEAN Exposition held September last year at the Nanning International Convention and Exhibition Center in Guangxi Province, People's Republic of China. The Philippines was Country of Honor while Isabela was City of Charm.

Organized by the People's Government of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, CAEXPO aims to promote the China-ASEAN Free Trade Area (CAFTA) through the sharing of opportunities for cooperation and development between and among China and the ASEAN countries and to serve an ideal platform to promote Philippine trade, tourism and investment and strengthen bilateral relations between China and the Philippines.

Isabela Governor Faustino G. Dy III and Vice Governor Tonypet T. Albano led some 120 local officials, businessmen and cultural performers in charming and regaling participants to the Exposition. Dy expressed elation over Isabela's designation as City of Charm in the very same year the Philippines is the Country of Honor.

"My leadership is committed to the promotion of our local industries – agriculture, agri-business, eco-tourism – and to the pursuit of our people's dream to etch Isabela's name in the international marquee as a brand to be associated with world-class quality, design excellence, and superior performance" he said with pride. "At CAEXPO, we see a golden opportunity to promote Isabela as the best investment location in northern Philippines. We shall strive to show our friends from China and the Southeast Asian markets, not just the vast fertile lands, excellent climate, well-preserved environment, and other natural treasures of Isabela, but also deep impressions of the multiple proficiencies and the warmth of a people that cannot be found in any other location in the Philippines" he added.

Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and Center for International Trade Expositions & Missions (CITEM) officials chose Isabela as the Philippine representative to the Exposition after its very impressive showing in the National Trade Fair held in March 2011 at the SMX Convention Center in Manila. Cagayan Valley was the featured festival region.

The Inaugurals

Maraming salamat po sa inyong lahat mga kapwa ko Isabeleño sa pinagkaloob ninyong suporta at tiwala para ako ay muling mahalal para sa ikalawa at panibagong termino bilang inyong gobernador ng minamahal nating lalawigan ng Isabela. Sa araw na ito muli kong tinatanggap ng walang pasubali at pag-aalinlangan ang hamon na higit na payabungin ang inyong pag-asa para sa mas matatag na ekonomiya ng ating probinsya na lumikha ng napakaraming trabaho, malusog na pamilya, malinis na kapaligiran, ligtas na pamayanan at oportunidad para sa edukasyon at kaalaman para sa ating mga kabataang Isabeleño. Naisakatuparan natin ang mga hangaring iyan sa tatlong taong nakalipas.

Ang pagtayo ko sa entabladong ito ay itinuturing kong pagpupugay sa inyo pong lahat. Kayo po ang aking kinakatawan sa entabladong ito because of your commitment to support your leaders in pursuing a shared dream to make Isabela the number one province in the Philippines. Isang lalawigan na mayroong kalidad sa pamumuhay, may oportunidad para sa kabuhayan, kalusugan at kaalaman.

Ipagpapatuloy po natin ang ating nasimulan, pagkakapit-kapit bisig para sa ating minamahal na lalawigang Isabela. Pagkatapos po ng programa, babalik po tayo sa ating mga bayan upang umpisahan na ang ating tungkuling maglingkod. Sa atin pong lahat na mga lidere ay dapat gayahin natin ang DSWD na mayroong 4P's. Subalit iba po ang kahulugan sa akin ng 4P's. Dapat ang lahat ng naihalal, una ay lingkod bayan na mayroong "Pananaw". Ang pinunong naglilingkod ng walang pananaw ay nagtataksil sa kanyang pinaglilingkuran. Ang pangalawang P "Pasasalamat". Utang na loob po natin sa ating bayan ang mandato ng paglilingkod. Ang pangatlong P "Paninindigan" sagisag ng pagtupad sa mga pangako at salitang binitawan. At ang pang-apat na P "Paglilingkod na may pagpapakumbaba".



Ang tunay na kapangyarihan ay nasa paglilingkod na may pagpapakumbaba.

Mabuhay po kayo dahil kayo po ang dahilan kung bakit nagawa, nagagawa at ipagpapatuloy po natin ang lahat ng ito sa tulong ng ating Maykapal, ng ating mga kinatawan sa Kongreso, sa Sangguniang Panlalawigan, mga alkalde, bise-alkalde, mga Sangguniang Panlungsod at Bayan, at lahat ng ating mga barangay officials at sa ating bagong Vice Governor Tonypet Albano na aking bagong kabalikat para sa kaunlaran ng ating lalawigan ng Isabela. Samahan nyo po kami muli sa loob ng tatlong taon. Wala po tayong pipiliing paglilingkuran. Magkaisa po tayo sa ating lalawigan ng Isabela. Sama-sama po nating tahakin ang mas masaya, mas masigla at mas nagkakaisang Isabela.

Excerpts from the inaugural speech of Gov. Faustino G. Dy III
Capitol Amphitheater
June 30, 2013

The A.R.T. of Governance



Two regional awards in a row for being the Most Outstanding Anti-Red Tape Implementer in Region II is not bad for a province which until 2011, had no Citizens Charter to begin with.

Isabela once again dominated the DILG REGION II LGU RECOGNITION RITES by clinching top honors including the award for being the Most Outstanding Anti-Red Tape Implementer in Region II, besting Cagayan and three other provinces. DILG OIG Regional Director Marlo Iringan presented the award to DILG Provincial Director for Isabela Elpidio Durwin in simple ceremonies held recently at the University of Saint Louis Gymnasium in Tuguegarao

City. It was conferred the same award in 2012.

According to Durwin, the recognition is aimed at honoring LGUs for the commitment to fortify local governance by inculcating outstanding work ethic in carrying out their respective duties and responsibilities. He also stressed that the award system is institutionalized as a reward mechanism for the significant contributions of LGUs to nation building and to the effective and efficient delivery of basic services especially in the grassroots.

Republic Act No. 9485, otherwise known as the "Anti-Red Tape Act of 2007", is an act aimed at improving efficiency in the delivery of government service to the public through the reduction of bureaucratic red tape and the prevention of graft and corruption.

In his message before the awardees, Iringan stressed that amidst the scandals that have rocked the government's executive, judicial and legislative branches, "the country still has a lot of good stories to share." "These stories involved and emanate from the provincial, city, municipal and barangay governments", he added.

Isabela is also a recipient of the DILG's much coveted Seal of Good Housekeeping, a recognition that accords primacy to the principles of accountability and transparency in 2011.

Mutya Datul's Road to Belarus

Modern day Cinderella tales and international beauty competitions never fail to fascinate Pinoys. These elements are interwoven in the inspiring story of Mutya Johanna Fontiveros Datul, a 21 year old lass from barangay Calamagui North in Santa Maria, Isabela who sashayed her way to the hearts of millions of beauty contest enthusiasts after winning the 2013 Miss Supranational title held in Minsk, Belarus. The 5'8" stunner wowed the European judges with her vivacious personality, megawatt smile and distinct salagubang walk, besting 82 other candidates from across the globe, the very first Filipina and first Asian to win the title.

Mutya wore poverty like a badge of honor, and made no qualms about her humble beginnings. This only strengthened her resolve to excel in the local beauty contest circuit, while hoping to make it big in more prestigious beauty competitions in the big city.

Winning pageants meant she could continue her studies as an Information Technology student at the Isabela State University in Ilagan City and support her mother who needed regular medication due to a debilitating disease. At one point, Mutya became the family's lone breadwinner when her father figured in a shooting incident and was unable to work.

Ironically, Mutya lost in the Mutya ng Pilipinas 2012, managing to land a berth in the semi-finals. Unfazed, she joined the Miss Casino Filipino in November 2012. She lost again not even making it to the magic five. Her hopes dashed anew, she decided to stay in Manila, working as a model, to earn her keeps and help support her family in Santa Maria.

On April 14, 2013, she captivated the hearts of jurors and spectators at the Smart Araneta Center and was crowned Binibining

Pilipinas Supranational, earning the right to represent the Philippines in the Miss Supranational 2013 pageant in Belarus.

It was her first overseas trip and Mutya almost missed her connecting flight to Moscow en route to Belarus. For one who admitted difficulty in liberating her thoughts and dreaded public speaking, joining an international beauty competition was a tall order for this probinsiyana from Isabela. But her sunny disposition, compelling stage presence, a survivor spirit and the desire to rise above adversity, saw her through.

The finals took place in front of an audience of 5,000 at the Palace of Sports in Minsk, Republic of Belarus with a live transmission to over one billion people in more than 100 countries. The fifth anniversary of Miss Supranational took place in Belarus for over three weeks, with the contestants visiting places of interest such as Vitebsk, Grodno, Brest, and Minsk. It was the first time that the competition was held abroad after four editions held in Poland. In its fifth year run, the Miss Supranational pageant managed to become one of the top international beauty competitions.



The amazing evolution of a lovely maiden from the rustic municipality of Sta. Maria in Isabela and her journey to Minsk in Belarus for her rendezvous with destiny as the first Asian to have won the Miss Supranational title.



Miss Supranational is an annual international beauty contest run by the World Beauty Association based in Panama, established on the basis of twenty years of experience in the event industry and the organization of beauty contests with the mission and vision to draw attention to those countries on their way to become major tourism destination.

To Summit All

In an unprecedented move, Governor Faustino Dy III initiated and hosted the first ever REGIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE SUMMIT focused on Flood Control and Impact Mitigation. Convened by the Department of the Interior and Local



Government Regional Office with Provincial Director Elpidio Durwin as head of the Secretariat, the Summit was aimed at strengthening inter-LGU partnership and inter-agency cooperation in addressing present climate change realities.

Some two hundred government officials, policy makers, technocrats, scientists, engineers and representatives of the academe and people's organizations from Isabela, Cagayan, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino and the neighboring provinces of Kalinga and Ifugao converged at the Faustino N. Dy Sr. Session Hall of the Isabela Provincial Capitol to discuss flood control measures aimed at addressing the impact of disasters and enhancing the coping skills of the

people. The City Governments of Cauayan, Ilagan, Santiago and Tuguegarao also sent their respective contingents to help consolidate efforts and concretize measures to mitigate the effects of flooding in order to save precious lives and reduce destruction in terms of infrastructure and agriculture.

Representatives from the Office of Civil Defense, National Irrigation Administration, Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Department of Science and Technology composed the pool of resource speakers. The summiters resolved to take the lead in disseminating information on climate change, risk and vulnerability assessment as well as relevant laws and protocols on the matter. They also agreed to recommend legislative policies and programs on climate change adaptation in their respective spheres of influence.

In his message during the opening ceremonies, Gov. Dy underscored the primary duty of government to uphold the people's constitutional right to life and property by addressing the root causes of vulnerability to disasters, while strengthening an institutionalized capacity for disaster risk reduction and management and building the resilience of local communities to disasters including climate change impacts.

For its climate change adaptation and disaster preparedness initiatives, the Isabela Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council has been adjudged 2013 Gawad Kalasag Most Outstanding PDRM Council in Region 2.

Public service without Borders

Guided by this philosophy, Isabela Governor Faustino G. Dy III dispatched the **TEAM ISABELA RELIEF MISSION** to conduct medical, rescue and relief operations in the typhoon ravaged province of Leyte.

The 120 man team composed of personnel of the Provincial Government of Isabela led by Provincial Administrator Noel Manuel R. Lopez and Provincial General Services Officer Rodrigo Sawit, DART 831 rescuers, government doctors, nurses, social workers, PNP and BFP personnel, PRC volunteers, electricians and cooks left Ilagan City on November 11, 2013 on board a fleet of fifteen vehicles including two fully equipped ambulance units, two DART 831 rescue vehicles and four dump trucks loaded with 600 cavans of premium quality Isabela rice.

Fully equipped with food provisions for two weeks, one million pesos worth of medicines, two portable generator sets, four sets of water purifying machines, canopies, tents, chainsaws and other equipments, they embarked on a three-day travel by land to Port Matnog in Sorsogon and ventured into the seas aboard the RORO to reach Port Allen in Northern Samar. Initially, the challenge was to safely transport four truck load of rice and other food provisions from Port Allen to the San Juanico bridge, where alleged reports of looting persisted. Armed only with tons of prayers, the contingent braved the danger that lurked in the horizon. They soldiered on and reached the city of Tacloban on November 14, 2013 at 9:20 a.m.

After a brief courtesy call to Leyte Gov. Dominick L. Petilla for a briefing and assessment, team Isabela was allowed to pitch tents within the Operation Center Compound for easier coordination with local officials.

For five days, the different sub-teams conducted medical missions, clearing and retrieval operations, water sanitation in the municipalities of Palo, Tanauan, Burauen and the city of Tacloban. For two days, a special team served hot meals to typhoon victims who sought refuge at the Philippine Science High School Visayas Campus Evacuation Center in Palo which, at the time of the operation, accommodates 2,000 to 2,500 evacuees.

On November 25, 2013, the volunteers were feted by the provincial government of Isabela and were accorded a hero's welcome. They were presented with individual Outstanding Humanitarian Service awards



which read "for demonstrating unqualified compassion and generosity, revealing that face of charity that knows no borders and inspires hope where there is none; for honoring the province of Isabela and its people by exhibiting the courage of a warrior in the path of death and destruction, with a heart that embraced the wounded and hungry, and hands that fed and healed; and for fulfilling the avowed oath of a people born to survive and unconditionally resolved to help others rise again."

Winning Streak

If the Philippines were a university specializing in agriculture and the eighty provinces were her students, the province of Isabela will certainly emerge as class valedictorian.

In 2013, the province received two more prestigious national awards from the Department of Agriculture, clear testaments to its unparalleled agricultural prowess and the crucial role it plays in ensuring food security in the rest of the archipelago.

On March 15, 2013, the **AGRI-PINOY RICE ACHIEVERS' AWARDS** Natatanging Lalawigan 2011 - 2012 was bestowed upon the province of Isabela in fitting ceremonies held at the Philippine International Convention Center. The citation reads "Bilang pagkilala sa mahalagang kontribusyon ng lalawigan sa



pagpapalawig at pagpapataas ng produksyon ng palay sa buong bansa na siyang nagbubunsod ng kasapatan sa bigas ng mga mamamayan at pag-angat sa kabuhayan ng mga magsasaka ng palay sa kanayunan."

This was followed by the 2013 **NATIONAL QUALITY CORN ACHIEVERS AWARD** for exemplary leadership, commitment and unwavering support towards the production of quality corn and

development of the corn industry which was presented to the provincial government on October 23, 2013 at the Taal Vista Hotel in Tagaytay City.

These awards for excellence in the production of two Pinoy staples only reinforce the strategic and crucial role of the province in sustaining the country's agricultural economy as the acknowledged grains capital of the Philippines and its emerging agriculture capital.

The tremendous support of the provincial government through the BRO for Agriculture program complemented by the innate diligence, industry and resilience of Isabela farmers, is now bearing fruit, and what a bountiful harvest it promises to be not only in terms of agricultural production but also in terms of awards and accolades.

Indeed, Isabela's winning streak continues!

Unleashing the Hero in the Isabeleño

Still ecstatic over the unprecedented success of the Philippine Red Cross Volunteer Run in Isabela and inspired by the immense potentials of the vast reservoir of volunteers in our midst, Isabela participated in the 2013 BAYANI CHALLENGE, a four-day test of courage, endurance and love for country and an opportunity for volunteers to participate in activities which range from building homes, refurbishing schools, creating an environment of fun and learning for children and promoting health issues and environmental concerns.

In one of the many firsts in the province's distinguished history, Isabela posted the highest number of enlisted volunteers at 11,500 with the enthusiastic support of Isabela Governor Faustino Dy III, who declared March 27, 2013 as Bayani Challenge Day, a holiday for all Isabeleños who labored for a cause during the four-day event.

Bayani Challenge had drawn a total of 80,000 volunteers who completed various socio-civic projects in 37 sites over 33 provinces in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, making the project the biggest volunteer movement yet in the history of the Philippines.

The massive number of participants and multiple locations they served made Bayani Challenge the biggest volunteer movement in history of the Philippines. Organized by the government volunteerism movement called Pilipinas Natin, Bayani Challenge is a partnership with different government agencies, local government units, non government organizations and the CSR foundations of local and international private corporations.



MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2013

Bayani Challenge draws 80,000 volunteers

MANILA, Philippines - The 2013 Bayani Challenge has drawn a total of 80,000 volunteers who completed various socio-civic projects in 37 sites over 33 provinces in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao, making the project the biggest volunteer movement yet in the history of the Philippines.

The province of Isabela posted the highest number of enlisted volunteers at 11,500 with the enthusiastic support of Isabela governor Faustino Dy III, who declared last March 27 as Bayani Challenge Day, a holiday for all Isabeleños who labored for a cause during the five-day event.



Breaking Ground



Even the Republic of Korea acknowledges Isabela's tremendous agricultural prowess and its provincial government's remarkable climate change adaptation initiatives.

A high level delegation from the Korean Embassy led by Ambassador Lee Hyuk joined Sen. Grace Poe, Gov. Faustino Dy III, Vice Gov. Antonio Albano, Cong. Rodito Albano, DA Undersecretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat and other local officials in gracing the groundbreaking ceremony for the "Adapting to Climate Change Impact through the Construction of Water Impounding Facilities in the Philippines" or Pasa Small River Irrigation Project (PSRIP) on July 4, 2013 in Barangay Pasa, Ilagan City.

Ambassador Lee announced that the project is the largest grant assistance provided by the Korean government to the Philippines with a total cost of US \$22 million. "This project is an indication of Korea's strong commitment in helping the Philippines achieve its goals, not just in terms of climate change but also on agricultural development and economic growth. The project will mitigate climate change by managing water resources and will likewise help farmer beneficiaries improve their agricultural productivity the effective usage of water impounding facilities", he said.

Once completed, the project will irrigate 980 hectares of farm lands, provide forest cover to 465 hectares of agricultural lands and road access for transporting farm produce benefiting some 747 families in five barangays in Ilagan.

In one of her very first official acts after topping the 2013 Senate polls, Senator Grace Poe - Llamanzares thanked the Korean Government on behalf of the Isabeleños. "Acts of goodwill between and among countries such as grants like this, are critical in building a peaceful and secure world. Thank you for your gift to the people of Isabela."

A Declaration of War!



On August 12, 2013, the provincial government of Isabela launched the biggest, most aggressive and most comprehensive campaign against dengue-Project: "TODAS DENGUE, TODO NA 'TO". Reports from the Isabela Provincial Health Office revealed that the incidence of dengue in Isabela has reached alarming proportions, thus, the urgent need to resort to extraordinary measures aimed at arresting the further spread of the disease in order to avert the loss of precious lives. Governor Faustino G. Dy III marshalled all personnel of the provincial government, mobilized its resources and tapped the support of national line agencies and the private

sector in pursuit of the initiative.

PROJECT: TODAS DENGUE consists of three major components: first, an intensified information/dissemination campaign; second, a massive clean-up operation; and third, extensive blood letting activities in all three cities and thirty four municipalities comprising the province of Isabela. Given its sense of urgency, the project drew enthusiastic support from LGUs, barangay officials including officials of the now defunct Sangguniang Kabataan, medical workers of hospitals owned and operated by the provincial government as well as government agencies led by the provincial government as well as led by the Department of Education, the 5th ID of the Philippine Army, Isabela Police Provincial Office, Bureau of Fire Protection and people's organizations led by the Philippine Red Cross. Even the city government of Santiago, an

independent city demonstrated its support. The fury of super typhoon Labuyo failed to dampen the spirits of all those who enthusiastically participated in the grand launch. According to Isabela Provincial Health Officer Dr. Rosarita Mariano, the program serves as an avenue for the promotion of multi-sectoral and inter-agency cooperation in order to achieve a more integrated and holistic approach in the prevention and control of dengue infection.

Dy assured the public that the provincial government is intent on sustaining the momentum of Project: TODAS DENGUE to ensure the conduct of the initiative on a regular basis, and in the long term, institutionalize all mechanisms essential in building cleaner, safer and dengue-free communities.

Team Isabela nagpamalas ng galing sa CAVRAA 2014



Muling pinamalas ng koponan ng lalawigan ng Isabela ang kanilang lakas, dedikasyon, sakripisyo at talento sa ginanap na Cagayan Valley Regional Athletic Association (CAVRAA) meet sa lalawigan ng Quirino partikular sa Quirino Sports Complex noong ika-25 hanggang ika-28 ng Pebrero na may temang “Quality Sports: Road to Peace and Progress”.

Naging panauhing pandangal sa pagbukas ng CAVRAA si DepEd Undersecretary Francisco Varela na nag-iwan ng mensaheng “Mens sana corpora sano” kung saan binigyang diin ng naturang opisyal ng DepEd ang kahalagahan ng regular na ehersisyo at liksi ng katawan bilang katuwang sa matalas na kaisipan, kasama na dito ang “values” katulad ng disiplina sa sarili, lakas ng loob, katapangan, kababaang-loob at iba pang mga magandang pamantayan at asal na maaaring matutunan ng mga kabataan sa paghubog ng kanilang murang kaisipan.

Nagpahayag ng pasasalamat ang pamunuan ng DepEd sa pangunguna ni OIC Schools Division Superintendent Edna Pasamonte sa lahat ng ayuda at suporta ng pamahalaang panlalawigan. Ang delegasyon ng CAVRAA para sa taong ito ay umaabot sa bilang na 655 na binubuo ng mga atleta, coaches, school officials, chaperons, kasama na ang medical team.

Sa labing-walong sports events na nahati sa Elementary at Secondary Level, nasungkit ng Team Isabela ang sumusunod na mga medalya. Para sa Team Events: Gold – 8, Silver – 10, Bronze – 13; para sa Single Events: Gold – 45, Silver – 31, Bronze – 47; at para naman sa Dual Events: Gold – 18, Silver – 34, Bronze – 59.

Kabilang sa 18 sports events ang mga sumusunod: archery, arnis, athletics, badminton, baseball, basketball, boxing, chess, football, gymnastics, sepak takraw, sipa, softball, swimming, table tennis, taekwondo, tennis at volleyball. Tinanghal na over-all sa CAVRAA 2014 ang lalawigan ng Cagayan.

Sa kanyang talumpati sa send-off ng mga manlalaro na ginanap sa Isabela Sports Complex noong ika-21 ng Pebrero, binigyang diin ni Gov. Faustino G. Dy III ang kahalagahan ng pagpapakumbaba sa anumang larangan ng kumpetisyon. “Noong kabataan ko po, nakipagkumpetisya rin po ako tulad ninyo. Ang akin pong natutunan ay iyon pong pagiging mapagkumbaba na kahit tayo ay nagwagi, kailangan yakapin natin ang ating mga tinalo. Kung minsan tayo ay natatalo, ngunit kailangan pa ring lalong ipakita at yakapin ang ating mga nakatunggali”.



Bagama’t hindi pinalad na masungkit ng lalawigan ng Isabela ang kampeonato sa pangkalahatang resulta, makabuluhan naman ang aktibong partisipasyon ng mga manlalaro ng lalawigan dahil tumibay ang kanilang disiplina sa sarili, nahubog ang kanilang pagkatao at nailayo ang kanilang mga sarili sa mga bisyo at pagkakalulong sa paglalaro ng mga cyber games.

Ang taunang CAVRAA na nilahukan ng mga lalawigan ng Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino at Batanes kasama ang mga lungsod ng Tuguegarao, Cauayan, Santiago at sa kauna-unahang pagkakataon ang pagsali ng lungsod ng Ilagan sa taong ito, ay naglalayong piliin ang pinakamagaling na atleta para maging kalahok o manlalaro ng rehiyon sa Palarong Pambansa.

Dy addresses PAPI National Press Congress cites gains and journalist – friendly governance

Governor Faustino G. Dy III attributes the gains of his administration to the solidarity among local leaders and the people of Isabela. *“Maunlad at payapa ang aming lalawigan dahil sa pagkakaisa. Dito, wala pong inaabuso o pinapatay na peryodista o media man”* asserts the local chief executive in his message before delegates to the 18th National Press Congress of the Publishers Association of the Philippines Inc. (PAPI) held February 21 – 22 at the Isabela Hotel in Cauayan City.



“The selection of Isabela as host for this year’s Congress is a most welcome development. It is an excellent opportunity for us to trumpet the gains we have achieved thus far and to promote the province not only for its agricultural prowess but also for her immense tourism and investment potentials,” Dy added.

Anchored on the theme, “Move on Philippines”, the Congress gathered under one roof some 160 community newspaper publishers, editors, print and broadcast journalists, media executives, information officers of government offices, campus writers and their faculty advisers from across the Philippines. Some delegates came from as far as Western Samar, Cebu.

PAPI President Luis T. Arriola said that the theme articulates the general desire among Filipinos to nudge and shove the country forward following the devastation and havoc inflicted on it by the series of natural and man-made calamities. “We are resilient people alright, as we have repeatedly demonstrated to the world on many occasions but we still need to strongly motivate our people to take decisive steps forward after having been flattened to the ground by calamities rather than wallow in hopelessness and self pity” Arriola explains.

“enlightened leadership and sound governance that have seen impressive and substantive developments and improvements in the province of Isabela particularly in agriculture, infrastructure, energy, public health, education, livelihood and the general welfare of his constituents, including members of the Isabela media.”

PAPI Isabela Chapter played host to this biggest gathering of local and national media practitioners in both print and broadcast in what serves as their annual reunion.

Meanwhile, PAPI conferred upon Gov. Dy the Exemplary Public Governance Award in recognition of his “enlightened leadership and sound governance that have seen impressive and substantive developments and improvements in the province of Isabela particularly in agriculture, infrastructure, energy, public health, education, livelihood and the general welfare of his constituents, including members of the Isabela media.”

Other awardees include Gov. Joey Salceda of Albay, Don Emilio T. Yap, Board Chairman, Manila Bulletin; Dr. Alfonso G. Siy, president, Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce; TEAM ALBAY, Albay’s noted disaster emergency response group, Masbate Gov. Rizalinda Seachon-Lanete and Isabela Vice Governor Antonio T. Albano.