



Adivay

BENGUET

Digest



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Piñol Faces Benguet Farmers in Forum

Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Emmanuel Piñol was the esteemed guest of honor during the "Tienda" and Farmers forum conducted at the Benguet Agri-Pinoy Trading Center (BAPTC), La Trinidad on April 27, 2018.

During the forum, Piñol acknowledged the need for immediate repairs on the province's cold storage facility to make it fully operational so that it can accommodate storage of highland vegetables as well as other fresh produce from areas outside Benguet. It may even be able to store fish from Mindanao. Overall, a fully restored

and operational facility will minimize and even eliminate post-harvest losses.

Piñol also launched the TIENDA, a program of the DA where farmers from Benguet and other areas such as Central Luzon, Regions 1, 2 and 12, converge at the BAPTC to sell their produce. This "market day"-inspired activity aims to bring together suppliers and producers, and strengthen their business ties.

In another occasion at the Benguet Agri-Pinoy Trading Center (PABTC), Km. 6, La Trinidad, Piñol also launched the Drone test flight for fertilizer and pesticide application specifically at the garden site.



Editorial

Rules are there for a Reason

After being postponed repeatedly, the electoral exercise for barangay and kabataan officials finally pushed through on May 14, 2018, which means we now have new sets of barangay and kabataan barangay officials.

Before the nine-day campaign period, from May 4 to 12, the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) issued Resolution No. 10246, providing reminders on the rules on campaign materials.

The rules explicitly prohibit posting, display or exhibiting campaign materials in areas outside of authorized common poster areas, public places, and private properties without the consent of the owner. "Public places" may include publicly-owned electronic announcement boards; motor vehicles such as patrol cars, ambulances and for other similar purposes that are owned by the government; public transport vehicles owned and controlled by the government; waiting sheds, sidewalks, street and lamp posts, electric posts, traffic signages and other signboards; schools, public shrines, barangay halls, government offices, all other public buildings/structures; public transport premises/terminals owned by the government, and the like.

The lawful campaign materials include pamphlets, stickers, leaflets, cards, handwritten or printed letters urging voters to vote for or against, posters made of cloth and other materials, and streamers, all with prescribed sizes. There are also rules to observe for paid advertisements in print or broadcast media, sponsored or not.

Unfortunately, despite these rules, directives and reminders to ensure credible, fair, honest and peaceful elections, violations by the candidates and their supporters were still rampant, such as the posting of campaign materials in prohibited areas. Not to mention the mudslinging and rumormongering that seem to be commonplace in every election period.

It leads one to wonder why, although the rules are very simple and fairly straightforward, many still seem to have difficulty following them. Is it because the candidates or their supporters cannot read? Or do they not even try to? Worse, maybe they did read and understood the rules, but refused to abide by it?

It is pretty telling of the personality or even character of a candidate, when you consider how he abides by such simple rules. We could only hope voters are sensible enough to make the right judgment because it's definitely better for everyone if we have victors who are true, sincere and genuine examples or symbols of quality leadership, especially the smallest and most basic local government unit.

CRACKING my head

Benguet's First Integrated School



Fresh from my Pen



Guest Columnist: Aladin M. Dobinto, PhD. - Public Schools District Supervisor - Kapangan District

"The first and only Integrated School in Benguet" is now in the municipality of Kapangan. This is in keeping with what is stated in Department of Education (DepED) Order No. 91, s. 1999 to which the Department encourages and supports the establishment of at least one integrated school in every region.

What is an Integrated School? Based on the approved substitute bill entitled "An Act Ensuring Access to Free Secondary Education by Converting the Public Elementary Schools Into Integrated Schools" authored by Rep. Vilma Santos-Recto, "Integrated School" refers to a public school that offers kindergarten, elementary and junior high school education with a unified instructional program, and it may be expanded to include a senior high school education, as necessary.

Other Regions and neighboring Schools Divisions in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) have already established various integrated schools within their localities. With this was a similar challenge to establish at least one within the district. While it is true that establishing an integrated school can be very laborious, it can still be accomplished if the spirit of collaboration, coordination, solidarity and teamwork in the community exists.

Guided by DepED Order No. 40, s. 2014, the various stakeholders of Kapangan District worked collaboratively in the preparation of the necessary documents for the proposed integrated school. In January 2018, Mrs. Virginia B. Salio-an, School Principal II of Kapangan District, volunteered to work on the preparation of the feasibility study for the integrated school. Together with Hon. Jeffrey B. Marcelo, the Punong Barangay of Datakan, Kapangan and currently the President of the Association of Barangay Captains (ABC), the proposal was presented to the community, where most of the stakeholders supported the said proposal for the benefit of the learners, despite the deficiencies in school resources.

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Mariacos: One of Bakun's Pride



Twenty-five years old Algie Kwillon B. Mariacos of Sinacbat, Bakun successfully snagged the 8th place, out of 1,724 passers, in the November 2017 Bar examinations. He shared the 8th spot with Krizza Fe Alcantara-Bagni of St. Mary's University in Nueva Vizcaya, with a grade of 88.9%.

Atty. Mariacos is the eldest of three children to parents who are both government employees of the local government of Bakun. After finishing his elementary education at Ampusongan Elementary School in his hometown, he went on to secondary school at St. Louis Aurora Hill in Baguio City.

Mariacos graduated as cum laude at Saint Louis University, with a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy degree. After that, he pursued Law in the College of Law at San Beda College in Manila.

After having formally registered in the official roll of the members of the Bar, he said he will continue to work as litigator with the Tiongco Siao Bello and Associates in Ortigas Center, Manila.

from page 3 *Cracking My Head...*

Likewise, the Municipal Local Government Unit of Kapangan headed by the Municipal Mayor — Hon. Manny E. Fermin, provided its full support in this endeavor. Hence, the requirements were completed and forwarded to the Schools Division Office. With this, the school opened an additional grade in high school, particularly,

Grade 7 and 8.

Schools Division Superintendent (SDS) Marie Carolyn B. Verano approved the reassignment of three (3) secondary school teachers from Kapangan National High School to this integrated school, as well as the hiring of one new teacher and one Provincial

School Board (PSB) paid teacher who will handle subjects from both elementary and high school grades based on their majors.

SDS Verano endorsed the proposal to the DepED Regional Office for approval and, on June 26, 2018, the application for Datakan Elementary School to Datakan Integrated School was finally approved.

Through collaboration, the efforts and determination of the various stakeholders of Kapangan District finally paid off. Our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who supported and shared in the efforts for the establishment of Datakan Integrated School. To God be the Glory!

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Number of Enrollees vs. Number of Classrooms

Year in, year out, the Department of Education (DepEd) is being faced with issue on few classrooms and teachers versus the many enrollees or students. School authorities worry on how to accommodate all the enrollees. Every time classes open, school authorities say “we lack classrooms and teachers” considering the increase of enrollees.

In order not to delay or deprive

the students to right education, some, if not most school administrators, resort to schedule shifting where one class is conducted in the morning and the other in the afternoon but accordingly, is still not a 100% solution to the problem. While there may be sufficient funds being provided by the government for the construction of buildings, lack of area or space hinders implementation of school

building projects.

Another major problem is the deployment of teachers. In Benguet, however, records would show that there are many qualified teachers but there are no items or plantilla positions in public schools where they could be placed or deployed.

The presence of private schools also does not totally address the issue on deployment of teachers.

Strat Plan towards Strengthening Good Local Governance



Five days' worth of training and workshops is not nearly enough to come up with a complete Strategy Plan (Strat Plan) for good governance. This was the realization arrived at when officials and key officers of the provincial government of Benguet had their strategy planning workshop on strengthening good local governance held on June 4 to 8, 2018 at Aureo Resort, San Fernando, La Union.

The workshop was, in part, organized and funded by SN Aboitiz Power (SNAP) as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to the province.

Professor Edel Guiza from the Asian Institute of Management was the speaker

during the five-day activity, coaching the participants, majority of whom are Department Heads and/or Chiefs of Offices, in the preparation of the Strat Plan.

Because the five-day period was not enough, the provincial government requested SN Aboitiz for an extension or another schedule with the corresponding funding. Instantly, another one-week schedule was granted. Still, the expected output was not completed considering the organizational structure of the provincial government with 17 departments, namely: Governor's Office which includes the Office of the Provincial Administrator, Vice Governors and Sangguniang Panlalawigan Offices, Accounting Office, Agriculturist Office, Assessor's Office, Budget Office, Engineering Office, Environment and Natural Resources Office, General Services Office, Health Office which includes the five (5) District Hospitals, Human Resource Management and Development Office, Legal Office, Planning and Development Office, Social Welfare and Development Office, Treasury Office, Veterinary Office, and the Benguet General Hospital.



Board Approves Php232k worth of Properties for Donations

The Provincial Board, in its 86th regular session on April 16, 2018, approved the procurement of various furniture, equipment and supplies and their subsequent donation/transfer to proponents/beneficiaries, through Resolution No. 18-173.

Earlier, Provincial Governor Crescencio Pacalso, requested the Provincial Board for the approval to facilitate the delivery of services of the proponents (schools, barangays and some offices) to the beneficiaries. The items and the corresponding recipients are listed herein:

Item	Amount	Recipient
1 set Desktop Computer	25,000.00	Mun. Trial Court of Mankayan
Steel Cabinets, etc	30,000.00	Barangay Pasdong, Atok
50 pcs Mono-block Chairs	17,500.00	Tanas Elem School, Bakun
1 set DeskTop Computer	25,000.00	La Trinidad District Jail – Male Dorm
1 unit Camera	25,000.00	Loo Nat'l HS, Loo, Buguias
1 unit laptop	25,000.00	Balili Nat'l HS- Cabacab Annex, Mankayan

Item	Amount	Recipient
1 set Desktop Computer	25,000.00	Barangay Ambongdolan Tublay
1 Unit laptop	25,000.00	Lanipew Child Dev't Center, Tacadang, Kibungan
100 pcs mono-block chairs	35,000.00	Palatong Elem School, Tabio, Mankayan
Total	232,500.00	

“Biyaya ng Pagbabago” Launched in Benguet

The Office of President Rodrigo Duterte, through Cabinet Secretary Leoncio Evasco, Jr. of the Office of Participatory Governance (OPG), led the launching of the regional roll-out of the administration's “Biyaya ng Pagbabago” program in the Cordillera Administrative Region on July 7, 2018 at the Benguet State University in La Trinidad, Benguet.

The program is under the Philippine Development Plan for CY 2017-2022, which targets to lessen poverty incidence in the country to more or less seven percent. Evasco said that, currently, twelve agencies are involved and are under the supervision of his

Office.

Evasco referred to the locals as the “actors of change” and “initiators for change”, explaining how the current administration wants transformation of the bureaucracy into a pro-active government that is responsive to the needs of the people.

He also touched on the rights of the indigenous peoples (IPs) as provided under the Indigenous Peoples Right Act. According to OPG Undersecretary Joselito Libres, the administration targets six million Filipinos, especially the indigenous peoples mainly composing

impoverished sector, to be lifted from poverty. To lessen poverty incidence for IPs, the Senate allocated an initial funding of Php50 million for livelihood and economic related activities. Similarly, Php22 million worth of programs were awarded to 957 IP Youth beneficiaries through the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP).

Governor Crescencio Pacalso, in behalf of the province and the region, assured coordination of the provinces in the implementation of the programs on alleviating Cordillerans from poverty.

Sen Villar Graces Organic Agri Training

Senator Cynthia A. Villar, chairperson of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Food, was the Guest of Honor and Speaker during a training on Organic Agriculture conducted at the Crop Technology Station of the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist in Puguís, La Trinidad on June 20 to 21, 2018.

During the closing program of the training, Villar spoke before the thirty (30) participants – all farmers from Benguet – on her programs in support to farm tourism, organic agriculture practices, specifically the establishment of linkages among almost 2,000 farm schools nationwide. She included the Social Institute for Poverty Alleviation and Governance (SIPAG) Foundation she established in 1992 and currently chairs, involved in providing assistance to Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) by sponsoring the annual OFW and OFW Family Summit being attended

by around 5,000 OFW families, and environment protection and livelihood projects in almost 1,800 locations in the country. SIPAG Foundation also trains marginalized groups across the country and distributes machineries for Small Scale Composting Facility and the Composting Biodegradable Facility, which produce compost for organic vegetable gardening and to reduce/recycle biodegradable wastes into useful products. She ended her message by thanking the small farmers in Benguet for their great contribution in food sufficiency for the Filipinos.

In a closing statement, Governor Crescencio Pacalso assured the sustenance of Organic Agriculture Program in Benguet with the hope that organic farming practitioners will soon increase in number.

One of the commitments of Benguet as a province is to continually

advocate the practice of organic farming and update or enhance the knowledge of the farmers.

The speakers during the training were successful entrepreneurs, farmer-entrepreneurs, as well from the academe. Their discussions included the Philippine National Standard on Organic Agriculture and Natural Farming System Technology. There was also a hands-on preparation of concoctions (on garlic and ginger, calcium phosphate, eggshell, fermented plant juice (banana) and preparation of feeds for livestock for livestock and poultry.

Meanwhile, the Honorable Sanggunian Panlalawigan is currently deliberating an Ordinance on Organic Agriculture, which Board Member Robert Namoro authored. It is now in its 2nd reading. – Source: OPAg

LHS STUDES PARTICIPATE IN DANCE XCHANGE

The Gambang Theater Guild of Lepanto High School, composed of students from the School of Living Traditions (SLT) representing the municipality of Mankayan, Benguet, participated in the Philippine International Dance Workshop and Festival held in Dumaguete, Negros Occidental recently.

Thirteen (13) other groups from other countries, namely: Bangladesh, China, Hongkong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Poland, Russia, South Korea, Thailand, Turkey, and United Kingdom, participated in the festival, tagged as Dance Xchange.

Showcased during the event are the unique dances of the different participating countries with the aim of enhancing their understanding of their own and

other's culture. This is also a venue to provide new ideas and inspiration to choreographers and dance directors, and enhance the dancing skills of the participants.

Other activities during the event included a forum, a dance workshop, festival and management workshops, outreach performances and a cultural tour.

The Dance Xchange program is a flagship project of the National Commission on Culture and the Arts and was conceptualized in celebration of the International Dance Day pursuant to Presidential Proclamation No. 154 which declared the last week of April of every year as "National Dance Week" and the theme of the event this year runs "Cultural connectivity through dance".

Additional P14.1M Allotted for Benguet Schools

The Provincial Government, through the Provincial School Board (PSB) co-chaired by Governor Crescencio Pacalso and Schools Division Superintendent Marie Carolyn Verano, allotted P14.1 million for various school building projects. This allotment is in addition to the P50.9 million appropriated in the CY

2018 PSB Budget.

The amount appropriated from the Special Education Fund (SEF) shall be utilized for the completion of the gymnasium of Pontino Elementary School in Ambassador, Tublay; repair of the day care center in Pongayan, Kapangan; construction of Sagandoy

Elementary School in Amgaleyguey, Buguías; restoration of the Alternative Learning School building; and general repair of the school clinic in Puguís, La Trinidad.

Other projects include construction of a two-story school building in Cattubo, Atok; construction

of a multipurpose building in Madaymen National High School, Kibungan; fencing of Bulo Elementary School in Poblacion, Bokod; construction of an administrative building of Bokod National High School in Pito, Bokod; and construction and repair

of classrooms of Palina Elementary School, Kibungan.

The SEF is covered under Republic Act No. 5447 which provides that a portion of real property tax collections of local government units be set aside

for special education purposes and that the same be automatically released to the Local School Board exclusively for the operation and maintenance of public schools. -Source: Prov'l School Board

STUDY NOW PAY LATER PROGRAM RULES SPELLED OUT

On March 20, 2018, Provincial Governor Crescencio C. Pacalso approved the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) for the "Study Now Pay Later Program (SNPLP) for Doctor of Medicine and Other Courses Needed in Benguet", which the Provincial Board enacted on June 2017 under Provincial Ordinance No. 2017-208.

The IRR primarily applies to all qualified Doctor of Medicine students and other courses needed in the province. It shall be limited to four years, which is the period covering the enrolment of Medicine Proper. Other courses are those not commonly enrolled by students but are needed by the province to promote the general welfare of its people as provided in the Ordinance, the Local Government Code of 1991 and Republic Act No. 8545.

A SNPLP Committee shall be created to do the screening and selection process. It shall be chaired by the Provincial Governor or his authorized representative, with the members composed of the Chairmen of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) Committees on Education, Finance and Appropriation, Personnel Administration, and Ways and Means, the Provincial Budget Officer, the Provincial Health Officer, the President of the Liga ng mga Barangay, the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Officer, the President of the Philippine Public School Teachers Association (PPSTA)-Benguet Chapter,

a representative from private schools in the province, and a representative from non-government organizations.

Every year, one grantee per municipality will be selected, and will be entitled to the actual tuition fees, book allowance and miscellaneous fee per semester, depending on the school the student is enrolled in and subject to availability of funds. Should there be no applicants from a municipality, the slot may be given to the other municipalities of the province.

The applicant must not be more than 35 years old upon application, a Filipino citizen and born in the province of Benguet. Consideration, however, shall be given to those born in hospitals or any medical institution in the City of Baguio. The applicant must be a resident of Benguet since birth, and of good moral character. Moreover, he must have attended and completed his/her education from elementary to secondary in Benguet or in the City of Baguio, provided he/she is a resident of the province. In addition, the applicant's parents should be registered voters of Benguet and must have voted in the latest national elections.

Other provisions for Doctor of Medicine require that applicant must have finished any related four-year course, passed the Medical Admission Test, and enrolled in any medical school in Luzon. The budgetary requirement shall be incorporated in

the annual budget of the provincial government and may be increased when necessary.

Upon selection and acceptance of a student to the program, he/she shall execute an agreement to include all the conditions stated under the Program. This includes a service obligation that after finishing his/her course and passing the board examination, he/she shall serve in Benguet for at least one year.

Since the program is in the form of a loan, the student is therefore a debtor with an obligation to directly pay the province the loaned amount, without interest, within two (2) years from acquiring employment or gaining income. If not paid within two years, it will be subject to one percent (1%) interest per year until fully paid for a maximum period of five (5) years. This is pursuant to the provisions of Section 10 of Republic Act (RA) No. 88545 or the Expanded Government Assistance to Students and Teachers in Private Education Act, and RA No. 7722 or the Higher Education Act of 1994.

In case the student failed to finish his/her course, s/he shall return the whole amount loaned from the province. To guarantee payment of the loan, the student must have his/her parents or guardian and one (1) more guarantor.

This IRR was effective upon approval of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Benguet.

TEN PROV'L EMPLOYEES GRANTED STUDY LEAVES OF ABSENCE

In an effort to pursue higher education or take board/bar examinations for their career and/or professional growth or career advancement, ten (10) employees of the provincial government availed of study leave purposely to review in preparation for the upcoming board/bar examinations. In a series of meetings, the Personnel Development Committee (PDC), after careful study of the requests of the employees, recommended approval to the Provincial Governor and the same were favorably acted upon.

The employees who were granted study leave are:

NAME	PURPOSE	PERIOD
1. Dr. Antonette P. Agpas, Medical Specialist I, Prov'l Health Office	Submit research paper and take comprehensive exams for the completion of Master's Degree in Public Health	January 2-25, 2018 (a continuation of her study leave on Nov. 22-Dec. 8, 2017)
2. Edeane C. Antero, Admin. Asst. II, Prov'l Accounting Office	Attend formal review classes and take the licensure exams for Accountants	January 15 to May 15, 2018
3. Arch. Porter B. Camsol, Architect III, Prov'l Engineering Office	Attend formal review classes and take the licensure exams for Environmental Planners	March 2 to May 31, 2018
4. Engr. Joseph M. Cervantes, Engineer III, Beng. Envr. and Natural Resources Office	Attend formal review classes and take the licensure exams for Environmental Planners	April 2 to June 7, 2018
5. Lindbert A. Bautista, Admin. Aide II, Prov'l General Services Office	Attend formal review classes and take the licensure exams for Agriculturists	April 2 to June 26, 2018

NAME	PURPOSE	PERIOD
6. Christina P. Ablaza, Admin. Aide I, Prov'l General Services Office	Attend formal review classes and take the licensure exams for Agriculturists	May 2 to June 26, 2018
7. Allan P. Bayeng, Animal Keeper II, Prov'l Veterinary Office	Attend formal review classes and take the licensure exams for Agriculturists	May 2 to June 26, 2018
8. Ramon P. Delos Santos, Admin. Asst. II, Prov'l Human Resource Mgmt & Dev't Office	Attend formal review classes and take the licensure exams for Social Workers	June 11 to July 26, 2018
9. Beatrice S. Serrano, Legal Asst. II, Prov'l Legal Office	Attend formal review classes and take the BAR exams	June 19 to November 29, 2018
10. Jamie Lou D. Bartolome, Assessment Clerk II, Prov'l Assessor's Office	Attend formal review classes and take the BAR exams	June 20 to November 29, 2018

Source: PHRMDO

FREE COLLEGE EDUCATION: A GLIMPSE

Since Republic Act No. 10931, known as the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act of 2017, shall be effective this school year 2018-2019, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) launched its Implementing Rules and Regulations last March.

The IRR contains salient provisions on the details of how a student could avail of loans and other subsidies to further his/her studies. Aside from free tuition fees for all degree programs, courses, subjects, or classes enrolled during a particular semester or term, it also covers miscellaneous fees, including library, laboratory, athletic, admission, development, guidance, handbook,

medical and dental, entrance and cultural fees, and others.

In return, beneficiary students of the free education are obliged to undergo the State Universities and Colleges/Local Universities and Colleges (SUC/LUC) Return Service System (RSS) as a way of giving the service back to the government.

The system shall be crafted depending on the SUC implementing the law. Each school is required to submit its proposal to the CHED for approval before its implementation.

Japan Coop Continues to Accept Young Benguet Farmers

A total of 95 young farmers from Benguet were accepted to undergo on-the-farm training under the Young Farmers Exchange Program (YFEP) between Benguet and several agricultural provinces in Japan.

The last batch of farmers that signed their contracts and left for Japan was composed of Rufino Budoyan, Jr. from Bokod, Francis Galuten and Gentar Manicawa from Mankayan, Rico Wakat of Sablan, Hardy Bua-eg from

Buguias, Vincent Comila from Bakun, Arman Carias from Kapangan, and Febie Ann Mayamnes from Kibungan.

The eight farmers will stay in Japan, particularly at the Ehime and Kochi Prefectures, for their three-year hands-on and comprehensive agricultural training at their respective prefecture's Farmers' Cooperatives.

A memorandum of agreement between Benguet and the Kuroshio Agricultural Development Cooperative and Kochi Tubo Agricultural Development Cooperative was entered into for the technical internship program in Kochi and Ehime Prefectures.

The young farmer-applicants were screened and selected by Japanese representatives through the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist of Benguet, with Supervising Agriculturist Delinia Juan as the focal person.

The YFEP encourages the youth to engage in agriculture development endeavor through actual or on-site training on new agriculture techniques, experiences in a foreign place, and strengthen or enhance their foreign language skills. The program was conceptualized to provide training opportunities for young men and women so as to improve the current agriculture industry in the province. - Source: OPAG



200+ Livestock and Poultry Raisers Attend 1st Benguet Congress

Wangal, La Trinidad - The Provincial Government of Benguet, through the Provincial Veterinary Office, conducted the 1st Benguet Livestock and Poultry Raisers Congress at the Benguet Sports Center Multipurpose Gymnasium on June 27-28, 2018. There were more than 200

who attended the activity.

In his message, Governor Crescencio Pacalso recognized the need to improve the livestock and poultry-raising industry in the province in order to meet the demands of its people, since Benguet gets its supply of local meat

from other areas like the lowlands. It is a huge challenge for the farmers, however, and raisers are advised to consider or ensure that their produce are safe for public consumption.

Dr. Anthony Bantog, the Chief of the Regulatory Division in the

Department of Agriculture (DA) Cordillera Regional Office, encouraged venturing into backyard production as it shows potential gains, especially if the aim is to achieve self-sufficiency. He added that meat production in the province is a good idea due to the high consumption of meat and meat products.

From the theme "Responsible Animal Farming Towards Food Safety", the Congress covered seven subjects: the responsibilities of the stakeholders on food safety; a glimpse on where the country is on food safety; one health (antimicrobial project); livelihood financing; good manufacturing practices;

the business and marketing potentials of bee keeping; and updates on the Code of Good Animal Husbandry Practices.

The resource persons are experts in their own fields from the DA and its attached agencies, the Department of Science and Technology, and Cebu People's Multipurpose Cooperative.

FYI: What is PRDP

The Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP) is a six-year project of the Department of Agriculture (DA), with funding from the World Bank, designed to establish a government platform for a modern, climate-smart and market-oriented agri-fishery sector. In partnership with Local Government Units (LGUs) and the private sector, PRDP shall provide key infrastructure, facilities, technology and information to raise income, productivity and competitiveness in targeted areas.

The objectives of the project are to attain at least 5% increase in annual real farm incomes of household beneficiaries; a 7% increase in value of annual marketed output; a 20% increase in number of farmers and improved access to DA services; and a 30% increase in income for targeted beneficiaries of enterprise development.

PRDP has four components:

- 1) I-PLAN, which aims to enhance the Agricultural and Fisheries Modernization Plan (AFMP)

through science-based tools and to harmonize regional and provincial AFMPs through the formulation of the Provincial Commodity Investment Plan using value chain approach;

- 2) I-BUILD, which aims to put in place strategic and climate-resilient rural infrastructure facilities along the value chain;
- 3) I-REAP, which aims to strengthen and develop viable agri-fishery based enterprises through efficient value chains of key agricultural and fishery products in targeted project areas by providing technical, financial and infrastructure support; and
- 4) I-SUPPORT, which aims to provide efficient and effect project management and implementation, establish a standard on services and technical assistance and effective mode of engagement with the local government units (LGUs).

Some projects being implemented in the province include the improvement

of Jose Mencio provincial road in Atok, the Halsema-Madaymen provincial road, and the Km.46 to Ambakian Farm-to-Market in Atok-Kabayan, among others.

In addition, another P581.2 million worth of infrastructure subprojects in CAR was approved for funding. The Cordillera Regional Project Advisory Board endorsed the proposed projects during its meeting held on March 15, 2018 in Baguio City. Projects for Benguet included in the proposal are the construction of a Slope Protection in Puguís, La Trinidad and construction of Salat-Surek Tramline and Wakat Tramline in Bokod. Said projects were approved earlier by RPAB but need to be updated in compliance to the new guidelines imposed in accordance with World Bank Recommendations. With the changes, DA Regional Director Narciso Edillo urged LGU-beneficiaries to comply with the requirements to facilitate immediate approval. - *Source: PRDP in Focus (January to March 2018 Issue)*

Health Advisories

Due to reported cases in the communities, the Department of Health (DOH) Cordillera Regional Office issued public advisories on "Dengue Prevention and Control" and "Leptospirosis".

To prevent and control Dengue, the very basic rule is Kung walang lamok, walang dengue. And how should we prevent existence of dengue?

DOH says "Mag 4S Kontra Dengue." First is Search and Destroy breeding places by doing simple things such as: cover drums, pails, and other waste containers at all times; clean and

replace water in flower vases; cover the holes around the house with soil or sand; remove or pierce old tires that are being used as roof support, also those tires placed around the house that might hold water; flip-over empty bottles, jars, tin cans and other items that can collect and hold water; and clean and remove water on dish tracks and other household items that can hold water.

Second is Support spraying to prevent impending outbreaks and third is Seek early consultation with the nearest health facility if you already have fever for two days. The fourth is Secure self-

protection through the use of mosquito repellents to avoid mosquito bites, use mosquito nets when sleeping at day time; and wear long sleeves or clothes that will protect skin from mosquito bites.

DOH described leptospirosis as a bacterial infection transmitted by animals, such as rodents and other vermin. It can be transmitted through ingestion of contaminated food or water; or when broken skin or open wounds and mucous membrane come in contact with the contaminated flood water or

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soil.

Usually, the signs and symptoms are fever, muscle pain, headache, calf-muscle pain and reddish eyes in some cases, and severe cases resulting in liver involvement, kidney failure, or brain involvement. Some cases have yellowish body discoloration, dark-colored urine and light stools, low urine output.

For treatment, take antibiotics

prescribed by a physician; and early recognition and treatment within two days of illness prevents complications of leptospirosis, hence, early consultation is advised.

In order to prevent and control the disease, health authorities advise all to (a) avoid swimming or wading in potentially contaminated water or flood water; (b) use proper protection like

boots and gloves when work requires exposure to contaminated water; (c) drain potentially contaminated water when possible; and (d) control rodents in the household by using rat traps or poison and maintain cleanliness in the house. -Source: Baguio Midland Courier (July 22, 2018 issue)

Results: Synchronized Barangay and SK Elections in Benguet held on May 14, 2018

Barangay	Punong Brgy	SK Chairman
ATOK		
Abiang	Jimmy D. Martin	Jeneth K. Quintos
Caliking	Danny M. Sucdad	Melson E. Sicay
Cattubo	Satur A. Simeon	Jake B. Sote
Naguey	Paulino P. Lucas	Jaden B. Codasi
Paoay	Leo M. Cawaing	Melody Grace A. Salsa
Pasdong	Cuilan P. Senio	Nover B. Embes
Poblacion	Arthur S. Vargas	Charmaine B. Dino
Topdac	Elmer D. Gabol	Graille B. Duping
BAKUN		
Ampusongan	Florencio B. Vicente	Gemar M. Dongga-as
Bagu	Tito D. Pacus	Gadgiven M. Valdez
Dalipey	Julio A. Matias	Jemmalyn S. Laurian
Gambang	Virgilio C. Acquisio	Hacens S. Norman

Barangay	Punong Brgy	SK Chairman
Kayapa	Mateo T. Langpaoen	Sefred B. Sagong
Poblacion (Central)	Osias B. Mateo, Jr.	Nixon C. Sayyoc
Sinacbat	Bernard S. Alicay	Rey John L. Mariacos
BOKOD		
Ambuclao	Arthur L. Solano	Janrey G. Tello
Bila	Sonny E. Olas	Yasser D. Montes
Bobok-Bisal	Raul C. Amos	Nalyn P. Mala
Daclan	Alexander S. Piok	Maria Elena P. Atos
Ekip	Francis B. Delfin	Jubileo N. Balagwas
Karao	John S. Beray, Jr	Lim B. Marcelo
Nawal	Danny M. Yabnes	Judy P. Pitas
Pito	Omisto B. Cortes	Joefrey S. Rufo
Poblacion	Fermo A. Lydio	Jake P. Padsongay
Tikey	Miguel G. Cosalan, Jr.	Marlon O. Langato

Barangay	Punong Brgy	SK Chairman
BUGUIAS		
Abatan	Fred A. Pagaduan	Cliudee S. Esteban
Amgaleyguey	John W. Puddong	Marlon O. Langato
Amlimay	Dizon B. Dolo	Bekert P. Basilio
Baculongan Norte	Jun A. Lawa	Jefort K. Sab-it
Baculongan Sur	Edmun G. Pawil	Rod B. Butag
Bangao	Linda G. Tagubasi	Hyton G. Cabinta
Buyacaoan	Wilnard E. Tolida	Jun-Jun D. Santiago
Calamagan	Letecio A. Daguyam	Aldrix S. Bolinto
Catlubong	Melchor B. Guesey	Jeremias L. Pilay
Lengaoan	Senario O. Toda	Sherton Izar W. Tinda-an
Loo	Dionisio C. Badian	Narlyn D. Dito
Natubleng	Danny D. Sebio	Niel Mae P. Mariano
Poblacion (Central)	Glenn A. Bigo	Brando I. Waclin, Jr.
Sebang	Danny A. Ulban	Jhenie Faye A. Bangisan
ITOGON		
Ampucao	Eddie P. Amuasen	Mcfloyd B. Tamtam
Dalupirip	Paul M. Camantiles	Charmaine O. Canor
Gumatdang	Vicente D. Puguon	Benjamin T. Calimlim
Loacan	Andres C. Cuyan	Regina M. Besitan
Poblacion (Central)	Albert C. Carantes, Jr.	Aljay K. Cuyahon
Tinongdan	Edwin O. Atumpag	Alvin P. Balbines

Barangay	Punong Brgy	SK Chairman
Tuding	Martin D. Chavez, Jr.	Lincoln P. Ponasi
Ucab	Kennedy W. Waclin	Glomilyca P. Mataag
Virac	Noel D. Bilibli	Lawrence A. Antolino
KABAYAN		
Adaoay	Roy S. Tomilas	Isachar C. Tomilas
Anchukey	Samson E. Guzman	none
Ballay	Pelino B. Bugnay	Hazeline A. Busilag
Bashoy	Efren P. Tellama	Bandrin L. Anton
Batan	Mike T. Botangen	none
Duacan	Lope A. Atas	Akerah D. Mangosan
Eddet	Eric F. Postino	Beverly A. Lasbacan
Gusaran	Amy Joanne A. Belting	Fae Jaye M. Amado
Kabayan Barrio	Agusto B. Tasing, Sr.	Ralph M. Osting
Lusod	Sandy L. Wa-is	Sammy T. Tanawe
Pacso	Sofronio C. Bayas	Charles C. Lictag
Poblacion (Central)	Ervine T. Busilan	Fernan A. Bangonan
Tawangan	Pio K. Calansi	Shelanie M. Bosilan
KAPANGAN		
Balakbak	Daniel E. Basigan, Jr.	Varni B. Danis
Beleng-Belis	Thomas C. Begawen	Jackson C. Alis
Boklaoan	Aguinaldo A. Matias	Meka-el B. Doloy

Barangay	Punong Brgy	SK Chairman
Cuba	Saldy P. Polking	Carlson L. Calpase
Datakan	Jefrey B. Marcelo	Jomari E. Batinay
Gadang	Francis S. Sebaen	Resty D. Nevada
Gaswiling	Ulyses O. Bugtong	Jewell N. Nacario
Labueg	Muller L. Poclis	Keith C. Solima
Paykek	Hansel K. Manis	Godfrey D. Malone, Jr.
Poblacion Central	Dominador T. Celo, Jr.	Rackie A. Leung
Pongayan	Fernando C. Sasa	Roniel T. Mensi
Pudong	Aprie P. Cab-ad	Rio W. Langbis
Sagubo	Danny T. Eke	Nover H. Alutang
Taba-ao	Cruzaldo M. Cabuten	Rexwey D. Agyao
KIBUNGAN		
Badeo	Guilbert O. Amango	Demetrio H. Gapad
Lubo	Denver T. Cafongtan	Karl M. Sumayao
Madaymen	Homer D. Teliaken	Krizza Mae D. Balawen
Palina	Deliano B. Faustino	Jhony T. Palsa-en
Poblacion	Sammy T. Catalino	Robencent G. Claudio
Sagpat	Alfredo C. Ampal, Jr.	Marjorie P. Toydaan
Tacadang	Sammy M. Pedro, Jr.	Graciano M. Atonen

Barangay	Punong Brgy	SK Chairman
LA TRINIDAD		
Alapang	Rolando P. Leon	Jim Mharie L. Macadaeg
Alno	Jonie S. Puroc	Tristan A. Chamos
Ambiong	Anthony C. Anniban	Ariel L. Estigoy
Bahong	Belmer G. Elis	Donabelle B. Gadgad
Balili	Billy M. Bilango	Apolinario A. Bagano, Jr.
Beckel	Gregorio T. Antonio	Dennis C. Asiong
Betag	Peter D. Comila	Madelyn B. Lucas
Bineng	Patricio B. Wakat	Louraine Ann B. Ticol
Cruz	Charles T. Canuto	Norvelyn L. Gaki
Lubas	Roger L. angel	Dhenmar B. Badival
Pico	Ramon K. Salda	Jessic Joyce G. Laus
Poblacion	Manuel L. Amoy, Jr.	Kenneth Jake T. Jose
Puguis	Tyrone T. Diaz	Kevin Ray N. Galano
Shilan	Jeffrey C. Maslag	Jason S. Kidiatan
Tawang	Denver D. Gomeyac	Venancio B. Guines, Jr.
Wangal	Castro W. Faustino	Hazel P. Quidno
MANKAYAN		
Balili	Tony C. Ugalde	Jeston S. Balong-angey
Bedbed	Dalion N. Baygan	Junifer L. Lomisib
Bulalacao	Romy L. Bayanes	Kevin P. Aquino

Barangay	Punong Brgy	SK Chairman
Cabiten	Santiago T. Sad-ayan	Jun P. Estacio
Colalo	Pedro T. Dalmacio	Ivy C. Padawi
Guinaoang	James M. Guanso, Jr.	Geobert L. Bayanes
Paco	James P. Gomgom-o	Jacob W. Gumastin
Palasaan	Agosto D. Batcagan	Jericho C. Baguingey
Poblacion	Mateo B. Batani	Keirran Jay B. Mabiasan
Sapid	Dennis P. Mayam-es	Manuel I. Depigen, Jr.
Tabio	Eugene A. Lasquite	Janine A. Fernandez
Taneg	Agusto R. Calixto	Sharon Rose L. Cawa
SABLAN		
Bagong	Renato B. Pacheco	Cris Kenneth P. Lopus
Balluay	Ferdinand L. Canuto	Luzchelle Ulayan
Banangan	Rudy C. Walang	Marchelle Ann C. Walang
Banengbeng	James A. Rafael	Novixon C. Eckman
Bayabas	Teofilo M. Anacioco	Justin S. Quinoan
Kamog	Leonardo C. Mayomis	Jun B. Tabano
Pappa	Clay B. Calado	Vergel C. Bayacsan
Poblacion	Crispin G. Mariano, Jr.	Jean Errol C. Garoy
TUBA		
Ansagan	Atos L. Adones	Julibeth S. Bangco-og
Camp One	Cipriano C. Balinag	Martin Anshari D. Segundo

Barangay	Punong Brgy	SK Chairman
Camp 3	Dalmaia B. Dino	Rembrant S. Dominguez
Camp 4	Romeo M. Salinas	Allan P. Apilada
Nangalisan	Marcial E. Flores	Paul Vincent F. Villaraza
Poblacion	Oliver K. Paus	Reachelle C. Takinan
San Pascual	Lorna S. Runas	Joemar A. Gonzales
Tabaan Norte	Miguel K. Palispis, Jr.	Belmer B. Apelis
Tabaan Sur	Peter E. Bengwasan	Arnel B. Lisnang
Tadiangan	Zaldy B. Guileng	Sheena P. Fernando
Taloy Norte	Joel S. Pacio	Jexter W. Ortega
Taloy Sur	Sibayan A. Juan	Egie Boy A. Saoyao
Twin Peaks	Allan C. Bayninan	Mark Edward B. Dacoscos
TUBLAY		
Ambassador	Sison S. Balawen	Jason A. Calis
Ambongdolan	Apolonia C. Pad-eng	Frenelyn P. Manuel
Ba-ayan	Billy T. Abdon	Lovelyn A. Apit
Basil	Lito C. Mateo	Jimwell D. Mendoza
Caponga	Al-Norwin T. Suaking	Mackleen Jeff O. Aroco
Daclan	Albert T. Dulay	Ly Shima A. Nebalasca
Tublay Central	Nicanor D. Menzi, Sr.	Charmagne W. Kimayong
Tuel	Aurelio T. Biernes	Michelle C. Paoad

BENGUET DEPED PAGE

27 I-Benguets Ready to be School Principals

On May 28, 2018, the Department of Education (DepEd), through Memorandum No. 93, s. 2018, released the names of school teachers-applicants who passed the Principals' examination conducted December 17, 2017. Of the 103 who took the exam nationwide, 27 are from Benguet: 22 in the elementary level and five in the secondary level.

Under the memorandum, the passers will be included in the roster of qualified educators who can be appointed as school principals provided they meet the other qualification requirements specified under DepEd Memorandum No. 174, s. 2017. First, applicants must have served at least one year as head teacher or two years as teacher in-charge or master teacher, five years as Teacher III or Special Education Teacher, or five years of managerial and supervisory experience in a DepEd recognized private institution or Commission on Higher Education – recognized higher educational institution.

The five passers under secondary level were:

1. Edwin S. Ayangdan (Mankayan)
2. Vilma B. Beliano (La Trinidad)
3. Nancy D. Costina (Itogon)
4. Mack O. Dalay-on (Itogon)
5. Arnold L. Manio (Kabayan)

For the elementary level, the passers were:

1. Julie M. Albo (Atok)
2. Evelyn B. Sitam (Atok)

3. Emily T. Bagayao (Bakun)
4. Dolores G. Fidel (Bakun)
5. Ardeshir A. Bedso (Bokod)
6. Gloria A. Hilario (Bokod)
7. Carmen G. Martinez (Buguias)
8. Ferdinand T. Carantes (Itogon)
9. Nobres L. Meno (Kabayan)
10. Emerson B. Hadsan (La Trinidad)
11. Agnes B. Malinias (La Trinidad)
12. Aida A. Pe (La Trinidad)
13. Lorna V. Wallit (La Trinidad)
14. Cristobal E. Dinamling (Sablan)
15. Maryflor D. Hipol (Sablan)
16. Noemi Mary C. Lenneng (Sablan)
17. Carol C. Elis (Sablan)
18. Lavi C. Pistula (Sablan)
19. Mary Jane L. Leo (Tuba)
20. Felomina T. Taplin (Tuba)
21. Milbert B. Cocoy (Tuba)
22. Emerald S. Olsina (Tublay)

The examination, clustered into three, consisted of a total of 200 items and the examinees are required to obtain a rating of at least 70% in each cluster. Cluster I focused on School Leadership and Personal and Professional Attributes and Interpersonal Effectiveness; Cluster II was on Instructional Leadership and Creating a Student-Centered Learning Climate; and Cluster III was on Human Resource Management and Professional Development, Parents Involvement and Community Partnership, and School Management and Operations.

Benguet Schools Recognized as 2018 Gawad Kalasag Winners

The Paoad Elementary School (ES) of Tublay was one of the 17 winners in the Cordillera Regional search for Gawad Kalasag Winners for 2018, or the search for Excellence in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM). The school placed first in the public elementary schools category, followed at 2nd and 3rd place by Mount Data ES of Bauko and Cagubatan ES of Tadian, both in Mt. Province, respectively.

In the public secondary schools category, the first spot was snagged by Lepanto National High School (NHS) of Mankayan, Benguet, followed by Banguitan NHS of

Besao, Mt. Province in second place and Mil-an NHS, also of Mt. Province, in third.

In the search for outstanding Municipal DRRM Councils for 1st to 3rd class municipalities, La Trinidad remained undefeated, while the Municipal DRRM Council of Buguias placed second in the 4th to 5th class municipal category. In the barangay level, barangays Ambiong and Puguis of La Trinidad placed first and second, respectively.

Also recognized were two volunteer organizations: 1st placer is Loacan Health Emergency Response Team of Itogon, that tied with Baguio City's 911 On-Call. Special

recognition was also given to the Itogon Municipal Health Services under the Government Emergency Management Services category.

According to Regional Director Alex Uy of the Office of Civil Defense, the winners are entitled to plaques and

cash incentives of Php50,000.00, Php30,000.00 and Php15,000.00 for 1st, 2nd and 3rd placers, respectively. All first placers will represent the Cordillera Region in the national level search.

Mogao ES Gets Share from PEZA CSR

Construction materials worth P50,013.00 were turned over to the Mogao Elementary School (ES) of Mankayan District on June 8, 2018 at its Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) Baguio City Office in Loakan during the PEZA-BCEZ Brigada Eskwela activity.

The amount was part of PEZA's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). Baguio City Schools Superintendent

Federico Martin and Ceasar Luma-ang of the School Governing Operations and Engr. Stephen Bulalin representing Benguet Division, witnessed the turnover.

Zone Administrator Atty. Rene Joey S. Mipa said that the assistance was in response to the school's earlier request for the funding of the construction of two separate rest rooms for the pupils. The Mogao ES is

one among the five recipients, with the other four schools located in the City of Baguio.

As of date, PEZA is currently extending free information education on disaster management and other government programs. This year, its focus is on out-of-school youth (OSY) training on skills like carpentry, garments and trade, and several others.

Schools Receive P400K+ Worth of Sports Equipment

Loo, Buguias - Mayor Ruben Ludaes Tinda-an of Buguias, Benguet, officially turned over more than P400,000.00 worth of sports equipment to the Loo Elementary School. The turnover was done during the mass summer training of teachers of Buguias District on May 2 to 3, 2018 at the Loo Elementary School.

Herminia M. Osting, School Principal II and the District In-charge accepted the donation, saying that the equipment/supplies shall be utilized to improve the physical prowess of elementary athletes from the district during sports competitions such as the provincial meet, the Cordillera

(regional) meet, and the Palarong Pambansa.

The equipment/supplies are for various sports, such as taekwondo, gymnastics, and tennis. They include four sets relay baton, 12"; one piece stop watch; eight pcs starting blocks; one piece javelin, aluminum for boys, 400 gms; and many more.

Meanwhile, Osting said that the teachers attended a training to update themselves on new lessons, techniques and procedures regarding the teaching guides for the K to 12 curriculum of the Department of Education (DepEd). Learning areas covered are English, Filipino, Math,

Science, Edukasyong Pantahanan at Pangkabuhayan (EPP), Edukasyon at Pag-uugali, Araling Panlipunan, and MAPEH (Music, Art, Physical Education, and Health). The elementary group was composed solely of educators from Buguias while the secondary was composed of educators from Mankayan, Bakun and Kabayan.

Dr. Rizalyn Guznian, one of the Division Chiefs of DepEd-Benguet, ended the two-day training with an orientation on the preparation of the Daily Lesson Log (DLL) and took time to address queries raised regarding DLL. - *Beatrice Yee Palbusa (Buguias Central School)*

GSP Troop Leader Attends ABC for Adult Learners

As one of the Troop Leaders of the Girl Scouts of the Philippines (GSP) - Benguet Chapter, this writer had the opportunity to participate in the seminar workshop on "Action on Body Confidence (ABC)" Program for adult learners, held from January 25 to 27, 2018 at the Helena Z Benitez National Program and Training Center in Tagaytay City.

117 participants from all

over the country joined the seminar-workshop.

The ABC program is one of several activities the GSP has conceptualized, apart from camping and training, and conducts for its members. This is a unique program aimed to raise the body confidence and self-esteem of the girl scouts. This is a tool to help more girl scouts plan and run advocacy projects that

will enable or encourage others break the image myth and build their body confidence to properly utilize their potentials.

With this training, lots have been acquired which we plan to cascade to the aspiring and incoming youth and/or teachers who would be joining the scouting movement. - *raquel d. gayaso*

Mother, the Best Teacher

My mother was my first, and best teacher. She taught me the basics of learning: my ABCs, how to read and write, how to draw simple shapes, how to count from 1 to 10...

When I started going to school, especially during the first years, she helped me accomplish my home works and assignments at night. In the morning, she would prepare simple but nutritious baon instead of giving me money that I may spend on unhealthy snacks and lunch. She was never tired of advising me to give importance to my studies and to always be a responsible pupil and student in school.

She readily scolded me whenever I did something wrong, even to the extent of giving me a bit of a whipping due to my stubbornness. Later on, I realized these were her strategies in preparing me to develop as a whole person; it was one of the many ways for her to show that she loves and cares for me. She did not complain when my teachers scolded me because, according to her, my teacher was actually helping her out in teaching me discipline.

My mother did not graduate from college. She didn't even get to complete her elementary education, having reached until Grade III only. This was in part because of the far distance between their house and her school, and also the lack of importance placed on

education by her father.

Despite that, my mother will always be the best teacher I've ever had. Unlike her parents before her, she made sure to send her children to school and get the benefits of education, even with the family income being barely enough.

Admittedly, schoolteachers play the role of second parents to children. However, they will never fully take the place of the real parents. They will never be able to become the mothers to the children they teach in the classroom.

I believe that all mothers have the same dreams of seeing their children have good and comfortable lives in the future, and that can partly be accomplished by ensuring that they are well provided for, and that they are given the opportunity to obtain proper education.

Mothers have it harder these days, too, if you take into account the different circumstances and environment faced by children and the youth today. Mothers have to be extra vigilant in monitoring their children to ensure they do not fall in with the wrong crowd and engage in unsavory activities and vices.

Therefore, we should all be grateful to the best teacher we ever had, and we will ever have: our mothers. - *raquel d. gayaso*

BE THANKFUL, DO NOT COMPLAIN

There is a story about a man who wrote a letter to God asking for money. The mailman read his letter and felt pity towards him so he decided to solicit from his co-workers and later sent the same to the man. However, the man complained as the amount he received was less than what he expected.

In a more realistic situation, this can be likened to most people's attitude when asking for any assistance from the government: often, they expect too much. Too much that they expect the government to fully provide for them when the assistance should only serve to augment what is lacking.

Recently, President Rodrigo Duterte approved Senate Bill No. 1304 institutionalizing the free tuition fee in all state-run colleges and universities across the country. This aims to encourage the pursuit of higher education, especially those who are financially incapable of meeting the monetary requirements of schools. With this law, it

is hoped that poverty will no longer be a hindrance for a student not to pursue his/her dream of completing his/her education in order to have a better future.

This writer, having gone through several trials in pursuing her college studies, is very thankful for the current administration's free tuition fee program. Though the program may not be perfect, I believe this is a big leap for parents who work hard just for the education of their children. What used to be the burden of shelling out money every semester for tuition may cease to be such.

Personally, I am thankful that, aside from focusing on education, the administration also puts effort into maintaining peace and order, eliminating graft and corruption, preserving the environment, and more. Clearly, the government is doing all that it could for the Filipino people. - *raquel d. gayaso*

SNAP SHOTS ... SNAP SHOTS...



BCEPAG invited and performed during the Lang-ay Festival of Mt. Province

Coop Education Seminar for Transport Services held at the Gov Palispis Hall, Benguet Provincial Capitol



DA's Pinol and Gov. Pacalso before the Drone Test Flight for Ferlitzier and Pesticide

The singing Governor during his birthday





Benguet Provincial Police Office athletes during the Inter-agency sports opening program



The different sportsmen-delegates during the Opening Program for the Inter-agency sports tournament

A courtesy call from the officials and employees of Hermosa, Bataan



Participants to the Strategy Planning on Strengthening Local Governance in La Union



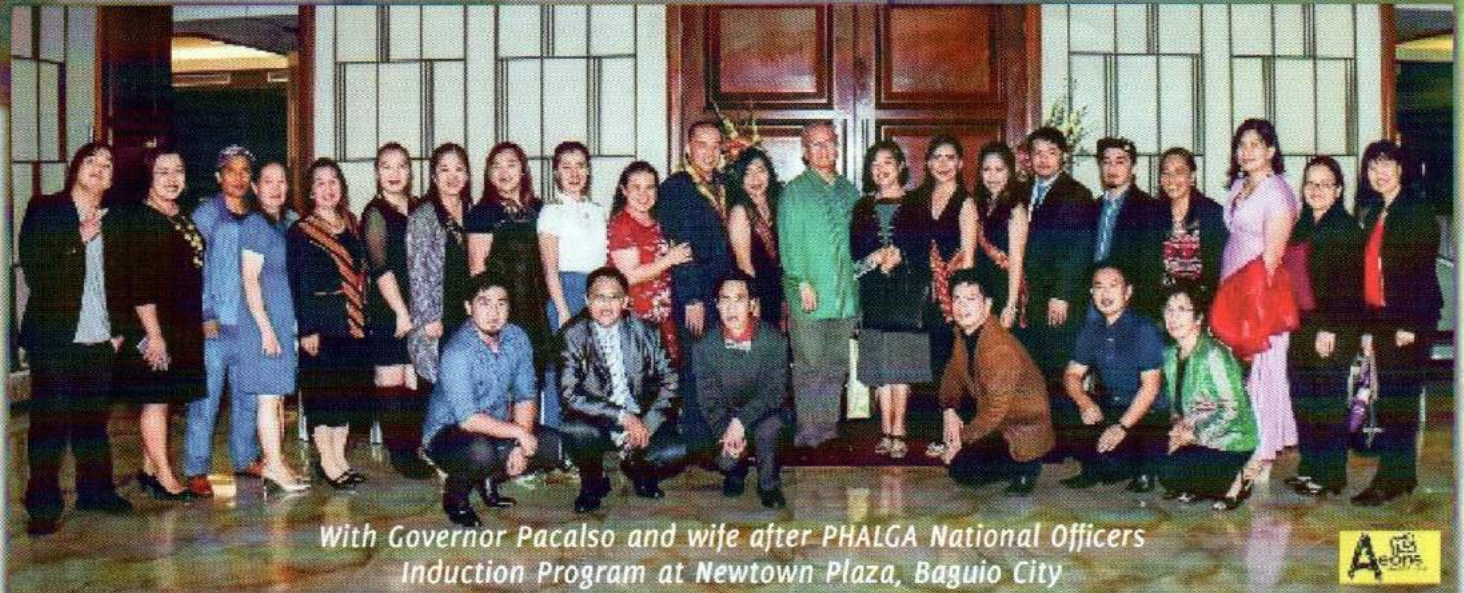
Governor Pacalso's birthday on June 27, 2018 at the Palispis Hall



Orientation of accepted agri trainees to Kochi, Japan



Ballot boxes for the SK and barangay elections being unloaded and inspected



With Governor Pacalso and wife after PHALGA National Officers Induction Program at Newtown Plaza, Baguio City