

KALAYAAN

The digital newsletter is the commitment to continue the advocacies of KKK's Kalayaan newspaper, "Panata sa Kalayaan na May Puri at Kabanalan", a collaboration among The Freeman, Rizal-Blumentritt Pamantalaan Academy, and DILG-7



RD Trovela (third from the left) and ARD Lucino (fourth from the left) lead the unveiling of Local Government Code 29th Commemorative Plaque with LGMED Chief Lucero (leftmost), LGCDD Chief Oporto (second from the left), and FAD Chief Albaño (rightmost) /photo by Jean Demecillo

DILG-7 celebrates 29th Local Government Month

by Richiel S. Chavez

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)-7 joined the nation in celebrating the 29th Local Government Month on October 9 by holding series of activities.

In his welcome message during the kickoff ceremony, DILG-7 Director Leocadio Trovela said the celebration rekindles the kind of passion and commitment for good local governance.

"We are with the other regions, the whole Department, and the whole nation in celebration of the Local Government Month. This is our way of reminding ourselves of the reason for our being, kung bakit nandito ang DILG. We are here for our local governments, our main client," he said.

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DILG-7 capacitates Info Officers thru knowledge sharing webinar

by Richiel S. Chavez

Information officers from the national government agencies and the local government units (LGUs) collaborated with news media outlets in Cebu in a knowledge-sharing webinar on public information development on October, 28, Wednesday.

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DILG-7 celebrates 29th Local Government Month

by Richiel S. Chavez

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Dir. Trovela added that celebrating the Local Government Month also demonstrates the invigorating spirit of the Department despite the COVID-19 crisis. “DILG is very visible. We are felt by the LGUs. We are well regarded for our response to COVID. We will rise beyond the pandemic. Kakayanin natin to,” he said.

The Local Government Festival and Quiz Bowl is one of the six online activities prepared by the regional office in October as part of the Local Government Month celebration which carries the theme “Strengthening Local Governance Towards Sustainable and Resilient Filipino Communities.”

Highlighting the celebration was the unveiling of the LGC 29th Commemorative Plaque led by Dir. Trovela, Assistant Regional Director Maria Loisella Lucino, Local Government Capability Development Division Chief Maria Thelya Y. Oporto, Local Government Monitoring and Evaluation Division Chief Atty. Ian Kenneth B. Lucero and Finance and Administrative Division Chief Atty. Ferdinand R. Albaño.



RD Trovela and ARD Lucino lead the unveiling of LGC 29th Commemorative Plaque./photo by Jean Demecillo

Also part of the program was the virtual gallery walk showcasing the major programs, projects and activities of DILG-7 that help shape LGUs to better serve the public.

Meanwhile, the Online Quiz Bowl participated by 17 LGUs capped off the activity.

ARD Lucino said the quiz bowl was the initiative of the regional office designed to rekindle their knowledge on the Local Government Code.

“This shows our commitment and passion to serve the LGUs, client and the people the best way that we can,” she stressed.

Asturias garnered 45 points to outlast 16 other teams in the Quiz Bowl conducted by the LGCDD team. Cebu City placed second with 29 points, Dumanjug nabbed third place with 28 points, while Sogod and Carcar City rounded up the Top 5 with scores of 27 and 26, respectively.

Pursuant to Presidential Proclamation 63, s. 1992, the month of October of every year is declared as the Local Government Month, the second week of October as Local Government Week, and the 10th day of October as Local Government Day. The celebration commemorates the enactment of the Local Government Code of 1991.

DILG-7 CAPACITATES INFO OFFICERS THRU KNOWLEDGE SHARING WEBINAR

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The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)-7, the organizer of the webinar, invited journalists from three media outlets to share their inputs and insights on news writing, social media management, and infographics design in a Webinar that carried a theme “Refocused Development Communication Towards Engaged Information Officers in the Digital Age.”

It was attended by hundreds of Information Officers from the Regional Office, DILG-7’s sub-regional offices, national government agencies and from the local government units (LGUs) in Cebu, Bohol, Siquijor and Negros Oriental.

The webinar, which was conducted as part of the nationwide celebration of the 29th Local Government Month, aimed to help improve the government’s information drive, education and communication programs and maximize the digital platform, especially during these trying times.

“This Webinar is a collaboration of the media, the national government agencies and LGUs in connection to the development of information dissemination,” Regional Director Leocadio T. Trovela said in his opening remarks.

“DILG-7 is proud to have this webinar today with three giants in print media in Central Visayas – the CDN Digital, The Freeman and SunStar Cebu,” continued Dir. Trovela.

Nickolas Earl D. Tubo, multimedia editor, SunStar Publishing Inc.; Morexette B. Erram, multimedia reporter, CDN Digital; and Joeberth M. Ocao, online editor, The Freeman shared their valued expertise to the participants.

“One of the important lessons that we’ve learned as we are going through this pandemic is that our works (government and media) are very much connected,” said Ocao, who shared his knowledge on social media management, news writing, among others.

For his part, Tubo underscored the importance of accuracy and facts in writing news stories and press releases especially in this digital age, where people have easy access to information thru the internet.

“News can’t be fabricated, you can’t write information based on assumptions. Tell the story as it is,” he said.

Erram, meanwhile, shared details on how to create effective infographics that can easily be understood by the public.

Former media practitioner and photojournalist Iste Sesante Leopoldo, who now heads the Public Information Office (PIO) of the Municipality of Cordova, said the webinar was very informative and useful, especially to the members of their PIO team who don’t have any journalism experience.

The webinar would not be possible without the support of the Philippine Information Agency (PIA)-7 led by Director Fayette C. Riñen.

In her message of support, Riñen emphasized the importance of information officers in disseminating information on the government’s development projects and community building. “To the IOs: you learn, grow and be more productive. Go beyond informing, educate and empower people, make a difference in your community because this is the essence of development communication,” she said.

DILG-7’s Information Officer Michael H. Braga hoped that this exchange of relevant information will pave the way to another partnership between the information officers and the media practitioners.

“As stewards of truth, let us continue to work and battle against fake news. We urge you to take advantage of the digital platforms to educate and inform the public and help the government in making its presence felt at the grassroots level,” said Braga.

DILG-7 launches song to advocate for positive change

by Richiel S. Chavez

The Department of the Interior and Local Government-7 (DILG-7) officially launched its original song, “Simula ng Pagbabago,” during the fifth series of the “Dambana Ng Bayan” online forum at 8 p.m. via Zoom on October 1, Thursday.

The song, entitled “Simula ng Pagbabago,” was performed, composed, and arranged by LGOO VI Clyde B. Ebojo.

The online forum carries the theme “Kapayapaan at Pagkakaisa ay Simula ng Positibong Pagbabago” as it highlighted the launch of the song that sends message of DILG-7’s advocacy on promoting positive change and peace.

Invited speakers were DILG-7 Director Leocadio Trovela, Rizal-Blumentritt Pamathalaan Academy officials Atty. Rafael A. Morales and Professor Consolacion R. Alaras, and Philippine Ambassador to the Vatican Grace Relucio Princesa.

DILG-7 Director Leocadio Trovela talked about “Realizing the Sacred Prophetic Duterte Presidency in DILG-7” and presented the milestones of Dambana ng Bayan Series and Kalayaan E-Newsletter.

Ambassador Princesa discussed about “The Prophetic Duterte Presidency in the Philippine Embassy to the Vatican.”

The academy’s founding member Prof. Alaras shared her insights on “Leadership by Grace, Citizenship by Grace in the Duterte Presidency,” while the academy’s president Atty. Morales talked about “The New Philippine Sacred Prophetic History in the Duterte Presidency.”



DILG-7 joins ICT/BPM Online Summit

by Kent Vincent Divinagracia



The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)-7 joined the first edition of the two-part online summit on Information and Communications Technology (ICT)/Business Process Management (BPM) hosted by the Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) in celebration of Cebu Business Month on Wednesday, October 21.

DILG-7 Director Leocadio Trovela, who was invited as one of the panelists, discussed the government's Standard Operating Procedure, reforms set by the Republic Act of 1103 or the Ease of Doing Business Law and the interventions initiated by the agency in response to the EODB Law to cut redundant bureaucratic processes and streamline business procedures in the local government unit.

Trovela highlighted the key areas of EODB Law which includes the simplified process of acquiring Building Permits and Certificates for Occupancy, and Business Permits and Licensing System (BPLS), as well as the Rationalization of Fees and Charges and Passive Telecommunications Towers Infrastructures (PTTIs). The virtual activity highlighted the vital role and initiatives of the government as well as the industry's efforts to recuperate and strengthen the economy devastated by the onset of the pandemic.

He talked about the national government's initiatives to improve the ease of doing business particularly for the ICT-BPM industry in the country such as the reforms introduced under the EODB Law and the results achieved so far.

In relation to the EODB Law, DILG, in partnership with other government agencies, has implemented interventions to promote ease of doing business at the local government level such as Building Permits and Certificates of Occupancy; Business Permit and Licensing System; Rationalization of Fees and Charges; and Passive Telecommunications Towers Infrastructures.

Also discussed were the pertinent provisions under the Bayanihan to Recover as One Act or Republic Act 11494 pertaining to the ICT-BPM industry.

Trovela said he plans to strengthen compliance of LGUs with EODB Law and other ICT-BPM related government initiatives by partnering with other government agencies such as DTI and DICT among others.

"Opening the doors to a digital future of E-Governance where service is faster and better for the Filipino people," he said.

DILG-7 Ties Up with The Freeman, Rizal-Blumentritt Pamathalaan Academy, and Disiplina Muna PMO

by Grace Melanie I. Lacamiento

Inspired by the commitment to continue the advocacies of Katipunan's Kalayaan Newspaper in this day and age, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)-7 decided to come up with the Kalayaan digital newsletter aiming to uphold the very purpose of the publication that once stood for liberty and democracy amid the colonial rule.

It seeks to provide a powerful channel towards achieving positive change through accurate reporting and promoting real stories on the ground that will help shape the public perception on relevant issues, thus stirring people into action similar to how Kalayaan Newspaper impelled our forefathers to free themselves from colonial exploitation.

DILG-7 believes that a collaboration with trusted partner institutions namely The Freeman, Rizal-Blumentritt Pamathalaan Academy, and Disiplina Muna Project Management Office bearing the same thrusts and principles will help attain these objectives.

The Freeman has been the longest running newspaper in the Visayas and Mindanao and the third oldest in the country. Since its humble beginnings in 1919 and despite the challenges of the digital age, it remains to be a champion of press freedom and purveyor of truth, whether in print or online.

The paper continues to be independent and free from any influence, thus gaining the unrelenting trust of the public for 100 years and counting. Rizal-Blumentritt Academy, on the other hand, is aimed to fulfill the vision of Dr. Jose Rizal and Czech Republic Patriot Dr. Ferdinand Blumentritt towards an international order based on moral sacred foundations.

It also lives up to Rizal's aspiration for the country to gain freedom from its oppressors. It likewise espouses the principle of God-centered governance, with the hope to unite all Filipinos in prayer.

Meanwhile, Disiplina Muna is a nationwide advocacy campaign of DILG that aims to revive the culture of discipline among Filipinos as a key for sustainable development and maintenance of peace and order.

Its pillars are road clearing; disaster preparedness and resilience; anti-smoking; ease of doing business; liquor ban; environmental or tourist spots cleanup; and functionality of Barangay Anti-Drug Abuse Councils.

DILG-7 and its partner institutions will formally ink their collaboration through a covenant signing during the official virtual launch of Kalayaan digital newsletter on July 13, 2020.

DILG-7 holds 1st webinar on KP Law

by Grace Melanie I. Lacamiento

Lupon Chairmen, Lupong Tagapamayapa members, Lupon Secretaries, and Sangguniang Barangay members from the different local government units and Local Government Operations Officers in Central Visayas and other regions in the country joined the first webinar of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)-7 on Katarungang Pambarangay (KP) Law today, October 12.

The webinar, which is divided into two parts and conducted via Zoom, is one of the activities organized by the regional office in celebration of the Local Government Month 2020. It is also streamed live on DILG VII Facebook page.

DILG Undersecretary for Barangay Affairs Martin Diño, who graced the webinar as guest of honor, paid tribute to the Lupong Tagapamayapa whom he described as the real heroes and conciliators in the barangays.

He said that the Department of Justice and the Supreme Court were able to save P3 billion since almost 90 percent of the cases in the barangay level have been resolved by the Lupon.

“Utang na loob ng goberyno yan lalong-lalo na ang ating justice system dahil kung wala kayong mga Lupon, patong patong na, baka nagsisiksikan na ang dami ng kaso na isasampa sa fiscal’s office pa lang,” he said.

Diño also assured the barangays of the continued support of DILG led by Secretary Eduardo Año, especially in terms of skills enhancement.

DILG-7 Director Leocadio Trovela said the webinars on KP Law is DILG’s way of strengthening the capacity of the Lupon to deliver their mandate and perform their duties.

He also said that the barangays are in the forefront of the battle against COVID-19 which made them more resilient and courageous in the face of crisis.

“Maaasahan talaga ang ating mga barangay officials sa panahon na kinakailangan kayo ng ating mamamayan,” Trovela said.

For the webinar, resource speaker DILG-7 Local Government Monitoring and Evaluation Division and Cebu City Officer-in-Charge Atty. Ian Kenneth Lucero discussed the jurisdictional aspect on KP Law and rules on venue by presenting the substantial provisions of the law, illustrative cases and Supreme Court decisions.

“Before the rules on venue become operative, the jurisdiction or authority of the Lupon must first exist,” he stressed.

Lucero added that the Punong Barangay and Lupon Secretary play a crucial role in the determination whether or not a case to be filed is within the authority of the Lupon.

The second webinar, which is set on October 15, Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., will focus on procedural aspect of KP Law and showcase the best practices of 2019 Regional Lupong Tagapamayapa Incentive Awardee Barangay Nasipit, Barili, Cebu.

Lupong Tagapamayapa in CV capacitated

by Grace Melanie I. Lacamiento

Acknowledging their vital contribution in settling disputes amicably, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) – 7 capacitated the members of the Lupong Tagapamayapa to enhance their knowledge and expertise on barangay justice.

At least 1,000 Punong Barangay, Barangay Secretaries, members of Lupong Tagapamayapa, and Sangguniang Members from the different local government units in Central Visayas and other regions joined the whole-day webinar on Katarungang Pambarangay Law today, October 15.

Also present were DILG-7 division chiefs, provincial and city directors, City and Municipal Local Government Operations Officers, and personnel from the DILG regional office.

Today’s session was the second webinar focusing on procedural aspect of KP Law and showcasing of best practices on KP administration. It was preceded by the webinar on jurisdictional aspect on KP Law and rules on venue on October 12.

These are part of the online activities via Zoom and Facebook live in celebration of the Local Government Month 2020.

DILG-7 Director Leocadio Trovela said praised the efforts of the Lupon especially in settling disputes in the community level and avoiding the indiscriminate filing of cases in court.

“Ang ginagawa po ninyo is preserving the tradition of the community, and para ma preserve din ang community harmony,” he said.

“Congrats and thank you to the members of the Lupon, especially the Punong Barangay and members of the Sangguniang Barangay. You are helping us relieve the courts of the crowded dockets,” he quips.

Resource speaker DILG-7 Local Government Monitoring and Evaluation Division and Cebu City Officer-in-Charge Atty. Ian Kenneth Lucero challenged the attendees to apply what they have learned from the two webinars.

“You have always been our frontline defense of the government in all battles, may it be against COVID-19 or against lawlessness and criminality, and the speedy administration of justice in your level. Good luck and mabuhay kayong lahat,” he adds.

Meanwhile, 2019 Regional Lupong Tagapamayapa Incentives Awardee Barangay Nasipit of Barili, Cebu shared its best practices on how it earned its title and sustain it, even after joining twice in 2017 and 2018 where it finished as Cebu Provincial Winner and Regional Finalist in both years.

DILG-7 graces inauguration of COVID-19 facilities in Cebu

by Richiel S. Chavez



The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)-7 graced the simultaneous blessing and turnover of the COVID-19 Temporary Treatment and Monitoring facilities to the local government units (LGUs) in Cebu on October, 23, Friday.

Seven new health care facilities for treatment and isolation of the COVID-19 positives were turned over to the cities of Cebu, Mandaue and Lapu-Lapu, Cebu Province and the Mactan Cebu International Airport Authority (MCIAA).

The new facilities in Cebu City are the Cebu City Quarantine Center (CCQC), the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH)-7 Regional Office at the South Road Properties and the Apas Evacuation Center.

The other three facilities are situated at the Mactan- Cebu International Airport, Hoops Dome in Lapu-Lapu City, North Bus Terminal in Mandaue City, and the Correctional Institution for Women at the Cebu Provincial Police Office.

These projects were made possible in collaboration with the concerned national government agencies, the local government units of Cebu, Mandaue, Lapu-Lapu and Cebu Province, and notably the MCIAA.

DILG-7 Regional Director Leocadio Trovela said that the facilities are a manifestation of the readiness of the government to address COVID-19 concerns such as the treatment and isolation centers.

“Region 7 is very fortunate to have the national government agencies and the government officials collaborating to make these facilities possible,” Dir. Trovela said on his message at the Mactan-Cebu International Airport facility in Lapu-Lapu City.

The seven facilities will become the permanent treatment and isolation centers as the country now embrace the “new normal,” said DOH-7 Regional Director Jaime S. Bernadas.

“We expect more cohesive response from the national government agencies, the LGUs and the private sectors. Together we will navigate, and together we shall succeed,” Bernadas said.

For MCIAA general manager Atty. Steve Y. Dicdican, the facility inside the airport will help in getting back the confidence of the people to return to their normal lives.

“This is an amazing facility and I’m truly appreciative. Somehow, we need to find a way to get the people back to travel, to do business, to schools, and we can’t do that without this readiness. It’s you guys who made it happen,” said Dicdican.

Over at the CCQC, Cebu City Mayor Edgardo Labella said the City of Cebu is going in the right direction on its efforts to stop the local transmission of COVID-19.

Labella also announced that Cebu City will be giving cash incentives to every barangay who will have zero COVID-19 cases from November 1 to December 31 this year.

“Yesterday, there’s a challenge posed by Secretary (Roy) Cimato, he told me that he’s confident that we can achieve zero positive cases here in Cebu. And I said, it’s a tall order but we will try our very best to achieve that idea,” said Labella.

Cebu City was once tagged as a COVID-19 “hotspot” at the height of the pandemic. With massive testing, contact tracing and strict implementation of health protocol, the city has now flattened the curve and is seen as the model for COVID-19 response not just in the region but in the whole country.

OPAV Assistant Secretary Jonji Gonzales said that the facilities are products of the convergence, collaboration and the strong determination of the government to serve the people amid this pandemic.

KALAYAAN EDITORIAL TEAM

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Information Officer I
Writer, Layout Artist

JEAN MARVETTE A. DEMECILLO

Information Officer II
Writer, Layout Artist

PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

Sudlon, Lahug, Cebu City, 6000



(032) 253 5481



dilgregion7_cv@yahoo.com



dilgregion7.net



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