

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 Pamanthalaan Academy, and DILG-7



DILG-7 celebrates Peace Day 2020, unveils Peace Pole

by Richiel S. Chavez

Peace starts with mutual respect in someone's culture, religion, belief, and background.

This was the message conveyed when the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)-7 unveiled the hand-painted Peace Pole in celebration of the 2020 Peace Day at the Regional Office in Sudlon, Lahog on December 8, Tuesday.

"This is our way of commitment as men and women for others. The way we interact with our peers, especially to our family and co-workers in our region reflects the way we treasure peace," said DILG-7 Regional Director Leocardio T. Trovela in his dedication message.

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The peace pole, an internationally-recognized representation of the hopes and dreams of the people for peace to prevail on earth, is DILG-7's contribution on the "May Peace Prevail on Earth" movement.

The Peace Day 2020 kicked off with the praying of the rosary by the DILG-7 personnel, and was highlighted with the unveiling of the peace pole and the peace pole dedication ceremony.

LGMED chief Atty. Ian Kenneth Lucero said to achieve sustainable development, it entails a shared responsibility and collective effort of the national and local governments, the private sector, the community, and other stakeholders.

"We at LGMED, pledge to collaborate to build an enabling environment where peace thrives within," said Atty. Lucero.

For his part, lawyer Ferdinand R. Albaño, DILG-7's chief admin officer, said it's only fitting that the Regional Office has celebrated the Peace Day on the 8th Day of December, which falls on the Feast of Immaculate Conception.

"For all of us who pray the rosary, for all of us who preceded the litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we believe that the Blessed Virgin Mary is the Queen of Peace," said Atty. Albaño.

DILG-7s Assistant Regional Director Maria Loisella E. Lucino likens the peace pole as a symbol of hope and a way of bringing people together, and will remind us to act in the spirit of harmony.

LGCCD chief Maria Thelya Y. Oporto, meanwhile, underscored the importance of treating others as equal to achieve peace.

"We commit to promote dialogue instead of confrontation, and build solidarity across our differences," she said.

"We pledge to encourage and respect each other and contribute to the cultivation of peace at work and in our homes and communities."

Director Trovela ended the program saying that if there's respect, there's peace and everything will follow.

"In every aspect of our life, kung meron tayong respeto sa ating kapwa, peace will definitely prevail," he said.

There are more than 250,000 Peace Poles in the world. Each peace pole bears a message "May Peace Prevail on Earth" on one of its four sides.

The Peace Pole at the DILG-7 Region 7 office stands at the garden and is a constant reminder to visualize and pray for world peace.



4 LGUS IN CV BAG DGA 2020

by Richiel S. Chavez

Four local government units (LGUs) from Central Visayas were recognized in the annual Digital Governance Awards (DGA) 2020 for their best practices in utilizing Information and Communications Technology (ICT) to efficiently deliver public services to their constituents.

Cebu City and Tagbilaran City bagged second and third place honors in the Best in Business Empowerment Award (City Level), respectively.

Bohol Province earned second place in the Best in LGU Internal Process Award (Provincial Level), while the Municipality of Loon, Bohol landed in third place in the Best in Covid-19 Pandemic Response Award (Municipality Level).

The virtual awarding ceremony was held on Friday, December 11. The DGA is a joint project of the National ICT Confederation of the Philippines (NICP), the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).

It commends LGUs in their integration of ICT into their processes and systems to serve as examples and benchmarks for other LGUs, to improve the business development, social services, and the general ecosystem of LGUs.



Rizal's Martyrdom

By: *Sir Edison A. Delos Angeles, KCR
Deputy Regional Commander (Visayas) -
Order of the Knights of Rizal*

Today, December 30, 2020, marks the 124th Anniversary of Rizal's martyrdom and one might ask what changed since then?

Well, a lot has changed, and a lot has not.

Back when Rizal was young, he would go to the river and swim and play with kids his age against the strict orders of his parents not go out of the house.

Today, children would get mad at their parents sneaking out of their premises against the orders of the government directing the senior citizens to stay at home in this time of pandemic.

Through his works and literatures, Rizal taught us to stay positive and refrain from being so negative.

But today, we would do anything to stay negative and stay away from those who are positive - of the Covid 19 virus that is.

Things have changed. A lot. But painfully, some things have not. And one of them is this virus of division. A virus that can't be addressed by vaccination nor any sort of medication.

We have remained divided not by the islands, nor by the barricades of quarantine restrictions nor by any tangent things that can be sliced.

We are divided in the mind and in spirit. We are divided as an island and we are divided as a nation.

Disagreement is never a bad thing. As a matter of fact, Rizal and most of our heroes ate debates for breakfast. It only becomes bad when you burn the house in the process.

Even the span of the wings of an airplane is conspicuously distant. The left and the right wings have to remain firmly apart. But even so, despite the distance of the left and the right wings, they both kept the whole plane in flight.

They work together for one fuselage.

My friends, we have been divided for so long. Maybe it's time we unite.

We have a common enemy. An enemy for all. This pandemic. This virus that is much too strong and we can only endure this nightmare when we fight as a nation.

Rizal died with frustrations in his heart and one of them is the failure to unite us.

This pandemic is a call. We either perish as fools or we unite and win.

And if we should fall, let it be written in history that we died trying.

After all, not everything in us will die.

Non Omnis Moriar!

DILG-7 holds seminar on PCVE, CBRN Awareness

by Grace Melanie I. Lacamiento



DILG-7 holds an orientation seminar on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE) and Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN) Awareness on December 2.

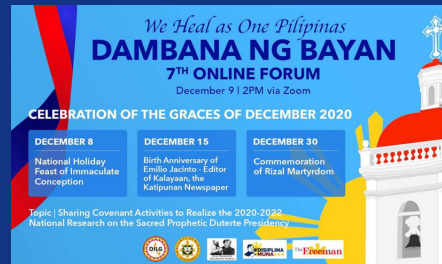
Punong Barangay, members of the Sangguniang Barangay, chief tanods, and district supervisors and school principals from the targeted 80 barangays in Cebu Province, Bohol, Negros Oriental, Cebu City, Mandaue City, and Lapu-Lapu City; Provincial and HUC focal persons, representatives from concerned government agencies, and regional office personnel joined the activity at Ecotech Center and via Zoom.

The speakers were Assistant Chief of Unified Command Staff for Civil Military Operations, U7, COL Gerry Besana PA (MNSA) who talked on the Vulnerable Sectors to Radicalization and Violent Extremism; WPCP-Visayas Field Unit Acting Chief PLTCOL Mary Grace Madayag who spoke on the Community Anti-Terrorism Awareness; PCVE-CBRN Regional Focal Person LGOO V Kym Albrando who discussed about Strengthening Filipino Values and Cultural Sensitivity in the Filipino Setting and Updates on the National Action Plans for PCVE and CBRN; PCVE-CBRN Alternate Regional Focal Person LGOO IV Deanna Alila who talked about Strategic Communications and Creation of BPLK and PCVE Teams; and Bureau of Fire Protection-7 Regional Operations Division Chief and Regional Chief of Staff CINSF Noel Nelson Ababon who discussed about the Introduction to CBRN and Hazardous Materials: Capacitating the Barangays in Maintaining Safer Communities.

DILG-7 Director Leocadio Trovela formally welcomed the participants while LGMED Chief and DILG Cebu City Officer-in-Charge Atty. Ian Kenneth Lucero delivered the rationale.

Peace Pole project lauded by Dambana ng Bayan partners

by Jean Marvette A. Demecillo



Partner institutions of “We Heal As One For Pilipinas: Dambana ng Bayan” online forum lauded Department of the Interior and Local Government-7 for the successful launch of Peace Pole Project.

Mesmerized by the hand-painted Peace Pole, speakers such as H.E. Grace Relucio Princesa, Philippine Ambassador to the Vatican; Rizal – Blumentritt Pamathalaan Academy President Atty. Rafael A. Morales; and Prof. Consolacion R. Alaras, founding member of Rizal – Blumentritt Pamathalaan Academy congratulated DILG-7 Director Leocadio Trovela during the seventh online forum on December 9, 2020.

The pole, which features the words “May Peace Prevail on Earth” in one of its sides, has a unique hand-painted artwork. The words carved in the pole aim to remind the people who will see it to always act in the spirit of peace.

During the forum, Trovela shared a short audio visual presentation showing the making of the Peace Pole from scratch to the Dedication Ceremony.

The three-hour forum was attended by employees and officials of the DILG-7 and its Sub-Regional and Field Offices.

Employees and attendees of the forum also extended their greetings to Trovela who was also celebrating his birthday.

DILG-7 holds dialogue with vendors, youth leaders in USAP 2020

by Richiel S. Chavez



Cebu City vendors and youth sector representatives aired their concerns and insights during a dialogue dubbed as Ugnayan ng Sektor at Pamahalaan (USAP): Capacitating Urban Communities for Peace and Development at the Ecodech, New Dining Hall in Sudlon, Lahug, Cebu City on December 17, Thursday.

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)-7 initiated the activity which aimed to provide a venue for productive, valuable, sincere and visible engagement between the government and its citizens at the local level through direct engagements.

The first part of the whole-day convergence was designated for the vendors, while the afternoon activity was scheduled for the youth leaders.

DILG-7 Regional Director Leocadio T. Trovela spearheaded the discussion with the vendors together with LGMED chief Atty. Ian Kenneth Lucero, PROBE chief Raquel Arce, Cebu City Market Administrator Ervin Caballes, and Atty. Nikka Quias, who represented Cebu City Councilor Dave Tumalak.

"Ang sitwayson niyo ay naiintindihan po ng local government unit of Cebu City, pati na rin kami sa DILG-7 ay naiintindihan kayo," Trovela told the participating vendors.

The City Government of Cebu has crafted short-term and long-term solutions that could address the concerns of the vendors who were affected by the road clearing operations, and those who lost their livelihood for months due to the pandemic.

"Si Mayor Edgardo Labella nangita gyud og pamaagi thru its implementing arms," said Atty. Lucero.

"Kini ang atong pag-abot diri usa ni ka symbol nga naay paglaom. Magstorya and dialogue ta para ma address nato ang mga issue."

"Karon nga sugdan na nato ni naa na tay mga output, ato ipadayon unsa pa atong deliverables para ma-realize ni nato ang long-term and short term solutions. Hopefully, tanan nato concerns naay positive nga responses," he added.

Director Trovela underscored the efforts and importance of the vendors' role in the progress of the local economy.

"The nation wants the local economy to rise. Talagang sadsad ang local economy, not just in Cebu but nationwide," he said.

"Meanwhile, Cebu's youth leaders engaged in a productive discussion with the DILG-7, the Department of Agriculture (DA)-7, the National Youth Commission (NYC), the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA)-7, and development partner World Vision.

The NYC discussed the "nine centers" of youth participation, while DA-7 and TESDA-7 talked about the basic services offered by their department.

For its part, the World Vision, a non-profit organization, explained the structure of Community Managed Savings and Credit (CoMSCA), a saving mechanism that allows a group of people, especially those living in rural areas to manage their own saving and credit system.

"We are in a round table consultation to strengthen a collaborative relationship between the government and the youth sector. We have the open forum so we can hear your thoughts on certain issues," said LGCDD chief Maria Thelya Y. Oporto.

USAP is envisioned to be one of the main government campaigns that will provide avenues for productive, valuable, sincere and inclusive engagements between government and the multi-sectoral to strengthen the inclusivity of governance.

DILG-7 commemorates 124th anniversary of Rizal's martyrdom

by Richiel S. Chavez

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)-7 is at one with the nation in commemoration of the 124th anniversary of martyrdom of Dr. Jose P. Rizal on December 30, Wednesday.



Regional Office held a flag-raising ceremony in Brgy. Sudlon, Cebu City at 7 a.m. simultaneous with the flag-raising and wreath-laying rites at the Rizal National Monument, Rizal Park, Manila Rizal Park, Dapitan City, and Rizal Shrine, Calamba, Laguna.

Every year, on December 30, the whole nation observes the death anniversary of our national hero, Dr. Jose P. Rizal, to commemorate his nationalism, life and works, and martyrdom.

The simple commemorative activity served as a constant reminder to public servants and to Filipinos on their duties to fulfill for the country.

Born in Calamba, Laguna, on June 19, 1861, Dr. Jose P. Rizal was part of a group of Filipinos who called for peaceful reform of Spain's colonial rule in the Philippines.

While in Europe, he wrote about the discrimination that accompanied Spain's colonial rule of his country.

He returned to the Philippines in 1892, but was exiled to Dapitan by Spanish authorities. He was convicted of sedition and was eventually executed on December 30, 1896, at age 35.



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PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

Sudlon, Lahug, Cebu City, 6000



(032) 253 5481



dilgregion7_cv@yahoo.com



dilgregion7.net



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