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KALAYANAN

NEWSLETTER



**BATANG
KAPARIS
NI RIZAL**

DILG-7 empowers youth in Batang Kaparis ni Rizal



The pioneering batch of the Batang Kaparis ni Rizal during the BATARIZ Youth Camp in Lapu-Lapu City on October 25 to 27, 2022

Filipino hero Dr. Jose Rizal—then 18 years old—wrote a poem entitled *A La Juventud Filipina* for the youth to hold their heads high and make use of their talents and abilities using the iconic line:

“Kabataan ang Pag-asa ng Bayan.”

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A century and four decades have passed, and that part of the poem still ripples thru generations, keeping us reminded of the youth’s crucial role in shaping the future of the nation.

Driven by the desire to empower the youth and give them the rightful voice thru improved participation in social issues and local governance, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)-7 under the tutelage of its dynamic leader, Regional Director Leocadio Trovela, came up with an initiative dubbed us *Batang Kapariz ni Rizal* (BATARIZ).

Continued from Page 2

The Regional Office inked a partnership with the Knights of Rizal, Ramon Aboitiz Foundation Inc. (RAFI) Center for Leaders, and the National Youth Commission for the launching of Dir. Trovela's brainchild project.

In October 2022, over 200 student leaders gathered in Lapu-Lapu City for Batch 1 of BATARIZ three-day camp that is centered on youth leadership training. The youth leaders participated in activities and discussions that aimed to hone their leadership skills, improve knowledge of local governance, and enhance appreciation of Philippine history.

The schools that were represented were the University of Southern Philippines-Foundation (USP-F), University of San Carlos (USC), University of Cebu (UC)-Main Campus, UC-LapuLapu and Mandaue Campus, Cebu Normal University (CNU), Cebu Technological University (CTU), University of the Visayas (UV), Cebu Institute of Technology-University (CIT-U), and the Southwestern University (SWU)-Phinma.



Student writers from different schools pose with DILG personnel after the two-day journalism workshop in Cebu City last December 14 to 16, 2022

The community youth leaders were from Cebu Province, Cebu City, Mandaue City and Lapu-Lapu City. The next month, Batch 2 of BATARIZ took place with over 150 youth leaders. This time, the University of the Philippines, and youths from Negros Oriental and Bohol joined the activity, together with a new set of participants from various schools and community leaders in Cebu.

DILG-7 then organized the Bangon Kabataan Journalism Workshop for student journalists from December 14 to 16, spearheaded by the region's Information Unit. The resource speakers were DILG-7 personnel who formerly worked for local media.

Participants were from Silliman University and Negros Oriental State University (NORSU) of Negros Oriental; Holy Name University of Bohol; and seven schools from Cebu, namely: CIT-U, SWU-Phinma, CNU, UV, CTU, UC and USC.

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Pillar of Hope

Sleepless nights, long working hours. A father's unconditional love does exist.

Erwin Traso, a security guard for 14 years of Cebu Parklane International Hotel continues to be a manifestation of how fathers can get the job done. Following his wife's tragic death 5 years ago, he had to balance his responsibilities at home and at work. The 53-year-old single parent is doing his best to support his family by working extra hours to pay for his daughter's college tuition now that she is enrolled in her first year.

"Tiring but still fighting because I am the only provider of the family," he said. Now, he is juggling the role of being a father and a mother of his 3 children. When asked what his reasons were for having been able to overcome his personal trials alone, he said, "Akong mga bata. Pangandoy ko na man gud na makahuman sila tanan maong naningkamot ko." However exhausting his work is, he can get by as long as he can give everything for his children.

Winning the Bread

A balut vendor happened to stop in the entrance of the Hotel to sell his balut and chicharon amid heavy rain in Metro Cebu. With an awe-inspiring story, he is a single dad and widower sustaining the needs of his only daughter.

Eugene R. Amabayec, 37 from V-Rama Cebu started selling balut in 2014. Using his bike, he will be cycling from 4:30 in the afternoon until 3:00 in the dawn to sell his goods around the city. Bad weather has caused him to have less sales due to less customers.

When he was young, he was forced to work together with his father as a construction worker since he is the oldest brother to provide the needs of his family, making him unable to not continuing his studies in the secondary.

This balut vendor has been a widow since his daughter was born. His wife died due to respiratory problems. Despite the challenges he has faced, he still continues to work hard for his only daughter as he said " Priority nako sir, kung wala pa lang koy anak dili ko mag-in ani."

Selling balut is his only option of work to sustain their basic needs everyday rather than having a minimum wage which is not enough according to him. As Christmas is fast approaching, his only wish is good health for the family.

-Jan Rey Caminade



PHOTO BY: RYAN SAMSONA

VOICES OF ASPIRATION

By Drexler Alib



Angelic voices are often associated as gifts for the receiver, but who would have thought that these harmonic voices are being possessed by ones who need gifts themselves. Mentored by choir master James Gabriel Verallo, these lovely lads would surely lighten your mood and set the tone for your Christmas right.

The Basilica del Sto. Nino Youth Chorale is a 35-man group made up of individuals aged 16-23 years old who have devoted their talents in praising God by singing songs of praise.

With members coming mostly from the lower end of the societal spectrum, these young and unripe minds have learned to utilize their God-given talents as an edge to slowly carve themselves off the edge and weaponize their voices in hopes to survive their day-to-day lives.

Choir master Verallo explained that they have been the Basilica's chorale every Sunday and have been doing gigs and bookings with all its proceeds going to the choir members as a form of aid considering their financial standing. Verallo also stressed that he appreciates the choir's dedication in singing the kids found their passion in singing.

"I dont take any cuts. I dont take any percentage from the proceeds. Ilaha ra jud na." Verallo spoke. "Half of it (proceeds) i-palit nila'g bag'ong uniform."

If you want to indulge yourself with the calming voices of the Youth Chorale, especially this Christmas season, they are performing at the Basilica Minore del Sto. Niño every Sunday.



DOCUMENTATION 101 THE POWER OF IMPACT NARRATIVES

“A genuine smile for a genuine passion.”

Apple Villegas, 32, is a barista at the Bean Date of Cebu Parklane International Hotel. She is a humble mother of two and holds a degree in Bachelor of Science major in Hotel and Restaurant Management. Being a barista, Apple gets to have the direct opportunity to interact with a wide range of people every day. Equipped with a beautiful smile and pleasing personality, Apple brings much to the delight and welcoming atmosphere of the hotel guests and patrons alike.

“I am happy because my children and for my work.” Apple said when asked how is she feeling today. “[Because] I can provide for my children and I can satisfy my costumers through my coffee.”

It is evident that Apple is genuinely happy with her job. She dreamt of being a reputable hotelier and this dream is starting to unfold, as she is living through it now. Along with the encouragement of her husband, Apple looks forward into working at a luxurious cruise but as long as she can support her family with the best that she can, there is nothing

more in life she wants more than that.

One’s passion can be a significant source of happiness and fulfillment. When people are passionate about their work, they are more likely to be motivated, engaged, and committed to their job. They are also more likely to feel a sense of purpose and meaning in their work, which can contribute to their overall happiness and well-being. It’s important for individuals to find a job that aligns with their values, interests, and goals in order to increase their chances of loving their work.

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