Secretary of the Interior and Local Government Mel Senen S. Sarmiento led the Turnover Ceremony of 40 Mahindra Patrol Jeeps to the 21 municipalities of Ilocos Norte and 19 municipalities of La Union on November 26, 2015.

The event, which was held at the Philippine National Police (PNP) Regional Headquarters Grandstand, was attended by the local officials of the concerned municipalities together with their respective Chiefs of Police. Also present during the activity were PCSUPT Ericson T. Velasquez, PRO 1 Acting Regional Director; PCSUPT Benjamin T. Hulipas, PRO 1 Deputy Regional Director for Administration; PSSUPT Marlou C. Chan, PRO 1 Deputy Regional Director for Operations; Dir. Julie J. Daquioag of the Department of the Interior and Local Government; (continued at page 3)
Dir. Daquioag serves as OIC, vice the late Regional Director Corazon P. Guray, from December 2, 2013 to November 4, 2015. Prior to her designation as OIC, she was promoted as DILG R1’s Assistant Regional Director last June 13, 2012. She has also been an OIC-RD from November 15, 2011 to March 22, 2012 when former Regional Director Manuel V. Biason requested for relief in preparation for his retirement.

Dir. Daquioag is known for her relentless hardwork and pursuit for excellence. As the eldest and only daughter in the family, she exemplifies selflessness and dependability. She is a consistent honor student during her elementary and high school years. She finished Bachelor of Science in Human Ecology at the University of the Philippines Los Baños where she was a Dean’s Lister and Agricultural and Rural Development Scholar (ARDs) for four (4) years. She also had her Post-Graduate Studies at the Mariano Marcos State University where she obtained her Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.). She earned her Master of Public Administration at Northern Christian College of Laoag City, Ilocos Norte.

Dir. Daquioag rose from the ranks, having been with the Department since September 16, 1989. She served as Local Government Operations Officer II for 4 years, Local Government Operations Officer V for 10 years, Assistant Provincial Director for 6 years, Provincial Director for 10 months and Assistant Regional Director for 1 year and 9 months. The appointment of Dir. Daquioag was signed by Pres. Benigno S. Aquino III last November 5, 2015.

(LGOO V Sheila Marie G. Andales)
LGA Assistant Director graces Sharing - Forum on LGU Best Practices of DILG R1

Four (4) cities in Region 1, namely: Laoag City, Ilocos Norte; Vigan City, Ilocos Sur; City of San Fernando, La Union; and Urdaneta City, Pangasinan which have taken the biggest step in simplifying their business regulatory process presented their innovative practices and gains during the Sharing-Forum on LGU Best Practices: “Doing Business Made Fast and Easy Thru Regulatory Simplification” on October 29, 2015 held at Villa Marand, Bauang, La Union.

Local Government Academy Assistant Director Thelma T. Vecina also graced the occasion and encouraged the LGUs to sustain their competitiveness. She said that the Philippine economy should be at par with the economies of other Asian countries to cope with the impact of Association of Southeast Asian Nation (ASEAN) Economic Integration.

Hon. Pablo C. Ortega, Mayor of the City of San Fernando proudly shared the city’s new procedure, dubbed in iluko as “Agaplikar, Agbayad, Alaen (AAA),” which means to File, Pay and Claim. He underscored that the new three-step-process method replaced the usual 42 steps, deemed taxing for business applicants, before the business permit is released.

The Business Permits and Licensing Officers of the three (3) Cities also shared their experiences. They are Engr. Antonio A. Velicaria, Jr. (Urdaneta), Dr. Melvin Medel D. Manuel (Laoag) and Elpidio L. Palapala (Vigan).

A total of 181 participants attended the event composed of Local Chief Executives, members of the Sanggunian Panlungsod / Bayan, Business Permits and Licensing Officers, LGU staff involved in Business Permitting and Licensing, DILG Regional and Provincial Officers, and City / Municipal Local Government Operations Officers. (LGOO V Benedicta M. Barnachea)

SILG Sarmiento leads ... from page 1

PDIR Juanito B. Vaño, Director for Logistics; JSSUPT Nida Gacutan Ramos, Regional Director of Bureau of Jail Management and Penology; Atty. Edwin O. Mapili, OIC-ARD of National Police Commission; SSUPT Leonard R. Bañago, Regional Director of Bureau of Fire, other key personnel and media personalities.

The blessing of the 40 patrol jeeps was also held earlier on the same day with PSUPT Heinte De Cañete as the Officiating Priest.

The distribution of patrol jeeps is part of the Department’s efforts to enhance the operational capability of municipal police stations in line with the goal of ensuring peace and order in the various local government units. (LGOO V Sheila Marie G. Andales)
In line with the Department’s efforts to assist local government units (LGUs) integrate hazard information in their local plans and processes, the Department of the Interior and Local Government Region 1 (DILG R1) trained 128 participants from 32 LGUs on Mainstreaming Climate Change Adaption and Disaster Risk Reduction (CCA-DRR) in Local Development Planning last December 3-4, 2015 at Pangasinan Regency Hotel, Calasiao, Pangasinan.

The 32 LGUs were the Provincial Governments of Ilocos Sur and La Union; Vigan City, Bantay, G. Del Pilar, San Emilio, Quirino and Caoayan of Ilocos Sur; Urdaneta City, Lingayen, Bautista, Binalonan, Mabini, Urbiztondo, Infanta, Aguilar, Balungao, Alcala, Asingan, Bayambang, Binmaley, Labrador, Mangatarem, Rosales, Natividad, San Manuel, San Nicolas, Sta. Maria, Sto. Tomas, San Quintin, Tayug, and Villasis of Pangasinan.

The training aimed to create awareness and deepen the participants’ understanding on the use of necessary tools that would help LGUs identify, report, and track programs, projects, and activities that are responsive to climate change adaptation and mitigation and disaster risk reduction. These programs are then integrated in the local development plans of LGUs.

The training also provided the participants with information on the different service offerings of National Government Agencies (NGAs) that LGUs may partner with in their efforts to build disaster-resilient localities.

The Resource Speakers during the training were OIC-ARD Victoria H. Ramos, CESO V; LGOO V May Rose R. Ancheta; Engr. Jose D. Lignes of the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources Mines and Geosciences Bureau (DENR-MGB); Mr. Karl Vincent Soriano of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PhiVolcs); Ms. Ines Meneses of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA); and Mr. Julius Camara of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).

Topics include Governing Policies of DRR-CCA, Harmonizing the Comprehensive Development Plan and the Local Climate Change Adaptation Plan, Hazard Information on Flood, Landslide and Other Geological Hazards, Hazard Information on Earthquake, Climate Change Projections, DRR-CCA Mainstreaming in Sub-National Plans, Mainstreaming DRR-CCA in the Comprehensive Land Use Plan and the New Guidelines, and Climate Change and Expenditure Tagging. (LGOO V Sheila Marie G. Andales with reports from LGOO V May Rose R. Ancheta)
Personnel from DILG Ilocos Sur headed by Acting PD Agnes A. De Leon, CESE benchmarked Olongapo City’s best practices on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) during their visit on December 22, 2015.

The efforts of Olongapo City were recognized when the City was declared as nation’s best in DRRM and was eventually installed in the National Hall of Fame for garnering the top prize of the Gawad Kalasag Awards for Excellence in disaster preparedness and management for three (3) consecutive years, from CY 2007-2009.

Mr. Angelito B. Layug, City DRRM Officer, explained that the City was categorized as a hazard-prone area because of its vulnerabilities to earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides, volcanic eruptions and floods. With these, the city is continuously in pursuit of establishing an effective rescue team equipped with well-trained personnel through attendance to various trainings and seminars here and abroad. The City Government also regularly adds and upgrades its supplies and equipment by making prudent use of their DRRM funds. The presentation also highlighted the dedicated community partnership among barangay leaders and community members for effective community response.

The CDRRMO staff answered all the queries of the DILG personnel and they were also given a chance to explore the DRRM office and their equipment. Acting PD De Leon hopes that through this activity, the personnel will be able to impart their learning to their respective LGUs to better improve their DRRM efforts and mechanisms. (LGOO II Giezl R. Polca)
The Official Newsletter of the Department of the Interior and Local Government - Region 1

250 DILG R1 personnel gather for Health and Wellness Summit

Two hundred fifty (250) personnel of the Department of the Interior and Local Government Region 1 (DILG R1) from the four (4) provincial offices and the Regional Office gathered together last October 27 - 28, 2015 at the Crown Legacy Hotel, Baguio City for the first-ever Health and Wellness Summit.

The summit aimed to: 1) foster camaraderie and strengthen ties among the personnel of the different operating units of DILG R1; 2) promote healthy lifestyle through participation to fun games / activities to increase familiarization between and among the personnel of the Region; and 3) increase personnel’s awareness on the health benefits of physical exercises to manage stress.

“It has been 18 years when we had a get-together like this wherein all personnel of DILG R1 were present. Tonight and tomorrow will be filled with fun as personnel showcase their talents and enjoy each other’s company. Tonight is also a manifestation that DILG R1 is one united family”, said Regional Director Julie J. Daquioag during her opening remarks.

One of the highlights of the two-day summit is a talent showdown dubbed as “DILG Got Talent” wherein the four (4) provincial offices bested each other in the group and individual categories. The showdown along with the Mr. and Ms. Wellness Contest brought the whole DILG R1 personnel into bursts of laughter as provincial personnel transform their male bets into Ms. Wellness contestants and their female counterparts into Mr. Wellness contestants. Team development activities in the form of fun games or palaro were also included in the summit to foster camaraderie among participants. A Mass Zumba and two (2) health and wellness talks capped the two-day activity. The Resource Speakers were Pastor Elias Rafanan of the Northern Luzon Mission on “Strengthening Relationships” and Dr. Josephine Libao on “Awareness and Prevention of Work - Related Diseases”. (LGOO V Sheila Marie G. Andales)
The Official Newsletter of the Department of the Interior and Local Government - Region 1

Ilocos Norte

La Union

Ilocos Sur

Pangasinan

Mr. and Ms. Wellness

Mass Zumba

Strengthening Relationships
Pastor Elias Rafanan

Awareness and Prevention of Work-related Diseases
Dr. Josephine Libao, MD
The Provincial Government of Pangasinan conducted the Provincial Health and LGU Scorecard Awarding Ceremony on November 6, 2015 at the Sison Auditorium, Lingayen, Pangasinan highlighting the various accomplishments on health programs and projects of the province.

Governor Amado T. Espino, Jr., in his message, stressed the basic role of local government officials in the advancement of health programs in their locality. He further added that political motives should be put aside to be able to focus more on the health needs of their constituents particularly the needy and the sick.

He said that the provincial government has done its part of prioritizing the health of the Pangasinenses as can be gleaned from the amount of budget being allocated for health programs alone which is equivalent to 25% of the total annual budget.

Dr. Anna Maria Teresa de Guzman, Provincial Health Officer said that out of the P 712,249,248 total budget for health, P544,306,705 goes to hospital services while P 167,942,543 is earmarked for public health. She also added that under Governor Espino’s stewardship, a special project thru the Point-of-Care (POC) Program has been fully implemented benefitting 25,679 poor families since March 2014 up to June 2015. The POC further strengthens the “No Balance Billing Policy” and “No Payout from the Pocket” in government hospitals.

She also announced that thru the oral polio and measles immunization of the provincial government, there has been no recorded cases of polio to this date and further added that for the 3rd year now, the province has no recorded malaria cases, close enough to be considered as one of the malaria-free provinces in the entire country comes January 2016.

During the occasion, DILG Pangasinan thru its Provincial Director Reggie R. Colisao pledged its support to the well-lauded health programs of the provincial government and reiterated its collaboration with the LGU Scorecard on Health which is a joint project of the DOH and the DILG.

Another highlight of the affair was the awarding of the Province by the Department of Health (DOH) thru Regional Director Myrna C. Cabotaje for its outstanding performance in Health Care with a prize of PhP 2.250 Million. Other citations were also given to LGU best performers on health programs and projects. (LGGO VI Marilyn B. Laguipo)
DILG R1 awards financial and livelihood assistance to former rebels in Ilocos Sur

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Region 1 awarded four (4) former rebels with financial and livelihood assistance amounting to Php 65,000.00 each during the Joint Regional Peace and Order - Provincial Peace and Order Council - Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council Meeting last November 27, 2015 at Baluarte, Vigan City.

The financial and livelihood assistance was awarded by DILG Regional Director Julie J. Daquioag, Ph. D., CESO IV; DILG Acting Provincial Director Agnes A. De Leon, CESE; Ilocos Sur Governor Ryan Singson and RPOC Chair Belen T. Fernandez. From the said amount, Php 15,000.00 will serve as immediate assistance while Php 50,000.00 will serve as livelihood assistance to be invested in agricultural production particularly animal raising and farming.

The provision of financial and livelihood assistance is part of the implementation of the Comprehensive Local Integration Program (CLIP) which seeks to achieve permanent and peaceful closure of all armed conflicts with non-state armed groups. Likewise, this program aims to facilitate the mainstreaming of Former Rebels as productive citizens and to enhance capacities of LGUs and National Government Agencies (NGAs) in the implementation and sustainability of the project. The CLIP is being implemented per Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2014-01 dated May 15, 2014 of the DILG and the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP). Beneficiaries of the Program are former rebels who have expressed their desire to abandon armed violence and become productive members of society including their spouses, partners, children (whether legitimate or illegitimate), parents or siblings, if applicable.

With the implementation of the program in the Province, four (4) former rebels as validated by Joint Armed Forces of the Philippines-Philippine National Police Intelligence Committee (JAPIC) were enrolled to CLIP this 2015. The Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office with the DILG and Provincial CLIP Committee prepared the necessary documents for enrollment of the recipients. This likewise includes the preparation of their Reintegration Plan and their respective Business Plan / Project Proposal. Monitoring and evaluation on the progress and outcome of the assistance will be conducted by the DILG and PSWDO. (LGOO V Cynthia P. Pe Benito)

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Lupon Tagapamayapa of Solsona, IN
trains on Enhanced Katarungang Pambarangay (KP) Module

The Department of the Interior and Local Government, in coordination with the Municipal Government and Liga ng mga Barangay of Solsona, Ilocos Norte, has recently concluded its Seminar Workshop on Enhanced KP: Creating a Gender-Responsive, Child-Friendly and IP-Relevant Katarungang Pambarangay.

The training was conducted on December 15-16, 2015 (1st batch) and December 17-18, 2015 (2nd batch) at the Eulogio Luz Memorial Function Hall. It was participated in by Punong Barangays, Barangay Secretaries and two (2) Lupon members from each of the 22 barangays of the municipality. LGOO V Mora Minda R. Barlaw, LGOO V Mildred Lea D. Estavillo, LGOO V Charis O. Garma, LGOO V Maybelle L. Santos, and LGOO V Joey A. Francisco served as resource speakers for the training.

Topics discussed were: Legal, Philosophical and Organizational Aspects of KP; Psycho-Ethical Dimensions of Mediation / Conciliation; Subject Matters for Amicable Settlement; Procedures of Settlement of Disputes, Restorative Justice; Standard Basic Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Skills; Understanding Gender and Gender-Responsive KP; Laws on Women and Children in Relation to KP Law; Child-Friendly Approach in the Implementation of KP; Culture-Sensitive and IP-Relevant Approach in the Implementation of KP; and Workshop on Filling-up of KP Forms.

The seminar-workshop was conducted to enhance the capacity of the Lupon Tagapamayapa in managing conflicts and disputes reported at the barangay level, with the consideration of numerous laws on the protection of women, children and the indigenous communities during mediation and conciliation proceedings. (LGOO II Ana Belle A. Ibanez)
Can the 3-member Sanggunian validly transact business during their session considering the fact that the quorum is effectively reduced as a result of the voluntary resignation of SB members?

The current composition of the Sangguniang Barangay is three (3) members. This includes the Punong Barangay and two (2) Sangguniang Barangay Members. There are permanent vacancies in the Sanggunian Barangay due to the death and resignations of the members. Hence, the composition is only three (3) members. Having determined the composition of the Sanggunian Barangay, Section 53 (a) of the Local Government Code of 1991, to wit:

“Section 53. Quorum. (a) A majority of all the members of the Sanggunian who have been elected and qualified shall constitute a quorum to transact official business.” xxx

For purposes of this Chapter, a permanent vacancy arises when an elective local official fills a higher vacant office, refuses to assume office, fails to qualify, DIES, is removed from office, VOLUNTARILY RESIGNS, or is otherwise permanently incapacitated to discharge the functions of his office. Xx

In the case of Avelino vs. Cuenco, G.R. No. L2821, it was held that “In computing a quorum, the number of members necessary for the purpose should be based on the actual membership or incumbents, and this must be limited to actual members who are not incapacitated to discharge their duties by reason of death, incapacity, or absence from jurisdiction of the organization, or for other causes which make attendance of the member concerned impossible even through coercive process.

Based on the foregoing, the three (3) Sanggunian members constitute a quorum because they are the actual members and incumbents. The members who resigned are no longer members of the Sanggunian because of their irrevocable resignation which is a valid cause for permanent vacancy. The same is true with the member who died.

Coercive process provided by law does not apply to them because by their resignation, they have voluntarily yielded their positions as elected barangay officials. And by that, they are no longer elected barangay officials.

Thus, the remaining Barangay Officials can now transact official business and recommend list of nominees to the appointing authority pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Code of 1991.

20 LGUs of Region 1 to utilize GIS in hazard map preparation

Twenty (20) additional local government units (LGUs) are expected to utilize Geographic Information System (GIS) in the preparation of their hazard maps for earthquakes, flooding, and landslides among others.

The 20 LGUs were trained on GIS on Climate and Disaster Risk Vulnerability Reduction last September 29 - October 1, 2015 at Pangasinan Regency Hotel, Calasiao, Pangasinan. The 20 LGUs are Laoag City, Solsona, and Paoay of Ilocos Norte; Candon City, Narvacan and Sta. Maria of Ilocos Sur; PGLU, Aringay, Bauang, Rosario, Caba, and San Juan of La Union; and Alaminos City, Dagupan City, Sual, Calasiao, Sison, Sta. Barbara and San Fabian of Pangasinan.

Aside from the use of GIS in the preparation of hazard maps, the LGUs are also expected to come up with their database of elements at risk such as buildings or infrastructures; analysis of vulnerability of the elements at risk; cost estimation of the elements at risk on the buildings and their contents; and multi-hazard risk assessment.

Regional Director Julie J. Daquioag emphasized the use of these tools in disaster preparedness. She said that the Department continues to provide capability trainings to ensure that communities are more proactive rather than reactive during disasters.

The 20 LGUs are the fourth batch of LGUs trained on GIS. Similar trainings were conducted last 2013 and 2014 participated in by 38 LGUs.

GIS is a free and open source software that enables the user to visualize, manage, edit and analyze data, as well as compose printable maps. This can be used by LGUs in making land-related decisions which shape the way the environment is managed. The success of the GIS is not determined by technical choices alone but also on organizational and institutional capacities of the LGUs. (LGOO V Sheila Marie G. Andaless with reports from LGOO V Rhodaly S. Licudine)