

DRAFT

# 28<sup>th</sup> LLPDCPI, Inc. Annual National Convention

*May 23-25, 2017  
Punta Villa Resort, Inc.  
Sto. Nino Sur, Arevalo, Iloilo City*

*28<sup>th</sup> Annual National Convention of League of Local Planners and Development  
Coordinators of the Philippines, Inc.  
Punta Villa Resort, Inc. Sto. Nino Sur, Arevalo, Iloilo City  
May 23-25, 2017*

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## **I. Background:**

The League of Local Planners and Development Coordinators of the Philippines, Inc. (LLPDCPI) held the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention on May 22-26, 2017 at Punta Villa, Iloilo City. This year's annual convention is celebrated with the theme “ **Local Economic Development: A Strategy for Up-scaling Community Towards Competitiveness and Globalization.**” The event is spearheaded by the five (5) provincial local development planning chapters of Western Visayas composed of the Provinces of Iloilo, Capiz, Aklan, Antique and Guimaras.

Local planners and development coordinators are the prime movers and drivers of all aspects of development: be it social, political, cultural and economic development. Annually or periodically, these local planners and development coordinators gather to share and learn from each others best practices and experiences; identify challenges and opportunities in development work and planning processes; share technical expertise, approaches and innovations in planning and program/project implementation, and pursue good and effective governance and sustainable development. For this year's annual convention, will highlight the best practices on how economic development started locally and how it empowered and transformed communities to be competitive not only locally but also globally. In addition, the roles of local planning and development coordinators in developing programs, projects and activities gearing towards local economic development will likewise be highlighted. Furthermore, as part of the activities, a learning tour to historical and cultural heritage sites and new infrastructures of Iloilo City and tourism sites in the Province of Guimaras are expected to enrich the learning experience of the participants.

## **II. Objectives**

The objectives of the annual convention are as follows:

- a) To showcase Western Visayas local initiatives , success stories and best practices that would push LGUs for LED.
- b) to highlight local economic development (LED) as a strategy for up-scaling communities towards competitiveness and globalization;
- c) To learn the various strategies and innovations of successful local government units in implementing LED and
- d) To learn challenges, opportunities and initiatives to sustain LED in their localities.

## **III. Profile of Participants:**

The participants during the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual National Convention of LLPDCPI are mainly the local planning and development coordinators coming from the different municipalities,

cities and provinces all over the Philippines. There were also staffs of local planning development offices of the municipal, city and provincial local government units who took the opportunity to attend the convention. It was highly appreciated that there were Local Chief Executives (LCE) who rendered their valuable time to join their local planners in this annual event.

### Opening program:

Before the formal Opening Program, all the participants gathered at Punta Villa Resort ground. They meet and greet, get acquainted with each other and took time to view the products from the five provinces of Region VI on display at Kiosks. The Tribu Salognon<sup>1</sup> was invited to perform and showcase the “Dinagyang Festival”, one of the world’s renowned best festivals.

The processional of the participants coming from the different regions of the country begun. The order of processional was as follow:

- NCR led by Ms. Panganiban
- Region 2- Nueva Vizcaya- Elly Rose
- Region 3- Cetrul Luzon - Mr. Castaneda of Tarlac
- Region IV-A- Calabarzon- Cavite
- Region 17- MIMAROPA Region Eugenio Luna Balet of Marinduque
- Region V- Bicol Region - Legazpi City
- Region VI- Western Visayas- Mario Nillos-PPDC Iloilo Province
- Region VII- Central V- Ms. Loblon- of Buenavista Bohol
- Region VIII Eastern Visayas- of Tacloban City
- Region IX- Zamboanga Peninsula- Zamboanga del Norte
- Region X Northern Mindanao- of Iligan City
- Davao Region- Davao del Norte
- Region XII SOCSARGEN-
- Region 13 Caraga- Agusan Del Sur
- Region 14- ARMM- Joel
- Region 17-
- Region 18- Negros Island Region (NIR)

<b>Entrance of Colors</b>	-	JBLMFU Cadets and Guests
<b>Doxology</b>	-	Guimaras Capitol Chorale
<b>Pambansang Awit</b>	-	Guimaras Capitol Chorale

<sup>1</sup> Tribu Salognon was the 2017 Dinangyang Festival Champion and 2017 Aliwan Festival Champion.

## Acknowledgment of National Officers:

### Welcome Remarks:

**Mr. Mario N. Nillos-**

*President, LLPDCPI -WV Chapter*

Mr. Mario Nillos, President of the LLPDCPI- Western Visayas acknowledged PA Raul Bantias, guests and delegates during this 28<sup>th</sup> Annual National Convention of LLPDCPI. He said that Iloilo hosted the Annual Convention of LLPDCPI in 1995 and 2005. But why Iloilo? It is because Iloilo has beautiful places to offer. On top of this, he also cited that the neighboring provinces like Antique, Aklan, Capiz and Guimaras has their own uniqueness to be proud of. This



*Mr. Mario Nillos, LLPDCPI-WV President delivering his Welcome Remarks.*

event is now hosted by the whole Western Visayas. He then recognized the pointpersons from other provinces. According to him, the five (5) provinces exhibit a strong bond with unique culture and values in each of them. Antique is known for its sweet and healthy *mascubado* sugar and the people there are kind and hospitable. They speak *Kinaray-a*. Antique prides itself of peak mountains too. The Aklanon people speaks *Akeanon* which is very different from Ilonggo or Hiligaynon and proud of its famous Boracay Island which is 4.5 hours ride from Iloilo City. In Iloilo, the Isla de Gigantes is equally beautiful as Boracay. Guimaras Province is famous also for its sweet mangoes plus its beautiful beaches. Just last month Guimaras celebrated the Manggahan Festival and this was culminated yesterday.

He highlighted in his message that Iloilo, speaks Ilonggo and are very hospitable. It is a kind of Ilonggo hospitality that allures visitors and guests. So for the next 2-3 days, he said that they will not only expect lectures and presentations because they will go places that will unravel the beauty of Iloilo both at night and day. Just like the first two conventions held here in Iloilo, that as best as they can, and if resources will warrant, the local planning and development coordinators of Western Visayas will offer their heartfelt service as host of the 28<sup>th</sup> LLPDCPI Annual National Convention.

*Madamo gid nga salamat kag maayong aga sa inyo tanan.*

**Message** : **Dr. Raul Bantias**  
Provincial Administrator, Iloilo Province

**Below is the full text of PA Raul Bantias' message.**

*"On behalf of Governor Defensor, I would like to express our gratitude to LLPDCI for this singular privilege that you have bestowed upon the Province of Iloilo. We extend to each and everyone of you the Ilongos heartfelt compliments nga "gina abi-abi namon kamo tanan". Ilongo way of saying "Welcome". We take our fervent hope that you enjoy your stay in Iloilo Province and city. I would like to congratulate the men and women of LLPDCI for having successfully organize*



*PA Raul Bantias, Provincial Administrator of Iloilo Province delivers a Message on behalf of Gov. Arthur Defensor, Sr.*

*this event. Congratulations also to WV LLPDCPI Chapter headed by our Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator, Mr. Nillos who spent sleepless nights in anticipation of this event. His colleagues in IPPDO and each every kind personnel in other regions worked countless hours in several months to ensure that everything goes well as smoothly that all of us would . The success of this activity is a testament to what will happen and the talented and relentless people such as yourselves come together to accomplish a task . I have always contained that the most hardworking people come in the local government units are the planning coordinators. We are also the most overworked and yes, indeed you are. This is a very strategic timeline separating hardworking and overworked. I know that you are both. As a government official, who by the mandate of my office is partly responsible for placing you in a constant state of fatigue and...I think I speak for other officials who have also benefited and have implement responsibilities over the years. It is just vital that you yourselves are aware of indispensable functions in your localities and already internalized and accepted this role as a way of life. One of the downsides of working for vibrant and people centered-LGU is the amount of work that we have to attend to. I think Mario can attest to that so as his colleagues and I am sure that many of you here have the same experience. But know this, that by dedication, diligence, reliability and capability have brought your LGU to the level of vibrancy and pro-activeness and by endurance you are employing. So you see, it is sort of second attempt of your work that the LGU has been transformed into dynamic institution that provides remarkable social services to the*



people. So the people become connected with the community and the local government and your responsibilities continue to grow. Kung sa Tagalog pa “masyado niyo kasi ginagalingan e.” In IPPDO, the staff are the last one to leave the office, I don’t want to say that they are also the most haggard looking employees, but I simply say that they are the most amiable and accessible. Again in Tagalog we can say, “they are the kaladkarin”. Kidding aside though, I think I cannot expound enough to the contributions of the local planning and development coordinators. I would not be exaggerating when I say their office is the backbone of the LGU especially in drafting programs that will ensure socio-economic development of the local communities. You know fully well the importance of your work or in Tagalog, nakasalalay sa inyo ang pag-unlad ng inyong probinsya. It is a full mandate but unfortunately a very nil one, nevertheless I am confident that this will not dump you. You will eat intimidating insights like this over breakfast, I know that you are not overwhelmed with the challenge and that sense of optimism is what makes a difference for your LGUs and constituencies. I can say with uncertainty that our province has gone far in terms of empowering our grassroots communities in improving the socio-economic condition of the communities. You will hear more about this from Mario and his colleagues, perhaps in one of your sharings over here or in the open forum. We are eager to share with you our glory and we are enthusiastic to learn from your experience. I should say that the major theme of this convention is Local Economic Development is particularly pleasing to me. I also think it is also one aspect of development in which Iloilo is performing strongly. Thanks to our Local Economic Development and Investment Promotion Unit (LEIPU) in PPDO. We have a topic on Poverty Through Strengthened Small Entrepreneur by providing them training and capitals and also connecting them to markets and big businesses. With this we are working for assistance and of course not only confined locally within the country. Just in two weeks, Mr. Lao of LEIPU and Iloilo Business Club Executive Director, Miss Lea Lara went to a trade Mission in Hong Kong and the result of that was a similar trade mission here in the Philippines. Again if you want to hear more about this, they are willing to share it with you more details of this. And we are happy that LED is given focus especially that globalization where small and local communities must be provided with all the assistance they need to compete globally. Moreover, many of our people are finding it increasingly hard to find additional work and I feel that it is really up to the LGUs to expand the local economy and generate economic opportunities where needed the most. So the focus of this convention is very relevant to the real need of the people. I thank you sincerely for the commitment to strengthen this area of development.”

At this juncture, the master of ceremony called on President Roberto “Obet” Dizon, National President of the LLPDCPI to deliver his message.

**Message :** **Mr. Robert Dizon**  
National President, LLPDCPI

President Dizon greeted and recognized first the guests, delegates and PA Baniyas before he started his message. He also recognized the local chief executives who really took time to attend the convention.

It is with great joy and sense of pride that he said, "Thank You" to his fellow local planners for the opportunity they accorded to him to lead the league in the past two years. He is particularly grateful to the national executive officers and regional presidents for their unwavering support. It gave him adrenalin to carry out the mandate mindful of the general welfare and interest of the league members.

He said, he stood firm and never wavered in his commitment to explore viable options to challenge the legality of the implementation of R.A. 10587 (Environmental Planning Act of 2013). He said that having exhausted diplomacy for two years along with fellow national officers, but still the battle goes on and they do not have other recourse but to bring this to Supreme Court (SC).

He said the legal counsel will explain in the next two-days every detail and why they are complaining--- he said "we are deprived of due process of law." Maybe some will ask why SC and not lower court. This is because, there is deprivation of due process of law. So he advised the participants to take time to attend so that you will know *bakit ipinaglalaman ito...* He also noted that only 5% of local planners are licensed and we are hear fighting for 95% planners who are not licensed.

According to him it has been a great experience serving in a company of fellow planners with diligence and dedication and high sense of professionalism. They never had acrimonious discussions. They respected each others views and ideas and solve concerns and issues objectively. It was not easy but it was full of sacrifices and still he looks forward for fruitful years ahead.

The average age of local planners is 34 years old. Average years in service is 10 years. *Daig pa ba 'yan ng licensed ENP? Kahit tulog alam ng local planner and CDP, CLUP, etc.* According to him, he went to Senate because they were not invited to any hearing and they were not consulted, as he reiterated why the fight for the amendment of RS 10587 goes on.

He also encouraged the participants to attend the plenary on the afternoon of 24<sup>th</sup> of May. The Manual of Operation will also be tackled and approved. The organization is already 28 years old yet it has no Manual of Operation. On top this, it is also the time to elect the new set of officers. He mentioned the vacant positions for election. He mentioned the newly created positions which are VP for Minadanao, VP for Visayas, VP for South Luzon and VP for North Luzon.

In the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual convention, very few attended the convention because of communication gaps. That is why it is important to have the VPs so that the line of communication will be jurisdictional and the organizational structure will be improved.

As he ends his message, he took the opportunity to recognize and give the certificate of appreciation to the LCEs who attended the event. They are Mayors Jing Canoy of Bukidnon and Hon. Mayor \_\_\_\_\_ of Dangcagan, Bukidnon. (awarded by Mr. Mario Nillos and Mr. Foberto G. Dizon. Mayor Daligan of Damulog, Bukidnon.

Certificate of Appreciation were also given to tourism officers of Misamis Oriental, Joahana Javier; DRRM officer of Calanuga, Cagayan;

That was all and he said, “Thank You and hope you will have a nice stay”. He requested everyone to give a big and round of applause to Iloilo City and greeted them “Good day and Mabuhay Tayo and God bless us all”.

The master of ceremony introduced the Keynote Speaker.

**Keynote Message : Under Secretary Zenaida Magdaya**  
**Department of Trade and Industry**

Under Secretary Zenaida Maglaya started her keynote message by recognizing the local chief executives present in the event, officers of LLPDCPI, PA Baniyas and guests and delegates. She particularly recognized the mayors because according to her, they take the lead in the One Town One Product (OTOP) program of DTI, and now, the mayors are giving space for the Negosyo Centers which the next speaker from DTI will explain later.



*Under Secretary Zenaida Maglaya of Department of Trade and Industry was the Keynote Speaker during the LLPDCPI Convention.*

She said that the presence of the local development planners are inspiring because all walls of the room is full.

Below is the full text of USec. Magdaya speech.

“Local economic development (LED)” should be everybody’s business, not only by

government but including local residents, and local business people (Dr. Meyer 2003). LED is seen as the solution in ensuring improved quality of life, and in addressing unemployment, poverty and inequality. LED empowers and ensures local participation, local people can play an active part in planning their own economic future. LED ensures that local businesses are involved in the process and are more open to play an active role in partnerships with local communities. In addition, LED ensures that local development is locality based and focused on local comparative advantages (Rodrigues-Pose 2001).

Local governments play an important role in creating such condition by initiating policies and organizational reforms to achieve local economic development goals. Development strategies to be adopted at the local level should be aligned with the National Government's economic development thrust anchored on our national long term vision or "Ambisyon Natin 2040", a collective dreams and aspirations of what ordinary, everyday Filipinos see their life to be by 2040 and for the country in the next 25 years. As such, it is an anchor for development planning across at least four administrations.

With the current regional and global developments, there is also a need for the National Government to converge and harmonize its efforts and support to the local government units. Likewise, local executives need to innovate and focus for a more strategic, market driven, results oriented, innovative, collaborative and coordinated approaches to the delivery of LED services and support by national level agencies. They need to establish entrepreneurial government for a better and efficient way of managing local government not only in collecting taxes but in generating income revenue by steering economic development. Local governments should also make better use of the existing potential of the locality in order to develop local opportunities resulting from demand in national and international markets. In order for LED to be more effective there should be a clear distinction between LED and community development initiatives, refrain to solve problems by throwing money to the problem, ongoing analysis of local economic sectors and address market failures, stimulate entrepreneurship and business development, maximize existing local resources such as finance, natural resources, and human skills by the utilization of mentors, identify and implement "quick wins" projects and creation of a strong partnership between public and private sectors (Meyer-Stamer 2003).

A good example of the success of LED is the recently concluded project between the Government of Canada and the Philippines on "Local Governance Support Program for Local Economic Development (LGSP-LED) led by the DILG together with other national government agencies and private sector forming the National LED Alliance, supported by the members of the Economic Transformation Teams (ETT's) at the regional/provincial level, as the LED support delivery mechanisms.

Through the program, results achieved include the strengthened environment for LED at the national and local level by the joint policies, programs and tools that have been

developed, adopted and implemented in 17 provinces, 17 cities and 100 municipalities across the country; improved business climate at the local government level as a result of the business registration and renewal procedures streamlined, local investment and incentive codes updated, and local economic and investment promotion offices set up and officers designated and trained; a more competitive tourism sector at the local level due to improved delivery of services to tourism industry actors; and more than 8,600 MSMEs, smallholder farmers and low-skilled workers (55% women) in the tourism and agribusiness sectors have enhanced their skills to align with industry needs, grown their livelihoods into more profitable businesses linked and integrated to markets. These results contributed to local economic development in the assisted cities and municipalities by increasing annual business registrations in the tourism sector by 44%; attracting new public and private investments in the tourism and agriculture sector reaching more than CAN\$235 million in total new investments since 2009; and generating more than 5,000 new tourism-related jobs.

Our country's recent economic performance has demonstrated remarkable economic resilience, owing to vigorous governance and economic reforms, as well as to our continuous efforts to streamline processes and promote industrial and manufacturing resurgence. This strong performance can provide the necessary momentum that will drive the country to a higher and more rapid growth path. The necessary ingredients for investment and employment growth are now present in the Philippines, such as a growing domestic market with over 100 million population, an emerging middle class, political stability, strong macroeconomic foundation, rising consumer and business confidence, and a young, English speaking, highly trainable workforce. The Zero + 10-Point Socioeconomic Agenda of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte states that the country will continue and maintain the current macro policies, including fiscal, monetary, and trade policies. At the same time, it will rebalance the economy from services towards agriculture, manufacturing, and exports. It will also focus on increasing competitiveness and ease of doing business, as well as promote rural and value chain development toward increasing agricultural and rural enterprise productivity and rural tourism. Aligned with the President's agenda and the National Economic and Development Authority's Ambisyon Natin 2040, the main thrust of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) focuses on inclusive and sustainable growth that generates more income opportunities through "Trabaho at Negosyo" or "Employment and Entrepreneurship." This strategy aims at building innovative, value adding, technology enhancing, and globally competitive industries where the Philippines will be known for, thereby creating a competitive policy environment and an efficient supply chain ecosystem. It will build an entrepreneurial culture, provide policy and program support to develop competitive micro, small, and medium enterprises, and promote more inclusive business models and social enterprises to link MSMEs into the value chain of big businesses.

The DTI has formulated a new Comprehensive National Industrial Strategy (CNIS) aimed at upgrading manufacturing, agriculture, and services, while strengthening their linkages into domestic and global value chains. Our goal is to develop globally competitive industries with strong forward and backward linkages, characterized by deep participation, particularly by SMEs, in regional and global production networks and global value chains.

In implementing the “Employment and Entrepreneurship” strategy, the DTI acts as enabler of industry to address the most binding constraints that prevent the entry of new firms or hinder their integration into the global value chains of multinational companies. It coordinates closely with other government agencies to address the biggest obstacles to the entry and growth of domestic firms. It facilitates the creation of the right policy framework to encourage the development of the private sector along the lines of the country’s comparative advantage.

The Employment and Entrepreneurship strategy focuses on the growth and development of five priority industries: (1) manufacturing; (2) agribusiness; (3) IT-business process management, particularly knowledge process outsourcing; (4) tourism; and (5) infrastructure and logistics. Tourism and agribusiness are important job generators in the regions. Improving agricultural productivity is crucial in order to transform regional economies from traditional agriculture to more modern agribusiness. Huge investments in infrastructure and logistics would boost the competitiveness of industries and improve connectivity within the country.

Manufacturing resurgence is crucial in generating jobs not only for skilled workers, but also for semi- and low-skilled laborers. Currently, the Manufacturing Industry Roadmap is pursuing the development of various manufacturing subsectors, such as auto and auto parts through the Comprehensive Automotive Resurgence Strategy (CARS) Program, aerospace parts, electronics, garments, chemicals, furniture, tool and die, and shipbuilding.

The CARS Program focuses on developing parts manufacturing, particularly large body shell and plastic assemblies, common parts, strategic parts not yet manufactured locally, and shared service facilities. In coordination with other government agencies like the Department of Science and Technology, Department of Agriculture, and Department of Energy, among others, the DTI is the lead agency implementing the Manufacturing Resurgence Program (MRP), which aims to craft and implement projects that ensure the sustainable and inclusive growth of the manufacturing industry. Together with the sectoral industry roadmaps, the MRP has been contributing substantially in addressing ease of doing business concerns cutting across many industries, while at the same time, resolving competitiveness constraints affecting specific industries through initiatives such as the CARS Program. DTI is also implementing programs to put MSME

development at the front and center of its policies. These include initiatives to improve MSME capacity, access to market and finance, technology and MSME participation in global value chains and regional/global production networks such as Shared Services Facilities which involves provision of tools and equipment, the SME Roving Academy which provides skills and entrepreneurship/managerial trainings/seminars, Kapatid Mentor Me Program which aims to help Micro and Small Entrepreneurs scale up their businesses thru the weekly coaching and mentoring by business owners and practitioners on different functional areas of entrepreneurship, Negosyo Centers, responsible for promoting ease of doing business and facilitating access to services for MSMEs within its jurisdiction, and Negosyo Konsyumer Atbp. We are also working towards the establishment of innovation centers, incubation centers, accelerators, and co-working spaces for MSMEs. Priorities in agribusiness include rubber, coconut, mangoes, coffee, banana, palm oil, and other high value crops. Apart from the IT-BPM sector, which has remained a major strength of the country, the Services Roadmap focuses on the development of labor intensive sectors like tourism, construction, ship repair, aircraft MRO (maintenance, repair, and overhaul), logistics and infrastructure investments.

While the private sector is seen as the major driver of growth, the government has an important role to play in coordinating policies and necessary support measures that will address the obstacles to the entry and growth of domestic firms. Close coordination among government agencies and effective policy implementation are the most crucial factors for industry development. Effective implementation of legislation; strict enforcement of product quality standards; modernizing investment incentives and measures to address supply/value chain gaps, increase spill-over effects, and provide access to raw materials, intermediate inputs and common service facilities; and aggressive investment promotion and marketing to attract investments are some of the immediate policies that the government is trying to put in place.

Towards this end, the role of our Local Government Units is crucial to upscale local communities towards competitiveness. Local government should align their programs/projects and initiatives with the goals, plans and priorities of the national government for economic growth without forgetting its role in steering local/regional economic development in their respective areas. Local executives should think strategically, and must be aware and understand how changes in their competitive environment are unfolding. They should actively look for opportunities to exploit their strategic advantages, adapt and seek improvements in every aspect of their local economy.

Our economy can only be considered competitive when our citizens will be able to enjoy high and growing living standards and high employment on a sustainable basis. Such conditions, the level of economic activity will not cause unstable external balance nor will jeopardize the welfare of future generations.

Thank you very much and good day!

Certificate of appreciation is given to Key note speaker Zenaida Maglaya by PA Baniyas and Mr. Dizon

PHOTO Ops of the Officers with the Keynote Speaker Usec Zenaida Maglaya.

## Proceedings of the Plenary Sessions

Day 1: May 23, 2017

**11:30AM-12:20PM: Session 1: LED and Good Governance: The Iloilo City Experience**

By: **Hon. Jed Patrick E. Mabilog**

*Mayor, Iloilo City*



*Hon. Jed Patrick E. Mabilog, Mayor of Iloilo City shares the great transformation of Iloilo City through LED and Good Governance..*

Before the good mayor started his presentation, he acknowledged and welcomed the participants, guests and delegates. He said he will explain about the vertical and horizontal strategy involving different sectors in developing LED in Iloilo City.

He gave a brief background of Iloilo City. He cited the outline of his presentation that was based and organized as follows: Background

(introduction about Iloilo City); 2010-2013- Urban Renewal and Redevelopment; 2013-2016- Urban Expansion and Development; 2016-2019- Urban Livability; Sustainability and Resiliency.

The mayor mentioned the basic data information about Iloilo City, its land area, topography, location including its vulnerabilities. He also mentioned data on population, number of households, and annual growth rate.

At this point, he asked to allow him to tell a story of great transformation of Iloilo City which is a long story and coming up with editor's cut is quite difficult. There is just



much to share that these transformations are through the periods which actually in time of his terms as mayor.

He said that in his first term, in 2010-2013 Urban Renewal and Redevelopment was a three year work program that continued the programs and projects of his predecessor, now, Cong. Jerry Trenas. He said they tapped the Institute of Asia to conduct urban diagnostics and studies, crafted the Vision and Mission and the parameters was laid way back in 2007-2015. They saw analyses on housing, traffic congestion, environmental degradation. Like the Iloilo River it has more or less 1000 informal settlers and it is actually an estuary or arm of the sea which is affected by tide. Iloilo River is bagged a the biggest septic tank. In preparing for the implementation of the newly crafted CLUP, the city built the capacity of the city hall team through training, seminar and scholarship and enjoined the constituents of the city, private, public and community under the battle cry *"My City my Pride"*.

The initiative worked under the Vision of making ***Iloilo City a Premier City by 2015***. It is defined in the roadmap with twelve goals to a **Vibrant, Well- governed and Prosperous** city.

The second period of transformation was in 2013-2016. This is the Urban Expansion and Development which was during his second term in office. He called upon each citizen to bring their pride and consciousness about their city to a higher level of nationalism, thinking and planning locally as Ilongos but acting globally as productive and proud Filipinos. The work plan during this period was defined also by a Ten-Point Agenda which spelled out a balanced socio-economic, environmental and governance initiative. This period saw a more active governance that is founded on three pillars which he said, he will explain in some details later. The period also saw the heightened and concerted efforts by all for the improvement of the Iloilo-Batiano River and Heritage Conservation which they restored 16 buildings. The national government has not spent any centavo for restoration. Sponsors, business sectors and historical council spent the restoration of the heritage structures. As these two programs are our good practices, he will also present this with some elaborations in a moment. During this period, the slogan was changed to *"I Am Iloilo, Proud to be Filipino."*

The mayor then explained the 3 Pillars of good governance in which LED was shaped. These are: **UNITY, Strategic Development Planning and Political Will**. **Unity** here refers to unity of people's vision, development thrusts and participation in the city development work. This is also the horizontal, vertical and cross-sectional participation towards a premier city, an intelligent city. In here, the roles of planners to create strategic program is very crucial. It also means the vertical linkages with the national government and barangays, Office of Development Agencies (ODA) and international networks (ex. USAID is helping them) and horizontal linkages with other partner NGOs,

academe, private sectors, LGUs, POs, Faith groups, etc. He continued that the role of planners is very crucial in **strategic development planning** that without the capable planners, the planning process will be costly and dangerous, waste of money and resources. The **POLITICAL WILL** speaks of “TO DO WHAT IS MORALLY RIGHT RATHER THAN WHAT IS POLITICALLY CORRECT”. He said that because of his Political Will that he won the Top 5 World Mayor. He stated his demonstration of “Political Will” when the dirt of Iloilo River was very unbearable. What they did was they created the Iloilo Batiano River Development Council and extended collaborative efforts that gave rise to one prominent project called ESPLANADE. This was supported by Senator Franklin Drilon and was designed by Arch. Paulo Alcazaren. After a year, the 1<sup>st</sup> International River Summit was held here in Iloilo, then in Marikina and soon, Iloilo will be the venue of the First Philippine River Summit.

The informal settlers along the Iloilo River were relocated. Iloilo has a housing project to house the informal settlers and it was not called as relocation site but as a subdivision and villages... Iloilo River Plains Subdivision. There was social preparations, Goals were established, Gawad Kalinga was tapped. Inside the place they built the school, and called it Iloilo Integrated International School, Day Care Centers, Health Centers, built special roads and lights and public utility transport, church and sub-police station. There was no single mass protest after the massive relocation. He cited that the only protest happened was the protest of previous councilor whose restaurant along the Esplanade was removed.

The mayor also said that before, the water colliform level of Iloilo River is billions in i.u in which the normal should only be 5000 i.u. He cited that during that time, they have a billion. Now, EMB- DENR reported that they only have 50,000 i.u colliform level. This is a significant improvement. The river became the catalyst of change for Iloilo City. There were infrastructure construction, roads, housing, the removal of slaughterhouse that pours its wastewater in the river has gave rise to the construction of new slaughterhouse, sports and recreation, Iloilo -Guimaras ferry terminal project, dredging and removal of “*punots*” or fish pens and derelicts.

He added that for sustainability, they continually remove illegal fish pens and support heritage conservation.

Iloilo City has existing environmental ordinance that all environmental programs can avail 10% discount with their environmental or green initiatives.

For his last term in 2016-2019, a new vision was crafted. The vision is to make “**Iloilo as Premier Smart City of Excellence**” with 10-point agenda. The SMART refers to what the business sector defines as target sectors on Service, Manufacturing/Agribusiness, Arts and Culture, Research and Technology and Tourism.

The vision is translated into a roadmap that guides the city towards livability, good governance and sustained progress. It has 13 goals that are viewed in the context of the constituency, organization, infrastructure and finance. Further, they have the ten-point agenda to realize the visions, the community based disaster preparedness and resilience, planned extension and social services on “Cradle to Grave package” and anti-drug and corruption program. These are translated into new roadmap that will guide the city.

He now explained the **10-Point Agenda**:

1. **Education**- He explained that this is the most important one because what if you have job to offer but you have no capable people to employ. Iloilo City established the Iloilo City College in time when CHED declared moratorium in giving certificates. Now, CHED granted recognition to ICC. The literacy rate of Iloilo City is 95.4%. This is the reason why Iloilo is competitive. The city has funded technical vocational graduates each year at TESDA and with assistance from DOLE they helped them in their capitalization to start their business. The employment rate of Iloilo City is 91%.
2. **Health and social services**- Primary hospitals were built in the city. There are also health clinics and accredited birthing stations in the city right now.
3. **Peace and Order**- Anti criminality operation and crime solution. For campaign on Illegal drugs out of 459K population, 3,000+ drug related cases duly validated by PDEA and we are now on process of addressing drug issue. Crime rates has lowered from 2015 compared to 2016.
4. **Anti-corruption**- business processing, business permits signing. Now, the business processing which would last for 15 days in 2011 and 3 days in 2013 and now its only 15 minutes. This is the reason why Iloilo City is one of the two (2) LGUs in the country to have the blue certificate from Ombudsman.
5. **Livelihood**- They held the Iloilo Business Summit in Makati and trade and earned PhP350B pledges of investors. 80% or 3,000 businesses are now located in Iloilo City. They have 8,000 new business establishment with minimum of 5 employees. That’s why they have a growth rate of 12% not including the contribution of OFWs.
6. **Family and Spirituality**- God should be the center of all undertaking. Values and characters that every Filipino and every Ilongo should possess is a high priority in the development agenda of the city. Family-oriented activities such as walking in the park, engaging in sports and recreation at public entertainment centers, dining, physical fitness and dance classes at the Esplanade are among the favorite past times by Ilongos.

**7. Infrastructure and Utilities-** The city has seen the need for improvement of the Iloilo International Airport, sea ports and land transport terminals. It will also open to investors for uninterrupted power supply. You will also notice that here were no longer “spaghetti wires” along the streets because these are now laid underground. For water, the Metro Iloilo Water District has just inked the Bulk water Supply Joint Venture and the city has also opened doors to Balibago Water to supply water to some part of the city.

**8. Environment-** Iloilo City is already compliant in operating a sanitary land fill. This is the main and foremost priority in the environmental agenda of the city. Another is the green urban spaces which will be highlighted by the development of Esplanade 2 and 3.

### **9. Traffic Management**

**10. Sustainable Land Governance-** This is another important agenda that the city is pursuing in collaboration with the UNHABITAT who in 2014 assisted the city in crafting the Jaro Planned City Extension Plan. The urban design called for the adoption of livability and sustainability principles in town planning which involves, wider pedestrian walks, bikelaness, greener open spaces, shorter and walk -able residential blocks and climate resilience. Various development plans, the CLUP, CDP, IBRDC Masterplan, 10 -year Solid Waste Management Plan and Urban Traffic and Management Plan are implemented currently by all the stakeholders. This has won the city in the Livable City and Design Competition and won as the venue of APEC Meetings in 2014.

So, they strengthen the CPDO, UPV is offering the Urban Planning program, and he said he himself enrolled in that program. He will graduate this June 2017 in the Urban Planning course and still planning to enroll again in DURP in Diliman. He emphasized that it is Important that the LCE should be equipped with the knowledge in governance and development. More so, he encouraged his staff to enroll in scholarship of UPV for Urban Planning. This is a way of making our city competitive, and we need good planners, he quipped.

He then congratulated all of planners and development coordinators for holding this laudable event.

In closing he again emphasized that UNITY among all, strategic development plans and political will to do what is morally right rather than what is politically correct.

“I am Iloilo proud to be Filipino.”

**12:20PM. End of presentation.**

Awarding of certificate of Appreciation to Mayor Jed Patrick E. Mabilog.

Photo Ops of National Convention Officers with Mayor Jed Mabilog. This was followed by the continuation of the photo ops of different regions with the National Officers of LLPDCPI.

## **LUNCH BREAK**

Afternoon Session:

The afternoon session started at **2:00PM**

Mr. Gumala, Chairman of election Committee announced that this year is an Election Year because based on the Constitution and By Laws (CBL), every two years will be an election year. He further said that there will be an election of Vice Presidents for Southern Luzon and Northern Luzon, Vice Presidents for Visayas and Vice President for Mindanao.

Other officers to be elected include the National President, National Executive Vice President, Secretary General, Treasurer, Auditor, Business Manager and Information Officer. Everyone is invited to file his candidacy. The election will take place tomorrow after the League matters.

The Emcee introduced the next speaker.

**2:10PM- 3:00PM: Session 2: Building Business Friendly and Competitive LGUs**  
**By: Asst. Secretary Arturo P. Boncato, Jr.,**  
*Department of Trade and Industry*

He greeted the planners and organizers of the event. He said he wanted to share to the participants what the national government is doing to improve local economic development.

In line with the 10-point agenda of the national government, it is a priority to increase competitiveness and the ease of doing business and this will be explained later on when Pres. Duterte will deliver his State of



*ASec. Arturo Boncato, Jr. discussed DTI programs in pursuing LED and competitiveness*

the Nation Address. (SONA). So the question here is, “Is it necessary for the Philippines to compete or is it necessary for the local government unit to compete or compete for each other”? He said that “we compete for many reasons, we compete for different structures around the world to earn a bronze or gold medal in the Olympics, in fashion like Michael Cinco, and when products are appreciated around the world. Just like Jollibee stores which are almost in every country around the world and of course the San Miguel beer as it has been there for a long long time. We compete to increase investment in the country to look for trade and look for jobs and we compete to entice tourists. He said that we even want the OFW to stop working abroad and start to work in the Philippines. We compete for people, we compete for emerging and continuing factory for business of people that it is something that cuts across every Filipino just like the crown of Ms. Universe. It is something that is very clear of what we want for the Philippines today. We compete in all aspects. That is why in 2011, our national government created an Executive Order No. 44, the National Competitiveness Council which is the private sector and government inter- agency body to discuss on how to increase competitiveness in the Philippines.”

He then showed the Global Competitiveness Report Card and explained that to date at least 30 businesses where Philippines is part of the rankings. And this time Philippines is doing Business Reports as part of the International Financial Corporations (IFC) and out of 190 countries around the world according to their competitiveness, Philippines in 2017 was rank 99 out of 190. Are you happy? Let us be happy and continue to do hard to compete because this means bringing more investments, bringing jobs and bringing goods in the Philippines.

There are indicators in doing this business report, he said and for us the most important one according to the World Bank is starting a business. In starting a business, it usually involved the DTI office, the Cooperative Development Authority, local government authority, BIR, and other agencies, Philhealth, Pag-ibig and SSS. And as you can see in the 2017 indicator, in starting a business indicator, Philippines dropped by six (6), which means that we are now ranked 171 out of 190. *“Hindi na tayo sa gitna at nasa bottom na po tayo by just looking at this indicator”*. The report also showed that in certain indicator, we were able to increase just as shown in our economic freedom index, doing business reports, corruption perception index and global competitiveness report and for five -six years, we will manage to increase our ranking and will continue to work very hard in order not to lose our third position.

In addition, he said that although there is an increased ranking in doing business reports from 103 to 99, we still fell in terms of performance doing the report compared to our ASEAN neighbors. We used to be fifth but we are surpassed by Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia.

He also shared inputs gathered through a scoping mission supported by New Zealand Exploratory Support Exercises. It is known that New Zealand is the only country that can start a business in just one day. Based on consultation with the business community, the typically registration of corporations usually take 1-2 months. These are mainly in Business Permit and Licensing Offices. For instance, in getting permits, sometimes the key people are not available, no available website, no online-services and requirements are not consistent. Travel time to offices from the place of origin sometimes is half day away from businesses. Now, they hire third parties to ease the process and not to mention the rules and regulations are not really on what is really in the law.

Furthermore, there is lack of consistency at the LGU level which make difficult for businesses in getting permits. There is no centralized effort especially for those with many branches. There are also lots of duplication of the same information required. Sometimes frontliners staff are not knowledgeable of the processes or any changes in the process.

There are also findings and observations from LGUs. He even shared the experience of the representative from Lapu-lapu City, Davao and nearby LGUs. They say that procurement process is complicated. They have no access to data. Access to internet services among LGUs is a challenge. This is very important. Streamline and on-line process is very important too. Automation may replace us as they say but uncertainly e-signature should also be acknowledged but until now, this could not recognize this first because we still need the original signatures.

The general themes and observations of the scoping of New Zealand Exploratory Exercise were actual experience from agency's view; focus in the area of operation only; the compliance mindset of the LGUs that the business/ entrepreneurs are taxpayers and limited data of filing business that limits evidence of segmentation.

They recommend that there should be a comprehensive checklist, unified application forms, prescribed processing time and regulatory impact assessment, central business portal and business registry databank.

There are identified challenges to ease doing business. The Philippines is open for domestic and foreign policies. There are complex regulations and unharmonized regulatory frameworks; outdated and over-lapping contradictory laws, low utilization of innovative technologies and substantial tariff and non-tariff barriers.

The government issues tempered impact reforms in terms of Processes, Structure and System.

The key initiatives of the government evolved in the Administrative Order 038 states that various national agencies will be involved to Ease in Doing Business. In Business licensing and permitting systems, there is now a new BPLS standards in terms of processing time, number of steps, number of forms and number of signatories.

In starting a business from old BPLS standards which is 16 steps in 29 days to 6 steps in 8 days now with 3 steps in 3 days.

Another initiative also is the the business registry of MSMEs.

Another project undertaken by DTI is the project Repeal which is the Philippine red tape challenge. This initiative involved various agencies were encouraged that from 8 agencies only, now there were 80 participating agencies. They also created regional competitiveness committee.

The speaker also explained the four (4) pillars of sustainable competitiveness. These are economic dynamism, government efficiency, infrastructure and Resilience. He also said that 99.5% of total businesses are MSMEs. We have now 530 Negosyo centers serving 300,000 operators and conducted 8,300 training seminars. Programs on SME Roving Academy, Go Lokal, Shared Service Facilities, Mentor Me, OTOP and National Trade Shows.

The speaker proceeded on the Imperatives to Ease Doing Business. One of which according to him is going On-line. It is also important to have policy reforms, strengthening institutional arrangements, transparency, teamwork and focus,

Just note that competition never stops, the bar rises, speed to reform should be our mantra, maintain momentum and institutionalize change and lastly Public and Private Partnership (PPP).

Thank you.

### **3:00PM- End of Presentation**

A certificate of Appreciation was awarded to ASec. Arturo Boncato, Jr by President Obet Dizon

### **3:05- 3:55PM Session 3: LED Through Tourism**

By: **Atty. Helen J. Catalbas,**  
*Regional Director- Region VI, Department of Tourism*

She started her presentation by saying that she is happy to see these people because



these are people who are influential. You are the makers of the road maps in your localities, referring to the audience. According to her she would like to discuss to them the effect of Tourism in the growth of local economies. She begun it by defining what is Tourism.

**TOURISM** refers to two places, the place of origin and the place of destination. The origin is the demand or the buyer and the destination is the supply or seller. You, local planners, you belong to destination where you provide the supply while other places provide the demand, she said. The destination is associated with tourism product. The product is not a piece of food or souvenir. The product of tourism is defined by the time tourist leaves a place and the time he gets back to this home with his experience. It is something intangible. She elaborated that if you are a tourism salesman (like the tour operators), what you sell is a promise of a memorable, pleasant and safe trip , pleasant stay and destination until you get back to your home/ origin. You speak about attractions are reasons why tourists visit a destination. What pulls the tourist to visit your place... Festival... Food...place or combination thereof. Without attraction there, would mean no tourism. There is always a need to compete in tourism but there should also be a clear road map that should be based on the national development plan congruent to the national tourism plan.

She also explained that you are a tourist if you visit a place for one day but not more than one year. If you stay for more than one year, then you will be a resident now of that place.

She also discussed that **facilities** are also reasons why tourist go to a destination. But presence or absence of facilities could influence decision-making of tourists.

The **Image** of destination or the mental picture about the destination is what comes to the mind of the people. Image is a very sensitive undertaking because this might be negative image or positive image. If the negative image of the destination illustrates in the mind of the people, then you have to do a lot to erase that negative image however, the positive one can also be damaged if not taken care of properly. Peace and order, security and safety are equally important too and may give also a negative image.

Another is **Hospitality**- the people and government themselves, tricks and greets of travelers and destination, facilities, businesses and government as whole are what makes a hospitality in a destination.

Western Visayas (WV) has its own tourism product. Last year WV has 2M tourists and delivered 214M pesos income brought about by tourism. All sectors of society practically benefited from tourism. The Iloilo Business Club earned a lot from business as well as the farmers and fisherfolks.

Now, why national economic development through tourism.

Tourism needs investment. There is growing number of flights coming in six (6) airports in WV. Kalibo, Capiz, Iloilo, Silay and Bacolod and Caticlan. We depend so much in local and domestic tourism. Two years ago, WV launched the “Experience Western Visayas First.” After the Typhoon Yolanda in 2013, Boracay experienced black-out for one and a half months. It was here where they recognized the importance of web. If you are not in web, you are not known, she explained. Capiz was also affected by Typhoon Yolanda. Only Guimaras was spared. Because of that, WV destinations supported Boracay because if not, it will result to unemployment. It will result to one economic disaster. So WV launched Experience WV first. Since internet connections are lost, foreign travel agencies cannot connect for information and they cannot book or cancel their bookings. So what the DOT did was they pulled their direction with the LGUs and went to Manila and other places and promoted 50% discounts. So, WV survived the untoward effect of Yolanda and some other disasters too. She said that as planners you should include this in your local development plans. In some municipalities, they have a very short portion of tourism plan in the development plan. She further advised that if you want your economy to improve fast, integrate tourism in your development plans together with energy, housing and all other aspects from the barangay level to municipal or provincial. She also stressed that support of LGU and the grass root levels is crucial to ensure success as far as tourism is concerned.

Tourism needs jobs. Just imagine a 100 sq m area resort or a hotel with 100 room capacity, just imagine the employment it will generate, the farmers, fishermen that will benefit, Atty. Catalbas said.

Tourism is business for the tourist and the host community. It means income, income and more income not only for big businessmen but also for small ones. It mean also taxes that can fuel infra structure project and build more hospital, etc.. Tourism is fun, it is not only job that you will make , but you will make more friends and not enemies. Of course it is very lucrative but it is really fun, fun for families, LGUs and localities. So, why not, go into TOURISM she said.

The speaker recommends the following to Local planners:

- 1) Tourism should be included in the local development plans.
- 2) plans should be on a well-thought plan responsive to the needs of the community.
- 3) Local tourism should change the quality and quantity of life of the people
- 4) Integrate Tourism into the CLUP because it is difficult to ask the Sangguniang to support tourism activities. When Tourism is integrated in the

CLUP, is is easy for the Sangguniang to approve it.

Thank you.

### **3:55PM- End of Presentation**

Awarding of Certificate of Appreciation to **Dir. Helen J. Catalbas** by Mr. Nillos and Mr. Dizon

### **4:00-4:45PM- Session 4: Embracing Entrepreneurial and Transformational Leadership:**

By: **Hon. Jason R. Gonzales**

*Mayor, Municipality of Lambunao*

Before he started his presentation, he Introduced himself as a first time mayor of the Municipality of Lambunao. He also explained why he is here. He also shared his story how he became a politician.

He said that when he was 13 years old, he got a comics and saw batman where a child told batman that "*Laos ka na*" but batman said he is here to solve complex problem that only... this caught his attention and he said that the problems we face are systemic and structural in nature. For example, a problem on "*Gutom*" or hunger, *di pwede na feeding lang*. When he was 15 years old, he came across a write up of that illustrates the relationship of man with the world. This gave him an idea that he wanted to be in public service. He continues that his best friend who was a valedictorian when in high school told him that he doesn't want to excel anymore in college. He will just make his schooling as fun as he could... just to enjoy it without so much pressure. So in short, they graduated in college. He also graduated in college. He went home to Iloilo expressed his intention to run in politics. Without a clear plan, and the only people he knows are his relatives, friends and household help, he borrowed money from his grandmother.

He has this Mango Tree restaurant in Mandurriao and every night, he asked those people who come in and out of the restaurant if how they find the food and talked to them any topic under the sun. He also joined civic groups like Gawad Kalinga in 2009 and then he decided to run as City Councilor in Iloilo City. His strategy was, he hanged and post tarpaulin everywhere in the city. The text in the tarpaulin is: "*Sin-o si Jason Gonzales?*" A marketing strategy that turned-out viral. In short, he won in 2010 and landed in top 6 city councilors. He campaigned for improvement of educational system, health and other basic services. He also enrolled in Urban Planning. His piece of advise to the planners, "if you do everything right, the impact will be great".

Then 2016 was fast approaching, and it was a call for a big decision on his part to run in

his hometown. He resigned as city councilor of Iloilo City and run for mayor. In the Municipality of Lambunao. It was with this major decision that he knows he could serve well his constituents. This was his story on how he become a politician.

He posed a question: Who do you think are under-priority? *Yong mga taong gumawa ng doorknob or gumawa ng automobile or gumawa ng bisiklita?* He said he wanted to share to the participants that it is possible for them or for him in the municipality of Lambunao to turn the local products into entrepreneurial. He cited for example the farmer products that are just there because their problem is technology, marketing, finances or capital. During Typhoon Yolanda, Lambunao is one of the recipient of ISA in the amount of P101M but *ramdam niyo ba and bunga niyan?* (do you feel its impact? for him... that in his municipality in Lambunao, he turned local products into entrepreneurial. Example, farmer products that just there because their problem is technology, marketing, finances or capital. During the Typhoon Yolanda, Lambunao is one of the recipients of International Shelter Assistance (ISA) in the amount of PhP 101M but *ramdam niyo pa ba and bunga niyan* (do you feel its impact)? Vegetable Growers Association (VEGA), received a certain amount 10K per member but *walang bumalik* while in the *pautang* na component, *may nagbalik ba?* So this is a case of finance problem, a marketing problem too. Even the cooperative and farmer organizations are not ready to market their product, so it's people problem and even the so called sales problem, he said.

What he is trying to drive is that, all problems at the LGU are people problem. It may be a problem of the employees, local leaders, but when they are capacitated, they will be inspired, they will work with dedication. So, in their municipality, they have this values formation program coupled with technical skills and with value chain approach. He also introduced the Seven (7) habits of a Champion Farmer. By explaining this, he gave examples of the life of a farmer. These are:

- 1) A good farmer uses effective farm design. He recognizes that he will not only to plant but will build soil.
- 2) Conserves water because a farmer will not only plant vegetables or rice, but he will also raise animals then look for sources of water;
- 3) Use mulches and compost;
- 4) plants diverse crops;
- 5) saves and shares seed;
- 6) raise livestock and
- 7) Practices good financial management. In practice, what they did in Lambunao is that when they give seeds to farmers, the said farmer should return or share the seed after his harvest. This again will ensure sustainability.

In Lambunao, he stressed that a farmer should be a practitioner and will enroll in value formation program. There, he will carry the four (4) Virtues, Hardworking, Trustworthy,

Grateful, Giving. When farmers enroll in the values program with value chain approach, it is encouraged to practice ethics coupled with new technology then the mayor assures them that he will journey with them all throughout. They will connect them to market too.

The LGU of Lambunao also built an idea of building pride of the place. It's gathering in one place that something they can be proud of. This good practice has started in Brgy. Paho. The people are doing *bayanihan* (brgy. Council, youths, teachers, students, professionals) in constructing a playground or play garden or mini-park where they can stroll and kids can play. Everyday, they make a 10-minute video about the play garden being constructed so that they can gather stories on how this was built.

The good mayor shares that he also worked closely with the teachers. They also have a program called formation program for teachers. They have a program called Champion Teacher for Lambunao. The Teacher for Lambunao Program (TFL) is a movement or formation program that aims to grow these habits and core competencies of our teachers. These habits are creative, critical, reflective communicative, collaborative and caring. He also shared success stories of teachers who enrolled in this program and how it improved their teaching strategies and handling children especially at early age. In fact, they recently held an Education Summit and crafted their common vision. They also hold In service training that he himself served as resource person in the training. Other training for teachers are story telling and Oasis games.

For their Health program, the LGU of Lambunao organized nurses too. They organized nurses to make them participate in activities and generate fund for activities like medical missions, etc. Later on they will organize seafarers too.

What was critical in all these is that, they had a good team. He added that he once post an Ad which states that "I don't need someone who's looking for a job. I'm looking for someone who works to create a better world." The Ad texts also state, "I'm looking 2 Executive Assistants. Applicants must love working with people, doing research work and project management. Areas of focus will be in the field of agriculture, education, and public health. Should you get accepted I assure you that this will be the most difficult thing that you will do but the most rewarding. Come with me and let's build great things." So with this advertisement, he has now excellent team of EA for education, health and agriculture. He advised that "You should attract the best team that you can ever find." He is proud to say that he has the best Executive assistants who came from Save the Children and two other came from University of the Philippines.

He said they will be launching a Bayanihan Challenge soon. The Bayaniha Challenge is supported by various civic groups like I Relief Foundation, Gawad Kalinga, PNRC, Rotary Club, I CODE NGO, Angat Buhay, etc.

He advised that as planners, they must consider carrying capacity of the highland, in terms of people, resources and above all considering the capacity and readiness of the LGU too. He said that if you have 20 business partners, then you will say that you have such good programs and thus, you can engage with them. However, you can embrace these 4Ps approach that Lambunao used:

**P- Pera/ purse.** - you must know how to manage you finances

**P-Purpose-** you know your purpose, what are your goals and what you want to achieve

**P-People-** you know your people, who will benefit, build their capacity and attitude

**P-process-** introduce technologies and approaches

He explained each of this was employed by Lambunao in order to reap successes in transforming its people.

Yes, he said, “we get roads, bridges, school but it is important we get culture”.

In addition, he said that when they think of entrepreneurship, they need approach, methodology because at the end of this entrepreneurship is taking risk. They need to build an “ecosystem” on it. They allow to take mistakes and take risks. The opposite of mistake is courage and we need conformity. He also said that if you want progress but if you don’t want to take risk, it’s nothing.

He also cited an example that in their communities and in their schools, a kinder teacher say, “*sino ang marunong sumayaw*”? Small children will raise their hands, but when they aged 7 *kunti na lang*, when in aged 17 *na naku 2 na lang or wala na*. It is the same thing in our workplace. Courage is the keyword that he is trying to convey.

He also noted that the greatest gift is not the resources but it’s **resourcefulness**.

He related a a story of Death Valley story which he said is the same thing in the human condition, and that when given the right opportunity, mold your talents and have courage to take the challenge, by then you will survive. He cited also that the opposite of courage is conformity.

Lastly, he said that what you can do, or dream you can, begin it. Boldness has genius, power and magic in it.

Thank you.

**Ended at 4:45PM**

Giving of certificate of appreciation: to Mayor Jason Gozales- Given by: Mr. Dizon and EnP Hidalgo

**Open Forum:**

**Moderator** : **EnP Rolando Hidalgo,**  
*President, LLPCI Region VIII (Eastern Visayas)*

**Question 1: by Mr. Geran, MPDC of Isabela addressed his question to Dir Catalbas**

“Ma’am, in your presentation you mentioned the six (6) impacts of tourism. These are positive impacts. But in our place our Punong Barangays are infected with HIV, Tumataas and cases ng HIV in our area. Anu ba ang counter plan to control occurrence of HIV?” He asked. He further said that they take high dosage of antibiotics. Crime rate increased too.

Dir. Catalbas answered by saying that on the prostitution, it should be the job of the LGU to safeguard their Tourism. It should be included in your ordinances. As local planners you should integrate that in your plans. Pass regulations in LGU especially if you are a growing tourist destination. But if you are a tourist to other places that is under your own discretion.

Kidding aside, Engr. Hidalgo said that if Sec. Ubial is only here, maybe she will give you antibiotics that is curative not preventive.

No more other questions raised.

Raffle draw followed. The first 20 winners were drawn for a prize of Php 5,000 each.

**Day 2: May 24, 2017**

The activity formally started at **9:05AM**. It started with an Opening Prayer played in a video.

This was followed by a recap of yesterday’s activity. The recap was in a form of slideshow of the activities before the processional entrance, opening program and formal sessions in the first day.

After the slideshow, Ms. Juliana Cepe, PPDC of Antique was called to give a formal recap

of the event yesterday. She started it by asking the participants if how they feel about the flow of the registration and billeting at the hotel. "Was it smooth?" She further said that whatever are their concerns or issues that may encounter, they can present them to the secretariat so that this will be given attention.

She continued by saying that yesterday, they started a day as a memorable one, given the processional parade and performance of Tribu Salognon. It was memorable because representatives from each region are acquainting themselves with each other. In the Opening Program, it was started with a warm Doxology followed by a Pambansang Awit given by Guimaras Capitol Chorale.

A Welcome Remarks of WV President of LLPDC, Mr. Mario Nillos followed. He did not only represent Iloilo to welcome us, Ms. Cepe said but also represented other provinces of WV or the whole region of Western Visayas.

On behalf of the governor, PA Raul Baniyas gave an inspiring message and emphasized the role of local planners in local development. He said that planners are important because all plans emanates from us.

President Obet Dizon gave a message too and he emphasized the implications of R.A 10587 to Local planners and coordinators. He appreciated the presence of LCE because the planners are considered mentors of LCEs.

Ms. Cepe said that the Keynote Speaker, USec. Zenaida Magdaya, emphasized on the LED as LLPDCPI Annual Convention theme is relevant for it recognized the role of planners in achieving economic development towards economic growth. USec. Magdaya also emphasized the OTOP and the good products of LGUs. She mentioned another project of DTI which is the Negosyo Centers which will be established in local government units because this one will drive economic development.

Then photo ops with VIPs on stage followed. Surely this will give them good memories of the event, Ms. Cepe said.

First session was by the Mayor Jed Patrick Mabilog. He shared success stories of Iloilo City on how he transformed Iloilo City and how LED affect progress of Iloilo. He started with his presentation that emphasized their actions that evolved on the slogans "My City , My Pride" and "I am Iloilo , proud to be Filipino". He also presented the 10-point agenda and Iloilo Batiano Development program. The mayor also shared how the success story of Public-Private Partnership (PPP) generated investments in Iloilo City.

The next speaker was ASec. Boncato who emphasized and simplified Business Building registry. He also explained how a one-stop shop can secure licensing for business and



participation of each one in local competitiveness for economic growth.

The Director of Tourism of Region VI, Atty. Helen Catalbas who talked about LED through tourism, emphasized meaning of tourism and talked about the value chain of tourism--- the demand and destination which which LGU should provide. There should always be attraction, safety, hospitality and cross-cutting strategy that the LGU should mainstream in the plans. Tourism goes with economy and this means income.

Last speaker was one of the youngest mayors in Iloilo. Mayor Gonzales shared success stories in how 4Ps approach purpose, people, purse/ finance, process transformed and improved their local economy. The most striking message they learned from mayor Gonzales is that “ the opposite of courage is conformity”.

Then dinner was served and this was sponsored by the Governor. According to her, she is positive that everyone enjoyed the dinner.

The emcee then introduce the next speaker.

**9: 25- 10:05 AM: Session 5: LED through MSME Development:**

By: **Ms. Rebecca Rascon,**  
*OIC Regional Director, DTI -Region VI*

She started her presentation with and AVP highlighting the various success stories MSME assisted by DTI Western Visayas. The DTI stated in this video the kind of assistance they gave to the entrepreneurs. She said that DTI has embarked in new innovative project with three (3) components; inclusive business, adapt a small micro -enterprise.



*OIC Regional Director of DTI- R6, Ms. Rebecca Rascon emphasized that MSME has a big contribution in job creation and income generation.*

She presented the DTI mandate which states that “DTI is responsible of realizing the country’s goal for a globally competitive and innovative industry and services sector that contribute to inclusive growth and employment generation.”

She also mentioned the mission of DTI. The mission is enabling business and

empowering consumers. So according to her it is not only enabling the environment for business but also empowering consumers for them to be aware of their rights, duties and responsibilities.

The agencies DTI is working with in the countryside are business development providers, Local government units PCCI, financial institution, academe, other National government agencies (DOST, DTI, DOLE, DAR, DA) and these account in all regions also.

What is LED? I know you are all planners but there is a need to level off on what LED is all about. LED is a participatory process and inclusive process of planning. *Dapat may kasama tayo at partners tayo.* Involve the civil society and the private sectors, she said. The leadership of local government is needed. So the mayors should have good leadership because what happens in the localities demonstrates the kind of leadership of the mayor you have more so that it is a factor in enhancing good relationship with partners. The partners work together in harnessing all the medium small micro enterprises. DTI emphasized the MSME because MSME are the agents of growth.

Characteristics of Economic Development Economic simulation of projects that starts from the bottom. It is a participatory and inclusive process from the barangay, municipal, provincial and national level. It is also in pursuit of local economic simulation and it is for economic well being. *"Tayo ay nasa ibaba ang dapat magsabi sa kanila kung saan ang"* infrastructure, agriculture, manufacturing and these mean that local people should be part of plan. The plan should have a defined data and defined territory. She understands that there is Barangay Development Plan and Municipal Development Plan. It is built on local dialogue. She that that DTI is partnering with LGU to facilitate dialogue. The need that may be identified are coming from the people.

Why focus on Micro Small and Medium Enterprises and not in big companies? She explained that MSME around the world contribute to job creation and income generation. The government recognized the role of MSME as agents of Local economic development. MSMEs usually are family owned by succession business or locally-owned business. MSMEs are users of local inputs. They are the links and networks in between communities. Ex. Inter coop marketing, supply chain management and value chain development. As a sector, MSMEs are highly resistant and will not collapse because they are just a small business. Therefore, this is why we should focus on MSME, this is because 99.6% of the total registered firms in the country are MSME. Further, 65% of the total employment is contributed by MSMEs, 35.7% value addition that is generated and 60% of all exporters are MSMEs.

She said that in Region VI there are more MSME compared to Medium Enterprise. (She presented some data in terms of industry share of MSME) It showed that whole sale and retail like groceries and restaurants are higher then followed by manufacturing and

tourism.

There were MSMEs that DTI assisted in Aklan specifically in Boracay. In Iloilo Province, there is also Negosyo Centers in which LEIPO and PPDO are involved, she said.

Next she presented the major programs of DTI.

1) **Shared Services Facilities (SSF)**- what are these SSF and where are they located? DTI provided SSF in Aklan for fine pina cloth and fabric for loom weaving. In 1990s, DTI embarked in embroidery and it was so encouraging. That's why OTOP involved the whole town. In Antique, SSF also was provided for coffee processing and in Capiz for coco oil and other coco products. In Negros, SSF on high speed sewing machine was provided because they export dresses to other countries and Guimaras Hot Water Treatment for mango processing, and in Iloilo, furniture and furnishing, food processing, packaging and labeling of products.

She said that through SSF, the productivity of MSMEs are improved, enhance competitiveness by giving them technologies and sophisticated equipment and address the gap in the value chain and industry cluster.

2) **Industry clustering Development Program.** It is an organized approach in promoting and developing MSMEs. It necessitates the operation of upstream and downstream in support to value chain. For Region for example there are priority clusters. Given the development plan of NEDA, there are changes and there are additions because the Department of Agriculture (DA) identified additional cluster, like *masculado*, coffee and livestock. Like in Bukidnon which is now recognized internationally because of their coffee that bested other coffee producers abroad. In Abra, they also have bamboo crafts which are called engineered bamboo crafts. They did not limit only to bamboo crafts but also they venture into wood tiles and floor tiles made of bamboo. Another is Davao for their coconut fibers and products. Capiz for coco-oil mill. Processed fruits and nuts/ casoy from Guimaras and Calamansi processing also in Dumarao, Capiz. DTI also assisted in facilitating the licensed to operate and this is supported by the LGU. Hablon (pina, abaca) for Iloilo and Antique which produce *patadyong* which is now recognized in international designs of gowns and materials for formal wear.

3) **Small Medium Enterprise Roving Academy (SMERA)** - This is where training comes in. She explained that in this case, DTI provide different kinds of assistance depending on the stage or level of SMEs. There is an evolution of assistance to develop MSMEs. There is stage on Start up and market readiness stage and export ready is Stage 1-4; while if the MSME is export market ready is on stage 5-7.

4) **Bottoms Up Budgeting-** She showed a slide that entails LGUs that have not yet liquidated their BUB project funds. She said to MPDOs concerned to implement and liquidate their BUB assisted projects so that they can avail more assistance. She said also that BUB is not only implemented by DTI but other agencies also implement it.

5) **Negosyo Center** where the partners are the LGU. The LGU will provide the space and the personnel. The success lies on the promotion and support of LGUs. The Negosyo Center is RA 10604 an Act promoting job generation and inclusive growth through development of MSMEs authored by Sen. by Bam Aquino an approved in July 2014. The biggest accomplishment was the establishment of 509 Negosyo Centers s of May 22, 2017 around the country. She also flashed on screen the Negosyo centers in Western Visayas. So she said that they don't have to go to centers but just go to one stop shop negosyo centers near their area.

6) **Mentoring-** She asked the participants who among them attended or joined the mentoring . Nobody raised his/ her hand. She explained that this aims to mentor MSME to become competitive businessmen and entrepreneurs. So the partner here is the Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship (PCE). They provide the consultant for entrepreneurship. They have mentors to teach the mentees on the different aspects of entrepreneurship, or they call it Kapatid Mentor ME- Mentor **Micro Enterprises**. Why Kapatid? Because... Mentor your *kapatid*... *Kung Kapatid mo, ibig sabihin walang iwanan*. The program has 3 components. One, they have to attend ten (10) sessions, and upon graduation they must present their business improvement plan. These are also tackled in panel and if these business plans look good, these can be financed by the bank like Landbank, or other finance institutions. Another component is adopt a MSME. So we tap consultant to adopt a MSME. The third component is the inclusiveness wherein small businesses are included in the value chain. She showed some pictures of Mentor ME.

7) German programs that support SMEs development and sustainable employment program. This is a technical cooperation program between Philippines and Federal Republic of Germany. Its goal is to enable private and public institution create favorable business conditions to develop entrepreneurial potential and encourage competition. The focus areas of this intervention are Regions 6, 7 and 8.

8) **Green Economic Development.** This is the recent program implemented in the Visayas but was up scaled to Luzon and Mindanao. Again this was not happened without the support of the local government units. RD Rascon said that here in Region VI there were awards given to green economic practitioners. These are MSMEs in Capiz, and Negros Occidental. The Philippine Chamber of Commerce also awarded Mr. Ramon Penalosa of Negros Occidental for Environmental Award for MSME (Excellence in Ecology and Environment)

In closing, she shared a line: from Bo Sanchez. “Don’t worry, be happy, I believe God has anointed people to be entrepreneurs, to be bakers, to be chefs, to be beauticians, to be accountants, to be administrators, to be stockbrokers, to be engineers, to doctors, to be mothers, to be farmers, this is how you serve others, this is how you bless the world.

She elaborated that as planners, they have critical roles in building this country. She said that she herself has a role in the Department of Trade and Industry in building this country and that if we work together, we can do what we had planned and with the conviction that we can do something for the local economic development, in improving the SMEs in the area where you are and advancing the rural economic development through SME. “Maayong aga sa inyo tanan”, she concludes.

#### **10:05AM- End of presentation**

Awarding of Certificate of Appreciation for Dir. Rascon awarded by: Pres. Dizon

Before the next session, an announcement again regarding the election was made by the Election Committee Chairman. He announced the open positions and encourage those who are interested to file his/ her candidacy. He also mentioned one by one the rules to follow during the election.

The emcee introduced the next speaker.

#### **10:15-10:55AM: Session 6: Success Stories (LED Though Agribusiness and Agri Tourism**

By: **Engr. Eddie Canuto**  
*Proprietor of Ephratah Farms*

First, he thanked God for the Local Planning and Development Coordinators invited him to present in this convention.

He said he was excited to share what they have gone through and how they realized what they are enjoying now in their farm.

He was a native of Badiangan, 45 km away from Iloilo City and his parents are passionate farmers. He finished his studies and pursued and exercised his profession as civil engineer in Manila. But after so many years in various companies, he decided to farm. This is his passion according to him. In 2005 he retired. They have a seven (7) hectare area which is unproductive. So he talked to his wife and children and told them that he wanted to go back to the farm. After all, his children are all professionals. His

family agreed. So what would be the name of the farm? They got the name from the bible, and named it Ephratah which means fruitful. For them it was a beautiful name to identify the farm as fruitful farm. He looked around the farm and looked also the status of his classmates, “*kababayan*” and friends and mind you, after 35 years, they are still living in the same situation as before.

He was inspired of the verse from the bible. It states: “The hardworking farmer, must be first to partake the crop”. He explained that you as farmer should be the first to enjoy your produce. But he started to observe what the farmers in their barangay were doing. Are they giving value to their produce? Do they benefit? The answer is No. Do they received value that give them purchasing power and give them access and afford quality nutritious food? The answer is No. They are still poor farmers for 35 years and until now, they are still farmers.

He shared that he has been a manager in a top 50 construction company in the country and because of this, he had the opportunity to receive a lot of training, make friends and learned from them. He was grateful for all that opportunities.

What he did next was he started to do a lot of observations. He observed the people in their community in order to understand why they are still in the same situation. He paid attention to what the prophesies are and these are what he observed.

Farmers are good farmers but they have these problems, why?

1) they have no access to market.- *ang galing nila magprodukto, ang galing nila magtanim, mabubulok lang ang papaya nila at tinatawaran pa ang presyo niya.*

2) No financing, no technology, fragmented and no funds- when one produces certain crop, another will produce the same crop. *Parang sari-sari store na pagnagpatayo ng sari sari store and isa, magpapatayo din ang katabi niya.*

3) Traders have funds, logistics- *nagpapatanim pa lang pero nakautang na ang aanihin niya from traders.*

4) High cost of transportation-

He said that the sole responsibility of Agri entrepreneur is to help poor farmers access good market by consolidating their products and sell directly to consumers.

What has been done? Their family decided to use farming as avenue to help people

and poor farmers. He also asked his family if what will be their mission. They said they are going to glorify God through Agri-tourism and Agri Resort. And their vision is to go out of their way so that they help improve the lives of their baranngay folks.

The following are their guiding principles:

- 1) Inclusive market oriented development- this is what their barangay need.

**Market motivates growth**-when the farmer harvest his papaya, *mabubulok lang papaya niya* but he will not be motivated to plant more papaya, he explained. But if they have access to market, they will be motivated to produce more.

- 2) **Innovations accelerates growth.** farmers have to try to innovate so that they can catch up the requirement/ demand is addressed.

- 3) **Inclusiveness ensures that poor farmers benefit.** *“Hindi sila iipitin at bigyan sila ng kahalagahan na sila ang makabigay ng kagandahan sa entrepreneurship”.* Engr. Canuto said.

So, how they did this in Ephratah Farm.

**They look for good markets.** Good markets is SM and other big markets. He cited papaya marketed in SM as an example. Right now, they have to produce more papaya to address demand. They contracted farmers in their place, conduct training to improve production as well as training on high value vegetables. He said that the papaya of farmers are bought for only P5/ per kilo but when their papayas were brought to SM, the cost is P40/ kilo. So you can see the big difference. Thankfully, SM now accepted their proposal to be their supplier of these farm products.

So what happened next, they can't catch up the demand in the market. He asked the help of the mayor to give them four (4) barangays and recommend farmers with not less than 200 square meter farm lots. They also trained 170 farmers on high value vegetable and papaya production. They partnered with SM Foundation, Department of Agriculture, etc. Out of 170 trained only 30 concentrated in farming.

But still these are not enough, he said. He cited another example on farmer producing ampalaya. Right now they have open market in good price. They make sure before the farmer starts farming, he knows what to plant and how much is the price of the produce.

**The farmers need inputs.** Ephratah farm provides inputs with no interest and just deduct it when they start producing. Each farmer is also assigned to what crop he is going to produce. Today, they are grateful that it is not only SM supermarket or Robinsons are getting their produce but also S and R.

**The farmers from the farm do a series of processing, packaging and delivery.** We provide quality produce. Why? So that the customers of these supermarkets will appreciate the crop. He presented the cycle. Everyday farmers deliver their fruits and vegetables to Ephratah and they immediately get paid.

**There is also a display monitoring in the market.** This is to make sure that the produce delivered and packaged are well presented. They wanted to make sure that the fruits and vegetables displays and sold are in good quality at least cost.

Therefore they have happy farmers, and happy producers. Happy farmers because they can benefit from their hard work. Happy farmers because they can now send their children to school. He likewise said that that they are happy investor because because they made a difference in the lives of the poor farmers.

Right now, Ephratah has 80 workers and every Monday morning at 7-8AM they make sure to gather their employees to study the word of God. They are not converting them, because they believe that by doing this, they will be guided accordingly.

This is the only Agri farm resort that is accredited by DOT. They also have their own products sold here like tea, ginger tea, papaya pickles and organic rice. He said, that the facilities include hotel, dorm, session rooms/ function room and adventure activities, wall climbing, 600-m zipline, mountain bike lane, swimming pool and pool area available now. They have fresh vegetables served. There dorms and hotel can accommodate 100-150 participants.

They are also producing eggs and have native pig (organic pig), and almost hundreds of heads. So they have their special lechon de leche. They have just opened their freshwater hatchery of catfish and tilapia. They continue to maximize what they have so that the people in their barangay will benefit. He showed the pictures of vegetable garden, papaya plantation and the whole of Ephratah Farm. They were able to benefit from all they have showed. He said they are grateful for they were able to provide work to their *kasimaryo*. As of today the average visitor they have per month is 8000 people.

In addition, they also have an average of 2 weddings per month... He considers it as a destination wedding site since they have a Glass chapel. It can accommodate or accept up to 250 people for the wedding.

He challenged and invited the planners to promote agri-tourism for this is a new business and it can provide more jobs for the people and provide more benefits for the future. With these, he said, thank you.



## 10:55AM- End of presentation

Awarding of Certificate of Appreciation to Engr. Canuto.

## 11:00AM- 12:15PM- Session 7: Mobilizing/ Advancing Migrants for LED By: Atty. Golda Myra R. Roma- UNDP

The speaker elaborated the importance and role of migrant workers in strengthening local dimensions of economic development.

She discussed the Joint Migrant and Development Initiative (JMDI) implemented by the UNDP. She cited that migrant workers generally when they leave the country, and some of them came from antique, Aklan or Jordan, just like Ma'am Rebecca, (referring to Rebecca Tubongbanua, an OFW) usually they will go home to the place whether municipality, city or province where they came from. And when they invest, they will invest in the place where they live, she said. That is why the objective of JMDI is to focus on the local dimension of migrants contribution of migrants and the role of local and regional authorities for empowering migrants communities.



*Presenters of Mobilizing and Advancing Migrants for LED.  
They are: Atty. Golda Myra Roma of UNDP; Mr. Willy Prilles of  
Naga City and Ms. Rebecca Tubongbanua of McNester Food  
Products in Guimaras.*

So, migration is a local process and local authorities are at the forefront and local actors of service delivery that can immediately address the concerns of migrants at the local level.

She said that the main topic she will discuss is Mobilizing and Empowering the Migrants in Local Economic Development. There will be four (4) presentations which include the presentation of Sir Verona on Bridging the Migrants to their communities which she will present later if there will still have time, Mr. Willy Prilles of Naga City to share the best practice in Mainstreaming program and initiatives in LGU plans which JMDI assisted and Success story of Ms. Rebecca Tubongbanua, a migrant worker who will provide actual investment of returning OFW in Guimaras and JMDI assisted.

So JMDI is empowering and advancing the well-being of migrants and their families in local economic development.

She provided the basic principles of JMDI. She stressed that:

**1. For us to understand who are our Overseas Filipinos and involve them in the process.**

As local planners, it is important to have statistics, their profile and data before we plan right? Because every time you formulate policies and plans you need situationer, *lagi yan may background information. Dapat lagi yan may basehan at status.* And that you will know what service, the budget needed thus, it is important to understand and have profile of them. So imagine that 5 years ago we have 10,000,000 + migrants in 200 countries around the world. Just imagine here in Iloilo or Aklan or Guimaras how many of them are permanent migrants abroad 4.8M, temporary migrants or employment related overseas workers, students or trainees and how many are not properly documented. *Pag umuwi sila kunyari from US or Europe dito sa Pilipinas ang investment na pwede nila dalhin sa Pilipinas.* The migrants concerns and problems were usually addressed by national government without realizing that the local government has a big role. That is why it is important that the LGU has the profile, data and clear program and projects for migrants in their plan.

Generally speaking, immigrants have more savings and capacity to capitalize business. *"Kadalasang umuuwi kasi are more of temporary migrants na nag-iisip kung paano sila makakauwi for permanency,"* she said. Usually they go home after 2 years or 6 years. On the average, *mas maliit at mas kaunti ang kita nila* compared to permanent immigrant but temporary immigrant send regular remittances. In terms of population it is significant *din itong mga* temporary migrants. So she said that there is a need to know what classic services migrants need. The most critical question also is what population of migrants are in Marawi, Mindanao, Antique or let's say Tagbilaran in which majority are irregular migrants. This is because irregular migrant are usually victims of illegal recruitment, human trafficking and usually have small income, have issue and they can be tapped for business so that they can be assisted properly. What will be its implication in planning and in services to offer. But the key message is for us to understand our migrants, know them so that we can appropriately meet and provide right business opportunities and local economic activities for them.

**2. Identify what are the goals and capacities**

Atty. Roma said that if you will tap the migrants for local economic opportunities, are they included in our goals? We have lots of goals, there is this resilient family, resilient communities and DRR, etc. We need to anchor the LED to the recent Phil. Development Plan for 2017-2022. In this plan it says to Empower Overseas Filipinos for inclusive and sustainable development. There is a need to engage OFW in governance, reintegration and all these processes, that's why LGUs' role is important.

In the new Plan, she continues that they recognize the need to empower the OFs towards inclusive and sustainable development. In line with this, they have identified 3 pillars that hopefully encompass the roles of OFs in our nation building. These are:

- 1) Enhance PROTECTION & WELFARE of OFs and their families
- 2) Strengthen ENGAGEMENT of OFs, families, and other stakeholders in governance
- 3) Facilitate the REINTEGRATION of repatriated and/or returning OFs

On top of these, is the ROLE of the LGU.

In detail, Enhancing Protection and Welfare of OFs and their families means protecting them from adverse domestic and external shocks. On the other hand, Strengthening the ENGAGEMENT of OFs, families, and other stakeholders in governance means strengthening engagement of OFs, their families, and other stakeholders at the community level, local government, and up to the national level in policy formulation, program development, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation. Lastly, Reintegration means the process of sustainable, balanced, complementary and innovative reinsertion of migrant returnees into the family and society of their country of origin. It should be a multidimensional approach (i.e. economic, social, psychosocial) and considers different reintegration pathways for returning overseas Filipinos (i.e. temporary, permanent and distressed)

### **3. Link Migration with other Developmental Objectives.**

She emphasized to note that migrants are partners for development. They are not the sole drivers to development. It is the role of the government to push them for development. So there is the need to link migrants to the issues in their place in health etc. For example how will you link migration to investment opportunities. In agriculture as what the previous speakers had mentioned, they can be tourism ambassador where they can encourage investors to put-up resorts. Like in Bohol, most of Overseas Filipinos whose spouse are foreigners invest on resorts. Migrants and OF can also be linked to land use or urbanization, environment and health issues, etc. One critical issue now is the ASEAN integration, how ready is your community or municipality to accommodate foreigners and are there available programs for them, ex. health issues, (HIV) and also for the seafarers that majority of them comprise the temporary migrants.

**4. The need to involved other local partners in sustaining partnerships.** She emphasized the need to involve the Philippine Chamber of Commerce, the local and national governments, civic groups, (academe, media, NGAs and many other entities). The academe has a role, local government has a role, role of civil society, media, and all other agencies have roles too.

**5. Build trust.** One critical issue here is, if we invest, will there be no corruption? Are we assured of good investment returns? Now to do away this presumptions, is that they organize networks and constantly engage Overseas Filipinos in all undertakings.

She then explained the Contributions of migrants to LED.

**1) Remittance, 22B USD accumulating WV data, Iloilo data (refer to presentation)**

Imagine if the 13B of Iloilo or 10% of that for entrepreneurial, agricultural and economic development that would be something. Remittances helps reduce unemployment, it helps in the education of their children, construction of houses and small stores. But the biggest problem here in the Philippines though we have much remittances already received, yet this has not improved the poor situation of migrants because this was not translated into investment.

As planners, we have to take note also that 96% of migrant's remittances are spent for food, 70% education, 55% health, 42% debts/ loans, 44% car, house appliances, 46% savings and 10% investment.

So if you are a planning officer, how will you use this data? So you have to encourage businesses on food, housing, education. But take note also that since there is a significant amount spent to debts there must be initiatives that could help migrants with low interest.

**2) Charity**

Migrant workers conduct Fund raising activities, solicit for medical mission, they donate medical equipment to their localities, scholarships, livelihood and bring these to their localities. After national disasters hit the Philippines, a total of PhP 3B donation were given by migrants for the past 10 years.

**3) Investment and entrepreneurship**

You will notice that the nature of investment is in agriculture, tourism, food franchise, sari-sari store, transportation (Uber and grab), and recruitment. Mostly are SME and the approach is individual. The capitalization is maybe their own or in a form of loan. So the result is that they have savings, employment and local production.

**4) Other Contribution are:**

Other contributions are in the field of **Tourism** wherein they encourage their employers to visit or invest in the country; Balik-turo sa community; field of Science and Technology

(ex. Food production); Medical Mission and Legal Assistance from Filipino associations especially when business were already established.

Now, what is Role of LGUs and other stakeholders?

- 1) LGUs should understand migrants, as what she previously emphasized, what is their profile. LGU can help in processing business permits. *Saan nila itatayo ang business nila, anong klaseng business yon*, what raw materials are needed, etc. She recommends to map them and make research on them.
- 2) Encourage partnership between migrants and local entrepreneurs and chamber of commerce.
- 3) Facilitate access to capital, access to bank loans for capital and public programme support.
- 4) LGUs can enhance capacities and issues and certifies skills.
- 5) clear regulation and consistent regulation and application and legal support for migrants. Ensure that laws and rules are applied correctly.
- 6) The last is to promote the migrant resource center. Communication- online module on local economic processes for migrants are available. An on-line module on local economic processes for migrants with websites will be established by JMDI in which there are 6 modules to be uploaded, certified and issued by DOLE and certified also by the International Labor Organization.

***This ends her presentation and called on Mr. Wilfredo B. Prilles, Jr., CPDO of Naga City to present Mainstreaming Migration program in the LGU Development Plans. A Success Story.***

He mentioned that his presentation is focused on Mainstreaming Migration in the LED of Naga City.

As early as 2011 and as planners when he and his colleagues look at the planning documents they missed the sector or chapter for migrant or overseas workers. Only chapters on education, health, and basic services but none for Migrant or Overseas workers. They realized that there is a need to integrate migration plan but the challenge is the data. So they went to a process, series of consultations, project prioritization, and stakeholders consultation, because they will be the ones who will provide the data. Came the time that they need to revise and adopt the 15-year CLUP, all the more they recognize the need to have the data. Like data on mostly

female migrants and land based migrants as well as males and seafarers. Because of this undertaking, this made the City of Naga to be the first LGU who have the Migration and Development Program according to him. Their data showed and presented in the CLUP subsection of Chapter 1 that 16% profiled the OFs in Naga City. This also showed that 2/3 are female and 1/3 are male.

As a result of migration, the data on housing sector is growing faster because lots of local developers invest on housing market. There is also fast increase in property development as shown in the presentation.

He presented data on the structure of economy and data on agriculture and the economy that explained how migration had affected the increase or decrease in the data showed.

He presented their approach in the Planning process. He said, they enjoined all relevant stakeholders in the process. The idea also is to generate more resources and intensify the requirements of the city.

Other good investment program intended to farmland in developments were implemented and licensed with HLURB. Targets in the Comprehensive Development Plans (CDP) were achieved. The use of facility to generate investment and use of credit card to pay property tax and established migrant resource center. Were implemented. These are run by the PSO office through PAMANA and this is backed -up by an ordinance.

Naga and other localities also benefited from the project. Overseas organizations were established also in Sorsogon, Masbate, Tobacco and Legazpi.

He emphasized here that the bottom line to all of this is the challenge to recognize that migrants are sector and there is a need to generate data and incorporate them in the plans. It is also important to develop partnership with them. The challenge for the LGUs is to development products and services for migrants. Probably the LGUs can replicate what the Ephratah did or that of the PAMANA project.

***End of Mr. Prilles presentation. Atty. Roma called on Ms. Rebecca Tubongbanua, a former Overseas Filipino worker and now a successful business woman.***

Ms. Tubongbanua, an owner of the McNester Food Products started her presentation by greeting everyone and expressing how thankful she was for giving this opportunity to be one of the speakers in this big event.

She Stated the vision and mission of the MSE. McNester. She also gave the history of the Manchester how it started and what the products she produced first and later on

gave recognized to give more focus on the produce that made Guimaras so popular--- the Guimaras sweet mangoes.

She said it all started in the kitchen. Their first products were derived from Calamansi. Since Guimaras is most popular on mango, they focused on mangoes. She showed a video how the Mcchester started the business and her story as an OFW.

As an OFW before, she served as inspiration to women in their communities. She emphasized that you must have interest in what you are doing and where your venture leads you. It is likewise important to help the people in your community. She cited the values she learned "to look back where you came from... *At marating nyo ang iyong karoroonan*".

She continues that McNester have marketing perspectives, customer perspectives and production perspectives. She explained each of these.

The video also showed how the product processing were done. She shared that they have this what they call processing classification. They classify it as oversize and under-size and the exporters/traders before will just leave to farmers the reject ones. Sometimes they have 200 kls left or more. But now, the farmers are happy because McNester can buy and process them. Now when these mangoes go into product processing, MacNester see to it that nothing is left as its by products. They sort the mangoes and process them such as dried mangoes, puree, juice, polvoron, and even the peeling were processed into mango sauce, mango catsup, mango jam and some were used as feeds for ducks, chicken and other live stocks that nothing is thrown out. The seeds were also bought by Mango Research for their studies. So in McNester is zero waste.

Ms. Tubongbanua also shared that before, they are only processing their products in their house, but now, they have a production area constructed. In this building (showing the picture of the building), processing, sorting, cooking and packaging of materials were done. They also do corporate responsibility such as feeding program, hand washing program and celebration of Nutrition Month in partnership with DepEd and indigenous peoples. They also conduct gift giving and assist women who cannot be accommodated in the company in livelihood programs like bag weaving. MacNester will buy the bags for the packaging of the products, and they could not use plastics anymore.

She said she was once featured in "*Kay Susan Tayo*", "*Swak na Swa sa Kabuhayan*" and Jessica Sojo TV programs last year.

She was also featured in a book on Agribusiness by Sec. Yap about 100 inspiring stories

on *Tagumpay sa Kahirapan*. She mentioned all the awards their company have received in recognition of their success in entrepreneurship. So she realized that “*mas maganda pala sa Pilipinas kaysa as OFW*”

Ms. Tubongbanua shared the secrets of successful entrepreneurship. These are:

S- elf-confidence to start business

U- ntiring (di magpagod mag -isip)

B- oldness- strong in all circumstances

S- kills-

E- ndurance

A- ttitude

N- etworking- with national and local government agencies. She said that she received an invitation last week to join the Expo in Manila and she was quite nervous now., she joked. As part of their networking they are now part of the circuit of the Guimaras tour package like educational tour or demonstration and return demonstration on how they make their products.

C -Christ must be the center. In gratefulness for the blessings. She asked her staff to do this everyday. She also stressed to her staff to work with a heart and Christ must be the center of everything.

E- ssence- Opening an entrepreneurship with a purpose. She was happy that all the circumstances that happened to her has a purpose. She realized that she is meant to stay here in the country because many people need her help.

Presently, she served as RPs in conventions and fora. From being a BS Chemistry and a chemist to domestic helper ... she was able to apply and use her profession to her business.

### **That ends her presentation.**

On this juncture, Atty. Roma gave a lecture on Bridging Overseas Filipinos and their home communities through cooperatives, savings, reintegration and economic initiatives.

Atty. Roma emphasized that “walang forever” as Filipino migrants especially Overseas Filipino Worker. It is a cycle of local -to-local process where LGUs play a crucial role. The challenge and realities of migration especially the overseas workers entails a lot of risks, vulnerabilities, abuses and exploitation. Migrants usually do not have security of tenure, no insurances and no retirement benefits. Ultimately, they will go home to their hometown and their families could not be their drivers of development when these OFs are abused, disabled and no savings and no social protection.



She presented various data related to the situation of migrants workers in different parts of the world. She emphasized data on abuses, discrimination and violence. Furthermore, she cited how huge the remittances of migrants and nothing or very little go to savings and investment.

Many OFs organize themselves in Singapore, Hong Kong and in Manila they have a program called Migrant Financial Savings. OFs build membership for real estate, asset, income and savings and for entrepreneurial. So while in other countries they organize themselves. Like the OFs in HK, they organized in parks. Right now they have Asian Migrant Cooperative with an asset of 3MHK dollar. These are available assets that when they decide to go home, they can invest OFs in Singapore and in Malaysia are planning to organize too so that they can create local economic activities. There is also a need for an Asset Training program for the families of OFs so that they will not be independent to their relatives abroad.

She asked the participants if how far have they tried to organize migrant families at the local level. Hopefully, on the process JMDI can assist them on how to organize the Migrant workers. In that way, migrants can be involved in local programs. Like the case of Naga City, they submitted a proposal and participate in the national events. She quickly flashed slides to show to the participants and make them aware of the presence of migrants and empowering and involving them in the local planning processes.

In Bohol and Panglao, migrants have their own training centers, a credit cooperative and a cooperative of migrants. She reiterated and emphasized that there is a great potential with migrants to help them with their remittances. The point is, recognize them, know them, assist them and involve them in the process.

Awarding of Certificate of Appreciation to all the four (4) speakers followed.

### **12:18 PM End of presentations**

#### **Open Forum:**

Moderator: PPDC of Aklan-VP Of WV LLPDC engr. Roger Resto

No more questions. Lunch followed.

Announcement of Closure of filing of candidacy for the LLPDCPI for local and national positions.

It was also announced and encouraged that all participants must be in the function room to attend the League Matters because during this session the legality and challenges of

R.A. 10587 will be discussed. The legal officer/ attorney is invited to discuss this concern.

The League Matters meeting was held at 2:00PM to 5:30Pm. There was a separate documentation of the League Matters minutes.

#### **Day 4: May 25, 2017**

### **The Learning Trip**

At 8:00AM, the participants assembled for the Learning Trips in Guimaras Island and Iloilo City cultural and heritage sites.

There are 300 participants registered for Guimaras Tour. The accommodation for the Guimaras Tour is on basis of first come first serve basis considering the carrying capacity of the areas to be visited in Guimaras. The rest of the participants joined the Iloilo City tour.

The tour sites in Guimaras are the following: 54MW San Lorenzo wind Farm. This is a running tour passing the Old Poblacion, Good Shepherds Fold Academy, Brgy. Salvacion, Buenavista Municipal Hall, C and C Main Campus, Brgys. Of Supang, Ms. Arthur Headquarters and Brgys. Navalas and San Miguel. Then the participants were given the chance to view the 27 Wind Turbine Generator. The participants are given only 15 minutes in viewing and taking pictures in this Wind Farm and immediately proceeded to Trappist Monastery. This is the first men monastery in the Philippines run by Cistercian Order of Strict Observance in 1972. Here, they can offer a short prayer and do shopping of products the monks produce. After 30 minutes, the group proceeded to Guimaras Provincial Capitol for lunch. On top of this, the participants went shopping in the Agri-trade fair area where native products, and various products derived from sweet mangoes, casoy nuts and kalamansi are showcased and sold. At 12:00NN the participants traveled back to Punta Villa, Arevalo, Iloilo City.

On the other hand, the Iloilo City Tour group, left at 8:00AM and explored the first destination which is the Molo Mansion, Molo Plaza and Molo Church. In Molo Mansion, the participants had roamed around and bought some “pasalubongs” displayed in the Mansion like shirts, dresses, bags, mugs, *barong tagalog* and *saya* made of *pina* cloth. If they wanted to buy products labeled with Iloilo, they can find it here. There are also native products and delicacies produced by MSMEs in Iloilo Province that are displayed in Molo Mansion for sale.

After the Molo Mansion tour, the participants went to Molo Plaza and Molo Church across it. In the church the tour guide described and explained to them the story about the Church including why Saints displayed inside are women saints. The participants again proceeded to Iloilo City hall to visit the City Gallery that speaks the city's pride and history. They spent 30 minutes in the Gallery and proceeded to Casa Real. Here, the participants appreciated the beauty of renovated Old Capitol standing majestically that serves as venues for events, conferences and meetings of government agencies, local government units, private sectors and even family gatherings. There is also an art gallery in Casa Real that some of the participants never missed to look at. Another heritage-cultural site the group visited was the Jaro Cathedral. If the Molo Church is known for women Saints, the Jaro Cathedral has all male Saints lined in its interior walls. The only woman Saint in this church is the Lady of Candles or Nuestra senora de la Candelaria and known as the lady patroness of Western Visayas.

Of course the tour wouldn't be complete without dropping at the famous Biscocho House and shop Iloilo's famous delicacies for pasalubong. Right there and then a running tour going back to the venue passing the Esplanade concluded the trip. Here, the groups have seen how the City of Iloilo transformed the once foul -smelled and dirty river or estuary into a tourist destination, family bonding venue, a place that promote active lifestyles. Esplanade is considered as a place where everyone can enjoy leisurely stroll and view of the river.

#### **LUNCH FOLLOWED at Punta Villa Resort**

#### **Afternoon Session started at 2:20PM**

It started with a raffle Draw while the group is waiting for other participants especially those who joined the tour to Guimaras to come.

There were 30 winners drawn. The prize is Php 5,000.00 each.

#### **2:45- 3:25PM - Session 8: Presentation of Product and Services of RASA**

By: **Rhea Eris Mejorada**

*Sales and Marketing Officer of Visayas Office, RASA*

Her presentation started with a Video of RASA Surveying Office. She will showcase the innovative and available technology that are useful for government projects.

The video presentation Introduced their company and their services. They highlighted their innovative products and services. Further it highlighted how fast their company grew. They are now in infrastructure development. They started their project since

1994. They also did projects with the government. One project under the government they are proud of is what they did in the NAMRIA, the island inventory all over the Philippines. The video took 3 minutes.

Their partners are: Digital Globe, SuperGeo, FARO

The speaker asked if who among them are using satellite. (there were 3 people raised their hands.) How about the rest, what are you using? Google earth. So there are only three LGUs using satellite image. Mostly are using Google Earth.

But whoever is their provider at least you can generate the data. She said that since the theme is LED towards global competitiveness, this means that you are already on the road towards global competitiveness and global development,. She wanted to drive that to be competitive globally, there should advance technology.



*Ms. Rhea Mejorada presented the products and Services of RASA Surveying Office showcasing new technologies that are useful of LGUs.*

RASA according to her partnered with digital globe. If the LGUs are using Google earth, then it is limited only to what Google can provide. Unlike that if you use the Digital Globe, the uploaded information contains elevation, coordinates with spatial accuracy of 5 meters. (She showed a comparative result of the Google Earth vs. The Digital Globe. (she showed again another video on how Digital Globe collected data via satellite deployed.

She explained that Digital Globe has systemic data collector. It has Worldview 1, worldview 2 and worldview 3 and just last year it launched Worldview 4 with high resolution. Another video to illustrate was showed. Here, she emphasized how important accuracy in the data collection using the Worldview 1, 2, 3 and 4.

The speaker showed the case of Tacloban during Yolanda, and how Satellite images were used. Satellite images can be used as based maps. So the images can identify what's on the ground like the road networks, the passable vs the non-passable one. So if you are an international aid program that will deliver goods in the affected area, you can plan out where will you land your goods.

Also it can be used as base maps. Right now, we have paper maps that we usually use. But now, GIS software are capable of translating paper maps into electronic data that are available.

So the satellite can gather images everyday. Actually, RASA now has thousands of images that are archived in the library of digital globe starting in the year 2010- digital. These satellite images can be used for age detection. Somehow, you can compare *kung anu itsura ng LGU niyo during that time and yong present*. If you have satellite image, your data will not disappear. Satellite image can be classified in bands and embedded in the picture. You can compare the damage and undamaged area just like what happened before Typhoon Haiyan. She explained.

So in your plan, *kung anu ang gusto niyong mangyari* in the next 5 years or next 10 years, you can do that as long as you have the data. You can immediately identify and compute the date vs. the actual. So if there are buildings or infrastructures you will see that in the satellite image. How many of you had done the actual survey of 2010? So these can be used in your land use.

There are bands also that you can see in the picture. They have colors. Satellite image is only 20% of data and 80% are hidden. This is remote sensing, for example, Monitoring the vegetation and showed the unique features of the area. (Showing different images referring to what she is explaining). There is also a need to process the satellite image, you can make a better view and derive many information. You identify clear image, say, there is water, there is island, etc.

She also showed the NAMRIA. She shared that their company joined a bidding and their company won the bidding to conduct island inventory of the Philippines. In the next three years we will know if where and how many islands are there in the Philippines.

Using the satellite Digital Globe, they are doing now the island inventory. They started the inventory in the islands of Palawan and Cagayan.

She further explain that if you are talking about larger area, satellite image is used. But when you are doing small scale project like 100-200 hectares, you can use Drawn. This is also called Easy Map. This is used for small scale projects. So it is more accurate because guaranteed no color and are in raw images. ( She showed a couple of image by Drawn.)

She showed the Google earth screen shot image of Calapan, Mindoro and compared it with the RASA' s gathered image that they did using actual Drawn survey in the area and this is the image now, drawn / UAV image vs. Google demonstrated. UAV can also be measured, such as length of road, bridge, etc and you can do counting. You can also measure by meters, example, how big is the forest. You can do counting. How many houses should be relocated from certain area at risk. So you compare what is the quality

of the image. They did it in one project counting the houses to be relocated. It saves time and of course for the safety of the people, thus it saves lives.

This can also be presented in 3D. You can present it in this manner (showing the slide) and demonstrated how useful and practical to use in presenting to investors or even in making DRRM plans). Example, when SM or Ayala will come to your LGU and ask if you have available lots strategic for establishments, then you can show to them immediately. So this the proper way of selling the property rather than just saying there is available here or there without any geographical illustration. This is also useful for your water districts like for example in locating their pipelines, looking at the pull of gravity and how are they going to lay their pipes. And of course for your disaster preparedness again, it is important to know where will you locate the evacuation site, because, you might think that your previous location is still safe, yet at certain point, it's not feasible anymore.

For your Feasibility Study this is very effective too, she said. Just imagine that in a 300 hectare lot it takes how many weeks to gather this data but with the Drawn it will only take less in a week.

She proceeded to introduce another product they have which is the **SuperGeo**.

She announced that for those who received the disks with program and in case they need assistance, there is a calling card in it that they can contact to assist them in installing the program.

How she wish she could give everyone the program but in case they want to, just approach the her and her colleague so she can give the software product.

It sends from desktops to cellphone by sharing it using GIS server so that if they want that the data gathered can also be seen by other department for example, if the mayor wanted to see it, assessor or municipal engineer that will be readily available.

In 2004 SuperGeo was used by National Irrigation Administration (NIA) in updating their parcel data. Right now they engage with LGUs because this is an easy to use software. There is no need for big amount of money to have this technology.

Visit FB page SuperGeo Philippines. There are training posted there.

She also mentioned the R.A. 8560- Geodetic engineering regulation. Why, because there are many software developers, hardware and data collectors. Thus, to regulate this, only geodetic engineers are allowed to conduct surveys and collect data.

Practice is not allowed for firms or any entity to do operations or work that only geodetic

engineer can do.

Another product is **FARO**. (video was played) . This is a laser scanner and can best be used for historical structure preservation. A structure can be measured. This can be used both indoor or outdoor. It has a +-2mm accuracy level of equipment. In 24 hours, you can derive the structure you are scanning through this technology. She gave an example showing the historical structure in Cebu which was measured using the FARO. So in your local LGU, if you have historical structures, houses and even bridges you can use this. Another example is the Ruins in Negros considered as the Taj mahal of the Philippines was measured too. All points are measurable.

She cited that for outdoors, they measured the flyover in Quezon City.

She summarized RASA's products and services such as: Digital Globe, Drawn or UAV Mapping, SuperGeo, and FARO.

She presented also the location of their offices/ branches and contact details

### **3:25 PM End of Presentation.**

She then posed two questions and for whoever can answer its, will be given a software on the products and services of RASA.

### **3:30 PM-4:30PM Session 9: Embracing Sustainable LED**

**By : Dr. Dixon Q. Yasay -**

*Xavier University, Cagayan De Oro City.*

Good afternoon!

He knows that the participants are planners and he knows they are all tired for they been into a lot of workshops. But to keep them up, he led an exercise for a moment to energize the participants.

He said that what he will share to them is something that is close to his heart. In every local government, the challenge is always on how to sustain what we do. I'm sure some mayor are frustrated or disappointed for local economic development were not sustained. And seems for them that they disappoint their people. This is the Sustainability Challenge.



*Dr. Dixon Q. Yasay of Xavier University talked mainly on how to overcome Sustainability Challenge.*

Here he started to relate his story when he was a mayor.

This is the sustainability challenge he encountered. He thought for a while that for serving as mayor, he was terribly frustrated when all he did as their best practice were not sustained. They garnered many awards from Galing Pook, award from UP, etc. Many of the things we started for nine years, but many of these best practices were gone.

In his topic this during this convention he said is the very reason why he is here.

Maybe for those who are retiring, they can say they have the best performance. You are the most important people in the local government unit, referring to the participants. There will be another convention to be held in Mindanao, they are another group of people but he said he has special interest with this group because they are have a very important role in the local government. When he was a mayor for nine years, he thought all the while he was able to change the life of the families. He said that he was powerful for nine years and that all things he has done when he stepped down from office be sustained but these were not sustained... and he was frustrated. (He showed a couple of slides showing a poor family). And that frustration had caught his attention that he advocate for a local government. And he knows that it is also the reason why these planners convene because they work for the people who have less in life and only the hope is the government. Those who have less in life should have more in law, he stressed.

He also said that people like these planners are the technical side and they will provide the planning role. In all the planning processes that you do in local government, you are the key players. You are not only producing the CDP, not only producing ELA, or not only producing CLUP or LCCAP. But the very reason why your are here, because you believe that you want to make a change in the lives of these people (showing the picture of the poor family on screen). He said that all the participants here believes that “ what you have done to the least of your brethren, you have done if to Me”. When I was thirsty, you give me drink, when I was hungry you give me food and when I am naked you clothe me”. He then said that in the 2014 data of NEDA, 20% of the population are still suffering from poverty.

In 2011, he invited in Iloilo to talk about Leadership in a Youth camp. Standing for 2 hours, with very convincing presentation, one participant raised her hand and asked, “Sir, after 9 years as mayor, are a you a success or a failure?”

That was the reason that until today, I could not forget that question. She wanted me to answer the question. Believe it or not, after two hours, said “NO, I was a failure”. He answered. Why? Because when he was a mayor in CDO, in the survey, it showed that



income was doubled, the public income of 27 % increased in income rose to 31%. In 2001, the income of public income of 40M and local income of 1M. In 2007 survey, they triple the local income they so many projects that contributed to this income, that's why the 27% rose to 31%.

"Planners, you are very crucial in making the AIP, when you make the annual budget for 2017 how many of you have the budget ... 100 Million, 200 Million, but he asked them how many of the poor did they considered to be elevated form the situation because of that millions of budget. No LGU has ever said that 5 % or 10% or 3% of the poor will be liberated. (showing the slide with a little boy pushing the cart.) How many will cross over the poverty line. How many of our work will produce results. This is the reason why your work is very important. And it is all about this boy (showing a picture of the boy pushing a cart). People like you are here, eating, enjoying... that is not your personal money, that is people's money, you should know that. You should know also that the life and hope of that kid, is the government. And if you will not do something for now, the life of that kid will continue in poverty. You should do something. You are planning development for them. This is the reason why you are here," he said.

In 2013, the GNP is 2% higher and surpassed China with the highest GNP for the last 10 years. Philippines is even considered the next tiger . Only that in the next issue of tabloid, more Filipinos are jobless. Philippines has high unemployment. So are you going to focus in growth, you will focus in economic growth or focus in local economic development. Development is changing life.

He congratulates the incoming officers and outgoing officers. You are playing a very important role. You are not doing only planning but you go beyond the compliance that you can break the cycle that the last hope of this kid is YOU and no other.

He reiterated again that he received these awards and was proud of it ex. Galing Pook award. He related that there were also ten (10) barangays who received Galing Pook Awards and they were proud of it. But three years ago it came into his mind, he wanted to check these 10 barangays awarded by Malacanang with Galing Pook Award for their best practices if how are they doing now. These barangays will compete with other barangays, municipalities and province. They located in different parts of the country, Mindanao, Visayas, Luzon and his university went to all these as far as Southern Leyte, etc. How are they now since they are considered as the best. Well, six (6) of the best practices are already dead, two (2) are still alive but in ICU and only two (2) continue to exist. So, you can just imagine that they have been awarded for best practices in local governance. He said he wanted to highlight this to their attention and these are his reflections having teaching public administration and doing consultancy work.

He said that the fact is, in Local government if one is missing you cannot function anymore, mayor, council and local bureaucracy. (showing the slide that represents the interaction and relationship of the LCE, Bureaucracy and the Local Council.) The mayor provide things to do, the legislative body will support and bureaucracy to produce results. He explained that the planners are part of the bureaucracy and they can produce results. They need also to hire and put the right people because these people are self regulated and they know what to do. There is also a need to shift in paradigm, he added.

He told a story that relates to what he discussed about hiring the right people during his time as mayor of CDO. Every client is important especially the powerless and that's why the need to hire the right people. He stressed that the government need the right planning officers.

He was once a consultant of a LGU. Their annual budget if 1B-2B. In years 2014 and 2015, they have 2B budget but for sure they would not be able to implement all. what he is trying to drive is that it is not about money, it is not about resources. In fact he said in Harvard School study, the score card shows that the value of the organization is 70% financial and in that 70 % of that also is not financial. This means that the competent, dedicated community worker can give more results. He just pray that the people there in the room are the right people of LLPDCPI.

He then discussed **Multi -functional** Local government. The LGU has multi functions. Take note almost every national law, at the end , the local LGU will enact. In addition he said that the LGU is not only Multi-functional but also **Multi-layered**. He cited an example of garbage being thrown in a landfill the Reuse and Recycle and Reduce desegregation that it should start at the barangay level. He emphasized that in the layer of functions in the Local Government code, there are functions intended for barangay, functions for the municipality or city and functions for the province. But there are municipal/ barangay councils, etc. who behave like they are not a barangay council. He said that there is a need to change the behavior of the people that do not function in the local government. All the functions we face are more of behavioral, health is behavioral and sanitation is behavioral. This means that we need to pay premium to barangay ordinance because the local government is multi-layered. Furthermore he said that It is not on multi-layered, but it is also multi -structural. He gave another example like even the budget is already approved yet they have to go to the mayor. So sometimes the problem of the government is not money but the authority. Sometimes it is not authority, the problem is implementation. But his bias is always in the bureaucracy.

Most local governments are mayor centric- everything revolves around the mayor. If this is the case, the best practices can never be sustained. There are structural limitations. The mayor can only stay in power up to nine years. When he steps down,

the wife, the mother, brother will replace. But what he is trying to drive out is that the LGU is mayor-centric. That even for small things like use of ambulance, still the decision will come from the mayor. For him, he puts limitation. He gave directives not to disturb him in the middle of the night because he also wanted to rest. How could he work effectively or function well if he lacks rest. That if they want him to lead effectively and inspire them then they must give him time to rest. He is not a robot he said. So he set-up a 24-hour information center to address the issue. He actually wanted to convey the message of letting the bureaucracy to function.

He cited a mayor from Bukidnon who is a priest but won as mayor. He asked him why he run for mayor and he answered that "I may decrease so that others may increase." He really admire this mayor for he practiced leadership that demonstrated humbleness and empowering his constituents towards development.

He also discussed the so called **Mayor phobia**- in which many of the staff would still consult everything to the mayor. He said that in his office, the front door is tinted and dark that he can see from the inside the people passing by but the people outside couldn't see the inside. One time he went early to the office and his staff didn't know that he is already inside and he could people passing by and make a sign of a cross. So it's just a indication that they have this mayor phobia.

He explained the **Secret of Sustainability**.

### 1) Social Capital

ON this topic, the speaker highlighted what Mayor Jess Robledo (once the mayor of Naga City) did. The mayor that he always admire for how he lead his city and sustain all their best practices. In the video, it was shown how Mayor Jess was able to get the support of the people in constructing the new market. In regrets, he said that he could have copied the strategy and good practice of Mayor Robledo. Mayor Robledo consulted his planners, engineers and all the key staff to make the design, budget, etc. Then they consulted the vendors ask them what are their dreams for the market... light, ceiling, etc and their city engineer was there in that consultation. After the meeting he approached and said to the vendors that this is what you want and this is the cost. "If we will borrow money from the bank what we will pay" as shown in the video of Mayor Robledo. There was no resolution but the vendors themselves said that the city hall can borrow money and they can increase the property taxes. So the city hall increased the taxes and raised the rental and the market is earning.

So, it was a process that requires obligation on the part of the people by consulting the people who will be affected.

After the video showing he asked again,

What will be the key role of local planners and development coordinators?

## 2) Personal Mastery

In discussing this, he again stressed that if you have effective LPDC in the city who could synergize, who could influence and is not afraid of losing job, you can make a good local governance. Further he said that what is important also is **Personal -Mastery**. He assume that many have heard about the story of Efren Penaflorida. It's a story that tells you that you cannot control the world but it's about you know how to influence... then showed the video featuring the life story of Efren Penaflorida. In the story, Efren said that "you can remove everything from me, but not my freedom of choice. I can choose to be happy, I can choose to be grateful". The speaker is saying this because he said many of the planning officers are already frustrated and may give up. And he hopes these participants are not one of them. Some are falling apart and some are less cooperative. He played another video that give a message of influencing. In this convention, you can renew the faith and do something. Concentrate in your pride of influence, engage in your people and instead of they influence you, you influence them. You need to understand also that you cannot do it all alone. Remember one idea plus one idea equals two, no, it's 1+1=3.

After his valuable inputs, he proceeded to play another video on:

## 3) Mental Modes

The video played is about a football game, highlighting team work and sportsmanship.

My victory is your victory... Film about a football game. Highlighting sportsmanship.

When one is left behind all of you or all of us will suffer in the program, he said. The key is to synergize but start somewhere and do something great every day. Do something extraordinary. You have to reorganize and just do it. This is on **POWER of POSSIBILITIES**. There are eyes watching you. He played another Video.

He also said that what the people need today are not just coordinators for planning exercises but the one to take the lead. Showed the ad on Olympics in Rio Brazil that displayed the core value is honesty, value of leadership and non- negotiable the willingness to take the risk...and continue by saying ...are you this young boy...watch this another Video. This video speaks of Leadership and Change.

After the video he asked the participants if how many of them are excited to go to the

office every Monday and how many of them, by 5 o'clock in the afternoon every Friday, are excited to go home (TGIF). He said that if their attitude is like this, his advice is... please retire soon. You can like your kids many times, you can like your husband or wife many times, but you can never like your mayor. Know where your heart is. He said he served for nine years as mayor and if you will ask him if he will run again for mayor, he said, NEVER. He would rather die as teacher. It is because he knows very well what it is for nine years.

Maximize your power, inspire us everyday.

If your heart is no longer in the office, I can feel it, the people can feel it, if you have the love to your work, it can be felt by anyone...so please...you can't lie to yourself.

In closing, he showed again another video, an Ad of Nescafe entitled "*Para kanino ka Bumabangon*".

He said that the message in the Video on Nescafe Ad is clear. He only hopes the participants got what he wanted to convey here, because in the end of the day, you will only be either a thermometer or thermostat in the office. If you are a thermometer, you can influence what's going on, if you are a thermostat you cannot influence what's going on. Same thing as the egg if you break the egg from the inside or break the egg from the outside. Everything starts from you guys because of him (showing the kid pushing the cart). The reason you converge here and that you should continue to help. You are the key player up to the end.

#### **4:30PM-End of presentation**

Awarding of Certificate of Appreciation to Dr. Dixon Q. Yasay.

#### **4:35PM-5:00PM : Presentation of CARAGA Region**



*Engr. Salisi presents the features of the next host region ofr LLPDCPI Annual convention, the CARAGA Region.*

This was followed by the presentation of the representative from the CARAGA Region presented by **Engr. Gil Salisi**, president of CARAGA Region LLPDCPI.

The CARAGA Region won the bid to host the next Annual Convention of LLDCPI.

CARAGA Region is also known as the CARAGA Administrative Region and designated as Region XIII. It is composed of Agusan Del Sur, Agusan del Norte, Surigao Del Sur, Surigao Del Norte and Dinagat Island. It has six (6) cities, and 67 municipalities.

He also explained how to get there by land, by water or by air if you are coming from Manila, part of Luzon or from Visayas. He highlighted his presentation by showcasing the tourist destinations and adventures that awaits there. These were presented as per province. The rich nature adventure, water falls, clear river , sea and ocean waters, beaches and wildlife and prestine forests. You will really entice with the beautiful attractions of the region.

He also mentioned the beauty of Dinagat Island Province. He mentioned the flights in going to these places. Likewise, he said that there are a considerable number of big hotels to select to that can accommodate bigger number of participants/ delegates in Butuan City, Agusan del Norte. In terms of peace and order they can guarantee that the place is very peaceful. So he is also encouraging the participants to bring their family members during the convention because he said, you will never regret in going to their place.

In closing, he said that the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual National Convention will be hosted by the CARAGA League of Planners and spearheaded by the Local Development Planners-League of Agusan Del Sur.

Caraga Region the Next host of 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention Engr. Gil Salisi- President Caraga Region.

After the presentation Pres. Obet Dizon moved for the adoption that the next host of the LLPDCPI Annual national Convention will the CARAGA Region.

It was moved and seconded by the body that the next host of the annual national convention will at Butuan City, CARAGA Region

**CLOSING PROGRAM**

The Closing Program started at **5:00PM**

It was formally started by a Processional of the Newly LLPDCPI Elected Officers-

Mr. Mario Nillos, the newly elected National President was with Director Roan Bacal of NEDA Region VI seated on stage while some of the newly elected officials are seated at the presidential table in front of the stage.

**Opening Prayer** played in video and followed by the Pambansang Awit.

An **Opening Remarks** was given by the Regional Director - VI of NEDA, RD Roan Bacal-Region VI.

Before she started her message, she greeted the officers of the LLPDCPI headed by Mr. Mario Nillos of Iloilo Province and the rest of the officers. She also congratulated everyone for the very successful convention. It is not easy to gather, knowing how busy everyone in their respective areas of assignment. The fact that you are here and you did all your best to be here just showed how interested you are to the organization and for that, she requested everyone to give a round of applause.

The local planning and development coordinators are very close to the heart of the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA). This is because we belong to the body that look to the affairs of respective development council,



*NEDA Region VI Regional Director, Roan Bacal delivered the Opening Remarks during the Closing program of LLPDCPI Annual Convention*

she said. So at the very top, we have the NEDA board, led by no less than the President of the Philippines, under that is the Regional Development Council, and further that, we have the provincial, city, municipal and even the barangay development council. People would always ask, “do you have a counterpart at the local level”? We always say we have, why? Because as far as we are concerned, you are the NEDA at the local level. And like you, she continues, “we in Regional NEDA offices are the secretariat of the Regional development Council” and if you do not have that concept, then “I am telling you that this is how NEDA regard you”. She said that it is the responsibility of

NEDA to build their capacity because they are their counterpart at the local level, in the areas of planning, investment programming, project development, budgeting, program and project evaluation, monitoring and evaluation and even in advocacy.

She hopes that when they go back to their jurisdiction, they will be able to contribute to the realization not only of vision and desired core area but to the realization as well of the Philippine Development Plan. She is hoping that as they move forward, they can further clarify how they can work together in order to push the project that they would want in their own constituencies. This is because for NEDA, the success of the local government unit is the success of the region and the success of the region is the success of the nation. So your role is very crucial in your respective offices.

She also highlighted their role to their respective organization at the local level. Your provincial development framework plan, Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP), these are very critical, especially the CLUP, this is the statutory plan that make their way into the decision-making of the LGU and it becomes an instrument for one, to express their side part whether to approve or disapprove development in the area.

NEDA knew that for a large group like this, it is a daunting task to newly elected officials to get everybody's approval. She advised them to set aside personal biases, but look at the importance of general welfare of the federation. Therefore, she hopes that despite of adversities in opinion, when it comes to decision -making it is always be based on what is good for the organization and for what is good for everyone.

She is also aware of the issue about the Environmental Planning Act, RA 10587 and she already raised this during the management committee meeting at NEDA and it is now being reviewed by their legal staff. She also knew that the organization had already taken steps towards stopping its implementation or getting the legislative leaders to repeal the law. There are many reason why they need to assert their stand. NEDA is one with the LLPDCPI in pushing the agenda with regards to the law. Particularly in NEDA, they are not consulted on this too. So you can just imagine that all of a sudden here is this law that will affect the terms and security of tenure of local planners. She assured them that NEDA will not only review but they will continue to be their ally when it comes to capacity building and raising the level of competencies as far as planning is concerned. This is because everything starts with a plan. Little by little, the local chief executives are appreciating the necessity of the plan. This is because everything that they need for funding whether to secure the support of the national government, subsidies or special projects, or even through a special development assistance, *talagang hinahanap yong plano*. So you have to take it seriously even if sometime it is difficult in our part because some officials do not appreciate the importance of the document and be not disappointed by all of this. As in your mission, continue to pursue your responsibility because you owe it to the people you serve. In truth, they rely on



you for the program and projects implemented at the local levels are the informed decision and based on what truly is needed by the areas.

So with this, she reiterated NEDA's support to the league. She also assured them that NEDA will support them proactively and by the time you go back to the same event in CARAGA, Mr. Nillos will have more accomplishments and activities to be reported.

So, Congratulations again to everyone particularly to the league and God bless us all.

An Oath Taking Ceremony of the newly elected officers was administered by Dir. Roan Bacal

All the national officers, regional officers and provincial officers were called one by one and took their Oath.

#### **OATH TAKING CEREMONY**

Pres. Obet said he has nothing except THANK YOU to the host for having the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual National Convention which if not the best, is one of the best national conventions in 28 years of existence of the LLPDCPI.

He presented Plaque of Recognition to WV LLPDCPI. He asked all the regional officers of WV to go up on stage and received the plaque. This is what the organization can offer in appreciation for the job well done.



*The oath taking of newly elected national officers was administered by RD Roan Bacal of NEDA-R6*

Again this will not be complete if these two meritorious award to Mr. Mario Nillos, PPDC of Iloilo Province, for his dedication and commitment under the leadership of Pres. Obet.

Also, the job of this man can never be *matawaran*. He is the heart and soul of the organization that without him, masama loob ko. Buti na lang tanggap niya muli maging secretary general. Hereby awarded to Mr. Tomas C. Aguilar Jr. CPDC of Marikina City.

**Turn-over of the Ceremony Key by Pres. Obet Dizon to the newly elected Natinal President.**

Mr. Dizon said that the turn-over of the should be a month after the oath taking of new officers. So if today is May 25, on June 25, the new officers will start to function in the organization.

The message of Pres. Dizon before the ceremonial turn-over of Key of responsibility. "For the the convention, it was only now that there is a processional and recessional, *ngayon lang nagkaroon ng ceremonial turn-over. So ngayon Mr, Nillos, ang susi ng ating tagumpay ay mailgaya kong ipinapasa sa iyo at sana ang lahat ng mga unfinished business natin, ang lahat ng mga programa natin na hindi pa natupad ay ipapatupad mo at sana patnubayan tayo ng Poong Maykapal*" .

**Message of acceptance:** National President Elect Mr. Mario Nillos

The In-coming national president was called to deliver his Message. Below is the full message of Mr. Mario N. Nillos

*Director Roan Bacal, Regional Director of National Economic and Development Authority of Western Visayas, outgoing President Robert Dizon, National Executive Officers-both outgoing and in-coming, Chapter Presidents, both out-going and in-coming, Municipal M present, my dear local development planners , municipal/ city and provinces, other planning personnel and local government personnel, ladies and gentlemen... Good evening.*

*Our intention, the host region Western Visayas, is to offer the best and quality hosting that we could offer, we ended with the value-adding, I was overwhelmingly elected as president of the league of the Local Planning and Development Coordinators of the Philippines for the period 2017-2019.*

*With this I extend my heartfelt thanks to all the local planning and developmetn coordinators of the Philippines.*

*As my candidate message yesterday, I said I was a reluctant president, I have manifestly articulated this to my colleagues in the previous meetings and discussions we had.*

*For the last three years, my quest and struggle was to question the constitutionality of the enactment of R.A. 10587. I know from the deepest of my heart that it was and as an uphill battle. Even in my sleepless nights I have been questioning myself. Is this worth a fight? What about if I just take the environmental Planning Examination and pass. Would this end my anxiety? But my conscience has been haunting me, what about my colleagues who are banking on me?*

*In the local point, I had been moving around Region 6 to tell others about the implications of RA 10587. I given the chance by Dir. Bacal of NEDA to present this before the Regional Land Use Committee (RLUC). I was also invited by Governor Gumarin of Guimaras to present this to their Provincial Development Council. I talked to Gov. Gumarin about this. I engaged the Vice President of the League of the Municipalities of the Province of Iloilo. I sought legal opinions of lawyers of my province of Iloilo and legal counsel of the province of Guimaras.*

*I regularly called and provide update to the provincial chapter presidents of Region 6. They are really, really hungry for the development of the case.*

*I talked to HLURB Regional Director, I discussed this issue with Congressman Arthur "Toto" Defensor, Jr. The son of our Governor Arthur Defensor, Sr.*

*When I presented this to Cong. Toto Defensor, Jr. He was surprised that there is such thing as RA 10587. He said that he could not recall voting for the approval of the law. He asked me to provide him the details including the position paper of the national league for he will make this as his exploratory note tot he bill he will file on Congress for its amendments.*

*In the national front, I was an active participant to the debate regarding RA 10587 in General Santos, Cebu and Clark Conventions.*

*It was the Regional Chapter of Western Visayas who passed a resolution address t the Philippine Regulations Commission to grant the "Grand Father's Clause" to incumbent local development planners during the Cebu Convention. The national league endorsed our resolution to the PRC.*

*I kept in touch with Pres. Obet, Sec Gen. Jun Aguilar, Pres. Mildred Purificacion of Region 4A, VP Cesar Valera of Abra, Pres. Rico Alvia of Region V, Joseph Esplana of Legaspi, and the rest of the national executive officers. We are regularly exchanging notes and provided inputs to Atty. Russel Miraflor. Though I am not a lawyer, I research on some related SC Jurisprudence.*

*I constantly texted and called Pres. Obet about the status of the petition until its filing and so on and so forth.*

*I was open and passionate about this struggle from the General Santos convention, Cebu Convention and Clark Convention.*

*My friends and colleagues, our fight and struggle has started, this is an uphill battle,*

*there are many impediments along the way but we will continue to fight until its final culmination.*

*As strategy, we will do this in several fronts.*

*First, engage the judicial process and we are now doing this by filing the petition before the supreme court. But this is not enough, do your own regional and local initiatives. While we are doing this, engage the local judicial and quasi judicial process. Just as my regional officers have done. They pass a resolution allowing me to engage legal officer to study the case and do some local judicial processes with the regional trial courts. You may ask, would it be a “forum shopping”. Anyway, ask your lawyers.*

*Second, engage the quasi-judicial process, by seeking clarification with our civil service regional offices and even CSC central office. Just like VP Cezar Valera did when he sought the opinion of the civil service commission central office. CSC rendered their legal opinion on the query of VP Cezar.*

*Third, engage your local legislators such as your congressmen. Just like what I did when I discussed it with Cong. Toto Defensor who promised to file the amendment on RA 10587.*

*Fourth, engage other leagues such as league of municipalities, cities and provinces. Talk to the officers of these leagues just as when I talked to VP mayor Jet Rojas of the League of Municipalities. The national officers will likewise take the cudgel of engaging these national officers.*

*There are already cases that are resurfacing regarding the implications of RA 10587. I recommend that the national executive officers create a Task Force to consolidate and compile all these recent cases so that we could plan legal strategies.*

*I am requesting the regional leagues to make this as your priority agenda.*

*Our colleagues have been waiting our actions for the past three -four years. Our efforts are starting to bear fruit but let us not “put our pants down” so to speak.*

*Let us communicate with each other. I suggest that our information officer buckles to work and create an information and communication team. The work of this team as a venue for the exchange of communication and information. We could create a group account in the facebook or messenger to communicate with each other.*

*Among other, we likewise do the following:*

*Strengthen the national leagues through the four regions; such as South Luzon, North Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao such as capacity building and training through regional or provincial chapters.*

*Building alliances and collaboration with other leagues such as league of cities, municipalities and provinces as well as other professional organizations such as mechanical and civil engineers, architects and others.*

*Strengthening internal processes such as financial management including accounting and auditing mechanisms.*

*Continue the good works of President Obet on the refinement of the Manual of Operations and other reforms*

*On administrative side, let's work on our official domicile and address, provide an ID and unique identification with barcode or QR code. Your ID would with an embedded QR code that will authenticate your own personal profile.*

*Each member should be provided with By-laws, Manual of Operations and other documents.*

*Create the LLPDCPI website with web administrator and an official FB page.*

*My official Term covers the period 2017-2019. Two years is little long for a non-performing president and officers and short for a performing president. If you going to ask me, I would prefer the second-- a performing president.*

*But this is my promise to you.. I will set standard for myself. If I cannot and will not perform, I will even step down even If I could not finish my term. And if I could finish it, I will not seek a second term.*

*As we are ending our convention, may I seek apology for the several inconveniences that this event causes you. The aircon is not in good condition, the faucet conks, the food is not good enough, the internet is slow or non functional and so on... With that we apologize.*

*But on the other hand, I am sure you have also several good and interesting experiences.*

*With that "hugot sa amon taguipusuon nga pagpasalamat sang inyo pagkari kag pagtambong sa sini nga okasyon. Salamat, salamat kag madamu nga salamat."*

*“Kabay nga bugayan kamu sang Ginuo sang maayo nga pagpanglakaton sa inyo pag-uli. Halong”*

*May God bless you in your journey home. Take care.*

Mr. Dizon gave tokens to the out-going officers of the league as well as the retirees.

**Awarding of Retirees members of the League.**

Engr. Jaime 1980-2017

Alexander Carera of Cagayan 2012-2017

Engr. Emilio Leal 1992-2017

Ricardo C. Gange- PPDC Cagayan

Lito Alvarez- Nueva Vizcaya

Mr. Edmund Gozun- Isabela

Meddy Ortega

Complete List of retirees were submitted to the board

Mr. Dizon, finally declared the end of the Annual Convention.

**Recessional** of Officers of the League and exit of colors followed.

### Arrivals and Registration of Delegates and Guests



### Meet & Greet





*28<sup>th</sup> Annual National Convention of League of Local Planners and Development  
Coordinators of the Philippines, Inc.  
Punta Villa Resort, Inc. Sto. Nino Sur, Arevalo, Iloilo City  
May 23-25, 2017*

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**Tribu Salognon Performance**







**Getting Ready for the Processional**



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## OPENING PROGRAM





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## LEAGUE MATTERS



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**PLENNARY SESSIONS**





## **CLOSING PROGRAM**



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**LLPDCPI Group Pictures**





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**LLPDCPI in Action**





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**LLPDCPI in Action**



### Raffle Draw





### **Unguarded Moments**





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