



INFOCUS

IN-DEPTH NEWS, FACTUAL AND RIGHT ON TARGET

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF ISABELA



Hail to **The CHAMP**



“**B**less Isabela
gracious Lord
And keep her in your fold
In unison we all proclaim
Her providential fame.”

-Isabela Hymn

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Isabela reigns

In the crucible of competitions, the majestic reign of the queen province continues.

ISABELA's majesty radiates through the pages of this first issue of IsabelaINFOCUS for 2018, articulating the policies and programs of the provincial government, extolling the dedicated service of its leaders and workforce, and celebrating the toils and triumphs of her people.

Over the last eight years of the Dy-Albano administration, the country's center of AGRiculture yielded more than sixty highly coveted awards from the most prestigious national and regional competitions, given by the most credible award giving institutions from both the government and private sectors. The winning streak was capped by six *Hall of Fame* honors, unprecedented in the province's glorious history, now spanning over one hundred sixty-one years.

The golden harvest of awards covers a broad range, yet diverse aspects of governance, its sheer magnitude, complexities and intricacies. It brings to the fore a provincial government in full throttle that values every sector of society, from the largest segment of the populace, the most vulnerable, to the most obscure, optimizing the use of its finite resources to address the needs of every individual.

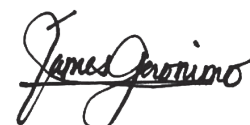
What makes Isabela's triumphs even more remarkable is the propensity to go beyond the basic requirements of competitions. When all that is needed is a simple PDRMC office, the governor and vice governor endeavor to build a huge DRRM complex to intensify people's resilience in the face of emerging disasters. When all that is needed is subsidy for farm inputs, they invest hundreds of millions of pesos to establish a comprehensive, all-encompassing, thirteen-component BRO program designed to alleviate the plight of small farmers.

Such diligence, foresight, innovation and versatility could only come from breakthrough visionaries so steeped in the culture of excellence. This spells a gulf of a difference between mere compliance and honest-to-goodness governance, between an ordinary competitor and a true-blue-champion.

So what sets the provincial government apart from the rest of the competition? Plain and simple. The Provincial Government of Isabela is not in the business of competing, because its ultimate goal is to serve the people. The opportunity for service is a reward in itself, far more important than all the awards and accolades combined.

Amid the pride and honor, public service remains to be the crown jewel of the Queen Province, as her majestic reign continues into the 21st century and beyond.

All for the glory of God!





ISABELA IS MOST AWARDED

Dominates 2017 awards season

Isabela cemented its status as the most awarded province in the Philippines, yielding seven national and six regional trophies in the 2017 awards season, further beefing-up its treasure trove of over sixty awards from the most prestigious national and regional competitions, given by the most credible award giving institutions from both the government and private sectors.

True to form, the province obtained a perfect score in the latest evaluation for the Seal of Good Local Governance of the Department of the Interior and Local Government, shone the brightest at the *Gawad Parangal* of the Cooperative Development Authority via a rare back-to-back victory, made waves at the Department of Agriculture's *Gawad Saka*, and achieved a stunning grand slam in all five major categories of the NDRRMC's *Gawad Kalasag*, the country's DRRM Olympics.

The province aced the most dreaded but highly coveted SGLG, the ultimate test of excellence for any LGU and made a clean sweep of all three *Gawads*, unprecedented in the history of any province and a clear testament to Isabela's versatility and relentless pursuit of excellence in diverse fields of governance ranging from agriculture, to cooperative development and disaster preparedness.

SGLG

For the third straight year, Isabela copped the Seal of Good Local Governance, the highest and most prestigious award given by the DILG. The province obtained a perfect score in all seven core and essential areas to include *Good Financial Administration, Disaster Preparedness, Social Protection, Peace and Order, Business Friendliness and Competitiveness, Environmental Protection and Tourism, Culture and the Arts*.

SGLG symbolizes integrity and good performance through continuing governance reform and sustained local development. It is a progressive assessment system adopted by the DILG to give recognition to remarkable local government performance across several areas.

Of the country's eighty one provinces, Isabela is among the only twenty eight that made it to the elite winning circle. Twelve municipalities and all three cities of the province also made the cut. Their combined strength accounts for more than 50% of LGU passers in Region II.

Governor Faustino Dy III joined other Local Chief Executives from across the country in receiving the Seal from top DILG official led by then Acting Secretary Catalino Cuy and Presidential Adviser for Political Affairs Francis Tolentino who was guest of honor. The ceremony was held at the Manila Hotel.

GAWAD PARANGAL

At the Cooperative Development Authority's *Gawad Parangal* held in December last year at Shangri-La Manila, the Isabela Provincial Cooperative Development Office was adjudged Best Performing PCDO in the Philippines, besting Bulacan and Dinagat Islands. The province scored another back-to-back victory after Cauayan City clinched the same honors in the city category.

Governor Dy and Cauayan City Mayor Bernard Dy were joined by local officials and LGU employees in receiving their respective awards from Senator Miguel Zubiri, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Cooperatives.

Gawad Parangal is a recognition program for

cooperatives, local government units, partner organizations and cooperative leaders in recognition of exemplary performance, best practices and good governance. It is aimed at motivating and inspiring cooperatives to take on a more active role in government's development programs.

The PCDO is mandated to oversee the provincial government's cooperative program with emphasis on the promotion, organization, education and development of cooperatives in the province. PCDO Isabela first won as Most Outstanding LGU Cooperative Development Office in the Philippines in 2012, and the rest, as they say, is history.

GAWAD SAKA

Isabela, the center of AGRiculture, also made waves at the *Gawad Saka* of the Department of Agriculture. It was hailed as the region's champion province while eight of its farmer individuals and organizations went on to win at the *Gawad Saka* National Finals held in Malacañang and graced by the president.

The province's excellent performance in the competition is an affirmation of Isabela's agricultural prowess, the diligence of her farmers and fisherfolks and the provincial government's immense support to the agriculture sector through the BRO Program for Marginalized Farmers. Dy noted the quest for excellence even among farmers. "*The quest for excellence has become a culture among Isabeleños. It has become a way of life for the people,*" he said.

Gawad Saka is an annual contest to recognize farmers, fisherfolks, and livestock raisers as well as groups who have excelled and made significant contributions in enhancing the development of the agriculture and fishery sector in their respective communities.

Isabela also earned a berth among the finalists in the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Search for Most Business Friendly Provinces in the Philippines, and clinched a *Kapit Bisig Award* courtesy of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas during the 14th Awards Ceremony for BSP Stakeholders held in Manila last year.



PROVINCE IN THE PHILIPPINES

GAWAD KALASAG

However, it was in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management that Isabela made the most impact, amassing a record eighteen *Gawad Kalasag* championship trophies in the last three editions of the competition. The province's grand slam victory was capped by two *Hall of Fame* honors for PDRRMC Isabela and the PGI's Early Learning Center.

The *Kalasag* symbolizes the Isabeleño's narrative of courage and vigilance, and serves as an inner compass as he navigates the perilous road to resilience. It also stands proud as a testament to his indomitable spirit, a spirit that never wavers even in the face of the fiercest storm lurking in the horizon. From the devastation wrought by super typhoon Juan in 2010, PDRRMC Isabela has evolved into what it is today – the undisputed Best PDRRMC in the Philippines.

According to the governor, the Council continues to build on its strengths, as it intensifies the training of personnel and invests heavily in top-of-the-line facilities, vehicles and equipment essential to disaster preparedness. *"Two evacuation centers have been built, while three others are in various stages of completion. All these edifices and structures are concrete proof of the provincial government's firm resolve to build safer and disaster resilient communities worthy of all the Gawad Kalasag trophies we have received so far,"* he said.

Gawad Kalasag is the country's premier annual awards for outstanding contribution in the fields of disaster risk reduction and management and humanitarian assistance. It is the principal mechanism by which the NDRRMC advances awareness of the best practices of DRRM and humanitarian response and action. Moreover, it aims to appreciate individuals, groups or institutions which have shown extraordinary courage, heroism and sacrifice in times of emergencies, be it natural or human-induced.

ALL BASES COVERED

The awards reaped by the provincial government covers a broad range yet diverse aspects of governance – good financial administration, disaster preparedness, social protection, peace and order, environmental management, business competitiveness, tourism, culture and the arts, cooperative development, child rights and agriculture, among others.

It brings to the fore a government that values every sector of society, from the largest segment of the populace to the most obscure, optimizing the utilization of its finite resources to address the needs of every individual, regardless of rank or circumstance.

It's all bases covered for Isabela. The winningest province in the Philippines is, yet again, on her way to one dazzling home run!

Reaps six Hall of Fame trophies

Any LGU will move mountains to clinch a *Hall of Fame* award. The province of Isabela has six. So far.

Two from the Department of Agriculture, two given by the Department of the Interior and Local Government, and another two courtesy of the NDRRMC. The gallery of six *Hall of Fame* honors affirm in no uncertain terms Isabela's unwavering commitment to excellence, the bedrock on which our institutions firmly stand.

The grains capital of the Philippines is the only province in the country honored with *Hall of Fame* trophies in both the National Rice Achievers Award and the Quality Corn Achievers Award. As the country's top corn producing province, it contributes 21% of the annual national yellow corn production. As the second highest rice growing province nationwide, it produces 15% of the aggregate national rice production on an annual basis.

In 2015, Isabela took center stage at the DILG's Regional LGU Incentives and Awards Program. After winning the Most Outstanding Anti – Red Tape Implementer in Region II for three consecutive years, it was finally inducted into the *Hall of Fame*. The Anti-Red Tape Act of 2007 aims to promote transparency in government through

simplified frontline service providers and formulation of service standards collectively called the Citizen's Charter.

In 2017, Isabela collected two more *Hall of Fame* trophies courtesy of the NDRRMC's *Gawad Kalasag*. The first, for Best Early Learning Center, and the second, for Best PDRRMC in the Philippines. Finally, in the same year, PDRRMC Isabela was elevated to the *Hall of Fame* at the DILG's LGU Incentives and Awards for winning Most Outstanding Project PREPARE-READY 24/7 for three consecutive years.

The province has also won the Seal of Good Local Governance and the *Aliw Awards* for Best Festival Performance and Practices for three consecutive years now.

The *Hall of Fame* is a mechanism aimed at elevating an individual or institution to a league of its own after showing consistency and diligence in demonstrating excellence in a competition. It may be aimed at stopping or breaking a winning streak if only to afford other contenders better chances of winning.

One thing is certain. There's no stopping Isabela from proving beyond a doubt that it is indeed the most awarded province in the Philippines, bar none.





PERFECT FOR THE JOB

Then DILG Acting Secretary Catalino Cuy looks admiringly at Governor Faustino Dy III during the 2017 SGLG Awarding Ceremony. Isabela obtained a PERFECT score in the DILG's highest and most prestigious award for LGUs. The honoree is also flanked by Presidential Adviser on Political Affairs Secretary Francis Tolentino, DILG Regional Director Jonathan Paul Leusen and then DILG Provincial Director Elpidio Durwin.

PERFECT

The Provincial Government of Isabela obtained a perfect score in the evaluation conducted by the Department of the Interior and Local Government for the 2017 Seal of Good Local Governance. This was disclosed by then DILG Acting Secretary Catalino Cuy in a congratulatory letter addressed to Governor Faustino Dy III. Only twenty-eight of the country's eighty-one provinces passed what is widely regarded as the mother of all awards.

Isabela passed all four core areas, to include *Good Financial Administration, Disaster Preparedness, Social Protection, Peace and Order*, and all three essential areas to include *Business-Friendliness and Competitiveness, Environmental Protection and Tourism, and Culture and the Arts*. In the SGLG 2017's 4+1 assessment criteria, an LGU must pass the four core areas and at least one essential area to muster the Seal.

SGLG symbolizes integrity and good performance through continuing governance reform and sustained local government. It is a progressive assessment system adopted by the Department to give distinction to remarkable local government performance across several areas.

The Seal enjoins LGUs to foster transparency and accountability, prepare for challenges posed by disasters, broaden access to social services especially the marginalized

and most vulnerable in the community, protect the community from threats to life and security, attract more businesses for investments and employment, uphold the integrity of the environment and optimize tourism potential and enrich cultural heritage.

"To pass the SGLG is a feat in itself. To obtain a perfect score in all seven core and essential areas is absolutely exhilarating," said Dy. *"This is a clear validation of our unwavering commitment to excellence in governance."*

Dy personally received the Seal in ceremonies held at the Tent City, Manila Hotel along with local chief executives of the three cities and twelve municipalities of Isabela. The event, dubbed by organizers as a gathering of exemplars, was graced by top DILG officials led by Cuy and Presidential Adviser on Political Affairs Secretary Francis Tolentino.

One of the incentives for SGLG passers is access to the *Performance Challenge Fund*, a facility envisioned to help stimulate local governments to mainstream transparency and accountability and to enable them to finance identified projects supportive of national government goals and priorities.

Local chief executives are now bracing themselves for the far more difficult and stringent measures of the 2018 SGLG evaluation.

NUMBERS THAT COUNT

Of the 81 Provinces
only 28 PASSED
(34.57%)

Of the 1,489 Municipalities
only 369 PASSED
(24.78%)

Of the 145 Cities
only 65 PASSED
(44.83%)

Of the 1,715 LGUs
only 462 PASSED
(26.44%)



Isabela's *pride* the Philippines' *best*



SEAL OF EXCELLENCE

Provincial Administrator Atty. Noel Manuel Lopez is always behind Governor Faustino Dy III, both literally and figuratively. Despite his low-key stance, however, it cannot be denied that the potency of their partnership was crucial in Isabela's winning the Seal of Good Local Governance three times in a row. Isabela obtained a perfect score in the last SGLG evaluation which only twenty-eight of the eighty-one provinces passed.



DRRM DUO

Governor Faustino Dy III, Chairman of the Best PDRRMC in the Philippines and Mr. Edmond Guzman, touted as the best PDRRMO in the country, share the stage as they receive the Hall of Fame trophy for Best PDRRMC during the 19th Gawad Kalasag National Awards held at the Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila.



BEAUTY AND THE BEST

Governor Faustino Dy III and PSWDO Lucila Ambatali look every inch the winners that they are at the 18th Gawad Kalasag National Awards held at the PICC. He was dapper in barong Filipino, she looked sophisticated in her exquisite gown. The elegant pair received the handsome Gawad Kalasag Hall of Fame trophy for Best Early Learning Center in the Philippines.



MOST COOPERATIVE

Provincial Cooperative Development Officer Lilia Castillo basks in the glory of the Best PCDO honors bestowed upon the province of Isabela during the CDA Gawad Parangal held recently at the Edsa Shangri-La. The Dy-Albano administration's immense support to cooperatives in terms of funding and other assistance has made winning in the competition a walk in the park.

Isabela rocks 19th Gawad Kalasag PDRRMC elevated to Hall of Fame



PDRRMC Isabela solidified its status as the country's DRRM champion after winning Best PDRRMC in the Philippines at the 19th Annual Gawad Kalasag Search for Excellence in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management and Humanitarian Assistance held recently at the Crowne Plaza Manila Galleria. This is the Council's third consecutive win, thus, paving the way for its induction into the elite Hall of Fame.

Governor Faustino Dy III and key members of the Council led by PDRRMO Edmond Guzman received the award from NDRRMC Chair and Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, NDRRMC Executive Director and Civil Defense Administrator Undersecretary Ricardo Jalad and DILG Undersecretary Austere Panadero.

PDRRMC Isabela bested PDRRMC Dinagat Islands and PDRRMC Mountain Province. CDRRMC Santiago was also adjudged Best City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council in the Philippines while the BDRRM Committee of Brgy. Alinguigan 2nd in Ilagan City was hailed as the best in its category. Cauayan City's Rescue 922 won in the Best Government Emergency Management Service category while Raniag National High School of Ramon, Isabela won as Best Public School.

Dy ascended the Gawad Kalasag stage a record seven times, making him the most popular local chief executive in a gathering of the country's heroes and heroines.

"From the depths of destruction and devastation wrought by super typhoon Juan, to our elevation to the Gawad Kalasag Hall of Fame . . . it was a long and perilous "journey of faith" for the people of Isabela," a beaming Dy proudly declared. *"Nawa'y magsisilbi po itong inspirasyon sa ating lahat na lalo pang palawigin at paigtingin ang kahandaan*

sa ating lalawigan sa lahat ng pagkakataon. The Hall of Fame trophy should not lull us into complacency. It should instead inspire us to continue to raise the bar in disaster preparedness," he stressed.

Lorenzana, in his message, paid his ultimate tribute to Isabela by referring to the province as the "runaway winner." He also thanked the honorees for their heroism, diligence and commitment in espousing the wisdom of preparedness. *"I extend to our honorees my sincerest congratulations and the gratitude of their clients and communities as well as the Filipino people at large for their remarkable exploits through this humble token, the Gawad KALASAG. As you return to your respective homes, offices and work with these humble tokens of our thanks, bear in your hearts our wish that your distinctive mark of heroism, your Gawad Kalasag, endure as a model to be emulated by our people for all time,"* he said.

Gawad KALASAG is the country's premier annual awards for outstanding contribution in the fields of DRRM and humanitarian assistance. It is the principal mechanism by which the NDRRMC advances awareness of the best practices of DRRM and humanitarian response and action. It aims to appreciate individuals, groups or institutions which have shown extraordinary courage, heroism and sacrifice in times of emergencies, natural or human-induced.

SEC. LORENZANA: ISABELA IS RUNAWAY WINNER

The general was very pleased.

Defense Secretary and NDRRMC Chairman Delfin Lorenzana was impressed with the performance of the province of Isabela at the 19th Gawad Kalasag held recently at the Crowne Plaza Manila Galleria. Isabela won five championship trophies in the competition's major categories capped by Hall of Fame honors for Best PDRRMC in the Philippines.

The Secretary invited Gov. Faustino Dy III to join him at the presidential table and showered him with praises in his message during the ceremony. *"Isabela is the runaway winner,"* he declared. *"There are towns and provinces na halos hakutin na lahat ng awards. You know why? There is only one explanation there. Yung mga leaders niya, from the provincial government down to the towns, they are there on board... kinakatok nila ang mga tao doon eh."*

The secretary was also seen taking a snapshot of himself and the governor using his cellphone.

In his official Message to the province of Isabela, Lorenzana stressed that Gawad Kalasag is more than just a reward mechanism. *"It showcases exemplars of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation programs that aim to strengthen community resiliency. This recognition is a proud testament to the Isabeleños' enduring commitment to championing disaster preparedness in the Philippines."*

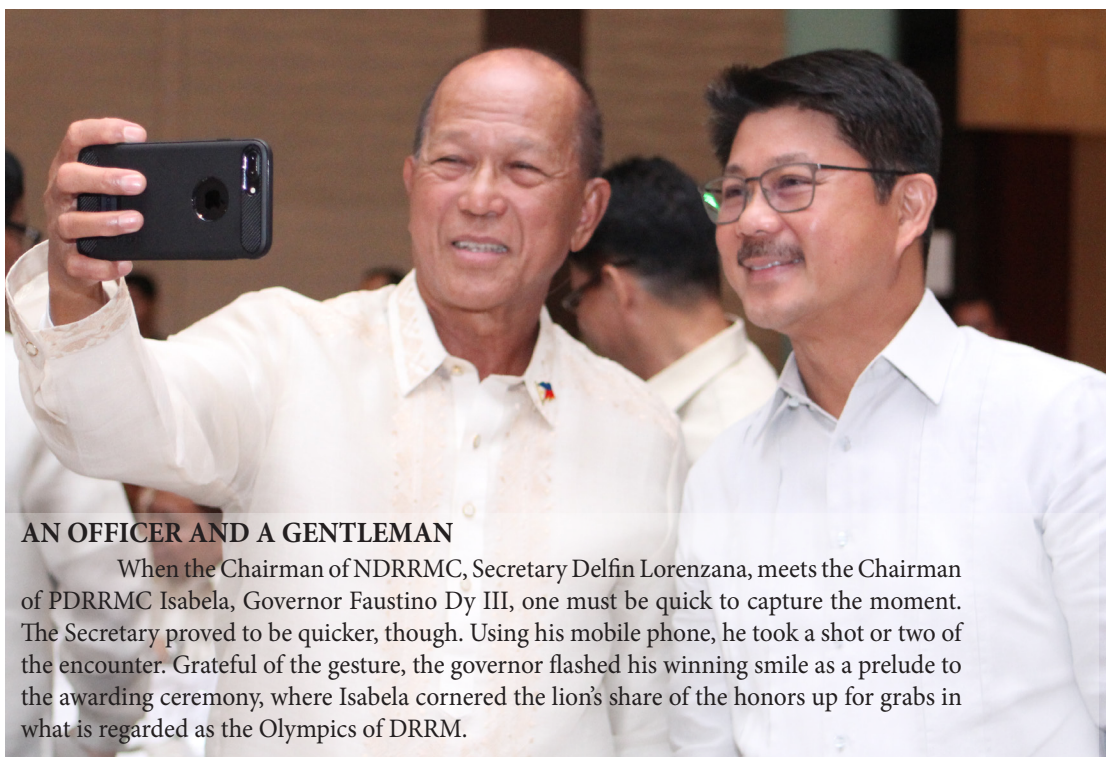
President Rodrigo Roa Duterte also sent his congratulatory Message to the awardees from Isabela for their outstanding contributions to the improvement of disaster preparedness in the province. *"You are our partners in nation-building as you ensure excellence in the implementation of our mechanisms for emergency readiness and mitigation. Let this feat serve as an impetus for you to build a stronger and safer place for people. I count on you to continue your valuable*

efforts in advancing awareness and best practices in the field of risk reduction management and humanitarian assistance," he wrote.

OCD Civil Defense Administrator Ricardo Jalad also conveyed his warmest felicitations and congratulations to Dy and the people of Isabela on their momentous victory. *"Do not rest on your laurels but rather keep on cultivating your expertise and commitment so that as you grow in both skill and knowledge, you can give greater service not only to the province but to the entire nation at large."*

Lorenzana became the 36th Secretary of National Defense on June 30, 2016, bringing to the Department his expertise in national defense and security, special operations, foreign military affairs, public diplomacy, veterans affairs and strategic leadership.

He chairs the NDRRMC and the Gawad Kalasag National Selection Committee.



AN OFFICER AND A GENTLEMAN

When the Chairman of NDRRMC, Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, meets the Chairman of PDRRMC Isabela, Governor Faustino Dy III, one must be quick to capture the moment. The Secretary proved to be quicker, though. Using his mobile phone, he took a shot or two of the encounter. Grateful of the gesture, the governor flashed his winning smile as a prelude to the awarding ceremony, where Isabela cornered the lion's share of the honors up for grabs in what is regarded as the Olympics of DRRM.

ISABELA: AT THE FOREFRONT OF NATIONAL COMP

Isabela, Aurora town link arms to clinch BSP Kapit Bisig Award

Even the Bangko Sentral is banking on Isabela.

The province of Isabela and the municipality of Aurora were recently awarded the BSP Kapit Bisig Award by the new BSP Governor and Chair of the Monetary Board Nestor Espenilla Jr. during the 14th Awards Ceremony and Appreciation Lunch for BSP stakeholders held at the BSP Assembly Hall, BSP Complex in Manila.

Anchored on the theme “Transforming Shared Visions into Dynamic Partnership,” the awarding ceremony recognized outstanding institutions for their strong support and contribution to the statistical undertakings, information requirements and advocacy programs of the BSP and its functions.

Some forty-two awards were presented to outstanding partner institutions including Isabela and the municipality of Aurora, another rare back-to-back win for the province. Governor Faustino Dy III and Aurora Mayor William Uy personally received their respective awards from the members of the Monetary Board led by Espenilla.

Dy was very pleased to have received the Kapit Bisig Award, a welcome addition to Isabela’s string of the most prestigious national and regional awards. *“I’m glad the Bangko Sentral took notice. An award from the most credible of institutions is a validation of all the efforts and hardwork of Team Isabela,”* he said.

Isabela is a first class province and considered among the richest and most progressive provinces in the Philippines. Strategically located at the center of the Cagayan Valley Region, it is acknowledged to have demonstrated strength in business and industry. Thus, it has come to be known as the Regional Trade and Industrial Center of Northern Luzon. It is also constantly ranked among the top three Most Business-Friendly Provinces in the Philippines by the Philippine



BANKING ON ISABELA

Governor Faustino Dy III and Aurora Mayor William Uy proudly raise the banner of the province of Isabela at the 14th Awards Ceremony for BSP Stakeholders. Dy and Uy are flanked by new BSP Governor Nestor Espenilla Jr. and Monetary Board Member Juan de Zuñiga Jr. The mayor was accompanied by Mrs. Uy.

Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Espenilla thanked the dignitaries from government and the private sector for joining the award rites. *“This event is expected to further improve and strengthen the partnerships between the BSP and its stakeholders, resulting in a more successful information gathering and conduct of advocacy campaigns to accomplish the BSP’s objectives of safeguarding price stability and promoting*

a healthy financial system as well as ensuring an efficient payments and settlements system in the country,” he said in his message.

The BSP is the country’s central monetary authority. It was established on July 3, 1993 pursuant to the provisions of the 1987 Constitution and the Central Bank Act of 1993. As such, it enjoys fiscal and administrative autonomy from the national government in the pursuit of its mandate.

ETITIONS MARKED BY BACK-TO-BACK VICTORIES

Isabela PCDO, Cauayan CCDO adjudged Best in the Philippines



Isabela and Cauayan City made history after scoring a rare back-to-back victory at the Cooperative Development Authority Gawad Parangal held recently at the Edsa Shangri-La in Mandaluyong City.

The Isabela Provincial Cooperative Development Office was adjudged Best PCDO in the Philippines while Cauayan City romped away with the best CCDO in the Philippines trophy as well. Governor Faustino G. Dy III and Mayor Bernard Faustino Dy personally received their respective awards from Guest of Honor Senator Miguel Zubiri and CDA Administrator Orlando Ravanera. The governor was accompanied by SP Member Faustino Dy IV, SP Member Napoleon Hernandez and employees of the Provincial Cooperative Development Office led by PCDO Lilia Castillo.

Even before Dy could reach the stage

to receive his trophy, Zubiri accorded him a snappy salute, a kind and genuine gesture expressing his admiration and respect for one of the country's most outstanding governors who has emerged as a champion of the cooperative movement.

In his message, Zubiri underscored the crucial role of the LGUs in strengthening cooperatives as a means to eradicate poverty in the countryside. The young senator also lauded the efforts of local officials in strengthening cooperatives in their respective areas of responsibility and cited Isabela and Cauayan City as classic examples. *"The victory of Isabela in the competition is a clear proof that they are doing it right in that province,"* he stressed. Zubiri is the principal sponsor and author of RA 9520 or the Philippine Cooperative Code of 2008. He chairs the Senate Committee on Cooperatives.

CDA Administrator Orlando Ravanera also praised Dy for his support to the CDA and the community of cooperatives at large. Addressing the Isabela governor, *"You are an excellent local chief executive, there ought to be a book written about you,"* he declared in his message before a gathering of government dignitaries led by Zubiri and Secretary to the Cabinet Leoncio Evasco, local officials and leaders of cooperatives.

In 2012, Dy and then Vice Governor Rodito Albano, launched the BRO Livelihood Assistance for Marginalized Farmers Program to the tune of two hundred million pesos, surpassing previous allotments intended for the purpose. The funds were released to individual borrowers, cooperatives and associations in the form of livelihood loan assistance. Castillo took pride in heralding the emergence of Isabela's new breed of borrowers. *"They voluntarily pay their dues, fully aware of their responsibilities as borrowers,"* she said.

The Isabela PCDO is mandated to oversee the provincial government's cooperative program with emphasis on the promotion, organization, education and development of cooperatives in the province.

BRO Farmers Assistance Program is an all encompassing, comprehensive and revolutionary program which boasts of thirteen components ranging from loan assistance (BRO-LAMFP), livelihood assistance (BRO-Livelihood), crop insurance (BRO-PSP), price subsidy (BRO-ASAP), transport subsidy (BROPPP), animal dispersal (Paiwi ni BRO), accident insurance (BRO-PNB Gen), SSS coverage (BROSSSM), health insurance (BRO-Healthcare), health coverage (BRO-PHM), college scholarship program for sons and daughters of small farmers (BRO-Ed), nutrition (BRO LUSOG or Laban sa Undernutrition, sa Sakit, Obesity at Gutom sa Barangay), and access to housing assistance (BRO-PAGIBIG).



MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

I join the Provincial Government of Isabela in congratulating the awardees of the 18th Gawad Kalasag Awards spearheaded by the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council.

It is our resolute aim in government to improve our resilience in times of calamities. Our country's vulnerability to extreme climate conditions makes it necessary for us to put in place effective mechanisms for disaster risk reduction.

Thus, I express my heartfelt congratulations to the awardees from Isabela for their outstanding contributions to the improvement of disaster preparedness in the province. You are our partners in nation-building as you ensure excellence in the implementation of our mechanisms for emergency readiness and mitigation.

Let this feat serve as an impetus for you to build a stronger and safer place for our people. I count on you to continue your valuable efforts in advancing awareness and best practices in the field of risk reduction management and humanitarian assistance.

Congratulations and I wish you success in your endeavors.


RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE

THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES





OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

MESSAGE

On behalf of our ONE DEFENSE TEAM, my warmest congratulations and salute to the local government executives and people of the Province of Isabela, for winning the Best Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (PDRRMC) in the Philippines in the recently concluded 18th Gawad KALASAG National Finals.

Gawad KALASAG, which stands for “Kalamidad at Sakuna Labanan, Sariling Galing ang Kaligtasan,” promotes the spirit of volunteerism, and strengthens the resilience and adaptive capacity of communities to disaster risks. As the Chairperson of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (NDRRMC), I can say with all sincerity that Gawad KALASAG is more than just a reward mechanism. It showcases exemplars of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation programs that aims to strengthen community resiliency. This recognition is a proud testament to the Isabeños’ enduring commitment to championing disaster preparedness in the Philippines.

May this prestigious award that you have reaped stand as an inspiration and at the same time, a challenge to you to work even harder in ensuring safer, more resilient and climate-smart communities for the people of Isabela.

Again, my warmest congratulations! Gawin nating palaging ligtas at panatag ang buong Pilipinas! Diyos ti agngina!

DELFIN N. LORENZANA
Secretary



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
OFFICE OF CIVIL DEFENSE

MESSAGE

Our warmest felicitations and congratulations to Governor Faustino G. Dy III and the people of the province of Isabela on their momentous victory in the 18th Annual Gawad Kalasag National Awards for Excellence in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management and Humanitarian Assistance.

It is most admirable that in your effort to improve your service in the field of DRRM, you have made invaluable contributions in the national agenda of saving lives and properties against the threat brought about by human-induced and natural hazards, all in the spirit of public service and volunteerism.

Bear in mind the unending challenge of inspiring our people to take an active role in the effort of building safe, climate-change adaptive and disaster-resilient communities in the Philippines. Do not rest on your laurels but rather keep on cultivating your expertise and commitment so that as you grow in both skill and knowledge, you can give greater service not only to the province but to the entire nation at large.

It is our wish that the province of Isabela continues to succeed in all its endeavors in promoting disaster preparedness and resilience, an enduring model to the Filipino nation.

Again, our congratulations and Mabuhay!

USEC RICARDO B. JALAD
Civil Defense Administrator and
Executive Director, NDRRMC



The **TEN MOST OUTSTANDING GOVERNORS** **IN THE PHILIPPINES**

Cited by the OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT and the DILG



Gov. **IMEE R. MARCOS**
Province of Ilocos Norte



Gov. **FAUSTINO G. DY III**
Province of Isabela



Gov. **JUNIE E. CUA**
Province of Quirino



Gov. **EDUARDO C. FIRMALO**
Province of Romblon



Gov. **ALFREDO G. MARAÑON, JR.**
Province of Negros Occidental



Gov. **EDGARDO M. CHATTO**
Province of Bohol



Gov. **HILARIO P. DAVIDE III**
Province of Cebu



Gov. **DAISY P. AVANCE-FUENTES**
Province of South Cotabato



Gov. **MA. ANGELICA ROSEDELL A. MATBA**
Province of Agusan Del Norte



Gov. **JOSE C. ALVAREZ**
Province of Palawan





Superbrand's **2017 OUTSTANDING GOVERNORSHIP AWARD**



Gov. WILHELMINO M. SY-ALVARADO
Province of Bulacan



Gov. FAUSTINO G. DY III
Province of Isabela



Gov. MUJIV S. HATAMAN
ARMM



Gov. IMEE R. MARCOS
Province of Ilocos Norte



Gov. EMMYLOU J. TALIÑO-MENDOZA
Province of Cotabato



Gov. ROBERT L. RODRIGUEZA
Province of Sorsogon



Gov. SHAREE ANN T. TAN
Province of Samar



Gov. CZARINA DOMINGO-UMALI
Province of Nueva Ecija



Gov. MIGUEL LUIS R. VILLAFUERTE
Province of Camarines Sur



Gov. SUSAN A. YAP
Province of Tarlac



A MANIFESTO

CONGRATULATING THE HONORABLE FAUSTINO G. DY III, GOVERNOR OF THE PROVINCE OF ISABELA, FOR HIS EXCEPTIONAL LEADERSHIP IN LEADING THE PROVINCE TO ITS CURRENT UNMATCHED STATUS AND HISTORIC ACHIEVEMENT AS THE MOST HIGHLY-AWARDED PROVINCE IN THE PHILIPPINES

WE, the representatives of the business sector and members of People's Groups, Youth, Cooperatives, Women's organizations, non-government entities and other national government agencies, express our heartfelt Congratulations to the Honorable Governor FAUSTINO G. DY III, for his exceptional leadership of the province of Isabela.

His headship was transformative; his governance, pioneering. Where once Isabela was a hesitant performer on the cultural stage, today it is the "Sentrong AgriKultura" in the region, raking in an Aliw Awards Hall of Fame recognition for the "Bambanti Festival" as a Best Festival Practice and Performance. Whereas before, the province was already content in being the Number 1 in rice and corn production, today it is the recipient of an unprecedented number of the highest awards ever in governance, transparency, and disaster preparedness, and is now Luzon's Most Business-Friendly Province.

Now one of the most talked-about places in the Philippines, Isabela has for its steward a leader that has been hailed one of the best in the DILG Honor Roll.

On the commemoration of its 162nd Foundation Day, Isabela's flag rises more graciously in thanksgiving for a wise and satisfied constituency and the fruits of an exceptional leadership that Governor Dy has heaped upon them.

We set our hands onto and issue this **MANIFESTO** congratulating the HONORABLE FAUSTINO G. DY III, GOVERNOR OF THE PROVINCE OF ISABELA, FOR HIS EXCEPTIONAL LEADERSHIP IN LEADING THE PROVINCE TO ITS CURRENT UNMATCHED STATUS AND HISTORIC ACHIEVEMENT AS THE MOST HIGHLY-AWARDED PROVINCE IN THE PHILIPPINES.

 Hon. RODITO T. ALBANO Congressman, 1 st District	 Hon. ANA CRISTINA S. GO Congressman, 2 nd District	 Engr. MARCELO G. MIGUEL Provincial Director Department of Science and Technology	 Ms. BARBARA C. GARCIA Provincial Officer National Commission of Indigenous People
 Mr. CHARLES Y. LIM Business Sector Representative & Regional President, Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce	 Mr. GERONIMO T. ZAPATA Chairman Isabela Provincial Cooperative Development Council	 Engr. CORAZON D. TORIBIO, CESO V Provincial Director Department of Interior and Local Government	 MGEN. PERFECTO M. RIMANDO, JR. Commanding General, 5 th ID, Philippine Army
 Mr. JOSEPH S. YU President and CEO SN Aboitiz Power Management, Inc	 Mr. BENJAMIN PUA General Manager Isabela Leaf Tobacco Corp. Cauayan City, Isabela	 Dir. EMERSON A. ROSALES Regional Director Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency	 ENGR. CONSTANCIO B. BANA -AY, JR. OIC – Regional Director NIA, R02
 Mr. JOEL L. MANGUIRIA Federation President Tricycle Operators & Drivers Association	 Mr. REYNALDO N. CRUZ President Market Vendors Association	 ENGR. VIRGILIO L. MONTANO General Manager ISELCO I	 Mr. DAVID SOLOMON M. SIQUIAN General Manager ISELCO II
 Mr. BIENVENIDO T. IGUAL, JR. Northstar Mall Manager City of Ilagan, Isabela	 Rev. PASTOR JOSE B. CABAJAR Senior Pastor Ilagan Baptist Church	 Ms. LAILANIE D. BATARAO Isabela Council Executive Girl Scout of the Philippines (GSP)	 Dr. JESSIE L. AMIN, CESO VI School Division Superintendent Department of Education
 Rev. INGENUO E. RAPADAS Catholic Church Leader	 Ms. CONCHITA M. PALENCIA Isabela Green Ladies Organization (IGLO)	 Dr. ELENA C. ARIOLA Vice President Saint Ferdinand College (SFC)	 Mr. RUBEN S. TUMBAGA President Isabela Senior Citizen – Isabela Chapter
 Ms. PRIMA G. DELA CRUZ President Rural Improvement Club	 Ms. MILAGROS A. CALIMAG Mother Butlers Mission Group	 Mr. CRISPULO S. SANTOS Chairman Provincial Agriculture & Fishery Council	 Ms. MERCEDES P. YADAO Association of Local Budget Officer Isabela Chapter
 Dr. ROSARITA B. MARIANO President Catholic Women's League Isabela Chapter	 Engr. EVELYN C. COSTALES, Ph.D. District Engineer – 1 st Engineering District	 ATTY. JONATHAN FLORO D. DELA CRUZ President Integrated Bar of the Philippines Isabela Chapter	 Dr. BELINDA A. RAMOS President Philippine Medical Association Isabela Chapter
 Engr. REYNATO T. UBINA District Engineer – 2 nd Engineering District	 Engr. EDITHA R. BABARAN, CSEE District Engineer – 3 rd Engineering District	 Engr. ROMEO GARCIA President League of Local Development Planning Coordination Incorporated – Isabela chapter	 Mr. GERRY L. CARABACCAN President Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountant Isabela Chapter
 Engr. EDMUND B. DE LUNA District Engr. – 4 th Engineering District	 Mr. ALFREDO B. LORENZO, JR. Provincial Agrarian Reform Officer II Department of Agrarian Reform	 Ms. EVELYN A. COREG Municipal Treasures Association of the Philippine Isabela Chapter	 Mr. EMILIANO P. CAMBA President League of Municipalities/Cities Agriculturist of the Philippines Isabela Chapter
 Ms. MA. SALVACION A. CASTILLEJOS Provincial Director Department of Trade and Industry	 Engr. RAMIL B. TUPPIL Chief, Meteorological Officer ISU - PAGASA PCAARD Agromet Station	 Mr. FLORENCIO M. BAQUIRAN President Philippine Association of Municipal Assessors Incorporated – Isabela Chapter	 Mr. CONRADO E. DELOS REYES Media Sector Representative
 For. FEDERICO P. CAUTILAN, JR. OIC, Provincial Environment & Natural Resources Officer DENR – PENRO	 Mr. JULIUS M. EMPEDADOR Interim Provincial Statistics Officer Philippine Statistical Authority	 Ms. ROCHELLE G. FORTUNA Youth Sector Representative BRO Provincial Federation	 Mr. JONATHAN GALUTERA President Federation of Persons with Disabilities
 Ms. TERESA D. SABUG OIC – Isabela Field Office Department of Labor and Employment	 PSSUPT. MARIANO C. RODRIGUEZ Acting - Provincial Director Isabela Provincial Police Office	 Mr. RUDY M. CONCEPCION President 4-H Club	 Ms. JOSIE STEPHANY A. CABRERA Chapter Coordinator Philippine National Red Cross

(PDI – May 11, 2018)

PGI is ISO

CERTIFIED

The Provincial Government of Isabela, a three-time SGLG laureate, merited another seal of approval – an ISO 9001:2008 certification, proof positive of the excellence and efficiency in the management systems, processes and procedures governing the operations of the LGU.

ISO 9001:2008 enables an organization to align or integrate its own Quality Management System (QMS) with the management system requirements of the provincial government. It encourages and promotes improved public sector performance and ensures that the province's frontline services or core processes meet global standards. It is therefore a clear validation of the superiority of the administration and support services of the province.

Independent assessment of the PGI was conducted by KMAR Philippines, an internationally accredited certification body. All department heads and their designated documenters and internal auditors underwent a series of trainings to enable them to understand the intricacies of the processes and procedures involved.

An Internal Quality Audit Training was also conducted to train the candidates for Internal Quality Auditor in the planning and actual evaluation of the

Internal Quality Audit and in the demonstration of the audit report.

Governor Faustino Dy III expressed elation over this recent development. *"Every time we win an award, I always attribute our triumph not only to the officials of the province, but to its workforce as well. The ISO is a validation of the diligence and commitment to excellence of every employee of the PGI,"* he said. *"Our employees once again rose to the occasion. They embraced the culture of excellence in the workplace, and they have become better public servants. The people are the ultimate beneficiaries,"* he added.

In a related development, select PGI employees attended a two-day Macro Vision Consultancy Awareness and Risk Management Training held April 24 – 25, 2018 at the Balay. Mr. Michael Manaloto of KMAR was resource speaker. The training was designed to further enumerate and expand the detailed requirements of ISO 9001:2015 including the process of revising the existing system and practices to comply with ISO's new set of standards.

Manaloto emphasized that all organizations using ISO 9001 are encouraged to transition to ISO 9001:2005 within a span of three years. *"When the transition stage ends in September 2018, all ISO 9001:2008 certificates will no longer be valid,"* he said.



Inspired to **S**erve and **A**bundantly **B**lessed with **E**xcellent **L**eaders **A**dvocates

COVER STORY

In a political arena fraught with adversity,
leaders rise,
In the crucible of competitions,
champions emerge.



Hail to **The CHAMP**

We are all pilgrims here on earth. Every person is on a journey through life, a leader to others. Some lead with notoriety, others with ignominy. But there are those who aspire for positions of leadership to better serve the people, who desire nothing less than to leave an indelible imprint of excellence.

There are three crucial tests of excellence in leadership and governance for the country's eighty-one governors. First, the Search for the TEN MOST OUTSTANDING GOVERNORS IN THE PHILIPPINES of the Office of the President, second, Superbrand's OUTSTANDING GOVERNORSHIP AWARD, a purely private initiative, and third, the SEAL OF GOOD LOCAL GOVERNANCE of the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the ultimate test for any local chief executive.

Only one governor made it to all three lists – Faustino G. Dy III of the province of Isabela.

Dy's impressive performance comes as no surprise given his solid track record and sterling reputation as an excellent local chief executive. The individual awards bestowed upon the governor match and reinforce Isabela's impressive gallery of over sixty of the most prestigious national and regional awards from the most reputable and discriminating award giving institutions in both the public and private sectors.

EXCELLENT EXECUTIVES

The Search for the Ten Most Outstanding Governors in the Philippines was initiated by the Palace and conducted by the DILG. The list includes Governor Marcos of Ilocos Norte, Governor Dy of Isabela, Governor Cua of Quirino, Governor Firmalo of Romblon, Governor Maraon of Negros Occidental, Governor Chatto of Bohol, Governor Davide of Cebu, Governor Fuentes of South Cotabato, Governor Matba of Agusan del Norte and Governor Alvarez of Palawan.

The awardees collectively referred to as the *honor list*, had to undergo a three-stage screening process. They were chosen based on good governance, transparency, business competitiveness and disaster preparedness. Their anti-drug stance also played a key factor in the selection, it being a major policy of the Duterte administration. The list was announced close to the heels of the release of the "*horror list*", which, according to the president, is a list of government officials allegedly involved in the drug trade. "*If there are bad guys in government, there are also good guys*," he was quoted as saying.

According to a top official of the DILG, "*Containing the illegal drugs problem is only one thing. These governors are also model governors. They are awardees. They are good in disaster preparedness, and they have made their provinces competitive when it comes to business. They are model leaders, model local executives.*"

SUPERBRAND'S SUPER GOVS

Meanwhile, the Outstanding Governorship Award is a project of Superbrand Marketing International Inc. (SMI), a private entity based in Makati City. SMI endeavors to honor quality governance throughout the country. Recipients of the award are governors who enable inclusive growth among their constituents and demonstrate stellar public service. The 2017 Outstanding Governorship Awardees include Governor Alvarado of Bulacan, Governor Dy of Isabela, Governor Hataman of ARMM, Governor Marcos of Ilocos Norte, Governor Mendoza of Cotabato, Governor Rodriguez of Sorsogon, Governor Tan of Samar, Governor Umali of Nueva Ecija, Governor Villafuerte of Camarines Sur and Governor Yap of Tarlac.

The award is the fifth Outstanding Governorship Award for Dy.

According to Mr. Henry Tambuatco,

president and chief executive officer of SMI, assessment is done through a thorough research of the candidates' projects and their actual impact on the constituency. "*The Outstanding Governorship Award is given to selected governors who highly deserve it and we have embarked on this endeavor to acknowledge the efforts of our government officials for their extraordinary role in nation building.*" he said.

While the Search for the Ten Most Outstanding Governors was initiated by government institutions, the Outstanding Governorship Award is a purely private initiative. There are only two governors common to both lists – Dy of Isabela and Marcos of Ilocos Norte.

SEAL OF APPROVAL

The third test, the most dreaded but most coveted by any local chief executive is the DILG's Seal of Good Local Governance. Only twenty-eight of the country's eighty-one provinces passed the 2017 SGLG.

At a time when the DILG has made it even more difficult to pass the Seal, Isabela obtained a perfect score in all four core areas to include Good Financial Administration, Disaster Preparedness, Social Protection, Peace and Order, and all three essential areas to include Business-Friendliness and Competitiveness, Environmental Protection and Tourism, Culture and the Arts.

SGLG symbolizes integrity and good performance through continuing governance reform and sustained local government. It is a progressive assessment system adopted by the Department to give distinction to remarkable local government performance across several areas.

One of the incentives for SGLG passers is access to the *performance challenge fund*, a facility envisioned to help stimulate local governments to mainstream transparency and accountability and to enable them to finance projects supportive of national government goals and priorities.

Isabela's compelling story behind all the awards and accolades makes us realize that indeed, it pays to champion excellence in local governance. For Dy, however, more than the glory and the incentives, it is the wisdom in instilling excellence that proves most important. "*The true mark of a champion is constantly doing one's best long after the jurors have left. The sacred task of a champion is to assert the culture of excellence in all human endeavors, especially governance. The people of Isabela*

deserve no less," he declared with the firm resolve of a trailblazing, ground breaking, no-nonsense, breakthrough governor imbued with the will of a warrior, the courage of a crusader, and the heart of a champion.

THE CHAMP

The word champion partakes of two meanings. A champion, from the Latin *campio*, refers to the victor in any challenge, contest or competition. Champion may also refer to one who fights in behalf of another or one who undertakes to defend a cause. Both definitions are apt to describe Dy as a victor and as an advocate, but he prefers the latter because this is what he does passionately on a day-to-day basis. "*We win awards because of what we espouse on a daily basis. It may be about championing DRRM or child rights, or the right of the youth to free education or the right of the marginalized farmers*," he stressed. "*This is what keeps us going. We in the local government must not only focus on policy, we must also actively engage in advocacy. The combination of both makes for excellent governance.*"

Dy learned the ropes of governance first as a youth leader and later as a village chief. From the bottom of the political ladder, he rose from the ranks with a very impressive career trajectory spanning over three decades of public service. He is a three-term mayor, three-term congressman, and now on his third term as governor. The *third* in Faustino Dy III must symbolize the three full consecutive terms he completes for every position he sets his eyes on, a rare feat given the dynamics of Isabela's vast political landscape and the unpredictable behavior of its electorate.

So what's next for one of the Philippines' most outstanding governors? His eyes lit up as he explore the trail he so masterfully blazed for others who would wish to thread the narrow path to excellence.

Woe to the competition. This champ is just getting started.



Photo courtesy of the League of Provinces of the Philippines

ISABEL

THE MOST AWARDED PROVINCE



• Regional Top Local Revenue Earner for having attained Highest Collection Efficiency (Province Category) Seal of Good House keeping Champion Province, Gawad Saka Regional Level • Regional Top Local Revenue Earner (Province Category) • Regional Top Local Collector on Economic Enterprises for having attained Highest Collection Efficiency (Province Category) Regional Top Local Collector on Fees and Charges • National Finalist, Search for Most Business Friendly LGU in the Philippines National Rice Achievers Award • **CDA Gawad Parangal, Most Outstanding LGU Cooperative Development Office in the Philippines** • CDA Gawad Parangal, Outstanding Local Cooperative Development Office in Region 2 • Regional Top Local Revenue Earner for having attained Highest Collection Efficiency (Province Category) • Most Outstanding Anti-Red Tape Act Implementer in Region 2 • **BAKAS PARANGAL NG KADAKILAAN National Finalist, Search for Most Business Friendly LGU in the Philippines** • **Awardee, National Quality Corn Achievers Awards** • Natatanging Lalawigan, 2013 Agri Pinoy National Rice Achievers Awards • Most Outstanding Anti-Red Tape Act Implementer in Region 2 • Gawad Kalasag, Most Outstanding Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council in Region 2 • CDA Gawad Parangal, Outstanding Local Cooperative Development Office in Region 2 • CDA Gawad Parangal, 2nd Placer, National Search for Outstanding Local Cooperative Development Office in the Philippines • **The Philippines' CITY OF CHARM, 10th China-ASEAN Exposition held on September 3-6, 2013 in Nanning, China** • National Finalist, Search for Most Business Friendly LGU in the Philippines National Certificate of Recognition, Most Outstanding Performance in Vaccine Preventable Disease Surveillance (VPDS) • Most Outstanding Anti-Red Tape Act Implementer in Region 2 Natatanging Lalawigan, 2014 Agri Pinoy National Rice Achievers Awards • Awardee, National Quality Corn Achievers Awards • CDA Gawad Parangal - Outstanding Local Cooperative Development Office in Region 2 • CDA Gawad Parangal, 2nd Placer, Most Outstanding Local Cooperative Development Office in the Philippines • Gawad Kalasag, Most Outstanding Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council in Region 2

Governor FAUSTINO G. DY III
One of the TEN MOST OUTSTANDING GOVERNORS IN THE PHILIPPINES
Cited by the Office of the President and the DILG



ISABELA PROVINCE IN THE PHILIPPINES



Best Early Learning Center in Region II • Elevated to the *Hall of Fame*, Best Anti-Red Tape Act Implementer in Region II Most Outstanding in Project Popularizing and Recognizing Excellence in Preparedness and Resilience Against Emerging Disaster (PROJECT PREPARE - READY 24/7) in Region II • **SEAL OF GOOD LOCAL GOVERNANCE (SGLG)** Elevated to the *Hall of Fame*, Outstanding Local Government Unit for the National Quality Corn Awards Elevated to the *Hall of Fame*, National Rice Achievers Award • CDA Gawad Parangal, First Placer, Best Performing LGU Cooperative Development Office in Region II • **CDA Gawad Parangal, Second Placer, Best Performing LGU Cooperative Development Office in the Philippines** • Gawad Kalasag, Most Outstanding Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council in Region 2 • Best Early Learning Center in Region II • **16th Gawad Kalasag Best Early Learning Center in the Philippines** • **16th Gawad Kalasag, 2nd Best PDRRC in the Philippines** • **28th Annual Aliw Awards, Best Festival Practices and Performance** • National Finalist and Special Citation, Search for Most Business Friendly LGU in the Philippines • **SEAL OF GOOD LOCAL GOVERNANCE (SGLG)** • Regional Excellence Award for Disaster Preparedness LGU of the Year • Gawad Kalasag, Most Outstanding Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council in Region 2 • Best Early Learning Center in Region II • **17th Gawad Kalasag, Best Early Learning Center in the Philippines** • **17th Gawad Kalasag, Best PDRRC in the Philippines** • Gawad Kalasag, Most Outstanding Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council in Region 2 • **18th Gawad Kalasag, Best Early Learning Center in the Philippines (elevated to the *Hall of Fame*)** • **18th Gawad Kalasag, Best PDRRC in the Philippines** • **19th Gawad Kalasag, Best PDRRC in the Philippines** • **19th Gawad Kalasag, Best PDRRC in the Philippines, *Hall of fame*** • **14th Kapit-Bisig Award CDA Gawad Parangal, First Placer, Best Performing Lgu Coperative Development Office in the Philippines** • Most Outstanding in Project Popularizing and recognizing Excellence in Preparedness and Resilience against emerging disaster (PROJECT PREPARE-READY 24/7) in Region II (elevated to the *Hall of Fame*)

Vice Governor **ANTONIO T. ALBANO**
President
League of Vice Governors of the Philippines

LVGP National Prexy is new Red Cross Isabela Chair



HIGH FIVES

It's a cross between a swearing-in ceremony and an exchange of high fives between two distinguished government functionaries who are constantly rated ten in terms of their support to civil society organizations like the Philippine Red Cross. PRC National Chairman Richard Gordon, PRC Vice Chair Miguel Zubiri, PRC Isabela Chair Antonio Albano and Board of Governors Treasurer Henry Dy look amused.

Vice Governor Antonio Albano is wearing a new red hat.

The current National President of the League of Vice Governors of the Philippines was recently elected Chair of the Board of Directors of the Philippine Red Cross Isabela Chapter and was formally sworn in by Senator Dick Gordon, PRC National Chairperson, along with other members of the new Board led by San Mariano Vice Mayor Dean Anthony Domalanta. The ceremony held at the PRC headquarters in Manila was also witnessed by Senator Miguel Zubiri, PRC Vice Chair, and other top PRC officials.

Chapter Administrator Josie Stephany Cabrera expressed elation over this latest development. *"PRC Isabela has been enjoying tremendous support from the provincial government. Tiyak na magpapatuloy ito sa pagkakaluklok ni Vice Governor Tonypet bilang Chairman ng PRC Isabela,"* she said.

Albano thanked the members of the Board for their vote of confidence. He promised a brand of leadership that values collective consultation. *"The success of my team shall not be my work alone, but shall be anchored on the support and full cooperation of all officers, the Board of Directors, the staff and volunteers. My election as chair is an honor not only for me, but for my family as well,"* he said. Tonypet, as he is fondly called, is scion to one of the most influential political families in the province.

"There is this special bond between the provincial government and the Philippine Red Cross. We have found a common ground – disaster preparedness.... we could explore other avenues for partnership and cooperation to be

of better service to the people of Isabela," he enthused.

On his second term as Vice Governor, he currently holds two national positions – LVGP National President and Vice Chair of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP).

The LVGP is a non-stock, non-profit and non-government organization composed of the heads of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of each province of the country aimed at improving and continuing the process of legislative development to bring about policy reforms in the country. ULAP is the umbrella organization of all leagues of local government units and locally elected government officials.

His extremely tight schedule as vice governor and presiding officer of a very dynamic Sangguniang Panlalawigan could not stop him from pursuing his other passion – as leader of civil society organizations also committed to serve the people. He continues to support *Gawad Kalinga*, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and other special projects like *Liter of Light* and the Department of Education's *Brigada Eskwela*.

The vice governor gets to enjoy the best of both worlds. He is the second most powerful man in the country's second largest province, engages himself in the affairs of national government from the standpoint of local governance and advances the noble pursuits of civil society as a means to attain the nobler purpose of public service.

The wealth of experience of this versatile, prolific and tireless government functionary is truly remarkable!

Albano graduated from the University of California with a Political Science degree and pursued graduate studies at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He was Head Executive Assistant to the Chairman of the Energy Regulatory Commission and rose to national prominence as spokesman of a major political party before venturing into local politics in 2013. He ran unopposed in 2016.

He is indeed a man of many hats, but if there's one hat he will never part with – it is being dad to seven year old Andi who is growing to be a pretty and fine young lady. *"The ultimate goal of everything we do in government is to build a decent, wholesome, safe, healthy and child-friendly province for Andy and all the precious children of Isabela,"* the dad in him declared.

Very well said Mr. Vice Governor. We doff our hats to you, Sir!

The vice governor gets to enjoy the best of both worlds. He is the second most powerful man in the country's second largest province, engages himself in the affairs of national government from the standpoint of local governance, and advances the noble pursuits of civil society as a means to attain the nobler purpose of public service.



Door-to-door delivery ng gamit pang-PWD isinasagawa ni Cong. Albano

Ibinaling naman ni Congressman Rodito Albano ang kanyang atensyon sa pagtugon sa pangangailangan ng mga PWD o *persons with dignity* ng lalawigan ng Isabela upang maibsan ang hirap na kanilang dinaranas at unti-unting bumalik sa normal ang kanilang kalagayan.

Nakipagugnayan ang tanggapan ni Albano sa mga alkalde ng iba't-ibang bayan at siyudad upang matunton ang mga PWD kahit sa pinakaliblib na barangay at maideliver sa kanilang mga tahanan ang wheelchair, saklay, walker at iba pang assistive devices, depende sa kanilang medical condition o pangangailangan.

Batay sa mga datos na nakalap ng tanggapan ni Albano, karamihan sa mga nabigyan ng wheelchair ay mga senior citizens na stroke patients at kapos sa pera. Dahil sa kanilang kundisyon, hindi na sila makapunta sa munisipyo o sa Kapitolyo, kung kaya't kinakailangang dalhin sa kani-kanilang mga tahanan ang mga naturang devices na makakatulong sa kanilang mas maayos na pagkilos o paglakad.

Umaabot sa halos isang libong PWD na ang nabigyan ng mga assistive devices sa dalawampung bayan

ng Isabela, 365 sa kanila ang nabigyan ng wheelchair. Ayon sa tala ng Provincial Social Welfare Development Office, humigit-kumulang na 13,122 ang PWD sa lalawigan ng Isabela.

Sa ilalim ng panunungkulan ni Governor Faustino Dy III at Vice Governor Antonio Albano, ay itinayo ang PWD Center sa tabi ng Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office Ito rin ang nagsisilbing tanggapan ng Focal Person on PWD's Concerns at ng Federation of PWD. Ang PSWDO ang nangangasiwa sa Center na ito.

Upang lalo pang mapalakas ang hanay ng mga may kapansanan, ang Federation ay nakatanggap ng pondong isang milyong piso mula sa pamahalaang panlalawigan para sa livelihood assistance at iba pang pangangailangan ng sektor.

Sa pakikipagtulungan ng iba't-ibang lokal na ehekutibo ay mahigpit ding ipinatutupad ni Dy ang mga probisyon ng RA 10754, isang batas na nagpapalawig sa mga kapakinabangan at pribileheyo ng mga PWD, kabilang na ang 20% discount at VAT exemption sa mga nabiling "*goods and services*".

"Dalhin natin ang gobyerno sa mga tao. Dapat ay maagap at maayos na serbisyo, at special delivery pa."



407M PISO INILAHAN NINA DY, ALBANO PARA SA 1,018 BARANGAY



Muling naglaan ng apat na raan at pitong milyong piso na karagdagang Aid to Barangay ang administrasyong Dy-Albano para sa 1,018 barangay na bumubuo sa lalawigan ng Isabela. Ito ang ipinahayag ni Governor Faustino Dy III sa kanyang mensahe sa mahigit isang libong punong barangay na nagtipon-tipon sa Subic Bay Convention Center noong Marso 11 – 13, 2018 para sa 15th Provincial Congress ng Liga ng mga Barangay ng Isabela. Ang naturang pondo ay maaari nilang gamitin para sa kanilang Priority Development Projects katulad ng multi-purpose pavements at pagsasaayos ng mga lansangan.

Hiniling ni Dy sa mga kinauukulan na magsumite na ng mga dokumento sa Commission on Audit para sa *liquidation* ng *aid to barangay* na una na nilang natanggap upang magtuloy-tuloy na ang pamamahagi ng naturang pondo na nakalaan para sa mga tao.

Hiniling din ni Dy kay Vice Governor Antonio Albano at sa Sangguniang Panlalawigan na maglaan ng pondo para sa pagpapagawa ng limang *drying facilities*. Ayon sa gobernador, malaking tulong ito sa mga magasasaka sapagkat ang bawat *drying facility* ay kayang magpatuyo ng hanggang 5,000 kaban sa loob lamang ng isang araw.

Ipinahayag din ni Dy ang muling pagarangkada ng *Dagdag-kita para sa Magsasaka Caravan* katuwang ang National Food Authority. Sa ilalim ng programa ay binibili ng pamahalaang panlalawigan at ng NFA ang mga produktong palay ng mga maliliit na magsasaka sa ilalim ng mas pinalawig na *Ayuda sa Presyo at Pantawid Pamasahe Program* na nakapaloob sa *Bojie-Rodito Opportunities (BRO) for Marginalized Farmers Program*.

Napuntahan na ng Caravan ang mga liblib na barangay ng Delfin Albano, San Guillermo, Benito Soliven, San Mariano, at lungsod ng Ilagan na lubos na ikinagalak ng mga maliliit na magsasaka sa mga naturang pook dahil ramdam nila ang patuloy na malasakit ng pangasiwaang Dy-Albano. Ayon kay Dy, “*Ang mga ganitong programa ang siyang daan upang maipaabot sa mga malalayong lugar ang mga magagandang hakbang ng pamahalaan na siyang magpapaangat sa antas ng pamumuhay upang unti-unti, kundi man tuluyang mawala ang kahirapan sa kanayunan.*”

Naglaan din ang pamahalaang panlalawigan ng paunang isang milyong piso bilang *loan assistance* sa mga maliliit na negosyante at mga dating *Overseas Filipino Workers* (OFWs). Target ng programa na makapagpahiram ng tig-sampung libong piso na dagdag kapital sa sampung libong tagapangasiwa ng micro small enterprises o maliliit na negosyo kasama na ang mga OFWs na nagsibalik na sa bansa.

Ayon sa datos ng *Philippine Statistics Authority*, nakapagtala ng 26% *poverty incidence* ang lalawigan ng Isabela noong taong 2009. Noong 2012, bumaba ito sa 21%. Nagkaroon ng panibagong census noong 2015, at ito’y tuluyang bumaba sa 5%, kung kaya’t 16% na lamang ang *poverty incidence* sa lalawigan ng Isabela. Inaasahang magtutuloy-tuloy pa ang pagbaba ng mga pigura dahil sa mga programa ng pamahalaang panlalawigan na naglalayong maitaas ang antas ng pamumuhay ng mga mamamayan.

“*Sama-sama nating talunin ang kahirapan!*”, pagwawakas ni Dy.

An arsenal of resilience ... a heritage of courage ... a reservoir



of heroism ... a culture of preparedness ... a legacy of **excellence.**



PDRRM CISABELA

GAWAD KALASAG BEST PDRRM IN THE PHILIPPINES

Elevated to the *Hall of Fame*



Dedication

This edifice, the PDRRMC – BFP HEADQUARTERS stands tall as a proud testament to our unwavering commitment and firm resolve to champion Disaster Risk Reduction and Management in the country. Built during the administration of Governor Faustino G. Dy III and Vice Governor Antonio T. Albano, the Headquarters is home to the **GAWAD KALASAG BEST PDRRMC IN THE PHILIPPINES** and the flagship in a fleet of facilities to comprise what is envisioned as the **ISABELA DRRM COMPLEX**, aimed at enhancing our capacities and strengthening our mechanisms to address the effects of nature's wrath and the complexities of the changing climate of an Earth in peril.

Never before has any generation of Isabeleños been given so great an opportunity to raise and nurture a culture of preparedness, while honoring its commitment to the highest ideals of excellence. Inspired by the resilience of our people, and emboldened by the courage and fortitude of our firefighters, soldiers, police officers and rescuers, we are committed to provide a fortress to a formidable network of DRRM warriors and climate change crusaders who share our compelling vision of a safer, environment-friendly, climate smart and disaster resilient Isabela.

The fiery passion to serve that started as a tiny spark has ignited into a conflagration that engulfs the entire province. Let us therefore continue to blaze the trail in DRRM, always rising to the occasion and never ceasing to demonstrate our core values of diligence, vigilance and resilience in the midst of adversity. And as we herald the dawning of a new and triumphant day in a province where rescuers never sleep, we vow to continue to

harness the hero in every Isabeleño.

- FAUSTINO G. DY III
Governor



Another first in Philippine DRRM history!



DIGGING INTO THE COMPLEXITIES OF DRRM

Garbed in his signature Isabela working shirt, jeans and sneakers, Governor Faustino Dy III buckled down to work, picked up the shovel and started digging to mark the ground breaking of the IDRRM Complex. The visionary in him believes that it takes a Complex to address the complexities of DRRM, and that in order to change the world, we must work from the ground up.

Governor Faustino G. Dy III is bringing DRRM to the next level!

Breaking new ground in disaster risk reduction and management, the young governor led in the ground breaking ceremony for his most ambitious project to date – the Isabela DRRM Complex, another first in Philippine DRRM history.

As envisioned, the Complex will initially consist of the PDRRMC-BFP Headquarters, which has been completed and is already operational, the Provincial Social Welfare Development Office, the Public Safety Office, the PDRRMC Command Center, the PDRRMC – PAGASA Weather Bureau, the Climate Change Center, plus sports facilities for Council members, first responders and rescuers.

The ceremony was made part of the evaluation for the 19th Gawad Kalasag National Finals, witnessed by Council members and national evaluators led by its Chair Joselito Magumun of DILG Manila.

During the blessing of the PDRRMC-BFP Headquarters, Dy realized that the HQ was erected right smack in the middle of a sprawling piece of land

owned by the provincial government and strategically located along the Maharlika Highway, just a stone's throw away from the Capitol. *"There is adequate space for more buildings that will comprise the Complex,"* he said. *"Complex problems entail building an entire Complex to hasten inter-agency cooperation and coordination in addressing disasters,"* he added.

"Only a brain that works non-stop, that never ceases to think about the welfare of Isabeleños could have thought of a DRRM Complex," exclaimed Provincial Administrator Noel Manuel Lopez. *"For visionaries like the governor, the only limitation is the imagination,"* he added.

Dy's well earned reputation as a DRRM champion precedes him. He sought the institutionalization of policies and measures aimed at strengthening the PDRRMC, intensified the training of personnel and invested in top-of-the-line facilities, vehicles and equipment essential to disaster preparedness. He established the PDRRMO, organized the Disaster Action and Response Team (DART 831) which operates 24/7 and enhanced inter-agency cooperation among the Armed Forces of

the Philippines, the Philippine National Police and the Bureau of Fire Protection.

One year and six months into his third term as governor, PDRRMC Isabela was finally elevated to the Gawad Kalasag Hall of Fame. Despite the honors, Dy always reminds everybody never to lull into complacency. *"Given the complexities of the challenges we have to face on a regular basis, it is important that we constantly raise the bar in DRRM,"* he stressed.

Not only is he going to raise the bar in DRRM, he is building the first-ever DRRM Complex in the world.

"Only a brain that works non-stop, that never ceases to think about the welfare of Isabeleños could have thought of a DRRM Complex."



Dy, Singson DRRM of Solid North



FORMIDABLE

Isabela Governor Faustino Dy III, Chair of PDRRMC Isabela and Ilocos Sur Governor Ryan Singson, National President of the League of Provinces of the Philippines, make a formidable team in championing DRRM in the country.

Top officials of Isabela and Ilocos Sur are dreaming of a solid north in the realm of Disaster Risk and Reduction Management, as a prelude to strengthening inter-LGU cooperation among the country's eighty one provinces toward a more disaster resilient Philippines. The tandem behind this idea is formidable – Isabela Governor Faustino Dy III, Chair of the Gawad Kalasag Best PDRRMC in the Philippines, and Ilocos Sur Governor Ryan Singson, National President of the League of Provinces of the Philippines.

Dy discussed the urgent need to forge partnership among provinces as a means to strengthen DRRM in the country during the welcome and fellowship dinner in honor of guests from the PDRRM Response Team of Ilocos Sur sent by Singson to learn from Isabela's DRRM experience. The team was led by PDRRMO Michael Chan.

In a letter to Dy, Singson congratulated PDRRMC Isabela for its triumph in the Gawad Kalasag. *"The award given truly marks your success in maintaining proactive and efficient delivery of risk prevention methods and processes. I am confident that we can draw inspiration from your PDRRM team for the development plans pertaining disaster preparedness for our province as well,"* he wrote. Ilocos Sur bested all provinces in Region I in the 2017 Gawad Kalasag Regional Finals.

Dy thanked Singson for the honor of the visit. *"Sana sa maikling panahon na nandito kayo ay inyong makita hindi lamang ang aming kahandaan, kung hind maging ang kagandahan ng aming lalawigan sa larangan ng agrikultura at turismo."* Dy also stressed that the people of Isabela and Ilocos Sur share the same culture. *"Marami kaming ka-probinsya na galing sa Ilocos, kaya halos pareho ang ating kultura at paniniwala."*

During the second day of the visit, Provincial Administrator Noel Manuel Lopez briefed the guests on the policies, programs and best practices of PDRRMC Isabela as

requested. *"The true essence of being a Gawad Kalasag champion is to use the award as a platform to convey the importance of DRRM to anyone who cares to listen. We thank Ilocos Sur for the opportunity to share the Isabela experience,"* he said. The guests were also given a guided tour of the Provincial Evacuation and Multi-Purpose Center and the PDRRMC – BFP Headquarters.

In 2012, Dy established *Project: Rescuers Without Borders* because he believes that public service knows no boundaries. The project has brought PDRRMC Isabela members and rescuers to as far as Albay, Davao del Sur, Bulacan and Leyte, among other provinces, to conduct rescue and relief operations.

Recently, the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Albay filed a Resolution to enter into a sisterhood agreement with the province of Isabela to explore avenues of cooperation in the field of disaster preparedness. In a related development, the province of Oriental Mindoro signified its intention to conduct a Sisterhood-Case Replication Tour in the province of Isabela to *"further gain knowledge in DRRM practices of other LGUs particularly their local DRRM councils and offices."* The request was contained in a letter of Governor Alfonso Umali Jr. to Governor Dy.

Inter-LGU cooperation is enshrined in the Local Government Code and is strongly encouraged by Republic Act 10121 or the DRRM Act.

Child rights protection tops Dy-Albano Agenda for 2018



Project:
Ugnayan ng
Batang
Isabeleño at
Nagbabantay na
Gobyerno

PLEASE CALL or TEXT 0945 409 1700 (Globe)
0921 338 5332 (Smart)

A CHILD PROTECTION HOTLINE of the
PROVINCIAL COUNCIL FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

On January 8, 2018, the first working Monday of the year, Governor Faustino Dy III launched his most important initiative to date – Project: Ugnayan ng Batang Isabeleño at Nagbabantay na Gobyerno, the official child protection hotline of the province of Isabela. The project is an inter-LGU, inter-agency and multi-sectoral child protection initiative aimed at providing access, immediate response and a more holistic government intervention to children in crisis.

Front and center in this very crucial project is the Provincial Council for the Protection of Children (PCPC), working very closely with the Provincial Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking

(PIACAT). The PCPC is the institutional mechanism that advocates child rights, plans and initiates, recommends interventions and monitors children's programs and projects. PIACAT ensures multi-agency and multi-sectoral participation and cooperation in policy-making and planning programs, projects and activities to reduce human trafficking, child abuse and other related concerns. Both Councils are chaired by the governor and co-chaired by the vice governor.

In his message, Dy stressed the urgent need to institutionalize a child protection hotline mechanism to address the alarming increase in child abuse cases in the country. *"Our success in other spheres of governance is an exercise in futility if we fail to protect the rights of society's most vulnerable sector – our children. Huwag po sana nating iasa na lamang sa pribadong sektor ang isang responsibilidad na dapat*

nakaatang sa ating mga balikat," he said in obvious reference to Bantay Bata 163, a pioneering effort of ABS-CBN.

The launch was witnessed by top officials of government, plus a mix of education officials led by ISU President Ricmar Aquino, PDRRC members and employees of the provincial government. What made the ceremony more touching though, was the presence of children from the Early Learning Center operated by the Provincial Government of Isabela through the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office. The ELC was elevated to the Hall of Fame during the 18th Gawad Kalasag after having been adjudged Best Early Learning Center in the Philippines for three consecutive years. Assistant PSWDO and newly designated Focal Person for Children's Concerns Gina Rivero answered the inaugural call.

According to PSWDO Lucila Ambatali, *"The launch of Project: UBING on the very first Monday of the new year is a clear and unequivocal statement that the protection of the rights of children remains to be the top priority in the Agenda of the Provincial Government of Isabela under the watch of Governor Dy and Vice Governor Antonio Albano."*

"Our success in other spheres of governance is an exercise in futility if we fail to protect the rights of society's most vulnerable sector – our children."



To Summit All, yet again

Aware of our role, rights and responsibilities,
and imbued with a renewed sense of purpose
and the passion to serve,
we scale the heights of the Summit
to gain a fresh perspective and a clearer vision,
rediscover our reservoir of strength,
harness our spirit of volunteerism,
tap into our heritage of courage and resilience
and make a stand on burning issues of the day
confronting the ranks of the youth
and the Isabela society at large.

A CALL TO ACTION



We, the PARTICIPANTS TO THE SECOND ISABELA PROVINCIAL YOUTH SUMMIT, imbued with the passion and commitment to uphold the best interest of the youth, bound by the same vision and inspired by the same purpose, do hereby DECLARE that:

WE DREAM of a world in which the youth realize their fullest potentials, in a society that upholds their dignity and asserts their right to a safe, decent, clean, wholesome, ecologically-sound and climate resilient habitat;

WE ACKNOWLEDGE with eternal gratitude our vast reservoir of potentials and the immense power that we wield, from which enormous responsibility springs;

WE AFFIRM our right to be nurtured and protected, and be consulted and involved in matters that directly impact in our lives;

WE BELIEVE that youth participation promotes our personal development, strengthens our knowledge, practical skills, social values and civic competencies;

WE VOW to use education as a potent tool to raise awareness among the youth about the ills of illegal drugs and the wisdom in learning about reproductive health.

WE TAKE PRIDE in a province that basks in the glory of disaster preparedness and climate change adaptation and nurtures an enabling environment that unleashes the immense power of the youth to rise above disasters; and finally

WE DEDICATE all our efforts to helping raise a new generation of Isabelleños steeped in the culture of excellence, aware that from amongst our ranks shall emerge the country's future leaders.

FGD III: Support to 16,000 BRO scholars continues



Governor Faustino Dy III vowed full and unceasing support to some sixteen thousand BRO-Ed scholars in light of the enactment and impending implementation of RA 10931 or the *Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act*. Dy gave the assurance before some three hundred fifty youth leaders who gathered recently at Japi Hotel in Cauayan City for the **SECOND PROVINCIAL YOUTH SUMMIT**.

RA 10931 was signed into law by President Rodrigo Duterte on August 3, 2016 with an allocation of forty billion pesos to cover cost of tertiary education for all Filipino students enrolled in government schools.

Dy declared that the thirty million pesos allocated for the 16,000 scholars shall instead be used to cover other education-related expenses. *"Ang pondong nakalaan para sa mga kabataan ay mananatiling para sa kabataan. Ito po ay maaari ninyong gamitin sa iba pang gastusin para lalo pang mabawasan ang alalahanin ng inyong mga magulang at maging mas maayos ang inyong pag-aaral,"* he said, eliciting a rapturous applause

from the audience. *"Ang edukasyon ay hindi pribilehiyo, kundi karapatan ng bawat kabataang Filipino. We should thank the president and Congress for this revolutionary legislative measure."*

He also thanked First District Congressman Rodito Albano for constantly infusing funds to cover part of the cost of the BRO-Ed program. *"Nasa Congress pa lang kami, marami na kaming scholars ni Rod. Dito nag-umpisa ang BRO-Ed."* He reminisced.

Reymel Resposo, a former student leader and BRO scholar, now works for the provincial government as Focal Person of the scholarship program. According to Resposo, the provincial government provides college scholarship to sons and daughters of small farmers through BRO-Ed, one of the thirteen components of the Bojie Rodito Opportunities for Small Farmers Program. It is designed to provide educational assistance to marginalized farmers who dream of having at least one college graduate in the family, as a means to empower the ranks of farmer-beneficiaries and break the vicious cycle

of poverty in the countryside.

Resposo speaks from experience. He is a living proof of BRO-Ed's ability to change lives. His story is one of many compelling success stories that convey the Isabelleño's ability to rise above adversity by dint of diligence and hardwork. *"Malayo na po ang narating ng BRO-Ed at marami nang buhay ang tuluyang nabago dahil dito. Maraming salamat po sa mga nagtaguyod at patuloy na nagtataguyod sa programang ito,"* he said.

"Ang edukasyon ay hindi pribilehiyo, kundi karapatan ng bawat kabataang Filipino. We should thank the president and Congress for this revolutionary legislative measure!"



MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

My warmest greetings to the people of the Province of Isabela as they celebrate the 2018 Bambanti Festival.

More than just a device to protect the province's agricultural crops, the Bambanti also stands as a symbol of the industry, perseverance and resilience of the people of Isabela. It embodies the farmer's resolve to secure their yields for the benefit of their respective families and the entire community.

May this festival be an opportunity to bring Isabelans together in strengthening the unity and cooperation that have bound them through the years. I trust that this will not only relive the values and traditions that make the locality vibrant, but also highlight the role of agriculture in the socio-economic development of the province.

I wish everyone a happy and meaningful celebration as we continue to pursue real and lasting changes in our society.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!



RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE

THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES



Three-peat Bambanti is Aliw Awards' Best Festival anew

Isabela's Bambanti Festival received its third statuette for Best Festival Practices and Performances at the Aliw Awards held recently at the historic Manila Hotel Fiesta Pavillion.

The Bambanti shared the Aliw Awards stage with the brightest stars and performers of the local entertainment industry led by the iconic Ms. Celeste Legazpi who was named "*Entertainer of the Year*". Provincial Tourism Officer Troy Alexander Miano received the award and delivered the acceptance speech on behalf of Governor Faustino Dy III who was on official travel.

Dy refers to the Bambanti or scarecrow as the ultimate symbol of the diligence, vigilance and resilience of the people of Isabela. Assistant Parish Priest of the Saint Ferdinand Parish Fr. Ingeno Rapadas adds that, it also symbolizes the people's spirituality because of its resemblance to the crucified Christ. "*Blessed are the people whose Lord is the Bambanti,*" he intoned in his homily during the festival Thanksgiving Mass.

Now on its 30th edition, the award

is given by the Aliw Awards Foundation, Inc., a non-profit private organization and award giving body for live entertainment in the Philippines founded in 1976 by National Artist for Dance Alice Reyes. The Foundation recognizes entertainers who perform live in the Philippines and abroad and aims to elevate the standards of Philippine live entertainment through a system of awards, workshops and seminars.

Reyes graced the latest staging of the Bambanti festival. The national artist for dance was profuse in thanking Governor Dy and Vice Governor Albano for their initiatives in the sphere of culture and the arts. Reyes is among the many movers and shakers of the culture and arts scene who only have good words for the festival.

Cannes best director laureate Brillante Mendoza also served as juror in previous Bambanti festivals. He was so inspired by what he saw, that he produced a film entitled Bambanti topbilled by Allisandra de Rossi and directed by Zig Dulay. It was hailed Best Film in last year's Brussels Film Festival in Belgium.





National Artist, Aliw Awards founder pays ultimate tribute to Bambanti Festival

"I've been in theater for a long time and that is one tough act to follow. Ang galing nila," exclaimed National Artist for Dance and Aliw Awards founder Ms. Alice Reyes in reference to Governor Faustino Dy III and Vice Governor Antonio Albano, prime movers of the Bambanti Festival. Reyes was guest of honor during the Opening Ceremonies of the biggest cultural event in the province of Isabela.

The doyenne of Philippine culture was very profuse in her appreciation of *"the booths, the products, the food, the incredible hospitality, people we have met...the costumes, the dances, the music and everything that unfolds in front of our own eyes today."*

"It is so wonderful that your leaders have continued the Bambanti tradition through all these years because it shows the best that Isabela has to boast and to offer. What I love is that it involves the entire population...everybody participates and that's wonderful community which speaks of bayanihan spirit," she gushed.

Reyes lauded the focus and passion of the officials of the province led by Dy and Albano. *"We need more politicians and public servants like them,"* she declared. *"I love what they've done for the farmers, for the mom and pop businesses and now the focus on developing eco-tourism with the building of the roads to the beaches,"* she added.

What impressed her the most, though, is the Dy-Albano administration's emphasis on education, culture and the arts. *"...Songs,*

music, dance, the arts...they are feeding and nurturing the spirit and the soul, making the Isabeleño a very whole being. The stomach is full, the spirits are lifted with pride and the heart is filled with song and dance and poetry and the arts," she waxed poetic.

Reyes is acknowledged as the mother of Philippine contemporary dance. She founded Ballet Philippines, the country's premiere company in ballet and contemporary dance, and has successfully continued her legacy to develop and promote dance arts nationwide.

Besides being the driving force that propelled contemporary dance performance and appreciation among Filipinos, she is also responsible for initiating the professionalization of dance arts in the country, with her persistence in raising funds for her company, so that BP performers can become full-time dancers with decent earnings.

The Order of National Artists (*Orden ng Pambansang Alagad ng Sining*) is the highest national recognition given to Filipino individuals who have made significant contributions to the development of Philippine arts - Music, Dance, Theater, Visual Arts, Literature, Film, Broadcast Arts, and Architecture and Allied Arts. The order is jointly administered by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) and conferred by the President of the Philippines upon recommendation by both institutions.





Bambanti to bedazzle



We're just getting started.



INFO

Tapping the wonders of technology
and harnessing the power of
information
in pursuit of a stronger citizenry
and more enduring institutions.

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