Kalayaan town declared 'insurgency-free'

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ALL HANDS ON DECK. Kalayaan, Laguna achieves Stable Internal Peace and Security (SIPS) status, a first in Laguna province, after an inter-agency body noted the absence of recorded violent activities and recruitment of Communist Terrorist Groups. Photo credits to Kalayaan LGU.

SANTA CRUZ, Laguna (PIA) – Once known as a guerrilla base of communist insurgents, Kalayaan town was declared insurgency-free on Monday, July 4 making it the first town in Laguna under the Stable Internal Peace and Security (SIPS) status.

The SIPS status was conferred in a program by an inter-agency body following the absence of recorded violent activities and recruitment of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), National Democratic Front (NDF)and New People's Army (NPA) for at least one year.

Kalayaan Mayor Sandy Laganapan is hopeful that the SIPS declaration would lead to the town's progress.

"We know that this declaration would usher in more investors and open up more job and economic opportunities in our municipality," he added.

The program also involved the signing of a commitment by local officials and representatives from government agencies, that they do not welcome the Communist Terrorist Groups (CTG) and its sectoral front organizations and their activities in Kalayaan.

Brigadier General Cerilo Balaoro, Jr., 202nd IB commander, continued his call to the remaining members of the CPP-NPA to return to the folds of the law, join the mainstream society, and benefit from the government's reintegration program.

"Let us join hands and continue to support the government's initiatives to end the local communist armed conflict," Balaoro added.

According to Capt. Warren Ching, Civil Military Officer of the Philippine Army's 202nd Infantry Brigade, Kalayaan once served as an access point and guerrilla base for the communist insurgents.

"Dito dati nahuhuli ang mga matataas na lider ng NPA. Daanan ang Kalayaan mula Northern Quezon papuntang Laguna or Southern Quezon, para siyang highway. Looban kasi siya, lalo na ang (barangay) San Antonio, na dating pinupuntahan ng mga NPA," Ching added.

Despite Kalayaan's SIPS status, the Army said that they will continue monitoring and operating through their patrol base in the area.

Laguna province was declared under the SIPS status on September 2019, making it the second province in the country after Cavite to do so. However, the Army said that individual declaration of the status in each cities and municipalities would further help the Army's goals in securing peace and stability in the region.

"Maganda na ang Laguna ay SIPS status. Kailangan din kasi na every municipality ay mag-declare ng SIPS para ma-continue yung information operations natin sa AFP, para masabi natin na itong CTGs ay masabing hindi na welcome sa mga municipalities na SIPS-declared," Capt. Ching said.

He added: "Tina-target namin na lahat ng munisipyo sa Laguna, including cities, ay mailagay sa SIPS. Sa ngayon ay nagco-coordinate pa lang kami kasi hindi naman siya basta basta. May criteria pa kami para masabi na insurgency free or SIPS status na pino-promote namin." **(CH/PIA-Laguna)**

COMMITTED AGAINST LOCAL TERRORIST GROUPS. Local officials and representatives from government agencies sign a commitment that they do not welcome the Communist Terrorist Groups (CTG) and its sectoral front organizations and their activities in Kalayaan. Photo credits to 202nd IB, Philippine Army

Farmers' organizations receive awards from DAR

SAN MATEO, Rizal – The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has recognized eleven (11) agrarian reform beneficiary organizations (ARBOs) for their invaluable contributions to the successful implementation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) during the height of the covid-19 pandemic in the years 2020 and 2021.

Atty. Milagros Isabel Cristobal, DAR Undersecretary for Support Services Office, said awards were given to these agrarian reform key players, who aside from being recipients of the lands and support services provided by the DAR, have been active participants and leaders to make their awarded lands under CARP productive.

The 11 ARBOs were cited as the best-performing cooperatives in terms of marketing resiliency, marketing consistency, best agri-credit and micro-finance, best in agro-enterprise financing, and ARBOs championing agro-enterprise development.

"It is my privilege and great honor to recognize these progressive ARBOs who dauntlessly forged on and thrived in running their cooperative amidst the hardships and challenges they faced during the pandemic," Cristobal said.

"We want you to know that your efforts and sacrifices are well-recognized and have a significant and positive impact on your

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Ngiting Chikiting: Aalagaan ang Ngipin Dental Mission Program Brings Smiles to Imus Children

On June 27, 2023, the Office of the Provincial Governor's Medical and Dental Mission Team, in collaboration with Congressman Adrian Jay Advincula, successfully organized the Ngiting Chikiting: Aalagaan ang Ngipin Dental Mission Program. The event was held at the Imus Sports Complex and offered much-needed dental care to the daycare children.

The Dental Mission Program sought to raise awareness about oral health and give free dental services to children in need. A total of 371 children from Clusters 6, 7, and 9 actively participated in the event, where they got free fluoride application and dental checkup. Dedicated dentists and volunteers from the Provincial Health Office and City Health Office generously contributed their time and expertise to ensure the success of the program.

Once again, importance of teamwork and the positive effects it can have on people's lives and communities was highlighted in the event.--- **OPIO**

Free medical and other health services offered to the locals of Maragondon

The Provincial Government of Cavite through the Office of the Provincial Governor-Extension and Provincial Health Office delivered free medical consultation and medicines to Brgy. Garita A, Maragondon, during the medical mission held on June 27, 2023, serving a total of two hundred fifty-four patients.

Medical team from General Emilio Aguinaldo Memorial Hospital composed of Dr. Ariana Coleen M. Colobong, Dr. Hannah Christine P. Catama, GEAMH midwives, Dr. Kimberly Jane F. Ventura - Family and Community Medicine from Maragondon RHU, and medical interns from UP-PGH - Dr. Glenmarie Angelica Peñas, Dr. Janille Rochel G. Villeno and Dr. Rafael Lorenzo G. Valenzuela, rendered free medical consultation.

Aside from the free maintenance medicine and multivitamins given, the PGC also distributed mosquito-repellant lotion to the constituents as part of a dengue prevention campaign. To ensure everyone's safety, selected patients underwent screening and antigen swab testing before consultation.

Furthermore, as part of Mayor Lawrence Umbe Arca's 5-day birthday celebration, the event also included a short lecture and Pneumo vaccine for senior citizens, led by Dr. Leah Marquez Maligalig-Moreno.

The mission was a great success, with the efforts of Mayor Umbe Arca, the dedicated health professionals, Barangay Health Workers and volunteers. The collaboration and gratitude expressed by the community show the positive outcomes that can be achieved through teamwork and commitment to public health.--- **OPIO**

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Kabayanihan ni Simon Tecson, aral ng pag-ibig sa dating kaaway

SAN MIGUEL, Bulacan (PIA) — Ipinagdiwang sa harap ng tahanan ng bayaning si Simon Tecson sa San Miguel, Bulacan ang ika-21 Araw ng Pagkakaibigang Pilipino-Espanyol at ang Ika-125 Anibersaryo ng Pagsisimula ng Pagkubkob sa Baler.

Sentro ng pagdiriwang ang pagkilala sa natatangi at makataong pamamaraan ni Tecson para mapasuko ang huling pwersa ng Espanya na nagkakanlong sa simbahan ng Baler sa Tayabas na ngayo'y sakop na ng lalawigan ng Aurora.

Ayon kay National Historical Commission of the Philippines Chairperson Emmanuel Franco Calairo, limang pwersa ng mga rebolusyonaryong Pilipino ang ipinadala ni Pangulong Emilio Aguinaldo sa Baler para pasukuin ang mga Kastila.

Ang ikalimang pwersa sa ilalim ni Tecson; kasama ang mga rebolusyonaryong taga-San Miguel, San Ildefonso at Baliwag; ang matagumpay na nakapagpasuko sa pwersang Espanyol matapos ang 337 araw na pagkakanlong sa naturang simbahan.

Ito'y sa pamamagitan ng pagpapadala ng mga pagkain at inumin.

Ang mapayapang pagsuko ay nagbunsod upang pahintulutan sila ni Aguinaldo na ligtas na makaluwas sa Maynila upang makauwi na sa Espanya.

Kaya't para kay San Miguel Mayor Roderick Tiongson, hindi maituturing na pagpapasuko lamang ang ginawa ni Tecson kundi isang pagkupkop sa mga Kastila na halos mamatay na sa gutom at sakit.

Simbulo aniya ito ng pagpapamalas ng pag-ibig at pagpapatawad sa mga naging kaaway.

Kinikilala naman ni Instituto Cervantes Manila Director Javier Galvan ang naging paniniwala, determinasyon at ipinaglaban ng koronel para sa Pilipinas na naging simulain na maging kaibigan ang dating magkaaway.

Inalala rin ni Galvan na ang makasaysayang pangyayaring ito sa tinaguriang Pagkubkob sa Baler o kilala sa tawag na "Siege of Baler" ay naging batayan ni noo'y Pangulong Gloria Macapagal Arroyo upang ipapasa sa Kongreso ang Republic Act 9187.

Ito ang nagdedeklara sa petsang Hunyo 30 bilang Araw ng Pagkakaibigang Pilipino-Espanyol o Philippine-Spanish Friendship Day.

Binigyang diin ni Galvan na para lalong mapalakas ang pagkakaibigan ng Pilipinas at Espanya, kailangang paigtingin ang pag-iral ng diplomatikong relasyon sa larangan ng people-to-people exchanges, economic and commercial relations at ang tourism and cultural cooperation.

Para sa people-to-people exchanges, ibinalita ng direktor na aabot sa 200 na mga Pilipinong guro taun-taon ang dumarating sa Espanya upang magtrabaho bilang guro sa wikang Ingles.

Isinusulong naman ng Instituto Cervantes Manila na gawing pilot area ang Bulacan upang makapagsanay ng mga guro sa Foreign Language at Araling Panlipunan na matutong magsalita at sumulat sa wikang Espanyol.

Sila rin ang gagawing tagapagturo sa mga mag-aaral sa planong pagbabalik ng pagtuturo ng wikang Espanyol sa asignaturang Foreign Language.

Sinabi rin ni Galvan na patunay ng masiglang ugnayang pang-ekonomiya at komersiyo ng Pilipinas at Espanya ang tuluy-tuloy na paglahok ng mga Espanyol na mamumuhunan sa iba't ibang larangan o aspetong pang-ekonomiya, depensa, transportasyon at imprastraktura.

Hinalimbawa niya ang pagsusuplay ng mga bagong bagon ng tren ng Construcciones y Auxiliar de Ferrocarriles para sa Light Rail Transit Capacity Expansion at Cavite Extension Project.

Gayundin ang paglahok ng Espanyol na konstratistang Acciona, S.A sa mga pangunahing proyektong imprastraktura sa bansa, gaya ng Cebu-Cordova Link Expressway, mga contract packages ng North-South Commuter Railway (NSCR) Project Phase 2 o linya mula Malolos hanggang Clark at ang NSCR South Commuter Line Project nito.

Iba pa rito ang pagsusuplay ng Construcciones Aeronauticas SA para sa ngayo'y pito nang C-295 Medium-Lift Aircraft ng Philippine Air Force bilang bahagi ng Armed Forces of the Philippines Modernization Program.

Kaugnay nito, mag-oorganisa ang Instituto Cervantes Manila sa tulong ng Embahada ng Espanya ng serye ng mga tour sa mga pamana at makasaysayang lugar partikular sa Bulacan.

Ito'y upang magkaroon ng simulain na maging regular ang pagbisita ng mga turistang Espanyol sa lalawigan at iba pang destinasyon sa bansa.

Samantala, umaasa rin si Galvan na matuloy ang planong pagbisita sa Pilipinas ni Haring Felipe VI.

Magkakaroon sana ng pagbisita noong nakaraang pagdiriwang at paggunita ng Quincentennial ng Pag-Ikot ng Sangkatauhan sa Daigdig, ngunit hindi natuloy dahil sa pandemya.

Magiging karangalan din aniya ng kanyang bansa kung makakapagsagawa ng isang state visit si Pangulong Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. sa Espanya upang lalong pag-ibayuhin ang ugnayan at diplomatikong relasyon ng dalawang bansa. **(CLJD/SFV-PIA 3)**

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Layout Artist

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TEENDIG project, inilunsad ng DOH sa Batangas City

BATANGAS CITY (PIA) — Matagumpay na inilunsad ng Department of Health – Center for Health Development (DOH-CHD) Calabarzon ang TEENDIG Kabataan! Kalusugan ay Pahalagahan adolescent-friendly facility sa Batangas City Integrated High School nitong Miyerkules, Hulyo 5.

Ito na ang ikalawang pasilidad na inilunsad ng DOH-CHD at Department of Education (DepEd) Region 4A sa rehiyon upang mapalakas pa ang kanilang kampanya ukol sa pagtataguyod ng sex education at mental health awareness sa mga kabataan.

Layon ng TEENDIG project na unang inilunsad sa Antipolo City National High School na magkaloob ng mga serbisyong pangkalusugan sa mga mag-aaral na makakatulong rin sa kanilang psychosocial at mental well-being.

Ang TEENDIG project ay may kapasidad na magbigay ng iba't ibang serbisyo tulad ng general health assessment history, physical exam, healthy lifestyle counselling, substance abuse counselling, cancer prevention counselling, psychosocial risk assessment and management, at reproductive health assessment and counselling.

Ayon sa DOH-CHD 4A, bibigyang pansin rin ng pasilidad ang mga isyung pangkalusugan na kinakaharap ng mga kabataan sa kasalukuyan kabilang ang teenage pregnancy, human immuno-deficiency virus (HIV), mental health issues at iba pa.

Ayon kay DOH-CHD 4A Regional Director Ariel I. Valencia, isa ang TEENDIG project sa nakikita nilang paraan upang tugunan ang ilang isyung pangkalusugan na kinakaharap ng mga kabataan sa ngayon.

Batay sa datos ng DOH, tumaas sa 9.38% ang kaso ng teenage pregnancy noong 2022 kumpara sa 8.64% na naitala noong 2020 para sa mga kabataang edad 10 hanggang 19. Sa Calabarzon, aabot sa 4,261 kaso ng maagang pagbubuntis ang naitala kung saan nanguna ang Rizal 1,187 sinundan ng Batangas 935; Laguna 829; Cavite 758 at Quezon 552.

Nasa 1,454 naman ang naitalang bagong kaso ng HIV ngayong 2023 kung saan karamihan sa mga naitalang kaso ay may kaugnayan sa 'MSM o men who have sex with men.'

Ayon kay Valencia, gagamit ng peer-to-peer approach ang proyekto upang palakasin ang mga kabataan at gawin silang health advocates.

"In this project, we will adopt a peer-to-peer approach. We will empower the students by engaging them to be the health advocates themselves. Bridging the gap to certain health issues that the youth are facing today," pahayag ni Valencia.

Kabilang sa mga nagbigay ng suporta at dumalo sa pglulunsad ng pasilidad sina Batangas 5th District Representative Honorable Mario Vittorio Mariño, Mayor Beverly Rose, Bb. Pilipinas Santolan, Pasig Representative Ar. Xena Ramos, Social Media Personality Queenay Mercado at iba pang mga opisyal mula sa mga bayan at lungsod sa Batangas.

Nagkaloob din ang DOH ng libreng HIV testing sa mg amag-aaral na 15 taon pataas at namahagi din ng leaflets ukol sa teenage pregnancy.

Nakatakda namang ilunsad sa iba pang bayan at lungsod sa Calabarzon ang TEENDIG project. **(BPDC, PIA BATANGAS)**

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communities," Cristobal added.

The outstanding ARBOs are the following:

Best in Marketing Consistency and Resiliency:

1. Saranay Multi-Purpose Cooperative of Ifugao
2. Rizal Multi-Purpose Cooperative of Kalinga
3. Bauko Organic Praticioners Credit Cooperative of Mt. Province
4. Butuan-Agusan Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative of Agusan del Norte
5. Siari Valley ARB Multi-Purpose Cooperative of Zamboanga del Norte

Best in Agri-Credit and Microfinance:

1. Dujali Free Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative of Davao del Norte
2. Oshwind Multi-Purpose Cooperative of Isabela
3. Caviteno Isabelino Agriculture Cooperative of Isabela
4. Kalipunan ng Maliit na Magniniyog ng Napaan Multi-Purpose Cooperative of Aklan

Best in Agro-Enterprise Development Financing:

1. Oshwind Multi-Purpose Cooperative of Isabela

Women ARBO Agro-Enterprise Champion

1. Sibes Multi-purpose Cooperative of Apayao
2. Butuan-Agusan Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative of Agusan del Norte
3. Caviteno Isabelino Agriculture Cooperative of Isabela
4. Tumalalud Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative of Capiz **(DAR)**