The biggest and longest Bendian Dance

The biggest, in terms of participants, and longest Bindiyan dance performance served as the finale of the Grand Canao program, one of the major events of the 117th Benguet Foundation Day celebration or the Adivay festival held on November 23, 2017 at the Benguet Sports Center grounds in Wangal, La Trinidad.

Around 1,000 senior high school students of Benguet National High School-Main led the officials and other attendees in dancing the traditional circle dance of the Ibaloy to the beats of the gongs and solibao.

The dance, which originated from the Municipality of Kabayan, has become a vital element of the cultural identity of Benguet and her people, and everyone is encouraged to learn the dance.

This performance also marked the bid of the province for it to continue on page 8

FROM THE GOVERNOR'S DESK:

Recognizing our Deserving Constituents

Province by virtue of Republic Act No. 4695, Benguet has been recognizing her outstanding constituents, be they individuals or groups, who have had significant contributions to where Benguet currently stands. They are those who excelled or led in the field of business, education, medicine, agriculture, public service and/or local governance, peace and order, sports, and several others. They were bestowed the Benguet Achiever's Award.

A leadership awardee is usually given a plaque and a cash incentive of Php10,000.00. For the achievers and everlasting awardees, special plaques of recognition are given. For 2017, the two awardees were given a Plaque and a personalized 18 carat gold ring.

To name a few of those awarded in the previous years, we have Dr. Andres R. Bugnosen of Mankayan.
Leading – the Benguet Way

During November of every year, the annual celebration of Benguet’s Foundation Day, the spotlight is directed at the outstanding individuals – sons and daughters of Benguet – who are achievers or have outstandingly excelled in their respective fields. Hence, was institutionalized as one of the major events of the annual festival.

The past years listed numerous recipients, but only two joined their ranks for the year 2017. This led to the Guest of Honor and Speaker and a previous Leadership Awardee – Dr. Ryan Camado Guinaran, to wonder if there are no more i-Benguetes who are deserving of the Award. And he suggested for the expansion of such to include Outstanding Women, Senior Citizen, and several others.

Every success story has an author. Every box-office hit has a man (or a woman) filmmaker at the helm that propelled it to top. Every profitable company has a brilliant strategist calling the shots, leading the organization to go higher and bigger.

And that is exactly why we should never stop acknowledging these exceptional individuals who, through a combination of guts, grits, smarts, and hard work, have made a difference. Because, really, we cannot expect Benguet to rise and shine brighter than ever, without her sons and daughters leading the way, right?

Every year we are looking forward to the names and faces that will be dubbed as Benguet’s leaders and achievers. Certainly, expectations are higher from these awardees. After all, receiving the award is not a culmination, rather, just the beginning.

Benguet has come a long way, and a huge reason for that is its leaders – the movers and shakers of this beautiful and bountiful province. We cannot wait to see how much further she would be led.

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Cracking my Head

Fresh from My Pen

Hey, Boss. Got a minute?

You may have come across these quotes on your Facebook Walls: “A bad boss can make employees sick.” “There can never be a good job with a bad boss.”

According to Quartz Magazine, a bad boss is “worse than a stick of cigarette” and, just like passive smoking, can be harmful to employees. It goes without saying that the longer the employee stays in a job where he or she would have to work under someone that causes him or her stress, the greater the potential damage to his or her physical and mental health.”

But really, do we need a study or some publication to validate what we all know is fact?

Early on, we have been learning about the meaning of leadership, the principle and concepts encapsulated within it. In fact, most of you may have even spent at least a couple of years of your higher education getting into the nitty-gritty of being a manager. In essence, you have been learning about...
CAPITOL FREE WIFI LAUNCHED

On November 21, 2017, the provincial government, in cooperation with the Philippine Long Distance Company (PLDT) and Smart Communications launched the FREE WiFi facility at the Provincial Capitol, La Trinidad. The free WiFi will be made available to everyone within the premises of the Benguet Provincial Capitol.

Leading the launching were Benguet Provincial Governor Crescencio Pacalso, with PLDT Assistant Vice President and Head of the Corporate Relationship Benedicto Perez as the Keynote Speaker. Pacalso acknowledged how the fast pace of technology advancement meant that ‘productivity’ has become more and more dependent on connectivity.

This certainly poses a challenge to the Province of Benguet and her thirteen towns, one that we must all rise up to meet. Thanks to the province’s partnership with PLDT and SMART, the challenges no longer seem insurmountable.

This WiFi launch is only the beginning of more technological steps that Benguet will take in the future, to soar to greater heights.

Adivay Awards Two Emerging Benguet Leaders

Capitol, La Trinidad – Two emerging leaders were bestowed the Benguet Leadership Award during the Benguet Awards Program held on November 21, 2017.

This year’s two Leadership Awardees are Police Chief Inspector Kimberly Esteban Molitas from Kibungan and Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Officer II Abner Omaquing Lawangen of the Municipality of Tuba.

The Leadership Award is the highest award given by the province to deserving citizens of Benguet for their efforts and contribution in bringing recognition to the province in the regional, national or international scene per Provincial Ordinance No. 14-168, series of 2014, as amended by Provincial Ordinance No. 16-188, series of 2016.

In her acceptance speech, Molitas stressed on how a true leader observes jubility and humility that catapult change.

Lawangen sees his award as another challenge that spurs him to strive further and demonstrate his commitment and dedication to public service. (more of them on page 5 and 6)

Aside from a Plaque, each of the awardees also received an 18-carat gold ring from the provincial government.
BeGH Turns 46 After Its Founding

With the theme “Unwavering Focus and Commitment to Health Care Services”, the Benguet General Hospital celebrated its 46th Foundation Anniversary on October 27, 2017. The celebration started at the hospital’s covered court/gymnasium with a 3K and 5K Fun Run for Health and TaeBo exercise, followed by breakfast. A thanksgiving mass officiated by Rev. Fr. Jeffrey D. Habado was held later that morning at 11.

Certificates and tokens were bestowed on BeGH retirees and the year’s top performers, with Congressman Ronald M. Cosalan, Governor Crescencio C. Pacalso and other officials present handing the awards to the recipients.

The retirees were Administrative Officer Erlinda B. Dumluan, Nurse III Ellen B. Tumbaga and and Medical Officer James P. Dumo, on June 21, March 1 and February 1, respectively.

Model Employee of the Year Mr. Rafael M. Esteban, Administrative Aide VI, was also recognized, alongside other Model Employee nominees: Robert G. Tango, Administrative Aide III and Diana A. Tao, Nursing Attendant I for the 1st level category; and Chona B. Llaneta, (Nurse I), Marieta O. Basinga (Nurse II), Marjorie L. Rebuio (Medical Specialist II) and Cheryl C. Pacio, Medical Officer III, for the 2nd level category.

Dr. Leonarda Aguinaide, the Vice President for Administration of the University of the Cordilleras, Baguio City, was the Guest of Honor and Speaker.

celebration of the 17th Benguet Foundation Day Anniversary.

Dr. acknowledged the outstanding farmers recently recognized by the Department of Agriculture, among them Rogel Marzan, Romeo Kimbugan, Joseph Sacley, and Berto Bayeng. He encouraged them to continue in actively doing their roles and be models to the young farmers.

As an advocate of the elevation of entrepreneurial ecosystem, Dar expressed his desire to see the current employment rate in Benguet sustained or, even better, increased. Currently, the province has an employment rate of 6 out of 10, or 94%.

To achieve this increase, Dar advocates agri-product processing, in coordination with the Department of Agriculture. It is also important to ensure awareness of the digital economy, particularly in being updated with the latest technology. The province should also put more focus on sustainability or the adoption and implementation of good agricultural practices (GAP) as well as providing competitive employment.

Dar is an International Administrator, was the Director-General of the International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), currently the President of Inang Lupa Movement, Inc. and a Strategic Adviser for the Global Expansion of Prasad Seeds. Recently, he was awarded “The Outstanding Filipino (TOFIL)” Award for 2016 for his selfless dedication to his profession, resulting in significant contributions to the welfare of his countrymen and country. He is the only Filipino who has served as head of a global agricultural research institute, the ICRISAT, benefitting the farmers of India, Africa and other dry land countries, including the Philippines. He was also a former Secretary of the Department of Agriculture in 1998 to 1999.

He was born in 1953 in Santa Maria, Ilocos Sur
Getting To Know Benguet's Shining New Leaders

Proudly hailing from Kibungan, Kimberly Esteban Molitas is the daughter of incumbent Mayor Cesar S. Molitas, also a former policeman, and Pacita M. Esteban (+), a retired Midwife of Benguet's Provincial Health Office.

Being the daughter of a former policeman, the fruit certainly did not fall far from the tree. Molitas is currently a Police Chief Inspector designated as the Chief Public Information Officer and Spokesperson of the National Capital Regional Police Office (NCRPO). As if her rank isn’t already impressive enough, her extensive list of awards and achievements further proves her.

Back in her native Kibungan during the early 1990s, her family initiated a scholarship program for the youth. Clearly, this advocacy of helping educate and mold the youth for a brighter future figured greatly in her formative years, turning into one of her personal passions as she took over the reins of the program. This time, however, it is no longer confined within Kibungan, as her works are having an impact on the national level, thanks to her hard and diligent work in organizing fund-raising activities for livelihood assistance programs and charity works aimed at providing education and health services.

Her education and training were shaped in various learning institutions, both local and international. After completing her Humphrey Fellowship on Public Analysis and Public Administration, Molitas went on to complete the Law Enforcement and Leadership Development Program at the International Law Enforcement Academy in Bangkok, Thailand. She also holds a master's degree in Transnational Crime Prevention from the University of Wollongong in New...
Provincial Employees Honored

27 provincial employees, aged 58 to 65, who retired from the government service during the year were conferred a Salamat, Mabuhay Kayo program last December 15, 2017 at the Provincial Capitol.

In his inspirational message, Governor Crescencio Pacalso declared the honorees lucky to have reached their retirement age, and encouraged them to take great care of their health so they can enjoy their retirement while they still can. The supervisors and peers of the retirees took turns in sharing anecdotes and similar stories on experiences they’ve had together throughout the years.

The retirees were one in expressing their thanks to the provincial government for being the employer that enabled them to provide for their families’ needs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Official (provincial)</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Yrs in Service</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assessor</td>
<td>Evelyn D. Tacio</td>
<td>39.1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Eugene E. Bangawan</td>
<td>44.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Benguet Gen. Hospital</td>
<td>James P. Duno</td>
<td>30.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pablo A. Candelario</td>
<td>27.5</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Erlinda B. Duluan</td>
<td>41.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>Ma. Visitacion Saingan</td>
<td>38.8</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Purita A. Maquen</td>
<td>32.4</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Sofia W. Suyan</td>
<td>37.2</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ben P. Julian</td>
<td>20.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasury</td>
<td>Lourdes S. Fukai</td>
<td>29.8</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Delia L. Dalisdis</td>
<td>40.11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Governor</td>
<td>Geoffrey R. Sison</td>
<td>38.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Engineer</td>
<td>Aurelio S. Melecio</td>
<td>34.1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Romeo Akistoy</td>
<td>15.3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jaime P. Calsi</td>
<td>21.1</td>
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<td>Remigio Ramos</td>
<td>37</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Johnny P. Sanggoy</td>
<td>36.1</td>
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<td>Anis P. Killit</td>
<td>25</td>
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<td>Tandoly Lagoyo</td>
<td>30.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gen. Services</td>
<td>Augusta M. Lubos</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sangguniang Panlalawigan</td>
<td>Homeca N. Campos</td>
<td>36.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dennis Molintas Dist. Hospital</td>
<td>Angeline D. Ulad</td>
<td>40</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Fausta E. Caparas</td>
<td>32.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Itogon Dist. Hospital</td>
<td>Valerio P. Imper</td>
<td>23.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Warden</td>
<td>Julio P. Tampoc</td>
<td>29.9</td>
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<td>Budget</td>
<td>James B. Bernard</td>
<td>21.3</td>
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In the past couple of years, To name a few, these include the Climate Adaptive and Disaster Resilient (CLAD), Best in Disaster Risk and Reduction and Management under a joint project of the University of the Philippines, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the World Food Programme (WFP). The most recent is the Cordillera Gawad Kalasag 2016 as the Regional Winner for Best Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (LDRRMC) – 4th to 6th class Municipality Category.

While it is true that these accolades are the results of the collective efforts of the local government and its constituents, putting the right people on the frontlines on DRRM initiatives definitely helped. In this case, a lot is riding on the shoulders of whoever will be named and called out to take the lead.

That’s where Mr. Abner O. Lawangen, Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Officer II of Tublay, comes in.

Abner Omaquing Lawangen may be a dedicated public servant in the municipality of Tublay, but he proudly traces his roots in Buguias, Benguet.

The Bachelor’s degree in Environmental Science he earned from the Benguet State University is only one of the many points that made him the right choice for the job. Combining his passion for public service with his theoretical and technical expertise in environmental management and community relations, he was able to not only raise the awareness and understanding of the community on DRRM, but also engaged them to participate and contribute to the cause.

Lawangen’s display of professionalism and responsiveness in his work led him to be conferred the Dangal ng Bayan Award on December 19, 2016 by the Civil Service Commission (CSC). This Award, one of the three Top Honor Awards of the CSC, was just the beginning for him as Benguet Achiever as he was recognized with the DRRM Commitment Award on January 22, 2017 by the Regional DRRMC. Just last October 2017, he was a Centennial Awardee on Resiliency Management by the Benguet State University. He was also commended for having successfully gained financial support from the United Nations World Food Programme and the AEION Japan Foundation.

There is no denying that Tublay and her people chose the right person to fill such a pivotal role. No doubt, Lawangen still has a lot of aces up his sleeve: more projects and plans to implement, more accomplishments to achieve, and more people to serve. —flor bay-on
50.9 M Appropriated for Benguet Education Programs

The Province of Benguet, through the Provincial School Board (PSB), has appropriated Php50,998,746.00 under the Special Education Fund (SEF) for the programs proposed by the Department of Education (DepEd) – Benguet Division for CY 2018.

In a meeting on December 27, 2017, the PSB approved Resolution No. 09, s. 2017 Approving Appropriations for Priority Education Projects under the Special Education Fund for Calendar Year 2018.

The support to basic education for both elementary and secondary education totaled Php5,146,200.00, a large chunk of it covers the increase in the honorarium of 32 volunteer teachers. The increase per teacher per month is Php5,000.00 from the Php10,000.00 effective January 2018.

The total appropriation for the elementary education is Php25,687,346.00 while secondary education was allotted Php8,650,200.00. Moreover, support to sports development is also included, particularly for the provincial athletic meet (Php3,039,675), the Cordillera Athletic Association Meet or CARAA (Php8,235,325.00), and support to Palarong Pambansa (Php240,000.00).

The appropriation is in accordance with Joint Circular No. 1, s. 2017 dated January 19, 2017 of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the Department of Education prescribing guidelines in the utilization of SEF emphasizing that programs must be for the benefit of the children/pupils/students and not the Division Office and the teachers.

The PSB is composed of Governor Crescencio Pacalso and SDS Marie Carolyn Verano as Co-Chairpersons, and its members: Board Member and Chairman of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan Committee on Education Johnny Waguins, Provincial Treasurer Imelda Macanes, Benguet Public School Teachers and Employees Association (BPSTEA) President Angel C. Budong, Non-Academic Representative of the Public Schools Glenn Duguis, and Parents-Teachers Association (PTA) Federation President Sonny Olas. The Secretariat are Assistant Provincial Administrator Florita Bay-on and Supervising Administrative Officer Brian Camhit.

Cracking my Head... from page 2

leadership, especially on how to become a good and effective leader.

Fast forward to the present. You may or may not be holding the highest positions in your organization. That does not mean, however, that you have not exercised any form of leadership. Regardless of the rank or degree of authority, you are a boss or a supervisor to someone.

Now that we have established that, it's time to take a long hard look at yourself. What kind of a boss or supervisor are you?

Are you the type that cares only about output and results of performance, not too much about how the whole process affects inter and intrapersonal relationships with and among your subordinates? Or are you the type state of mind and being of your employees, you are practically BFFs with them?

Do you think you are a good supervisor or a bad boss?

It is quite difficult to pin a precise description on what makes a good boss, because the answer will vary from employee to employee. On the other hand, the definition of a "bad boss" can be just as subjective, since there are several factors at play. In general (and popular) terms, however – and as defined in the same magazine article – a bad boss can become "overly aggressive, narcissistic and even violent sometimes". I suppose the violence bit is not referring to just the physical form, since any form of non-physical bullying nowadays is considered to be violence.

to assess whether you are a good boss or a bad boss, it would probably help if you do some flashback of your own. Put yourself in your subordinates' shoes and hark back to that time when you were in the exact same place they are right now.

There is a very thin line between being a good boss that everybody loves and respects and a bad boss that employees, well, dislike. It's a balancing act that always puts both supervisors and their subordinates on their toes. What both parties should always remember, however, is that what they have is a working relationship that is expected to produce positive results, with everyone contributing and consequently reaping benefits. It's a proactive relationship, even if it does not involve supervisors and subordinates being the chummiest
SP Dissolves Benguet Equipment Service Enterprise

The Benguet Provincial Board, in its 64th Regular Session on November 6, 2017, enacted Provincial Ordinance No. 2017-218, "Abolishing the Benguet Equipment Services Enterprise (BESE) and Authorizing the Local Chief Executive to Formulate/Adopt Measures, Policies and Programs for the Liquidation of the Assets and Liabilities, Preservation and Maintenance of the Equipment/Facilities and its Transfer to the Appropriate Office".

Formerly called the Provincial Equipment Management and Services Office (PEMSO), the BESE was created under Provincial Ordinance No. 97-39 in 1997 with the primary task of managing the heavy equipment and generate income for the province. This is pursuant to the provisions of the Philippine Constitution and the Local Government Code granting local government units (LGUs) the power to create their own sources of revenue and giving them fiscal autonomy.

In 2005, Provincial Ordinance No. 05-98 was passed, converting the PEMS0 into an economic enterprise of the province and was then named BESE, placed under the full control and supervision of the Local Chief Executive, through a Management Council and a Chief Public Utility Regulations Officer.

The latest move by the Provincial Board for abolition was premised on Resolution No. 01, s. 2017 of the BESE Management Council requesting for its abolition and to transfer the equipment and manpower to the Office of the Governor. It will now be placed under the Office's Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Services Unit.

In the Ordinance, it is stated that the enterprise is no longer viable to continue its operation as an economic enterprise as most of the equipment have depreciated and no longer feasible for lease or rental, thereby resulting in losses to the government. - Source: Sangguniang Panlalawigan Office

Likigan Designated as Provincial LYDO

Governor Crescencio Pacalso designated Francis Louis Likigan, Jr. as the Provincial Local Youth Development Officer (PLYDO) of Benguet through Special Order No. 2017-146 issued on October 10, 2017.

His functions as PYDO are in addition to his regular assignments as Community Affairs Officer II under the Office of the Governor.

His designation was issued pending the conduct of the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) elections.

In said Order, Likigan shall do functions related to youth development as defined in Republic Act No. 10472 or the Sangguniang Kabataan Reform Act of 2015. These include registration and verification of youth and youth-serving organizations, subject to the revitalized Youth Organizations' Registration Program (YORP) guidelines; provision of technical assistance to the Local Youth Development Council (LYDC) in the formulation of a Local Youth Development Plan; provision of technical, logistical and other support in the conduct of mandatory and continuing programs of the National Youth Commission (NYC) and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG); serve as secretariat of the LYDC; coordinate with the NYC on youth programs for possible implementation in the province; and other functions as prescribed by existing laws.

The Biggest and Longest Bendian Dance. from page 1

be recognized and included in the Guinness Book of World Record. Audience support was apparent with the number of aerial photos of the performance shared on social media.

"Bindiyan" is an Ibaloy term, from the root word "behdey" which means tiredness or exhaustion. This mass dance requires participation of all dancers present during a canao, where the participants will dance continuously and see who will easily get tired or exhausted.

In ancient times, bindiyan was performed as a war and/or victory dance after a successful headhunting activity, until the American conquerors had to put a stop to what they thought was a questionable practice. Today, the bindiyan dance steps, particularly the hand positions and gestures, relate the story of the farming of the native kintoman (red rice), from field preparations up to the harvesting of crop. The dance remains to be a strongly observed and practiced, particularly in the municipality of Kabayan, during its feast and other special occasions.
During the opening of the Agri-eco Fair on November 15, 2017 conducted in Wangal, La Trinidad, the Provincial Government of Benguet recognized the agricultural achievers in the regional level for CY 2017. The Agri-eco Fair is one of the major events in celebration of Benguet’s Foundation Anniversary.

Governor Crescencio Pacalso led the other officials in handing the Plaques of Recognition to the nine awardees in the different categories.

- Outstanding High Value Crop Farmer: **Rebecca R. Faustino**
- Outstanding Organic Individual Farmer and National Finalist in both Outstanding Organic Individual Farmer and Outstanding Entrepreneur: **Romeo A. Kimbungan**
- Outstanding Farm Family: **Joseph Sacley and Family**
- Outstanding Barangay Food Terminal - Local Government Unit Managed: **Tinongdan Barangay Food Terminal of Itogon**
- Outstanding MAFC and a National Finalist: **Bakun Municipal Agriculture & Fishery Council (MAFC)**
- Regional and National Outstanding Organic Farm Family: **Rogel A. Marsan & Family**
- Outstanding Municipal Focal Person on Organic Agriculture in the regional level: **Berto O. Bayeng**
- Regional and National Outstanding Organic Municipal Local Government Unit: **Local Government Unit of Itogon**
- Regional and National Outstanding Organic Small Farmers Group: **La Trinidad Organic Practitioners Multipurpose Cooperative (LaTOP MPC)**

Provincial Agriculturist Lolita Bentes said, the awardees were recognized for their exemplary performance, contribution and unwavering support in the attainment of the vision and goals in the development of agriculture industry in the province.

**Benguet Provincial Library Recognized**

The Benguet Provincial Library placed third nationwide in the search for Outstanding Public Libraries with special program on the preservation of cultural heritage. They received the award during the opening program of the National Book Week and the 27th Library and Information Services Month held on November 24, 2017 at the SMX Convention Center, Bacolod City.

According to Leticia Baustista, Librarian III and Officer-in-Charge, the award serves a challenge to the library staff to continue gathering data and other references on the cultural heritage of the Cordillera Region.

The National Library of the Philippines conducted the search, in cooperation with the National Commission on Culture and the Arts, particularly the National Commission on Library and Information Systems, and the Philippine Librarians Association, Inc. The annual search aims to focus on the invaluable programs and services that libraries render to the community, particularly in the acquisition, preservation and promotion of the local history/indigenous culture. And to recognize the Librarians' role to make them more cognizant, zealous, committed and dedicated workers.

The participants are the provincial libraries...
Benguet School on Famous Italian Show

The Bangao-Moreno Elementary School (BMES) in Buguias became one of the latest Philippine locations featured in yet another foreign television production.

‘Pechino Express’ is a travel-adventure race show that started airing in Italy’s leading television network RAI on the last week of September 2017. Eccholine Productions picked the Benguet school as one of its several locations in the Philippines.

The show involves pairs of contenders for the top prize going on a race to different destinations all over the world while accomplishing various challenges with different levels of difficulty. They move on to the next stage of the competition whenever they pass each challenge or task. The difficulty is increased by their need to communicate in languages that are completely foreign to them, and that’s exactly what they got a taste of during their brief layover in the municipality of Buguias.

Seven Italian pairs arrived at the school one after the other during midday of May 19, 2017 where they accomplished various tasks and challenges. They had to learn how to count from one to ten in the Kankanay dialect, with 42 BMES pupils serving as their teachers. School Head Robert Tugumay was the judge during the challenge where the contenders had to perform simple Math operations.

According to Bangao native Grace Battaco Aglibot, who also happened to work as a nurse for two decades in Italy, the show’s participants are mostly celebrities. Upon watching the episode, the Italian celebrities were very appreciative of the BMES children who taught them.

With the assistance of BMES teachers, an advance team from Eccholine Company arrived two days prior to the actual filming in order to prepare the site and coordinate with the locals. Henelia Tomes and her crew stayed at the Garden Breeze Hotel and Restaurant in Barangay Bangao.

The filming was coordinated with the head of the Benguet Provincial Public Safety Company Police Superintendent Edward Aquintay, Buguias Mayor Ruben Tinda-an, Buguias Municipal Police Station Police Senior Inspector Peter Dapiliyan, Bangao Purok Barangay Ramon Ganasi and BMES Head Teacher Robert Tugumay.

Eccholine Productions filmed three seasons of the show in the Philippines in 2012 and now brought the race back for the new season of the Italian version. The episodes may be viewed on YouTube.– **mildred I. julian**

Dads Approve Animal Quarantine Regulations

The Provincial Board, in its 58th Regular Session on September 4, 2017, passed Provincial Ordinance No. 17-216 “Enacting the Animal Quarantine Regulations of the Province of Benguet, Providing Penalties for Violations Thereof, Imposing Regulatory Fees and Appropriating Funds Therefor, and for Other Purposes”.

The Ordinance was passed in consonance with the provisions of the Local Government Code and to implement Administrative Order No. 13, s. 2012 of the Department of Agriculture (DA) regarding the guidelines on the transport/shipment of hogs, cattle, carabaos, sheep and goats, and other cloven-footed animals, their meat and meat products, animal products and by-products across the country, and Administrative Order No. 02, s. 2008 regarding the hauling, transport, delivery, and disposal of chicken dung and other animal manure. It is also crucial considering the Department’s directive that it will no longer hold the operation of quarantine operations, but will be handled by the provincial local government units, to continue the advocacy of protecting the province from Trans-Boundary Animal Diseases.

The Ordinance also identified animal quarantine checkpoints that include the entry points in Marcos Highway or the Palispis-Asipas Highway and Kennon Road, both in Tuba; the Naguilian Road in Sablan; Benguet-Nueva Vizcaya Road in Bokod; Benguet-Ilocos Sur Road in Mankayan; Mt. Province – Benguet Road in Bangao, Buguias; Tubao, La Union – San Pascual Road in Tuba; La Union-Gaswiling Road in Kapangan; Ifugao-Benguet Road in Buguias; and other entry points towards Benguet.

The very purpose for the establishment of quarantine checkpoints is to promote health, safety or welfare and to protect the interest of the local animal and farming industries. This could be done through the prevention of ingress of known and unknown transmissible and infectious diseases of animals that have adverse effects against human and/or animal health and ensure that all animals, animal products and by-products are of good quality and disease-free; and discourage cattle rustling, shipping in of diseased animals and other forms of illegal livestock trading considering that Benguet and Baguio are known market destinations for livestock and poultry commodities, including fish and by-products.
BAC Infra Recommends Awards of Projects

For the month of November and December, the Bids and Awards Committee on Infrastructure (BAC-Infra) projects recommended several awards of projects to the single/lowest calculated and responsive bidder.

The recommendations were through Resolutions of the Committee, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>ABC (Php)</th>
<th>Bid Amount</th>
<th>Contractor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Const. of a Covered Court-Cordillera Regional Science HS, La Trinidad</td>
<td>1,500,000</td>
<td>1,468,400.95</td>
<td>SEJ Const. and Aggregates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rehab of Ay-ay to Cabutoten FMR, Bukul</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>997,857.04</td>
<td>Reason's Const. &amp; Supplies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impv of Northern Benguet District Hospital Bldg, Buguiyas</td>
<td>800,000</td>
<td>798,801.50</td>
<td>AIP Const.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rehab of Gumatdang ES, Ilogon</td>
<td>800,000</td>
<td>797,762.30</td>
<td>Compass Rose Builders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rehab of Akbok Waterworks System, Bokod</td>
<td>500,000</td>
<td>475,518.90</td>
<td>DMCD Eng'g and Const.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rehab of Fianza Memorial National HS Waterworks system, Ilogon</td>
<td>285,000</td>
<td>284,070.62</td>
<td>SFF Const.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repair of Benguet SPED Center Slope Protection, La Trinidad</td>
<td>500,000</td>
<td>447,067.71</td>
<td>Guardian Construction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repair &amp; Painting of Gonzales ES Library, Sablan</td>
<td>490,000</td>
<td>481,966.07</td>
<td>Guardian Construction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rehab of Gedaged-Copocpit Waterworks, Bukun</td>
<td>500,000</td>
<td>495,729.99</td>
<td>NAIR Const. &amp; Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rehab of Waterworks System – Gold Creek, Ilogon</td>
<td>500,000</td>
<td>494,411.56</td>
<td>ICO Construction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rehab of Concrete Canal, Poclo, Mankayan</td>
<td>150,000</td>
<td>149,590.49</td>
<td>Dipas Builders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extension/fm-provt of the Prov'l Engineer's Office, Wangel, La Trinidad</td>
<td>3,500,000</td>
<td>3,498,981.27</td>
<td>Buganheirs Engineering and Construction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction of Benguet-Kochi Sisterhood Park Waterworks System</td>
<td>510,000</td>
<td>508,861.11</td>
<td>Haight's Construction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repair of Demaged H.E. and Industrial Arts Building, Walk Shed &amp; Flag Pole of Pelai ES, Sablan</td>
<td>800,000</td>
<td>739,000</td>
<td>HGW=3 Engineering Construction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repair of Baayan ES, Tublay</td>
<td>600,000</td>
<td>598,868.66</td>
<td>Sangin Gen. Construction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Const. of Riprap Retaining Wall for Gaswiling BEMONC Center, Kapangan</td>
<td>509,451.36</td>
<td>516,512.99</td>
<td>Pulpian Grandson's Construction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Const. of Riprap of Senior Citizen Multipurpose Bldg in Pueblo, Sukun</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>979,019.15</td>
<td>Pulpian Grandson Pulpian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Const. of Vegetable Processing Center, Buguiyas</td>
<td>3,200,000</td>
<td>3,197,341.64</td>
<td>AIP Const.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Const of Septic Tank and Site Impv of a Quarantine Checkpoints along Neguinali Road, Sablan</td>
<td>150,000</td>
<td>149,718.23...</td>
<td>Apana Const.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Const of Catwalk Shedeif Talbino ES in Pueblo, Bukun</td>
<td>150,000</td>
<td>149,611.03</td>
<td>NAIR Construction and Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rehab of Prov'l Housing Project Roadside, Wangel, LTB</td>
<td>2,670,000</td>
<td>2,667,976.02</td>
<td>SEJ Const. and Aggregates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concreting of Cabiten-Kamentaki Road, Mankayan</td>
<td>8,333,637.39</td>
<td>8,276,530.77</td>
<td>JYP General Construction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impv of Amusongg to Nakange Road;</td>
<td>1,000,000.00</td>
<td>983,388.41</td>
<td>Reason's Const. &amp; Supplies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impv of Ba-say-Cangaw to Dailingaoan FMR, Bukun</td>
<td>1,500,000</td>
<td>1,494,818.88</td>
<td>Balangced Construction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Const. of Palva Footbridge Connecting Aslin, Poppa to Sadal, Bagong, Sablan</td>
<td>1,500,000</td>
<td>1,423,953.79</td>
<td>Guardian Construction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Const. of Pugo Day Care Center, Bacuilongan Norte, Buguiyas</td>
<td>1,200,000</td>
<td>1,194,194.84</td>
<td>HGW=3 Engineering &amp; Construction</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PGB Partners with Labtox

The Provincial Government of Benguet, through the Benguet General Hospital (BeGH) Screening Drug Testing Laboratory, signed a Memorandum of Agreement striking a partnership with Labtox Analytical Laboratory, Inc. The partnership involves the latter to perform confirmatory test for all specimens the BeGH Screening Laboratory has screened which yielded positive results.

Based in Quezon City, Labtox Laboratory is a dually-accredited Confirmatory Drug Testing Laboratory by the Department of Health.

The two-year term of the agreement commenced on December 1, 2017, the date the agreement was signed by both parties. In said agreement, BeGH shall operate the screening drug testing laboratory in accordance with such uniform methods, standards and specifications of Labtox to ensure the highest degree of quality, service and uniformity. BeGH shall also operate the laboratory in compliance to applicable laws, government regulations as those of the Dangerous Drugs Board, Department of Health. BeGH will also take charge of the necessary permits, licenses required for lease transactions, including sales and income tax, DTI business name registration, license to operate or accreditation from DOH, and others.

Infra Guidelines Consultation Conducted

With the accreditation of four technical personnel of the Provincial Engineer’s Office, a presentation and consultation program on the Implementing Guidelines for infrastructure was conducted on October 5, 2017 at the Benguet Sports Center Multipurpose Gymnasium in Wangal, La Trinidad.

During the consultation, the newly accredited Constructors Performance Evaluators (CPEs) presented the Constructors Performance Evaluation System (CPES). Architect Porter Camsoi took charge of the CPES Concept and Implementation, Engr. Lorna Macay discussed the Methodology, Engr. Richard Martin presented the Simulation on the Application, and Engr. Amor Eke on the Information Networking and Data Banking. Provincial Auditor Ignacio Jasmin gave his message after the presentation.

An Open Forum followed after all the presentations and discussions.

DENR Issues Tree Cutting Permit to Benguet

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) issued a tree-cutting permit to the Provincial Government of Benguet to pave way for the implementation of Philippine Rural Development Program (PRDP) funded subprojects “Improvement along Jose Mencio Farm-to-Market Road (FMR) in Atok” and “Improvement of Km. 49-Ambakan FMR in Atok and Kabayan”. This is in compliance to DENR Administrative Order No. 2016-07 dated May 19, 2016 authorizing the cutting of trees within areas that pose danger to lives and properties, including those affected by government projects.

Staff from the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) – Buguias, together with Mayor Peter Alos of Atok and the Sangguniang Bayan Members, supervised the tree-cutting along the Jose Mencio FMR last October 5, 2017. There were 70 Benguet Pine trees, five (5) Alnus trees and four (4) of varied species with a total volume of 13.78 cu.m. and 134 saplings that were affected. DENR validated and reported that the trees grew along the subject road and obviously pose danger to all motorists and passers-by.

The cut trees were turned over to CENRO – Buguias for safekeeping and proper disposition. Some barangays requested for tree cutting permits through a resolution favorably endorsed by the municipal officials. As replacement, Governor Crescencio Pacalso pledged to turn over 31,750 seedlings of varied species in 2018, with coffee seedlings to also be distributed to the affected families. He also assured the conduct of participatory tree planting activities with the community and concerned municipal government officials.

Prior to the application for a permit, a series of public consultation with concerned stakeholders were conducted. Signboards were also installed within the area for the public to be aware of the purpose and the number of trees to be cut.

According to Benguet Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer Julius Kollin, the public is so receptive of the project and much willing to cooperate for the development of their own roads. After all, they have endured the bumpy roads for decades just to bring their produce to the market.

For the KM. 49 – Ambakan FMR, the cutting activities will be done in 2018, with 67 Benguet pine trees with a total volume of 8.45 cu.m. and 285 pine saplings, all located in the municipality of Kabayan, expected to be cut. The provincial government will turn over 49,450 seedlings, which will be planted in areas identified by the DENR and local officials.

– Brian Camshit
Vice Gov Leads Friendship Agreement Signing

Benguet Vice Governor Florence Tingbawen led a nine-man delegation to Vietnam on November 7 to 11, 2017 purposely to make official the province’s friendship agreement with the Ha Giang Province of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

The Vice Governor represented Governor Crescencio Pacalso, who had prior commitments, in the forging of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). She was accompanied by Provincial Board Members Roberto Canuto, Robert Namoro, Apolinario Camsol, Jim Botiwey, Nestor Fongwan, Jr., Fernando Balacadan, Bernard Waclin and Ruben Paoad. Tingbawen and Vice Chairwoman Ha Thi Minh Hanh of People’s Committee of Ha Giang Province, officially forged the agreement on November 10, 2017.

The MOU aims to establish and strengthen cooperation and friendship between Benguet and Ha Giang in the fields of culture, tourism, agriculture and investment. Specifically, there are four cooperation agreements. These are the exchange of mutual high-level delegations or provincial leaders of both provinces to attend political, economic and cultural events; culture, sports and tourism; agriculture, forestry and science and technology; and trade and investment. – Source: SPO

4 Employees Officially Accredited CPEs

Four technical personnel from the Office of the Provincial Engineer were officially accredited as Constructors’ Performance Evaluators (CPEs) during the Seminar-Workshop on Constructors’ Performance Evaluation System (CPES) on August 22-24, 2017 at the Lohas Hotel in Clark Freeport Zone, Pampanga.

Engineers Amor B. Eke, Richard P. Martin, Lorna B. Macay and Architect Porter B. Camsol received the accreditation after having successfully passed the Case Study Exercise during the seminar-workshop.

According to Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Undersecretary Austere A. Panadero, their accreditation will be helpful in ensuring that Benguet will achieve one of its Conditional Matching Grant Program (CMGP) Governance Reform Targets for 2017, specifically the completion of an evaluation of constructors’ performance for at least three CMGP and/or other locally-funded projects.

All thirty (30) participants who took the case study exercise passed and deemed to be eligible to be accredited as CPEs, subject to the compliance of the requirements of the Philippine Domestic Construction Board (PDCB). Aside from the four from Benguet, the Cordillera Administrative Region and Regions I and II.

PDCB Acting Chief Joji Valenciano reported on the satisfactory results of the 1st Batch despite rigid activities on the first two days of lecture and case study at the Sapphire Conference Room of the hotel. The third day was a practicum session which used the project “Asset Preservation of National Roads-Rehabilitation/Reconstruction/Upgrading of Damaged Paved National Roads Including Drainage Based on Pavement Management System/Highway Development Management-4 – Primary at Manila North Road” located in the Municipality of Sto. Tomas, Pampanga.

To complete the accreditation process, the PDCB requires endorsement of the participant’s application to include PRC License with valid PRC ID; record indicating a minimum of five (5) years of experience in actual project implementation or relevant work functions; attendance to identified seminars and trainings; physical fitness for field work; good moral character and zero convictions of any crime involving moral turpitude; complete attendance during the CPES seminar-workshop and passing the case
Bacdayan of Loo NHS

Kimberly Bacdayan of Loo National High School (NHS) in Buguias is this year’s Scout Provincial Governor during the 2017 Scout Officials For A Day (SOFAD). She officially assumed her post on October 9, 2017.

With the theme “Developing Leaders Within You”, Governor Crescencio Pacalso administered the oath of the Provincial Scout Officials, including the Scout Officials of provincial based national line agencies and the Benguet State University. He delivered his message to encourage the youth to be active and participative in government undertakings, especially in local governance. He encourages involvement of every youth in the society.

The Scout Vice Governor was Ira Sadatek Borja of Benguet State University - Secondary Laboratory School (BSU-SLS). She led the following Scout Board Members:

- Jimler Minas of Kamora NHS
- Vincent Mitas of Ballii NHS
- Rojohn Sabayao of Loo NHS
- Rayster Shane Lee Donina of BSU-SLS
- Jimson Marvil of Kapangan NHS
- Urven Kent Maximo of BSU-SLS
- Esmer Pilas of Callubong NHS
- Camille Delos Reyes of Lepanto HS
- Edroline Cosme of Bokod NHS-Dadcan Annex
- Jason Delos Reyes of Lepanto HS
- Theodore Domoguen of Lepanto HS
- Charlie Calubandi of Callubong NSH
- Leann Faith Bugaling of Benguet NHS-Main.

17 Provincial Department Heads also relinquished their posts to the boy and girl scouts for a day.

Administrator - Merlet Socote of Camp 30 NHS, Atok

Secretary to the Sanggunian - Kayzel Grace Dioso of Benguet NHS-Main, La Trinidad

Acting General Services Officer - Jomarson Paleyan of Bangao NHS, Banguias

Budget Officer - Freniel Budas of Bakun NHS - Main

Sawey Off to Vietnam for APLiN Launching

Marline Sawey, Librarian II of the Benguet Provincial Library was one of the participants officially sent to attend the launching of the International Network of Emerging Library Innovators - Association of Southeast Nations (INELI-ASEAN) held on November 27-30, 2017 in Vietnam.

INELI-ASEAN is a three-year project funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Global Libraries involving ASEAN member countries such as Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Timor Leste and Vietnam. At its core is the goal of establishing an ASEAN Public Libraries Information Network or the APLiN that will serve as a network information hub, a common and practical platform that will connect public libraries in Southeast Asia.

This mechanism is expected to create future collaboration and partnership within the ASEAN region, as well as provide easy access to vital information and a conducive venue for relevant knowledge, information exchange and best practices of the different nations.

Incidentally, the launching of the INELI-ASEAN in the Philippines is scheduled by March 2018.
Benguet Bags Gawad Kalusugan Harmonized Awards in CAR

Benguet bagged a number of the major regional awards from the Department of Health (DOH) during the Harmonized Gawad Kalusugan Award program held on November 17, 2017 at the Baguio Country Club, Baguio City.

The top awards which Benguet got are:
- Local Health Systems with a cash reward of Php150,000.00 and a plaque;
- Purple Ribbon with a cash reward of Php 60,000.00, a plaque and a token

Benguet General Hospital was named as the Best Performing New Born Screening Facility with the municipalities of Kabayan and Kibungan also earning similar recognition and that’s not all.

The Benguet Provincial Barangay Health Workers Federation placed 2nd under the Barangay Health Workers (BHW) Performance-Based Incentive Award earning them Php250,000.00 cash and a BHW Kit. Kapangan was 2nd place in the Dugong Bayani Award and received Php15,000.00 and a plaque, with its three barangays (Datakan, Labueg and Pudong) also getting the same award. La Trinidad garnered 1st as the Best Performing Municipality on Aksyon Barangay Kontra Zika, Dengue and Chikungunya and was awarded Php25,000.00. Consolation prizes of Php10,000.00 each went to the municipalities of Mankayan, Tublay and Kapangan. Barangay Alapang of La Trinidad landed third place in the search for Barangay with Best Sanitation Practices and received a cash award of Php75,000.00 and a plaque.

Consolation prizes included the municipalities of Mankayan, Tublay and Kapangan, each were awarded Php10,000.00. Going further, Barangay Alapang of La Trinidad got third place in the search for Barangay with Best Sanitation Practices. The barangay received a cash award of Php75,000.00 and a plaque and a token.

For the functional Inter Local Health Zones (ILHZs), all the three ILHZs garnered awards:
- the 3K ILHZ (Kapangan, Kibungan and the Kapangan District Hospital) was 1st place and was awarded Php100,000.00;
- the Mt. Trail ILHZ (Atok, Bakun, Buguias and Mankayan) was 4th place and awarded Php30,000.00; and
- the BKD (Bokod, Kabayan and Dennis Molintas District Hospital) was 5th place and awarded Php20,000.00.

Under the municipal category, Tublay and Mankayan got the 1st and 3rd place, respectively. They were awarded Php100,000.00 and Php50,000.00, apart from a plaque. The municipalities of La Trinidad and Sablan were recognized as having a 100% Smoke Free Environment. Likewise, the Atok District Hospital in Atok, Dennis Molintas District Hospital in Bokod and Northern Benguet District Hospital in Buguias, all owned and operated by the provincial government of Benguet, were recognized as having 200% Smoke Free Environment. Their awards were plaques and tokens.

Board Member and Chairman of Sangguniang Panlalawigan Committee on Health and Social Services Jim Botiwey, Assistant Provincial Administrator Florita Bay-on, and Provincial Health Officer II Nora M. Ruiz and some of her key staff, represented the provincial government during the awarding ceremony.
November 24, 2017 – This year’s Mr. and Miss Benguet search found their victors in Mr. Itogon Jervis Lenze P. Buslotan and Miss Kabayan Roxanne B. Bastian. Assistant Provincial Administrator and Search Committee Chairperson Flor Bay-on noted this reversal as, six years ago during her first time chairing the annual search, Mr. and Miss Benguet 2011 were Mr. Kabayan Kenjie Colas Ameda and Miss Itogon Loracris Mallari Almoza.

**Completing this year’s court were:**
- 1st Runners Up: Glenn C. Depao of La Trinidad and Astrid Jarylle B. Tino of Kapangan
- 2nd Runners Up: George G. Tobias of Kabayan and Shafrin T. Casi of Atok
- 3rd Runners Up: Cyril Jhan G. Tip-ac of Mankayan and Ruth S. Tomtila of La Trinidad
- 4th Runners Up: Mohamed L. Abdelkawi of Bokod and Weyndel Ruth T. Wasit of Tublay

**Recipients of the minor awards were:**
- Best in Talent: Johanan S. Santiago of Kibungan and Weyndel Ruth Wasit of Tublay
- Best in Sportswear: Cyril Jhan Tip-ac of Mankayan and Shafrin Casi of Atok
- Best in Benguet Ethnic Wear: George Tobias of Kabayan and Weyndel Ruth Wasit of Tublay
- Best in Avant Garde / Creative Adlay Wear: Michael Bryan D. Caparas of Atok and Roxanne Bastian of Kabayan
- Best in Formal Wear: Jervis Lenze Buslotan of Itogon and Roxanne Bastian of Kabayan

**Special awards were also given out, and they were:**
- Darlings of the Press, chosen by the members of the media during the Press Conference on November 14, 2017: Mr. La Trinidad Glenn Depao and Miss Kapangan Astrid Jarylle Tino
- Friendship Award, voted by the contestants; Mr. Bokod Mohamed Abdelkawi and Miss Buguias Jayzelle Dupingay
- Mr. and Miss Photogenic, chosen by the official photographers Mr. Bokod Mohamed Abdelkawi and Miss Tuba Destiny Bantilan
- Best Performers, chosen by the judges during the pre-pageant; Mr. Buguias Zeus Giovanni and Miss Kapangan Astrid Jarylle Tino
- Smart Texters’ Choice: Mr. Itogon Jervis Lenze Buslotan and Miss Atok Shafrin Casi

Meanwhile, the Search Committee would like to thank everyone, including our sponsors for the unending support that resulted to the success of the event. – Names of Sponsors on page 18)

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**Functional Coop Members Trained**

For the third quarter of 2017, the Cooperative Development Services Unit of the Provincial Governor’s Office conducted four activities for active members of functional cooperatives in Benguet.

Cooperative Development Specialist Julie Taboca reported a total 657 participants during the activity, with the following details:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Pax</th>
<th>Venue/Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>390</td>
<td>BSC Multi-purpose Gym, Wangal / October 19-20, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training on Gender Mainstreaming &amp; Development</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>Palispis Hall, Capitol, La Trinidad / November 9, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training on Strategic Planning</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>Poblacion, Kabayan / November 27-28, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training on Parliamentary Procedures</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>Atok / December 7, 2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Subjects of interest discussed during the convention included values formation, forum on the requirements for Certificate of Tax Exemption, and livelihood programs and services of different line agencies.

Abad L. Santos, Administrator for Luzon Cooperatives, was the guest speaker, and his message focused on federalism in relation to cooperatives movement.

Speakers and facilitators came from the Cooperative Development Authority, the Benguet Provincial Cooperative Development Council, non-government organizations, and other accredited learning service providers.
Req’s in the Establishment of Public ES and HS

Schools Division Superintendent (SDS) Marie Carolyn Verano of the Department of Education (DepEd) – Benguet Division submitted a checklist of the requirements for the establishment of public elementary and secondary schools, as enumerated in DepEd Department Order No. 40, s 2014. These requirements also apply to the merging, naming/renaming of public schools and separation of public school annexes in basic education.

There are several requirements of the Department, such as:
> Letter request to open a school addressed to the SDS (either from the PTA or Barangay Council);
> Feasibility study, duly recommended or endorsed indicating justification of the need, proposed organizational structure, school environment (situational analysis), proposed school development plan, and proposed budget;
> Division Inspection Report signed by the SDS;
> Sangguniang Bayan/Pantalawigan Resolution supporting the proposal and indicating therein also the proposed name of the school;
> List of prospective enrollees per grade level indicating their names, ages, addresses and/or school where they are currently or were enrolled;
> Justification of need for a multi-grade school, if necessary; certification from SDS that no private HS within the municipality is participating in the GASTPE program of DepEd, or that GASTPE participating HS has reached its allocation or number of available slots;
> Justification by the SDS on the need of a school to cater to ES graduates/students who cannot afford to enroll in a private high school;
> Map, preferably drawn to scale, showing the distances of the existing schools within the catchment area of the proposed new school, duly certified by the local engineer and a certification from him/her that the proposed school is not within the 2-km radius (for rural areas) and 1 km radius (for urban areas) from any existing public elementary/high school;
> Justification of the SDS for the waiver on the 2 or 1 km radius requirement, if necessary;
> Any document, such as but not limited to Deed of Donation, Deed of Sale or Contract of Usufruct for 50 years executed in favor of DepEd: Original Certificate of Title (OCT) or Transfer Certificate of Title (TCT) in the name of DepEd, reflecting the size and boundaries of the school site;
> Justification from the SDS in case the required size cannot be met;
> Clearance/permit from the provincial Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) and the Regional Office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) stating that the proposed school site is not a high risk area;
> School site development plan;
> School building plan indicating the number of classrooms, School building design duly approved by DepEd Education Facilities Division, Administrative Service;
> School building permit issued by the Local Engineer;
> Bureau of Fire Protection Certificate;
> Inspection report from Division In-charge of Facilities Section, in case classrooms are already constructed.

Paris Back Home from Japan Training

Carmela Paris, Agricultural Technologist under the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist, successfully completed her six-month training on Greenhouse and Open Field Veggie Production and Landscaping in Japan from May 21 to November 22, 2017.

Paris was officially sent to undergo the training in Kochi, Japan, under the 2017 Local Government Program in Japan and in keeping with the Benguet-Kochi Sisterhood Agreement perfected 42 years ago. She had her training in various areas: the Fukui Flower Garden, Sasaki Landscape Architecture, Hayama Garden, and at the Kochi Prefectural Agricultural Technology Research Center.

Before her hands-on training on agriculture, Paris had a Japanese language training for six weeks at the Japan Intercultural Academy of Municipalities at Shiga Prefecture. She greatly appreciated the experience, as the Japanese shared their expertise and best practices, techniques and technologies to their trainees.

She expressed how impressed she was to have undergone said training. She said the training is great as the Japanese taught their trainees application of different technologies and techniques in vegetable production to include landscaping.

Meanwhile, Governor Crescencio Paoalo directed Paris to prepare and submit a plan for the improvement of the existing landscape of the Provincial Capitol area, using the technical skills and knowledge she acquired during her training.
Three Public Schools Benefit from PEZA Outreach Program

Philippine Economic Zone Authority – Baguio City (PEZA-BCEZ) continues to have its Outreach program, with the most recent on December 18 to 20, 2017.

The beneficiary schools were Eddet Elementary School in Kabayan, Ekip Elementary School in Bokod and Bangen Elementary School in Tublay, with a total of 160 grade school pupils. This was indicated in the report of Zone Administrator Atty. Rene Joey S. Mipa of BCEZ to Benguet Governor Crescencio Pacalso.

Earlier in May, BCEZ provided painting materials to selected public schools in Benguet, in support to the Brigada Eskwela. Their outreach program is in line with the BCEZ Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) projects wherein PEZA provides and shares school bags, supplies, hygiene kits, health care and environmental awareness.

Sa 'iyon Nakasalalay
(Ni Florita U. Algabis)

Ang pangarap ng mga bata'y nakasalaysay sa iyo
Pagsikapan at pagbutihin ang pagtuturo mo
Kumilos at gawin mo na, ito ang nais nila
Daing ng mga bata'y kailangan sagutin sa kanila.

Kaibigan, ano ang plano mo?
Nandito lang ako handang tumulong sa iyo
Kaibigan, ano ang kinakatakot mo?
Nandito lang ako handang umalalay sa iyo.

Kaibigan, kung ikaw ay nululumbay
Huwag mong hayaan na ika'y manlupaypay
Pagkat si Hesus ay laging nag-aalay
Ng awang walang kapantay.

Si Hesus ang sandigang tunay
Na walang makapantay
Buong puso't kaluluwa'y iaalay
Pagkat siya'y panghabambuhay.

Beauty and Brain Tilt: Board of Judges and Sponsors:

The following accepted and took the challenge of choosing the best of the best in the following competitions:

_Banguet Ethnic Wear:_
- Mr. Shyr Ampaguey of Paradiso Resort,
- Rey Sagandoy of USAID North Luzon and
- Ariel Layugan of Kullibeng Arts;

_Pre-pageant (Talent and Sportswear):_
- Dr. Leonard Agualde, Vice President for Administration of the University of the Cordilleras;
- Dr. Faith Garoy Micael, Dean of the College of Teacher Education of the Kings College of the Philippines; and
- Dr. Eduardo Laconsay, Director of the Institute of Human Kinetics, Benguet State University

_Final Pageant (Creative Adlay Wear, Formal Evening Wear and the Question and Answer Portion):_
- Regional Director Elmo Francis Oco Sarona of the Philippine National Police – Cordillera;
- Engr. Aloysius C. Mapalo, Dean of Student Affairs and Services of the University of the Cordilleras;
- Atty. Ana Maria Paz R. Banaag, Assistant Secretary for Operations, Presidential Communication Operations Office;
- Donna M. Bito, Disc Jockey of K-Lite Mornings, Baguio City; and
- Mr. Louie M. Metra, Relationship Manager of PLDT – North Luzon

_Sponsors:_

• The following are our ever ready partners:
  - Smart Communications, Inc.; for the Texters’ Choice Award and sports wear of the candidates
  - Local Government of Kabayan under Mayor Gideon P. Gadiano and Local Government of Kapangan under Mayor Manny E. Fermin for the two community immersions;
  - Benguet Electric Cooperative, Inc (BENECO) under General Manager Gerardo P. Verzosa for the snacks and use of their function hall during the lecture on public speaking and interview workshop;
  - Furukawa Fitness Gym under Jonathan Acop for the t-shirts of the candidates;
  - Benguet Government Employees Multi-purpose Cooperative for one set dinner during one of the candidates' rehearsal schedule;
  - ALS La Trinidad Café and restaurant for one set dinner during one of the candidates' rehearsal schedule;
  - Ms. Nancy Ibag of Sophie Paris La Trinidad for the tokens of all the candidates;
  - Flower Blooms Gowns and Flower Shop of Belmer Ellis for the bouquets of the lady candidates;
  - Wholeness Spa and Skin Care at Laperal Bldg, Session Road, Baguio City for the services to some committee members;
  - Ms. Angel Olarte of Sabian; and Ms. Shiela Banaguil of Mankayan for the out-of-town post evaluation meeting conducted at Palm Grove Resort in Asin, Tuba.
SNAP SHOTS... SNAP SHOTS....

Adlaw Kapihan at the Palispis Hall

Ecumenical Service before the Kick-off Program

Adlaw Kick-off at the Provincial Capitol facade

Opening of the Agri-Eco-Tourism Fair

Guest Speaker Dr. Ryan Guinanan delivering his message during the Awards Program

Distribution of PSC Volley balls to the different municipalities

The “Depap” for the “peshit” (cañao)

Simultaneous “Owek” ceremony after the “Depap” to start the Grand Cañao

Dr. William Dar, the Guest Speaker, dancing to the beats of the gongs and solibaos

Top: The Leadership Awardees with the Governor and Vice Governor; in the middle is the Guest of Honor and Speaker; Below are the awardees flanked by the provincial officials

Giving of tokens to the Grand Cañao Guest of Honor and Speaker
Visit of PNP Chief Ronald Dela Rosa at the PRO-COR in Camp Dangwa, La Trinidad

Oath taking of the Senior Citizens Officers for a Day (SCOFAD) and the turnover of seats of provincial officials

Inter-Office Sports Competition Winners with Board Member Juan Nazario, Jr.

The top five from l to r: Mr. Itogon, Mr. Bokod, Mr. La Trinidad, Mr. Mankayan, Mr. Kabayan and Miss Tublay, Miss La Trinidad, Miss Kapangan, Miss Atok and Miss Kabayan

The Board of Judges flanked by Search Committee Chairperson Flor Bay-on and Governor Cris Pacalso (l to r): Engr. Aloysius Mapalo, PNP RD Francis Elmo O. Sarona, USEC Ana Maria Rafael Banaag, K-Lite DJ Dona M. Bito and PLDT North Relationship Manager Louis M. Metra

Gov. Pacalso and wife and Vice Gov Tingabaoen with ASEC Ana Rafael Banaag, one of the Board of Judges, in the final search for Mr. and Miss Benguet 2017

The Vice Governor and some Board Members with ASEC Banaag

Mr. & Miss Benguet candidates in their creative Advay Wear or Avant Garde

The candidates in their Swim Wear

The Municipal Mayors with their Certificates of Appreciation for their all-out support to the annual Beauty and Brain Pageant

The winners (1st row), Board of Judges, the provincial officials, the host, Mayor Lusplan of Mankayan and the Search Committee Chair and Vice Chairperson (2nd row) and the other candidates (3rd row) after the announcement and awarding of winners