

Cabusao wetland seeks international accreditation **2**

DOH warns people of summer diseases **3**

TESDA Bicol aims to be ISO accredited before the year ends **6**

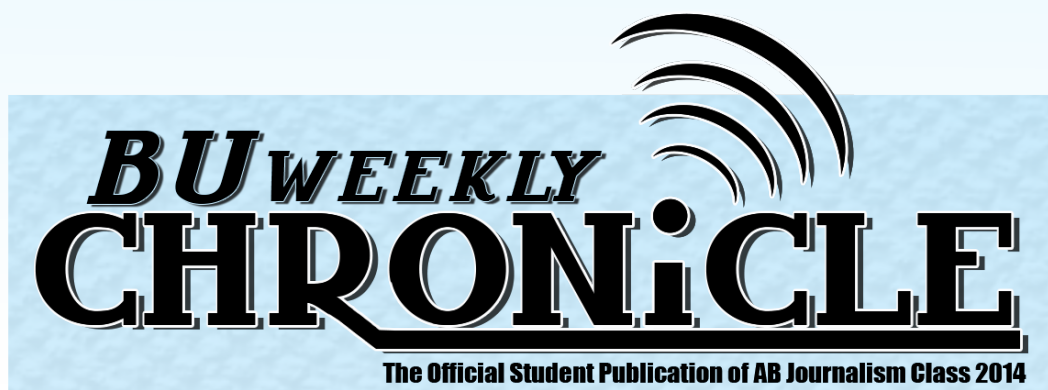
Camalig Footwear Makers Benefit From SFF **7**

LGU to bat DILG

LEGAZPI CITY, Albay --- The Local Government Unit (LGU) maintains its supports to the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) in Legazpi to defend the city against environmental calamities.

“DILG strengthened its link with the LGU’s as it continuously empower its respective Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Councils (LDRRMC’s)

turn to page 6



VOLUME II ISSUE 2

February 10 - 16 2014

APEC tracks down debts

In the midst of controversies, protests and allegations, Albay Power Electric Corporation (APEC) pleads for another chance to the Albayanos.

Aleco Multi-Sectoral Stakeholders Organization (AMSSO) were one of the few groups who strongly disagreed with APEC’s take-over of Albay Electric Cooperative (ALECO). AMSSO argued that cooperative members should be the

turn to page 3

DOLE allots P7.3M for Project RAY in Bicol



Eager to say I do. Couples wait for the ceremony to commence and take their vows as newly weds during the mass wedding sponsor by PAG-IBIG fund last Valentines Day at cagsawa ruins. *Photo by Shane G. Viray*

By Carlo Bernardo

The Department of Labor and Employment Regional Office No. V together with the Department of Science and Technology allocates some P7.3M to fund the 12-identified and approved livelihood projects under the Reconstruction Assistance on Yolanda (RAY) program. The project will be implemented within this year’s first quarter up to 2016.

Project RAY is a joint effort of the national government for the rehabilitation of areas affected by super typhoon Yolanda’s and envisions to create a sustainable livelihood for the victims and to the communities through technology and innovation.

The main strategy of the program is to utilize the livelihood funds of DOLE and to apply the recent existing technology for a specific livelihood projects in order to increase and simplify the production of goods.

In addition, the DOLE said, any project that is proven successful under this program will be duplicated in the areas heavily hit by Typhoon Yolanda whether in any region of the country.

DOLE-DOST Bicol identified the Charcoal Briquetting and Fish Processing for Masbate with an allocated budget of P1.6M; Molasses and Citronella Processing and Production Project and Fish and Food Processing for Camarines Sur with P2M budget; handicraft making and shell craft processing for Sorsogon with P1.5M budget; ; crab fattening, muscovado processing and handicraft production for Catanduanes with an allocated budget of P0.8M; upgrading of food processing and citronella oil production for Camarines Norte with P1.250M budget and Karagumoy processing in Albay with an allocated P1M budget.

DOLE Bicol regional director Nathaniel V. Lacambra said, “If you would look at the details of the projects listed, you could see that all raw materials are very common in Tacloban also which makes it feasible to duplicate such projects there.”

Lacambra is very confident that Project RAY will not only help the typhoon Yolanda victims but it will also push the development of the region particularly in the manufacturing sector.

PAG- IBIG fund sponsors 150 couples for Mass Wedding

By Shane Viray

LEGAZPI CITY – With 150 couples, Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF) or Pag-IBIG Fund holds a mass wedding dubbed as I’do, I’do, Araw ng Pag-Ibig last February 14 at Cagsawa Ruins Daraga, Albay in celebration of the 3rd year annual program done nationwide.

In partnership with the Lo-

cal Government Unit (LGU) Daraga co-sponsored the event in celebration of Cagsawa Dos Siglos Festival.

Delan John Llanera, Marketing Specialist of Pag- IBIG fund said, they have 150 confirmed couples and most of them came from Daraga and some from Legazpi City. He said that the couples can claim the

rings at the Pag- Ibig fund office around 8:00 am - 5:00pm prior before the wedding.

Llanera also said that the agency sponsored more than 149 wedding events inclusive of a house and lot, symbolic ring, bouquet of the bride, first lunch of the newly weds and a raffle prizes for the lucky couple.

turn to page 2

BU studees top RME board exams

By Clarissol Reonal

Jesse Jay Beraña Garay, a student of Bicol University (BU), topped the February 2014 Registered Master Electrician (RME) board exam after garnering a rating of 91.00 %.

Other BU students that made it to the list were Mercury Nuñez Operio, with

90. 50%, second in rank and Jaymar Chavez Dolz rank seventh with an average of 86%. [Vincent Escorel Hayohay placed eight with an average score of 85. 50% and Freddie Caparoso Nasis ended in the ninth palce with an average of 84. 50%.

turn to page 7

Tabaco operates first animal shelter in Albay

By Sunshine Baron

Tabaco City – With the increasing number of dog-related mishap in the country, the city government has strengthened its campaign on implementing ordinances against stray dogs.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) Tabaco City Division started its operation on the first animal shelter in

Albay after the dry-run of the Rabies Control Ordinance on January 30.

“Although ordinances like this should have been implemented in every municipality long time ago, budget is still the problem and fortunately the city is able to establish it first in the province,” Armi

turn to page 5



On the Flight. Migratory birds flock together as they settle in the banks of Cabusao wetland in Camarines Sur. *File photo of DENR*

Cabusao wetland seeks international accreditation

By Ana Rose Velasco

The Wildlife section of the Protected Areas and Wildlife Division Regional Office V (PAW-D) together with the Local Government Unit of Cabusao seeks for international accreditation under Ramsar Convention on Wetlands due to domestic and migratory bird population increase in their locality.

According to Myrna G. Baylon, Officer-in-charge, wildlife section PAW- D, under the Ramsar Criteria, wetlands should be selected on their account of international significance in terms of the biodiversity and uniqueness of the locality's ecology, botany,

zoology, limnology or hydrology.

"In addition, the criteria indicate that in the first instance, wetlands of international importance to water birds at any season should be included on the Ramsar List," Baylon said.

Baylon added that Cabusao wetland was declared as a critical habitat for the endemic Philippine duck through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Administrative Order No. 2011-10 dated August 23, 2011 signed by Secretary Ramon J. Paje.

"The said critical habitat serves as an important feeding and roosting area for more than sixty-eight (68) species of resident, endemic and migratory birds, , thirty four of which are native species, while another 34 are migratory species," Baylon said.

Baylon also added that when Cabusao wetland will be selected as one site accredited by Ramsar Convention, it will help transform the municipality into a tourist spot for environmentalists which will give complement to our future ecotourism paradigm.

DOH warns Albayanos this summer

By Aira Gem Antonio

The rains are just few months away from the scorching heat but Noemi Bron of Health and Promotion Unit, DOH V said that the diseases that are rampant during this season can also hit people this summer.

Several viral and bacterial infections can rob you from enjoying the summer escapade and the fun of splashing outdoors.

Dengue is most watch here in Albay not only during the rainy season

but every year according to Bron.

Water-borne, influenza and leptospirosis are also the diseases that can pull you off to indoor and outdoor activities.

Children and elderly with weaker immune systems must take it to a habit to drink water after boiling it, a process that kills harmful viruses.

Water-borne diseases can affect people any time of the day most especially if it is acquired through eating

food or drinking of contaminated water with human waste. It includes cholera, diarrhea, hepatitis A, and typhoid fever.

No seasonal disease for this type of viral and bacterial illness. People are advice to keep their immune system strong to avoid the acquiring of such diseases.

Leftovers must be discarded during the rainy season to minimize the risk and in extreme cases, see the nearest doctor.

Pag-IBIG sponsors . . .

He added, at least one of the couple should be a member of the Pag- IBIG fund if they wish to participate in the mass wedding. If both are not, at least one of them is required to enroll and pay a membership fee.

In an interview with Agapita Pacres, Daraga Tourism Officer, the LGU Daraga had coordinated with the different barangays and undergone an interview with the Civil Local Registrar Office because the said 150 couples should've follow and provide the license which was indicated with Certificate of No Marriage (CENOMAR) from NSO.

The Municipal Sponsors includes Daraga Mayor, Gerry Jaucian along with the Chairman of the Pag- IBIG Fund, Jejomar Binay and CEO of the Pag- IBIG fund, Atty. Darlene Marie Berberabe.

They are also the ones who solemnize the mass wedding. Other sponsors who are present on the occasion is Congressman Al Francis Bichara, Nini Ravnilla, SB Members and all the LGU officials.

However, Llanera mentioned that this not only concern with the benefits but looking in the moral aspect of their clients and beneficiaries since this is part of the corporate, as an institution. "I do, I do. Araw ng Pag- Ibig is all about giving members a chance to become a legitimate part of the community," Llanera said.

PNP Tabaco inaugurates new HQ

By Marjorie Codia

The Philippine National Police (PNP) Tabaco held the inauguration of its newly constructed office last February 26, 2014 headed by Police Supt. Felix Serbite, the PNP Tabaco Chief.

The said event was also headed by the PNP Regional Director P/C Supt. Victor De Ona. In an interview with P/ Insp. Malou Calubaquib, the spokesperson of PNP Bicol said that the newly constructed office is the most expensive and elegant headquarters in the region with a fund of 12 million pesos.

She also added that the local government of Tabaco also had its share in funding the project.

The inauguration was also participated by other high ranking officials in the region.

DOH warns people of summer diseases

By Dorie Mae Ornido

The rising temperature does not only mean it is summer. It is why the Department of Health warned the public about the most common diseases dubbed as 6s, which are sore eyes, sun burn, colds and cough, vomiting and bowel movement or diarrhea, skin diseases and dog bites.

"These diseases or conditions were most common because people tend to travel and interact with others too often, unaware of the many viruses or bacteria being passed on from person to person," said DOH Secretary Enrique Ona.

He briefly discussed the diseases and measures on how to prevent and cure it.

Conjunctivitis is commonly known as sore eyes or pink eye. It is the inflammation of the thin covering of the eyeball and inner eyelid.

The inflammation is brought on by a viral, bacterial, or allergy infection. However, sore eyes are gener-

ally due to a viral infection.

The disease is very contagious especially when communicated by eye to hand to eye contact. Signs or symptoms may include redness of the eyes, discomfort, burning and gritty sensation, photophobia or sensitivity to light, eye pain, difficulty of opening eyes after sleeping, water-like discharge and soreness.

But this disease can be prevented by simply washing your hands regularly with soap and water and avoiding touching the eyes when your hands are unclean.

Ona said that sun burn is due to the many outdoor activities like jogging, swimming and other sports that can easily burn skin from over-exposure.

He adds that one has to make sure to use sunscreen with 30 or more than 30 SPF (sun protection factor) before going out. When you get a sun burn your skin turns red and hurts.

The skin may even develop

swelling and sunburn blisters if it is a severe case.

Ona also reminded the public that the body may lose fluid when exposed to the heat of the sun and that one must drink plenty of water or fluids to replace it.

"Drink at least eight to nine glasses of fluids or water a day depending on the extent of activity you do," Ona said. He also said that a person must be sure that what he eats is safe to avoid diarrhea.

"Children should especially be sent to the doctor because their diarrhea should be treated differently from adults," he said.

He added that DOH will also have more aggressive program for the vaccination of dogs since it was common for people to get bitten by dogs being out in the open. He also said that people can also be infected by rabies through cat bite.

DOLE: Hiring Jobs for Young Bicolanos

By Ronalyn Frial

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) said they will accommodate jobs for thousands of young Bicolanos this February.

DOLE said that they will distribute P56M under the Government Internship Program (GIP) and Emergency Work Program or commonly known as TUPAD.

"Starting this month of February we will be hiring jobs in the entire Bicol region," Nathaniel V. Lacambra, DOLE Regional Director, said.

The GIP program will offer a 6-month job, while TUPAD requires one month of work only. DOLE is assuming to hire 1,375 employers for GIP and 6,189 employers for TUPAD for a total of 7,564 employment.

The TUPAD Work Program, focused on calamity programs such as; dredging, canal de-clogging, and any other work that needed for community restoration and rehabilitation.

"Applications for GIP will be soon to open. Anybody who graduated from college, or high school and technical and vocational school can apply," Lacambra added.

DOLE Bicol assumed a budget of P3.5M in congressional district for a total of P56M in the province of Albay.

PCA continues streamlining under GOOC

By Abigail Bellodo

The current administration continues the streamlining of the Government-Owned and Controlled Corporation (GOOC). And one of the several GOOC is the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA).

Despite of being the subject for reform, PCA continue its different project and programs that defines their institution. The opening of the year gives challenges to the PCA to make programs visible to the eye of the coconut farmers.

And one of the earliest programs implemented is the Salt Fertilization Project (SFP). As early as January of the present year, a total of 9,566 bags of NaCl (salt) are allocated for the 18 municipalities of Albay.

According to Mr. Bobbie M. Jacob, Division chief of PCA Provincial Office. Even the PCA is undergoing in reorganization, the program will continues running as long as there are interested farmers who are willing to participate.

Furthermore, Jacob assured that whenever the central office of PCA release resources for the SFP, the allocation will go automatically to every region and go down in provinces and distributed to the respective municipalities.

As the research center of PCA in Davao City proven that the coconut trees planted near in the shoreline has thicker coconut meat- the said program uses agricultural salt as a fertilizer to the coconut trees "We use ordinary salt, no other chemical mixture.

But the salt supply is intended only for the coconut trees and not advisable for food consumption" Jacob said.

The 2 kgs salt is being applied 1 meter distance from and around the base of each coconut trees. From the latest statistics of SFP in Albay, the three district with approximately 2,180 hectares coconut farms.

SFP helped the 1,195 farmers who interestedly applied salt to their coconut trees. Only 9 percent of the total volume of fertilizer released last January is still unused, and that will be added to the next batch of salt on the coming months.

On the other hand, the PCA Provincial Office is on their preparation for continues streamlining of their organization.

But still upholding good services and even pursuing to be more efficient in implementing programs like SFP, to strengthen the coconut industry in the province of Albay.

Shabu: Top drug used in Bicol

By Edwin Millena

Legazpi City – Philippine Drugs Enforcement Agency (PDEA) reported methamphetamine hydrochloride, an illegal drug popularly known shabu as the top drug used by the pushers in Region V as of January 2014.

According to Agent Dennis Villamor, spokesperson of PDEA Regional Office V, Shabu is the top selling drug in Bicol, because it's more accessible to Bicolanos compared to other illegal drug.

"Shabu pa rin ang mabenta at siyang ginagamit ng mga drug users dito sa Bikol Region, pangalawa lang ang marijuana, dahil ang market capability kasi nito pagdating sa market ay mahina at konti lamang ang nakukuhang kita dito," Villamor explained.

Villamor added that the shabu cost of 500-1, 000 pesos compared to marijuana that cost for only 50-70 pesos per T-bag."

In Masbate City, a prominent person is under surveillance and is a suspect for using this illegal drug.

Also in Legazpi City, a Barangay Kagawad was caught in action taking Shabu, Villamor said in an interview.

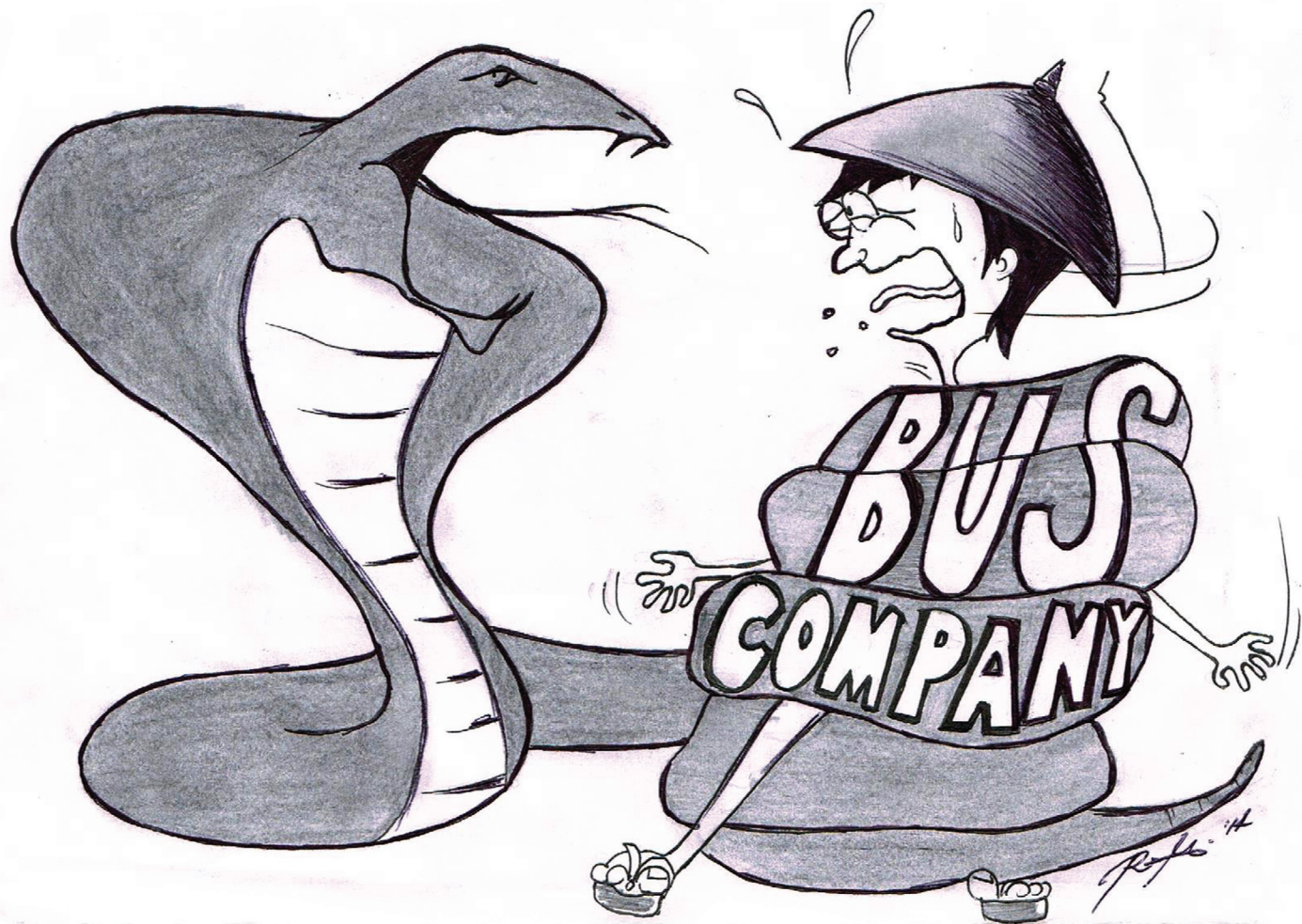
Based on the statistics that PDEA gave Naga City has the highest number of drug user while Legazpi City, Albay place second.

APEC tracks . . .

one to manage the electric corporation.

However, Alan Marcha, APEC's General Manager said that oppositions for their management didn't hinder their job which is to fix and improve the system. At present, APEC started tracking debts of major consumers. They also found out one army detachment whose twenty year debt still remains unpaid.

■ **Jessica Rae Nolasco**



EDITORIAL

Vigilant

Recently, bus-related accidents had dominated the airwaves and broadsheets. These accidents had taken away numbers of lives, both of those inside of the vehicle and by some around the vicinity.

It is the immediate concern of the bus liners to secure the safety of their passengers. It is their responsibility to do every precautionary measure to make sure they can safely reach their destination. It is evident that there are only few who follow the immediate government agency in terms of road safety.

If these bus liners do not follow the law, what are the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB)?

Apparently, they are not doing their job extensively. According to philstar.net, the incident happened in Bontoc Mountain Province; the one GV Florida Transport INC. was involved, LTFRB just found out that chassis and engine of the company's bus were tampered with and not registered with the Land Transportation Office.

Thus, the buses involved in the accident were not authorized to operate.

If GV Florida got a franchise to operate with tampered papers, this means that LTFRB never commits to an intensive research of the company applying to operate.

It is a start that LT-

FRB immediately took an action of confiscating the all the yellow for hire plates of the buses. But this is not enough. If they want to absolutely lessen the accidents happening throughout the country, they must act vigilantly.

One thing they can do is to have a partnership with all the Local Government Unit in the country. A notable example of this is Manila Mayor Joseph Ejercito Estrada's action to make a ban of buses that are classified as colorum.

It clearly resulted to a less on buses plying in the Metro. With lesser buses, there is an equivalent proportion to lesser number of accidents.



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DOH says yes to 'Go for Life'

By Ma. Kristela Melquiades

Through the program 'Go for Life', the Department of Health (DOH) Bicol encourages the Albayanos to develop and engage to healthy lifestyle and practices to avoid the risk factors that can cause non-communicable diseases.

Dr. Evy Sarmiento, medical specialist II of the DOH Center for Health Development (CHD) said that the program promotes better living among the people.

She identified the four lifestyle areas in which it aims to strengthen, such as Go Sustansya, Go Sigla, Go Smoke-free, and Go Slow sa Tagay.

Sarmiento explained that Go for Life concentrates on preventing the citizen's risk to develop degenerative illnesses that result from unhealthy lifestyle.

"Kasisangayon, yung causes ng death natinsa Bicol – actually global – eight out of ten, lahat 'yan non-communicable diseases (NCD's) eh," Sarmiento

said.

Based on the DOH data as of 2011, the following illnesses that increase mortality among Bicolanos are heart diseases, pneumonia, hypertension, neoplasm, tuberculosis, trauma and injuries, kidney diseases, cerebro-vascular accidents, diabetes, and septicemia.

Among these ailments, pneumonia and septicemia are the only infectious diseases, while the others are all NCD's

"Ang NDC's, ito yung mahirap gamutin. Kung baga, cumulative ang effect, na hindi kagaya ng infectious diseases na for certain days or months, gagalingka.

Halimbawa, hindi maganda yung diet mo, hindi ka kaagad magkakasakit kinabukasan. So ang effect nito, medyo matagal," she added.

Harmful activities like smoking, unhealthy diet, physical inactivity and stress may cause complications,

such as cardiovascular diseases, hypertension, cancer, obesity, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Diseases (COPD), and mental illness.

Sarmiento also stated that NDC's are difficult to address since these are lifestyle-related and can be linked to a person's behavior.

She said that in Albay, the anti-smoking and physical activities are properly implemented because there are ordinances that support these programs, while stress management is one of the major issues that require appropriate solutions.

"Sa Legazpi kasi, may full implementation na sila ng 'No Smoking.' Although may makikita ka pa rin, pero mas matutuwa ka.

Kasi compared to other municipalities sa Albay, may nainigarilyo sa jeep or anywhere. Sa physical activities naman, marami nang conscious," Sarmiento pointed out.

Meanwhile, Sarmiento said that

the government should provide more attention to lessen the number of cases of NCD's.

"Go for Life is one part of our advocacy towards healthy living. Sana gawing priority yan ng mga local chief executives na ma-address ang NCD's.

The best way is to implement a policy, an ordinance, or a resolution to lower the incidents or the prevalence of NCD's," she expressed.

Furthermore, Sarmiento reminded the Bicolanos to adapt sound and healthier living.

"You [should] modify your lifestyle. 'Yon yung gusto naming ipaabot sa mga tao na conscious sila dapat sa mga diseases na ito.

Kasi hindi kaya ng gobyerno na i-control ka. Nasa iyo pa rin 'yon. May sakit ka, sa wala, magpa-examine ka at least once a year.

Kelan pa sila mag-start ng healthy lifestyle, kung meron nang mga sakit?" she noted.

Biting off rabies.

An animal shelter representative inoculates a dog with anti-rabies vaccine in tabaco city as part of the rabies control ordinance.

File Photo of LGU Tabaco City



Tabaco operates first . . .

Brobio, OIC city agriculturist said.

The department received Php 200,000 last year for the construction and another Php 200,000 this year to put up the pound's cages and its sanitary facilities.

Dog catchers from different barangays were vaccinated with anti-rabies and were trained by the said department with the help of the city veterinary officers for the proper handling and impounding of stray dogs.

After we trained and provided them the necessary equipments, the dog catchers were directed to continue to conduct the operation on their respected barangays, with us to monitor and to supervise them," Brobio stated.

The dog catchers would start their operation at 5:00 pm until 7:00 pm.

Caught stray dogs will be housed in the animal shelter for three days under the DA's care and will be vaccinated and released to its owner only upon payment of Php 300 as poundage fee.

As specified under the City Ordinance No. 04-2004, it shall be mandatory for the Barangay Chairman to register every dog in his jurisdiction with mandatory corresponding fees not exceeding Php 50 on a per head basis to identify the dog's owner.

In case the impounded dog is detected positive on rabies, it will be put to sleep before it can infect other dogs.

The city agriculturist assured that there is an allotted area nearby where they could bury the dog and is anticipating on developing a dog cemetery after two years.

Brobio added that this endeavor would help address problems on stray dogs that prowl the city causing almost 85% of the city's road accidents and scavenging through the trash during the night.

"This will be just another action of the local government for the society to promote responsible pet ownership," Dr. Kim Ronan Romero, city veterinary officer said.

Left-over food from the city's food chains is collected by the department every 3:00 pm and is fed to the impounded dogs.

Rosal to suspend interactions with butanding

By Danica Mae Marollano

The Local Government Unit (LGU) of Legazpi headed by Mayor Noel Rosal together with the Department of Trade and Industry (DOT), BFAR, World Wildlife Fund, and other concerned agencies will be having a meeting about the plan on suspending interactions with the Butandings in Barangay Puro, Legazpi City.

According to Mayor Rosal, he kept on receiving information which says that these butandings are wounded and the possible cause is the motorized boats which are being used for interactions with them.

Officials implemented an executive order regarding the rules and regulations on butanding sightings.

Legazpi City Mayor Noel Rosal says, DOT will study on the LGU's recommendation. DOT Regional Director Nini Ravanilla admitted that 13 people who served as butanding interaction officers have lack of knowledge compared to the BIO of Donsol, Sorsogon.

According to the official, BIO in Legazpi conducted a training only once, last February.

As of now, the mentioned agencies have not yet conducted a meeting about their plan. These so-called gentle giants in Albay Gulf that are being visited by so many tourists were first seen by the month of February.

Approximately 9 whale sharks were recorded wherein three of them were already named Durat, Mailyas, and Magaro.

NEWSBRIEF

Imperial drafts code of conduct

By Marjorie Codia

The Sanguniang Panlungsod is pushing an ordinance in connection with adapting the general code of conduct in relation with the butanding interaction in Legazpi City was discussed during its regular session, the ordinance is authored by councilor Fernan Imperial.

The proposed ordinance passed its first reading and is expected to be immediately approved in the following days of the regular session.

It was the time when the butandings visited the sea of the city of Legazpi, the code of conduct was proposed in able to give chance to the public to enjoy the interaction with the butandings.

It is a way to protect as well as not to disturbed and destroy the whale shark to keep them coming back.

Rosal: Firm Security on Sanitary Landfill Needed

By Danica Caballero

The Local government of Legazpi City headed by Mayor Noel Rosal plans an enforcement of security on the sanitary landfill to prevent accidents such as the death of a minor last February 28.

Mayor Rosal said they are investigating the said incident and are looking for where the victim possibly entered the vicinity.

He furthered that the local government is making measures and resolutions to prevent such from happening again.

Rosal admitted that the poor security resulted the trespassing of the minor which lead to his death.

The minor climbed a garbage compactor and fell from it and the same compactor run him over.

LGU to bat . . .

The Department ensures that the organization of their various LDRRMC can secure its preparedness and maintain its coordination with the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Councils (RDRRMC's) in all phases of crisis.

Pasano also added that with the enactment of Republic Act 10121, otherwise known as "Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction Management Act" the rebirth of innate sense of giving high regard to individuals as the very basic yet the priceless natural wealth of the community paved way.

Through Disaster Risk Management specifically by strengthening their LGU's capacities to minimize their vulnerabilities, to this very objective, the DILG is one of its significant pillars in the first line of defense against disasters.

■ **Maribel Evasco**

TESDA Bicol aims to be ISO accredited before the year ends

By Elaiza Marie Coralde

"There are more TESDA schools and training centers in Albay compare to other province, in order to give quality education, we aim to be ISO accredited" said Nancy Ibo Medracillo, RNB Albay.

According to Rose Penida, spokesperson of TESDA V, the agency has 17 regional offices in the whole world including region V.

"It is now time for our centers here in Bicol to be accredited internationally," Penida said.

In preparation, the agency is now under internal audit. Part of their auditing process is the reconstructing of physical conditions like their offices and training centers.

In particular, TESDA V is applying under ISO's program registration and competency assessment certification. The competency assessment certification is the one who measures the quality of the trainee.

Pineda added that if the trainee passes, TESDA will give him a national competency cer-

tification. This is the certification that will brand him as a globally acclaimed worker.

"It is very important for the agency to be accredited in order for the Filipino workers to be globally competitive," Penida said. While the program registration includes the tech-vocational schools in the region, there are two tesda schools in Albay, one in Camarines Sur, Camarines Norte, Sorsogon and Masbate.

It includes the private tech-vocational schools, private schools of tesda cannot be operate without registering to us.

RDRRMC Bicol conducts a simulation exercise in preparation for APEC Summit

By Ma. Theresa Angela Andes

The Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council or RDRRMC Bicol conducted a simulation exercise last February attended by numerous members of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC).

According to Mr. Raffy Alejandro, the Regional Director of Office of the Civil Defense or OCD Bicol said that there are three scenarios demonstrated on the said activity: the rescue operation when there is a plane crash, the hostage taking crisis and how to respond in times of natural di-

saster and calamity.

The said simulation exercise was initiated to show the capabilities of the response team of Albay province when it comes to disaster preparedness.

"Gusto naming ipakita kung paano ang paghahanda na ginagawa ng probinsya ng Albay pagdating sa pagho-host ng mga malalaking pagtitipon gaya na lang ng APEC Summit na mang-yayari sa susunod na taon", Mr. Alejandro said.

The members of the APEC has also conducted their ocular in-

spection for the summit and assess Albay preparedness.

"Nagsagawa din ng ocular inspection 'yung APEC para siguraduhin na magiging maayos ang event pagdating ng 2015", he also added.

The plane crash scenario was headed by Philippine Navy and Philippine Coastguard, the hostage taking by the Philippine National Police (PNP) while the members of the RDRRMC headed the disaster response.

Madrilejos worries census

By Ryza Anne Balino

First district Board Member Jose Marino Madrilejos concerned for the upcoming result of the census that are being implemented in the Province of Albay.

The said census was about the community base monitoring system.

"I am worried for the census, some of them may take advantage in use it for presidential election 2016 is coming near", madrilejos said.

The final questionnaires should be presented to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan

before it will be use, he added.

According to the official it should be simple and easy to understand the questions that are given. It's easy for the enumerators in conducting it.

Hon. Herbert Borja of Albay 3rd district raised a suggestion. It is an ordinance for it would not be repeatedly done. 11 million pesos is needed in organizing a survey as stated in the suggested ordinance.

As of now the assigned council decided to set aside the plan for them to study and review well.

Venturero accused of corruption

By Joy Balangitan

Sorsogon City-- Assessor Antonio Venturero and his family were accused of corruption as Melchor Esidero and Inocentes Tripani, residents of Poblacion, Bacon, filed a complaint against the Venturero family.

Esidero- Tripani said that the assessor's wife Elena Venturero together with his son Rommel Venturero and daughter Carla Venturero were also involved in buying properties not included in Assessor Venturo's 2010 Statements of Assets and Liabilities and Network (SALN).

Aside from this, the complaint also states that the assessor's daughter, Carla Venturo, also bought some land properties. The complainants argue that Venturo's daughter is still not capable of buying a land for she is still a student & she does not have any business.



Roughing / scouring machines given to the footwear makers of Camalig, Albay.

Camalig Footwear Makers Benefit From SFF

By Zanie Jovellana

Some 970M worth of equipment was granted to Camalig footwear makers as part of Department of Trade and Industry's (DTI) Shared Service Facility (SFF) program, February 5.

The equipment given are a roughing / scouring machine, rubber wedge sole maker, clicker machine and single-needle lockstitch flatbed sewing machine which DTI Regional Director Jocelyn L. B. Blanco personally turned over.

DTI's SSF program provides equipment to groups of micro and small

enterprises to address the low production capacity of existing industries in rural areas.

The program ensures the improvement of product marketability and production efficiency, which in turn will generate more jobs and better income.

During the ceremony, Camalig Municipal Mayor Irwin G. Baldo, Jr. offered a loan facility at the local government unit (LGU) to footwear makers where they can apply in case they are in need of additional capital.

AVLC chooses Bicol for inspection

By Rissa Connigo

The people's inspection, to be initiated by the Association of Volunteer Lawyers Against Corruption (AV-LAC), chose Bicol for its investigation because according to the reports, the region has the most number of inconsistency involving the issue of Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF), also known as pork barrel fund.

According to Albay Rep. Fernando Gonzalez "Bicol DPWH dredging style" simply widen the mid-portion of the river by bringing-up debris on both sides of the river that when flood comes, the debris return back to the river. For the Yawa River dredging work, Gonzalez

complained that 20% of the project was actually accomplished.

In the report Albay has such controversial projects that have not been given proper action by the government agencies. there are specific three projects that are not have been accomplished in the province of Albay namely; the P100M Yawa River dredging project in Rawis Legazpi City, where in 20% of the project had actually been accomplished.

Rehabilitation projects in the 3rd district of Albay cost P374M, and last was the road projects in Catanduanes cost P682M.

Coral Reefs Rehabilitation Continues

By Rey Granadellos

The rehabilitation of coral reefs in Albay gulf is still operational despite of some damages it acquired due to some fishermen's use of dynamite in the Province of Albay.

According to Stephen Alba, the Coastal Resource and Agri-Bio System Development Program Strategy (CRABS) consultant, they are aiming to restore its original look and to make the coral reefs much better as well.

"Governor Joey Salceda have also programs in order to preserve the

coral reefs." Alba added.

One of the programs of the Albay governor is to go to coastal areas in the province to inform the fishermen about the hazardous effect of illegal fishing and other prohibited ways of fishing not only to the environment but to their livelihood as well.

However, they are hoping that by means of these programs, the residents will now cooperate not to use such ways of illegal fishing in the province.

DPWH Highlights of 2013 Accomplishments

By Mayflor Esquejo

DPWH Region V is one of the key agencies that provide the infrastructures necessary to spur the development of Bicol Region. The Regional Office together with the fifteen DEO's (District Engineering Office) has facilitated the delivery of infrastructure services to Bicolanos.

For the current Infra Program (CY-2013) it has a total allocation of Php 8.62 billion under the DPWH Infra Program.

There are 1, 673 projects that includes roads and bridges, flood control and drainage, water system, school buildings and other public infrastructure projects. By the end of 2013, the year-end accomplishment is 71.73%.

Carry-over projects are also being implemented under CY-2011 and CY-2012. The year-end accomplishment of these projects is 88.74% for the CY-2012, and for CY-2011, 92.34%.

The DPWH Regional Office V also implemented projects that were not included in the Regular Infra Program,

and are called Outside Infra Projects.

The program includes PDAF Projects, DepEd School Buildings, MVUC Projects, Trust Fund-DA, Trust Fund – Office of the Vice President and Agrarian Reform Infrastructure Support Projects.

As of December 31, 2013, the percentage of total accomplishment for Outside Infra Program is 64.78%.

It is impossible to implement 100% of the Current Infra Program, Carry-over projects and Outside Infra Program because of uncontrollable factors.

Some of the projects fall under the category 'NYS'- not yet started because the projects are still under pre-construction activities due to the delayed pre-detailed engineering activities of outsourced consultant.

There is also 1 NYS project under the carry-over projects that will be returned to the Central Office due to the Supreme Court's declaration of unconstitutionality of PDAF funded projects.

BU student tops . . .

According to Jaymar C. Dolz, he didn't expect that he would pass nor would be a placer because the exam was very difficult.

"I was shocked when I first learned that I passed. I was not expecting it, especially that I would be included in the top ten, the exam was very difficult. I think we all found the exam difficult," Dolz said.

When asked on his plans after the RME, he said, "Those sleepless nights were worth it. Now that the RME

was finished, I will then study for the Registered Electrical Engineer board exams because I know it'll be much more difficult".

Topping the RME is not the only thing to celebrate. The Bicol University-Legazpi, garnered 82.14% having a total of 46 board passers out of 56 examinees, qualified and ranked as second for the Top Performing Schools after De La Salle University-Lipa which scored 85.94%, with 55 passers out of 65 examinees.

DOLE grants livelihood to out-of-school youths

By Danica Caballero

The Department of Labor and Employment Bicol (DOLE) turned over 100,000 worth DOLE Kabuhayan Starter Kits (DKSK) as part of a livelihood program to 10 out-of-school youth graduates of Training on Youth Entrepreneurship in Masbate this second week of February.

The kits constitute of materials and equipment and the beneficiaries are from the Department of Social Welfare and Development's (DSWD) list of most impoverished municipalities and barangays in the province.

"Maraming salamat po sa opputunidad na ito. Akala po namin ay wala na kaming pag-asa pa." a beneficiary said to DOLE during the acceptance ceremony.

The area of expertise of the beneficiaries concern food vending, hollow blocks making and skirting. Their chosen enterprise is based on their individual skills enhanced during the training.

"You can really see the glow of hope in their eyes. Now, their vibrancies as a youth, has come back which is not very imminent before this program." DOLE Bicol Regional Director Nathaniel V. Lacambra said.

The livelihood awarding was witnessed by Masbate PESO Provincial Federation President Antonio Ferrer, Jr., Masbate Province PESO Manager Jose Ros. B. Perez and other PESO managers from concerned municipalities.

Intensified Anti-Drug Campaign this Summer

By Danica Caballero

The City Anti-Drug Abuse Council (CADAC) strengthens their campaign against illegal drugs due to a possible increase of cases this coming summer season.

Dick Fontanilla, a member of CADAC, stated that the influx is because of larger number of vacationists in the city this summer. He said that to prevent this they will visit the barangays of the city to educate residents of the harmful effects of drugs.

Fontanilla added that they seek the help and support of Barangay Anti-Durg Abuse Council (BADAC) to hasten the identification of users and pushers in every barangay.

According to their monitoring, the most prominent drugs used in the city are shabu and marijuana, the later being the most abused for it is cheaper.

Fontanilla said that it is alarming that there are more pushers than users in the city.



A Bloody Valentine.

Twelve teams shows their participation on the 1st Global cup tournament by donating 10 bags of blood each team as their entry fee for the game that will officially start on February 17, 2014.

DOH requires blood as basketball tournament entry fee

By Danica Mae Marollano

The Department of Health Center for Health and Development Bicol (DOH CHD BICOL) conducted its 1st Global Cup Invitational Basketball tournament last February 14.

The teams participating in the said event donated blood as their entry fee. Ten bags of blood per team are required to join the tournament. Aldren Mortega, Medical Technologist II, said that 120 bags of blood are expected from the 12 teams.

"The event aims to spread awareness on healthy lifestyle. It is an advantage to the person donating (blood) for it would help their organs (to function well) and in blood circulation," explained by Mortega.

The participants were examined if they belong in the nourished population before they could donate blood. Team members who didn't pass the health examination must recruit

potential donors to supply the lacking number of needed blood entry fee.

Carlo Miraflores, head of team Dawn Riser said that they willingly joined the tournament to help persons in need of blood donation.

Mr. Norberto A. Balane, CHD Bicol Management Support Division Chief and the brainchild of activity explained why it is called global tournament, "We derived it from the name of our Regional Director Gloria J. Balboa, kumbaga think globally, act locally".

"Kung may puso kayo, mag-donate kayo," Mr. Balane said which suited the blood donation's purpose held on the heart's day.

Mr. Balane extended his big thanks and gratitude for the positive response on the principle of volunteerism of the participating teams in the tournament. He added that every drop of blood that they donated would mean a lot.

Meanwhile, he imparted that the event will be intensified in the future where volley ball for women's category will be considered.

The collected bloods will be forwarded to the Bicol Regional Blood Center (BRBC) where tests and processes will be conducted to examine its safety before it is given to the recipients.

The winning team will receive a trophy. "No cash prize will be given for the tournament is done for the love and sports and humankind," Dr. Jannish A. Arellano, RVBSP Coordinator said.

The tournament is a 2-week game to be held at the Healthy Lifestyle Complex of DOH-CHD Bicol. Official game will start on the 17th of this month.

The participating teams are as follows: BRTTH, BMC, BFP, BASA-ROYO, Dawn Riser, Malabog Team, Forest Lake, PNP, SAINTS, LCC team, PhilHealth and DOH-RFO V.

JICA turns over evacuation center to SDA

By Ryza Anne Balino

Albay Gov. Joey Sarte Salceda with Mayor Herbie Aguas thanked the Japanese government for the new evacuation centers that Japan donated to the municipality of Sto.Domingo, Albay during the turnover ceremony last Monday, March 3 at Sto. Domingo Central School.

LGU-SDA is not only the town who received an evacuation but also the 5 municipalities in Albay.

It includes the evacuation centers are in Manito Central School in Manito town, Gogon Central School here, Sto. Domingo Central School in Sto. Domingo town, Oas South Central School in Oas town, Polangui North Central School in Polangui town, and

Libon Community College in Libon town.

The six evacuations centers are earthquake and typhoon resistant, have passed the geo-hazard survey and made use of the Japanese technology in building construction, considered as the most advance technology in the world, Salceda said

"The six-unit project is costly of P460M and was constructed through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)", Salceda added.

Guests during the turnover were Japanese Ambassador Toshinao Urabe, JICA Chief Representative to the Philippines Takahiro Sasaki, Department of Education Undersecretary

Mario Direquito, Dr. Cedric Daep of the Albay Public Safety and Emergency Management Office, and the six mayors of the local government units' in Albay where JICA has projects.

Thank you JICA and The Government of Japan. From the People of Sto.Domingo. DIOS MABALOS!!!, Aguas said.

The six evacuations centers are typhoon and earthquake resistant, have passed the geo-hazard survey and made use of the Japanese technology in building construction, considered as the most advance technology in the world, Salceda said.