



Davao

Dispatch

Life is education. Education is life.



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New leaders of DepEd XI



Asec. Escobarte gives the key of responsibility to the two highest officials of DepEd Region XI

The new school year opens with a bang as new leaders were installed in the highest positions. Former Regional Director (RD) Atty. Alberto T. Escobarte, who served Region XI for four years, was elevated to the Assistant Secretary for Legal Affairs position. The most reliable and pronounced leaders of the region were chosen to be his successor and to occupy the two highest positions.

The new Officer-in-Charge in the Office of the Regional Director is Dr. Evelyn R. Fetalvero, who served as Assistant Regional Director (ARD) in the time of

Atty. Escobarte. From Region 12 as ARD, she transferred to Region XI in November last year. Though it sounds too soon, RD Fetalvero is ready to take the challenge of genuine leadership as RD.

The new ARD who takes the place of RD Fetalvero before she was installed as new RD is familiar to most, if not all, being the forefront of two consecutive Davao Regional Athletic Association Meet and the 2019 Palarong Pambansa. Dr. Maria Ines C. Asuncion will now serve as ARD on concurrent capacity as the Schools Division Superintendent (SDS) of Davao City.

So what's in stake for DepEd Davao Region under their leadership?

RD Fetalvero has already set regional directions under her turf. She said we should have conducive learning environment evident in school signage, clean and functional toilets, properly structured classrooms, beautiful, landscaped, and well-paved pathway with covered walks, well maintained SIGA (School Inside a Garden), functional Reading Center, school indicator, among others.

"I want to sustain the projects and initiatives that Asec. Escobarte has put in

place,” she expressed during the installation rites.

She mentioned about evaluation of the impact of Project EAGLE (Project Elimination of Academic Gaps of Learners in the Elementary), which was introduced in the time of Asec. Escobarte.

She included the up-to-date implementation of PPAs (proposed program of activities) and full fund utilization based on PMIS (Program Management Information System) and downloaded funds, efficient filling up of items, and institutionalization of free online programs such as MOOC (Massive Open Online Course), Microsoft 365, Microsoft Ambassador, among others.

Since the Regional Office is ISO 9001:2015 certified, she will ensure that the strategic objectives are aligned with the schools division offices’ targets or vice versa. The tracking of senior high school graduates by year and division should also be given emphasis, and the enrichment of

curricular offerings especially technical-vocational-livelihood programs.

Above all, she encourages everyone to maintain a happy workplace. She reminds everyone to always wear a smile, to be a good team player, to agree on things, to treat each other with respect and trust, among others.

This is realizing the secret of a happy relationship – celebrating commonalities, reconciling differences, and respecting uniqueness.

ARD Asuncion, meanwhile, has always exemplified her leadership skills when she headed the divisions of Panabo City and Davao City as SDS. Her name rings a bell in all corners of the region, as she is known for her firm-but-gentle kind of leadership.

Together, RD Fetalvero and ARD Asuncion will make school year 2019-2020 more meaningful and exciting. With their wit and determination, progress is definitely the face of the Department.



OIC-RD Dr. Evelyn R. Fetalvero



Asec. Escobarte shares the light of wisdom to RD Fetalvero and ARD Asuncion



Brigada Eskwela breaks record every year

The Brigada Eskwela (BE) this year showed that bayanihan or the spirit of volunteerism would always be part of our lives. The records flaunt the truth that the community members are ready to help our public schools to be more ready for the opening of classes.

The partial record of BE as of May 29 revealed 1,112,335 total volunteers all over the region. This is almost 100,000 increase from last year's record. For the total generated resources, it already gained a partial record of more than 800 million compared to last year's more than 770 million.

The final records will be out on June 30. This means all schools have already submitted all their reports. But for the meantime, these are the records after the weeklong BE culminated.

Compostela Valley gained a record of 291,448 volunteers with a total equivalent amount of labor or services of 100,382,819. The total equivalent amount of donations reached 59,860,128 giving them a total generated resources of 160,242,948.

Next in line is Davao City Division with 211,212 volunteers producing a total equivalent amount of labor or services at 53,983,613. The total equivalent amount of donations is very high

gaining a record of 104,771,018, thus giving a total generated resources of 158,754,631.

The divisions of Davao del Norte (DavNor), Tagum City, and Panabo City gained more than 80 million total generated resources. Davnor had 109,056 volunteers while Tagum City and Panabo City had 86,217 and 74,221 respectively.

The other divisions such as Digos City, Davao Oriental, Davao del Sur, Mati City, Davao Occidental, and Island Garden City of Samal had 11 million to 65 million average total generated resources. The number of volunteers ranged from 21,000 to 75,000.

Looking at the 5-year trend of the total number of volunteers, records show that only 278,319 volunteered in the Brigada Eskwela in 2015. It moved up to 567,880 in 2016; 951,774 in 2017; and 1,034,340 in 2018. It can be concluded that the increase in five years has reached 400 percent. This is a good indicator that BE is becoming a household name in the community.

The recorded total generated resources from 2015 at a little more than 200 million has now

increased to more than 800 million. Again, this is an indicator that donations and services given to schools multiply each year.

The statistics above are not merely numbers. It is a confirmation that the community members care for the schoolchildren; that education is one major need in the society; that genuine service is not impossible after all.





From the Regional Director's Desk

The Easter Season has passed, but allow me to make a confession. Up to this time, I still cannot believe that I have become a Regional Director this soon.

Not that I do not welcome this milestone in my career life, but I am just so amazed how things and situations have changed in a matter of months. I joined Region XI last November 2018. I was just enjoying my turf as a real Assistant Regional Director (ARD) as our past Regional Director now Assistant Secretary for Legal Affairs, Atty. Alberto T. Escobarte, had provided me all the elbow room to exercise in full the functions and authority as ARD according to the policy of the Department of Education.

And lo and behold, as I was enjoying it, the big break appeared like

a rainbow in the sky. In my deep thoughts and reflection, the words from Galatian Chapter 6:9 that says, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up," filled my senses.

Truly, the Good Lord whom I entrusted my life with including my career has used the good-natured Atty. Escobarte to bring sunshine into my profession. Asec. Bert, as I call him now, could have endorsed another fellow to take the post, but he chose me to be his successor from the goodness of his heart. I thank Asec. Bert profoundly for that.

What are my plans and priorities now being your leader in the region?

My plan is to sustain the gains of what Asec. Bert has put in place. These include the updating of the Regional Basic Education Plan, the scaling-up of Project EAGLE (Project Elimination of Academic Gaps of Learners in the Elementary), the continuity of the AGILA (Achievement of Great Instructional Leadership Award) as platform of awards and recognition for the teaching and non-teaching staff, the sustenance of our ISO Certification at the Regional Office and with our plan of making our NEAP facility and the rest of the schools division offices as

ISO certified, the continuation of the PRIME-HRM efforts, and many more.

For my somos (partners) in the 11 Schools Division Offices, treat me as your partner in creating and innovating the delivery of basic education in your respective work areas and school communities. For my Regional Office team, let us continue to be a good team player and to treat each other with respect.

Just like Asec. Bert, my leadership is always transparent and participative. You can bring to me anything that you want to discuss so we can build a working relationship full of trust and openness. I believe that for trust to be effective in the workplace, it needs to be reciprocated. Good teamwork and collaboration must be our standard operating procedure.

Let us do our respective roles and responsibilities to the best of our abilities so we do not have moments where we feel like our work is not fulfilling at all. I believe in people empowerment. I also believe in shared leadership. This is why I give full blanket authority to our new ARD Dr. Maria Ines C. Asuncion so she could also fly with me like an eagle.

With all of these, I always say to God be the glory!

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DepEd Davao City passes CSC PRIME-HRM assessment

By Joanna Paula M. Cagape

The Division of Davao City passes the Civil Service Commission (CSC) Regional Office XI Program to Institutionalize Meritocracy and Excellence in Human Resource Management (CSC PRIME-HRM) assessment for its outstanding compliance to the Level II Maturity Indicators of the four core HRM Systems in the areas of Recruitment, Selection and Placement, Learning and Development, Rewards and Recognition, and Performance Management.

As one of the pioneering activities of the CSC, PRIME-HRM assesses the practices and capabilities of government agencies in their respective HRM systems. The PRIME-HRM objective is to elevate the HR public sector to a level of excellence for good governance and efficient public service.

“Let this be a noble motivation for all of us to work conscientiously, placing the heart for integrity and excellence at the core of all,” SDS Maria Ines C. Asuncion said as she commended all the units and offices for their success.

The PRIME-HRM Maturity Levels indicate how well the behaviors, practices, and processes of an organization can reliably and sustainably produce required outcomes. The Maturity Levels are classified into four –Maturity Level I (Transactional HRM), Maturity Level II (Process-defined HRM), Maturity Level III (Integrated HRM), and Maturity Level IV (Strategic HRM.)

At present, the division is gearing up for the CSC PRIME-HRM Maturity Level III where the following are primarily

taken into full consideration: quantitative objectives are used to measure the quality and performance of process for continuous improvement; HR partners with the Agency leadership to drive HR systems in order to support the agency’s business needs; quality and process performance measures are used to support data-driven decision-making; and development of an HR Management Tool kit.

SDS Asuncion with ASDSs Dr. Emma Camporeddo and Dr. Basilio Mana-ay Jr., in full cooperation with all the offices and schools under the Division of Davao City, ensure the commitment to continue the fervor in the outstanding delivery of quality basic education for all learners and to inspire society for the pursuit of honor and excellence.

New system- DocTrack

By Joanna Paula M. Cagape

The Division of Davao City initiated recently the DocTrack system, one of the Information Communication Technology (ICT)-enabled reforms by the Department.

Kim Antipuesto of the DepEd Management Information System (MIS) said the DocTrack project was created to improve the quality of office transactions, ensure transparency in the routing of documents, and fast-track the services offered by the different departments in the division office.

“The activity was initiated to ensure that all offices under DepEd Davao shall be fully informed of all the processes involved in the online tracking system for documents and other related and relevant official papers, letters, memoranda, and all forms of written communication delivered to and from the Division Office, and to all public and private schools in Davao City,” Antipuesto said.

The division office personnel received

their DocTrack accounts from the MIS unit at the start of the online tracking system.

Inside their respective accounts, they may open one to several tickets, which correspond to the documents every personnel must draft, create, and submit to specific units in the division office. Several options are available in each of the DocTrack accounts which each staff can maximize to improve individual and office functions.

“The DocTrack System of the SDO in Davao City really helps us, front liners, to keep track of all the documents that go in and out of our respective office,” Luyjilene Legaspi, Administrative Assistant II, said.

SDS Dr. Maria Ines C. Asuncion urged all units under the Division Office to continuously improve in the execution of their individual functions.

“I would like to encourage all of you to place transparency at the heart of your service,” SDS Asuncion said.

New tech- Workplace, Monitoring App

By Joanna Paula M. Cagape

The Division of Davao City conducted an Orientation on the Use of Workplace and the DepEd Monitoring App on May 12 as an avenue to disseminate important information quickly at the most convenient way.

“Using this application is the most efficient and effective solution by which DepEd employees and key persons would be able to communicate classified and general information well,” Shemelyn G. Bilbao, Administrative Officer II of the DepEd-LSB unit, said.

Because of the orientation, Bilbao said the participants were able to use the application effectively. With this, the planned activities were carried out smoothly.

“Updates must always be supplied to the users in order to apprise the

concerned persons. In this way, DepEd services will be improved and developed accordingly by addressing various issues and concerns raised by the updates,” Bilbao added.

SDS Dr. Maria Ines C. Asuncion enjoined all government employees under the Department to ensure that the proper measures in the workplace are understood, observed, and communicated to all.

“It is important for all of us to be fully aware of our respective functions, and to adhere to the existing laws, rules, and regulations of the Department. Furthermore, I urge all government employees to place the values of integrity, conscientiousness, and prudence at the core of their work,” SDS Asuncion said.

The Palarong Pambansa experience



It isn't easy to host a national event with an estimate of 20,000 guests, but Davao City proved that nothing is hard and that excellence is the result of high intention, sincere effort, and intelligent execution.

The city prepared world-class sports facilities including the FINA-standard swimming pool (Federation Internationale de Natation). Although the sports events were played in different playing venues, the athletes did not have a hard

time participating in the events as everything was planned.

Region XI ranked 7th in the Secondary Regular Sports and 13th in the Elementary Regular Sports earning 11th place overall. Records show that Davao Region secured 13 gold medals, 22 bronze, and 37 silver.

Although it was two notches down compared to last year's 9th place at Vigan, Ilocos Sur, the experiences of hosting this national event after 69 years were more than

the medals. The recorded hosting of Davao City in the history of Palarong Pambansa was in 1950, the third edition of Palaro.

Even before the regular sports games were played, the fun started in the arrival of the delegates who were warmly welcomed by the Region XI family. Each school used as billeting quarter was prepared in advance, and then-Director Atty. Alberto T. Escobarte assigned officials to ensure





comfort and safety.

What made the 2019 Palarong Pambansa more special was the inclusion of Larong Pinoy participated in by high officials all over the country and the involvement of sports heroes in their respective fields.

Sports heroes or icons for each sport was invited. Although not all named icons were available, the presence of those who came to inspire athletes was more than enough. The presence of Rubilen Amit (billiards), Lerma Elmira Bulautitan (track and field), Janelle Mae Frayna (chess), Donaldo Hontiveros (basketball), Mansueto Velasco (boxing), Elma

Muros-Posadas (athletics), and many others energized the athletes more.

The opening ceremony was star-studded and the presence of President Rodrigo Duterte made the difference.

He said sports is an important effective avenue to discover the potentials of and inculcate discipline and sportsmanship to the young athletes both from private and public institutions.

Along with Secretary Leonor M. Briones, the DepEd family all over the 17 regions recognized the importance of sports as it fosters discipline, camaraderie, respect, and unity.



Learning to read: A means to end illiteracy

By Jovelyn J. Sarosad

Reading is a prerequisite to learning. It is a basic way of life. Good reading skills can make life easier, safe, convenient, and more fun. It is one of the greatest sources of knowledge and can improve learners' performance, enhance vocabulary, and develop imagination and communication skills.

However, with the rapidly changing and highly competitive society nowadays, the dilemma of reading in the Philippines has been disturbing and unending battle of the educators. The problem mainly roots from the lack of reading and comprehension skills of our students, even in high school. This situation leads to illiteracy. And where there's illiteracy, there is incompetence.

That's why for the past five years, in the hope of eradicating the population of students who finds it hard to spit the fundamentals of alphabets and to strengthen the Department of Education's vision of making "Every Child A Reader", the Division of Davao del Norte (DavNor), in the leadership of Dr. Josephine L. Fadul, Schools Division Superintendent,

through Dr. Allen T. Guilaran, Education Program Supervisor in English/Division Focal Person, implemented STRIKERS (Save Track Readers to Increase Knowledge in Essential Reading Sources) as a counteraction against this academic dilemma.

STRIKERS defined and its impact

STRIKERS commenced in 2014 and was applied in the whole division encouraging every school to establish reading clinic and a reading corner in every classroom.

The division's reading program revealed that there was an initial total of 1,073 Grade 7 non-readers in 2015. However, with the collective help of the STRIKERS implementers in DavNor, the population narrowed down to 180 students based on the program's research statistics in the school year 2018-2019.

The favorable outcome is a product of several considerations emphasized in the program. The research well-thought-out that as early as the end of first grade, children's self-esteem and motivation to

learn decreases if they have not been able to secure basic reading skills.

The program also aims to follow ECARP as the new direction of Early Language Literacy and Numeracy (ELLN) brought by the Bureau of Learning Delivery (BLD) which mandates Every Child A Reader by Grade 1 being the country's national standard.

Sneak peek of the benchmark

Reading focal persons from the neighboring divisions benchmarked selected reading centers along with Dr. Rosalina J. Villaneza, Chief- Teaching and Learning Division, Bureau of Learning Delivery. Dr. Guilaran, together with Dr. Eduard C. Amoguis, Chief-Curriculum Implementation Division, and Dr. Rommel Jandayan, OIC- ASDS, spearheaded the observation

Meanwhile, the benchmark participants were Dr. Analiza C. Almazan, Region XI Reading Focal Person, and division focal persons consisted of Gina G. Silvestre, EPS-Mati City; Charisma Ambrona, EPS-IGACOS; Darwin F. Suyat, EPS-Tagum City; Nancy P. Sumagaysay, EPS- Davao Oriental; and Peter A. Mijares, EPS- Panabo City.

Reading Coordinators and Reading Teachers from New Corella National High School (NHS), Doña Carmen NHS, Dujali NHS, Cambanogoy Central Elementary School (CES), Maniki CES SPED Center, Tibi-tibi Elementary School (ES), Marcos Estoque ES, and Magsaysay ES presented their ever-progressing reading programs. Every school sets reading clinics and nooks in accordance to the needs of their students.

Best practices in Reading

During the benchmarking activity,



Pupils of Tibi-Tibi ES in Talaingod District pay utmost attention to Dr. Rosalina J. Villaneza

the focal persons observed best practices in Reading. The observations were congruent to the findings of the result of the study conducted by Dr. Guilaran entitled “The Impact of Save Track Readers to Increase Knowledge in Essential Reading Sources (STRIKERS) to the Reading Progress of Grade 7 Non-Readers: A Concurrent Mixed Study, DepEd Davao del Norte in Focus.”

Amidst the challenges encountered in the implementation of the STRIKERS program like overlapping school activities, lack of budget, inadequate reading materials, and many others, schools, teachers, and stakeholders worked together to solve the problem on reading in the division.

They put up Reading Corner in every classroom with reading materials. Good reading materials aren't just about fine stories that would entice the young readers' attention. It is a mixture of books or any printed media of different genres put in a corner of the classroom where students can read during their reading and vacant time. Almost all elementary classrooms in the division have Reading Corner and, at present, the number of secondary classrooms with Reading Corner is also increasing.

They expose students to sounds and specialized reading activities. Some reading centers developed their own learning techniques. Peer mentoring, remedial reading, doing the “Drop Everything and Read” scheme, exposing pupils to different sounds, using the Marungko Chart and others had contributed greatly.

The Division's Reading Program does not suggest its implementers be static. The actions taken in the past and present improved to achieve better results. It encourages everybody to always think outside the box and make new concepts ahead of the current trend.

Commitment towards anything is immeasurable. However, it reflects one's accomplishment. STRIKERS implementers claimed also that it is



Cristy M. Londres, reading coordinator of Maniki CES SPED Center, talks about the school's way of implementing the Division's Reading Program

through commitment and positive outlook in the program for the sake of the children that they were able to sustain in providing the necessities of the pupils who struggled academically.

According to the data gathered, time management includes following up our learners' dedication towards their duties and checking the responsibilities as mentors. The student and mentor should build harmony in dedicating their individual times.

2nd Reading Summit

Marking the huge success of DavNor's Reading Program, the division conducted the 2nd DavNor Reading Summit last June 8 with the theme, “Regenerating Capability: Unlocking the Advantage of Continual Learning”.

In the light of the celebration, outstanding Reading implementer schools, school heads, Reading coordinators, and Reading teachers were recognized in the event. The division gave credits to their utmost dedication and sacrifices for helping in decreasing the number of non-readers in DavNor. English Language Arts (ELA) Writers, who make prototype lesson plans in every level as a helpful Classroom Observation Tool (COT), were also given the appreciation they deserved.

Dr. Guilaran mentioned how thankful she was seeing the triumph of the program. “Limang taon namin ‘tong

pinahirapan. Tough. The bloodiest research I've ever made,” she said while reminiscing the hardships they went through just to address and, if possible, eradicate the students' inability to read and comprehend.

Dr. Villaneza commended the division's achievement. She gave her highest gratitude to the division's movements in elevating its literacy which has been and will always be a big challenge to DepED.

“Good readers and writers aren't born. They're inspired; inspired by teachers who value reading and writing as the key to knowledge and success,” she stated.

DavNor is on the major fight against incompetency that might hinder the learners in progressing. This is done by teaching them to read and understand so that they will be well-informed and become literates in order to become productive and responsible citizens in this country.



With the colorful and royal-themed reading corner, Magsaysay ES paints smiles on the observers' faces spearheaded by Noreen P. Cahilig, School Head



Reinventing Sitio Butay: A change for the better

Photos courtesy of KMJS

Butay Integrated School (BIS) has recently gained worldwide exposure after the school was featured in GMA's top rating magazine show Kapuso Mo Jessica Soho (KMJS). The documentary "Salay" (an improvised cable car) was awarded the Bronze World Medal in the 2019 New York Festivals TV and Film Awards.

What made the story of BIS special?

Some schoolchildren need to ride the "salay" – a makeshift cable car made of rattan - daily after the floodwaters swept the Bailey bridge constructed by the provincial government.

Pablo Banabal, the newly promoted Head Teacher I and soon to get a Principal I position after passing the 2017 Principals' Test, posted a video of

Mandaya learners riding the "salay" to cross the river in his Facebook account.

Seasoned writer Edith Caduaya downloaded the video at Newsline.ph and sent it to the Office of the President for comment and possible interventions. In six minutes, the newsroom got the answer.

The video caught the attention of former Special Assistant to the President Christopher Lawrence "Bong" Go, who immediately called the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and other line agencies to evaluate the situation. The senator-elect promptly asked DPWH Secretary Mark Villar to find ways to help the students.

Banabal said the community worked to provide a temporary bridge through "bayanihan".

"We decided to have our own version of a bridge using our ethnic way. The rattan bridge worked, and it is serving us," he said.

On June 23, 2018, former Davao Oriental 1st District Engineer Albert Cainghog and his team visited the area to conduct survey and make cost estimate for the priority project.

On December 27-28, 2018, a meeting was done to fast track the road opening with attached bridges from Sitio Sangab to Sitio Butay. Caduaya, the publisher of NewsLine.ph, Councilors Melody Anne Benitez and Daisy Jane Polancos, 67th IB



Battalion Commander Jacob Thadeus Obligado, and newly assigned District Engineer of DPWH 1st District Davao Oriental Engr. Cirilo Lasaca attended the meeting.

It was followed with a courtesy call and meeting at DPWH Regional Office XI in Davao City with DPWH Regional Director Allan S. Borrromeo, Asec. Vanessa Goc-ong from the Office of the President, Caduaya, and Caraga Mayor Alicia Mori regarding the downloading of 130 million pesos for the implementation of the road project.

Brought by the impact of the KMJS' documentary, the Smart Philippines also took notice of the need of the school which qualified them in one of their projects for unenergized and remote schools, the School-in-a-Bag (SIAB).

The SIAB, launched in 2016, is a portable digital classroom designed to facilitate learning in basic education in remote areas without electricity. The goal is to provide teachers and students in underserved areas access to technology that they can use to access resources for learning.

According to Michelle Bayhonan, the program manager of the Public Affairs, Smart Communications, Inc., it utilizes mobile technology coupled with an innovative 21st century teaching pedagogy and K to12 content to enable learning.

Part of the program is a training where teachers will be taught how to use the package as well as introduce them to the Dynamic Learning Program (DLP) – an innovative yet low-budget disaster-resilient 21st century teaching pedagogy that improves academic performance, especially in the STEM disciplines despite the challenges in education.

Since the school does not have electricity, they were given a solar panel with battery in their Smart School-in-a-Bag. The big backpack contains laptop, tablets, TV, pocket Wi-Fi, and digital and printed educational content aligned with the official curriculum.

Each donation package worth P100,000 includes teacher training and yearlong monitoring. Banabal and his IT teacher joined the said all-expense paid training with free transportation and hotel accommodation sponsored by Smart Philippines.

In another positive development in Sitio Butay, troops of Charlie Company, 67th IB led by 1Lt Responzo, installed and turned-over the



generator from the Office of the President to the populace of Sitio Butay on January 6, 2019.

The activity was participated by Banabal, Leonard P. Lagungan - Purok Chairman and Tribal Leaders headed by Manuel Tanding, Tribal Limpong and members of Youth for Peace Caraga Chapter.

Banabal also received school supplies and solar lamp for Sitio Butay from Ethan's World.

Meanwhile, Dr. Chris Limen and his team from the Municipal Health Office (MHO) of Caraga and the Human Resource for Health (HRH) Department of Health (DOH) successfully conducted health services. Among the services were Davao Oriental School-Based Immunization, Garantisadong Pambata (Sbi), Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI), Prenatal Check-Up, Medical Check-Up, Dental Check-Up and Tooth Extraction, Fluoride Varnishing, Provision of Toothbrush and Toothpaste to Daycare Students, Family Planning (FP), Counselling and Provision of FP Commodities.

Mayor Mori and Councilor Polanco supported the frontline health services. CADT 1 Tribal Chieftain Christine Palmera and the CADT staff prepared the accommodation of the medical team.

With the way things are happening in Sitio Butay, it is hoped that the development projects planned for the place especially the road projects and bridges will continue so that it will benefit the community especially the schoolchildren.

Sitio Butay in Barangay Pichon, Caraga is home to more or less 300 Mandaya learners from Kindergarten to Grade 9 studying at BIS which was given the integrated status by virtue of the approval of Asec. Atty. Alberto T. Escobarte, the former Regional Director.

BIS has 235 enrollees, 160 from Kindergarten to Grade 6 for elementary level, and 75 from Grades 7-9 in Junior High School. It has eight national paid teachers and one Head Teacher who serves as Teacher-In-Charge.

Butay is a Mandaya word which means mountain and it is really a mountainous place of about 13 kilometers away from Sitio Sangab, a one-and-a-half to two-hour drive from the town of Caraga, Davao Oriental with approximately 52 kilometers distance. One has to walk for six to eight hours of a continuous uphill terrain reaching about 90 degrees to get to the village of Butay, which is harder to reach during rainy season.

Banabal, the Head Teacher, is a former finalist of CSC Region XI Most Outstanding Public Official in 2011 and Most Outstanding Public School Teacher of DepEd Region XI under the AGILA Award.

BIS is one of the schools under Caraga North District under PSDS Alvin Lancian, which is one of the 10 districts of the Division of Davao Oriental led by OIC-SDS Lorenzo E. Mendoza.

The regional and division intervention to help the school is by approving it as integrated school so that high school learners will no longer go to Sangab and hike 26 kilometers daily.



School for B'laan learners

The long wait of having a high school to accommodate the 90 percent B'laan learners in Maibo, Magsaysay, Davao del Sur was finally over when the Division of Davao del Sur backed up the establishment of Maibo High School on June 3 to support Barangay Maibo's dream of a secondary school.

"Niagi kami sa lungag sa dagom una namo nakab-ot ang kadaugan sa pagpatukod ug high school sulod sa among barangay. Gikan pa kaniadtong pag – first term nako, gipaningkamutan gayud namu hantud karong last term na nako, karon pa jud nahinayon," Brgy. Capt. Chito Pari said in an interview.

Pari said his tribespeople would get the best out of the establishment of the school for education has been a perennial issue among the high school students in their community.

Schools Division Superintendent Eufemia Gamutin challenged the learners when she visited and inspected the school.

"Prebilihiyo na kaayo nga naay gitukod nga high school para sa inyuha mao nang magtarung ug eskwela kay mao na inyong vehicle para ma successful," SDS Gamutin said in a speech during her visit and inspection of the school.

The teachers of Tacul Agricultural High School observed that cutting classes or absences was common among the students from Maibo because they had to start traversing the 7-kilometer road earlier to get home. This prompted the Barangay Council to establish a high school there.

"Magbaklay man gud na sila ug layo kaayo mao nga manguli ug sayo," Emile Devila, school head of the mother school, explained.

The school's first enrollment bulged from

11 enrollees on the first day on May 27 to 132 enrollees as of June 14. This figure includes 76 students in Grade 7 and 56 students in Grade 8. Maximo R. Embodo leads the school with six schools.

"The number of enrollees was surprising because we were not expecting this figure; we only expected around 60, but the real number is amazing," Junelyn F. Gambuta, enrollment in – charge and a local paid teacher, cited during a faculty conference.

The school has one three-classroom building and a single classroom with an attached school's office all in makeshift structures made of coco lumber and 'kalakat' with corrugated sheets as roofing material.

"Among itahan ang budget allocation para sa infra aron lang ma-prioritize ang pagpatindog sa mga makeshift buildings. Mapasalamaton ko sa mga barangay kagawad sa ilang suporta nga bisan pa man sa among personal nga kapasidad among ihatag para sa kaayuhan sa kabataan diri sa Maibo," Pari explained.

The school received reference books, mono block chairs from the Division of Davao del Sur, and various supplies for covering of learning materials from Department of Interior and Local Government -Province of Davao del Sur.

Christopher Felipe, education program supervisor, motivated everyone to support each other in his speech during the turnover program of the resources.

"Walang iwanan!" Felipe expressed with full of enthusiasm.

The school was also established due to the effort of Jaime Fernandez, district supervisor of Magsaysay South, and Nemesio Idao, District ALS Coordinator.



Another classroom for learners

A turn-over ceremony was held at Lapu-Lapu Elementary School in Davao del Sur last June 3 for one unit two-classroom building from the Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan – Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (Kalahi-CIDSS) which is one of the poverty alleviation programs of the government implemented by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

The classroom is an extension site of Lapu-Lapu Elementary School which is located in Sitio Lapla, about 3 kilometers from the barangay site making it more convenient for the primary learners to attend classes.

Barangay Kagawad Ruben Malayang spearheaded the planning of the project and promised to support the building even after it is finished.

"The support of the barangay will not end after this building has been put up. We will endeavor to allocate a budget for the maintenance and other important supplies for this school," Malayang, also the PTA president, said.

Among those who attended the said event were the representatives from the Provincial and Munisipal DSWD Office namely Mark Salutillo, the Community Empowerment facilitator; Aimee S. Gambong, area coordinator; and Aileen C. Malayang, BSPMP community coordinator. Juancho Calumpung, Municipal Area Coordinator., also attended the turn-over ceremony.

SDS Eufemia T. Gamutin, Malalag District Supervisor Eric Tubat, and Education Program Supervisor Herman Aldous Bodikey Jr. also joined the ceremony to witness the turnover.

Faustino M. Ador heads the school with eight teachers.

