

W CITY HALL WINDOWS

The Official Publication of the City Government of Legazpi

Rosal to continue Agri, Tourism Programs in Legazpi City





Joint flag-raising ceremony of the City and Albay officials and employees in front of the Albay Capitol on the first Monday of July.



WINDOWS is a quarterly publication of the City Government of Legazpi, Albay with editorial address at Mezzanine Floor, City Tourism Office, City Hall Compound, Legazpi City.

Editorial Board

HON. NOEL E. ROSAL
City Mayor

CET DEMATERA
Editorial Consultant

MANNY P. SOLIS
Editor in Chief

ERICK M. BALDO
Managing Editor

SHARAHDEN ASUNCION
Researcher/Encoder

EDGARDO B. DELGADO
Computer Graphic and Layout Artist



www.legazpicity.gov.ph



Rosal to continue Agri, Tourism Programs in Legazpi City



Legazpi City Mayor Carmen Geraldine Rosal says she would continue the programs on agriculture and tourism as started by now Albay Gov. Noel E. Rosal.

The Legazpi City government will be focusing on the programs and projects of the city's agricultural and tourism sectors after the business establishments here have already resumed their full-scale operations after more than two years of Covid-19 triggered restrictions.

Mayor Geraldine Rosal in an interview on Thursday said that her administration will pour full support to the programs and projects of the City Agriculture Office (CAO) particularly for rice and vegetable production as part of the staple foods needed by the

consuming public.

Rosal said that she will continue to support the program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) for the distribution of fertilizers as well as palay and vegetable seedlings to all the legitimate farmers that they can use in every cropping cycle to produce mass production in order to achieve food security.

Rosal said that she would ask Shiela Naz, chief of the CAO, to always monitor the irrigation system to make sure that the farmers have always sufficient supply of water needed for

their planting activities.

She said that she will also support the Initiatives for Recovery and Expansion (INSPIRE) program as part of swine repopulation initiatives of the DA in order to restore and rehabilitate the hog industry affected by the African Swine Fever (ASF).

"The proper implementation of INSPIRE program will give additional supply of pigs in the community and it will reduce the prices of pork and other processed meat products in the public

Turn to page 4



Members of the Legazpi Livestock Poultry Raisers Agriculture Cooperative (LLPRAC) gather for photo ops after the groundbreaking ceremony of the Bio-Secured Facility to be constructed in Barangay Buyuan, Legazpi City.

(Rosal to continue . . . p.3)

market and other meat vendors that the consuming public will benefit,” Rosal added.

She said that she is very grateful to the DA for the P5.5 million grant to the city administration for the construction of Bio-secured facility at the northern part of the city in Barangay Buyuan, saying that this kind of project will reduce the risk of pigs from ASF.

The city chief executive said that she will ask also CVO chief Dr. Emmanuel Estipona to continue the dispersal program of ‘Peking’ duck and Range and Organic System for Alternative livelihood (ROSAL CHICKEN) as part of the livelihood activities of the farmers in order to augment their income and also teach them the proper way of feeding and taking care of the ducks through the implementation of the genetic improvement and enhancement (GIE) program.

On the part of the tourism industry, Rosal said that she will ask Tita Pacres, chief of the City Tourism Office (CTO), to continue the city’s tourism programs by informing and inviting the different giant organizations from metro manila and other parts of the country to hold

their conventions and other similar gatherings in Legazpi City in order to restore the huge number of tourist arrivals that drastically dropped in number at the height of the lashings of the Covid-19 pandemic.

“Based on the record from the CTO, at least 140 Meetings, Incentives, Conventions and Exhibitions (MICE) were already conducted in this city from January to September this year and there also nine remaining MICE to be held here from October to December,” Rosal added.

She said that there are already some organizations that committed to hold

their gatherings in this city next year, that included the national conventions of Philippine Coastguard Auxilliary, the Philippine Institute of Chemical Engineers (PICHE), Rotary National, including the Area B assembly of Architects (United Architects of the Philippines and the Kiwanis District Convention.

She said that MICE is the main source of increasing the tourist arrivals that contributed so much to the operations of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME’s) that also significantly help the economy of Legazpi City.



Ribbon cutting during the opening of the Night Market leads by Legazpi City Mayor Gie Rosal, with City Tourism Office Chief Pita Pacres, and other city officials.

Rosal asks City Council to boost Digital Tech thru Ordinance

Newly-installed Legazpi City Mayor Geraldine Rosal has asked the members of the Sangguniang Panlungsod (SP) to enact legislative measures for the adoption of digital technology and connectivity in order to improve technical linkages in seeking government financing and assistance programs that would support the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the city.

Rosal in her message during the inaugural session on Tuesday held at the Proxy Hotel said that the city government will build a strong legislative measure to support and protect MSMEs, adding that this sector is anticipated to create more employment opportunities for the people in the community.

She said that these business groups would help strengthen the purchasing power of the people by way of salaries and wages from the small businesses operating in the entire city, noting that this sector is considered one of the big contributors to local taxes that help much in improving the local economy.

“I will also ask the members of the city council for the legislative support on investment to maximize local revenue collections that would help improve health safety and socio-economic sustainability in Legazpi City,” Rosal added.

She also requested the city council to revisit and review the existing local revenue code and harmonize it with the existing investment condition.

Vice-Mayor Bobby Cristobal on the other

hand said that resiliency and social equity are the direction of the 16th Sangguniang Panlungsod because these are the keys of every Legazpino to survive in any forms of difficulties.

Cristobal said the SP will focus on enacting ordinances regarding resilient community as part of improving the economy that would help the standard of living of the people in the community.

Cristobal added that the SP will support the executive department in looking for new investments and also in supporting the MSMEs to continually improve the economic standing of the city.

He said that he will ask the committees on trade and commerce, ways and means, tourism, cooperative, agriculture, and appropriations to focus on their respective assignments which will strengthen the partnership and collaboration with the stakeholders and civil society organizations.

“We will always include the sectors of society in the process of legislations to make sure that their important inputs will be considered in the legislative measures”, Cristobal added.

He said his office will focus on social equity because the challenging act of every development will reflect on how to take good care of the people, especially the marginalized sectors.

Cristobal added that part of the priorities of the SP is a policy direction by way of enacting ordinances and adopting resolutions on improving the social services to equally deliver the basic needs to the people.



Rosal



Cristobal



Legazpi City Mayor Carmen Geraldine Rosal, Vice Mayor Robert “Bobby” Cristobal, and all the members of the Legazpi City Council gather for photo ops during the Inaugural Session held at the Proxy Hotel.

Registered Businesses in Legazpi now Up by 13% compared in 2021

The Business Permit Licensing Office (BPLO) in this city has recorded a total of 5,915 business establishments that registered to their office to either start or continue their operations, from the 5,200 businesses that registered during the same period in September last year, or an increase of 13.75 percent.

The increase despite the still prevailing Covid-19 pandemic is being attributed to the gradually improving business operations in the city and the full operations of the city's Electronic Business One Stop Shop or E-BOSS.

Asuncion Calleja, BPLO chief in an interview on Wednesday said that out of the fully-registered businesses, 715 of them were the new registered establishments while the 5,200 have continued their operations from the previous year.

Calleja said that all the business owners and their representatives can easily get their permits through the implementation of E-BOSS, an electronic system wherein their office, BPLO, is already interconnected with all the regulatory offices that are involved in business licensing.

"Through E-BOSS program, the applicants for new businesses and for renewal of their permits should only submit their documents to the BPLO and then it will be passed to the regulatory offices involve in issuing business permits, that included the offices of the Treasurer, Zoning, Engineering and the City Environment and Natural Resources," Calleja said.

She said that applicants are not staying anymore in long queues to wait for the processing of their business permits, because it is now being processed by the regulatory offices using the Enhance Tax Revenue Assessment and Collection System (ETRACS).

"Through ETRACS, all the documents submitted by the applicants could now be scrutinized quickly to determine if the certifications are expired or have some violations. But once the documents do not carry any violation, these will be processed through the system then forwarded to me and to the Mayor for our electronic signature," Calleja said.

She added that Legazpi is the only LGU in Albay that documents for business permits are no longer being brought personally to the BPLO chief and to the Mayor for approval, adding that these papers just be signed by the system digitally and electronically and after which it these will be passed to the City Treasurer's Office (CTO) for tax assessment.

Calleja said that after the assessment from the CTO, the BPLO will give a tax order of payment to the applicants, that once complied with and after the tax payment has been made, a clearance to business establishments will be issued. And the

(Mining Industry . . p.11)

The event aims to highlight the vital contribution of the men and women in mining and the minerals extractive industries in continually providing significant contributions to the country's socio-economic growth and development



Calleja

approved documents will be systematically and automatically transmitted to the City Mayor's Office (CMO) for the release of the business permit.

She added that city government was also compliant with Barangay Clearance Integration under the Ease of Doing Business Law wherein the business applicants will no longer go to the barangay hall to get their clearances as the CTO will already be the one to collect payment for the tax clearance in their behalf, while the concerned barangay will deliver personally their issued clearance to the business establishments.

"For those who are going to renew their business permits we do not require them to fill out another application form. They only need to select the lanes for pregnant women as well as person with disabilities (PWD's) and senior citizens, men and women, priority, bulk and express lanes inside the office of the BPLO," Calleja said.

Ma. Theresa Nunez head of the city's



Nunez

Economic and Investment Promotion on the other hand said that she recently held a business forum participated by the different kinds of business establishments including transport sector in order to support and promote the city's business strategy aimed at fostering collaborative partnerships in Legazpi.

She added that the forum seeks to strengthen public awareness and understanding regarding the city's ordinances and policies related to business operations and also to encourage dialogue between the city government and its stakeholders about the various offices involved in business-related transactions.

Nunez said that she encouraged the owners of these businesses operating in Legazpi including transport group to create their own council that will represent them to the next business forum and to other business-related gatherings to be spearheaded by the city government.



BUSINESS FORUM. Various business organizations have gathered at the Proxy Hotel in Legazpi City recently to discuss matters affecting their

through promotion of employment, collection and remittance of taxes and fees, that may result in increased of the value of the gross domestic product.

MinECon2022 aims to provide an important stage for active sharing of

policy, legal, occupational safety and health, environmental management, social development, and economic and technical innovations to facilitate harmonious co-existence among mining industry stakeholders.

Legazpi City health chief named as outstanding civil servant

The Civil Service Commission (CSC) has named Legazpi City health chief, Dr. Fulbert Gillego, as the regional winner of the CSC Search for 2022 outstanding government workers in the individual category.

Gillego, in an interview on Friday, said the CSC award was based on the health services rendered to residents here, particularly the indigent patients who need medical treatment but do not have sufficient money to pay hospital expenses.

When he started serving in 2006, he said he fought for the Magna Carta of the city health personnel that gave them additional incentives.

He also hired additional doctors including midwives, nurses, and other medical personnel to properly implement the health care services to the people in the community, particularly to patients residing in the far-flung barangays.

“We have also four lying-in clinics, one is located in the northern portion of Legazpi in Barangay Buyoan, the other two are in Barangay Bangquerohan in the southern part of the city, and the other one is in the main building of the City Health Office (CHO),” Gillego said.

The lying-in clinics are the venue for the check ups of pregnant women in the barangays and other health services such as newborn screening and provision of free vitamins and medicines as part of the “Sagip Kalusugan” program to make sure the mothers and babies are always healthy.

Gillego said the city government has allocated an additional PHP1 million yearly to the CHO for the free distribution of medicines and vitamins including x-ray, skin tests, and other services as part of the health care program to the babies, children, and pregnant women.

“In 2007, the CHO had established a functional blood council that spearheaded the blood-letting activities wherein the CHO has collected sufficient blood from the barangays and other stakeholders that distributed to some patients needing blood for their medical treatment,” he added.

He said his office also has a rehabilitation program for illegal drug users, under the mild and lowest category, that has helped the City Anti-Drug Abuse Council (CADAC) in solving the illegal drug menace in the community.

For the past years, Gillego said the CHO has established 27 Botika sa Barangay (community drugstore) as part of the priority program of Mayor Geraldine Rosal during her first term as city chief executive in 2010.

“Now we established our own ‘Botika ng Bayan’ at the main building of the CHO that would serve as distributor of free medicines to all the needy patients,” he said.



Gillego

Legazpi City have undergone Covid testing before they can go to the place of their destinations.

He added that Legazpi City has recorded 128 percent in Covid vaccination as a result of the successful implementation of the city’s vaccination program which was intensified thru house-to-house campaign in partnership with different government and private hospitals including schools and national government agencies (NGAs).

“We exceeded the 70 percent target herd immunity because we entertained walk-in persons even though they are not residents of Legazpi,” Gillego said.

The Botika ng Bayan was created through the partnership of the city government and the Department of Health (DOH) in Bicol.

The CHO also conducted a series of medical missions at the daycare centers as part of the city’s community extension program to monitor regularly the health of children.

On the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) cases, the has established a pandemic health response program that include the establishment of seven isolation facilities which were used as quarantine areas for Covid infected persons as part of controlling the spread of the virus in the community.

Gillego said they also established a triage area for Covid response wherein all passengers coming from other countries as well as Manila and other places outside



CHO Chief Dr. Fulbert Alec Gillego receives the Plaque as PAGASA AWARD, Individual Category recipient given by the Civil Service Commission (CSC)-Bicol.

Over 1,000 poor Legazpi City residents register on PhilHealth On-Site Konsulta Program



Albay Gov. Noel Rosal delivers his message during the Joint Flag-raising ceremony in front of the Albay Capitol, with Legazpi City Mayor Gie Rosal.

At least 1,200 indigent residents here who are senior citizens, persons with disabilities (PWD), members of women organizations, and beneficiaries of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) in this city have registered to the On-site Konsulta program of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (Phil-health) Bicol in order to avail of free health care services and medicines from the government.

Legazpi City Mayor Geraldine Rosal; Israel Francis Pargas, Senior Vice-President for Special Assignment on Universal Health Care (UHC) Policy Development; and, Henry Almanon,

Phil-health Regional Vice-president for Bicol, lead the launching ceremony of the program last Wednesday at the Legazpi City Convention Center.

Rosal said that she is very thankful to the Phil-Health for choosing Legazpi as a model city for the On-Site Konsulta Program that will pave the way those identified members of the indigent sectors to avail the free health care services from the government.

Under the program, indigent recipients could avail of free medical checkups and other health care services and free medicines from the partner hospitals of Philhealth in Legazpi City.

“I am very grateful to the Phil-

health for choosing Legazpi as a model city for their E-Konsulta program as part of the implementation of the Universal Health Care program of the government,” Rosal added.

She said that those Legazpinos who were registered already from the E-Konsulta Program could proceed to the City health Office or to the Legazpi City Hospital anytime to avail of free medical checkup and medicines.

Almanon on his part said that On-Site Konsulta is part of the Phil-health Program in partnership with the Local Government Unit of Legazpi and the Department of Health (DOH) Bicol to give health care services to the people as mandated by UHC Law.

He added that Phil-health through the E-Konsulta program is offering a free medical consultation and case management as well as individual health education, assistance to partner facilities and referral to higher levels of health care.

Almanon said that the program through the CHO and LCH is offering 13 kinds of laboratory services and medicines for anti-microbial and fluid and electrolytes, such as anti-ashma, antipyretics, anti-dyslipidemia, anti-diabetic, anti-hypertensive, anti-thrombotics and anti-histamine.



At least 1,200 indigent residents from this city have registered to the On-site Konsulta program of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (Phil-health) Bicol. (Right photo) Legazpi City Mayor Gie Rosal and CHO Chief Dr. Fulbert Gillego receive the (facsimile) cheque from PhilHealth-Bicol.

Legazpi first to implement Japanese UN-Habitat Program Dubbed HOCCCI IN RP

The city government here was the first to develop and adopt a City Local Action Plan on Marine Litter (CPOA-ML) 2021-2025 as part of the major requirements for the implementation of the Japanese program dubbed “Healthy Ocean and Clean Cities Initiatives (HOCCCI) facilitated by the United Nation Uman Settlement Program (UN-Habitat) Philippines.

Legazpi City Mayor Geraldine Rosal in an interview on Wednesday said that city will implement the marine plastic litter abatement (MPLA) initiative: integrating economic incentives and smart waste management solutions to promote reduce, reuse, and recycle (3Rs) these materials.

The pilot project aims to improve resource efficiency through the avoidance, reduction and diversion on plastic waste by 35 percent or 2,357 tons of plastic per year by the end of December 2025.

“I am very grateful that Legazpi City has been chosen by the UN-habitat as one of the recipient cities across the country for HOCCCI project that reduce plastic and other waste materials in the ocean,” Rosal added.

The other recipients of the project were the cities of Calapan, Cagayan de Oro, Davao, Manila and Ormoc.

Rosal urged barangay officials to always inform their constituents for “No segregation no collection policy” as part of the implementation of the city’s environmental ordinance in order to maintain the cleanliness of the surroundings to make sure the communities will have health environment.

“Through the HOCCCI project the Office of Environment and Natural Resources (OCENR) will conduct seminars to be participated by the barangays to



inform them on how to implement the 3Rs as the main goal of the project which aims to improve resource efficiency through the avoidance, reduction and diversion on plastic waste,” Rosal said.

She added that she will ask all the Punong Barangays to inform their constituents in their own respective areas to remind them that throwing plastics and garbage on the river banks is prohibited as mandated by the environmental law.

OCENR Health and Safety Officer Engineer Neil Careo, on the other hand, said that the city government and the UN-habitat signed already a memorandum of cooperation regarding the implementation of the HOCCCI project.

Careo added that the UN-habitat had pledged to give grant of US\$ 150,000 or P7.5 million to the City Government of Legazpi for the implementation of the project.

“We are expecting next week to download to the city government the first tranche of the budget amounting to P1.5

million or 20 percent of the total grant as an initial funding for the project,” Careo said.

He added that they selected the villages of Dap-dap and Penaranda as the main areas that would implement the social enterprise development by adopting the 3Rs in order to give their constituents additional livelihood opportunities.

“These two barangays have created already community based organizations composed of marginalized sectors including waste pickers or eco aide and single mothers so that they recycle plastics as their materials for their livelihood projects,” Careo said.

He added the community based group of barangay Penaranda was named Eco Negosyo Association will be using plastic bottles to be converted into eco pots as their products that they can sell to the market.

While Barangay Dap-dap, Careo said, will use tarpaulins as their materials for making eco bags as their products.



Legazpi City Mayor Carmen Geraldine Rosal and Christopher Rollo, Country Program Manager of UN-Habitat Phil. sign the Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) for the implementation of the Japanese program dubbed “Healthy Ocean and Clean Cities Initiatives (HOCCCI) facilitated by the United Nation Uman Settlement Program (UN-Habitat) Philippines, as City Planning Officer Engr. Joy Esplana joining as witness.

Legazpi City tourist arrivals up by 300% from last year

The number of tourist arrivals in this city increased by more than 300 percent this year compared to the same period last year.

This, after the City Tourism Office (CTO) officially announced early this year that national and local organizations could already conduct their meetings, incentives, conference, exhibitions (MICE) and other big events here.

CTO head Agapita Pacres, in an interview on Wednesday, said her office has recorded 81,862 domestic visitors and 1,409 foreign tourists or a total of 83,271 individuals in the second quarter of 2022 compared to 24,819 domestic visitors and 53 foreign tourists or a total of 24,872 individuals during the same period last year, which shows an increase of 58,399 visitors or 334.8 percent.

She said the Mayon 360 and Ronda Pilipinas, both bicycle race events, that took place last June 26 and March 13, respectively, were participated in by



Pacres

hundreds of national cyclists.

“Another 25 national and local organizations have pledged already to hold their events while other participants of the events will bring with them their families and friends and will be counted as additional tourists in Legazpi,” Pacres said.

She added that she already met with

owners of different hotels and restaurants and urged them to properly serve and provide the necessary security measures to their clients to allow them to enjoy their stay in the city.

Pacres said she advised organizations who want to hold their events here to follow the minimum health standard as part of the protocol to prevent the spread of coronavirus disease (Covid-19).

However, she said, “It is very unfortunate for us because the celebration of the Ibalong Festival was postponed again for three consecutive years as this festival is considered as one of the big drawers of tourists in our city.”

Pacres said Mayor Geraldine Rosal has advised the cancellation of this year’s Ibalong celebration due to the increasing number of Covid-19 cases.

“But the tourists who want to spend their vacation here are still welcome as long as they follow the health protocol issued by the government,” she said.



Mining Industry contributes over P20-B to state Coffers

The country's mining industry is considered as one of the biggest contributors to the Philippine economy, top officials of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) said.

Danilo Molina, MGB bicol director during the Press Conference on the first day of the three days convention of Mining Engineers 2022 on Thursday, said the mining industry in Bicol had contributed around P20.5-billion in taxes to the national government coffers in 2021, adding that 97 percent of the tax collection came from the large scale mining operating in the region while three percent of which came from the small scale mining.

He added that the Bicol Region is the biggest producer of gold and other minerals that also contributed to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the country and also provide more employment to the people, particularly those villagers residing in the adjacent and surrounding areas of the mining site.

Mayor Geraldine Rosal said that the mining industry is one of the effective partners of the government in building a nation as it is contributing so much to the development and progress by creating a huge number of employment for the people.

She added that almost 80 percent of the things used by the people are made out of the mined minerals in the country that included the manufacturing of cars, including infrastructures, utensils, computers, accessories, and glasses, among others.

"Mining industry contributes a lot in improving the lives of the Filipino people and plays important role in the economic



Rosal

expansion of the country," Rosal added.

National President of the Philippine Association of Mining Engineers (PAME) Donald Estrella on the other hand said that the Mining Engineers Convention 2022 is aimed at sharing experiences for responsible and sustainable mining operations in the country.

He said that the PSME is always encouraging the other mining engineers to observe rules and laws governing the mining industry in order to promote responsible mining operations in the country.

"Part of the convention is the presentation of good practices of PAME and the economic benefits of mining industry in the country", Estrella added.

The convention started on September 15 with a golf tournament at Dona Pepita Golf Course at the foot of Mt. Mayon in Barangay Padang of this city, participated in by some members of the PSME and



Molina

followed by the Press Conference at the Legazpi City Convention Center (L3C), tradeshow of products and services of the mining companies, contractors, providers, and other mining related exhibitors.

The activities on Friday the second day of the gatherings included a technical symposium that brought experts and resource persons and discussions of mining engineers' practices as well as technology, government policies on sustainable development.

While on the last day of the convention on Saturday, annual PSEM General Assembly was held.

The 7th Mining Engineers confab was spearheaded by the PSME in partnership with the XPERTO which had for its theme: "Optimizing the Mineral Industry's Socio-Economic Contribution.

The three days gathering was

Turn to page 6



DENR-MGB Dir. Danilo Molina (2nd from left) and officials of the Philippine Association of Mining Engineers (PAME) answer questions during a press conference in the First Day of the PAME Convention at the Legazpi City Convention Center recently.

Legazpi's refurbished Kalayaan Park seen to draw more visitors



Mayor Rosal

After seven months of refurbishing and sprucing up, another tourism-oriented project is now open to the public and is anticipated to draw more visitors to this city.

The Kalayaan Park (Freedom Park) is a 1.3-hectare area located in Barangay Gogon that showcases state-of-the-art amenities which cater to people of all ages.

City Architect Rey Acosta, in an interview on Tuesday night during the park's inauguration, said the project would serve as another venue for leisure, recreation and entertainment of local residents and visitors.

The park has a playground with a swing, see-saw, slides, and other facilities for children; a basketball court and skating rink for teenagers and young adults; health equipment and amenities for seniors; and facilities for physical activities of joggers and bikers.

"The most exciting amenities are the dancing fountain and water cascades with bubblers, swing and changing vertical jets equipped with seven changing color lights, and the well-lighted trees that can surely attract the foreign and domestic tourists to witness the beauty of the park, especially during night time," Acosta said.

Kalayaan Park was originally constructed during the martial law years and was then named "Imelda Park" in honor of former First Lady Imelda Marcos.

Acosta said the park has an inscription that says "the lovers" sculpted by the famous Filipino

artist Eduardo Castrillo, a 1971 Republic Cultural awardee.

Last year, then mayor and now Albay Governor Noel Rosal decided to rehabilitate the park to make it more presentable and attractive to the people and also to give the residents livelihood activities in the area.

Acosta said the civil works of the project were supervised by the City Engineering Office through a PHP15-million fund from the city government under its so-called Open Green Spaces Program.

He said the park's pavement is made of paver stones, which some physical enthusiasts believed to have a therapeutic effect when pressed against bare feet.

The inauguration and ceremonial switching

of lights at the park were witnessed by Mayor Geraldine Rosal and other city officials and employees as well as residents and visitors from nearby areas.

The city chief executive, in her message, said Kalayaan Park is part of the local government's program to strengthen the tourism industry.

"At the same time, it will improve the livelihood activities of those residents who want to venture into small and medium businesses, such as putting up food stalls," she said.

She also said she has directed the Office of the City Environment and Natural Resources to deploy street sweepers who would maintain the cleanliness of the park.



Kalayaan Park



DA to establish P5.5-M swine multiplier facility in Legazpi City

The Department of Agriculture (DA) has approved a grant of around PHP5.5 million for the establishment of a Bio-secured and Climate-Controlled Finisher Operation facility in the northern portion of this city.

Mayor Geraldine Rosal, in an interview on Wednesday, said preparations are underway for the construction of the piggery building within the 3.2-hectare land area in Barangay Buyuan owned by the family of Aldine Miña, the president of the Legazpi Livestock Poultry Raisers Agriculture Cooperative (LLPRAT).

Rosal said the project will contribute an additional supply of swine that can help stabilize the prices of pork in the market.

“The piggery facility project would be a safer place for raising pigs to make sure that the animals are free from any diseases and viruses to sustain the hog industry in the community, adding that it will also give an additional income to all the members of the cooperative,” Rosal said.

She said the facility is part of the implementation of the Integrated National Swine Production Initiatives for Recovery

and Expansion (INSPIRE) program of the national government through the DA that aims to reduce the price of meat products in the market.

“I will encourage the other farmers to join in the LLPRAT for them to avail the benefits from the government,” Rosal said.

Of the budget, Miña said PHP4.1 million will fund the construction of the facility, PHP900,000 for the purchase of an initial 150 pigs and PHP500,000 will be used to buy feeds.

He said the DA will supervise the construction of the building which is expected to be finished in the first quarter of 2023.

Miña said the project is part of the repopulation program of the agency to increase the supply of pigs and lessen the importation of pork and other meat products.

“All the people who want to enter the facility will use Personal Protected Equipment (PPE) to prevent any infectious materials that can affect the health condition of pigs,” he noted.

After its construction, he said the



Rosal

DA will turn over the building to the City Veterinary Office (CVO), which, in turn, will turn it over to the LLPRAT for management.

Miña said he will also ask the city government for its counterpart budget for the installation of electricity and water in the facility.



Legazpi City Mayor Gie Rosal (2nd from left), together with other city officials gather for photo ops after the groundbreaking ceremony of the Bio-Secured Facility to be constructed in Barangay Buyuan, Legazpi City.

Legazpi farmer coop puts up meat shop to stabilize pork prices

A farmer cooperative of livestock and poultry raisers here has put up a meat shop to address unreasonable price hikes and artificial shortage of meat products in the city's local markets.

Aldin Miña, president of the Legazpi Livestock Poultry Raisers Agriculture Cooperative (LLPRAC), in an interview on Friday said their meat shop is selling products at reasonable prices while using accurate weighing scales.

"Before the creation of the meat shop, we made some dialogue with the meat vendors, including the hog raisers and the group of consumers as we tackled the price scheme of pork to balance the competition of meat products in the market," she said.

Miña said they made a costing analysis to prevent the continuous increase of the prices of pork in the market that triggers complaints from the consuming public.

"We are selling meat PHP280 per kilo while other meat vendors sell PHP290 up to PHP300 per kilo," he said.

Miña said they are buying live pigs from members of their cooperative at a reasonable price to make sure they can get some profit as part of their livelihood activities.

"We have plenty of supply of pigs from the hog raisers that's why, we can adjust the price of pork to compete with the higher prices of other meat vendors in the market to the benefit of the consuming public," he added.

Dr. Emmanuel Estipona, head of the City Veterinary Office (CVO), in a separate interview said 74 hog raiser members of the LLPRAC had already received two female hybrid piglets each as part of the major component of the rapid repopulation, restocking (RRR), and genetic improvement and enhancement (GIE) for the livestock program of the CVO.

He said the recipients were all registered at the LLPRAC and the Registry System for the Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA) as recommended by the Department



Estipona

of Agriculture (DA).

Estipona said 90 percent of the distributed imported pigs to the hog raisers are expected to give birth in August which will give an additional supply of live pigs for the meat shop of the cooperative.

"Legazpi City is the first local government unit (LGU) in Bicol that is implementing the massive repopulation stocking program, in partnership with the UNAHCO Inc., Pigrolac, and Palanca Group of Corporation owned by the family of businessman Robert Palanca," he added.

He said all the piglets distributed



Miña

to the hog raisers were registered in the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC) to ensure they can claim money if their piglets are hit by animal diseases.

Estipona said his office is just waiting for another PHP5-million grant from the DA to be used for the construction of piggery that will be handled and run by the LLPRAC.

The city government would also chip in PHP2 million as its counterpart for buying feeds and other materials needed for the piggery projects, he added.



LLPRAC STALL. This farmer cooperative puts up its own stall to sell cheaper meat products at the Legazpi City Public Market.

Legazpi farmers complete School-on-Air program

At least 111 farmers had received certificate of recognition from the City Agriculture Office (CAO) during the graduation ceremony of the school-on-air (SOA) program on smart rice agriculture regarding vegetable and rice production held at Barangay Gogon covered court on Thursday.

Councilor Renato Valladolid, Vice-Chairman Committee on Agriculture in his message said that the school-on air training is very commendable on the part of the CAO adding that this kind of program will an additional knowledge to the farmers on how to apply the farm mechanization techniques for planting.

Valladolid added that SOA is the program of the government to help in order to uplift the standard of living of the farmers.

(CAO) chief Shiela Naz on the other hand said SOA training scheme is part of the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) program under the Rice Tariffication Law to make the farmers more competitive.

Naz added the 111 farmers have undergone SOA 16 training sessions every Saturday and Sunday from May 21 until August 27, adding that they learned more modern technologies in farming activities.

She said that the SOA is part of the program of Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) in partnership with the Provincial Government of Albay, the City Government of Legazpi, the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PHILMECH).

Naz added that through the radio-based program, the learning process had minimized the risk of exposures to mass gatherings and served as an alternative to face to face engagements to prevent the spread of virus in the community.

She encouraged all the



Nas



Valladolid



At least 111 farmers have graduated from the “school-on-the air” program spearheaded by the City Agriculture Office, as Coun. Renato Valladolid (in front) keenly witnesses.

graduate farmers to apply their knowledge for their farming activities in order for them to achieve a sufficient harvest of their vegetables and rice.

Roger Belludo member of the Taysan Farmers Association on his part said that the training program has gave the farmers a full information on how to properly plant vegetables and hybrid and inbred palay that will result for good harvest.

“Through the SOA we

learned on how to apply the ratio of organic and inorganic fertilizers during every planting season and we also learned the proper way of spraying the plants,” Belludo added.

He said that it is very important to all the farmers to read first the label of the pesticides before applying it to the plants to make sure the recommendable ratio or gauge of it is compatible to the vegetable and rice that they were planted.

Albayanos to benefit from cheaper quarry materials

The long-awaited cheaper prices of aggregates and other quarry materials have now become a reality for Albayanos following the issuance of Executive Orders No. 29 (EO29) by Albay Governor Noel E. Rosal.

Rosal issued EO No. 29 for the adjusting the fair market value (FMV) of ordinary stones, sand, gravel, earth and other quarry resources in the Province of Albay and EO Nov. 30 for fixing the delivery rates of aggregates for ordinary stones including sand, gravel, earth and other quarry resources in Albay.

The price of sand was reduced to P250 per cubic meter (CuM) based on the EO 29 issued by Rosal when to be used inside the territorial jurisdiction of Albay compared to P500 /CuM collected during the previous administration.

The updated prices of other quarry materials were the slashed sand, P300 CuM; crushed sand, P300; gravel, P400; washed gravel, P450; gravel fill, P400; crushed gravel, P450; peaseized gravel, P550; boulder, P300; armour rock, P300; earth fill, P250; embankment materials, P250; common borrow, P250; garden soil, P250; selected borrow, P250; silica



Rosal

sand, P250; aggregate basecourse, P300; aggregate sub-basecourse, P300; choker aggregates, P300; cover aggregates, P300; coarse aggregates, P300; bentonite, P550; limestone, P250; perlite, P550; kaolin/white clay, P500; zeolite, P550; marble, P2,800 and araal stone, P2,800.

Rosal also issued Executive Order No. 30 series of 2022 that fixed the delivery rates of these quarried resources.

He said that the delivery rate for a cubic meter of sand is P400, while that of gravel is P550. For every kilometer in excess of the first five kilometers would be fixed at P10.

Rosal said that he decided to reduce the fair market value of quarry materials being hauled in the province so that the Albayanos could benefit from lower costs of these aggregate sourced out from Mayon Volcano.

“I am also allowing residents to haul, for free, quarry materials not exceeding two cubic meters at a given time,” Rosal added.

He reiterated that all the quarry operators should comply first their necessary requirements before they can operate, such as the environmental compliance certificates that include location clearance, status clearance, business permits and the certification from the Department of Public works and Highways (DPWH) to make sure the quarry site is one-kilometer away from any government infrastructure.

“I will not tolerate operating the quarry operators without a permit, expired permit, and exceeded the volume of quarried materials,” Rosal added.



Smart Infocast Project kicks off in Legazpi City



Rosal

The capability of the city government here to relay urgent messages to the vulnerable communities, particularly in time of calamities, is anticipated to be further boosted with the additional communication equipment provided by Smart Communications.

Legazpi City Mayor Geraldine Rosal and Rodrigo Bonggao, Area Manager of Smart Communications for Bicol, led the launching of Legazpi City Smart ‘infocast’ at the office of the City Disaster Risk

Reduction Management Council here on Friday.

Rosal in her message said that the project is given to Legazpi City thru free text messaging that would be received by the constituents and part of an early warning for them during every calamity.

She added that the project contains the scheme of relaying messages from Smart giving vital instructions to the people in the barangays and other stakeholders for disaster preparedness when typhoons and other natural calamities are forecast to hit Legazpi City.”

“The damages brought by these calamities could also be easily determined using the infocast system,” Rosal said.

Bonggao on the other hand said the Infocast project is a broadcast system by Smart communication that could provide information by sending messages to LGUs including cooperatives, schools and other stakeholders in the community during calamities.

He said that the Smart infocast will send text messages the concerned mayor if there is a forthcoming calamity, then the chief executive will automatically forward the messages to the CDRRMC that would automatically



Bonggao

forward this information to the constituents.

Bonggao said that the text messages from infocast is similar to the messages being forwarded to the public by the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council in times of calamities.

“We selected Legazpi as one of the recipient cities of this project because based on our analysis that aside from being one of the active cities during disasters, the city is also very prone to typhoons and other calamities,” Bonggao added.



Legazpi City Mayor Gie Rosal (6th from left), with other disaster officers, city and barangay officials, and SMART Communication representatives pose for documentation during the re-launching of the SMART-INFOCAST Project in the city.

New Building to provide easier, faster response by PSO, EQRT in Emergencies



Acosta



Azur



Esguerra

To facilitate faster and easier response to emergencies, the city government here has constructed a new P6-million worth building that houses the Public Safety Office (PSO) and Emergency Quick Response Team (EQRT) in Barangay Bitano that is located in the busy district of Legazpi City.

Albay Governor Noel E. Rosal, his wife Mayor Geraldine Rosal, and Vice-Mayor Bobby Cristobal led the inauguration of the newly constructed building.

Architect Rey Acosta in an interview said the facility was built within the 425 square-meter land area owned by the city government, adjacent to the Legazpi City Police Station (LCPS) and the Legazpi City Hospital (LCH).

“The project described as a simple minimalist two-storey building with a total amount of P6-million funded by the city government,” Acosta added.

Engineer Ladee Azur, chief of the Legazpi’s CDDDRMC on the other hand said that the newly constructed facility would serve as the main building of the EQRT and PSO for immediate response in times of emergency.

“I am very grateful to Albay Governor Noel E. Rosal and his wife Mayor Gie



Legazpi City Mayor Gie Rosal (2nd from right), Vice Mayor Bobby Cristobal (left), and Albay Gov. Noel Rosal, during the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the PSO-EQRT Building in Barangay Bitano here recently.

for their tremendous support in making our dreams of a dedicated facility for our emergency responders a reality,” Azur added.

She said the building would be used for the continuous training of the personnel of EQRT as part of the requirements for the accreditation of the Department of Health (DOH) for ambulance operation and services.

PSO Chief Rolly Esguerra on his part said that this facility is very important in

law the enforcers’ traffic management and emergency response, considering the fact that the newly constructed building is comfortably located at the city’s central business district near the police station.

Esguerra added that the building could be easily located by the people for the emergency response while the enforcers cut faster the response time adding that emergency vehicles are always available 24 hours every day.



Legazpi City Mayor Gie Rosal (3rd from right), Vice Mayor Bobby Cristobal (2nd from right), with key city officials pose for photo ops during the inauguration of the PSO-EQRT Building in Barangay Bitano here recently.

800 teachers receive tablets in Legazpi City

Some 800 public school teachers here have received free tablets from the city government.

In an interview on Wednesday, Councilor Joseph Philip Lee, Committee Chair on Education, Arts and Culture, said the free tablets are intended to augment the teachers' need for gadgets to efficiently deliver their online class activities.

"This is just an initial number the city government is planning to distribute to public school teachers serving students within the city," he said.

As the country

celebrates National Teachers' Month and World Teachers' Day on Wednesday, Lee said the project is a gesture of gratitude for the teacher's dedication even in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic.



Mayor Gie Rosal and Coun. JP Lee pose with a tablet receipt.



Public school teachers in Legazpi City gladly receive the free tablets handed to them by the Legazpi City Government.



USAID and other government officials witness the graduation rites of the Out-of-School Youth.



Albay Gov. Noel Rosal in a light moment with the USAID officials, and other government officials in Legazpi City.

44 Legazpi Out-of School-Youth Finish Tech-Voc Courses thru USAID Fund



Rosal

At least 44 out-of school-youth (OSY) from this city who belonged to the second batch of recipients had graduated in the technical- vocational training implemented by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) Online Program (TOP) through the opportunity 2.0 program being funded by the United States Assistance for International Development (USAID).

The first batch of 97 recipients graduated last March with the same technical-vocational courses.

Thirty-three of them finished the Computer System Servicing NC II, while the other 11 graduated from Bread and Pastry Production NC II.

Mayor Geraldine Rosal together; David Hall, Chief of Party USAID



David Hall

opportunity2.0 Education Development Center; Dr. Thomas Leblanc, Director Office of Education USAID Philippines; and, other USAID officials, awarded the national certification (NC) II to the new graduates at the Ninong's Hotel Convention Hall on Tuesday.

Rosal in her message had expressed her gratitude to the USAID for choosing Legazpi City as one of the local government unit recipients of USAID opportunity 2.0 program in Luzon which provides a strong second chance learning opportunity to out-of-school youth across the country.

"I am so elated to the support of TESDA and Department of Education (DEPED) for this USAID program that gives our OSY an opportunity to improve their skills and abilities through the online

learning scheme. They could now apply these skills to put up their own small businesses and other livelihood activities to improve their daily living condition," Rosal added.

She said the efforts of TESDA and DEPED show solidarity as a model of framework that works in through the alternative learning system (ALS) for their better future than without it.

Hall, on the other hand, said that the opportunity 2.0 program of the USAID has started on March 2020 with a total funding of P1.9-Billion designed to support the Philippine government to the existing mechanism of Filipino OSY to improve the country's replication employment and livelihood outcomes.

He added that around 118,000 youth in the Philippines are being supported by the program and 2,000 teachers have undergone training in order to provide the OSY effective skills transfer activities.

Tricia Nicollee Bona a recipient of the program who graduated in Bread and Pastry Production said that she is very thankful to the TESDA and USAID for giving her the opportunity as one of the recipients of the program.

She said that they started the training on May 12 until June 3 this year, adding that TESDA has provided them a tablet device and cash to purchase load for their online training and, also transport allowance.



Graduates of the Technical-Vocational Courses offered by TESDA and funded by the USAID pose for photo documentation during their graduation ceremonies at the Ninong's Hotel in Legazpi City

Over 500 athletes join 2022 Mt. Mayon Triathlon in Albay

Rains brought by the southwest monsoon did not deter more than 500 local and foreign triathletes coming from different regions from joining the 2022 Mt. Mayon Triathlon in the province of Albay on Sunday, August 14.

The athletes who were divided into four categories (elite, age group, relay and team), battled for the 10 kilometer run, 40 kilometer bike, and 1.4 kilometer swim race which started and ended at the Sawangan Park and Legazpi Boulevard in Legazpi City.

Among famous participants who joined the events were broadcast journalist Kara David, 2019 SEA games silver medalist Andrew Kim Remolino, and Ms. Aura International 2021 Alexandria Faith Garcia.

The event, which is now on its seventh year, was halted for two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Albay Governor Noel Rosal and

Mayor Geraldine Rosal of Legazpi City, in a joint statement, thanked the triathletes for always supporting and participating in the event which build camaraderie and sportsmanship among the participants.

“Mt. Mayon triathlon is also

considered as crowd drawer and a key factor in the promotion of tourism in the province and in the entire Bicol region and nation as well,” Department of Tourism Bicol Director Herbie Aguas told Inquirer in a phone interview Sunday.



Mayon Triathletes in action

Legazpi to penalize irresponsible pet owners under new ordinance

The City Veterinary Office (CVO) here has authorized barangay officials to issue citation tickets to careless dog owners who allow their pets to roam the streets, which has resulted in bite and rabies cases, as well as vehicular accidents.

CVO chief Dr. Emmanuel Estipona, in an interview on Tuesday, said all 70 villages in this city would create a Barangay Rabies Prevention and Control Committee and Barangay Responsible Owner of Dog Committee (BRODC), as mandated in the Responsible Pet Ownership Ordinance that has just been approved by the Legazpi City Council.

The ordinance prescribes guidelines and regulations for the effective implementation of rabies prevention and control programs by imposing penalties on violators.

Estipona said pet owners should

make sure their animals are always in their backyard and prevent them from going out into the streets.

He said those who would violate the ordinance and refuse or fail to register and immunize their pets would be fined PHP5,000 for each animal.

Residents found committing animal cruelty and maltreatment, as well as dog trading, would also be fined the same amount.

“Those persons allowing their pets to urinate and defecate outside in public places and streets will be fined PHP2,000 and those pet owners of stray dogs roaming in the streets and other public places would also be fined PHP3,000,” Estipona added.

He said barangay officials, including their deputized agents, would conduct house-to-house monitoring and

orientation to inform pet owners of the provisions of the ordinance.

Estipona also said a Barangay Responsible Owner of Dogs Enforcement Team (BRODET) would be created in every village to disseminate campaign materials on responsible pet ownership and animal welfare programs.

“The BRODET would also give counseling for pet owners who are encountering medical and behavioral problems with their pets,” he said, adding that the BRODET should encourage and motivate people to become responsible pet owners and prevent any form of animal abuse.

Estipona said his office has impounded 321 stray dogs since January this year and had 8,901 dogs vaccinated against rabies from January to June.



AGE GROUP MEN

RESULTS					Distance: 1.5KM - 40KM - 10KM			MALE 25 - 29	
Rank	Bib #	Name	SURNAME	TEAM	Swim	Bike	Run	Total	
1	105	Mariano	Basagre Jr.	CamSur Tri Team	0:36:32	1:08:14	0:44:17	2:29:03	
2	106	Jade	Albar	CamSur Tri Team	0:31:39	1:10:01	0:52:49	2:34:29	
3	89	Anthony Oscar Aguilar	Llaguno III	Quento	0:34:16	1:09:18	0:51:35	2:35:10	
4	104	Jeron	Payong	CamSur Tri Team	0:31:39	1:18:22	0:50:08	2:40:09	
5	103	Bryan Yot	Tan V	CamSur Tri Team	0:25:37	1:16:06	0:59:29	2:41:12	
6	320	Jhay-R	Sotto	Go for Gold Team Bikestop	0:49:53	1:07:10	0:45:56	2:42:59	
7	90	Hector	Jimenez	AFP TRIATHLON TEAM	0:36:08	1:19:28	0:48:32	2:44:08	
8	96	Lui	Salinas	SN Athletic Team	0:43:04	1:11:31	0:50:38	2:45:12	
9	97	John Lorenzo	Argosino	UPLB Trantados Triathlon Club	0:35:48	1:15:18	0:57:14	2:48:20	
10	110	Niño	Monte	TriTeam 300	0:39:50	1:12:23	0:56:11	2:48:24	
11	91	PJ	Gabriel	Tri Caceres	0:42:22	1:16:36	0:56:51	2:55:50	
12	86	Kevin Shem Isaiah	Sanchez	The Next Step Tri	0:36:07	1:16:59	1:02:56	2:56:02	
13	111	Eric John	Ciocson	TriTeam 300	0:34:09	1:21:16	1:04:55	3:00:20	
14	109	Alfred	Cellona	TriTeam 300	0:33:50	1:23:10	1:05:34	3:02:34	
15	93	Mohammad Saleh	Blaza	Team Zambales	0:45:10	1:16:34	1:02:54	3:04:38	
16	107	Jayen	Primavera	TriRecobeer	0:36:52	1:24:35	1:03:49	3:05:17	
17	100	Sherwin	Ricafranca	Good Time Cycling	0:47:22	1:19:08	1:08:26	3:14:57	
18	101	Mark Joshua	Girado		0:34:08	1:21:52	1:22:17	3:18:17	
19	99	Dennis	Baguilat Jr.	SN Tri-Team	0:45:59	1:21:17	1:11:13	3:18:29	
20	95	Richard Dean	Sison	UPLB Trantados Triathlon Club	0:59:58	1:18:29	1:07:21	3:25:48	
21	102	Lester	Manila	Team Kapulikat Multisports Team Capuy	0:57:32	1:19:48	1:09:34	3:26:55	
22	94	Mark Bien	Malonzo	UPLB Trantados Triathlon Club	0:48:30	1:25:49	1:16:28	3:30:48	
23	98	Mark	Clutario	Mayon Tri Team	0:52:23	1:26:44	1:14:47	3:33:54	
24	108	Maxell	Pacayra	Calbiga Triathlon Enthusiasm	0:38:02	1:37:54	1:18:19	3:34:14	
25	87	Arjay	Machete	Southplus Triathlon	1:01:07	1:36:46	1:35:39	4:13:32	
	92	Charles William	Menes	Tri Caceres	0:43:19			DNF	
	88	Elvin Job Abed-Nego	Sanchez	TriNics				DNS	



MAYOR GIE ROSAL
LEGAZPI CITY PH



GOV NOELE ROSAL
PROVINCE OF ALBAY



