

WE MOVE AS ONE, WE HEAL AS ONE!

A Compilation of LGU's BEST PRACTICES

in response to the COVID-19 Crisis in

REGION I



Foreword

With the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic which calls for the declaration of the World Health Organization of a World Health Emergency, the Department through Secretary Eduardo M. Año has directed all Local Government Units (LGUs) to be on a state of preparedness and take all proactive steps to stop the spread of the disease. This was further reiterated by the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) on Emerging Infectious Diseases when it adopted a national government-enabled, local government unit-led, and people-centered response to the COVID-19 health event. True to their mandate of ensuring the health and safety of the people, the LGUs started working hand-in-hand with the different national government agencies and sectors in instituting measures and effective means to eradicate the virus and prevent widespread transmission in their respective localities. LGUs were quick to respond to the crisis brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and some have even levelled-up their efforts to customize their different activities and strategies keeping in mind the general welfare of their constituents.

Recognizing the laudable performance of the LGUs in the midst of the crisis the whole country is facing, the DILG Region 1 wish to highlight the efforts of the different LGUs in the region who have implemented unique and innovative programs, projects and activities. We hope that their efforts will be sustained and will eventually be replicated by LGUs who are facing the same situation.

This compendium of best practices is a tribute to all the LGUs in Region 1 who took the lead in fighting the effects brought about by the COVID-19 crisis. Together, we move as one and we will ultimately heal as one!

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LGU: Banna, Ilocos Norte

Banna-nihan sa ECQ: Empowering Civil Society Organizations

The Municipality of Banna, Ilocos Norte launched its intensive campaign dubbed as "Banna-nihan" in the implementation of Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) which aims to tap the services of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the barangays to inform, warn and caution residents to strictly stay in their homes during the ECQ.



The different CSOs in the locality were tapped through an agreement in order to augment the lack of manpower and equipment of the LGU.

These CSOs include Guardians Brotherhood, Inc., Samahang Ilocano Fraternity, and Kabalikat Civicom who did not only act as force multipliers who oversees violators but also as couriers for residents who wanted to buy basic goods and commodities.

Due to the participation of these CSOs, the LGU can address other equally important needs of the community while ensuring that the guidelines of the ECQ are being implemented.

LGU: Candon City, Ilocos Sur

Agkasapulan a Candonians Tulungan (ACT) Program

The City Government of Candon, Ilocos Sur, realizing the severe impact of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, launched their local initiative program called "Agkasapulan a Candonians Tulungan (ACT)" to provide assistance to the most affected Candonians.

The ACT program aims to promote the Bayanihan spirit during the pandemic crisis by encouraging voluntary participation of individuals, households and organizations to extend help to families who are in need within their respective barangays.

It is also a means to augment the assistance and support coming from the national government through various Social Amelioration Programs of different government agencies and from the city government and the barangays through its own initiatives.

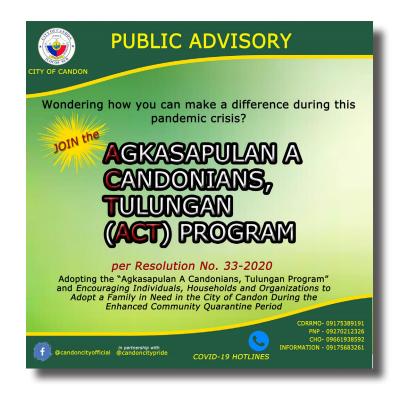
Another objective of ACT program is to provide short term relief to the identified family beneficiaries in the form of relief goods, food packs, groceries and other essential goods until the Enhanced Community Quarantine is lifted.

The ACT program was immediately adopted by the City Council presided by City Vice Mayor Kristelle Singson through Resolution No. 33-2020 entitled Adopting the "Agkasapulan A Candonians, Tulungan Program" and encouraging Individuals, Households and Organizations to Adopt a Family in need in the City of Candon

during the Enhanced Community Quarantine Period.

The adopter as defined in the resolution is any individual, household and organization who willingly participated to provide support and hope to its identified adoptee/s, provides the adoptee relief goods/grocery items/ food packs or other essential goods worth of 300 pesos and above for every 15 days or more frequent at the discretion of the adopter.

Adoptee meanwhile as stated also in the said resolution is any family whose economic life has been severely compromised by the COVID-19 pandemic or those who belong to the low-income sector or preferably those who are not yet covered by any of the social amelioration programs of the national government.



LGU: Pinili, Ilocos Norte

Stay-at-Home Challenge



he Municipality of Pinili, Norte llocos through Tourism Office and Sanggunian Kabataan (SK), launched the Stay-at-Home Challenge featuring activities such as recording videos through the Tiktok mobile app, House Tour/ Travel Vlog, Best Corner of the House Photo, Essay Writing, Poem Writing, and Writing, mainly to encourage their residents to stay-at-home thereby preventing the spread of COVID-19 while fighting boredom and promoting creativity.

The Stay-at-Home Challenges are open to Pinili residents only and videos/photos should

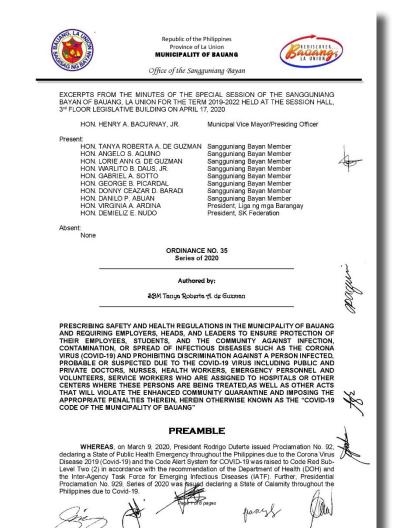
be taken inside the house as proof that they are doing those things safely in their own homes. Each entry per category must be uploaded to the LGU's official Facebook page bearing the hashtag #PinilenoDisiplinado. Each winner per category with the most number of hearts wins and during its duration, numerous entries were received daily. Winners were given cellphone load and grocery items.

LGU: Bauang, La Union

COVID-19 Code of Bauang, La Union

The Municipality of Bauang, La Union, thru its Sangguniang Bayan (SB), enacted Municipal Ordinance No. 35 series of 2020 entitled "Prescribing Safety and Health Regulations in the Municipality of Bauang and Requiring Employers, Heads and Leaders to Ensure Protection of Their Employees, Students and the Community Against Infection, Contamination Spread of Infectious Diseases Such as the Corona Virus (COVID-19) and Prohibiting Discrimination Against a Person Infected, Probable or Suspected Due to the COVID-19 Virus Including Public and Private Doctors, Nurses, Health Workers, Emergency Personnel and Volunteers, Service Workers Who Are Assigned to Hospitals or Other Centers Where These Persons are Being Treated, As Well as Other Acts That Will Violate the Enhanced Community Quarantine and Imposing the Appropriate Penalties Therein, Herein Otherwise Known as the COVID-19 CODE OF THE MUNCIPALITY OF BAUANG."

The said ordinance was approved by the Local Chief Executive (LCE), Hon. Menchie C. Lomboy – De Guzman, M.D. on April 17, 2020. It provides the citizens with a body of current and enforceable laws relative to COVID-19 in a way that makes the Code easy to use as a reference. A modified public hearing was conducted on April 15 – 16, 2020 wherein Sangguniang Bayan



Members (SBMs), together with the SB Secretary, went to all barangays of Bauang and informed concerned officials on duty and constituents alike about the guidelines as to the contents of the proposed measure which was certified as urgent by the LCE. Through this legal instrument, the municipality aims to institutionalize its efforts in its battle against COVID-19 and hopefully lessen its impact to the locality.

LGU: Bayambang, Pangasinan

Medical and Dental Teleconsultation



Individuals with health conditions have higher risk of exposure or even infection to COVID-19. In response to this, the Rural Health Unit in the Municipality of Bayambang, Pangasinan launched its Medical and Dental Teleconsultation on the onset of the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) for Bayambangueños with urgent medical concerns and for those who are not able to go out and buy medicines.

Aside from calls and text messages, Dr. Paz F. Vallo, Dr. Adrienne A. Estrada and the Rural Health Unit utilizes social media to provide free medical, maternal and dental consultation. After giving diagnosis, doctors send needed medicines to the patient in coordination with Barangay Health Workers (BHWs). For patients to refrain from going outside, RHU staff also delivers medicines to their homes.

Bayambangueños can send their medical concerns to the Facebook page of the Rural Health Unit of Bayambang or Rural Health Unit II – Bayambang during Mondays to Fridays from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Aside from monitoring the health conditions of individuals, frontliners in the Municipality of Bayambang ensures that the health of its residents are also given priority at a crisis like this. The effort is believed to lessen the need of individuals with serious medical concerns in going out to purchase their medicines thus reducing their probability of exposure not only to COVID-19 but also to other diseases as well.



LGU: Bantay, Ilocos Sur

Operation Hugas Kamay Upang COVID-19 ay Mamatay (Handwashing Hour in the LGU)

The Rural Health Unit of Bantay, llocos Sur launched the "Operation Hugas Kamay Upang COVID-19 ay Mamatay" on March 30, 2020 during the meeting of the Liga ng mga Barangay.

The program advocates proper handwashing for every two hours using the LGU's Public Address (PA) system. On its designated time, the municipality sounds its alarm and the barangays will then simultaneously ring their public address system or their church bells to remind their residents that it is time to wash their hands.

Through this initiative, the LGU hopes that handwashing will eventually become a habit and will form part of the healthy lifestyle of every resident.



LGU: Tagudin, Ilocos Sur

Corona Busters: Fighting the COVID-19 Through Community Disinfection



In order to abate the incidence of COVID-19 cases in the Municipality of Tagudin, Ilocos Sur, Mayor Roque S. Verzosa, Jr. ordered for the identification of COVID-19 busters in the different barangays. Armed with knapsack sprayers and face masks, volunteers and barangay officials dubbed as "Corona Busters" have been spraying and disinfecting every barangays to ensure elimination of the virus.

The Corona Busters religiously visit every household in the barangay to disinfect their surroundings and decontaminate possible sites for the virus.

While doing this, they are also actively involved in information dissemination on proper hygiene and sanitation. Alcohols and disinfectants were likewise distributed to the households.

LGU: Provincial Government of La Union

Provincial Government of La Union Opens Disinfection Water Generating Facility Amid COVID-19



The Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) opens its disinfection water generating facility on March 24, 2020 at the Mabanag Compound, City of San Fernando, La Union.

Using Japanese technology, the facility can produce 40,000 liters of disinfectant solution per day which will be used for the disinfection operations in the district hospitals, checkpoints, and PGLU offices. Households and private establishments will also be distributed with disinfectant solution in order to maximize disinfection in the province.

This facility is extremely beneficial in assisting the provincial government in its priority actions to deter the persistence of the virus in critical spaces where huge populations could be exposed.

LGU: Dagupan City, Pangasinan

Hot Meals on Wheels



Being the premier economic center in Pangasinan, Dagupan City is greatly affected by the implementation of the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ). Many of the business establishment's operations and economic activities halted in the city. Workers who are mostly heads of households, were left with no livelihood or stable source of income and incapable of providing for their families' basic needs like food.

Complementary to the ongoing distribution of relief goods, the City Government of Dagupan launched Hot Meals on Wheels, a feeding activity for the communities of 31 barangays seriously affected by the economic disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Residents are informed by the City Nutrition Office on the schedule of the distribution through the Barangay Health Workers (BHWs). Residents must wear their face mask in claiming meals. To ensure physical social distancing, only one (1) representative is allowed to claim meals, provided that, they bring their own food containers for safety purposes.



LGU: Nueva Era, Ilocos Norte

Free Breads for Frontliners and the Community

Located in the southeastern part of Ilocos Norte, the third-class municipality of Nueva Era is inhabited mostly by indigenous people (IPs), particularly the Tinguians aside from the Itnegs.

A certain ethnic group from Barangay Sto. Nino is making bread to feed the community for free during the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) period.

Mayor Aldrin Garvida and wife, Vice Mayor Carolyn initiated this program and decided to put their own local bakery shop so that their constituents will no longer need to travel by far to access basic commodities such as bakery products.

A Punong Barangay and also a baker, Jondie Bayudan of Barangay Sto. Nino said that the Garvida family used their personal money



PB Bayudan and volunteers wake up early everyday to make breads for frontliners and the community.

to put up the bakery near the town's ecotourism natural park. With other helpers and volunteers from the village, Bayudan said they are consuming two sacks of flour daily for pandesal (salt bread) and bun making.

They wake up early everyday to ensure that their local frontliners have hot bread to eat with their coffee when manning the border checkpoint. Others goes straight to the households, delivered hot and freshly baked unto their doorsteps.





Bakers give the free breads to frontliners manning the checkpoint and barangay halls

LGU: Magsingal, Ilocos Sur

Community Kitchen



The Municipality of Magsingal, Ilocos Sur decided to set up a community kitchen to provide food while ensuring the nutrition of its constituents during the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) period.

After the ECQ was announced, one of the concerns that was raised is the sustainability of providing for the needs of the residents especially for their daily sustenance. While the provision of relief goods may temporarily resolve the issue, it will only be capable to sustain a few days of supply and when depleted, most of the residents might end up violating quarantine protocols to provide for their daily needs.

The municipality provided for the funds with counterpart from the barangays. Each barangay serves meals twice a day and every household have the option of going to the designated community kitchen area by bringing their containers for their food or the barangay frontliners can deliver their food directly into their homes.



LGU: Burgos, Ilocos Norte

In Burgos, Ilocos Norte: All, not "Sana"

A financial assistance of five hundred pesos (Php 500.00) has been distributed by the Municipality of Burgos, Ilocos Norte to each resident, including children, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

A family of 9 members will automatically receive a cash relief of Php 4,500 from the LGU. Excluded in the program however are LGU elected officials and department heads.

Aside from providing cash assistance, the LGU also delivered food packages to its residents. Those with ages three years old and above were each given 2 kilos of rice, 2 canned goods, 2 pieces of noodles, and 2 coffee sachets.

While curbing the adverse effects of COVID-19, the LGU minimized the use of plastic bags by encouraging residents to bring their own sacks and/or eco bags during the distribution of relief goods. Instead of purchasing plastic bags, the LGU used the funds in purchasing additional relief goods.



A certain family in Burgos with 9 members: a mother and her eight children received their relief goods. Previously, they received 4,500 in cash aid from the municipality.

LGU: Sugpon, Ilocos Sur

"Paw-it System": Reviving the Tradition of Doing Favors for Others







The Municipality of Sugpon, Ilocos Sur is a predominantly agricultural community with limited business activities within the locality. It relied heavily on nearby towns of Bangar, La Union and Tagudin, Ilocos Sur for its banking, medical and hospitalization services and the procurement of basic necessities.

In order to ensure food sufficiency and availability of basic commodities in the LGU and to limit exposure of residents in the neighboring towns, the *paw-it system* was implemented. Through this initiative, the Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Councils (BDRRMCs) in the 6 barangays activated their Food and Supply Teams. Each team was composed of 3-4 members which includes the driver, 2 store owners, and a helper or barangay official.

They coordinated with store owners to ensure availability of basic commodities and the store owners also gathered other requests from the barangay residents. Each barangay was then given a schedule for the purchase of goods and commodities in the neighboring towns. The support staff at the Operations Center at the checkpoint also collected orders /request /paw-it for medicines, remittances and purchase of goods and other necessities and they are segregated for the Food and Supply Teams to collect during its scheduled procurement.

LGU: Provincial Government of Ilocos Norte

KADIWA Express: A Rolling Store Goes to Communities

Initiated by the Provincial Government of Ilocos Norte (PGIN), the Kadiwa Express, a rolling store visiting the different cities and municipalities of the province, sells basic commodities such as rice, local fruits, vegetables, instant noodles, canned goods, powdered sugar, and coffee among others at discounted prices.

The rolling store is manned by the Provincial government workers and it has scheduled visits to the different cities and municipalities of the province selling its goods at ten percent (10%) discount which is significantly lower than those sold in commercial grocery stores.

To ensure that there is no mass gathering during the rolling store's visit to the LGUs, a price list is made available prior to its schedule. The price list is also posted on the provincial government's official social media account for faster and easier sharing of information.

The local officials will then collect the order slip of residents including their payment and their orders will be delivered straight to their homes.



LGU: Bani, Pangasinan

Women in the Time of COVID-19



The pandemic has created a critical stage shortage of face masks across the region and our frontliners are at high risk of exposing themselves to the virus. Without the protection they need, their families and people around them will also be at risk.

Anent this, the women of Barangay Centro Toma and Brgy. Ranao were given a source of livelihood by producing face masks for frontliners. With the help from the beneficiaries of TESDA Tailoring Group, eighteen (18) women were also mobilized to produce face masks made from tailored cloth.

On the onset of the implementation of the Enhanced Community Quarantine, it was foreseen that there will be a shortage of the protective gears particularly face masks so they began sewing for the frontliners. They were able to produce around 5,000 face masks while they are staying at home.



LGU: Provincial Government of Ilocos Norte

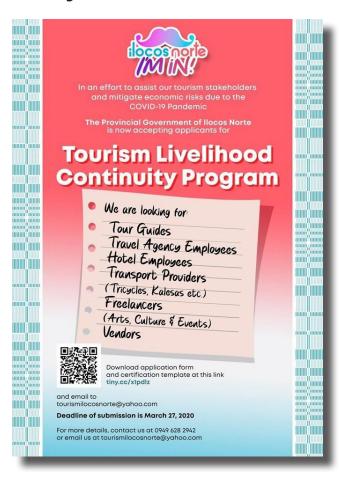
Revamped Summer Employment Program to Prioritize Livelihood Continuity Amid COVID-19

To assist tourism industry workers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Provincial Government of Ilocos Norte (PGIN) through the Ilocos Norte Tourism Office (INTO) redesigned its Summer Tourism Employment Program to aid daily wage earners, informal workers, and free lancers in the gig industry.

In coordination with the city and municipal tourism offices, thousands of applications from the hospitality, travel, food, and transport sectors, including arts and cultural sector were received by the INTO.

A "work later" agreement will be signed by Tourism Livelihood Continuity Program cash recipients for a return service after the enhanced community quarantine and other preventive measures are lifted. Work on return service will be designed to match the skills and schedules of the beneficiaries.

Each recipient will receive a cash assistance amounting to seven thousand five hundred forty-five pesos (Php 7,545.00).



A total of 1,100 slots were allotted for the Tourism Livelihood Continuity Program and the PGIN is also tapping several workers in the garment industry, such as dressmakers and tailors to produce personal protective equipment for frontliners. These workers started out as volunteers and the PGIN wanted to help them to sustain their business by enrolling them in the program.

LGU: Pinili, Ilocos Norte

"Produkto ti Umili Gatangen iti Ili" (LGU Buys Local Farm Produce)





In response to the devastating effects of the COVID-19 crisis on local farmers' income and agri-venture opportunities, the Municipality of Pinili, Ilocos Norte adopted the "Produkto Ti Umili, Gatangen Ti Ili" which aims to help local farmers in selling their farm produce to consumers.

Daily, the LGU buys produce from local farmers such as tomatoes, string beans, sweet potatoes, squash, bell peppers, eggplants and mangoes among others, and sells them online thru the LGU's official Facebook page. The list of available produce including their prices are updated daily and the cut-off for orders is from 2:00-3:00

PM subject to the availability of stocks. Purchases are then delivered for free to the residents through the use of the LGU service vehicles.

Through this program, residents can conveniently make purchases online without the need of going to the public market while ensuring that they only serve fresh and nutritious foods to their families.



LGU: Lidlidda, Ilocos Sur

Sanib – Puwersa: A Convergence Strategy in Response to COVID-19

Initiated by the Chief of Police as member of the Municipal COVID-19 Task Force, the SANIB-PUWERSA is a strategy that spells convergence of the municipal and barangay governments thru the establishment of border quarantine control points (BQCP) in all eleven (11) barangays which was adopted as one of the effective response of the Municipality of Lidlidda, Ilocos Sur to the challenge of containment and control of the spread of COVID-19 given its geographical make-up, strategic location, and fund limitations.

The established barangay quarantine control points operates 24/7 and is manned by barangay officials (both elective and appointive) help enforce and monitor the home quarantine policy, liquor ban, non-essential movement of people, and maintenance of peace and order thru the close supervision of the PNP. This strategy proved useful as barangay officials multiplied the limited manpower of the PNP, BFP, and MDRRM Emergency Responders as frontliners during this COVID-19 pandemic.

To sustain the SANIB-PUWERSA strategy, the Municipal LGU provided minimal food allowance for all duty officers of the established BQCP. However,



the generosity of municipal officials and residents abound thru donations both in kind and in cash to the frontliners of the BQCPs. This community engagement added efficacy to the sustained operations of the convergence strategy. Thus, the SANIB-PUWERSA strategy activated and lingered the sense of community among frontliners and homeliners despite the period of physical or social distancing brought about by COVID-19.



LGU: Provincial Government of La Union

Provincial Government of La Union Hires Additional Nurses in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic



The health care workers have always been at the forefront in the battle against the COVID-19. They have been tirelessly working day and night in order to provide the much-needed medical attention of those who were affected by the disease.



Healthcare workers who directly work with exposed patients are outnumbered and due to their firsthand exposure, some staff undergo self-quarantine thus reducing their numbers drastically. To address this issue, the Provincial Government of La Union decided to hire ten (10) Project-Based Nurses to render their service starting on April 7, 2020 at Naguilian District Hospital.

The said project aims to augment the present under-staffed situation of the Nursing Service Department since 15 employees are on strict home quarantine.

LGU: Dagupan City, Pangasinan

Shuttle Service for Frontliners

Suspension of public transportation during the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) period leads to further exhaustion of frontliners working in Dagupan City. Some of them live in the neighboring towns and some have already experienced discrimination.

The City Government of Dagupan, in cooperation with Land Transportation Office—Region 1, provided free shuttle service from boundary checkpoints for its frontliners. Health workers of both public and private hospitals, and government employees and workers are entitled to avail of the said service. The designated pick-up points are the following:

- 1. Puregold Calasiao,
- 2. Caltex Binmaley- San Carlos Junction; and.
- 3. Mangaldan Public Market.

The drop-off point will be in Region 1 Medical Center in Arellano St., Dagupan City. Other frontliners can also avail of the free ride if their locations are in the routes being traversed by the shuttle service.

Recognizing the frontliner's important role in our nation's fight against COVID-19, this simple act of appreciation surely helps them focus more on their work – saving lives, and serving the people.



LGU: City Government of San Fernando, La Union

San Fernando On The Go: A Digital Solution Bringing Goods to Doorsteps in the City of San Fernando, La Union

he imposition of the Enhanced Community Quarantine regulated the movement of the people in buying their basic necessities in order to prevent the transmission of the COVID-19. To address this need, the City Government of San Fernando, La Union, through the Knowledge Management and Corporate Communications - Information Communications Technology (KMCC -ICT) Section, developed the San Fernando On The Go, a web-based information which serves an online system as delivery application in aid of procuring the needed basic necessities of residents from selected barangays in the city.

The application is also the response of the LGU to the latest advisory of DILG dated April 18, 2020 encouraging LGUs to use online marketing and delivery of goods through the use of various online platforms.

For its pilot operation, the City Government has recruited a total of fifty (50) tricycle drivers as third-party providers. As of April 22, 2020, the KMCC-ICT, together with the Local Economic and Business Development Office (LEBDO), trained the registered drivers on how to use and handle the digital platform. Drivers were divided into five (5) batches, with 10 drivers to be deployed daily during operating hours.

This application would not just help the residents but would also provide





opportunities to the city's idle tricycle drivers to earn income while public transportation is suspended during the quarantine period. Moreover, selected members of the City Incident Management Team (IMT) were also trained as they will be manning the overall management of order requests and assigning of drivers using the platform.

San Fernando On The Go was officially launched on April 25, 2020, operating daily from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

LGU: City Government of San Fernando, La Union

"Kalinga para sa Kumakalinga"

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to challenge local government units to craft innovative plans to address community concerns, and with the Enhanced Community Quarantine being implemented, the city government is working tirelessly to bring genuine solutions to problems that may arise.

One of the commitments by the city government is to protect those who courageously preserve the community – the city's frontliners, that is why the Kusina ng Kalinga (KnK) has been reactivated.

Kusina ng Kalinga is a feeding program aimed at fighting hunger and it has been operational since March 19, 2020 supplying meals for frontliners of the People's City of San Fernando.





The Central Kitchen of KnK, located at Canaoay Elementary School, is manned by three (3) local government employees and five (5) volunteers operating from Monday to Sunday, from 4:30 in the morning to 7:00 in the evening.

Since the reactivation of KnK up to April 22, 2020, the City Government has served 54, 420 meals, inclusive of breakfast, lunch, and dinner, to the city's doctors, nurses, and other frontliners who ensure the safety and security of the entire citizenry.

With the reactivation of KnK, the city government was able to save around PhP 50.00 – PhP 70.00 per meal which was utilized to augment the needed funding to support other programs, such as relief operations, and procurement of PPEs for the frontliners.

LGU: Sigay, Ilocos Sur

Oplan Waragawag: Sigayano's' Shield Against COVID-19

The Municipality of Sigay, Ilocos Sur, being a 5th income class, Indigenous Cultural Community and considered a Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Area (GIDA) is confronted with problems in communication and information dissemination. Four of its seven (4 out of 7) barangays are located in the southernmost portion of the municipality, which is 30 – 50 minute ride from the town's center with limited access to internet, poor hand-held radio signal and restricted mobility due to the suspension of public transportation became a challenge to the LGU.

Given the situation, the Municipal Inter-Agency Task Force on COVID-19 initiated the Oplan Waragawag, the conduct of daily public announcement of updates, preventive measures, quidelines, laws, issuances, orders, including vital announcements relative to COVID-19 and the implementation of the Enhanced Community Quarantine using the barangays established Public Address (PA) System. Key personnel from the Municipal Health Office, the Philippine National Police and other IATF Member agencies availed of the PAS to inform the public of matters concerning COVID-19. With this system, residents who have no access to social media are kept abreast about the pandemic. The initiative is on-top of the Oplan Ariwawa, the conduct of public announcement on wheels to ensure that all residents in the hill of the mountains and in the middle of farmlands are also informed.

The initiative has been proven to be effective in communicating vital information and announcements and has been long utilized even before during occurrence of disasters. Aside from being educated on COVID-19 and



providing them access to vital information, it gives the townspeople greater awareness of risks and perhaps, have influenced their values, ability to prioritize and allocate resources, capacity to plan and act well while confronting the disease. To make it more effective, the use of the vernacular and simple terms was also employed.

The said disaster education intervention has been influential in raising community awareness and knowledge of disasters, which in turn can enhance their disaster preparedness actions. Thus, they are better prepared and respond better with the COVID-19 pandemic and even with future disasters. The spillover effect of their access to relevant and accurate information has also avoided confusions, disinformation and misinformation and certainly have improved coordination in implementing various programs on fighting COVID-19. Moreover, the initiative contributed a lot in managing the residents' obedience to orders and laws ensuring peace and public order amidst the pandemic.

LGU: Quirino, Ilocos Sur

Quirino Response Team (QRT) in Action

The Municipality of Quirino is located in a mountainous part of the Province of Ilocos Sur. It has 9 far flung barangays wherein communication is very hard and difficult. It has been a problem ever since most of the residents prefer using two-way radios for communication and public information.

Challenged by the difficulty of reaching out to the different barangays in the municipality, the LGU of Quirino, Ilocos Sur tapped the Quirino Response Team (QRT), a non-profit organization with almost 300 active members, who possesses knowledge on the use and operation of handheld radios.

The QRT members were stationed to different barangays so the municipality can send and receive information especially on the updates on COVID-19. They also facilitated the submission of reports about the situation in the barangays.





LGU: Provincial Government of Pangasinan

Orientation-Forum for Funeral Parlors/ Mortuary Service Workers



Managing remains of deceased COVID-19 patients from transport to cremation requires skills and knowledge to prevent further spreading of the disease. The Provincial Government of Pangasinan, conducted two batches of a face-to-face Orientation-Forum for Funeral Parlors/Mortuary Service Workers on April 15, 2020 at the Pangasinan Training and Development Center (PTDC).

The orientation aims to capacitate the funeral parlors and mortuary service

workers in the proper handling and disposal of the remains of COVID-19 confirmed cases and Persons Under Investigation (PUIs). The Provincial Government convened representatives from thirty-six (36) funeral parlors in the province. These were the commissioned funeral parlors/crematoriums of their LGUs to handle the remains of COVID-19 confirmed cases and PUIs. Participants were oriented and trained on:

- 1. COVID-19 Provincial Situationer;
- 2. Personal Hygienic Measures;
- 3. Universal, Standard, and Transmission-based Precautionary Measures; and,
- 4. Recommended Precautions when Handling Remains.

After the orientation-forum, all the participants, together with the key officials of the provincial government and national agencies, signed a pledge of commitment to signify their support to the



objectives of the activity in fighting against the COVID-19 pandemic in the province of Pangasinan. Learnings from the training will also be applied by funeral parlors in managing other contagious diseases to ensure safety of the community.

The Provincial Government of Pangasinan is the first province in Region 1 to conduct the said orientation-forum.

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LAYOUT

ITO I Prayandleo E. Cahiga

Matino, Mahusay, Maaasahan







