“A motivated employee can contribute to increased productivity and achieve higher levels of outputs benefitting the office. A motivated employee finds enjoyment in putting his or her efforts and knowledge to facilitate or hasten the early completion of works. A motivated employee loves his or her works and finds satisfaction in accomplishing and bringing to fruition the task assigned to him. All these combined, Region 1 has always been a constant awardee, the top, the best of the best. Work not for recognition. Rather, work worthy of recognition.”

Ester A. Aldana, CESO II
Assistant Secretary for Administration, Finance and Comptrollership

“Year 2020 is undeniably a challenging year for all of us. Yet, you are all able to cope in our new normal working situation, deliver excellent results and even surpassed your targets by using all available resources and exerting all extraordinary efforts amidst the pandemic. You are all winners... you are all jewels of the north for all of your driven efforts in making DILG Region 1 beat 2020.”

RD JAMES F. FADRILAN, CESO III
DILG R1

“Polished by Challenges, Shaped by the New Normal
DILG R1 Jewels of the North
Awarding Ceremony to Excellence

“We are trained to be ready for the worst trials, expect the worst, and expect the unexpected. DILG is not a bed of roses, more so these days, we can feel it. We are strong-willed and strongly confident because of the strong DILG family support system that keeps us all going and keeping our sanity. We go through a lot of stresses but we have compassionate leaders who boost our morale. Face these ever-changing and challenging moments – that is the DILG spirit: no retreat, no surrender. There may be mistakes or shortcomings, but at the end of the day, we can look up and say, “Lord, I’ll do better tomorrow.”

Florida M. Dijan, CESO III
Assistant Secretary for Human Resource Development

“The real fulfillment comes when we see the smile on the faces of the people we serve, when we see that local officials perform better because of the technical assistance we gave. We might miss aiming for the stars, but we might hit the moon. Same as: in aiming for perfection, we might miss it, and hit excellence.”

Marlo L. Iringan, CESO III
Undersecretary for Local Government
3 Polished by Challenges, Shaped by the New Normal
DILG R1 Jewels of the North Awarding Ceremony to Excellence

4 Welcome back, Regional Director Julie Daquioag!

5 Ilocos Sur half-way House for FRs Inaugurated

6 Conduct of Barangay Assembly for the First Semester of CY 2021

7 DILG R1 conducts CY 2020 Anti-Drug Abuse Council (ADAC) Performance Audit

8 La Union LGUs Ramp Up Vaccination Program at the Grassroots Level

10 Candon City Hall is First Local Government Facility in Ilocos Sur to Received Safety Seal

11 DILG R1 leads Barangay Levelling activity

13 Ilocos Sur Holds SBDP Projects Groundbreaking Ceremonies -The First in Region 1

14 e-BPLS Launching

14 Online Roll-out on the Repeal of Policies of the LGUs
Ensuring that the exemplary work performances of DILG regional, provincial, and field offices, as well as its technical and non-technical staff are appreciated through the conduct of the Jewels of the North Awarding Ceremony at the DILG R1 Conference Hall on 31 May 2021.

DILG RO1 RD James F. Fadrilan, delivered his welcome remarks recognizing that 2020 is undeniably a challenging year for everyone. Yet the DILG personnel was able to cope in the new normal situation, deliver excellent results, and even surpass targets by using all available resources and exerting all extraordinary effort amidst the pandemic. He expressed his appreciation to the commendable efforts of DILG personnel to beat all the challenges brought by 2020.

USec. Marlo L. Iringan, Undersecretary for Local Government, graced the event as the Keynote Speaker, representing SILG Eduardo M. Año, and introduced by ARD Agnes A. De Leon, CESO V.

In his message, he advised all DILG personnel to treat every output as if our life depends on it. We have to remain seeing something special in what we do, understand what we have to deliver, remain dedicated and passionate, and most importantly, work as a team. In that way, we can help carry out our agencies thrust and priorities for the upcoming months of:

1. Full swing preparation for the roll-out of the COVID-19 Vaccination Plan;
2. Implementation of the Mandanas vs. Garcia Supreme Court Ruling; and,
3. Implementation of the Secretary’s commitment to the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict.

USec. Iringan acknowledged the meaningful contributions of every DILG personnel from the lowest of ranks to the top management in the realization of the agency’s quality policy by quoting Woodrow Wilson:

“You are not here merely to make a living. You are here in order to enable the world to live a more amply, with greater vision, with a finer spirit of hope and achievement. You are here to enrich the world.” CONT ON PAGE 9
Welcome back, Regional Director Julie Daquioag!

“There’s no place like home” - a famous quote expressed by RD Julie J. Daquioag during her first official regional conference with over 300 personnel of DILG Region 1 on June 14, 2021 via Zoom.

Assistant Regional Director Agnes A. De Leon gladly welcomed RD Daquioag in her opening remarks with a note that looks forward to a leveled-up performance of the region. Heart-felt words were also given by the different heads of the regional and provincial operating units prior to providing the status of their PPA implementation this first semester. During the RD’s hour, RD Daquioag encouraged everyone (from admin/technical staff, field officers and heads) to create a culture of excellence and embrace the true meaning of being MATINO, MAHUSAY, at MAAASAHAng manggagawa ng gobyerno.

Following her other motivating phrases, RD Daquioag ended her message by leaving a new mantra for DILG R1: “get it first, get it fast, get it right!” (PO III Alethea A. Cedo)
Ilocos Sur half-way House for FRs Inaugurated

Bantay, Ilocos Sur - The 5 Million Peso Ilocos Sur Halfway House was successfully inaugurated on Friday, July 16, 2021. The facility is located within the Provincial Jail Compound, Barangay Taleb, Bantay, Ilocos Sur funded through the Enhance Comprehensive Local Integration Program (E-CLIP) assistance project of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) as part of the implementation of Executive Order No. 70, or the Ending Local Armed Conflict (ELCAC) program. It is the result of the convergence efforts between the DILG and the Provincial Government of Ilocos Sur (PGIS).

Leading the ceremonial ribbon cutting were NTF-ELCAC Vice Chair and National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon, Jr., Governor Ryan Luis V. Singson, DILG Ilocos Sur Provincial Director Randy S. Dela Rosa, BGen Krishnamurti Mortela, PCOL Wilson Doromal, and NSC Deputy Director General Vicente M. Agdamag.

NSA Esperon, in his statement, called on the remaining members of the Communist Party of the Philippines - New People’s Army (CPP-NPA) to surrender and abandon the armed-insurgency and return to the government folds.

PD Randy Dela Rosa expressed his sincerest gratitude to Governor Singson for allowing it to be built inside the provincial jail compound.

“Kami po sa DILG ay nagpapasalamat sa inyong lahat at nawa’y ang Halfway House na ito ay maging sagisag ng kapayapaan, kaunlaran at pag-asa sa Ilocos Sur,” PD Dela Rosa said. CONT PAGE 15
The Department of the Interior and Local Government issued Memorandum Circular No. 2021-025 dated February 19, 2021 to all LGUs in the Conduct of the First Semester, CY 2021 with the theme, “BarangayYan: Barangay ay Mamamayan, Sama-sama at Mag-kaisa Upang Labanan ang Pandemya Tungo sa Isang Ligtas, Maayos at Maunlad na Pamayanan”.

All 3,267 barangays in Region I had conducted their Barangay Assembly for the First Semester. The conduct of the Barangay Assembly is based on Section 397 of Republic Act No. 7160 otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991 which mandates the barangay that there shall be a barangay assembly composed of all persons who are actual residents of the barangay for at least six (6) months, fifteen years of age or over, citizens of the Philippines and duly registered in the list of barangay assembly members.

The DILG Region I was very persistent enough to remind the LGUs that the conduct of the said activity in any of the Saturdays and Sundays of March and October in accordance with Proclamation No. 599.

Despite the threat and challenges brought about by COVID-19, the barangays under the modified and general community quarantine or in barangays where no community quarantine is in place are allowed through public gatherings but in compliance with the IATF-EID guidelines on mass gatherings specifically on the number of maximum persons allowed. But for those barangays, wherein face-to-face meeting was not feasible, some LGUs utilized the online video-teleconferencing or social media platforms. Some barangays also distributed leaflets and flyers to ensure public service continuity, promote transparency and the mandate to inform the public on the financial status and other issues affecting their respective barangays.

DILG Ilocos Sur Provincial Director Randy S. Dela Rosa attended the Barangay Assembly at Barangay Baluarte, Salcedo, Ilocos Sur. He extended his congratulations to the barangay. PD Dela Rosa also introduced the Retooled Community Support Program (RCSP) to the constituents. MLGOO Ma. Aleli F. Molina and Hon. Leopoldo Gironella were also present during the activity (Courtesy: DILG, Ilocos Sur)
DILG R1 Conducts CY 2020 Anti - Drug Abuse Council (ADAC) Performance Audit

To ensure the continuous improvement and performance of ADACs in the implementation of anti-illegal drug activities, the Department of the Interior and Local Government Region 1 (DILG R1) conducted CY 2020 Anti - Drug Abuse Council (ADAC) Performance Audit of the 129 Provincial, City and Municipal ADACs to ascertain their functionality.

The ADAC Performance Audit aimed to assess the functionality and effectiveness of local ADACs based on existing issuances and policies; to determine ADAC-initiated and/or -endorsed innovations and best practices at all levels; to create a platform for evaluation and assessment, and to recognize the best, effective, and performing ADAC.

The performance audit is being implemented in four (4) phases as follows: 1. Data Gathering and Uploading Phase; 2. Audit Phase; 3. Audit Results Calibration and Finalization; and 4. Presentation of Functional and Non-Functional ADACs. Phase 1 to 2 was conducted by the Provincial and Regional Audit Teams from May to June 2021 while Phase 3-4 will be conducted by the National Audit Teams.

To ensure fair and impartial results, ADAC Provincial and Regional Audit Teams were organized, composed of DILG as chair, members PDEA, PNP and two (2) CSOs.

The Provincial and Regional ADAC Audit Teams conducted the audit thru ADAC-FMS on the following schedule: Ilocos Norte APT – June 8, 2021; Ilocos Sur APT – June 8 and June 10, 2021; La Union APT – May 19-21, 2021; Pangasinan APT – June 2-3, 2021 and June 29-30, 2021 for the ART. (ADAC RTA Lara Mae P. Casuga)
La Union LGUs Ramp Up Vaccination Program at the Grassroots Level

The vaccination program in the Province of La Union is brought closer to the community through the implementation of house-to-house advocacy campaign and on-site vaccination campaign.

Due to the low turnout of vaccinated eligible population in rural communities, LGUs had to innovate and undertake aggressive vaccination drives. Equipped with advocacy materials, LGU health workers, community leaders and Barangay Health Emergency Response Teams (BHERTs) encouraged the residents, especially the eligible population, and helped them understand the need for immunization as a means to meet national herd immunity to protect their families and communities.

The house-to-house advocacy campaign enabled health workers to share accurate and adequate information about the COVID-19 vaccine among priority eligible groups. This allayed the fears caused by false news circulating in social media.

Dr. Eduardo Posadas, Provincial Health Officer, said they are providing augmentation to upland municipalities “hoping to vaccinate more residents in the remote barangays.” Focused Group Discussion (FGD) sessions were conducted and interested eligible individuals were inoculated on-site. Mobile vaccination teams were also deployed in Bacnotan, Bangar, Burgos, Santol and Tubao.

The City of San Fernando, and Municipalities of Bangar, San Juan, Sudipen provided free shuttle services among Senior Citizens and Adults with co-morbidities to identified vaccination sites increasing their access to the vaccination program. CONT. ON PAGE 11
The following are the recipients of Special Awards from the Local Government Capacity Development Division (LGCDD) and Local Government Monitoring and Evaluation Division (LGMED), the technical arm of the DILG RO1:

1. AGATE Award - DILG La Union;
2. LTIA Diamond Award For Provincial Focal Person - LGOO II Rayda P. Calachan;
3. LTIA Diamond Award/ For Our Regional Focal Person - LGOO V Narvita R. Flores;
4. LTIA Paragon Award - DILG Ilocos Norte, DILG Ilocos Sur, DILG La Union, DILG Pangasinan;
5. Social Amelioration Program (SAP) Special Award - DILG Ilocos Norte, DILG Ilocos Sur, DILG La Union, DILG Pangasinan;
6. Anti-Drug Abuse Council Special Award - DILG Ilocos Norte, DILG Ilocos Sur, DILG La Union, DILG Pangasinan; and,
7. Retooled Community Support Program (RCSP) Special Recognition Award - DILG Ilocos Sur.

Individual Awards were given in the following categories:

1. Best Performing PO Administrative Staff - Alegria A. Benito;
2. Best Performing RO Administrative Staff - Jason T. Untalasco;
3. Best Performing PO Jr. Technical Staff - Czarina S. Carriaga;
4. Best Performing PO Sr. Technical Staff - Cynthia P. Pe Benito;
5. Best Performing RO Technical Staff - Rhealiza A. Delos Santos;
6. Best Performing Program Manager - Nicolette May O. Amon; and,
7. Best Performing Cluster Leader - Rocelyn Charina B. Flora

For the most coveted major awards, DILG La Union bagged the Best Performing Province Award for CY 2020. CONT. ON PAGE 12
Candon City, Ilocos Sur – As the implementation of the Safety Seal Certification Program kicks off in Ilocos Sur, the City Hall of Candon City was the first local government facility to be issued with the Safety Seal Certification following the inspection made by the DILG Team on 05 July 2021 headed by its CLGOO - Mr. Gerald D. Gallardo and the members, PLTCOL Randy Arrelano of City PNP Station and FCI Nemesio Valenciano of City BFP Station. The Team awarded the Seal to City Mayor Ericson G. Singson, MD, witnessed by other local officials and key functionaries of the City as well as the City DILG Staff - LGOO II Rodante G. Macanas and the Provincial Focal Person LGOO II Jennifer T. Mupas.

The Safety Seal Certification Program is one of the latest priority programs of the government as part of enforcing strict and continual compliance with the Minimum Public Health Standards especially in business establishments and major public places to contain the spread of COVID-19 and prevent future surges.

DOLE-DOH-DILG-DOT-DTI JMC No. 21-01, S. 2021 and DILG MC 2021-053 provide the Implementing Guidelines of the Program with the aim of assuring the consumers and the public in general of establishments’ compliance with the minimum public health standards set by the government, encourage the adoption of the StaySafe.ph digital contact tracing application to strengthen the contact tracing initiative of the government and effectively contain the spread of COVID-19 and safely reopen the economy. CONT. ON PAGE 12
Amidst the CoViD19 pandemic, the commitment of the government to end insurgency remains steadfast which was indeed evident with the conduct of Barangay Leveling Sessions nationwide. The leveling session aimed to disseminate the government’s Executive Order No. 70 or the ‘whole-of-nation’ approach in ending local insurgency to the barangay level.

Through the Joint Regional Task Force to End Local Communists Armed Conflict 1 (JRTF-ELCAC 1), virtual levelling session for all barangays in the region were conducted on May 24 (Ilocos Norte), May 25 (Ilocos Sur), May 27 (La Union) & May 28 (Pangasinan).

Thousands of participants from the barangays across the four (4) provinces of the region actively participated in the event. The participants include barangay captains, barangay kagawads, Sangguniang Kabataan representatives and IPMRs. Each session was also attended by various regional line agencies, members of the Local Task Forces and the leaders from the provinces.

Sec. Hermogenes Esperon, the Cabinet Officer for Regional Development and Security (CORDS) of Region 1, enjoined the barangay officials to support the government initiatives to achieve our ultimate goal of inclusive and lasting peace.

Dir. Jennilyn C. Role of the Philippine Information Agency (PIA), head of the Strategic Communication cluster, served as host of the four barangay levelling sessions. *(LG MED Chief Rhodora G. Soriano)*

**FROM PAGE 8..** Barangays in Balaoan and Caba used a “Bandillo” or speaker system to communicate to the people about the advantage of being vaccinated.

“LGUs in La Union are aiming to boost vaccine acceptance and confidence through the use of social and traditional media. Moreover, they see to it that remote communities are reached and informed of the COVID-19 vaccination program,” said DILG PD Virgilio P. Sison.

Even with these strategies, there are still those who are hesitant to get vaccinated and concerned about the adverse effects. Still, the Department, local government units and other national agencies continue to exert efforts to ensure the health and safety of the public.

PD Sison emphasized, “Vaccine is among the solutions to end the pandemic, but it is critical for everyone to still comply with minimum public health standards and be informed with correct information.” *(LGOO II Hedrich P. Calderon)*
FROM PAGE 9.. DILG Ilocos Sur ranked as the 1st Runner Up, followed by DILG Ilocos Norte as the 2nd Runner Up, while DILG Pangasinan ranked as the 3rd Runner Up.

Also present during the awarding ceremony to give messages of inspiration are ASec. Ester A. Aldana (Assistant Secretary for Finance and Comptrollership) and ASec. Florida M. Dijan, (ASec. for Human Resource and Development).

Dir. Marlo S. Guanzon (Director for Public Assistance and Complaint Center), also graced the awarding ceremony. Provincial Directors, DILG RO1 Division Chiefs, Provincial Cluster Leaders with their Program Managers, and the Awardees are physically present during the activity.

Given the premise on the existing health protocols to combat COVID-19 and other potential risks to be encountered, online platforms were utilized by other staff so they can participate in the celebration of this momentous accomplishment. (LGOO II Micah Janina A. Corpuz)

FROM PAGE 10.. The Safety Seal is issued to an establishment or a government/public office compliant with the following criteria: use of StaySafe.ph app or any contact tracing form, availability of thermal scanner, utilization of health declaration forms, presence of isolation area for identified symptomatic employees, presence of handwashing stations, personnel-in-charge for maintaining and monitoring social distancing, designated Safety Officers, presence of storage facility for proper collection, treatment and disposal, installed physical barriers in enclosed areas, posted COVID-19 Hotline numbers, and established referral system for medical and psychosocial services. (LGOO II Jaemee Erleen Espejo and LGOO II Rodante G. Macanas)
Ilocos Sur Holds SBDP Projects Groundbreaking Ceremonies - The First in Region 1

July 16, 2021 - The National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC) and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) held the groundbreaking of the 20-million-peso worth of various projects in Barangay Baluarte, Salcedo, Ilocos Sur, marking the activity as the first-ever project groundbreaking ceremony in Region 1 funded by the Local Government Support Fund – Support to Barangay Development Program (LGSF-SBDP) FY 2021 of the NTF-ELCAC.

The same groundbreaking ceremony was also held in Barangay Nagbittedan, Santo Domingo, Ilocos Sur which also received 20-million-peso worth of various SBDP projects.

NTF-ELCAC Vice Chair and National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon, Jr., Governor Ryan Luis V. Singson, DILG Ilocos Sur Provincial Director Randy S. Dela Rosa, DILG R1 LGMED Chief Rhodora Soriano, BGen Krishnamurti Mortela, and NSC Deputy Director General Vicente M. Agdamag spearheaded the said activities. The EO 70 Project Management Office Staff, other key officials and functionaries from the national, regional, provincial, and local levels were also present during the program.

“I am so proud that it is in only in Region 1 that we could now proudly say that we have dismantled the lawn guerilla front that is existing here”, NTF-ELCAC Vice Chair Hermogenes Esperon, Jr. said.

Usec. Marlo L. Iringan, Undersecretary for Local Government extended his congratulations and message to the recipient-barangays virtually. CONT. ON PAGE 15
Business applicants are assured of fast and easy in the issuance of business permits in the municipalities of Banna, Ilocos Norte, Santa, Ilocos Sur and Balungao, Pangasinan as they simultaneously launched their eBPLS on July 29, 2021 via zoom teleconference.

The local chief executives, Mayor Carlito A. Abadilla II of Banna, Ilocos Norte; Mayor Jesus B. Bueno, Jr of Santa, Ilocos Sur; and Mayor Maria Theresa R. Peralta of Balungao, Pangasinan all expressed their profound gratitude to all the partner agencies for the realization of the project in their respective LGUs. Ripple effects would be expected with the full implementation of the eBPLS i.e. increase of revenues, spur of economic growth and development, laudable and good performance of the LGUs.

The eBPLS is a joint undertaking of the DILG along with DICT and DTI as a response to President Rodrigo Duterte’s directive to reduce the requirements and processing time of all government transactions through RA 11032 or the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery (EODB-EGSD) Act of 2018. *(LGOO V Benedicta M. Barnachea)*

### Online Roll-out on the Repeal of Policies of the LGUs

The Online Roll-out on the Repeal of Policies of the LGUs was conducted on May 27-28, 2021 thru an online/virtual meeting (Zoom Teleconference). The activity was in support to the implementation of RA 11032, otherwise known as the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery (EODB-EGSD) Act of 2018 as elucidated in DILG MC 2018-214 “Engineering of LGU Systems and Procedures in Compliance to EODB-EGSD Act of 2018”.

Participants to the 2-day activity are: Regulatory Reform Team Members (Mayors, SP Members, Legal Officers, Records Officers, MITs, CSOs, Secretaries to the SPs, Mayor’s Staff) of the 9 Cities, Provincial EODB Focal Persons and City DILG Field Officers.

The policy content and salient features of the DILG-ARTA JMC No. 2019-01 on the Guidelines on the Regulatory Reform for LGUs Pursuant to the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery (EODB-EGSD) Act of 2018 was fully discussed including the various forms and reportorial requirements and timelines of submission of reports.

Operationalizing the JMC, the following online monitoring system and users’ guide were discussed and conducted simulation exercises:

1. Regulatory Reform for Local Government Units (RS4LGUs) MonitorinG System; and
2. Rate My Service App/System.

The salient features and concepts of the Philippine Business Registration Information System (PBRIS) and Anti-Red Tape Electronic Management System (ARTEMIS) were also presented by the representative of ARTA. Also, a brief presentation on the organization of the Committee on Anti-Red Tape (CART) as expanded function of the Regulatory Reform Team (RRT).

The LGU participants were required to submit their respective Action Plans for the implementation of the said project. *(LGOO V Benedicta M. Barnachea)*
Governor Singson guaranteed that the PGIS will give its full support and assistance to these government programs.

The facility will be used as a temporary home for Former Rebels (FRs) as they undergo various processes and interventions under the E-CLIP. It is now fully equipped with basic amenities such as activity/lecture hall, dining and kitchen area, shower and comfort rooms, bedrooms for single and couple participants, and an administrative office for Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office (PSWDO) staff as house parents to the FRs.

The said facility is now operational and ready to accommodate rebel surrenderers as they reintegrate back to the mainstream society. (LGOO II Jaemee Erleen T. Espejo)