In order to strengthen the Department’s information networking strategy down to the grassroots level and pursue the Department’s objective to make people understand and appreciate the DILG programs towards enhancing capability and skills of information officers in media works and in local governance, the DILG V pioneered the conduct of training and media communication exercises for information officers of local government units in the Bicol region.

The strategic goal of the three-day training was to create a grassroots-based information infrastructure which will serve as a communication channel for the flow of information between the national government, through the DILG, and the LGUs and their constituencies thereby strengthening the DILG information and communication network (iCoNet). The training also aimed to enhance the communication and media skills of LGU information officers that will help them to become more effective spokespersons and support the communication and information activities involving DILG programs as well as the LGUs programs and activities.

As a take-off point during the training, Dir. Blandino M. Maceda comprehensively discussed before the participants the flagship programs of the Department, to include the Local Governance Performance Management System (LGPMS), Project CURE (Comprehensive and Unified Response to Eliminate Red Tape in the Government), Strengthening of Local Peace and Order Councils, Community-Based Monitoring System and Enhanced Local Government Operations thru e-Governance, in order to develop in them a deeper understanding and appreciation of said programs so that they can be partners of the DILG in advocating such programs to their respective LGUs.

The training was held at Puerto Vista Resort in Sto. Domingo, Albay from May 13-15, 2009, with 45 LGU information officers from the six provinces of the region in attendance. Aside from theoretical lectures on communication planning, introduction to media relations, relating with local media as spokesperson, effective media interview, communications

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**Albay POC holds special meeting for private sector representatives**

LGOO II Grace S. Mago

On March 20th, 2009, the 901st Infantry (Fight 'em) Brigade of the Philippine Army headed by Col. Ariel B. Bernardo, Brigade Commander, called for a special meeting of the private sector representatives for the peace and order council in the provincial/city/municipal level which was held at the PDCC Conference Room, Legazpi City. The discussions focused on the urgent internal security concerns in the province and establishment of good working relationships with the private sector in connection with their shared responsibility in the peace and development efforts of the province.

The Philippine Army presented the latest updates in their battle against insurgency and the programs being implemented in coordination with the local government units towards the attainment of peace and development in Albay. Issues related to security, peace and order and counter insurgency were also discussed including concerns that call for immediate action such as the rampant corruption in the government, military abuse, poverty and the government’s plans and programs to be implemented to address these issues.

Coordination, cooperation and collaboration of efforts between the government and the various civil actors are the keys to the attainment of peace and development. People are called upon to actively participate in the awakening (Turn to page 6)

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**Gubat Municipal Agriculture Building nears completion**

MLGOO Julius Rodel L. Cal-Ortiz

The construction of the Municipal Agriculture Building in Gubat is already 75% complete. The project, worth Two Million Pesos (PhP2,000,000.00) is located in front of the local Legislative Building, within the municipal government compound in Gubat, Sorsogon. Estimated to be completed within ninety (90) calendar days, the agriculture building is one of the several infrastructure projects of the LGU that was constructed by “administration”, which cost comparatively less than implementing it by means of contractors.

Once completed, the municipal agriculture building will be occupied by the personnel of the Municipal Agriculture Office. At present, personnel are holding office at the second floor of the Gubat Public Market, some 500 meters away from the municipal government compound. Bringing all the offices of the LGU under “one roof” is one of the thrusts of Honorable Deogracias B. Ramos, Jr., the indefatigable mayor of this town, who aims to provide the public easy access to all the government services offered by the municipality.

The construction of the municipal agriculture building is within the LGU’s infrastructure development program, under its vision and mission: “Gubat is for L.I.F.E!” (Livelihood, Infrastructure, Food Security and Environment).
An advocacy meeting on DILG major programs and projects among the municipal mayors of the province was conducted on April 27, 2009 at the DILG Catanduanes Provincial Operations Office in Virac, Catanduanes. Among those who attended include Hon. Gregorio E. Angeles (Panganiban); Hon. Leo Z. Mendoza (San Andres); Hon. Josefinie E. Santelices (Pandan); Hon. Eulogio R. Rodriguez (Bato); Hon. Agnes B. Popa (Caramoran); The mayor of Baras and mayor of San Miguel were represented by Mr. Pio Taway and Sebastian R. Teves, respectively.

The Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) was given much emphasis during the meeting. It should be noted that Catanduanes is the only province in the region which does not have any of its municipalities adopting the system.

OIC PD Arnel Madrideo gave its most important details as an organized way of collecting household information at the local level that can be used for planning, program implementation and monitoring and as a tool for improved governance and greater transparency and accountability in resource allocation and utilization. Other programs/projects discussed during the advocacy meeting were the Policy Audit Compliance Tracking System (PACTS); LGPMS-SLGR; Strengthening Local Peace and Order Councils and the Local Councils for the Protection of Children (LCPC); Enhanced Local Government Operations through e-Governance (e-LOG) and the Department directives on LGU scholarship and on the formulation of a Citizen’s Charter as contained in the Anti-Red Tape Act (ARTA).

Noticeably, there was an increased enthusiasm among those present to adopt the CBMS. Mayor Gregorio Angeles shared the information that the League of Municipalities of Catanduanes has a pending request for projects to the offices of the Governor and the Congressman. He looked at it as a possible source of funding for this but since this would take some time, it is suggested that the individual LGU initially, provide for itself. And, instead the results of the study are made as basis for the identification and implementation of the projects to be financed by either office, earlier stated. Accordingly, there was an increased awareness also on the important policy issuances and the various programs of the Department.

The completion of the municipal orientation on ARTA and the conclusion of the CBMS Module 1 Training for the Municipality of Bato and the corresponding Enumerators Training last May 7-9 and on 26-28, 2009 are positive results of the advocacy meeting. It bears emphasis to state also that the documents required of the municipalities of San Miguel and San Andres for the adoption and implementation of the CBMS project were already forwarded to the regional office for their evaluation and approval.
Executive Order No. 2009-14 was issued by Hon. Joseph C. Cua, Provincial Governor of the province of Catanduanes reconstituting the composition of the emerging/Re-emerging Infectious Disease Provincial Task Force (ERID PTF) in response to the imminent threat of pandemic from Influenza A (H1N1) infection that would cause an unimaginable risk to the country. The task force is composed of representatives of various sectors of the community.

The organizational meeting was conducted at the Provincial Capitol Dome last May 26, 2009 which was presided by Provincial Health Officer Dr. Wilfredo Santelices. Presented during the 1st meeting were the organization of Municipal Health Emergency Response Team (MHERT) and Barangay Health Emergency Response Team (BHERT) to monitor and update the health situation in their respective municipalities and barangays. It was agreed by the team to schedule the regular meeting every Wednesday at the Provincial Health Office Conference Room.

The 2nd regular meeting focused more on the updates on the Local and International Health situation where according to the WHO survey as of June 3, 2009. Philippines has 21 cases but with 0 mortality. It was further reported that 11 out of 21 were found to be negative with Influenza A.

Dr. Felix Ma also presented the Provincial Influenza A (H1N1) Monitoring Pool together with its Audio-Visual Presentation Information.

The local chief executives together with their respective municipal health officers expressed support to the task force by mobilizing the MHERT and the BHERT to take the lead in initiating measures for the prevention and control of the epidemic potential at the local level.

As a member of the Task Force, the DILG is tasked to ensure that the LGUs comply with the agreements/directives in relation to this emerging concern. It shall also exert efforts to strengthen on-going advocacy campaign led by the Provincial Health Office.
In line with its aim to improve public service, the Local Government of San Andres, Catanduanes headed by Mayor Leo Z. Mendoza held a one-day orientation/workshop last May 22, 2009 at the Sangguniang Bayan Session Hall on RA 9485 (ARTA) of 2007 also known as “an act to improve the efficiency in the delivery of government service to the public by reducing bureaucratic red tape preventing graft and corruption and providing penalties therefore”.

The activity which was attended by the Department Heads and the technical staff. The resource persons during the training were CSC Provincial Director Maria Guia del Valle Garcia and LGOO V Uldarico S. Razal, Jr. The ARTA Provincial Coaches composed of LGOO V Jimmy D. Lopez, Mr. Romeo Manlangit, Mrs. Lina T. Gianan, Mrs. Concepcion O. Santelices and Mr. Rene Subion provided the needed administrative and technical staff.

In an effort to engineer success in terms of increased productivity and efficiency brought about by the adherence of public servants to service standards, CSC Director Garcia stressed that a citizen’s charter must be created for transparency and for an enhanced customer satisfaction. Frontliners therefore, or those who will man the public assistance desk must be knowledgeable on frontline services and be available for consultation and advice at all times, she further explained. The solidarity and overwhelming reaction from the participants gained a new light -- giving an impression of their adherence to “public office is a public trust”.

The participants agreed to come up with a Citizen’s Charter by June 30, 2009.

Some 55 participants, inclusive of elective officials, LGU department heads, representatives of the Panganiban Municipal Police Station, the Bureau of Fire Protection, Municipal Fire Station and the employees of the municipal government of Panganiban completed the orientation training on the Anti-Red Tape Act last May 13, 2009. The activity was conducted and facilitated by the Municipal ARTA Team with the technical assistance from the Provincial ARTA Team that includes the Provincial Director of the Civil Service Commission.

As mandated of all local government units under Republic Act 6975, the province of Sorsogon has approved and adopted its 2009 Integrated Area Community Public Safety Plan (IACPSP) during the provincial peace and order council meeting held on May 25, 2009.

Sorsogon Vice Governor Renato Laurinaria commended the formulation of the IACPSP. According to him, the document would solidify the Council’s aim of promoting peace in the province. He stressed that progress can never be attained without peace.

DILG Sorsogon provincial director Ruben Baldeo and concurrent head of the PPOC secretariat reiterated to all the PPOC members the need for the IACPSP and the process in coming up with it. The projects of different government agencies for affected barangays were also consolidated during the meeting and were validated vis-à-vis the Annual Investment Plan and the Executive and Legislative Agenda (ELA) of Sorsogon. These programs have been integrated into the IACPSP of the province.

Sorsogon Governor Sally A. Lee in her message also reiterated that peace can be obtained by taking into consideration all the facets of development – social, economic, environmental and political sectors of the society.
**Issue:** Whether or not as a casual utility worker in the Municipality one could still serve as a barangay tanod in the barangay.

**Held:** “Casual” is an employment status that requires appointment issued to a person for essential and necessary services where there are not enough regular staff to meet the demands on the service pursuant to Section 2 (f), Rule III of the Omnibus Rules on Appointments and other Personnel Actions (CSC MC No. 40, s. 1998). Correspondingly, a Barangay Tanod is an appointive official of the barangay, as provided under Sec. 393 (d) of the RA 7160 “**All duly appointed members of the barangay tanod brigades, or their equivalent, which shall number not more than twenty (20) in each barangay, XXX**”

Considering the above discussion please be informed that as a casual utility worker you are an appointive official of the Municipality and at the same time if you are to be appointed as Barangay Tanod in your barangay, the latter appointment shall be in violation of the prohibition under Section 94 of RA 7160 and Section 54 (1) of the Civil Service Law, which reads:

“No elective or appointive official shall be eligible for appointment or designation in any capacity to any public office or position during his tenure. xxx”

Thus, the time of duty is not a material consideration in the case at bar, but the double appointment which the law prohibits.

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**Albay POC. . . . from page 2**

and mobilization of the entire society to put a stop to the insidious activities of the CPP/NPA/NDF.

Col. Bernardo also talked about the Joint RP-US Balikatan 2009 held on April 1-30 which is an annual bilateral RP-US exercise committed to promote interoperability, security and stability. Its components were Command Post Exercise, Cross Training Exercise/Field Training Exercise, Humanitarian/ Civic Assistance. For Albay alone, there were six (6) medical and dental mission and one (1) engineering activity, a farm-to-market road in the third district of the province. For the entire region, there were 11,000 direct recipients of the program.

Over fifty members of the Albay PPOC attended the meeting together with the members of the Philippine Army, some members of the press and Presidential Adviser for Bicol Affairs Hon. Tomasito B. Monson.