



THE TRUMPET

The Official Newsletter of DILG XII—SOCCSKSARGEN

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FOR THE
BRAVING
NEW NORMAL

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
REGION XII

**Region XII LCEs
fully support**

Anti-terrorism Bill

“Everyone’s
worried about
stopping
terrorism.
Well, there’s
really an easy
way: Stop
participating in
it.”

— Noam
Chomsky

All Local Chief Executives in SOCCSKSARGEN Region have given their full support in the passage of the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020, which amends the Human Security Act of 2007.

DILG XII Regional Director Josephine Cabrido-Leysa, CESO III revealed that the Region was able to secure the support of all its four provincial governors, four city mayors and 45 municipal mayors. This 100% support makes Region XII one of the regions in the country with the highest LCE support for the bill.

Authors and backers of the bill say that the Anti-Terrorism bill is an improved version of the Human Security Act of 2007 which seeks to end terrorism in the country particularly its decades-long battle against communist insurgents and Islamic separatists.

The bill expanded its definition of terrorism, to include acts intended to cause "death or serious bodily injury to any person," "extensive damage and destruction" to a government facility, private property or critical infrastructure and when the purpose of those acts is to "intimidate the general public," "create an atmosphere or message of fear," or "seriously destabilize or destroy the fundamental political, economic and social structures of the country."

Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque has assured critics and detractors that safeguards will be implemented against human rights abuses.

The bill, which was certified “urgent” by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, was signed on July 3.

DILG XII SAP beneficiaries lauded for returning SAP Financial Aid

DILG XII Regional Director Josephine Cabrido-Leysa, CESO III expressed gratefulness and elation over the appreciation made by DILG Secretary Eduardo M. Año on the ‘selfless acts’ of Region XII, along with Navotas in Metro Manila, residents who waived and returned a huge amount of their emergency cash assistance for other low-income households. A total of P14.6-million in emergency cash has now ended up in the hands of more deserving recipients.

In a statement released earlier, Secretary Año said, “Nakakabilib ang mga taga-Region XII at Navotas. Nagawa nilang ibalik ang ayuda na dapat sana ay para sa kanila para mapakinabangan ng iba pang mas nangangailangan. Yan ang tunay na Bayanihan sa panahon ng COVID.”

Dir. Leysa is fully aware that those who waived their cash assistance are also trying to make both ends meet. “It is nothing less than ‘inspiring’ when people who are also struggling give up something for the sake of others”, Dir. Leysa said in a radio interview.

Records from the DILG Central Office show that more than Php 10.3 million in SAP financial assistance in Region XII and Php 4.6-million in Navotas had been returned or waived by some qualified SAP beneficiaries.

The government’s social amelioration program has earmarked the amount of P5,000

No show-cause orders relative to SAP release for Region XII execs-RD Leysa

“Not one from Region XII.”

This was the short answer of DILG XII RD Josephine Cabrido-Leysa, CESO III as a response to a query if there are mayors in Region XII who were included in the list of 43 Local Chief Executives (LCEs) which were given show cause orders by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) for having poor performance in the distribution of the emergency cash subsidy under the Social Amelioration Program (SAP).

Show-cause orders were given to LGUs whose accomplishment rate on SAP payout was 79 percent and below as of May 10, the final deadline set by the Department, DILG Central Office revealed.

SOCCKSARGEN ranked 3rd based on the bulletin of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) of best performing regions with the highest distribution of the first tranche of the Social

to P8,000 for each of the 18-million low-income families as subsidy to provide for basic food, medicine, and toiletries, which is computed based on the prevailing regional minimum wage rates and existing subsidy programs of the local and national governments.

Director Leysa believes that “this display of generosity will ‘rekindle hope and provide more inspiration to others, despite the ‘coronavirus crisis.

Amelioration Program (SAP) of the government.

The show-cause orders will require the 43 LCEs to explain their poor performance despite the deadline extensions given to LGUs with the latest deadline set at 12 midnight of May 10.

Out of the 43, eleven of these mayors are in Western Visayas, 8 are in MIMAROPA, 5 in Central Visayas, 4 in Davao Region, and 4 in the National Capital Region.

Meanwhile, Director Leysa clarified that the PNP-CIDG will handle SAP and corruption cases against the LCES and not the DILG.

“As what we might have read sa media, mayroong mga alegasyon ng padding ng listahan, splitting ng pondo at maging ang pareparehas na mga pangalan ng beneficiaries. Lahat ng ito ay malinaw na paglabag sa anti-graft and corrupt practices act,” Leysa pointed out.





As harassment against health workers mount, LGUs urged to act swiftly

The Joint RIATF XII on Covid 19 and the RTF XII pushed for the quick action of LGUs to address the discrimination and harassment being faced by health workers, along with those who are suspected to be Covid 19 positive, PUIs or PUMs.

The move came in the midst of media reports that hospital workers experience more cases of violence and concerned hospital administration has implemented measures to keep their frontliners in isolation quarters to minimize their outside contact, even with their own families. Hospitals have dorm facilities within or

close to their establishments but too often, these quarters, are hospital rooms which can be eventually utilized for patients. As the Covid battle continues to rage, there might be a need for these rooms to be given to Covid 19 patients.

The RIATF XII, upon learning about the said report, acted promptly with the resolution knowing that health workers, patients or even those suspected to be carrying the virus “must be protected from such a vicious form of harassment and violence.”

The RIATF-EID Covid-19 XII and the RTF have agreed to arrange with the PNP to

provide the public hotline numbers as part of the reporting mechanism against the violence and harassment against health workers and Covid 19 patients.

“There has to be a venue for health workers to report all these harassment from those who have misconceptions about Covid 19,” Dir. Leysa laments.

“I believe this is not a time for witch-hunting but people should give more support, understanding and care to all health workers or even the Covid 19 patients. After all, the battle is against the virus, not against our first line of defense, the health workers,” Dir. Leysa added.

IN PHOTO: Whendy Pido, 28, a resident of Basak, Magpet, Province of Cotabato, who chose not to accept her benefit under the government's SAP program to be given to other families from her community whom, she believes, need the financial support more than her.



As more good news about the release of Social Amelioration Program (SAP) funds abound, DILG XII RD Josephine Cabrido-Leysa, CESO III, called on the citizens to emulate the exemplary deeds of fellow residents from Region XII who opted out from being recipients of the SAP, knowing fully well that there are others who are 'more deserving' as beneficiaries.

"As I was listening to and reading about the accounts of ordinary residents who have chosen to give up their benefits for others, there was a tug in my heart. It's because it is something quite unexpected. Alam naman natin na lahat ay nangangailangan din. Five thousand is five thousand and deciding to give it up means a lot of sacrifice," Leysa recounts during a recent local radio interview.

DILG Secretary Eduardo M. Año took cognizance of the flow of 'good news' coming from Region XII wherein some LGUs and media took extra efforts to release the names of those who decided to let go of their SAP benefits for others deemed to be more deserving.

Secretary Año expressed his great appreciation for the 'outpouring gestures of kindness' by residents who gave up their SAP funds for the sake of others who are considered to be more needy.

While it has caught the attention of the Department, Dir. Leysa clarified that the advocacy to bring out the admirable actions of residents does not involve monetary gains but it simply aims to promote and increase the awareness of people's 'good deeds' for others that seem to take a back seat during the coronavirus crisis.

She further rallied citizens to 'continue doing what is right', and in this case, allowing their generosity to benefit others. "Let us not deprive others of the help that they can get by way of giving up the Amelioration funds when we know fully well that we can still manage with our own resources," Dir. Leysa added.

DILG XII RD thanks partners, stakeholders for landing 3rd Best Performing region in SAP payout

'A million thanks for a job well done!'

DILG XII Director Josephine Cabrido-Leysa, CESO III expressed her gratitude to each major player in the speedy release of the SAP payout, after Region XII ranked third among best performing regions with the highest distribution of the first tranche of the Social Amelioration Program (SAP) of the government.

Based on records from DILG Central Office, Region XII reached an accomplishment rate of 98.92% as of 11:59 PM of May 10, the last extended date of payout set by the DILG. Updated reports as of May 11 show that Region XII has already hit the 100 percent mark.

A total of 1, 265 LGUs nationwide were able to meet the set deadline which resulted to an overall national payout rate of 90.86 percent, DILG Central Office confirmed.

Director Leysa specifically thanked "all local chief executives and functionaries - from the barangays, municipalities, cities and provinces who did the hard work on the ground level", just to make sure beneficiaries are served and the funds are released to the right person.

"I commend all our PDs, CDs, City and Municipal LGOOs, basically everyone in our team, who labored more than the usual just to get things done and managed to complete their SAP payout, meeting the deadline", Dir. Leysa said.

"It simply confirms the adage: 'There is no limit to what a man can do as long as he doesn't care who gets the credit.' Personally, I believe na basta't gawin lang natin ng tama ang ating trabaho, tiyak na may magandang resulta", Dir. Leysa further stated.

“Don’t drop your guard” – Dir. Leysa to LGUs as Region XII records new COVID cases



“Don’t drop your guard,” said DILG XII Regional Director Josephine Cabrido-Leysa, CESO III to local government units as the region records new COVID-19 cases in the region.

Leysa urged LGUs to maintain the strict implementation of border restrictions and reduce public movement to limit the spread of the virus.

She urged also the public to remain cautious and to follow the minimum health standards set by the government

which include wearing of face mask, hand washing, and physical/social distancing when in public places. They are also advised to refrain from going out of their homes except for purchasing essential goods.

Government workers, especially from the Department, should expect adjustment in work schedules depending on the progress of COVID reports and overall health and risk assessment of the region, Leysa said.





IATF and RTF-COVID 19 XII to LGUs: Consider preparing your economic restart plan

DILG XII RD Josephine Cabrido-Leysa, CESO III, urged local government officials to prepare their 'post-lockdown economic plans' in anticipation for the gradual easing of the community quarantine measures in the region.

Director Leysa issued the call, together with the Regional Interagency Task Force-EID and Covid 19 Task Force XII, to ensure that all LGUs will be in lockstep with the rest.

"It is really vital to be ready with your own economic plans and activities to ensure that our communities will be able to bounce back quickly. By this time, I hope you were able to

identify the most vital business sectors that need to be primed again, especially those that provide the basics, with minimum contacts among the players and will somehow alleviate the financial needs of those involved," RD Leysa stated.

In a recently held video conference, both the Regional IATF-EID and the RTF-COVID 19 XII called for the adoption of a resolution "Enjoining the LGUs of Region XII to Commence/ Continue the Formulation of their Local Economy Re-Start Plan" in a bid to address the possible restart of the economy after the month-long period of 'dormancy'.

Coronavirus Disease 2019 Outbreak

COVID-19

Field officers warned: Wearing face masks is now a must

DILG XII Director Josephine Cabrido-Leysa, CESO III issued a cautionary warning to all the field officers and personnel of the Department to start wearing face masks whenever they are out in public places from April 6 to last even until after the quarantine period.

The instruction was in line with the memorandum dated April 2 which calls for the observation of precautionary measures prescribed by the Department of Health (DOH) while at work, leaving, and going back home and more so, when availing home essentials. The memo was signed by DILG Secretary Eduardo M. Ano.

“The message is timely because our

field officers are more in demand these days as they are required to provide guidance to the LGUs”, said Dir. Leysa. “We cannot compromise their health as we know how vulnerable they can be despite the low figures of CoVid-19 cases in the Region,” she added.

“We take the words of Secretary Ano seriously as he himself is under quarantine, after having been tested positive for Covid 19,” she further stated.

Her campaign for the wearing of face masks was brought up during the first ever teleconference held recently which was joined by all the members of the Regional Management Committee.



(L-R) LGMED Chief Musarapha Alim, Assistant Regional Director Lailyn Ortiz, CESO V, and LGOO V Mel Roy Manait, wearing face masks inside the DILG XII office while attending a virtual meeting in compliance to the Department’s policy on mandatory wearing of face mask.



Credits to: Ruel Tuble

Frontliners welcome and assist arriving LSIs at LSI Processing Center, Sultan Kudarat.

“No to complacency” – DILG XII warns as hordes of LSIs head home

DILG XII Regional Director Josephine Cabrido-Leysa, CESO III has issued an urgent call to both residents and LGU officials of the Region as new Covid—19 cases were recorded just a few days after locally-stranded individuals have come home.

In a statement, Director Leysa urged LGUs to maintain the strict observance of the minimum health standards prescribed by the DOH, together with the stringent implementation of protocols for residents who are coming from COVID-19 high risk regions like Metro Manila. Earlier, Region XII’s boundaries had been placed on high alert to prevent people, especially from neighbouring regions with high Covid cases, who try to sneak in.

“If you notice, lahat ng ating kababayan ay sumobra ‘ata ang pagka-relax at mukhang

naging complacent. We say NO to Complacency! Sayang naman na wala na sana tayong recorded cases for many weeks then suddenly, we are confronted with these statistics na biglang dumami ang naging positive. Personally, I am quite alarmed with these new developments”, Dir. Leysa laments.

She urged the public anew to exercise caution at all times, living up to the health standards set by the government. The status of the Region under the modified GCQ is not an excuse to be careless and uncaring, she added.

In a recent meeting with the Regional Inter-Agency Task Force on Covid 19, other members were concerned about the sudden spike in Covid 19 cases, which came about when LSIs returned to their hometowns.

“We have relayed our concern to the National Task Force on Covid 19, na dapat pa ring gawing mahigpit ang pag-monitor at pag-test sa mga pauwing LSIs,” Director Leysa explained further.

At last, testing machines for COVID-19 in Region XII



Waiting time is over for the whole of Region XII as the prospect of having its own Covid-19 Testing Facility has become more of a reality.

This development came during the most recent visit to General Santos City of Secretary Carlito P. Galvez, Jr, Chief Implementer of the National Task Force against Covid 19, together with Undersecretary Vince Dizon, Deputy Chief Implementer, in a meeting with the Regional Inter-Agency Task Force on May 26.

In attendance were the four governors of Region XII, Mayor Ronnel C. Rivera of Gen. Santos City, the host for the said meeting, and other members of the RIATF and RTF led by the RIATF Chair, RD Josephine Cabrido-Leysa, CESO III, and Office of the Civil Defense Regional Director Minda C. Morante, RTF Chair.

General Santos (Gensan) City and South Cotabato had consistently pushed for the establishment of the testing laboratory as a way of completing the fight against Covid-19. Sec. Galvez and the NTF brought 1,500 PPEs for each province and HUC

Gensan which will be distributed to all the frontliners in the Region, and turned over 7,500 rapid test kits to OCD XII which will be distributed to various LGUs.

Meanwhile, USec. Dizon of Basis Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) pledged to help hasten the accreditation of the lab for Region XII. Laboratory technicians from Dr. Arturo P. Pingoy Medical Center (DAPPMC), an accredited biosafety level 2 laboratory, will undergo proficiency training at Cotabato Regional Medical Center (CRMC).

CRMC is the only testing lab in Region XII, with Southern Philippines Medical Center (SPMC) in Davao City in Region XI that used to be the only test center for Mindanao. The huge volume of tests being processed by SPMC had been a contributing factor in the slow release of test results, which left most local chief executives in the dark as to the status of their Covid -19 suspected patients.

Regional IATF to LGUs: fast-track MOA with funeral parlors, crematoriums



The Regional Inter-Agency Task Force EID and the Regional Task Force-Covid-19 urged all Local Government Units (LGUs) to fast-track their Memorandum of Agreements with funeral parlors and crematoriums.

This was articulated in a Joint Resolution No. 2020-003 entitled “A Resolution Enjoining all LGUs to Fast-Track the Forging of MOA With Funeral Parlors and Crematoriums”. Under Resolution No. 10 of the Interagency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Disease (IATF-EID), LGUs must designate funeral service facilities to handle the remains of confirmed Covid-19 case and patients under investigation.

Department of the Interior and Local Government XII Regional Director Josephine Cabrido-Leysa, CESO III said this intervention is to ensure that LGUs have clear policies and protocols with regards to the safe handling of COVID-19 positive and Persons under Investigation (PUI) remains.

Furthermore, this will also help ease the pain of grieving families should their loved ones succumb to COVID-19.

“There is a pressing need for LGUs to fast-track the MOAs with their local funeral parlors or nearby crematoriums and put, in detail, the procedure in handling properly these cadavers as we also have to ensure the safety of our frontline workers in the LGUs,” DILG XII Regional Director Josephine Cabrido-Leysa, CESO III said.

The RIATF is enjoining all LGUs to coordinate with LGU-General Santos City and LGU-Kidapawan City “should the families of the dead COVID-19 patient or PUI will opt for a cremation”.

National Bureau of Investigation, Philippine National Police, Department of Health, and Bureau of Fire Protection were requested by RIATF to conduct face-to-face orientation to funeral workers in handling COVID-19 positive and Persons under Investigation (PUI) remains.

DILG XII and RIATF-EID XII and RTF on COVID-19 on Managing the Covid -19 Response in Region XII



The Beginning

On March 18, 2020, the Regional Peace and Order Council (RPOC) XII and the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (RDRRMC) XII convened and approved the organization of the Regional Task Force on Covid-19 (RTF XII) through a joint RPOC XII-RDRRMC XII Resolution 2020-05. The RTF XII was chaired by Sultan Kudarat Governor Suharto T. Mangudadatu and co-chaired by the Department of Health XII.

It was the Region's collective response, articulated by both Councils, to Presidential Proclamation 922, series of 2020 which declared a State of Public Health Emergency throughout the Philippines and Presidential Proclamation 929, series of 2020, which declared a State of Calamity throughout the Philippines due to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

On April 1, 2020, a conference was held at the Police Regional Office 12, Tambler, General Santos City, attended by different regional line agencies that are members of the RTF on COVID-19. The RIATG-EID XII was organized in accordance with EO 168 s. of 2014, a policy-making body to work hand-in-hand with the RTF on COVID-19 and will serve as its operations arms, then later reconstructed as RIATF XII on May 13, 2020.

From then on, the RTF on COVID-19, jointly met with the RIATF XII to address the challenges that the region faced during the Covid-19 pandemic. Among the first few humble accomplishments include the following:

1. *Disseminate the guidelines on the Community Quarantine to the members of the RIATG and RTF CoVID-19 in Region XII;*
2. *Authority was given to DSWD XII to undertake the pay-out to the beneficiaries of the Social Amelioration Program in Pres. Quirino, Sultan Kudarat. The pay-out was completed on May 11, 2020;*
3. *Resolution mandating all the LGUs to align their respective executive orders and include provision for the regional complementation of food and essential products; and*
4. *Resolution enjoined all LGUs to issue their policy statement to prevent discrimination and violence against positive CoVID 19 patients, persons-under-investigation (PUIs), Persons-under-monitoring (PUMs) and Health workers.*

Looking ahead with Anticipation

As early as April 24, the Three-Phase Economic Restart Plan has been presented by the Provincial Government of South Cotabato during the RIATG XII and RTF XII joint meeting. The TF, through a resolution, enjoined LGUs to formulate their own economy restart plans using it as reference. In the same vein, the Task Force quickly localized the Covid National Action Plan, highlighting the foresight and anticipation of the overall situation of the Prime Movers (RIATF XII and RTF on COVID-19) in the Region.

A regular meeting for the RIATF-EID had been unanimously set every Wednesday to ensure that issuance and guidelines are acted upon right away. As a result, a sizable number of major concerns needing speedy resolution and response were speedily addressed. As early as April 24, 2020 through RIATG-EID XII-RTF on COVID-19-MDM Cluster Joint Resolution No. 2020-012, the unauthorized movement of persons from one region to another was promptly dealt with. When the border lockdown was imposed, there had been considerable improvements: for instance, the whole Region **recorded no cases** of CoVID 19 infections for few weeks, from April 27 to May 14.

Best Practices even during the Challenging Times

Then came the days when the quarantine measures were eased up in the month of May. The Joint Task Forces introduced the sharing of the best practices featuring stories that helped the residents and communities to cope with the difficulties and inconveniences during the 'dark quarantine days'. The routine would soon become part of the next meetings of the Task Force to allow the propagation, replication and adaption of whatever best practices.

On June 10, 2020, during one of its joint meetings, DILG XII also shared some of its own best practices: the creation a Facebook group called "E-Tiangge Club 12", originally meant to become a meeting point of all employees who were in a carpool scheme during the quarantine days. Eventually, the E-Tiangge became the "go-to place" for DILG personnel who are wary about their exposure to buy necessities.

Taking a Stand

Meanwhile, the DILG XII, through its Regional Director Josephine Cabrido-Leysa, CESO III has been one of those government agencies which managed to take a stand during those 'lockdown' days. The crippling fear against Covid-19 has almost immobilized everyone, but not RD Leysa. She rallied other key players in the LGUs, national line agencies and other actors to keep 'infections away while making sure law and order remains in place, and people are being cared for'.

Looking back, RD Leysa says 'she never gave in to fear and pressure but there had been times that she was about to give way.' She added that she "gains inspiration from minor victories in the battle but claims that the final victory will come when the cure becomes available."

"We wanted to have a central messaging system that will eliminate chaos and misunderstanding. People have suffered enough so both Task Forces agreed that we will not aggravate their pitiful situation," Director Leysa added.

When the influx of stranded individuals and returning overseas workers started, the Joint task forces urged LGUs to fast track the construction of the isolation units and accommodation establishments to be used as temporary isolation facilities. Dir. Leysa created task teams within the Regional Office to be able to handle the volume of work that equally needs her attention, along with the training of 34 trainers for contact tracing. To back her up, she has Region's Core Team and some other task groups which provided her the needed support and the necessary legwork.

Thinking Ahead

Long before the use of the ID system and the implementation of the clustering of population centers were handed down by the NTF, the joint Task Forces in Region XII and the LGUs have already established and utilized the said schemes in order to limit the number of people who go out in public. The foresight resulted to the alignment of local ordinances with national issuance and policies and all recently-issued COVID-19-orders and guidelines are downloaded immediately to guarantee LGU compliance.



The 4Cs Formula

The bottomline, according to RD Leysa, is that "we lived with these simple guidelines: close coordination and constant communication among the LGUs, NGAs and other stakeholders in the Region. Without the 4Cs in both our Regional Teams, we can never move as one. We want to heal as one, so we move and act as one."



The 2017 CMGP Malbang—Boundary Tboli Provincial Road project worth Php 79,999,989.00 located in the Municipality of Maasim, Sarangani Province.

Region XII leads CMGP accomplishment rating in latest report

Region XII is currently leading the country with the highest accomplishment rates in both the physical and financial aspects of the Conditional Matching Grant to Provinces (CMGP) Program implementation, the DILG-Office of Project Development Services (OPDS) confirmed.

As of May 31, 2020, Region XII recorded a physical accomplishment rate of 95.80 percent which covers the Region's CMGP funded projects from 2016 to 2019, OPDS said.

Following the list is Region X with 95.00 percent, Region XIII with 92.20 percent, Region XI with 91.90 percent, and Region IV-B (MIMAROPA) with 91.80 percent.

Meanwhile, the Region also recorded a total disbursement rate of 87.74 percent, as of the latest report, covering the projects funded since 2016. This, OPDS said, is the highest disbursement rate as of



May 2020.

Following the highest disbursement rate include Region X with 80.25 percent, Region III with 75.81 percent, Region XIII with 75.68 percent, and CAR with 72.82 percent.

Engr. Gilbert L. Mercado, DILG-OPDS Technical Group Head, lauded Region XII for its accomplishments under the CMGP program and urged the LGUs to continue the good performance.

LGU and PNP nab quarantine violators, cockfighters in Antipas town

The Department of the Interior and Local Government XII and the Philippine National Police XII showed its commitment in implementing social distancing guidelines and restrictions against mass gathering by going after those who blatantly violate the quarantine regulations in the Region.

On April, Antipas Municipal Police of Cotabato Province nabbed cockfighters at Purok 6, Brgy. New Pontevedra, of the said town, 15 to 20 kilometers away from the town's police station.

Police authorities were able to seize six dead fighting cocks, two wounded fighting cocks

and two pieces of gaffing blades (tare).

Three residents of New Pontevedra were identified as alleged organizers of the said illegal cockfighting, namely: Vergilio Pacquoa, Reni Gentilliso, and Robert Pojas. All were able to escape but warrants have been issued for their arrest, PMSG Christopher C. Servaa said.

"Once again, I call on our residents to bear with the regulations. We all know that we have new positive cases and staying at home is one way of helping the government to stop the spread of the virus," DILG XII Regional Director Josephine Cabrido-Leysa, CESO III said as she appealed to the public.

Php 3 M Worth E-CLIP Benefits Released to FRs of South Cotabato

Forty seven former rebels (FRs) received their immediate assistance worth Php 15,000.00 each and Php 50,000.00 each as their livelihood assistance during the awarding of the Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program (ECLIP) benefits at South Cotabato Gym and Cultural Center (SCGCC), City of Koronadal on June 6, 2020. Overall, each beneficiary received a total of Php 65,000.00. The releasing unit was able to receive Php 21,000.00 as administrative support while FRs stay with them as they undergo the screening/validation process.

The ECLIP Committee awarded a total of Php 3,055,000.00 financial assistance from DILG and Php 987,000.00 intended for their essential needs, which was received by AFP/PNP as their receiving unit.

Present during the ECLIP awarding were Executive Assistant Rudy Jimenea (who represented the Provincial Governor of South Cotabato

Hon. Reynaldo S. Tamayo Jr.), Hon. Antonio Fungan, Ma. Theresa D. Bautista (Outcome Manager of DILG South Cotabato), LTC Victorino Seño (27th Battalion Commander, AFP), PCOL Jemuel F. Siason (SCPPO Provincial Director), PSWDO and Head E-CLIP Secretariat Ms. Haide D. Agustin.

Two of the E-CLIP beneficiaries gave their response message and expressed their gratitude to the government and the provincial officials for the opportunity and support.

The ECLIP is a complete package program for individuals who have decided to abandon armed struggle and return to the fold of the law and join the mainstream of the Philippine society. It is a peace-building and social protection program that provides interventions to Former New People's Army (NPA) Rebels (FRs) and Militia ng Bayan (MB) in becoming productive citizens of society.



Former rebels (FRs) who used to operate in South Cotabato show proofs of financial assistance that they have received from the government during the ECLIP Awarding Ceremony at the South Cotabato Gym and Cultural Center

DILG Completes Endorsement of Region's Road Projects Under 2020 CMGP

The four provinces in Region XII will soon have additional paved roads as they wait for the fund release of their proposed provincial road projects under the 2020 Conditional Matching Grant to Provinces (CMGP), this after DILG successfully endorsed all of the provinces' proposed projects to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).

DILG XII confirmed the said report in a letter signed by DILG-OPDS Director IV Rolyn Q. Zambales to DILG XII Regional Director Josephine Cabrido-Leysa,

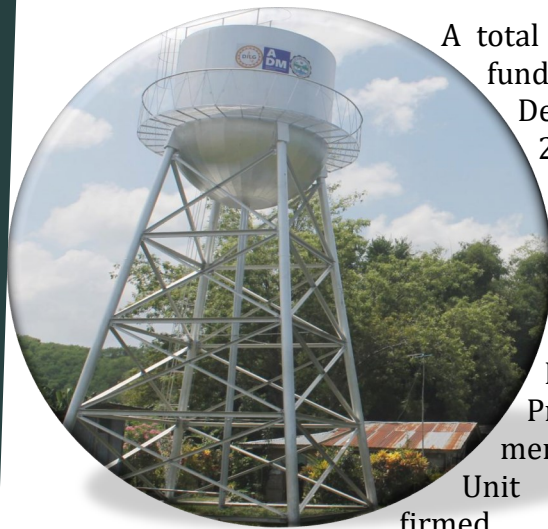
CESO III dated June 2, 2020. DILG Central Office has endorsed 13 road projects to DBM with a total road length of 29.365 kilometers, costing Php 488,919,145. Out of the total projects, two will be in Cotabato, three in Sarangani, and four in both the provinces of South Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat.

The endorsement came after the four provinces satisfactorily complied with the requirements set in the Special Provisions of the 2020 General Appropriations Act (GAA) under the Local

Government Support Fund (LGSF) of the Department. Region XII is the first region where all of its provinces have complied with the requirements set forth in the Special Provisions of the LGSF for the CMGP under the 2020 GAA, according to the letter sent by OPDS Director Zambales.

Provinces may check with the Bureau of the Treasury on the issuance of their Notice of Authority to Debit Account Issued (NADAI).

DILG XII records 31 completed 2019 AM projects; Cotabato province gets highest completion rate



A total of 31 projects funded under the Department's 2019 Assistance to Municipalities (AM) Program have been completed, the Department's Project Development Management Unit (PDMU) confirmed.

Reports show that out of the 31 projects, 27 were local access roads and four were potable water supply system projects. Sixteen of these completed projects were implemented in the Province of Cotabato.

As of June 4, the Province of Cotabato posted the

highest number of completed projects with a completion rate of 61.54 percent, followed by South Cotabato with nine completed projects (50.00%), and Sultan Kudarat Province with six completed projects (42.86%). MLGU beneficiaries from Sarangani Province have yet to report any completed projects. All in all, the Region has a total completion rate of 44.29 percent.

Region XII has a total of 70 local projects funded under the Department's 2019 AM program amounting to PHP 387,205,000.00. LGUs are given 500 days upon receipt of the financial subsidy to complete their projects based on the 2019 Guidelines of the program.

AM program is part of the national government's Local Government Support Fund (LGSF), which aims to assist all municipalities in delivering basic services and implementing priority programs and projects included in their respective Local Development Investment Plans.



Construction of three DILG-funded public markets now on-going

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) XII has started the construction of the three-public market/farmers market (Bagsakan Centers) projects funded by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) – Office of the Secretary.

DPWH XII Assistant Director Rosie C. Javate said these on-going projects include the completion of the Koronadal Public Market worth Php 30 million, and construction of the Sto. Niño and Tantangan Public Markets worth seven million pesos and Php 20 million, respectively, all in the province of South Cotabato.

DPWH XII started the construction of the projects last April 28 and expects to complete them within the second semester of the year.

Apart from the said projects, DILG also allotted Php 45 million for the rehabilitation of the Bagsakan

Centers in the Municipality of Polomolok, South Cotabato, Municipalities of Magpet and President Roxas in the Province of Cotabato, and the reconstruction of the public cemetery in the Municipality of Malungon, Sarangani and Municipality of Tulunan, Cotabato. Overall, DILG allocated Php 102 million bagsakan center and public cemetery projects in Region XII funded under the Public Market/Cemetery Project 2019 Budget.

A Memorandum of Agreement was signed by DILG and DPWH with regards the construction of the bagsakan centers and public cemetery projects pursuant to the Special Provisions under the 2019 General Appropriations Act.

DPWH shall turn over the completed projects to the LGUs concerned “which shall be responsible to shoulder the maintenance and repair costs”, the MOA states.

17 water projects completed under 2019 SALINTUBIG

Seventeen communities in Region XII will now have access to potable water after water system projects funded under the 2019 SALINTUBIG Program of the National Government have been completed, the DILG XII- Project Development and Management Unit (PDMU) confirmed.

Three of these projects were implemented in Carmen, nine in Midsayap, and three in Pikit, all in the Province of Cotabato. All these municipalities have successfully completed all their 2019 SALINTUBIG projects.

As of June 10, the town of President Roxas in Cotabato has also

recorded a completion rate of 40 percent with three more other on-going projects.

Ten other water system projects are still on-going, with one project in Aleosan, Cotabato Province; one in Alabel, seven in Kiamba, Sarangani Province; and one in Palimbang, Sultan Kudarat Province.

DILG XII endorses 11 local projects for funding under AM program

PDMU said the Region has four other water projects up for bidding in the Municipality of Tulunan, Cotabato while seven projects have been suspended due to COVID-19. The list includes one project in Kabacan, Cotabato and six projects in Lake Sebu, South Cotabato.

Overall, Region XII has a total of 41 funded projects worth Php 107, 550, 000.00 under the 2019 Salintubig program distributed to 11 recipient LGUs.

Sagana at Ligtas na tubig sa Lahat or SALINTUBIG aims to provide water systems to waterless communities through financial assistance, along with improving the capacities of local government units and their water service providers in managing water supply systems in a sustainable manner through capacity development activities.

At least 11 projects proposed by local government units (LGUs) in the region were formally endorsed by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) XII to DILG Central Office for funding under the Department's 2020 Assistance to Municipalities (AM) program, DILG XII- Project Development and Management Unit (PDMU) confirmed.

Included in the list of projects endorsed for fund release were 12 road-related projects, one evacuation center and the procurement of two vehicles for disaster risk reduction-related purposes.

These projects were proposed by the Municipalities of Lambayong, Bagumbayan, and Esperanza of Sultan Kudarat Province; Municipalities of Alamada, Aleosan, Libungan, President Roxas, Arakan, Kabacan, Mlang, Magpet, and Tulunan of the Province of Cotabato; and Municipality of Malungon of Sarangani Province.

A total funding of Php 129 million is expected to be downloaded to the proponent LGUs with 295, 000 estimated residents benefiting the projects once completed.

The endorsement came after the LGUs successfully completed the governance reform requirements of the program, which include passing the Good Financial Housekeeping, Local Development Council Functionality, Public Financial Management Assessments, and other technical requirements.

DILG Central Office is set to formally endorse the said projects to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) for fund release along with other AM proposed projects from other regions.



IN PHOTO. (2018 AM PROJECT) Local Access Road Project, Municipality of Antipas, Province of Cotabato

24 LGUs in SOCCSKSARGEN pass PFM compliance assessment

Twenty-four local government units (LGUs) in Region XII passed the Public Financial Management Compliance (PFM) Assessment as of May 27, DILG XII- Project Development Management Unit (PDMU) revealed.

Based on a furnished letter from the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) XII to DILG, the said PFM compliant LGUs include Alameda, Aleosan, Libungan, President Roxas, Arakan, Kabacan, Magpet, M'lang, and Tulunan of Cotabato Province; Alabel, Maitum, Malapatan, Kiamba, Maasim, and Malungon of Sarangani Province; Sto. Nino, Surallah, and Tampakan of South Cotabato; and Bagumbayan, Esperanza, Tacurong City, and Lambayong of Sultan Kudarat Province.

PDMU believes that the Unit's consistent reminder and active support to the LGUs despite the COVID-19 crisis have partly contributed to this

achievement.

The Unit, headed by Engr. Herminia S. Ontoy, has earlier conducted series of virtual meetings with all LGUs in the Region to update and fast-track their PFM compliance and submission of other technical requirements for fund release under the 2020 locally-funded projects (LFPs) of the DILG.

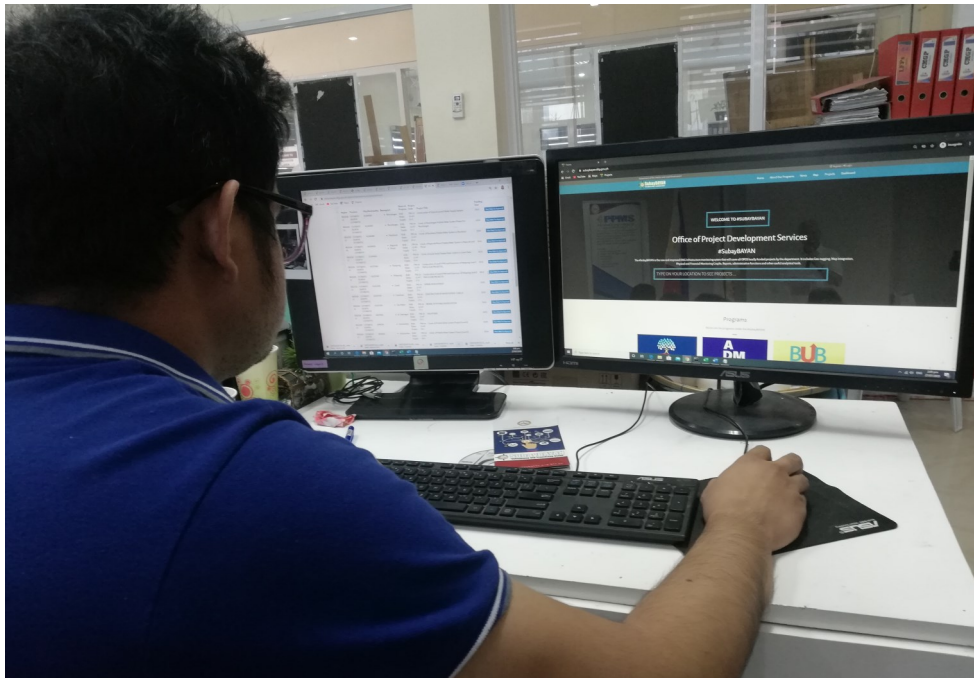
DILG XII is set to endorse the PFM compliant LGUs and their proposed projects under the 2020 AM and SALINTUBIG programs to DILG Central Office for funding.

Under the AM and SALINTUBIG 2020 General Appropriations Act (GAA), LGUs are mandated to complete the governance reform requirements of the programs which include passing the PFM Assessment, and other governance and technical requirements.

PFM is a reform program of the national government facilitated by DBM that aims to improve the efficiency, accountability and transparency in public fund use through a tool dubbed as PFM Assessment Tool for Local Government Units (PFMAT for LGUs).



Cotabato LGUs dominate SubayBAYAN ranking in Region's latest report



Local Government Units (LGUs) of Cotabato Province dominated the latest ranking of the Regional SubayBAYAN updating, the DILG XII-Project Development Management Unit (PDMU) revealed recently.

As of June 9, 2020, six LGUs from Cotabato made it to the Top 10 with the highest updating rate in the Department's SubayBAYAN platform. The Municipality of Libungan topped the said list with an updating rate of 92.75 percent.

Other Cotabato LGUs include Magpet (in third place) with a completion rate of 83.50 percent, Mlang (fifth) with 79.10 percent, Matalam (seventh) with 75.38 percent, Pikit

(eighth) with 71.92 percent, and Pigkawayan (ninth) with 70.72 percent.

Meanwhile, the Municipality of Bagumbayan in Sultan Kudarat ranked second with an updating rate of 92.53 percent. A month earlier, this municipality held the highest SubayBAYAN updating rate in the Region. LGU-Tboli of South Cotabato ranked fourth with an updating rate of 81.10 percent while LGUs of Isulan and Lebak ranked sixth and 10th with an updating rates of 77.08 percent and 69.91 percent, respectively.

Overall, Cotabato Province recorded a total of 64.46 percent updating rate, the highest in

the Region as of date, followed by South Cotabato province with 58.44 percent, Sultan Kudarat Province with 56.22 percent, and Sarangani Province with 41.45 percent.

SubayBAYAN or Subaybayan ang Proyekting Bayan, is the official platform of the DILG in monitoring and reporting the progress of Locally Funded Projects (LFPs) across the country.

Data uploaded in the platform served as part of the evaluation criteria of DILG Central Office in computing the budget allocation for the ensuing projects of the LGUs funded under the national government's Local Government Support Fund.

PLGUs reminded of guidelines as 2020 CMGP projects start



Provincial Government Units in Region XII received reminders about the guidelines in implementing road projects funded under the national government's 2020 Conditional Matching Grant to Provinces (CMGP) Program, as they gear up in implementing their respective CMGP-funded projects.

Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) XII CMGP Regional Focal Person, Engr. Francis Earl Caldedero, said provincial governments should remember to adhere to the prescribed minimum road design standard of 230 mm PCCP thickness as cited in Department Order No. 112, series of 2019 and Department Order 12, series of 2020, of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH). Previously, the program pre-

scribed a minimum of 200 mm PCCP thickness for its road projects.

Provincial governments should also abide by the program's policy for fund use, which will only be limited to funding the project specified in the Notice of Authority to Debit Account Issued (NADAI) provided by the Bureau of Treasury. Caldedero explained that CMGP funds shall not be used to fund projects already covered by other funds, or to pay for personnel services expenses related to the projects' preparation and evaluation, among others.

DILG XII, through its Project Management Development Unit (PDMU), facilitated a half-day virtual orientation with the members of the provinces' Local Road Management Teams to lay down the said Pro-

gram Implementation Guidelines.

The activity aimed to “orient every one of their respective roles and responsibilities, tools and processes to effectively implement this program,” DILG XII Regional Director Josephine Cabrido-Leysa, CESO III said.

This reminder came after three of the provinces in the region – South Cotabato, Sarangani, and Cotabato - have received their NADAI, which formally indicates that funds have been downloaded to the provincial LGUs and signals the start of the program implementation. Sultan Kudarat is currently waiting for the release of their NADAI from the Bureau of Treasury.

Region XII will be implementing 13 CMGP projects this year amounting to Php 488.196 million after satisfying the governance reform and technical requirements of the program.

Four projects each will be implemented in the provinces of South Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat, three in Sarangani, and two in Cotabato, with a combined road length of 29.365 kilometers.



“As an institutional reform and governance program, CMGP is focused on transforming and strengthening existing systems to improve the delivery of road services on the provincial level,” Director Leysa said during the virtual orientation.

Provincial Governments are given until December 31, 2021 to complete their respective CMGP projects. Undisbursed funds which remain after the said date will be reverted by the provincial government to the BTr in accordance with the Special Provisions under the program’s 2020 General Appropriations Act.

LGU project implementers, while not encouraged, may also terminate or cancel the projects by issuing a Notarized Affidavit of Undertaking (if beyond the validity of fund) or rebid the projects’ remaining works (if within the validity of fund).

Meanwhile, PDMU Chief Herminia S. Ontoy assured the Department’s relentless support and continued technical assistance to the provincial governments as part of DILG’s mandate.



DILG XII gets green light to complete its office building



“We owe it to our people to have this building completed as part of our service, commitment and heritage.”

DILG XII Director Josephine Cabrido-Leysa, CESO III

The Department of the Interior and Local Government Regional Office XII will soon have a much wider office spaces by September this year as the Department resumes the construction and completion of its office building located at the Prime Regional Government Center, Koronadal City this month.

Last June 1, the Department officially started the construction of the third floor of its office building through its winning contractor F.H. Gopiteo Construction and Supply. The project costs Php 15, 704, 915.33 and a total of 120 calendar days is given to finish the said project with the target completion date set on September 28, 2020.

Once completed, the current two-storey building will boast a total of three floors to provide efficient work spaces for its 100 employees and comfortable waiting areas for guests and clients.

The building will also feature an elevator for easier access and movement of items or people between floors, panic doors and fire

exits for emergencies, paved driveways, sidewalks and other landscaping development, among others. Guard and power houses will also be constructed under the current contract.

DILG XII Director Josephine Cabrido-Leysa, CESO III explained that the project has suffered ‘some setbacks’ which caused its delay; however, the project was able to proceed after a brief hiatus.

DILG XII moved to the Prime Regional Government Center after the building’s initial completion of the first two floors in 2017. Prior, the Department rents an office building at Sumpay Building, Maranon Village, Barangay Zone II located in the same city.

“As much as possible, we want to leave something tangible, and this building is part of it. Our employees managed to ‘make do’ with whatever what was at hand- the rented cramped space, the lack of open spaces- for years. They all need to be given better working environment,” Director Leysa added.



Philippine Flags fly proudly at DILG XII as the nation observes the National Flag Day



#RaiseyourFlagPH

#LupadDose

"On May 28 and every year, we celebrate the unfurling of the first Philippine National Flag in commemoration of the country's victorious battle against the Spanish troops.

This time, we raise our flag and salute our frontline workers who continue to fight this unseen enemy, and we remember those whose lives were lost in this pandemic.

Let us continue to stand united in upholding our freedom and stand for the land that our ancestors have fought hard to defend.

*Under our flag, we are all Filipino.
Together, we fight and heal as one."*

-DILG XII Regional Director Josephine Cabrido-Leysa, CESO III
on this year's celebration of the National Flag Day



2019:

When the Greening of DILG XII began...

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