



STATE OF THE PROVINCE ADDRESS

Provincial Government of Bohol

Gov. Edgar M. Chatto

February 17, 2017



BOHOLANO LOCAL GOVERNANCE: A TRADITION OF THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX AND INSTITUTIONALIZING INNOVATIONS

**FINAL VERSION
AS DELIVERED**

I. Introduction

- Vice Governor Dionisio Balite, Honorable Members of this August Body, it is once again my honor to deliver before you, and before the stakeholders of Bohol, the State of the Province Address. These accomplishments would not have been possible without you, my dear colleagues of the *Sangguniang Panlalawigan*.
- I would also like to greet the other VIPs and guests in attendance, and everyone in this hall. It is my honor to present these accomplishments to you, the Boholanos whom I serve.
- As I present these accomplishments to you, I acknowledge the partnership and collaboration of our Congressional representatives, Cong. Rene Relampagos, Cong. Aristotle Aumentado, and Cong. Arthur Yap, the City Officials of Tagbilaran led by Mayor John Geesnell Yap II, Vice Mayor Jose Antonio Veloso and the City Council, our partner component LGUs, represented here by our Mayors, Vice Mayors, Councilors, barangay captains and other local officials, the National Government Agencies with their respective heads, the NGOs/CSOs/POs and the rest of civil society, the business sector, the academe, the Church and religious sector, the youth sector, the women's sector, our senior citizens, and representation from our marginalized sectors, such as the Bohol Federation of Disabled Persons.
- Of course, as always we acknowledge the strong support of the national government, under the leadership of His Excellency President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, who has already granted to us, at this very early stage of his administration, the NEDA Board approval of two very important projects for Bohol: the Change in Scope of the New Bohol Airport Construction and Sustainable Environment Protection Project (NBACSEPP), with an updated project cost, and the Modernization of the Gov. Celestino Gallares Memorial Hospital Project, costing P2.2 Billion. This early, the Duterte administration, through the facilitation of Cabinet Secretary Leoncio "Jun" Evasco, Jr. and NEDA Sec. Ernesto Pernia, has already granted Bohol more than P3 Billion worth of projects, including several other projects that will be mentioned later. We are also fortunate to have with us today top officials of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, who are themselves committed to getting another major project off the ground – our very own Bangko Sentral branch! I would like to acknowledge the presence of BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Gunigundo, Asst. Governor and Chief Legal Counsel Atty. Elmore Capule and his wife, DBP Senior Assistant Vice President Atty. Leilani Capule,

Managing Director for Regional Monetary Affairs, Ms. Iluminada Sikat, and Region 7 Director Atty. Leonides Sumbi.

- And of course, last but not least, and always first in my heart, are the members of my immediate family, especially my mother Victoria, my wife Pureza, and my daughter Trisha.

II. The 6.7-Magnitude Earthquake in Surigao del Norte

- A recent tragedy, the 6.7-magnitude earthquake in Surigao del Norte, reminds us of where we were in 2013. We Boholanos know firsthand how such an event can wreak havoc in our lives. Thus, we are about to give to the Provincial Government of Surigao del Norte assistance in the amount of P1 million, to be delivered by our PDRRMO, TARSIER 117 and Shelter Team. The team will also confer with them on our willingness to share experiences and lessons learned on quick response, the cluster approach, and early recovery/post-earthquake scenario. This State of the Province Address shows us how far we have come since that great devastation, and we are hopeful and optimistic that Surigao del Norte will recover in a similar manner or even faster.

III. Major Socio-Economic Indicators: Results of our Continued Strategic Collaboration for Bohol's Development

- Whatever trials befall us, it is our duty to serve the Boholanos, and to update them with the results of what we have done together. As local government officials, we are obliged not just to serve our constituents through traditional means, but by thinking outside the box – that is, by conceptualizing and implementing innovative programs and projects, over and above what is expected. And when we think outside the box, we should also be ready to institutionalize the gains that we have realized – otherwise, it would be for naught. Thus, legislative support – YOUR support to our executive initiatives – is all-important. Equally important is legislative support at the national level, which is why we consider our three congressmen: Cong. Relampagos, Cong. Aumentado, and Cong. Yap, as our most valuable allies at the national government level. They will institutionalize, through national laws, our gains at the provincial level. This is a strategy that I hit upon during my three terms as Congressman of the 1st district, and which has proven to be quite advantageous for Bohol and other provinces as well, paving the way as it has for many of our programs and projects funded by the national government.
- When we passed RA 9593 or the Tourism Act of 2009, notably Sec. 34 to open the gates of Tourism infrastructure including Tourism Roads, Sec. 45 creating the Tourism Promotions Board, and Sec. 63 creating the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) to establish Tourism Enterprise Zones (TEZs) and provide incentives, that was thinking outside the box.
- When we passed into law RA 9446 Declaring Bohol as a National Tourism Zone, mandating the DOT and its attached agencies to support programs and projects for our tourism roads and infrastructure, that was thinking outside the box.
- When we enacted RA 9722 creating the Bohol Island State University (BISU), that was thinking outside the box. When we passed into law RA 10917 strengthening and

Expanding the Special Program for the Employment of Student (ESPES), that was thinking outside the box. When we passed RA 9485, otherwise known as the Anti-Red Tape Act, it was thinking outside the box, to institute reforms in governance.

- In all of these instances, we needed congress to help us expand the box and impact positively on the lives of people in Bohol and other provinces. Thank you for giving me that privilege of representing you in congress from 2001-2010. That was the time when we principally authored these laws, among many others.
- Thank you also to Congressmen Rene, Aris and Art for continuing the task of serving Bohol thru your selfless collaboration with the provincial government, the LGUs, our Boholano constituency in general. Regardless of congressional districts, your unity in congress to push commonly identified priorities in our development councils means so much to all of us stakeholders in realizing our vision for Bohol.
- At the local front, thinking outside the box through innovations is essential in addressing the growing challenges of governance, as an indispensable tool to further push Bohol to inclusive economic growth and sustainable development. Among these are the many programs and projects outlined in this SOPA. Needless to say, thinking outside the box will continue to be our clarion call to all our stakeholders and development partners.
- Now enough of the preliminary remarks. On with our socio-economic indicators (*each bullet point corresponds to one slide*):
- The core indicator, the most important metric on how we are doing in governance, is the Poverty Incidence statistic regularly measured by the Philippine Statistics Authority. In 2000, Bohol was among the country's Top 20 Poorest Provinces. On the slide, you will see that we have sustained the decreasing incidence of poverty among Boholano families. We have gone down to an unprecedented level of 21.7%, our lowest ever, and lower than the regional average! In fact, during our recent RDC Meeting, NEDA Dir. Carreon pointed out that Bohol has had the fastest drop of poverty incidence among families with an average of 3 percentage points every year or (8.9 percentage points for the last three years). In contrast, Cebu has had 0.33 ppt/year (1 ppt for the last 3 years), and Negros Oriental has had 1.7 ppt/year (5.2 ppt for the last 3 years), while Siquijor's poverty incidence grew from 2012 to 2015.
- Our tourist arrivals have increased, well beyond pre-earthquake levels, to our highest ever, as of November 2106, of 820,640!
- This is mirrored by our Increasing number of Accommodation Establishments and Rooms. Our accommodation establishments in 2016 reached 432 with 6,370 rooms, which is higher by 29% compared to the 2013 level.
- Business registration from Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) has reached 4,304 marking a 20% increase from the 2015 figures. MSMEs generated 11,850 employment for 2016, higher by 35% from the previous year.
- As of November 2016, investments from MSMEs have surpassed the PhP 1 Billion annual target with PhP1.4 Billion actual investments.

- This has resulted in very positive changes in our employment, with our employment rate at 96.3% in October 2016, posting the highest rate in four years. In fact, Bohol's employment rate is higher than the national average of 95% and the regional average of 94.95 as of Oct. 2016.
- We have recorded increases in inventory levels of hog, goat, carabao and chicken. Here, we need to stress that the reduced inventory of cattle is due to the El Niño phenomenon. However, even with the decrease, sufficiency level of cattle still remains high at 413%.
- Our volume of municipal and commercial fishery production has gone up by 22% and 77%, respectively.
- As a testament to all of this, we have a thriving bank industry. Our number of banks is now at 88 from just 65 in 2011. Total bank accounts have reached 590,103 with total deposits reaching P36.84 Billion.
- The number of cooperatives has increased by 12.5%, with total assets reaching P2.71 Billion in 2016.
- Overall, we have seen a 12% reduction in crime volume, and a decrease in crimes against persons and properties.
- The number of registered vehicles has increased by 14.5%. Of course, this will also have traffic implications that we will need to address together with the city and municipal governments.
- In 2005, provincial roads totaled 971.351 kms. Due to nationalization through legislation and administrative approval, provincial roads are now at 832.603 kms. This has freed up more resources for the Provincial Government. As a result, concrete/asphalt roads increased from 159.947 kms in 2005 to 295.477 kms in 2016. Though we still have some to go to reach our targets, the pace of road rehabilitation is much faster than before these innovations of thinking outside the box were introduced. Now, at the rate that the Province is concreting its Provincial Roads (thru convergence programs with DPWH, DOT, and DTI), **all provincial roads will be concrete in five years!** Other local roads will also have the same support.
- As another indicator of a vibrant economy, we have noted increasing activity throughout Bohol's seaports, with the number of shipcalls up by 16.9% and Passenger traffic up by 18.2%. For our airports, the steady increase of passenger traffic at the Tagbilaran City airport has averaged at an annual increase of 20%.
- These are our socio-economic indicators. In my last term as Governor, I feel it is my duty to report to you, dear members of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, and to the Boholanos in general, the results, outcomes, and impact of our governance initiatives. And I daresay, we are on the right track!
- Our next section highlights the accomplishments in each of our development pillars. Since this is a rather long section, full of detail, allow me to present the

accomplishments under each pillar through bullet points, with the highlights indicated on the slides.

- Once again, you will see that our programs and projects are guided by our Overarching Development Framework: InSPIRED HEAT-IT Bohol towards the BIG LEAP.

IV. Accomplishments per Development Pillar

- **Infrastructure** *(some bullet points may cover more than one slide)*
 - ✓ Our biggest contribution to provincial growth is in our roads. No one can deny the multiplier effect of better roads, which positively impacts on all sectors of the economy. Aside from giving support as Congressman of the first district to the Bohol Circumferential Road Project, the legislations that we passed in congress, the innovations that we introduced as Governor now, have paved the way to better roads development.
 - ✓ Our Upgrading and Maintenance of Provincial Roads and Bridges continues to be well-funded and supported, as you can see from the details in the slides, with consistent funding from our 20% Development Fund, our DRRM Fund, and other sources.
 - ✓ We are also quite pleased with the Completion of Bohol Earthquake Assistance (BEA) Projects. Under the BEA, the PEO upgraded 36 bridges with total length of 433 linear meters.
 - ✓ Our PGBh – Department of Agrarian Reform– Department of Public Works and Highways Bridge Project
 - ✓ The Construction of the Tagbilaran City – Panglao Island 3rd Bridge, which now has an Ongoing Feasibility Study with P25 Million DPWH funding. DPWH expects the indicative figure of total cost (based on the FS) by March 2017, with RDC Approval in the same month. It is recommended for inclusion in the (DPWH) MYOA for 2018.
 - ✓ Albuquerque Sanitary Landfill Project Funded by the Department of Tourism – Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority. By the way, as another proof that Bohol thinks outside the box, this is the **Only Cluster Landfill in the Country**; and as an added feature, it is wholly funded by the National Government through TIEZA.
 - ✓ Construction of School Buildings Provincewide
 - ✓ Upgrading of Roads Leading to Tourist Areas, under Republic Act 9593: Tourism Act of 2009 (Chatto-Gordon Law)
 - ✓ Counterparting for Farm to Market Road Projects under the Worldbank Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP) thru the Department of Agriculture and Provincial Government of Bohol
 - ✓ National and Provincial Government Convergence Thru the Conditional Matching Grant to Provinces (CMGP/KALSADA Program), conceived in Bohol and now adopted as a national policy
 - ✓ Of course, our New Bohol Airport Construction and Sustainable Environment Protection Project (NBACSEPP). In these next few slides, you will see aerial shots taken by drones of the significant work already ongoing at the site. → *(pause for about 3 slides)*
 - ✓ Improvement of Terminal and Base Ports in Tagbilaran, Ubay, Catagbacan, Tubigon, Jagna, Talibon & Getafe
 - ✓ Other port development projects, notably our Loon Port Development Project (an International Cruise Ship Port)

- ✓ Upgrading of Transmission Lines and Development of New Power Sources, including our fast-tracking of the link to Cebu to improve our resiliency in terms of power supply during natural calamities, and the One Bohol Power (1BP) Aggregation with the signing of the short and medium-term power supply agreements. The procurement process on its way. BLCI will already join in the MOA Signing for long-term agreement, an information memorandum for Potential Investors will be released with specific criteria, and we will require the winning bidder to fully operate by December 26, 2023 with a Baseload power plant to be established in Bohol.
 - ✓ Enhancement of Malinao Dam and other Irrigation Facilities. We are thankful that the long-time plea and hope of our rice farmers for free irrigation services from government is now among the priority thrusts of Pres. Duterte. We are one in pushing this agenda as our farmers deserve more incentives to ensure food security, more equitable distribution of income and wealth and more measures to narrow the poverty gap.
 - ✓ Ubay Airport Development
 - ✓ Bohol Bulk Water Supply and Sanitation Project
- **Social Well-being and Shelter**
 - ✓ We continue to sustain our Aid to Individuals in Crisis Situations (AICS).
 - ✓ Our whole range of programs for Persons with Disabilities, in partnership with the Bohol Federation of Disabled Persons (BFDP)
 - ✓ Bohol Stimulation and Therapeutic Activity Center, for children with disabilities
 - ✓ Bohol Crisis Intervention Center, for women and children who are survivors of domestic violence and abuse
 - ✓ Our Comprehensive Local Integration Program (CLIP), which has facilitated the release of reintegration assistance and livelihood assistance
 - ✓ Our promotion of Child-Friendly Local Governance, most notably through the Seal of Child Friendly Local Governance Awarded by the Provincial Government to LGUs
 - ✓ Our ongoing Shelter Program. This is, of course, a major aspect of our post-earthquake rehabilitation and recovery, and you will see over several slides the housing units modeled after a resilient design, as well as resettlement sites throughout the province.
- **Peace and Order**
 - ✓ We have a Dynamic Provincial Peace and Order Council (PPOC) and Provincial Anti-Drug Abuse Council (PADAC), ready to act at all times.
 - ✓ We have All-out Budget and Logistic Support from the Provincial Government for Peace and Order Programs.
 - ✓ Bohol Joint Task Force Dagon, which is an ideal example of inter-government and inter-stakeholder collaboration for peace and order
 - ✓ We have Strengthened Anti-illegal Drugs and Anti-Criminality Campaign with Law Enforcement Agencies. Over these next slides, you will see the intense campaign against criminality and illegal drugs that we are aggressively pursuing in partnership with our law enforcement and investigating agencies, such as our Center for Drug Education and Counseling (CeDEC) Operation, our Community-based Rehabilitation Program Without Walls (CBRP WoW) which we are pursuing under the motto of “Church and State As One”, the CDP-PPM Approach to Barangay Drug Clearing Operations, including a first for any LGU throughout the Philippines: the first-ever Drug-free Household Sticker. Our church-state

partnership on anti-drug abuse campaign and community-based drug rehabilitation is another example of thinking outside the box. For this, we would like to thank Bishops Abet and Danny for leading the way in recent PPOC and PADAC joint Meetings with other faith-based groups.

- ✓ Some more of the multiple peace and order programs we are implementing now are the iProTeam and ProTokTeam, maintenance of internal security, and internal security initiatives.
- ✓ Additional internal security initiatives, together with a multitude of other government and private sector services, are delivered by our HEAT-IT Bohol Caravans, together with our surgical, medical, dental and other missions. As a valued partner in our missions, we would like to acknowledge the Philippine Gift of Life, Inc. and other volunteer partners.
- ✓ We are also working towards the Construction of Additional Jail Buildings and Cells, to ease the congestion in our jail facilities.
- ✓ And we are looking forward to the Construction of Bohol Drug Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation Center, in partnership with the DOH.

- **Interconnectivity**

- ✓ Our Convergence with NGAs, LGUs, CSOs, Private Sector and ODA Organizations continues, exemplified by our Provincial Government of Bohol – Civil Society Organizations Partnership Covenant
- ✓ Our spearheading of the creation of the Panglao Island and City of Tagbilaran Executive Committee (PITEC), a collaborative mechanism between Provincial Government, Tagbilaran City, Dauis and Panglao on tourism, environment management and other development initiatives, in collaboration with the Strengthening Urban Resilience for Growth with Equity (SURGE) Project funded by the USAID.
- ✓ Our recently-launched Partnership with LGUs: Bohol – Palawan/ Tagbilaran-Puerto Princesa Tourism and Environmental Programs and Policy Development Exchange for PITEC, under the auspices of USAID-SURGE. Through this partnership, PITEC IS thinking outside the box through inter-LGU collaboration on tourism and environmental management.
- ✓ Our Ongoing Partnership with the Bohol UP Advisory Council, who offer their technical expertise *pro bono*, all for the love of Bohol.
- ✓ Our pursuit of Local Economic Development through Investment Promotions and Business-Friendly Environment
- ✓ Our promotion of Bohol as a learning Destination for LGUs, National Government and Private Organizations
- ✓ Our Official Development Assistance (ODA) partnerships, such as the Philippine Rural Development Program (WORLD BANK – DA), Advancing Philippine Competitiveness (COMPETE) (USAID), Integrated Natural Resources and Environmental Management Project (ADB-DENR), our partnership with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for our major infrastructure projects, and the aforementioned (SURGE) Project with USAID.
- ✓ Our Partnerships with Local and Foreign Institutions for Arts and Culture
- ✓ Information dissemination thru print, broadcast and other modes of communication
- ✓ And our Synergy with Provincial Employees' Union and Cooperatives.

- **Reforms in Local Governance**

- ✓ Strategic Human Resource Management & Development, particularly through the Strategic Performance Management System (SPMS)
- ✓ Participatory Spatial and Development Planning, an approach which was highlighted in the updating of the Provincial Development and Physical Framework Plan (PDPFP). This is a legacy plan that we have formulated to guide Bohol's development for the next 12 years, so that we Boholanos can actively chart our development path and not be overtaken by events.
- ✓ Formulation of the Executive-Legislative Agenda (ELA) and Updated Development Framework, which we did at the very start of this term
- ✓ Periodic consultation with LGUs, NGAs, and CSOs on development plan formulation and implementation
- ✓ Revenue-Generation and Fund-Sourcing, with an eye towards Increasing Revenue from Local and External Sources. It might interest you to note that Dividend income from the Joint Venture Agreement is the third largest single source of local revenue of the PGBh. This is another unique strategy, a non-traditional source of revenue, which required a lot of risk-taking and brainstorming to go outside the box. It reflects the Provincial Government officials' strong will and leadership amidst legal battles (the Joint Venture cases), and here, to give credit where it is due, I would like to acknowledge Cong. Rene Relampagos, our Governor at the time, for his vision and courage. If current trends continue, our dividend income may soon even exceed real property taxes.
- ✓ Continuing implementation of revenue-generation initiatives
- ✓ Creation and Institutionalization of the Public Economic Enterprise Management Unit (PEEMU)
- ✓ Establishment and operation of provincial public economic enterprises
- ✓ Enhancement of Local Government Systems and Processes, such as the Electronic New Government Accounting System (e-NGAS) compliant with the Philippine Public Sector Accounting Standard (PPSAS)
- ✓ Improvements in the Procurement System
- ✓ Effective operation of the Provincial Internal Audit Office (PIAO)
- ✓ An Active and Dynamic Local Finance Committee
- ✓ Of course, our Innovations are always supported by Legislation, thanks to you, honorable SP members
- ✓ Multiple awards validating Bohol's innovations:
 - Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG)
 - "PAGASA Award" conferred to yours truly by the Civil Service Commission
 - Our inclusion in the DILG's Honor Roll, a list of the 10 Outstanding Governors with relentless efforts in waging war against Illegal Drugs and for exemplary leadership in promoting good governance, transparency, business competitiveness and disaster preparedness
 - Gawad Tugas Award for Land Patent Issuance
 - Sustained ISO 14001:2004 Accreditation
 - Outstanding Project Monitoring Award for our Local Project Monitoring Committee
- ✓ Continued Improvement of our Government Facilities, such as our New Provincial Capitol Building, expected to be completed in the 1st Quarter of 2018, and its attached projects – but we will have a section later on our major forthcoming projects.

- ✓ Vigorous Post-Earthquake Rehabilitation through the BEA project: Of the total 1,063 sub-projects, 940 (88%) are completed, 105 (10%) ongoing , 17 (2%) on procurement process. Over the next few slides, you will see pictures of the buildings and structures that have been completed.
- **Equitable Economic Growth With Environmental Sustainability**
 - ✓ Bohol BOSS *Asenso Negosyo* Caravans, in partnership with the DTI and other national government partners
 - ✓ Launching of 7 Negosyo Centers in 2016
 - ✓ Bohol's BEST (Basic Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Transformation) Program
 - ✓ Information Communications Technology - Business Process Management (ICT-BPM) Development, with major events such as the Digital Bohol Summit and Geeks on a Beach
 - ✓ Trade Event and Expos: *fusion nights* and OFW Expo
 - ✓ Young Boholano Entrepreneurs Support
 - ✓ Enhanced Investment Promotion Program
 - ✓ Establishment of Tourism Enterprise Zone through the Panglao Bay Premiere Flagship Tourism Enterprise Zone (PBPTEZ), which will be the first of its kind in the country.
 - ✓ Implementation of an Integrated Management System (ISO 14001:2015 for EMS & ISO 9000:2015 for QMS)
 - ✓ Establishment of Cluster Sanitary Landfill
 - ✓ Biodiversity Conservation and Management Program, with the Bohol Biodiversity Complex (BBC) as Center for Biodiversity Conservation
 - ✓ Strengthening of Coastal Law Enforcement
 - ✓ We are excited by the recent launching of the book "Bohol: A Window to the Philippines' Natural History" by the University of the Philippines. As governor of the Province and on behalf of our Boholano constituents, I would certainly take great honor and pride in the prospect of establishing the first UNESCO Global Geopark in the Philippines, right here in our beloved island of Bohol.
- **Disaster Risk Reduction & Management/Climate Change Adaptation (DRRRM-CCA)**
 - ✓ Institutionalization of the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office (PDRRMO), with a duly appointed department head
 - ✓ Strengthening of Local DRRMOs and BDRRMCs – here, over the course of several slides, you will see the numerous capacity-building activities that we have undertaken to improve community resiliency throughout Bohol.
 - ✓ Community-Based Information and Awareness Campaign
 - ✓ Upgrading of DRRM Services, Facilities and Equipment, especially the Completion of the PDRRMC Operation and Relief Center and procurement of additional ambulances for the expanded TaRSIER 117 stations and Upgrading of Other Rescue Equipment
 - ✓ Strengthened Operation of TaRSIER 117, as well as its Replication in the Strategic Municipalities of Ubay, Jagna and Carmen
 - ✓ Launching of the TaRSIER 117 Quick Response Mobile Application
 - ✓ Continuing partnerships with NGAs, Private Sector, Civil Society Organizations, League of LDRRMOs, Business for DRRM-CCA
 - ✓ Mainstreaming of DRRM-CCA in Local Development Plans, through the Updating of the PDPFP and Assistance to LGUs in the preparation of Hazard Maps at the

Local Level to be used as bases in the preparation of Local Contingency Plan and Evacuation Plan

- ✓ Relief and rescue operations in partnership with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and other agencies, volunteer groups
- ✓ Other initiatives to improve Bohol's resiliency to disasters and climate change
- ✓ We are proud of the fact that our PDRRMO was recognized for notable programs encompassing the four thematic areas of disaster management and unparalleled commitment to disaster resilience in the Region

- **Health and Sanitation**

- ✓ As part of our continuing rehabilitation and recovery efforts, as well as our continuing commitment to improve the quality of our health services, we have sustained the Construction/rehabilitation/upgrading of Hospital Facilities and Equipment – again there are several slides showing the results of our efforts.
- ✓ Construction of the New Cong. Castillo Memorial Hospital in Loon
- ✓ Gov. Celestino Galleres Memorial Regional Hospital Modernization Project
- ✓ Human Resource augmentation capacity development and incentives provision. This includes our Master's Degree program for Hospital Management, to enhance our chief doctors' ability to manage their respective hospitals.
- ✓ As a result, our bed occupancy rates consistently increased.
- ✓ We have also Sustained the implementation of Effective Health Programs. Again, you will see several slides outlining our major health programs, as well as our awards, notably the Best Practice Award for Renal Disease Control Program given by the Department of Health – Regional Office VII. → *(pause for about 10 slides)*

- **Education And Skills Development**

- ✓ We continue to give full support to our President Carlos P. Garcia Scholarship Program, and our Bohol Educational Subsidy Program.
- ✓ We have strengthened our partnership with relevant National Government Agencies and Stakeholders. Just recently, we had the Blessing, turnover and unveiling ceremonies of the Country's first Senior High School Tourism Learning Facility in Lourdes, Panglao, Bohol, and the Agri-Entrepreneur Senior High School in San Pascual, Ubay, Bohol.
- ✓ We continue to enhance competencies of applicants to match with the skills requirements/standards of hiring agencies and industries.
- ✓ We have also institutionalized our Programs to support Education and Skills Development.
- ✓ And still more of our innovations in education: Special Program for Employment of Students, Student Recognition Program, Classroom Building Needs Validation, and Anti-Drug Abuse Awareness Program.

- **Agriculture and Food Security**

- ✓ Our major programs in Crops Productivity, for rice, corn, high value commercial crops, and of course, our BAHAY KUBO FAITH, HOPE and CHARITY, together with our Gulayan sa Paaralan.
- ✓ The decrease in production of Palay in 2015 and 2016 due to El Nino started in 2014. Vulnerability of some low-lying areas to flooding also affected production. However, the PGBh implemented mitigating measures to lessen the impact through rounds of Cloud Seeding operations, enrollment to crop insurance, and distribution of climate-resilient seedlings. Without these mitigating measures

which lessened the impact of El Nino, production could have decreased even further. Still, even with these challenges, Bohol remains the highest producer of rice in the region, compensating for the losses of other provinces.

- ✓ We continue to support Organic Agriculture Development...
- ✓ ...as well as the production of a Special Rice Variety in Bohol.
- ✓ Farm Mechanization Support is also a major form of assistance...
- ✓ ...together with Enterprise Development, Fishery Resources Development and Management, Development of Livestock Commodity Champions, under which we have MANY initiatives, shown in the next few slides, most notably under our i-REAP component of the PRDP. → *(pause for about 10 slides)*
- ✓ We have sustained our Effective Veterinary Health Programs, our Canine Rabies Prevention and Elimination Program, the Enforcement and Review of Existing Laws and Policies, for which, once again, the Province of Bohol received a plaque of recognition for the implementation of Rabies Program towards the national goal of a RABIES-FREE PHILIPPINES.
- ✓ And for our Meat Safety and Control Program, we were awarded as the “Best LGU on the implementation of Meat Inspection and Safety”.

- **Tourism and Livelihood**

- ✓ We are, of course, going full speed ahead with our Tourism Development Program...
- ✓ ...as well as our aggressive Marketing and Promotions, which has already generated concrete results, as you saw earlier in our indicators. These next few slides show just a few of our many promotional events and activities.
- ✓ Of course, our distinct Bohol brand is very well exemplified by our “Behold Bohol” tagline, logo and overall theme. For example, just Last Feb 9, we launched in Manila our new tagline: BEHOLD Bohol – which you see prominently on our slides. It was supported by our partners in Bohol’s rehabilitation effort – USAID COMPETE and Air Asia. It was very well attended, with NEDA Sec. Pernia, DOT Usec Jimenez, Dir. Chan & TIEZA CEO Atty. Acedo, plus USAID and Air ASIA officials. Cong. Rene and Art Came, and so did AmCHam Pres Ebb Henchclif. BAMMI and AMREA came in full force. Tawag ng Tanghalan Pride of Bohol, Ms Joaquin, was there to entertain guests. Atty. Doy Nunag of the Provincial Tourism Council (PTC) and BTO representatives were there, plus national media and travel agents.
- ✓ And of course, lest we forget, Bohol was the the only province featured in the coronation night of Miss Universe. We would like to thank Ms. Pia Wurtzbach, Ms. Ashley Graham and the Miss Universe organizers for visiting our island province of Bohol and helping promote Bohol.
- ✓ We continue to enhance our tourism services towards barrier-free tourism.
- ✓ We are excited about the forthcoming direct flights from Korea to Bohol (from Incheon & Busan) later this year, and even the short-distance flights from Bohol to Cebu and Cagayan de Oro.
- ✓ We continue to support our Boholano graduates through our Employment and Placement Program.
- ✓ We continue to enhance our Labor Market Information, our Mobile Services, and our looking after the OFW and Migrant Workers Welfare, should unfortunate or tragic circumstances befall them.

- **Information Technology**

- ✓ Our IT advancement is largely private sector-driven, and we coordinate closely with the service providers who will give realization to our long-held dream of participating actively in the BPO industry. Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company (PLDT) and Globe Telecom have completed upgrading Bohol's connectivity to the national fiber optic node into fully-protected submarine cables that go through different routes and are ready for commercial use.
- ✓ For our part, we continue the Development and Enhancement of our Information Systems, which includes the updating and improvement of PGBh and Department Websites.
- ✓ Our Enhanced Tax Revenue Assessment and Collection System (ETRACS) implementation in the municipalities is generating good results for our component LGUs.
- ✓ We continue to conduct Capacity Development to increase competencies and productivity of IT staff and increase lifespan of IT Equipment.
- ✓ We are becoming more and more GIS-savvy as an LGU, as we pursue more GIS capacity development.
- ✓ Even our hospitals are benefiting from IT, through the iHOMIS System.
- ✓ And of course, we continue to strongly support our Bohol ICT Council.

- **Boholano Culture and Heritage Preservation**

- ✓ Under our Arts Program, we have hosted a good number of provincial, national and even international arts and culture events.
- ✓ Soon to be completed, we are eagerly awaiting the re-opening of the Old Provincial Capitol as the Bohol Branch of the National Museum.
- ✓ The rehabilitation and reconstruction of our damaged churches and heritage buildings continues at a careful and deliberate pace, with the guidance of heritage experts.
- ✓ We also hold our regular arts and culture celebrations – such as the series of events we are currently hosting, in celebration of February as Arts Month.

V. Forthcoming Major Programs and Projects

- Finally, we come to the final section of our report to you.
- Our first batch of forthcoming projects consists of those which are already in the works, or have been given assured funding, or have been identified as urgent:
 - ✓ Power Transmission Development (Cebu-Bohol Interconnection Project), with the NGCP Terms of Reference soon to be published
 - ✓ Power Generation Projects Using Appropriate Technologies in Suitable Areas of the Province
 - ✓ Bohol Bulk Water Supply Clustering
 - ✓ Establishment Of Bangko Sentral Ng Pilipinas – Bohol Branch – the seriousness of intent is reflected by the presence of the bank's top officials today.
 - ✓ Bohol Youth Home
 - ✓ Gov. Celestino Gallares Memorial Regional Hospital, with NEDA Board-approved funding of P2.2 Billion, thanks to the facilitation by CabSec Evasco and Sec. Pernia
 - ✓ Integrated Area Development in Cortes

- ✓ Construction of resilient evacuation centers compliant to the set standards in each of the 3 districts of Bohol
 - ✓ Feasibility Study for Other Cluster Sanitary Landfills
 - ✓ Feasibility Study for Waste Water Treatment Facilities
 - ✓ Feasibility Study for the Establishment of Special Economic Zones (SEZ)
 - ✓ Establishment of Coco Hubs
 - ✓ Construction of Footbridge/Overpass Near School Sites with Heavy Foot Traffic
 - ✓ Road Leveraging Linkages to Investments and Trade (ROLL IT) Project, in convergence with DPWH and DTI
- The second batch of projects consists of those which are for implementation over the medium and long term, and which will certainly need the support of future administrations:
 - ✓ A new Hall Of Justice
 - ✓ The Bohol Business Park, to be assisted by the PPP Center of the National Government
 - ✓ A proposed Monorail System Connecting Bohol Business Park to the New Bohol Airport and Nearby Municipalities
 - ✓ Tagbilaran Waterfront Development Project, to be spearheaded by the Tagbilaran City Government
 - ✓ Sports Activity Areas and Facilities for a multitude of different sports throughout the province
 - ✓ Residential, Housing and Retirement Village Development
 - ✓ Construction of Inter-Island Bridges and Roads through the Highlands of Bohol, which will feature, as a primary component, the proposed Bohol-Cebu Friendship Bridge, as well as other bridges connecting the Visayas Islands, in consonance with the Visayas Spatial Development Framework of Regions 6, 7, 8 and Negros Island Region
 - ✓ Highlands Park and Recreation Areas, at unique vantage points in the highlands of Bohol
 - ✓ Highlands Residential Development
 - ✓ Regional Center for Cultural Training of Artists and Cultural Workers
 - ✓ Educational Facilities for Marine Sciences

VI. “Bohol First” Policy

- Together with our “Behold Bohol” campaign, I would like to highlight our Bohol First Policy. Especially with the advent of the ASEAN Summit, we will soon be having to compete on a global scale. Thus, we must secure work in an international labor market for Boholanos, assure the best quality of Bohol products and services, and capacitate high-level skills for high-level positions in industries.

VII. Conclusion

- And that, my esteemed members of This August Body, is our report to you, the accomplishments of the Provincial Government of Bohol which, without your legislative support, would not have seen reality, as well as an outlook for the future, our legacy programs and projects for Bohol's continued sustainable development.
- I end this State of the Province Address not with a quote this time, but a dedication of my entire speech to the memory of **Atty. Mia Manuelita Mascariñas-Green**. Her death has left a hole in my heart and, I am sure, in the hearts of many other Boholanos. She was truly loved by everyone who knew her. The thought of having lost her to a senseless act of killing fills us with grief, anger and resolve. Grief because we will no longer see her presence – full of energy, vitality and the sheer joy of life. Anger that her killers have so easily decided to rid the world of her presence, and resolve that those killers will not go unpunished. A manhunt is ongoing without letup, until justice is served. We, together with the 1.3 million other Boholanos, will seek Justice for Atty. Mia and all others who lost their lives in similar violent incidents. Let us all unite and continue our crusade for a non-killing society!
- To end on a positive note, every challenge gives us an opportunity to rise higher. Let this be our rallying call to make Bohol a province we can be truly proud of. We saw the lowest point in our history after the earthquake. But we have risen. Let us once again show the world that the spirit of Dagohoy lives on. ***Padayon Bol-anon, Padayon Bohol!***
- To God be the Glory!
- God bless us all. Thank you and good day!

#