



STATE OF THE PROVINCE ADDRESS

Provincial Government of Bohol

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The Province of Bohol and its Stakeholders: Coming Together, Keeping Together, Working Together

Introduction

- Vice Governor Concepcion Lim, the Honorable Members of this August Body, it is my honor to deliver in your presence the State of the Province Address, summarizing the most important accomplishments of our Provincial Government and its partners and stakeholders over the year that has just passed. These accomplishments would not have been possible without you, my dear colleagues, because your support, sponsorship and readiness to act have always facilitated our implementation of executive action.
- My dear colleagues, this is a very special occasion, with no less than the Honorable Speaker of the House of Representatives among the audience today, Speaker Feliciano “Sonny” Belmonte, together with Cong. Eleandro Madrona and Cong. Al Francis Bichara. Also with us is Ambassador Carlos Chan, an adopted son of Bohol. Thank you for gracing this occasion.
- I would also like to greet the other VIPs and guests in attendance, and everyone in this hall. It is my pleasure to present to you our accomplishments through this SOPA. Because it pertains to the “state of the province”, that means it includes the gains and accomplishments with the contribution of all stakeholders and all sectors in Bohol. Certainly, the Provincial Government serves as the lead institution, but with 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 Councils, 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 private 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.

- Also, it should be emphasized that this is only a summary of the most significant achievements of Bohol in the past year.
- We would not have accomplished these achievements without the strong support of the national government, led by His Excellency President Benigno S. Aquino III and the honourable members of Congress, represented here by Speaker Belmonte.
- We are also grateful for the guidance of the UP Advisory Council, for having generously shared their time and intellect, and even their services, *pro bono*, for the development of the Province of Bohol.
- Before I begin this address, we would like to honor the memory of PO2 Romeo Cumanoy Cempron of the PNP Special Action Force, one of the Fallen 44, who bravely sacrificed his life so that the rest of society may live in peace. We acknowledge the presence of his mother in the audience today. Thank you for your son's heroic act of self-sacrifice.
- Finally, I am most inspired to deliver the SOPA today in the presence of my wife Pureza, Mother Victoria, and brothers Dr. Boy and Efren.
- "Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success." These are the words of the great Henry Ford, whose innovation from almost a century ago has made the transport industry what it is today. These words, I think, fully describe the unity and harmony, the togetherness that pervades not only within the Provincial Government bureaucracy, but also among all of Bohol's stakeholders.
- That spirit of togetherness is embodied in our development framework, summarized as HEAT-IT Bohol HELPS LIFE towards the BIG LEAP. Let us revisit that framework, and use it as our guide for this SOPA.

- You will see on the screen that at the very center of our framework, surrounding our Vision and Mission, are the words “Poverty reduction”. We are pleased to report that, according to the official statistics of the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB), our poverty incidence among families has consistently decreased. You see on the graph that it decreased from 50.2% in 2000, to 40.3% in 2006, to 36.6% in 2009, and per the latest report, to 30.6% in 2012. Another chart shows the magnitude of poor families over the same period – with a similar downward trend. Of course, there is still a lot of room for improvement, but our sustained trend of poverty reduction gives us much reason to be optimistic, not to mention the fact that, as of 2012, Bohol was the most-improved province in Region VII in terms of poverty reduction, according to NEDA reports.
- This sustained poverty reduction may be attributed to a wide range of socio-economic interventions, both national and local programs, such as the National Household Targeting System (NHTS), the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), and the *Kalusugang Pangkalahatan* Program and Sustainable Livelihood Program. One local counterpart program is the Countryside Development Program-Purok Power Movement (CDP-PPM), through which we use the strategy of collaboration and partnership down to the *purok* level, to address problems at the root. For example, in many *puroks*, we have achieved conflict resolution through the distribution of land titles. The CDP-PPM is a cross-sectoral strategy that is effective for all types of local governance services, even in such disparate areas as Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) and Nutrition. In fact, most recently, our *Purok System Nutrition Initiative*, implemented through our CDP-PPM strategy, was awarded as the most outstanding Regional Nutrition Initiative by the Regional Nutrition Council.
- Through the CDP-PPM, our collective efforts with the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Philippine National Police (PNP) to sustain the peace and development in our beloved province, in the context of internal security and emerging criminality, is our singular pride in Bohol. Our province remains insurgency-free and stands as an acknowledged model in collaboration and multi-sector convergence to bring solutions to the root causes that fuel unrest. Through the CDP-PPM, together with the AFP and PNP, and our partner national agencies: Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR),

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Agriculture (DA), and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), we are effectively and responsively bringing various government socio-economic services closer to the people.

- An accompanying service delivery mechanism is our bi-monthly HEAT-IT Bohol Caravan, which continues to bring to the less privileged municipalities a wide array of government and private sector services. In calendar year 2014, our HEAT-IT Bohol Caravan, served a total of 34,875 constituents from 79 barangays directly, and enlisted the participation of no less than 108 agencies at last count, coming from the PGBh, the municipal LGUs, the national government agencies, and the private sector. When we look at the figures to date, the total becomes even more impressive: we reached 225,257 constituents in 425 barangays over the course of 20 caravans.
- Allow me now to enumerate the highlights of our accomplishments in the individual HEAT-IT Bohol pillars of development. Please take note that these are just the highlights from what has been a very productive year for the Province of Bohol.

Health and Sanitation (including Social Welfare)

- In the wake of the Great Bohol Earthquake of 2013, and even as we continue to reconstruct and rehabilitate those hospitals damaged by the earthquake, we have kept up our hospital modernization efforts and upgrading of facilities. The Teodoro B. Galagar District Hospital in Jagna, is ready to inaugurate its new, 3-storey hospital building.
- We are eagerly awaiting the construction of the new Gov. Celestino Gallares Memorial Medical Center in its new location in Cortes. Per the latest notice from the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), P555 million has been allocated for the first phase of construction, with P500 million more for the purchase of new equipment for the hospital, and the total cost is P2.161 billion. At this stage, the preparations for the bidding of health facilities is already ongoing, with a MYOA of DBM being worked out by the Department of Health (DOH). We are as excited as you are about

the new incarnation of this regionally-important training hospital and medical center.

- With regard to our PhilHealth Program, 6,863 Indigents have been enrolled to PhilHealth under the Special Universal Coverage Program with PGBh funding of P30 million, not to mention those already covered by NHTS. Also, funds have been downloaded to 10 PGBh-owned Hospitals for the implementation of another scheme, the Point-of-Care Program.
- It's not all about infrastructure, of course. One of the most impressive indicators of our performance in health is reflected in the chart onscreen. The proportion of malnourished/underweight children ages 0-5 has dramatically reduced, from 32% in 2000 to 4% as of last year. Thus, it is no surprise that we are winning regional awards for our nutrition initiatives.
- Our Medical Outreach Program, implemented in all towns of Bohol, has already conducted 49 missions to date, and has reached 12,964 beneficiaries. Of these beneficiaries, 7,925 or 61% were senior citizens. We have also sustained our partnership with the Philippine Gift of Life Foundation for the regular conduct of medical-dental-surgical missions with the assistance of international NGOs, bringing to Bohol the expertise of Filipino doctors and surgeons from abroad, one of which is still here now: the Surgical Mission from Southern Illinois under Dr. Rivera.
- We know that our Bohol Rabies Prevention and Eradication Program (BRPEP) is a *Galing Pook Award*-winning program. This past year, we have sustained our efforts in keeping Bohol rabies-free, with the purchase of more than P4 million worth of rabies vaccines. But truthfully, and especially with the presence of the Municipal Mayors here, we need your help to sustain our success. This year marks the start of a new chapter in our all-out war against rabies, addressing the problem from both the canine and human aspects. In the coming months, we will undertake massive province-wide dog vaccination, and will be strongly promoting Responsible Pet Ownership. We recognize that the concern about stray dogs is not limited to rabies, but also includes the problem of deaths from vehicular accidents, as recorded in police blotters. Thus, we need

the help of our mayors here, as well as your respective barangay captains.

- A total of 43 towns in Bohol are part of the Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive Integrated Delivery of Social Services (KALAHI-CIDSS), under its National Community-Driven Development Program (NCDDP), implemented in partnership with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). Thirty of these towns have started implementation in 2014, with the rest to follow in 2015. The program's funding support comes from the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and the National Government. This is the highest number of LGUs for any province in Region VII. This program's development objective is to have barangays and communities of targeted municipalities become empowered to achieve improved access to local governance services and to participate in more inclusive local planning, budgeting, and implementation.
- In terms of regular social welfare services, our Aid to Individuals in Crisis Situations (AICS) has reached 9,182 beneficiaries. Through our partnership with the Bohol Medical Care Institute (BMCI), we have enabled access by indigent patients to laboratory services, medical diagnosis, and other health services – in 2014 alone, our partnership benefited 1,112 indigent patients, with the total value of these services amounting to P1.837 million.
- All of our programs and projects in the PGBh integrate the Gender and Development perspective in their delivery strategy. On top of that, we also have programs and facilities to assist survivors of gender-based violence. The Bohol Crisis Intervention Center (BCIC) provides psycho-social intervention to help survivors of gender-based violence. Many of these survivors have already reintegrated into their respective families and communities. The Stimulation and Therapeutic Activity Center (STAC) provides physical therapy, occupational therapy, special education and social enhancement activities for children with disabilities, and enhances their life and occupational skills, while simultaneously enhancing their parents' ability to take care of their children, so that the same level of care is continued at home. Aside from the children with disabilities, the attention to persons with disabilities and the elderly has been sustained by the PGBh, in partnership with the Bohol Federation of

Disabled Persons, Inc. (BFDPI) and the Bohol Federation of Senior Citizens' Associations (BOFESCA).

- A related initiative, once again under our GAD framework, was the Anti-Human Trafficking Summit last December 2014, highlighting the 18-day campaign to end Violence Against Women (VAW), as well as the International Day Against Trafficking on December 12.
- We are also paying attention to indigenous peoples, such as the Badjao Tribe. The PGBh and DSWD through Sec. Dinky Soliman have inked an agreement for the Badjao Community Development Plan, which focuses on education, health care and livelihood. Similar programs for other IPs are also under way.
- All these are just the tip of the iceberg, so to speak. Still ongoing are the many regular health services that our Provincial Health Office and partner agencies continue to provide.

Education and Skills Development

- We continue to maximize the reach of our scholarship and educational subsidy programs. We have provided access to education to a total of 2,189 scholars, through our Pres. Carlos P. Garcia Scholarship Program, Bohol Educational Subsidy Program, and our Special Program for the Employment of Students (SPES). Our School & Classroom Library Development Program distributed 2,001 donated books to 17 public elementary schools. Our Student Recognition Program gave recognition to deserving graduates in 1,045 schools, colleges and universities throughout the province. To enhance the preparedness of these graduates and ease their integration into the job market, 2,912 college graduating students were provided with a Pre-Employment Orientation Seminar (PEOS), wherein speakers from the private sector, Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) provided career guidance for long-term employment prospects and personal skills to face the world of work.
- Our recovery of school buildings after the earthquake is ongoing. On top of this, together with DepEd, we facilitated the construction of a total of 408 school buildings, whether through public-private

partnership and donations, or DepEd's Quick Response Fund (QRF), or through PGBh funding. And even as we speak, we are processing the procurement of more school buildings funded by the PGBh.

- Our Dynamic Learning Program (DLP), pioneered by the Ramon Magsaysay Award-winning Bernido couple, Drs. Christopher & Ma. Victoria Bernido, continues to be an exemplary program, implemented in our 162 public secondary schools over the last four years through DepEd. We have also provided DLP Manuals in all of these schools to enhance its sustainability. The results speak for themselves, as our charts show: the National Achievement Test passing percentage has consistently grown, from 57.58% in the first year to 64.35% as of last year. The drop-out rate has consistently declined, from 4.86% in the first year to 2.85% as of last year. The failure rate has also gone down, from 5.70% in the first year to 2.13% as of last year. With these indicators, I have full confidence in saying that we are on the right track! ***(Wait until the applause subsides.)***
- In keeping with our philosophy of shared leadership, as well as partnership and collaboration, I signed the Executive Order creating the Government-Industry-Academe Council, supported by our Education Development Center, during the recent visit of US Ambassador Philip Goldberg. Once again, this is a Boholano innovation that is not yet present in other provinces.
- Educational summits and planning continue to occupy top-priority status, so that we may deliver, in partnership with the Department of Education (DepEd), exactly the services that our Boholano students need. Thus, we held our Education Convergence Summit, Education Planning Workshop, *Abot Alam* Convergence Summit, and *Abot Alam* National Launch last year.
- The youth sector is very important in Education, and the PGBh has seen through on its commitment for Youth Development, as demonstrated in Youth Programs in 2014. To awaken the passion of the youth for nation-building, including post-disaster rehabilitation and recovery, as well as enlist their cooperation in our anti-drug campaign, we conducted the Bayani Challenge, in which we mobilized more than 1.4 million volunteers, the Barkada Kontra Droga and YouthBuild activities. We are reaching out to the

Boholano Out-of-school Youth through the Abot-Alam Program of DepEd. We also held the Youth Leadership Summit, multiple peace advocacy events and sports events. We firmly believe that the strength of a nation for tomorrow relies on the empowerment of the youth of today.

Agriculture and Food Security

- This past year has been very trying for the agriculture sector, as you know. Multiple disasters, particularly the “QRS” triumvirate of Typhoons Queenie, Ruby and Seniang, caused massive flooding in our agricultural areas, not to mention causing havoc and destruction even in our poblacion areas. We acknowledge the multiple challenges, too, facing our fisheries sector, such as overfishing and illegal fishing, as well as multiple levels of marketing, from fisherfolks to the market. We continue to address these challenges. The PGBh is now in the process of procurement of the equipment and materials needed for the fish terminals. Trainings on the proposed beneficiary organizations are ongoing. Freezer vans that will pick up fish catch from the municipalities down to the bagsakan centers, in partnership with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), are now in place.
- The same goes for the vegetable industry, which has faced low production due to our erratic weather, declining farm labor, and lack of post-harvest storage facilities. Again, we continue to work with our farmers to respond to these challenges. The PGBh is partnering with national government agencies, and we are now in the final stage of the ongoing field adaptability trials on highland vegetables at Taytay, Duero and Balili, Jagna. Enhancement of small-scale agri-entrepreneurs is now ongoing as well, in accordance with sustainable agriculture.
- Despite all the challenges, we accomplished a noteworthy 108% self-sufficiency level in rice, as declared by the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS). We are still the only province in Region VII to have accomplished this feat. ***(Wait for applause.)***
- We are promoting farm mechanization to address the increasing demand of the labor force in the agriculture sector. The PGBh is pioneering the provision of 15% counterpart equity for the farmers.

Also, the Korean Program for International Agriculture (KOPIA) has adopted the Province of Bohol as one of their pilot sites in the development of their Korean-Japonica rice cultivars.

- Of course, our regular agricultural programs are being sustained, such as LETS HELP BOHOL in livestock production, Agri-Pinoy Rice and Corn Programs, High-Value Crops Development Program, the Bahay Kubo FAITH, HOPE and CHARITY project, and Fisheries Programs targeting beneficiaries throughout the province.
- Under our Dairy Development Program, we have seen an impressive 15% increase in the production of raw milk, amounting to P11.575 million. This has also led to an 81% increase in the sales of dairy products, amounting to P9.425 million in 2014. And the future looks even brighter for the sunshine dairy industry, with our forthcoming Bohol Carabao Dairy Processing Marketing Enterprise, a P13-million project to be implemented under the Philippine Rural Development Program (PRDP).
- We are also proud to announce that we have successfully bred the Boholano Native Chicken Strain, with technical assistance from the Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCAARRD) and the University of the Philippines-Los Baños (UPLB). You will see onscreen pictures of this new Boholano strain of native chicken – feel free to greet it by saying, “*Sano!*”
- The PRDP is a very important strategic partner in agricultural development, and will be for the next few years. Through its i-Plan, i-Reap and i-Build components, the PRDP is assisting the PGBh with agricultural planning, priority commodity identification, value chain analysis, product development, equipment upgrading, and even infrastructure support through the concreting of agriculturally important farm-to-market roads. This program has just started, and will be even more visible in 2015 and beyond.

Tourism and Livelihood

- As I begin this section on Tourism and Livelihood, I would like to emphasize, as I always do, that Bohol's brand of Tourism is focused on Eco-Cultural Tourism, consistent with the provisions of the National Tourism Act of 2009 also known, modesty aside, as the Chatto-Gordon Law.
- In fact, today marks the first day of the Eco-Tourism Bohol Campaign Tour, launched with the support of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), through our Sustainable Environment Protection Project (SEPP). Dubbed as the "Bohol Surprise Tours", you might want to try these out. Feel free to inquire with the Bohol Tourism Office (BTO) for details.
- Our tourist arrivals dwindled in 2012, at the time when the one-plane-at-a-time policy on the tarmac of the Tagbilaran Airport was strictly implemented by CAAP, which reduced the number of our daily flights. But these arrivals have rebounded since then, steadily increasing in both 2013 and 2014.
- On a nationwide scale, and at a much more visible level, we recently launched the Visit Bohol 2015 Campaign at the Glorietta Mall in Makati, Metro Manila, with assistance from the United States Agency for International Development-Advancing Philippine Competitiveness (USAID-COMPETE) Project, and with the support and attendance of no less than Tourism Secretary Ramon Jimenez, our Congressmen, and our top local officials and the private sector. Let me emphasize that those three days in Glorietta resulted in more than P4 million in the form of advance bookings and registration for our private sector participants. Indeed, we are looking forward to a vibrant eco-cultural tourism industry in Bohol in 2015 and beyond! The event was covered by ANC.
- By the way, Visit Bohol 2015 coincides with Cruise Ship Tourism Year, and we look forward to welcoming more international cruise ships to our shores.
- Still with assistance from USAID-COMPETE, we are implementing the Tourism Recovery Plan, to ensure the quick recovery and future growth of our tourism industry. And there's good reason to be

optimistic, what with the grand resorts soon to open in Panglao, such as the 400 rooms of Henann Resort and the 250 rooms of BE Resorts Bohol. Also, we are encouraging product development to facilitate the emergence of more tourist spots throughout the Province, with new destinations like Anda and the nearby Carood Watershed towns, the Ubay Agri-Park and Danajon Double Barrier Reef group of islands.

- I started this section on Tourism by bringing up the term “Eco-Cultural Tourism”. Certainly, we haven’t forgotten the cultural aspect. Regularly, we bring culture & arts to the countryside through the HEAT-IT Bohol Culture & Arts Caravan.
- One of the most high-profile international cultural events that we have ever held was the Bohol International Choir Festival and Competition (BICFC). This event showed everyone that Boholano talents are indeed world-class. And on the local front, we continue to facilitate the creation and development of cultural groups based in our towns.
- We have also lent our support to new and innovative ideas for cultural productions, such as the recently-concluded run of *Teatro Porvenir*, a unique staging of a play in the otherwise-unutilized Baclayon Cockpit, orchestrated by multi-awarded movie and theatre director Gardy Labad. We hope to see more of these productions in the future.
- In the area of Livelihood, our post-earthquake livelihood assistance to affected families continues, in partnership with the DSWD, DOLE, OWWA, and other agencies.
- For services relating to our Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), we assisted 204 OFW-related cases involving 216 Boholano individuals, and we resolved 202 or 99.01% of these cases as of December 2014. We owe this success again to our partnership and collaboration with national agencies, notably the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), OWWA, and POEA, through the OFW Desk of BEPO. ***(Pause for applause)***

- We are excited about JobStart Philippines, a partnership initiative of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Asian Development Bank (ADB), and the Government of Canada, for which we will sign a Memorandum of Agreement on March 4. This program aims to strengthen guidance services, labor market information, and job search assistance for employment officers, while at the same time providing the youth with access to career guidance, life skills, and technical on-the-job trainings. Bohol's pioneering Skills Registry System (BSRS), a project of the Local Governance Support Program for Local Economic Development (LGSP-LED) with funding support from the Government of Canada, will serve as an online venue for jobseekers and employers in Bohol to easily find each other.

Information Technology

- In the area of Information Technology, PLDT and SMART have laid down the groundwork for the Bohol Domestic Fiber Optic Network (Bohol DFON), which we launched in July 2014. We are already part of the Telecommunications Fiber Optic Highway. This highway once completed will ensure Bohol's interconnectivity with its neighboring island provinces, and will also improve its readiness for hosting Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) companies.
- Aside from the infrastructure, of course, we are facilitating ICT sector planning and coordination with the right agencies. The ICT Council has been meeting with EXL, a large BPO company that has set its eyes on Bohol as its next business destination. Also, PGBh officials and our Congressmen, together with officials of the City of Tagbilaran, presented the Bohol ICT Scorecard to ICT-BPO key players at the Integrated Business Process Association of the Philippines (IBPAP). Currently, the City of Tagbilaran is one of the next wave cities for ICT development. And with the signing of the Cities Development Initiative (CDI) Memorandum of Agreement during the recent visit of Ambassador Goldberg, there's nowhere else to go but up!

Support Mechanisms

Our efforts are not limited to the HEAT-IT Bohol development pillars. Equally important are the support mechanisms that we have in place, particularly the following: Governance and Public Finance, Infrastructure (including Post-Earthquake Rehabilitation), Environment Management, Partnership and Collaboration, and Peace and Order.

Governance and Public Finance

- Our record of local governance and fiscal reforms started early, and we now have a long list of best practices to choose from, thanks to the partnership of the Provincial Roads Management Facility (PRMF), funded by the Australian government. One of our most recent reforms, certainly made possible by PRMF, has been the creation of the Provincial Internal Audit Office (PIAO), which is quite rare for an LGU, and especially for a provincial government, as I've found in my interactions with other local government officials. The institutionalization of our Human Resource Management and Development Office (HRMDO), as well as the creation of our latest, the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (DRRMO), are also in large part due to PRMF assistance.
- Even as we speak, the PRMF is, on this very day, undertaking capacity development for our department heads, administrative officers, and procurement personnel, all for the goal of implementing continued reform in our procurement and public finance processes.

Infrastructure and Post-Earthquake Rehabilitation

- Here's a very welcome piece of good news: The JICA-funded New Bohol Airport Construction and Sustainable Environment Protection Project (NBACSEPP) is finally free to proceed without impediment! Per the latest updates from JICA, the Notice of Award has been signed by the Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC) BAC Chairman Usec. Lotilla, and promptly air-mailed to the winning bidder, Chiyoda-Mitsubishi Joint Venture. The Notice to Proceed will be signed by DOTC Secretary Joseph Emilio Abaya. Construction is expected to officially commence in April 2015. But even before this contractual commencement, the winning bidder

should be starting next month temporary works, such as the construction of Employer's/Engineer's and Contractor's offices, bunkhouses, erection of concrete and asphalt batching plants. So it's definitely "All Systems Go" for the New Bohol Airport! Again, don't just take my word for it: see these pictures of the groundwork and clearing work being undertaken at the site, together with the already-completed New Bohol Airport Resettlement Project in Tawala, Panglao for the relocated families, whose houses were already turned over to the homeowners last November 2014, and these homeowners have formed a Homeowners Association, which is now registered with the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB).

- In the meantime, while we await the completion of the New Bohol Airport, we are also assuring the improvement of the services and facilities at the Tagbilaran Airport including the design for the improvement of the emergency airport ramp and apron which just started.
- A major component of our post-earthquake rehabilitation is the P2.3-billion Bohol Earthquake Assistance (BEA) Project in partnership with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and DBM, under which we are repairing, rebuilding and reconstructing public buildings. We would like to acknowledge the vital role of Mayors, Vice Mayors and local officials in the implementation of BEA. With the help of the DILG secretariat, together with DPWH support, as well as the added workforce devoted to the project, we are proceeding faster with project implementation. As a result, 891 out of the total 1,066 projects, or 83.6%, already have the required Programs of Work, and 384 projects or 36.0% are already undergoing the bidding process. In addition to the public buildings that are being repaired or rebuilt under BEA, we also have bridges throughout the province that are being repaired, reconstructed or even totally rebuilt.
- The replacement of our earthquake-damaged roads & bridges is another top priority. Through the Bohol Road Repair and Rehabilitation Projects (BERRRP) under PRMF, a total of 15 Road Sections are being funded for rehabilitation, and 13 contracts have already been awarded and are undergoing implementation. In total,

the BERRR Projects are bringing an additional P241.7 million to the province in terms of road repair and rehabilitation.

- Our tourism roads are also being given attention, again consistent with the provisions of the National Tourism Act, with the convergence of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of Tourism (DOT), and DBM. This is an outcome of our Coordinating Road Investments for Development (CRID), which started with the identification of Strategic Road Links (SRLs), especially our provincial road tourism highways. From that point, the list went through approvals through channels, such as the PDC, the *Sangguniang Panlalawigan*, RDC, then to the departments concerned, and onwards to the Congressional and Presidential approvals. For their help in lobbying at the national government, we would like to thank the three Congressmen of Bohol for their tireless efforts. Please note that these road sections are already being bidded out, with more road sections to be added this year and in 2016. In addition to that list, we also have projects being implemented under the *Gawad Pamana* Fund.
- A total of 16 bridge projects are also being assisted by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR). **(Pause)**
- Under the Relocation Project for Houses and Buildings identified as vulnerable areas as declared by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), the PGBh, using the donations received in the wake of the earthquake, has purchased lots for the relocation of 485 houses, 2 schools, and 1 hospital. **(Pause)**
- In the repair and reconstruction of houses after the earthquake, which is being undertaken by the Shelter Cluster, in the area of total repairs and temporary houses: 78,429 units were targeted; actual accomplishment is 78,440 units so far. Core shelter units projected, 10,974; completed and ongoing units add up to 5,501 units, or 50% of target. Furthermore, 5,385 families have been awarded Certificates of Entitlement. Also, we have instituted a Grievance Redress Mechanism under the Shelter Cluster, to address complaints and other issues and concerns – as of now, there are 2,531 units for allocation under this mechanism. We will make sure that no one is left behind: *“Walang iwanan.”*

- Many of you might have already seen the on-going rehabilitation work at the Tagbilaran Seaport and other ports throughout Bohol. These projects, under the Philippine Ports Authority, will not stop at rehabilitation, but as you will see, they include the expansion of port facilities, to further support the growth of our tourism industry including the port of Catagbacan, Loon which is also our Cruise Ship Port. The PPA Team was here yesterday to discuss details of the expanded design. The location is also our site of the Proposed Tourism Enterprise Zone.
- There are more noteworthy initiatives under infrastructure which will directly address Bohol's power and water supply needs most of them made possible with the assistance of USAID-COMPETE: for example, our recently-held Power Investors Forum, which was attended by no less than 13 interested investors. Another set of firsts for a provincial LGU are our Power Development Planning initiative thru the creation of the Bohol Energy Development Advisory Group (BEDAG), in partnership with the Department of Energy (DOE), NGCP and Bohol Power Utilities and the academe. We also held a Market Sounding activity with Water Investors for the Bohol Water and Sanitation Feasibility Study, supported by our Steering Committee and Technical Coordination Group.
- I know the PGBh officials and employees will be particularly excited by this update: our New Provincial Capitol is already up for bidding, with the help of the DPWH. Since the Old Provincial Capitol has already been turned over to the National Museum for ongoing repair and rehabilitation under our Heritage Tours Plan, we have been granted a P350 million allocation from the supplemental budget of 2014. A Multi-Year Obligation Authority is being worked out by DBM and DPWH for the additional P350 million this year, for the construction of our New Provincial Capitol. Thank you again to Pres. P-Noy, Speaker Belmonte and the members of Congress.

Environment Management and DRRM-CCA

- In our development framework, Environment occupies a very special place. In fact, it is at the very top – our sustainable development call is for a “Green Bohol”. In addition to this, we are redefining our

environment management to integrate Disaster Risk Reduction and Management, as well as Climate Change Adaptation (DRRM-CCA). We are already implementing DRRM trainings throughout a cross-section of Boholano communities down to the *purok* level. We have come up with a draft DRRM Operations Manual. We have sent strategic personnel to DRRM scholarship trainings in Japan, Hawaii, New York, Taiwan and China all supported by our partners at no cost to the Provincial Government. The interaction of our TaRSIER 117 Team with the Mayor of San Francisco, USA was the highlight of their training, which was done during the Fleet Week Celebration of San Francisco City and County, in partnership with the US Navy and Marines.

- Our DRRM capacity, and certainly that of our TaRSIER 117 team, was called into action during the most recent spate of disasters, most notably the last one, Typhoon Seniang. You will recall the widespread flooding, and the massive rescue efforts that we had to supervise, even as we were supposed to celebrate the coming of the new year.
- There are other initiatives that we are proud of, under Environment Management:
 - ✓ The JICA-funded Sustainable Environment Protection Project (SEPP), where we established the Panglao Island Executive Committee (PIEC), and through which we are pursuing the most immediate implementable options for wastewater management in Panglao Island, in coordination with the BWSP of USAID-COMPETE. The SEPP Team, together with LGU officials of Dausi and Panglao, also participated in a two-week training by JICA on Coastal Tourism, DRRM and Coastal Resource Management;
 - ✓ DRRM Planning for the 10 hardest-hit municipalities of the earthquake as well as the province, undertaken with funding support from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), as well as Contingency Planning supported by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA);
 - ✓ DRRM Training and Benchmarking in the province of Albay by the PGBh officials as well as the municipal mayors and DRRM officials, especially those of the hardest-hit towns, assisted by UNDP and USAID-COMPETE;
 - ✓ The on-going Albur Sanitary Landfill, funded by the DOT-TIEZA will hopefully address the solid waste concerns of the cluster LGUs;

- ✓ ISO 14001 Certification for the Environment Management System (EMS);
 - ✓ Our Coastal Law Enforcement Council (CLEC) Clustering strategy, with the assistance of the eco-FISH Project of USAID;
 - ✓ Our geo-hazard assessment for new building sites, in coordination with the MGB; and
 - ✓ In the area of DRRM-CCA, we have a strategic partnership with the Australian National University (ANU), under the auspices of the Australian government. In fact, right now, the officials of five Provincial Governments and State Universities are in Bohol, attending an Inter-Provincial Trajectory Conference in Panglao Regents Park.
- Another important, and still new, environment project is the Integrated Natural Resources and Environmental Management Project (INREMP) implemented by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), with funding primarily from the ADB. The INREMP will address unsustainable watershed management in the Wahig-Inabanga River Watershed. The project aims to reverse degradation of watersheds caused by forest denudation and unsustainable farming practices, and provide incentives to local communities for improving natural resource management, by generating tangible economic benefits, which is well in keeping with our focal strategy of poverty reduction.

Partnership and Collaboration

- As you might have observed at this point, we in Bohol have sustained many strategic and productive partnerships with Official Development Assistance (ODA) agencies. We have even earned the moniker "darling of ODA agencies", because of our consistent success in implementing ODA-funded projects. As I enumerate our partner ODA agencies, allow me to thank their representatives who are present here. These accomplishments, and the state of Bohol as it is now, would not have been possible without you:
 - ✓ The Australian Government, through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), and previously through AusAID, which is helping us with Provincial Roads Management Facility (PRMF) and Coordinating Road Investment for Development (CRID)+;

- ✓ USAID, which is responsible for COMPETE, eco-FISH, and several other new projects that we are implementing;
 - ✓ JICA for New Bohol Airport Construction-Sustainable Environmental Protection Project (NBACSEPP), for funding the construction of the New Bohol Airport itself and promotion of Eco Tourism Bohol, and for our FABLAB;
 - ✓ The World Bank, for PRDP;
 - ✓ KOICA, for the Rice Processing Center, which has helped to stave off rice shortages in the wake of disasters and the tourism marketing support;
 - ✓ The European Union, for the recently-completed Realising DReAMS Project;
 - ✓ The Canadian government, for the ongoing Tourism Competitiveness Project in partnership with ADB, BSRS, and the soon-to-be implemented Jobstart Philippines Program;
 - ✓ GIZ, for its Promotion of Green Economic Development (ProGED) programs implemented in partnership with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI); and
 - ✓ ADB, for INREMP.
- We have played host to many high-profile visits by foreign dignitaries over the past year. To name them all would take too much time, so please allow us to flash the list and a few pictures onscreen. ***(Pause)***
 - Of course, our partnership and collaboration strategy is not limited to ODA agencies. We are very proud and happy to report the reorganization of the Association of Bohol Executives of National Agencies (ABENA), and their recent election of a new set of officers. We look forward to working with ABENA on a regular basis. This partnership with national agencies also includes the Philippine Army and the Philippine National Police, especially in keeping the peace of our beloved province and during disaster response.
 - We continue to partner with local media through Bohol Tri-Media Association, most notably through the “*Kita Ug Ang Gobernador*” radio program. All our high-profile promotional activities are done in partnership with the media.
 - We have also maintained the PGBh-NGO-CSO Partnership, through the Covenant that we already have in place, as well as the new

Government-Industry-Academe Council that we have just created. Documentation of Bohol's churches before and after the earthquake, done in collaboration with the academe, particularly Holy Name University, resulted in the magnificent volume that is known as *Pagsulay*.

- Our partnership with the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), National Statistics Office (NSO), and the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) has provided mobile franchising, license renewal and allied services to 2,787 beneficiaries, which by the way, is 139% of the target for the year.
- Let me just say it for emphasis: in my humble opinion, Bohol is the best province for partnership, collaboration and shared leadership! We are open to new ideas from all stakeholders, and it is this openness that has pushed us towards a unified development trajectory, as we can all see from our long list of accomplishments.

Challenges

- Of course, there are challenges, such as the all-too-familiar typhoons. We need to prepare everyone, all sectors and stakeholders, and even community members to step up our DRRM-CCA capabilities, to cope better with disasters and become resilient Boholanos.
- The rehabilitation of our earthquake-damaged churches remains a major challenge. While the launching of the Bohol Rehabilitation and Rebuilding Project for our churches, led by Bishop Leonardo Medroso, is a source of inspiration. We hope to soon see some more positive developments from National Historical Institute (NHI) and National Museum.
- While the disparity in the price of fuel between Bohol and other major cities and provinces continues to be an issue, and there are fluctuating price levels, we have noted the lowering of such disparity due to earlier data last year and in the previous years. Bold suggestions of filing action at the Department of Energy-Department of Justice (DOE-DOJ) Joint Commission against the big players in the fuel industry did not gain concurrence from the Provincial Board, as

outright dismissal is almost a certainty, learning from the Cebu experience. Hence, we continue to strongly support moves for a Congressional inquiry through our Congressmen, with the help of Speaker Belmonte, to finally settle this concern, which surely negates whatever fruits the Boholanos have gained from our recovery efforts.

- We will not sugarcoat our challenging situation in peace and order, especially with the very recent killing of a Boholano radio anchor affectionately known as “Chairman Mau”. We assure you, our police investigators are doing their best, with our law enforcement agencies. We are working with our police force to reduce criminality in Bohol. Statistics show that there is reason to be optimistic: for example, last year has seen a 285% increase in the number of persons arrested vis-à-vis illegal drugs, and a 423% increase in the number of cases filed against the offenders. While the comparative crime volume has admittedly increased in 2014 vs. 2013, this includes increased police action. The comparative number of solved cases and cleared cases has increased by a much greater degree – 101% for solved cases, and 120% for cleared cases. Certainly, this points to a much greater degree of efficiency among our law enforcement agents. Our advocacy continues strongly for a non-killing Boholano society, with our Judges and Prosecutors exercising their critical role in the administration of justice.
- We provided a budget in 2015 for the Legal Assistance for Effective Law Enforcement Program (LAELEP), and are also providing for the availability of lawyers in satellite offices.
- Addressing these challenges requires concerted action from all sectors. We acknowledge here the importance of the role of the Municipal mayors, led by Mayor Lloyd Lopez, the Municipal Vice Mayors, led by Vice Mayor Dodo Jumawid, barangay captains and other local officials, the AFP in Bohol, led by Col. Arnulfo Matanguihan and Lt. Colonel Potenciano Camba, and the Bohol Provincial Police Office, led by PSSupt. Dennis Agustin. But the government cannot do it alone – we need the cooperation of all sectors. And this refers to all challenges under peace and order: drug abuse, illegal numbers game, urban criminality and even insurgency.

- Another challenge in the area of peace and order is the emergence of human trafficking through forced labor off the coast of Palawan, enlisting by force and intimidation Boholano fishermen, among others, in an enforced system of *muro ami* reportedly known as “no catch, no food”, and they are forced to work even during storms and bad weather. Thankfully, just recently, we facilitated together with the Philippine Navy the rescue of 55 fishermen in this situation, and they have reintegrated into their communities, with starter kits for their livelihood given by DOLE, worth P10,000 each, plus travelling allowance from the PGBh. The inquest is ongoing for the filing of cases against the persons responsible.
- Lives have been offered at the altar of peace and order, in our no-nonsense campaign against drug abuse. We must win this war together! Let us be vanguards of our city, municipalities, barangays and even *puroks*. Let us be guardians in our schools. Let us be good parents in our homes. We must win this war together! **(Pause)**

Other Priority Projects for CY 2015

- The Year of the Sheep promises great things for Bohol. Offhand, there are other priority projects that we want to see realized in 2015:
 - ✓ ISO 9001 Certification for Quality Management System (QMS), on top of our ISO 14001 Certification for EMS;
 - ✓ Establishment of our long-envisioned DRRM-CCA Training Center;
 - ✓ Establishment of the Bohol Youth Home for children in conflict with the law;
 - ✓ Construction of a New Hall of Justice;
 - ✓ Malinao Dam Improvement Project, which is all set for implementation, as it already has an approved budget; **(pause as some pictures of the design are shown onscreen)**
 - ✓ Implementation of our Bohol Power Development Plan;
 - ✓ Completion of our Bohol Water Supply Feasibility Study, and the subsequent development of a bulk water supply system;
 - ✓ Joint efforts to address our peace & order challenge, among LGUs, National Bureau of Investigation, Philippine Army, Philippine Coast Guard, Philippine National Police, Philippine

- Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), among others and the community;
- ✓ Continuous police training – just yesterday, I attended the graduation of 71 PNP personnel from their Criminal Investigation training;
 - ✓ While the PGBh has consistently maintained its #1 ranking in the Local Governance Performance Management System (LGPMMS), and we congratulate the towns that have achieved the DILG’s Seal of Good Housekeeping (42 of them in Bohol), we commit to help LGUs that have remained without this seal, as well as assist them in the implementation of their Bottom-Up Budgeting-Grassroots Participatory Program (BUB-GPP) projects – once again, a demonstration of Bohol’s strategy of unity, solidarity and harmony in program implementation;
 - ✓ This year, we will be preparing for the opening of 129 public senior high schools in the Division of Bohol. These schools will offer academic curricula in technical-vocational education and sports by 2016. The Tagbilaran City Division will likewise open 5 senior high schools in the city;
 - ✓ Full implementation of our Health Intervention on the Move for Surgery, Ophthalmology, Orthopedics, Obstetrics, and Gynecology (HIMSOG) Program;
 - ✓ Tigum Bol-anon sa Tibuok Kalibutan 2015; and finally
 - ✓ We will commit all our efforts to reduce poverty even further.
- After the earthquake and Typhoon Yolanda, you will remember that we acted quickly for the re-opening of fallen bridges, damaged roads, broken power lines and affected water supply systems. Now, we are in the gradual process of full infrastructure restoration and rehabilitation. In fact, we celebrated *Oktubre Kinse*, the 1st Earthquake Commemoration Ceremony, wherein which we featured the resiliency of the Boholano people. The economic sector, including the tourism industry, has picked up quickly and has been restored almost to the level before the disaster hit Bohol. Agriculture was spared in the earthquake as rice production still managed to reach 108% self-sufficiency. Other crops, however, which were saved in the earthquake, were badly hit by Typhoon Seniang. Hence, recovery efforts in this area are being given our next focus.

- Also, we are leading the Technical Working Group of the League of Provinces in the Philippines, in partnership with PRMF, to push for the approval by the National Government, of our proposed National Incentive Program for Local Road Management, a road funding subsidy for the maintenance, rehabilitation and overall management of local roads – a mandate that has essentially remained unfunded since the devolution of local roads to LGUs. ***(Subtle hints for Speaker Belmonte?)***
- We will work with the City Government and other LGUs to address such concerns as tricycles and other public transport operators. Also, we will be in consultation with the City Government and the stakeholders on proposals of some sectors to open a new boulevard that connects Tagbilaran Port to Panglao Island, with well-planned tourism-related business activities in new open spaces. This will require environmental study and discussions with multi-sectoral stakeholders.

Conclusion

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” So go the words of Helen Keller, one of the legendary figures of the 20th century, who was known for overcoming all the obstacles against her, physical or otherwise. Those words certainly apply to us Boholanos. All of the foregoing accomplishments have been due to our unity and harmony, our togetherness as one province, in collaboration and partnership with our external stakeholders. And with the grace and protection of the Almighty God, we will proceed uninterrupted, resilient in the face of disasters, towards our development vision of HEAT-IT Bohol HELPS LIFE towards the BIG LEAP. With Pope Francis inspiring us, we say, “To God be the Glory!”

Thank you and good morning.

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