

LEADING BOHOLANOS ALONG THE PATH OF DEVELOPMENT AND EMPOWERING THEM AS STAKEHOLDERS

State of the Province Address

Gov. Edgar M. Chatto

Friday, February 4, 2011, Sangguniang Panlalawigan Session Hall

I. Introduction

The Honorable Vice Governor, Dr. Concepcion O. Lim, Honorable Members of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, Provincial Government Department Heads and personnel, development stakeholders from all sectors of our province, ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

Allow me to preface this State of the Province Address with a short passage on the importance that people empowerment plays in contemporary leadership: “As we look ahead into the next century, leaders will be those who empower others.” That passage comes from the American Microsoft entrepreneur Bill Gates, but I surmise that it holds true in other countries throughout the world, and certainly here in our home province of Bohol.

That passage sums up the essence of what we aim to accomplish in the Provincial Government. Since we assumed leadership on June 30, 2010, we have espoused a participatory, shared leadership. We have also encouraged Bohol’s development stakeholders to approach sustainable development with open-mindedness and creativity, confident as we are, in every Boholano’s ability to conceptualize and put into reality what is best for Bohol.

This State of the Province Address, therefore, is a summary of the accomplishments in 2010 of our leadership, and ultimately, of our Boholano stakeholders’. We hit the ground running from where our predecessors have left. Our leadership provided the impetus and the guidance, through our HEAT Bohol Development Agenda and our LIFE HELPS Initiatives and Strategies. And in the accomplishment of these agenda, our Boholano stakeholders have contributed in their own myriad and significant ways.

But...

Why have we chosen a participatory and shared style of leadership?

Why do we believe in the empowerment of stakeholders?

Why are we confident in the Boholanos' creativity and ability to conceptualize and put into reality all these for the best of the Province?

Why are we being inspired by our HEAT Bohol and LIFE HELPS initiatives?

We are for participatory, shared leadership :

- **because we believe in innovation and adaptation to changes.**
- **because we believe in being able to use all knowledge, skills and experiences, even conflicts and disagreements along the way, - to arrive at a best possible scenario towards the common good under all circumstances.**
- **because we want to give everyone ownership of the vision, the management and the evaluation of both simple and complex issues that beset our community.**

The best minds in leadership theory and practice have found that, "Hierarchy is good for maintenance, participatory leadership is good for innovation and adapting to change – to evolve, to create synergy and to share experiences. "

II. HEAT Bohol Development Agenda

From the start of our leadership, we have been pursuing the Overarching Development Agenda known as HEAT Bohol, together with the Hon. Vice Gov. Concepcion Lim and the SP Members, representing the areas of Health and Sanitation, Education and Technology, Agriculture and Food Sufficiency, and Tourism and Livelihood.

These agenda are being given priority in service delivery throughout different municipalities in the Province, through a major event which we have dubbed as the HEAT Bohol Caravan. This is a bi-monthly activity, where a huge number of multi-sectoral groups, led by the Provincial Government, National Government Agencies, and the private sector, deliver services right at the doorstep of every community. So far, we have served a total of more than 28,000 beneficiaries.

Health and Sanitation

The area of Health and Sanitation saw great strides this year. For the very first time in the Province of Bohol, we assembled an unprecedented number of health advocates and practitioners to assess and plan for health developments in the province. We held the Summit last October 7-8, 2010, and the results of that endeavour have served to guide us in the pursuit of our Health and Sanitation agenda, and will continue to do so for the rest of our term.

The Medicare Para Sa Masa and **UNIVERSAL PHILHEALTH** will serve more beneficiaries, now with over 94,000 qualified members enrolled in the PhilHealth Insurance Premium Coverage. This is employed on a counterparting strategy between the Provincial Government and our Municipal LGUs. And we have always made it clear that the beneficiaries should be chosen on the basis of clear poverty indicators, as obtained from our Poverty Database and Monitoring System (PDMS).

You may also remember that we held major activities in 2010 to mark the launching of our province-wide Campaign against Dengue and other Diseases. We held these activities in partnership with the Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Education (DepEd).

A major Health thrust in 2010 was the Bohol Rabies Prevention and Eradication Program, championed through the Office of the Provincial Veterinarian with the strong collaboration of the Provincial Health Office. With the cooperation of our municipal and community stakeholders, we have successfully kept a **ZERO INCIDENCE OF HUMAN & CANINE RABIES** in the past two years. **I repeat, ZERO INCIDENCE OF HUMAN & CANINE RABIES.** In the process, we have built strong alliances with NGOs like the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (ARC), the World Health Organization and other government institutions.

In addition to this, we hold the record of being the only Local Government Unit given the privilege of doing a paper presentation during the Webinar on World Rabies Day. This was a world-wide seminar on rabies prevention with anchor in New York, U.S.A from the Alliance of Rabies Control. **I repeat, we were the only LGU presenter from among the different countries all over the world.**

Moreover, in another seminar in Mexico participated in by different countries, the Bohol Program was presented and highlighted during the event. This presentation led to the decision of the world-wide organizers to **HOLD THE NEXT WORLD CONFERENCE FOR INTERNATIONAL RABIES EXPERTS** in Bohol in July 2011.

What was the substance of the report that attracted the attention of the organizers? It was the essence of being a community-based program where Government spearheaded the project, but community involvement in the actual implementation became a major ingredient in the success of the program. The ARC will sponsor the **GLOBAL CONFERENCE** in our province, to be dubbed as the **RABIES EXPERTS CONFERENCE IN BOHOL.**

We continue to encourage Municipal and Community initiatives against rabies through the Search for the Governor Edgar M. Chatto Best Performing Municipal Rabies Prevention and Eradication Council (MRPEC). We have also institutionalized

public education campaign on a massive scale through the integration of rabies prevention and eradication into the public school curriculum.

Our award-winning Nutrition Program remains to be a trailblazer, as the Province of Bohol has been acknowledged by the Regional Office of the Department of Health as FIRST in the implementation of its Nutrition Program Initiatives.

Other health priorities include our Environmental Sanitation programs. I would like to cite, in particular, the Barangay of Panadtaran, Tubigon, which won second place in the **region** in the 2010 National Search for Barangays with Best Sanitation Practices.

There are other initiatives through the PHO, such as Food Safety Trainings and **WATER SAFETY AND QUALITY** Surveillance and Conduct of Outbreak-Containment Activities for Dengue and Diarrheal cases.

And I am proud to say that, in the area of Livestock Disease Prevention and Control under the careful watch of our OPV, Bohol remains FREE from Foot-and-Mouth Disease & Bird Flu. **Yes, we are a Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Bird Flu-free province.**

Education and Technology

Education is a national government mandate! This is clear! And we at the Provincial Government of Bohol intend to make significant contributions to this field. We are convinced that the youth hold a lot of promise for the country's future, and we must invest wisely and well in their education.

It is towards this end that the Dynamic Learning Program of the Bernido couple will soon be replicated in secondary schools throughout the province. This will bring to actualization the dreams and aspirations of the 2010 Ramon Magsaysay awardees, Drs. Christopher and Ma. Victoria Bernido, who brought unmistakable academic and scientific pride to Bohol. Their innovation in Education will now benefit not just the Central Visayan Institute which they lead, but other secondary schools in Bohol – a province the Bernido couple truly treasures.

To recall, the Carlos P. Garcia Scholarship program, which became institutionalized during my incumbency as Vice-Governor of the province, is finding enhancement in this humble leadership that we have today. With the Bohol Education Subsidy Program, which is now one of our latest projects, those who cannot make it to the CPG Scholarship Grant will have another opportunity to go to College.

However, there are more and more students who are in need of the Subsidy. While it is true that a trust fund is created for this purpose, yet, it is a fact that we need a bigger pie for the program. Hence, this is another challenge I wish to kindly throw

to our Development Stakeholders. We need a bigger pie to be shared by additional numbers of qualified students. Help us bake a larger pie. How? With the open nature of the CPG SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM and the Bohol Education Subsidy Program, contributions are accepted to allow us to prepare the dough – a bigger dough for the bigger pie. **Yes, contributions are most welcome from all sectors:**

- from members of congress,
- from business establishments in their corporate social responsibility programs,
- from private individuals,
- and other donor agencies.

We need EVERYONE to expand the pie. Let us share our pie with the less privileged but academically qualified youth. Someday, you will be proud to see the smile of a beneficiary, who in one or two moments of your life, have been helped by you – you who lifted his/her zest for learning in order to become a true legacy of the province. Take the example of **Maria Carla Somabong**, who now works at the Governor’s Office under the Special Education Fund, and **Villa Buli**, who now works at the Talibon Public Attorney’s Office (**LET THEM STAND**).

This is also one of the reasons that the Provincial Government has launched with the ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES (AFP), a Long-Term Partnership Agreement through the Bayanihan Coordinating Unit notably exemplified in Matin-ao, Carmen, Bohol. What happened in Matin-ao, Carmen, Bohol?

- In 22 days, a 2-classroom school building, normally done in a much longer period of time, was completed and turned over to the beneficiaries.
- The Provincial Government allotted P780,000 for the project, which was constructed by the engineering brigade of the AFP, complete with toilets in every room, blackboards and bulletin boards.
- The FIRST CONSOLIDATED BANK OF BOHOL FOUNDATION provided electric fans for comfortable room ventilation.
- ABS-CBN FOUNDATION generously provided a television monitoring set with CD PLAYER for communication and media use and other learning materials.
- Tapok-Tapok Bol-anon, a group composed of Boholanos in Metro Manila, donated a computer set with printer complete with a kiosk for information communications technology education.
- The Bohol Quality Corp shared school supplies and toys.
- To support the communications capability of the school, a satellite disc will soon be installed by ONE BARANGAY, INC. – a Manila-based foundation.

Agriculture and Food Sufficiency

Bohol, historically & primarily, is an agricultural province. Thus, agriculture has always occupied a high priority slot in Bohol's agenda. But we intend to further strengthen this focus into one that is even more strategic and effective. Within the umbrella of our Sustainable Integrated Agri-business Program (SIAP) of the Provincial Agriculture Office, we have strengthened our Rice-Based Farming System.

- In 2010, we exceeded targets in both Rice Seed Production and Distribution. **AND WE HAVE INSTITUTIONALIZED THE SEED SYSTEM AND UTILIZATION AMONG FARMERS' ASSOCIATIONS UNDER THE RICE ACCELERATED PROGRAM FOR INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT (RAPID).**
- The same holds true for our Corn-Based Farming System, especially with the implementation of the ABAG-Corn Project launched in San Vicente Norte, Sagbayan.
- We have prioritized, too, the Crops Productivity Enhancement together with the Management of Provincial-owned Farms, Seed Farms and Plant Nurseries - **TO SUSTAIN THE BAHAY KUBO FOOD ALWAYS IN THE HOME (FAITH) PROGRAM.**
- We have continued to tap the Bohol Organic Agriculture Technology (BOATech) Center as the leading organic farming inputs production center in the province, **AS WE PREPARE THE FARMERS FOR THE PASSING OF THE ORGANIC AGRICULTURE CODE OF BOHOL.**

In our Fisheries Resource Development and Management Program, it will interest you to know, no doubt, that we have begun a series of out-of-the-box initiatives to address the problem of high fish prices in the province.

- First among these initiatives is the establishment of a Bagsakan Center for fish coming from various sources in the province, which acts as a lever on the price of fish in the market by reducing the layers of price mark up – that is, enabling fishermen to go directly to the trading centers, instead of passing through several middlemen. The Bagsakan Center's thrust is not to compete with vendors, who also need to earn a living, but to simply set the most appropriate price in the market affordable to all and beneficial to all.

Agricultural Research continues to occupy a high priority, especially in the area of **FOOD PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT AND** seaweeds production **of CARAGEENAN.**

There are other strategies employed to improve agricultural productivity throughout the province, such as farm mechanization – and the Municipality of

Pres. Carlos P. Garcia was the very first beneficiary under this strategy. The municipality received an upland tractor during the first HEAT Bohol Caravan.

Market Access Development is another strategy, along with Agri-Enterprise Development and Institutional Development, **CHAMPIONING THE CAUSE OF WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT THRU THE GREAT WOMEN PROJECT.**

In Veterinary Services, we continue to make headway with our Dairy Development Program and our Localized Artificial Insemination (AI) Program, with the monetized value of offspring having already exceeded P13 Million.

That's not counting the LETS HELP Bohol Program-LIFFE PROJECT, whose monetized value of passed-on offspring now stands at P14.760 million.

Furthermore, we have launched the Awards for the Recognition of Outstanding Farm Producers under the "SUHID Sa Malampusong Mag-uumang Bol-anon". We are strongly supporting the replication outstanding agricultural practices, and this award and recognition-giving system will provide further encouragement to Boholano farmers.

Tourism and Livelihood

Bohol has achieved the enviable status of being the prime eco-cultural tourism destination in the country. Aware of the economic value that this status brings to the province, we are intent on maintaining its sterling reputation through our Tourism Development and Promotion Services.

- This includes plotting the Tourism Value Chain in Bohol, which we recently undertook with the collaboration of our Tourism stakeholders.
- This also includes improving the quality of Transport Services through the Tourist Transport Drivers' Training, and the Panglao Seatransport Operators (PASEO) Training on Responsible Tourism Livelihood Practices. Bohol's reputation, it must be said, rises and falls on the quality of its tourism services.
- It deserves emphasis that Bohol is a pilot province in the Tourism Statistics Program, a program funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), with assistance from the Department of Tourism (DOT).

The contribution of Culture and the Arts to Tourism cannot be overlooked. During the 156th Bohol Day Celebration graced by DOT Secretary Alberto Lim, Bohol was highlighted as the July 2010 ASEAN Cultural Capital, which is no mean feat.

And then, there was the high-profile docking of the Galeon Andalucia, a 17th Century galleon replica. This was another monumental honor for Bohol, where

even people from neighboring provinces, estimated at more than 35,000, flocked to the Loon International Cruise Ship Port for the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

In the area of Investment Promotion, we have registered an impressive figure of more than P691 million in 2010 in new business capitalization from over 1,800 new entrepreneurs. A major contributor to this achievement is our Bohol Business One-stop Shop, which has simplified the process of procuring business licenses and registration. We also recognize the support of our Bohol Investment Board in this endeavour.

Employment services are part and parcel of our livelihood promotion thrust. Our Bohol Employment and Placement Office (BEPO) has recently served a total of more than 42,000 beneficiaries in collaboration with such agencies as:

- The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA),
- Professional Regulation Commission (PRC),
- National Statistics Office (NSO),
- and the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB).

We have also been enhancing our bilateral relations with foreign governments, through our Sisterhood Agreement with the Province of Jiangxi, China, as well as the continued membership of our Chocolate Hills in the World Famous Mountains Association, for tourism promotion and environmental protection.

The existing programs for the placement of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), assistance to OFWs in distress and their dependents, employment of students, and the Skills Training for Reliance on Self-Employment (STARS) Program, continue to enjoy our uninterrupted support.

Clearly, our agencies, stakeholders and partners have internalized the call for sustainable local economic development down to the community level.

- Even our Social Welfare Services now actively encourage beneficiaries to earn a livelihood for themselves.
- Our Training on Driving & Engine Maintenance for the Out-of-School Youth is availed of by many.
- Our Vocational Skills Training on Dressmaking & Novelty Items for the socially disadvantaged women are earning the interest of a lot of our Boholanos.
- This is, of course, in addition to already noteworthy Social Welfare initiatives, such as:
 - the Management of the Bohol Stimulation & Activity Center (BSTAC),

- Bohol Crisis Intervention Center (BCIC), and
 - Badjao Day Care Center (BDCC).
- **We also have the PUBLICATION OF THE BOHOL ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE (BACH) CODE.** Bohol’s eco-tourism industry rests on the strength of its culture and heritage. Our cultural assets are many, and they need to be respected, preserved and enhanced.
- **The LAUNCHING OF THE ABATAN CULTURAL COLLECTIVE is another project getting positive comments from our people.** This is a fine example of culture being integrated into our poverty reduction strategies, as the Cultural Collective has successfully actively involved out-of-school youth groups in a worthy endeavour and given them not just a livelihood, but a virtual calling.
- **THE GOV. EDGAR M. CHATTO MODEL EMPLOYEE AWARD** under the Human Resource Development and Management Office (HRMDO) is awaited by many employees. We wish to mention here the different awardees since the start of the program. **May I acknowledge these awardees. (PLEASE CALL THEM AS A GROUP AND LET THEM STAND.)**

III. LIFE HELPS Development Strategies

Allow me now to mention our accomplishments in relation to the LIFE HELPS Development Strategies. These Development Strategies refer to areas of specific focus which we are pursuing with immediacy within this term. May I, again, enumerate these strategies:

L - for livelihood & Tourism

H – for health

I - for infrastructure

E – for environment

F – for food sufficiency
for education

L – for leadership Development

P – for Peace and Order

S – for sports and Youth Development

You may notice that some of these Development Strategies, such as Health, Education, Food Sufficiency, and Livelihood and Tourism, have already been covered in the foregoing section. I will, therefore, now focus on those items that belong solely to the realm of Development Strategies:

Infrastructure

May I inform you very kindly that a total of P153 million has been devoted to the construction of roads and bridges this year. This is in addition to the various projects under the collaboration and partnership of our Provincial Engineer’s Office

(PEO) and Provincial Motor Pool Office (PMPO) with national government agencies such as the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), as well as ODA-assisted programs such as the Provincial Roads Management Facility (PRMF) and the President's Bridge Program, made possible through public-private partnership (PPP).

Environment

A good indicator of the Provincial Government's seriousness in its advocacy for environmental awareness was the celebration of the Provincial Government Family Day carried out through a tree-planting activity around the perimeter of the Bayongan Dam. During this activity, we planted more than 5,000 seedlings.

Bohol Environment Management Office (BEMO), the Provincial Government's lead office in environmental protection, continues to implement vital environmental programs in:

- Ecological Solid Waste Management (ESWM);
- Forest Resource Management;
- Mineral Resource Management, which has generated more than P1.3 million in revenue from the regulation of Sand and Gravel Quarrying activities, a remarkable increase over last year's total of over P200,000;
- Coastal Resource Management; and
- Reactivation of the Environmental Management System (EMS). It may be noted that the Provincial Government of Bohol is the first province in Southeast Asia to have been granted ISO 14001 Certification for its Environmental Management System.

We started 2010 with a major environmental initiative – the First Bohol Climate Change Summit, and we plan to follow this through with an Environmental Summit within this year. We are now in the process of reviewing the Bohol Environment Code of 1998, to make it more responsive to contemporary realities.

Leadership Development

Within the Provincial Government itself, we aim to promote efficient, transparent and responsive bureaucracy. We are doing this through the various local governance bodies of the LGU, among others, such as the:

- Management Executive Board
- Local Finance Committee
- Provincial Development Council
- Provincial Peace and Order Council

We are also paying attention to the streamlining and improvement of our Procurement system, initially through the creation of the Provincial Auction Sale Committee (PASC).

We continue to strengthen our other financial systems: the e-Budget System of the Provincial Budget and Management Office (PBMO), e-NGAS of the Provincial Accountant's Office (PACCO), and e-TRACS system of the Provincial Treasurer's Office (PTO) and Provincial Assessor's Office (PASSO), which has led to a dramatic increase in real property tax collection this year. These initiatives are among the priorities identified in our Strategic Financial Management Plan (SFMP).

We have also formalized the creation of the Provincial Internal Audit Office (PIAO), with crucial support from this August Body.

Human Resource Development is another important area under Leadership Development. One of our continuing HR efforts is the long-standing partnership with the Philippines-Australia Human Resource and Organizational Development Facility (PAHRODF), progressing on an iterative path, in support of our Development Agenda.

We continue to enhance the quality of our Planning and Development services and our Planning-Budgeting Linkage. You remember that we passed the Provincial Development and Physical Framework Plan (PDPFP) 2010-2015 early in 2010, a process spearheaded by our Provincial Planning and Development Office (PPDO). We are now in the process of finalizing the Executive-Legislative Agenda (ELA) Plan and its accompanying Investment Program for 2011-2013.

Research and Development, through the Bohol Center for Development Studies (BCDS), has been instrumental in the drafting of our major Ordinances, Executive Orders and Memorandum Circulars.

And, lest we forget, we are also placing a high premium on Effective Development Communications Services, as highlighted by the following:

- the "Kita Ug Ang Gobernador" radio program,
- the continued updating and enhancement of the Provincial Government website, www.bohol.gov.ph,
- and the organization of the Association of United Development Information Officers (AUDIO-Bohol).

Peace and Order

I reiterate our conviction in the importance of stakeholder participation and collaboration. We hold this to be true even in the maintenance of Peace and Order. Our strategy, therefore, necessitates the maintenance of peace and order

with citizen participation. This has resulted in a lower crime rate for the province towards the end of 2010. Even the recently-escaped Bohol District Jail detainee was quickly recaptured. This was due in large part to the cooperation of ordinary citizens with our law enforcement authorities.

Even the provision of legal services to Boholanos, including our law enforcement officers, has been strengthened and expanded. We now have lawyers providing these services throughout the three congressional districts in the province.

Sports and Youth Development

Part of our Development Strategy is to integrate sports, youth and vulnerable sectors like the elderly and differently-abled persons, in our relevant development programs. For 2011, we will reinforce this thrust with the promotion of Individual Excellence in Competitive Sports.

IV. Local Governance Accomplishments with Assistance from the AusAID-funded Provincial Roads Management Facility (PRMF)

Among our ODA-assisted programs today, it is the Australian Government-funded PRMF that devotes the largest amount of funding to assist us in the performance of our local governance mandates and initiatives. You might have the impression that this is entirely a road services delivery program, but take note: PRMF is a local governance REFORM program with roads as its entry point. Its priority is to sustain a core network of provincial roads in good condition in order to achieve ongoing improvement in local economic activity and provide improved access to employment and basic services.

We have institutionalized a mechanism for the discussion of Road Sector Concerns through the Road Sector Committee – now institutionally embedded into the Management Executive Board (MEB), headed by the Governor/Provincial Administrator, which meets every week for coordination and performance monitoring of projects/programs. I wish to acknowledge the enormous task which **some people have been doing like the Provincial Administrator (request him to stand).**

Another PRMF objective, that of introducing integrated transport planning and investment processes, has resulted in the preparation of the FIRST EVER Provincial Road Network Development Plan (PRNDP). Now, the PRNDP guides the prioritization of our road projects.

As a result of our PRMF initiatives, our Provincial Engineer's Office (PEO) staff have gained considerable skills in road condition survey, geo-technical studies, road

maintenance work programming, construction supervision, and contract management.

We have, through an Executive Order, established the Bohol Information and Communication Technology Unit (BICTU). Through the BICTU, we have completed the cabling of the entire provincial capitol building, spending about P1.5M from own-sourced funds.

And, for the first time, we have established a Provincial Monitoring and Evaluation System (ProMES), which will spearhead the application of the system. Once again, this team is headed by the PPDO.

Still under PRMF, the HRMDO is now working on the development of a multi-year HRMD Plan and 5-Year Capacity Development Program for the Provincial Government.

Other notable partnerships with ODA assistance include:

- our Local Governance Support Program for Local Economic Development (LGSP-LED)
- and the GREAT Women Project, both funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), and
- the Development of Resources and Access to Municipal Services (DREAMS) Project, funded by the European Union.

There are, of course, other ODA-funded programs and projects undertaken with national government technical support.

Another global priority is the phenomenon of Climate Change, and the threat of natural disasters. We have organized the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (PDRRMC), whose responsibilities go far beyond the old concept of disaster readiness. We need to be prepared for natural disasters before they occur. Towards this end, we have also urged the activation of Municipal Councils. Just recently, in the spate of recent events of flooding and minor landslides, we activated the full network of the PDRRMC to address the victims' needs for shelter, security, food and comfort.

Disaster Risk Reduction goes beyond readiness. It requires thorough research about the possible effects of climate change. Thus, on December 30, 2010, we issued Executive Order No. 30 Creating the Bohol Biodiversity Complex Consortium. The Consortium comprises of the Provincial Government of Bohol, the Bohol Island State University (BISU), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Municipal LGU of Bilar and its constituent Barangay LGU, and the Soil

and Water Conservation Foundation (SWCF). The arrangement was strengthened further by the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement between the parties defining their roles and responsibilities. The same E.O. provided for the creation of the Regional Climate Change Center (RCCC), located inside the aforementioned biodiversity complex, and BISU is responsible for its day-to-day operations.

Many of these initiatives would not have seen the light of day without the support of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan. Allow me to mention just a few of the major Ordinances passed by the SP, in support of the initiatives of the Executive Department.

- The creation of the Provincial Youth Development Council of Bohol,
- the establishment of the Bohol Educational Subsidy Program,
- the institutionalization of the Provincial Internal Audit Office (PIAO), and
- the creation of the Provincial Auction Sale Committee (PASC), as well as
- the approval IN RECORD TIME of the Provincial Budget of 2011, in the total amount of ONE BILLION TWO THIRTY SEVEN MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED FIFTY FIVE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED TWENTY PESOS (P1,237,855,520.00).

V. Major Thrusts For CY 2011

This State of the Province Address would be incomplete if it were limited to a review of the previous year's accomplishments. As always, it is important to envision where we want to go and what we want to accomplish, while being guided by our lessons learned from the recent past.

We are extremely grateful to our predecessors, two of whom are now members of Congress: Cong. Rene Relampagos, and Cong. Erico Aumentado. Cong. Art Yap of the 3rd District, himself being the former Secretary of Agriculture, has also contributed greatly to bringing Bohol to where it is today.

This last section, therefore, is devoted to our Major Thrusts for 2011, as summed up in our catchphrase, "Bohol 2011: Mauswagon ug Malipayon!" Under the leadership of Pres. Noynoy Aquino and with your full cooperation and support, these programs will be within our reach.

BOHOL 2011: MAUSWAGON UG MALIPAYON!

Our thrusts for 2011 continue to be guided by the Overarching Framework of HEAT Bohol & LIFE HELPS. We also remain cognizant of our Sustainable Development Call that is "GREEN Bohol", representing Environmentally Sustainable Development.

We reiterate our HEAT Bohol Development Agenda, with emphasis on the importance of their accessibility for all Boholanos:

- Health for All
- Education for All
- Agriculture for All
- Tourism for All

ALL THESE DEFINITELY LEAD to Unparalleled Growth and Development. These thrusts will be pursued within an enabling environment of Good Governance and Transparency. Our TOP MAJOR PROGRAMS AND THRUSTS for CY 2011 are as follows:

HEALTH

- **Hospital Upgrading (Health Services, Infrastructure and Equipment)**
- **Quick Response Teams**
- **Primary Health Care thru the Purok System**
- **Botica sa Barangay**
- **Mobile Clinic (with X-Ray, laboratory and dental equipment)**
- **Maternal and Child Care Centers**

EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY

- **Health for School (BASIC HYGIENE FOR GRADE 1 AND PRESCHOOL PUPILS)**
- **Daycare Program (WORKBOOKS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD DEV'T)**
- **High School for the Arts**
- **Mobile Library and Municipal Libraries in all Municipalities**

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

- **BAHAY KUBO FAITH (Food Always in the Home) and HOPE (Herbal Organic Plants Enhancements Program)**
- **RAPID (Rice Accelerated Program for Institutional Development) Program**
- **Fishery/Marine Conversion Program**
- **Development of Bohol Native Chicken Strain/Breed**
- **Bohol Dairy Development**
- **Small Farm Reservoir**
- **Marketing of Organic Rice thru Cooperatives – under LGSP LED**
- **Establishment of the Center of Excellence for Agribusiness and Sustainable Agriculture (CASA) in Danao with BISU – under LGSP LED**
- **Development and Production of Organic Fertilizers thru Vermicomposting – LGSP LED**
- **Rehabilitation of the Coconut Farms with SCFOs**

TOURISM/ LIVELIHOOD

- **New Bohol Airport Project**, which is now in its final phase of re-evaluation. Just recently, we received the go-signal from the Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC) to continue with the remaining tasks of land acquisition and social preparation, after which the national government will be ready to sign a grant agreement with JICA for its re-packaging into the PPP modality, prior to the bidding which will be done before the end of the year, barring any unforeseen circumstances.
- **Tourism Summit**
- **Cultural Renaissance Program**
- **Operationalizing the BALICASAG MOA**
- **ICT and MSME Support (Coops and POs)**, with an ICT Summit

ENVIRONMENT

- **Deputation of Legal Officers as Environmental Law Enforcers**
- **Watershed Tree Planting and Rehabilitation and Tree Enterprise**, backed by a vigorous agro-forestry program (Family Day of all offices for tree-planting)
- **CLEC/Marine Protection**
- **Environment Code Review**
- **Reactivation of CELEBOSOLE for the protection of the Danajon Double Barrier Reef**
- **Conservation efforts for the Bohol Triangle**
- **Environmental Management System: ISO 14001:2004 Audit to reacquire ISO 14001 Certification**

INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Nationalization of Roads**
- **Water Supply/Sanitation/Sewerage**
- **Information, Communication, Technology (ICT) Infrastructure and Promotion**, notably our hosting of the first ICT Summit in Bohol
- In **Business Process Outsourcing (BPO)**, we are ready with the infrastructure to 'bite the bullet' in attracting BPO investments for job generation. The country is already a worldwide leader in the BPO industry, and we in the province of Bohol intend to play an active role in this sunshine industry.
- **CPG Sports Complex Improvement**
- **Power Demand met through Renewable Energy**
- **Irrigation Systems**, in accordance with the identified the major irrigation facilities that we need to boost our rice sufficiency
- **Barangay Waterworks Development**
- **Barangay Energization and power generation projects**

GOVERNANCE

- **Leadership Development for Barangay Officials, SK Chairmen, Secretaries and Treasurers** (on Barangay/Local Governance, Leadership Training, and Development Planning)
- **Transparency in governance thru the posting of the financial transactions on the internet**

PEACE AND ORDER

Our peace and order campaign stands on three pillars - LGU-led, with law enforcer support, and citizen participation. It cannot stand without any of the pillars.

Under the LAELEP, we provide legal support to those enforcing the law in order to embolden them to enforce the law without fear of being harassed with litigation in the performance of their duties.

We are intent on strengthening the following councils and teams that have a direct contribution to peace and order:

- Provincial Anti-Drug Abuse Council (PADAC), Municipal Anti-Drug Abuse Councils (MADACs), City Anti-Drug Abuse Councils (CADACs), Barangay Anti-Drug Abuse Councils (BADACs), and similar organizations in high schools and colleges
- Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT)

Through our Rebel Returnees Sustainable Livelihood Program through the Peace Forum, we provide returning rebels with reintegration into the mainstream society through housing and livelihood projects, and citizenship and values formation.

SPORTS AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

- **Promoting Individual Excellence in Competitive Sports**
- Also, the promotion of excellence of our **Youth in leadership** will give us the assurance that our future as a province will be in good hands.

VI. Conclusion

In the midst of all these new thrusts for 2011, allow me to emphasize that our Core thrust is still Poverty Reduction, through various Prosperity Programs. We are aware that the reckoning time for the Millennium Development Goals, the year 2015, is looming ever closer. We would like to be able to hold our heads up high when that time comes, and say with confidence that we have succeeded. But an essential component of this success, we hope, will be the unanimous sentiment among Boholanos, that **“we have done it together”**.

We are already confident that we are on the right track. For those of you who might have heard of the forthcoming “Rio +20 Summit” in 2012, which refers to a reckoning of how much we have accomplished since that first Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, which shall have been 20 years ago next year, their sustainable development call also happens to be one in support of a “Green Economy”.

We are ready to embark on our mission of building bridges among Boholanos here and abroad. This we have started to do by personally gracing the gathering of Boholanos in Metro Manila, in the Visayas and Mindanao, and of course, abroad, as we are ready to honor the invitation of the Confederation of Boholanos in the USA and Canada.

True enough...here in Bohol, we think globally and act locally. If all of us would only commit to ourselves and to each other to do the same, then the Philippines would become a truly competitive, sustainable economy.

But Bohol is used to leading the way. Let us do that once again. ALL OF US – TOGETHER! I repeat:

We are for participatory and shared leadership:

- **because we believe in innovation and adaptation to changes.**
- **because we believe in being able to use all knowledge, skills and experiences, even conflicts and disagreements along the way - to arrive at the best possible scenario for the common good under all circumstances.**
- **because we want to give everyone ownership of the vision, the management and the evaluation of both simple and complex issues that beset our community.**

My sincere THANKS to all of you. May the Year 2011 bring our beloved Province of Bohol to even greater heights! God bless our Provincial Government, the Province of Bohol, and every Boholano family. **Good Morning one and all!**

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