



# STATE OF THE PROVINCE ADDRESS

## Provincial Government of Bohol

### Gov. Edgar M. Chatto



**5<sup>th</sup> Update: as of  
04-15-2013, 3:45 pm**

#### Introduction

The Honorable Vice Governor, Dr. Concepcion O. Lim, Honorable Members of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, Provincial Government Department Heads and personnel led by Provincial Administrator Alfonso “Ae” Damalerio II, our partners in the private sector and civil society, and Boholanos and development stakeholders from all sectors of our province here and abroad, ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.” So goes a nugget of wisdom from Eleanor Roosevelt. In my view, that quotation might well be referring to Boholanos and how we believe in the beauty of our dreams for our beloved province. And because we dreamed, we have, in the space of two and a half years, accumulated an unprecedented record of achievements.

#### Our Accomplishments Over the Past Two and a Half Years

This year’s State of the Province Address serves as a valedictory address of sorts, for the incumbent set of elective officials of the Provincial Government, including this humble representation.

From the start of our term in June 2010, we espoused the principle of shared leadership, marked by the spirit of executive-legislative unity, and which was unerringly sustained over our entire term, never marred by any deadlock or contentious disagreement.

#### Bohol’s Status as the Best-Governed Province in the Philippines

Arguably the single most widely-reported accolade for the Province of Bohol is its **No. 1 ranking** in the **Local Governance Performance Management System (LGPMS)**, which makes it essentially the best-governed province in the entire country, not just for one year, but for two years and counting – in the LGPMS results of 2011 and 2012. This is further evidence of our shared leadership and executive-legislative unity at work. The challenge, of course, is maintaining this status for the rest of 2013, if our beloved Boholanos should see fit to reward us with another term.

There are two other accolades which have been given to the Province of Bohol, in recognition of its overall excellence in local governance, and these are the *Gawad Pamana ng Lahi* (which we also received for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row) and the Seal of Good Housekeeping.

We are grateful to the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), which conferred upon us all of the three foregoing honors. There are other awards, of course, but we will mention only the major ones, and in their respective sections, as appropriate.

This is not to say that we live for awards and recognition, or that we make them an institutional priority: we have always believed that awards come as a result of exceptional achievement, and not the other way around.

### **Our Faithful Observance of the Green Bohol Sustainable Development Call**

A consistent thread running through our development initiatives is our faithful observance of the Green Bohol sustainable development call. We are, in fact, now strengthening our Environmental Management System (EMS), with advocacy and trainings conducted for all offices and their internal EMS auditors.

We have sustained our initiatives in the management of Bohol's pristine resources: whether Coastal, Forest, Water, or Mineral Resources. Also, we have strengthened our Ecological Solid Waste Management program and activities. In fact, we have just prepared our Provincial Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan, with a timeframe of ten years. This is especially relevant in light of the forthcoming construction of the Sanitary Landfill in Albur, in preparation for the New Bohol Airport.

### **Our HEAT Bohol Development Agenda**

Consistently, from the start of our term in 2010, and throughout 2011 and 2012, we have sustained our commitment to the HEAT Bohol Development Agenda: Health and Sanitation, Education and Technology, Agriculture and Food Security, and Tourism and Livelihood. Our HEAT Bohol Caravan is now a by-word, an event greatly anticipated event by our municipal LGU partners and their constituents.

Participation by our private sector and civil society partners has expanded far beyond our initial expectations. From a mere 39 institutional partners during our first HEAT Bohol caravan in Pres. Carlos P. Garcia at the start of our term, there were 105 as of the last caravan in Trinidad. There, we had 33 provincial agencies, 34 national agencies, and 38 private sector/civil society partners. To date, we have reached a total of 160,000 beneficiaries, with an accumulated cost of services estimated at P26.496 million.

The HEAT Bohol Caravan was a promise we made to the Boholanos when we campaigned for our first term of leadership. We have kept that promise. And once again, if our beloved Boholanos should see fit to reward us with another term, we will sustain that promise and expand upon it.

## **Taking Care of the Boholano: Our Accomplishments in Health, Sanitation and Other Aspects of Social Development**

Our most significant initiative in health in the previous year is the **P150-million Hospital Modernization Program**, which is now in its implementation stage; the procurement of equipment and infrastructure has already been bidden out. On the revenue generation side, our 10 devolved hospitals have earned a total of **P57.1 million** in income in 2012, an unprecedented record since their devolution to the PGBh. Needless to say, we hope to surpass that record in 2013.

Alongside hospital modernization are our **continuing health programs**: the Health Promotion Program, Dengue Prevention and Control Program, Environmental Health and Sanitation, Maternal Newborn Child Health & Nutrition Program, and Family Planning Program. This is in addition to our implementation of national health programs such as the National AIDS/STI Prevention and Control Program, National Voluntary Blood Service Program, National Leprosy Control Program, and the National Tuberculosis Prevention and Control Program,

Of course, we have not forgotten our **Galing Pook** Award-winning **Bohol Rabies Prevention and Eradication Program (BRPEP)**, which looks after the health of Boholanos by addressing the rabies problem from both the canine and human aspects.

Our success in this program is no secret: the BRPEP has been used as model for replication in the provinces of Ilocos Norte and Sorsogon; as well as in other countries, such as Tanzania, Chad, South Africa, and Indonesia. Parallel to this was the publication of an article about the project in the international Public Library of Science on Neglected Diseases.

It is noteworthy that our **Provincial Nutrition Council** has been a consistent Award Winner for the implementation of its Nutrition Program, both at the Regional and National levels. In fact, we have been acknowledged as a “Grand Slam Winner” in all categories in Region VII.

Our most recent recognition is the conferment by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) of the **Gawad Paglilingkod sa Sambayanan (GAPAS)** Award, as well as the **Panata Ko sa Bayan** Award, in recognition of our successful social welfare and development programs and interventions.

Of course, taking care of the Boholano means more than just preventive and curative medical services. We promote a healthy, sports-minded lifestyle. Thus, we held the first-ever **Boholympics** in 2012, and have institutionalized it as the annual sports development program of the PGBh, through a provincial ordinance. This was a major event, participated in by 1,600 athletes from our component LGUs. We hope to see this become an even bigger event in the years to come.

These new initiatives are being implemented on top of our continuing initiatives in health, sanitation and social development, such as:

- The ever-reliable **TARSIER 117**, which has established an impressive track record in its emergency response to Boholanos from all walks of life, in times of emergency and crisis. **May I add that, by some unexpected twist of fate, I was able to experience first-hand the services of this facility, and let me just say that I was honestly thankful that we had created it during our time.**
- The **Medical Outreach Unit** under the Office of the Governor, which manages the provision of medical services to hinterland barangays, and works in tandem with our **Consultant for Medical and Surgical Missions**. Through them, we have extended medical outreach, health care and social services for less-privileged Boholanos, whose total accumulated value of services rendered now stands at **P167.3 million**.
- Our **Social Re-integration Program for Rebel Returnees**, as well as livelihood programs for the youth, senior citizens, the disabled and other marginalized sectors.
- **Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situations, Community Outreach for Indigenous People and poor communities**, and disaster relief activities.
- Enhancement of facilities at our **Bohol Stimulation & Therapeutic Activity Center** and **Bohol Crisis Intervention Center**, providing therapy, counseling, livelihood and life skills training for children with disabilities and those who have become survivors of abuse.
- Our **Universal PhilHealth Coverage** for indigent patients, whose annual budget allocation we have increased to **P30 Million**, to benefit even more Boholanos.

### **Educating the Boholano:**

#### **Our Accomplishments in Education and Technology**

Again, while we emphasize that educational services remain primarily a national government mandate, we do not hesitate to do whatever we can to assist in this mandate. Because of our assistance in the **School Building Program**, the Department of Education (DepEd) Division of Bohol won the award for the Best Implementation of the School Building Program nationwide. To date, we have constructed a total of **P50.5 million** worth of school buildings, in a counterparting arrangement between DepEd and the PGBh. We also recall that our AFP Engineering Battalion was recognized as the AFP's Best Engineering Battalion, due in no small part to their contribution in this program.

Another humble contribution to the cause of education in the province is our own Provincial Library which, I am proud to say, has just been awarded **2nd Place nationwide** in the search for the **Most Outstanding Provincial Library in the Philippines**.

During our term, we received the *Gawad Bayanihan* from the AFP, recognizing Bohol as the AFP's best partner province in the country. Most recently, we are proud of the *Gawad Bayanihan* given to our **Prosperity Team Leader, Ms. Liza M. Quirog**.

We point out our other continuing initiatives in Education, most notably:

- Our **Pres. Carlos P. Garcia Scholarship Program**, through which we regularly give financial assistance of as much as P10,000 for tuition and P4,000.00 for allowance, plus an additional P500 book allowance for each student per school year.
- Our **Bohol Educational Subsidy Program**, through which we give financial assistance of P2,500 each student per semester. The same privilege is granted to teachers who enroll in Teachers Training Program for English, Science and Math.
- Our **Dynamic Learning Program (DLP)**, a province-wide initiative that we have undertaken in partnership with DepEd, utilizing a unique, learner-centered approach to teaching, pioneered by the Magsaysay Award-winning Bernido couple.
- Many other education-related programs, such as our continued Distribution of Donated Books, funding of the salaries of public school teachers under our Special Education Fund, implementation of the Gawad Edukasyon sa Bohol, Gulayan Sa Paaralan Program, and the Provincial Anti-Drug Abuse Council (PADAC).

### **Ensuring Productivity and Food Security for the Boholano: Our Accomplishments in Agriculture and Food Security**

In last year's State of the Province Address, we reported that it was a banner year for Bohol in Agriculture. This year, we report that it was the Province of Bohol, and Bohol alone, which **saved the agricultural productivity of the whole of Region VII**. Despite the drought last year, we experienced a positive growth in our rice production of 2.7%, which offset the negative figures from the three other provinces in the region, and thus resulted in a net positive growth for the entire region of 1.2%. Reckoned against the production data of 2010, we have **increased our yield by a total of 24%**, which is certainly an impressive figure.

This was due in no small part to our willingness to act swiftly in the face of a climatic emergency. During the height of the drought, we conducted urgent cloud seeding operations, up to a total of 38 seeding flights, which ended up saving agricultural areas and dams affected by the dry spell.

Of course, rice production is not our only focus. In the area of Livestock Development, **Bohol ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in Region VII** in the performance of **Artificial Insemination services** for swine and other large animals, with a total monetized value of P59 Million, which definitely went a long way in giving our Boholano farmers an additional source of livelihood.



Since agriculture is a focal frontline service of the PGBh, there are many other continuing initiatives that we have sustained:

- Our overarching **Organic Agriculture Development Program**. Due to our robust organic agriculture program and our passionate advocacy therefor, we were awarded as **The Outstanding Philippine Organic Agriculturist (TOPOA)** last year by the Rotary Club of East Cubao.
- We have now fully implemented the ***Bahay Kubo* FAITH, HOPE & CHARITY** project, the ***Gulayan sa Paaralan*** project, the **Rice Assistance Program for Institutional Development (RAPID)** project, and also recently launched the **Hybrid Clam Project**. Through these programs, we are championing food security for the Boholano throughout a wide range of agricultural products aside from our staple food of rice, namely: corn, vegetables, indigenous root crops, native organic chicken, hybrid clams, tilapia and other freshwater fish, and many other products.
- Our **Dairy Development Program**, through which we have enhanced dairy production in the province by providing support to institutional dairy production centers and small-scale dairy organizations. This is in partnership with the Department of Agriculture (DA), Philippine Carabao Center (PCC), and National Dairy Authority (NDA).
- And many other continuing programs: our now-famous ***Galing Pook* Award-winning Barangay Livestock Aide (BALA) Program**, the **LETS HELP BOHOL Program**, the **Holistic Enterprise and Livestock-based Livelihood Opportunities (HELLO) Bohol Project**, the propagation of high-value fruit tree seedlings for the growth of scion groves, agri-fishery development, seaweed production and banking, and oyster culture.

On top of all this, we facilitate the training of People's Organizations and Farmers' Associations, so that our capacity development results in the simultaneous multiplication of agricultural knowledge and expertise.

### **Enabling Economic Empowerment for the Boholano: Our Accomplishments in Tourism, Livelihood, Investment Promotion and Overall Economic Development**

Our tourism catchphrase and clarion call is "**Bohol: Heart of the Islands, Truly Philippines.**" Because of this clear, welcoming message, and our efforts at raising the standards of tourism services and facilities, we recorded **641,614 visitors** to Bohol in 2012 (*BTO statistics*). In accordance with our Vision and our Development Framework, we have continued promoting Bohol as a prime eco-tourism destination through Travel Marts and similar events, as well as continuous media exposure in print, television and internet publications.

Of course, in our emphasis on eco-tourism, we do not forget that **Culture and Heritage** is a very valuable part of our Boholano identity. Thus, we regularly hold events to showcase and promote our local culture, such as the recently-concluded **National Arts Month Celebration** last February. The Arts Month is an annual event

held for the purpose of advancing creativity among Filipinos, especially children and the youth. We continue to hold regular culture and arts trainings, seminars, exchanges and other activities, at the local, national and even international scale. This year, we hosted Likha Asya and the Visayas Arts Festival.

**Investment promotion has given us record-breaking results in the past three years.** In fact, from 2010 to 2011, **total NEW investments amounted to P3.568 billion**, with over P1 billion investments coming from Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

While those figures are definitely impressive, the most recent influx of investments, over the period **2012 to 2013** (so far), are truly unprecedented! **Over the previous year, we have attracted P11.1 billion in new investments!** This influx comes from a wide range of sectors, from hotels, resorts and tourism establishments, to land development such as subdivisions, condotels and leasing dwellings, to supermarkets and restaurants, to water sports and other recreational facilities.

Our statistics also indicate that more and more micro-entrepreneurs are setting up business, which means that we are succeeding in providing an enabling environment for the marginalized sector, and are therefore promoting **socially-inclusive economic development**.

Of course, we will continue to promote Bohol as an emerging destination for Business Process Outsourcing (BPO), through ICT events and other promotion activities.

We are also very particular about the quality of employment or livelihood that we facilitate for our constituents. It is for this reason that we were given the **Best Province and Public Service Office Partner in Anti-Illegal Recruitment** (Best PAIR) Award by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA).

Just as with the other HEAT Bohol agenda, we have many continuing initiatives in the promotion of livelihood and overall economic development for our people:

- Foremost among these is our uniquely Boholano initiative for grassroots social service delivery, as a vehicle for people empowerment and participation in governance: the **Purok Power Movement (PPM) Countryside Development Program**, now fully supported by a provincial ordinance.
- Our **Kauban sa Reporma Kalayaan Resettlement Center** in Danao.
- Our **OFW Help Desk**, rendering assistance to Boholano OFWs and their families.
- Our multiple livelihood and employment programs, such as the Local and Overseas **Jobs Fairs, Mobile Passporting and Licensing Services**, and overall livelihood training and placement assistance, which have won for us the **Regional and National Kabalik Awards**.

## **Providing Much-Needed Infrastructure for the Boholano (Cumulative figures for 2010-2012)**

Our HEAT Bohol initiatives are not stand-alone service delivery initiatives. We support them with the necessary infrastructure. In fact, our infrastructure projects have accounted for a great bulk of our resource allocation. Our total PGBh resources allocated for infrastructure during our term, from 2010-2012, amounted to **P2.986 billion**.

This total comprises the following:

1. Roads (including Barangay Roads), Barangay Waterworks Development and Electrification, and Other Support Infrastructure, including assistance from PRMF and national government counterparts given by no less than His Excellency Pres. Benigno S. Aquino III, in the amount of **P741.4 million**;
2. Hospitals, Health and Sanitation Facilities, including counterparts from the DOH, and from the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA), **P214.0 million**;
3. School Buildings, including counterparts from DepEd, **P50.5 million**;
4. Farm to Market Roads, Agricultural Equipment and Other Assistance, including counterparts from DA, **P184.5 million**;
5. Expansion and modernization of the Tagbilaran City Airport, prior to the construction of the New Bohol Airport in Panglao, with funding support from the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC), at **P40 million**;
6. Equipment Acquisition and Capacity Development from PRMF, **P32.0 million**;
7. Additional funding for Other Priority Infrastructure Projects, made possible by our *Gawad Pamana ng Lahi* and **Seal of Good Housekeeping** Awards, as well as the **Local Governance Support Fund** (LGSF), **P24.0 million**; and
8. Various key infrastructure development projects such as highways, roads, bridges and other infrastructure of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) that support our tourism, agriculture and socio-economic development, **P1.7 billion**.

Expenditure in infrastructure is not the be-all and end-all of development, of course, but we know that it facilitates socially-inclusive economic development, especially if placed in the communities that need them the most. We have done just that.

## **Peace and Security**

We have sustained our focus on Peace and Security, by religiously meeting with the Provincial Peace and Order Council (PPOC), and through constant coordination with the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), the Philippine National Police (PNP) and other agencies. This has led to a significant reduction of crime rates since we assumed office. A testament to this is our already-mentioned *Gawad Bayanihan* Award from the AFP, as well as the recognition given to the AFP 802nd Infantry Brigade for having the best **Internal Peace and Security Plan (IPSP)**.



## **Fostering Boholano Partnerships: ODA-Assisted Programs and International Partnerships**

### **Provincial Roads Management Facility (PRMF)**

We are well aware of the objectives of our partnership with PRMF, which is a local governance reform program with road maintenance as its entry point. There is, therefore, a continuing thrust towards high-quality, all-weather gravel roads constructed in accordance with industry standards. To date, PRMF Physical Works have totaled **P151.3 million**, covering **73.24 kilometers**, providing improved road access to **55,522 men and women** in **46 barangays** from **13 municipalities**. This commitment will increase in 2013, in terms of amount and distance, in the form of maintenance contracts, road rectification works and road rehabilitation projects.

Of course, local governance reform is possible only with Capacity Development, which is another major component of PRMF assistance. Capacity development to date has amounted to **P32.0 million**, covering equipment, ICT hardware and software support, and capacity development.

Local governance reform has been realized through our improved capacities in key governance functions: planning-budgeting linkage, public finance management, monitoring and evaluation, environmental management, internal audit, human resource management, procurement, and public-private partnership.

We have already recognized such milestones as the Provincial Road Network Development Plan, Executive-Legislative Agenda, Human Resource Management and Development Plan, Strategic Financial Management Plan and Bohol Information Systems Plan. Our remarkably successful initiative in local revenue generation, the **Enhanced Tax Revenue Assessment and Collection System (ETRACS)**, is now set to be fully implemented in all 48 component LGUs of the province by the end of 2013!

We have not only institutionalized internal audit through the creation of the Provincial Internal Audit Office (PIAO), we have also succeeded in creating a plantilla item for the position of Provincial Internal Auditor, to ensure the continuity of this function through future administrations.

We have promoted local, in-house development of information systems to serve our purposes: our Geographic Information System (GIS), our very own Provincial Atlas and Provincial Data Directory, and our Bohol Tourism Information System. We have also enhanced already existing systems, such as the Financial Management Information System (FMIS), Human Resource Information System (HRIS), and the e-Budget and e-NGAS systems.

We have other continuing partnerships: the GREAT Women Project, funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Realising DReAMS Project, funded by the European Union, and, of course, our Bohol-Jiangxi Sisterhood Agreement, through which we continue to explore areas for mutual learning and

benefit, and through which we had the pleasure and extreme honor of a visit by the Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines.

This was followed by high-profile visits by the Australian and Korean Ambassadors, and most recently, by four Ambassadors from the countries of Vietnam, Italy, Indonesia, and Bangladesh, who visited our beautiful island province all at the same time!

### **Counterparting and Partnership with Our Component LGUs**

Throughout our term, we have always made it a point to share our resources with our component LGUs. Our programs and projects are designed and implemented to benefit, as much as possible, all our component LGUs, in turn benefiting our constituents throughout the province.

We would also like to cite our sustained partnership with Boholano leaders. Aside from our highly valued partnership with Vice Governor Conching Lim and the entire *Sangguniang Panlalawigan*, we would like to thank our Congressional Representatives, who have been our partners in strategic programs to advance Bohol's best interests: Cong. Rene Lopez Relampagos of the 1st District, the late Cong. Erico Boyles Aumentado of the 2nd District, and Cong. Arthur Cua Yap of the 3rd District. We are also grateful for the partnership of all the Mayors of our component LGUs and our Barangay Captains throughout the province, for their passionate support to our development agenda.

### **Transparent and Accountable Boholano Local Governance**

Transparency, accountability, and value for money. These are not just fancy words, we have lived by these principles during the entirety of our first term. We have strengthened our transparent and accountable budgeting and expenditure management systems, and continue to ensure the soundness of our financial records, with help from national agencies such as the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), the Commission on Audit (COA), the DILG, and ODA partners such as PRMF.

Through the Local Finance Committee, we are vigorously pursuing more and more sources of local revenue generation, so that we are able to earn more income to fund the delivery of LGU services, without increasing the tax burden on our beloved Boholanos.

We have strictly observed the national government's policy on full disclosure, while also recognizing our direct accountability to the people, our Boholano constituents. Through the *Kita ug Ang Gobernador* Radio Program, the public is regularly updated about our programs and projects. This radio program also serves as a sounding board for the public. With the partnership of the Bohol Tri-Media Association, the program is broadcast province-wide by eight radio stations, cable *teleradyo*, and even internationally through the internet.

Good local governance dictates that we also look inwards, in terms of institutional capacity. Thus, we are very pleased to announce the appointment of a full-fledged Human Resource Management and Development Officer, in the person of Ms. Josefina Jamila-Relampagos. This will further strengthen our strategic, not merely transactional, human resource management and development efforts.

To reward our loyal employees who have served us throughout the productive years of their lives, we have instituted the ***Salamat, Paalam Program*** for PGBh retirees.

### **Dreaming Even Bigger for the Boholano: Future Directions and Priorities**

I have already given a hint of our future direction during the recent Gubernatorial Candidates Forum. On top of our HEAT Bohol Agenda, we will vigorously pursue Information Technology as a means of enabling livelihood and employment, and our updated development catchphrase is now: **HEAT-IT Bohol!**

We will ensure the realization of major forthcoming infrastructure projects: the New Bohol Airport, the Albur Sanitary Landfill, and the Upgrading of the Malinao Dam and other Small Reservoir Irrigation Projects (SRIPs).

We will see the fruition of the following proposed projects:

1. Completion of the Loon International Cruise Ship Port;
2. Bulk Water Supply Development;
3. PPP-driven Tourism Development throughout the province;
4. Power Generation, to meet Bohol's emerging needs for greater power supply in the coming years;
5. Concreting of Bohol's interior roads including those classified as Tourism Highways;
6. Expanded watershed management initiatives;
7. A Special Economic Zone for Northeastern Bohol/the Loon Tourism Enterprise Zone;
8. Integrated Development Project in Cortes, Bohol, to include the new location of the Celestino Gallares Regional Training Hospital;
9. A New Capitol Commercial Complex at the LTO area in Dampas, and a New Provincial Capitol Building at the New Capitol Site, with the Old Capitol Building to be used as a Museum and Heritage Building; and
10. The development of the proposed Mt. Banat-i Heroes View Park, as a cultural and tourism landmark.

In short, we will ensure the provision of Bohol's most necessary and basic infrastructure and utilities: airport, power, water, and road development.

We will continue to support upcoming Medical and Surgical Missions through the Gift of Life Foundation, the Bohol Medical Care Institute, and work with overseas Boholanos to deliver medical services to our less fortunate brothers and sisters.

We will continue to strengthen our foreign relations, most notably with the countries of Australia, Korea, and China, as well as our new partnership with the Saitama Prefecture of Japan.

We are also eagerly awaiting the implementation of the forthcoming Philippine Rural Development Program (PRDP), funded by the World Bank, of which Bohol is among the partner provinces.

### **The Continuing Necessity of Executive-Legislative Unity for Bohol's Sustained Growth and Development**

This Address started with an acknowledgement of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan's role in giving legislative force to our leadership thrusts and development priorities. We will also end it on that note.

You have never shirked from your duty to provide much-needed legislative support to our executive priorities, whether through ordinances, resolutions, or memorandums of agreement that you have authorized for our partnership programs. Truly, the Honorable Members of this August Body, led by Vice Governor Concepcion Lim, are our irreplaceable partners in development.

### **Conclusion**

I thus conclude this State of the Province Address with a reiteration of the quote, "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." We have dreamed, and with the grace and blessing of the Almighty God, we have started to reap the fruits of what we dreamed of.

We have shown the rest of the country that what we can envision, we can realize.

Now we dare to dream even bigger for Bohol. After all, we can say with all humility: Happy are those who dream dreams as long as they are willing to pay the price to make their dreams come true.

#