



# STATE OF THE PROVINCE ADDRESS

Provincial Government of Bohol

**Gov. Edgar M. Chatto**

February 7, 2014



## **BOHOL: RISING FROM ADVERSITY TO MAKE THE BIG LEAP IN 2014**

**(FINAL COPY,  
WITH ALL  
CORRECTIONS  
INTEGRATED)**

### **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 Congressional Representatives, who are our active allies in lobbying for Bohol at the national government level, our city, municipal and barangay government officials, our partners from the different leagues in governance – the League of Municipalities in the Philippines (LMP), League of Vice Mayors in the Philippines (LVMP), Philippine Councillors League (PCL), National Movement of Young Legislators (NMYL), the Association of Barangay Councils (ABC), the Youth Development Council (YDC), which we are supporting and developing in light of the postponement of the *Sangguniang Kabataan (SK)* elections, our partners in the private sector and civil society, our partners from ODA agencies, and Boholanos and development stakeholders from all sectors of our province here and abroad, my wife Pureza, ladies and gentlemen, good morning.
- We would like to give particular acknowledgement to our international partners from the United Nations humanitarian organizations.
- “Success is never final. Failure is never fatal. It is courage that counts.” I believe those words exemplify the brand of courage that Boholanos have displayed over the past year, and especially in the last few months.

### **The Year That Was: 2013, A Year of Immense Challenges**

- In all candor, 2013 was a year of immense challenges. First, in my personal life, when I started the year with an unfortunate accident that resulted in a leg injury. Second, in my public service career, when I faced a challenge that had never before confronted any Boholano leader. Frankly, all of us Boholanos faced an unexpected challenge – the 7.2-magnitude Great Bohol Earthquake, which shook the entire province and tested our strength and character amidst adversities. I say ‘adversities’ because that Great Bohol Earthquake was closely followed by Super typhoon Yolanda which, while sparing us the brunt of its fury, still caused a slowdown in our local economy because of the power shortage. But as always,

we accentuate the positive, and in light of the importance of courage in the midst of adversities, what we gained from that whole experience was our limitless capacity to unite and work together.

- Despite the two major disasters, the year 2013 was quite colourful, with magnificent celebrations of humanity: first, a celebration of democratic success as the electorate trooped to the polls and elected new leaders at the national and local levels; and second, a celebration of human compassion as people from all walks of life gave a piece of themselves in sharing what they had to the victims and survivors of natural calamities, such as the earthquake and the typhoon.
- Shortly after the elections, before the inauguration of the new set of PGBh officials, we hit the ground running, and started a series of participatory & multi-sectoral workshops to craft our new development framework, agenda and priority programs and projects. It was this process that was greatly enriched by our partnerships with stakeholders: our PGB-CSO Covenant, our partnership with the LMP, LVMP, PCL, NMYL, ABC, and YDC, on top of the expert scientific advice that was provided by our UP Advisory Council.

### **Boholano Faith and Resilience in the Wake of the Great Bohol Earthquake**

- In the wake of the Great Bohol Earthquake, Boholano faith and resilience became very clear. There are so many people to thank for keeping the Boholano spirit alive during this time. Foremost among them are the Honorable Members of the *Sangguniang Panlalawigan*, led by Vice Governor Inday Conching Lim. Your presence of mind and readiness to serve prevailed during the darkest hours after that 7.2-magnitude earthquake.
- While the Command Center of the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (PDRRMC) was instantly operationalized to conduct Search and Rescue efforts, the relief center was quickly set up at the Bohol Cultural Center, where countless volunteers patiently lined up waiting for their turn to help pack relief goods for the victims.
- **UPON MY REQUEST, DUE TO THE IMMENSITY OF THE DAMAGE, THE VICE GOVERNOR CALLED ON THE ENTIRE *SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN* TO A SPECIAL SESSION TO DECLARE BOHOL UNDER A STATE OF CALAMITY, MERELY HOURS AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE.** This led to the immediate and smooth implementation by all component LGUs of appropriate quick-response strategies using their local calamity funds, while the provincial, national and international disaster teams were still on their way. It was this declaration, made just a few hours after disaster struck, that set the tone of quick action and constant readiness for the rest of the province.

- A multitude of sectors pitched in, without need of call. At the forefront, of course, was the national government, led by **His Excellency Pres. Benigno S. Aquino III**, who arrived with his Cabinet Secretaries, notably the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), to deliver quick and direct relief efforts, while assuring Boholanos of sustained support over the long term.
- Many others followed – people from all walks of life, agencies and organizations from all sectors – ODA agencies, business and the private sector, civil society, search and rescue teams from the public and private sectors, LGUs from other parts of the country, NGOs, CSOs and foundations, rescue teams from other provinces, a multitude of volunteers of all ages, and many more. To name them all would be impossible. They will remain our faceless heroes, but we are grateful beyond words for all their help.

### **Bohol's Disaster Response: Cited as a Model of Action and Preparedness**

- Bohol's own disaster response was considered by many as a model of quick action, reliability and preparedness. Our immediate search-and-rescue efforts were conducted by local rescue teams, led by our very own TaRSIER 117, with the assistance of 17 rescue & emergency teams from other provinces. You will see on the slide the list of all the teams that assisted us.
- Guided by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA), we organized our PDRRMC into clusters, for more systematic coordination, with each cluster taking care of its specific relief, recovery and rehabilitation efforts.
  - ✓ Food and Warehouse Cluster: established provincial relief & operations centers & food warehouses, distributed relief goods and food to 300,000 persons (60,000 families) and counting, with the assistance of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).
  - ✓ Logistics Cluster: monitored the inflow of donations from organizations all around the world. Total donations received through the Provincial Treasurer's Office amounted to P45.4 million so far. The PGBh likewise coordinated with private sector organizations on forms of assistance, one of which was the Bohol Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which has facilitated P4.4 million in terms of assistance so far.
    - *You will see on the slide a list of these donors.*
  - ✓ Shelter Cluster: distributed tarpaulins shelters & tents immediately after the earthquake, and is now undertaking initial construction of houses and distribution of housing materials and tool kits for beneficiaries, while also

undertaking validation of recipients for shelter support, with the assistance of the DSWD and the National Housing Authority (NHA).

- The amount of shelter assistance given by DSWD is substantial – a total of P912.690 million
    - 1<sup>st</sup> tranche - P456.380 million, with assistance given to families with partially damaged houses at P10,000 per household, for a sub-total of P138.860 million; and for those with totally damaged houses at P70,000 per household, or a sub-total of P317.520 million
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> tranche - P456.310 million, with assistance given to families with partially damaged houses at P10,000 per household, for a sub-total of P208.020 million; and for those with totally damaged houses at P70,000 per household, or a sub-total of P248.290 million
    - The total number of houses we are building, therefore, is 8,083 houses under the DSWD List, and for this purpose, we will undertake tomorrow a Memorandum of Agreement among DSWD Sec. Dinky Soliman, Habitat for Humanity, and the mayors of the 17 hardest-hit Municipal LGUs.
    - While the total number of households with partially damaged houses that will receive assistance is 34,688.
  - On top of this, there is assistance from NHA in the amount of P388 million. House are also being built by our private sector partners to those not covered by DSWD or NHA.
  - Furthermore, the amounts reported as donations under the Logistics Cluster will be devoted to the building of additional houses under the Shelter Cluster.
  - *Additional slides: new transitional housing units recently completed or under construction*
- ✓ Camp Coordination and Management Cluster: set up evacuation camps and support facilities, undertook registration of internally-displaced persons, and conducted Camp Management trainings for LGUs.
- ✓ Health Cluster: restored access to essential health services, improved immunization coverage for vaccine-preventable diseases, established emergency disease surveillance, and continues to undertake repair, rehabilitation, and reconstruction of damaged health facilities, with the assistance of the Department of Health (DOH).
- ✓ Education Cluster: set up temporary learning spaces through the provision of tents, tarpaulins, back to school kits, teaching materials, psycho-social debriefings and trainings, and is currently undertaking the construction and repair of classrooms and supplemental feeding, with the leadership of

the Department of Education (DepEd). In fact, the DepEd has already allocated more than P1 billion for the construction and repair of our schools in 2013.

- *Additional slides: School buildings under construction/repair*
- ✓ Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Cluster: installed water treatment units in the hardest-hit municipalities, serving 391,536 individuals, distributed hygiene kits to 569,196 individuals, water kits to 65,256 families, and provided latrine repair kits and bathing facilities in Evacuation Camps and Temporary Resettlement Sites
- ✓ Infrastructure Cluster: undertook immediate repair and rehabilitation of damaged roads and bridges, as well as temporary repair of ports, government buildings, and other infrastructure facilities, with the assistance of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA).
  - Thanks to the assistance of DPWH, we had the temporary bridge for Abatan installed in record time - by November 23. This is true not only for the Abatan bridge, but for the other bridges that were damaged by the earthquake.
  - Also, thanks to the quick action of DOE, electricity was restored even one month earlier than the promised date of December 24.
  - *Additional Slide: Abatan bridge, before and after repair*
- ✓ Protection Cluster: trained parents, service providers/officials, and teachers on supporting children's recovery, as well as on preventing violence against women and children (VAWC).
- ✓ Livelihood Cluster: trained earthquake survivors on agriculture and fisheries-based livelihoods, in partnership with TESDA, DOLE, and other public and private organizations. A total of P27 million so far has been devoted to these livelihood trainings, which have provided social benefits as well as personal protective equipment and tools, among others.
  - *You will see on the slides just a few examples of the livelihood activities under the cluster.*
- ✓ Nutrition Cluster: conducted mass feeding among elementary school pupils and mental health psycho-social support trainings, among many other activities.
- ✓ Early Recovery Cluster: conducted massive data gathering on estimates of damage cost and, on the basis of municipal LGUs reports, prepared the Post-Great Bohol Earthquake Recovery and Rehabilitation Plan.
  - *Rehab Plan to be discussed in detail in the next part*

- ✓ Additionally, coordinative and information dissemination services were provided by the Emergency Telecenter Cluster and the Information and Communication Cluster.
- Bohol's method of organizing our relief, recovery and rehabilitation efforts led many people to make observations on the Boholanos' resilience and indomitable spirit. In fact, no less than the President commented on our resilience in his Christmas message.
  - ✓ *(Pause for a few moments as the video clip from P-Noy's message is played).*

### **Post-Great Bohol Earthquake Recovery and Rehabilitation Plan**

- I would now like to highlight the Post-Great Bohol Earthquake Recovery and Rehabilitation Plan, as prepared by the Early Recovery Cluster. The cluster, led by the Provincial Planning and Development Office (PPDO) and comprising of Australian scholarship alumni from our PA3i Bohol Chapter, prepared the Rehab Plan on the basis of component LGUs' reports.
- The plan went through a consultative process of fine-tuning, and secured endorsements through proper channels – the Provincial Development Council, *Sangguniang Panlalawigan*, and Regional Development Council. Now, copies of the plan have been transmitted to the President and Secretaries of Oversight Agencies, including the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), as well as all concerned national agencies, to facilitate their funding of the appropriate rehabilitation projects. The projects listed in the Rehab Plan add up to a total of P12.314 billion, which is certainly not a small amount, even for the national government. This is broken down into Local Priority Projects totaling to P5.0 billion, and National Priority Projects totaling to P7.314 billion. The slides on screen show you that we have systematically organized the plan so that it shows each national agency the projects that are being requested for funding under its mandate.
  - ✓ *Additional Slides: details of the rehab plan, with a breakdown of the amount requested per agency*
- It is this plan that is now guiding our rehabilitation and recovery efforts, and is the basis of follow-through action by the three Bohol Congressmen and myself. We are fully intent on the realization of this plan, with the help of the National Government and the sponsorship of our beloved President P-Noy.

## Assistance from ODA Partners, International NGOs, Private Sector and Civil Society Organizations, and Stakeholders from All Sectors

- Our partnership with Official Development Assistance (ODA) agencies has always been strong. But this last year, we have been particularly grateful for those whose programs have seen us through our most trying times ever:
  - ✓ The Australian government-funded Provincial Roads Management Facility (PRMF), which has not only sustained its assistance to the PGBh in local roads management and local governance reform, but has even expanded its assistance to emergency road repair. It gives me great pleasure to announce that the PRMF, with the sponsorship of Australian Ambassador Bill Tweddell and the facilitation of our Provincial Coordinator Linda Paredes, has committed to the repair of 14 identified strategic road sections, under the Bohol Emergency Road Repair Project, with a total length of 134 kilometers, and a total estimated cost of P221.355 million. This is on top of the package of assistance already assured by the project in roads management and local governance reforms, and additional capacity development amounting to P2 million in 2014 for road-related departments.
  - ✓ The Australian government has continually guided us with other projects, most notably the Philippines-Australia Human Resource and Organization Development Facility (PAHRODF), and the recent Coordinating Road Investments for Development (CRID) Project, implemented in partnership with the Bohol Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI), which led us to the creation of the Bohol Road Investments Board (BRIB), another trademark innovation of the PGBh.
  - ✓ The European Union (EU) funded the recently-completed Realising DReAMS Project. This was a project managed at provincial level, but which was implemented at municipal level, in six pilot LGUs. The project enabled these six pilot LGUs to use their poverty databases strategically to pinpoint areas of assistance and project implementation that would be most effective for poverty reduction.
  - ✓ The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) also continues its long-standing partnership with the PGBh, through the COMPETE Project, which is currently helping us in the preparation of a Feasibility Study for a proposed Bulk Water Supply and Sanitation System. The project is also assisting us in the development of possible One Bohol Power Generation Project, to propel us further in terms of independent power generation, as well as in the task of rehabilitation for our tourism industry. The project is also helping us to craft the Bohol Tourism Recovery

and Sustained Growth Action Plan which aims, among others, to accelerate the recovery of the tourism sector by restoring visitor confidence and recovering markets.

- ✓ The Philippine Red Cross extended extremely vital assistance to us, especially in the days immediately following the earthquake. We are especially grateful to this organization, under the leadership of Sen. Richard Gordon.
- ✓ We would like to acknowledge the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) which, aside from fully supporting our New Bohol Airport Construction and Sustainable Environment Protection Project (NBACSEPP), has also been a very strong partner in our post-disaster response efforts.
- ✓ We have been visited and supported by the top dignitaries of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).
- ✓ We have had high-profile visits by the Ambassadors of the United States, Australia and New Zealand, and country representatives from Taiwan, the Netherlands, People's Republic of China, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Italy, Pakistan, Cambodia, Myanmar, Singapore and Czech Republic. In particular, Australian Ambassador Bill Tweddell has come to Bohol so often that he could call it his second home.

### **2013 Accomplishments under Our HEAT-IT Bohol Development Agenda**

- You may have noted that a great percentage of our efforts in the last few months of the past year were devoted to addressing the impact of the earthquake. This does not mean that we have deviated from our development agenda. On the contrary, we are pursuing our “HEAT-IT Bohol HELPS LIFE towards the BIG LEAP” development framework with renewed vigor, especially in the light of recent developments that have encouraged us and enlivened our spirits even more.
- **Health and Sanitation**
  - ✓ No outbreaks nor epidemics reported in 2013, even in the period following the earthquake
  - ✓ No human rabies cases for the last two years (2012 and 2013)
  - ✓ Decreasing number of underweight children (before the earthquake)
  - ✓ Improved hospital services through the modernization program, which also resulted in increased hospital income from the 10 PGBh-owned hospitals before the earthquake (before the earthquake)
  - ✓ Conduct of four major medical and surgical missions (including heart surgeries), which have benefited Boholano patients who would otherwise not have been able to afford operations costing millions of pesos



- ✓ Consistently provided assistance to senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and individuals in crisis situation; in fact, our Bohol Federation of Disabled Persons (BFDP) is an award-winning federation at the national level because of our partnership with them
  - ✓ Attended to 692 cases of Boholano OFWs needing assistance
  - ✓ Increased funding for PhilHealth coverage of indigent Boholanos to P37.6 million, a 100% increase over the previous year
  - ✓ As a testament to our outstanding implementation of social welfare programs, we were given the *Gawad Paglilingkod ng Sambayanan* (GAPAS) Award and the *Panata Ko sa Bayan* Award, on top of our Seal of Good Housekeeping Silver Award from the DILG
- **Education and Skills Development**
    - ✓ Supported the education of 160 college students under the Pres. Carlos P. Garcia Scholarship Program, giving financial assistance costing P3.171 Million
    - ✓ Supported the education of 1,200 more college students under the Bohol Educational Subsidy Program, with assistance to program recipients at a total cost of P3.0 million
    - ✓ Implemented the Teacher Reinforcement Program, with 155 province-paid public secondary school teachers as program recipients
    - ✓ Continued to implement the School Building Program in partnership with DepEd, although of course, DepEd's financial allocation has greatly increased after the earthquake, to address the repair and rehabilitation needs of our schools
  - **Agriculture, Food Security and Environment**
    - ✓ Continued the implementation and support of high-performing agriculture programs, to increase production levels and address growing demand to bring prices at reasonable rates:
      - Rice Assistance Program for Institutional Development (RAPID), which gave us a record of having the highest-ever production, at 3.4 metric tons per hectare (as reported by Department of Agriculture), which broke last year's record of 3.0 metric tons.

In March, our top agriculture officials, led by Larry Pamugas, will receive Malacañang's Agriculture Awards.

      - Bohol Corn Seed Assistance Project (BCSAP)
      - On-Farm Mechanization Program
      - High Value Crops Development Projects
      - Bahay Kubo FAITH HOPE and CHARITY
      - Fisheries Resource Management and Development
      - Ka-Assistance For Barangay Agricultural Growth (Ka-ABAG)
      - LETS HELP BOHOL Program

- Livestock Operation Centers
    - Dairy Development Program
    - Bohol Rabies Prevention and Eradication Program (BRPEP), a *Galing-Pook* Award-winning program
  - ✓ A program closely linked to our agriculture sector is the Countryside Development Program – Purok Power Movement (CDP-PPM), although its services go beyond agriculture. The CDP-PPM has sent teams to 64 barangays throughout the province to address their concerns at purok level.
  - ✓ Other closely-related programs are the Social Integration Program for rebel returnees, and the Balik-Bohol Reintegration Program for survivors and evacuees from other provinces who have returned to Bohol to start their lives over again in the wake of Super typhoon Yolanda.
  - ✓ Major environmental programs are as follows:
    - National Greening Program
    - Minor Forest Products
    - Monitoring and Enforcement of Bohol Mining Ordinance
    - Ecological Solid Waste Management
    - Sustainable Marine Protected Area Management
- **Tourism and Livelihood**
    - ✓ Before the earthquake, our tourism sector was already active. But after the Great Bohol Earthquake, it has become doubly necessary to promote Bohol as widely as possible, to assure tourists and visitors that all is well, our natural assets are as beautiful as ever, and that we have risen from adversity.
    - ✓ This is why we supported the Panglao delegation, together with the Bohol float, to compete for the first time in the recent *Sinulog* Festival of Cebu, and feature the Bohol float with Boholano models and artists, to increase exposure for our province.
    - ✓ We were able to accommodate the docking of an international cruise ship at the Loon, Bohol Cruise Ship Port.
    - ✓ We continue to participate in national and international tourism activities, such as the Philippine Travel Mart and the China Outbound Travel and Tourism Market in Beijing.
    - ✓ The “Bohol 50% Sale,” to further re-activate our tourism industry.
    - ✓ The Bohol Tourism Rehabilitation Project, as assisted by the COMPETE Project of USAID. We are looking closer into our Product, Price, Promotion and People’s frontliner capabilities.
    - ✓ We hosted national and international arts and culture activities, such as *Likha Asya*, the Philippine Arts Festival, the Philippine-Korean Friendship Concert, and the Rondalla Rocks Concert.
    - ✓ Prior to the earthquake, we also saw an unprecedented amount of NEW investments in the province, at 90% of our P1 billion target.

- **Information Technology**

- ✓ Our IT initiatives have resulted in the development of many in-house applications: Financial Management Information System (FMIS), Human Resource Information System (HRIS), Property Records and Inventory Information System, and Financial Transactions Tracking System (FiTTSys).
- ✓ We have also installed outsourced electronic systems, which you see on the slide.
- ✓ You may already know that Tagbilaran City has been identified as an emerging destination for the BPO industry, since many locators have identified Bohol as an ideal province for their businesses.
- ✓ DOST-DOH Rx Box, with TV-wide space internet connectivity to provide health consultation services, which we piloted just this week at the Tubigon Community Hospital while the Project was launched at the National Health Summit in Manila.
- ✓ But the single biggest piece of news that I would like to share to you in ICT is yet to come in the next section, on turning our Dreams into Reality.

- **Peace and Order**

- ✓ Peace and order in Bohol is marked by strong determination, vigilance, and aggressiveness on the part of the law enforcement agencies to increase police visibility, respond and prosecution of all sorts of criminality especially on illegal drugs and illegal numbers game. Intelligence and information gathering is also intensified.
- ✓ The role of the community and private sector in these tasks remains indispensable in keeping Bohol an ideal province to live in, raise a family and engage in business
- ✓ On February 11, Bohol will celebrate the Provincial Day of Peace. It coincides with the 4<sup>th</sup> year of Bohol's declaration as an insurgency-free province. In the same occasion, we will also highlight the fact that our people value a non-killing Boholano society.

### **Special Programs and Priorities for Implementation in 2014**

- Since the start of our first term, we have kept our promise to deliver PGBh services right where they are needed, through our HEAT Bohol Caravan. Well, as a result of the updating of our development framework, we will now be embarking on a new series of caravans: the HEAT-IT Bohol Caravan! The first one will be in the town of Anda on March 11, 2014.

- **Health and Sanitation**

- ❖ In the most immediate future, we face the challenge to rebuild our infrastructure, to repair our ports, and to rehabilitate and expand our

- Tagbilaran airport (pending the construction of the Panglao airport). There are also new challenges in our HEAT-IT Bohol Development Agenda for 2014:
- ✓ PhilHealth Point-of-Care Enrollment Program
  - ✓ Continue the Hospital Modernization Program
  - ✓ Implementation of priority health programs, such as Health Initiative on the Move for Surgery, Obstetrics/ Ophthalmology/ Orthopedic and Gynecology (HIMSOG)
  - ✓ Implementation of the Dialysis Center projects in Talibon and Carmen
  - ✓ Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) equipment now operational at the Bohol Medical Care Institute (BMCI)
  - ✓ Review of medicines and medical supplies management
- **Education and Skills Development**
    - ✓ Continue the Dynamic Learning Program
    - ✓ Expand the School Building Program
    - ✓ Strengthen the Sports Program
    - ✓ Enhance the Scholarship Program
    - ✓ Sustain the E-SPES Program
    - ✓ Pursue On-the-Job Training programs
  - **Agriculture and Food Security**
    - ✓ Push more green economic development through agriculture and livestock
    - ✓ Strengthen agriculture and livestock through Countryside Development Program –Purok Power Movement (CDP-PPM)
    - ✓ Sustain anti-rabies prevention and eradication program
    - ✓ Capacity development of agri- commodity production and marketing
  - **Tourism and Livelihood**
    - ✓ Support upcoming international activities: International Choral Festival, Dragon Boat racing, and the DEFY Triathlon Event
    - ✓ Promote Meetings, Incentives, Conventions and Exhibitions (MICE)
    - ✓ Provide further stimulus for Bohol’s local economy, to enable more inclusive growth and equitable progress for Boholanos
    - ✓ Our investments outlook for 2014 is extremely optimistic; the investors who have come and inquired on available incentives are ready for operation, especially to help us recoup the temporary downtrend following the earthquake. For this reason, we intend to pass the amended Bohol Investment Code, with upgraded incentives for investors.
    - ✓ Optimize Bohol’s newfound status as a geological learning destination to help re-activate the tourism industry, taking particular note of unique geological formations such as the “Great Wall of Bohol”, the uplift along the coastline of Maribojoc and Loon, and other geological changes

- *Additional slide: photos of what can be done in earthquake-damaged sites to maximize their tourism potential*
- **Information Technology**
  - ✓ Take up the challenge to make Bohol the next destination for the BPO and KPO industry
- **Governance**
  - ✓ “*Kita ug ang Gobernador*” Radio Program
  - ✓ Enhancement of Public Financial Management (PFM) for the 2014 Budget, amounting to P1.5Billion Pesos
  - ✓ Full Implementation and Roll-out of the Enhanced Tax Revenue Assessment and Collection System (ETRACS) in all municipalities
- **Infrastructure**
  - ✓ Rehabilitation of roads and bridges damaged by the earthquake, as well as strategic improvement and upgrading thereof, all within the umbrella of our Post-Great Bohol Earthquake Rehabilitation Plan; in fact, DPWH has already allocated more than P1 billion for the works to be undertaken in 2014
  - ✓ Ports and seaports improvement
  - ✓ Improvement of the Tagbilaran City Airport, pending the completion of the New Bohol Airport in Panglao
  - ✓ On the issue of fuel prices (Bohol versus other cites), which we continue to resolve with the Department of Energy (DOE): the DOE SENT A TEAM LAST WEEK TO GATHER PRICE LEVELS IN ALL GAS STATIONS. We will exhaust all administrative means of talking to National agencies and the big 3 oil players. However, congressional inquiry or possible legal action will be our direction if administrative processes will yield no positive result.

### **Turning Our Dreams Into Reality:**

#### **Making the BIG LEAP in 2014, Towards an Even Greater Bohol!**

- We started last year’s State of the Province Address with the quote, “The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.” Well, that future is even closer now. We have started to turn our dreams into reality. Here are just a few highlights of our BIG LEAP, big ticket projects:
  - ✓ The New Bohol Airport Construction and Sustainable Environment Protection Project (NBACSEPP), which is now undertaking the bidding process for airport construction. And in the SEPP component of this project, we are excited to pilot the improved design of Sewage Treatment Facilities (STFs), to enhance the quality of waste management in Bohol.

- ✓ The Panglao Resettlement Center, for the affected families living in the area to be occupied by the airport
- ✓ Our Hospital Modernization Program, which we will pursue even more aggressively with DOH assistance in the wake of the earthquake.
- ✓ We will soon start the construction of the New Gov. Celestino Gallares Memorial Hospital in Cortes.
- ✓ We will soon have our very own Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) – Bohol Branch!
- ✓ Completion of the Cluster Sanitary Landfill in the Municipality of Albur, and as you can see from the pictures, the facility is now 99% finished. In fact, many municipalities in the Metro Tagbilaran area have expressed not only their interest, but the urgency of availing of the services of this facility.
  - *Note: There are many slides showcasing the completed facilities of the Albur Sanitary Landfill to follow.*
  
- ✓ And, as I mentioned a while ago, the single biggest piece of news that I would like to share to you in ICT infrastructure is the forthcoming completion by May 2014 of the Broadband Highway of the Philippine Long-Distance Telephone Company, or PLDT. This was bared to us by the PLDT Team in a meeting we held with them last week. This will make our ICT scorecard hit a perfect score of 100 for ICT infrastructure. With this facility, our dream of an active, dynamic BPO/KPO/FPO industry in Bohol is within reach. To say that we are very excited about this prospect is an understatement.
  
- ✓ Other programs and projects that we fully intend to realize in the near future are:
  - Redesign of the Loon, Bohol Cruise Ship Port
  - Village-level Coconut Processing Center, to be funded by the DA and PCA
  - Bulk Water Supply Development Project (thru PPP)
  - One Bohol Power Project (thru PPP)
  - Philippine Rural Development Program (PRDP)
  - Danajon Reef Development Program (PRDP)
  
- As I deliver this message, I formally submit to you the proposition to convert the Old Provincial Capitol into the Bohol National Museum, and to construct a New Provincial Capitol in a new location to be identified by this August Body, in consultation with stakeholders. Of course, the building design needs to conform to Boholano aesthetics, and we will need expert architectural advice on the matter.

- We are also excited about the Province of Bohol developing into a Center for Heritage Preservation and Rehabilitation, in a collaborative undertaking with the national government, the Church, and the private sector. Not only will this assure us of funding for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of our heritage sites, but this will also open doors for us to get the best technical assistance for the preservation of such sites, leading to the development of a core set of experts on culture heritage and preservation, as well as open a degree on the relevant expertise in local learning institutions. This has already been initially funded with P600 million from the national government. In fact, work has already started on the rehabilitation of the belfry of Baclayon Church, as you can see on the slide.
- This is the Year of the Wooden Horse. Let us therefore be inspired to make that BIG LEAP for Bohol. With the Boholanos' unshakeable faith and resilience, and with the guidance and protection of the Almighty God, we will not only restore our beloved province to its former glory, we will all work together to make an even greater Bohol!
- *Padayon Bohol* is both an advocacy and a command. When a runner stumbles, the crowd cheers, "*Padayon! Padayon!*" (or "Move on!"). The earthquake, Yolanda, and other challenges took us through our darkest times, but they also brought out the best in us as a people, and showed the rest of the world the strength and character of the Boholanos.
- Thus, we move on because we are determined to win, and we cheer on each other and the entire province when we say, "*Padayon, Bohol!*"

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