



STATE OF THE PROVINCE ADDRESS

Provincial Government of Bohol

Gov. Edgar M. Chatto

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BOHOLANOS IN 2018: EXEMPLIFYING THE BEST QUALITIES OF OUR GREATEST BOHOLANO HEROES

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I. Introduction

- Acting Vice Governor Venzencio Arcamo, Honorable Members of this August Body, it is once again my honor to deliver before you, and before the stakeholders of Bohol, the State of the Province Address. These accomplishments would not have been possible without you, honorable members of the *Sangguniang Panlalawigan*.
- Before anything else, I must acknowledge and invoke the support of the Almighty God, by whose grace everything is made possible. Also, allow me to greet everyone Happy Valentine's Day and *Kung Hei Fat Choi*, in anticipation of the celebration of the Chinese New Year tomorrow.
- I would like to greet the VIPs and guests in attendance, notably BGen. Melquiades Ordiales, Jr. of the AFP, Commander of the 1st Marine Brigade assigned in Sultan Kudarat, PAG-ASA National Administrator Vicente B. Malano, as well as Regional Director Oscar Tabada, Bishop Abet Uy of the Diocese of Tagbilaran, UP President *Emeritus* Jose V. Abueva of the UP Advisory Council, and everyone in this hall. It is my honor to present these accomplishments to you.
- As I present these accomplishments, I acknowledge the partnership and collaboration of our Congressional representatives, Cong. Rene Relampagos, Cong. Aristotle Aumentado, and Cong. Arthur Yap, the City Officials of Tagbilaran led by Mayor John Geesnell Yap II, Vice Mayor Jose Antonio Veloso and the City Council, our partner component LGUs, represented here by our Mayors, Vice Mayors, Councilors, barangay captains and other local officials, the National Government Agencies with their respective heads, the NGOs/CSOs/POs and the rest of civil society, our partners in the media, the business sector, the academe, the Church and religious sector, the youth sector, the women's sector, our senior citizens, and representation from our marginalized sectors, such as the Bohol Federation of Disabled Persons.
- We also acknowledge the strong support of the national government, under the leadership of His Excellency President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, whom we met just a few days ago, as he was sharing his Presidential directives to the LGU Executives of Visayas and Mindanao.
- We are also fortunate to have with us today top officials of the *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas*, who are here for the signing of the Deed of Absolute Sale to signal the start of the construction of our very own Bangko Sentral Bohol Branch! I would like to

acknowledge the presence of BSP Officials, led by Asst. Gov. Iluminada Sicat, who is the Managing Director of the Regional Monetary Affairs Sub-sector.

- And of course, last but not least, and always first in my heart, are the members of my immediate family, especially my wife Pureza and my daughter Trisha, as well as my in-laws, nephews and nieces.
- Our theme for this year's SOPA centers on what I have observed about Boholanos in 2018: Exemplifying the Best Qualities of our Greatest Boholano Heroes. We exemplify the courage, determination and resiliency of Francisco Dagohoy – and this couldn't be clearer than in our ability to rise from the rubble of the 7.2-magnitude earthquake of 2013, and especially in our unified effort in thwarting the attempted Abu Sayyaf entry in April. *Ug sa Binisaya pa, nakatilaw sila sa kaisog sa mga kaliwat ni Dagohoy.* We exhibit the collaborative spirit and partnership of Datu Sikatuna. We live by the tenets of statesmanship, shared leadership, and love of Boholano arts and culture of Pres. Carlos P. Garcia. All three, together with all other Boholano heroes and historical figures, share an unimpeachable love of the Province of Bohol.

Sustaining the Impact of Development

- From the start, we have always paid attention to the impact of our development efforts. We do not pursue our vision and mission in a vacuum; we pursue them always with the end in mind of making a positive impact on our Boholano constituents. These next few slides are the most significant measures of this impact. For your easier appreciation, we are presenting these figures through infographics:
 - ✓ Decreasing Poverty Incidence of Families, and as the slide shows, Bohol's poverty incidence of families dropped to **21.7%** in 2015 (the latest available figures), our lowest ever, and even lower than the regional average
 - ✓ Our Employment rate steadily increased for the past 4 years, with the highest recorded in 2016 at 96.3%*
 - ✓ A Prospering Banking Industry, with a consistently growing number of banks and bank deposits
 - ✓
 - ✓ in the province
 - ✓ Increasing activities at Bohol's Seaports, with increasing shipping and passenger traffic
 - ✓ Increasing activities at Bohol's Seaports, and we are happy to report that the Bohol PPA PMO posted the **2nd highest** percentage increase in revenues in 2017 among the PMOs in the Visayas
 - ✓ Increasing passenger traffic and number of flights at the existing Tagbilaran City Airport, with the number of flights having increased **by 21% in 2017**, and a steady increase in passenger traffic with an average **annual increase of 8%** for incoming and outgoing passengers
 - ✓ Increasing Number of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), with business registration from MSMEs marking a **25%** increase from 2016, and with a recorded **11,962*** jobs provided in 2017. In 2017 alone, actual investments from MSMEs have reached PhP1.5 Billion, sustaining the increasing trend of investments in the province.
 - ✓ On the side of large investments, from 2014-2017, a total of P7.332 Billion was recorded in new investments, especially in accommodation establishments.
 - ✓ Increasing inventory of livestock

- ✓ And despite all of these increases in tourism and traffic, a Decreasing Crime Incidence, with the crime volume consistently decreasing for the past 3 years and posting an average annual drop of 8%

II. Major Accomplishments per Development Pillar

During this administration, our efforts have always been guided by our mantra: **InSPIRED HEAT-IT Bohol**, representing our development pillars and priorities: **I**nfrastructure, **S**ocial Well-being and Shelter, **P**eace and Order, **I**nterconnectivity, **R**eforms in Local Governance, **E**quitable Economic Growth with Environmental Sustainability, and **D**isaster Risk Reduction & Management/Climate Change Adaptation.

• Infrastructure

- ✓ Our Upgrading and Maintenance of Provincial Roads and Bridges has grown by leaps and bounds. For instance, the length of our provincial concrete-paved roads increased by 81% in 2017 alone, and asphalt roads increased by 58%, while gravel decreased by 29%, all pointing the way towards seamless travel. The improvement of all of these roads was a dream of Pres. Carlos P. Garcia, during his term as Governor.
- ✓ Of course, we could show you graphs and infographics on these accomplishments, but nothing beats pictures. So here are a few – just a few slides of the many – to showcase the highlights of our accomplishments in this area:
 - Concreting of Access Road to the 24-hectare Provincial Government Lot in Cortes, Bohol under the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH)
 - Repair & Rehabilitation of Bridges Funded by Bohol Earthquake Assistance (BEA) implemented by PEO
 - National and Provincial Government Convergence Thru the Conditional Matching Grant to Provinces (CMGP) or KALSADA Program, which we are implementing with full funding support from the National Government through the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)
 - Provincial Government of Bohol Counterparting for Farm to Market Road Projects under the World Bank-funded Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP) thru the Department of Agriculture
 - 18 local bridges completed with DPWH-Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) convergence and assistance
 - Although this is still forthcoming, I would like to highlight even more funding expected this year, through the Road Leveraging Linkages for Industry and Trade (RoLL-IT), a national government-funded project implemented through the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), with 22 Local Road Projects Approved in the 2018 General Appropriations Act (GAA) amounting to P614.60 Million!
 - Our various Road Projects for implementation in 2018 will see the concreting of another 75 kilometers' length of roads throughout the province.
 - Construction and Rehabilitation of School Buildings, implemented by the Provincial Government, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), and the Department of Education (DepEd)
 - Construction/Rehabilitation/Upgrading of Hospital Facilities
 - Other Facilities and Projects Built and Implemented by the PEO

- Ubay Sub-Station Tapal 69 Kilo Volts Tie-Line and Power Barge 104, with the assistance of the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP), SPC, BOHECO I & II, and BLCI
 - Another impressive area of accomplishment is that of our ports under the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA). Highlighted here is the Improvement of the Cruise Ship Port of Loon in Catagbacan, as well as all the other major ports throughout Bohol.
 - A new type of port is the Seaplane Landing Port in Candijay, Bohol, with P3 Million funded by the Provincial Government
 - The Malinao Dam Upgrading Project, now on a Rebid Status
 - The Bohol Northeast Basin Multipurpose Dam Project, which is now programmed for its detailed engineering design, after undergoing the required social preparation
- **Social Well-being and Shelter**
 - ✓ Our Aid to Individuals in Crisis Situations (AICS)
 - ✓ Assistance on diagnostic and medical care services from the Bohol Medical Care Institute (BMCI)
 - ✓ Our Emergency Response was immediate during the Inabanga Abu Sayyaf Incursion, where we provided relief operations in Inabanga and other affected municipalities.
 - ✓ Our Tabang Marawi Desk has continuously been mobilized.
 - ✓ Our whole range of programs for Persons with Disabilities continues, in partnership with the **Bohol Federation of Persons with Disabilities Inc.**, which was awarded as the **“Best People’s Organization”** by DSWD Region VII, along with another award for Provincial DSWD Head Ms. Papiasa Bustrillos.
 - ✓ Bohol Stimulation and Therapeutic Activity Center, for children with disabilities and even their parents, who are also taught additional livelihood skills.
 - ✓ Bohol Crisis Intervention Center, for women and children who are survivors of domestic violence and abuse.
 - ✓ We continue to look after our OFW and Migrant Workers’ Welfare.
 - ✓ Our ongoing Shelter Program. This is, of course, a major aspect of our post-earthquake rehabilitation and recovery. To date, 3,496 units of Core Shelter have been constructed as of January 30, 2018, funded by the DSWD and implemented by Habitat for Humanity and IOM Phils. Also, the Provincial Government funded 243 units of Core Shelter.
 - **Peace and Order**
 - ✓ We have strengthened our Anti-illegal Drugs and Anti-Criminality Campaign with Law Enforcement Agencies, which has resulted in more than 3,700 grams of *shabu* confiscated with total value of P43.8 Million, 336 persons arrested and 533 cases filed. Similar success has been achieved in the campaign against loose firearms, in the arrest of wanted persons, and in the campaign against illegal gambling.
 - ✓ Yesterday, a surprise greyhound was conducted by our new PNP Provincial Director Col. Angel Geñorga. Our jail system should be the first entity cleared by authorities from illegal drugs and other crimes. It is a rehabilitation center where inmates are supposed to reform. Any violation needs in-depth investigation by BJMP, PNP and concerned authorities. This is an affront to our collective goal of a drug abuse-free Bohol.

- ✓ We have maintained our strong collaboration for law and order through the Provincial Peace and Order Council (PPOC) and the Provincial Anti-Drug Abuse Council (PADAC).
 - ✓ In our House Tagging with “DRUG ABUSE-FREE HOME” Stickers, for the period December 30, 2017 to January 25, 2018, a total of 52,058 stickers were already posted.
 - ✓ The intense campaign against criminality and illegal drugs is further supported by our Center for Drug Education and Counseling (CeDEC) Operation, our Anti-Illegal Drugs and Anti-Terrorism Campaigns, our Dialogue on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism, our Active Participation of the People's Advocacy for Collaboration and Empowerment (PEACE), and other programs.
 - ✓ Bohol Joint Task Force Dagon continues to be an ideal example of inter-government and inter-agency stakeholder collaboration for peace and order.
 - ✓ Another aspect of Maintaining Peace and Security is through the Country-side Development Program – *Purok* Power Movement (CDP-PPM), as well as our awarding of the *Galing Purok* Award, to motivate more and more *puroks* to perform well.
 - ✓ Of course, in keeping with our principle of convergence, our indispensable partners in Maintaining Internal Security are the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), and I would like to acknowledge here Col. Ignacio Madriaga of the 302nd Brigade, and Lt. Col Joel Malig of the 47th Infantry Battalion.
 - ✓ This could not have been made clearer than during the effective and collaborative response to the *Abu Sayyaf* Group (ASG) incursion in the Province of Bohol. Our Joint and Interagency Operations launched against the ASG resulted in the triumphant neutralization of all 11 armed bandits!
 - ✓ Allow me to take a moment to acknowledge and honoring our Fallen Heroes, our comrades in the AFP and PNP, who sacrificed their lives so that we could continue to enjoy a peaceful Bohol: **2nd Lt. Espelito Saldua, Jr., Corporal Meljun Cajaban, Sergeant John Dexter Duero, and PO2 Rey Anthony Nazareno.** God bless you, our modern-day heroes! Truly, you are descendants of Francisco Dagohoy!
 - ✓ As I speak, I am also reminded that today, February 15, at this very hour, is the anniversary of the death of Atty. Mia Manuelita Mascariñas-Green. We continue to pursue justice for the murder of Atty. Mia. The lead suspect in that murder has already been arrested and is now in custody. We will continue to pursue justice, not just for our beloved Atty. Mia, but for other victims of similar violent acts, which marred the peace and tranquility of Bohol. We continue to pray, too, for their peaceful rest and for the enlightenment of the judges and prosecutors handling their cases.
- **Interconnectivity**
 - ✓ Interconnectivity refers to our strategic and purpose-driven Convergence with NGAs, LGUs, CSOs, Private Sector and ODA Organizations, exemplified by the following continuing initiatives:
 - Provincial Government of Bohol – Civil Society Organizations Partnership
 - World Bank- Funded Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP)
 - ADB-funded Integrated Natural Resources and Environmental Management Project (INREMP)
 - Korea Program on International Agriculture (KOPIA)
 - Open Governance Initiatives, in partnership with the Union of Local Authorities in the Phils. (ULAP), League of Municipalities in the Philippines (LMP), the Office of Participatory Governance, and a host of other partners

- USAID-funded COMPETE Project on Energy Development and Water Supply and Sanitation
 - Provincial Development Council
 - Provincial School Board
 - Provincial Tourism Council
 - Carood Watershed Model Forest Management Council
 - Bohol Competitiveness Council
 - Bohol Provincial Price Monitoring Council
 - Abatan River Development Management Council
 - Coastal Law Enforcement Council (CLEC)
 - Panglao Island and Tagbilaran City Executive Council (PITEC), proposed to be renamed as the Panglao, Dauis and Tagbilaran Executive Council (PaDTEC)
 - Tripartite Industrial Peace Council (TIPC)
 - Bohol Energy Development Advisory Group (BEDAG)
 - UP Advisory Council, whose members I would like to especially acknowledge here, represented by Pres. *Emeritus* Jose Abueva, because of their selfless, *pro bono* services for the benefit of the Boholano people
 - The newly-organized Japan Alumni Association of the Philippines (JAAP)- Bohol Chapter
 - Bohorizon Project for Community-Based DRRM, with support from JICA and the Nagoya Institute of Technology
 - Showcasing Bohol as a Learning Destination for Best Practices, as a result of which we have been visited by countless LGUs for our best practices in Disaster Risk Reduction Management and Emergency Response, Good Governance Systems and Planning Processes, Internal Audit, Public Financial Management, and Tourism Governance
 - Convergence for the Promotion of Investments for Bohol
 - Our collaboration with the 3 Bohol Congressmen, the LMP, the Vice Mayors League, the Philippine Councilors League, the *Liga ng mga Barangay*, and other governance leagues throughout the province.
 - And our Partnership with the Bohol Provincial Employees League (BOPEL)...
 - ...as well as the BOPE-MPC, which has just opened a new building.
- **Reforms in Local Governance**
 - ✓ Looking inwards, we also seek constant improvement in our internal structures, systems and processes, as exemplified by the following:
 - Institutionalized Program on Meritocracy and Excellence in Human Resource Management.
 - Formulation of the Local Road Network Development Plan (LRNDP)
 - Sustained increase in collection from local revenue sources and a significant rise in our yearly budget, from just P1.8 billion 2 years ago to P2.9 billion this year!
 - Steady flow of revenues from dividend income of the power and water joint-venture utilities, with a total of P138.61 million since the start of their operation
 - Operation of public economic enterprise through Café Caloy and the Bohol Biodiversity Complex (BCC) in Bilar
 - Continuing improvement of systems and processes
 - Continuing improvement of internal controls
 - Constant Strengthening of Public Financial Management

- And of course, we are extremely fortunate to have you, members of this August Body, as a Pro-active Legislative Body that supports Innovation and Good Governance.
- **Equitable Economic Growth with Environmental Sustainability**
 - ✓ Our economic growth initiatives continue, hand in hand with our overriding concern for environmental sustainability. I would like to highlight the following continuing initiatives:
 - Bohol One Stop Shop and Negosyo Center, in partnership with the DTI and other national government partners
 - Bohol BOSS *Asenso Negosyo* Caravans, again in partnership with the DTI and other national government partners
 - Pursuing Local Economic Development through Investment Promotions and Business - Friendly Environment, especially through our Enhanced Bohol Investment Promotion Program (eBIPP)
 - Coastal Resource Management and Coastal Law Enforcement
 - Establishment of Giant Clams Hatchery
 - Marine Protected Area (MPA) Underwater Biophysical Monitoring
 - Location and Distribution of the Proposed 14 Conservation Farming Sub-Projects under INREMP
 - A-1 performance for the Provincial Government of Bohol for our **Environmental Management System**, wherein auditors found **ZERO minor and major non-conformities** during the surveillance audit! Our next challenge is transitioning our EMS to ISO 14001:2015 standard and start preparing for the implementation of the Quality Management System (QMS) based on ISO 9001:2015 standard.
 - Also, we are aspiring to be the country's 1st UNESCO Global Geopark, as initiated by the University of the Philippines School of Urban and Regional Planning (UP-SURP) with help from the University of Hamburg in Germany.
- **Disaster Risk Reduction & Management/Climate Change Adaptation (DRRRM-CCA)**
 - ✓ The highlights of our many DRRM-CCA initiatives are as follows:
 - Our very active Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (PDRRMC), which was again put to the test during the landfall of Typhoon Basyang just two days ago
 - Upgrading and augmentation of equipment and facilities
 - Our New PDRRMC Command Center in Camp Bernido
 - Establishment of TaRSIER 117 Sub-Stations, with another one forthcoming in Loon. Our Tarsier 117 services are reaching even more communities now!
 - Throughout the province, we continue to strengthen Capacities of Local DRRMOs and other LGU-based response groups.
 - Strengthening Capacities of Institutions and Government/ Private Organizations on DRRM
 - Disaster Response and Assistance
 - Support to the 50th ASEAN Meetings hosted here in Bohol

You are also aware of our HEAT-IT Bohol Agenda, which we pursued from the very beginning of our term: **H**ealth and Sanitation, **E**ducation and Skills Development, **A**griculture and Food Security, **T**ourism and Livelihood, **I**nformation Technology, and **B**oholano Culture and Heritage Preservation.

- **Health and Sanitation**

- ✓ Our Health and Sanitation Programs are continuing initiatives, year in and year out, because we cannot afford to relax when it comes to looking after the health and well-being of our beloved Boholanos. These programs include:
 - Dengue Prevention Program
 - Non-Communicable Diseases/Healthy Lifestyle Program
 - National Leprosy Control Program
 - Support to Persons with Disability
 - Adolescent Program
 - Family Planning Program
 - Renal Disease Control Program
 - Schistosomiasis Control & Elimination Program
 - Nutrition Program
 - Health Education and Advocacy Program
 - National AIDS and STI Prevention and Control Program
 - National Voluntary Blood Services Program
 - Environmental Sanitation Program
 - Bacteriological Water Testing Laboratory
 - Drug Testing Laboratory
 - Population Commission Program (for which our young leaders and advocates have also won awards and recognition)
 - Rabies Prevention and Control Program, with both human and canine elements
 - Medical and Surgical Outreach Activities, such as our Medical, Dental and Tuli Missions on the local front
 - And we would like to especially recognize the Foreign Surgical and Medical Missions facilitated by the Gift of Life Foundation, under the resourceful and passionate leadership of Ms. Fancy Baluyot, which served a total of 2,314 beneficiaries in various activities with services valued at more than P70 million, in 2017 alone.
 - And the continuous upgrading of our hospital facilities and equipment, under our multi-year Hospital Modernization Program

- **Education and Skills Development**

- ✓ We continue to support Education and Skills Development, augmenting the programs of DepEd and other national government agencies through the following:
 - Pres. Carlos P. Garcia Scholarship Program
 - Special Program for Employment of Students
 - Classroom Building Validation
 - Anti-Illegal Drugs Campaign among school children
 - Dynamic Learning Program
 - The 1st Bohol ICT Education Summit
 - Turn-over of Phase I of the Turo Turismo Senior High School Tourism Learning Facility in Lourdes National High School, Panglao, and the Unveiling of Phase II thereof.
 - Eskwela Agrikultura, our Agriculture Entrepreneurship Senior High School Program
 - Advanced English Pre-Employment Training (AdEPT) Train the Teacher Program
 - At this point, I would like to particularly acknowledge the no-less-than-exemplary performance of the Bohol Island State University (BISU) in the following licensure exams (the only state university in the province):

- ✓ **3rd Top Performing School** in the September 2017 Registered Electrical Engineer Licensure Examination
 - ✓ **5th Top Performing School** in the September 2017 Registered Master Electrician Licensure Examination
 - ✓ **3rd Top Performing School** in the November 2017 Civil Engineering Licensure Examination
 - ✓ **6th Top Performing school** in the September 2017 Licensure Examination for Teachers
 - ✓ **2nd placer among examinees** of the September 2017 Licensure Examination for Teachers Elementary Level
 - ✓ **3rd placer among examinees** of the September 2017 Licensure Examination for Teachers Secondary Level
 - ✓ Congratulations, BISU! You and all other universities and colleges in Bohol have exemplified the determination and passion for excellence of Pres. Carlos P. Garcia and other Boholano leaders!
- **Agriculture and Food Security**
 - ✓ In developing agriculture and ensuring food security for Boholanos, we have developed and sustained the following strategic initiatives:
 - Implementation of Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP), which has made possible the Rehabilitation of 8 Farm-to-Market Roads through I-BUILD, with a total of 52.5 kms. total road length, and P531.9 Million Total Project Cost. These are just a few pictures of our ongoing farm-to-market roads...
 - Still under PRDP, through I-REAP, we are funding a variety of Small Livelihood Projects throughout the province, benefiting many farmers and communities through people's organizations.
 - Our envisioned status for Bohol as the Dairy Capital of the Philippines is made closer to reality with the help of DA Sec. Manny Piñol, OPA and OPV, through the Bohol Dairy Processing and Marketing Enterprise, implemented in partnership with the Bohol Dairy Producers Association (BoDPA), at a P9.2 Million Project Cost.
 - There are small Global Environment Facility (GEF) Projects as well, giving packages of assistance to our seaweed industry farmers and communities.
 - In Region 7, Bohol is an outstanding implementer of PRDP. For example, in the preparation of Provincial Commodity Investment Plans (PCIP), Bohol is no.1 in the entire PRDP-Visayas Cluster with the highest number of approved PCIPs.
 - Crops Productivity Enhancement, with Rice Seed Production attaining 118% accomplishment from 400 hectares targeted to 471 hectares actually planted.
 - Rice Situation and Outlook indicates that, with a **48% increase in rice production**, the Province of Bohol has the highest percentage increase in the entire Philippines. Of course, Bohol is the main source of rice in Central Visayas.
 - We continue with our Farm Modernization Program.
 - Our High-value Crops Development Program. Look at these wonderful pictures of our Vegetable Commercial Farms, which are now supplying our markets with their produce!
 - Bohol Organic Agriculture Program
 - Fishery Resource Development Program
 - Our very well-performing Livestock Development Program, which has resulted in a **P50.9 Million economic contribution** of Artificial Insemination (AI) thru offspring produced, among many other positive indicators. This is augmented

by the Barangay Livestock Aide (BALA) Program, also being implemented by the OPV.

- Our Native Chicken Development Program
 - LETS HELP BOHOL Program
 - Meat-based Enterprise
 - And something that we are very excited about, the Dairy Industry Development of Bohol. The launching of Bohol as the Dairy Capital of the Philippines, which we did with the presence of DA Sec. Manny Piñol, will see the Ubay Stock Farm as the breeding area for *Girolando* cattle from Brazil, and will increase dairy animal and milk production from **1.8% of the national requirement to 10%** by 2022.
 - Livestock Disease Prevention and Control
 - Livestock Delivery to CDP-PPM Areas
 - Our *Galing Pook* Award-winning Bohol Rabies Prevention and Elimination Program, with 82,530 dogs vaccinated, achieving 71.90% dog vaccination rate, exceeding the national standard of 70%. We are not fully comfortable with this performance. We appeal to every citizen to be an advocate of responsible pet ownership.
 - We would like to make special mention of our Agricultural Achievers who were cited in provincial, regional and national searches: our 2017 winners for SUHID sa Malampusong Mag-uumang Bol-anon, our Agricultural Extension Workers, and our National Rice Achiever.
- **Tourism and Livelihood**
 - ✓ As you may be aware, Bohol's vision is to be a prime eco-cultural tourism destination in the country. Thus, we continue to invest time, resources and effort into this sector, through the following initiatives:
 - Development, Marketing and Promotion of Tourism Sites and Attractions, which has seen consistent increases in cruise ship arrivals, tourist arrivals (per BTO figures), accommodation establishments, and especially in the hosting of international events, which augurs well for Bohol's bid to be a world-class venue!
 - Launching of Behold Bohol
 - Bohol Branding
 - Behold Bohol App, and here we'd like to acknowledge the contribution of Mr. Thomas L. Ridenour of TarShare, who developed the app
 - Philippine Travel Mart and Travel Sale Fair
 - We continue to raise Bohol's visibility through Online Publications, Articles and Blogs.
 - As well as promotional videos
 - Festivals and local activities
 - And new Bohol Eco-Tourism Sites
 - ✓ In promoting Livelihood, we are pleased to report a wealth of successful initiatives in the following areas:
 - Employment and Placement
 - Education and Skills Development
 - Labor Market Information
 - and Mobile Services

- **Information Technology**

- ✓ Our ICT advancement is largely private sector-driven, and we coordinate closely with the service providers who will give realization to our long-held dream of participating actively in the BPO industry. We also collaborate with them in the pursuit of ICT events, strategies and programs, such as:
 - The 1st Bohol Education Summit, 5th VICTOR Conference and 3rd Visayas Creative Congress, as well as various other events to welcome startups and investors into the province
 - Although private telecommunications companies tend to be very secretive about their plans, we are happy to report that Globe has disclosed its plan to expand its network by 6 more wireless sites this year, with upgrades to deliver 100 megabytes per second.
 - Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) continues to develop in BOHOL through these companies, including new establishments Tagbilaran Uptown IT Hub (of Engr. Albert Uy) and Alta Citta IT Building (of Mr. Mar Uy).
 - We also have our own in-house services by BICTU, as well as our internally-developed systems and databases.

- **Boholano Culture and Heritage Preservation**

- ✓ Our support for Boholano culture, arts and heritage continues, through various activities held in partnership with various public and private agencies.
- ✓ Taking inspiration once again from the life of Francisco Dagohoy, the Kasing Sining Teatro Bol-anon Ensemble revived the drama musical *Dagon sa Hoyohoy* with support from the CCP and NCCA
- ✓ The establishment of the Bohol Film Commission jumpstarted the development of Bohol as a potential film capital
- ✓ Various activities were also initiated to develop our local creative industries in 7 towns, including the conduct of an eco-cultural heritage camp for the youth
- ✓ We welcomed the creation of the Bohol Contemporary Dance Company, augmented by the Bohol International Dance Project summer workshops.
- ✓ With the guidance of cultural experts, we successfully re-conceptualized the *Sandugo* Festival to celebrate the power and ingenuity of local culture through the *Kuradang* Street Dancing Competition
- ✓ In the area of the literary arts, our local writers' group, Kaliwat ni Karyapa (KAKA), with the support of CCAD, organized the Balut, Beer ug Balak 2018, an open mic poetry appreciation event for poetry in its multiple forms – read or spoken, sung or even interpreted on film.
- ✓ We also supported the holding of the Tofarm Film Festival in collaboration with the late great Boholano movie director Maryo J. de los Reyes.
- ✓ There will be even more cultural activities to look forward to, as we anticipate the development of Bohol as the Regional Cultural Hub, with budgetary support coming from the NCCA.
- ✓ And something that we are very proud of, and extremely excited about: the restoration of Bohol's heritage buildings and churches. In the wake of the earthquake, we thought it would be next to impossible to fund the rehabilitation and reconstruction of these buildings. But because of our collaboration and convergence with many agencies, most notably the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA), National Museum, National Historical Commission, and the Dioceses of Tagbilaran and Talibon, we are very, very proud to showcase these churches, as rebuilt and restored!

- ✓ Just recently, we mourned the loss of one of the country's icons in the film industry, our beloved Boholano director Maryo J. de los Reyes. We are grateful for the moving and memorable films he has given us, and for his sheer generosity of spirit. Thank you for everything – we will always remember you, Direk Maryo!

III. Affirmation of our Good Governance

- We are grateful for the affirmation of our good governance. As I have often said, we do not live for awards and recognition – they are not the be-all and end-all of governance. However, whatever awards we get serve to affirm that we are pursuing the right goals and moving in the right direction. We would like to showcase our major awards and recognition earned in the previous year:
 - ✓ Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG), which we have now earned for 3 consecutive years!
 - ✓ Most Business-Friendly LGU Award (Province Category, Level 1), awarded by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Pres. Rodrigo Duterte in formal ceremonies held at the Manila Hotel
 - ✓ National Grand Winner, Best Provincial Implementation of the Integrated Community Food Production (ICFP) piloted in the Municipality of Cortes
 - ✓ National Best Partner in the Anti-Illegal Recruitment Campaign (PAIR) Award given by the POEA
 - ✓ Recognition for our support to the National Voluntary Blood Services Program
 - ✓ Top Performing Provincial LGU in terms of Increased LGU Budget Allocated to Health
 - ✓ Special Citation in due recognition of our active role in helping to improve the health of Filipino children through newborn screening
 - ✓ Special Recognition for Renal Disease Prevention Program
 - ✓ Special Citation for HIV Program, All for Health Towards Health for All, and Mental Health Program
 - ✓ Command Plaque for the Province of Bohol from the AFP recognizing our support to the Philippine Army in its community-based Peace and Development initiatives, especially for the former rebels
 - ✓ Gawad Tugas, in the Field of Patent Issuance

IV. Challenges

- While we have many successes, we admit we have many challenges as well. We do not intend to just paint a rosy picture and assume that everything is going well. There are challenges. There have always been challenges. But we choose to perceive these challenges positively, and we focus on what we *can* do about them, rather than be immobilized by them. We recognize the following major challenges, and, together with our partners and stakeholders, we commit to:
 - ✓ Continue the trend of poverty reduction
 - ✓ Sustain the robust business climate
 - ✓ Manage prices of prime and basic commodities
 - ✓ Address traffic concerns and promote seamless travel
 - ✓ Ensure sustainable tourism development
 - ✓ Institutionalize barrier-free tourism
 - ✓ Preserve peace and security
 - ✓ Fast-track implementation of power and water investments
 - ✓ Enhance capacity of Boholanos towards making the province a center for excellence and development in agriculture, tourism and ICT
 - ✓ Promote public awareness and understanding on federalism and constitutional reforms

Proposed Legislative Action

- In relation to these challenges, we have legislative proposals which we hope that the legislative branch and our Congressmen can act on. They will need pro-active action from our Congressmen, the *Sangguniang Panlalawigan*, and even local *Sanggunians*. They include the following:
 - ✓ A Congressional inquiry into the rising prices of fuel, fish and other basic commodities, so that the industry players in the government and private sectors will put their acts together to help address the situation
 - ✓ Local legislation on the part of component LGUs requiring establishments to conform to the Accessibility Law in the approval of permits, to ensure barrier-free tourism
 - ✓ Local legislation of component LGUs requiring mandatory submission of reports by all establishments (especially data on tourist arrivals and accommodations)
 - ✓ Additional legislation for compliance to regulatory policies
- As we develop, more challenges will require regulation to ensure sustainable development.

V. Updates on the Top 10 Major Development Projects

- I would like to end this SOPA on a positive note. To end with a bang, as the saying goes – **to save the best for last**. I would like to leave you with images that will make you even more excited, more optimistic, and more determined about Bohol's future. These, ladies and gentlemen, are the Updates on the Top 10 Major Development Projects of Bohol.
- The Bohol Panglao International Airport – again, pictures are worth more than a thousand words. Therefore, I will allow the pictures to show you the extent of development at the project site. In just a few months, the airport will be ready for its inauguration. This project was conceptualized as a dream under the leadership of then Governor Constancio Chatto Torralba, 30 years ago. We started our term without

funding for this project, but look at these pictures now. Thanks to JICA and the National Government!

- The New Provincial Capitol Building, which will also be inaugurated this year, and which we are eager to occupy, along with all the other PGBh officials and personnel. This project was also a dream, under the term of then Gov. Lino Chatto, more than 40 years ago. Since then, it had always been known as the "New Capitol Site." What a satisfying sight that it is now becoming a reality! We are surely breathing life into this dream.
- The Bohol National Museum, which will now house Boholano artifacts and artworks, providing another showcase of the creativity, artistry and ingenuity of the Boholano. This was another one of our long-range dreams - and a cherished dream of our cultural workers, which thankfully found its way into realization. This means the fruition of another dream by a great Boholano, National Artist Napoleon Abueva and UP President *Emeritus* Jose Abueva, who is here today.
- The Rehabilitation and improvement of the CPG Sports Complex, which is seeing its first full redevelopment, many decades after it was constructed by Pres. Carlos P. Garcia as the Governor of Bohol.
- Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas – Bohol Branch, set to be built in a 5,600-square meter lot in the Municipality of Dauis, and which we have made official today through the signing of a Deed of Absolute Sale with the BSP Officials led by Asst. Gov. Sicat, who is here with us. This was a long-held dream of the business and banking community – for decades, actually, to the point that some were no longer sure that it would ever come true. Now, it is coming true!
- Bohol as the Dairy Capital of the Philippines, which we just launched together with Sec. Piñol of the Department of Agriculture. A few years ago, we were confident about envisioning our status as the Dairy Capital of Central Visayas – then it became the Visayas Region. Now, we are setting our sights on becoming a dairy capital for the whole country!
- The Hospital Modernization Program – our continuing improvement of our hospital facilities, which includes the establishment of a Blood Service Facility at the Garcia Memorial Provincial Hospital, to provide free blood and blood products to Boholano patients, especially those confined at our Provincial Government-owned hospitals.
- Repair and Rehabilitation of the Capitol Annex Building
- The Bohol Youth Home, for our children in conflict with the law, which will be constructed with our very own funding of P80 million, supplemented by a P10 million grant from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)
- The Bohol Drug Rehabilitation Center, to be funded by the Department of Health and donor agencies
- The New Offshore Connector Bridge to link Tagbilaran City to Dauis and Panglao, which will be our 3rd bridge, and I am pleased to report that the **Feasibility Study funded by DPWH has just been completed**. The project will have initial funding from DPWH in 2018, at an estimated Project Cost of P4.2 Billion.

- One Bohol Power Project for Sustainable Long-term Power Supply; this aggrupation of our private sector partners in the power industry, will soon be open for Competitive Bidding for affordable, reliable and environment-friendly power supply for Bohol
- The Bulk Water Supply Project, for competitive bidding for **bulk water supply** of clustered towns. Aside from the investment of Richli Corporation which is now ongoing, the clustered bulk water supply procurement process is now under way.
- The Gov. Celestino Gallares Medical Center, which will have a 525-bed capacity, with project cost estimated at P2.2 billion, with centers in Tagbilaran City and Cortes.
- IT Hubs and Economic Zones will be launched this year, registered under the Philippine Export Processing Zone Authority (PEZA), creating more jobs.
- The Bohol International Convention Center, which is envisioned to be achieved with public-private sector investments to hopefully host APEC, ASEAN and other international gatherings.
- There are, of course, more long-term projects in the pipeline, as planned in our Provincial Development and Physical Framework Plan, over the next 12 years. We emphasize that we are not just realizing the dreams of our former governors and Boholano leaders, we are also starting new initiatives that will also require the support of future leaders!

VI. Post-Earthquake Recovery and Rehabilitation

- I mentioned the Boholanos' resiliency at the start of this speech. Let me come back to it. This resiliency is evident in the way we have come together and risen from the rubble of the Great Bohol Earthquake of 2013, a 7.2-magnitude earthquake that, we thought, had shaken us to the core, and made us question *momentarily* whether or not we would be able to recover. Well, less than five years after that tragedy, I can confidently declare to the world that the Boholano spirit has triumphed!
- Here is a quick glimpse at the damage and losses we suffered from that earthquake.
- Here is an update on the Bohol Earthquake Assistance (BEA) Project, with **989 projects** completed, **71 projects** ongoing, and **6 projects** on procurement.
- Here is a look at GROUND ZERO: the Municipality of Sagbayan, BEFORE, immediately after the earthquake, and TODAY, as a proud and bustling municipality that has risen from the rubble.
- Of course, the spirit of Boholano resiliency was not just evident in Sagbayan, but in the other towns of Bohol, and we will show you just a few of these images, highlighting the impressive pace of recovery throughout the province.

VII. Acknowledgement of the Efforts of the Provincial Government Workforce and Provincial Stakeholders

- At this point, I would be remiss in not acknowledging the hard work of our Provincial Government officials and personnel, led by our Provincial Administrator Alfonso "Ae" Damalerio, Provincial Legal Officer Mitchell John Boiser, and Provincial Planning & Development Coordinator John Titus Vistal. To our Provincial Government workforce – our elected officials, department heads, division heads, rank and file personnel, and

our contractual and casual employees – these are the results, outcomes and impact of your blood, sweat and tears, to make sure that we deliver on what we have promised to our Boholano constituents. We also owe our thanks to Boholano LGU Officials and employees everywhere – from the Mayors, Vice Mayors, Councilors, Barangay Officials, LGU employees, and all of our partners and stakeholders. Thanks too, to the Data Team, for compiling all of these accomplishments and packaging them in a presentation that has made it easy for our stakeholders to visually appreciate what we have done. Thanks most especially to our national, regional and ODA partners, led by USAID-SURGE Coordinator Ma’am Linda Paredes.

VIII. Conclusion

- I end this SOPA with a simple but heartfelt dedication to these two influential women in my life: my mother, Victoria Migriño-Chatto, and my mother-in-law, mother to my beloved Ate Puring, Primitiva Salera-Veloso. I would like to dedicate it to all mothers as well. While our fathers ensure the sustainability of the family by providing for our needs, it is our mothers who ensure the inclusivity of those provisions by making sure every single member, every last child, is not left wanting – and our mothers would even gladly forego their own needs just to make sure that their children are provided for. Truly, our mothers exemplify the best qualities of our greatest Boholano heroes!
- Eight years have passed like a flash of lightning. I hardly noticed it, not even aware of my hair slowly turning white. Our province is fast moving, developing and growing in its desire to be recognized in the world of governance excellence.
- Our past heroes, leaders and even our loved ones are no longer visible now, but they are alive and see us through our own two eyes. Our eyes blink together, smile together, wink together, cry together although they do not see each other.
- Their past efforts and initiatives have provided a sturdy foundation on which we have built our present accomplishments. Let us continue to dream together, and realize our dreams, inspired by and connected to our heroes, leaders, and loved ones, from whom we draw inspiration and guidance. As I am fond of saying, "Happy are those who dream dreams, even big dreams, as long as we are willing to pay the price to make our dreams come true!"
- And that, my esteemed members of This August Body, is my report to you, the accomplishments of the Provincial Government of Bohol and our development partners and stakeholders, made possible by your legislative support.
- To God be the Glory! Thank you and good day!

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