

# Caraga

## FRONTLINE

A quarterly publication of  
DSWD Field Office Caraga

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challenges to  
find the  
'right ones'

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conference



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**MAAGAP**  
at  
MAPAGKALINGANG  
**SERBISYO!**

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# Social workers' role, kids' best interest stressed in DSWD-Caraga's adoption forum

► Mike Ariel Plaza



Adoption Resource and Referral Unit head Thesa B. Musa updates the participants on the proposed amendments on relevant acts pertaining to the alternative parental care program.

Underscoring the social workers' role in case managements relative to the Alternative Parental Care Program, a dialogue and technical assistance forum on adoption and foster care was held by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) – Caraga on June 28, in Butuan City.

The said forum, attended by social workers handling adoption and foster care cases from different local government units and residential care centers in Caraga, primarily aimed to expound the importance of hastened management of cases not only as a matter of compliance but of the truth that a child's life depends on it.

Atty. Bernadette B. Abejo, executive director of Inter-Country Adoption Board (ICAB), served as the resource speaker and discussed the Philippine laws on domestic and intercountry adoptions.

Abejo highlighted three key principles which underline decision-making and protection to be respected on adoptions.

"We, as social workers, must always forward these three principles – the best interest of the child, subsidiarity and prohibition of improper gain," Abejo said.

Abejo emphasized that in all actions concerning children, the best interest of the child shall be the primary consideration.

"There are a lot of aspects relevant to this principle but it always boils down to considering their views and aspirations, the care, protection and safety of the child, and the child's well-being," Abejo said.

She also said in her lecture that social workers should make sure to give premium on the family environment, relations and contact as well the development of the child in handling cases on adoption and foster care.

"It is difficult but your role as social workers are very much important in determining the kind of future we give to these children through adoption and foster care," Abejo stressed.

ICAB is an attached agency of DSWD that acts as the central authority to carry out the responsibilities of the Hague Convention of 1993, an international convention dealing with international adoption and protection of children from possible abuses accompanying said adoption.

Meanwhile, DSWD-Caraga Adoption Resource and Referral Unit head Thesa Joy B. Musa also discussed the updates on the alternative care program specifically on the proposed amendments on the guidelines of issuance of certification declaring a child legally available for adoption.

"These proposed amendments, when finalized, would help us carry out and improve our functions as social workers in managing these cases," Musa said.

Some of the salient features of the proposed amendment cater to issues on children with simulated birth certificates, abandoned and surrendered Filipino children abroad, and residential care facilities with expired license or accreditation.





# World Bank evaluates DSWD-Caraga's social pension management

► Daryl D. Anunciado



ICI-Asia researchers conduct focus group discussion with senior citizens in Barangay Obrero, Butuan City on June 24, 2019

Cited as one of the best field offices in the country when it comes to management of social pension, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)-Caraga was selected by the World Bank as one of its subjects of study on the Social Pension for Indigent Senior Citizens Program (SocPen) implementation.

The World Bank commissioned research agency Integrative Competitive Intelligence (ICI) Asia Inc. to do the data gathering on how the SocPen is being implemented in Caraga region, as well as in the regions of Mimaropa, Western Visayas, Eastern Visayas and National Capital Region.

In each region, ICI Asia selected four local government units (LGU) for the study. In Caraga region, the surveys were conducted in Butuan City and Kitcharao town in Agusan del Norte province and in Surigao City and Tagana-an town in Surigao del Norte province.

Maritona Labajo, ICI Asia project manager, said that they selected the five regions where the SocPen was best and badly managed.

Labajo said Caraga is one of the regions where the social pension is best implemented, adding that DSWD-Caraga was the first regional office in the country that conducted payouts for 2019.

*"Ang isa sa gusto pang makita ng World Bank, paano yong institutional arrangement kasi multi-stakeholder groups ito eh. Meron kang Central office ng DSWD, regional office, LGU, OSCA (Office of the Senior Citizens Affairs), at SWDO (Social Welfare and Development Office), (What the World Bank would also like to find out is the institutional arrangement, since Social Pension program consists of multi-stakeholders such as the DSWD, regional office, LGU, OSCA, and SWDO)"* she said.

During the four-day data gathering from June 24 to 27, ICI Asia conducted interviews and focus group discussions with the SocPen beneficiaries and DSWD, SWDO, and OSCA personnel.

*"May uniform prescribed process (ang social pension sa buong bansa). 'Yon yung papel ng mga (implementing) guidelines na binaba simula noong 2011. Dahil sa maraming nakikitang problema, may level din kung ano yong dineskarte nang regional office ng DSWD at saka yong mga LGUs... Kung anong papel ginagawa ng stakeholders para mapaabot ang social pension sa mga beneficiaries, [There's a uniform prescribed process and implementing guidelines for Social Pension since 2011. (We want to know) role of stakeholders on how they find a way in delivering social pension to the beneficiaries],"* Labajo said.

*"Ang vision ni Presidente (Rodrigo Duterte) po, gawin siyang Universal Social Pension. Ang gusto niya talaga, eventually, before matapos term niya, gawing universal. At ang World Bank naman, interesado siyang tulungan. (The vision of the President is to make Social Pension universal. Eventually, what he wants is a Universal Social Pension before his term ends. And the World Bank is keen in helping him achieve that vision),"* Labajo added.

SocPen was established in 2010 by virtue of DSWD Administrative Order 15 (AO-15) series of 2010 with an overarching goal of fulfilling the provisions of Republic Act No. 9994, also known as the "Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010."

Qualified beneficiaries are those who are 60 years old and above; frail, sickly, or with disability; without pension from government and private agencies; and without regular income, compensation or financial assistance from their relatives.

ICI Asia presented the outcome of their survey to the World Bank and DSWD-Central Office on Wednesday, July 3.





ICI-Asia project manager Maritona Labajo (right), together with her group, pay a courtesy call with outgoing Surigao City Mayor Ernesto Matugas (left) at the City Hall on June 23, 2019.



Social Pension beneficiaries of Barangay Crossing, Kitcharao, Agusan del Norte, participate in the focus group discussion conducted by ICI-Asia, a firm commissioned by the World Bank to conduct study on DSWD's Social Pension for Indigent Senior Citizen Program, last June 25, 2019.

## PHOTO STORY

# Pantawid beneficiaries promote Nutrition Month through communal gardening

► Joana Rica P. Millama



In line with this year's observance of Nutrition Month campaign, the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program beneficiaries of Barangay Mabuhay, Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur grew their own vegetable garden to promote a healthy lifestyle.

Susana Hipolito, parent leader, said that they put up the garden all by themselves with the knowledge they got during Family Development Sessions (FDS).

As indicated in the Program's Operation Manual, a parent leader is defined as "a point person, program beneficiary and volunteer leader in a group of 25-30 household grantees."

*"Tungod sa FDS, nakakat-on kami nga importante gayud ang pag-atiman sa atong kalawasan. Ang among pagpananom nakatabang kanamo sa pisikal ug pinansyal nga bahin (Because of FDS, we learned the importance of taking care of our bodies. Our gardening has helped us physically and financially)," she said.*

Their communal garden showcased variety of vegetables that they have planted. These are eggplants, okra (lady fingers), beans, cucumbers, peppers, and onions. Cacao plants and sugarcane are also available in their garden area. Aside from selling these vegetables, growing their own garden has helped them save money since they will no longer buy in the market.

Last Monday, during the kick-off of the Nutrition Month Celebration headed by Department of Health-Center for Health and Development Caraga (DOH-CHD Caraga), Regional Director Dr. Jose Llacuna Jr., encouraged all the government agencies to support their undertakings in raising the awareness of Caraganons towards healthy living and nutrition concerns.

This year's theme is, *"Kumain nang Wasto at Maging Aktibo... Push Natin 'to!"*



# Women, children's laws underscored in Pantawid 1st paralegal training

► Joana Rica P. Millama



FSUU College of Law dean Atty. Josefe Sorrrera-Ty orients the case managers and social workers on the existing Philippine laws on women and children.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)-Caraga through the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) equipped its selected case managers and field workers in handling women/children in especially difficult circumstances (W/CEDC) through the conduct of its first-ever paralegal training on women and children's laws last July 11-13, in Butuan City.

Crislea Celeste, 4Ps regional program coordinator, relayed the need of the Pantawid staff to improve better compliance to the Program in their respective areas based on Gender and Development (GAD) laws, legal protocols, and referral pathways.

"This is also important for promoting social justice in our national development. Since we are serving our clientele who has less in life, they should have more at least in law," said Celeste.

Atty. Josefe Sorrrera-Ty, dean of Father Saturnino Urios University (FSUU)-College of Law, served as the subject matter expert in orienting the Pantawid staff on GAD laws that provide the legal framework for managing W/CEDC. These laws include Republic Act 8552 (Adoption Law), 10165 (Foster Care Act), 9775 (Anti-Child Pornography Act), 7610 (Special Protection of Children against Abuse, Exploitation, and Discrimination Act), 8353 (Anti-Rape Law of 1997), 9262 (Anti-VAWC Law), 9208 (Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003), and 7877 (Anti-Sexual Harassment Law).

Although these laws are similarly constructed, Atty. Ty discussed the difference by providing situational scenarios to the participants. She stressed that all reported cases of violence, harassment, or sexual abuse should be depicted clearly by the witnesses or the social workers who are part in handling the case.

"The fruits of your burden will be the blessing of those who come after you," said Atty. Ty after she narrated the adversities Filipino lawyers have experienced in crafting the Revised Penal Code which was patterned from the Spanish Civil Code.

Moreover, she said that public employees should be granting their fellowmen, especially women and children, access to social justice at all costs, emphasizing that "Public office is a public trust," as stated in the 1987 Philippine Constitution.

Celeste expressed the interest of the Regional Program Management Office to sit down with FSUU's Urian Legal Assistance Program to possibly fortify partnership and present these laws on women and children during Family Development Sessions.

On the third day, Jessie Catherine Aranas, DSWD Protective Services division chief, discussed the procedures in filing gender-based violence (GBV) and other gender-related cases and grievances. These include filling-out the GBV intake sheet, crafting a social case study report, and filing a referral letter.

An action plan and evaluation was done to formally close the three-day training. At least 40 field workers have participated and a second batch is expected next week.



The first batch of participants on the first-ever paralegal training last July 11-13 at Dotties Place, Butuan City.





Group photo of the participants from different municipalities of Caraga region.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Caraga, through the Disaster Response and Management Division (DRMD) concluded its Orientation and Workshop on Enhanced DROMIC Reporting Guidelines last July 20, 2019 at the Balanghai Hotel and Convention Center, Butuan City.

The activity was attended by more than a hundred Municipal Social Welfare Officers (MSWDOs) from the different municipalities in Caraga Region, which was divided into four batches. The training aims to orient the Disaster Response Operations Management Information Center (DROMIC) focal and MSWDOs on the Caraga Disaster Response Reporting and Information Management System (CDRRIMS) and how the DROMIC functions on disaster or emergency events.

The CDRRIMS is a system developed by the Disaster Response and Management Division of DSWD-Caraga, that is utilized in gathering information and data during disaster operations. It is a web-based electronic information system established for the DRMD in collaboration with the Regional Information and Communication Technology Management

Section (RICTMS) wherein all disaster-related information can be easily accessed by the Field Office.

The system was created to address several problems encountered during disaster occurrences, such as the lapses and inconsistencies in data collection and the slow retrieval wherein disaster-related data is not readily available and accessible when needed.

In addition, there is no proper database storage that will hold all the disaster related data, thus generation of disaster reports can be delayed. Reports also of past augmentation assistance cannot be provided readily since there is no proper system for storage and retrieval of data.

As member agency of the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (DRRMC), DSWD is likewise charged as vice chair for disaster response and the lead of the DRRMC Response Pillar.



DSWD-Caraga staff assists participants on the proper operation of the online system during the workshop on Enhanced DROMIC Reporting Guidelines.

## NEWS

# DSWD CARAGA CAPACITATES PARTNERS ON DATA MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING FOR DISASTER OPERATIONS

► Alyckssa Maye J. Castañeros



# Overcoming challenges to find the 'right ones'

► Daryl D. Anunciado



Finding the right person is not always an easy thing to do; sometimes you have to chart unfamiliar territory, brave mountains, cross raging seas and rivers, and endure long treks and bad weather.

These challenges hold true to workers of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Caraga, who literally went an extra mile and took the road less travelled just to find the “right people”.

One of these workers is 23-year-old Donna Rosales, a project development officer for DSWD’s Social Pension for Indigent Senior Citizens Program (SocPen).

Donna, a resident of Barangay Antongalon, Butuan City, has been a SocPen worker for three years now, but still finds it challenging to do her job, especially when conducting validation of senior citizens.

“It’s very hard to find them (senior citizens), especially when a senior has transferred residency. You really need the help of barangay workers,” said Donna, who is assigned in the province of Surigao del Norte.

“We have to walk under the scorching heat of the sun just to find them. *Lisud pa gyud mag-handle sa ilaha kay ang uban dili magpa-interview* (It’s hard since some of them refuse to be interviewed),” the Sociology graduate of Caraga State University said.

“Despite these challenges, I enjoyed my work since I get to know people and travel to many places. What is really rewarding, is you get to help poor senior citizens,” Donna said.

DSWD-Caraga is currently conducting validation process of senior citizens for the said program. The Field Office targets to serve 140,000 SocPen beneficiaries this year. SocPen was established in 2010 by virtue of DSWD Administrative Order 15 series of 2010 with an overarching goal of fulfilling the provisions of Republic Act No. 9994, also known as the “Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010.”

Aljen Manilag, 23, a social worker assigned in Agusan del Sur province, said it is part of her job to reach out to senior citizens in far-flung areas even if the weather is bad.

*“Typically, ang kalay-on ug kalisud sa dalan para maabot ang beneficiary, bisan pa ulan or init kaayo, mao ang mga challenges* (It’s the distance, the rough road, and the weather that challenges me when reaching out to beneficiaries),” said Aljen, a graduate of Social Work in Mindanao State University-Marawi.

During the validation, DSWD workers will have to visit senior citizens in their homes and interview and assess them if they are qualified in the said program.

Qualified beneficiaries are those who are 60 years old and above; frail, sickly, or with disability; without pension from government and private agencies; and without regular income, compensation or financial assistance from their relatives.

These beneficiaries will receive P500 monthly or P3,000 stipend every semester intended for their medical and financial needs.

Aljen said that during validation, some senior citizens are annoyed with too many queries so they tend to turn down even some of the basic questions.

“It makes my job more difficult as some seniors will not tell you the truth. Some of them lie and are resistant,” Aljen said, adding that: *“Diha makita ang skill sa validator* on how to determine if that elderly is telling the truth or not.”

Aljen said other beneficiary also forget about their personal information due to Alzheimer’s disease or memory loss.

*“Grabe na ka tigulang bisan personal information dili nila mahatag kay dili na kadumdum kay medyo ang-angohon na* (They are too old to remember even their personal information),” she said. “What we do is we interview other family members instead or some community members.”

A beneficiary can be removed from the program if he/she have already passed



1. Aljen Manilag, 23, conducts validation in the province of Agusan del Sur.

2. Donna Rosales, 23, conducts a door-to-door interview to a senior citizen in Taganaan, Agusan del Norte.

away, transferred residency, cannot be located during the period of validation, is receiving pension from other agencies, have regular income and support from family, or absent during the last two semestral payout.

However, a senior citizen who have transferred residency could still be in the program provided that he/she would secure a certificate of transfer from the Office of Senior Citizens Affairs (OSCA) or Local Social Welfare and Development Office (LSWDO) that would then be submitted to DSWD Field Office Caraga. The field office will then submit the name of the beneficiary to the LSWDO where he/she have transferred.

*"Personally, I find it difficult no to be emotionally attached sa client. Dili gyud malikayan na maluoy ko sa kahimtang sa client. Lisud pugngan ang luha motulo. (You really will feel pity to the clients' living condition. It's so hard to hold back your tears)."*

Aljen, however, said that she needs to apply the "no emotional involvement" rule and that she should trust the Department's process.

*"It may sound cliché, pero I stayed because of my passion to help people. Nakuha nako nga (I learned the) ideology when I was in college. My professors inculcate us to have heart for the people. And of course, I need this job para sa akong anak," Aljen said.*

For Donna and Aljen, taking the road less travelled and overcoming challenges just to find the right persons for the social pension program bring them joy and self-fulfillment.



A validator for the Social Pension for Indigent Senior Citizen Program rides a bamboo raft just to reach the other side of the river in a remote area in Agusan del Sur.



# 1st DSWD SLP Congress held during Cabadbaran City Charter Day

► Marko Davey D. Reyes



It was a fun-filled day as Cabadbaran City hosted the first ever Department of Social Welfare and Development's Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) Congress last July 26, 2019.

The atmosphere was full of excitement as SLP beneficiaries, together with their families and the program's partners and stakeholders, participated in various activities that highlighted the program's implementation, and success, most specifically in Cabadbaran City, which was also celebrating its Charter Day.

Cabadbaran City Mayor Judy C. Amante, together with the members of the Sanguniang Bayan were present to give full support to the said activity. The Provincial Government of Agusan del Norte was also represented by Hon. Elizabeth Marie R. Calo, Sanguniang Panlalawigan Member who heads the Committee on Social Services.

The celebration, with the theme, "*Karun ug sa Uma-abot, Kalampusan atong Makab-ot*", was a venue for the SLP beneficiaries and partners to interact and showcase the impact of the program. Different activities transpired during the whole-day celebration, which included a poster making contest that was participated by SLP beneficiaries, a livelihood bazaar that exhibited products from SLP Associations, and a livelihood symposium.

Julius Sol Jamero, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA)

provincial director, discussed Social Entrepreneurship to the participants during the symposium, while Gemma Clarin from the Department of Trade and Industry also discussed Business Planning and Promotional Strategies, which came handy to the different SLP Association members who themselves are running different kinds of livelihood programs.

Plaque of Recognition were handed over to SLP Associations who have been successful in their business ventures, while supportive partners and stakeholders were acknowledged for their role in the success of the program. Mayor Amante personally handed over the certificates to the proud beneficiaries and partners.

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) was also able to hold a Jobs Fair during the celebration, which was very helpful to SLP beneficiaries, especially those under the Employment Track of the livelihood program.

SLP is a capability-building program for poor, vulnerable and marginalized households and communities to improve their socio-economic conditions through accessing and acquiring necessary assets to engage in and maintain thriving livelihoods. It has two tracks namely Microenterprise Development and the Employment Facilitation tracks.



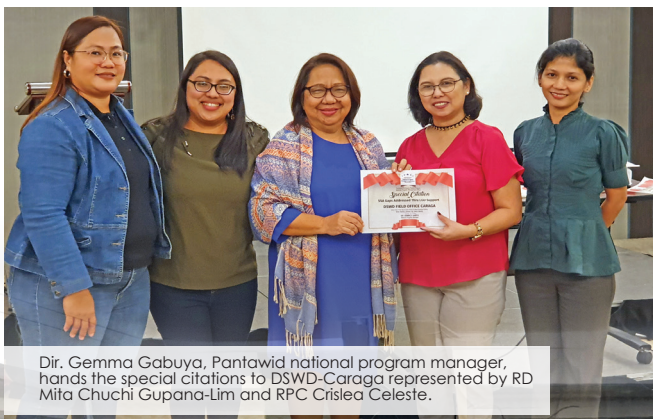
1. SLP as imagined by one of the participants of the poster-making contest held during the said activity.

2. The Cabadbaran City Gymnasium, venue of the 1st SLP Congress, was jam packed as beneficiaries and stakeholders attended the festive activity.



# DSWD-Caraga receives 11 awards, recognition in Pantawid Pamilya conference

► Joana Rica P. Millama



Dir. Gemma Gabuya, Pantawid national program manager, hands the special citations to DSWD-Caraga represented by RD Mita Chuchi Gupana-Lim and RPC Crislea Celeste.

Recognizing its enduring efforts to deliver regional good practices/innovations and continuing passion for quality service, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)-Caraga received 11 special citations during the 1st Regional Program Managers (RPM) Conference held at the West Avenue Suites, Quezon City, that was attended by DSWD regional directors and regional program coordinators, on July 31 to August 2, 2019.

On behalf of the Regional Program Management Office (RPMO), Regional Director Mita Chuchi G. Lim and Regional Program Coordinator Crislea Celeste, received the special citations on Knowledge Management Initiative (Training), Systems Innovation, Supply-Side Assessment Gaps Addressed Through LGU Support, Validation of Non-moving Accounts, Partnership Efforts on Bata Balik Eskwela, Submission of Partnership Reports, Timely Submission of Grievance – Redress System Reports, Pilot Testing of Community Organizing, Hosting of Joint Missions and Field Visits, Administration of Civil Service Eligibility Review, and 10 Years of Implementation for the said program.

The conference was headed by the Pantawid Pamilya National Program Management Office (NPMO) through the leadership of National Program Manager Director Gemma Gabuya. In her welcome message, Dir. Gabuya acknowledged the great contribution of the key officials from the different regional offices to the success of the program's implementation for the first semester, achieving the program's milestones.

Prior to the awarding, the regional directors and program coordinators discussed the Thrusts and Priorities of Pantawid Pamilya for 2020, specifically

the administration of Social Welfare and Development Indicators to all Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program households. It was also an avenue for the regional directors to discuss issues and concerns that needed to be elevated to the NPMO level.

Moreover, the body discussed the different strategies to ensure that 4Ps households are reached during DSWD Listahanan-3 household assessment/survey. Another matter discussed was the process in drafting the Implementing Rules and Regulation for the newly-approved 4Ps.

Another important matter tackled during the plenary was the proposed systems integration between DSWD, DepEd, and DOH information systems by Compliance Verification Division.

"We all have done our part for the best interest of our program clientele. We are here because we want to keep our children in school, healthy, and nurtured by a family," Dir. Gabuya said.

Gabuya added that in return, they would like to see and hear all of the beneficiaries' victories through the good practices, innovations, and success stories of the field offices. In conclusion, she emphasized that it is also essential to keep the work-life balance – time allocated for work and other aspects of life such as family, hobbies, and social/leisure activities.

DSWD-Caraga would like to share the different awards and recognition to the Pantawid Pamilya regional workforce and to the different partners of the agency who have worked hard to make the program implementation successful.



The NPMO-Pantawid technical staff with the FO RDs and RPCs conclude the two-day conference held at West Avenue Suites, Quezon City.



# Caraga legislators show full support to DSWD programs, Legislative Agenda

► Marko Davey D. Reyes



Rep. Amante-Matba expressing her opinion on the programs of DSWD, most specially the Social Pension Program for Indigent Senior Citizens. She wishes that the program would have additional funds to cover more seniors needing the help of government.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) successfully conducted its Regional Forum on DSWD Programs and Legislative Agenda, which was participated by the Provincial Local Government Units (LGU), representatives from the cities in the region, and Representatives from the different Congressional Districts of Caraga, last August 19, 2019, at Almont Hotels Inland Resort, Butuan City.

The activity, which was able to serve its purpose for the Field Office to provide an orientation to the participants about the programs and services of the Department (especially programs with changes in implementation guidelines), became a venue for updates on the 1st semester performance of the DSWD-Caraga.

DSWD-Caraga Regional Director Mita Chuchi Gupana-Lim welcomed all participants with high hopes of engaging with the different stakeholders in furthering the effective and efficient services of the Department.

"We would like to inform you of what we do at DSWD, and we would like to provide you brief updates about our programs and

services. It is of importance that we be on the same page as to our understanding on what our roles are in ensuring the promotion of the welfare of the poor, marginalized, and disadvantaged individuals, families, and sectors, especially here in Caraga," Dir. Lim said.

During the discussions, the honored guests and participants, together with the field office management, Division chiefs, and program focal persons, tackled the roles of the Department and the stakeholders. Dir. Lim emphasized the need for support from the provincial/city government, especially in the implementation of the programs and services of the agency.

With the call for collaboration, Agusan del Norte 2nd District Representative Ma. Angelica M. Amante-Matba pledged her all-out support for the Department, promising to raise during the sessions in the House of Representatives, any issues that would hinder the agency from performing its mandate.

"I have seen how DSWD has delivered for the families and communities. I will make sure that the agency gets what it needs to continue to serve the people, especially in Caraga," Rep. Amante-Matba said.

Dir. Lim also emphasized the need for support for the Legislative agenda of the Department for the 18th Congress.

"Part of this forum is the discussion on the Legislative Agenda of the agency for the 18th Congress. Legislations play a critical role in ensuring the effectiveness of our services. We need legislative support in strengthening our current programs and services, and for crafting relevant laws for the continuance of some of our programs," Dir. Lim said.

Among the bills being pushed by the agency are the Social Welfare and Development Agencies (SWDAs) Bill, Public Solicitation Bill, Community-Driven Development (CDD) Institutionalization Bill, Domestic Administrative Adoption Bill, and the Anti-Elder Abuse Bill.



**DSWD**  
Regional Forum on  
DSWD Programs and  
Legislative Agenda  
AUGUST 19, 2019  
Almont Hotels Inland Resort



## DSWD-Caraga prepares trainers for Listahanan 3

► Abegail R. Alvarez



Technical staff and Deputized Training Officers of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)-Caraga underwent intensive training during the 3-day Regional Training of Trainers on Listahanan 3rd round household assessment on August 20-22, 2019 at Grand Palace Hotel, Butuan City.

The said training equipped the participants with necessary skills and knowledge on how to properly accomplish the Household Assessment Form or HAF (the main tool used to collect data and pertinent information from the target households), techniques on how to review the HAF, and the use of all monitoring forms and logs.

Part of the training were roleplaying sessions wherein all participants were given the chance to act as enumerator who accomplished the HAF based on their mock interview with participants who also act as respondent.

Other discussions include the familiarization of the Philippine Standard Occupational Classification (PSOC) Code and User Management System and Data Encoding Application.

This has been part of the preparatory activities of the Field Office as the 3rd round household assessment that will commence on October this year.

On behalf of Regional Director Mita Chuchi Gupana-Lim, Policy and Plans Division (PPD) OIC Chief Ramil M. Taculod encouraged the trainers to help the Department in carrying out the mandate to conduct the household assessment by guiding and mentoring the hired field workers with skills on how to conduct household assessment.

The trainers will be part of the training team during the Basic Training for field workers on Listahanan 3 which will start on October. The Area Coordinators, Area Supervisors, and Enumerators must be capacitated before deployment to their respective area of assignment. This is to ensure that the field workers know the protocol in conducting the household assessment as this will affect the result or the outcome of the collected information will be used as database for the implementation of different social welfare and development programs and services.



Kalahi-CIDSS CDD Champion Deputy House Leader Pimentel vows support to the institutionalization of the program.

Surigao del Sur 2nd District Representative and House Deputy Speaker Johnny Ty Pimentel personally expressed his desire to author or co-author some of the proposed bills, calling for partnership with Rep. Amante-Matba.

Rep. Pimentel has been a constant supporter of the programs of DSWD, which has gained him a recognition as a Kalahi-CIDSS CDD National Champion in 2015, when he was still governor of Surigao del Sur.

“CDD has been a very effective mechanism in empowering and bringing progress to poor communities. If there is a program from government that needs to be regularized, it should be the CDD program,” Rep. Pimentel confidently said.

In a recently-concluded National event of the DSWD Kalahi-CIDSS program held in Butuan City this month, Rep. Pimentel also expressed his support for CDD.

“I really came here to convince the leaders of this country that we must continue the programs of Kalahi-CIDSS because it has given solutions

to the problems to the smallest barangays. Aside from the unconditional cash transfer (Pantawid Pamilyang/4Ps), I think this is one of the best programs that we have ever implemented in our country,” Pimentel said.

Both Amante-Matba and Pimentel have pledged for their support to the Field Office in terms of the proposed legislative agenda of DSWD. Dir. Lim lauded the commitment of both representatives and called it a bold move to ensure progress in the region.

DSWD-Caraga thanked all the participants during the said activity especially that the field office is facing a big task ahead of improving the lives of the people in the region, which has now been ranked as the 4th poorest region in the country.

With the result of the activity, the Field Office is confident that it will be able to deliver its end in improving lives of poor individuals, families, and communities in the region. Together, DSWD and the different partners and stakeholders will be able to reach the different sectors who needs the services and protection of the government.



# Kalahi-CIDSS' 3rd National Community Volunteers' Congress & 5th National Bayani Ka! Awards successfully held in Butuan City

► Clea Mariel C. Malunhao



The participants try to accomplish the Household Assessment Form during the 2nd day of Regional Training of Trainers.



The training team with their certificate as they completed the 3-day training for Listahanan 3.

Other preparatory activities to be conducted by the region office is the conduct of the LGU Consultation Dialogue per cluster, which will be attended by City/Municipal/Barangay Officials, Local Social Welfare and Development Officers, Provincial/Municipal Planning and Development Officers, and Liga ng mga Barangay President. This activity will serve as venue to strengthen partnership and to get 100% support from LGUs in order for the department to successfully implement the Listahanan 3.

DSWD Secretary Rolando Joselito D. Bautista directed all the regional offices to obtain a credible list of poor households to guarantee that the programs and services will benefit qualified individuals, families, groups, and communities.

This year, the Department is targeting to assess 16.1 million households nationwide with an allocated budget of 2.7-billion pesos. For the region, a total of 519,881 households are target for assessment but this can be exceeded during the actual enumeration.

Over 250 delegates from 14 regions in the country gathered and participated in the 3rd National Community Volunteers' Congress and 5th National Bayani Ka! Awards of the Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (Kalahi-CIDSS) on August 13 to 15 at Almont Inland Resort, Butuan City. This national event was hosted by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)-Caraga.

This year's National Community Volunteers' Congress is anchored on the theme, *"Padayon, Kalahi-CIDSS!"*.

The National Community Volunteers' Congress is a yearly gathering of remarkable and extraordinary community-level stakeholder-leaders from the different parts of the country to share their experiences in the program implementation, learn from each other, work together to create solutions to address issues faced by other municipalities, and strengthen the practice of community-driven development in the country; while the National Bayani Ka! Awards is the annual recognition of DSWD Kalahi-CIDSS to exceptional community-based groups in the country for their efforts and initiatives on community development and nation-building.

The event kicked off with the 5th National Bayani Ka! Awards on

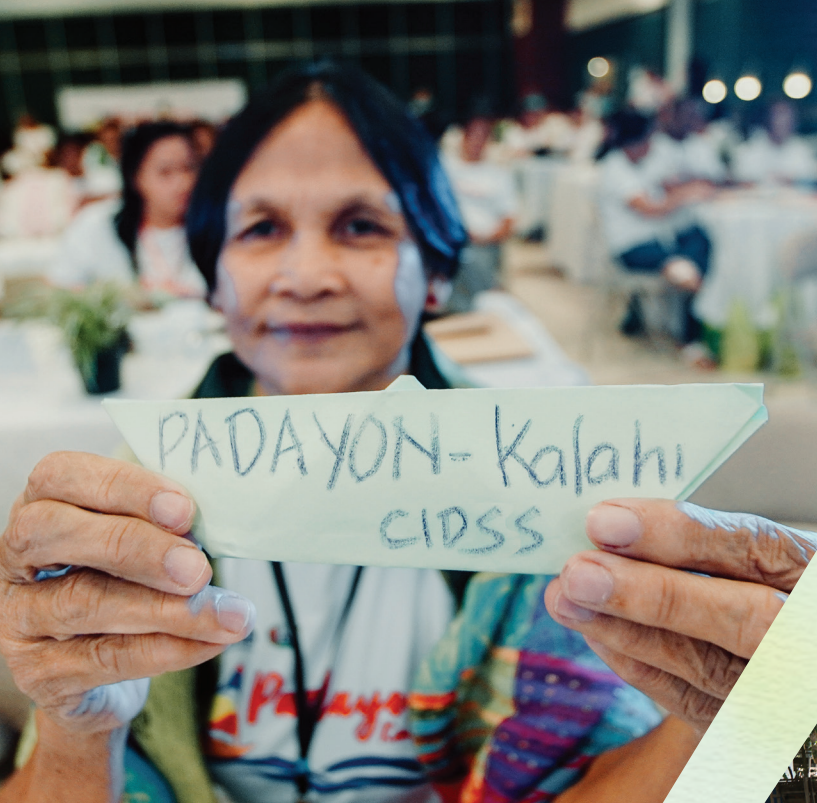
August 13, wherein community volunteers and stakeholders, dressed in filipiniana and ethnic attires, received their awards. DSWD Secretary Rolando Joselito D. Bautista, together with Kalahi-CIDSS National Program Manager Janet P. Armas and Caraga Regional Director Mita Chuchi Gupana-Lim, led the awarding ceremony.

The national awardees were from the community groups who won during their respective Regional Bayani Ka! Awards. The Bayani Ka! Awards was composed of nine categories, namely: Gender and Development, Environment Protection, Promotion of Just Peace, Indigenous People's Welfare, Elderly, Youth, Persons with Disability, Improved Local Governance, and Sustained Community Volunteers' Group.

In his message, Secretary Bautista said that the continuous project implementation of the Kalahi-CIDSS have created an impact to many lives and communities. Without the efforts and contribution of the community volunteers, these changes would not have been made possible.

*"Karapat-dapat lang na kayo ay parangalan. Hayaan niyo sa aming pamamaraan nang pagpapasalamat sa inyong aktibong pakikilahok at pagpapakita na ang lahat ay may gampanin sa komunidad. Marami na tayong natagumpayan sa mga nagdaang taon. Kaya gawin*





PADAYON, KALAHI-CIDSS! Participants were asked to make origami boats as a symbol for their continuous support to the program. The paper boats also signifies the delegates' call to regularize the program.



DSWD Secretary Rolando Joselito D. Bautista graced the event and commended the community volunteers for their efforts and sacrifices in uplifting their respective communities.

*natin itong inspirasyon upang pagsikapan ang mga proyektong makakabuti sa ating pamayanan* (With all your efforts, you truly deserve to be applauded and commended. Allow us to show our appreciation for your active participation in the program implementation and for showing us that everyone has a role in the community. We've already accomplished a lot in the past years. Let us make this as an inspiration to pursue and persevere more on projects that would be improve our society)," Bautista said.

During the second day, an exposure visit was conducted in the municipalities of Carmen in Agusan del Norte and in the towns of San Agustin, Barobo, and Hinatuan in Surigao del Sur to maximize the learning opportunity of the participants. Prior to the visit, an ocular inspection and validation was initiated by the National Program Management Office (NPMO) and the Regional Program Management Office (RPMO) to identify municipalities, including barangays, where sub-projects were successfully implemented.

As part of the learning visit, a focus group discussion was conducted involving the delegates and the community volunteers and barangay-level leaders. The discussion was focused on the challenges encountered by the volunteers and stakeholders in the program implementation and the resolutions they came up with, the influence brought by the program in their lives, and the impact made by the Community-Driven Development approach in their communities.



**YELLOW TEAM.** On the second day of the congress, community volunteers were divided into four groups and visited the municipalities of Carmen, Agusan del Norte, San Agustin, Barobo, and Hinatuan, Surigao del Sur. Volunteers assigned in Carmen wore the color yellow.

Knowing that the Kalahi-CIDSS Program is about to close, community volunteers strongly expressed their hope for the government to continue the program as it provides the community several opportunities. "*Unta dili pa maputol ang Kalahi-CIDSS kay nangahinanglan pa gyud mi sa among komunidad. Aron sab magpadayon pa ang kalambuan sa matag usa ka lugar ug sa laing pang lugar sa Pilipinas* (We fervently hope that the Kalahi-CIDSS Program will continue its implementation because our community is still in need of it. Sustaining the program will also allow every community in the country to continually improve and progress)," Delfina Grol said. Grol is a member of the Bayogo Tribal Community – a community volunteer group from Brgy. Antao, Carmen, Surigao del Sur.

After attending the group discussions, the delegates visited the sub-projects in barangays they were assigned. And as a treat to the community volunteers for all their hard work, the participants were also given time to explore the tourist spots in the municipalities they were assigned to.

On the last day of the national congress, the delegates were tasked to synthesize and present their learnings and experiences during the field visit. Through the help of the assigned social marketing officers per team, the participants were able to present their outputs creatively.

The plenary was followed by the presentation of the Kalahi-CIDSS updates by National Program Manager Janet P. Armas who showed to the delegates the





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1. PANATA NG BOLUNTIR. During the last day, the delegates participated in the oath taking ceremony of community volunteers. In this activity, they pledged of their commitment to sustain their responsibility in attaining progress for their communities. They also promised to support the institutionalization of CDD in the country.

2. Secretary Rolando Joselito D. Bautista congratulates the community volunteer of Bayugo Tribal Community of Carmen, Surigao del Sur during the 5th National Bayani Ka! Awards.

program accomplishments and plans for the institutionalization of CDD in the country. In line with this, she also said that a draft bill has already been submitted in the Congress and Senate for the regularization of the CDD.

*"Isapuso natin na ang bawat aksyon o hakbang na gagawin ay dapat laging sa kabutihan ng pamayanan, pamilya, at sarili. Itaguyod natin ang sama-samang pagkilos nang may malasakit (We must take to heart that our every action is for our welfare, the people, and the community. Let us promote a caring and collaborative movement towards progress)," she said.*

With the aspiration to institutionalize CDD in the country, the community volunteers were also given an opportunity to write letters to local government officials, legislators, and even to Pres. Rodrigo Duterte appealing to them to deem and support this action. The delegates agreed that the Kalahi-CIDSS Program should become a regular program of the government.

Further, House Deputy Speaker Johnny T. Pimentel of the 2nd district of Surigao del Sur graced the 3rd day. Being the first and only CDD Champion for the Provincial Local Government Unit Category in 2015, Pimentel manifested his interest and

support for the regularization of the CDD. He strongly advocates for the program as he was able to personally witness the significant changes it brought to various communities.

"I really came here to convince the leaders of this country that we must continue the programs of Kalahi-CIDSS because it has given solutions to the problems of the smallest barangays. Aside from the unconditional cash transfer (UCT), I think this is one of the best programs that we have ever implemented in our country," Pimentel said.

The three-day activity ended with the community volunteers making their own paper "bancas" or boats as a symbol for their commitment in supporting CDD institutionalization. The origami boat is a reminder that like a banca, the program must continue sailing to achieve its purpose and reach its main destination of success and progress.

With the success of the 3rd National Community Volunteers' Congress and 5th National Bayani Ka! Awards, the community volunteers and the Kalahi-CIDSS management hope that this would create a huge and astounding influence to the institutionalization of CDD in the country. Once the CDD becomes a law, communities will be provided with better opportunities and access to quality infrastructure and services.



# DSWD-Caraga completes 1st semestral payout for Social Pension beneficiaries

► Daryl D. Anunciado



The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Field Office Caraga have completed the first semestral payout for beneficiaries of the Social Pension for Indigent Senior Citizens Program.

DSWD-Caraga was able to complete the first semestral payout in 73 local government units in the region last August 2, despite the delay of release of stipend due to the cleansing of the database to get rid of unqualified beneficiaries.

The Social Pension Program Management Office (SPPMO) of DSWD-Caraga have serve 114,143 qualified beneficiaries amounting to P342,429,000 in the first semester.

Of the 121,980 beneficiaries with payroll, only 7,837 weren't able to claim their pensions since they are out of town, hospitalized and are living in geographically-isolated and disadvantaged areas.

To accomplish the 140,000 target beneficiaries this year, DSWD-Caraga is set to release the stipend on the second semester to the remaining 18,020 beneficiaries amounting to P54,060,000, along with the 7,837 unpaid beneficiaries.

For the second semester, DSWD-Caraga has reminded representatives of beneficiaries, who couldn't made it to payout venues due to severe illnesses, to claim their P3,000 semestral pension by bringing requirements such as medical certificate (with doctor's license number), Pagtugot Form signed by the Local Social Welfare Development Officer, original and photocopy of any valid government-issued IDs of both the beneficiary and the representative.

Family members of beneficiaries, who died since July 1 this year, can also claim the stipend of their deceased kin. Requirements in claiming the said pension are death certificate, warranty of release form, original and photocopy of ID of the claimant.

Senior citizens are advised not to go to DSWD Field Office to claim their pension. DSWD-Caraga will only release stipend in designated areas on specific dates.

DSWD-Caraga is working overtime to ensure that beneficiaries receive their pension the soonest.

The Social Pension for Indigent Senior Citizens program provides a monthly stipend amounting to P500 to augment the daily subsistence and other medical needs of indigent senior citizens. This is in line with the fulfilment of the government's obligation to the most vulnerable sector through social protection, and for the full implementation of Republic Act 9994 or the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010.

## Multi-talented family from Carmen, AdN hailed as Caraga's 2019

### *Huwarang Pantawid Pamilya*

► Joana Rica P. Millama

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Field Office Caraga formally named its Huwarang Pantawid Pamilya after deliberating the results of the week-long field validation conducted by the Regional Program Management Office together with the Social Marketing Section.

The Quesaba family of Carmen town in Agusan del Norte topped all five provincial winners to become the regional titleholder of the annual contest – this as a result of a very hectic and tough validation process. With the win, Agusan del Norte has had a back-to-back victory as it also won the Huwarang Pamilya search last year.

The Quesaba family, composed of parents Zenon and Cresilda, together with their five children Frimar, Cristian, Lovin, Cellyn, and Kesiah, lives in the coastal municipality of Carmen. Being a Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) beneficiary for eight years, the household considers the program as a blessing to their family.

*“Sa dihang miabot na ang Pantawid mapasalamaton jud mi kaayo kay matag ikaduha ka-bulan naa naman mi madawat unya ang among budget amo gyud nang giayo paggamit – gipalit og pagkaon ug gamit sa mga bata, para dili na sila magkalisod-lisod og eskwela (When 4Ps came, we were thankful because we now receive grants every two months and we really allocate the grants for food ensure the needs of our children for their schooling),” Cresilda tearfully shared.*

She also added that whenever they have savings from their cash grants, they use it to fund some kind of small business such as selling fruits, laminating and printing photos/documents (IDs) in their small studio, and offering electrical services (repair, installation, and connection). The children also experienced selling vegetables in their school and being working students/scholars in hopes to pursue their studies and help their parents.

Lovin, the third child of the Quesaba siblings, acknowledged the love and hardwork of their parents that has brought them different opportunities.

*“Nakita pud nako nga maayo ang ilang pagpadako sa amoa, ginapa-remind mi nila sa mga consequences kung magbinuang mi sa among eskwela o sa komunidad. Sila ang parents nga wala nagkulang sa pagmatuto sa amoa mao ng proud kaayo ko saila (I have seen that they raised us well, they always remind us of the consequences when we do something bad in school or in the community. They are the kind of parents who did not lack in imparting us with knowledge that’s why I am a proud son),” Lovin, who recently graduated this year with a degree in BS-Mathematics, shared.*

Aside from being a family who values education, they also maintain harmonious relationships in their community. Cresilda is a church lector while Zenon is a church choir member. He also is the on-call barangay electrician, answering requests for any electrical concern in the barangay, and even from their neighbors.

As good Christians, they follow simple barangay ordinances, and even the program’s advocacies. Following simple



rules is one way of being good parents to their children.

They consider simple tasks like segregating waste materials through Material Recovery Facility (MRF) and compost pit, maintaining cleanliness and sanitation in their home and surroundings, establishing a backyard garden that provides them vegetables and spices, and having an emergency kit in preparation for typhoons or calamities as tasks performed by responsible Filipino families.

They consider being Pantawid grantees as a responsibility to be role models in the society. This drives their family to be better citizens for their community.

The field validation to determine the Regional Huwarang Pantawid Pamilya was conducted last August 19-23, 2019, covering all five provinces, which have already identified their respective provincial winners.

The objective of the activity is to recognize family-beneficiaries of the 4Ps who maintain strong family ties, demonstrate positive Filipino values, create positive impact in the community and empower children and family beneficiaries for an improved quality of life.

The Quesaba family joined the Pantawid Pamilya National Family Day celebration as the regional representative for DSWD-Caraga in September.

# DSWD Community volunteers recognized during Kalahi-CIDSS National Congress

► Clea Mariel C. Malunhao



DSWD Kalahi-CIDSS Caraga's delegates pose for a photo with DSWD Secretary Rolando Joselito Bautista, Kalahi-CIDSS National Program Manager Janet Armas, and Caraga Regional Director Mita Chuchi Gupana-Lim during the 5th National Bayani Ka! Awards.



Kalahi-CIDSS Community Volunteers Association of the Philippines (KCCVAP) Regional Representative Vicente "Vic" Gausin, Jr. explains to media partners the importance of strengthening Community-Driven Development (CDD) in the country.



Nine community volunteers from the different municipalities represented Caraga Region during the 3rd National Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan, Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (Kalahi-CIDSS) Community Volunteers Congress on August 13 to 15, 2019 at Almont Inland Resort, Butuan City. The volunteers were also awarded, and recognized during the National Bayani Ka! Awards dubbed "Padayon, Kalahi-CIDSS!", during the said activity.

DSWD Caraga were represented by the following volunteers and stakeholders: Joan Montañez for Gender and Development Category; Juvie Bartolome for Environmental Protection Category; Philip Lalinan for Just Peace Category; Moises Dionaldo for Sustained Community Volunteer Group Category; Josephina Bolaso for Welfare of Persons with Disability Category; Loretta Gajol for Elderly Category; Delfina Grol for Indigenous Peoples' Welfare Category; Norma Saubon for Welfare of the Youth Category; and Letecia Monares for Improved Local Governance Category.

The aforementioned representatives were also the winners hailed during the 2018 DSWD Kalahi-CIDSS Regional Bayani Ka! Awards.

Apart from the nine volunteers, Vicente Gausin Jr., regional representative of the Kalahi-CIDSS Community Volunteers Association of the Philippines (KCCVAP) also participated in the event. They were joined by Kalahi-CIDSS Caraga Regional staff.

The National Community Volunteers Congress and National Bayani Ka! Awards, which is an annual convention of exceptional community volunteers and stakeholder-leaders from various regions across the country, is organized by the DSWD, through the Kalahi-CIDSS program to highlight the impact of the partners and stakeholders in the implementation of the program.

In the said event, community volunteers and stakeholder-leaders are given the opportunity to share their learning insights and experiences in the program implementation, generate resolutions that are faced by other areas, and highlight the practice of Community-Driven Development in the country.



# Caraganon girls in DSWD custody now enjoy new dorm

► Mike Ariel P. Plaza

**T**wenty-two years after the Home for Girls in Caraga was built in Butuan City, a 58-bed capacity two-storey dormitory has been recently inaugurated as a part of improving Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)-Caraga's services to female children in need of special protection.

Undersecretary for Special Project and Infrastructure Management Camilo G. Gudmalin, who led the ribbon-cutting and turn-over on July 25, congratulated the Field Office for completing the Centers and Residential Care Facilities (CRCF) infrastructure projects on time.

Gudmalin emphasized that relative to the approval of the 2018 General Appropriation Act (GAA), the Department has been allocated with P2.3 billion to rehabilitate and improve the CRCF, adding that around 500 projects have been proposed distributed in 71 residential care facilities nationwide.

"We are much happy to be inaugurating a structure where our vulnerable children will be given right rehabilitative programs and services," Gudmalin said, clarifying that the core function of giving "love and care to these children" is still the main objective of the centers.

Gudmalin also said that the Department will continue to propose projects to improve better the facilities where these programs and services are delivered.

"These children have undergone traumatic experiences and we will do our best to help them live better lives and erase these pains from their past," Gudmalin added.

Regional Director Mita Chuchi Gupana-Lim expressed her thanks to everyone who have contributed on the success of building two-storey dormitories and infrastructure projects both in Home for Girls and Regional Rehabilitation Center for Youth in Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur.





“Running and managing these Centers is a major priority of the agency. This is why we want to maximize all our efforts to improve not just our services, but also our facilities,” Lim said.

Lim added that the improvements will aid in the rehabilitation and care for the clients especially that center does not only house girls but in some cases also women in crisis situation.

“We all hope that we could provide a nurturing environment to our clients, through these improvements. They all deserve to enjoy in their stay here in the center,” Lim said.

Supervising House Parent Sherlita Sausal said that visible changes have been observed since the clients have been transferred to the new dormitory.

“It has been a great feeling transferring to this new dormitory because the facilities are new and complete. The clients love it better here compared to the old dorm that was a bit congested especially on their bedrooms,” Sausal said.

The residents have also expressed their thanks that they have been provided with better facilities.

*“Ganahan mi kay lami man gyud sa feelings nga dili ka mag-expect sa imong kinabuhi nga makatungtong og ing-ani nga balay, ing-ani kadaku. Mao pod siguro nga kasagaran sa amo nagpasalamat gyud (We are very happy and we feel great for having experienced living in a house as big as this one. This makes us all very much grateful),”* said a client of the Home for Girls.

The RRCY dormitory for male children in conflict with the law has also already been inaugurated on June 20.



Undersecretary Camilo G. Gudmalin and Regional Director Mita Chuchi Gupana-Lim lead the ribbon cutting and inauguration of the two-storey dormitory.



Present during the inauguration are different stakeholders and partners in delivering social and legal services to the clients of the Home for Girls.



Usec. Gudmalin underscores the importance of creating a better space for children in need of special protection to make their stay in DSWD as comfortable as possible.



# Disaster focal persons, program handlers, attend National Orientation for Community Action for Disaster Response

► Alycksa Maye J. Castaños

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) - Social Technology Bureau and Disaster Response Management Bureau conducted the National Orientation and Conduct of Basic Community Actions for Disaster Response (CADRE) on the Team Balikatan Rescue in Emergencies (TeamBRE) Project held at Almont Inland Beach Resort, Lipata, Surigao City, last September 9-14, 2019.

The national activity was attended by disaster focal persons from different local government units and DSWD field offices from all over the Philippines. The goal of the training was to provide the participants the knowledge and skills on how to implement the TeamBRE project, as well as workshops and actual disaster response trainings, and development of an action plan for the Disaster Response and Rehabilitation Sections on the scaling up of the project.

The TeamBRE project was created to organize and mobilize communities along the three phases of disaster- pre, during and post-disaster for collaborated joint undertakings in rescue and evacuation of affected families in coastal barangays and disaster-prone communities. And because of this, the TeamBRE project was developed to prevent fisherfolk's from risking their lives for livelihood during the lean or typhoon months.

It was piloted by DSWD-Caraga and DSWD-Eastern Visayas last July 2012 and was completed on December 2013, while Luzon cluster, through DSWD-Bicol started its pilot testing on May 2013 to May 2015.

Some of the highlights of the training were the (CADRE) lessons and demonstrations on the following modules: Common Hazards and the Community Response Group, Securing Family and Preparing for Response, First Aid and Basic Life Support (BLS), Incident Command System and Triage/ Quick Response Sorting Techniques (CQRST), Dead Body Management, Fire Emergencies, Basic Search and Rescue, and Handling Water Emergencies.

This lectures were revalidated thru an actual simulation of all the CADRE topics that were discussed. The participants had to go through the basic CADRE training for them to fully understand the need and importance of TeamBRE project to the community. Since they were expected to advocate and lead in the replication of the project to their specific regions, each Field Office had to prepare their action plan, specific for application in their respective regions.



Participants attentively observe as CADRE instructors demonstrate on how to make an improvised stretcher.



Participants getting ready for the simulation activities after the lecture.



Disaster Risk Management Bureau Director Rodolfo M. Encabo (rightmost) demonstrates the forth lesson: cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).



The second batch of participants of the National Orientation and conduct of Basic Community Action for Disaster Response (CADRE) on the Team Balikatan Rescue in Emergencies (TeamBRE) project held in Caraga region.





## DSWD-Caraga provides assistance to 30 rebel returnees

► Daryl D. Anunciado

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)-Caraga, headed by Regional Director Mita Chuchi Gupana-Lim, has provided goods and cash assistance to 30 former rebels during the Barangay Summit 2019 held at Balanghai Hotel and Convention Center in Butuan City last September 12.

Director Lim, together with Crisis Intervention Unit head Melanie Juan and other DSWD staff, distributed P10,000 cash, food and non-food items to each rebel returnee, who are from the province of Surigao del Norte.

The distribution came after the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG)-Caraga coordinated with the DSWD-Caraga and other government agencies for assistance and services to the former rebels who are beneficiaries of the Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program (E-CLIP).

E-CLIP is a program of the government that ensures that surrendering communist rebels have a holistic package of benefits that they can avail of, such as livelihood assistance, medical assistance, education, housing, and legal assistance.

Other benefits/services received by the former rebels are medical kits from the Department of Health and seedlings from the Department of Agriculture.

DILG-Caraga Regional Director Lilibeth Famacion thanked Director Lim, as well as heads of other government agencies who extended assistance to the former communist rebels.

The event dubbed, “Building a Whole of Nation Commitment Towards Peace and Development for Barangays: Barangay Summit 2019”, is in line with President Rodrigo Duterte’s Executive Order No. 70 series of 2018, institutionalizing the Whole-of-Nation Approach in Attaining Inclusive and Sustainable Peace, Creating a National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict, and Directing the Adoption of a National Peace Framework.

*“Ang problema sa insurgency has been here for more than 50 years already. Ang atong gobierno nangita gyud og saktong approach arun mahimong magmalampuson nga mawagtang na kini nga problema* (The insurgency problem has been here for more than 50 years already. Our government is finding the right approach to successfully eradicate

this problem)” Agusan de Norte Governor Dale Corvera said during the event.

*“Og karun nga under the leadership of our president, President Duterte, nakita nato nga ang* (Now, under the leadership of our president, President Duterte, we realized that) *insurgency is not only a problem to be solved by the military and the police but it should be solved by everybody,”* Corvera said.

*“Mao nang namugna kining Executive Order No. 70 tungod kay kini nga problema, problema natong tanan, kitang tanan ang mosulbad niini nga problema. Ug a matag usa kanato duna gyuy role.* (That is why Executive Order No. 70 was created since this problem should be solved by us and each of us has a role) *This problem cannot be solved if we will not work together,”* Corvera added.

The event was also attended by Cabinet Secretary Karlo Alexi Nograles, National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon Jr., DILG Undersecretary for Peace and Order Bernardo Florece Jr., Surigao del Norte Governor Francisco Matugas, and other government officials.





The Area Coordinators make a courtesy call with Governor Santiago B. Cane Jr. of Agusan del Sur.



## DSWD TO ASSESS 500,000 CARAGANON HOUSEHOLDS

► Abegail R. Alvarez

**M**ore than 500,000 households in Caraga Region are estimated targets for the 3rd round household assessment of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) through the National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-PR) for 2019.

Listahanan is an information management system that employs geographic targeting, household assessment, and validation in order to provide national government agencies, development partners, and other social protection actors with information on who and where the poor are in the Philippines.

This information is then used for the identification and selection of potential beneficiaries for various poverty alleviation and social protection programs.

Based on Executive Order 867 series of 2010, the Department shall maintain the system and serve as the repository of the data of poor households and shall update the data every four years.

DSWD Regional Director Mita Chuchi Gupana-Lim clarified that the given target of household to be assessed is based on the growth rate (population); however this can be exceeded during the actual enumeration.

"The figure given is just an estimated target based on the growth rate of the region as well as for the budget purposes only. We already instructed our hired field workers not to stick on the target and ensure to assess more so that no one is left behind and will not be deprived of assistance from the government," Lim said.

For Listahanan 3, the Department will execute Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with

the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) to strengthen the participation of the local government units (LGU) during the household assessment. The DILG will circulate the memorandum and indicate the distinct roles and responsibilities of BLGUs and LGUs to ensure that all households will be assessed.

DSWD-Caraga Policy and Plans Division Chief Ramil M. Taculod said that the agency is working with the LGUs, through the DILG to ensure the success of the household validation.

"The MOU between DILG and DSWD will ensure that households living in the Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDAs) will be included as the BLGUs will give guidance to our enumerators," Taculod said.

"However, any officials are prohibited to look or read the information collected by the enumerators as we are guided by the Data Privacy Act of 2012 or the R.A. 10963. Any violators will be penalized under the law. This will also serve as protection to ensure that our data is not politicized by any officials," Taculod added.

The identification of poor households follows a four-phase project cycle. First is the Preparatory Phase where target areas for household assessment and the appropriate data collection strategies are identified. The Department also capacitated all field workers on their roles and responsibilities as well as the protocol in conducting the household assessment.

This is followed by the Data Collection and Analysis Phase. During this phase, where DSWD-hired enumerators conduct household interviews to gather basic and socio-economic

information using the Household Assessment Form (HAF), which is then processed through a proxy means test (PMT) that estimates family income and compares it to the provincial poverty threshold.

For the last phase, the results of the PMT are then validated locally, finalized, compiled, and generated into National and Regional Profiles of the Poor.

As of now, the trained area coordinators already made a courtesy call to LGUs to discuss the importance of the conduct of the 3rd round household assessment.

The first household assessment was conducted in 2009 and covered 405,310 households in the region, where 232,301 were identified as poor; while the 2nd round household assessment was conducted in 2015 and covered 494,964 households, identifying 260,145 as poor.





DSWD-Caraga Regional Director Mita Chuchi Gupana-Lim together with the representatives of RIAC-FF Caraga give food packs to parents who attended the Family Week Celebration.

## 27th National Family Week Celebration highlights mental health, responsible parenting

► Lovely Sheena Y. Soro

**“Your children will become what you are; so be what you want them to be.” – David Bly (American politician and former member of the Minnesota House of Representatives)**

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) spearheaded the 27th National Family Week Celebration through the Regional Inter Agency Committee on Filipino Families (RIAC-FF) Caraga on September 24, 2019 at Balanghai Hotel.

Representatives from the Philippine National Police, Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, Commission on Higher Education, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, Gesu Eucharisto, Department of the Interior and Local Government, and selected parents from different barangays in Butuan City attended and participated on the said event.

The said activity is pursuant to the Presidential Proclamation No. 60 declaring the last week of September as National Family Week. This year's theme, “Tungo sa Maginhawa, Matatag at Panatag na Pamilyang Pilipino, aims to promote responsible parenting, strengthening marital relationship, enhancing parenting capabilities and shared parental responsibilities.

For this year's celebration, the RIAC-FF decided to tackle issues on mental health, specifically depression, and positive discipline, which are serious matters faced by Filipino families lately.

**Mental Health** Doctor Tristan Filipinas of the Department of Health (DOH) Caraga, guest speaker for the event, discussed about how to maintain a healthy mind, evaluate or assess depression among family members, manage depression, and differentiate normal depression from clinical depression.

Dr. Filipinas emphasized that having depression does not mean that a person is crazy or psychotic. He said, depression means the state of being sad, lonely, or in grief. It is normal for a person to feel low, sad, and lonely in some point of his/her life. But

if a person is diagnosed with clinical depression, it is the time wherein he/she needs medical attention. Clinical depression is feeling worthless 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Dr. Filipinas said clinical depression is like having diabetes. A diabetic person either has low, or high levels of insulin in his/her body. For depression, a person has an abnormal amount of serotonin in his/her brain.

Serotonin or also known as happy chemical is a neuro transmitter that contributes to the well-being and happiness of a person. Having an abnormal amount of serotonin will lead to mood swings that may lead to depression and other mental illness.

Depression can start at an early age. It can be seen early to toddlers who have unusual tantrums, anger, irritability, loss of interest in favorite toys or activities, and frequent complaining of body pains like stomach and headaches. If not given attention by the parents or guardian, the child has a tendency to develop Middle Childhood Depression and worse Clinical Depression.

Dr. Filipinas said that depression has many factors. You can inherit it from your elders, you can develop it through your unhealthy lifestyle, and the most common reason is stress.

Another topic discussed was on stress reduction, which was presented by Ma. Jazmin Sarce,, Registered Nurse from the DOH-Center for Health Development-Caraga who shared some information on how to cope up with stress.

“There are twelve S to reduce stress. These tips are so simple that anyone can achieve having a stress-free life,” Ms. Sarce said. The 12 S are as follows: Spirituality, Self-Awareness, Scheduling, Siesta, Sensible Diet and Exercise, Sensation Techniques, Sports, Socials, Sounds and Music, Speak to me, Stress Debriefing and Smiling.

Family planning was also tackled in one of the sessions. According to Janus Anthony Raganas, Project Evaluation Officer II of the Population Commission – Caraga highlighted the importance of family planning as the first and important consideration in starting a family.

He said that Family Planning is one way of having a healthy family. Planning on how many kids to have, the spacing on when to have the next child, and deciding on what contraceptives to use ensures the welfare of the family.

As for parenting, he said that from the moment the parents conceive a baby, that is when their roles as parents start. “Mothers need to have a pre-natal check up to secure the health and the condition of the baby. She needs to keep herself healthy not just for her own good but also for the sake of the baby that is growing inside her. The father on the other hand needs to provide the needs of the mother and the baby. From financial needs to more effort on assisting and accompanying the mother on her checkup, taking care of the visitors, and being a hands on father in rearing the children,” Raganas said.

During the discussion, it was made clear to the participants that raising children is a very difficult task. No school or any institution can teach parent how to be a “perfect parents”. Through responsible parenting one can ensure of raising responsible, respectful, confident, and optimistic children. And the key to achieve this goal is to raise the children using Positive Discipline rather than the traditional way, which is through the use of Corporal Discipline.

Raffy C. Vigil, Project Development Officer II from DSW-Caraga, also explained the topic on positive discipline further. He said that this type of disciplining does not mean letting children do whatever they want or having no rules. He said that Positive Discipline is helping a child develop self-control rather than being aggressive in attending difficult situations, helping a child to communicate and voice out his/her own ideas and feelings, teaching a child to respect others, and building his/her confidence in pursuing her dreams and enhancing his/her skills.

“Positive Discipline is the way if you want your child to be a successful individual in the future,” Vigil, said.

The Family Week Celebration wants to instill the idea that “Family is important. Family above all.” The discussions highlights the reality that raising a family is a difficult task but responsible parenting means a lot and will definitely bear positive results.



## JULY

Bloodletting Activity - July 2



Centenarian Gift  
(Cash Incentives)  
- July 17



NDRM Kick-Off Ceremony - July 2



Kalahi Mid-year  
PREW - July 4-5

## AUGUST

Roll-out Training on  
ECCD-IS - August 14



Listahanan 3 Orientation  
- August 19



RIACAT Gift

## SEPTEMBER

SocPen Tandag Payout - Sep 21



CCAM Implementation in Brgy. Puyat,  
Carmen, Surigao del Sur - Sep 4







Regional Inspection Committee  
Members' Orientation on SFP  
- July 12



Skills Enhancement for  
Parent Leaders of  
Pantawid Pamilya as  
Program Advocates  
- July 31



Ikaw ug ang DSWD:  
Kuyog sa Kabag-uhan  
Radio Program



Relief Assistance to 5.5 magnitude  
Earthquake-affected families in Madrid,  
Surigao del Sur - July 18



CCAM LGU  
Orientation  
(Socorro, SDN)  
- August 15



Giving- August 22



Capability Activity for Adoptive  
and Foster Parents- August 24



Community  
Volunteer's  
Field Visit  
-August 14



DSWD Family Day in Nasipit  
- September 27



SWD L-Net QuizBowl ++  
-Sep 27



CCAM Implementation in  
Surigao del Sur - Sep 4



