



SOUTH COTABATO *informant*

Land of the
**DREAM
WEAVERS**

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EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC SERVICE

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OUR COVER:

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Computer Maintenance Technologist I
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Information Technology Officer I



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Munching the newest merienda bestfriend in South Cotabato.

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by Krez James G. Cabaylo

Time is of the essence, especially during an emergency. Thus, the numbers of medical equipment and medical practitioners are vital to cater to all the needs of our patients in times of urgency.

EDITOR'S *Note*

Talking about the Covid-19 virus has become so boring and tiring. However, in everything that we do, we are affected by the virus.

Still, we hold on to this common phrase "this too shall pass" which gives us hope that all these troubles are temporary and everything will be alright if we believe and help to work things out to get rid of this pandemic.

But here is another potent virus we have to face, the Delta variant.

Aside from this variant, we already have the Alpha and the Beta variants in our province. We do not know if we still can cope.

The Delta variant alone, according to health experts is 60 percent more transmissible than the other viruses, which brings another quiver to our spine.

Considered as a virus of concern, the Delta variant has spread to more than 100 countries, including the Philippines and our province is not spared.

Still, the provincial government continues with its so-called "survival and recovery" stage.

The giving of assistance and other services be it in terms of medical, social, educational, agricultural, and other services are not disrupted.

We are hopeful that we can go back to normalcy soon so that our constituents can go on with their normal lives, continue with economic activities, and public service are maximized.

For now, the government keeps on reminding the populace of the safety protocols such as frequent washing of hands, wearing of face masks and face shields, social distancing and the likes. Some people no longer take them seriously. They just do it for compliance.

Many are going to public places without observing even these minimum health protocols. At the public market, some vendors no longer wear masks. In some private establishments, they are not using the contact tracing application, which is one important tool when someone was infected inside these establishments.

Medical workers are exhausted.

Perhaps one of our hopes to protect us against the virus is to heed the call of the government for vaccination.

The covid-19 vaccination is not mandatory but the government is encouraging everyone to get vaccinated.

Vaccination is a simple, safe, and effective way of protecting people against harmful diseases before they come into contact with them.

According to the World Health Organization, everyone, everywhere who could benefit from safe and effective Covid-19 vaccines should have access as quickly as possible, starting with those at highest risk of serious disease or death.

There is still a limited supply of vaccines and those who were on the priority list should be covered first. The good thing is, more people signified their interest to get vaccinated so that the 70 percent herd immunity will be achieved as soon as possible.

-HYDZ

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EVERY MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY
12:30-1:00 PM TOPGUN RADIO



EVERY TUESDAY & FRIDAY
10:00-11:00 AM RAYO RAPIDO

NEWS

Local DILG rolls out Mandanas ruling transition plans

by Anna Liz V. Cabrido

The Interior and Local Government in South Cotabato rolled out series of dialogue and sessions of workshops as new assignments and functions will be added to local government units after Supreme Court's ruling on the Mandanas-Garcia case.

Lawyer Rochelle Mahinay-Sero, Interior and Local Government Provincial Director, challenged the LGUs to plan out the transition after a 55 percent increase in the 2022 budget.

"We believe that a well-planned governance is created by better leaders," Mahinay-Sero said.

The Mandanas ruling of Supreme Court mandates local government units' equal share of internal revenue allotment, putting them in a better position to address local poverty and other concerns as part of their local power.

DILG said considerations like human resource capacity to implement the fully devolved responsibilities and their

financial resources to fund the necessary devolved functions are important aspects in planning the transition.

"LGUs will have 120 days to package the plan given after the national guidelines are released," DILG confirmed.

Lawyer Renette Bergado, Provincial Administrator, reminded department heads of the Devolution Transition Plan (DTP), which serves as the LGU's roadmap to ensure "strategic, perspective, systematic, and coherent actions towards its full assumption of devolution."

"There are organizational structures that are submitted to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan for deliberation as of press

time," Bergado said.

Meanwhile, Dr. Conrado Braña, South Cotabato Provincial Hospital Chief, said that health programs are already downloaded to LGUs in the last 10 years.

He, however, expected that the purchase of COVID vaccines may not be part of the devolution in the next few years.

Dr. Raul Teves, Provincial Agriculture Officer, on the other hand, said the decentralization is a healthy arrangement for the agricultural sector in the countryside.

"The extra share will benefit agricultural development projects in South Cotabato," Teves said. Agriculture is a significant sector of the local economy of the province.

they should set as models for the government.

transition team on this matter." He said,

Tamayo reports that there is an increasing number of covid-19 positives among the employees in the province.

He disclosed these cases are not considered high as compared to the previous weeks since only few cartridges were delivered to the province. However, if ever there is a surge, the SCPH cannot cater to more patients.

Governor Tamayo urges everyone to cooperate and follow the health protocols set by the government.

He also called on public employees to be at the forefront in following these health standards as



NEWS

SoCot spearheads DISTRIBUTION of 1,000 sacks of rice from OCM-BARMM

by Clarisse Mae Retirado-Jimenez

The Provincial Government of South Cotabato (PGSC) spearheaded the distribution of 1,000 sacks of rice from the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region In Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

Larry Abdul, one of the members of the South Cotabato Bangsamoro Association, said the Office of the Chief Minister ordered the distribution.

"We have allocated 1000 sacks of rice in South Cotabato," Abdul confirmed.

The record showed that at least 16,000 sacks of rice are ready to be distributed to the needy constituents of BARMM who were affected by the Coronavirus Disease (Covid-19) pandemic.

The PGSC provided five (5) trucks to deliver the rice from Cotabato City to five

(5) municipalities in South Cotabato; Banga, T'boli, Surallah, Norala, and Sto. Nino.

Abdul thanked the Provincial Government of South Cotabato for transporting the 1,000 sacks of rice.

"It is a big help in reaching out to the members of our society who became victims of the present crisis (Covid-19)," Abdul added.



SoCot Guv warns public vs. mass gathering

by Clarisse Mae Retirado-Jimenez

South Cotabato Governor Reynaldo S. Tamayo, Jr. warned the public to strictly comply with the restrictions on mass gatherings in the wake of the prevailing general community quarantine (GCQ) or face possible sanctions.

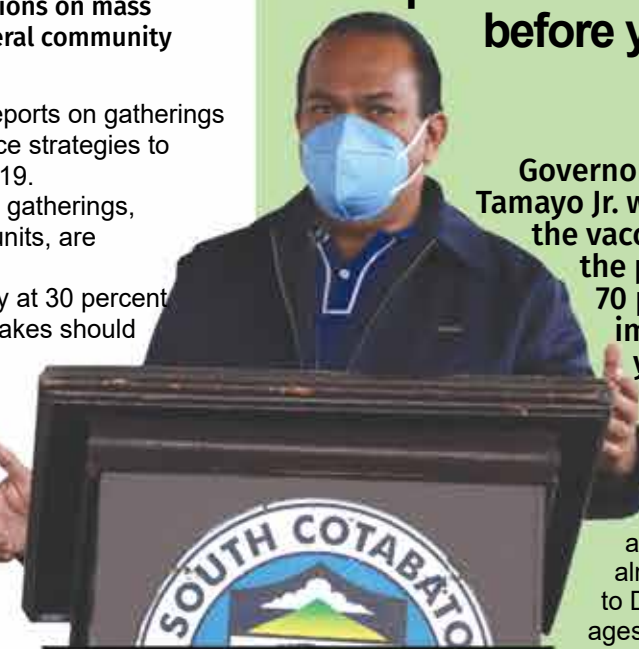
The governor reminded the public amid reports on gatherings taking place in some areas despite the province strategies to combat the community transmission of Covid-19.

Under GCQ, Tamayo reiterated that mass gatherings, including those initiated by local government units, are prohibited.

He said some events are allowed, but only at 30 percent venue capacity, while weddings and funeral wakes should be limited to 10 persons.

The National Inter-Agency Task Force for Emerging Infectious Diseases extended the province's GCQ status until July 31 due to the high incidence of Covid-19 in the area.

The governor added that government officials and employees are not exempt from these regulations and should follow them strictly to set an example to the public.



South Cotabato gov targets 70 percent herd immunity before yearend

by Hydee S. Templonuevo

Governor Reynaldo S. Tamayo Jr. wants to fast-track the vaccination process in the province to achieve 70 percent herd immunity before the year ends.

"In September and October, it is hoped that those who are from ages 18 years old and above can be vaccinated already. From November to December, those who are ages 12 to 17 years old can be covered," He said.

Tamayo targets that within this year, herd immunity can be achieved.

"By next year, we can focus our budget on booster shots." He said,

He added that efforts are underway not only to expedite the coming of the vaccines but also to inoculate more people from the priority lists.

The Governor plans to transfer the drop-off point of the vaccines from Cotabato City to General Santos City for easy and faster transport of the vaccines.

Presently, vaccines are ferried from Cotabato City to Koronadal City twice a week which is quite far compared to Gensan.

In a meeting held earlier together with all the mayors in the province, Governor Tamayo is pushing for the vaccination of all workers inside economic centers in the province.

Governor Tamayo has initial talks with local chief executives to prioritize workers in the public markets, terminals, and other institutions with much foot traffic.

"This is to protect all those who are coming in and out of the area," he said,

SouthCot prepares surge plan for new Covid-19 variants

by Hydee S. Templonuevo

Governor Reynaldo S. Tamayo Jr. sets a meeting with the members of the South Cotabato Medical Society to come up with another surge plan in preparation for the delta, lambda and other variants in the province.

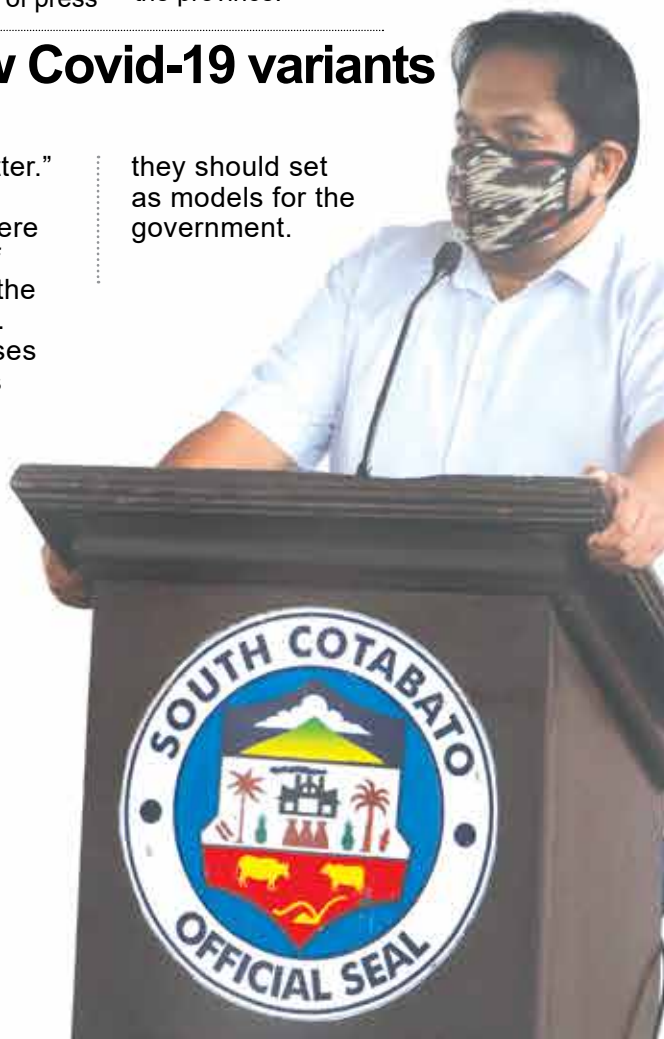
"We have to be prepared." Tamayo said,

Tamayo wanted to ensure that the province is protected in case there will be a surge of covid-19 cases.

He added, there is a need to change the surge plan especially since there is an on-going transition on the transfer of the Soccsksargen General Hospital from the province to the Department of Health.

With the impending transfer of the facility, covid-19 patients will no longer be admitted at the SGH and there is a fear that the government hospitals cannot cater to these needs if cases will be beyond capacity.

"I expect the cooperation of the



PVet strengthens "Bantay ASF sa Barangay Program"

by Krez James G. Cabaylo

TANTANGAN, SOUTH COTABATO- The Provincial Veterinary Office (PVet) conducted training on specimen collection for Barangay biosafety officers to maintain and ensure the ASF-free province held at ATI-RTC XII recently.

Twenty-three barangay volunteers from the Municipality of Surallah and the City of Koronadal completed the training. The Agricultural Training Institute funded the training.

Meanwhile, additional 23 barangay volunteers from the towns of Norala, T'boli, and Sto. Niño have also undergone training for food security and development funded by the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRRMO).

A new batch of volunteers will undergo similar training this September.



South Cotabato establishes 'One Hospital Command Center'

by Krez James G. Cabaylo

Koronadal City---To manage the ballooning number of suspected COVID patients in holding areas of various hospitals around South Cotabato, health officials here established a common admission procedure.

Governor Reynaldo S. Tamayo, Jr. recently launched the South Cotabato One Hospital Command Center (SC-OHCC), the provincial government's health referral system located at the PDRRM Office.

"Those who are in need of medical assistance shall be provided with appropriate health care support," the governor said.

He stressed that through the system, waiting time of patients shall be reduced since they can now be immediately referred to the appropriate health facility that could best provide for the level of care they require.

Dr. Conrado Braña, South Cotabato Provincial Hospital Chief, said the One Hospital Command Center screens patient's health situation and avoid over-crowded holding area in all hospitals.

"This time there is no such thing as patient's choice because at the end of the day the doctor is the one who could determine the patient's condition," he explained.

He pointed out that hospital authorities are obliged to follow the referral flow and stick to no-reservation-priority-list scheme.

The One Hospital Command Center maintains a bed-tracker to determine vacancy in all hospital around the province. It helped hospital navigates the patients easily for it is connected to COVID-admitting hospitals.

Based on the record, there are four hospitals that admit COVID patients in the province namely Howard Hubbard Hospital (Polomolok), South Cotabato Provincial Hospital, Dr. Arturo Pingoy Medical Hospital and Allah Valley Hospital (City of Koronadal).

The policy channeled incoming patients to seek first the help of the municipal health care facilities before proceeding to COVID-admitting hospitals. Doctors at the community level assesses the patient's condition and decides whether or not to send the patient to the nearest COVID-admitting hospital.

"It answers common problem of our hospital about palakasan," Braña said, referring to patients who used the name of politicians for hospital admission.

There are 60 beds intended for suspected COVID patients at the South Cotabato Provincial Hospital. Four beds are available in the COVID Intensive Care Unit.

The OHCC will also facilitate medical transport and patient pick-up arrangements, provide health system capacity data analytics and risk communications, and optimize the use of critical care services of every hospital in South Cotabato.



by Fruto C. Sumagaysay, Jr.

Lake Sebu 7-Falls is TOP TOURIST ATTRACTION site

Seven Falls Eco-Tourism Site located in Lake Sebu is the top tourist attraction site in South Cotabato and the town of Lake Sebu is the most visited tourist destination in the region for the first semester of 2021, according to the reports of the Arts, Culture, Tourism and Museum (ACTM) Unit and the tourism regional office.

Seven Falls wrested the top spot om Strawberry & Guyabano or SG Farm, a newly opened Nature/Farm Resort in Sitio Glandang, Barangay Kablon, Tupi, the province's top tourist destination for 2020.

Lake Sebu recorded the highest same-day visitors with 634,313 guests. the DOT regional office record showed that Lake Sebu got the second highest overnight visitors with 23, 593 in the last six months with an occupancy rate of 14. 80%, putting it on the second spot in the entire region in terms of tourist arrival.

Meanwhile, among the top ten attraction sites in South Cotabato are Necitas Lagoon (Noralá), Sunrise Garden Lake Resort (Lake Sebu), Mambukal Hot Spring Resort (Koronadal City), Our Lady of Divine Mercy Shrine (Lake Sebu), Lantaw Garrido (Noralá), The Dreamweavers Hill (Lake Sebu), Punta Isla Lake Resort (Lake Sebu), RMM Zipline & Eco-Tourism Park (Koronadal City).

Tourism Officers of the 11 LGUs together with ACTM staff noted that Noralá LGU significantly improved their tourist arrivals.

Noralá LGU was lagging behind for the past years but resorts that sprouted recently contributed to the increasing visitors in the province after the lull suffered due to the CoVID-19 Pandemic that started last year.



20 PWDs join urban gardening training

by Jeanly S. Parreño

At least 20 empowered Persons with Disability were inspired to engage in urban gardening as Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) conducted a training for them.

Through the Provincial Social Welfare Development Office (PSWDO) - Provincial Disability Affairs Unit (PDAU) and in partnership with ATI, PWDs undergone to a 3- day training.

Brian G. Hervilla, Persons with Disability Affairs Unit (PDAU) Officer, said gardening skills may help improve their communication and social skills, fitness, confidence and knowledge.

"In this trying time due to COVID 19 pandemic, the programs, activities for PWDs are not hampered. This will not make them disconnected and isolated due to deepening crisis, he stressed out.

PSWDO bridges access to information for PWDs, he added.



Members of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of South Cotabato have approved 34 ordinances since January, enacting the P276M supplemental budget and the guidelines of giving incentives to barangay nutrition scholars.

According to the Records Section, 15 of these enacted ordinances are health-related memorandum of agreements; eight are agriculture-based understandings, five are related to social services like medical assistance, four are for bank loans and security measures.

Meanwhile, the provincial board members approved the general fund and the P1,000,000.00 to cover the wage increase and the 2020 gratuity pay of employees on Job Order/Contract of Services basis, interventions to combat the ill-effects of the pandemic, and other essential services, among others.

SP worked on 14 ordinances last May, the month with the highest number of adopted legislations.

Recently, the record also confirmed that the SP received 11 letters from various groups about the upcoming operation of Sagittarius Mines Inc., compelling changes in the Mining Code of South Cotabato. However, letters were validated and forwarded to the Committee on Environment for appropriate actions.



At this time of the pandemic, SP held their regular sessions virtually. Residents can access the online session live on the Official Facebook Account of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of South Cotabato every Monday.

"This is part of the Freedom of Information where locals could take part in the legislation process," Gloria Duco, Secretary to the SP of South Cotabato said.

The virtual option aligns with social distancing requirements, which ensure the safety of citizens, who wish to participate, Board members, and Government staff.

"The airing of our regular session is part of the open legislation commitment," she pointed out.

Based on the open-legislation process, public comments about the legislative agenda are delivered immediately to concerned members of the SP.

Resolutions and ordinances are encoded based on the year, she added. Citizens are expected to use an online database for all legislative measures in the next few years.

PEMO strengthens riparian revegetation along Allah River

by Jeanly S. Parreño

The Provincial Environment and Management Office conducted its regular monitoring on the ongoing bamboo riparian revegetation program along Allah River recently. The program aims to save the Allah River through sustainable bamboo plantation.

Seigfred Flaviano, PEMO Chief, the project is approximately 40km stretch of bamboo riparian zone planting."

The riparian zone is located in five (5) barangays and is being implemented in a convergence effort of the Provincial Government of South Cotabato, MLGU Surallah, DA-ADPO and the Association of Quarry and Dredging operators along Allah River.

The planting and maintenance of the planted bamboo is a requirement of the Provincial Government thru the PEMO for the renewal of dredging/quarrying permits.





South Cotabato is Environment Game CHANGER



by Jeanly S. Parreño

The world breaks out when World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID 19 outbreak a pandemic on March 11, 2020. To the developing countries, like the Philippines, there is a significant impact on the economy, population, health system, and environment.

As the number of COVID 19 cases increase, medical wastes quickly rise too. There is a big challenge to the Provincial Government in managing infectious wastes. With the South Cotabato Health Care Waste Treatment Facility (SCHCWTF), the province took prompt action to upgrade the health care waste management, collection, treatment, and disposal, especially infectious wastes.

Earlier this month, SCHCWTF was declared the Second Place Winner on Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) Game Changer Communities Award, and received a Plaque of Recognition, cash award of Php50,000. Forty Six (46) entries all over the country participated in the competition.

The award aims to recognize EMB's Regional Champions on Solid Waste, Air Quality, Water Quality Management on Climate Change

mitigation projects and practices, innovative projects, programs, and activities on Environmental Management.

The SCHCWTF in Barangay Tinongcop, Tantaranan, is the first government-managed and operated Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facility (TSD) in Mindanao.

A survey revealed that there are six (6) public and seventeen (17) private hospitals, excluding the various number of lying inns, clinics, related health facilities that generate infectious waste with no permanent treatment and disposal system. These hospitals, clinics, and diagnostic /laboratory centers operating within South Cotabato dumped the bulk of their potentially infectious wastes improperly. And this practice posed a high risk to public health and the environment.

It is part of the Ten (10) Year Provincial Solid Waste Management Plan for 2015-2024 approved by the National Solid Waste Management

Commission (NSWMC) through Resolution#193, series of 2015.

The P25M project was through the Provincial Development Investment Fund (PDIF). In support, a Provincial Ordinance in 2016 was approved and adopted, known as the South Cotabato Health Care Waste Management. The local policy provided the right direction while the Provincial Environment Management Office (PEMO)-Environment Management Division (EMD) supervised the operation.

In partnership with RAD Green Solutions and mentored by DENR EMB 12, the SCHCWTF adopted the Pyroclave Technology Systems. The Provincial Government of South Cotabato and 20 health care providers signed the Memorandum of Agreement.

Members rapidly rise in the last two years because of the pandemic.

At present, there are 10 staff manning the operation---a Facility

Supervisor and a Pollution Control Officer (PCO).

In response to the continued battle against COVID 19, PEMO recorded a sudden increase in the volume of hazardous wastes. Thus, the waste treatment facility upgraded the PYROCLAVE machine to a double circular shredder. It is now sporting a newly constructed P2M Onsite Disposal Facility/Special Waste Cell to as final disposal . The machine uses three (3) Vaults for sharps/ needles.

It has an operating capacity of 1,200kgs with an average of 22,600kgs/month on average. Collection of wastes is from Monday until Friday, 8 hours/day. From January to July this year, the province collected 136,00kgs of infectious wastes. There are two (2) insulated vans in the facility.

The Provincial Treasurer record showed that from 2017-2020 Hospital Waste Collection (treatment and transport) is Php19,452,348.00.



Labor of "love" for PRECIOUS WATER

by Hydee S. Templonuevo



It was a fine Monday morning when Mang Ambo, 51, farmer and a resident of Sitio Tenefulan, in Brgy. Maligo in Polomolok, woke up early.

The cool breeze can be felt at the surroundings but the warmth in his spirits is visible.

He, together with his neighbors, young and old, are very excited.

For them, that is the day that the dream they long for will come into reality.

For the first time, the Provincial Convergence Team is set to construct a potable water system in their sitio and they are part of it.

They are willing to become laborers and work for free.

Working together as a community to achieve a common goal is their counterpart for the project.

This is considered as labor of "love" for their beloved sitio, a manifestation that the "Bayanihan" spirit still exists.

"We are happy," Mang Ambo said.

The team headed by Community Affairs Officer IV Maria Ana Uy reveals that as one of the primary needs of the barangays, based on their evaluation, is the lack of potable water. The province is willing to provide the potable water system, which is considered as their basic need.

The team readily brought materials such as different sizes of hoses, cement, and other essential needs for the project.

“

For them, that is the day that the dream they long for will come into reality. For the first time, the Provincial Convergence Team is set to construct a potable water system in their sitio and they are part of it. They are willing to become laborers and work for free.

Based on the true essence of the convergence program, the local government unit of Polomolok contributed sand and gravel.

Upon seeing that the materials from the Provincial Government have arrived, the community of the sitio are very excited to start constructing the water system.

They are very much willing to do the "Bayanihan" (work for free) just to finish the project instantly.

"This is the first project that the convergence team has implemented in their area," Uy said.

Pastor Merlyn, sitio leader of the place, expressed her gratitude to the provincial government and to the LGU Polomolok especially to Gov. Tamayo for the water project that was given to them.

"This potable water system is a blessing," he said

He added, the provision of the said project will lessen the burden of the community.

"We are grateful and we will never forget this opportunity," he said,

Engr. Montaser Latip designed the water system and supervised the construction, while the rest of the convergence team helped the community in some other construction tasks.

The convergence team present are Community Affairs Officer IV Maria Ana Uy, Chris Pingkunn Fuentes, Engr. Montaser Latip, Alfredo Galino Jr., Romel Evangelio and Efen Francisco.

The Convergence Program for Poverty Reduction, an initiative of the Provincial Government of South Cotabato implemented under the administration of Governor Reynaldo S. Tamayo Jr. aims to reduce poverty one sitio at a time.



FEATURE

When you hear the term “public servant,” you might think of an elected official such as a governor or mayor. The range of public service is broader than this. Public servants include any local, regional or national government employee of a government organization. Firefighters, police officers, public health officials, librarians, teachers, admins, technical teams, and auditors fall into the public sector.

Most people work to bring home a paycheck and the support of their families. However, like in the private sector, public servants tend to do a much better job; if they care about their work. Effective public servants must have an enduring sense of duty that compels them to go the extra mile and behave with integrity.

When faced with a challenging situation, public servants, who believe in a call to service, are more likely to behave ethically.

It is important to note that servant leadership can exist at all levels of an organization. Some public service involves working directly with the people living in communities, while others may solely work with their teams in the organization. In both settings, public servants can embrace the principles of servant leadership.

Under its constitutional mandate to adopt measures to promote morale, efficiency, integrity, responsiveness, and courtesy in the civil service, as well as to strengthen the merit and reward system, the Civil Service Commission (CSC) administers an annual, nationwide Honor Awards Program (HAP) through Search for Outstanding Government Workers.

The program recognizes government officials and employees who exemplified outstanding performance. It aims to motivate or inspire the quality of public service delivery and instill deeper involvement in public service.

The said project has award categories as follows:

A. Outstanding Work Performance

Presidential Lingkod Bayan (PLB) Award is conferred to an individual or group comprised of five members for exceptional or extraordinary contributions resulting from an idea or performance that had a nationwide impact on public interest, security, and patrimony.

Civil Service Commission (Pagasa) Award is conferred to an individual or group comprised of five members for outstanding contribution/s resulting from an idea or performance that directly benefits more than one department of the government.

B. Exemplary Ethical Behavior Outstanding Public Officials and Employees or the Dangal ng Bayan (DnB) Award is conferred to an individual for performance of an extraordinary act or public service and consistent demonstration of exemplary ethical behavior based on observance of the eight norms provided under Republic Act No. 6713: Commitment to Public Interest, Professionalism, Justness, and Sincerity, Political Neutrality, Responsiveness to the Public, Nationalism, and Patriotism, Commitment to Democracy and Simple Living.

Six public servants from the Provincial Government of South Cotabato (PGSC) are nominated for this prestigious program. Meanwhile, one of the aspirants is declared as Regional Winner. Her endorsement was forwarded to the National Screening Committee. The Human Resource Management Division of PGSC, through the Program on Awards and Incentives for Service Excellence Committee (PRAISE), nominated these individuals for they showed utmost dedication and commitment to public service.

Excellence In PUBLIC SERVICE

by Clarisse Mae Retirado-Jimenez



“

Under its constitutional mandate to adopt measures to promote morale, efficiency, integrity, responsiveness, and courtesy in the civil service, as well as to strengthen the merit and reward system, the Civil Service Commission (CSC) administers an annual, nationwide Honor Awards Program (HAP) through Search for Outstanding Government Workers.



The Regional Winner of Dangkal ng Bayan Award Category in the 2021 Search for Outstanding Government Workers is Internal Auditor IV, **Grace L. Maniego, LLB.**



Her contributions and accomplishments in the PGSC are worth recognizing!



Ms. Maniego has been with the PGSC for more than 14 years and; she has been consistent in discharging her duties with utmost responsibility, integrity, competence, loyalty, acting with patriotism and justness, living a modest life, and upholding public interest over her interest.

All her audit recommendations (both preventive and corrective) --from the conduct of compliance, management, operations, and special audits-- are 100% adopted and implemented by top management of the PGSC.

In addition, the outstanding performance of Ms. Maniego has brought credit to the agency as one of the champions local government units in the country that has a fully functional and most effective Internal Audit Service and Constructors Performance Evaluation System-Implementing Unit.

Justly, her high standards of competence and her high degree of professional integrity, both in the technical and ethical sense, and her commendable passion for excellence make her an effective public servant and an Outstanding Public Employee or Dangkal ng Bayan.

Here are the nominees for the Pag-asa Group Award Category in the 2021

Search for Outstanding Government Workers.

The PGO-ICTC team; Dido F. Farrofo, Cornelio B. Griño IV, Emmanuel M. Tan, Erma Windelyn H. Lagustan, Ben Irvin A. Billones.

This team helps the PGSC in its best possible way through technological aid. The ICTC developed systems and programs which make workflow efficient, effective, and accurate. Through the ICTC's inventive wits and determination, the team produced output with a significant impact on the systematic flow of transactions and, at the same time, saves resources.

Furthermore, as the world faces an unpredicted health crisis, the ICTC

developed the South Cotabato COVID-19 Contact Tracing System (SC-CCTS). The system easily tracks down and controls possible COVID cases. It is currently used in the Province of South Cotabato and adopted by several LGUs, and 60, 000 establishments nationwide with over 6million registered individuals.

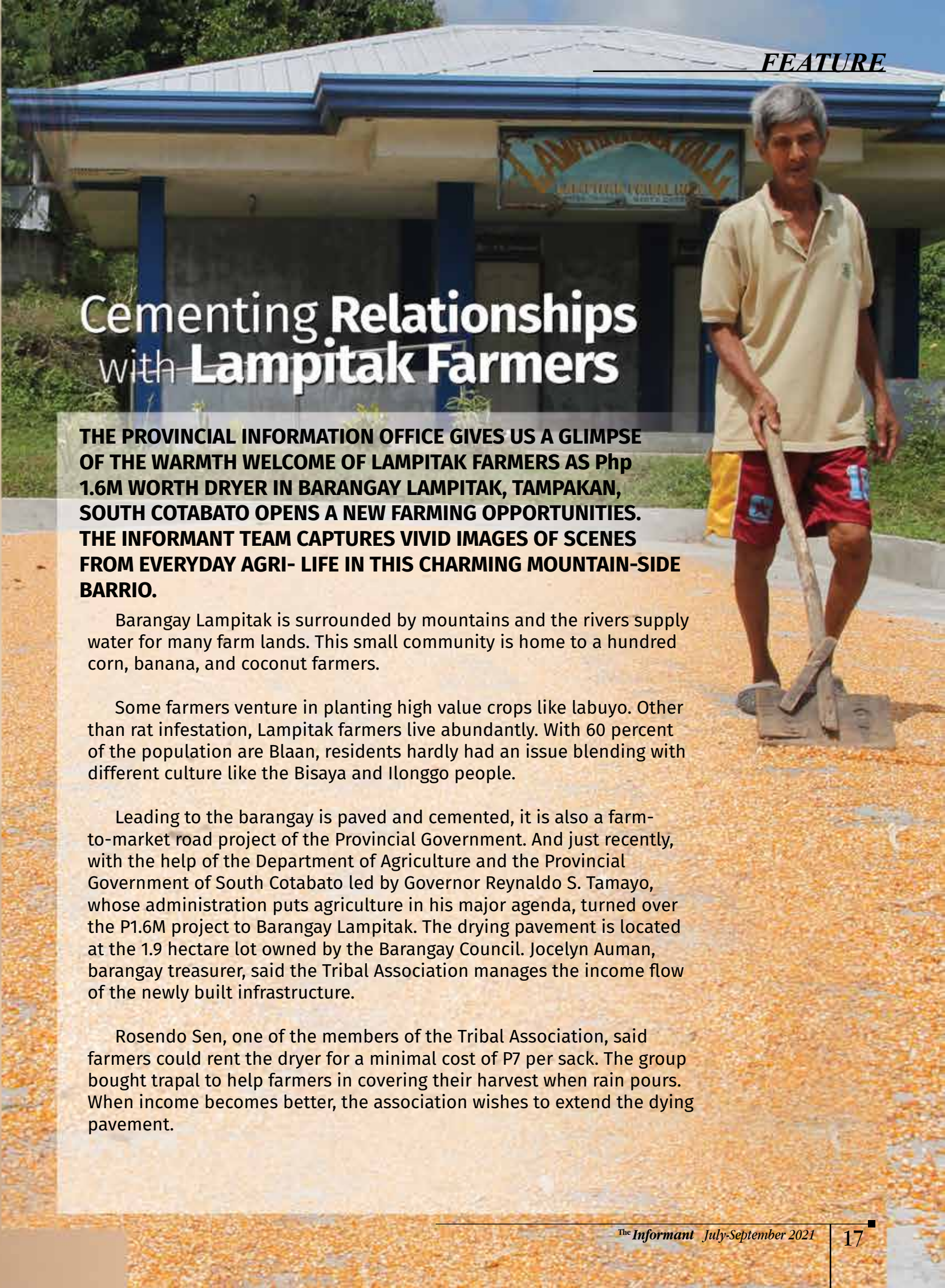
Indeed, the group plays a vital role in the improvement and development of today's dynamic world.





*Mahalin
ninyo ang
inyong
trabaho at
ang trabaho
ninyo ang
magsasalita
para sa
inyo.*

– Governor Reynaldo S. Tamayo, Jr.



Cementing Relationships with Lampitak Farmers

THE PROVINCIAL INFORMATION OFFICE GIVES US A GLIMPSE OF THE WARMTH WELCOME OF LAMPITAK FARMERS AS Php 1.6M WORTH DRYER IN BARANGAY LAMPITAK, TAPAKAN, SOUTH COTABATO OPENS A NEW FARMING OPPORTUNITIES. THE INFORMANT TEAM CAPTURES VIVID IMAGES OF SCENES FROM EVERYDAY AGRI- LIFE IN THIS CHARMING MOUNTAIN-SIDE BARRIO.

Barangay Lampitak is surrounded by mountains and the rivers supply water for many farm lands. This small community is home to a hundred corn, banana, and coconut farmers.

Some farmers venture in planting high value crops like labuyo. Other than rat infestation, Lampitak farmers live abundantly. With 60 percent of the population are Blaan, residents hardly had an issue blending with different culture like the Bisaya and Ilonggo people.

Leading to the barangay is paved and cemented, it is also a farm-to-market road project of the Provincial Government. And just recently, with the help of the Department of Agriculture and the Provincial Government of South Cotabato led by Governor Reynaldo S. Tamayo, whose administration puts agriculture in his major agenda, turned over the P1.6M project to Barangay Lampitak. The drying pavement is located at the 1.9 hectare lot owned by the Barangay Council. Jocelyn Auman, barangay treasurer, said the Tribal Association manages the income flow of the newly built infrastructure.

Rosendo Sen, one of the members of the Tribal Association, said farmers could rent the dryer for a minimal cost of P7 per sack. The group bought trapal to help farmers in covering their harvest when rain pours. When income becomes better, the association wishes to extend the drying pavement.

Lampitak farmers like Felix Abalia, 69, used to take his sacks of harvested corn with the help of a carabao-driven cart, or paid a hefty rent to haul his harvest to a nearest barangay that has drying pavement to parch the corn kernels, which is sold later. Farm input like this burns a large amount from the farmer's pocket. This could be a possible income. But, with the turn-over of Php1.6M drying pavement project in Barangay Lampitak, Tampakan, South Cotabato, the Provincial Government led by Governor Reynaldo S. Tamayo has given opportunity to farmers like Manong Felix to increase his income.



Cornerstones of everyday farming life in Barangay Lampitak include keeping the farming tradition alive and existing peacefully with various culture--- this is a stronghold of South Cotabato, the food basket of Mindanao. The thick forests and the lush green mountains around Tampakan supply an abundant source of water for the farmers in this part of the province.



Reviving the Dyeing

Art of Blaán

by Amalíz V. Cabrido

At this time when the world is dominated with technology, art is also succumbed to the vibrant promise of it, compromising the natural beauty of the process. Ikat, is one of the oldest indigenous weaving processes in the country and performed by the Blaans of South Cotabato in the southern Philippines. Blaans are still married to the exquisiteness of the plants around them which are the vital ingredients in dyeing abaca threads. These beautiful hues of natural colors—red, black and yellow—are used to produce the intricate tapestry of tabih cloth.

Tucked in the mountains of Mt. Matutum, descendants of Fu Yabing Masalon Dulo, a national artist for indigenous cloth in the Philippines, are using local plants like knalum, apatot and atsuede to dye the abaca fiber, producing amber, reddish and black abaca threads.

Lamina Gulili, 58, the only daughter of Fu Yabing, whose legacy of tabih weaving was passed over, remained old-fashion in weaving her mother’s designs and wanted emphasis on the art of natural dyeing.

The great adventure of tabih does not only come from the intricacy of weaving but also in the tedious art of dyeing. Lamina uses three large woks to boil the plants separately.

“It takes four days to fully extract the colors of the plants,” Lamina stressed out.

Knalum is a plant with not-so-hard branch with white patches. It stands tall and lanky. Leaves are long, slim and wavy. Roots, branches and leaves are cooked for several days to create a sleepy black color. Apatot, on the other hand, emits a yellowish-brown color. The leaves are wider like that of coffee

FEATURE

plant. The branches are grated and put into a big pot to boil. Atsuede tree, or suete as it is fondly called in the community, produces bunch of hairy, reddish fruits. Lamina and her daughters use the red-orange seeds of suete to make red threads.

For four days, the pots are put in the fire for eight hours a day until it yields the best consistency of color the weavers like.

Back in Fu Yabing’s time, rolls of thread and seashells were sold by Chinese merchants in the nearby Dadiangas now General Santos City, Lamina said. They would trade seashells for their farm produce. Seashells were adorned in their blouses. But threads cost high. In a previous story account, the distinct of Fu Yabing’s artistry is based on her profuse use of plants as a natural color to dye the threads as what her ancestors did in the far past.

But it wasn’t always like this. The mountain ranges of Mt. Matutum are not spared from illegal loggers and as population increases, community people seek their livelihood from the thick forest, many of whom turned to slash-and-burn to convert the land into cornfields. The area’s plethora of natural plants for dyeing became an easy victim.

Arthur Gulili, a young man in the brood of Lamina’s family, shows interest in her grandmother’s creativity. He worries that these raw materials could not suffice the demand and could contribute to the slowly dying art of dyeing.

He expresses his eagerness to produce more seedlings from these natural dye plants for his community to continue to weave the tabih cloth. He urged the local agriculture office to generate more seedlings. The men in the community are more than willing to be trained, Arthur said.

“This will help us not to use commercial dye in weaving tabih,” Arthur stressed out. The family vows not to use commercial dye in weaving Fu Yabing’s designs---a distinct value that her mother Lamina exercises.

Around the weaving center of Fu Yabing, Arthur planted knalum, apatot and suete to ensure that visitors could see the natural dye plants. He then educates every tourist the dyeing art of Blaán.

Despite the myriad of changes, Arthur, his mother Lamina and the rest of the women in the community are committed to revive the Blaán dyeing art and continue to weave tabih, Fu Yabing’s gift to the Filipino people.



The ESSENCE of Disaster Management

Time is of the essence, especially during an emergency. Thus, the numbers of medical equipment and medical practitioners are vital to cater to all the needs of our patients in times of urgency.

True to his words of bringing "Tama kag Maayo" nga serbisyo, Governor Reynaldo S. Tamayo, Jr. makes extra efforts to implement the free hospitalization program through purchasing brand new Toyota Hilux 4x4 Patient Transport Vehicle pick up.

The governor announced three (3) units of 4x4 Patient Transport Vehicles have arrived.

Two (2) of these units are for disaster, risk, reduction management operations in the first and second districts of South Cotabato. The other vehicle, however, was turned over to Barangay Ned, Lake Sebu Health.

Under the 2020 PDRRMF-IP continuing appropriations fund, the Provincial Government of South Cotabato allocated

Php2.4 million with complete accessories that include:

- 1 unit –stretcher mounted with lock
- 1 unit –spine board
- 1 unit –wheelchair
- 1 unit – Oxygen tank with content 20lbs with flow meter
- 1 set – Oxygen regulator with humidifier
- 1 set wall mounted two shelves medicine cabinet (stainless)
- 3 unit – dressing canister with three forceps, bandage, scissors, and two first aid kits.
- 5lbs – fire extinguisher

These initiatives aimed to speed up the emergency response, particularly in the far-flung areas that only 4x4 vehicles can penetrate.

Aside from this, the province also bought two units of Toyota Hilux 4x4 pick-up vehicles intended for the Integrated Provincial Health Office (IPHO) and Provincial Planning and Development Office (PPDO)-Convergence Team.

PDRRMO recorded twenty-nine (29) patients from different municipalities during its first month of operation.

Those who know anyone who needs our help may call the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office

(PDRRMO)
at (083) 228-8361
or (083) 228-2076.



Banana Krunch

Munching the newest merienda best friend in South Cotabato

The rim is a little bit toasted. Not fluffy just like the regular spongy muffin, this best-selling merienda is made of banana. Cooked by a local pastry chef in the oldest bakeshop in Norala, South Cotabato---Locila's Bakeshop. Located in the public market, Locila's consumes 1000 pieces of tundan to bake banana krunch during a regular day and sells 3000 pieces of banana krunch a day.



Necitas Lagoon

Hiding away in the mountains of the town of Norala, the newest emerging tourist destination in South Cotabato, is the Necitas Lagoon.

The resort targets families who want to relax and get away from the hustle of city life. Because of its terrain and location, the resort is a favorite breakfast nook of bikers from other parts of the province and nearby Sultan Kudarat. The canopy of rubber trees gives a silent refuge. Six bamboo cabins are ready for accommodation. Necitas Lagoon serves food in Ilonggo's best hospitality warmth---local brewed coffee in tin cup.



I MAIN SAIA
SOCIAL DISTANCING
WEAR YOUR
FACE MASK