

THE CITYBRIDGE

A Publication of the City Government of Bago

August 2017



LIN-AY SANG NEGROS 2017
ANGELICA ESTHER

'Queen'



Atty. Yulo reading The Citybridge. (Archive, 2007)

IN MEMORIAM

Arsenio B. Yulo, Jr.

Municipal Councilor (1965)
City Councilor (1966 - 1969)

THE CITYBRIDGE

Bridging Bago to the rest.
Est. 2005

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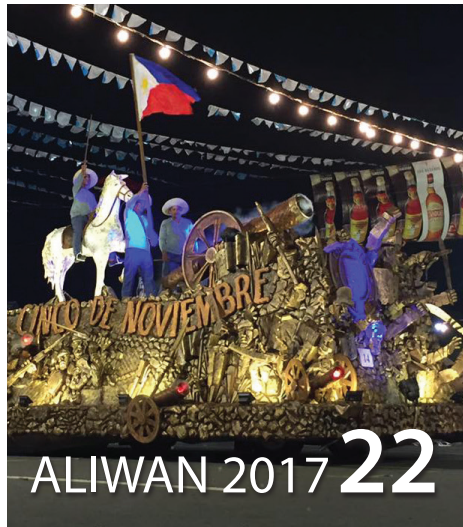
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Angelica

A Bagonhon Lin-ay sang Negros after 24 years

After 24 years, finally, Bago had the Lin-ay sang Negros crown this year. And Angelica Portugaleza agrees that it takes a lot of confidence and a little nervousness to conquer the pressure of winning the title.

“Both of those elements are essential. Sometimes, a little feeling of nervousness gives me adrenaline to do better,” she said, adding “I just keep in mind the things my trainers and my family taught me.”

Angelica, a 20 year-old fresh graduate from Brgy. Malingin, was crowned as Lin-ay sang Negros 2017 on April, the first Bagonhon to ever win the title since the start of this provincial pageant annually held during the Panaad sang Negros Festival.

She competed with 24 contestants representing various local government units from around the province but before she reached that moment in her life, Angelica told the CITYBRIDGE that being a beauty queen was not her dream before.

“Lin-ay sang Negros was the third big pageant that I have joined, but because of the motivation given by my family and friends, I have to do my best and win the crown for Bago City,” Angelica said.

To represent Bago in the most anticipated provincial pageant in Negros Occidental, one must be a winner of the city’s “Diwata sang Bago” held every February. Angelica has competed in the city pageant twice and won the crown only this year.

She said during these competitions, she did not have any support from other people or fans, adding “No one was cheering for me during the Diwata sang Bago pageant but I still need to do my best in order to win... and I made it.”



Angel with the Lin-ay sang Negros crown.



Angelica has many dreams when she was a child. She said she wanted to be a pastry chef before but her parents told her that it was not being offered here in Bacolod or in Negros at that time. And so, when being a pastry chef was impossible, she wanted to become a journalist or a traveller.

More choices like Physical Therapy and Psychology were also part of her ambitions in life. But all of these do not agree to what her family, friends and eventually what her heart desired.

When she reached the time choosing what course to study in college, she finally chose Tourism at La Consolacion College-Bacolod. There she was pushed to join a school pageant by her friends.

She won the Ms. Marketing 2014 in LCC and little did she know it will be a stepping stone for her to join Bago beauty pageant. In 2016, her friend Kirsten Gicaro, who won Diwata sang Bago 2015, encouraged her to join in the Bago pageant. She joined but she failed to win.

"I did not feel down during that time as I put in my mind that it will just be an experience for me to gain more confidence to myself," Angelica said, adding that joining the pageant again in 2017 was not planned but her friends assured her that she will be handled well by a group of beauty pageant trainers.

Kenwee Alipato, one of her trainers, said training Angelica was not that hard as she always listen carefully to the instructions and it is one of the qualities—together with her height and beauty—that made her Lin-ay sang Negros 2017.

“She has a lot of potentials of winning the crown, but we do not settle for it rather we trained her hard in her walk, how she answer the questions and what attitude she should bear on stage, among others,” Kenwee said.

Aside from Kenwee, the group of trainers who trained and prepared her were Judee Lynn Lirazan, Ryan Paul Jimera for her makeup and gowns, Melmar Arban for her walking and Kim Guzon for her personality development.

“I am an introvert person and all my life most of my time was spent in reading more than talking with other people and in this pageant I was able to conquer it and challenged me to do more,” Angelica reiterated.

In the Lin-ay competition, she won Miss 2Go, Miss Transcom and Miss Pepsi as corporate awards aside from being crowned as the queen. She said the cheering audience did not matter during that time of the pageant, adding she believed that the judges saw something in her that made her won.

The trainer said that when it was announced that she was the Lin-ay sang Negros, they were very happy as all the efforts put on her were all paid back. Her simplicity and the way she smiled on stage and answer the question gracefully made her win the competition, he added.



Angel in her Gen. Juan Araneta inspired costume for the Lin-ay sang Negros 2017.



After her first failed attempt, Angel came back strong and won the 2017 Diwata sang Bago crown. Crowning her were Diwata sang Bago 2016 Lovely Georgia Benavente, Miss Earth 2016 Katherine Espin from Ecuador, celebrity artist Inigo Pascual, Mayor Nicholas Yulo and Vice Mayor Ramon Torres.



For the first time in 24 years, the candidate of Bago City was crowned Lin-ay sang Negros. Angelica Esther Portugaleza, Lin-ay sang Negros 2017 flanked by first runner Maria Angela Tañoso from Pulupandan and second runner up Elodie Langlet of Silay City. (R. Baldonado photo)

She admitted that the question and answer portion is one of the most challenging parts of the competition. With Bago which had never won the Lin-ay crown, it put some added pressure on her, she said, however she transformed all these pressures and nervousness as courage to conquer the stage.

"There is a certain high in joining beauty pageants as it helps you gain more confidence, boost your self-esteem, and meet new friends," Angelica said. With her being the Lin-ay sang Negros, she might join other national pageants next year like Reyna ng Aliwan and Miss Earth.

Upon winning the crown, she intends to create an advocacy on healthy living, as well as promote the value of education.

She said she plans to create a provincial fun-run and further promote the Negros First program of the province.

"The journey to Lin-ay made me a better person and it opened more doors of opportunities I never expected to see. I am now comfortable in dealing with other people," she said.

She also advised the next woman to represent Bago in Lin-ay to really focus and find motivation within and uphold good values. Angelica also believes that joining pageants is not portraying women in a degrading way but it's an avenue to relay the message of goodwill across.

"Humility, passion, sincerity and concern to people... these are essentials to make your life better and win the Lin-ay sang Negros crown," she said.



Mayor Nicholas Yulo and Vice Mayor Ramon Torres honor Angel during a dinner sponsored by the City for all Bagonhon achievers last May 2017. The City also recognized Angel's glam squad and trainers.

1994
NO
CANDIDATE

1995
No
Pageant

1996

1997
NO CANDIDATE

1998



The Journey to the Crown

AN END TO A 24 YEAR DROUGHT

- The Citybridge Special Briefing -

1999

Genevieve Paborite

Diwata sang Bago 1998

In Bago City's pageant history, the title of Diwata sang Bago and Lin-ay sang Bago were used interchangeably. On February 1998, born the Diwata sang Bago search. It was a school-based pageant for high school students wherein Fritzie Gomez, a first year lass from RTNHS- Malingin was crowned.



2004

Isabelle Malou Beday

First Runner- Up
Replaced Angela Marie Eumenda



2005

Coleen Javellana

Appointed



2006

Sheena Grapes Gidalanon

Best in Festival Costume

Lin-ay sang Bago 2005



2011

Kristel Mae Araneta

First Runner- Up
Replaced Kaye Ann Dumancas



2012

Catherine Joy Marin

Best in Talent
Best in Swimsuit
Best in Gown
Top 10

Appointed



2013

Kia Trixie Torres

Appointed

It is interesting to note also, that some of our representatives at Lin-ay sang Negros search were appointed due to disqualifications or technical issues of our reigning Diwata or Lin-ay sang Bago or there was no beauty search held in the City at that time.

The Diwata sang Bago title became a fund-raising activity under the Save a Life Program of former Mayor Janet E. Torres every February.

The Lin-ay sang Bago beauty pageant was held every November. Under former Mayor Ramon Torres, during the 50th Charter Anniversary in 2016, Bago reverted to the title Diwata sang Bago again up to the present.



2000

Jenna Catherine Locsin

Best in Formal Wear
Best in Ethnic Costume
Top 10

Appointed

2001

**NO
CANDIDATE**

Then on November 1998, the City launched the Divata sang Bago beauty pageant where Genevieve Paborite was the winner. She went on in 1999 to become Bago City's first representative in the provincial search for Lin-ay sang Negros at Palmas del Mar.

In November 2000, former Congressman Carlos Cojuangco introduced the first and the only Lin-ay sang 4th District, held in Bago City where our bet Jenna Catherine Locsin won the crown and was serenaded by former matinee idol Rico Yan.



2002

Fritzie Gomez

Best in Flora & Fauna
Top 10
2nd Runner Up

Appointed



2003

Edna Bella Lobrido

Lin-ay sang Bago 2002

This was after her very strong yet unsuccessful attempt at Lin-ay sang Negros summer of the same year. It was in this time that the search was held at Panaad Stadium.

In the year 2002, the City crowned Edna Bella Lobrido as the first Lin-ay sang Bago.



2007

Madel Magbanua

Appointed



2008

Frances Dawn Montuya

Appointed

Replaced Jelliane Rose Dinorog

2009

**NO
CANDIDATE**



2010

Khia Marie Gicaro

Best in Talent
Top 10

Lin-ay sang Bago 2009

2014

**NO
CANDIDATE**



2015

Kirsten Pia Gicaro

Lin-ay sang Bago 2014



2016

Justine Marie Baer

Best in Festival
Costume Design

Second Runner- Up

Replaced Lovely Georgia Benavente



2017

Angelica Esther Portugaleza

Lin-ay sang Negros 2017


Divata sang Bago 2017

Special thanks:

Mr. Ernan Montales
Mr. Kenwee Alipato
Mr. Thirdy Chuatico
Mr. Alde Magbanua
Mr. Mark Gil Apurado
Mrs. Pressie Locsin
Dr. Deborah Singson
Mrs. Pearl Galunan
Mrs. Aprile Jam Araneta



Make-up: Leo Galdes
Gown: Leo Galdes
Coordinators: Kenwee Alipato and Ernan Montales
Photography: J Godwin Torres of Artisilens Production
Location: Balay Dako (The Javellana Mansion)



*“The journey to
Lin-ay made me a better
person and it opened more
doors of opportunities I
never expected to see. I am
now comfortable in dealing
with other people”*

REY'S COMMITMENT TO THE COUNTRY



Vice President Leni Robredo visits injured Bagonhon soldier Corporal Rey Ga in a hospital in Iligan City where Ga was confined after a clash with the Maute group in Marawi. (VP Robredo Facebook photo)

For almost 10 years now of serving the Philippine Army, Corporal Rey Ga of the First Scout Ranger said he already dedicated himself in protecting the country, even if it would cost his life.

“More than anything else it is my commitment, it is also a promise to make my country free of oppressors,” he said.

He was among the troopers deployed to augment government forces three days after the Marawi clash started in May 23. Around 6:30 p.m. Saturday, May 27, while at least 100 Scout Rangers were having cover fire, Ga was seriously hit in his left hand causing the amputation of his little finger. The troops evacuated after rescuing Ga, who was brought to a hospital in Iligan City through a chopper.

Aside from him, his twin brother Roy and older brother Roderick are also Scout Rangers. The other two are also currently in Marawi City, joining operations against the Maute group. On July 5 as the fight is still going on, his twin was also hit by shrapnel in his right leg.

“Serving the country was the decision I chose over my personal interests,” he said, adding “I want to see my country free from oppression that’s why I am still doing this.”

Rey was born and raised in Barangay Dulao by his parents Rodolfo and Adelfa. He was sixth in the nine siblings with his twin brother Roy. Both of them followed their eldest brother Roderick to be a scout ranger after they graduated high school.

Rodolfo told the CITYBRIDGE, Rey has been very supportive to the family since they have served the army. He said he always provide them with money to buy their basic

necessities and even help them in renovating their house.

“We felt sad about what happened to them and the feeling of worry is always there even before the incident happened,” Adelfa said, adding “but they will always call us saying not to worry much about them and it would be a sign of relief for us, hearing their voices and telling them they are okay.”

Both his parents are depending to them now, as they are currently have illnesses and the support especially coming from Rey has been helpful in buying their medicines, Rodolfo added.

Rey, he said in an interview, is a team leader in their troop teaching the new recruits. He is still resting to recover from the injury he got and readying again to serve the army. “This is our oath that needs to be fulfilled, our job for the Philippines,” he said.

He also shared that he wanted to have his own family someday and when he retires from service, he wants to enjoy it and continue helping his parents. But now, protecting the country is his priority.

His mother also said she always hope to see her sons going home safe and sound, adding she never stopped praying for their safety.

“I am looking forward for Rey to go home, and cook his favorite dish for us,” Rodolfo said, as it is his usual routine whenever he is on vacation in Dulao.

“I will be going home soon,” Rey said through a phone interview, adding “to my parents, do not worry about me, I am safe.”

A FATHER'S SENSE TO HIS CHILDREN'S CALL

An experience of leaving and reliving a family

Photography: MacLaine Lights and Shadows

About 33 years ago when he was still in Bukidnon, Felix Liansing and his former wife were always in bad terms, saying there was no time of the day that they were not arguing with each other. Until one time, she left him and their three kids aged one year, nine months and three months old.

That was the time he was at the most down moment of his life, he said, and decided to leave his kids to their relatives in Bukidnon and went to Bago City.

"I was hurt and I didn't know where I should go," Felix said, adding "that moment, I was forgetting that I still have my kids, feeling that it was the end of my life."

April 21 this year in Metro Manila where Bago joined the Aliwan Festival. It was four days before his birthday when he received a phone call hearing a familiar voice saying, "Diin ka kadtuan ka namon, may dala kami nga cake sa imo. (Where are you? Let's meet and we brought a cake for you)."

An hour before high noon, he was sitting at the Quirino Grandstand when he saw two familiar faces approaching him. He said he felt something inside his heart as they come near him. They hugged him and realized it was his kids he left in Bukidnon more than three decades ago.

"God knows what I felt at that moment, I didn't know if I should cry or laugh when I saw them," Felix said, adding "all I knew I was certain they were my children."

That is how Felix, a carpenter at Bago City Hall for 20 years, felt when he saw two of his three children in Manila for the first time after 33 years. He, together with other employees of City Hall, were helping on making the festival float of Bago that won in the Aliwan Festival last April.



According to him, it was just all about timing when they met and he was overwhelmed seeing how they transformed and grew since they were babies the last time he saw them.

Felix's parents are Negrense natives and he said they just transferred to Bukidnon around 1950's, the year he was born. There he met his former wife and had a rice farm. His life was fine until he and his wife got separated, leaving the kids to their grandparents and aunt.

"I was devastated and drinking alcohol most of the time. I later decided to leave Bukidnon and travelled a lot of places to seek answers to all my questions, until I got here in Negros," he said.

When he was already in Bago, he started to work at the city hall and when his day-off comes, he will again start drinking and lose his temper about the things that happened to him and will start to be a hassle to everyone around him.

In those moments, Ma. Luz was the one who tried to help him and understood his problem, he said, adding that he fell in love with her and that changed everything. He married her and he started to have his new family again.

"When I married her, I never thought about my past and just focused on my present. My relatives in Bukidnon were telling me about my kids there but I refused talking to them," Felix explained.

Ma. Luz said she convinced him to connect with his children but he avoided confronting the situation. She said she helped in bridging him and his kids together with his new children. And last year, Edcel, the oldest of the three kids from his former wife visited him.

And the other kids, Hazel and Joefil, who are currently working in Manila, through the help of Ma. Luz's daughter, Ma. Fe, contacted them through Facebook informing them that their father is in Manila to help Bago City in Aliwan. Because of all these efforts, Ma. Luz said it was the happiest moment for her as he will finally meet his other children.

"All I wanted is to let him meet his children because I know how it feels growing without a parent guiding you. I learned to treat them as my kids and I love them too," Ma. Luz added.

Felix said he felt like he was brought back to the feeling that they were still little children. He asked for forgiveness for the times he was not there while they were growing up, and asking them to begin a new life with him.

"I am very happy now that I have new guardians to watch over my mistakes, my wife understood the situation, and even loving them as her own," he said, adding "I had so many reasons to live my life to the fullest again, because of them."

Now, they are regularly contacting each other through phone calls and he said his kids plan to go to Bago City to personally visit him soon. He also advised fathers like him not to follow what he has done before, telling them to always fix problems in the family in order not to hurt their children.

Edcel, Hazel and Joefil are happily married now and have children of their own. Felix said he is happy for them and he hope that they will learn from his mistakes.

"Before, I felt that it was the end of my life when I left Bukidnon, but now, I want to enjoy every moment again, now that my family is complete. I wish we could be together until I aged 100 or more," Felix said. And he laughed.



Felix reunites with two of his three children in Manila. Hazel and Joefil treat their father in a nearby Manila Ocean Park. (H. Liansing photo)



Felix with his second wife Ma. Luz and their children. The eldest child is Ma. Fe (standing), youngest Fymie and granddaughter Sophia Marie. Not in the picture are Fely May (second child) and Villy (only son).



'FARM, PREACH AND TEACH'

**Pastor Jerry's
mission for
sustaining
organic
agriculture**



Photography: MacLaine Lights and Shadows

Planting organic rice is both work and fun for Pastor Jerry.

Agriculture is one of the industries where Filipinos sourced out food and livelihood. As the country is gradually shifting to more modern perspectives, a farmer in Bago City, Negros Occidental has remained faithful to organic kind of farming, and even teaching others on how to do it.

Being faithful is being religious and for this farmer, take it literally for he has his own church, too.

Pastor Jerry Dionson, a Bagonhon from Brgy. Tabunan who devoted himself in preaching God's word through their church 'Kingdom Builders' for around 15 years, was named as the National Organic Agriculture Achiever for Small Farmers Category in 2016.

As he was building the church for the reason of spreading the teachings from the Bible, Pastor Jerry has also been devoted to organic farming since 2000, when he started to use available resources around him in farming without using any synthetic or processed chemicals in cropping.

"We cannot separate religion and lifestyle. Christianity teaches us to be good but without deed, it's still dead that is why through this farming, we are able to grow our own food as well as teach and help other people to grow theirs, too," he said.

Bago has the largest rice area in the whole province with 11,879.29 hectares of irrigated, rainfed and upland lands. It is considered the rice granary of Negros Occidental and for Pastor Jerry, a shift to going natural and organic will help sustain and contribute to the food sufficiency in the province.

He started the Humayan Ministry in 2004 to help other rice farmers to shift in organic farming. In the organization anchored



with his spiritual beliefs, he taught them how to grow organic rice, and other crops such as vegetables.

As the organization was growing, Dionson decided to certify their farms for organic agriculture. He said that recently, Humayan Ministry is still helping more farmers to learn and shift to organic farming. He also expanded this initiative through putting up another farm, the 'Grace Farm.' According to him, the name symbolized the grace coming from God through the good organic harvests.

"Through organic farming, we can be stewards of good deeds as we have the opportunity to take care of our health and environment," Dionson said, adding "organic farming saved my mother for more than 15 years before she died."



ORGANIC SWINE. Pastor Jerry feeds his piglets with madre de agua leaves



VERMI COMPOSTING. Pastor Jerry prepares substrate for vermin-worms.



VERMI COMPOSTING. Harvesting the vermicast or the vermicompost



ORGANIC CATCH. Pastor Jerry feeds the tilapia fingerlings and fish.

Her mother survived breast cancer for 18 long years. According to him the reason for the long life of his mother without undergoing different operations was because of organic products introduced in her lifestyle and God's grace. Her mother died only last year. He is still grateful for all the blessings that organic farming has brought to him and their family.

Grace Farm has expanded in two areas namely in Brgy. Napoles where it has 6.8 hectares of organic rice lands, and in Tabunan with 2 hectares. With a total of 8.8 hectares, these are organic agriculture areas certified by Negros Island Certification Services in 2016.

To continue on improving organic agriculture, Pastor Jerry decided to create a farming system that will maximize all available resources in organic agriculture through "Integrated Organic Diversified Farming." This system includes vermicomposting, vegetables, organic orchard, organic banana plants, organic swine and fish pond.

The innovation have made him won several honors from the local to the national level including the Pasidungog sa Panguma, Pangisda kag Pangkasapatan award of the Negros Occidental provincial government, Regional and National Gawad Saka Award and the National Organic Agriculture Achiever for Small Farmers Category.

His mission has extended by becoming an officer to various agricultural organizations. He is the current Vice President of Federation of Irrigators Association-Central Negros, President

of Vermi Culture Practitioners Association of Negros for Organic Farming and Treasurer of Negros Island Organic Producers Association.

"I believe that organic farming is doable and feasible to everyone as it affect almost whole aspects of our life," he said, adding "If you are just looking at the profit aspect it would seem small but when you look at other aspects like environment, and health, organic farming is invaluable."



Pastor Jerry Dionson receives the 2016 National Gawad Saka Award at the PICC together with Mayor Nicholas Yulo, NIR OIC Director Joyce Wendam and staff, City Agriculturist Carlito Indencia, and Punong Barangay Maria Mae Suarez.

**BREAKING
RECORDS,
BRINGING
HOME
THE GOLD**





Kate during one of her training sessions with her trainer Milagros Monsale of the City Sports Office.

Since she started going to school, walking almost a kilometer every day was just normal for her. This has been her routine until she was urged to join the athletics team of B. Araneta Elementary School.

From walking a kilometer, it became traveling thousands as she goes on up to the National level to compete and represent Bago City. Going home, she still walks a kilometer after every game but this time bringing gold medals from her wins.

Kate Julienne Martinez, of Barangay Napoles, currently a Special Program for Sports student of Ramon Torres National High School set a new record in elementary girls' discus throw at the 2017 Palarong Pambansa.

During the Palaro, this 13 year old representing Negros Island Region, threw the iron disc to a distance of 35.56 meters, breaking an almost a decade record of 33.07m posted by fellow Negrense, Mika de Oro in 2007.

"I am very happy that I achieved this record because I worked hard and trained for this," Martinez said, adding "this was my goal since I started to join this event." "It was her second time to join the Palaro, defending her reign as the gold medalist of the event last year in Albay Province.

Her coach, Ma. Teresa Arguelles, said that they trained for a month in preparation for the Palaro and said that Martinez really deserved the title for being attentive to her trainer since grade 5, Milagros Monsale.

Monsale, her trainer, told the CITYBRIDGE she saw the willingness to be trained from Kate. She met her during the Area



Kate's source of strength and inspiration- her family.



Kate and her discus throw family under Coach Mila



Mayor Yulo and Vice Mayor Torres honor Kate's achievement as gold medalist and record breaker in the Palarong Pambansa 2017 held in Antique.



Kate together with Leo Dayot of DepEd, Bago City Sports Coordinator Ignacio Denila, and Coach Milagros Monsale visit Mayor Yulo at his office right after his victorious game in Antique.



Record breaker Kate listens intently to her Coach Mila in one of their trainings.

Meet as she was playing in one running event. Seeing her potential, she trained her for three throwing events—Javelin, Shotput and Discus Throw—and with Kate's perseverance, she never failed to bring home gold from provincial to the national level.

Kate is the youngest of two siblings of Regelie and Rico Martinez. Her father is a provincial capitol employee while her mother is a former OFW in Bahrain for seven years. With her older brother, Ric, she said they usually play basketball during their free time.

"When I heard that she broke the record in discus throw I was very happy that I would jump out of joy," Regelie said, adding "I was even prouder of her and what she has achieved since she started playing."

Her mother said Kate never failed to bring home gold every time she has a competition in athletics, adding whenever she comes home, there will always be a celebration of her wins.

She also encouraged Kate to study hard, remain humble, and always put into her heart the spirit of sportsmanship because whatever she may achieve or do, Regelie added, her family is always at her back.

Kate is now in high school and she said she dreams to represent the Philippines in the Olympics someday, that is why, she continues to practice and compete in some local events in athletics. When she reached college, she wants to take up Criminology as her course.

"This medal and new record is dedicated to my family who serves as my inspiration in everything that I achieve in life," she said, adding she will never be tired until she reached her goals and become one of the best athletes in the world to bring home gold not just for her family but for the country.



The Aliwan Festival Experience

Ronnel Patrick "Tata" Tejada

Bago City's Al Cinco de Noviembre dance contingents' final practice and dress rehearsal at the Coliseum.

It takes a thousand words to describe our experiences during the Aliwan Festival held in Pasay City. Before that, I would like to recall the days we have spent practicing our street dance and arena performance held at Marhil Subdivision and Manuel Y. Torres Memorial Coliseum and Cultural Center.

First, I am thankful to God and to our trainer Mr. Paul Elijah Casiano, MAPEH teacher of Ramon Torres National High School-Main. We were supported by the city officials headed by Mayor Nicholas Yulo and Tourism Office through Mrs. Rosseni Mina and Mr. Clemente del Castillo. They were behind us from the rehearsals to the final performance.

We were on board 2Go Travel, and some of us got sick due to stress and excitement, but we entertained ourselves in singing contest, picture taking and chit-chatting with other group contingents from other cities and provinces, and we became friends with them.



The author (in white) with a friend on board a ship going to Manila.



Briefing of the dancers at Cuneta Elementary School.



The instrumentalists with their trainer Mr. Felipe Villalba.

In Pasay City, we were housed at Cuneta Elementary School, a Muslim community school beside Baclaran. With the officials from Barangays Sampinit and Lag-asan as our guides, we were told to follow rules and regulations, being new to the place. The day before the contest, we did blockings at the Aliwan Theater and Quirino Grandstand.

On the day of the competition, April 22, I saw different groups from different cities, provinces and regions, in their colorful attires. There were 13 competing groups which displayed their unique brand of culture and traditions depicted in their dances. Aliwan Festival being dubbed as “Mother of all Festivals in the Philippines” is a great opportunity to showcase the pride of one’s place.

The competition proper started at 4 o’clock in the afternoon. The Quirino Grandstand was filled with VIPs and spectators. All the participants lined-up in front of the historic Manila Hotel. Then, one by one, each participating festivals were called to perform in front of the Grandstand. When our turn came, it was already dark.

For our part, we presented the heroic feats of General Juan A. Araneta, hero of Bago and Negros or popularly known to us, as Al Cinco de Noviembre which we commemorate every November 5.

While we were performing, the audience, especially the foreigners curiously watched the street dance and the dramatic appearance of our float which was different from other provinces. The float won the 2nd runner-up prize, because of the craftsmanship of our local Bagonhon artists. It depicted the heroism of the Bagonhons as they stand united in order to gain freedom from the Spaniards. With “Tan Juan” riding on his horse together with his men on board the float and a “canyon” made of rolled sawali or “amakan,” people who flocked the streets of



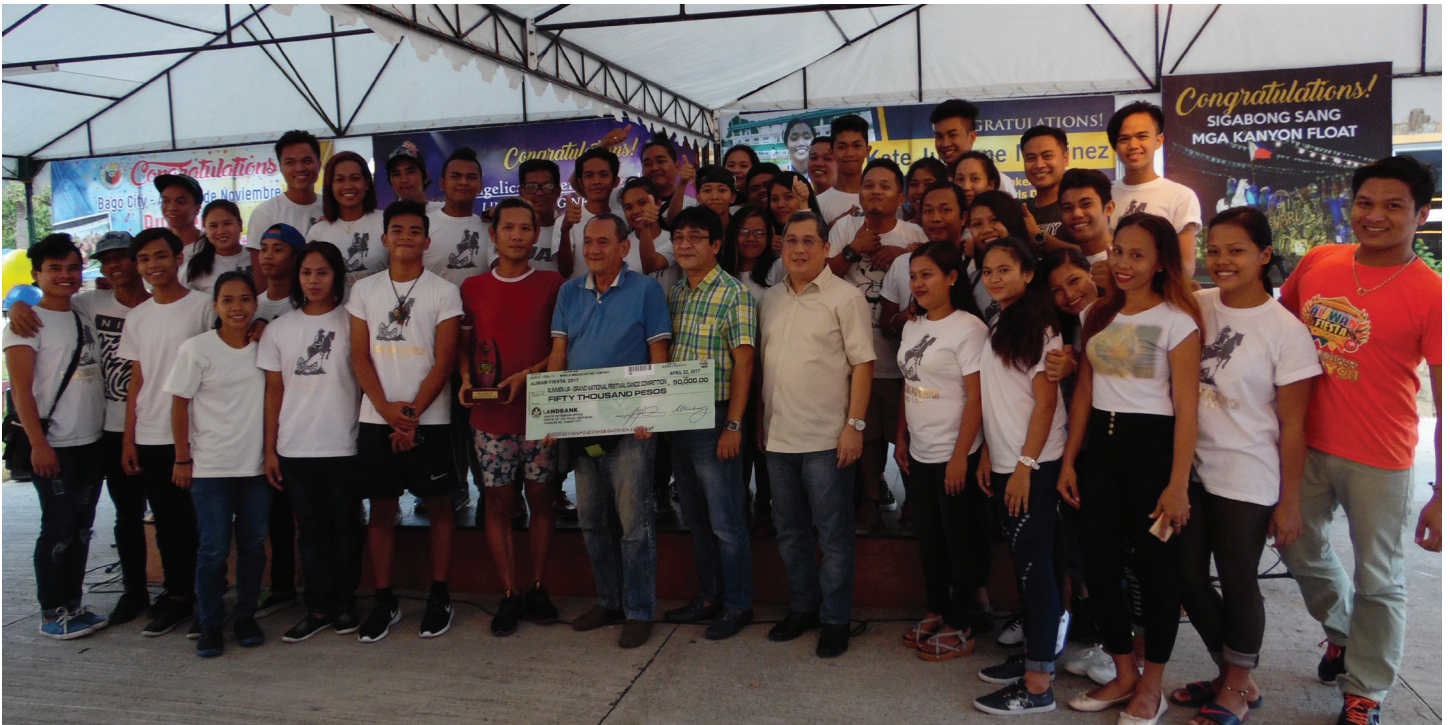
Bagonhon dancers together with their trainer, Paul Casiano wait for their turn to perform at Quirino Grandstand.



Mayor Nicholas Yulo together with Councilors Joy Matti, Cleo Gaudite, and Dan Famoso, Tourism Office staff Mae Ann Furtos, Judee Lynn Mercado, and Arlene Palco, Mayor’s Office staff Jose Mauricio Jumabong, and Allan Seneres were all at the CCP Complex to support our team.



The final performance at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Complex. (J. Jumabong photo)



The Al Cinco de Noviembre dancers together with Mr. Clemente del Castillo, head of Bago contingents in Manila, present to Mayor Yulo and Vice Mayor Monet their trophy and cash prize during the thanksgiving dinner prepared by the City Government.

Roxas Boulevard were mesmerized. The float of Bago City was beautifully designed by brothers Aaron and Jonathan Marin with the able men of the City Engineer's Office.

We were surprised by the number of contingents from other participating festivals. We had about 120 dancers and instrumentalists. Dinagyang of Iloilo and Manggahan of Guimaras each has more than 500 dancers and instrumentalists. We were overpowered, I said to myself. But we never lose hope. It was a challenge for us to do our routines well. The presence of Manila-based Bagonhons and Negrenses who came to cheer for us during our performance and parade were enough motivation for us.

After parading the stretch of Roxas Boulevard with some occasional stops at the make-shift stages prepared by Manila Broadcasting Company, the organizer of Aliwan Fiesta, we reached the Cultural Center of the Philippines Complex. We were filled with excitement and much anticipation as we performed at the CCP complex for the arena competition. For me, our performance was just a blink of an eye. It was too fast. But I know we did well.

The results came hours after the competition. The organizers held a concert featuring local celebrities and band for the entertainment of all. When the announcement of winners came, we did not make it to the top 3, however we were one of the top 10 performers.

The day after the competition, we were treated for free rides at the Star City Town, a sister company of MBC. All participants of Aliwan Festival enjoyed the free tour and rides.

We went home last April 24, 2017 filled with gratitude and sweet memories. I acknowledge the support of the City Government especially with our financial needs. It was an honor for all of us, if I could say, to be part of the Bago City Aliwan Fiesta delegation. I know we represented our City very well and hoping we made every Bagonhons proud of our unique culture and heritage.



Bagonhon dancers enjoying free rides at Star City



Al Cinco de Noviembre dance was awarded one of the five runners-up. (Video grab)



Pose with the Al Cinco de Noviembre float.



ALIWAN 2017: An Experience to Treasure

Ace A. Balboa

The Bago City Float team in high spirit.

We went to Manila fully prepared. We went there to win!

14 April 2017, Good Friday. Around 11:30 in the evening, I was at BREDCO port in Bacolod to make sure that everything is okay for the departure of the first group of our team. They will be travelling to Manila via RORO using the canter elf of the City. The said vehicle carried the materials that we will be needing for the float competition including our kalderos, 2 sacks of rice and eating utensils. It was being driven by Robert Montuya with Eduardo Benguelo, Jr., who will serve as the mechanic cum assistant driver if necessary, and my staff Rechie Cabayao. The canter was fully loaded. Around 12 midnight, they were sailing to Iloilo under a moderate drizzle and a shiny full moon.

15 April 2017, Black Saturday. Early morning, I was awakened by the text of

Rechie that they were now travelling to Caticlan, Aklan. On that same day, the second batch of our team led by Engr. Henry Apua and 10 of his men were also flying to Manila via Cebu Pacific around 11 o'clock in the morning. News were all over about storm signals being raised in the Visayas area even though the sun was shining brightly. At about 1 o'clock in the afternoon, I received a text from Sir Henry confirming that they landed in Manila safely on time. Lunch time came, Rechie told me that they were in Caticlan already, however, all RORO vessels were prohibited to sail due to storm signal raised by PAG-ASA. I told Rechie to look for a place to rest and relax because they haven't slept yet.

The third batch of the team led by Ruel Cadigal and Aaronspencer Marin were also leaving Negros on the same day.

I was informed by Ruel that they were already falling in line waiting to board the ship, however, due to the storm signal, the personnel of 2Go kept them waiting for hours.

I went to BREDCO again to check them. At this time, I asked assistance from Dr. Merijene Ortizo who also coordinated with the DRRM of Malay, Aklan. At around 5 o'clock in the afternoon, PAG-ASA lifted the storm signal, and both the RORO team and 2Go teams were allowed to travel.

Two days before the departure of the first group, we made sure that everything was ready and complete. Thanks to Engr. Henry Apua and his men for working even during the Lenten season.

Weeks before that, we met and discussed all issues and concerns about the float of Bago. I divided the group into several teams. I wrote a letter to Engr.

Joenil Lavadia asking for the utilization of his personnel which he gladly approved. For the float design, I asked equally talented Bagonhon artists and brothers Aaron Spencer and Jonathan to conceptualize the design which we presented to Mayor Nicholas Yulo for his approval. With them who were tasked to help decorate the float were RR King Jacildo, Haylen Mancesa, Renante Caduya, Noel Pahilanga, and Emelyn Rivera. As to the electrical needs of the float, Engr. Ervin dela Cruz was the team captain together with Dante Rico, Jerry Galor, Joseph Emilia, Mark Emilia, and Dennis Sancho. At the helm of carpentry works was Engr. Apua together with the able carpenters of the City namely; Felix Liansing, Noel Gonita, Sr., Jose Puig, Edgardo Sedaya, Patricio Alvarez, Martin Villafranca, Jr., and Warlito Ignacio, Edwin Algara, Elmer Salazar, and Joel

Bangalisan. As the overall in-charge of the float team, I also handled the “ways and means” committee. My staff is composed of Ruel Cadigal, Gary Jeruta (our able cook), Rechie Cabayao, Crizaldo Bordan, and Fritz Olis. We took charge of the accommodation of our team members, their meals including coffee and snacks, washing the dishes, and fetching gallons of drinking water just to be sure they are fully charged while doing our float and they will not go anywhere hunting.

17 April 2017. Monday. I took the first flight to Manila to rendezvous with the group. When I arrived, I was awed by the energy of the group led by Sir Henry. The center of the City was located at the center of Quirino Grandstand! I was informed that they were already there since 7 o'clock in the morning as per the written instruction from the Aliwan Float Committee.

Noon time came, some of the members were already exhausted waiting for the Aliwan staff to come to organize the participants of the float competition. Since we cannot yet set up our kitchen, I decided to order from a fast food chain for our lunch. It was fun eating at the park along with some other participants.

When the Aliwan staff already gave our area, it was a go signal for all of us. The carpentry team unloaded all our materials from the truck. My team, set up our mobile kitchen which they first put up in the truck. They also look for nearby markets to do the grocery daily and water supply stations. It took them days to figure out that the best market for them was the Paco Market and instead of flexing their muscles fetching water which was time and energy consuming, they came to know a Manong who did them a great favour with a pay, of course.

Our group was very systematic. Sir Henry made sure about it. Days after the construction of the float, the team of Engr. Ervin took their turn. Electrical wirings were installed and others things relative to the lightings and sounds. Then, the decoration of the float came in under Aaron and Jonathan's direction.

It was fun. It was more fun because while they were working, the jingle of the City, Go, Bago! was playing. Several days after constant on-repeat mode of the jingle, everyone at the park can sing the jingle.

Every evening, after dinner, those who don't have scheduled work with the float proceeded at the apartment which the City rented for us in Malate. Others remain at Quirino to finish their tasks. My team didn't sleep at the apartment anymore. They slept in the makeshift covered area, on top of the piles of plywood on the floor. Most of the time they were awoken in the middle of the night of a sudden flash flood inside their sleeping quarter.

One dilemma we faced there was the rain every late afternoon until evening. I was worried about it as we were using styrofoams being painted by Aaron's team. However, he said to me, “salig lang.” I am somewhat assured by his casual response.

Every morning, all of us are heading back to Quirino. We will start our day with a coffee session then discuss the work for the day and other concerns then breakfast. After breakfast, the work starts. My team was the in-charge of the food provisions. They will begin their day with cooking rice before the generator of Aliwan shuts down. Thanks to their friends running the generator who informed them ahead before the 3 hour shut down. Also, their new friends in



The center elf about to board the RORO going to Iloilo.



Start of the float construction.



The horse and the cannon on set.



Waiting for the call to board the ship going to Manila.



Arrival in Manila of batch two of the float team.

charge of the water supply who informed them that water is ready so they can take a bath ahead and fetch water for washing the dishes. Around 9 in the morning, they were already at Paco Market to shop for the scheduled menu for lunch, dinner, and breakfast for the next day.

As the days passed by, we have seen the beauty of other floats. Some floats were covered all over. Maybe I thought they would like to protect it from the passers and onlookers. Or they were scared to be copied. Others have bigger areas compared to us. The Tacloban contingent were allowed to bring their air- conditioned canopy tent. Some of the floats were mechanical. They were moving.

As to our float, Aaron and Jonathan don't mind at all. Our float was not covered by anything. I was bothered again. I don't mind our float being copied. For sure they cannot copy anymore because they have also their concepts. But I am mindful of passers-by who out of curiosity cannot help themselves but touched the float. So finally, I convinced them to have it covered. I went to Divisoria together with some of our carpenters to buy polyethylene screen. When we

went there, I also grabbed the chance to let my companions roamed around the area since some of them were first timers in Manila. When we were inside the van going back to Quirino, one of the carpenters was missing. We searched the areas of Divisoria until we found him. Thank God!

We knew from the start that the Aliwan organizers will not allow our kanyon to explode. So I was persistent with my suggestion to Aaron that we will make faux pass explosion minus the sound or maybe just a playback of the explosion. We finally agreed to use a smoke machine for the cannon and decided to let go of the exploding sound, rather use the Go, Bago! Jingle. When we were about to finish the float, there was a suggestion from Joseph that it will add more attraction if we put smoke to the 6 mini cannons located at the sides of the float. I thought then it was a brilliant idea.

While we were finalizing the float, we were visited by Miss Philippines Water CJ Marin, daughter of Jonathan. There was also the dramatic family reunion of Nong Felix and his 2 children which left all with teary eyes. In the morning of the competition day, we were visited

by Councilors Joy Matti, Dan Famoso, and Cleo Gaudite. Some members of Tourism Office, Bago Aliwan Dance team, Barangay Officials of Lag-asan and Sampinit headed by Brgy. Captains Hermelinda Javellana and Rene Pailano also visited us.

Noon time of April 22, we were set. Aaron realized that we need a Philippine flag on a pole. Alas, we don't have that. I rushed Ruel and Zaldo to Robinson's Manila to look for a flag. Ruel texted back that there was no available flag. So I told them to proceed to my hotel so they can took a shower and get ready for the parade. I called Sir Ervin to ask Joseph to look for a flag in Divisoria. He found one. The irony is, I didn't tell Joseph where to buy in DIVI but he was able to get it at the same supplier where I purchased the customized 50th Charter Anniversary flag and Bago City flag last year. When Aaron and his team came back, they were able to secure one also.

2 o'clock in the afternoon of April 22, I cannot contain my nervousness and excitement. There was a miscommunication about the actors we will borrow for the float. Last minute, with the advise of Sir Henry, we chose among



Al Cinco de Noviembre lead float designer, Aaron Spencer Marin together with CIO Ace Balboa, float team leader, accept the check of P100 thousand and a trophy, on behalf of the City, from Manila Broadcasting Company Executives. (Aliwan photo)

our members who will act as Tan Juan and his two men on the float. It was 2 hours before show time. We need to buy costumes in Divisoria ASAP. I instructed Joseph, Ruel, and Nong Robert to rent a tricycle to be able to get to Divisoria fast. Thank God again, they made it on time. They have shoes, costumes, and hats. I felt relieved.

Before 4 o'clock in the afternoon, all the floats were called out one by one. I thought this was it. I was wrong. We were just made to get out of our area to assemble in front of the Manila Hotel. While we were passing in front of Rizal Park, we all agreed that the float of Bago is something else. Local spectators and foreigners mobbed our float. By this time, I was trying to go live as we promised on Facebook. However, there was no signal.

When we were parked in front of the Manila Hotel, I was able to revive the live streaming. About this time we were able also to rendezvous with our dancers. They were also confident that they will secure a spot. After all, that's what all of us aimed for in joining the Aliwan. When our turn came, it was already dark. The Bago City Al Cinco de Noviembre float sashayed its way in front of thousands of spectators and judges at Quirino Grandstand after the presentation of our dance contingent.

After Quirino Grandstand, we paraded the stretch of Roxas Boulevard going to CCP Complex where the final judging area was staged. Along the way, we met fellow Negrenses and Bagonhons who threw their support to our team.

While we were waiting for our final call to perform, I just realized that we are coming after Dinagyang Festival of Iloilo who has more than 400 contingents. Fortunately, they don't have an entry to the float competition. Though hopeful, I told myself, Dinagyang was a tough act to follow. When we were called by the host, we slowly paraded the float in front of the stage like a beauty queen in her final walk. When I heard some applaud from the audience, I said it must be from our City Officials and friends from Tourism.

When we were heading at the exit, the Aliwan staff asked me to go with them together with Aaron. He said that they need us at the holding area for the awarding ceremony. I told him that I will



Painting the horse.



Aaron and Jonathan painting the float.



Applying the first coat of paint.



The improvised sleeping quarter at Quirino.



Getting ready for the parade.



Lunch at the park on the first day of work.



The usual scenario during meal time.



Washing the dishes.

call Mayor Nikko and our SP members so they can receive the award just in case but he said they need us to be at the holding room now.

One area inside the Manila Broadcasting Company building was the holding area. They served dinner but I didn't eat. I don't feel like eating. We waited inside for an hour, I think, because there was a coronation of Reyna ng Aliwan and a concert. After the concert, we were

called outside to wait for the result of the float competition. I was shaking. The top 7 floats were called one by one. After that, the top 3. I felt a change in emotion when the second runner up was about to be announced. I can hear everybody murmuring Bago City. I was amused. I can recall the in-charge of the float of the defending champion congratulating me late that afternoon near Manila Hotel. I can also recall designers of other floats

coming and telling us that we will win. But when our float was announced as second runner up, I thanked God once again for this opportunity to showcase the creativity and artistry of Bagonhons. I was looking for Mayor Nikko and everyone else but the crowd was huge at that time.

After the awarding, everyone in the float team was happy and fulfilled. We went home tired but with a smile on our faces. My team, went back straight to Quirino Grandstand that night to secure our things. I was glad that Sir Henry and his men were very diligent. A heavy rain capped the night.

Sunday, April 22, 2017. Engineers Apua and dela Cruz together with their men were heading back home. Aaron and his team stayed for one more night in Manila. My team also stayed one more night except for Rechie who was leaving via RORO with the canter on Sunday evening. They need to bring back the horse at Panaad in time for the judging of the Bago booth. And they made it. They were able to arrive in Bago morning of April 24. As for me, I stayed for one more night. I need to bring the cash prize back home. So on Monday morning, I walked and crossed the whole CCP Complex just to get the prize because the whole area was locked



Beauty queen CJ Marin pose with her father Jonathan.



Councilors Joy Matti, Cleo Gaudite, and Danilo Famoso during their visit.



Our float is one of the most photographed floats.



Not only locals but also foreigners pose with our float.

down due to the ASEAN Summit.

Being part of the Bago City Aliwan contingent is not new for me. I was a part of the group way back when we joined in 2007. I was assigned to document our participation. I learned then what has to be learned during that time and apply it 10 years after.

I am grateful for the trust of Mayor Yulo when I offered myself to take charge



Booming Bago City float.



Float team Leader Ace Balboa together with Engr. Henry Apua and team members turn-over the check and the trophy to Mayor Yulo and Vice Mayor Torres.

of the float. Thank you also to Vice Mayor Ramon Torres and Ma'am Tricia Matti for always checking on us. Likewise to Tita Rosseni Mina for the support and for boosting our confidence. Also to Tito Clemente del Castillo who played a very important role to our team. Of course, these were all possible because of the support of Engr. Lavadia who gave me the best team members. Special thanks also to our Engineers Leo Pahilanga, Gilberto Unicis Espartero, Henry Apua, and Ervin dela Cruz. To Kuya Joel and Kuya June who acted not only as drivers but assistants as well. Thank you for the LPG tank and being my guide while looking for generator and smoke machines in Quiapo. I lost several pounds there. Shout out to Ma'am Ruby, Violy, Relyn, Alvin, my classmate Eldie, and my student Alejandro for all their kind assistance. To all those who I forget to mention, salamat gid.

When we were discussing about our participation, I told the group that we will carry the name of Bago City in Manila. We must behave and act accordingly there. Then when the competition comes, we must do our best to bring honor to our City and kasimanwas. They did not failed me.



The silent witness to Bago City's journey at Aliwan. The canter elf went to Manila in 2006, 2007, and 2017 respectively.



The Babaylan dancers in 2007.



Bago City joins Aliwan Fiesta in 2006, 2007, and 2017. Both in 2006 and 2007, the Babaylan festival was awarded as a runner up. Photos above also show the Bago City float in 2007. (A. Balboa photos, 2007)



Al Cinco de Noviembre float of Bago City was adjudged second runner-up in the Aliwan Fiesta Float Competition 2017.

A Great Bagonhon

Remembering Buc-an

Former Sugar Regulatory Administration Chief Arsenio “Buc-an” Yulo Jr., 90, passed away Sunday afternoon, nine days after his wife, Letty Miraflores Yulo, 87, died.

Mayor Nicholas Yulo said his father succumbed to congestive heart failure secondary to coronary artery disease, at the Pablo O. Torre Memorial Hospital in Bacolod City 3:07 p.m. Sunday.

His mother succumbed to cirrhosis of the liver, also at the Pablo O. Torre Memorial Hospital 9 days earlier in a room close to where his father was confined.

Mayor Yulo said his father was already a bit unconscious at the time and on a respirator. “We did not tell him that my mother died, we told him it was time to



ARSENIO BONIFACIO MATTI YULO
30 May 1927 - 18 June 2017

let her go, because she was tired already,” he added.

Some people have said “our mother may have come to fetch our father, and he decided to go with her,” he said.

The mayor also said he and his siblings Joe-B, Joan, Maite, Maripi and Rica were with their father and mother when they died.

Their parents were buried together at the Valley of Peace at the Circumferential Road in Barangay Bata, Bacolod, on June 22.

Mayor Yulo, in behalf of his family, thanked all those who offered their prayers and for their continued love and support for his parents and family.



Baby Buc-an



Arsenio B. Yulo, Jr. in his teenage years.



Graduation day at MLQ University in 1954.

Photos: Yulo Family Archives/ Ms. Cara Tengco/ The Citybridge Files
Text: Visayan Daily Star/ The Citybridge

Former SRA Administrator Rafael Coscolluela said Arsenio Yulo was “a forward-looking sugar leader, highly respected and well-loved by the industry.”

Coscolluela said Yulo was also a close family friend and he once asked him to write about Negros and sugar from his own perspective.

“I wish he found the energy to leave us with that legacy. His passing means the loss of a rich source of insight on our history, and is indeed another sad occasion for the province,” Coscolluela said.

Coscolluela said “We are comforted by the thought that both Tito Buc-an and Tita Letty are together in God’s loving embrace.”



Atty. Buc-an and wife Mrs. Letty Yulo in Hawaii (1981).

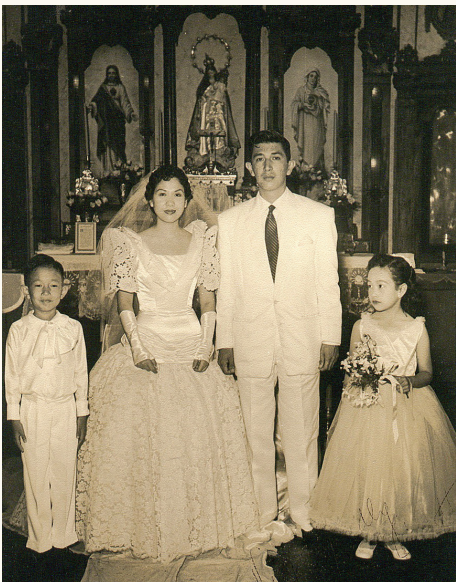
Francis de la Rama, president of the Confederation of Sugar Producers Associations, said Yulo was one of the pillars of the sugar industry, and one of the leaders responsible for where it is right now.

Yulo was the first SRA Administrator who presided over the abolition of the Philippine Sugar Commission and implemented the free market policy, de la Rama said.

Enrique Rojas, National Federation of Sugarcane Planters president, said he has known Yulo since he was a teenager.

“For me, Buc-an’s passing is a personal loss because I lost a very good friend. For the sugar industry, we lost a good man who served the industry with distinction,” Rojas said.

Manuel Lamata, president of the United Sugar Producers’ Federation of the Philippines, said he condoles with the family of Yulo, and said “May he rest in peace.”





Oath-taking as Bago City councilor in 1966.



Proclamation as Congressman of the 2nd District of Negros Occidental in 1969.



The young lawyer Buc-an with the young Claro M. Recto (right).



Presiding in one of the sessions of the 1970 Constitutional Convention.



With former President Diosdado Macapagal and Mayor Manuel Torres.

Arsenio Yulo graduated with a Bachelor of Laws at the Manuel L. Quezon University in 1954 and was admitted to the bar on the same year. He was a Senior Partner of the Yulo, Bello and Associates Law Offices.

Yulo began his government service as a councilor of Bago in 1965. He was also appointed by former President Corazon Aquino as the first chairman/administrator of the Sugar Regulatory Administration in 1986 until 1992. He was also appointed by former President Fidel Ramos as an administrator of the Public Estates Authority from 1996 to 1998.

He was also the AVP/Assistant General Manager of the Canlubang Sugar Estates from 1974 –1986 and the Commercial Law Examiner of the 2004 Bar Exams.

He was a 1971 Constitutional Convention delegate and president of the Philippine Bar Association from 1984-1985.

Yulo was also president of the International Sugar Organization (ISO), 1987 – 1989, chairman – Canlubang Golf and Country Club, 2001 to present, Makati Business Federation, 1984 – 1985, chairman emeritus of the Sugar Club of the Philippines and member of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, Bago City Lions Club, Negros Occidental Golf and Country Club, and Bacolod Golf and Country Club.



President of the Philippine Bar Association.



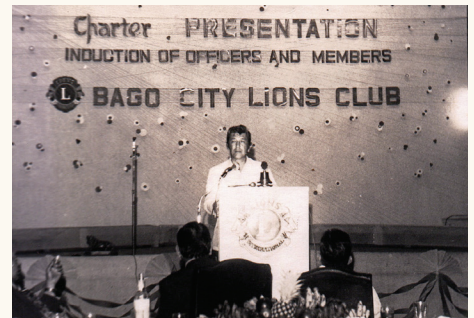
President of the International Sugar Organization (ISO).



With former President Fidel V. Ramos at Ma-ao Public Cemetery.



With former Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile.



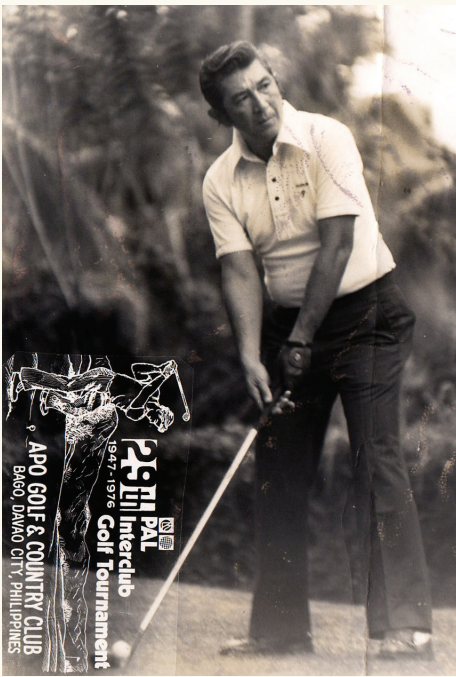
President of Bago City Lions Club



With His Eminence Jaime Cardinal Sin.



With former Presidents Corazon C. Aquino and Fidel V. Ramos.



“Golf mate of Presidents and Justices”



Bantayan Park design contest winners named

The City of Bago in partnership with La Consolacion College of Bacolod School of Architecture, Fine Arts and Design sponsored a search for prospective master plan and architectural design for Bantayan Park, an emerging tourist destination of the city.

The said contest was open to students of LCC and only the top seven groups were allowed to present their output to the City Government. The groups were required to create a master plan for the 22 hectare park.

Group 1 won the top prize of P40, 000 after a series of judging conducted at the Manuel Y. Torres Memorial Coliseum and Cultural Center. The group is composed of Maiian delos Reyes, Aura Danielle Analucas, Justin Anne Javier, Angelica Pelagio, Veronica Dubouzet, and Ana Beatrice Lopez.

Second Place winner goes to Group 6 composed of Bernadette Parcon, Carmelle Demigilio, Catherine Enriquez,



Bago Mayor Nicholas M. Yulo (extreme right) and City Engineer Joenil B. Lavadia (left) present the cash prize to the winning group.

Angel Andrada, Kimverlie Valente, Marbelyn Parcon, and Paula Mulle. They took home P25, 000 cash prize.

The third place went to Group 4. It composed of Jacqueline Camille Espina, Glazel Chloe Bunda, Jasson Omagap, and Jayvee Alminiana.

According to project head City Engr. Joenil Lavadia, Bantayan Park is being

developed as a mixed-use tourist zone.

For his part, Mayor Nicholas Yulo was happy with the submitted designs of the participants. He added that with the new developments at Bantayan Park, the city is encouraging private sector participation by providing areas for tourism related businesses. /

Bago City welcomes triumphant Palarong NIR athletes

The City of Bago held a motorcade activity around the city proper to pay tribute to its athletes who participated in and nailed the over-all bronze medal in the recently concluded Palarong Negros Island Region (NIR) held at Dumaguete City.

Acting Mayor Ramon Torres welcomed the more than 150 athletes and coaches at the City Mayor's Office, Bago City Hall after the motorcade.

Out of 16 schools division in the region, the Division of Bago City bagged a total of 26 gold, 34 silver and 32 bronze medals.

"It takes a lot of hard work, perseverance, and patience to achieve our goal. Being at the top 3, is already an achievement. Indeed Bago City is home of the champions and of the brave." said Mr. Leo Dayot, Division Sports Coordinator.

Ma. Lorlinie M. Ortillo, Ph.D., CESO VI, Schools Division of Bago City congratulated all the athletes, coaches,

chaperons, all sports coordinators and DepEd Bago City for giving their best and for bagging top 3 in the said NIRAA.

"The regional athletic competition once again proved the capacity of sports to unite all the delegations and to unleash the power and skills of our sports enthusiasts" Ortillo added.

Ortillo also thanked Bago City Local

Government Unit headed by the Mayor Nicholas M. Yulo and Vice Mayor Ramon D. Torres for the financial support to the city's delegation.

For his part, Vice Mayor Ramon Torres said he will talk to Mayor Nicholas Yulo regarding cash incentives for the palara medalists. He also challenged them to do well in the Palarong Pambansa in Antique. /



Bago City Arnis team declared over-all champion in the Palarong NIR paid Acting Mayor Ramon Torres visit at the Mayor's Office recently. With them are City Councilors Cleo Gaudite and Danilo Famoso, Executive Assistant Bernadette Somcio and their coaches, and DepEd Officials.

City celebrates 119th Philippine Independence with DILG Undersecretary Hinlo as guest

The City of Bago in partnership with Ernesto Segundo Salas Memorial Lodge No. 280 celebrated the 119th Philippine Independence day with Department of Interior and Local Government Undersecretary Jesus V. Hinlo, Jr. as guest of honor.

Bago Vice Mayor Ramon Torres who represented Mayor Nicholas Yulo and VW Franklin Tumaneng, District Deputy Grandmaster of Mason District R-18 led the hoisting of the Philippine flag and the wreath-laying ceremony at the 1898 historical marker.

Usec Hinlo in his Independence Day speech inside the coliseum told Bagonhons to embrace more investors in the near future. He added that the proximity of Bago City to Bacolod is very viable for business expansions.

Bagonhon talents were showcased on stage during a cultural show which



DILG Usec. JV Hinlo delivers his 119th Philippine Independence Day message before the people of Bago City.

followed after the speech of the DILG Official.

The City commemorated the 126th birth anniversary of former Senator Ramon Torres with a short program and floral offering at the Torres mausoleum, Old Bago City cemetery in the morning

before the Independence Day program.

June 12 is declared as Torres Day in the City of Bago to commemorate the contributions of former Senator Torres as the first labor secretary, governor of Negros Occidental, and a Senator of the country. /

PDEA names 4 Bago barangays drug-free

The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency- Negros Island Region has issued clearance to 4 barangays of Bago as drug-free barangays that complied with the parameters of Section 6, Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB) Regulation 3 Series of 2017.

Cleared by PDEA were Barangays Pacol, Busay, Bagroy and Alianza. The said villages underwent clearing operations from the oversight committee last year based on the new guidelines set by the DDB.

The said barangays were cleared of drugs and other illegal drug-related activities.

According to Bago City PNP, the drug cleared Barangays of Bago were the first to be validated and cleared in the whole Negros Island Region.

Present during the signing of the certificate of drug-cleared Barangays were PDEA NIRO Director and chairman of the oversight committee Atty. Roselyn



PDEA NIRO Director Atty. Roselyn Borja, CPA, together with Provincial DILG Officer Mary Joy Meredith Madayag, City Loca Government Operations Officer Rex Abello, OIC Bago City PNP PCI Joeffer Cabural, City Health Officer Dr. Ferdinand Mayoga, and Mayor Nicholas Yulo present the Certificate of Drug-Cleared Barangay to Barangay Captains Rogelio Canag, Jr. of Pacol, Guillermo Rapiñan of Bagroy, Jose Wilson Felix of Alianza, and Eddie Roque of Busay at the Mayor's Office on May 31.

Borja, CPA, Provincia DILG Officer Mary Joy Meredith Madayag, City Loca Government Operations Officer Rex Abello, OIC Bago City PNP PCI Joeffer Cabural, City Health Officer Dr. Ferdinand Mayoga, and Mayor Nicholas Yulo.

Mayor Yulo said that he is fully supporting the program of the government against illegal drugs. He further added that he hoped that more barangays of Bago will be validated and declared drug-free also.

Bago is DILG- NIR best implementer for Q1 and Q2 of 2017

The City Government of Bago earned the accolade of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) Negros Island Region (NIR) as the top 5 best locally- funded project implementor in the region for the first quarter and second quarter of 2017.

Bago Mayor Nicholas Yulo accepted the recognition from Local Government Operations Officer Rex Abello in his office.

According to CLGOO Abello, the award was given to Bago City for its speedy compliance with project requirements and prompt submission of reports.

Meanwhile, the plaque of the 2015 Seal of Good Local Governance which was awarded by former DILG Secretary Ismael Sueno to the City last November 2016 has arrived and was also presented by Abello to Mayor Yulo.

According to the citation, the seal symbolizes the city's journey towards



CLGOO Rex Abello presented to Mayor Nicholas Yulo the 2015 Seal of Good Local Governance for Bago City.

good local governance upholding the standards of transparency, integrity, and service delivery.

The mayor congratulated the employees of Bago City Hall for their concerted effort in

giving the best public service. He thanked the DILG for the two recognitions noting that it will serve as his daily reminder to strive harder for a better leadership of Bago City under his administration. /

Province bestows Sandugo Awards to Bago officials

The Provincial Sandugo Awards, with this year's theme "Pagkilala kag Pagpasalamat" recognized the contribution of Bago City and its officials during the awarding ceremony held at SMX Convention Center, SM City Bacolod last August 4, 2017.

The Local Government of Bago was awarded as one of the Most Outstanding LGUs in the province and Mayor Nicholas Yulo was given the Service Excellence Award and Invaluable Support Award.

Personnel from the City Health Office were also given recognitions. Most Valuable Medical Officer went to Dr. Orlando Jorge Gonzaga and Most Valuable LGU District Recruitment Officer was awarded to Glenly Casona.

The Provincial Government also recognized the Top 3 Blood Galloners from Bago City. They were Julius Panganiban of Barangay Lag-asan, Eliseo Carmona, Jr. of Barangay Dulao, and Agustin Granada of Barangay Bagroy.



The Sandugo awardees from Bago City during the awarding ceremony at SMX Convention Center, Bacolod City. (G. Casona photo)

Also, 16 barangays of Bago were given special recognition for their exceptional support and commitment. The citations were received by the Barangay Captains and representatives of Barangays Taloc, Calumangan, Dulao, Ma-ao, Lag-asan, Bagroy, Alianza, Don Jorge Araneta,

Atipuluan, Bacong, Sagasa, Poblacion, Busay, Sampinit, Ilijan, and Balingasag.

The Provincial Sandugo Excellence Award now on its 4th year, is only given every 3 years by the Province of Negros Occidental through the Provincial Health Office.

DRRM wins 18th Gawad Kalasag National Search

The Bago City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council and the DRRM Committee of Barangay Poblacion each won the over-all second place in the 18th Gawad Kalasag: Search for Excellence in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management and Humanitarian Assistance National Search both for component city and urban barangay categories.

The award was given to the City by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) through the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) at the Philippine International Convention Center last, June 8, 2017.

Present during the awarding ceremony were Vice Mayor Ramon D. Torres, Sangguniang Panlungsod members Jom Somcio, Joy Matti, Cleo Gaudite, and Dan Famoso. Also present were OIC of Office of Civil Defence- NIR Ma. Aletha Nogra, Bago DRRM staff Myla Millevo and DRRM Action Officer Dr. Merijene Ortizo.

For the DRRM Committee of Barangay Poblacion, the award was received by Kagawads Patrick Torres, Eddie Baylon, and Rene Obando, barangay treasurer Evelyn Dreyfus and barangay secretary Cheryl Moises.

Bago Mayor Nicholas Yulo congratulated the men and women behind the CDRRMC of Bago. "All your hard work has paid off," the mayor said.

For her part, CDRRMC Action Officer Dr. Ortizo dedicated the award to all the "council members of the city, responders and all Bagonhons," she said in her Facebook post.

Gawad KALASAG is the country's premier annual awards for outstanding contribution in the fields of disaster risk reduction and management and humanitarian assistance. It is the principal mechanism by which the NDRRMC advances awareness of the best practices of DRRM and humanitarian response and action.

Moreover, it aims to appreciate individuals, groups or institutions which have shown extraordinary courage, heroism and sacrifice in times of emergencies, be it natural or human-induced./



Vice Mayor Ramon Torres and DRRM Action Officer Merijene Ortizo together with the City Council members, DRRM personnel accepting the award.



The City Council of Barangay Poblacion, Bago City accepting their second place award.

DRRM Summit 2017 held



The participants of the 4th DRRM Summit held at the Manuel Y. Torres Memorial Coliseum and Cultural Center. (DRRM photo)

Bago City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council led by its Action Officer Dr. Merijene Ortizo conducted the 4th DRRM Summit at the Manuel Y. Torres Coliseum and Cultural Center last July 13, 2017.

Hundreds of participants coming from different barangays and government agencies were present.

Various topics were discussed by each speaker such as Listo si Kap! By Maria Fatima Daez of DILG NIR; Bantay Panahon by Ryan Vilmor Dumpit of DOST RO 6; Consequence

Management on Human Induced Hazard and Terrorism by Police Chief Supt. Ranulfo Demiar (Ret.); and The Role of Women in DRR/CCA by Ma. Lourdes Eudela.

Bago City Officials led by Mayor Nicholas Yulo and Vice Mayor Ramon Torres were present. They were entertained by a special performance from Bago City Chorale and Colegio de San Agustin Kanlaon Performing Arts.

The said summit is one of the activities of CDRRMC in line with the National Disaster Consciousness Month.

Centenarians receive cash gift

Three centenarians from Bago City availed of the centenarian gift of P100,000 and a letter of felicitation from the President.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development Regional Office VI came over to Bago City last Tuesday to hand over the cash gift to Dolores Cornelio, 102 years old from Barangay Tabunan, Remedios Famoso, 103 years old from Barangay Sampinit, and Melinde Lobrido, 101 years old, also from Sampinit.

Present during the turn-over at Bago City Hall were Executive Assistant Bernadette Somcio, City Social Welfare Development Officer Ma. Elena Millevo, and her staff who helped identify and validate the beneficiary- centenarians in the locality where they live in partnership with the Office of the Senior Citizens Affairs.



The beneficiary- centenarians of Bago City who were recently given the cash gift of P100,000 together with Bago City and DSWD Region VI officials. (CSSDO photo)

The grant of the centenarian gift and a letter of felicitation from the President are pursuant to Section 2, paragraphs B and A of Republic Act No. 10868 otherwise known as the Centenarians Act of 2016. /

DSWD-NIR confers honor to Bago in SLP implementation

Bago City was named best LGU in the Implementation of Sustainable Livelihood Program among the cities and municipalities in Negros Island Region on February 22, 2017 at the Activity Area, Robinson's Place Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental during the Founding Anniversary Celebration of the Department of Social Welfare & Development (DSWD).

The said award was given in recognition of the best practices and full LGU (Local Government Unit) support to the implementation of SLP Projects in the city, including timely submission of proposals, liquidation and monitoring reports to the DSWD regional office.

The award was received by SP Member Cleo Gaudite, Mrs. Duriza Oropesa, PDO II and Ms. Rhoda A. Alvarado, Livelihood Focal Person. The Awarding ceremony was graced by DSWD NIR- Regional Director Ms. Shalaine Marie Lucero.



SP member Cleo Gaudite together with Duriza Oropesa, Rhoda Alvarado, and Estrelita Yaun pose with DILG NIR Director Shalaine Marie Lucero. (R. Alvarado photo)



2016 Seal of Child-Friendly Local Governance Award

DSWD NIR Director Shalaine Lucero and DepEd NIR Director Gilbert Sadsad award Bago City with the Regional Seal of Child Friendly Local Governance on July 6 2017 in Dumaguete City. Accepting the award on behalf of the City were Rhoda Alvarado, Nona Obando, and Lourdes Dormido, all members of the Bago Local Council for the Protection of Children. The said award is for Bago City's initiatives which give priority to children in its planning, budgeting, legislation and delivery of services and was able to assure that all children enjoy their rights classified as survival, development, protection and participation.

59 graduates from SLP Program



The 59 graduates of SLP program together with Bago City and DSWD Regional Office officials.

The Sustainable Livelihood Program of the City and the DSWD Regional Office held a Graduation Ceremony on April 25, 2017 at the Manuel Y. Torres Memorial Coliseum and Cultural Center.

Fifty Nine (59) Pantawid Pamilya beneficiaries who were given scholarship for skills trainings on Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW) NCI, Cookery NC II, Food and Beverage Serving (FBS) NC II and Automotive NC I were given recognition.

The project was funded by the DSWD Regional Office 6 under the 2016 GAA.

All graduates were able to pass the competency exam given by Technical Skills Development Agency (TESDA) after finishing the required number of training hours.

The ceremony was attended by DSWD-NIR Regional Program Coordinator for SLP, Ms. Estrelita Yaun, Mr. Fernando Alabado-Provincial Program Coordinator for SLP, City Officials lead by Hon. Nicholas M. Yulo and V-Mayor Ramon D. Torres, and representatives from training providers: VMA Global College and Sagay Computer Institute.

LGU marks Women's Month

A total of 339 women from the 24 barangas (KALIPI, Brgy. Women's Club, VAW-C Officers, Day Care Workers and BHW) participated in and attended the National Women's Month celebration of Bago City last March 28, 2017 at Marhil Subdivision Covered Court. Senior Fire Marshall Pamela Candido and Atty. Jocelle Batapa - Sigue were the invited speakers.



First Lady Jarie Yulo together with Coun. Mae Javellana and EA Daydet Somcio give a plaque to Atty. Jocelle Sigue.



The participants of the women's month celebration in Bago.

Emergency Assistance

The City Government distributed food packs and housing materials and the Negros Island Region – DSWD gives also food packs to the 32 families (140 individuals) from Barangays Sagasa, Caridad, and Calumangan affected by the tornado last June 15-16, 2017. The Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office (PSWDO) also gives out trapal, blanket and food packs as well. A total of thirteen families (13) were left with totally damaged houses and nineteen houses were partially damaged.



Bago awards winners of Nutrition Month 2017

The City of Bago awarded the winners of various competitions held in connection with the celebration of July as Nutrition Month during the culmination program held at the Community Center on July 28, 2017.

This year's Nutrition Month theme: "Healthy Diet, Gawing Habit – For Life!" aims to promote healthy diets to contribute to

the reduction of overweight, obesity and non-communicable diseases. It also teaches the public on how to better discern between healthy and unhealthy foods for better food choices; and encourage food industry including farmers, producers and distributors and food establishments to produce and make available healthier food options to consumers.

List of Winners

City Health Office (Bulletin Board Display Contest)

- 1st Place** - Brgy. Mailum Health Station
- 2nd Place** - Brgy. Abuanan Health Station
- 3rd Place** - Brgy. Taloc Health Station

CSSDO (Draw & Tell Contest Day Care Children)

- 1st Place** - Rhynzo Louie Lobrido
(Brgy. Ma-ao Day Care Center II)
- 2nd Place** - Radiel San Jose
(Brgy. Bacong Tabucol Day Care Center II)
- 3rd Place** - Robert John Bago
(Brgy. Alianza Day Care Center)

CMO/Nutrition Office (Regional Evaluation Team for BNS)

- 1st Place** - Gina Guadalupe (Brgy. Atipuluan)
- 2nd Place** - Merlyn Dago-oc (Brgy. Malingin)
- 3rd Place** - Girly Cabañas (Brgy. Napoles)

* Gina Guadalupe BNS of Brgy. Atipuluan – Champion in "IKAW NA BES" BATTLE OF THE BRAINS Regional Level

Department of Education Winners for Happy Healthy Smile 2017

Elementary Level

- 1st Place** - Allysa Flores (Munting Tinig Learning Montessori)
- 2nd Place** - Mark Kevin Oliveros (J.L. Araneta E/S)
- 3rd Place** - Bob Rio Nefa (T.M. Morada E/S)
- 4th Place** - Zarich Asuncion (M.R. Araneta E/S)
- 5th Place** - Audrey Mahilum (I. Makilan E/S)
- 6th Place** - Eden Grace Baluyot (Louisiana E/S)
- 7th Place** - Tresha Ann Naquita (Caridad E/S)
- 8th Place** - John Michael Montua (A.M. Espinos E/S)
- 9th Place** - Rycel Makilan (Bago City E/S)
- 10th Place** - Thea Beira (Mailum E/S)

Secondary Level

- 1st Place** - Kurt Rusger John G. Lirazan (RTNHS Main)
- 2nd Place** - Steza Gonzaga (RT Ma-ao Sugar Central NHS)
- 3rd Place** - Cybil S. Gabrido (Our Lady of Pillar Academy)
- 4th Place** - Rosemarie Nierves (Bacong Ext. NHS)
- 5th Place** - Necesario Juan Audrie (Bago Siloam Faith)

Agriculture (Best Backyard Garden)

- 1st Place** - Japeth Jumatoc
- 2nd Place** - Alfredo Licaniel
- 3rd Place** - Penita Calzado

School-based immunization



The City Health Office is conducting free- immunization to school children in the 24 barangays of the City as part of the program by the Department of Health declaring every month of August as School Based Immunization Month. The immunization started first week of August at Bago City Elementary School. (CHO photos)



Purok Dahug Hanging Bridge Project: Completed and Passable

On July 5, 2016 a video was uploaded on Facebook where school kids crossed the overflow amid the strong current during rainy days due to lack of concrete facility.

The said video was taken by Mr. John Rhey Relota, a netizen from Sitio Kalubihan, Barangay Tabunan. It went viral the following day with almost 40 thousand views as of this writing.

Various news organizations both local and national picked up the story. On July 8, in an interview with ABS-CBN Bacolod, Mayor Nicholas Yulo assured the residence of Purok Kalubihan that action will be taken to guarantee the safety of his constituents who crossed the overflow in the said community during rainy season.

He instructed City Engineer Joenil Lavadia to act immediately on the matter. At that time, the City Engineer's Office was already making design and estimates for the project because the day after the video came out, Engr. Gilberto Unices Espartero was already inspecting and assessing the area.

Further, the Bago City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) led by Dr. Merijene Ortizo conducted DRR Information Education Campaign in the community.

Mayor Yulo also went there to personally inspect the area together with Engr. Lavadia and Engr. Espartero.

The construction started last December

2016 with an appropriation of P2.4 million. According to Engr. Lavadia, the proposed project is a sturdy 45 meters hanging bridge. The bridge was completed last July 2017. Its inauguration is yet to be scheduled.

For several times, Mr. Relota vented his frustrations on Facebook and kept sending us messages as to when it will be started and completed. We told him that we understood

his concerns but reminded him that the said project will undergo the usual government procurement process.

Last July 2, 2017, he sent a lengthy message of thanks to the City Government of Bago led by Mayor Yulo and Vice Mayor Ramon Torres for giving solution to the problem of Purok Kalubihan, Barangay Tabunan.



Mayor Yulo inspects the overflow at Tabunan together with Engr. Joenil Lavadia and Engr. Gilberto Unices Espartero after the video went viral on the internet.



Netizen John Rhey Relota pose with the new hanging bridge. (J. Relota photos)

Congratulations!

Bago City wins big in the 19th Gawad Kalasag (Negros Island Region).

Component City-1st Place: CDRRMC Bago City

Barangay Urban- 1st Place: Barangay Poblacion

Barangay Rural- 1st Place: Barangay Busay

GEM Rural- 1st Place: City of Bago Emergency Response Team

School Public Urban- 3rd Place: Ramon Torres National High School- Main

School Public Rural- 3rd Place: Sagasa Elementary School

Run for Resiliency



The participants and staff of the 2nd Run for Resiliency sponsored by the City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council during the group photo opportunity after the awarding ceremony last July 30, 2017.

OCD Photo Contest



Thea Ma. Judel Cabarles Ortizo accepts the plaque of recognition from Secretary Delfin Lorenzana of the Department of National Defense and Undersecretary Ricardo Jalad, Executive Director of NDRRMC during the NDRM 2017 culmination at Camp Aguinaldo last July 31. Thea was a finalist for the mobile photo contest participated in 16 years old and above in school youth in the entire country. With her is her mother, Dr. Merijene Ortizo.

Training



Vice Mayor Ramon D. Torres and Councilor Joms Somcio graced the opening program of the Crashed Vehicle/Victim Extrication and Rescue Training which started last March 3- 5, 2017. Instructors were Mr. Rommel and Sotero Antinero.

Rescuelympics



The Rescuelympics for School DRRM Coordinators conducted by the Bago CDRRMC in partnership with Schools Division of Bago City last July 28, 2017 at Manuel Y. Torres Sports Center in celebration of the National Disaster Resilience Month.

Youth Leadership Training



The City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council held the Youth Leadership in Disaster Risk Reduction Training to its Disaster Resiliency Youth Volunteers (DRYV) last June 1-3, 2017 at Buenos Aires Mountain Resort. The said training aimed to enhance the knowledge of the participants regarding Disaster Risk Reduction and Management. Lecture and fun activities which corresponds to Emergency Response, Preparedness, Preparation and Mitigation when in times, before and during a disaster were conducted.

ENVIRONMENT Page



Bago City was awarded by Negros Occidental provincial government through the Provincial Environment Management Office (PEMO) with Gold Seal of Good Environmental Governance last June 23, 2017 at SMX Convention Center during the 2017 Environmental Governance Award. Present to accept the award were Mayor Nicholas M. Yulo, City Councilors Cleo Gaudite, Allan Galunan, and Danilo Famoso and Bago Environment Officer/ City Secretary – designate Vicente Mesias.



The City Environment Office is conducting ongoing monitoring activity under the SMART LAWIN Patrolling and Biodiversity Monitoring within Mt. Kanlaon Natural Park within the political jurisdiction of Barangays Ilijan and Mailum to monitor the biodiversity and threats in the area. Several threats have been observed during the walk, first in the list is the charcoal making activity. Hence, proper action has been taken to address the said violation.

AGRICULTURE Page



Bago Mayor Nicholas Yulo, Vice Mayor Ramon Torres and SP members together with the City Agriculture Office facilitated the turn-over of 281 units of Artificial Reef (Jackson Type) Project to Barangay Taloc officials led by Brgy. Captain Delia Teovisio for the protection and rehabilitation of coral reefs in the coastal puroks of the barangay.



Bagonhon farmer Lee S. Apla-on of Barangay Busay was awarded the Outstanding High Value Crops (vegetable) Farmer category during the Pasidungog sa Panguma, Pangisda kag Pangkasapatan in connection with Panaad sa Negros Festival 2017.



Department of Agriculture Negros Island Region Director Joyce Wendam and staff together with personnel from DA Region 6 and PhilRice-Nueva Ecija visit Bago City Agriculture Office and conduct site visit at Barangay Malingin for the PVS hybrid seeds trial. They were assisted by City Agriculturist Mr. Carlito D. Indencia and Mr. Eduardo Malones last May 11, 2017.



The City Agriculture Office conducted Farmers Field School 2017 at Barangay Dulao which started last June 8, 2017. It is conducted by City Agriculturist Mr. Carlito D. Indencia together with Agriculture Technologist Staff and Local Farmer Technologists.

City Cooperative Office



The Bago City Cooperative Development Council with 17 members holds its meeting every quarter with Hon. Andrew Martin Torres, SP Chair on Committee on Livelihood and Cooperatives as the chairperson. It serves as a mechanism for collaboration, consultation and coordination in the implementation of various cooperative programs and projects implemented by agencies in partnership with cooperative sectors. Fiscal issues and concerns of cooperatives are being discussed and resolved.



Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas conducted a seminar on Basic Savings and Other BSP-related topics at the Community Center last June 29, 2017. 80 members from the 17 cooperatives in the city participated on the said activity. Participants were given tips on how to spend money wisely, save their income and protect their savings through topics on Budgeting Plan for Savings, Management of Personal Finance, Financial Consumers Protection and How to avoid Financial Scam and Fraud.

TESDA-LGU 2016 BuB Partnership



SMAW NCI training Batch 12 was conducted last January 23 to March 1, 2017. The training was funded by TESDA under the 2016 BuB Project. Twenty-five (25) beneficiaries have undergone the 26 days training and got 100% passing rate in the assessment.



Pipefitting NCI was conducted last March 4 - May 7, 2017 in coordination with TESDA under the 2016 TESDA BuB Project. Twenty-five beneficiaries have undergone the 29 days training and got a 100% assessment passing rate.

Panaad sa Negros 2017



Panaad Trade Fair & Exhibit, Best Product Search and TESDA Livelihood Skills Competition were among the events of the Panaad sa Negros 2017 under the CCO/TLDC held last April 22-30 at the Panaad Park and Stadium, Bacolod City. Local products and talents were showcased during the celebration and ended with victory as the City garnered numerous awards from the different contest areas.



Best Product Search: Best Product Search Entry for the Food Category: Sabor Negrese "Chico Preserves" by Cara Javellana of Brgy. Lag-asan was adjudged as the winner while the entry for the Home Decoration: Lampshade Category by Joshua Bico of Brgy. Napoles was declared as 2nd place.

TESDA Livelihood Skills Competition:



Rene Semiller of Brgy. Lag-asan garnered the 1st place on Flairtending while Ednamie Davao won 3rd place on Cake Decoration.

Public Employment Service Office Update



SPES Orientation

Last March 9, 2017, Mayor Nicholas Yulo, designated Dr. Felicitas S. Acosido as Public Employment Service Office (PESO) Manager of the City in addition to her present duty as the City Cooperative Officer. The PESO office started its function by implementing the Special Program for Employment of Students (SPES) last April 17- May 10. The program aimed to provide employment to deserving students coming from poor families to enable them to generate income to pursue their education. 336 students coming from the 24 barangays of the city availed of the program.

In line with the function of the office, a recruitment activity is being conducted by recruitment agencies/companies through

Special Recruitment Activities. Below is the number of applicants and number of applicants placed from March until June 2017.

Date	Name of Agency/Company	No. of Applicants	No. of Employed/Deployed
March 13-14, 2017	Jenerick International Manpower Inc.	10	On-process
March 10, 2017	Verde International Manpower Services	4	On-process
March 16-17, 2017	ABC Manpower Agency, Inc.	2	On-process
April 3, 2017	Al Alamia International Manpower Services	5	On-process
April 5-6, 2017	Zontar Manpower Services Inc.	4	On-process
April 10, 2017	Maanyag International Manpower Corporation	5	On-process
May 29, 2017	Chanel's Enterprises and Contracting Services	15	12
May 30, 2017	MMML Recruitment Services, Inc.	12	On-process



Ms.Uy of Chanel's Enterprises and Contracting Services conducted an orientation to the applicants for job placement with MDC/Ayala last May 29, 2017 at the PESO office.

Torres Day 2017



Did you know?

Every June 12 is Senator Ramon A. Torres Day in the City of Bago as per SP Resolution No. 16-49 Series of 2016.

- First Secretary of Labor
- Former Senator of the Philippines (1941-1951)
- Former Governor of Negros Occidental
- Founder of Ramon Torres National High School (formerly Bago High School)
- The moving spirit behind the passage of RA 4382 (Charter of Bago City)



City Officials present during the wreath laying ceremony at the Torres Mausoleum.



Vice Mayor Ramon Torres offering flowers on behalf of the City Government.



City Department heads paying their respect to the late senator.



Rev. Fr. Alfredo Z. Gamarcha officiates the blessing of the grave.



SP members offer flowers too.



Some of the principals of the Ramon Torres National High Schools in Bago City were present to commemorate the birth anniversary of their founder.



The grave of the late Senator.



The descendants of the brother and sister of the late senator were also present.



Vice Mayor Torres delivers his message on behalf of the descendants of the brother and sister of Senator Torres. Vice Mayor Monet is the only namesake of Senator Torres in their family.

Independence Day 2017



Wreath laying by the different sectors at the 1898 Historical marker.



The crowd inside the MYTMCCC.



Hoisting of the Philippine flag.



Song number by Bagonhon songstress.



Usec Hinlo receives a plaque of appreciation from Vice Mayor Torres and Lin-ay sang Negros 2017 Angel Portugaleza.



Turn-over of musical instruments to Kalipay foundation.



The Ernesto Segundo Salas Memorial Lodge No. 280 in their annual group photo together with the newly crowned Lin-ay sang Negros Angel Portugaleza.



Folk dances entertain the crowd inside the Coliseum.

Biray sa Bantayan



ruelecadigalPHOTO



First Place- Barangay Alianza



Second Place- Barangay Pacol



Third Place- Barangay Lag-asan

Photo Gallery



Mayor Yulo turn over 2,000 Senior Citizen's booklets with plastic cover to OSCA President Leonito Garbanzos in the presence of EA Bernadette Somcio and former OSCA President Orlanda Alison last February 27.



Mayor Yulo delivers a speech during the closing ceremony of SCALA Batch 28 at the City Coliseum last February 28.



Mayor Nikko, Vice Mayor Ramon Torres, DPWH- NIR Director Lea Delfinado, and City Engineer Joenil Lavadia led the ground breaking of the Regional Evacuation Center in Brgy. Lag-asan last February 28.



Vice Mayor Torres officially cut the ribbon to signal the opening of Job Fair spearheaded by Bago City College last March 3 at the Coliseum.



Vice Mayor Monet joins Bago City Elementary School in their celebration of Family Day last March 3 at their quadrangle.



Mayor Yulo was invited to speak by the Department of Agrarian Reform before the beneficiaries of Certificate of Land Ownership Award (CLOA) last March 9 at the Community Center.



The Mayor and Vice Mayor were invited to welcome the new head of DENR- Bago City Concordio Remorosa who replaced Joan Nathaniel Gerangaya, now assigned at DENR-NIR last March 14.



City Officials with First Lady Jarie Yulo, Mrs. Marissa Montelibano, members of SI- Metro Bago, SP member Somcio, ABC President Piansay, CPDC Engr. de Nicolas, and Atty. Martir open the Children's Corner at Bago City Library.



Mayor Yulo joins the joint Recognition Day of OISCA Day Care Centers of Busay, Calumangan, Canitum, Malingin, and Tambobo.



Mayor Nikko gave his remarks during the 92nd Commencement Exercises of Apec Mobile Digital Opportunity Center (AMDOC) held at MarHil Gym.



Mayor Nicholas Yulo turn-over 2,000 pieces PWD Purchase Booklets to Persons with Disability members led by its President Mr. Dorel Padilla last March 17 at the City Hall lobby.



Mayor Yulo together with Councilors Somcio, Araneta, and Mondia attend the meeting of Kapinyan Integrated Small Farmers Association.

Photo Gallery



Mayor Nicholas Yulo together with SP members, DILG Officials, and Brgy. Captain Eliseo Carmona and officials of Barangay Dulao during the blessing of the BUB Water System Project at Purok Santa Rita, Barangay Dulao last March 29.



Mayor Nicholas Yulo meets with the boxing superstars of Bago City in Manila led by Coaches Roel and Nolito "Boy" Velasco last April 22 at the Manila Hotel.



Philippine National Police Chief Ronald dela Rosa arrives at the recognition rites of Regional Training Center in Bago City, Negros Occidental last June 23 (Bago PNP photo)



Singaporean friends who visit Bago City last May meet with Mayor Yulo in his office for a short dialog and a photo opportunity.



Mayor Nikko throws his support to the Brigada Eskwela program of Department of Education during its opening program at Ramon Torres National High School.



Blessing and turn-over of the new Barangay Atipulan Health Center with Mayor Yulo, Vice Mayor Torres, City Engineer Lavadia, City Health Officer Dr. Ramon Ferdinand Mayoga and Barangay Captain Elvira Zulueta.



Opening of Panguma Festival of Barangay Sagasa with Mayor Yulo, Vice Mayor Torres, former Congressman Jeffrey Ferrer, and Barangay Captain Atty. Rosalina P. Isuga.



Mayor Yulo leads the groundbreaking of the Najaba Elementary School- Tabucol Extension at Barangay Bacong in the presence of DepEd officials led by Dr. Ma. Lorlinie Ortillo and school teachers.



Mayor Nikko joins the Safe Motherhood Caravan held at Barangay Sampinit Covered Court last May 17.



Mayor Yulo welcomes the participants of Mister & Miss Culture World 2017 International delegates who held a Santa Cruzan fashion gala in Bago City last May 22.



Mayor Yulo turn over 500 monoblock chairs to the 24 Barangay Senior Citizens Federation Presidents last May 26, 2017. Each barangay received 20 chairs.



The women of Dumaguete City extend their courtesy to City Mayor Yulo as part of their benchmarking of Bago City's Provincial Champion of the Search for Best VAW-C Desk.

Photo Gallery



Mayor Yulo receives a check amounting to P9.5M from Gov. Alfredo G. Marañon Jr., for the desilting of rivers in the presence of Vice Mayor Torres and Board Members Salvador Escalante and Victor Javellana.



Vice Mayor Monet welcomes 2000 Sydney Olympian Larry Semillano, 1992 Barcelona Olympics bronze medalist Roel Velasco, and coach to the Olympians Nolito "Boy" Velasco last June 16, 2017.



In support of the ASEAN 50 hosted by the country, Bago City hoisted the flags of the 10- member countries of Association of Southeast Asian Nations at Welcome Rotunda, Barangay Sampinit. (J. Tomesa photo)



Mayor Nicholas Yulo and Vice Mayor Ramon Torres welcome Negros Press Club Officers at Bago City Hall last March 13 led by its new President Boy Duran who is from Bago City.



Bago City drumbeaters won 4th place in the 2017 Panaad sa Negros Drumbeating Competition. (W. Narazo photo)



The City Government of Bago through the City Health Office led by DR. Mayoga commemorated the World Aids Memorial Day during the flag raising ceremony at the MYTMCCC last May 8. (N. Obando photo)



Mayor Nikko and Vice Mayor Monet welcome to Bago City former NBA players Duane Cooper of LA Lakers and Joaquin Hawkins of Houston Rockets together with Sunny Diego of John Maxwell team and The Sunny Diego Show last June 6.



Mayor Nikko Yulo and Vice Mayor Monet Torres welcome the Regional Assessment Team for the Seal of Good Local Governance in Bago City last May 30, 2017.



Bagonhon John Rey Montales won 3rd place in the National Street BMX Competition held in Lapu- Lapu City, Cebu last June 24 2017.



Bago City Taekwondo Team won 7 golds, 10 silvers, 3 bronzes during the the Region 6A Taekwondo Championships held last July 9, 2017 at SM Bacolod.



Panaad Dance Sports Winners. Juvenile Category- 6th Place (Rica Ramos and Shane) Special Event- 4th Place (Paul Elijah Casiano and Larena Atangan) Amateur- 5th Place (Frederick Rondain and Aira Udani) (W. Narazo photos)



Photo L -R: Hon. Cleo F. Gaudite, Hon. Jorge Agustin A. Araneta, Hon. Danilo U. Famoso, Hon. Andrew Martin Y. Torres, Hon. Mae C. Javellana, Mayor Nicholas M. Yulo, Vice Mayor Ramon D. Torres, Hon. Ma. Josefa Y. Matti, Hon. Sergio T. Piansay, Hon. Allan C. Galunan, Hon. Carlos E. Mondia, and Hon. Jozsef Mark Dexter M. Somcio

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