



PIA PRESS RELEASE

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*PIA Press Release
Tuesday, February 15, 2011*

Siquijor still boasts of zero crime rate

by Rizalie Anding Calibo

Province of Siquijor, February 15 (PIA)—Peaceful as it is, the province of Siquijor still boasts of a zero-crime rate even up to this month.

At least the Philippine National Police (PNP) reports and the Philippine Information Agency (PIA) recent survey results say so.

PNP Index Crime Statistics for the month of January this year shows a total of four index crime from the six municipalities, the same number to the recorded index crime volume in the same period of last year.

Out of these four, two are recorded for physical injury, one for robbery and another one for murder.

Non-index crimes however registered five incidents, compared to the zero-crime last year.

Seemingly consistent with the PNP reports, PIA survey on Criminality and the PNP in the province also showed that 70% of the respondents said that criminality in Siquijor remained the same or has decreased in the last six months and 19 out of 20 respondents are somewhat satisfied with the PNP'S performance in reducing criminality while only one is dissatisfied of its performance.

The survey was conducted nationwide last week to 20 respondents from each province representing local officials, businessmen, religious, agricultural workers, labor, employees of government and private institutions, Head of Government agencies, youth, media and barangay folks.

Earlier, the PNP-Siquijor reported that despite political instability and controversies affecting the PNP, Siquijor remains a peaceful province and a safe place to live, work and do business.

Siquijor Police Operations Chief, Police Inspector Vincent Paul Dumaguing said that this is the result of the various preventive and security measures that the Siquijor police implemented during the period.

He said strict implementation of the Police Integrated Patrol System is strengthened this year aside from regular conduct and strengthening of Barangay Intelligence Network (BIN); barangay visitation and dialogues (pulong-pulong); inspection and other activities to maintain the province's peace and order situation.

Dumaguing said, the provincial and municipal PNPs can assure the people of Siquijor as well visitors coming to the island of a 100% safety while in the province.

In one of the past interviews Dumaguing admitted that the police organization is suffering crisis of confidence over police irregularities, but still called on his colleagues "not to be affected" and continue giving their best to protect the people.

He is confident however that such irregularities will never happen in Siquijor province because he has known the province to be "very peaceful" with "very vigilant populace" and no history of insurgency.

From this alone, we can assure a 100% security and safety of our people and the tourists, he said. (PIA-Siquijor/PIA-7)

***PIA Press Release
Monday, February 14, 2011***

Siquijor power outage temporarily solved

by Rizalie Anding Calibo

Siquijor province, February 14 (PIA)-- The provincial government of Siquijor in cooperation with the Province of Siquijor electric cooperative inc. (PROSIELCO) and the National Power Corporation (Napocor) have come up with a temporary solution to the recent power outages in the province that were reportedly due to inadequate supply of fuel.

The PROSIELCO has announced in a 'recoreda' last week that a 'total black-out' was expected last February 12 based on Napocor's information that it has ran out of fuel supply and that there was no delivery of fuel from its supplier even after February 11.

In an interview, PROSIELCO General Manager Laureen Malolot said that although the problem is not directly their concern as they don't have any liability to the NPC, they opted to disseminate the information to prepare the consumers.

"The problem is with the NPC but since we are directly connected with the people, we have to inform them so that the consumers will be prepared," she said.

Malolot said, the Provincial Government, PROSIELCO and Napocor officials are trying to find means to solve the problem. She said Napocor President Froilan Tampinco came to Siquijor last February 10 to assess and discuss the problem and the possibility of privatization of power generation.

But meantime that the long term solution is not yet in place, the province has come up with a temporary solution in a form of advance payment offered by the PROSIELCO to Napocor to enable them to purchase at least a month supply of fuel that temporarily solves power 'black-outs' in Siquijor.

Malolot said, an amount of P8 million advance payment was released to Napocor last February 10 just before the announced expected 'total black-out'.

She said Siquijor province is only one of the 39 provinces in the entire country experiencing power supply crisis citing that Camotes island has already experienced 'total black-out' last week.

The recent power outages in the province has raised concern to local consumers particularly businessmen but no confirmation yet as to when the adequate supply of fuel arrives or the problem be finally resolved.(PIA-Siquijor/PIA-7)

***PIA Press Release
Tuesday, February 08, 2011***

Feature: Siquijor farmer sees big money in Onion

By Rizalie Anding Calibo

PROVINCE OF SIQUIJOR, Feb. 8 (PIA) -- Improving the lives of farm families is all that excites Provincial Governor Orlando “Shane” Fua Jr. when he gave his full nod for onion bulb production in Siquijor, the first province to venture into the kind of business in Central Visayas.

Siquijor province may not have that vast area for the kind of production, but given the right farming technologies plus the government’s all-out support and motivation to farmers, it can go a long way in improving the lives of farmers.



“There’s money in onion,” says Narciso “Esoy” Omandam, one of local farmers who have gone through several trainings and onion bulb adaptability trial where actual yield reached more than 300 kilograms from 40 grams of seeds planted to his 130-square meter demo farm last year. Another is soon to be harvested this month, he said.

Project Coordinator Lowel Salve of the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist, in an interview with the Philippine Information Agency (PIA) here said, Esoy’s farm (where only 40 grams of seeds is planted) is only a tenth of the actual farm that he intends to till this year.

A hectare or 1,000- square meter farm lot would entail a net production cost of P20,000 but is expected to yield 2,000 to 2,500 kilograms of onion bulbs so that when sold at a farm gate price of P70 to P80 a kilo, a farmer would get a net income of P120 to P150 thousand, Salve said.

Bisan pa ug magkabarato-barato, ibutang ta tag P25 to P30 per kilo, mokita pa gyud ug dako-dako (Even if the price gets a lot lower, let's say P25 to P30 a kilo, still a farmer would get a substantial income), he said adding that market will never be a problem because nearby provinces like Cebu, Bohol and Dumaguete are sourcing out onions from Luzon. "Cebu alone has an average market demand of 500 bags (30 kgs per bag) a day, he said.

From his mere 130-square meter demo farm, Esoy was able to get an income of more than P20,000, big enough to encourage him to do more.

Right now, Esoy is targeting a hectare of onion farm--a plan he assures will push through within the year.

"Labiha'y g dili ka kapalit ani ug 'Pajero'," he mused, quite convinced that with his dedication and the government's total support, God would have no reason to fail him.

Esoy is just one of the 33 farmers being supported by the provincial government for onion production.

"There will be a lot more, I'm sure," Salve said because Gov. Fua is pushing him hard to this endeavor. Results of the over-all assessment also motivated him so," he said. (RAC/PIA-Siquijor/PIA-7)

Cebuano News: 'Total black-out' posibleng mahiaguman sa Siquijor

SIQUIJOR, Feb 11 (PIA)-- Mipahibalo kagahapon ang buhatan sa Province of Siquijor Electric Cooperative (PROSIELCO) ngadto sa mga konsumante niini nga posibleng adunay mahitabong 'total black-out' sa probinsya sa Siquijor ugma (February 12).

Kini, sumala pa sa PROSIELCO, tungod kay ang National Power Corporation (NPC) wala pa makadawat hangtud karon ug krudo gikan sa ilang supplier.

Matud pa, sa banabana sa NPC, ang kasamtangang krudo hangtud na lamang sa petsa 12 karong bulana (Pebrero 12, 2011) hinungdan nga dako ang posibilidad nga dunaa gayu'y 'total black-out' "anytime next week," sumala pa.

Apan dugang sa buhatan nga ang mga kadagkoan sa maong Kooperatiba ug sa probinsya sa Siquijor naningkamot pagtabang ug sulbad niining maong krisis sa krudo nga giatubang sa NPC.

Sa pakighinabi kang PROSIELCO General Manager, dili pa lamang dugay, aduna na'y dinaliang lakang nga gihimo ang mga kadagkoan alang sa kasulbaran niini.

Usa niini, sumala pa ni GM Malolot, mao ang pagtanyag ug 'advance payment' ngadto sa NPC aron makapalit ug krudo igo sa usa ka bulang supply samtang gibuhay pa ang tanan alang sa tunhayng nga kasulbaran niini. Gihimo ang 'Memorandum of Agreement' kagahapong adlaw alang sa P8 million nga 'advance payment' sa PROSIELCO ngadto sa NPC.

Sa kasamtangan, giawhag sa management sa PROSIELCO aang mga konsumante ilabi na sa mga negosyante, kansa dakong maapektohan, sa pagpangandam. (RACalibo/PIA-Siquijor/PIA7)

PIA Press Release
Monday, February 07, 2011

IBP-Siquijor Chapter begins anew, inducts new set of officers

by Rizalie Anding Calibo

SIQUIJOR, Feb 7 (PIA) -- After years of hibernation, the Integrated Bar of the Philippines-Siquijor Chapter is now back to its life, this time full of enthusiasm and the urge to bring back the spirit and “decency into the profession of law” in Siquijor province.

This, as Siquijor Provincial Governor Orlando Shane Fua Jr., a lawyer and a member of the Chapter himself, vowed to give his utmost support for the revival of the Chapter which he admitted has been diminishing over the past years.

“The last time that the IBP-Siquijor had a formal oathtaking was in 1970’s,” Provincial Governor Orlando A. Fua Jr. said during the recent Oath and Affirmation Taking of the IBP-Siquijor new set of officers at the Salagdoong Beach Resort where he recounted and recognized his father’s, Congressman Orlando Fua Sr., efforts in the organization and its recognition in Congress.

Noting the 'non-infusion' of new lawyers in the Chapter for a number of years because of the difficulty of passing the bar (among other reasons), Governor Fua calls on his colleagues to take pride in their profession as he encourages them to “come out from hibernation and lethargy to show the world that Siquijor has a band of professionals who can serve the community.”

“Above all organizations, above all accomplishments, above all the things that I have done, the most cherished affiliation that I would wished to be known is that I am the pride of the IBP-Siquijor Chapter,” Fua said recalling how he was introduced as such by Provincial Prosecutor Jose Imaculado Palmitos in one of the provincial affairs where he was the Guest Speaker.

Congressman Orlando B. Fua, one of the Board of Directors of the Chapter, also calls on the lawyers to remain steadfast in the pursuit of justice and the rule of law. “Let us not downgrade and oppress the poor because they are the people who have less in law,” he said.

Newly inducted IBP officers and members are Atty. Alfonso L. Salcedo as President; Provincial Prosecutor Jose Imaculado L. Palmitos, Vice-President; Atty. Ramon Y. Cinco, Secretary; and Atty. Michael V. Panzo, Treasurer.

The Board of Directors are: Judge Alejandro S. Bahonsua Jr., Gov. Orlando A. Fua Jr., Atty. Roland G. Edayan, Cong. Orlando B. Fua Sr., and Assistant Provincial Prosecutor Ulysses Andora.

Also taking their oath and affirmation are officers and members of the six committees: The Committee on Professional Responsibility and Discipline, chaired by Atty. Antonio C. Lubguban with Atty Wilfredo Dominguez and Atty. Benjamin Padayhag as members.

The Committee on Legal Aide is chaired by Atty. Ramon Y. Cinco with members Atty. Adam Duhaylungsod and Atty. Michael Panzo; Committee on Legal Education, chaired by Asst. Pros.

Ulysses Andora with Atty. Alfonso Salcedo and Atty. Roland Edayan as member; and Committee on Procurement of Office Computer, Publication, Chairs and Tables with Gov. Fua as Chairman and Judge Bahonsua and Prov'l Pros. Palmitos as members.

The Committee on Chapter Affairs is chaired by Atty. Usualdo Cayongcong with Atty. Salcedo and Atty. Lubguban as members, while the Committee on Legislation is chaired by Atty. Wilfredo Dominguez with Atty. Edayan and Atty. Duhaylungsod as members.

Oath and Affirmation Taking was administered by Municipal Circuit Trial Court Judge Edwin Bongcavil.

In his Acceptance Speech, Chapter President Atty. Salcedo assured that with the support of two Chapter officers who are occupying the highest seats in the island, Cong. Orlan Fua and Gov. Shane Fua, there is no way for the Chapter to fail. Inspired by the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi, he poses his challenge to all his brothers to "begin anew". (RAC/PIA-Siquijor/PIA-7)

***PIA Press Release
Friday, February 04, 2011***

Feature: Siquijor honors daughter's bravery

[Full military honors accorded to a Siquijorian US military killed in action in Afghanistan](#)

by Rizzalie Anding Calibo

SIQUIJOR, Feb. 4 (PIA) — The whole province of Siquijor pays tribute today to its daughter, Sgt. Zainah 'Caye' Creamer, a Siquijorian -American soldier who was killed in action while serving in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan early last month.

"She died for an enduring freedom so shall her memory endure with us forever," Siquijor Provincial Governor Orlando Fua Jr. said in his message after the Funeral Mass this morning at the Our Lady of Divine Providence Parish in Maria town, province of Siquijor.

"We honor her as a symbol of bravery to Filipino nationals," also says Representative of the lone district of Siquijor, Congressman Orlando B. Fua during the same ceremony while giving meaning to Caye's death as a recognition of the Philippine Government working side by side with the US government.

Full military honors is accorded to the fallen soldier during the memorial service today at the Family Cemetery in Cantaroc, Maria, Siquijor where more than a thousand Siquijodnons from different towns joined.

In a press statement from the US Embassy in Manila, it was learned that Sgt. Creamer, 28, was a trained dog handler in the U.S. Army military police and was part of a unit that inspected buildings and vehicles for explosives.

She was killed when an improvised bomb exploded while she was conducting route and building clearance for an air assault mission in Howz E Madad, Kandahar, Afghanistan, on January 12.

She joined the U.S. Army in 2004 and has been assigned for training and service at U.S. military camps in Missouri, New York, and Texas. She also served in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The numerous awards and decorations that she received during her six years of service include the Iraq Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star, the Afghanistan Service Medal with Bronze Service Star, the Global War on Terrorism Medal, the Combat Action Badge, the Expert Rifle Badge, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Army Achievement Medal.

“Sgt. Creamer selflessly dedicated her life to the service of others,” said Leslie Bassett, Chargé d’Affaires of the U.S. Embassy in Manila. “She reminds all of us that the freedoms we enjoy are earned through the sacrifice of our military. We will always be grateful to her, and honor her memory.

Chargé Bassett and Major General John A. MacDonald with other senior U.S. military officers represent the U.S government at the funeral service.

At the memorial ceremony, the U.S. government confers on Sgt. Creamer the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart Medal, the NATO Medal, and the Meritorious Service Medal.

Sgt. Creamer is survived by her mother Carlyn Brown, who resides in Maria, Siquijor Province, her brother George, who lives in Texarkana, Arkansas, and her aunt Lutchie Castleman in Lewisville, Arkansas.(RACalibo/PIA-Siquijor/PIA-7)

***PIA Press Release
Thursday, February 03, 2011***

Siquijor promotes “homestay” program, 35 houses inspected for accreditation

by Rizalie Anding Calibo

SIQUIJOR, Feb. 3 (PIA)—To further boost ecotourism, the provincial tourism office is vigorously pushing homestay program in Siquijor province.

At least 35 houses around the province were already inspected for accreditation, says Senior Tourism Officer Jossette Armirola in an interview with the Philippine Information Agency (PIA) here.

Eight of these houses are located in Lazi town, seven in San Juan, five in Siquijor, four in Enrique Villanueva, and three each in the towns of Maria and Larena. Four other houses, also in Lazi are yet to be inspected since the owners were not around at the time of inspection, Armirola’s staff also said.

Homestay program, Armirola said, will not only answer problems on lack of accommodation facilities of the province but will also give homeowners extra income, thus expanding their business opportunity.

This will also allow tourists to spend more time in the province and explore the province’s attractions as it provides them alternative affordable accommodations aside from the existing accommodation establishments and resorts, she said.

A training for homeowners and their caretakers is scheduled this month to give them extra know-how on tourist-handling and see to it that they comply with accommodation requirements such as comfort rooms with adequate water, bedrooms, ventilation and lighting and a welcoming atmosphere, Armirola said. (PIA-Siquijor/PIA-7)