



**STATE OF THE PROVINCE ADDRESS  
AKLAN GOVERNOR CARLITO S. MARQUEZ  
3<sup>RD</sup> REGULAR SESSION  
AKLAN SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN  
FEBRUARY 2, 2011**

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FIRSTLY, LET ME THANK OUR HONORABLE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN, FOR THIS ANNUAL RITE OF REPORTING TO THE LEGISLATIVE ARM OF THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT AND TO THE PEOPLE OF AKLAN, WHAT THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS DONE THIS PAST YEAR, 2010, AND WHAT IT INTENDS TO DO FOR THE REST OF ITS TERM. THIS IS OUR REPORT CARD.

THESE ARE DIFFICULT TIMES. THE WORLD, AND ESPECIALLY THE PHILIPPINES, HAS NOT FULLY RECOVERED FROM THE ECONOMIC RECESSION. THE POWER CRISIS CONTINUES TO LOOM OVER OUR COUNTRY. HERE IN AKLAN, AS ANYWHERE ELSE, OUR NO LESS THAN AGGRESSIVE EFFORTS TOWARDS AGRICULTURAL ADVANCEMENT HAVE, IN MANY INSTANCES, BEEN NEGATED BY CLIMATE CHANGE, THE GLOBAL WARMING AND THE EXTREME WEATHERS THAT IT BRINGS. EITHER TOO WET OR TOO DRY FOR THE EXPECTED BOUNTIFUL HARVESTS THAT WE HOPE WILL LIFT OUR FARMERS FROM THEIR SAD STATE.

BUT AS THEY SAY, HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL IN THE HUMAN HEART. WE HAVE GONE THRU WORSE, AND WE HAD OVERCOME!

UNDER THE P-NOY ADMINISTRATION, THE CONFIDENCE OF BOTH LOCAL AND FOREIGN INVESTORS ARE HIGH. THE NATIONAL ECONOMY IS BUOYED UP BY AN ESTIMATED \$18.8 BILLION IN THE 2010 REMITTANCES FROM ABOUT 10 MILLION OFWS. MAKING THE PHILIPPINES THE 4<sup>TH</sup> BIGGEST REMITTANCE-RECEIVING COUNTRY AFTER CHINA, INDIA AND MEXICO. WE AKLANONS CONTINUE TO SALUTE OUR UNSUNG HEROES, OUR OFWs FOR THEIR SACRIFICES, FOR THE SAKE OF OUR COUNTRY AND THEIR FAMILIES.

WE AKLANONS HAVE REASON TO LOOK FORWARD TO A ROSIER 2011. WHERE ONCE WE ONLY HAD CONGRESSMAN FLORENCIO T. MIRAFLORES, WE NOW HAVE TWO, REPRESENTING THE INTERESTS OF AKLAN IN CONGRESS WITH THE ELECTION OF ANG KASANGGA PARTY LIST REPRESENTATIVE, TEODORICO HARESCO, JR. OF IBAJAY. THE ENVIABLE, UNITED POLITICAL LEADERSHIP IN OUR PROVINCE CONTINUES TO SPRING FORTH *UNHINDERED PROGRESS – MORE JOBS, MORE INFRASTRUCTURES, MORE ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES, MORE LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES, MORE RESOURCES FOR GOVERNMENT – A BETTER FUTURE FOR AKLAN AND THE AKLANONS.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE STATE OF OUR DEAR PROVINCE, AKLAN, IS STRONG AND HEALTHY!

### **LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT**

2010 HAS BEEN ANOTHER BUSY YEAR FOR OUR SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN. THE HONORABLE BODY, IN ITS 43 REGULAR AND 6 SPECIAL SESSIONS, HAD PASSED 262 RESOLUTIONS, 48 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCES, 10 GENERAL ORDINANCES, 8 SPECIAL ORDINANCES, AND 1 TAX ORDINANCE.

NOTABLE AMONG THESE ENACTMENTS ARE THE RESOLUTIONS APPROVING THE PROVINCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND PHYSICAL FRAMEWORK PLAN AND THAT ADOPTING “AMONG AKEAN” AS AKLAN HYMN AND “HALA BIRA, AKEAN!” AS AKLAN MARCH, BOTH COMPOSED BY DR. JESSE M. GOMEZ, A NUMANCIAHANON WHO IS PRESENTLY THE SCHOOLS DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT OF THE PROVINCE OF CAPIZ.

ALL, OF COURSE, ARE LEGISLATION NECESSARY TO FACILITATE AND SUPPORT OUR PROGRAMS OF DEVELOPMENT.

LET THIS BE A DAY, THEREFORE, OF THANKSGIVING TO OUR SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN. THANKS TO THEIR PRESIDING OFFICER, HONORABLE VICE GOVERNOR GABRIELLE CALIZO-QUIMPO WHOSE

PASSION FOR LEGISLATIVE PROPRIETY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE CAN ONLY BE EXCEEDED BY HER PASSION FOR THE BETTERMENT OF AKLAN AND THE AKLANONS. TO THE VETERANS HON. SELWYN IBARRETA, HON. NEMESIO NERON, HON. DAISY BRIONES, HON. RODSON MAYOR, HON. JEAN RODRIGUEZ, HON. GERICK TEMPLONUEVO AND TO THE NEW BLOOD RECENTLY INJECTED INTO OUR LEGISLATIVE ARM: HON. JOSE ENRIQUE MIRAFLORES, HON. VICTOR GARCIA, HON. PHOEBE CLARICE CABAGNOT, AND HON. RAYMAR REBALDO. THANK YOU TOO, TO OUR SECTORAL REPRESENTATIVES, PCL PRESIDENT, HON. JONNA TORRES; ABC PRESIDENT, HON. EDINA GELITO; AND SK PRESIDENT, HON. BOB AUGUSTO LEGASPI.

### **SOURCING THE FUNDS**

TOURISM CONTINUES TO BE A MAJOR SOURCE OF REVENUES FOR OUR PROVINCE. AND THE 35% INCREASE IN COLLECTIONS REGISTERED BY OUR CATICLAN AND CAGBAN JETTY PORTS FOR THE YEAR 2010, UP FROM ONLY 7% FOR THE YEAR 2009 OVER THAT OF 2008, IS AN INDICATION OF HOW WE ARE BACK ON TRACK AGAIN.

PORT COLLECTIONS IN 2009 – TERMINAL ROLLING CARGO, BERTHING AND OTHER FEES – WAS P82,924,000. IN 2010 IT JUMPED TO P112,527,000, WAY BEYOND OUR EXPECTATIONS FOR ONLY P100 MILLION.

ON THE WHOLE, THEREFORE, IT'S AN UPWARD TREND – NO MATTER THE OBSTACLES: THE ECONOMIC CRUNCH, THE HOSTAGE CRISIS, THE EVER KEENER LOCAL AS WELL AS GLOBAL COMPETITION, THE ADVERSE TRAVEL ADVISORIES.

GAKITA RO TURISMO. GAKITA KITA SA TURISMO.

FROM TAX REVENUES IN 2010 WE COLLECTED P33,155,051. THIS IS 26% HIGHER THAN THAT OF 2009 WHICH WAS P26,243,713.

FROM NON-TAX REVENUES WE EARNED P4,859,632. LOWER BY 45% THAN 2009'S WHICH WAS P8,849,851.

A 3.9% INCREASE IN COLLECTIONS FROM SAND, GRAVEL AND OTHER PRODUCTS WAS ALSO ACHIEVED, FROM P5,525,706 IN 2009 TO P5,751,198 IN 2010.

THE CONDUCT OF PUBLIC AUCTION ACTIVITY LAST DECEMBER 15, 2010 HAS MADE AN IMPACT IN THE COLLECTION OF DELINQUENT REAL PROPERTY TAXES AND IT HAS OPENED THE AVENUE TO UPDATE THE REAL PROPERTY RECORDS OF OUR MUNICIPAL TREASURY OFFICES. OUR DEAR TAXPAYERS UPDATED THEIR RECORDS AND PAID THEIR TAXES TO PREVENT THEIR PROPERTIES WHICH THEY ACQUIRED FROM HARD WORK, FROM THEIR SWEAT AND TEARS FROM BEING AUCTIONED. THE PUBLIC AUCTION SALE ACTIVITY GENERATED A TOTAL REAL PROPERTY COLLECTION OF P156.1 MILLION FROM THE SEVENTEEN MUNICIPALITIES OUT OF WHICH OUR SHARE IS 35% OF P78.06 MILLION OR P27.3 MILLION FOR BASIC TAX AND 50% OF P78.06 MILLION OR P39 MILLION FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION TAX, MONEY TO HELP DepEd BUILD MORE CLASSROOMS, HIRE MORE PROVINCIAL SCHOOL BOARD TEACHERS, MORE FOR SPORTS AND SOCIAL SERVICES.

UNWAVERING IN ITS MISSION TO STRENGTHEN AND IMPROVE THE FISCAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROVINCE'S LIMITED RESOURCES, THE PROVINCIAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE REPORTS THAT FOR CY 2010 VARIOUS ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES AND INNOVATIVE SCHEMES WERE MAPPED OUT AND IMPLEMENTED TO INTENSIFY AND STRENGTHEN THE REVENUE GENERATION PROGRAM OF THE PROVINCE. THUS, FOR THIS YEAR, THE PROVINCE DID WELL IN ITS FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE POSTING A GROSS INCOME OF P829,050,689 FOR THE EEDD AND GENERAL FUND PROPER COMBINED UNDER THE GENERAL FUND. THIS IS P103,080,510 MORE THAN WHAT WE HAVE EARNED IN CY 2009 OF P725,970,178 OR A 14% INCREASE IN GROSS INCOME.

THE EEDD OPERATIONS ON THE OTHER HAND YIELDED AN INCOME AMOUNTING TO P270,161,342, A 34% INCREASE FROM CY 2009 INCOME OF P201,457,282. THIS CLEARLY SUSTAINS OUR ASSERTION THAT OUR

EEDD IS ECONOMICALLY VIABLE CONSIDERING THE UPWARD TREND IN THE INCOME OF THE EEDD.

OUT OF THE P829,050,689 INCOME FOR THE GENERAL FUND, P312,050,873 WAS DERIVED FROM LOCAL SOURCES INCOME. THIS IS 210% OF THE LOCAL SOURCES INCOME THAT WE HAVE REALIZED WHEN WE WERE JUST STARTING WITH OUR ECONOMIC ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IN CY 2006 WHEN WE REALIZED P100,607,809 INCOME FROM LOCAL SOURCES. THE UPWARD TREND IN THE GROWTH OF OUR LOCAL SOURCES INCOME FROM CY 2006 TO CY 2010 CLEARLY SHOWS THE COLLABORATED EFFORTS OF OUR FISCAL MANAGERS TOWARDS A MORE EFFICIENT COLLECTION TO SUSTAIN THE DELIVERY OF BASIC SERVICES TO OUR CONSTITUENTS.

AS AN OUTCOME OF THE INCREASE IN LOCAL SOURCES INCOME, THE PROVINCE'S DEGREE OF IRA DEPENDENCY SIGNIFICANTLY DECREASED FROM 78% IN CY 2006 TO 62% IN CY 2010.

COMPARING OUR 62% IRA DEPENDENCY AGAINST THE BUREAU OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE'S (BLGF) RECORD OF NATIONAL AVERAGE LEVEL OF IRA DEPENDENCY OF LGUS WHICH IS 79%, THIS IS A POSITIVE INDICATION THAT WE ARE PERFORMING VERY WELL IN TERMS OF REVENUE GENERATION IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY!

FINALLY, USING THE RESULTS OF OPERATIONS AS A GAUGE OF FISCAL PERFORMANCE, THE PROVINCE HAS POSTED A NET INCOME OF P93,074,874, A 27% INCREASE FROM CY 2009'S RESULT OF OPERATIONS OF P73,369,681. CLEARLY, ALL THESE FINANCIAL FIGURES ARE POINTING TOWARDS A CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT IN THE GENERATION, UTILIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OF GOVERNMENT FUNDS. INDEED, THE PROVINCE IS FINANCIALLY STRONG AND HEALTHY.

OUR REGION VI HALL OF FAMER DEPARTMENT, HAVING BEEN ADJUDGED FOR THREE CONSECUTIVE YEARS AS THE MOST OUTSTANDING PROVINCIAL ASSESSMENT OFFICE (2007, 2008, AND 2009), HAS

PROCESSED AND APPROVED TRANSACTIONS FOR 3,971 REAL PROPERTY UNITS FOR 2010 AND HAD A TOTAL COLLECTION OF P9.5 MILLION FROM VARIOUS FEES.

### **OTHER GROWTH INDICATORS**

BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE-AKLAN REPORTS AN INCREASE IN TAX COLLECTION PERFORMANCE IN 2010. ON THE WHOLE, THEIR 2010 COLLECTION INCREASED BY P85,741,295 OR BY 14.8%. TOTAL COLLECTION FOR 2010 WAS P664,714,186 COMPARED TO 2009'S P578.9 MILLION.

BIR-AKLAN EXCEEDED THEIR COLLECTION GOAL OF P641,852,000 BY 3.56% OR P22,862,186.

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY'S ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS RESULTED IN EXPORT SALES OF US\$202,000. THIS WAS GENERATED MAINLY FROM EXPORTS OF PIÑA CLOTH, ABACA AND NITO CRAFTS, AND COCO SUGAR PRODUCTS.

DOMESTIC SALES OF FIRMS WITH DTI PROJECT INTERVENTIONS REACHED P129,903,200. TRADE FAIRS PROVIDED THE MAIN VENUE FOR MICRO SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (MSMES) TO SUSTAIN EXISTING MARKETS AND ESTABLISH NEW BUYERS. MARKET MATCHING AND PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES ALSO CONTRIBUTED IN GENERATING SALES.

TOTAL INCREMENTAL INVESTMENTS AMOUNTED TO P126.76 MILLION. A 125.69% EXCESS OVER THE TARGETED P100.85 MILLION. THESE INCLUDE INVESTMENTS MADE BY MSMES ASSISTED IN THE 3 FOCUS SECTORS, INDIGENOUS FIBERS AND CRAFTS; PROCESSED FOOD; AND GIFTS, HOUSEWARES AND FURNISHINGS; CARP BENEFICIARIES AND NATIONAL ECONOMIC RESEARCH AND BUSINESS ACTION CENTER (NERBAC) REGISTRANTS.

INCREMENTAL EMPLOYMENT OF 2,959 WAS GENERATED FROM SECTORS PRIORITIZED FOR ASSISTANCE (INDIGENOUS FIBERS AND CRAFTS, PROCESSED FOOD, GIFTS AND HOUSEWARES, AND FURNISHINGS), ONE TOWN ONE PRODUCT (OTOP) PROGRAM, COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM (CARP) AND NERBAC.

THE THREE LOCAL TRADE FAIRS IN 2010 ORGANIZED BY DTI AKLAN, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH HUGOD AKLANON PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION, INC., AND FULLY SUPPORTED BY THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF AKLAN, GENERATED TOTAL SALES OF P11.86 MILLION. IN THE OTOP ISLAND VISAYAS FAIR HELD IN CEBU CITY ON NOVEMBER 17-21, 2010, THE AKLAN EXHIBITORS WERE THE TOP GROSSERS WITH TOTAL SALES OF P1.19 MILLION. THIS JUST SHOWS THAT AKLANON PRODUCTS WERE AMONG THE BEST IN OUR REGION.

#### **ALLOCATING THE FUNDS: THE 2011 ANNUAL BUDGET**

THE THEME OF OUR FY 2011 BUDGET *"FINDING THE KEY TO FIT THE LOCK: ASSESS...EMPOWER...IMPLEMENT...SUSTAIN FOR A PROGRESSIVE AKLANON COMMUNITY"*, IMPLIES THE UNITED ASPIRATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE AGENDA BY ADDRESSING THE AKLANONS' NEED FOR QUALITY SERVICE.

OUR GENERAL FUND INCREASED BY 5.45%, FROM P557.6 MILLION IN 2010 TO P587.9 MILLION FOR 2011.

THE 2011 ECONOMIC ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT BUDGET AMOUNTED TO P388,446,105. A SLIGHT DECREASE FROM 2010'S P392 MILLION.

NEVERTHELESS, OUR 2011 TOTAL BUDGET SUMMED UP TO P976,436,012 OR P26 MILLION MORE THAN LAST YEAR'S, MAINTAINING OUR NO. 3 RANK IN REGION VI IN BUDGET SIZE, AFTER NEGROS OCCIDENTAL AND ILOILO.

SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES WILL RECEIVE THE BIGGEST BULK OF OUR BUDGET WITH P375.5 MILLION.

GENERAL PUBLIC SERVICE WILL GET P351.8 MILLION.

P109.9 MILLION WILL GO TO OUR ECONOMIC PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS.

TOURISM AND AGRICULTURE, OUR TWIN DEVELOPMENT THRUSTS, WILL HAVE A BUDGET OF P59.3 MILLION AND P24.6 MILLION, RESPECTIVELY.

FOR OUR CALAMITY FUND AND AID TO BARANGAYS, P29.7 MILLION.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT WILL HAVE P13.7 MILLION.

EDUCATION WILL RECEIVE P11.7 MILLION.

#### **YOUTH, SPORTS, EDUCATION**

THE YOUTH OF AKLAN CONTINUES TO BE A PRIMARY CONSIDERATION IN THE PROGRAM OF GOVERNMENT OF THIS ADMINISTRATION.

AND EDUCATION BEING A BASIC NEED OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE, WE HAD SUSTAINED OUR PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM WHICH NOW COVERS 954 SCHOLARS AT THE COST OF P6 MILLION FOR THE YEAR 2010. SPREAD OUT IN THE FIVE CAMPUSES OF THE AKLAN STATE UNIVERSITY AND SOME PRIVATE COLLEGES THESE CHILDREN FROM INDIGENT FAMILIES ARE GIVEN HOPE WHERE THERE COULD BE NONE, GIVEN THE ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY TO BREAK AWAY FROM THE PERPETUAL CYCLE OF POVERTY.

AKLAN IS THE FIRST PROVINCE TO ENGAGE IN A JOINT VENTURE WITH A UNIVERSITY, THE AKLAN STATE UNIVERSITY FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NURSING COLLEGE.

ON TOP OF LOWER TUITION FEES, THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIZED THE REVIEW CLASSES OF THE GRADUATES AT P15,000 PER REVIEWEE, AND A SUPPLY OF VITAMINS AND MILK TO ASSURE OUR STUDENTS' BOARD EXAM PERFORMANCE, MAYBE A REPEAT OF GRADUATE VIKLYN TESTA'S, NUMBER 8 FINISH IN THE 2009 NURSING LICENSURE EXAMINATION.

ANOTHER PRIORITY OF THIS ADMINISTRATION IS THE PROBLEM OF THE PERENNIAL INADEQUATE NUMBER OF TEACHERS IN OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS. THUS THE HIRING OF PROVINCIAL SCHOOL BOARD TEACHERS, 141 FOR 2010 AT THE COST OF P6.1 MILLION.

FOR OUR VARIOUS PROVINCIAL AND NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS WE HAVE ALWAYS LEANED ON DepEd MANPOWER, TEACHER POWER: IN NUTRITION, SPORTS, TAX CAMPAIGN, ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH, BEAUTIFICATION, PEACE AND ORDER – OR WHATEVER, DepEd IS INTO IT.

AND SO IT WAS THAT TOGETHER WITH DepEd AKLAN WE HOSTED THE 2010 WEST VISAYAS REGIONAL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION MEET AT OUR BRAND NEW SPORTS COMPLEX AT CALANGCANG. COMPLETE WITH A STANDARD OVAL AND SWIMMING POOL THE STRUCTURES COST THE PROVINCE P90.5 MILLION. BUT ACCORDING TO CONGRESSMAN FLORENCIO T. MIRAFLORES, WHEN IT COMES TO YOUTH AND SPORTS, WE SHOULD NOT COUNT THE COST.

IN THE SPORTS SCENE, WE CONTINUED OUR IMPLEMENTATION OF A BOXING PROGRAM. WE ALSO ASSISTED OUR YOUNG AKLANON BOXERS IN THE AMATEUR BOXING ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS IN PUERTO PRINCESA, PALAWAN.

ALSO ONGOING ARE MONTHLY AGE GROUP COMPETITIONS IN CHESS, TAEKWANDO, ATHLETICS, TABLE TENNIS, AND LAWN TENNIS.

AS PART OF OUR AKLAN ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION LAST APRIL, WE CONDUCTED THE GOVERNOR'S CUP INTER-MUNICIPAL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT, WHEREIN NUMANCIA TEAM FINISHED OFF AS CHAMPIONS.

WE HOSTED IN 2010 THE INTER-PROVINCIAL CHESS TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP HERE IN OUR PROVINCE.

IN JUNE 2010, IN THE ASEAN+ AGE GROUP CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP HELD AT OLONGAPO CITY, MIRA MIRANO OF JUMARAP, BANGA WON A SILVER IN THE TEAM COMPETITION AND A BRONZE IN INDIVIDUAL CATEGORY, AND JOHN MICHAEL OCZON OF NEW BUSWANG, KALIBO PLACED SECOND IN THE TEAM COMPETITION.

FIVE OF OUR YOUNG AKLANON CHESS PLAYERS, AGES 14 AND BELOW, WERE RECIPIENT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND LEADERSHIP AWARD GIVEN BY THE DEP-ED LAST 2010, NAMELY: MIRA T. MIRANO, ALEA BIANCA D. GARINGALAO, NATHALIE A. RAMOS, NAOMI GYWNE A. RAMOS, AND JOHN MICHAEL OCZON.

### **AGRICULTURE**

CLIMATE CHANGE HAS WREAKED HAVOC ON AGRICULTURE WORLDWIDE.

THUS THE MORE URGENT NEED TO IMPLEMENT NATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR AGRICULTURE: RICE (*HYBRID, INBRED, COMMERCIAL*), *HIGH-VALUE COMMERCIAL CROPS (CORN, MANGO, OTHER FRUITS AND VEGETABLES)*, INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT OR KASALIKASAN, PALAYAMANAN/KABUHAYAN, NATURAL FARMING SYSTEM, ABACA PRODUCTION, MODIFIED RAPID COMPOSTING AND FISHERIES.

OUR RICE PRODUCTION PROGRAM SUFFERED FROM THE EL NIÑO AND THE LA NIÑA. FROM 140,357 METRIC TONS IN 2009, OUR PRODUCE WENT DOWN TO 105,138 METRIC TONS IN 2010.

AND SO WE HAVE PURSUED OUR CERTIFIED AND HYBRID SEEDS DISTRIBUTION AND PLANTING. FOR 2010, A TOTAL OF 8,708 BAGS OF CERTIFIED SEEDS WERE DISTRIBUTED, AND 9,258 HECTARES WERE PLANTED TO HYBRID AND CERTIFIED SEEDS.

BUT WE REMAIN A "RICE-EXPORTING" PROVINCE, COMPLEMENTING THE RICE NEEDS OF OTHER PROVINCES WITH OUR SURPLUS RICE. WHILE CONSUMING ONLY 63,832 METRIC TONS OF RICE, WE PRODUCED 67,356 METRIC TONS.

EXTENSION SUPPORT HAS CONTINUED TO BE A CRITICAL COMPONENT OF OUR AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CONCRETE ARTIFICIAL REEFS, FISH ENHANCING DEVICES, SHORELINE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION PROJECT, TECHNO DEMO ON HIGH SALINE TILAPIA CULTURE IN CAGE, MODIFIED EXTENSIVE TILAPIA CULTURE IN POND, OYSTER CULTURE, AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF BANGUS FINGERLINGS CONTINUE TO BE OUR FISHERY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.

IN 2010, WE INITIATED A PILOT PROJECT ON PANGASIUS FISH CULTURE. CONSIDERED AS THE NEXT BIG THING IN FISHERY, THE CULTURE OF PANGASIUS MAY PRESENT NEW BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE AKLANONS.

ON APRIL 22, 2010, THROUGH OUR ECONOMIC ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT AND THE OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURIST, WITH TECHNICAL SUPERVISION FROM THE BUREAU OF FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES - PROVINCIAL FISHERIES OFFICE, WE LAUNCHED THE LAMBAKLAD PROJECT AT BAYBAY, MAKATO WORTH P1.9 MILLION. AFTER 6 MONTHS OF OPERATION, WE EARNED A NET

INCOME OF P579,935, ALMOST HALF OF WHICH WAS ALLOCATED TO MAKATO FISHERFOLKS AND THEIR MULTI-PURPOSE COOPERATIVE AS THEIR NET INCOME SHARE. FOR YEAR 2011, WE INTEND TO LAUNCH A COUPLE MORE OF LAMBAKLAD PROJECTS IN THE FISHING AREAS OF MABILO, KALIBO WORTH P1.9 MILLION AND IN KATIPUNAN, BURUANGA FOR P3 MILLION.

FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2010, THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HAD PROVIDED OUR PROVINCE P59.2 MILLION IN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. THIS INCLUDES P5.23 MILLION FOR CORN PRODUCTION, P5.17 MILLION FOR HIGH VALUE COMMERCIAL CROPS, P31 MILLION FOR OUR RICE PROGRAM, AND THE P15 MILLION GRANT FOR FARM-TO-MARKET ROADS.

THE BUREAU OF FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES AND THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL FISHERY COUNCIL CONTRIBUTED P1.56 MILLION AND P676,000 RESPECTIVELY, FOR OUR FISHERY PROJECTS AND LIVELIHOOD PROGRAMS.

THE AGRICULTURAL TRAINING INSTITUTE ALSO GRANTED P556,000 FOR LIVELIHOOD TRAININGS AND PROGRAMS.

FOR OUR CORN PRODUCTION PROGRAM, A TOTAL OF 1,428 SACKS OF HYBRID CORN SEEDS WAS DISTRIBUTED TO 1,845 FARMER BENEFICIARIES FROM DIFFERENT MUNICIPALITIES WORTH P5 MILLION AS OUR HYBRID SEED SUBSIDY FROM DA-RFU VI.

IN LINE WITH OUR VEGETABLE PRODUCTION PROGRAM, WE DISTRIBUTED VEGETABLE SEEDS COSTING P247,813, BENEFITING 2,696 FARMERS. IN BARANGAY JULITA IN LIBACAO, WE ESTABLISHED A TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION CENTER ON VEGETABLES. THROUGH THE ASSISTANCE OF DA-RFU VI, GREENHOUSES WERE INSTALLED IN THE BARANGAYS OF BADIO IN NUMANCIA, SAN RAMON IN MALINAO AND DAJA SUR, BANGA.

A TOTAL OF 41,560 PIECES OR P1.33 MILLION WORTH OF LAKATAN BANANA PLANTERS WAS DISTRIBUTED TO 320 FARMER RECIPIENTS THROUGH THE SUPPORT OF DA-RFU VI.

TO DATE, UNDER OUR MANGO PRODUCTION PROGRAM, WE HAD PLANTED A TOTAL OF 13,260 TREES IN 221 HECTARES. WHILE FRUIT-BEARING TREES ARE A COMPONENT OF OUR FOOD SECURITY PROGRAM, OUR ENVIRONMENTALISTS WILL BE HAPPY TO NOTE THAT THEY EFFECTIVELY COMPLEMENT OUR REFORESTATION EFFORTS. WE'RE PLANTING TREES, BY THE THOUSANDS. OUR NURSERY AT NALOOK, KALIBO HAS A CONTINUING PROGRAM FOR THE PRODUCTION OF TREE SEEDLINGS.

TOTAL PRODUCTION OF ABACA FIBER FOR 2010 REACHED 1,242,344 KILOGRAMS WITH A TOTAL ESTIMATED VALUE OF P50 MILLION. COMPARED TO 2009's 1,461,292 KILOGRAMS, A SLIGHT DECREASE OF 14% DUE TO OUTBREAK OF ABACA MOSAIC DISEASE. WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF FIBER INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (FIDA), HOWEVER, THE INFESTATION HAD BEEN CONTROLLED AND WE LOOK TOWARDS THE CONTINUED EXPANSION OF OUR ABACA PROGRAM.

AS OF DECEMBER 2010, A TOTAL OF 4,208 HECTARES HAS BEEN PLANTED TO ABACA INVOLVING 4,109 FARMERS.

THE PROVINCE OF AKLAN IS AMONG THE COUNTRY'S TOP TEN PRODUCERS OF ABACA AND CONTRIBUTES 80% TO THE TOTAL PRODUCTION OF WESTERN VISAYAS.

NFA-AKLAN HAS CONTINUED TO EFFECTIVELY DISCHARGE ITS FUNCTIONS THRU ITS PALAY PROCUREMENT, RICE AND CERTIFIED SEEDS DISTRIBUTION, MILLING, AND DISPERSAL PROGRAMS FOR THE YEAR 2010.

IT HAS ALSO IMPLEMENTED THE HUNGER MITIGATION PROGRAM AND THE FOOD FOR SCHOOL PROGRAM OF THE DepEd AND THE DSWD.

NFA ALSO MADE SURE THAT NFA RICE IS ALWAYS AVAILABLE FOR OUR POOR CONSTITUENTS AT AN AFFORDABLE PRICE THROUGH THE TINDAHAN NATIN PROGRAM.

NFA AKLAN NOW HAS 19 ACCREDITED BIGASAN SA PALENGKE, AND 73 BIGASAN SA BARANGAY.

### **OTHER AGRICULTURAL CONCERNS**

IN PURSUIT OF ITS MANDATE, OUR OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL VETERINARIAN HAS CONTINUED TO IMPLEMENT ITS VARIOUS PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS: CATTLE PRODUCTION, ANIMAL HEALTH, RABIES PREVENTION AND CONTROL, SWINE DISPERSAL, ANIMAL BREEDING, AND VETERINARY QUARANTINE AND REGULATORY SERVICES.

TO DATE, THE ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION PROGRAM COVERS 86 BARANGAY IN 12 MUNICIPALITIES. FOR 2010 427 CATTLE AND CARABAOS HAD AN A.I. AND A CALF PRODUCTION OF 124 HEADS.

UNDER OUR CATTLE-BREEDING AND FATTENING PROJECT A TOTAL OF 51 CALVES HAVE BEEN PRODUCED.

AS OF DECEMBER 2010, OUR GOAT PRODUCTION PROGRAM HAS SOLD P364,440.00 WORTH OF RUMINANTS WHILE OUR FORAGE AND PASTURE PROJECT CONTINUES TO PROVIDE FEEDS FROM ITS PRESENT AREA OF 7.5 HECTARES.

OUR RABIES PREVENTION AND CONTROL PROGRAM HAS CONDUCTED A TOTAL OF 13,049 VACCINATION. UNDER THE \$10 MILLION GRANT TO WESTERN VISAYAS BY THE BILL MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION, AKLAN WAS RECIPIENT OF AN INITIAL 2,805 VIALS OF CANINE ANTI-RABIES VACCINE.

IN 2010, THE AKLAN-CAPIZ IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION HAS COMPLETED PROJECTS

WORTH P85.28 MILLION FOR THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION SYSTEM, AND P4.2 MILLION FOR THE COMMUNAL IRRIGATION SYSTEMS, FOR A TOTAL OF P89.48 MILLION.

IN JUNE 10, 2010, THE PANAKUYAN RIVER IRRIGATION SYSTEM AUGMENTATION AND REHABILITATION PROJECT, IMPLEMENTED AT THE COST OF P65 MILLION WAS INAUGURATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF IBAJAY.

BARANGAY AGDUGAYAN, WHICH USED TO BE A RAIN-FED AGRICULTURAL BARANGAY IN IBAJAY WILL NOW BENEFIT FROM THE 240-METER ELEVATED CONCRETE FLUME.

THIS WILL BENEFIT FOUR IRRIGATION ASSOCIATIONS AND 750 FARMERS, IN 1,200 HECTARES OF IBAJAY'S EIGHT BARANGAYS: AGDUGAYAN, UNAT, BAGACAY, CAPILIJAN, LAGUINBANWA, MALOCO, BATUAN AND AGBAGO.

MY HEARTFELT THANKS TO CONGRESSMAN FLORENCIO T. MIRAFLORES FOR HIS DILIGENCE IN SOLICITING FUNDS. THE IRRIGATION PROJECT IS ANOTHER MILESTONE IN THE PROVINCE'S AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS.

VARIOUS IRRIGATION PROJECTS ACCOMPLISHED THIS YEAR BY THE AKLAN-CAPIZ IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT OFFICE WILL ALSO BENEFIT THE TOWNS OF KALIBO, NEW WASHINGTON, BANGA, LEZO, MAKATO, NABAS, MADALAG AND ALTAVAS. MEANWHILE, THE AKLAN RIVER IRRIGATION SYSTEM WEST BANK PROTECTION IN MALINAO WILL SERVE AS A DEFENSE AGAINST LAND EROSION AND THE SUDDEN SURGES OF THE WATER LEVEL DURING HEAVY RAINS.

FOR 2011, THE AKLAN-CAPIZ IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT OFFICE AIMS TO CONSTRUCT 96 HECTARES OF NEW IRRIGATION FACILITIES AND STRUCTURES, REHABILITATE 1,722 HECTARES, AND RESTORE 1,250 HECTARES OF IRRIGATION SERVICES AND AMENITIES. THE NATIONAL

IRRIGATION SYSTEM HAS AN ALLOCATION OF P66.7 MILLION, WHILE THE COMMUNAL IRRIGATION SYSTEM HAS A BUDGET OF P36.2 MILLION FOR A TOTAL OF P102.9 MILLION.

AS A PRIME COCAL PROVINCE IN REGION VI WITH 32,278 HECTARES OR 16.86% OF THE PROVINCE'S AREA PLANTED TO COCONUTS, THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN DUE IMPORTANCE TO OUR COCONUT TREES.

THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT ALLOCATED P2 MILLION FOR THE PARTICIPATORY COCONUT PLANTING PROJECT UNDER WHICH FOR EVERY SEEDLING PLANTED THE FARMER IS PAID P30. UNDER THE PROJECT, SOME 1,000 FARMERS PLANTED 1,035 HECTARES.

THE PROVINCE ALSO DISTRIBUTED 30,000 PIECES OF CACAO SEEDLINGS WORTH P450,000 FOR THE INTERCROPPING PROJECT OF THE PHILIPPINE COCONUT AUTHORITY. FIFTY HECTARES OF COCONUT FARMS ARE COVERED BY THE PROJECT IN COOPERATION WITH THE AKLAN RIVER DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL HEADED BY ATTY. ALLEN SALAS QUIMPO. THE PCA ITSELF ALSO PUT IN 45,000 SEEDLINGS FOR PLANTING IN SEVENTY-FIVE HECTARES.

COFFEE AND VEGETABLES WERE ALSO INTERCROPPED WITH COCONUTS IN LINE WITH OUR FOOD SECURITY PROGRAMS.

ALTHOUGH LAND CONFLICTS IN AKLAN ARE MINIMAL COMPARED TO OTHER PROVINCES WITH VAST LANDHOLDINGS, OUR PROVINCIAL AGRARIAN REFORM OFFICE HAS NEVERTHELESS EFFECTIVELY PURSUED ITS MANDATE FOR 2010 WITH 240 HECTARES IN LAND ACQUISITION AND DISTRIBUTION; FARM-TO-MARKET ROADS WORTH P73 MILLION; COMMUNAL IRRIGATION SYSTEMS VALUED AT P32.5 MILLION; SUSTAINABLE AGRI-BASED RURAL ENTERPRISE WITH A COLLECTION GRANT OF ALMOST HALF A MILLION PESOS; AND SCHOLARSHIP UNDER THE PROGRAMANG AGRARYO ISKOLAR (PAI).

## INFRASTRUCTURE

THE PEO HAS IMPLEMENTED AND COMPLETED PROJECTS AMOUNTING TO A TOTAL OF P163 MILLION IN 2010 COMPARED TO YEAR 2009's P96 MILLION.

P133.4 MILLION WAS ALLOCATED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, REPAIR, AND REHABILITATION OF HOSPITALS, SCHOOLS, MULTI-PURPOSE BUILDINGS, PERIMETER FENCES, AND PUBLIC AND GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS. FOREMOST OF THESE PROJECTS WERE THE CONSTRUCTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE AKLAN SPORTS COMPLEX AT MAKATO, THE IMPROVEMENT AND REHABILITATION OF THE DON CIRIACO S. MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AT BORACAY ISLAND, AND THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE PROVINCIAL CAPITOL MAIN BUILDING TO BE COMPLETED THIS YEAR.

WE INAUGURATED A BRAND NEW TWO-STOREY, 1,297.75 SQUARE METER BUILDING ON JULY 21, 2010. THIS REPLACED THE OLD DILAPIDATED STRUCTURE RIGHT OF THE PROVINCIAL GUEST HOUSE, BACK OF THE CULTURAL CENTER.

FOR THE CONCRETING, IMPROVEMENT, REPAIR, AND REHABILITATION OF OUR PROVINCIAL, MUNICIPAL, AND BARANGAY ROADS, A TOTAL OF P14.8 MILLION WAS SPENT.

P15.6 MILLION WENT TO OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS, SUCH AS CONSTRUCTION OF DRAINAGE CANALS AND SLOPE PROTECTION WORKS, FLOOD CONTROL, INSTALLATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS, ELECTRIFICATION, CONSTRUCTION OF PERIMETER FENCES, AND VARIOUS IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE WORKS.

VARIOUS OTHER PROJECTS WITH A TOTAL APPROPRIATION OF P184.8 MILLION ARE ON-GOING, SUCH AS THE CONSTRUCTION OF GUADALUPE BRIDGE THAT WILL CONNECT THE MUNICIPALITY OF MADALAG TO THE REST OF OUR TOWNS; THE FURNISHING AND INSTALLATION OF FURNITURES AND FIXTURES FOR THE PROVINCIAL CAPITOL MAIN

BUILDING; THE UPGRADING OF CATICLAN JETTY PORT; AND THE LAND RECLAMATION OR THE MARINA PROJECT WHICH IMPLEMENTATION WE HAVE RECENTLY STARTED.

FOR THE GUADALUPE BRIDGE, THE PROVINCE HAD INITIALLY ALLOCATED P10 MILLION. ITS STEEL SUPERSTRUCTURE WHICH WILL COST ABOUT P40 MILLION SHALL BE PROVIDED BY THE PRESIDENT'S BRIDGE PROGRAM THRU THE EFFORTS OF NOW CONGRESSMAN TEODORICO TUMBOCON HARESCO, JR. ESTIMATED TOTAL COST OF THE FACILITY WILL BE P80 MILLION.

AS ONE OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE ARMS OF OUR PROVINCE, THE AKLAN ENGINEERING DISTRICT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS FOR 2010 HAD INITIATED, CONTINUED THE IMPLEMENTATION, OR COMPLETED PROJECTS IN THE AMOUNT OF P484 MILLION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, REHABILITATION AND UPGRADING OF OUR ROAD NETWORK AND FARM-TO-MARKET ROADS; SCHOOL BUILDINGS; MULTI-PURPOSE BUILDINGS AND PAVEMENTS; BRIDGES AND DRAINAGE SYSTEMS; PUBLIC MARKETS; WATER SYSTEMS; AND FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURES.

#### HEALTH

OUR EIGHT HOSPITALS, LED BY OUR PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL, THE DR. RAFAEL S. TUMBOKON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, HAS CONTINUED TO PROVIDE THE MEDICAL SERVICES NEEDED BY OUR CONSTITUENTS, PARTICULARLY OUR LOW-INCOME SECTOR WHO ARE REELING FROM THE CONTINUED RISE IN MEDICAL COSTS.

FROM 2007 TO 2010, TUBERCULOSIS IS NO LONGER INCLUDED IN THE TOP 10 LEADING CAUSE OF ILLNESS. ALTHOUGH TB RANKS NUMBER 6 AS CAUSE OF DEATH NATIONWIDE, IN OUR PROVINCE IT RANKS NUMBER 9. THIS SHOWS OUR PROGRESS IN THE CONTROL OF TUBERCULOSIS.

TO PREVENT ANOTHER A(H1N1) SCARE, A MASS IMMUNIZATION WAS CONDUCTED.

PHO IS ALSO CONTINUING THE FULLY IMMUNIZED CHILD PROGRAM TO PROTECT OUR FUTURE LEADERS FROM POLIO, MEASLES AND NEONATAL TETANUS.

ON-GOING STILL IS OUR PROMOTION OF THE RENAL DISEASE CONTROL PROGRAM.

THROUGH PHO, WE HELD VOLUNTARY BLOOD DONATION PROGRAMS.

LECTURES AND A MASSIVE INFORMATION CAMPAIGN WERE CONDUCTED ON DENGUE PREVENTION.

THE AKLAN FEDERATION OF BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS, INC. WAS AWARDED AS ONE OF THE "ACTIVE FEDERATION IN WESTERN VISAYAS 2010", AND MRS. LETTY I. ARGUELLES WAS AWARDED "MOST OUTSTANDING BARANGAY HEALTH WORKER IN WESTERN VISAYAS FOR 2010". FOR HAVING SERVED AS PROVINCIAL NUTRITION PROGRAM COORDINATOR FOR 28 YEARS, CRESCINI S. ROXAS, NUTRITIONIST DIETICIAN II, PROVINCIAL HEALTH OFFICE, RECEIVED REGIONAL AND NATIONAL RECOGNITION LOYALTY AWARDS.

IN OUR EFFORTS TO RAISE OUR CHILDREN INTO "HEALTHY, EMPOWERED AND PRODUCTIVE AKLANONS", WE SUSTAINED THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GARANTISADONG PAMBATA PROGRAM.

THIS YEAR WE HAD LOWERED MALNUTRITION TO 6.49% FROM 7.99% IN 2009.

A TOTAL OF 60,621 YOUNG CHILDREN AGES 6 TO 59 MONTHS WERE GIVEN VITAMIN A SUPPLEMENTS.

TO CONTROL AND ELIMINATE FILARIASIS, WE PERFORMED PROVINCE-WIDE MASS DRUG ADMINISTRATION.

OUT OF 327 BARANGAYS, 203 BOTIKA NG BARANGAY OUTLETS HAD ALREADY BEEN ESTABLISHED.

IN 2010, AKLAN HOSTED THE FIRST BOTIKA NG BARANGAY ZONAL SUMMIT, WHEREIN, BOTIKA NG BARANGAY IN CAPILIJAN, IBAJAY WAS AWARDED AS BEST PERFORMING BOTIKA NG BARANGAY IN WESTERN VISAYAS.

WE HAVE SIGNED A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH) CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT, WESTERN VISAYAS AND THE WESTERN VISAYAS MEDICAL CENTER FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN *"HIV AND AIDS MANAGEMENT HUB"* AT THE DR. RAFAEL S. TUMBUKON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL. THE GENERAL PURPOSE OF WHICH IS TO FACILITATE DETECTION, DISPENSATION OF DRUGS, AND SERVE AS A CENTER FOR TREATMENT, CARE AND SUPPORT ACTIVITIES FOR HIV INFECTED AND AFFECTED PERSONS.

**PHILHEALTH**

IN LINE WITH OUR SPECIAL CONCERN FOR OUR LESS FORTUNATE AKLANONS, THE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT ARE SUSTAINING OUR UNIVERSAL PROGRAM FOR PHILHEALTH.

THIS IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR AKLANONS NOT INCLUDED IN THE REGULAR PROGRAM WHERE THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT COUNTERPARTS 30% OF PREMIUMS AND THE MUNICIPALITY, 70%.

IF YOU WILL REMEMBER, WE ARE AMONG THE FIRST PROVINCES TO SIGN A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR PHILHEALTH COVERAGE, BECOMING A PILOT PROVINCE, AND IN 2007, THE PROVINCE OF AKLAN BECAME THE FIRST PROVINCE TO IMPLEMENT A UNIVERSAL PROGRAM FOR

PHILHEALTH. THIS COMPLETE COVERAGE HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR FOUR STRAIGHT YEARS, AND WILL STILL CONTINUE, AS WE BELIEVE THAT THE HEALTH OF AKLANONS IS A WEALTH OF OUR BELOVED PROVINCE.

THE UNIVERSAL PROGRAM NOW HAS FACILITATED PHILHEALTH BENEFITS FOR 24,521 HOUSEHOLDS. THE REGULAR PROGRAM, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAS 44,437 CARDHOLDERS, UP BY 37.7% FROM 2009.

### **TOURISM/INFRASTRUCTURE**

TOURIST ARRIVALS IN THE ISLAND OF BORACAY INCREASED BY 20%, FROM 649,559 IN 2009 TO 779,666 IN 2010.

COMPRISING 35.76% OF THIS NUMBER OR 278,531 ARE FOREIGN TOURISTS. THIS IS A 44.41% INCREASE FROM 192,873 OF YEAR 2009.

DOMESTIC TOURISTS WERE 474,097 AND 27,038 WERE OVERSEAS FILIPINO TOURISTS. COMPARED TO 432,271 AND 24,415 RESPECTIVELY OF 2009, A 9.73% INCREASE.

THIS INCREASE IN TOURISM ARRIVALS BROUGHT IN AN ESTIMATED P14.3 BILLION IN TOURIST REVENUES FOR OUR COUNTRY. AN ASTONISHING IMPROVEMENT BY 20.03% OVER PREVIOUS YEAR'S P11.9 BILLION DESPITE THE ECONOMIC RECESSION, GLOBAL COMPETITION, THE HOSTAGE CRISIS AND THE RESULTING TRAVEL ADVISORIES.

WE ARE NEARING THE ONE-MILLION-TOURISTS MARK.

AND TO ATTRACT MORE TOURISTS, WE ARE CONTINUALLY DEVELOPING OUR AIRPORT FACILITIES. ON JUNE 23, 2010, THRU CONGRESSMAN MIRAFLORES' EFFORTS, WE INAUGURATED THE NEW TERMINAL BUILDING OF KALIBO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT WHICH COST P130 MILLION. THE 2-KILOMETER RUNWAY WAS OVERLAYED WITH ASPHALT AND A DRAINAGE CANAL WAS CONSTRUCTED COSTING P283 MILLION.

BUT THE KALIBO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IS NOT YET COMPLETED AS IT HAS ADDITIONAL PROJECTED PLANS AND PROGRAMS FOR CY 2011 WORTH MORE OR LESS P235 MILLION. THE SCOPE OF THE PROJECT INCLUDES THE EXTENSION OF THE RUNWAY, IMPROVEMENT OF OLD TERMINAL BUILDING, ELEVATED ROADWAY AND VEHICULAR PARKING AREA.

THE P2.5 BILLION BUILD-OPERATE-TRANSFER PROJECT FOR THE MODERNIZATION AND EXPANSION OF THE CATICLAN AIRPORT UNDERTAKEN BY THE TRANS AIRE DEVELOPMENT HOLDINGS CORPORATION INVOLVES THE WIDENING AND EXTENSION OF THE CATICLAN AIRPORT RUNWAY, CONSTRUCTION OF A 9,200-SQUARE METER TWO-STOREY PASSENGER TERMINAL BUILDING, AND THE INSTALLATION OF NAVIGATION AND AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL FACILITIES.

UPON COMPLETION OF THE NEWLY DEVELOPED CATICLAN AIRPORT IN THE NEXT 7 YEARS, TOURISM, BUSINESS AND LIVELIHOOD ACTIVITIES ARE EXPECTED TO INCREASE IN BORACAY ISLAND AND IN AKLAN AND OPEN THE DOOR TO NEW DESTINATIONS IN THE PROVINCE FOR TOURISTS.

IT WILL MEAN MORE TOURISTS AND REVENUES, MORE FUNDS FOR POVERTY-REDUCTION PROJECTS, SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THE POOR AND DESERVING YOUTH AND MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIGENTS TO BREAK AWAY FROM A LIFE OF POVERTY.

WHILE WELCOMING THE POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN OUR TOURISM INDUSTRY, WE ARE ELATED BY THE ENTRY OF "MAJOR, MAJOR" INVESTMENTS IN THE PROVINCE.

THE AKEAN RESORTS CORPORATION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ALPHALAND CORPORATION HAD STARTED IN OCTOBER, 2010 PHASE I OF THEIR MULTI-BILLION DEVELOPMENT OF A 500-HECTARE PROPERTY IN MALAY AND NABAS INTO A WORLD-CLASS TOURISM COMPLEX WHICH

WOULD INCLUDE POLO AND EQUESTRIAN FACILITIES, WATER VILLAS, WATER SPORTS, AND RESIDENTIAL ESTATES.

POTENTIAL GOVERNMENT REVENUES AND JOB AND LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES TO BE GENERATED BY THIS MEGA DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IS SIMPLY MIND-BOGGLING.

TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN AND EMPOWER OUR TOURISM OFFICERS AND PARTNERS IN THE PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF OUR TOURISM INDUSTRY, THE AKLAN PROVINCIAL TOURISM OFFICE IN 2010 CONDUCTED THE BASIC TOURISM STATISTICS BRIEFING; 2-DAY FESTIVAL PLANNING SEMINAR WORKSHOP IN COOPERATION WITH THE AKLAN PROVINCIAL TOURISM COUNCIL; AND A 4-DAY SEMINAR WORKSHOP ON FESTIVAL MUSIC AND CHOREOGRAPHY IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CULTURE AND THE ARTS AND AKLAN PROVINCIAL TOURISM COUNCIL.

IT IS THE DESIRE OF OUR PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE ENTERTAINMENT TO OUR CONSTITUENTS, TO ENHANCE AND SHOWCASE AKLANON CULTURE AND TO ENCOURAGE APPRECIATION OF OUR LOCAL SONGS AND DANCES AND AT THE SAME TIME, GIVE OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR LOCAL ARTISTS TO SHINE AND DEVELOP THEIR TALENTS. IN 2010, THE AKLAN PROVINCIAL TOURISM OFFICE SPEARHEADED THE CONDUCT OF 7 CONCERT AT THE PARK PRESENTATIONS IN COLLABORATION WITH NATIONAL AGENCIES, NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS, AND SCHOOLS IN THE PROVINCE.

2010 MARKED THE 3<sup>RD</sup> YEAR OF OUR AKLAN REGREENING AND BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM, AN ATTRACTION FOR TOURISTS GOING TO BORACAY AND FOR THOSE WHO TRAVEL ALONG THE RORO NAUTICAL HIGHWAY, WITH 176 PARTICIPATING BARANGAYS AND 65 RESIDENTIAL ENTRIES.

TOWARDS THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF OUR ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES, OUR AKLAN ENVIRONMENT

AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE HAD INITIATED PROJECTS SUCH AS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AKLAN ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY THAT WILL MONITOR WATER QUALITY AND ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN ALL EFFORTS CONCERNING WATER QUALITY PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION. THE LABORATORY WILL BE OFFERING SERVICES SUCH AS PHYSICO-CHEMICAL AND MICROBIOLOGICAL TESTING.

IN DECEMBER 2010, THE PROVINCE OF AKLAN RECEIVED FIRST RUNNER-UP IN EXCELLENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AWARD GIVEN AT BACOLOD CITY BY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT REGION 6.

FOR THE YEAR 2010, THE DENR, THRU ITS PENRO AND CENRO, CONTINUED ITS PROGRAMS FOR POVERTY REDUCTION AND HUNGER MITIGATION.

UNDER ITS UPLAND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, 318 HECTARES IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF MALINAO AND IBAJAY WERE REFORESTED IN 2010.

IN ADDITION, FULL DEVELOPMENT OF 60 HECTARES AGRO-FORESTRY PLANTATION WAS UNDERTAKEN IN THE BARANGAYS OF LANIPGA AND PANAYAKAN IN TANGALAN.

A TOTAL AREA OF 272 HECTARES COMPRISING OF 790 LOTS PROVINCE-WIDE WERE DISPOSED THROUGH HOMESTEAD AND FREE PATENT ISSUANCE FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES UNDER THE LAND DISPOSITION PROGRAM.

DENR CONTINUES ITS THRUSTS IN NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS WITH THE SUSTAINED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTEGRATED PILOT WATERSHED PROJECTS IN PANAKUYAN AND NABAOY RIVER AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF BORACAY ENVIRONMENTAL MASTER PLAN; ITS CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION PROGRAMS; AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND ENFORCEMENT.

## **PROCUREMENT**

FOR THE YEAR 2009, STRICTLY FOLLOWING THE REVISED IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT 9184 OR THE GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT REFORM ACT, OUR PROVINCIAL GENERAL SERVICES OFFICE FACILITATED THE PURCHASE OF OFFICE SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT, FURNITURE, FIXTURES, DRUGS, MEDICINES, MEDICAL, DENTAL AND LABORATORY SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT, AND AGRICULTURAL AND VETERINARY SUPPLIES FOR OUR EIGHT HOSPITALS AND TWENTY-ONE PROVINCIAL AND NATIONAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF P186.4 MILLION.

### **HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

FOR THE YEAR 2010, OUR HUMAN RESOURCE AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE FACILITATED THE USUAL EVALUATION OF APPLICANTS AND THE PROCESSING OF THE APPOINTMENT PAPERS OF APPOINTEES.

IT HAS EFFECTIVELY MAINTAINED CLOSE COORDINATION WITH THE PROVINCIAL OFFICE OF THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION AND FACILITATED THE CONTINUED TRAINING OF PERSONNEL, AND THE ORIENTATION, CRITIQUING AND CALIBRATION OF PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM - OFFICE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION SYSTEM (PMS-OPES), A NEW STRATEGY THAT WILL ESTABLISH A CULTURE OF PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE BUREAUCRACY.

### **INTEGRATED POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS**

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT'S COMMISSION ON POPULATION, RECOGNIZING AKLAN'S SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESPONSIBLE PARENTING MOVEMENT AND NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING (RPM & NFP) PROGRAMS, GRANTED THE AKLAN PROVINCIAL POPULATION AND GENDER OFFICE A P2.2 MILLION SUBSIDY FOR THE SUSTAINED IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS PROGRAMS.

ON AUGUST 2010, THE PROVINCE OF AKLAN BECAME THE FIRST PROVINCE IN REGION 6 TO ESTABLISH A VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN (VAWC) DESK/COUNSELING ROOM, A COMPONENT OF AKLAN PROVINCIAL POPULATION AND GENDER OFFICE'S EXEMPLARY PERFORMANCE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEN'S RESPONSIBILITIES IN GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT (MR GAD). SUCH ACHIEVEMENT SERVED AS A MODEL FOR OTHER PROVINCES IN WESTERN VISAYAS AS OUR PROVINCIAL POPULATION OFFICER WAS INVITED TO BE A RESOURCE PERSON DURING THE REGIONAL TRAINING OF TRAINORS ON GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT IN ILOILO CITY.

### **PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (RDC VI), THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, AND THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK HAS RECOGNIZED AKLAN AS THE FIRST PROVINCE IN THE PHILIPPINES TO SUBMIT ITS PROVINCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND PHYSICAL FRAMEWORK PLAN. AKLAN WAS ALSO THE FIRST PROVINCE IN THE COUNTRY TO COMPLETE ITS FINAL DRAFT OF THE PROVINCIAL DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT PLAN (PDIP) FOR CY 2010-2013.

*AS DECLARED IN OUR FOREWORD, THE PDIP IS "ANOTHER VITAL DOCUMENT THAT FORMALIZES AND RANKS OUR PROJECTS IDENTIFIED IN OUR PROVINCIAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND MATCHES THE PRIORITIZED PROJECT LIST WITH THE INVESTMENT CAPACITY OF THE PROVINCE IN AN INTERACTIVE MANNER AND THAT IT WILL ENABLE US TO SYNCHRONIZE OUR PRIORITIES WITH NATIONAL AND REGIONAL PLANS".*

THE PPDO HAD BEEN OUR WORKING SECRETARIAT FOR THE PROVINCIAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, MARINA-CATICLAN PROJECT, DILG EXCEL AWARDS, DISASTER RISK REDUCTION OR CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PROVINCIAL CORE TEAM AND THE SEAL FOR GOOD HOUSEKEEPING WHERE AKLAN WAS RECOGNIZED AND AWARDED IN THE DIFFERENT CATEGORIES.

AS SECRETARIAT OF THE AKLAN RIVER DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, PPDO SPEARHEADED THE CONTINUING STUDY OF OUR RIVER SYSTEM. WE HAD COMPLETED THE STUDY OF THE TANGALAN RIVER IN ADDITION TO THE STUDY OF JAL-O RIVER IN BALETE AND THE AKLAN RIVER SYSTEM (BOTH UPLAND AND DOWNSTREAM PROFILE). ARDC HAD PARTNERED WITH THE PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICE FLOOD CONTROL AND SABO ENGINEERING CENTER OF DPWH-CENTRAL OFFICE IN THE PREPARATION OF THE MASTER PLAN AND FEASIBILITY STUDY OF FLOOD CONTROL AND DRAINAGE PROJECTS IN SELECTED RIVER BASINS NATIONWIDE PACKAGE 2, WHICH LUCKILY HAD INCLUDED THE AKLAN RIVER AS ITS PRIORITY. THE PROJECT PACKAGE WILL BE FUNDED BY THE WORLD BANK AND THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT.

THE MEN OPPOSED TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN EVERYWHERE (MOVE) AKLAN CHAPTER SPEARHEADED THE 2010 18-DAY CAMPAIGN TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (VAW) AND SPONSORED A BLOODLETTING/TYPING "*HANDOG DUGO PARA SA KABABAYINHAN*" IN COOPERATION WITH PNRC AKLAN CHAPTER AND AGADC. IT HAD ALSO ORGANIZED ITS SECOND PROVINCIAL CONGRESS LAST DECEMBER 10, 2010 WHEREIN MOVE AKLAN WAS RECOGNIZED AND AWARDED AS MOST OUTSTANDING CHAPTER NATIONWIDE GIVEN BY MOVE PHILIPPINES INC.

### **EMPLOYMENT SERVICES AND GENERATION**

PESO FACILITATED THE HIRING OF 708 AKLANONS FOR LOCAL EMPLOYMENT AND 70 FOR OVERSEAS WORK. OTHERS ARE STILL SCHEDULED FOR DEPLOYMENT.

LAST OCTOBER 2010, WITH THE INVOLVEMENT OF PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT ADMINISTRATION, 121 AKLANON MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS WERE PRE-EVALUATED AND REGISTERED DURING THE GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT HIRING OF AKLANON NURSES AND OTHER MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS FOR THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH OF THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA.

FOR THE SPECIAL PROGRAM FOR THE EMPLOYMENT OF STUDENTS OR SPES, 350 SUMMER JOBBERS WERE EMPLOYED AND AVOIDED A TOTAL WAGE AMOUNT OF P667,920.

FOR JOB SEEKERS, THE WOMEN'S MONTH JOB FAIR LAST MARCH AND THE JOINT PESO-SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE (STI)-KALIBO CAMPUS JOB FAIR LAST APRIL WERE ORGANIZED, WHERE A TOTAL OF 336 ACQUIRED EMPLOYMENT OUT OF THE 596 WHO APPLIED.

THE AKLAN PROVINCIAL OFFICE OF TESDA OR TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY HAS CONTINUED TO BE AN ACTIVE AND EFFECTIVE PARTNER IN OUR EFFORTS TO DEVELOP MANPOWER AND LIVELIHOOD GENERATION.

FOR CY 2010, IT HAS TRAINED 2,760 AKLANONS THRU ITS FOUR TRAINING VENUES: SCHOOL-BASED, CENTER-BASED, COMMUNITY-BASED AND ENTERPRISE-BASED.

AS A MAJOR COMPLEMENTOR OF OUR JOB GENERATION EFFORTS, DOLE AKLAN HAS FACILITATED THE PLACING OF 4,336 JOBSEEKERS UNDER THE CONTINUING LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT EDUCATION PROGRAM (CLEEP).

ONE HUNDRED FORTY-SEVEN (147) NURSE-TRAINEES QUALIFIED FOR THE NURSE ASSIGNED IN RURAL SERVICE/SCHOOLS (NARS) PROJECT AND WERE DEPLOYED IN THE DIFFERENT MUNICIPALITIES OF AKLAN.

#### **COOPERATIVISM**

TASKED TO PROMOTE AND DEVELOP COOPERATIVISM IN THE PROVINCE, THE PROVINCIAL COOPERATIVE OFFICE HAS CONTINUED TO PROVIDE VARIED ASSISTANCE TO OUR COOPERATIVES, FINANCIAL AS WELL AS TECHNICAL.

THE PCO HAD SUCCESSFULLY NURTURED THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES DEVELOPMENT COOPERATIVE (PGEDECO) FROM AN ORIGINAL 40 MEMBERS TO THE 643 THAT IT HAS NOW, FROM A CAPITAL OF P9,000 IN 2007 TO THE P2,696,709.71, THAT IT PRESENTLY MANAGES, A JUMP-UP OF 78.6% FROM 2009's P1.5 MILLION, EXTENDING LOAN SERVICES TO EMPLOYEES, AND ENGAGING IN RICE- AND MEAT-TRADING.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE AKLAN FIELD OFFICE OF THE COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY REPORTS 103 COOPERATIVES REGISTERED IN 2010 WITH A MEMBERSHIP OF 21,572 AND TOTAL ASSETS OF P403.7 MILLION.

A TOTAL OF 2,564 INDIVIDUALS WERE GIVEN EMPLOYMENT.

### **SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT**

OUR PSWDO IN 2010 CONTINUED TO IMPLEMENT ITS FAMILY AND COMMUNITY WELFARE PROGRAM THROUGH THE PANTAWID PAMILYANG PILIPINO PROGRAM (4PS). THE PROGRAM WAS INITIALLY IMPLEMENTED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF LIBACAO, MADALAG, BURUANGA, AND BALETE INVOLVING THE RELEASE OF A TOTAL OF P68,461,900. THE AMOUNT IS THE CONDITIONAL CASH GRANT FOR EDUCATION, HEALTH AND FOOD WHICH BENEFITS 6,931 AKLANON FAMILIES.

THIS FEBRUARY 2011, THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF AKLAN WILL SIGN A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT AT MALACAÑANG PALACE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (DSWD) FOR THE EXPANDED IMPLEMENTATION OF 4Ps TO TEN MORE MUNICIPALITIES- MALINAO, ALTAVAS, BATAN, TANGALAN, IBAJAY, MAKATO, NABAS, BANGA, NEW WASHINGTON, AND MALAY- WITH A TOTAL NUMBER OF 18,450 IDENTIFIED BENEFICIARIES.

THE SELF-EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE-KAUNLARAN OR SEA-K, A MICRO-FINANCE STRATEGY FOR POOR INDIVIDUALS POSSESSING

ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS, IS BEING IMPLEMENTED BY THE DSWD BY PROVIDING NON-COLLATERAL AND INTEREST-FREE SEED CAPITAL. AS OF DECEMBER 2010, A TOTAL OF 139 SEA-K PROJECTS WERE ESTABLISHED ALL OVER THE PROVINCE, INVOLVING 3,660 MEMBERS, AND HAS DISBURSED A TOTAL LOAN AMOUNT OF P17,079,500.

WE LOVE OUR CHILDREN. THE REASON WHY WE ESTABLISHED THE SOCIAL WELFARE DESK LOCATED AT THE CATICLAN JETTY PORT, CATICLAN, MALAY ON OCTOBER 21, 2010, THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN REGION 6 AND THE SECOND IN THE COUNTRY. THIS IS A RESPONSE OF YOUR PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT TO PRESSING ISSUES ON COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION ON CHILDREN, TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN, AND CHILDREN AT RISK.

AND AS WE LOVE OUR CHILDREN WE ALSO LOVE OUR ELDERS. IN THIS YEAR'S BUDGET ARE ALLOCATIONS FOR DEATH AID FOR OUR SENIOR CITIZENS AND A MONTHLY HONORARIUM FOR THE OFFICERS OF THE PROVINCIAL FEDERATION. WE ALSO PROVIDE A MEDICAL ASSISTANCE OF P1,000 FOR ANY SENIOR CITIZEN CONFINED AT DR. RAFAEL S. TUMBUKON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL.

DSWD'S KATAS NG VAT, TULONG PARA KAY LOLO AT LOLA, A ONE-TIME CASH SUBSIDY FOR QUALIFIED SENIOR CITIZENS, HAS RELEASED A TOTAL AMOUNT OF P1,016,000 IN 2010 TO 2,032 BENEFICIARIES.

#### **REHABILITATION OF PRISONERS**

WITH AN INMATE COUNT OF 255 FOR 2010, OUR AKLAN REHABILITATION CENTER HAS CONTINUED ITS REHABILITATION PROGRAMS WHICH INCLUDE REGULAR COUNSELING SERVICES, GIFT-GIVING PROGRAMS, SPORTS, AND MEDICAL ATTENTION.

WE THANK THE VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS, RELIGIOUS AND CIVIC, FOR THEIR CONCERN FOR OUR PRISONERS.

## **PEACE AND ORDER**

AS A PROVINCE WITH ONE OF THE LOWEST CRIME RATE, WE THANK OUR AKLAN POLICE PROVINCIAL OFFICE AND THE 12<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY (LICK "EM) BATTALION, 3<sup>RD</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION OF THE PHILIPPINE ARMY.

IN 2010, A TOTAL OF 2,026 CRIMES WERE REPORTED, OR AN AVERAGE MONTHLY CRIME RATE OF 34, A FIGURE WAY BELOW THE NATIONAL AVERAGE.

AS A RESULT OF THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST SYNDICATED CRIME GROUPS AND CRIMINAL GANGS, 9 GROUPS/GANGS WERE NEUTRALIZED THIS 2010.

ON ILLEGAL DRUGS, 24 POSITIVE OPERATIONS WERE CONDUCTED IN 2010 IN WHICH 24 DRUG PUSHERS/USERS WERE ARRESTED AND PUT TO JAIL.

INTENSIFIED OPERATIONS ARE BEING CONDUCTED BY OUR PNP ELEMENTS IN ITS VIGOROUS CAMPAIGN AGAINST ILLEGAL GAMBLING, PARTICULARLY ON ORGANIZED NUMBERS GAMES.

IN ITS CRIME PREVENTION AND CONTROL PROGRAMS, THE PNP MAINTAINED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BARANGAY PEACEKEEPING ACTION TEAMS (BPAT) AND INTENSIFIED POLICE VISIBILITY AND BEAT PATROLS THRU THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COUNTRY'S OUTSTANDING POLICEMEN IN SERVICE OR COPS.

ON THE WHOLE, THEREFORE, AKLAN IS ONE OF THE MOST PEACEFUL PROVINCES OF THE COUNTRY.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY**

OUR PROVINCIAL PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE HAD CONTINUED ITS VARIOUS TRAINING PROGRAMS AND

SEMINARS FOR DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND MANAGEMENT, EARTHQUAKE DRILLS, FIRST AID TRAININGS, AND SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS.

DURING THE 2010 GAWAD KALASAG FOR RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE IN DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE HELD IN ILOILO CITY ON SEPTEMBER 23, 2010, PPSEMO RECEIVED THIRD BEST PROVINCIAL DISASTER COORDINATING COUNCIL AWARDS FROM THE REGIONAL DISASTER COORDINATING COUNCIL 6. MOREOVER, THE RCC SEALS (RESCUE) AKLAN AND THE 611<sup>TH</sup> PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD AUXILIARY SQUADRON ARE FINALISTS FOR BEST PRIVATE/VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION.

THE PROVINCE OF AKLAN IS SEEN BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AS ONE OF THE PILOT PROVINCES IN THE COUNTRY FOR THE INSTALLATION OF AUTOMATIC WEATHER STATIONS. THIS SHALL AUGMENT THE CAPABILITY OF DOST THROUGH PAGASA TO MONITOR LOCAL WEATHER CONDITIONS IN A LOCALITY THAT WILL PROVIDE MORE ACCURATE AND RELIABLE WEATHER FORECASTS AND WARNINGS.

WITH THE EXTREME WEATHER CONSEQUENT OF CLIMATE CHANGE, THE PROVINCIAL PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE PLAYS A VITAL ROLE MORE THAN BEFORE.

### **FUTURE PLANS AND PROGRAMS**

BOARD OF INVESTMENTS GOVERNOR OLIVER BUTALID HAS RECENTLY PUSHED FOR PROACTIVE LGU INVESTMENTS, PARTICULARLY IN TOURISM, DECLARING THAT OUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEADERS *"SHOULD DELIVER MORE THAN JUST POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES AND THEY SHOULD ALSO PERFORM AS CAPTAINS OF INDUSTRY"*.

GOVERNOR BUTALID CITES HOW DANAOS IN BOHOL WAS TURNED FROM A *"SLEEPING MUNICIPALITY"* INTO AN EMERGING TOURISM

DESTINATION FEATURING SUCH EXTREME TOURISM SPORTS ACTIVITIES AS BUNGEE JUMPING, ZIPLINE, AND OTHERS.

THEN CAMARINES SUR'S WORLD-CLASS WATER PARK FACILITIES AND CEBU CITY'S 300-HECTARE SOUTH ROAD PROPERTIES, RECLAIMED LAND, WHICH IS POISED TO BECOME A LEADING COMMERCIAL DESTINATION IN THE COUNTRY.

LONG BEFORE THESE BOI PRONOUNCEMENTS, HOWEVER, WE HAD BEEN ENVISIONING THE EXPANSION AND MODERNIZATION OF OUR JETTY PORT FACILITIES, PARTICULARLY, THAT AT CATICLAN. THE 20% INCREASE IN TOURIST ARRIVALS BRINGS US CLOSER TO OUR ONE-MILLION-TOURISTS GOAL AND THIS NECESSITATES BETTER AND BIGGER TOURIST FACILITIES.

THUS OUR RECLAMATION PROJECT, THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN INITIAL 2.6 HECTARES WHICH SHALL INCLUDE A MARINA, A MODERN AND AIRCONDITIONED WAITING LOUNGE, BERTHING FACILITIES, AND THE INSTALLATION OF A FLOATING PIER TO MAKE BOAT-BOARDING SAFER AND MORE CONVENIENT.

MORE TOURISTS, MORE JOBS AND LIVELIHOOD SOURCES FOR OUR PEOPLE, MORE REVENUES FOR GOVERNMENT AND CONSEQUENTLY BETTER AND EXPANDED MEDICAL AND OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES.

THIS, TOO, IS THE MOTIVATION BEHIND OUR PLAN TO CONSTRUCT A JETTY PORT AT BARANGAY POOK, KALIBO AND PROVIDE AN ALTERNATE TOURISM ROUTE TO BORACAY. FROM THE KALIBO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, TOURISTS CAN FIRST VISIT AKLAN PRODUCT SHOWCASES AT THE POOK TERMINAL THEN TAKE FAST CRAFT, PASSING THE BAKHAWAN ECOPARK, JAWILI BEACH, AND OTHER TOURISM SITES ON THE WAY TO BORACAY. ALONG THIS ROUTE, RESTAURANTS AND RESORTS MAY SPRING UP, WITH WATER SPORTS ACTIVITIES.

THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS PRIME HOLDINGS, INC. AND BLUE CHIP BUILDERS, INC. HAD DONATED 5,000 SQUARE METERS TO THE PROVINCE. ADDITIONAL AREA CAN BE HAD THRU RECLAMATION.

AS A REFORESTATION AND FARMER INCOME-GENERATING EFFORT, WE SHALL BE ESTABLISHING A RUBBER TREE PLANTATION.

FOR INFRASTRUCTURE P16 MILLION WORTH OF FARM-TO-MARKET ROADS SHALL BE IMPLEMENTED THIS YEAR. WE HAD ALSO ALLOCATED P8 MILLION FOR OUR CONTINUING ELECTRIFICATION PROGRAM. ALSO IN THE PIPELINE IS THE COMPLETION OF OUR PROVINCIAL ACADEMIC CENTER (NURSING SCHOOL BUILDING) AT THE DR. RAFAEL S. TUMBOKON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL COMPOUND, THE MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING, AND THE RENOVATION OF THE PROVINCIAL ASSESSOR'S BUILDING.

ANOTHER PROJECT WE ARE ENDORSING TO THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT IS THE PROPOSED KALIBO CIRCUMFERENTIAL ROAD. THIS PROJECT WILL INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN 820-METER BRIDGE CONNECTING TIGAYON, KALIBO AND MINA, LEZO. THIS WILL LESSEN TRAFFIC PROBLEMS IN KALIBO.

WITH CONGRESSMAN MIRAFLORES AND CONGRESSMAN HARESCO, WE WILL CONTINUE TO LOBBY TO THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT FOR THE EXPANSION OF THE KALIBO AND CATICLAN AIRPORTS. WITH THE OPEN SKY POLICY OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT, WE ARE ANTICIPATING INCREASED DIRECT REGIONAL FLIGHTS.

#### **POWER AND WATER**

IN LINE WITH REPUBLIC ACT 9513, AN ACT PROMOTING THE DEVELOPMENT, UTILIZATION, AND COMMERCIALIZATION OF RENEWAL ENERGY RESOURCES, WE HAVE FULLY SUPPORTED THE PROPOSED HYDROPOWER PROJECTS AT LIBACAO AND AT MADALAG, THE BIOMASS POWER PLANT AT BANGA, AND THE WIND POWER PROJECT AT NABAS.

ON THE OTHER HAND, OUR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, THE AKELCO, HAS REDUCED ITS SYSTEMS LOSS TO A SINGLE DIGIT LEVEL OF 9.72% FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 2010, THE LOWEST IN WESTERN VISAYAS. THIS SYSTEMS LOSS LEVEL, BEING 3.28% BELOW THE ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION (ERC) ALLOWED SYSTEMS LOSS LIMIT OF 13% TRANSLATES INTO P2.1 MILLION MONTHLY REDUCTION IN POWER COST TO AKELCO'S CONSUMERS.

AKELCO HAS MAINTAINED A POWER FACTOR OR POWER DELIVERY EFFICIENCY OF 98.90%. THIS WAS ACHIEVED BY INVESTING IN STATE-OF-THE ART EQUIPMENT TO FOR THE PURPOSE OF IMPROVING POWER DELIVERY AND AT THE SAME TIME TO COMPLY WITH ERC PROMULGATED DISTRIBUTION STANDARDS. THIS RESULTED IN THE AVOIDANCE OF PENALTIES AND INSTEAD, AKELCO HAS AVAILED OF POWER FACTOR DISCOUNT/INCENTIVE IN ITS TRANSMISSION SERVICE COST TO THE TUNE OF P1.4 MILLION A MONTH, 50% OF WHICH IS RETURNED TO CONSUMERS IN THE FORM RATE REDUCTION.

THE COOPERATIVE OPENED PAYING OFFICES DURING MARKET DAYS IN THE TOWNS OF LIBACAO, BURUANGA, MALINAO, BATAN, BALETE, TANGALAN AND NEW WASHINGTON. THIS INITIATIVE IS IN LINE WITH AKELCO'S DESIRE TO BRING THE COOPERATIVE CLOSER TO ITS CONSUMERS IN THE SPIRIT OF TRUE SERVICE.

ON TOP OF THE NORMAL MAINTENANCE OF DISTRIBUTION LINES TO ENSURE RELIABLE POWER SERVICE TO CONSUMERS PROVINCEWIDE, AKELCO GAVE SPECIAL IMPORTANCE TO IMPROVING POWER SERVICE TO THE ISLAND OF BORACAY IN ORDER TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF THE ISLAND'S INVESTORS/LOCATORS. SINCE 2002, AKELCO HAS INVESTED IN BORACAY'S POWER LINES INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE AMOUNT OF P254 MILLION.

LAST YEAR, AKELCO WORKED AND COOPERATED CLOSELY WITH THE NATIONAL GRID CORPORATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (NGCP) FOR THE INSTALLATION AND ENERGIZATION OF THE 138 KV PANIT-AN TO NABAS

TRANSMISSION LINE. THIS NEW DELIVERY POINT IN NABAS IS ENVISIONED TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF POWER DELIVERED TO AKELCO, THUS FURTHER THE COMMON COMPLAINTS OF LOW VOLTAGE IN THE NORTHERN PART OF AKLAN INCLUDING THE ISLAND OF BORACAY.

OUR METRO KALIBO WATER DISTRICT, IN CONSTANT CONSULTATION WITH THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT, HAS DEFERRED IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS PLANNED INCREASE IN RATES. THIS IS IN FULL APPRECIATION OF THE PRESENT ECONOMIC HARDSHIPS THAT OUR CONSTITUENTS SUFFER. THE MKWD WOULD NOT WANT TO ADD TO OUR PEOPLE'S DIFFICULTIES.

**MGA HINIGUGMA KONG AKEANON:**

DAYA RO ATONG NAHIMO SA DAG-ON NGA NAGTALIWAN AG RO ATONG MGA HANDUM SA MASUNOD NGA MGA DINAG-ON SA OWA'T KATAPUSAN NGA PAGTINGUHA PARA MAPAMAYAD-AYAD RO AKLAN AG RO AKLANON. MGA HANDUM NGA GIN-UMPISAHAN KU NAHA-UNA KATON, ATONG GINPADAYON AG PAGAPADAYUNON MAN KU MGA MASUNOD KATON. BUSÂ SA EA-IN NGA PAMAAGI, SA IBANG SOLUSYON, PERO RO TINUTUYO PAREHAS MAN GIHAPON, MAGHALIN KU MIL NUEVE SIENTOS SINGKWENTA Y SEIS HASTA HIN-UNO: RO PAGMAYAD KU PANGABUHI KU TAGSA-TAGSA NGA AKEANON, RO PAGESUKOE SA KAPOBREHAN.

THESE WERE OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE YEAR JUST PASSED, OUR BEST EFFORTS IN THE FACE OF THE MANY OBSTACLES THAT BESET NOT JUST A PROVINCE AS SMALL AS AKLAN BUT THE WHOLE WORLD. BECAUSE THE ECONOMIC RECESSION, THE CATASTROPHIC WEATHER, THE POWER CRISIS, PEACE AND ORDER PROBLEMS, ARE GLOBAL.

BUT WE ARE MOVING. AND MOVING FORWARD. THANKS TO ALL OF YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED TRUST AND SUPPORT. SAEAMAT MAN SA ATONG MGA MANGUNGUMA; MGA TRICYCLE DRIVER; MGA SIMPLENG EMPLEYADO, SA GOBIERNO MAN O PRIBADO; MGA SIMPLENG INA SA

PANIMAEAY, MGA TAWONG SA SARI-SARING PAMAAGI HAY EFEKTIBO MANG GA CONTRIBUIR SA PROGRESO KU AKEAN.

MAY I ALSO EXPRESS MY HEARTFELT APPRECIATION TO THE OTHER MEMBERS OF MY OFFICIAL FAMILY: ATTY. DIEGO LUCES, PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATOR; ATTY. LEE MANARES, PROVINCIAL LEGAL OFFICER; ENGR. JOSEFINO "BOY" CURIOSO, BUILDING ADMINISTRATOR; MR. LINO DIAPO, SUPERVISING ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER; MRS. JEANY RACO, ACTING ASSISTANT PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATOR, MR. REY MATORRES THE UNTIRING PUBLIC SERVANT HE IS, AND ALL THE OTHERS IN MY STAFF.

ON THEIR OWN AND IN CONSTANT CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION WITH THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT, OUR OTHER NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES HAVE BEEN BUSY WITH THEIR MANDATED FUNCTIONS AND CONTINUE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE BETTERMENT OF AKLAN. IT WILL TAKE TOO LONG TO MENTION THEM INDIVIDUALLY. SUFFICE IT IS TO SAY, THAT AKLANONS TRULY APPRECIATE THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT'S HELP THRU ITS VARIOUS INSTRUMENTALITIES HERE IN OUR PROVINCE.

AGAIN, THANK YOU!

MAABUNG SAEAMAT!