

Village execs told to report accomplishments in Barangay Assembly

MANILA – The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) on Friday reminded barangay (village) officials to report their accomplishments to their constituents during the conduct of their respective Barangay Assembly this month.

“Walong buwan na po mula nang mahalal kayo ng inyong mga botante. Sana po’y meron na kayong makabuluhang naisakatuparang programa, proyekto o ordinansa at mga planong iuulat ninyo sa inyong komunidad (It’s been eight months since you were elected [in the May 2018 polls]. I hope that you have already accomplished significant programs, projects and ordinances, as well as made plans that you will report to the community),” Interior Secretary Eduardo Año said in a statement.

Año also encouraged village chiefs to deliver their State of the Barangay Address (SOBA), highlighting their accomplishments and financial report for the second semester of 2018, newly-enacted barangay ordinances, and their plans, programs and projects for 2019.

Barangay executives were also urged to discuss barangay compliance with national laws and issuances, such as the functionality of the Barangay Anti-Drug Abuse Councils (BADACS), the segregation and collection of solid wastes and the creation of a Barangay Ecological Solid Waste Management Committee (BE-SWMC), observance of the Barangay Full Disclosure Policy, and registration of domestic workers in the Registry of Domestic Workers in the barangay, as ordered by Batas Kasambahay.

Moreover, village chiefs were encouraged to report on the constitution and organization of barangay-based institutions -- the Barangay Development Council (BDC), Barangay Peace and Order Committee (BPOC), Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Committee, Lupong Tagapamayapa, Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC), and Violence against Women (VAW) Desk.

“For barangays within the Manila Bay Watershed Area, they are prodded to urge their barangay residents to participate in cleanup drive of esteros, waterways and tributaries within the barangay,” Año said in Memorandum Circular (MC) 2019-32.

He pointed out that a corresponding administrative complaint may be filed against barangay officials who fail to conduct a barangay assembly, by any resident of the barangay, concerned citizen, governmental

or non-governmental entity before the Sangguniang Panlungsod or Sangguniang Bayan (City or Municipal Council) concerned, pursuant to Section 61 of the Local Government Code or to the Office of the Ombudsman pursuant to Administrative Order 7 or the “Rules of Procedure of the Office of the Ombudsman”, dated April 10, 1990.

According to the DILG National Barangay Operations Office, 40,613 or 96.61 percent of 42,029 barangays nationwide conducted Barangay Assembly in October 2018.

The holding of a Barangay Assembly every March and October is mandated by Section 397 of the Local Government Code of 1991 or Republic Act (RA) 7160.

The law requires that there shall be a Barangay Assembly composed of all persons, who are actual residents of the barangay for at least six months, at least 15 years of age, citizens of the Philippines, and duly registered in the list of barangay assembly members.

The theme of the Barangay Assembly Day for the first semester of 2019 to be conducted on any of the Saturdays or Sundays of this month is “Barangay Natin, Sama-Samang Paunlarin!”

The DILG issues a memo circular every semester to remind barangay chairpersons on the conduct of the Barangay Assembly Day. In the past years, the specific dates in March and October, as to when the barangays are expected to conduct their respective barangay assemblies, were set by the memo circular issued by the department.

But in October last year, President Rodrigo Duterte signed Proclamation 599 declaring Saturdays and Sundays of March and October of every year as Barangay Assembly Days. All barangays in the country must hold their respective barangay assemblies for each semester on any of these days.

To increase attendance and reach a wider audience for Barangay Assemblies, the DILG chief urged barangay officials to use social media, particularly Facebook and Twitter, to inform and remind the residents of the activity.

He has directed DILG field offices to promote among barangays the use of live streaming of Barangay Assembly, through Facebook Live, and to post pictures and videos of the assembly on social media using the hashtag #barangayassembly2019. (PNA)

2 American fugitives nabbed

MANILA -- Two Americans wanted by US federal authorities for assault and battery charges were arrested by Bureau of Immigration (BI) operatives in separate operations.

In an advisory Thursday, BI Commissioner Jaime Morente identified the fugitives as William Schweizer, 32, who was arrested inside his unit at the Tivoli Garden Residences in Mandaluyong on Tuesday and Apollo Cioffi, 46, who was apprehended inside SM Baguio last March 1.

“Like all the other foreign fugitives whom we have arrested in the past, we will deport these two undesirable aliens and ban them from re-entering the Philippines. They have no place in our country, as their presence here poses a risk to our people,” Morente said.

Schweizer is the subject of an arrest warrant issued by a circuit court in Broward County, Florida after he was charged with felony battery by strangulation.

Under Florida statutes, felony battery and do-

mestic battery by strangulation occurs when a person actually and intentionally touches another person against their will and causes them great bodily harm, permanent disability, or permanent disfigurement.

On the other hand, Cioffi is wanted by authorities in California for assault. A superior court in San Francisco has reportedly issued a warrant for his arrest.

The BI said that the US Embassy did not give a detailed account of his alleged crime but California’s penal code law defines assault as a misdemeanor and as an “attempt to a violent injury on someone else.”

Meanwhile, BI-FSU chief Bobby Raquepo reported that both Americans are overstaying and undocumented aliens as their passports were already revoked by the State Department.

He added that Schweizer has been in the country since July 2015 while Cioffi had hidden in the country since March 10 last year. (PNA)

Cavite GFPS goes on a learning visit to Los Baños

In line with the goal of becoming a more gender-responsive province, the Technical Working Group of Cavite Gender and Development Focal Point System spearheaded a learning visit at the Gender and Development Office in the Municipality of Los Baños, Laguna on March 1, 2019.

Municipal GAD Officer Karen Lagat-Mercado oriented the group on the Best Practices in GAD mainstreaming of Los Baños LGU with emphasis on the development of GAD Database. It is a manifestation of the municipality’s strong commitment to the advocacy since it serves as basis for gender responsive planning, programming and policy formulation. There were 449 types of data needed in the database gathered from 14 barangays using results of the Community Based Monitoring System survey and data coming from various offices of the municipal government. It was narrowed down into several sectors such as so-

cial development, economic development, infrastructure and environment sector, institutional sector and gender mainstreaming for ease of identification and appreciation of end users.

Ms. Mercado also highlighted that the success of the LGU’s GAD advocacy is mainly attributed to the commitment of the Local Chief Executive and the strong support of the legislative body which gave way to the passage of gender-responsive local policies, fiscal administration and governance, in general. Community involvement also contributed to successful implementation of the GAD programs.

Meanwhile, the Municipal Civil Registrar and ICMS Head, Mr. Glenn N. Arieta shared to the participants their milestone in creating the database which started with the issuance of Executive Order No. 59 series of 2016 directing the Organization of the Los Baños Information & Communication Management Services (ICMS). After

series of meetings with other offices, agencies, the academe and with the combined effort of GAD Council thru the GAD Office and the ICMS Team, the Los Baños GAD Database was formally launched on August 8, 2018.

After the briefing, the delegation made a courtesy call to Municipal Mayor Caesar Perez who welcomed the team and shared some of his undertakings in local administration. He encouraged each participant to do his own share towards a successful government. “Ang pagbabagong hinahanap nyo ay magsisimula sa bawat isang mamamayan hindi lamang sa aming nanunungkulan,” he added. He thanked everyone for coming with a hope that they have imparted new learnings to the group.

Municipal Councilor Josephine “Baby” Evangelista, Chairperson of the Committee on Women and Family and a prime mover in the GAD campaign was also present during the activity. (PICAD)

PH condoles with kin of Pinoy teen killed in Canada break-in

MANILA -- The Philippine Embassy in Canada on Thursday extended its condolences to the bereaved family of a Filipino teen who died after a random break-in at their home in Winnipeg, Canada.

"Our heartfelt sympathies go to the Adao family on the tragic and senseless killing of Jimboy, Jaime Jr. There are no words to ease their pain and sorrow over the loss of such a promising young man. May he rest in peace," the Embassy statement read.

Jaime Adao Jr.,

fondly called Jimboy, was not able to survive an assault following the break-in at their home in Winnipeg.

According to reports, he was with his grandmother when a 29-year-old man forced his way into their house on McGee St. on Sunday night local time.

The 17-year-old boy was attacked by the intruder as he was speaking with the dispatchers. Authorities arrived while the assault was ongoing and shot the suspect.

Both Jimboy and the intruder were rushed to the hospital. However,

Adao was not able to survive. The suspect is still in critical condition.

Speaking to CBC News, Jimboy's parents, Imelda and Jaime, said they want to remember him as a "hero" and a "fighter" as they sought for justice.

"My son is a hero, that's what he is. A fighter. In spite of the pain that he felt, he was able to call 911 to ask for a rescue. That's why they caught the intruder inside the house," Imelda said of her child, who was only months away from his high school graduation.