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PPA REPORTS ON 2022 PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS



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The Parole and Probation Administration (PPA) reported its accomplishment for CY 2022 highlighting the number of investigations submitted and supervision cases handled by the agency.

According to the report submitted by the Planning Division, the PPA supervised a total of 133,762 probationers, parolees/pardonees, and first-time minor drug offenders (FTMDO). Out of this total number, 132,607 or 99.14% of the clients continuously complied with the terms and conditions set in their probation or parole grant. For 2022, the Administration targeted a 98.92% compliance rate.

Likewise, 71,132 investigation referrals were completed and submitted to courts in 2022. Out of these numbers, 98.48% of the said recommendations were sustained by the court. On the other hand, 504 Community Service Orders issued by the courts were received by the PPA wherein 25 or 4.96% were terminated.



Rehabilitation Program

The PPA has a three-pronged approach to the rehabilitation of its clients, namely Therapeutic Community Ladderized Programs (TCLP), Restorative Justice, and Volunteer Probation Assistants program.

In the previous year, a total of 3,671,506 clients participated in the mandatory TCLP sessions and reinforcing activities like counseling, lectures/seminars/training, tree planting, community service, and various assistance extended by field offices, regional cooperatives, and selfhelp organizations.

On the other hand, 165,625 PPA clients underwent RJ processes which included preencounter activities, mediation, conferencing, Circle of Support, and other RJ processes. In the supervision aspect, 6,002 Volunteer Probation Assistants (VPAs) were utilized in the supervision and monitoring of clients.

Other Accomplishments

On July 22, 2022, the Administration launched these seven (7) Information Communication Technology (ICT) programs:

- Investigation and Supervision of Parole and Executive Clemency Information System
- 2. Probation Information System
- 3. Parole and Probation Case Management Information System
- 4. Human Resource Management and Development Information System
- 5. One Time Password System
- 6. Unified Access Management Solution Information System
- 7. Report Collaboration Transcription System

The different information systems were developed to improve the public service delivery of the PPA.

Another accomplishment was the forging of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA) to promote wider participation of volunteer organizations in the rehabilitation of convicted offenders under the probation and parole system and strengthen the VPA program through various undertakings that capitalize on volunteerism development.

Meanwhile, two infrastructure projects of the Administration started in 2022 and are currently ongoing. One is a two-storey regional office and training center building in Region III while the other one is located in Pagadian City, Region IX. Both infrastructures are being constructed in response to the said regions' need for permanent venues to hold the various rehabilitation activities of the clients. The structures will also serve as offices of the concerned region.

The PPA actively participates in the implementation of the drug rehabilitation program of the national government. For the past year, the Administration assisted 2,358 persons who surrendered voluntarily. On the other hand, 88,045 clients from different regions were subjected to drug testing as a part of their rehabilitation.

On ISO certification, the Bureau Veritas, a third-party certifying body, recommended the PPA for continued certification to the ISO 9001:2015 standard (Quality Management System). The Bureau Veritas also recommended the expansion of certification to 17 regional offices, 20 field offices, and the Central Office.

As part of the effort of the PPA to improve its services, an agreement was signed by the PPA with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute (UNAFEI). The said agreement aims to provide technical and material support needed in the enhancement of the supervision system of the PPA. #/ecl

PPA SUPPORTS ZAMBOANGA CITY JUSTICE ZONE FOR ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The Supreme Court of the Philippines led the launch of the Zamboanga City Justice Zone for Anti-Human Trafficking on February 24, 2023, in Zamboanga City. With the development partners of the Justice Sector Coordinating Council (JSCC), PPA-Region 9 joined the launch held at the Marcian Garden Hotel.

The JSCC is composed of the Supreme Court, DOJ, and the DILG. The Public Attorney's Office, the Parole and Probation Administration, and the National Prosecution Service joined the DOJ in the launch.

In his keynote speech, Chief Justice Alexander Gesmundo said the justice zone "will pilot breakthrough initiatives towards a more victimcentered approach." He also mentioned tightening all loopholes in the phases of anti-trafficking cases.

Meanwhile, Associate Justice Maria Filomena Singh explained the importance of Zamboanga City as the first specialty justice zone. The JSCC chose the city "because the fight against human trafficking began here", she said.

Before the launch, the PPA-Region 9 delegates attended the 3-day stakeholders' meeting in Zamboanga City. Headed by ROIC Ruth Perucho, the delegates included CPPO Maria Lourdes Guangco, CPPO Nelson Bedua, SPPO Jason Garcia, and SPPO Mery Lee Costañero. They attended the orientation meeting, consultation meeting, and development planning workshop on February 8-10, 2023.

The Zamboanga City Justice Zone is the first specialty zone in the country with a focus on preventing and fighting human trafficking in the area. It is the 2nd justice zone in Mindanao after Davao City and the 10th in the Philippines.

Chief Justice Gesmundo defined justice zone as "an area where key programs relating to the delivery of justice are in place to maximize coordi-



Photos provided by PPA-Regional Office 9.

nation". It must address the issue of delay and accountability. The justice zone is designed for the enhanced cooperation of stakeholders in the area.

The work of the justice zone has four (4) phases. SPPO Mery Lee Costañero, in her report, enumerated these as Initiation, Arrest, Filing, and Post-Judgment. The PPA's role comes in the post-judgment phase.

The justice zone is a project of the JSCC. It is supported by the European Union's GOJUST Programme and the ASEAN-Australia Counter-Trafficking. # /majrb

PPA LAUNCHES EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK

OIC Deputy Administrator Allan Alcala had the newcomers in his mind, thus the crafting of the Employee Handbook began. The Employee Handbook Committee started crafting last year in February. OIC Administrator Julito Diray authorized the 8-member committee for the purpose.

After a year, through a memorandum dated March 7, 2023, the Administration officially launched the Handbook. Each authorized plantilla personnel, based on the list provided by the Personnel Section, shall receive a copy.

In his preface message, OIC Administrator Diray gave two focal points. One, he urged the employees to use the handbook as a guide to the policies and programs of the Agency. To keep abreast with Agency actions that will impact their career growth. Two, he pointed out that the Agency is a drug-free workplace. He, therefore, encouraged the personnel against the use of illegal drugs.

Meanwhile, OIC Deputy Administrator Allan Alcala, in his message, noted that the handbook contains general information and knowledge about the Agency. Although it is not comprehensive, he hopes it will help them navigate their way toward building their career in the Agency.

The printing of the handbook was made possible through a financial grant from the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB). The DDB also funded the publication of the flyer Bakit Bawal Ang Bawal Na Gamot and drug test kits. Likewise, they sponsored the 2022 IDADAIT shirts and the celebration of NCCW in 2022. # /majrb



The Employee Handbook

WE CELEBRATE WOMEN'S MONTH IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE

The Parole and Probation Administration celebrated Women's Month by holding activities focused on the rights and plights of women. The Administration adopted the "WE for Gender Equality and Inclusive Society" theme.

Some regional and field offices conducted seminars on Violence Against Women and Children or RA 9262. Other field offices discussed the Magna Carta of Women (RA 9710) and the Women in Development and Nation Building Act (RA 7192). While the rest held lectures on Women's Role in History and Fire Prevention, Gender Sensitivity, Basic Concepts on Sex and Gender, the History of Women's Month, Anti-Sexual Harassment Act (RA 7877), Safe Spaces Act a.k.a. Bawal Bastos Law, the Family Code (EO 209) attended by personnel and clients.

For Central Office personnel, the Administration organized a seminar-workshop called Holistic Gender Sensitive Capacity Building last March 27-30, 2023, at the scenic Tuba, Benguet. The lectures included mental health awareness and management. At the helm of the lecture and interactive group activities was Ms. Magdalena C. Galang, an Associate Professor at Central Luzon State University in Munoz, Nueva Ecija. OIC Administrator Julito Diray and OIC Deputy Administrator Allan Alcala joined the training. C de la internet de la constant de l

Photographs by Hans Gerard Selis

In CARAGA, RD Lina Burdeos launched the Recognition of Outstanding Women Clients. To pick the awardees, RD Burdeos set the following criteria: active participants in the activities, exemplary behavior,

promotion of women empowerment, eagerness to help other clients and consistent involvement in the rehabilitation program. On March 24, 2023, during the ceremony in Cagwait, Surigao del Sur, RD Burdeos awarded the eight outstanding women. Each of them represented each of the eight field offices in the region.



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The eight Tikas ng Tarlac candidates

Meanwhile, Tarlac City PPO uniquely celebrated the month. The personnel intended to advocate for women's empowerment and gender equality. They accomplished this by organizing the Tikas ng Tarlac contest. The contest was a battle between men clients based on their tikas (elegance), talino (wisdom), and talento (talent). Eight probationers joined the challenge. To test the tikas and talento, each candidate submitted a recorded performance and competed in the photo contest on March 3, 2023. Later, for talino, the judges evaluated their wits during the Q&A on March 6, 2023. Contestants answered questions focused on women and their importance in society.

Finally, three men emerged as Mga Tikas ng Tarlac at the awarding ceremony on March 15, 2023. The grand winner was alias John Lloyd Cruz. The 1st and 2nd runners-up were alias Dennis Trillo and Vhong Navarro. Alias Vhong Navarro also received the Best in Talent award for his suave dance moves. Meantime, probationer alias Jomari Yllana received the People Choice award. He garnered the highest number of Facebook reactions during the photoliking contest. *# /majrb*



Agusan del Sur PPO - Part of the Women's Month celebration of the province was livelihood training for women clients on March 30, 2023. Clients learned hair grooming, making liquid soap, fabric conditioner, and dishwashing liquid. These skills training empower them to be economically productive and independent. (By PPOII Chiara Marie M. Barsaga)



Butuan City PPO -TESDA trainer Ms. Mercy M. Penaso conducted a 2-day livelihood training on cake & pastry baking for the probation office's female clients. The activity was held on March 2, 2023, in Barangay Bancasi, Butuan City (By CPPO Blasito A. Rosales)



Marinduque PPO - The probation office conducted a seminar on RA 9262, RA 9710, and the Duties and Responsibilities of Parents for the Women's Month celebration. Ms. Maria Fe M. Vasquez, RSW, a Supreme Court Social Worker and VPA, was the resource person. They held the lecture at Marinduque Convention Center, Boac, Marinduque, on March 08, 2023. (By PPO I Jose Francis C. Sabanal)

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PHOTALKS







Holistic Gender Sensitive Capacity Building. (From L to R) The Central Office personnel during one of the lectures.; one group receives their cash prize after winning a game; Yuto & Yuma, the volunteers from Japan poses behind OIC Administrator Julito Diray & OIC Deputy Administrator Allan Alcala; Ms. Magdalena C. Galang receives the Certificate of Appreciation. Photos by Hans Gerald Selis (Story on pages 5-6)



Consultation Meeting with Dr. Raymund Narag and Usec. Deo Marco, March 10, 2023, at the Teodulo Natividad Hall in Central Office. PPA raised several concerns to the Undersecretary including the PPA Modernization Bill.

Aside from OIC Administrator Julito Diray and OIC Deputy Administrator Allan Alcala, RD Lucy Nenette Rojas, Chief Probation Officers Priscilla Misoles and Concepcion Esguerra also joined the meeting.









(L): ROIC Ruth Perucho (middle) with Region 9 representatives to the launch of Zamboanga City Justice Zone. (R): Usec. Raul T. Vasquez (to the right of RD Perucho) together with Regional Office 9 staff during his visit to the regional office after the launch of the justice zone. *Photo provided by PPA Regional Office 9.* (Story on page 3)



The Region 13 personnel during the launch of the Recognition of Outstanding Women Clients in Parole and Probation Offices in CARAGA. Together with the awardees, they attended the Seminar on Maintaining Good Physical and Mental Health with Ms. Maria Satthia Q. Luna of St. Theresa College in Tandag City as resource person. Photos provided by PPA Region 13. (Story on pages 5-6)



Tikas ng Tarlac (From L to R) Sample of the question a contestant answered during the Q&A; photo liking period from March 1 to March 12, 2023; contestants showcasing their singing and dancing ability during the talent portion of the competition. Photos provided by Region 3. (Story on pages 5-6)



A Parolee's Journey

By Mark John Bertumen Administrative Aide IV

The story of Enzo, a parolee who was under courtesy parole of Legazpi City PPO, serves as a living validation that the rehabilitation program of the Agency yields a better person. It helps a renewed individual to accept his past, live in the present with humility, and have a flourishing future.

Before his conviction for a homicide case, Enzo lived an ordinary life. He was a person with self-respect and who respected others around him. But life badly hit him. His involvement in a homicide case gave him so much turmoil it devastated him. From calm and laid-back, he became a quick-tempered kind of person. Court hearings for more than two years until his conviction were difficult for him.

In July 2014, Kuya Enzo became a parolee under Legazpi City PPO. From then on, he actively performed his duties and went the extra mile in rehabilitation activities. He often acted as moderator in every TC Session and showed great effort and commitment in complying with the conditions of his parole. After furnishing his office of origin with the Progress Report, his courtesy supervision in Legazpi City PPO formally ended. His last attendance was on May 2018.

Presently, he's finally enjoying the freedom he had worked hard for. He is a better person now, a product of community-based rehabilitation and his sustained commitment to the program. Meanwhile, he continuously supports the Legazpi City PPO and the volunteer association by allowing them to adopt a piece of his agricultural land in Buyoan, Legazpi City. This piece of land is now called LCPPO and VPA Diversified Farm. An almost 500 square meters, Kuya Enzo provided the VPAs and clients the land for their cultivation.

From being a hot-headed and hopeless convict, he is now a newly-reformed individual and a food grower. Kuya Enzo cultivates rice and vegetables like squash, string beans, and legumes. He does not have much, but he offered nonetheless to the office and the volunteers who once served and understood him. He is back to being a calm and collected person. Now, he is a loving father to his children and a supportive friend to his ex-partners. His kindness never faltered, and his care for others never receded.

It is noteworthy that probation, parole, and other clemency are not granted just for leniency towards those who received it. But, it is a duly process of rehabilitation to secure and redeem the lives of those who changed and sustained their commitment to start anew! #



Mindset as a Key to Success

By Yul Anjelo Bello Probation Officer II

He was 22 years old and had completed a short driving course. He had it all planned – he would work as a delivery driver at a nearby local water-refilling station. That would augment the everyday needs of his family. But fate had other plans. All his dreams came crashing down when he was charged and convicted of sexually assaulting a person with a disability. He was then jailed for two years, which seemed to be the longest days of his life. Never did he imagine that this would be his lowest low. But the unwavering support from his family and the privilege of being under probation became his beacon of hope.

Fast forward six months before his threeyear probation period ends, and he decided to share his journey. During the trial, he was unwilling to enter a guilty plea to a lesser offense, the acts of lasciviousness. However, he was qualified to apply for probation. He claimed to be innocent and wanted to regain his freedom and lessen the burden on his family. So, he agreed to the advice of his counsel and filed a petition for probation. Although, he doubted being under probation would work for him.

For compliance's sake, he took note of the conditions outlined in the court order, especially the monthly obligation to report to the probation office. He attended and participated both in mandatory sessions and reinforcing activities. As the months progressed, he slowly opened up and socialized with his fellow probationers. He shared his insights during individual and group activities. He also learned to juggle his time between his duties at work and his chores at home. He endured all these as he embraced the reality - he is a convicted offender. But he would not let this reality define his whole being and the future ahead.

He is most thankful to the Agency. He was someone who never wanted to interact with others, of the opposite sex, out of fear of being misjudged. He is now in a harmonious commonlaw relationship for a year. His partner knows his past and accepts him. His initial plan of not securing a formal job changed, too, as he is now an administrative assistant in a local private school. He considers his workplace a safe space because none of his colleagues make him feel less of a person. With his monthly income, he helps his parents and supports his own family.

The concept of success varies depending on the situation of each person. Some define it based on income or accomplishments. Others on a sense of fulfillment. Terminating his probation supervision is not even a complete sign of success. For him, success is a journey navigated with a mindset that can be relied upon always. The successful person has a solid support system, has accepted his strengths and limitations, is aware of his purpose, has room for mistakes and setbacks, and embraces the whole process one day at a time. #



Reflection and Change

By Jhurie Centino Probation Officer I

"Ang iba dae tigaseryoso ang probation, pipasipara sana. Arog man ako kaan dati pero narealize ko dakulaon na tabang ini sakuya, samuya na nakagibo ki sala." (Some are not taking probation seriously. I used to be like that as well. However, I realized that probation is such a huge help for me and others who committed a mistake), said Nic in Bikol during the interview. He was talking about how lucky he was to have a chance to undergo probation.

Nic is a former probationer at Catanduanes PPO. He was under probation for three years. His probation journey started in 2019 and ended just recently. Recalling the past events of how he got into trouble, he tearfully narrated his experience.

Back in 2018, Nic recalled being intoxicated with alcohol. He had been drinking almost every day because his youngest daughter ran away after he scolded her. To cope with the stress and sleepless nights, Nic turned to alcohol. On August 18, 2018, the day of the incident, he and his brothers had a drinking spree. While drinking, Nic opened up to his brothers about his problem. While talking, his brother Dan said something that he took as offensive. With raging anger, Nic drew out his balisong and stabbed his brother several times. As Nic described the situation, he said he blacked out. He did not know what he was doing. After snapping out of his wits, he could hardly believe what he saw was real. Confused and scared, Nic ran away from the scene. However, his younger brother ran after him stabbing him as well.

Nic recounted that this incident had been the most terrible episode in his life. He had been remorseful and regretted his behavior. He accepted the fate that he would be spending his time in jail. But hope and chances were never out of reach for Nic – he received the privilege of probation.

Nic openly disclosed that it took him more than a year to realize the essence of the programs and activities of the probation. But as time passed by, he consistently attended the Therapeutic Community Sessions. Little did he know, he was slowly immersing himself in the program and transforming into his better self. He did not just learn new things but also applied everything he learned in real life. He turned away from his vices. He learned to communicate with the people around him, particularly his family. He learned to take good care of his family and his wife suffering from a stroke. As for listening, he learned to listen to people before reacting. Finally, Nic helps his brother, Dan, with his medication.

More than that, Nic recognizes the contribution of the probation in regaining his confidence, which he lost after committing the crime. He also acknowledges the effort of his supervising officer, PPO II Jonathan Bogñalbal, and the Catanduanes Parole and Probation Office for his reformation.





Reflection and Change... continuation

On December 23, 2022, Nic successfully finished his probation. He expressed his happiness as he can now focus on his job and the care of his family. He also revealed his desire to run as a barangay official to contribute to the development of their community. He said he wanted to help the individuals who went through this same situation to get right back on track.

Turning away from the terrible past and getting back on your feet after falling is hard. But for Nic, it is possible because he had the chance to change through probation. With the hope of inspiring his fellows he stated, "Dae pa man huli ang gabos, igwa man giraray na pag-asa. Dahil sa probation nagkaigwa ako ki oportunidad na mabago ang sadiri ko buda mabalik ang kompyansa ko sa sadiri" (It's not too late, there is still a chance. Because of probation, I had the opportunity to change for the better and to regain my self-esteem).

May the story of Nic give us the hope we yearn for. There is always another chance for those who desire to stand up and change their ways for the better. #

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

To all the contributors of featured success stories of clients, thank you so much for sharing the articles. You deserve appreciation for helping write their stories of transformation and inspiration.

To all readers, the authors changed the names of clients for the confidentiality of their personal information.

Are you interested to share a success story? Write to us. Send your article to probation.pio@gmail.com. We will publish the selected stories in the next issue of Community Corrections Journal.

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REFERENCES & RESOURCES

- The EU's GOJUST programme supports the Government of the Republic of the Philippines' efforts to improve access to justice for all Filipinos available at https://philippines.un.org/en/220926-unops-and-european-unionjoin-forces-fight-human-trafficking-philippines-launch-zamboanga
- 2) JSCC Launches First Specialty Justice Zone in Zamboanga City available at https://sc.judiciary.gov.ph/jscc-launches -first-specialty-justice-zone-in-zamboanga-city/
- 3) SC chief opens 8th 'justice zone' to reduce case delays available at https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1570449/sc-chiefopens-8th-justice-zone-to-reduce-case-delays
- 4) Bicol Express Newsletter. The internal publication of PPA-Region 5. July-December 2022 issue.
- 5) PPA-CARAGA news/feature articles. Emailed April 18, 2023
- 6) Marinduque PPO newsletter articles. Emailed April 12, 2023
- 7) Camalig Newsletter. The official newsletter of PPA-Region 3. 2023 1st quarter issue.
- 8) GAD Special Report on Tikas ng Tarlac. PPO II Jean Audrey R. Ajero. Emailed April 13, 2023.
- 9) PPA-Region 4A Completion Report. Emailed April 20, 2023
- 10) **Pixabay** available at www.pixabay.com
- 11) Canva available at www.canva.com

Redeeming lives... Restoring relationships...

PPA Newsletter is now **Community Corrections Journal** - the official quarterly publication of the Parole and Probation Administration - Central Office. It is printed by the Public Information Section—Administrative Division.

The change of the name of the official publication reflects the dynamic progress of probation practice and approach throughout the Agency coinciding with the regional and global community corrections standards development. Subsequent issues will include regular updates and news on non-institutional rehabilitation, corrections practice, studies and relevant laws.

Comment, suggestion, or query as well as article for consideration in the forthcoming publication are welcome.



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