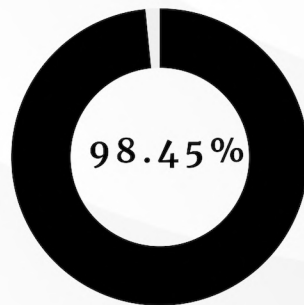


Gazette

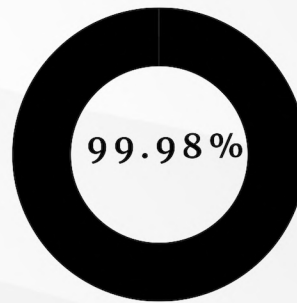


The official newsletter of Parole and Probation Administration

2023 Year in Review



Probation
investigation
recommendations
sustained by courts



Supervision
recommendations
sustained by courts

161,671 CLIENTS

99.56%

- Clients' compliance with the terms of their probation or parole.

85,153 CLIENTS

98.66%

- Clients' participation to Rehabilitation Activities

6,725 VPAS

97.90%

- Number of Active Volunteer Probation Assistants (VPAs)

The Parole and Probation Administration (PPA) reported commendable performance despite the challenges in the past year. In the technical report by the Planning Division, three outcome indicators and four output indicators were used to measure the accomplishments in investigation, supervision, and rehabilitation – the core functions of the Administration.

The following were the **three Outcome Indicators**:

- Percent of probation investigation recommendations sustained by the courts
- Percent of supervision recommendations sustained by courts
- Percent of clients' compliance with the terms of their probation and/or parole conditions

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For 2023, PPA submitted 57,803 probation investigation recommendations to courts. Out of this number, 56,909 or 98.45% were sustained by courts. With narrow points, the Agency exceeded the 98.43% target last year.

In the same year, PPA submitted 33,508 supervision recommendations to courts. These recommendations were revocations, successful terminations, transfers, deaths and others. Of this number, the courts sustained 33,503 or 99.98% of the recommendations. Thus, PPA achieved its target for the year.

The Agency also surpassed the target of clients' compliance with the terms of their probation or parole. Among the 162,392 clients, 99.56% or 161,671 clients fulfilled their commitments, exceeding last year's target of 99.55%.

Meanwhile, here are the **four Output Indicators**:

- Percent of clients participating in the rehabilitation
- Percent of investigation reports submitted to courts or BPP within the prescribed period
- Number of rehabilitation and intervention services rendered to clients
- Percent of volunteer probation assistants mobilized to assist in the rehabilitation program for clients

Based on the technical report, the participation rate of clients in rehabilitation activities rose from 2022 accomplishment. Out of 86,306 clients in 2023, 85,153 or 98.66% participated in rehabilitation activities. Compared to 2022, the Agency reported a 97.30% participation rate among clients.

In the same report, a staggering 5,345,481 rehabilitation and intervention services were provided to clients in 2023. That was more than double the target for the year, which was 2,519,945. These services were important to clients as they helped in their positive transformation.

PPA also noted an increase in Volunteer Probation Assistants (VPA) mobilized. Last year, 97.90% or 6,725 out of 6,869 volunteers were active in rehabilitating clients. This number surpassed the target of 97.35% of volunteers mobilized. VPA assisted field officers as direct supervisors, resource individuals, or both.

Meanwhile, the Agency recorded a lower rate of investigation reports submitted to courts or BPP within the prescribed period. Compared to the target of 63.24%, the Agency completed and filed 57.03% of investigation reports within the given time. This was equal to 76,084 reports. While this outcome may lead one to conclude a poor performance, it was worth looking into several important factors. Based on the technical report, the number of investigation cases disposed of in 2023 was higher compared to 2022. Likewise, the number of investigation case referrals increased in 2023 in contrast to 2022. # /majrb

Celebrating Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality

The Parole and Probation Administration celebrated Women's Month with activities centered on gender equality and wellness. The 2023-2028 theme adopted by the Agency, **"WE for Gender Equality and Inclusive Society"** with the sub-theme **"Lipunang Patas sa Bagong Pilipinas: Kakayahan ng Kababaihan, Patutunayan!"** launched by the Philippine Commission on Women renewed the commitment to the advocacy.

Regional and field offices have diverse approach to celebrating the Women's Month. While some offices hosted seminars focusing on gender equality and women's rights, others held livelihood training, distributed hygiene kits, and arranged wellness activities.

In the Central Office and NCR Regional Office, personnel wore purple every Friday of the week dubbed Purple Fridays, to show support to women's rights and gender equality. The Public Information Section posted Purple Fridays as well, encouraging the officers to join. At the same time, a PCW endorsed banner was hanged outside the building.

Throughout the regions, lectures and information drives related to women's rights and equality were arranged for field personnel and clients alike. Particularly in regions 3, 4A, 5, 9, 10, and 11, topics such as gender mainstreaming, RA 9710 Magna Carta of Women, Anti-Violence Against Women and Children or RA 9262, Expanded Anti-Trafficking Persons Act of 2012, Anti Rape Law or RA 8353, and Anti-Sexual Harassment Act of 1995 or RA 7877 were discussed during seminars.

There were regions that celebrated the occasion in a holistic way. In particular, aside from seminars related to women's plight, Region 7 held a Lenten recollection to boost their faith, and a team-building activity to boost their teamwork as well as their camaraderie. A similar activity, PPOlympics was also held in Region 3, alongside HIV/AIDS awareness and HIV testing.

Women and their unique capabilities could also be given due recognition. PPA Region 8 did this in a unique fashion. The regional office created a photo gallery of women in the Region called XX Gallery showcasing their contributions to national growth and development. Meanwhile, women personnel enjoyed a day with friends and families in a "Ladies' Day Out". In a remarkable event, Tau Omega Mu-VSU Chapter, a fraternity based at the University of the Philippines, recognized ARD Lovella C. Libertad as one of the inspiring women.

Region 10, on the other hand, celebrated two events in March. Celebrating Fire Prevention Month, Misamis Occidental PPO and Iligan City PPO organized a lecture on fire safety and control for clients and personnel. Observing Women's Month, Valencia City PPO highlighted girl's rights during the Girl Child Week. The field office distributed information materials to Valencia City Central School raising awareness and support for girls' access to appropriate protection.

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DOJ-PPA's First Executive Conference Successfully Conducted

The Strategic Planning and Quarterly Executive Conference of Directors and Division Chiefs was successfully conducted from March 18-22, 2024 at the Berjaya Makati Hotel in Makati City. Administrator Bienvenido O. Benitez, Jr. presided over the quarterly meeting. Joining him were Regional Directors and Regional Officers-in-Charge from all DOJ-PPA Regional Offices, and Division Chiefs in the Central Office.

Updates on the PPA Modernization Bill, the 2023 performance of the Agency, accomplishments of national committees, the status of hiring & reducing vacancy rate, and other relevant matters of national significance were discussed.

For Strategic Planning, the Administration invited Mr. Ryan Thomas of the Office of Alternative Dispute Resolution as the resource speaker.

While in Makati City, Atty. Bienvenido O. Benitez, Jr. and the rest of the officials paid a courtesy visit to Makati Mayor Abigail S. Binay and Vice Mayor Monique Yazmin Q. Lagdameo. Administrator Benitez, Jr. and NCR Regional Director Lucy Nenette V. Rojas also visited Atty. Kate S. Bansuelo, Chief of Makati City Public Attorney's Office. *#/majrb*





FROM DROWNING DRUG OFFENDER TO RISING SMALL BUSINESS OWNER: STORY OF CHANGE AND GRATEFULNESS

By: ADA IV Mark John P. Bertumen

Drug offenders must navigate the complex pathways of judgmental perspectives, contend with the crippling social stigma, deal with the harsh realities of a murky criminal justice system. Their stories are entwined with shame, abandonment, and a self-imposed mentality of self-punishment. Amidst the knotted web of drug-related charges, they find themselves on a stormy voyage- a drowning trip no one could have predicted.

Such is the story of “Khobz” a family man who tried taking drugs for almost ten years prior to his arrest.

Incarcerated at Legazpi City Jail for almost three years, he was at a staggeringly uncertain point in his life. But in his misery, his wife persuaded him to pray through a book entitled “Straight from the Heart.” In a moment of unexpected vulnerability, he found himself crying while praying. He poured out his soul to God, seeking refuge and solemnly asking for forgiveness.

Thankfully, he was granted probation in 2021. It was one of his answered prayers, his saving grace.

Acknowledging his wrong decisions, he believed that ultimately, the gradual yet overwhelming change he needed is in his hands. Amidst the myriad of circumstances, he expressed profound gratitude for the opportunity afforded to him by a higher power, admitting that he holds the key to implementing the changes he needs. Beyond his gratitude to God, he extended appreciation to his family, particularly his steadfast wife who stood by him unwaveringly throughout his ordeal. It was her untiring support that fueled his determination to become a better version of himself.

His temporary liberty through probation is the event that he is most thankful for. He believed that not all persons deprived of liberty are given the freedom they wanted and enjoy the perks of being with their family while abiding by the conditions set by court.

Grateful Khobz has been an active probationer and a recipient of Sabon Mo Refill Ko Livelihood Project of the VPA Organization-Ilaw sa Dalan Legazpi City Volunteer Probation Assistants’ Inc. He successfully finished his After-Care Treatment being implemented by Malinao Treatment and Rehabilitation Center as part of his probation conditions.

Approaching the end of his two-year probation in December 2023, the journey has been an unforgettable experience for him and his family. Probation served as salvation, preventing him from succumbing to the pits of incarceration, bringing forth penitence and redemption. While still in the process of recovery, he is still fighting for survival and breaking the stigma brought by his wrong choices in the past. Despite trials, he believes that present and future hardships are, and will be surmountable. Presently, he co-owns and manages a small Milk Tea House along Pag-asa Street, Rawis, Legazpi City. Having been in operation for three months now, the business is still in its nascent stage, trying to survive the competition in the area.

With the current situation, he prays for continued guidance from above and from people who care for him. With full of gratitude, he wishes to be remembered as a person who made mistakes but was able to redeem himself and change for his family, someone who was drowned, but was able to float back to the surface for second chance of living with a grateful heart and unwavering faith. #



FROM EXPORTING MATS TO REAPING SUCCESS

By: SrPPO Yul Angelo R. Bello

““Jesus, meek and humble of heart, make my heart unto Thine.” This has been Lisa’s fervent prayer passed on by her mother. Being the lone child of a high-ranking seafarer and a homemaker, she was accustomed to life’s luxuries. Her marriage with her husband begot them five (5) children whose needs they ably provide through their mat weaving and exporting business since 1999.

They became known in their craft both here and abroad. When her husband died, her son closely helped her in running their business. As fate would have it, they were accused of copying a patented design of an item they distributed which they did not know of. The owner of the patented design found out about the matter and filed a case against them, which eventually led Lisa and her son to apply for probation.

Despite all the challenges, Lisa remains grateful for all the blessings she receives. She is always grateful to God for the continuous help whenever problems come her way, be it financial or health-related. Aside from the commencement of her 3-year probation supervision on April 4, 2023, she is equally grateful for being generally healthy despite having frequent asthma attacks which through God’s grace, she and her family can promptly act upon due to availability of needed resources.

Asked about the instance when she feels she was called out by God in her difficult situation, she cannot identify one as she has been through several trials her conviction being on top of the list. She believes that her unwavering faith that nothing is impossible with God kept her motivated to face each day with hope that all will be better again.

With all her life accomplishments at 70, she does not want to be placed in a pedestal. She Just wants to be remembered as a woman who understands and listens to people’s laughter and tears and extend comfort and a helping hand whenever needed, as a friend and not a for who can achieve greater things in life with a meek and humble heart and without stepping on anyone’s rights just to meet a certain goal.
#

#RedeemLivesTogether



FROM STRUGGLE TO STRENGTH: A TALE OF GRACE, GRATITUDE, AND PERSONAL GREATNESS

By: PPO I Janelyn C. Estrella

In the bustling city of Legazpi, a man faced a life-altering experience that would reshape his perspective on grace, gratitude, and personal greatness. The probationer, who once found himself entangled in a web of unforeseen circumstances, reflects on a journey that led him from incarceration to newfound appreciation for life's blessings. It all started at Legazpi Airport when his bag underwent scanning before his flight to Manila. The flight was crucial as it marked his schedule for embarking on his ship as a marine engineer. The scan revealed bullet shells in his bag, leading to his imprisonment for four days at Legazpi City Police Station. However, he managed to post bail, securing his freedom. This pivotal incident became an eye-opener for the probationer, prompting him to be more alert and meticulous in his surroundings. The subsequent difficulties arose from an unintended error related to borrowed bag that, unbeknownst to him, held bullet shells. This incident disrupted his career as a marine engineer for almost nine years. He explained that his father had borrowed his bag earlier, leading to the inclusion of the bullets and initiating a sequence of events that would profoundly alter the course of his life.

Reflecting on the tumultuous events, he expresses gratitude to higher power. "I am thankful to God because of what happened; it became a diversion for me. Now, I am able to be with my family," he shares, highlighting the unexpected turn of events that brought him closer to his loved ones. "I was very exhausted with this case because I have so many projects that need financing and financial assistance," he confesses, underscoring the challenges that arose from his unexpected detour. Despite the setbacks, he found solace during the pandemic, as he embraced the blessing of being with his growing family—a family that had expanded since the incident. He viewed the incident as a blessing in disguise as he has become a father to three beautiful kids, a seven-year old boy, a four-year-old girl, and his youngest, who recently turned one. As he navigated the complexities of the legal system, the probationer found strength in his faith. "With God, have faith in Him. We are leaning on a rock, on a strong rock," he emphasizes, highlighting the transformative power of faith over material possessions.#

#RedeemLivesTogether

EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE & STRATEGIC PLANNING

Atty. Bienvenido O. Benitez, Jr. and Regional Directors of Parole and Probation Administration paid a courtesy visit to Vice Mayor of Makati City, Monique Yazmin Q. Lagdameo. #



Atty. Bienvenido O. Benitez, Jr. and Regional Directors all smiles after a day of fruitful discussion. #

Vice Mayor of Makati City, Monique Yazmin Q. Lagdameo, Atty. Bienvenido O. Benitez, Jr. and Regional Directors discussed the programs of Parole and Probation Administration. The local government of Makati also committed their support to the said programs. #



Administrator Bienvenido O. Benitez, Jr. (*sitting, center*) with the Division Chiefs and Central Office staff for the official photo session during the Strategic Planning & Executive Conference at the Berjaya Makati Hotel, March 18-22, 2024. #

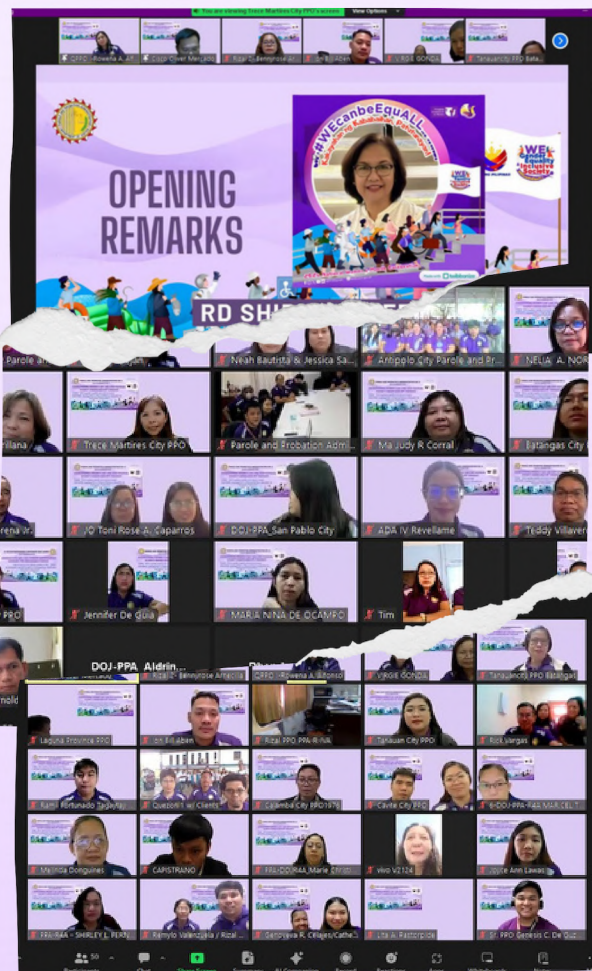


PHOTOTALKS

WOMEN'S MONTH CELEBRATION



Regional Director Shirley L. Fernandez of Parole and Probation Administration Regional Office No. 4-A headed the region-wide virtual seminar discussing the significance of the Women's Month Celebration. #



Also, to commemorate Women's Month, the personnel hanged the banner in front of the Regional Office and took this auspicious occasion to celebrate the newly promoted women personnel of the Region. #

Cabanatuan City PPO together with the Alay Buhay Community Foundation Inc., successfully organized a two-day event from March 19 to 20, 2024. The Office observed Women's Month and TB World Day Celebration by offering free TB mass screening and chest X-rays. A total of 374 clients and their family members benefited from these health services.



On another note, Regional Office No. 3 scheduled a GAD-enriching seminar on March 12-13, 2024 at the Mansion Garden Hotel, Subic Bay Freeport Zone. The resource speaker, Ms. Arlene "Diosa" I. Pascual, imparted her expertise as the GAD – CHRE Director of the Bataan Peninsula State University as she discussed the Enhanced Gender Mainstreaming Evaluation Framework (GMEF). #



Bulacan PPO held a sports activity dubbed **Bulacan PPolympics 2024: Kababaihan at Kalalakihang nasa Subok-Laya, Patas sa Palakasan.** #

In Central Visayas, Regional Office No. 7 celebrated the National Women's Month on March 13-14, 2024 at Gem's Paradise and Resort in Lapu-Lapu City. Resource persons during the event were Dr. Anna Kathrina Oanimal-Watin, Psychologist; Mr. Niel Steve M. Kintanar, M.A., RPsy; and Reverend Father John Paul Tanquis, OAR. #



Meanwhile, Regional Office No. 8 paid homage to women in the region through their photo display called XX Gallery, and a Ladies Day Out. #



Regional Office No. 9, on the other hand, highlighted their celebration of Women's Month with a Seminar on Basic Life Support and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation. The seminar equipped the personnel with basic first-aid techniques. This activity took place simultaneously with the blessing of the new office building. #

PHOTOTALKS



Regional Office No. 10 observed two important celebrations in March: Fire Prevention Month and Women's Month. Misamis Occidental PPO and Iligan City PPO organized a lecture on fire safety and control for clients and personnel, while Valencia City PPO highlighted girls' rights during Girl Child Week. VCPPO distributed information materials to Valencia City Central School raising awareness and support for girls' access to appropriate protection.

Aside from Purple Fridays, Regional Office No. 11's highlights of their celebration of Women's Month were the distribution of personal and hygiene kits under Serbisyo ni Juana, lectures on reproductive health and GAD-related topics, disaster preparedness drills, Art Therapy where women clients crafted customized cards for women, and a wellness activity. #

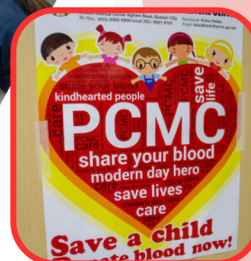


CARAGA's celebration of Women's Month featured the "Most Empowered Women Clients" who displayed exemplary performance, personal achievement and behavior change were recognized. Other activities included a demo on Basic Self Defense, orientation on the various skills training available in TESDA Region 13 and DOLE's TUPAD that are accessible to clients. #



BLOOD LETTING ACTIVITY

Keeping the hearts pumping for Heart Month, the Central Office held a bloodletting activity on February 26, 2024. The Community Services Division spearheaded this in collaboration with The Philippine Children's Medical Center. Clients from Quezon City PPO Nos. 1, 2, and 3, and PPA, PAO and BPP employees joined the blood donation drive. #



DOJ-PPA and Share an Opportunity Philippines inked a Memorandum of Agreement



(From left to right) SrPPO Precilla Q. Camposanto, SrPPO Rosario T. Labastida, SPPO Jane R. Morales, CPPO Danilo M. Capili, RD Lucy Nenette V. Rojas, Administrator Bienvenido O. Benitez, Jr., Executive Director Armi Martinez, CPPO Ma. Isabel B. Castillo, CPPO Concepcion A. Esguerra, Ms. Loida Cabrejas, Ms. Abegail Reanzares, and CPPO Girliezette U. Palacio posed after the signing of MOA on February 27, 2024.



Signatories to the Agreement were Administrator Bienvenido O. Benitez, Jr., PPA-NCR Regional Director Lucy Nenette V. Rojas, and Executive Director Armi Martinez of Share An Opportunity Philippines. #

Victorias City government and DOJ-PPA Sealed a Partnership



VISAYANDAILYSTAR.COM

48 parolees, probationers to avail various rehab programs in Victorias

The Victorias City government yesterday sealed a partnership with the Department of Justice P...

The Victorias City government sealed a partnership with the Parole and Probation Administration on January 10, 2024 to implement various rehabilitation programs for the 148 parolees and probationers in Victorias City, Negros Occidental.

The memorandum of understanding was signed between Mayor Javier Miguel Benitez, DOJ-PPA Administrator Atty. Bienvenido Benitez Jr., Rep. Jose Francisco Benitez, Schools Division Superintendent Dr. Portia Mallorca, DOJ-PPA Region 6 Chief Probation Parole Officer (CPPO) Grace Tomaro, and Chief Probation and Parole Officer Annie Abellar of Victorias and Silay. #

(Photo courtesy of The Visayan Daily Star)

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9. ADA IV Mark John P. Bertumen
10. SrPPO Yul Angelo R. Bello
11. PPO I Janelyn C. Estrella
12. SrPPO Yul Anjelo R. Bello
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21. Region 9 Regional Office and Field Offices
22. ROIC Mae Dolorita K. Monicit
23. Region 10 Regional Office and Field Offices
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25. PPO I Meljeane H. Payla
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30. RD Lina K. Burdeos
31. Region 13 Regional Office (CARAGA)
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33. PPO II Hadassah Queen O. Epis
34. ADA IV Alma Fe C. Dagondon
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36. PPO I Hans Gerald B. Selis
37. PLO V Wilson R. Suba
39. PLO III Francis Raymond S. Balitaan
40. Visayan Daily Star