

# RED'S MESSAGE

We began 2022 in the grips of a pandemic. The COVID-19 continues to set our plans, actions, and directions within our organization and even our homes.

Meanwhile the climate crisis rage on. And so we continue with our work. Especially so that we are slowly going back to normal. We have put our manpower back to 100 per cent. Mobility restrictions have eased. Faceto-face activities are now allowed. All these, subject, of course to health protocols and guidelines set by the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases.

For the past months, we have been making up for the time we lost. We

caught up with the activities we were not able to fully implement due to the pandemic.

This June, the DENR has been the busiest. We went back to how we used to observe the Environment Month where we conduct activities here and there to encourage awareness and action to protect and nurture our environment. The highlights of these activities are featured in this issue of Gangza.

This issue tells us that although still challenged by the pandemic, we are close to getting back normal, our new normal - where we deal with the climate crisis, even as we suffer from a global health crisis.

ENGR. RALPH C. PABLO, DPA, En.P., CESO III
Regional Executive Director

# **GANGZA**

Since its revival in 2016, GANGZA news magazine has been one of the most informative guide to current affairs in the DENR-CAR. It contains developments and response to issues and concerns related to the Department's programs, projects and initiatives.

# THE COVER

Featured as the cover for this issue is the a part of the Yellow Trail in Camp John Hay, Baguio City - a growing destination for forest bathing, trekking, and biking, among others.

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# EAGLE AWARDS

## RECOGNIZING THE BEST LEADERS IN THE DENR

even officials from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-CAR were named and feted as finalists in the Environmental Awards for Governance and Leadership Excellence (EAGLE) Awards.

DENR-CAR Regional Executive Director, Engr. Ralph Pablo; Mines and Geosciences Bureau-CAR Regional Director Fay Apil; Abra Provincial ENR Officer, For. Marcelo Bumidang; Kalinga PENR Officer, For. Noel Barrientos; Ifugao PENR Officer, Engr. Ernesto Aton; Lamut Community ENR Officer, For. Manuel Magkachi; and Bangued CENR Officer, For. Joey Languisan were nominated in the Regional Executive Director, Regional Director for MGB, PENR Officer and CENR Officer categories, respectively.

Apart from the finalists, Regional Director Ma. Victoria Abrera was hailed a hall of famer for winning and being a finalist for three-consecutive years.

The EAGLE Awards is spearheaded by the DENR consistent with Civil Service Commission Memorandum Circular No. 2001-01 which provides for the Program on Awards and Incentives for Service Excellence (PRAISE). Its guidelines are provided under DENR Administrative Order No. 2019-04 series of 2019.

Under the Awards, key officials are evaluated and rated for their efficiency and effectiveness in terms of delivering service and product results, and leadership abilities.

(Giovani Fontanilla)

# APAYAO-ABULUG RIVER WINS 2<sup>ND</sup> IN RIVERS FOR LIFE 2021

he Apayao-Abulug River was acclaimed second in the search for the most improved Class C River under the Recognizing Institutions and Individuals for Vibrant and Enhanced Rivers.

Panlibatuhan River in Region 10 bagged the first place, while Taguibo River in Region 13 won the third place.

DENR-CAR Regional Executive Director, Engr. Ralph Pablo, in his acceptance speech during the awarding on June 10, thanked the Provincial Government of Apayao, the partner government agencies, private organizations, and community people who worked with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-CAR, through its Provincial and Community ENR Offices.

This year's recognition on RIVERs for Life is DENR-CAR's third in a row after being the champion in 2019 and placing second in 2020. (*Giovani Fontanilla*)

























# DENR-CAR honors promotees & retirees

Some 13 employees from the DENR-CAR regional and field offices took their oath of offices for their new positions after being promoted under the 19<sup>th</sup> tranche of the Rationalization Plan.

"You were entrusted with your new positions because you did well in the previous ones. You are now where you are because the people you worked with saw how you performed your jobs; how you managed your schedule to beat deadlines; how you dealt with your colleagues and our clients; how you really proved yourself worthy of being appointed," Assistant Regional Director for Management, Atty. Cleo D. Sabado-Andrada reminded the employees.

"In fulfilling your responsibility, go beyond what is expected of you", she further said as a challenge. The oath-taking was witnessed by the regional division chiefs who head the divisions in which they were promoted. For the field office appointees, the same was witnessed by the regional division chiefs in lieu of their field office section chiefs, CENR officers and PENR officers.

Meanwhile, five employees from the Regional Office left public service due to retirement. These employees served the agency from 28 to 41 years.

Regional Executive Director Ralph C. Pablor said in jest that they can now travel anywhere and anytime without securing a travel order. "Enjoy the rest of your life without the daily pressures of public service", he added in a serious note. (Gayle Astudillo)























# Environmen implemen

he Department of Environment and Natural Resources-CAR honored its partner stakeholders in the implementation of environment and natural resources laws, programs, projects and activities; its best performing offices; best performing employees; and loyalty awardees, in the culmination of the Environment Month celebration on June 30.

The environmental partners conferred with the Gawad Kalikasan award were Baguio City Mayor Benjamin Magalong; Baguio District Representative Marques Go; Mr. Fred Fangonon; Atok Municipal Police Station; Local Government Unit (LGU) of La Trinidad through Mayor Romeo Salda; Criminal Investigation and Detection Group of Abra through Provincial Chief Police Maj. John Delmas; Bai-Farmers Association from Lagayan, Abra; LGU of Lagangilang through Mayor Rovelyn Villamor; Apayao Second District Engineering Office; Greener Pasture Ad Holnad Inc.; Ifugao Provincial Police Office; Mr. Rodolfo Balutoc; Tanudan Mayor Jaedicke Rhoss Dagadag; HEDCOR, Inc.; Karao-Ekip Tribal Regreening Movement; Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office of Benguet; LGU of Bauko through Mayor Abraham Akilit; 1st Platoon, 2nd Mountain Province Police Mobile Force Company; and the Municipal Police Station of Tadian, Mt. Province.

On the Search for the Best Offices, under the Best Division category, DENR-CAR's Licenses, Patents and Deeds Division (Technical Services) and Planning and Management Division (Management Services); Mines and Geosciences Bureau-CAR's Geosciences Division; Environmental Management Bureau-CAR's Finance and Administrative Division; and Watershed and Water Resources Research and Development Extension Center's Laboratory and Experimental Services Unit were found to have the best performances in their respective offices.

Best Provincial and Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) was PENRO Abra. PENRO Mt. Province bagged the second place; while PENRO Benguet got third place.

On the other hand, Best Community ENRO (CENRO) was CENRO Pinukpuk while CENRO Lagangilang and CENRO Paracelis ranked second and third, respectively.

# tal partners, tors feted

Apart from the Best Offices, also recognized were Best Employees from the different offices of the DENR-CAR. These were Nestor Poclis, Jr. (EMB-CAR); Karen Nietes (MGB-CAR); Sharmaine Egalla (WWRRDEC); Mariden Bantales and Mary Evangeline Elveña (DENR-CAR Regional Office). Also proclaimed the best employees of their respective offices were Zsarla Krizenver Pudol (PENRO Abra); Joan Adiran (PENRO Apayao); Rhey Padon (PENRO Benguet); Eugene Dulnuan (PENRO Ifugao); Rafael Banawa (PENRO Kalinga); and Romando Baglao (PENRO Mt. Province).

Programs on Awards and Incentives for Service Excellence (PRAISE) Chairperson and Assistant Regional Executive Director for Management Services, Atty. Cleo Sabado-Andrada said the Search for Best Offices and Best Employees has become one of the Department's ways to conduct formal performance assessment. It is beneficial as it ensures regularity in reviewing office and employee performance. As a result of institutionalizing the assessment, the Committee is able to see best practices and initiatives, discover and resolve unaddressed issues. Same goes to the performance of employees with excellent performances worthy of emulation.

Other honorees during the event were eight recipients of Loyalty Award or those who have rendered 30 to 40 years in public service with the DENR-CAR Regional Office.

Regional Executive Director, Engr. Ralph Pablo thanked the honorees - employees and partners alike - for their efforts to support the DENR in the attainment of its goals, not just in terms of management, but across all themes of its policy statement.

"Driven by our value of stewardship, let us continue to commit ourselves to protecting the Earth, and to creating a positive environmental legacy for both the present and future generations as we operate and grow better to meet our clientele and communities' needs," he closed.

The members of the executive committee composed of Pablo; Sabado-Andrada; DENR-CAR Assistant Regional Executive Dir ector for Technical Services, For. Maximo Soriano, Jr.; Mines and Geosciences Bureau-CAR Regional Director Fay Apil; and Environmental Management Bureau-CAR Regional Director Ma. Victoria Abrera also gave their environmental messages. (Giovani Fontanilla)











Best PENR Office

\* Ist: PENRO Abra

\* 2nd: PENRO Mt. Province

\* 3rd: PENRO Benguet



# Best CENRO Pinukpuk Ist: CENRO Pinukpuk 2nd: CENRO Lagangilang 3rd: CENRO Paracella



Loyatty Awardees

WWWRRDEC



Loyatty Awardees

▶ Regional Office: Frollaine Allan, Lydia Bal Sylvia Kub-aron, Ma. Lourdes Osbucan, Alex



- Best Employees

   EMB: Nestor Poclis, Jr.; MGB: Karen Nietes
- ▶ WWRRDEC: Sharmaine Egalla



- Best Employees

   PENRO Hugao: Eugene Dulnuan | PENRO Kalinga: Rafael Banawa
   PENRO Mt. Province: Ramanda Baglao



Best Office &

www.RRDEC - Laboratory and
Experimental Services Unit

Best Division

- ► MGB: Geosciences Division

  ► EMB: Finance and Administrative Division



Best Division

- ► DENR-CAR Licenses, Patents and Deeds Division ► DENR-CAR Planning and Management Division



do, Agustina Depawa, Josephine Dicang, ander Quiroz, Alejandra Simbajon



Loyalty Awardees

▶ Regional Office: Frollaine Allan, Lydia Baldo, Agustina Depawa, Josephine Dicang, Sylvia Kub-aron, Ma. Lourdes Osbucan, Alexander Quiroz, Alejandro Simbajon



Best Employees

DENR-CAR TS: Mariden Bantales

DENR-CAR MS: Mary Evangeline Elveña











































# Environmental advocacies pushed through music, arts & entertainment

"In the same way that generations to generations have benefitted from the richness of our environment, the responsibility to sustain it is also passed from one generation to another. The fulfillment of this responsibility is what knits our communities together with a sense of continuity."

This was the message highlighted by DENR-CAR Assistant Regional Executive Director for Management Services, Atty. Cleo Sabado-Andrada during the mini-concert cum environmental exhibit dubbed as Kanshun Di Cordillera. It was held at Malcolm Square in Baguio City on June 17, still as part of the Environment Month celebration.

The activity aimed to showcase Cordilleran culture, environment and natural resources, as well as the best practices in environmental management through the innovative crafts exhibited by eco-friendly and innovative artists; the performances from the performers; and the messages from the guest speakers.

Andrada noted that in the Cordilleras saving the environment is crucial to ensure the preservation of cultural identity of indigenous peoples and to safeguard their heritage. She said, "It is the Cordilleran cultural heritage that defines our humanity, the Igorot identity".

The ARED took the activity as an opportune time to promote cultural and environmental sustainability. In the context of the DENR, she explained that these has to do with maintaining and continuously utilizing indigenous knowledge, systems and practices to sustain our environment and natural resources.

While the society has rapidly changed due to modernization, Andrada encouraged the public to continuously educate themselves and immerse the same to the Cordilleran culture and heritage. "May we continue to learn the old as we adapt to the new. May we continue to innovate our ways, with the same old intention of protecting our environment, our culture, our heritage," she closed.

Environmental Management Bureau-CAR Regional Director Ma. Victoria Abrera, who led the activity, said Kanshun Di Cordillera is an innovative way to promote environmental protection and preservation and sustainable use of natural reaources through a showcase of music and arts in public.

Art exhibitors during the activity were Wilhelmina Samonte Garcia and Gilbert Angeles who displayed their upcycled waste products.

Launched also was the "Basura Buster" mascot and mobile gaming application made to promote proper solid waste management through entertainment.

Apart from the exhibit and mini-concert, different professional organizations regulated by the Professional Regulation Commission-CAR offered their services to the general public through a whole-day caravan. *(Giovani Fontanilla)* 

# DENR-CAR launches Forest Treat trade fair

Pringing upland products to the people. This was the essence of the trade fair of forest products opened by the DENR-CAR on June 21 at its office compound.

Dubbed as "Forest Treat", the activity featured raw and processed products of partner people's organizations under the Community-Based Forest Management Project; the National Greening Program; the Integrated Natural Resources and Environmental Management Project; and the Forestland Managament Project.

Assistant Regional Executive Director for Technical Services, For. Maximo Soriano, Jr. said that the activity shows the value-chain activity under the Department's programs and activities which starts from the planting of reforestation and agroforestry species, harvesting their produce, processing them for value-adding, and trading them.

Emphasizing the role of people's organizations in this process, he said, "This is the most opportune time for you to reflect how our partner people's organizations are making the most of our programs or whatever assistance we extend to them."

Continuing on the role of the people's organizations, Officer-in-Charge at the Office of the Regional Executive Director, Atty. Cleo Sabado-Andrada, thanked them for participating in the trade fair.

She said the activity is a manifestation of the success of the different reforestation and agroforestry programs of the Department.

"We need your continuing commitment and support in our reforestation programs and projects to reimagine growth - one that benefits our environment, our economies, our people, our communities. I encourage you to rethink how your participation can drive meaningful change for our environment," she closed.

Jane Tacay Totanes, a member of Teamci from Cabuyao, Santo Tomas, also expressed gratitude to the DENR for its efforts in equipping them in terms of capacity-building, financial, and technical assistance.

"I personally feel the impact of DENR programs. Many say that it is anti-community but it is not. We just have to further educate our farmers so they know how to make the most of their products," she shared.

The trade fair is one of the activities in celebration of the Environment Month. According to Regional Strategic Communications and Initiatives Group Chief, Elizabeth Antolin, the activity specifically highlights the benefits derived from our forests such as food, wood products, medicines, clean water and clean air.

The Forest Treat ran from June 21 to 24, at the DENR-CAR office grounds.

(Giovani Fontanilla)

















