


D' PILLARS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SCHOOLS DIVISION OF DAVAO OCCIDENTAL

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RAISING THE BAR Davao Occidental's PRIME-HRM at Par

 Raymond S. Aquino


"In PRIME-HRM, we are not only gathering documents, but we are also making sure that service excellence will be institutionalized." Rommel R. Jandayan, CESO VI claimed that the accreditation symbolizes the SDO's relentless pursuit of raising the bar of excellence after the Civil Service Commission (CSC) conferred the Division of Davao Occidental with the PRIME-HRM Level 2 accreditation.

As the SDO prioritizes innovative governance, employee development, and quality education, it made history by achieving a remarkable 100% rating in all four systems during the CSC ROXI rigorous assessment, thereby earning the coveted PRIME-HRM Level 2 accreditation.

This outstanding feat is a testament to the division's unwavering commitment to excellence, innovation, and public service. Under the visionary leadership of Schools Division Superintendent Rommel R. Jandayan, CESO VI ably assisted by Assistant Schools Division Superintendent Ramel M. Pilo, CESE, the team demonstrated exceptional dedication, teamwork, and passion for quality education.

With the significant assistance of Director Richard Ortiz, the SDO put in place level 2 of the Program to Institutionalize Meritocracy and Excellence in Human Resource Management (PRIME-HRM). The Level 2 accreditation is awarded by CSC to agencies that have successfully institutionalized their HRM systems, processes, and practices, resulting in improved organizational performance. *(Cont. on pg. 15)*



 Romilo Paolo E. Solitana

Conception to Completion

Where vision meets Actualization

The year 2024 has proven to be the transformation era of the Schools Division of Davao Occidental. It is a remarkable period of significant achievements that underscores its commitment to educational excellence and human resource development. These accomplishments reflect the hard work of its personnel and operate as a benchmark for future initiatives within the division.

SDS of Full Capacity

In a noteworthy leadership milestone, Dr. Rommel R. Jandayan, CESO VI has escalated his status to a full-fledged Schools Division Superintendent this year in this very SDO. His promotion not only acknowledges his exemplary service and leadership but also positions him to drive further improvements in educational standards and administrative efficiency within the SDO.

"This is a testament, that He planned to make me His servant, to serve the learners, and guide them to fulfill their dreams.", Dr. Jandayan in a grateful tone acknowledges God as the source of his power to accomplish the milestone. "God gave me a challenge, to serve more, do better, and make sure that no one shall be left behind. He gave me the impetus, to give the best that I can do. It fueled me more to do better.", he added.

Hitching to PRIME-HRM

One of the standout achievements of Davao Occidental in 2024 is the Bronze Medal for the Program to Institutionalize Meritocracy and Excellence in Human Resource Management (PRIME-HRM). This recognition awarded by the Civil Service Commission (CSC) signifies that the SDO has successfully implemented a process-defined system in its human resource practices.

"I am grateful as you embraced even if the process of PRIME-HRM is tedious with its demand of meticulous paperwork. I recognize your patience, passion, and love for the SDO Davao Occidental.", SDS Jandayan recognizes the efforts of every single unit of the SDO collaborating to attain such success.

Accredited CPD Provider

Recognized by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), the Schools Professional Development (CPD) provider.

Division of Davao Occidental has now achieved accreditation as a Continuing Professional Development (CPD). This is vital for maintaining high educational standards and supporting lifelong learning among educators leading to attaining excellence among learners.

"This milestone will allow teachers to gain CPD units free of charge as the Learning and Development activities spearheaded by the SDO are now entitled to the PRC accreditation of CPD units.", Dr. Jandayan assured his people in the SDO.

Successful NQESH Passers

With the number of 26 passers of the National Qualifying Examination for School Heads (NQESH), the SDO celebrated a remarkable achievement in terms of professional development. This figure represents the largest number of successful candidates for full-fledged principals from the SDO, highlighting an increasing commitment among educators to pursue leadership roles within the education sector.

"The challenge to the new breed of school leaders is that they must transform excellence out of their classrooms. If they are good in their classrooms, then they should also be good at handling schools." The SDS tossed his challenge.

DepEd Onse's People's Choice Awards

In addition to the laurels of the SDO, the Digital Media & Events Team was recognized and awarded the People's Choice Awards for their contributions to the online broadcasting of "Diri sa DepEd Onse" Season 6-7 episodes. This award accentuates the importance of digital engagement in education, showcasing how innovative media initiatives can foster community involvement and enhance communication within schools.

In concurrence with the face-to-face classes, SDS Jandayan pledged to

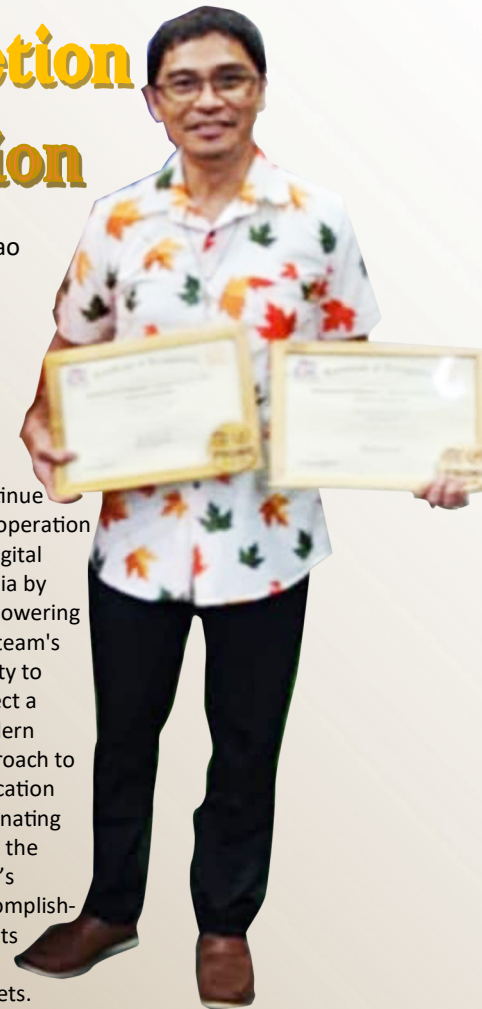
continue the operation of digital media by empowering the team's ability to reflect a modern approach to education resonating with the SDO's Accomplishments and targets.

Striving for a Huge Impact

The accomplishments of the Schools Division of Davao Occidental in 2024 exemplify a strong commitment to educational excellence and stakeholders' partnership. However, catapulting to greater heights, SDS Jandayan aspires to implement programs and projects that will underscore big impacts on its stakeholders.

"The SDO will venture into digitalization of its process such as the payroll system, which will commence earlier in 2025. We will also aim to empower our school leaders to become at their best in managing our schools." Jandayan expressed his profound desires.

From achieving prestigious awards in human resource management to fostering leadership among educators, the SDO continues to transform its vision of prioritizing innovation and quality in its service for distinction.



Monumental Stride



Elvira A. Labis

SocMob Realizes Milestones with Pride

Successes may be elusive sometimes, but 2024 has afforded the Schools Division of Davao Occidental much for its stakeholders to thank.

Successes may be elusive sometimes, but 2024 has afforded the Schools Division of Davao Occidental much for its stakeholders to thank.

It may be exacting for the Social Mobilization Division to cope with their demands for better services as matters of finances put pressure on the School Division Office, but the SDO gathered all its strengths and made matters be realized at its own pace.

In 2024, the Social Mobilization Division of Davao Occidental's Division Office, has made monumental strides in enhancing educational infrastructure and opportunities. Through firm enthusiasm and effective community mobilization, the division has successfully completed three landmark projects, transforming lives and shaping futures.

The Alternative Learning System (ALS) Facility, a state-of-the-art ALS center is one of the SocMob prime projects, valued at PHP 8M, now stands within the Division Office's premises. Funded by the Special Education Fund (SEF), this facility will provide out-of-school youth and adults with equitable access to quality education, bridging knowledge gaps and empowering them for better livelihoods.

The Special Needs Education (SNED) Infrastructure, a PHP 5M, two-classroom SPED building, complete with amenities like laundry areas, kitchens, and a bocce playground is another project that has been established this year. This specialized facility, also funded by SEF, ensures inclusive education for students with special needs, fostering a supportive environment conducive to their growth.


The Tubalan Elementary School now boasts a secured perimeter with a newly constructed gate and fence amounting to PHP 1.7 with sponsorship from San Miguel Global Power Plant—Malita Power Plant. This collaborative effort enhances safety and promotes a conducive learning environment.

These projects exemplify the Social Mobilization Division's commitment to education and community development. With these, the SDO has not only secured significant funding but also fostered partnerships with external stakeholders, demonstrating the power of collective action.

As Davao Occidental moves forward, the Social Mobilization Division is poised to continue its impactful work, driving initiatives that address evolving educational needs and champion inclusivity. This milestone serves as an example of hope, inspiring the academe to strive for excellence in education.

The accomplishments of Davao Occidental's Social Mobilization Division in 2024 are a testament to visionary leadership, collaborative spirit, and community-driven initiatives. As the division looks to the future, one thing is clear: education will remain at the forefront of its mission, empowering generations to come.



 Darish Jane B. Cambalon

DDOSPAA's Dawn DavOcc secures SEC Registration

The Division of Davao Occidental School Paper Advisers Association (DDOSPAA) has taken a major leap toward formalizing its status by pursuing registration with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) in its remarkable milestone.

This effort marks a new chapter in DDOSPAA's mission to promote excellence in Campus Journalism within the SDO. By working towards formal registration, the association demonstrates its steadfast commitment to strengthening its foundation and solidifying its leadership, ensuring a lasting impact on the future of school journalism.

With the successful completion of its SEC registration, DDOSPAA has officially cemented its status as a recognized organization. This achievement not only validates its members' hard work and dedication but also opens new opportunities for growth and collaboration. As a fully registered entity, DDOSPAA is now better positioned to drive its mission forward, impacting the future of campus journalism in Davao Occidental.

Under the leadership of President Joseph L. Calacat and Journalism Division Focal Persons, Raymond S. Aquino, EdD., and Nelia Q. Madelo, EdD., DDOSPAA now stands on firmer ground to expand its influence and better serve its mission to enhance the quality of school journalism across the Division of Davao Occidental.

DDOSPAA was able to push forward its long-planned initiatives by organizing a series of impactful training programs, aimed at equipping both teachers and students with the necessary skills to thrive in the rapidly changing world of Campus Journalism.

The training focused on both traditional journalistic skills, such as writing and editing, and the evolving demands of digital platforms and new media. In today's world, students are becoming well-versed in multimedia storytelling, from writing for online publications to creating content for social media.


With the SEC registration now in place, DDOSPAA has set the stage for even greater accomplishments in the coming years. The association plans to continue its advocacy for Campus Journalism through regular workshops to create a thriving community of student journalists.

As DDOSPAA moves forward, nurturing journalistic talent in Davao Occidental promises to make a lasting impact on the RO's media landscape, providing students with the tools they need to tell their stories, raise important issues, and become responsible, informed citizens of the future.

Truly, the SEC registration of DDOSPAA is a substantial achievement that sets the stage for the association's continued success. Through its ongoing efforts to capacitate teachers and students, DDOSPAA is ensuring that campus journalism in Davao Occidental will not only survive but thrive.



Tanglaw ng Kanluraning Davao Laureata A Food Technology Aficionada

 Ricardo S. Saavedra, Jr.

Her story is one of determination, sacrifice, and an unshakable belief in the potential of her community where she has become a symbol of what can be achieved when individuals and communities come together to pursue a common vision. Through her work, she has not only fostered knowledge and inspired minds but also shaped the future generation.

In the heart of Davao Occidental, where once there was only a vision, now stands a legacy -- a community empowered by education, innovation, and the unwavering spirit of a visionary teacher. This is a reminder that with dedication and an unclouded vision, we all have the power to create change which for her only just the beginning.

Now, this food technology aficionada, Maria Teresa B. Lugo has earned several accolades, including the tagged as the

Idol ng TESDA 2024 Regional Runner-Up, a Benigno Catalino Yap Foundation Award nominee, and the first Tanglaw ng Kanluraning Dabaw Awardee of the Gawad SANGHAYA 2024.

This Tanglaw ng Kanluraning Dabaw Award is conferred to a public servant of DepEd Division



Davao Occidental who consistently demonstrates ethical behavior and manifests exceptional or extraordinary contributions resulting from an idea or performance with a broader impact that directly benefits the Schools Division Office as a whole.

Lugo's positive mindset -- a vision of an "Iskolar ng Bayan," has made her the recipient of this award having transformed food processing into a practical medium for community empowerment rather than merely a subject taught in schools. What started as a thought in her head years ago has now developed into a lean-on program that has provided sustainable livelihood opportunities and fostered a culture of collaboration and hard work -- an exceptional contribution to the school communities.

With the benevolence of Congresswoman Lorna Bautista-Bandigan, TESDA, the Schools Division of Davao Occidental, and various stakeholders, the dreamt Food Technology and Training Center in Fishing Village, Municipality of Malita has materialized. The center, a product of collaboration, became a conflagration of hope, offering training and resources to young people who could then turn their knowledge into marketable products.

What was once a vision extending its reach beyond the community, impacting both upland and lowland areas across the province has served its goal. Students from various schools, ranging from those in SMAW, SNED, and TVL programs were benefited from a hands-on curriculum that aligned perfectly with the needs of the community, bridging the gap between education and livelihood.

This Tanglaw ng Kanluraning Dabaw awardee's journey reflects the shared vision of the province -- one of endless possibilities, where every individual can thrive, contribute, and succeed. Here in a province that had long struggled with access to sustainable income-generating activities, food processing became the missing ink -- a means for families to generate income through indigenous products such as coffee and coconut vinegar.

The heart and hustle of Maria Teresa B. Lugo is a vision realized through food innovation. It is not just about teaching food processing; it is about creating a sustainable future for the community.



Gay Jindley P. Cagas

The Bridge Builder

An EAGLES's flight as Admin Officer

"Education is not just knowledge transfer; it's transformation."

Abraham C. Ocampo's story embodies this philosophy. This is an offshoot of his belief that education extends far beyond the confines of teaching and learning. As an administrative leader, he viewed his role as a bridge builder, a catalyst for positive change, and a collaborator in transforming communities.

Abraham C. Ocampo, Administrative Assistant II at Ticolon National High School (TNHS) in Malita, Davao Occidental, exemplifies exceptional dedication to community development and administrative excellence. His innovative approach has significantly impacted students, teachers, parents, and the broader community.

His key contributions to the school he is serving comprised these subsequent: First, the Ticolon National High School

Handbook on Citizens Charter & Child Protection Policy where he spearheaded initiative safeguarding students' welfare. Second, the ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System Seminars where he led seminars promoting quality education. Third, the School—Based Management Presentations where he empowered educators with effective management strategies.

His venture into strategic partnerships goes into fostering collaborations with the Malita Municipal Agriculturist Office as the school partner for the Gulayan sa Paaralan Project, and the Barangay Council of Ticolon for the joint efforts to put in place the School Disaster Risk Reduction Management.

The visionary proposals of Abraham involve the TNHS Perimeter Fencing Project which enhances security, the School Health Standards Policy which promotes student well-being, and the Manual of Procedures for Records Management which streamlines administrative processes.


As a true public servant, Abraham's selfless dedication, leadership, and interpersonal skills have earned him recognition. His outstanding contributions earned the Gawad SANGHAYA Award as the Outstanding Administrative Assistant of the Division of Davao Occidental and consecutively the Exemplary Achievement of Great and Laudable Employee (EAGLE) Award as the Outstanding Administrative Assistant of the DepEd Region XI.

These prestigious honors attest to Abraham's unwavering commitment to public service, inspiring others to emulate his regenerative style. His legacy extends beyond TNHS, inspiring others to emulate his transformative approach to education. Guided by his educational philosophy, Abraham views his role as a bridge builder, catalyst, and collaborator. His story serves as proof of the power of committed public service, uplifting individuals and communities.



Citations for a Champion

An Ascension for STEM Education

 Kathleen W. Fernandez

"Taking big steps in life is sometimes a beauty rather than a challenge."

Taking big steps in life is sometimes a beauty rather than a challenge. These words are seen by a man whose perseverance seems limitless. His timeless dream to an impossible dream paves the way for him to be renowned.

That is a wonderful perspective of a scholar! Embracing big steps in life as opportunities for growth and transformation can be incredibly empowering. It is about reframing challenges as chances to learn, evolve, and become stronger. His mindset makes all the difference.

Dr. Jether D. Ortega who won the coveted Achievement of Great Instructional Leadership Awards (AGILA) as an outstanding Master Teacher of ROXI has dedicated his career to empowering students through STEM education. As a graduate through the scholarship grant of the Department of Science and Technology, his passion for teaching is driven by his desire to nurture future innovators. His commitment to academic excellence, innovative teaching methods, and student success made him worthy of the accolade.

Dr. Ortega's groundings sprang from being a graduate with a Bachelor of Secondary Education major in Biological Science and a Master of Arts in Education major in Science Teaching from the Southern Philippines Agri-Business and Marine and Aquatic School of Technology.

He furthered his education and earned his Doctor of Philosophy in Science Education major in Biology at Bukidnon State University with a Dissertation titled "Voices of STEM Learners in Biology: A Hermeneutic Phenomenological Study". Thus, his academic foundation in Science Education, paired with his hands-on teaching approach, enables him to guide students in exploring the limitless possibilities of STEM education.

Beyond the classroom, he leads efforts to strengthen STEM education by organizing Project DREAMERS, a program that mentors senior high school students in preparation for various assessments and scholarship exams online and face-to-face sessions. As a mentor, he guided students in

conducting scientific research that tackles real-world issues and presented such at the divisional, regional, and National Science Fairs. He then developed customized Science Modules and Strategic Intervention Materials aimed at enhancing students' understanding of complex scientific concepts.

Dr. Jether D. Ortega exemplifies the qualities of a resolute educator with the mind of a scholar. His unwavering commitment to STEM education is evident in his tireless efforts to inspire, empower, and shape the innovators of tomorrow. With a deep understanding of the power of education, he continues to push boundaries, ensuring that his students are well-equipped to navigate the future's challenges.

Shaping tomorrow's innovators today is this scholar's commitment to STEM Education which encapsulates Dr. Ortega's vision for the future -- one where empowered students lead the way through their scientific curiosity and academic excellence.



SUCCESS in all

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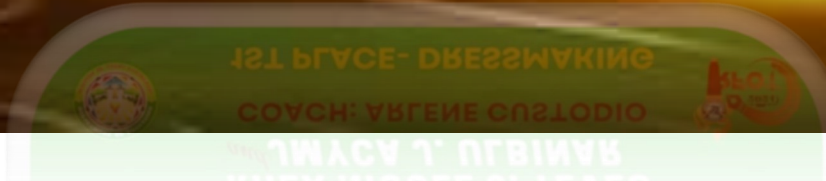
*Despite formidable
demonstrated exceptional fo
excellence and celebrated
solidifying its*



Prince Rynjun F. Malayo
RFOT 2024—1st PLACE
Malikhaing Pagkukwento
RSPC 2024—5th PLACE
Pagsulat ng Pangulong Tudling



RHEA NICOLE J. TEVES
and **JMYCA J. ULBINAR**
COACH: ARLENE CUSTODIO
1ST PLACE- DRESSMAKING



SORTS in 2024

DepEd's Crème Crème

Through its challenges, DepEd Davao Occidental
demonstrates fortitude and commitment to educational
excellence and remarkable accomplishments in 2024,
solidifying its reputation for resilience.

Adrian Jacob Mariano

3rd place in Robotics and Intelligent Machines-Individual

Lee Reden Abregana

4th place in Mathematics and Intelligent Machines

Mike M. Larobis, Haddiya T. Cervantes, Steven T. Pelayre

5th Place in Robotics and Intelligent Machines - Team

Jenia Shane Paler, Shania Waling Sarabello, Liesli C. Dayag

5th Place Life Science - Team



STUDENTS
RINA S. ESTITA
ATDREN T. SUMAYA
JERALYN M. ISIL

COACHES
CHRISA CAMARILLO
MARIA THERESA B. LUGO
LUYENIE U. MEDRANO

1ST PLACE-FOOD PROCESSING

1st Place
EDUCATION RESEARCH VIDEO

LIEZL C. DE GUZMAN
Davao del Norte Division

Title: The Effectiveness of "Digest Me" as a Strategic Intervention Modal to the Competency, Explain, Ingestion, Absorption, Assimilation, and Excretion in Science 8

2nd Place
EDUCATION RESEARCH VIDEO

MELECARE M. CARRILLO
Tagum City Division

Title: Inside the Mind of a Student with Suicidal Ideations: A Case Study

3rd Place
EDUCATION RESEARCH VIDEO

JOHN CARLO P. MANEGO
KRISTINE DYAN L. ZABALA
Davao Occidental Division

Title: Project DE.D.L.C.A.T.E.: An Innovation Fast-Tracking School-Based Management Means of Verification

Courage to Rage

Joy A. Pumikpik

A Triumphant Tale of Matinik na Si Onik

“Ang takot ay nasa isip lamang.”, that’s how a familiar line of a song goes. “Ang bawat kahirapan ay may paraan.”, and that is how a familiar adage rings a tone.

Yes, fear is only in the mind, and every struggle has a solution. This is the central theme of the story written by Rochien R. Titong, Master Teacher II at Malita Central Elementary School, who has earned the prestigious Gawad Teodora Alonso award.

This inspiring story, "Ang Matinik na Si Onik" (Onik, the Skilled Jumper) is a heartwarming tale that won best story in Category 3: Grade 2 Stories for Beginning Readers at the 6th National Competition on Storybook Writing 2024.

Titong’s personal touch is clear in her narrative, which draws from her own experiences with acrophobia. She expertly weaves her struggles into the journey of the young Onik. The story follows the young boy who overcomes his fear of heights to master the Luksong Tinik, a traditional Filipino game.

Luksong Tinik is a game of courage which means "jump over thorns," which tests agility and coordination. Players form teams, with opponents jumping over obstacles. Onik's acrophobia initially holds him back, but he finds an innovative solution which is skip counting by five.


Through Onik's journey, he has turned Fear into triumph. Titong offers valuable lessons for children facing similar struggles as the story showcases: First, courage over fear when Onik conquers his acrophobia, inspiring young readers. Second, creative problem-solving in his skip counting by five helps Onik overcome obstacles. Third, resilience as Onik perseveres, becoming "matinik" (skilled) at Luksong Tinik.

With this awesome piece of attempt, as per Department of Education Memorandum No. 043, s. 2024, Titong received an award and recognition in the recently concluded Gawad Teodora Alonso on December 4, 2024, in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan.

The lasting impact of the story, "Ang Matinik na Si Onik" extends beyond entertainment, offering empowerment, which encourages children to face fears, inspiration, which showcases the power of creative problem-solving, and cultural preservation, which promotes traditional Filipino games.

Titong's masterpiece serves as a testament to the transformative power of storytelling. "Ang Matinik na Si Onik" reminds us that the greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall. - Nelson Mandela.



 Janet R. Octura

Breaking Barriers

Two Studies Revolutionizing Educational Practices

In a world where technology shapes young minds, two innovation projects in the Division of Davao Occidental this year 2023-2024 dared to make a difference.

From cyberbullying to streamlined management, these studies tackle education's toughest challenges, both were pioneering education change.

Meet the researchers behind MENSHARTAG Scheme who ranked 2nd under Oral Presentation Category-Action Research, with the theme Child Protection, and the proponents of Project DE.DI.CATE who ranked 3rd under the Educational Research Video Category-Action Research, with the theme of Governance, during the 2024 Regional Research Congress.

Study No.1, the MENSHARTAG Scheme by Leif Ralex W. Campaner and Arpee Mae D. Alicarte is an intervention resolving the inappropriate demeanor of students on Facebook. Its methodology as action research with a mixed-methods approach, a survey, tracking tool, and one-on-one interviews of 6 at-risk students from Benjamin Velasco Bautista Sr. National High School was apt for this type of study.

MENSHARTAG Scheme (Mention, Share, and Tag) utilized emblems to promote positivity which shows a significant decrease in students' engagement with negative content (3.63 to 1.92). The theme reflects negative impressions, conservation of integrity, and peace where MENSHARTAG Scheme effectively improved students' online behavior,



Study No. 2, the PROJECT DE.DI.CATE is an innovative fast-tracking School-Based Management Means of Verification conducted by John Carlo A. Mañego and Kristine Dyan L. Zabala. Its methodology is an action research with a mixed-methods approach, employing focus group discussion, and client satisfaction tools for four focal persons from Benjamin Velasco Bautista Sr. National High School and 4 elementary schools.

PROJECT DE.DI.CATE (Decongest, Digitalize, Capsulized Tracking for Evaluation) has the finding of high satisfaction rate with a mean of 4.37. Its theme, ease of Time on Tasks can beat deadlines and streamline initiatives. This project efficiently digitized and organized School-Based Management means of verification.


Both studies employed action research, addressing specific challenges in education with mixed methods approaches and triangulation of data. It enhanced validity, and both interventions demonstrated positive outcomes, improving student behavior and school management efficiency through small sample sizes which generalizability may be limited.

Generally, both studies contributed to the body of knowledge on innovative educational interventions, highlighting the importance of responsible social media use and efficient school management practices.





Her Quest in NQESH

 Glory Lyn T. Aquino

In this glamour-fixated world, only those who made it to the top take the limelight. They all have the applause they deserve.

Ermina Lara is one of the twenty-three successful passers of the National Qualifying Examination for School Heads in the Division of Davao Occidental this year. Her triumphant journey bears more responsibility now as a full-fledged school manager.

Ermina has carved her name in the accounts of merit by passing the coveted May 2024 NQESH. As the sole successful taker from Malita East District this year, Lara's notable feat is an indication of her resolute devotion and sincere passion for serving the Department of Education.

Behind her accomplished façade lies a story of resilience and perseverance. Lara's journey was marked by striking challenges, but her unyielding spirit and determination enabled her to navigate the obstacles. Her commitment to her craft particularly putting in place the Mariano Peralta National High School-Bito Extension, the school she tried hard to establish as Head Teacher 1 for a decade is truly inspiring.

Though her success in attaining autonomy from the mother school is yet to take place along with her struggles to hitch the principalship, it is already a powerful reminder that hard work



and determination can overcome even the most daunting hurdles.

Her ability to manage stress is a quality of her exceptional leadership. By prioritizing her mental well-being, she maintains her composure amidst the chaos of public service. Her secret to serenity? A steadfast focus on inner strength, cultivated through self-care and stress management techniques.


“Through regular exercise and occasional trail run, I can establish rapport and camaraderie with new sets of diverse people, relieve my work-related stress, and normalize my vital signs to keep me fit to face the challenges of my daily tasks.” Lara candidly professed her bright and light side.

What sets Lara apart is her unique approach to maintaining a happy and healthy lifestyle. A regular at her gym class, she finds solace in fitness and amity with fellow gym enthusiasts. This dedication to physical and mental wellness enables her to tackle the demands of her role with vigor and enthusiasm.

Her remarkable achievements, being instrumental in social mobilization and civic movements are shining examples of inspiration for aspiring educators and professionals. Her story underscores the importance of resilience in overcoming adversity, prioritizing mental health and well-being, and embracing an integrated approach to fitness.

The resolute commitment to public service that brought Ermina Lara's triumph in NQESH is more than a personal victory; it implies hope for an optimistic prospect in education. As a school manager, her tenacity will undoubtedly fulfill a promise of selfless public service.

Let it be LET

 Saidamen T. Solutan

*Be*hind a sweet smile and a cheerful demeanor lies a hidden story of challenges and sacrifices shaping a straightforward man's character.

The story of his humble beginning speaks of how his life unfolded way back then. His account of how his father made do with a little rice they had for his siblings – mixing it with sweet potatoes or bananas to suffice for them to feed and survive day by day could melt the coldest of hearts.

The life of Charles Alinañera is a story of unwavering determination and relentless effort.

He may have passed through all the trials in life as a student due to abject poverty, but his struggle went through a couple of decades of brawling the real drama of life. After his graduation with a Bachelor of Secondary Education specializing in Livelihood Education from the Southern Philippines Agri-Business and Marine and Aquatic School of Technology in 2002, this did not make his dream of becoming a teacher an instant reality.

Despite setbacks, sacrifices, and difficult circumstances having been unable to make it for several attempts in the Licensure Examination for Teachers (LET) his passport for his ideal job opportunity – his career, he was able to gather his debris and found the strength to continue and eventually succeed.

His real-life strife started as a collector of Davao Central Warehouse Club, a job that taught him stick-to-itiveness. Grueling all day to earn a living, he needs to sustain himself and his family. His sincere work ethic made him a Marketing In-Charge and later a Branch Manager.



But, this alone did not suffice to satisfy his family's needs. This made him venture to a side hustle as a tricycle driver for several years to make ends meet.

Yet, running through his veins is the true blood of a teacher. Thus, this desire was rekindled as he volunteered to go with the Alternative Learning System (ALS) implementers of Malita North District in 2019. This desire has even sent him to a more challenging service in the ALS Malita West District a year later. Still, he continued taking the most coveted test, the LET.

In 2023, after nine attempts, he passed the LET—a hard-earned success. Alinañera's story proves that challenges and failures are not obstacles to achieving dreams. Every sacrifice he endured, from the hardships of his youth, working as a tricycle driver, and juggling multiple jobs, became the strength that propelled him forward.


After more than twenty years and countless trials, this 2024, he is now a full-fledged teacher, ready to share his knowledge and inspire the youths. His life is an indication that despite all the trials, relentless persistence will eventually lead one to success.





A HABIT OF EXCELLENCE

MPNHS' Wellness Program Story of Preeminence

 Joseph L. Calacat

More to that is the Dynamic Routine of the Division Hataw Sayaw team who won the first place with an incredible performance that amazed the judges and audience.

Following their success at the Division level, MPNHS continued their winning streak by clinching first place in the BIS/Docu Kwentong Tagumpay category at the regional level.

"This is just the beginning of your continued success as we are now moving forward to compete with 10 regions across the Philippines." the principal, Hilda P. Renoblas expressed her pride and optimism for the future. "Our students have shown that with hard work and dedication, anything is possible." she added.

The triple win and the ensuing regional triumph are blatant examples of MPNHS's skill, diligence, and passion. This continuous success is the consequence of its consistent dedication to excellence rather than a coincidence.

Outstanding accomplishments have resulted from the coaches and students integrating this habit into their daily lives. The entire school and LGU are behind them, eager to encourage and assist them to achieve even more as they get ready to compete nationally. Because of their constant support and commitment to high standards, MPNHS can maintain its reputation for excellence.

Will Durant once said, "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit."

Mariano Peralta National High School's (MPNHS) recent triple triumph at the Division School Wellness Program is an excellent example of this.

This tremendous success is the fruit of persistent effort, commitment, and a culture that values excellence rather than being the product of a single act. As demonstrated by their exceptional results in the BIS/Docu Kwentong Tagumpay, Cook-Off, and Hataw Sayaw contests of Campus Wellness Program 2024, MPNHS's students and coaches have made greatness a habit. They have established a new norm for success via their consistent efforts and dedication to high standards, demonstrating that greatness is a habit that can be developed with perseverance and cooperation.

Propelling to the top, the Division BIS/Docu Kwentong Tagumpay coveted the First. The team revealed the remarkable stories of two exceptional Taekwondo athletes, Presriolan Jay Ariate and Alyhanna Parulan. Their triumphant and emotionally laden story of accomplishment enthralled the judges and propelled them to the top, where they were awarded the top spot. This also includes the fantastic Campus Wellness Program implementation at MPNHS.

Another team created a commotion in the sweltering Division Cook-Off arena. They won the coveted first place after impressing the judges with their creative cuisine and culinary skills, all while working as a cohesive team.



YEAR 2024

Overcoming Adversities All Through the Year

Magical Magenta inspired resilience in 2024. This was the color unveiled by Pantone in December 2023. As the Color of the Year, this vibrant, pinkish-purple hue is said to symbolize creativity, warmth, and empowerment. Yet, little did we know that 2024 would test our resolve in unexpected ways.

It can be remembered that the year began with economic uncertainty, as the world grappled with recession fears and market fluctuations. Natural disasters, such as devastating earthquakes and category-5 typhoons, struck various regions, displacing communities and straining resources. The ongoing climate crisis led to intense heatwaves, droughts, and unprecedented weather patterns. These challenges threatened the education sector of the Province of Davao Occidental, prompting innovators to develop sustainable solutions.

Despite adversity, along with humanity, school officials rallied, inspired by the resilience embodied by Magical Magenta to make significant advancements in educational technology increasing efficiency and reducing costs, fostering creativity and self-expression. With the neighborhoods, they came together to support those affected by natural disasters, demonstrating compassion and solidarity, and investing in eco-friendly infrastructure, driving sustainable development while reducing stigma around mental health discussions.

As 2024 draws to a close, we reflect on the power of resilience: adaptability, empathy, and sustainability. Magical Magenta reminded us to adapt and innovate in the face of uncertainty, community-driven initiatives showcased the importance of compassion and support, and environmental consciousness became a priority, driving eco-friendly policies.

The tandem of SDS Rommel R. Jandayan, who became a full-fledged superintendent in the SDO this year, and ASDS Ramel M. Pilo, whose arrival in the SDO in the same year was a great



blessing. The transformational leadership exercised by both is instrumental to the attainment of the SDO's PRIME-HRM Level 2 accreditation and the accreditation as CPD provider granted by the CSC and PRC respectively. These brought quality performances and services among its stakeholders making names to the AGILA and EAGLE Awards and other competitions and fields of endeavor.

As we bid farewell to 2024, Magical Magenta's legacy endures. This captivating color inspired us to transform challenges into opportunities, ensuring a brighter, more resilient tomorrow. Embracing the 2025 color, the Mocha Mousse, we expect not only challenges to include balancing technology and nature, managing stress, and maintaining relationships amidst increasing individualism but also stability, harmony, comfort, indulgence, and connection to nature.

With the inspiration of the Mocha Mousse, the coming year 2025 is hoped to bring a bright future in education. It is anticipated that experiential learning supports hands-on, practical learning experiences; sustainable education encourages environmental awareness and eco-friendly practices; emotional intelligence focuses on social-emotional learning and empathy development; personalized learning advocates tailored instruction and self-paced learning; and mindfulness and wellness promote practices for students and educators.

Hurray for the Year 2024 and cheers for the Year 2025!

(from pg. 1)

DepEd-Davao Occidental's key achievements cover Strategic Planning where the SDO demonstrated robust planning, execution, and monitoring, Competency-Based Recruitment with innovative hiring processes that ensured top talent acquisition, Performance Management with effective performance evaluation and development programs, and Learning and Development which provided comprehensive training programs for employees' growth.

With the CSC ROXI's endorsement of the DepEd Davao Occidental Division for its impressive 100% rating that demonstrates exceptional HRM practices, the bronze award was conferred and received by SDS Jandayan at the Malagos Garden Resort, Calinan, Davao City last December 10, 2024.

The accreditation ceremony, attended by DepEd officials,

CSC representatives, and local stakeholders, marked a significant milestone.

SDS Jandayan acknowledged the collective effort, saying, "We were able to do it because all of us contributed, little or much, but these contributions made the wholeness of the award. Congratulations to all of us!"

As DepEd Davao Occidental continues to set new standards, the division remains dedicated to enhancing teacher development programs, improving student outcomes, strengthening community partnerships, and fostering a culture of innovation.

By raising the bar, DepEd Davao Occidental inspires its stakeholders to strive for PRIME-HRM Level 3 distinction.

Seamless Success

Davao Occidental achieves CPD Access



Teresita T. Caballero

Earning the required Continuing Professional Development (CPD) units for license renewal with the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) has put much pressure on public school teachers.

Since the implementation of Republic Act No. 10912 otherwise known as the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Act of 2016 as the mandatory requirement for the renewal of professional identification cards of all registered and licensed professionals under the regulation of the PRC on March 15, 2017, teachers have faced significant challenges in fulfilling their CPD requirements.

It's the limited availability of accessible training programs, high costs, and scarcity of accredited CPD providers within the Davao Region that made it increasingly difficult for educators to comply with the mandate which the Division of Davao Occidental put an end having been recognized by the PRC as accredited CPD provider now.

The announcement of the Schools Division Superintendent Rommel R. Jandayan this September 27, 2024, that SDO Davao Occidental is officially PRC accredited CPD provider was met with overwhelming joy and relief across the division, marking a significant milestone in making professional development more accessible and cost-effective for teachers in the province.

ASDS Ramel M. Pilo acknowledged that securing the CPD accreditation paused a daunting challenge as the application necessitates significant time, effort, and Perseverance vis-a-vis the stringent standards and tight timelines set by the PRC.

Despite these hurdles, the Human Resource Development Division remained steadfast in its mission. Driven by the pressing need to address the high demand for accessible CPD programs among the division employees which is aligned with the national educational standards, they pushed forward with unwavering determination. Their persistence and dedication paid off, as the SDO successfully achieved the much-anticipated CPD accreditation – a testament to their commitment to supporting the professional growth of teachers in SDO Davao Occidental.

By accrediting DepEd as CPD provider, the SDO can ensure that teachers receive high-quality, relevant, and accessible professional development opportunities that will enhance their skills and contribute to the overall improvement of the education system. Moreover, the division not only empowers its workforce but also reinforces its dedication to delivering quality education for the future of the province. This milestone is just the beginning of many more opportunities to come in the Schools Division of Davao Occidental.

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