

State of the Municipality Address 2020

Year One Accomplishment Report of Mayor Leopoldo N. Bataoil

July 2020

Sa kalagitnaan ng magkabilang pandemya na dulot ng African Swine Fever at COVID-19 na patuloy na nananalasa sa ating bansa, gustong malaman ng ordinaryong mamamayan natin: Kumusta na ba ang bayan ng Lingayen? Malaki ba ang naging epekto ng ASF at COVID? Paano na ang mga magagandang plano ng ating lokal na pamahalaan? Nasaan na ba tayo ngayon, at saan ba tayo patungo?

I am a dreamer.

When I assumed my post as your Mayor on June 30, 2019, I had the biggest dreams for our beloved capital town.

We hit the ground running to make these dreams a reality. You have become witnesses to the repainting and repair of the municipal hall building, the renovation of the Lingayen Town Plaza Auditorium, and the rehabilitation of the Rizal Park.

We have a lot of plans lined up for Lingayen, but they all took a backseat due to the COVID-19 pandemic. After all, nothing is more important than our people's lives, health, and safety. For at the end of the day, all our efforts would be useless if the virus would spread in our town like wildfire. And so, at the smallest hint of a possible COVID-19-related death, I placed the victim's home barangay, Libsong West, under Extreme Enhanced Community Quarantine which lasted for three weeks. Not only that, we had to manage suspected cases promptly, organize contact tracing teams in every barangay, establish temporary quarantine and isolation facilities, direct private groceries and supermarkets to conform to the Market Schedule, impose a liquor ban, and set up systems for the efficient delivery of relief goods.

It was not easy. With little money coming in and a lot of money going out, we all had to make sacrifices. I personally had to make sacrifices. Because at the end of the day, ***I am the father of the capital town.***

And there is nothing more heart-breaking for a father than seeing his family suffer due to illness and unemployment. For COVID-19 not only caused fever, dry cough, shortness of breath, and death; it also stunted our children's education, paralyzed the transport sector, crippled the world economy, and strained our budgets.

I worried day in and day out on how to ease the burden of our *kababayans*, especially those living a hand-to-mouth existence, or in the vernacular, “*isang kahig, isang tuka.*” Several items of our annual budget had to be re-aligned, projects had to be provisionally scraped just so we could extend relief to each one of the 37,000 households in Lingayen. *Walang mayaman, walang mahirap. Dahil lahat ng tao nagugutom, lahat dapat bigyan. Dahil lahat tayo ay apektado ng pandemya.*

After all, ***I am a public servant.***

As such, I constantly live up to the Constitutional tenet that “Public office is a public trust.” That at all times, I am accountable to all of you, and must serve you, my constituents, with utmost responsibility, integrity, loyalty, efficiency, justice, and transparency. Therefore, let me share with you our Year One Accomplishment Report. This report is not only mine, but a collective effort of each and every department and employee of the local government unit—for the people of Lingayen.

The Health Units

With the worldwide pandemic, it is but natural for the Rural Health Units to be at the frontline of my report.

During our first months in office, we have intensified the fight against dengue and other vector-borne diseases. Fogging operations, spraying, larviciding, and clean up drives were conducted in different schools and various barangays.

Vitamin supplements were provided to about 600 children; senior citizens were given the flu vaccine; and about 5,000 pupils were immunized against measles, tetanus, diphtheria, and HPV.

Our Blood donation program produced 90 blood bags; and at least 1,679 health cards were issued. A monthly medical and dental mission tagged as “*medikaravan*” has rendered services to about 7,000 individuals in far-flung barangays and provided medical assistance to different public events.

In partnership with the provincial government, at least 300 pregnant women in Lingayen were given Buntis Kits and pre-natal check-ups during last year’s Buntis Congress. About 70 deliveries were accommodated at our municipal birthing clinic while 3,448 women of

reproductive age were given DOH-issued contraceptives as part of the national family planning program.

As for our war against COVID-19, we made sure to stop the spread of the virus in our town. I am happy to report that from March 16, 2020, up to the present, Lingayen only had 4 confirmed COVID cases. *Ang isa po sa kanila ay nasawi ngunit ang 3 ay naka-recover na at gumaling.* **This was made possible by the implementation of strict monitoring and assessment; mandatory quarantine; thermal scanning, mass testing, and disinfection of public areas.**

Amidst the pandemic, a healthy community is proof of our dedication to public service and our genuine concern for our *kabaleyan*s. At this point, let me then thank all our health partners, both in the public and private sectors, who have sacrificed their own health and safety to keep us health and safe. You know who you all are, my deepest gratitude.

The Social Welfare and Development Office

Economic Progress is only meaningful if felt by every sector of society. Our Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office gives special importance to the youth, PWDs, and senior citizens.

The **youth** is the future of the motherland. And in our first year in office, we provided them with nutrition and education. 1,409 day care children benefited from our feeding program; for six months, 134 then malnourished children were fed with the help of UNICEF. One million pesos worth of instructional materials was also distributed to ten child development centers.

Aside from the youth, we gave mobility to ten (10) **differently-abled** individuals in our community by providing eight (8) prosthetic legs and two (2) wheelchairs.

Of course, let us not forget our elderly. I wanted to make sure that every **senior citizen** in Lingayen have a Senior Citizen ID to entitle them to the benefits provided by law. So far, we have released an additional 2,900 senior citizen IDs and more or less 4,000 of our elderlies have been receiving social pension.

With respect to other emergency aids, we provided burial assistance to 183 bereaved families and helped at least 11 Badjaos to go back home to Jolo, Sulu.

The **Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program** or 4Ps with 4,686 enrolled beneficiaries in our municipality is closely monitored. We make sure that its beneficiaries are deserving and make proper use of the money they received.

At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, the MSWDO played a vital role in the implementation of the **Social Amelioration Program (SAP)**. Under this program, the national government allotted P82.5 million for our town, to be distributed to 15,000 households. Generally, it went well. Unfortunately, there were a handful of SAP Beneficiaries who abused the financial assistance by indulging in vices such as drinking, gambling, cockfighting, betting, and gaming. I ordered that these individuals and households be stricken off the list of SAP beneficiaries. There were also those who received the SAP financial assistance despite being ineligible. Fortunately, they were honest enough to return the money. Kaya aking masasabi na maraming tapat o honest sa Lingayen. Saludo ako sa iyong lahat.

The Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office

Stepping up our disaster management blueprint, we have conducted a number of trainings on disaster response and mitigation including a preparatory course for water search and rescue (WASAR) training.

Aside from this, we have spearheaded monitoring and coastal clean-up drive at the Lingayen Beach, trimming of trees, and removal of eye-sore tarpaulins along Artacho St., Brgy. Poblacion.

With the LDRRMO, we always have standby emergency response teams during normal days and during special occasions such as the Independence Day Celebration and the Lingayen Town Fiesta. Come rain or come shine, they are ready.

And they proved their mettle with the COVID-19 pandemic. The LDRRMO was the vanguard in the thermal scanning of market goers; in hauling food and non-food items; in the disinfection of offices, public markets, and schools; in transporting returning residents and OFWs and the enforcement of their 14-day quarantine; they also assisted in the packing and distribution of relief goods to different barangays.

Our response to the present health crisis and other emergencies was undoubtedly expedited and advanced by an effective disaster and risk management.

The Agriculture Office

Dr. Jose Rizal was wise in saying, “We can’t all be doctors; who will till the land?” *Kung walang magsasaka at manginigisda, wala tayong makakain.*

The Agriculture Office improved communication links with our farmers and fisherfolks by having them registered in our Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA). So far, the system has covered 2,308 registrants from 30 barangays.

970 rice farmers from 25 villages were given financial assistance; and during the pandemic, additional 120 rice farmers from 25 barangays were given financial subsidy. At least eight (8) water pumps and engines, 4 units of tractor, among other farming tools, were likewise provided to registered farmers associations through the assistance of the Department of Agriculture.

Meanwhile, during the African Swine Fever (ASF) outbreak, we implemented a strict temporary ban in the entry of hogs in the municipality, and culled 1,066 ASF-infected hogs. We also gave, with the help of the Department of Agriculture, 14 affected hog raisers a total of P705,000 in financial assistance.

Now, we are looking at further improving the agriculture sector for it is what sustains us especially during these trying and uncertain times. *Hinihikayat ko rin ang ating mga kababayan na magtanim sa kani-kanilang bakuran tulad nang ginawa natin sa ating public plaza. Hindi lamang ornamental plants ang inyong makikita dito kundi maging sari-saring gulay na maaring ihain sa inyong mga hapag, ito ay bilang pagsusulong natin ng food sustainability, na kung magsisipag tayo at magtatanim...hindi tayo magugutom!*

The Human Resources Management Office

Unemployment is a recurring problem in our country. To help ease unemployment, the LGU employed 411 job order employees, 36 researchers, and three (3) under contracts of service.

On September 14, 2019, in coordination with the Provincial Employment and Services Office (PESO), we conducted a jobs fair in partnership with 18 local companies and two (2) overseas companies,

that resulted in the on-the-spot hiring of 45 applicants while 221 were qualified for further interview. Its success was followed by another jobs fair held last February 12.

Various programs of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and PESO like the Government Internship Program (GIP) and Scholarship Program for the Employment of Students (SPES) were also given attention by the HRMO. The *Tulong Pangkabuhayan sa Ating mga Displaced/Disadvantage Workers (TUPAD)* Program of DOLE was implemented in our municipality from March 24, 2020 to April 13, 2020. This program helped give employment to our emergency workers, who were responsible for the SAP validation and relief goods' repacking and distribution.

The HRMO also campaigned for punctuality, the wearing of office uniform and ID, and attendance at the flag raising and flag retreat. *Dahil ang disiplina ay dapat magsimula sa atin upang tularan ng lahat.*

The Lingayen Police Station

Drug-free, *kotong*-free, and orderly.

These are our main policies on peace and order, which is being implemented mainly through the Lingayen Police Station.

In fact, a total of 91 anti-criminality operations were conducted in our first year of service.

These include 17 operations against illegal drugs, with 19 offenders arrested, thereby protecting our status of being a drug-free municipality. We are already aware of the menace that drugs bring in our society, and it is our priority to keep our municipality drug-free.

Concurrently, three (3) operations against loose firearms were held with 3 illegal firearms confiscated and two (2) persons arrested. For illegal gambling, 85 malefactors were apprehended in 31 operations.

On top of these, 42 persons were taken into custody, including the Top 2 and Top 4 most wanted in our town for the year 2020, and Top 3 most wanted person in Baguio City in the year 2019.

The police reported a continuing drop in the number of crimes committed and in the number of vehicular traffic incidents; as well as an increase in the Crime Solution Rate. All the operations are

complemented by checkpoints, “Oplan Sita” operations, and mobile patrolling which are continuously undertaken to ensure our people’s safety. *Hindi rin matatawaran ang naging sakripisyo ng ating kapulisan sa panahon ng pagharap sa COVID-19, sa walang kapagurang pagbabantay partikular sa mga borders ng ating bayan at paghuli sa mga pasaway sa panuntunan ng community quarantine.*

Just as before, I call on our people to not be afraid of our police authorities. Instead, coordinate with them. Do not be afraid to report crimes. We must remember that the Police is our friend, our protector. On the other hand, any complaint of a transgression committed by police officers is encouraged to be reported to us.

The Public Order and Safety Office/ Municipal Security Personnel

The phrase “safety first” is constantly being brought to life by our different policies put in place, and implemented through the POSO and our municipal security.

Among these is the extreme organization and management of public highways and traffic with corresponding stern enforcement of public highways’ guidelines as on the wearing of helmets, proper parking, and registration. This should remind the public that discipline and compliance with the law are mandatory. Please take these traffic guidelines not as rubbish or unnecessary hassles, but as matters aimed at ensuring everyone’s safety.

More so road widening operations, in accordance with the national government protocols, have been conducted- with some getting little inconvenience for which I want to apologize, but then again, bear in mind that these are for the public welfare. Thus, they really must be done.

Meanwhile, the POSO and security personnel, likewise, was responsible for the management of public order and safety during special events such as the successful staging of the first *MinDa* Fruit activity in our region, our Paskuhan and town fiesta. *Kasama rin dito ang kanilang pagbabantay sa paligid ng ating munisipyo, plaza at maging ng palengke, round-the-clock.*

The Assessor’s Office

At the outset, it must be noted that the Municipal Assessor’s Office is primarily in charge of providing accurate and systematic methods of appraisal and assessment on real properties- to include residential and agricultural lands, and residential and commercial buildings- within the Municipality of Lingayen for taxation purposes. To come up with

appropriate assessments, we have been conducting field works and ocular inspections. Newly-transferred tax declarations are also being reconciled with the existing tax declarations to avoid duplicity; and tax maps were updated. Another round of tax mapping will be done when circumstances allow.

Meanwhile, ocular inspections in different barangays, and mass appraisal on machineries, buildings, and registered water refilling stations were also undertaken.

Through our land revalidation and verification, we were able to recover certain parcels such as a 155 square meter property which will be the site of the new RHU Building and a 22,000 square meter property located along Solis St. which will be a growth area for Lingayen.

Proper real property assessment is the cornerstone of real property taxes. I commend our Municipal Assessor's Office for doing a good job.

The Treasurer's Office

This Office spearheads the collection of taxes and other fees lawfully due to the municipal government. We have to remember that these fees go directly to the coffers of the government, which, consequently, has been funding much-needed infrastructure projects and social services.

Local Income collection from July 2019 to June 2020 totaled P86,555,616.51 or higher by P15,354,202.38 compared to the same one-year period from July 2018 to June 2019 amounting to P71,201,414.13; or a 21.56% increase in income collection.

We note a strong performance in the first eight months, which rose by 36%. This has cushioned the natural drop in the collections from March 2020 to June 2020 due to the adverse economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Comparison of the performance for the period from January to June of 2019 against January to June 2020 still resulted in an increase of 10.54%, which surpasses the SGLG requirement of a 5% increase in yearly collection.

This huge increase can be attributed to the open communication lines established between and among stakeholders involved in the development of the local economy, manifesting the renewed confidence of businessmen in this administration. This participative management

encouraged market stall holders to fully comply with existing ordinances which resulted in high collection in business permits, rentals, and goodwill.

We are looking at further improvements in the realm of tax collection, founded on trustworthy relationship between the municipal government and the private sector.

The Municipal Budget Office

As with the Treasurer's Office, the Budget Office is a key department in securing a sound financial management.

Through our budget policies and issuances, and in consideration of pertinent laws, the Budget Office was able to evaluate and approve not only the municipality's annual budget, but also that of the 32 barangays within the prescribed period. In doing so, we ascertained that all allocations of the different barangays were for statutory and contractual obligations.

In particular, the Budget Office was able to prepare the Annual Budget and three (3) Supplemental Budgets for the town, and assisted the Sanggunian Bayan in reviewing the Annual and Supplemental Barangay Budgets.

The Engineering Office

Among those we have given emphasis, especially during our first months in service, was the infrastructure sector. There are three main reasons for this: safety, economy, and convenience. Having good infrastructures would assure our people's safety and convenience, and would usher economic growth by attracting investors.

We have completed the painting, plumbing, electrical works, and installation of doors and window with grills at the Rural Health Unit II in Brgy. Domalandan Center; rehabilitated our five-chamber slaughterhouse; Drainage canal along Burgos St. in Brgy. Poblacion; evacuation center's phase II in Brgy. Tumbar; retaining wall of the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) in Brgy. Quibaol; concrete paving and installation of slope protection or rip rapping, well-paved passable and comfortable local roads in Brgys. Capandanán, Estanza, and Rosario were constructed. All of these have provided convenience and safety to our constituency and

motorists.

We also installed solar street lighting system in the town proper; and as you may have noticed, bright and lovely lights adorn our Municipal Hall. Now, it is both a seat of local government and a tourist attraction.

On top of these, you are witnesses to the rehabilitation of the Lingayen Town Plaza, Rizal Park, and Plaza Auditorium. While these projects were put to a temporary halt because of the pandemic, work has resumed for a Lingayen we will all be proud of.

Soon to rise infrastructures in our municipality were the new RHU1 building and MSWD Office.

The Planning and Development Office

This Office serves a number of functions: planning, zoning, solid waste management, and other concerns which are considered significant for the effective delivery of public services.

In the area of Planning and Zoning, we have formulated Lingayen's very first Local Shelter Plan. This serves as a realistic report and analysis of the issues concerning human settlements, and our guide in addressing identified shelter issues. It will help us in our goal of uplifting the lives of our people by ensuring the delivery of basic services and affordable and adequate housing. Indeed, this is a milestone work on governance. Also, we have prepared our Annual Investment Program focusing only on significant projects; and our Site Development Plans for Infrastructure Projects, which only prove that all our infrastructure projects were well-studied prior to their implementation.

As for Waste Management, Clearing, and Urban Planning, we have undertaken declogging of canals and demolition of illegal structures in different areas especially within or near the central business district. These actions not only comply with the order of President Duterte, but also instill discipline and order in our town.

The environment was the focus of our clean-up drives; information campaign on proper waste segregation, cleanliness and proper waste disposal; mobile (*garong*) clean-up operations; daily collection of residual wastes from the public market.

In our tree planting and vegetable gardening activities, we have been using fertilizers processed through vermi-composting, which was done at our Material Recovery Facility (MRF) located in Brgy. Quibaol. At least 29 barangays are also now taking advantage of the convenient and orderly transporting of their residuals to the MRF.

We have also purchased an additional dump truck and payloader for more efficient segregation, collection, and transport of residuals to the Sanitary Landfill located in Urdaneta City and Capas, Tarlac.

The Licensing Office

The Licensing Office facilitated the application and renewal of business permits, yielding to more or less 22.07% increase of business application and renewals compared to that of last year's.

The Licensing Office has also been proactive in closing down delinquent market stalls, poultry farms, business establishments, and even the common terminal.

The General Services Office

Our GSO is a newly-established office. When I learned that we have no official GSO, I directed the creation of one, because I know its importance.

Since then, the office has been addressing concerns on vehicles, building-insurance, equipment, and other supplies.

For one, the registration of LGU-owned motor vehicles was updated. A maintenance schedule was also set to ensure that the vehicles safe and road-worthy.

In the same manner, our office equipment now have a maintenance schedule to make them fully operational and reliable.

Aside from this, the new GSO has facilitated in getting insurance policies for all our municipal buildings, as mandated by law.

Inventory of different materials and supplies are also being undertaken to have orderly and transparent records, in compliance with the guidelines of the Commission on Audit.

The Commission on Population and Development (POPCOM) Office

Family is the basic institution of society. Following this tenet, the POPCOM has been continuously assisting soon-to-be married couples through Family Planning and Pre-Marriage Orientation and Counseling.

“*Usapan Sessions*” with Married Women of Reproductive Age (MWRA) were spearheaded to strengthen family values toward Responsible Parenthood.

The Office led the conduct of symposia on Adolescent Sexuality and Fertility Awareness in secondary schools, seen as an intervention measure to curb the rising trend of teenage pregnancies.

The Civil Registry Office

To be a part of the journey of young couples is, undoubtedly, heartwarming. With the help of the Civil Registry Office, I was able to solemnize a total of 203 marriages. Just right before the lockdown, it was a joy to have officiated the exchange of vows of 143 couples in our first-ever Kasalang Bayan. It was not only a mass wedding, but because of the threat of COVID, it was also a masked wedding.

Salamat din LCR sa maagap na pagtugon sa hamon ng bayanihan sa panahon na nangangailangan ng tulong ang MSWDO para sa SAP encoding and editing para maka-comply tayo sa ating deadline. Sa tulong ninyo na halos walang tulog at pahinga at ng iba pang departamento natapos natin ito sa oras.

The Office of the Market and Slaughterhouse

As has been apparent in my First 100 days report, the Market and Slaughterhouse is one of the departments we gave special attention.

In the first months of this administration, our political will resulted in the successful relocation of ambulant vendors and better organization of the public market building with stalls awarded to new concessionaires. To protect our consumers, we destroyed defective weighing scales.

We have been enforcing strict collection of market fees, which resulted in at least P2.6 in cash from January to May 2020 alone.

More importantly, we enjoined strict compliance with Municipal Ordinances such as the Market Code and the Lingayen Slaughterhouse and Meat Operation Management Code of 2014 within the public market, its premises, the satellite *barangay* markets, as well in the slaughterhouse which led to the “No Floor Dressing Policy,” or the prohibition on placing slaughtered animals on the floor; the suppression of clandestine slaughtering and illegal sale of meat; the observance of quarantine procedure and the temporary total ban on the entry of all live swines/pigs into the municipality to protect our livestock from ASF.

On top of that, while the whole LGU was under ECQ, we set up satellite markets or *talipapa* and rolling stores in different *barangays* to ensure that basic necessities such as food and medicine reach our constituents who are quarantined at home. We were able to hit two birds with one stone: we limited the movement of our constituents while bringing the necessities to them.

The Tourism Office

While the Municipal Tourism Office was just about to be created, our tourism-related initiatives have begun since day 1.

We have established the Lingayen Tourism Stakeholders Association (LINTOSA), a unified non-profit group of stakeholders from the food and beverage industry- including hotels, cafés, restaurants, and resorts owners- whose main advocacy is to help boost the tourism capabilities of the municipality.

A food crawl event which filled us with sumptuous Lingayen dishes along a scenic Lingayen view was held, with renowned Filipino food and travel bloggers and vloggers. This has spurred tourism potentials of Lingayen.

Our Town Plaza and Municipal Hall have been looking good and up-to-date for the past months, with monthly themes are being thought of by the Tourism Office.

In addition, the Tourism Officer, herself, led the Committee behind the successful staging of the Lingayen *Limgas Na Baley* 2020 pageant and also helped out with the conduct of the aforementioned jobs fair by inviting companies which could offer career opportunities.

The Information Office

Again and always, I have underscored transparency and accountability. Our people are vital part of each and every policy we implement, and as such, they deserve to know the details on these policies. The goal of informing the citizenry is best achieved through an active and efficient information office.

News articles and photos of various activities and programs are constantly being posted in different platforms, particularly on social media, so the people may know. The Lingayen Information Office official page on Facebook has already reached almost 50,000 followers with engaged users airing out their opinions as well as suggestions, and which we have been recognizing and responding to as far as we could.

Aside from that, we also relaunched our Lingayen website as another venue for our information dissemination campaign. Through these efforts, we are certain that our mission and vision of becoming a benchmark for good governance with an active community as our partner is being carried through.

At the height of the pandemic, we have also seen the very crucial role of an information office, functioning both as an information-provider and as an assistance office. It could not be gainsaid that our public then had been very anxious and helpless, and who needed constant updates and aid.

Also, a news videoclip, being posted weekly, dubbed as the Lingayen News Bulletin has been gaining our social media followers' attention and further involvement. An acknowledgment of how our information office has been doing its tasks extensively to serve our people, despite its having no permanent employee assigned exclusively to such function, would be an understatement.

Aside from all these, we would also like to report that through the Information Office doing the nitty-gritty paper tasks, tap various national agencies and individuals for various aid for our town and we were able to comply with the requirements to be bestowed different citations and awards.

Evidently, through our information-related efforts, we have been living up to the accountability provision imposed on us as public servants and we have been doing it well.

The Legal Office

Various obligations contracted by and with the municipal government are being scrutinized prior to, during, and after perfection of the contract to ensure that we are always within the bounds of the law. When I assumed office, one of the major steps I took with the assistance of the Legal Office is the recovery of the Common Terminal.

On September 25, 2020, the Municipality of Lingayen finally took over the Common Terminal after the previous operator's refusal to pay rent and business permit for the past fourteen years. It is only under this administration that the LGU had the guts to say, "Enough is enough!" Nobody has the right to enrich themselves at the expense of the people.

On November 30, 2019, the Common Terminal resumed operations under the management of the local government. At last, the income generated by the Common Terminal could be used to augment our budget for infrastructure projects and social services. Instead of benefiting only a handful of individuals, the income from the Common Terminal will benefit all of Lingayen.

But the previous operator would not go down without a fight. Would you believe, they sued us in court and wanted to oust us from our rightful possession. However, justice was served when I received a copy of the Court Decision in our favor. *Panalo tayo ngunit umapela po sila at tayo'y nakahanda!* Now, the blueprints for a new three-story common terminal can finally be drawn.

Also, the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) was re-organized last May 2020. Under the current membership of the BAC, all the legal, technical, and financial aspects of every procurement are meticulously examined in compliance with the letter and spirit of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as Government Procurement Reform Act.

Further, with the guidance of our Legal Office, on March 16, 2020, I signed Executive Order No. 25, Series of 2020, placing the entire Municipality of Lingayen under Community Quarantine. Modesty aside, our Municipality was a step ahead of Malacañang when it declared the entire Island of Luzon under lockdown several hours later.

Again, we do everything only within the boundaries set by law.

The Legislative Branch/Office of the Vice-Mayor

All our achievements are not only products of the work of the executive department. The Legislative Department, headed by Vice Mayor Judy Vargas-Quiocho, has been our able partner since day one.

One of the Sangguniang Bayan's policies is the holding of the weekly People's Day to hear from the people themselves, to guide them in their main function of crafting and passing ordinances with active involvement from our constituency. Transparency is likewise upheld by the Sangguniang Bayan through the live streaming of their regular sessions and regular updates posted on the social media and in the SB bulletin board.

According to the SB Secretariat's report, the Local Council has, by far, enacted 15 Ordinances, six of which were in response to the pandemic. Notable are the "Tricycle and Pedicab Fares Under Special Circumstances Ordinance of 2020," which balanced the needs of our tricycle and pedicab drivers to earn a living and the needs of our riding public to a reasonable fare; the grant of moratorium for the payment of market stall rentals; and the establishment of a scholarship program for deserving incoming college students.

The SB also passed 158 resolutions including 53 Barangay Certifications throughout its regular and special sessions, committee meetings, and public hearings. It also accredited 46 Civil Society Organizations in compliance with DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2019-77.

The Legislative Branch made sure that it sustains the efforts of the executive branch. It went beyond its main function and led different trainings such as Livelihood Training, Red Cross Training, Psychosocial Training, and even Civil Service Review. As we have mentioned in our last report, we have allocated four hundred thousand pesos (P400,000) for the improvement of the municipal library for the last semester of 2019. The library is also in the process of being accredited under the DICT's TECH4ED Program.

Undoubtedly, our progress in the coming years is assured by both the executive and legislative departments working in synergy.

CONCLUSION:

Evidently, the first eight months have been filled with drastic implementation of policies, the start of the actualization of our dreams. We even clutched the coveted the Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG), attesting to our compliance with all the seven areas of good governance.

However, the last four months of our first year were focused on battling an invisible enemy.

Some may consider my first year in service as your Mayor as a baptism of fire, considering the occurrence of the epidemic. However, I would like to look at it in a different way: that my Year One, perhaps highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic, was actually a blessing in disguise. While we are not yet virus-free, we are in a better position now. For we have graduated from ECQ to MGCQ.

Through the past months, we are able to prove, as one town, that with everyone's cooperation, not even the deadliest virus could defeat our strong-willed spirit and resilience. If we could get through this pandemic, there is nothing else we could not overcome.

I am extending my most heartfelt appreciation to all the donors, sponsors. Through your goodwill, we were able to make the landscaping of the Lingayen town plaza and the facelifting of our town hall, market, and church feasible. On behalf of the people of Lingayen, many thanks to the Lingayen Circle of America, Inc., Pangasinan Provincial High School/ Pangasinan National High School Alumni Association of USA, Savemore Markets among other associations and institutions.

Also, let me acknowledge the kindness of those who have shared their resources to our fellows who are in dire need of assistance during these trying times. Without the philanthropy and altruistic sense of responsibility, we would have not been able to sustain our response and relief efforts.

Maraming salamat, municipal administrators Joe Ferrer and Robert Sylim... lahat ng ito ay naging posible dahil nandyan din kayong naka-alalaya sa aking unang taon sa panunungkulan.

Of course, to the different line agencies of the national government including the Bureau of Internal Revenue, Commission on Elections, Department of Trade and Industry, Commission on Audit, Bureau of Fire Protection, Armed Forces of the Philippines, and the Department of Interior and Local Government- thank you for being great instruments to the attainment of our goals and who are effective guardians of the people's interest.

Acknowledgment goes as well to the provincial government of Pangasinan headed by Hon. Amado “Pogi” I. Espino, III and 2nd district congressman Hon. Jumel Anthony I. Espino for the constant guidance and assistance to its capital town ; and to all the well-meaning non-government organizations as well as our friends in the media for their commitment in helping us in all the ways they could. Thank you and may we keep up our good partnership.

The phrase “political will with humanitarian consideration” has always been my guiding light. For I am a public servant, a dreamer, and a father. Some of these dreams may have taken the backseat, but now, we are ready to go! Pedal to the metal!

Say kaplesan a pandemya so nanpatayatay ed panamilay tayo, balet ed panamegley na pankakasakey, katekep na tulong na dios a katawan... mansansia tayon onarangkada Lingayen!

Thank you and may we all stay safe and sound.