



## **STATE OF THE PROVINCE ADDRESS**

*July 29, 2011 – 9:30AM*

*Center Podium, Provincial Capitol*

*Capitol Hills, Ipil Heights, Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay*



- Distinguished Members of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan led by Vice-Governor HON. ATTY. REY ANDRE C. OLEGARIO;
- Distinguished members of the House of Congress representing the two districts of Zamboanga Sibugay: HON. CONG. JONATHAN C. YAMBAO from the First District and HON. CONG. ROMEO M. JALOSJOS, JR. from the Second District;
- Officials of the National Agencies
- Honorable Mayors, Vice-Mayors, Councilors and Barangay Captains of Zamboanga Sibugay;
- Honoured Guests from Zamboanga del Norte:

- HON. GOV. ROLANDO E. YEBES of Zamboanga del Norte;
  - HON. CONG. SETH FREDERICK P. JALOSJOS of ZaNorte First Congressional District;
  - HON. CONG. CESAR G. JALOSJOS of ZaNorte Third Congressional District;
  - HON. MAYOR SVETLANA “PAL” JALOSJOS of Baliangao, Zamboanga del Norte;
  - HON. MAYOR DOMINADOR G. JALOSJOS, JR of Dapitan City;
  - HON. ROMEO “Nonong” JALOSJOS, Founder of the Alliance of Parties for Progress (APP);
  - HON. BM JOHANNA D. JALOSJOS of ZaNorte Third District;
  - HON. COUNCILOR ROSALINDA J. JALOSJO of Dapitan City;
  - HON. MARJORIE “CAT” JALOSJOS, Regional President Liga ng Mga Barangay
  - HON. BM FLORENTINO DAAROL of the Third District of ZaNorte
- Reverend Members of the religious sector;
  - Honorable members of the Judiciary;
  - Honorable Prosecutors;
  - Officials and Members of the Philippine Army and the Philippine National Police;
  - Partners of development representing the private and business sectors, and non-government organizations;
  - Brother Subanens, Muslims, Kalibugans and Timuays;
  - Heads of Different Universities and Colleges;
  - Sibugay Provincial Department Heads and Capitol Employees;
  - Honored Guests, Fellow Sibugaynons, Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen;

A pleasant day to you all.



I wish to welcome everyone to this historic event. We are here now for we are bound by a shared mission and common responsibility. We sip in the same cup of love for our dearest province, Sibugay.

In the same vein, yet greater magnitude, our heroes shared the same sacrificial love for our motherland, Las Islas Filipinas.

Coincidentally this year as we celebrate the first anniversary of our corporate existence in our provincial administration, we also celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of our national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal.

Rizal bears an added significance for us in Zamboanga Peninsula because it was in this part of the world where he spent his last days in healing people's physical ailments as well as seeking cure for our social ills.

A century and a half have passed, my friends, and we still wrestle with identical problems as Rizal and the rest of our heroes dealt with. We continue what they started for this shared mission and responsibility cuts across time.

In the movie "Prince of Persia" it is said that: *"Some lives are linked across time connected by an ancient calling that echoes through the ages."*

Our lives are linked to the lives of our heroes for we share with them the noble call to better the lives of our people.

All of you are witnesses that a whole year ago, I neither dwelt on the past nor blamed the past administration for whatever malaise that we inherited.

Yet, we cannot break away from the past or its ghost will haunt us. For if we loosely translate Rizal, he said: *"He who does not learn from the lessons of the past is bound to repeat them."*

So I beg your indulgence as I take exception today, my friends. For just this time let me backtrack a bit for purposes of enlightening you on the real state of our province, then and

now. I do this with no intention to downgrade anyone but for us to see where we stood and where we are now after a year of our corporate journey and where we wish to go farther more.

For easier understanding, there are five dominant situations that embodied the state of Sibugay when we took over and let these be the benchmark of how far have we journeyed from there a year after.

First, in 2010 before we took over, Sibugay was adjudged by national evaluators as **one of the worst governed provinces**.

Second, it was also tagged as **one of the poorest provinces** in the entire Philippines. This, despite its rich resources.

Third, there were **constant and vicious threats to peace and order**.

Fourth, we have **misplaced personnel** or persons assigned in posts inconsistent with their natural talents or educational preparation. Worse, some personnel have also very poor work ethics.

Fifth, on top of it all, we **inherited an empty treasury while hemorrhaging from gaping maturing debts**.

Yes, we faced these major issues from without while from within we bled from the overflow of intrigues and deficit of trust, primarily triggered by political partisanship.

But mind you, the issues we face are beyond partisanship. They are issues that have to do with what is right and proper. For these issues concern human persons and their dream for a decent life.

But then, how do you deal with external problems on poverty and peace and order while co-existing with infightings and internal bickerings?

The primary dilemma is whether to focus first on development to have peace or establish peace first to have development. We went through the torturous pangs of resolving this confusion.

In our thorough soul-searching, we realized that poverty and peace and order crises are twin problems that should be addressed simultaneously for we cannot just focus on peace and order while stomachs are empty and vice-versa. Or else, we just run around in circles without resolving anything at all.

So we crafted two approaches to the peace and order situation – the hot or macro scheme and cold or micro scheme. For us, peace and order is everyone’s task – by the police and military on one hand, and the civilian population on the other.

The hot approach or neutralizing trouble-makers connotes working closely in tandem with our military and police by giving them some logistical support like gasoline for their mobility, surveillance and intelligence works. I even personally have knocked on the doors of national leaders like DILG Sec. Robredo for firearms and service vehicles for our military and police.

Our close coordination and support to the tandem of the PNP-Army intelligence, surveillance and operation works led to the death in Brgy. Kalintana, Naga last April 2011 of the dreaded Commander Camsa, an MILF “lost command” group leader, who extorted in Zamboanga Peninsula. Killed along with him in an encounter against the Military-PNP joint operation were eight of his companions.

We also came up with 16 Army Watercrafts, 13 of which are smaller speedboats and three big mother boats to pursue and apprehend lawless elements on our shores. These Watercrafts vitally augmented the Provincial Fishery Law Enforcement Patrol Boats we provided our Bantay Dagat Forces.

Our administration will also continuously look for effective strategies and programs to eradicate extortion and piracy activities in our territorial waters.

Though our being a highly coastal province is a blessing, it also has a drawback since lawless elements make the sea as their easy exit points after their crimes. Part of the scheme of these lawless groups is extortion from our fisherfolks that increased over the years. Burdened, fishermen are then tempted to engage in illegal fishing methods to cope up with their spiraling added expenses arising from such extortion.

Having organized our coastal municipalities into Integral Coastal Resource Management (ICRM), our approach, therefore, should not only be limited to coordinating with the “Bantay Dagat” but should as well incorporate close coordination with our law enforcers to control extortionists and other lawless groups criss-crossing the seas – a program which we may jokingly dub as “Bantay Bagat”.

Now, while we strengthened our alliance with other government agencies to eradicate illegal fishing, the boats we provided substantially helped in its enforcement and resulted to a significant reduction of illegal fishing operations of Sibugay Municipality Waters to **more than 85%**. From January to June 2011 alone, we have apprehended and filed cases against 47 fishery law violators in the shores of Sibugay. In effect, fisherfolks’ fish catch significantly increased. Fish catch in 2010 in our municipal waters almost doubled due to the implementation of the Provincial Fishery Law enforcement operation while catches of encroaching Commercial Fishing

remain low in Zamboanga Sibugay. This is why, compared to many places in the Philippines, the cost of fish here in Sibugay is much cheaper.

We know that approximately 70% of the protein source of the poor in the Philippines comes from fish. So this approach of ours is a concrete way of putting fish on the table of our poor constituents. This shows that strengthening our law enforcers by giving them support concretely advances poverty reduction and promote development.

Because of the social menace of illegal drugs and substances, we entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) committing to wage all-out war against illegal drugs in Sibugay on February 22, 2011. The next day, PDEA, in coordination with us, apprehended a father and son drug-pushing tandem in a buy-bust operation in Poblacion Malangas. On April 5, 2011, PDEA nabbed a couple, along with their three children and two others in a buy-bust operation in Ipil. The suspects were members of the notorious Nandang-Afdal drug group operating in Zamboanga Peninsula. Around this time 100 grams of shabu worth more than half a million pesos was seized in Zamboanga City. This shows how bad illegal drugs have gone peninsula-wide.

Now, we go to the cold approach or promotion of peace in the community. This approach is capacitating ordinary folks in conflict resolution right at the community level through the promotion of the Barangay Justice System or the BJS. We started with seven municipalities and 116 barangays in Sibugay.

The BJS has three objectives: 1.) Help maintain peace by solving petty conflicts in the communities; 2.) Build/re-build relationships among neighbors; and 3.) Eventually help in the development of communities with maintained peace.

In the case of Brgy. Pangil in Ipil, they no longer accept cases without passing through the Barangay Justice Advocates (BJA) first. In effect, since September 10, 2010 when the BJS started, no case had been filed in the Katarungang Pambarangay because they were 100% solved by the BJAs in their community level. Acting Provincial Legal Officer, Atty. Odessa Comedido, said in the First BJA Provincial Congress last February 20 that she noticed the decrease of the number of cases filed in the court here in Sibugay and congratulated the BJAs for that.

So we aim that the BJS program will be expanded to the remaining nine municipalities not yet covered. More, our administration has decided to make the BJS Provincial Congress an annual event every first Monday of July each year. Furthermore, I have already instructed the Local

Finance Committee to allocate fund for this annual gathering where high-caliber BJAs will be recognized and awarded. Another thing, I have arranged with the Local Finance Committee to provide the BJAs with PhilHealth Insurance under the Provincial Health Care Program.

BJS is a key to progress because a non-conflictive community is likely to work cooperatively together for its common welfare. Whereas before the BJS adoption, barangay officials in Brgy. Pangi were busy resolving cases reaching their desks, now they can focus on developmental pursuits after BJS relieved them of this task.

Having presented our advocacy for the advancement of Peace and Order, we now, more specifically, discuss on Development. In my inauguration speech I said that the ROMMEL Agenda would be the main thrust of my governance. So **we pursued development** by aggressively promoting this Agenda. Let me refresh you of this acronym one by one as we go along.

First, **R** stands for **Rural infrastructures: roads, buildings and bridges.**

Being an agricultural province, we may address poverty by building more farm-to-market-roads for easier, faster and cheaper transport of products, thus raising the income of farmers, traders and those in the business and transport sectors.

Improving our road networks also expedites emergency responses of our police and military forces to remote conflict areas, thus substantially improving our peace and order situation.

It is for this reason that, despite our fund shortage, of the 337 kms of our Provincial Road, we already covered 70% of it as of July 2011.

So let me detail here the road networks we constructed:

<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>APPROPRIATION</b>	<b>WORK PROGRESS</b>
Imelda-Alicia Rd.	P20,000,000.00	Ongoing
Ipil-Imelda Wharf Rd.	9,000,000.00	87%
Repair/Rehab.Boyugan Rd.,Buug	10,000,000.00	Ongoing
Rehab. Dansalan Rd., Malangas	800,000.00	100%
Rehab. Laparay Rd., Talusan	1,000,000.00	100%
Rehab. Brgy.Poblacion Rd., Imelda	1,000,000.00	100%
Rehab. Tuburan Rd., Malangas	500,000.00	100%
Cons.Pulo Laum footbridge, Olutanga	200,000.00	100%
Cons.Poblacion Rd., Malangas	1,000,000.00	100%
Rehab.Malongon/Molum Rds, Malangas	500,000.00	100%
Rehab.Guilawa Rd., Malangas	1,000,000.00	100%
Rehab.Looc-Sapi Rd., Olutanga	300,000.00	100%

Rehab.Binangonan-Kulasian Rd., Payao	300,000.00	100%
Cons.Looc-Sapi Footbridge, Olutanga	1,000,000.00	45%
Repair of Slip Section of Buayan-Merlapi Prov. Rd., Kabasalan	800,000.00	100%
Construction of 1 Unit Spillway @ Eco-Tourism, Titay	390,000.00	40%
Construction of Footbridge at Tampala, Alicia	485,000.00	100%

Construction of Abutments & Installation of Super Structure  
for Various Tulay ng Pangulo under the Pres. Bridge Program

Camanga, Titay	2,000,000.00	100%
Rehab.Lutiman-Guicam Prov.Rd., Alicia	5,000,000.00	80%
Rehab. Mabuhay-Olutanga Prov.Rd.	5,000,000.00	80%

The following are the construction, repair and rehabilitation projects of the various buildings in the entire Sibugay Province.

<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>APPROPRIATION</b>	<b>WORK PROGRESS</b>
Cons., Tampalan E.S., Alicia	P1,396,000.00	30%
Cons., Olutanga E.S., Olutanga	698,300.00	40%
Cons., Bangkaw2 E.S., Mabuhay	1,438,800.00	30%
Cons., Catiluan NHS, Malangas	1,330,000.00	40%
Cons., Natan NHS, Diplahan	665,000.00	40%
Cons., Malinao ES, Mabuhay	1,396,000.00	40%
Cons., Goling Public School, Naga	665,000.00	40%
Infras. & Local Projs. in Dist.1	10,000,000.00	Ongoing
Cons./Rehab Multi-Purp.Pavement, Siay	1,500,000.00	30%
Rehab. Multi-Purp.Bldgs. Poblacion, Malangas	200,000.00	100%
Rehab. Multi-Purp.Bldgs. Dawa-dawa, Alica	1,000,000.00	100%
Rehab. Multi-Purp.Bldgs. Manlin, Buug	1,000,000.00	100%
Rehab. Multi-Purp.Bldgs. Poblacion, Imelda	1,000,000.00	100%
Rehab. Multi-Purp.Bldgs. Poblacion, Diplahan	1,000,000.00	100%
Rehab. Multi-Purp.Bldgs. Poblacion, Olutanga	1,000,000.00	100%
Rehab. Multi-Purp.Bldgs. Poblacion, Malangas	1,000,000.00	100%
Rehab. Multi-Purp.Bldgs. Fatima, Payao	1,000,000.00	100%
Rehab. Multi-Purp.Bldgs. Compostela, Buug	200,000.00	100%
Rehab. Multi-Purp.Bldgs. Labatan & Talib, Payao	200,000.00	100%
Rehab. Multi-Purp.Bldgs. Sta. Maria, Olutanga	200,000.00	100%
Rehab. Multi-Purp.Bldgs. Sto. Niño, Alicia	200,000.00	100%
Rehab. Multi-Purp.Bldgs. Poblacion,Mabuhay	1,000,000.00	100%
Rehab. Water System. Malangas	500,000.00	100%
Rehab. Prov. Plant Nurseries in Payao	350,000.00	10.12%
Completion of Capitol Building	200,000,000.00	92.93%
Const. of new Sibugay Prov. Hospital, Taway, Ipil	100,000,000.00	underway
Improvement of KOBE Bldg., Ipil	450,000.00	100%
Repair/Rehab. Satellite Health Center (Olutanga Dist. Hospital)	9,000,000.00	100%
Repair/Rehab. Satellite Health Center of Alicia Dist. Hospital	9,500,000.00	100%
Repair/Rehab. Satellite Health Center of Ipil Dist. Hospital	2,500,000.00	100%

Repair/Rehab. Satellite Health Center of Payao Dist. Hospital	9,000,000.00	100%
Repair/Renovation of Ipil Dist. Hospital	5,000,000.00	100%
Improvement of Admin. Bldg. & Kitchen Area of Prov. BJMP	485,000.00	100%
Construction of PNP Sibugay Facilities	1,000,000.00	90%

We have established access with GEM-USAID’s counterparting technical assistance on projects with regional impact. Their first assistance to us is on our Rubber Expansion project. Second is the concreting of the torturous Lutiman-Gicam Road. The third, which is the grandest, that we ardently lobby and work out is the bridge to connect the island municipalities of Olutanga, Mabuhay and Talusan to mainland Sibugay. And the good news is that the counterpart funds for these mega-projects are ready for download as soon as needed.

We will surely do better this second year because we will aggressively promote counterparting with more foreign partners whereby we only allot 10 to 15% in cash or kind of the total project amount while our partners shoulder the bulk of the cost. Imagine, in a project costing P100Million, we will only shell out P10 to 15Million. This is why we will have more and bigger projects to come.

Second, **O** stands for **Optimum utilization of local revenues and resources.**

Among the first things we did was to conduct an inventory of assets in the provincial capitol. To ensure that we be good custodians of these facilities, we instructed our security personnel to be extra vigilant in their routine inspections in our capitol premises during night time and weekends.

Likewise, we feel we have to be responsible custodians of our other assets and resources in the province. This warrants greater urgency because Budget and Management Secretary Florencio B. Abad announced about the IRA reduction for 2012 because of the *“sharp decrease of revenue collections in 2009 due to the global economic slump as well as revenue-eroding measures passed at that time.”*

Such reduction implies a **P30Million cut of our 2012 IRA budget.** Now, this gives us cold chills in the spine because Sibugay is IRA dependent ever since its creation. In 2010, we were only **52% efficient** vis-à-vis our local revenue target and it was only the IRA that pulled us up to reach 92% of our budget amount that year.

To keep afloat next year, we have no choice but increase our local revenues from tax collections. This is where we may need to re-evaluate our local revenue target barometers. For example, in the 2011 estimate of the Assessors Office based on the new real property tax rate,

we will generate P19Million plus share on the assumption that we can hit a 75% collection efficiency rate. To this effect, I am instructing the Assessors Office and the Treasurer's Office to conduct a forum soonest with the Municipal Treasurers to devise an efficient collection scheme to hit our target and coordinate with the PPDO for the expenses of this event.

I also see the need for the upgrading of the provincial tax ordinance imposition on quarry resources based on its per market value because presently, we charge way much lower than the current rate. There is also the need to stringently countercheck the accuracy of volume extracted as per declaration of quarry operators. This is why I am directing Environment and Natural Resources Office to make a review on this and make a proposal paper on how to eradicate illegal mining, increase our tax revenue from quarry – that is, sand and gravel and small-scale mining – as well as design measures to ensure that the extraction volume is accurate as declared and submit it to me in two weeks. Please ensure also the strict implementation of the current Provincial Ordinance on restricting the transport of forest and quarry resources from and within Sibugay from 6:00PM to 6:00AM.

I am instructing PTO to closely coordinate with PENRO, especially on the updated quarry rates, with PVET for the standard charges of its services and its expansion, with Agriculture, PEO and IPHO on how they can help significantly increase our provincial revenue by the taxes passing through their own departments. Of course PTO and PPDO also need to work in tandem with the PNP for checkpoints in strategic locations to ensure that taxable items are appropriately checked and in order.

Let us also realize that Sibugay is a beautiful place with so many potential spots for tourism which will rake in substantial income if maximized. I am, therefore, instructing the Tourism Division to devise some scheme in coordination with the Municipal Tourism Officers on how to properly package and promote our spots to attract tourists. But rather than attracting foreign tourists, let us first prioritize our local tourists. Let us first sell Sibugay to Sibugaynons or Sibugay to Zamboanga Peninsula. Then foreign tourists will come later.

One event to happen in Sibugay on September 23-26, 2011 that should be taken advantage of as tourism opportunity is the incoming Seventh Western Mindanao Jamboree with 5,000 campers vis-à-vis the First Provincial Jamborette of Zamboanga Sibugay also with 5,000 campers. These campers need to see and appreciate Sibugay's beauty and spread it to others by word of mouth.

For us to succeed in all these undertakings, I strongly recommend that PTO establish a ***proper control system*** to determine if goals are met and take corrective action if necessary in the

following areas: Physical Resources, Human Resources, Information Resources and Financial Resources as well as Strengthen its Human Resource Program, consistent with modern concept of organization.

In addition, may I implore the PTO and other vital departments it deems strategic, to formulate a Provincial Revenue Generating Policies/Guidelines the soonest possible time to throttle Sibugay's economy and uplift the living condition of the poor. I also request our provincial legislature to craft legislations in support of the foregoing.

Alongside this, we will need an overall plan to keep us focused in our direction. Every significant intervention to alter people's sorry state requires a painstaking effort to conceptualize conscientious plans to overturn it. Let me, therefore, direct the PPDO to laydown a better future for Sibugay by finishing soon the six-year Provincial Development and Physical Framework Plan (PDPFP), the Provincial Development and Investment Plan (PDIP), and the Feasibility Study (FS) that you recently crafted under NEDA's guidance. Also, please try to strengthen the Executive-Legislative Agenda relative to this end.

We know that local tax revenue is just one source of our income. But if we want to stabilize our financial base, we need to aggressively create some economic enterprise like the Coal Polygeneration Plant we propose to construct in Malangas and is projected to employ five to six thousand workers. This technology will be a stable supply of clean affordable energy. Among its by-products are urea for local agriculture and methanol for industrial use. So saying, it will cause a spin-off to a lot of other economic enterprises and opportunities for our constituents. This will not just stabilize our energy source but it will supply us clean energy.

We also work on the rubber industry expansion in Kabasalan. With enough energy and rubber raw materials in the near future, then we can ultimately level up higher by inviting investors to establish a rubber factory here to process our rubber tars into finished products for domestic and foreign exports. We have already started the initial steps for such economic enterprises to be realized. In fact, Sibugay was invited by the international Natural Rubber Board Committee to present our rubber expansion program to them. A team is already organized to do the presentation by November.

Our Provincial Development Investment Plan (PDIP) being finalized now specifies Rubber Nursery as a focus. So last July 20, 2011, we launched the five-hectare **Provincial Rubber Nursery** in Veterans Village. This nursery will ensure the production of 600,000 healthy and vigorous rubber seedling stock to be planted in our rubber expansion site. While waiting for our rubber plants to be mature for tar production, we will intercrop the plantation with food crops

that will offer livelihood for farmers and be a source of second market for them. This is integrated farming.

We are in close collaboration with the National Greening Program (NGP) where Sibugay is given a quota of 35,000 seedlings to be planted in two years to combat global warming. PENRO will produce the seedlings. Divided evenly, each municipality will plant 2,187 trees. But our GRAJTREE program will far exceed this target as the 12,000-hectare rubber expansion project will produce 4.8 million trees in five years.

The GRAJTREE program will qualify us for the CARBON CREDIT program of UN under the Community-Based Forest Agreement (CBFA). There are two ways to gain credit – either through factories that emit less carbon than the CBFA benchmark or by planting trees to absorb the carbon emissions. Each ton of carbon emission reduction either through eco-friendly technology or absorption of carbon by trees is equivalent to one carbon credit which is convertible to 15 Euros. Because of this, UN will visit Sibugay on September 19 to check our rubber expansion site as future basis of the carbon credit scoring. This will be a source of good income for the province in the coming years.

Now, let me redirect your attention that it is not just revenue increase that we focus on because no amount of income can bring progress if we do not install proper measures against graft and corruption. Let me proudly tell you that at the start of our administration I plainly instructed the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) that from then on, we should put a stop to practices that distort the proper bidding flow and that every transaction should pass through a competitive public bidding. I also saw to it that during special occasions such as this one, extravagant expenses be avoided as part of our austerity measure. So do not be surprised why our food and decorations today are simple.

Above all, consistent to my governance of Transparency, Accountability and Participatory, Sibugay is one of the first provinces to implement DILG's **Full Disclosure Policy** where all our transactions and expenses are laid down in the open. In case you doubt the veracity of this, you can validate it in DILG's website. As of now, only 13% of the Local Chief Executives all over the Philippines have complied with this and we are the first to do so. This qualifies us as a candidate for the Seal of Good Housekeeping based on the benchmark of **Sound Fiscal Management, Transparency and Accountability, Valuing Performance Management** and **General Impression on the LGU**. Once qualified, this will warrant a P7Million DILG grant for Sibugay. This is a way of saying, **"Sibugay, you're in good hands."**

Third, **M** stands for **Modernization and enhancement of health systems**.

We have allotted P44Million for our health facilities enhancement program and another. A P2.75Million worth of medical diagnostic x-ray machine with high voltage generator, control desk, high voltage cable and photographic flat bed and a 2.7 window-type air conditioners were also acquired.

Our medical personnel both in the provincial hospital and the Integrated Provincial Health Office had also availed of random trainings and updates to upgrade their knowledge and skills.

We have also promoted the operationalization on Barangay Health Emergency Response Team with the budget of P255,000.00 which establishes Surveillance Team at the Barangay level whereby barangay officials and volunteers are capacitated to assist during calamities, epidemics, disasters and health emergencies.

We assisted 28 Medical and Dental Outreaches with a budget of P213,327.92 which served 2,758 dental patients, conducted 8,967 consultations and 229 minor operations. A border-to-border information caravan on April 4, 2011 was conducted with the slogan "*Iligtas sa Tigdas ang Pinas*" relative to the Measles-Rubella Supplemental Immunization Activity (MR SIA).

We have said that we appropriated P100Million for the construction of the new Sibugay Provincial Hospital in Taway, Ipil which we hope to ground-break soon. Thanks to the effort of LGU Ipil in facilitating the acquisition of the four-hectare site. We also allotted P7Million for Payao Municipal Hospital. We will strive for more build-ups of our old and new hospitals all throughout the province.

We extended continuous medical assistance to our constituents. From July 2010 to the present we have released about P913,086.00 of financial assistance to 1,298 patients. We have also acquired P5Million medicines to be given free to indigent patients through the assistance of Cong. Romeo M. Jalosjos, Jr. We released P500,000.00 financial assistance to the operation of Diplahan Municipal Hospital.

In support of the MNCHN Grant (Maternal, Newborn, Child Health and Nutrition), the SP came up with Ordinance no. 2011-345 or **Health Governance Ordinance** for Maternal, Newborn, Child Health and Nutrition and Commodity Self-reliance was passed and will ultimately be for the utmost benefit of our constituents.

Clean water is crucial to health promotion. So we pushed to provide Sibugay safe, affordable, accessible and continuous potable water source. We accessed from DILG/NAPC/DOH a P10Million fund, with only 10% counterpart on our end, for the betterment of our water supply

system for each of the municipalities of Alicia, Payao, Titay, Tungawan and Ipil. By 2112 the same project will be extended to the municipalities of Buug, Kabasalan, Mabuhay, Malangas, Naga, R.T. Lim and Siay. We also availed of national assisted locally funded water works construction that amounted to **P45,162,007.21**.

To monitor and ensure the quality of water in the province, DILG Region 9 recently turned over a set of bacteriological equipment and reagents at the Provincial Hospital for Sibugay's use for bacteriological test of waters. Those in the water purifying business are required to have their water regularly checked to ensure good water quality. For private individuals especially in rural areas, they can also have their deep wells checked for sanitariness and potability. At least, Sibugaynons can now have their water checked here instead of going to Zamboanga City or Dipolog City.

Since nutrition is vital to health, a nutrition advocacy was promoted in the entire Sibugay. Our aggressive move significantly reduced the 2001 malnutrition rate of 22.64% to only 8.89% last year or a dramatic reduction of **13.75%**. A project fund amounting to P2.8Million plus was accessed. Another fund worth P1.6Million plus from the National Nutrition Council was also received for nutrition-related training, education and campaign.

Our indefatigable campaign bore fruit. Our Municipal Nutrition Committee of Buug got the highest award in nutrition. Kabasalan Municipal Committee won as the First Crown Maintenance Awardee. Our Kabasalan Barangay Nutrition Scholar topped the 2011 search for Regional Outstanding Barangay Nutrition Scholar. And Sibugay is now a Green Banner Awardee and currently evaluated as the **Most Outstanding Province in the implementation of Nutrition Program in the Region**.

Fourth, **M** stands for **Management re-orientation and re-organization**.

We said at the start that our fourth problem is the **misplacement of personnel** or assignment in posts inconsistent with their natural talents or educational background. At a closer look, approximately only 30% of our personnel are highly technical while the 70% is either misplaced or in need of further upgrading and enhancement of skills.

Added to this, we discovered bad habits among provincial capitol employees such as habitual lateness and other offenses that are violative of the Civil Service Commission code. Some disciplinary actions were imposed. In the hope to motivate personnel to cooperate, incentives were given. A P20,000.00 cash bonus was given to employees last December 2010 and I plan to increase it this coming December 2011. A P300,000.00 cash assistance was also given to the

Zamboanga Sibugay Government Employees Association (ZamSiGEA) for the members' burial, hospital and educational loans at **0% interest rate**. This was to relieve employees from high-interest loans incurred in banks and other institutions. I am also planning to lend ZamSiGEA P3Million so it may expand its services to more members. Yet, many personnel still continue with their bad habits which is a clear sign of their lack of support to our administration.

So we encouraged and supported personnel trainings and seminars. But as things stand, we see the need for a Personnel Reorganization to start next week. Considering also that our 2012 IRA will be down by P30Million, we may be forced to painfully reduce our hiring of Job Orders, Contract of Services and Consultancies. We will even expect everyone, including myself, to multi-task as part of our austerity measure.

Fifth, **E** stands for **Educational support initiatives and Environmental thrust**.

Education, indisputably, is the best equalizer. Our ardent support for education means that we are fervent on equalization.

However, the significant decrease of our IRA next year will surely affect our allotment for constructions, repairs and maintenance of our public school buildings. But Secretary Abad during his announcement of the IRA decrease also quickly added that: *"The National Government can co-finance LGUs' critical development projects such as school buildings, rural health centers, infrastructure that supports agriculture and tourism, and other endeavours consistent with the Social Contract (of the President)."*

Locally, I have already talked with our two Congressmen and they are willing to engage with us in counterparting for our school buildings. If last year we were able to shell out P3Million for the repair and rehabilitation of our public school buildings, it is most likely that we can still raise the amount this year because of the congressional counterpart.

But more than building structures, I also wanted to build our students and pupils through financial support. In our Governor's Scholarship Program in School Year 2010-11, we supported 1,000 college students with P2,500.00 financial support each per semester.

Our Study Now Pay Later Program on Maritime Course at the Southern University of Cebu has downloaded a counterpart of P5.2Million from 2008 to 2011 and graduated 29 cadets on May 2011. Presently, 65 students are being supported by this scheme.

We budgeted P4,000.00 per month for our Provincial School Board Teachers for the support of 64 teachers (32 in the elementary and 32 in the highschool). We also entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with Kabasalan National Highschool regarding the **Adopt-a-Student-Program** for 100 high school students at P3,000.00 each to reduce or mitigate the incidence of drop outs. We likewise extended financial assistance to teachers/students for leadership trainings and national competitions.

If our **Adopt-a-Student-Program** in Kabasalan succeeds, I will propose to make it mandatory in the entire Sibugay that each permanent provincial and municipal personnel ought to be grateful and generous for their blessings in life by adopting a student at P3,000.00 per annum.

As to our environmental thrust, we said earlier that from January to June 2011 alone, we apprehended and filed cases against 47 fishery laws violators in the different shores of Sibugay. We promoted support for coastal ecosystem, upland ecosystem, zero waste ecosystem, responsible mining and other related activities. We distributed 10,000 mangrove seedlings to the People's Organizations of Barangays Caparan and Buluan, the Philippine Coast Guard, the Parole and Probation office and other coastal LGUs.

We provided 25,000 various forestry seedlings to different Government Sectors, NGOs, Academe and other individuals who intend to plant trees in consonance to DENR programs to address Global Warming and Climate Change. We are targeting more than 50,000 varieties of dipterocarp and fast growing trees. We maintained the 450-hectare park of the province to safeguard the remaining forest cover against illegal logging, timber poaching and wildlife hunting and have rangers to secure the area.

Sixth, **L** stands for **Livelihood and support to other multi-sectoral development.**

We also accessed a fund of P300,000.00 from Payapa at Masaganang Pamayanan (PAMANA) for community driven livelihood projects for each of the 60 beneficiary barangays of the municipalities of Mabuhay, Payao and Tungawan this 2011. The project amount totaled to P20Million. By 2012 it will extend to Olutanga, Talusan, Kabasalan, Naga and Titay. In 2013, the uncovered eight municipalities will be covered.

For the welfare of the **CHILDREN SECTOR**, we allotted P183,846.73 for our Day Care Centers that benefited 143 children. We also supported the provincial children congress attended by 275 children. We have monitored, sustained and enrolled 14,236 daycare children. We initiated hunger mitigation to 12,876 daycare children and gave supplemental feeding to 14,236 kids

starting last June 2011. We are into care and rehabilitation of 29 children in conflict with the law by giving them psycho-financial-legal assistance as well as support services to their parents.

We gave scholarship to 180 street children and 101 indigent out of school youth. We strengthened the Local Council for Protection of Children in the 16 municipalities and expanded the Child Abuse Prevention Intervention Network in four municipalities.

For the **YOUTH SECTOR**, we increased the Special Program for Employment of Students (SPES) allocation which gave special job opportunities to 392 student youths. According to DepEd Central Office, Sibugay has a large backlog in classroom-pupil ratio. So I committed P10Million with Cong. Johnjohn Jalosjos who also committed another P10Million, plus the P400,000.00 commitment of each municipal mayor for DepEd's P20Million fund for the construction of eight classroom buildings in every municipality or a total of 56 classroom buildings before the end of 2012.

We are also supportive in showcasing the talent of Sibugay's youths so that we helped fund the expenses of a dance troupe from Sibugay called "Moving Colors" who recently qualified for the weekly finals in "Showtime", a national TV noontime show. Another dance troupe from Buug aims to make it also to Showtime next week with our support.

Our 100 winning young street dancers from Naga during our Sibug Sibug Street Dancing Competition on the Araw ng Sibugay last February 2011 will compete in the Cagay-an Folkloric Festival this August 26, 2011 in Cagayan De Oro City and on January 15, 2012 they will compete in the Sinulog Festival in Cebu.

Our close coordination with our active youth organizations like the Ipil Jaycees and JR Buddies triggered their initiative to access from Philip Morris, Inc. 5,000 Vitamin A and 5,000 deworming tablets for Sibugay to be distributed by them during my Governor's Outreach Program in the municipalities in the next few days.

For the **WOMEN SECTOR**, we gave support and augmentation fund of P200,000.00 for the operation of the concern for women and children center in Diplahan which caters 40 wards. We extended P191Million plus for the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program.

We also acquired last July 26 a Mobile Technovan worth P1.5Million that is complete with multi-media equipment and cabinet/furnishing. We will use this to roam around Sibugay, especially for the livelihood education opportunities of women's organizations through multi-media presentations.

To the **CULTURAL MINORITY**, preparations are underway for PLGU Sibugay to host the general assembly of indigenous leaders to hear your concerns and choose a leader to genuinely represent your cultural aspirations and spearhead the implementation of projects and programs for the cultural minority. We will implement projects and programs that will reach tribal communities.

I also entertain the possibility of creating a multi-cultural committee to promote programs that will give equal benefits to tribe members.

To the **LIVESTOCK-RAISER SECTOR**, we helped them through seminars on livestock, monitoring and surveillance of Avian Influenza through blood and fecal sampling to fowls and blood sampling of cows and carabaos to ensure Sibugay's safety from foot and mouth disease. This is part of our vision for Sibugay to be a premiere province in livestock industry in the region. We also offered quarantine services to domestic and farm animals which generated an P82,418.00 income. We conducted vaccination, deworming, vitamin supplementation treatment and insemination to 1,453 animals and developed 50 hectares of Provincial Stock Farm.

For those in the **FISH CULTURE SECTOR**, we prepared and submitted to BFAR a proposal to rehabilitate the tilapia hatchery at Sanito. We procured 10,000 tilapia fingerlings for distribution to the non-coastal municipalities of Diplahan, Imelda and Titay. We also procured 140,000 bangus fingerlings for distribution within July to August to small-scale fishpond operators who were victims of abnormal high tide.

For the **FISHERFOLK SECTOR**. Of its 16 municipalities, Sibugay is luckily endowed with 13 coastal areas. The coastal municipalities in District 1 are organized as TOMMBA while it is NSKRIPT in District 2 plus Payao. We intensified our campaign against illegal fishing and facilitated the creation and implementation of Integrated Coastal Resources Management Alliance between TOMMBA & NSKRIPT. An operationalization fund for the two organizations is ready for download in the amount of P1Million each – thanks to our Provincial Legislature for approving it.

This alliance is not ordinary because Integrated Coastal Resource Management (ICRM) means that if before we just focus on the coasts, the word integrated in ICRM implies the incorporation of the wellbeing of our hinterlands. This is logical because we may ensure our coral reefs protection from cyanide and dynamite fishing but it can still be vulnerable to damage from siltation because of highland erosion. So now preventing highland erosion is part of this new program.

If we don't do this, we will reap the blame and curse of future generations for the myopic range of our vision that fails to pre-empt impending damage that is within our control now.

It is, therefore, a welcome fact that we have now ten fish sanctuaries in Sibugay. Fisherfolks in these areas confess of the substantial increase of fish catch because of said sanctuaries. If our fish catch here increased because of proper management, then we can easily export our fishes to other outlets or we can attract canning factories to invest here in the near future.

Another welcome thing is that we regulated the transport of fishery products in and out of the province through the issuance of auxiliary invoice to see to it that fishery products are in good condition and to generate revenue for the LGU which started last June 6, 2011.

For the **FARMER SECTOR**, we prepared and submitted a proposal for fertilizer discount subsidy. We acquired P14Million farm fertilizer inputs distributed to various municipalities. We also prepared and submitted to DA-NIA and DPWH a proposal on flood control in Sibuguey Valley as well as strengthened the Sibuguey Valley Management Council. We facilitated the distribution of 5,880 bags of subsidized certified rice seeds to the farmers and 278 sacks of certified corn seeds to farmers with funding support from the Department of Agriculture DA-RFU9. This cushioned the impact of high cost of rice and corn seeds.

We wish to rehabilitate, improve and develop the provincial nurseries in the First District, especially in Olutanga Island. We will also implement comprehensive agricultural programs in coordination with OPAG, PVET and PCO.

I wish to put into record that I want the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist to craft means to promote food security in Sibugay by ensuring that the food crops that are produced here will primarily be for our local consumption. We may only sell them outside in cases of surplus.

For the **SECTOR WITH NO ACCESS TO ELECTRICITY**, we provided solar home electrification to fourteen barangays benefiting 441 households under the franchise area of ZAMSURECO II amounting to P12.4Million plus. Presently we are waiting for the second batch installation to 800 beneficiary households.

For the **RUBBER PLANTER SECTOR**, we retrieved the 1.5 hectares provincial lot at Poblacion Naga to be used as Provincial Rubber Nursery to ensure sustainable supply of quality rubber planting materials. And as part of our routine, we did weekly monitoring and inspection of rubber bagsakan center in Titay to see to it that fair trading system is observed which resulted to

seizure of 10 units manipulated weighing scales and seizure of 200 kg Cuplumps mixed with sand, mud and other foreign materials. Last June 6, 2011, we launched the **GOVERNOR ROMMEL A. JALOSJOS TRIPARTITE RUBBER EXPANSION AND ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM** or simply the **GRAJTREE Program**. It is on this consideration that we also had the launching, groundbreaking and MOA signing on the five-hectare GRAJTREE Nursery at Veterans Village last July 20, 2011.

For the **BUSINESS SECTOR**, I signed a MOA with DOST's Technology Resource Center (TRC) for the establishment and institutionalization of the Technology and Livelihood Development Center or TLDC. I gladly inform you that we launched our TLDC just yesterday. This program will generate livelihood opportunities, particularly for the marginalized sectors of society to be financed, operated and managed by our LGUs.

To bring TLDC services to the barangays, we will launched a program dubbed as **"Meet Your Governor"** which is the **GOVERNOR'S OUTREACH PROGRAM** where a livelihood caravan and other services like legal, medical, agricultural, infrastructure, educational and financial assistance will be extended right at the doorsteps of the barangays/municipalities.

Despite the impending cut of P30Million of our 2112 IRA budget, we cannot be deterred from delivering services to our constituents. I, therefore, instruct the PPDO to access more funding donors for our infrastructure projects.

## **CONCLUSION**

Finally, as part of Pres. Aquino's **matuwidnadaan** anti-corruption flagship program, he identified **five priority areas under his Social Contract** which are:

- First, Anti Corruption, Transparent, Accountable and Participatory Governance;
- Second, Poverty Reduction and Employment of the Poor and Vulnerable;
- Third, Rapid, Inclusive and Sustained Economic Growth;
- Fourth, Just and Lasting Peace and the Rule of Law; and
- Fifth, Integrity of the Environment and Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation.

If you have been keenly listening to this first State of the Province Address of mine, you must have noticed that what we did in the first year of our corporate existence here in Sibugay is just but an echo of the Social Contract above.

We humbly and sadly recognized at the start of this speech that we were tagged as **one of the worst governed provinces in the Philippines in 2010**. We hope that our one year effort will be an anti-thesis to this and consequently erase this stigma.

As proof that we are being viewed in a different light now, your humble governor has been a recipient of the following recognitions, awards and functions:

**Plaque of Appreciation**

From the Headquarters of the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry (Tabak) Division, Philippine Army, Kuta Major Cesar L. Sang-an, Labangan, Zamboanga del Sur As Chief Executive of the Provincial Government of Zamboanga Sibugay having been adjudged as Best LGU supporting:

- Various Medical & Dental Civic Action
- Youth Leadership Summit
- Launching & blessing of Philippine Army water crafts (CONDOR II)
- Joint Military-Police Operation against lawless elements in Zamboanga Peninsula

Given on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of May 2011, signed by NOEL A. COBALLES (Brigadier General AFP Commander)

**Certificate of Appreciation**

From the Headquarters of the Military Intelligence Group-9, Intelligence Service, Armed Forces of the Philippines Clarian, Zamboanga City For his wholehearted assistance and cooperation given to Military Intelligence Group-9, Intelligence Service, Armed Forces of the Philippines that immensely contributed to the successful accomplishment of its mission. Given on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of December 2010, signed by ANDREW B. BACALA, JR. (Major (INF) PA, Group Commander)

**Executive Vice-President**

Confederation of Provincial Governors, City Mayors and Municipal Mayors League

**President**

Mindanao CONFED

Hopefully, more of these are still forthcoming.

Having served and made a difference for Sibugay gives me a deep sense of purpose and meaning. It also gives me a sense of pride because Sibugay was originally a Subanen territory and I take pride in my Subanen blood and heritage. I know and I feel I am home right here in Sibugay.

We hold in our hands the promise of tomorrow. We need to learn from the inactions of the past, both remote and recent, that casted doom to our horizon. Hold the line with me and our concerted effort now as allies will brighten the panorama of Sibugay's future.

In the bigger picture, Sibugay cannot progress apart from the rest of Zamboanga Peninsula. We know how diverse and multi-cultural our region is. But let us learn from the lessons of the recent Palarong Pambansa which melted us to work as one and together surmounted gargantuan challenges. Let me take this opportunity to thank the political leaders in the region for the precious lessons on cooperation they taught me during that time, especially Gov. Yebees of ZamboNorte and my father Romeo “Nonong” G. Jalosjos, Sr. Let us maintain and even strengthen the bond that was born during the Palarong Pambansa. Let us not just think big for our respective territories but think bigger for our dear peninsula. By then, we can be a force to reckon with and the national government cannot anymore help but notice us and value us far greater than it does now.

I know everyone has cherished dreams. Having grown up in Australia where people’s dreams were within their reach, I dream that every family in Sibugay will have at least one member that is employed with decent pay so that the other members will have a bigger elbow room to choose and chart their destiny.

This is why I am pursuing to build infrastructures geared toward people’s empowerment that will expand their choices in life to stand firm on their feet and with Kennedy *“ask not what their country can do for them but what they can do for their country.”* Then, they will not be heavily dependent on the government which will just be their support and buffer.

Let us share in this dream. Let us incarnate this dream by working together regardless of our diversity in religion, ethnicity, sector, social status and political beliefs. Let us realize this dream by changing ourselves first instead of demanding it from others. For we have no control of others. But we have handle of ourselves. So let us reach out to each other and work together.

Finally, just as the word Sibugay is fabled to have come from the Subanen phrase *“sibug ari bagay”* which means “come closer, my friend”, may I invite everyone to bond closer with our administration so that we can reach an unprecedented degree of success in the next years. Let’s go beyond political partisanship for the sake of a greater and nobler end.

With everything said, this Subanen governor is now ready to **come closer to you, my friends.** This is my way of saying thank you for your support and trust as exhibited by your presence here today. Please stay in your places for I will come closer to you. Thank you very much and a wonderful day to us all. God bless us all.

## THANK YOU VERY MUCH, EVERYONE!