



City Mayor Miguel urges Koronadaleños to use their power @ Earth Hour 2014

As this year's Earth Hour celebration was inspired by Spiderman, hence, the theme "Use your power", City of Koronadal Mayor, Peter B. Miguel, enjoined the locals to help save Mother Earth since he believed that everyone could show his power in his own little ways even in just throwing the garbage properly, cleaning up surroundings and also switching off unnecessary lights to save energy and thus lessen the effects of climate change.

Koronadal's celebration on March 29 started with Karakasa, Bicycle Exhibition, and Skateboarding at Gaisano Mall and free film showing of Spider-Man movie at the Round ball.

After the countdown to signal

In his assessment, City Environment and Natural Resources Officer Augustus Bretaña said that this year the City of Koronadal reduced 3-5 tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions compared to the previous years which according to him might be due to

increased public awareness on environmental issues. Joining the earth hour was a proof that the people had become more conscious to do their part in preserving nature, Bretaña further said.

Bretaña added that the Earth Hour campaign of the City focused on the green initiatives to combat climate change. Invited guest



PBM Summer Training Festival hones thousands of future champions

"Through this summer training festival, we envision to produce successful athletes and future champions.", City Mayor Peter B. Miguel with his firm commitment to invest on people said during the opening program of the 4th Palaro sa Bawat Mamamayan (PBM) Summer Training Festival, 01 April at the City Hall Grounds.

"We are here to nurture you so I want you to focus on only one skill and discipline so we could easily develop it. In the coming days, you will be learning new skills and will improve your crafts through the help of our seasoned coaches who are expert in their respective field.", the mayor further stated addressing more than 1,200 enrolees, and still counting, for the 36 skills programs and sports disciplines made available for wider options this year from only 30 courses last year.

As his brainchild program, the mayor hoped to discover potentials and boost talents of the youth in sports, dance, and other life skills. Also, he desired to produce more, both in quantity and quality, superior athletes to compete in the

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the simultaneous celebration across the world from 8:30pm-9:30pm, the Fun Walk in the Dark followed joined in by more than two thousand environment enthusiasts from different participating agencies such as the city government employees, city officials, regional line agencies, schools, churches, establishments, Karakasa Dancers, Bikers, Skaters, and media practitioners used candles and glow sticks as they trekked from Gaisano Mall to the Roundball for the programme as led by the mayor himself and his kids.

The City of Koronadal saved more than six thousand kilowatt hour of power consumption equivalent to Php47, 891.70 in just an hour during the observance of Earth Hour in areas along and around the roundball alone as revealed by South Cotabato Electric Cooperative-1 (SOCOTECO-1), the power provider and also partner agency in this celebration.

speaker was Mr. John Paul Balayon from ABS-CBN Foundation who talked on its green initiative and he expressed gratitude for the leadership of City Mayor in partnering ABS-CBN Foundation in environmental initiatives particularly in the project implementation of Siok Eco-tourism in Sitio Siok, Brgy. Mabini.

Live band that followed was courtesy of Kabataan Media Production (KMP), the city's partner organization in this year's celebration.

A child holds a lighted candle as lights went out and plunged the city into darkness as part of the celebration.



Committed to sustainable development initiatives, the City Mayor with his kids led the procession to give extra boost of motivation to their co-advocates.



Koronadal showcases strong Juanas on Women's Month

As the nation observes March as Women's Month, by virtue of Proclamation 227, s.1998, the City of Koronadal enjoined all Juanas of Koronadal to celebrate the month with series of activities lined-up to give importance to the role of women in nation-building and to make this year's celebration more significant and spirited.

This year's theme, "*Juana ang Tatag Mo ay Tatag Natin sa Pagbangon at Pagsulong*", pays tribute to the strong and resilient "*Juanas*" or women who brought inspiring changes in their own communities. Meanwhile, Koronadal's version was dubbed as "*Paligsahan ng mga Babaeng Mahuhusay sa Barangay*".

As a kick-off activity, on March 9, women from the 27 barangays and employees of the city government paraded from the new City Hall towards the Rizal Park. It was followed by an opening program where the opening of the volleyball tournament through a ceremonial serve was officially declared. The next day,

an inter-barangay volleyball tournament was played at Barangay Zone II. In the afternoon, speakers from the Department of Social Welfare and Development Office XII conducted a symposium on Human Trafficking, HIV awareness and adoption in response to the DILG directive for this activity to form part of the IEC on women empowerment, prevention of trafficking of women and children and health.

Sangguniang Panlungsod Committee Chairperson on Women Councilor Junette Hurtado said during the program, "*I am thankful with the Mayor's strong support in all our programs and by initiating a 3-day activity that would give importance to*

women".

To conclude the 3-day celebration, on March 11, hundreds of women gathered at the Rizal Park for a ladies night and fellowship dinner where 17 dance groups representing their barangays showcased their talents in dancing based on Dekada 80 concept with their retro style of fashion and music. Seeing women enjoying a night of merry-making, City Mayor Peter B. Miguel said, "*Somehow, this occasion relieved you from the burden of housework, I am amazed seeing you tonight look fresher, younger and in style*". Further, the Mayor rendered a Harana sa Ladies na Magaganda, singing one of his songs specially dedicated to the women of the city.

Organizers headed by City Councilors Hurtado and Rose S. Dideles aimed to advocate women's empowerment and gender equality. They are hopeful that the celebration would rouse the interests of women to leadership roles and participation in the decision-making process.

New state-of-the-art fire truck for Koronadal

The Koronadal City Fire Office (KCFO) has acquired a brand new fire truck from the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) National Headquarters. In the ceremonial turn-over held in Quezon Memorial Circle, Quezon City on March 3, City Mayor Peter B. Miguel together with FSInsp. Milo M. Manlabao personally received the said fire truck and witnessed the hands-on demonstration of its functional capabilities.

"I am delighted and thankful to the national government through its two national line agencies, the DILG and BFP, for providing us with the modern and world class fire fighting vehicle that will somehow help boost our capabilities and efforts. It is indeed an honor for us to be

chosen as one of the few LGU beneficiaries of a state-of-the-art equipment," Mayor Miguel said during one Monday Convocation Program.

The state-of-the-art fire truck is among the 38 units that were purchased by the National Government through the Department of the Interior and Local Government from Austria and were distributed to the different local fire bureaus in the country. It is a Rosenbauer TLF 4000 model that costs some PhP17.5M with a 1,000-gallon capacity that can discharge 2,400 liters of water per minute, with water cannons that could drive water to at least 62 meters horizontally and 24 meters vertically, with 15 fire hoses extending up to 50-feet long each, has a seven-passenger seating capacity, fully air-conditioned and with complete

rescue tools, personnel equipment, emergency medical kit and other fire hazard tools.

"The new fire truck will really uplift our operation especially that it is fully equipped and is capable of extinguishing fire up to the 8th floor of a building," Manlabao said in a media interview. The turnover ceremony started off the celebration of the 48th Fire Prevention Month with the theme: "*Isulong ang Kaunlaran, Sunog ay Iwasan, Kaalaman at Pag-iingat ang Kailangan*". The new fire truck is due for delivery by an official courier as assigned



by the BFP and is expected to arrive in the city on April 8.

Meanwhile, in line with the observance of the Fire Prevention Month, the KCFO has also conducted a unity walk, series of fire drills, and fire safety awareness campaign in various institutions and establishments in the city. It is also set to hold a Mini Fire Olympics upon the arrival of the new fire truck to test its functionality and enable the bureau's personnel to experience hands-on operation of the said equipment.



Koronadal City Hall In-house Volunteer Fire Brigade organized

More or less 80 Koronadal City Hall employees signed up as in-house Volunteer Fire Brigade (VFB) being organized by the Koronadal City Fire Office (KCFO) as part of its continuing effort to intensify its campaign on fire prevention and safety.

"The Fire Code of the Philippines or RA 9514 mandates the creation of a volunteer fire brigade in every establishment or agency with 50 or more employees. These volunteers will serve as the first responders should a fire incident happen in the building or area where they are working," FSI Insp. Milo M. Manlabao, City Fire Marshall said in his opening remarks.

In support of this endeavor, City Mayor Peter B. Miguel advised all heads of offices to send 3 – 5 personnel from their respective departments to attend the orientation and training on March 17, the first of the intended series of sessions. The 40-hour training is divided into at least 8 hours per week so as not to hamper the regular operation of each office.

Other than the lectures on fire prevention and suppression, the training also includes

hands-on operation of and exposure to various first-aid fire fighting appliances like fire extinguishers, fire hose and others. Based on the skills acquired after the training, the volunteers would be assigned to the VFB's organizational structure such as the communication group, evacuation group, firefighting group, first-aid group and others. Further, the team would also spearhead the conduct of fire safety awareness not only among their fellow employees but most of all in their respective homes.

The creation of the employees' VFB is also in preparation for the

upcoming simultaneous Citywide Fire and Earthquake Rescue Drill on March 28 where the volunteers' acquired knowledge and skills would be put into practical use. The activity also forms part of the celebration of Fire Prevention Month. 🌍



Koronadal medical mission for dogs, first in Region XII

In a mission to carry out programs on animal health, 254 dogs in the City of Koronadal received free medical check-up and some freebies last March 8, 2014 at Agreda Phase I, Barangay Sto. Nino to kick-off the month-long celebration of the National Rabies Awareness Month with a theme *"Rabies-Free Philippines"*.

"This is the first medical mission for dogs in the City of Koronadal and probably in the whole of Region XII", City Veterinarian, Dr. Charlemagne S. Calo said during the interview stating further that it was a local initiative of his office to conduct the activity in partnership with the Philippine

Veterinary Medical Association, Southern Mindanao Chapter. *"We focused on giving the right care and medical attention on man's best friend, the dog"*, Calo further said.

Eight volunteer veterinary doctors rendered free check-up, consultation and vaccination services to 254 dogs among which 204 received free vaccines depending on their medical condition. Common illnesses like skin diseases and cough were diagnosed; some were advised for deworming.

The whole-day activity was fun-filled with many surprises and services. It also served as a venue for the pet owners and their pets to socialize with one another. A bundle of freebies such as dog foods, vitamins and shampoos from various sponsors were also given to the participants.

Also, Calo said that Agreda Phase I, Barangay Sto. Nino was selected as this year's venue for the kick-off ceremony since it had the highest dog population.

On the night of the

same day, to promote responsible pet ownership and to highlight their close relations, loyalty, and companionship with humans, a film entitled *"Snow Dogs"* was viewed by hundreds of spectators at Roxas-Osmena Streets. Snow dog is an American adventure comedy film telling a story between a pet dog and its owner with a great laugh for children and compelling and challenging heart issues for adults. Aside from the usual free popcorn, audience got to enjoy the free hotdogs on stick as well served for the first time by the City Veterinary staff.

Meanwhile, Calo revealed that although there were reported cases of dog bites in the past months but there had been no reports of rabies caused by dog bites in the City of Koronadal.

The month-long celebration is pursuant to Republic Act No. 9482, otherwise known as the *"Anti-Rabies Act of 2007,"* providing the control and elimination of human and animal rabies through education and vaccination. Koronadal City Government through its City Veterinary Office has been very active in implementing programs such as animal health mission and continuous barangay visits to do free vaccination, treatment, and deworming and vitamin administration to various large and small animals. 🌍



Koronadal Xtreme Dancers duo wins Asia's Gatsby championship

Dancing with a floor mop for a prop and with such ease and flexibility of movements, Duo Jay-R Melody and Macz Alminaza of Xtreme Dancers grabbed the championship spot in the 6th Gatsby Dance Competition Asian Finals held in Tokyo, Japan on March 1, 2014. The duo, joining the international competition for the first time, ruled over eight other competing Asian countries including Japan, Indonesia, Taiwan, Singapore, Hongkong, Thailand, Malaysia, and Korea through their vivid and passionate dance performance showcasing some social and moral values that captivated the judges because of its entertaining choreography and concept according to Grey Mark Doctolero, the duo's coach and talent manager.

"What makes the Filipino performance different compared to that of other Asian countries is that we put our hearts on it. It is not simply creating dance moves, we have that extreme passion coupled with our commitment and dedication to outshine and stand out in the international arena", Doctolero added in an interview.

Meanwhile, Doctolero said that this was the first time for the Philippines to join the Gatsby Asia and the duo was the first group from Mindanao to join the Philippine Gatsby finals. In an interview, when asked of their motivation to shine in the competition, the duo said, "The people's outpouring support is overwhelming, their faith in us inspired us to dare the challenge and show our

best", Alminaza said. "As a preparation, we underwent 2 months of rigid training and body conditioning for stamina build-up to make our moves more intricate but suave", Melody said when asked about their preparations prior to the contest. "In the dance floor, the tension and pressure is there, it's hard to believe that we are bringing our country's name before thousands of spectators in Asia.

We almost shed tears, but without thinking of our big contenders, we just gave our best shot and just enjoyed the show", the duo said. The group received a medal and cash prize worth 500,000 Japanese Yen which is equivalent to PhP200,000.00 in Philippine currency. Aside from the cash, the duo is also entitled for a free visit to one of the 8 participating countries of their preference for a free trick workshop. Melody and Alminaza as official representatives of the country won the Philippine Finals last October 20, 2013 at Market, Market which paved the way for them to join the international competition. "What makes extreme dancers different from others is their attitude.

Personally, I believe that attitude will determine one's altitude and I see in this group their passion in dancing, their humility and I was inspired to manage them for free", Doctolero further said.



Finally, Doctolero personally thanked Koronadal City Mayor Peter Miguel for the financial support and moral boost the city government had extended thereby thanking also all Koronadaleños for their prayers and full support in following the duo's performance on the internet.

Capturing the actions through live streaming over website ustream tv, fans and supporters had the chance to watch the performance live on screen. Organized in February 14, 2000, promising opportunity stands wide open to this young group after proving their world-class talents in dancing. As a gesture of recognizing the group for bringing the city's name in the pedestal, the city government awarded a certificate and plaque of recognition to the group on March 17 during the Monday convocation at the City Hall Ground. The duo's repeat performance during the ceremony gave the city employees the chance to savor their winning dance piece. 🌐

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national and international sports arena. In fact, graduates of the PBM Summer Training garnered medals in the recently conducted Batang Pinoy, a national sports event being sponsored by the Philippine Sports Commission.

Further, Kathy Vilbar and Von Rolo Divino, archery athletes who competed in Singapore Indoor World Championship and South Korea Indoor Championship are also proud products of the PBM summer training. Divino garnered a bronze medal in

Singapore.

This year's sports clinic includes variety of court games like badminton and lawn tennis, combat sports such as combative arnis, karatedo, taekwondo, boxing and Wushu, athletics, and ball games such as baseball, basketball, and volleyball. Aside from these familiar sports, others can enroll in chess, frisbee, golf, swimming, dance sports, sepak takraw and archery. Voice lessons and musical instrument playing lessons for guitar, bass guitar, piano, keyboard, drums, violin, trombone, trumpet, and flute, are also offered to those who do not want to go for physical activities. Children may also learn the basics and skills in speech, photography and art painting. New courses such as children's ballet, alto and tenor sax, and gymnastics, were added to the already long list of events.

"Enrolling your children in this training will make them more productive. This will keep them from being idle or from

indulging in vices or wrong diversions while staying home this summer. Aside from the fact that parents and guardians can also enroll and acquire new skills while watching their kids, this will also serve as their best bonding time," City Sports Coordinator Tony Aguilar said in an interview.

"Their exposures in this training will somehow help develop their interpersonal skills, will teach them timeless values such as discipline, leadership, teamwork, perseverance, and sportsmanship.", Aguilar further said. "Through their interaction and mingling with others, surely they will gain more friends", he concluded.

Meanwhile, classes are being held in the city hall and various other venues around the city. The summer training culminates on May 14, 2014. 🌐



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