



# Shamag

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# BSU Celebrates 106<sup>th</sup> Founding Anniversary

Founded in 1916 as a farm school formerly known as Mountain State Agricultural College, Benguet State University has grown from a small school with only a handful of students to an institution that now serves over 14,000 students from all parts of the Cordillera Region and beyond.

This year, the university celebrated its 106th Foundation Anniversary with the theme "Championing Advocacy on Responsive Educational Services Towards National College of Highland Agriculture and Environment."

In honor of the milestone, BSU hosted several events which include the Kapihan, multidisciplinary discourse, and

among others. The festivity also culminated its award ceremony that recognized the outstanding faculty, staff, and alumni who have made significant contributions to the university's development over the years.

As one of the oldest educational institutions in Luzon, Benguet State

State University continues to uphold excellence through engagement initiatives such as its foundation celebration that pays tribute to its proud legacy and inspire all stakeholders to keep striving for greatness.

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## DLIS Maintains Stellar Board Performance

It was yet another outstanding performance by the Department of Library and Information Science during the Librarian Licensure Exam on September 12-13, 2022.

The university produced newly licensed librarians with a passing rate of 71.88%, which exceeded the national passing rate of 39.43%. A total of 23 passed the examination with a 70.97% passing rate for the first takers and a 100% passing rate for retakers.

Additionally, Ms. Diana Faith F. Dalilis managed

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## BSU Produces 76 Foresters and 78 Vets

The university once again produced newly licensed Foresters following the Forester Licensure Examination last October 26-27, 2022. The College of Forestry managed to produce 76 licensed Foresters with 60.53% overall performance, surpassing the 54.87% national passing rate.

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## BSU Maintains ISO Certification as of October 2022

Benguet State University retains its ISO 90001:2015 Certification after the Surveillance Audit by TUV Rheinland on October 26, 2022.

"The team reveals zero non-conformity," proclaimed Lead Auditor Abigail Salomon of TUV Rheinland during the Closing Meeting at the RDC Hall.

She also announced that the University has established and maintains an effective system to ensure compliance with its policy and objectives

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## BSU is Level II in PRIME-HRM

Geared toward excellence in human resource management, Benguet State University received its recognition in the Program to Institutionalize Meritocracy and Excellence in Human Resource Management (PRIME-HRM) Maturity Level II indicators for HR Systems and HRMO

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First published in 1996, *Shamag* is one of the official publications of Benguet State University. It was named after the Ibaloi word for news. It is a medium for employees, clients, students and partners to disseminate their programs, achievements and advocacies. *Shamag* aims to help the University goals in developing proactive programs for quality service by developing effective and efficient innovative platforms for cascading information and strengthening public-private partnerships.

Articles, pictures, comments, suggestions, reactions, and letters to the Editor may be submitted to the Editor or Associate Editor of *Shamag* at the Benguet State University Public Affairs Office through (074) 422-2127 loc. 69 or through email at [publicaffairs@bsu.edu.ph](mailto:publicaffairs@bsu.edu.ph).

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### VISION

BSU as an International Smart University engendering graduates to walk the intergenerational highways.

### MISSION

**BSU CARES** to: Challenge innovation, Advance technology and facility, Revitalize administration, Engender partnership, and Serve intergenerational role.

### DEVELOPMENT GOALS

**Goal I. Challenge Innovation in the four fold functions of the University**

#### Objectives:

1. **(Instruction)** To provide quality education responsive to the needs of time;
2. **(Research)** To enhance research productivity contributing to sustainable development;
3. **(Extension)** To disseminate relevant research outputs and other scholarly activities consistent with BSU's mandated programs;
4. **(Production)** To promote sustainable and appropriate resource generation strategies for the implementation of development plans; and
5. **(Administration)** To advocate for resource management and effective energy efficiency in addressing the demands of climate change.

**Goal II. Advance Technology and Facility by shaping the University become responsive to modern needs.**

#### Objectives:

1. **(Instruction)** To use information and communication technology learning resources to sustain and enhance quality of alternative teaching - learning continuity endeavors;
2. **(Research and Extension)** To upgrade facilities and enable researchers/extensionists to conduct activities using specialized facilities;
3. **(Production)** To acquire and upgrade state-of-the-art facilities in the projects innovation; and
4. **(Administration)** To upgrade facilities and establish modern physical infrastructures.

**Goal III. Revitalize Administration by harmonizing performance monitoring, information, and reporting systems.**

#### Objectives:

1. To elevate the BSU PRIME-HRM to a level of excellence for good governance and efficient public service;
2. To reinforce transparency, integrity, and objectivity in the delivery of service;
3. To regenerate instruction, research, extension, production, linkages, governance, management, and policies; and
4. To streamline operations to be efficient, effective, and responsive to challenges and changes.

**Goal IV. Engender Partnership by proactively strengthening linkages**

#### Objectives:

1. **(Instruction)** To establish academic partnerships with local, regional, national, and international institutions providing educational opportunities for faculty, staff, and students;
2. **(Research)** To increase and sustain university relations with academe, industries, GOs, NGOs, and LGUs for research funding;
3. **(Extension)** To increase and sustain partnership with academe, LGUs, NGOs, Industries, and others; and
4. **(Production)** To comply with existing laws, policies and other requirements.

**Goal V. Serve Intergenerational Role by revitalizing the Spiritual, Physical, Economical, Cultural, Intellectual, Emotional, and Social (S.P.E.C.I.E.S.) state.**

#### Objectives:

1. To offer programs that embody social, cultural, economic and developmental needs both for local and global markets;
2. To champion local culture and languages in the University context through research, extension, and academic programs;
3. To document best practices of the University.

AdCo Action No. 03, s.2021

## Quality Policy

Benguet State University is continuously committed to improve its Quality Management System, satisfy requirements of relevant interested parties and provide excellent service for quality education and innovative research aligned with sustainable development and client satisfaction.

Board Resolution # 2847 S.2016

*BSU Foresters and Vets.. from page 1*

CF Dean Dr. Marissa R. Parao expressed both exuberance and determination. According to her, this recent performance merits celebration, especially with the steps taken by the college to help the students. *"We learned our lesson last year because the examination review was conducted online and we was conducted online and we think that was a big factor in last year's results. So that's why this year we tried to accommodate our students for a face-to-face review and by God's Grace we surpassed the national passing rate,"* Parao said.

*"We also conducted mock examinations to simulate their licensure examination, this was good for the students because they needed a little refresher due to the delay of schedule for the Foresters Licensure Examination. Also, the mock examinations outlined the parts where they need to focus more on,"* she added.

Moreover, despite the university surpassing the national passing rate, Parao lamented this year's licensure examination result, specifically the performance of the retakers. *"Though the first takers performed very well, we were sad to see the performance of the retakers,"* she said.

According to Parao, the poor performance of retakers has been a challenge for the college. However, addressing this problem has been difficult to navigate due to the willingness of the retakers to participate in the college extension programs.

*"We still have retakers who had been taking the examination for more than 10 years and some are even 20 years. Lately, we requested the names of the retakers from the PRC so we could communicate with them. But this is also a challenge for us because some of them are humbled*

by their age and this made it difficult for us to reach out. Although the retakers this year improved compared to last year, we still look for more avenues to help them, such as providing them with a free review," she said.

Meanwhile, the College of Veterinary Medicine produced 78 licensed Veterinarians with 32.05% overall performance following the Veterinarian Licensure Examination conducted on September 27, 2022.

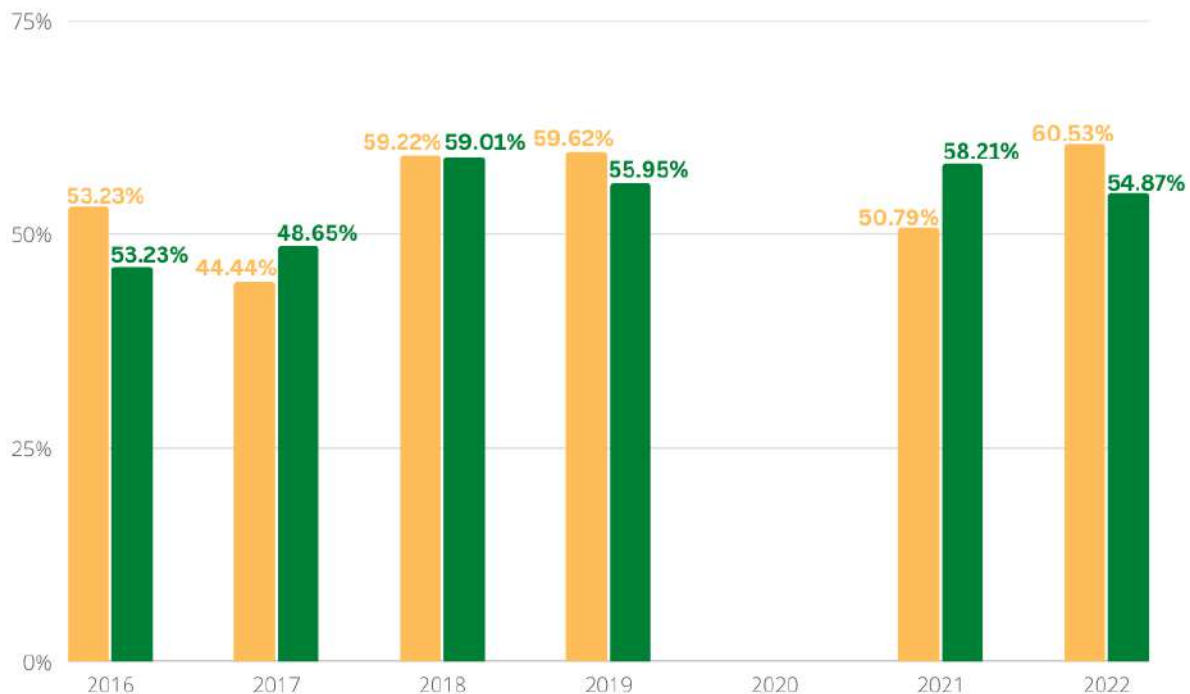
Dr. Loretta Caspillo Romero, the College of Veterinary Medicine dean, was delighted by the 78 newly licensed Veterinarians but lamented the licensure examination result. According to her, the preparedness of the student before the examination greatly affected the overall performance of the college. *"One thing that we observed in our assessment was the readiness of the students. The college did not conduct a face-to-face review because of the restrictions, so we had to do it online, which was not substantial enough to prepare the students for the examination,"* lamented Romero.

Much like other colleges, the College of Veterinary Medicine faced the academic predicaments caused by the global pandemic. According to Dr. Romero, *"learning loss"* was evident during the past years of students strictly learning online. Out of 928, only 335 examinees passed the licensure examination, with a 36.10% national passing rate.

Despite the past results of the examination, Romero showed optimism for the future, as the university has already implemented face-to-face classes. *"We are already seeing the difference in the performance of our students in our face-to-face classes, and now we can see the problems that*

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**BSU Overall Performance      National Passing Rate**  
**Forester Licensure Examination**



The graph shows the BSU performance on the Forester Licensure Examination since 2016.

## CDA-CAR breaks ground for building

The Cooperative Development Authority-Cordillera Administrative Region (CDA-CAR) held its Groundbreaking Ceremony on September 6, 2022, to inaugurate the start of CDA-CAR's four-storey building construction on land owned by the Benguet State University (BSU) located at Bektey, Longlong, La Trinidad, Benguet. The soon-to-rise CDA-CAR building has an initial 25 million funding.

During the program, CDA-CAR Regional Director Marieta P. Hwang extended gratitude to BSU for allowing the CDA-CAR to construct its building on land owned by the University. This milestone was made possible through a Memorandum of Agreement signed between BSU and CDA-CAR on April 25, 2022. The MOA offers a 25-year agreement providing the right and privilege of the CDA-CAR to temporarily use the BSU's land for their building and is renewable at the option of both parties.

*"This is the start or the doorstep for the realization of CDA-CAR's dream. For 30 years, CDA-CAR is renting a space in Baguio City and it is only today that we are having this Groundbreaking Ceremony...that we at CDA-CAR are very excited to have a dwelling place of our own. The building will serve as a witness for CDA services and assistance to this region. Thank you BSU for providing us with the land and thank you, Director Atty. Franco G. Bawang Jr., for initiating the negotiation with BSU!"* expressed Hwang. Atty. Bawang is the former director of the CDA-CAR and now the director of CDA Region II.

In his written message, CDA Chairman Usec. Joseph Encabo also acknowledged the Board of Directors (BOD), partner agencies, and BSU for making their dream a reality. *"As we break the ground, we also plant the seeds of hope that all men and women in the cooperative movement will be proud of,"* said Encabo.

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President Felipe Salaing Comila breaks ground during the CDA-CAR Groundbreaking Ceremony at Bektey, Longlong, La Trinidad on September 9, 2022.



### BSU Participates in "SIPAT" at Mt. Data, Bauko, Mountain Province

President Felipe Salaing Comila meets Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity Secretary Carlito G. Galvez Jr. during the 36th Commemoration of the Mt. Data Peace Accord at Bauko, Mountain Province.



BSU Executive Assistant Atty. Andres Arnold Wadingan Lampacan, Vice-President for Academic Affairs Samuel Salay Poliden and Vice-President for Business Affairs Norma Palaci Banania with Governor Hon. Bonifacio Lacwasan, Jr. of Mountain Province.

*BSU Foresters and Vets... from page 3*

greatly need addressing. Also, we have an extension program in the college called the 'Binadang Licensure Exam Extension Service for Students (BLESS) Program,' which provides our students with online and face-to-face reviews, our CVM library provides review materials, and our alumni also help. This program is also our avenue to help the mental state of our students," Romero said.

Furthermore, Romero shared her exuberance about the employment rate of veterinary medicine graduates. "We traced our graduates last year, and we are happy to see that all of them are already employed. Many of our students, while

still studying are already working, which speaks greatly of their competency," Romero exclaimed.

According to her, within six months after graduation, more than 80% percent of graduates are already employed all over the country. With only 23 universities and colleges offering veterinary medicine, graduates are highly sought by institutions.

Parao and Romero thanked the support of President Felipe Salaing Comila and the university sectors, as the success of the colleges would not be possible without their support.// OGDacocotJr.

## BSU, UOG Hold 3rd Int'l Confab on IPs' Food, Culture

The Benguet State University Institute of Social Research and Development (ISRD), in partnership with the BSU Gender and Development (GAD) Office, the BSU College of Social Sciences (CSS), and the University of Guam (UOG) in the United States of America (USA) spearheaded the third International Virtual Conference on Understanding Food and Culture of the Indigenous Communities Across Borders: The Role of Men and Women in Ensuring Food Security on October 27, 2022.

In line with the celebration of Indigenous Peoples (IP) Month every October, the conference aims to facilitate understanding and appreciation of the cultural practices of the indigenous peoples across borders. ISRD Director Dr. Gigy Guma-ad Banes said that the event is a continuing activity between BSU and UOG to strengthen partnerships in line with the internalization of Philippine higher education. It was attended by participants from New Zealand, Kenya, the USA, and the Philippines.

Dr. Banes further explained that participants will learn more about food and culture from the resource speakers. "Generally, food is part of our culture. Food is a great unifier. It can connect people from different backgrounds and experiences," said Dr. Banes as she defined food culture as habits, rituals, practices, beliefs, values, lifestyle, traditions, and customs.

In addition, Vice-President for Research and Extension Dr. Johnny Guzman Dati, Sr. emphasized the significance of the celebration of IP Month in education that promotes indigenous knowledge, skills, and other aspects of indigenous heritage. He hoped the participants appreciate and value the cultural knowledge and understand the food and culture of indigenous communities.

Aside from food and culture, the webinar highlighted also the roles of men and women in ensuring food security. "When addressing food security, it is a community concern, with men and women equally responsible for assuring the sustainability of community livelihoods," expressed Senior Vice-President of Academic and Students Affairs of UOG Anita Borja Enriquez. She also emphasized that indigenous women are the backbone of indigenous communities and have significant roles in ensuring food security. She further stated that through a partnership between universities, educational institutions contribute to the body of literature to explain unique challenges and determine solutions related to food security in communities.

BSU President Dr. Felipe Salaing Comila added that women nowadays are food providers for the family, not just men. "I say that both (men and women) are qualified to look for the food, produce the food for the family," he said. He encouraged men to appreciate and respect women who also have a crucial role in sustaining food security for the family and society.

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*DLIS Maintains Stellar... from page 1*

to grab the top 10 seat in the examination with an average of 85.40%. This would be the third time the university has produced topnotchers for the said licensure exam since 2018. Ms. Arlyn Olante Bayeng grabbed the top 8 seat in 2018 and Mr. Daniel Soriano Balbin, Jr. landed top 1 in 2019.

Since 2015, the university has consistently surpassed the national passing rate in the Librarian Licensure Examination.

According to DLIS Chairperson Dr. Elizabeth A. Lascano, there are challenges faced by the department since this batch was affected by distance learning.

*"We were adamant on pushing through for a face-to-face review but we felt that it is a tremendous benefit for the students because the past two years they've been learning strictly online and modular learning. We felt that conducting the review through distance learning will not be enough for the students,"* Lascano said.

Furthermore, Lascano extended commendations for the support of the University Library and Information Services and BLIS alumnus Daniel S. Balbin, Jr. to the students. *"The university library, through Mr. Balbin, was also a great help to the students by answering queries and providing review materials to the students. We were also amazed by the resourcefulness of the students. They took advantage of the few resources they had. Their willingness to help one another gave them an edge for the upcoming exam,"* Lascano added.

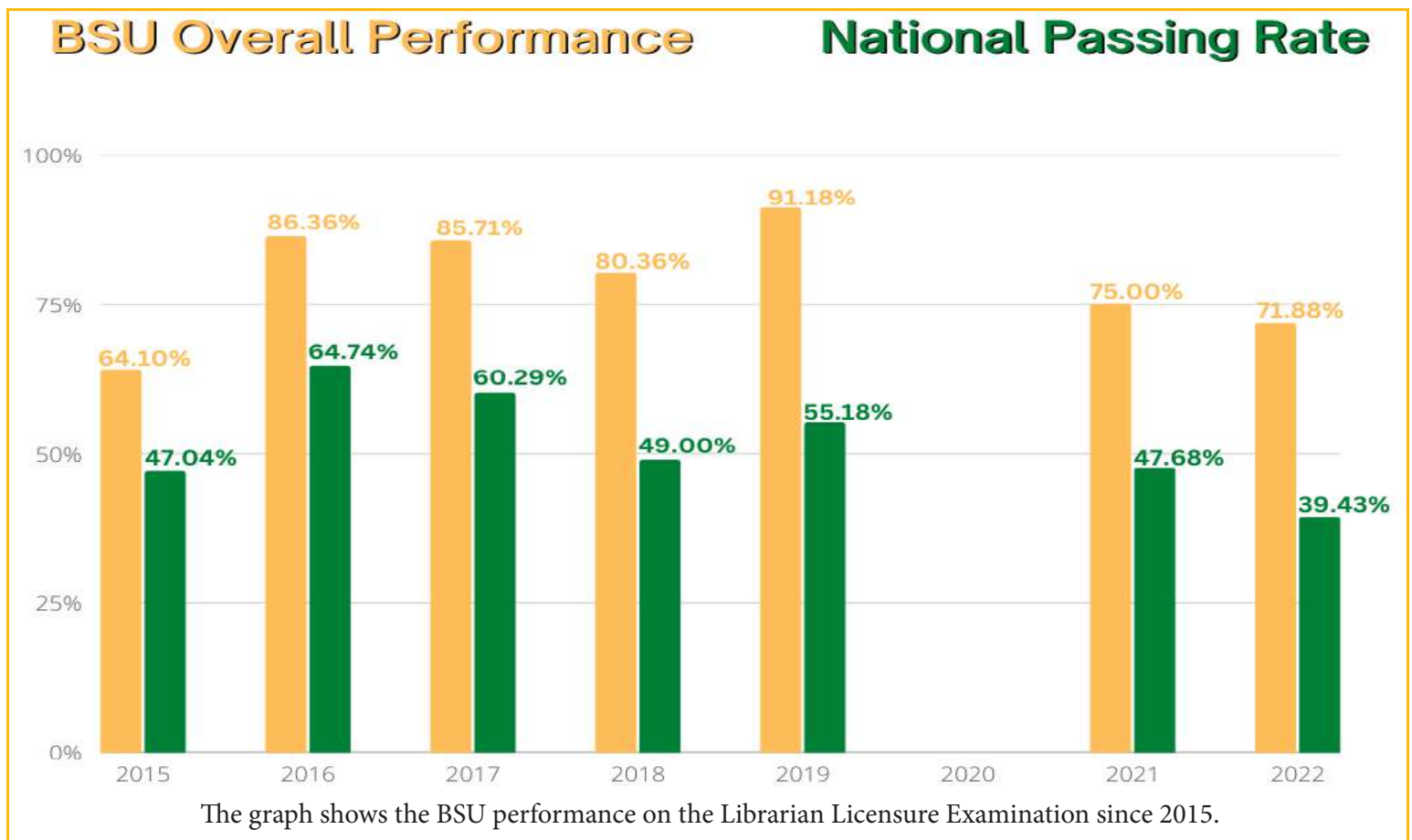
To maintain this successful trajectory, Lascano emphasized the importance of maintaining the department's

current practices, focusing on the students, and looking for new methods and programs that would contribute to the university's success in producing competent licensed librarians.

Meanwhile, College of Information Sciences Dean Dr. Russell Battad Dolendo was exultant to see the consistent performance of DLIS graduates. *"It has something to do with consistency in implementing policies, such as the screening process of those who would be enrolling. We incorporated Course Auditing in our curriculum, which helped tremendously, and we also believe in our collaborative work with our partners outside, especially with other libraries and the continuous support of the university library,"* Dolendo said. Additionally, she lamented the fact, despite the accomplishments of the DLIS, the Library and Information Science program still faces misconceptions.

*"Year after year, the majority of our students who enroll report that LIS is not their top choice. As a result, we attempt to encourage them while also letting them learn more about LIS. We motivate students by sharing examples from previous graduates before demonstrating the competencies needed by the majority of organizations. By doing this, we may show them that their preconception is incorrect and that librarianship is a versatile and rewarding profession,"* she added.

Furthermore, she concluded by extending gratitude to the unwavering support of the university sectors through the initiative of President Felipe Salaing Comila.// OGDacocotJr.



# Besting Life's Ideals and Struggles: Ms. Dalilis' Story towards Top 10

Lying alone on her bed in silence, one woman, like the rest of those who anticipated its arrival, waited with an unexplained surge of emotions. Little did she know that her life would take a complete turn after the night.

## ***Her name is Diana Faith Dalilis***

### **The Mistake and then the Unexpected**

The result of the September Librarian Licensure Examination (LLE) is expected to be released by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) on the night of September 16. However, the first time she saw it, she was in a daze. *"At that time, I was home feeling agitated while waiting for the result. Imagine my anxiety going through the roof when I finally read it. The PRC released the wrong one!"* she exclaimed.

Upon looking at the result, swarms of questions and doubts flooded her thoughts. *"By that time, I was thinking to myself, 'What if I will not make it?', 'What will people tell me if I fail this?', and 'Will I be able to accept and move forward with the result immediately?'"*

In these circumstances, she had no other option but to breath a desperate prayer. *"Lord, at least let me find my name on the list of passers."*

#### ***And then, it happened.***

Suddenly, congratulatory messages flooded her Facebook and Messenger accounts. *"I was so shocked when I saw my name on the topnotcher's list. I never expected the result. It was the Lord who was the very first person I thanked and talked to,"* she stated.

*"It was really an unexpected turn of events. To pass the board exam is enough for me, but to be one of the Top 10, I consider it a blessing. It was a bonus that I do not deserve from Him. And for that, I am forever grateful."*

#### ***How right she was.***

### **A Prayer in Every Shade**

*"Every time I shade a letter, there's always a prayer that comes*

*with it,"* she shared.

Recalling the examination proper, Ms. Dalilis said it was exhausting, pertaining to those instances where you have to choose the best answer in a series of choices that all seem correct.

*"I remember one of my teachers before saying that the board exam is a mix of wit and luck,"* she recalls.

Currently working as an administrative staff at the Philippine Science High School-CAR Campus, it is no easy task to juggle between work and reviewing. According to her, focus and time management was her ultimate struggle.

*"When I started my job, I do not have much time to read my notes. Sometimes, my boss would give me a short time to review if there were not many tasks to do within a day. And even if I plan to continue studying at home, by that time I was too exhausted from work that my mind and body are just telling me to sleep,"* she said.

On the other hand, she expressed her gratitude to her alma mater, saying, *"BSU has a big contribution to my success in taking the exam. I was grateful for the enhancement seminar that our department organized for us."*

Through the enhancement seminar which was conducted every Saturday for two months prior to the exam, she positively remarked how it contributed to her preparation along with the support of her teachers and the invited speakers imparting their knowledge about everything they need to acquire.

*"Without BSU, I will not be able to become one in the list of topnotchers nor even pass the board exam,"* she concluded

### **Unplanned but Designed**

*"I never planned to be a librarian,"* she said.

Undecided about what course path to take, she settled to enroll as an IT student. However, she was not

able to avail a slot. Looking back now, she said it was never planned but everything felt directed and planned.

*"I believe that me taking this course was really the plan of God considering that it matches my personality and the type of environment I wanted to work with in the future,"* she explained.

When asked about why it never occurred to her to shift to other degree programs, she broke a smile and said, *"I have always been fascinated with books. You know, the feeling every time I enter a room filled with them is always different. It's calming. It's peaceful."*

### **Keep Moving Forward**

From this, she adds, *"To those who are planning to enroll in this degree program, just pursue it. There will be exciting opportunities for you after graduation. These days, a degree in library science can provide you with a skill set that is not merely limited to working in a library."*

And for those who are preparing for their LLE, *"Trust yourselves with the ability that has been given to you. And then, trust God. If you won't pass it, do not get discouraged. Maybe, it's not yet your time. You have to stand up and try again. And of course, always ask for the Lord's intervention to guide and strengthen you,"* she said.

Her next plan? To continue to tread the path she has started. *"I will always be grateful to PISAY for adopting me right after graduation although I might not stay there for long. I know my heart is calling me to pursue my passion and profession as a librarian at other institutions,"* she affirms.

*"For now, I am taking my time at PISAY to grow professionally, improve and learn skills, and overcome my weaknesses so that by the time I decide to venture out, I am ready and equipped."//CANapiloy*

**BSU IS PRIME-HRMO** from page 1

Competencies in Recruitment, Selection, and Placement (RSP) and Performance Management (PM) from the Civil Service Commission-Cordillera Administrative Region (CSC-CAR) last October 17.

In an onsite awarding ceremony, BSU, under the leadership of President Felipe Salaing Comila, formally received the awards from CSC Director II of Baguio Field Office Atty. Allyson M. Locano. Personnel from Human Resource Personnel from Human Resource Management Office (HRMO) (HRMO) and Office (HRDO) also witnessed the ceremony.

By receiving the PRIME-HRM Maturity Level II (Process-Defined HRM) certification, BSU has proven that it is prepared to carry out delegated HR functions, crafting standard operating procedures and automating systems, among others, and enjoy certain privileges, such as the authority to take final action on appointments. The Process-Defined HRM means that there is

a set of defined and documented SOPs established, though it needs improvement.

Goal-oriented decision-making is another characteristic, along with some automated systems but limited data integration.

The PRIME-HRM is a mechanism that empowers government agencies by their

developing their human resource management competencies, systems, and practices toward HR excellence. It entails greater engagement not just of the human resource management officer but also of the officials and the rank-and-file employees of the agency.// MMarcos

**BSU Maintains ISO..** from page 1

and comply with the requirements of the ISO standard.

Along with Salomon, other TUV Rheinland auditors, including Xylene Tagorio and Rolando Remitar, assessed the BSU Top Management and various offices under instruction and research and extension sectors.

BSU, a provider of tertiary education, is ISO certified since 2018. This year, it passed the first surveillance audit of the University's ISO recertification in 2021.

President Felipe Salaing Comila said that this momentous occasion validates the effective Quality Management System of the University and serves as encouragement to pursue a higher level for the University. "This event serves as an eye opener for us, you have provided and given us direction so that we could now pursue the things we needed to do. This event

affirms our confidence to pursue further because nothing is impossible if we work as a team. It's nice to be validated," he expressed.

Pres. Comila and Quality Management Representative Dr. Aurea Marie Mioten Sandoval thanked all the sectors for the collective effort for this University's milestone.

"We continue maintaining and documenting the different ISO

processes, the BSU Quality Management System according to the ISO standard," said Sandoval hoping BSU will achieve the same in the audit next year. She added that the University that the University continues to conduct orientations and reminders among BSU offices to follow the ISO processes for the University's improvement.//EMBawayan





## BPA, BSHM undergo AACUP accreditation



Two BSU undergraduate programs underwent accreditation by the Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines (AACUP) during the online survey visit on September 12-15, 2022.

The AACUP accreditation team headed by Overall Coordinator Dr. Loreta Vivian R. Galima of Nueva Vizcaya State University, evaluated the Bachelor in Public Administration (BPA) and the Bachelor of Science in Hospitality Management (BSHM) for levels 1 and 2, respectively. These degree programs were assessed in 10 areas: Vision, Mission, Goals and Objectives; Faculty; Curriculum and Instruction; Support to Students; Research; Extension; Library; Physical Plant and Facilities; Laboratories; and Administration.

Along with Dr. Galima, other accreditors included Professor Ana C. Bañagale of Isabela State University, Dr. Jossie B. Romero of Partido State University, Dr. Jocelyn A. Rivera-Lutap of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines, Dr. Cristina R. Salvosa of Nueva Vizcaya State University, and Prof. Julius T. Bacatan of Jose Rizal Memorial State University.

Even prior to the start of accreditation, BSU President Dr. Felipe Salaing Comila and Office



of the Vice-President for Academic Affairs Officer-in-charge and College of Nursing Dean Dr. Vicente Panagan, Jr. expressed gratitude to the accreditors and recognized the BSU team's efforts for this endeavor during the opening meeting on September 12.

*"Thank you, accreditors, your presence would remind us that because of your expertise, you redirect us so that we will be able to soar high to the next level,"* expressed Dr. Comila during the opening meeting hoping the University achieves Level 5. *"Thank you, BSU team for your cooperation and participation as we soar to greater heights in the name of public service to our nation,"* he added.

Aside from scrutinizing the documents submitted for evaluation, the accreditors evaluated the two programs through interviews among

the faculty members, virtual tour of the laboratories and facilities, and class observations.

During the closing meeting on September 15, Dr. Galima applauded the BSU team for their participation during the entire visit and their commitment to the pursuit of excellence. *"We hope that you will keep on pursuing excellence passionately and directions set by your vision, BSU as an International Smart University engendering graduates to walk the intergenerational highways,"* she stated.

In his response, Dr. Comila reiterated that accreditation is a necessary element in pursuing a higher level for the University as he encouraged the BSU team to keep on working for the improvement of the degree programs in the University.// EMBawayan

Further, various topics on food culture and the roles of men and women in food security were discussed by resource speakers from New Zealand, Guam, Kenya, and the Philippines.

Hema Wi Hongi, Faculty of Maori and Indigenous Studies of the University of Waikato in New Zealand, discussed the first topic of the webinar titled, *Wai262 Journey: An expression of Rangatiratanga (Absolute Sovereignty) Kumara Sweet Potato*. She talked about the struggles of the Maori and their efforts to take back control over the Maori lands, including flora and fauna.

Elyssa J. Santos, Special Projects Coordinator, Kumision I Fino Chamoru, University of Guam, USA also discussed the topic on *Products of the Soil: Unearthing Histories of Chamoru Resistance to Colonial Agricultural Project in Guahan*. She shared the history and struggles of the Chamoru people, the indigenous peoples of Guahan or Guam, whose existence has been threatened due to colonialism. She further elaborated on the participation of Chamoru in colonial agricultural projects and expanded on indigenous women's involvement in food production. *"As in other indigenous communities or cultures, the farmer is a very important figure in the Chamoru community,"* she added. She also highlighted the role of women as cultivators of land.

Elvi Kaptoyo, Pastoral Communities Empowerment Program in Kenya, discussed *Understanding the Culture and Foodways of the Pokot Indigenous Community*. In her discussion, she emphasized and hoped that women can also participate in decision-making, not just men, such as the right to decide on agricultural and household levels and can participate in decision making. *"We should stand for our women, children, and land for whatever we do,"* she said and hoped to share more topics for food security.

In the afternoon session, Dr. Stanley F. Anongos, Jr., a Professor at BSU-College of Social Sciences, shared his study on *Sobering Drink: Social Meanings of Tapey*. Tapey is an alcoholic beverage or wine of the Cordillerans made from rice.

In his discussion, Dr. Anongos elaborated on the sociocultural values associated with alcohol drinking, specifically the tapey. *"Tapey is related to important cultures of the Cordillerans,"* he said. He added that tapey is served during rituals and

other ceremonies such as peace-making activities in the Cordillera. He further said that the socio-cultural values of the tapey contribute to sustainable rice agriculture. *"Rituals and ceremonies, and the central role the tapey plays, sustain rice agriculture,"* he noted.

Roland D. Ngalob, Master Teacher II of Pines City National High School in Baguio City, talked about *Kasilapet: Understanding the Cultural Significance of Linapet in Agawa, Besao, Mountain Province*. Mr. Ngalob enumerated how kasilapet is made and the values and cultural meanings associated with the production of kasilapet.

Moreover, Matyline A. Camfli-Talastas, BSU ISRD Division Chief-Indigenous Knowledge Systems, shared the *Traditional Food Crops Preservation Practices in Subsistence Communities in Benguet*. According to her, traditional food crops are still available and contribute to food and nutrition security. She also emphasized the nutritive functions of the crops and the significant roles of women in providing food for the family. In agricultural production, women do weeding, planting, and harvesting of rice. She further noted that women are seed keepers and actively participate in deciding what to intercrop.

The event concluded with the closing remarks of CSS Dean Dr. Charlie M. Dagwasi, who underscored that food security is the root of development and thanked the resource speakers, participants, and organizers of the event.// EMBawayan



# “Most Expensive Wood” planted at BSU-IHFS

On September 8, 2022, *Aquilaria malaccensis*, a plant that yields agarwood, was planted at the Institute of Highland Farming Systems and Agroforestry (IHFS). One of the 21 species of the *Aquilaria* genus under the *Thymelaeaceae* family is *Aquilaria malaccensis*. The Philippines is home to nine of the 21 known species, six of which are endemic.



*Aquilaria malaccensis*, also known as *Lapnisan*, donated by Mr. Jose Nabus Bilag.

The wood from the host tree, known as aloes or agar in its heartwood, is formed when the mold *phialophoraparasitica* infects it, giving rise to the resin that is prized for its distinctive fragrance and is highly sought after in many nations, especially in Asia. This dark resin is processed to make incense, perfume, and medicinal products.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) both place strong protections on the *Aquilaria* genus since it is deemed to be in risk of extinction. IUCN is an international organization that works in the fields of nature conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, whereas CITES is a multilateral convention to preserve endangered plants and animals from the hazards of international trade.

The DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau estimates that in 2010, a kilogram of first-grade agarwood costs P5 million.

More than P12 million worth of agarwood has been seized by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) since 2019. Agarwood is also known locally as *Lapnisan* or *Lanete* and is highly sought after in the Philippines. Agarwood propagation was carefully controlled yet permitted last year, according to DENR. Furthermore, the regulation of Agarwood propagation will aid in the preservation of *Aquilaria* species in the Philippines.

Mr. Jose Nabus Bilag, a BSU alumnus and a member of Benguet Ashitaba and *Aquilaria* Botanicals (BAAB), contributed the ten plants that were planted at IHFS. Bilag claims that BAAB is a group of farmers with the goal of gathering, cultivating, and preserving plants.



VPRE Dr. Dati planting *Aquilaria malaccensis* at IHFS

Bilag hopes that this plant would help the university as a subject of research in the future. *Aquilaria malaccensis* takes more than a decade or more to develop and the agarwood takes three to five years to mature. “We decided to begin our contribution here at BSU because we believe that the university would be able to monitor the plant and be able



IHFS Director Dr. Macanes planting *Aquilaria malaccensis* at IHFS

to produce researches that would help us, not only understand the plant but also on production of the Agarwood,” he added.

“Perhaps in the future we will be able to contribute another five species to the university. These five species of *Aquilaria* is considered to be the fast-growing ones and I believe they would thrive in our climate, especially here in the Cordillera,” Bilag exclaimed.

Furthermore, he thanked President Felipe Salaing Comila’s immediate support on this endeavor. “As a representative of our group, BAAB, I would like to thank President Comila and the whole BSU for allowing us to have a trial and documentation of this particular plant. Also, our group BAAB and the more than 50 group of farmers, I also extend my gratitude for continuing this project,” he ended.

Meanwhile, Vice-President for Research and Extension Dr. Johnny Guzman Dati, Sr. and Institute of Highland Farming Systems and Agroforestry Director Valentino Liwan Macanes expressed exuberance and gratitude to BAAB and Mr. Bilag. They believed that this would be a tremendous help to the university, especially because of the plant’s scarcity in the region, not many researches are being done on the plant in the country.//OGDacocotJr.

## BSU Participates in F2F NSED

More than 100 Benguet State University (BSU) employees participated in the Nationwide Simultaneous Earthquake Drill (NSED) on September 8, 2022, the first face-to-face earthquake drill held since the COVID-19 pandemic.

The activity was conducted after the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) urged the Local Government Units, public and private institutions, and the public to join the NSED during the third quarter. The NSED aims to promote advocacy for earthquake awareness and preparedness in the country.

Initiated by the Security Services Office (SSO) headed by Odelon C. Dulay, the BSU personnel immediately performed DUCK, COVER, and HOLD when the bell rang at 9 AM. These practices intend to mitigate injuries from falling or flying objects during earthquakes. According to Dulay, it is safer to duck, cover, and hold until the shaking stops. Afterward, all employees rushed outside the administration building covering their heads.

Dulay thanked the BSU personnel for their

participation and reiterated ways to survive an earthquake. *"I am grateful that the participation of the BSU employees during NSED has improved and that it should improve more. During earthquakes, it is important to do a head count among your co-workers to check if someone is trapped inside. In cases like this, you can also report it to the Security Services Office. While moving out of the building, also cover your head with books or bags,"* advised Dulay.

Dulay further encouraged the University employees to continuously support and participate in quake drills. He added that they improved facilities in the University buildings, such as the exit doors, for easier exit when disasters such as earthquakes and fire happen.

With the importance of widened and strengthened information dissemination, SSO also plans to conduct an orientation on earthquake preparedness among students. He hoped that earthquake awareness and preparedness campaigns are integrated into the disaster risk reduction management-related trainings implemented at the University. // EMBawayan



BSU staff duck, cover, and hold as they participate in the Nationwide Simultaneous Earthquake Drill (NSED)

### CDA-CAR Breaks... from page 4

Meanwhile, CDA BOD Member Asec. Vidal D. Villanueva III said that the CDA BOD proposed the construction of the building to eliminate rental expenses of their institution and was thankful that the Department of Public Works and Highways approved their funding request. Villanueva and Asec. Pendatun B. Disimban, also one of the BOD members, emphasized that putting up the building is a manifestation of cooperation among the cooperatives in bringing quality services to its constituents, even in remote areas of the country.

In addition, the CDA requested another portion of the BSU's landholdings as the site for their planned CDA-CAR Training Center. If possible, this will undergo another usufruct agreement. With the future training center and as a symbol of delivering quality services in the company, Villanueva and Regional Cooperative Development Council Chairman Victor Luacan said that this will make non-compliant cooperatives get back to the cooperative sector and will respond to the education and training needs of the organization.

In response to the clamor of the CDA-CAR, BSU President Felipe Salaing Comila

has committed another portion of the BSU-owned lands for the construction of the CDA-CAR Training Center. He also expressed gratitude to the CDA for providing services in the region. *"Thank you for helping us. I-angat naman natin ang Cordillera also, because we do the same service as what any other citizens in this country are doing,"* stated Comila.

Other BSU officials who attended the ceremony included Vice-President for Administration and Finance Atty. Allan Casaldo Sacpa, Executive Assistant Atty. Andres Arnold Wadingan Lampacan, BSU La Trinidad Campus Executive Dean Eugene Sinadcop Lumasok, Planning and Development Office Director Melvin Aromin, University Public Affairs Office Director Adamson Nga-eo Labi, and Legal Office Administrative Officer Atty. Fritz Lomerez Moreno. // EMBawayan

## CBSUA benchmarks at BSU

The Central Bicol State of Agriculture, headed by the Research Services Division Director Dr. Aries O. Ativo and Extension Services Division Director Dr. Vladimir R. Foronda, visited Benguet State University for a benchmarking activity on October 7.

The said event aims to identify approaches and strategies for internal management, techniques and innovation, and research methodologies and extension modalities applied by the university in its research and extension programs and management.

During the discussion, Office of Research Services Director Dr. Gretchen Gaye C. Ablaza, together with the Center for Geoinformatics Director Dr. Roscinto Ian C. Lumbres, and Cordillera Regional Apiculture Center Dr. Kenneth A. Laruan Director answered queries and exchanged ideas for points of discussion with the CBSUA directors and staff members.

*"We went here with an empty cup in hand, and I think that is the beauty of doing benchmarking,"* said Dr. Ativo when asked about their experience during the discussion session.

He further stated that benchmarking enables them to compare and confirm each university's best practices which are very crucial for their overall growth and development.

*"Well, you get to know their best practices and then you get to compare. And at the end of the day, the aim is for us to adapt,"* he added.

After the event, Dr. Ativo and Dr. Foronda went around the BSU-on-the-air on the second floor of the Research and Extension Building as well as the BSU Northern Philippines Root Crops Research and Training Center building.//CANapiloy

## BSU Celebrates... from page 1 Foundation Anniversary Grand Opening

**"The past is alive and continues to exist.." - Atty. Allan Casaldo Sacpa**

Led by President Felipe Salaing Comila and other officials along with the BSU-CCA, stakeholders and other participants gathered together on the morning of September 27 in front of the BSU Administration Building for a Street Dance Parade.

With the sound of the gongs echoing through the air, the procession went on to showcase the *"longest G-string and Benguet tapis"* that spans 106 meters in length in commemoration of the years since the founding of the university along with the agricultural products of Cordillera.

An ecumenical service at the university gymnasium followed with various denominations present to grace the celebration. Prayers and invocation were said during the service.

Vice-President for Administration and Finance Atty. Allan Casaldo Sacpa, upon cordially welcoming the attendees said that the celebration enables us to look back at the past as it is worthy of commemoration and look forward to the future as it is worthy of aspiration.

*"The lineup of activities from today is mainly in recognition of the past that surely inspires us, guides us,*

*and equips us to be the future. As French archbishop François Fénelon said, 'Let gratitude for the past inspire us with the trust for the future,'"* he said.

On the other hand, with this year's Foundation Anniversary theme highlighting one of the visions of the university, Dr. Rome A. Gomez, Jr., the Dean for the National College of Highland Agriculture and Environment (NCHAE) presented the initial plan and proposed timeframe for the said national college.

It can be noted that establishing a national college in the region is one of the target goals of President Comila ever since he took office last November 26, 2020. Specifically, the NCHAE plans to restructure the College of Agriculture and withdraw the Environmental Science Program from the College of Natural Sciences and include it in the proposed national college programs.

He clarified however that the national college does not plan to dissolve all the other colleges, exercising a *"disciplinary respect for the other field of specialization as well as the existing units or colleges."*

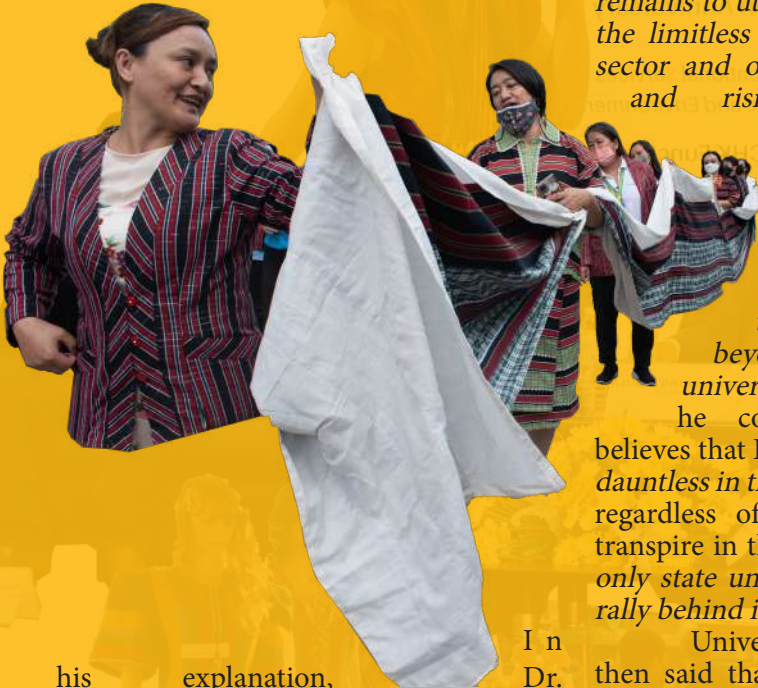
*"It might be a possibility that we have a restructured college of agriculture because this is basically the vision for this university to have a national college. And while we can accommodate lowland crops and animal production systems, highland crops and animal production system should be the strong focus because this is our primary strength,"* he said as he detailed the university's strengths, resources, partnerships, accomplishments, and geographical location among others as a rationale for the possibility of the said endeavor.

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BSU Celebrates... from page 13

According to Dr. Gomez Jr., the national college will focus on two fundamental trajectories which are Highland Agriculture which concentrates on semi-temperate crops and animals, and Highland Environment which focuses on the natural and urban ecosystems as well as the Traditional Rice-Based Ecosystems or TRBEs.



In his explanation, Dr. Gomez Jr. said that the TRBEs refer to the indigenous rice terraces in the region which might not be comparable to the Ifugao Rice Terraces but also abounds in Benguet, Mountain Province, and other provinces of CAR where culture is closely intertwined.

In line with the opening, President Comila facilitated the awarding of plaques to the immediate past members of the Board of Regents.

Dr. Stephanie F. Christiansen, the Assistant Regional Director of NEDA-CAR and former BOR member, in her response message, talked of how the university continues to be a pillar of development in the region embracing students of all economic statuses, ethnicity, gender, and race. According to her, this helps in nurturing a generation of students responsible and abled contributors to growth and development not only in the region but also in the world.

Congressman Eric Go Yap, the keynote speaker of the day then shared his congratulatory message in honor of the continuous quality education and invaluable community service of BSU in

the province to become the bedrock of our responsive education service that is geared towards highland agriculture and development in the province as well as to our neighboring provinces. Noting that the main source of livelihood in the province is agriculture, the university remains to utilize and harness the limitless potential of the sector and other prospective and rising industries.

Hence, it is crystal clear that the mandate of the university always transgresses beyond the university itself," he commended. He believes that BSU will "remain dauntless in the years to come" regardless of whatever challenges will transpire in the future. "As the province's only state university, we kakailiyans, will rally behind its back," he ended.

University President Comila then said that one of the end goals of the proposed NCHAE is to combat food scarcity problems in our region and in the country. "We will continue to flourish,



to prosper, and to be one of the sources of food in the university for our country despite the challenges of food security. I will continue to stand with the vision and mission that we have established and we will continue to pursue it until the end of our term," he said.

**Kapihan sa BSU**

"Let us bring this services to the people.." - President Felipe Salaing Comila



"The role of education is enlightenment... in the holistic level," says BSU President Felipe Salaing Comila.

Through the Kapihan, key BSU officials were able to exchange ideas and perspectives as well as share relevant information together with the university's media partner, the Philippine Information Agency - Cordillera Administrative Region (PIA - CAR) to the public.

President Comila, alongside Executive Assistant Atty. Andres Arnold Wadingan Lampacan, Vice-President for Academic Affairs Dr. Samuel Salay Poliden, and Vice-President for Research and Extension Dr. Johnny Guzman Dati, r., recently shared a range

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*BSU Celebrates... from page 14*

of university-related updates and programs with the public, including the promotion of faculty under NBC 461 Cycle, the expansion of the campus to various municipalities of Benguet, and the qualification of BSU as a medium university.

President Comila further explained that the ultimate aim of these programs is to elevate BSU to a Level 5 University, thus providing students with the highest quality of education and the opportunity to reach their full potential. Through these initiatives, BSU is striving to become a beacon of enlightenment and knowledge in the region.

**Praise Everlasting Awards**

*"Public service is encouraging and rewarding..." - Atty. Matias C. Angiwan, Jr.*

As part of the annual Foundation Anniversary of the university, the PRAISE EVERLASTING Awards 2022 recognized once more the employees who demonstrated commitment to excellence, positive leadership, and loyalty in service. Anchored through CSM-MC No.1 Series of 2001 which mandates all government agencies, including SUCs to establish their own employee incentive awards system under the Program on Awards and Incentives for Service Excellence (PRAISE), the BSU's PRAISE-

EVERLASTING Awards was created.

University President Felipe Salaing Comila in his message spoke of the importance of these kinds of platforms to honor deserving awardees saying, *"The splendor of the heart and the brilliance of the mind are often not appreciated if not placed in a structure like this one."* For him, the awardees continue to shine as an inspiration to their fellow at the workplace.

President Comila also commended the retirees for their unwavering service and loyalty to the institution and how they attest that indeed, *"there is life after retirement."*

Meanwhile, Chief of Administrative Services Division Atty. Matias Chawana Angiwan, Jr. shared three crucial realizations through this awarding ceremony: humility, encouragement, and gratitude.

He said that it is humbling to understand that public service is a noble undertaking and can be very rewarding. He further states that these awards are an encouragement to those who may be looking forward to receiving the same recognition. He then thanked the committee for their effort in organizing the event as well as the nominators, calling it a *"collaborative effort."*

*"A leader can never be alone from the top. He needs people to work with him. And it is with these people that he shares the recognition and award,"* he said.

Along with these realizations, Atty. Angiwan also shared some spiritual insights, saying that everyone needs to seek the greater award which will be given by our Lord Jesus Christ. *"The things on earth will perish but the things that are eternal will always be eternal. And indeed, when we come to our time and the Lord will say, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. Enter*

*thou into the joys and the kingdom of your Lord; that would be the greatest accolade and the greatest reward that we can ever receive,"* he added.

As a closing, Dr. Percyveranda A. Lubrica, GS coordinator of CTE, adulated the university employees' resiliency amidst the increasing challenges of our changing times along with the increasing demand and responsibility of our growing university.

*"With the expansion of academic programs in our university over the years, the demand for quality service has also increased correspondingly. It is therefore a fact that BSU is what it is today basically as a result of the effort and ingenuity of the employees and this fact is appreciated by all,"* she complimented.

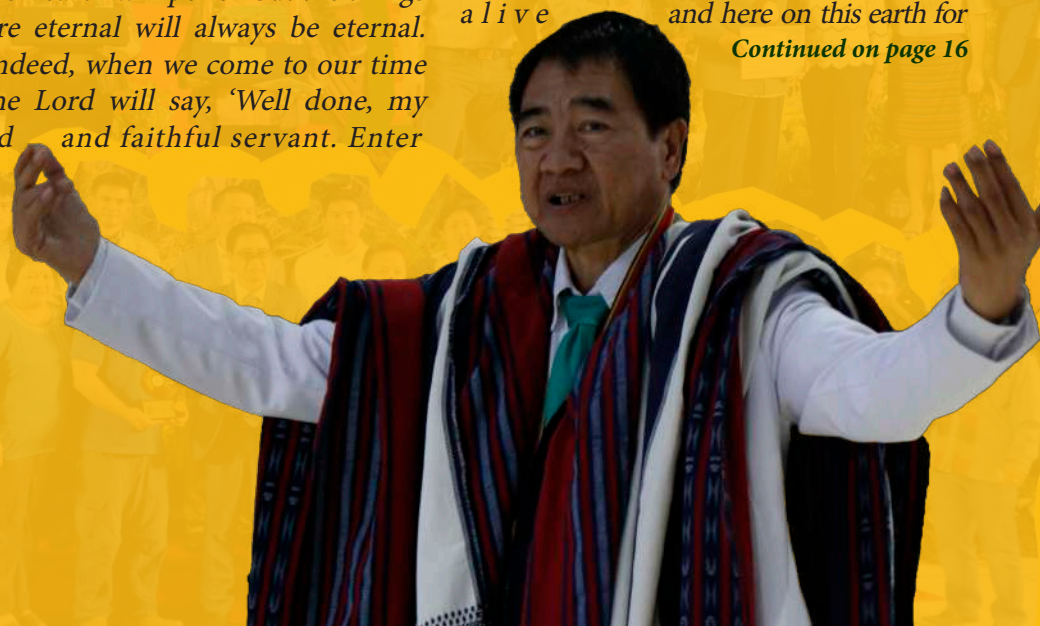
**Variety Show and Christmas Lighting**

*"Love life and shine your light to others.."*  
- President Felipe Salaing Comila

Featuring lively and high-quality performances, the BSU Variety Show was organized, allowing the university's faculty, staff, and students to assemble and showcase their talents in a variety of ways. From cultural and contemporary performances to stand-up comedy, this event celebrates and promotes the diversity of BSU in all talent forms. Hundreds of students, employees, and distinguished guests filled the university gymnasium, their cheers and applause erupting and echoing off the walls with each performance.

University President Felipe Salaing Comila congratulated and commended the collective efforts of both the organizing committee and performers, saying, *"We are a live and here on this earth for*

*Continued on page 16*



*with others and become a blessing. Life is a precious gift, and we should enjoy it to the fullest. Money may be the currency of the economy, but in life, it is the physical presence of each one that matters.”*

After the show, the university held its ceremonial Christmas lighting at Centennial Park, despite the cold weather and drizzle. University officials, employees, and students gathered together to witness the much-anticipated Christmas Lighting countdown event.

Vice-President for Academic Affairs Dr. Samuel Salay Poliden warmly welcomed everyone, while President Comila encouraged them to continue cherishing life and becoming a beacon of love and hope to others. The BSU Glee Club then continued their yuletide serenade beneath the sparkling lights and starry night sky.

### **Everlasting Cañao**

In honor of the Benguet State University’s accomplishments for 106 years, the University held its Everlasting Cañao on September 30 at the BSU Gymnasium.

Cañao is a special feast for the indigenous peoples of the Cordillera Administrative Region. It is a socio-religious ritual and a thanksgiving to the god, Kabunyan, where chicken, pigs, and/or carabaos are butchered as a sacrifice.

*“We are gathered here to be united in the spirit of people and gesture of peace by understanding each other’s culture and tradition,”* expressed Vice-President for Research and Extension Dr. Johnny Guzman Dati, Sr., in his welcome remarks. He added that the event inculcates patriotism among students.

In a Ceremonial Welcome Tayao, the three salao were presented, which represent the three campuses of the university, including the La Trinidad, Bokod, and Buguias. The three kayabangs are also representative and symbolic of the growing family of Benguet State University, such as the Kapangan Campus and the Kabayan Extension Campus. During the ceremony, President Felipe Salaing Comila also led the traditional dancing accompanied by playing gongs and joined by the BSU officials, employees,

and guests. It was followed by the drinking of tapey, a rice wine and a traditional alcoholic beverage of the Cordillerans. BSU officials, employees, and guests also performed the traditional Bendian dance. It is a circle dance to celebrate a victory. It is one of the most beautiful and unique dances of the Ibaloy-Ithno linguistic group of Benguet, which originated in Kabayan.

Meanwhile, Benguet Local Government Officials from La Trinidad, Itogon, and Bokod and CHED-CAR and DepEd CAR representatives congratulated BSU for its milestones and delivered their commitments to the University.

In a message delivered through Hon. Henry Kipas, La Trinidad Mayor Romeo Kimo Salda commended and reminisced about the continuing achievements of the University in delivering quality services to its students and stakeholders.

Bokod Mayor Thomas K. Wales, Jr. also expressed his commitment through his Representative Giovan S. Mesa. He thanked BSU for having the Bokod Campus, which according to him, has been transforming and uplifting the lives of the people of Bokod, even in neighboring communities. He committed to supporting the BSU’s vision, mission, and development goals (VMDG), its goal of expanding satellite campuses and offering additional courses, and forging a partnership between BSU and LGUs and other agencies for the betterment of the general public, especially on the education sector.

In addition, CHED-CAR Representative Dr. Maria Geraldine Casipit acknowledged the collective effort of the present administration, other BSU employees, and the past presidents that resulted in the exemplary performances of the University through the years. *“Your more than a century of existence is a manifestation of a university’s thrive to propel for greater heights in the realm of higher education,”* she expressed.

Assistant Director of the DepEd-CAR Dr. Florante E. Vergara assured that the department provides quality basic education to its learners. He believes BSU is a great partner of various agencies in the region in providing programs, activities, and projects that will contribute to the

enhancement of the skills and abilities of all learners.

Moreover, Guest Speaker and Benguet Governor Melchor Daguines Diclas, through his representative Mr. David Cabuten, lauded BSU on its various accomplishments and excellence in education. He also announced the significant roles of the university in agricultural development through its excellent innovations that empower and enrich *local communities and the country*. *“As BSU continues to expand and provide more equitable, high quality and responsive educational services, while we pursue to address pressing issues and future concerns on agriculture, I am certain that BSU is a reliable partner towards our aspirations by not only providing quality agricultural courses but also by empowering our learners to become community-oriented and socially concerned future, innovative leaders, with the sense of ethical responsibilities,”* he expressed as he encouraged BSU to continue to impart knowledge and skills to its learners.

In his response, Pres. Comila talked about eliminating the negative but focusing more on the positive ones. He further shared his plans for the University, such as the expansion of university campuses in Benguet, improvement of facilities in all campuses, and boost of the business affairs sector of the University, even the tourism industry in the locality. He further inspired everyone to give their best saying, *“Time is gold. The currency of the economy is money but the currency in life is time. It’s the time that you give to the University that defines the direction.”* // CANapiloy & EMBawayan

