

“Isabela Spreads its Wings for the Young Isabeleños”



*K*nown for its genuine

concern for the welfare and protection of all children, the Provincial Government of Isabela unswervingly threw its doors wide open to welcome the Department of Health's campaign tagged as "MR-OPV Mass Immunization Activity". From its conception to birth, this nationwide drive enormously gained much interest and attention from its leaders headed by the admirable Gov. Faustino G. Dy, III and Vice-Gov. Antonio T. Albano joined by all officials who all share the same intensity of fervor in health service.

The Provincial Health Office-Field Health Service as the prime-mover of this noble endeavor in close partnership with all RHUs embarked on activities that contributed in attaining its goal-to immunize all eligible children from 0-59 months thereby achieving *Herd Immunity*.

As the province soared high to reach the target, the succeeding events depicted its manifestation of sterling support that fully embraced the ideals set by DOH.

Crafting of a Tribute

In the course of the pre-implementation phase, varied orientation programs among different levels of health workers and stakeholders were organized mainly to provide clear-cut guidelines on the conduct

of this month-long immunization activity as well as to gain support from several LGU and developmental partners. Under the mandate of the organized Provincial Local Health Board (PLHB), the details of MR-OPV MI

Activity was vividly discussed by DOH-Region 02 program managers well- attended by all key provincial officials, department heads, Chiefs of Hospitals in all 7 District/Station hospitals, development partners and Municipal Health Officers. It was a promising day for all young Isabeleños as they vowed to extend all out commitment and support for its success



The Provincial Administrator, Atty. Noel R. Lopez presides during the Provincial Local Health Board Meeting held last August, 2014

The presence of the Department Heads(in orange shirts)-Dr. Naui of PVET and Mr. Acierto of Isabela Health Care, along with Chiefs of Hospital –Dr. caballero of CDH and Dr. Paguirigan of MRDH led by Dr. Donato,PHO I(Hospitals) made the meeting complete.



To celebrate the birthday month of the much-loved father of the province, **Hon. Faustino G. Dy , III**, a ceremonial shot of MR-OPV last August 18, 2014 was held at the Isabela Provincial Capitol Lobby wherein the Day Care pupils with their parents volunteered to be

vaccinated. Once again, the occasion steered cooperation from all sectors in the province and bloomed into a full blast event. As a testimony of continued support, refreshments were served and tokens were distributed among the children. Advocacy t-shirt

bearing the provincial logo combined with the *MR-OPV* official design and transportation vehicles of health workers in the Field Health Services for the entire duration were provided by the provincial government



Taken during the ceremonial shot of MEASLES-RUBELLA- ORAL POLIO VACCINES at the Isabela Provincial Capitol among Day Care Pupils under the excellent supervision of Dr. Rosa Rita B. Mariano PHO II and Dr. Arlene M. Lazaro, PHO I.



PHO staff with the yellow shirt provided by the Provincial Government of Isabela.

To determine Rural Health Units' capacity to store the number of MR-OPV vaccines and ensure its potency from receipt to actual administration, a *Cold Chain Management*



Patricia Bagaoisan, EPI Provincial Coordinator checks on the vaccine status and ensures that the vaccines are in suitable condition.



Taken at the office of the PHO II, Dr. Rosa Rita B. Mariano during the dialogue with Dr. Montejo prior to visit to the different RHUs.

monitoring was conducted by the Provincial EPI Program Manager, Ms. Patria Bagaoisan joined by Mr. Lauris Ayudon from USAID-LuzonHealth, one of the province's development partner. Since the PHO plays a pivotal role, a *Rapid Coverage Assessment (RCA) Orientation* held at Tuguegarao City was attended and eventually paved the way for a better understanding as this was cascaded down

to the different PHO-RCA teams organized by the program manager. Armed with the necessary competencies coupled with high hopes and divine guidance, all teams exercised extreme care in performing their duties for the benefit of the young Isabeleños. This was further supplemented by the presence of Dr. Raquel Montejo, WHO Consultant who paid a visit to selected municipalities and cities and commended the existence of a comprehensive MR-OPV Project Proposal stipulating all the details needed for the endeavor as well as the organization of the Provincial MR-OPV MI Task Force and Monitors.



Pre-Implementation Monitoring of MR-OPV MI at RHU-San Mateo by the WHO Consultant, Dr. Raquel Montejo and Mr. Richmond Aragan from DOH-RO II.

The Journey Begins

On the actual implementation phase, the City Health Office of Cauayan City spearheaded the launching ceremony held at SM City. A huge crowd composed of LGU officials led by Hon. Mayor Bernard Faustino M. Dy, attended by health workers,



Taken last September 1, 2014 at Cauayan City during the motorcade for the launching of MROPV



development partners and stakeholders fully participated in the launching activity. Operating under the marching orders of Kalusugan Pangkalahatan (KP), selected PHO personnel gracefully danced to the KP jingle composed and sung by the dynamic Regional Director, Dr. Rio L. Magpantay. The dancers wore the customized yellow-blue T-shirt provided by the provincial government for the use of all Provincial officials, department heads, Chief of Hospitals & Chief Nurses from seven –operated hospitals, PHO personnel and municipal health officers.

The next days were a mixture of excitement and adventure, full of fun and challenges faced by the RCA teams. Leaders from eight (8) teams conceptualized the use of color-coded, long-sleeves *Kamisa de Chino* as a protective gear

against the heat of the sun. It also coincided with the color of the uniform

set by the Provincial Government for proper identification even when



Group 1B during the fix site visit at Brgy. Binarsang, Reina Mercedes



One of the best practices : Group 3B conducts RCA while Mop-up team joins to ensure zero-missed children.

reaching far flung areas. Four (4) transportation services were provided by Governor Dy, to Complement the five(5) vehicles provided by DOH. These vehicles brought the teams to far flung barangays from uphill to downhill where the fixed sites were located. With these vehicles, the Provincial RCA Teams conducted their main task- RCA monitoring which entailed crossing over clear creeks, roving rivers

and passing through lush green farms and thick forests. Faithfully serving

as guardians of the health sector, the PHO team remained steadfast in its

sworn duty to serve while experiencing the ingenuity of different municipalities.



PHO Group 4 as they cross Pinacanauan River to reach Barangay Minanga, San Mariano, Isabela.



Courtesy call of Group 3 led by Dr. Arlene M.Lazaro, PHO I to Hon. Mayor TJ Pua of Delfin Albano. Also with Dr. Generoso Roberto - MHO and Ms. Beth Baquiran – PHN.



Dr. Rosa Rita B. Mariano leads Group 1 during the RCA to a household at barangay San Andres, San Mateo, Isabela



Group 2 at the Fixed Site in Barangay Canan of RHU Cabatuan led by Dr. Marichu Manlongat.

To complete its stewardship role, every Monday is dedicated to feed backing where all teams bring out issues and concerns they encountered while conducting the RCA. This avenue served as a learning opportunity for



Discussion of findings during the post-implementation period of MR-OPV



everyone as responses were provided mainly to shed light on gray areas faced. In terms of accomplishment, both Provincial Health Officers closely tracked the performance of different municipalities and arranged dialogues with different stakeholders to determine possible factors that contributed to the actual accomplishments. This strategy enhanced the promotion of *Public-Private Partnership* emphasized by DOH for collaborative efforts for the health welfare of all eligible children.

As a testament of his perpetual pledge to the well-being of our future generation, Governor, Hon. Faustino G. Dy, III left no stone unturned in reaching out individuals and groups who resisted the immunization for varied reasons. The Provincial Administrator, Atty. Noel Manuel R. Lopez kept track on the daily accomplishment attained by the province.

The Fruit of Hard Work and Struggles

This *MR-OPV Mass Immunization Activity* culminated with flying colors as twenty-four (24) municipalities reached more than the DOH target of 85 % accomplishment. Overall, the Province of Isabela obtained 88%. Indeed, this province is a haven of health and wellness for the most treasured group – our **CHILDREN**.

