

STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS 2017: LOCALIZING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In January 2016, the United Nations officially launched the seventeen (17) Sustainable Development Goals, a universal plan of action drafted following the success of the Millennium Development Goals including new areas such as climate change, economic equality, innovation, sustainable consumption, peace and justice. Countries all over the world are encouraged to adopt this set of goals as part of their respective development agenda, aimed to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all, which is why in the whole year of 2016, Cauayan City (and only Cauayan City) took the lead and actively initiated the implementation of these goals in the local level, because I strongly believe that the greatest impact of the attainment of this global advocacy starts with the participation of the local government units.

Allow me to share with you the steps we have taken in localizing the SDG's, and what else needs to be done in the coming years until we are fully able to contribute to make the world a better place for our future generations. *Kaya naman dito po sa Cauayan, nais ko pong tawagin ang adhikaing ito bilang LABING-PITONG HAMON SA BAWAT CAUAYEÑO.*

GOAL 1: NO POVERTY

It is the aim of the new SDG's to eradicate poverty in all its forms and to increase access to basic human needs and services. In the local level, we provided basic services targeting the different sectors of the society to make sure that no one is left behind. We extended free access to medical, dental and oral care, maternal, child and environmental health, core shelters, feeding programs, livelihood, educational and financial assistance. The Pantawid Pamilya Pilipino Program has catered a total of 2,440 families receiving cash assistance and family development trainings to help improve the quality of their lives. We also prioritized the distribution of relief goods not just during occurrence of disasters but anytime in case of need.

It is the commitment of the City Government that we will strengthen economic opportunities, especially for the underprivileged, until no household will ever struggle for the most basic needs, thus eradicate poverty in the community.

GOAL 2: ZERO HUNGER

It is our goal to ensure access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round, thus, we conducted supplementary feeding programs all over the barangays with a total of 2,728 school children and under-nourished children beneficiaries at the end of 2016.

One of the new innovations implemented by the City Government is the establishment of Food Bank, which is the first hunger relief operations in the city

acting as food storage and distribution center of food catering people struggling with hunger. It is a mechanism to increase awareness and volunteerism among the people, establishments, private sector and other agencies to donate food that could otherwise be thrown away and to get involved in the reduction of hunger incidence in the community.

With all of these efforts, the malnutrition rate in Cauayan City has substantially decreased to as low as 1.2%, and making Cauayan City the Hall of Fame awardee of the 2016 National Nutrition Award.

We will double efforts until we can fully eradicate malnutrition in the city.

GOAL 3: GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Increasing life expectancy and reducing child and maternal mortality are the targets of this goal. In the City of Cauayan, we conducted pre-marriage counselling, Kasalang Bayan, responsible parenting campaigns and provided pregnant women and newborn with complete immunization, complementary food and vitamin supplementation. We strengthened programs for pregnant women such as Alkansiya para sa Buntis, increased facility deliveries, promotion of “No deliveries at Home” and exclusive breastfeeding as we conducted awareness programs and established lactating areas in barangay health stations and government offices.

Our efforts in disease control were likewise reinforced as we initiated programs such as Todas Dengue campaign, DOH TSeKaP: Non-communicable Summit, healthy lifestyle campaigns and the Tsinelas Walk for the Beat project. We collaborated with NGO’s and other agencies for our Operation Smile and conduct of medical and dental mission in different barangays. We customized a Multi-patient ambulance that could cater 4 patients to better extend medical aid in case of emergencies.

These programs have enabled Cauayan City to successfully reduce maternal and neonatal deaths, no recorded rabies deaths, no malaria deaths, and has been granted with the Pink Orchids Award for Smoke Free Environment. to promote a healthy citizenry in the city.

GOAL 4: QUALITY EDUCATION

Our schools in Cauayan City are already K-12 ready with advanced academic and technical curriculum. We participated in school activities such as the Brigada Eskwela Kick-off and Teacher’s Day Celebration and continued our support to educational programs including the turn over the City Bus to the Department of Education Schools Division, distribution of school bags and school supplies to all the barangays and the reinforcement of our Day Care Service Program by constructing additional day care centers. We opened the New City Library which was able to cater more than 10,000 readers, alongside with the operation of our Mobile Library. We increased the coverage of our scholarship program by including sports

athletes, ALS, and student leaders as beneficiaries. In the coming years, we will formalize agreements with universities in Singapore and the United States of America for distance learning and exchange students program.

GOAL 5: GENDER EQUALITY

To achieve women empowerment, we launched the 18-day awareness campaign to end violation against women and participated in the 1st North Luzon Gender and Development Congress for Cooperatives. The Green Ladies Organization has been the implementing arm of the City Government in programs promoting the active participation of women, helping them to engage in income-generating projects and livelihood programs. Women with disabilities are also in our priority as we granted them assistance programs to make them more active and involved in the community. This 2017, our focus will be on the establishment of Violence Against Women and their Children (VAWC) desk in all barangays alongside with giving of livelihood assistance to VAWC/Human trafficking victims. We will increase trainings regarding gender sensitivity and awareness campaigns against sexual harassment.

GOAL 6: CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

We collaborated with Junior Chamber International in the Tubig Impact Project which provided water systems in barangays located in the forest region. We constructed water system in Sitio Manalpaac, San Pablo. We also distributed sanitary toilets and conducted campaigns to promote healthy lifestyle and sanitation because access to sanitation and hygiene is key for the prevention of diseases.

GOAL 7: AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

To ensure access to affordable and sustainable energy, we installed solar street lights and collaborated with JCI in the Liter of Light Project to help and encourage our citizens to make use of recycled bottles for light. In line with the Smarter City Project with ISU and DOST, we now also partnered with Ropali for the creation of e-tricycles with solar roof. By May this year, we will officially launch our e-tricycles in line with our advocacy to adopt the use of modern day technology to help conserve energy and protect the environment.

GOAL 8: DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

We participated in job fairs and employment programs to help provide job opportunities for our increasing labor force, alongside with providing livelihood projects such as dressmaking, craftmaking and food processing, to name a few, as income-generation projects to help the households. Seminars and workshops were conducted and we have officially institutionalized our Go Negosyo Center to support and enhance competitiveness of our micro, small and medium enterprises. Investment opportunities have also increased in the city as we provide business-

friendly incentives and regulations, apart from enhancing our quality management through our ISO Surveillance Audit.

These efforts have enabled us to be the Grand Winner in the search for Most Outstanding LGU Cooperative Development Council in the National and Regional Gawad Parangal and 1st Runner up in the search for Most Outstanding LGU Cooperative Development Office.

GOAL 9: INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

We continued enhancing the bamboo industry of Cauayan City. From bamboo planting and bamboo propagation, we are ready to pursue the production of barbecue sticks, chopsticks, toothpicks, and other materials made out of bamboo for souvenirs and for export through our facilities and machines. As we continue to advocate the use of information technology being a Smarter City, we had partnerships to enhance our internet connectivity, promote the use of our mobile application and social media in information dissemination and implemented the Gcash ID to start cashless payments and transactions in the city.

These innovations enabled Cauayan City to be recognized as BPO-ready, making us as well a finalist in the E-Gov National Award for LGU's acknowledging our excellence in utilizing information and communications technology in local governance.

Infrastructures:

We opened our newly improved Primark market center and footbridge with elevator, as well as our New Cauayan City Public Cemetery in Barangay San Francisco with a total of 226 burials assisted in 2016. We also started the operations of Rescue 922 Villa Luna Substation and rehabilitated our road streets.

Other infrastructures for implementation this year Cauayan City Sports Complex, CENRO, Motorpool and Archive Building, Science Centrum at Hacienda de San Luis, Halfway Center, PWD Center, Prison Cell for Women, Hall of Justice, Bagsakan Station, Rehabilitation and Evacuation Centers, Installation of CCTV Cameras in Villa Concepcion and San Pablo, and installation of more streetlights.

GOAL 10: REDUCED INEQUALITIES

We created opportunities and provided assistance especially to the disadvantaged sector of the community; programs for the involvement and development of out-of-school youth, children in conflict with the law, children needing special protection and solo parents. We extended support to our senior citizens including monthly birthday celebrations, ID booklet for grocery and medical assistance, Philhealth grant and social pension program. The welfare of our PWD's is also an outmost priority of the City Government. We distributed assistive devices, PWD

ID's to avail benefits and privileges and conducted livelihood, skills trainings, and personality development programs to enhance the active involvement of our PWD's in policy-making.

We encouraged the active involvement and representation of our Indigenous Peoples and Agricultural sectors in the policy-making processes of the City Government as we appointed sectoral representatives to be members of the City Council to make sure that their respective concerns will be properly addressed.

GOAL 11: SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Family welfare is a key in building a sustainable community, thus we provided core shelters for families to help them improve their living conditions. While maintaining the competitiveness of our agro-industrial and tourism, we geared towards the promotion of Smarter City by providing basic services through the use of technology and digital solutions. By April, we will launch the increased internet connectivity making Cauayan City the first Digital/Fiber City.

GOAL 12: RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Responsible consumption entails a sustainable food production. Thus, we initiated crops, organic agriculture and fishery development programs including distribution of corn and rice seeds, vegetable seeds, as well as cash assistance to our farmers to help them for the continuous production of the basic agricultural crops. We likewise procured additional machineries and our first Agri-van, to provide crops and to conduct technology demonstrations on good agricultural practices.

Thus, Cauayan City, after receiving the Hall of Fame Award in Agri-Pinoy Rice Achievers, has continuously been recognized as the home of Outstanding Agricultural Extension Workers, Outstanding Corn Farmer, Outstanding Small Farmer's Organization, Outstanding Fisherfolk, Outstanding Barangay Food Terminal, Outstanding Young Farmer, and Outstanding Agricultural Entrepreneur.

GOAL 13: CLIMATE ACTION

Our initiatives to reduce the impact of climate change include tree planting activities and participation in the Earth Hour as campaign to protect the planet earth. The Cauayan City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office has been a consistent effective arm in medical aid, emergency and disaster operations. It led training workshops, fire and earthquake evacuation drills in different municipalities and barangays and strengthened Be Ready campaigns in schools and barangays to increase awareness on disaster responses brought by climate change. As a member of the Global Coalition of Mayors, we pledged to reduce local greenhouse gas emissions and enhance resilience to climate change.

GOAL 14: LIFE BELOW WATER

We have been conducting fishery development programs including fingerlings dispersal, distribution and installation of fishing gears and fishing cages. We also collaborated with the Cauayan City Water District in the Fish Seeding Program where we released 10,000 fingerlings in Cagayan River.

GOAL 15: LIFE ON LAND

We consider deforestation as one of the major causes of climate change, which is why we continuously uphold the strict implementation of the Total Log Ban.

We also strengthened the implementation of our solid waste management program and created mechanisms to address our problem with waste disposal.

GOAL 16: PEACE, JUSTICE, AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Our unceasing support to the PNP, SOCO, BFP, BJMP and JUDICIARY was maintained to increase our efforts in the maintenance of peace and order in the city. We strictly implemented our curfew ordinance especially for minors. We started conducting free legal education and awareness campaign on laws and basic human rights in different barangays. In line with the advocacy of the current administration against illegal drugs, we conducted random drug testing of city officials, officers and members of the PNP, campaigns on drug prevention and initiated the Pledge of Commitment for drug free Barangays. We supported the Oplan Pagbabago for the rehabilitation of drug surrenderees. Our Bahay Pag-asa has continued assisting juvenile delinquents for life skills training and rehabilitation program.

It is our commitment to strongly implement anti-drug campaigns and rehabilitation programs at all costs to fully create a drug-free AND peaceful City of Cauayan.

GOAL 17: PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

We recognize the importance of a collaborative government to enhance our services to the people. Cauayan City maintains to be the pioneer and proponent of the Public-Private Partnership and we have been chosen to be the benchmark of the other LGU's in the region in the adoption of PPP. There have lots of projects already implemented through the PPP, and we will continue to encourage the participation of the private sector to increase infrastructures and projects for our people. We continue to strengthen our harmonious sisterhood with Nanning China, Rustavi City of Georgia and Mandaue as this is important for economic and cultural exchanges towards sustainable development. Cauayan City has been successfully admitted as member of the World E-Governments Organization of Cities and Local Governments (WeGo), an international coalition advocating e-governance and emphasizing the use of information and communications technology to attain sustainable development.

To fully localize the Sustainable Development Goals, we created an Ad Hoc Committee with members from the local government, private sector, academe and

NGO's to work together to achieve specific goals and to formulate blue prints to integrate sustainability principles in the policy processes.

CLOSING:

Just like any other plan of action, the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals requires a collaborative effort among the different sectors of the society and each of us has an important role to take. Bawat Cauayeño ay may tungkulin sa ating gobyerno, komunidad, at kapaligiran, kaya hinihikayat ko na simula sa araw na ito, mas isapuso at isagawa natin ang labing-pitong hamon upang makamit ang pag-unlad, hindi lamang ng lungsod ng Cauayan, kundi ng buong mundo. Ipagpatuloy natin ang pagiging Ideal City of the North at itaguyod ang tungkulin bilang Proud Cauayeño tungo sa pag-asenso ng mundo. Maraming salamat po at mabuhay tayong lahat!