“Local Government Units as Potential Partners in Maximizing the Effectiveness of Service-Learning Programs of Universities in Central Philippines”

FOCUS: PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

Philippines

By Eric T. Loretizo
PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

- Located in central PH
- Area: 7,965.21 sq km
- Ranked 9th out of 80
- Population: 3.2 million
- Known as “sugar capital”
- 19 towns & 13 cities
- Primarily an agricultural economy
PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

- Emerging center for sheep breeding & other livestock in PH
- Aiming to be the “Organic Food Bowl” in Asia
- Named in the Tholons’ Top 100 Destinations in the World for IT-BPO locators at No. 86
- Accessible by plane, sea or land travel from capital Manila
Mt. Kanlaon, highest peak at 2,435 meters

The Capitol: Seat of gov’t

The Victorias Milling Company, one of the biggest sugar refineries in the world

One of the many eco-tour destinations

Sights & Sounds

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Local Government Units as S-L Partners

There are, at least, 6 Departments/Offices in the Provincial Gov’t that can serve as entry points for S-L Programs strengthening.

These are:

- Provincial Veterinary Office
- Office of the Provincial Agriculturist
- Special Projects & Concerns Division
- Public Information Office
- Provincial Health Office
- Provincial Social Welfare & Dev’t Office
Local Government Units as S-L Partners

ENTRY POINTS

- These same offices have existing outreach-extension programs with colleges & universities for more than 10 years.
- The partnerships are a reflection of the major principle in Service-Learning, which is *reciprocity*.
Local Government Units as S-L Partners

- More than 20 colleges, universities & institutions have existing partnerships.
- Students from these institutions of learning are engaged in a variety of activities, and contribute to the goals of each department or office.
Local Government Units as S-L Partners

- For a number of reasons, some offices can only accommodate maximum of 10, while three departments take in 16 or more, depending largely on their need for the season.
Local Government Units as S-L Partners

PROVINCIAL VETERINARY OFFICE

- Animal Health Extension Programs
- Medical Missions
- Livelihood Production
- Research & Development

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OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURIST

- Training Programs
- Extend Assistance to Farmers & Fisherfolk
- Conduct Surveys & Research

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SPECIAL PROJECTS & CONCERNS DIVISION

- Sports & Recreation
- Events Management
- Medical Missions
- Fund-raising & Marketing-related Activities
- Assistance to Barangays

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Local Government Units as S-L Partners

PUBLIC INFORMATION DIVISION

- Crafting of Press Releases & Related Media Materials
- Video & Photo Documentation
- Seminars
- Publications
Local Government Units as S-L Partners

PROVINCIAL HEALTH OFFICE

- Blood-letting
- Accreditation of Nursing Schools & Health Organizations
- Medical Missions
- Assist in Providing First Aid in Accordance with PHO & Department of Health Policies

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Local Government Units as S-L Partners

PROVINCIAL SOCIAL WELFARE & DEV’T OFFICE

- Disaster Response
- Case Management & Psychological Evaluation
- Conduct Interviews & Community Surveys
- Escort Clients During Court Hearings
- Conduct Group Dynamic Activities

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Local Government Units as S-L Partners

YES! TO SERVICE-LEARNING

◉ All Provincial Government Departments/Offices Surveyed Showed Interest to Expand Outreach-Extension Programs to Include a More Academic-Oriented & Institutional Partnership that Strengthens the Learning Aspect of Students

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ACADEMIC AREAS FOR COOPERATION

- Medical Studies & Allied Disciplines
- Agricultural Studies, Including Agri-Tech
- Social Works
- Marketing, Communication & Journalism
- Veterinary Medicine
- Community Development Studies
Once formally adopted, the Provincial Government Units interested in S-L, would be able to provide technical skills, cultural knowledge, socio-political knowledge and additional inputs strengthening Service-Learners’ beliefs.
Local Government Units as S-L Partners

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Noting the viability of S-L partnership at the LGU level, the Provincial Government can proceed with formalizing agreements with institutions, universities, others.

- Departments/offices initially interested on the program designate focal persons, who will undergo training-orientation to prepare them for S-L implementation.
Local Government Units as S-L Partners

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Set-up a unit/desk that will oversee/manage the S-L program implementation at the Provincial Government level
- Encourage other LGUs—barangays, municipalities, cities—to adopt S-L in their respective localities
Local Government Units as S-L Partners

Thank You!