

anuary showcased world class products produced by local MSMEs at the Sinulog Fiesta Fair which ran from January 10 to 27 at SM City Cebu

The annual Sinulog Fiesta Fair is in collaboration with the Sinulog Foundation Inc. It showcases Filipino ingenuity and craftsmanship through high-quality yet affordable products from Cebu, Bohol, Negros Oriental, Agusan del Sur, Baguio City, Bacolod, Davao, Bohol, General Santos City, Palawan and Zamboanga City.

The exhibit is mounted to support micro, small and medium entrepreneurs (MSMEs) who need to develop new markets. The trade fair also serves as a venue for producers and manufacturers to meet new buyers and establish possible linkages with other suppliers.

MSMEs that were part of DTI's Kapatid mentoring program and OTOP Next Gen also participated in the trade fair. These programs are implemented by the DTI to advance micro, small, and medium enterprises and improve their ability to become more competitive in their respective fields.

Meanwhile, the DTI Regional Office held provincial visits to ensure that performance of provincial units are in accord with regional goals and to ensure efficient execution of its strategies. The visits were also a way to monitor the performance of programs, projects, and activities of the DTI in the provinces.

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(Photo above) During the Sinulog Fiesta Fair opening ceremony at the SM City Cebu on January 10, 2019. The trade fair in Cebu featured world class products produced by 68 local MSMEs under the GDH, Wearables, Processed Food, Cacao, Coffee, Health and Wellness sectors.

# 92 exhibitors take part in Sinulog fair

By Minerva BC Chanco, Manila Bulletin



Ninety-two exhibitors from medium and small-scale entrepre-neurs in and outside Cebu opened the Sinulog Fiesta Fair 2019 Thursday at SM City Cebu.

Department of Trade and Indus-try (DTI) Central Visayas Regional Director Asteria Caberte said the fair, organized by DTI Cebu Provincial Of-fice with the Cebu City government and the Sinulog Foundation Inc., was on its 16th year.

Caberte said the fair provides micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) a high-traffic commercial venue and shopping platform.

"MSMEs creatively made products, top quality and affordable are given exhibit area for shoppers to appreciate and buy," Caberte said.

One of the highlights of this year's Sinulog is a special showcase of local government units in Northern Cebu, those affected by the Yolanda typhoon, according to the DTI Cebu Provincial Director Esperanza Melgar.

Melgar told media that the LGUs were given slots to promote their products, services, and tourism desti-nations.

The LGUs from northern Cebu are city of Bogo, towns of Bantayan, Medel-lin, San Francisco in Camotes Island, San Remigio, Santa Fe in Bantayan Is-land, Tabogon, Tabuelan and Tuburan.

Melgar said among the products featured in the fair are gifts, decor and houseware (GDH); wearables and pro-cessed foods; cacao and coffee; health and wellness products and services.

Aside from the 68 MSME exhibitors, there are 17 exhibitors from Agusan del Sur, Baguio City, Bacolod, Davao, Bohol, General Santos City, Negros Oriental, Palawan and Zamboanga City.

"Seven exhibitors from the Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Organizations (ARBO) were also given space for their products," Melgar added.

Melgar said the exhibitors are recipients of DTI's SME development programs such as the Shared Service Facility (SSF), One Town, One Product (OTOP), CARP and the Kapatid Mentor Me (KMME).#



(Photos above and below) Provincial visits were conducted by DTI R7 PMSU to ensure that performance of provincial units are in accord with regional goals and to ensure efficient execution of its strategies. The visits were also a way to monitor the performance of programs, projects, and activities of the DTI in the provinces .



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#### BOI, IPUNet Agencies Convene Annual Conference, Commit to Sustain Strong Collaboration to Promote Ease of Doing Business in PH with new MOA



The Philippine Board of Investments (BOI), the country's primary industry promotion agency (IPA), together with the members of the Investments Promotion Unit Network (IPUNET) vowed for a continued interagency collaboration to facilitate investments in the country through a Conference and Recognition Ceremony on 13 December 2018, at the Discovery Suites in Ortigas Center, Pasig.

BOI, which serves as the IPUNET secretariat, reported the summary of issues, concerns, and queries (ICQs) the network has facilitated in 2018, and solicited feedback on the amendments to the network's Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) from the attendees. The amended IPUNET MOA, which is set to seal a renewed cooperation among the member agencies, is projected to be finalized and signed within the first quarter of 2019. Member agencies likewise exchanged updates and ideas on how to further strengthen relations, address challenges that the IPUNET is faced with.

"The Philippines is number one when it comes to investment according to the 2018 report of the US News and World Report. However, as far as the Ease of Doing Business Index, we are ranked 124<sup>th</sup> out of 190 countries. People are bringing in their capital. Howev-

er, we are too slow in moving documents. This removes confidence, and this is an area where we can improve on in support of the current administration's projects such as the Build, Build, Build program," said BOI Governor Napoleon Concepcion.

Also present in the Conference was the newly -appointed Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) Deputy Director General (DDG) Atty. Ernesto Perez, who answered and clarified some of the attendees' concerns and questions, particularly the possible overlap of the IPUNET's responsibilities following the enactment of the Ease of Doing Business and Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018 or the RA 11032.

"If an existing regulation is determined by AR-TA to be causing undue burden, then the AR-TA will recommend the amendment or repeal of that law or regulation," said DDG Perez. "Given that ARTA is not yet fully constituted, IPUNET can carry on with what it is doing at the present. When we reach that stage that what you are doing has become in line with the mandate of ARTA, that is the time to let go and pass on the responsibility to us," he added.

During the latter part of the event, the BOI also awarded the member agencies with certificates of appreciation and recognition for their support and active participation in some of BOI's investment projects, and seminars, which were held throughout the year in different areas of the country.

# STATEMENT OF SECRETARY RAMON LOPEZ ON HIS PARTICIPATION AT THE WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM ON JAN. 22-25

In view of my participation at the World Economic Forum (WEF) on 22-25 January 2019 at Davos, Switzerland, our agenda will focus on pushing for more inclusive globalization, specifically on the following areas:

- Generation of more cooperation in trade and investments;
- Opening of special market access and technical cooperation to developing countries;
- Upgrading industries to 4.0; and
- Digitalization and upgrading capabilities for MSMEs

The WEF will be an opportunity to interact with world trade ministers and call for free and fair globalization, as well as advocate for the use of technologies in trade. I will also be participating in World Trade Organization meeting on trade reforms and conduct bilateral meetings with a number of trade ministers.

The visit will also allow us to hold special Philippine investment fora and roundtable meetings with global companies and business chambers. These will be our venues to present the huge opportunities in the country that has a fast growing and more robust economy with meaningful economic strategies and reforms.

Further, a Trabaho Negosyo Kabuhayan forum with the Filipino community in Switzerland will be conducted. Member agencies of the IPUNET during the network's 2018 Conference and Recognition Ceremony, where matters such as the new IPUNET Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) were discussed. The new MOA includes the streamlining and the facilitation of investment issues and concerns between member agencies, that will lead to an increased ease of doing business for both local and foreign investors.





<b>JANUARY 2019</b>						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
Б	7	ā	9	<b>10</b> Sin	ulog Fiesta Fair ope	ning
13	14	provincial visits P	rovincial visits pr		vincial visits	19
20	21	22	23	24	26	26
U	28		al planning	31	1	2



# WHERE TO LODGE YOUR CONCERNS & COMPLAINTS?

National Food Authority (NFA)

- rice

#### Bureau of Plant and Industry (BPI)

- fruits and vegetables

#### Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)

- manufactured products

#### National Telecommunications Commission (NTC)

- telephone rates, cellphones, TV and radio broadcast

#### Oil Industry Management Bureau (OIMB)

- quality/price of te liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and liquid fuels

#### Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) - Animal Feed Standard Division and Laboratory Services

- adulterated livestock feeds, vaccines, pharmaceuticals and biologics

#### National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS)

- processed and unprocessed meat and dressed chicken

#### Banko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP)

- banks, non-bank financial institutions, pawnshops, and credit cards

#### Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA)

- prices of coconut oil, husked nuts, and fresh young coconuts and quality standards of coconut-based products

#### Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. (PDIC)

 claim for insured deposit; follow-up status of claim for insured deposit; queries on deposit insurance coverage, other bank related issues/concerns i.e. unserviced withdrawals, ATM problems, etc.

### Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) -

Corporation Finance Department

- mutual funds (investment); financing/lending; listed companies, registered issuers of securities (time sharing)

#### Energy Power Industry Management Bureau (EPIMB)

Department of Energy - Consumer Walfare Promotion Office
(DOE - CWPO)/Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC)

- electricity

#### Department of Health (DOH), Center for Health Development

#### Metro Manila, and Food and Drug Administration

 hospitals and doctor's services, processed foods, drugs, cosmetics, and medical services or household products with hazardous substances.

#### Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)

- forest and forest-based products
- ozone depleting substances

#### Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA)

- sugar quality and price

#### Insurance Commission (IC)

 life and none-life insurance claim, pre-need plans such as educational, pension and memorial

#### Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI)

- pet animals





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#### **Contributors**

Marc Aristotle Cabagnot Kent Anthony Calumba Shirelyn Villamor Maribel Sumanoy

# **DTI Central Visayas**

#### Philippines

#### **REGIONAL OFFICE**

Regional Director ASTERIA C. CABERTE
OIC ARD MARIA ELENA C. ARBON
3rd Flr, WDC Bldg.,Osmena Boulevard, cor. P.Burgos, Cebu City
Tel. # (63)(032) 255-0036 / 255-0037 / 253-2779
Fax # (63)(032) 253-7465
email: dti\_7@yahoo.com / r07@dti.gov.ph
http://www.facebook.com/dtiregion7

#### **BOHOL PROVINCIAL OFFICE**

OIC - PD MARIA SOLEDAD LAXA BALISTOY 2F FCB Bldg., CPG Ave., Tagbilaran City Tel. # (63) 038-501-8260 Fax # (63) 038-412-3533 email: dtibohol@yahoo.com

#### **CEBU PROVINCIAL OFFICE**

OIC PD ESPERANZA TRANSFIGURACION L. MELGAR
DTI Building, Osmena Boulevard, corner Lapulapu Street, Cebu City
Tel. # (63)(032) 255-6971 / 255-3926
(63)(032) 412-1944 / 412-1945
email: dticebuphil@yahoo.com / dticebuphil@gmail.com

#### SIQUIJOR PROVINCIAL OFFICE

OIC - PD ANGELINE C. GONZALES CF Bldg., Legaspi St., Siquijor, Siquijor Tel. # (63)035-480-9065 Fax # (63) 035-344-2238 Email: dtisiquijor@yahoo.com

#### **NEGROS ORIENTAL PROVINCIAL OFFICE**

Provincial Director NIMFA M. VIRTUCIO 2F Uymatiao Bldg., San Jose Street. Dumaguete City Tel. # (63)(035) 422-2764 Fax # (63)(035) 225-7211 Email: dtinegor@gmail.com