KALIGKASAN:
Kaligtasan at Kalikasan
Protecting the Environment, Securing the Tourists

“The act of volunteerism is deeply-rooted in the hearts and minds of the Filipino people.”
–NBM

The Philippines is rich in its marvelous natural wonders, bountiful species of flora and fauna, cultural and interesting historical sites, scrumptious food and unique delicacies, and gifted and hospitable Filipinos, all of which attract millions of local and foreign tourists year in and year out. These God’s creations and the creativity of the Filipino people bring in a large basket of contribution to the nation’s economic growth and sustainability.

One of the Philippines’ world-famous beach destinations is the haven of the Province of Aklan – the Boracay Island nestled in the Municipality of Malay, in the western part of the Philippines. It serves as a vital national asset and, indeed, a source of national pride. But the Philippine government was forced to close the island due to environmental degradation, pollution and abuse, and the depletion and destruction of the Island’s biodiversity. Its six-month closure primarily paved way for the island’s much-needed recovery and rehabilitation, and redevelopment. The Boracay Inter-agency Task Force created through Executive Order 53 supervised and monitored the measures and actions taken towards a holistic and sustainable tourism development of the island.

The Philippine National Police (PNP) through the Directorate for Police Community Relations (DPCR) and its operating arm, the Police Community Relations Group (PCRG), launched the KALIGKASAN: “Kaligtasan at Kalikasan” Program to assist the government in protecting the environment and securing the tourists through the support and cooperation of the community members, especially the Barangay Peacekeeping Action Teams (BPATs), Non-Government Organizations and other volunteer groups as environmental warriors.

The 350 KALIGKASAN volunteers were trained on various environmental laws and basic policing aspects. A one-day seminar-workshop held in Manoc-Manoc in Malay, Aklan on October 20, 2018 was provided by resource speakers from the Police Community Relations Group, Police Regional Office 6, DENR and Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office, to equip the participants with crucial and valuable information on environmental laws and safety, and peacekeeping. Relevant municipal ordinances and penalties for violation, environmental protection laws, adoption of agreements and policies for the reopening of Boracay Island, building resilience,
individual roles and ways on how to help the government; and roles and functions of KALIGKASAN volunteers, were also among the topics given to the participants.

KALIGKASAN volunteers are empowered to assist the authorities in the environmental protection, anti-criminality and anti-illegal drugs campaign, and other police community relations-related activities. They will also participate and initiate environmental protection projects like the mangrove-planting activities, clean-up drives, information drives on the responsible use of natural resources and on how to protect them, etc, in coordination with local government units and appropriate government agencies. The KALIGKASAN volunteers will assist the Tourist Police in ensuring the safety and security of the local and foreign tourists, thus, complementing the Tourist-Oriented Police for Community Order and Protection (TOPCOP) program. Also part of the volunteers’ role as KALIGKASAN warriors is to render information reports to PNP and other concerned agencies relative to violations of environmental laws, and other peace and order and public safety concerns.

DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu spearheaded the oath-taking of the KALIGKASAN volunteers which coincided with the reopening of the Island on October 26, 2018 at the Cagban Jetty Port in Barangay Balabag, Malay, graced by DOT Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat, DILG Secretary Eduardo M. Año, PNP Chief Police Director General Oscar D. Albayalde, and other officials of concerned agencies and stakeholders.

Also a part of the reopening of the beach was the turn-over of segregation trash bins and cigarette butt receptacles sponsored by the Federation of Philippine Industries; and the Police Directional Signages sponsored by the Social Security System. A day after, a mangrove tree-planting activity was conducted at Sitio Lugutan, Barangay Balabag, Malay, participated in by the KALIGKASAN volunteers, members of the Maritime Group of Malay, Aklan Police Provincial Office, the personnel of Jollibee Foods Corporation of Aklan, students and local government units.

All must do their share in the total rehabilitation of Boracay Island. Let’s make a move, let’s do it now for the benefit of the next generations.
Synergy spells Success for a safe and secure Boracay Island

After the six-month rehabilitation and sustainable tourism development efforts of the government, the seven kilometer-wide haven of Boracay Island, nestled in the province of Aklan, was formally opened to tourists on October 26, 2018.

During the six-month closure and rehabilitation of the island resort, peace and order, and public safety remain as the primary responsibility of the police in the area. The Metro Boracay Task Force (MBTF) headed by its Commander PSSupt Jesus D. Cambay, Jr., the Deputy Regional Director for Operations of the Police Regional Office 6 (PRO 6) with a 610-strong police personnel, were deployed in the island. They were tasked to guard the entry and exit points of the island, maintain peace and order, and prevent all forms of criminality. The 610 police personnel deployed were composed of 126 personnel of the Aklan Police Provincial Office; 300 from the Boracay Sub-Station; four from the Regional Civil Security Unit 6; 13 from the Aklan Provincial Highway Patrol Unit; one from the Aklan Provincial Criminal Investigation and Detective Team; and 166 augmentation personnel from PRO 6, including the 139 rookie police officers who underwent training on Civil Disturbance Management.

Part of the security preparation of the Philippine National Police was the demonstration of the tactical capability of the Metro Boracay Task Force, Joint Task Force SPEAR, with component units from Police Regional Office 6, AFP Southern Luzon Command, AFP Central Command and volunteers, through a simulated scenario of response to emergency situations. The simulation exercises conducted a day before the re-opening of the island were witnessed by PNP Chief Police Director General Oscar D. Albayalde, together with the officers and personnel of the agencies involved in the Task Force. Included in the simulation exercise were situations such as drowning, kidnapping, hostage-taking, bomb attack; and civil disturbance management, fire, and search and rescue operations. The exercise aims to ensure the good synergy among the concerned agencies in terms of readiness, operability and capability in responding to emergency situations that require police intervention and multi-agency government response.

PCSUPT Cesar Hawthorne R. Binag, Regional Director of PRO 6, said that the simulation exercises will boost their inter-agency coordinating mechanism to ensure the appropriate and well-crafted response to any situation or emergency that may arise as a result of the temporary closure of the island.

PDG Albayalde said that all security preparations are in place to secure the entry of thousands of excited tourists into the newly-rehabilitated Boracay Island, with the Police under orders to strictly enforce environmental laws on solid waste management, air and noise pollution, anti-littering, and protection of flora and fauna. PDG Albayalde added that PNP deployed enough number of personnel in the area to assist the tourists.
and secure them from all forms of criminality with additional brand new vehicles and a newly-renovated Malay Police Station.
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During the Coordinating Conference “Kaligtasan at Kalikasan” (KALIGKASAN) Program

October 19, 2018 conducted the coordinating conference re launching of KALIGKASAN program at Astoria Current Hotel, Manoc-Manoc, Malay, Aklan, was also attended by representatives from MDRRMO, MENRO, DepEd, and members of different NGOs and force multipliers.
During the opening ceremony of Tourist-Oriented Police for Community Order and Protection (TOPCOP) Tourism Awareness Seminar, conducted a lecture at Paradise Garden Resort, Boracay Island, Malay, Aklan presented the concept and rationale of “Kaligtasan at Kalikasan” (KALIGKASAN) Program and gave emphasis on the need of KALIGKASAN Volunteers as their partner in implementing the Do's and Don'ts while in the Island of Boracay.
During Coordination with the Barangay Chairman re: “Kaligtasan at Kalikasan” (KALIGKASAN) Program

October 22, 2018 coordinating with Barangay Manocmanoc, Barangay Yapak, and Barangay Cagban Jetty Port, Balabag, Malay, Aklan.
Conducted a tree planting activity at Bakhawan Eco-Park in New Buswang in Kalibo, Aklan. Prior to the activity, PSUPT GUISIC led the PNP contingent in a parade from New Buswang Multi-Purpose Hall to Bakhawan Eco-Park in New Buswang in Kalibo, Aklan with a 2 kilometer distance. A simple ceremony was made at Bakhawan Eco-Park and presented the concept and rationale of the PNP’s “Kaligtasan at Kalikasan” (KALIGKASAN) Program to the participants.
On October 27, 2018 at 6:00 AM, PCSUPT RHODEL O SERMONIA, Director, PCRG led the coastal clean-up and tree planting activity at Sitio Lugutan, Barangay Balabag, Malay, Aklan specifically at the Roots for Boracay preserved area. The activity was graced by Dr. Francisco E. Milla Jr., Ground Commander of the National Task Force Boracay of the Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (DENR) and PSSUPT JESUS D CAMBAY JR, DRDO, PRO – 6. The contingents from Maritime Group of Aklan, Malay, Aklan Police Office, Kaligkasan Volunteers, Jollibee Foods Corporation of Aklan, the students and other Local Government Units made the activity a success.
On October 20, 2018, Deputy Director, PSSUPT BARTOLOME R BUSTAMANTE, in partnership with the Malay Municipal Police Station and Malay Patrol Unit conducted a one-day seminar-workshop on “Kaligtasan at Kalikasan” (KALIGKASAN) Program held at the Covered Court, Barangay Manoc-Manoc, Malay, Aklan. This was attended and participated in by three hundred fifty (350) participants from various members of non-government organizations, force multipliers, barangay officials and tanods, local government employees, Barangay Peacekeeping Action Teams (BPATs), students and recipients of Community-based Rehabilitation Program/PNP’s Recovery and Wellness Program. The said seminar-workshop aims to lecture the participants the concepts and application of protecting the nature, and train and organize the environmental volunteers to be mobilized in protecting the environment and securing the tourists.