

November - December 2025



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The Official Publication of the City Government of Legazpi



Christmas for All



ISMAIL
Always!

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Progress and Celebration: A Year-End Reflection



In this November-December issue, we proudly present the second publication under Mayor Hisham B. Ismail's administration. A key highlight is Mayor Ismail's "Ulat sa Bayan" report delivered on November 4, 2025, offering a comprehensive overview of the city's progress and achievements.

This issue also shines a spotlight on Mayor Ismail's various initiatives, reflecting his commitment to the city's development and the well-being of its citizens.

As the year draws to a close, we focus on the joyous "Celebration of Christmas in the City." Discover the festive events, decorations, and community activities that bring the spirit of the season to life.

We hope this issue provides you with valuable insights into the city's progress and the initiatives shaping its future. Join us in celebrating the accomplishments and embracing the festive spirit of Christmas in our vibrant city.



Ma. Cristina D. Zantua

Christmas for All

Legazpi City sparkled with an extra special glow this year, as residents celebrated their first Christmas under the leadership of Honorable Mayor Hisham B. Ismail. A Muslim by birth, Mayor Ismail has shown remarkable openness and kindness to all sectors of the community, fostering a spirit of unity and inclusivity that truly shone during the holiday season.

The Christmas celebrations were a vibrant tapestry of tradition and togetherness. From the dazzling display of lights around the city to the joyful carols sung by children, the spirit of Christmas was palpable. Mayor Ismail's presence at various community events, sharing smiles and warm wishes, further solidified his commitment to serving all Legazpenos, regardless of their faith.

This year's celebration was more than just a festive occasion; it was a testament to the power of understanding and mutual respect. It demonstrated that differences in belief need not be barriers to unity and goodwill. Mayor Ismail's leadership has ushered in an era of harmony, proving that a shared sense of community can bring people together in the most beautiful way, especially during Christmas. The Legazpenos will remember this Christmas for years to come, a shining example of inclusivity and festive cheer.

Legazpi City's Beloved Dr. Galan: A Portrait of Compassion and Talent

The City Government of Legazpi is fortunate to have Dr. Michael D. Galan, Medical Officer IV at the Legazpi City Hospital. Dr. Galan is known throughout the community not only for his medical expertise but also for his exceptional kindness and approachable demeanor.

Affectionately called "Doc Pogi" by many, he is lauded for his tireless work ethic and hands-on approach to patient care. He always has time for everyone, especially the senior citizens.

Beyond his medical skills, Dr. Galan is a talented singer and performer. He often shares his musical gifts at community events, bringing joy to those around him. His performances are a testament to his vibrant personality and his desire to connect with people on a deeper level.

Despite his bachelor status, Dr. Galan is far from lonely. His genuine care for others has earned him the love and respect of countless individuals in Legazpi City. Dr. Galan is more than just a doctor; he is a pillar of the community, embodying the values of compassion, dedication, and service.



Ma. Cristina D. Zantua

Legazpi City Holds 17th Sangguniang Panlungsod Session

The 17th Regular Session of the 17th Sangguniang Panlungsod (SP) of Legazpi City convened on November 4, 2025, at the Legazpi City Convention Center. Key agenda items included the First 100 Days Reports from both the Sangguniang Panlungsod, presented by Vice Mayor Luis Felipe L. Gutierrez, and Mayor Hisham B. Ismail, as part of the Ulat sa Bayan 2025.

The session saw a diverse attendance, with 70 Punong Barangays, city officials and employees, representatives from various government offices and agencies, school administrators, regional office heads, members of the Muslim community, and other partner

organizations all present.

Vice Mayor Gutierrez highlighted the SP's legislative achievements and initiatives over the past 100 days, focusing on approved ordinances and resolutions aimed at city development. Mayor Ismail's report, a component of the Ulat sa Bayan 2025, detailed the executive branch's accomplishments, including basic services, infrastructure projects, and plans to improve the quality of life for Legazpeños. The session underscored the commitment of Legazpi City's Government to transparent and effective governance.

Ma. Cristina D. Zantua



Vice Mayor Hon. Luis Felipe L. Gutierrez



Hon. Lourence M. Beltran



Hon. Ismael B. Buban IV



Hon. Vicente F. Baltazar



Hon. Alexander U. Jao



Hon. Roberto Rafael N. Lucila II



Hon. Joseph Philip L. Lee



Hon. Charlton S. Lajara



Hon. Maria Paz Salud C. Imperial



Hon. Alan O. Rañola



Hon. Renato A. Valladolid



Hon. Atty. Amore Rex B. Rañeses



Hon. John Nicolas C. Garbin

Legazpi City Celebrates First 100 Days with

Mayor Hisham B. Ismail marked his first 100 days in office with a report to the community, *Ulat sa Bayan*, showcasing significant achievements in infrastructure, education, and security. The mayor emphasized his commitment to improving the quality of life for all Legazpeños through various initiatives.

Under Mayor Ismail's leadership, Legazpi has seen significant progress in infrastructure, with new projects aimed at modernizing the city. Cleanliness drives have also been a priority, fostering a healthier environment for residents.

In healthcare, Mayor Ismail highlighted initiatives to promote public health awareness. Education has also been a focus, with efforts to enhance learning opportunities for students of all backgrounds.

Security measures have been strengthened to ensure the safety of all Legazpeños. Additionally, Mayor Ismail's administration has launched various programs aimed at empowering residents and boosting the local economy.

"Let us help achieve a more inclusive & progressive city for all Legazpeños to join hands in building a brighter future," Mayor Ismail highlighted his dedication to public service and his commitment to the well-being of the community.



Mayor Ismail gleefully poses with his family, Cong. Atty. Alfredo A. Garbin, Jr., and Vice Mayor Luis Gutierrez in a striking display of unity & steadfast leadership during the *Ulat sa Bayan*.

ates Mayor Ismail's Focus on Progress

ys in office with a comprehensive report to the t strides in infrastructure, cleanliness, health, his administration's commitment to enhancing ous strategic programs.

has seen noticeable improvements in its ernizing the city and improving accessibility. ing a healthier and more pleasant environment

ves to improve access to medical services and also received a boost, with programs designed all ages.

ensure the safety and well-being of all citizens. unched livelihood and employment programs local economy.

gressive Legazpi," Mayor Ismail urged, calling ighter future for the city. The mayor's address s vision for a thriving Legazpi City.

Ma. Cristina D. Zantua



Local Chief Executive Officer, Mayor Hisham B. Ismail, leading the charge alongside the esteemed members of the 17th Maggungiang Panlungsod, headed by Vice Mayor Luis Gutierrez.

Legazpi Councilor Roberto Rafael N. Lucila II: A Hundred Days of Unwavering Dedication



A powerful couple in public service, Councilor Butch Lucila and his beautiful wife, Executive Assistant III Jaja Lucila embody extraordinary dedication--drawing inspiration from each other to serve the city with excellence.

Legazpi City Councilor, Honorable Atty. Roberto Rafael “Butch” N. Lucila II marks his first 100 days in office with a remarkable display of legislative prowess and commitment to public service. Since assuming his role, Lucila has authored an impressive 227 resolutions, addressing a wide array of community needs and concerns.

Beyond resolutions, Councilor Lucila has also introduced 6 proposed ordinances, demonstrating his proactive approach to shaping Legazpi’s future. His perfect attendance record across 12 regular sessions

underscores his dedication to his responsibilities.

Lucila’s active participation extends to committee work, where he has engaged in 30 hearings, contributing his expertise to various critical issues. Holding three key committee chairmanships—Laws, Rules and Oversight; Public Utilities and Energy; and Urban Planning, Housing & Resettlement—he is at the forefront of shaping policies that impact every Legazpeño.

Councilor Lucila’s first 100 days are a testament to his unwavering dedication and a promising start to another term of service.

Ma. Cristina D. Zantua

Legazpi City Awestruck by Mayor Ismail's Leadership During Typhoon Uwan

Legazpi City residents have been deeply impressed by the performance of their young mayor, Honorable Hisham B. Ismail, particularly in the face of Typhoon Uwan. Despite being in his first term, Mayor Ismail demonstrated remarkable knowledge, dedication, and resilience that resonated deeply with the community.

Before the typhoon struck, Ismail's administration proactively implemented comprehensive evacuation plans, ensuring the safety of vulnerable residents. His hands-on approach, visible through his presence in evacuation centers, boosted public confidence and encouraged cooperation among the 70 barangays.

During the typhoon on November 9, 2025, Ismail

worked tirelessly, coordinating rescue efforts and ensuring timely aid distribution. His ability to remain calm and focused under pressure inspired confidence among city employees and volunteers.

In the aftermath, Ismail spearheaded the rapid restoration of essential services, prioritizing the needs of the most affected communities. His commitment to transparency and accountability in the use of disaster relief funds further solidified his reputation as a trustworthy and effective leader. Legazpi City stands as an attestation to his capable leadership, proving that age is no barrier to effective governance.



Mayor Ismail, surrounded by his friends, providing inspiration & support while visiting the evacuation areas in Legazpi City.



The three executives are out from their comfort zone, Mayor Ismail, VM Guitierrez, and EA Il Go, visiting local officials to provide assistance.



Mayor Ismail, leading the distribution of relief goods in coordination with the able men of BFP.



Mayor Ismail, on the go, with ALECO's top man, and fellow public servants making sure the 70 barangays are fully energized.

REGIONAL ARTA CHIEF VISITS LGU-LEGAZPI, GIVES CITY AN “EXCELLENT” RATING

The Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) Regional Chief for Southern Luzon, Dr. Karl Joseph D. Sanmocte, rated the Local Government Unit of Legazpi as “Excellent” during a surprise compliance visit conducted on November 26, 2025.

The assessment focused on the city’s adherence to ARTA standards and its sustained implementation of Ease-Of-Doing-Business (EODB) reforms.

Since 2023, the City Government of Legazpi has stood as the first and only LGU in the region to operate a fully automated Business Permit and Licensing System and an Electronic Business One-Stop Shop (EBOSS). Two years after its initial evaluation, ARTA conducted a follow-up inspection—particularly of the Business Permit and Licensing Office — to evaluate the sustainability and consistency of these initiatives.

During the visit, ARTA inspected three offices: the Office of the City Civil Registrar, the City Engineering Office, and the Business Permit and Licensing Office. The team commended the OCCR for its avant-garde Citizens’ Charter layout,

highlighting its clarity, appeal, and user-friendly design. Other notable best practices included the integration of EBOSS, the conduct of Ease of Doing Business trainings for both rank-and-file employees and department heads, and the active composition of a ten-member Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) Team.

In an interview, BPLO Head and ARTA expert Asuncion Viñas reaffirmed their office’s dedication to service excellence, stating: “We are doing this not just for compliance, but to be exemplary... we are doing this to help our clients – the business community.”

ARTA’s surprise visit and assessment stand as a testament to the city’s unwavering commitment to Ease of Doing Business and its pursuit of a truly client-friendly local government. This recognition reflects Legazpi City’s firm dedication to efficient, transparent, and citizen-centered public service—ensuring that processes are streamlined, standards are upheld, and every Legazpeño experiences responsive and accountable governance.

Paul Joshua S. de Dios



Mayor Ismail together with key Department Heads, were profoundly honored by the visit of ARTA Regional Chief Dr. Sanmocte, whose presence reaffirmed Legazpi City’s commitment to excellence in public service.



Legazpi City Joins the National Roster in the 13th Regulatory Compliance Cost Assessment Course with the Development Academy of the Philippines

Legazpi City strengthens its reputation as a forward-thinking and reform-driven local government unit as it proudly stands among the institutions invited by the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) to attend its Modernizing Government Regulations (MGR) Program on November 4-7, 2025 at the Holiday Inn, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

In this year's 13th Course on Regulatory Compliance Cost Assessment, the Academy extended its invitation to only two Local Government Units in the entire country: the Municipality of Banton, Romblon, and the City Government of Legazpi. This rare privilege not only underscores Legazpi's growing leadership in regulatory governance but also affirms the city's commitment to building efficient, and modernized public service systems.

The Legazpi delegation was spearheaded by the intelligent and progressive Asuncion Viñas, Chief of the Business Permits and Licensing Office and respected ARTA expert, in the region. She led a strong contingent of both pioneer and new RIA participants. Among the pioneering attendees were Assistant Treasurer Constance Oliveros; Lourdes Abion from the City Treasurer's Office; Kris Meneses Torres of BPLO; and Architect Jude Versoza of the City Assessor's Office—each bringing institutional knowledge and experience to the training.

Joining them were new team members who

contributed fresh insights, collaboration, and technical expertise namely: Architect Anthony Enaje, Head of the Building Permit Division; Paul Joshua De Dios, Cooperatives Development Specialist; and Marc Daryl Fortin from the Human Resources Management Office. Together, the team demonstrated outstanding synergy—working smart, supporting one another, and dedicating long hours to assessment activities and intensive discussions.

For four days, the eight-member Legazpi RIA Team immersed themselves in rigorous, complex, and highly insightful sessions covering Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA), Compliance Cost Analysis, and Process Streamlining. The team engaged in analytic workshops, collaborative problem-solving, and dynamic Management of Learning Activities that strengthened their capabilities in crafting policies grounded in evidence, efficiency, and public value. Each day offered opportunities to learn, exchange perspectives, and deepen their shared mission of elevating local governance through practical and regulation-focused reforms.

Their collective performance is firmly rooted in Mayor Hisham Ismail's continued support for the highest standards of good governance—values that guide Legazpi City's enduring pursuit of regulatory excellence.

Paul Joshua S. De Dios



Gathering of great minds, steered with dedication and wisdom by Ms. Viñas--fostering collaboration and excellence.

Mayor Ismail and Councilor Rañeses Spearhead Peace and Order Plan



Mayor Hisham B. Ismail and Councilor, Atty. Amore Rex B. Rañeses led a crucial meeting of the Technical Working Group (TWG) on November 13, 2025, focused on developing a comprehensive Peace and Order and Public Safety (POPS) Plan. This TWG plays a vital role in assisting the local government council by formulating a multi-year strategy to tackle peace, order, and public safety concerns within the community.

During the meeting, Mayor Ismail emphasized the

importance of collaborative efforts in addressing local challenges. Councilor Rañeses highlighted the TWG's responsibility to provide technical assistance and develop effective strategies for enhancing public safety and security. The POPS Plan aims to integrate various sectors, ensuring a coordinated approach to create a safer and more secure environment for all residents. The TWG is expected to conduct further consultations and analysis to finalize the plan.

Ma. Cristina D. Zantua

Mayor Ismail Joins League of Cities Assembly in Manila

Mayor Hisham B. Ismail attended the League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP) 76th General Assembly on November 18, 2025, at the City of Dreams, Paranaque City. The assembly brought together city mayors from across the country to discuss pressing urban issues and share innovative solutions.

Mayor Ismail actively participated in the discussions, focusing on sustainable urban development and improved public services. The assembly provided a valuable platform for networking and collaboration, allowing Mayor Ismail to connect with other city leaders and exchange ideas.

“It’s crucial for us to come together and learn from each other,” Mayor Ismail stated. “The challenges our cities face requires collaborative efforts and innovative approaches.”

The LCP General Assembly serves as a vital forum for shaping the future of urban governance in the Philippines, and Mayor Ismail’s involvement underscores their commitment to progress.

Ma. Cristina D. Zantua



Mayor Hisham with dynamic city mayors across the Philippines — champions of innovation, collaboration, and inclusive urban progress.



United in purpose — Mayor Hisham stands with visionary city leaders at the 76th LCP General Assembly, advancing resilient and people-centered civic features.

Legazpi City Approves SRI and Bonuses for City Workers

In a special session held on December 18, the Legazpi City Council, under the leadership of Councilor Lourence M. Beltran, Chairman of Finance & Appropriation, unanimously approved an appropriation ordinance to grant a Special Recognition Incentive (SRI) to 740 qualified Plantilla personnel and bonuses to 1,813 job order (JO) and contract of service (COS) workers.

The initiative aims to recognize the hard work and dedication of city government employees. The SRI will provide additional financial support to regular employees, while JO and

COS workers will receive bonuses in acknowledgment of their valuable contributions to the city.

Councilor Beltran emphasized the importance of recognizing all city employees, stating, "This ordinance reflects our commitment to supporting every member of the Legazpi City Government." The approval underscores the council's dedication to ensuring fair compensation and appreciation for its workforce.

Ma. Cristina D. Zantua

HUMAN RESOURCE & PUBLIC COMMITMENT

Legazpi City Government Uniform: A Stitch in Time

The uniform of the City Government of Legazpi, an initiative spearheaded by Human Resource Management Office (HRMO) department head, Mr. Darlito A. Perez, Jr., is designed unisex and suitable for all genders, reflecting the city's commitment to inclusivity and equality.

"We wanted something that was simple yet professional," explains Mr. Perez. "The design prioritizes functionality and comfort while ensuring that our employees are easily identifiable as representatives of the city government."

While the uniform's design may appear straightforward, it was carefully considered to project a sense of competence and public service. The goal is to instill pride among city employees and enhance the public's recognition of those who serve them.

The design philosophy revolves around minimalism. The color palette is muted, avoiding flashy colors that could distract from the wearer's competence. Clean lines and a tailored fit ensure that the uniform is both comfortable and professional. The fabric is breathable, suited to Legazpi's tropical climate, ensuring that employees remain comfortable and presentable throughout the day.

The uniform serves as a reminder of their roles as public servants. When employees don the uniform, they are reminded of their responsibility to serve with integrity and dedication. It fosters a sense of unity and purpose, reinforcing the idea that they are all part of a team working towards the betterment of Legazpi City.

Ma. Cristina D. Zantua



Mayor Ismail Leads Oath-taking, Strengthening Legazpi's Commitment to Public Service

Legazpi City Government marked a new chapter as Mayor Hisham B. Ismail led the oath-taking ceremony for promoted and newly permanent employees on December 22, 2025. The event underscored the city's commitment to meritocracy and efficient public service, transcending political affiliations.

A total of 74 employees were recognized for their dedication and competence. 38 individuals received promotions, reflecting their exemplary performance and leadership potential. 36 employees achieved permanent status, securing their roles within the city government.

The selection process was based solely on the recommendations of department heads, aligning with the specific needs of each office. A key factor in the decision-making was the employees' successful fulfillment of the qualification standards for their respective positions.

Mayor Ismail congratulated the employees, emphasizing the importance of their roles in serving the citizens of Legazpi. He urged them to uphold the highest standards of integrity and professionalism in their duties. The oath-taking signifies the city's investment in a skilled and dedicated workforce, poised to contribute to Legazpi's continued progress.

Ma. Cristina D. Zantua



Paskuhan Job Fair 2025 a Success in Legazpi City

The City Government of Legazpi, through its Public Employment Service Office (PESO), in partnership with the T.A.YO. organization, successfully held the Paskuhan Job Fair 2025 last December 16, 2025, at the SM Activity Center. The event aimed to provide employment opportunities to Legazpi City residents just in time for the holiday season.

The job fair attracted a total of 114 registrants, with 74 being female. A total of 170 job applicants were interviewed by participating companies. Of those interviewed, 82 applicants qualified for further consideration, and 8 were identified as near hires. The highlight of the event was the 6 applicants who were hired on the spot, bringing immense joy and fulfillment to the organizing team.

Mayor Hisham B. Ismail and Councilor Roberto Rafael N. Lucila II attended the event, showing their support and inspiring job seekers with their encouraging words. The presence of city officials highlights the local government’s commitment to addressing unemployment and promoting economic growth within the community.

“We are very happy with the outcome of the Paskuhan Job Fair,” said Mr. Diosdado R. Rañeses, PESO Manager. “This event is a testament to our dedication to providing our constituents with opportunities to improve their lives.”

The City Government of Legazpi plans to conduct more job fairs and similar initiatives in the future to further boost employment rates and support the local economy.

Ma. Cristina D. Zantua



Mayor Ismail joins PESO staff at the Paskuhan Job Fair 2025 —bringing holiday hope and hiring to Legazpeños.

Legazpi City Gears Up for TUPAD Program Launch in December 2025

Legazpi City launches the TUPAD (Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged Workers) program in December 2025, in a collaborative effort between the City Government of Legazpi through its Public Employment Service Office (PESO), Department of Labor and Employment Regional Office 5, and AKO Bicol Party List. The program aims to provide temporary employment to disadvantaged workers in the city.

A total of 2,402 beneficiaries have been approved for the program, marking a significant step towards addressing unemployment and

providing economic relief to residents. The TUPAD program offers beneficiaries short-term work opportunities, allowing them to earn income while contributing to community development projects.

“This program is a lifeline for many of our residents who have been struggling to find employment,” said Mr. Diosdado Rañeses, PESO Manager. “We are committed to providing them with the support they need to get back on their feet.” The launch is highly anticipated, with hopes of making a positive impact on the lives of Legazpi City residents.

Ma. Cristina D. Zantua



Legazpi City Market Repair Prioritized Under Mayor Ismail’s Administration

The repair of the Legazpi City Market has been announced as a priority project under the administration of Mayor Hisham B. Ismail. The initiative aims to improve the market’s infrastructure, ensuring a safer and more convenient environment for both vendors and consumers.

“The Legazpi City Market is a vital hub for our local economy,” Mayor Ismail stated. “These repairs are essential to support our community and boost local commerce.”



The project includes structural repairs, improved sanitation facilities, and enhanced ventilation to create a more hygienic and pleasant shopping experience. Local vendors have expressed optimism about the positive impact of these upgrades, anticipating increased foot traffic and sales. The city government is committed to completing the repairs efficiently to minimize disruption to market operations.

Ma. Cristina D. Zantua

Legazpi City Continues Classroom Repair Project

The City Government of Legazpi is continuing its commitment to improving educational facilities with the ongoing repair of 175 classrooms in the city of Legazpi. This project, which began under the administration of former mayor, Atty. Alfredo A. Garbin, Jr., is now being carried forward by the incumbent mayor, Honorable Hisham B. Ismail, demonstrating a sustained focus on the needs of Legazpi’s students.

The repairs aim to provide a safer and more conducive learning

environment for students. Work includes fixing structural damages, repainting, and upgrading essential facilities. City officials emphasized the importance of investing in education to ensure a brighter future for the youth of Legazpi.

“Education is a top priority,” said Mayor Ismail. “By ensuring our classrooms are in good condition, we are helping students to learn and succeed.” The project is expected to be completed before the next academic year.

Ma. Cristina D. Zantua



Legazpi City Breaks Ground on Pet Cemetery, Mayor Ismail Hails Project

Mayor Hisham B. Ismail delivered an uplifting message at the groundbreaking ceremony for the new pet cemetery in Brgy. Pawa, Legazpi City. The project, spearheaded by the city government through the City Veterinary Office under Dr. Emmanuel V. Estipona, marks a significant step in recognizing the important role pets play in

the lives of Legazpi residents. Mayor Ismail emphasized the city's commitment to animal welfare and responsible pet ownership. "This pet cemetery provides a dignified final resting place for our beloved companions," he stated, highlighting the emotional bond between people and their pets. The mayor also praised Dr. Estipona and the Veterinary Office for their dedication to the project, which promises to enhance the city's compassionate approach to animal care. The event was attended by local officials and pet owners, all eager to see the project come to fruition.

Ma. Cristina D. Zantua



Mayor Ismail stands tall with Dr. Estipona, Councilor Charlton S. Lajara, and others at the historic pet cemetery groundbreaking.

Legazpi City Government & Legazpi Eye Center Partner to Combat Cataract Blindness

The City Government of Legazpi has entered into an agreement on November 06, 2025, with the Legazpi Eye Center to provide free cataract surgeries for residents, a program aimed at preventing blindness among those with untreated eye conditions.

Mayor Hisham B. Ismail led the signing of the memorandum of agreement alongside Dr. Rollo Milante and the Eye Center team. The partnership highlights how government and private institutions can collaborate to expand access to healthcare.

Mayor Ismail expressed gratitude to the Eye Center for its support and commitment to the community. He also acknowledged Ako Bicol Partylist Representative Atty. Alfredo A. Garbin, Jr., former mayor of Legazpi, for his role in helping make the program possible.

Under the agreement, residents who wish to participate may visit the Legazpi City Hospital for consultation and screening before undergoing surgery.

Ma. Cristina D. Zantua



Mayor Ismail with Dr. Millante, joined by Vice Mayor Gutierrez and City Councilors--committed to expanding vision care for Legazpeños.

Legazpi City Hospital's Zero Billing Program: A Lifeline for Residents

Legazpi City Hospital continues to implement its zero-billing policy, a flagship program of the city government aimed at providing accessible healthcare to all residents. The initiative covers a wide range of medical services, from consultations to treatments, ensuring that financial constraints do not hinder anyone from receiving necessary

medical attention.

Since its inception, the zero-billing program has significantly eased the burden on families, particularly those from low-income backgrounds. Patients can avail of the services without worrying about hospital bills, allowing them to focus on recovery. The city government

has allocated substantial funds to sustain the program, reflecting its commitment to the well-being of its constituents.

"This program is a testament to our dedication to public service," said Mayor Hisham B. Ismail. "We want every Legazpi resident to have access to quality healthcare, regardless of their financial status." The hospital administration continues to streamline processes to ensure efficient and effective implementation of the zero-billing policy.

Ma. Cristina D. Zantua



Legazpi City Invests in Grassroots Healthcare with BHW & BNS Training

The Legazpi City Health Office conducts a comprehensive three-day basic training seminar on November 20-22, 2025, for Barangay Health Workers (BHWs) and Barangay Nutrition Scholars (BNS) representing 70 barangays across the city. The intensive course is designed to equip these frontline health workers with updated knowledge and skills in primary healthcare, nutrition, and community health management.

Mayor Hisham B. Ismail highlighted the critical role of BHWs and BNS in extending essential health services to the most vulnerable populations within Legazpi

City. In his message during the seminar's opening, he emphasized the importance of continuous education and training to meet the evolving health challenges of the community. This initiative reflects Legazpi City's ongoing commitment to strengthening its healthcare infrastructure at the barangay level, ensuring accessible and quality health services for all residents. The program is expected to significantly enhance the capabilities of local health workers, leading to improved health outcomes throughout the city.

Ma. Cristina D. Zantua



Legazpi City Boosts Healthcare Access with New Super Health Clinic

Legazpi City takes significant strides to enhance healthcare services for its residents. Mayor Hisham B. Ismail, accompanied by esteemed medical professionals Dr. Chito Avelino and Dr. Francis Gerald Gomez, conducted a site inspection of the new Super Health Clinic in Barangay Rawis on December 15, 2025. This initiative is a key component of the local government's commitment to strengthening and extending health services to the northern barangays of Legazpi City.

The Super Health Clinic aims to provide comprehensive medical

care, ensuring that residents have access to essential healthcare facilities closer to home. The inspection focused on assessing the clinic's readiness to offer a range of services, from routine check-ups to specialized treatments. Mayor Ismail emphasized the importance of this project in addressing the healthcare needs of the community and improving overall public health outcomes. The clinic is expected to significantly reduce travel time and costs for residents, making healthcare more accessible and convenient for everyone in the northern barangays.

Ma. Cristina D. Zantua



Mayor Ismail Welcomes Legazpi Hope Christian School Delegates Ahead of Singapore Jamboree

Mayor Hisham B. Ismail warmly welcomed students from Legazpi Hope Christian School, who will proudly represent the Philippines as delegates at the Singapore Jamboree from November 18 to 23, 2005 at Sarinbun Scout Camp. The mayor expressed his support and pride for the students, acknowledging their hard work and dedication.

“We are incredibly proud of these young ambassadors,” Mayor Ismail stated during a reception held in their honor. “Their participation in the Singapore Jamboree reflects the quality of education and the commitment to excellence that Legazpi Hope

Christian School instills in its students.”

It is noteworthy that a significant portion of the Philippine delegation to this year’s Jamboree hails from Legazpi Hope Christian School, highlighting the school’s prominence in fostering international engagement and leadership among its students. The mayor wished the students success and encouraged them to embrace the opportunity to learn and grow from this international experience.

Ma. Cristina D. Zantua



Student Leaders Gather for Advocacy and Campaign Development Workshop

Mayor Hisham B. Ismail delivered an inspiring message at the Student Leaders Convergence 2025, a workshop organized by the Department of Education – Schools Division Office of Legazpi, on November 13, 2025. The event focused on equipping student leaders with the skills necessary for planning and executing effective advocacy and campaign initiatives.

Addressing the large gathering of students, Mayor Ismail emphasized the crucial role of youth in shaping the future of Legazpi City. He encouraged the student leaders to be proactive in identifying

issues within their schools and communities, and to develop innovative solutions through collaborative campaigns.

“Your voice matters,” Mayor Ismail stated, urging students to use their platforms to advocate for positive change. He highlighted the importance of integrity, resilience, and a commitment to service in their leadership roles. The mayor also pledged the city government’s support for student-led initiatives that contribute to the betterment of Legazpi. The workshop was attended by more or less 400 students.

Ma. Cristina D. Zantua



Legazpi City Government Distributes Christmas Food Packs to 72,000 Families

The City Government of Legazpi, under the leadership of Mayor Hisham B. Ismail, has once again demonstrated its commitment to the welfare of its residents by organizing the distribution of Christmas Food Packs to 72,000 families across the city. This initiative, carried out through the City Social Welfare & Development Office (CSWDO), aims to ensure that every family in Legazpi can enjoy a memorable Noche Buena this Christmas season.

The beneficiaries were carefully identified based on household records submitted by the respective barangays to the CSWDO. This thorough process ensured that the aid reached

those who genuinely need support during the holiday season.

Mayor Ismail expressed gratitude to the barangays and the CSWDO team for their cooperation and hard work in making this event possible. The distribution of food packs is part of the city government's ongoing efforts to promote community welfare and bring festive cheer to its constituents, especially amid challenging times.

Through this program, the Legazpi City Government continues to uphold its promise of caring for its people, spreading joy and hope as the city celebrates the spirit of Christmas.

Ma. Cristina D. Zantua



Mayor Ismail, together with EA IV Ronaldo A. Garbin, Ms. Chona A. Riocasa of GSO, Ms. Cecilia E. Arcilla of CSWDO, City Councilors, and others, stand ready to distribute thousands of festive food packs--an inspiring gesture of generosity & care for Legazpeño families.



Legazpi City Shines with “Festival of Smiles” Parol Making Contest

Ibalong Park glowed with festive spirit as the City Government of Legazpi, led by Mayor Hisham B. Ismail, hosted the “Festival of Smiles” inter-barangay parol making contest on December 1, 2025, where Brgy. 14-Illawod emerged as the winner. The event showcased the creativity and craftsmanship of local artisans, with each barangay presenting unique and vibrant parol designs.

The park was filled with dazzling displays of light and color, as participants competed for the coveted title of “Best Parol.” Mayor Hisham B. Ismail emphasized the importance of

community engagement and cultural preservation, highlighting the role of such events in fostering unity and spreading joy during the holiday season.

“This contest is not just about parols; it’s about bringing smiles to the faces of our community and celebrating our shared heritage,” Mayor Ismail stated. The event drew large crowds, with families and tourists alike marveling at the intricate designs and festive atmosphere. The “Festival of Smiles” proved to be a resounding success, reinforcing Legazpi City’s reputation as a vibrant hub of culture and community spirit.

Ma. Theresa D. Nuñez



Legazpi City Rings in 2026 with First-Ever New Year's Countdown at Ibalong Park

Legazpi City celebrated a historic moment on the eve of December 31, 2025, as it hosted its very first New Year's countdown at the scenic Ibalong Park. The event was a spectacular gathering that brought residents and visitors together to welcome 2026 with joy and excitement.

A highlight of the celebration was the breathtaking twin fireworks display that lit up the night sky, creating a dazzling spectacle visible across the city. Attendees also enjoyed the vibrant atmosphere at Sawangan Park, where the theme "Experience the Glow by the Sea" offered a unique seaside celebration. Meanwhile, the main

stage at the iconic Legazpi Marker served as the heart of the festivities, where the crowd watched the sky explode in color.

Mayor Hisham B. Ismail, alongside Cong. Atty. Alfredo A. Garbin, Jr., with city councilors, etc., led the event, emphasizing community spirit and unity. Their leadership helped make this inaugural countdown a memorable occasion, setting a lively tradition for years to come. The successful event marked a new chapter for Legazpi City's celebrations, blending culture, excitement, and stunning visuals to welcome the New Year.

Ma. Cristina D. Zantua



129th Rizal Day Marked with Solemn Ceremony at Plaza Rizal

The 129th anniversary of the martyrdom of Dr. Jose Rizal was commemorated on December 30, 2025, at the historic Plaza Rizal in Legazpi. The event, attended by local dignitaries, department heads, and members of the community, honored the life and legacy of the Philippines' national hero.

Mayor Hisham B. Ismail opened the ceremony with heartfelt welcome remarks, emphasizing Rizal's enduring relevance to contemporary Philippine society. He highlighted Rizal's contributions to national identity and his call for social reform through peaceful means. Following his address, Mayor Ismail led the wreath-laying ceremony at the foot of the Rizal Monument, a solemn tribute to the hero's sacrifice.

Congressman Atty. Alfredo A. Garbin, Jr., served as the guest of honor and delivered an inspiring message, urging Filipinos to embody Rizal's ideals of patriotism, education, and service to the nation. He underscored the importance of remembering Rizal's teachings in addressing the challenges facing the country today.

The floral offering saw participation from VIPs and various department heads, each paying their respects to Rizal. The ceremony served as a poignant reminder of Rizal's unwavering dedication to the Philippines and his profound impact on the nation's history. The event concluded with a renewed sense of national pride and a commitment to upholding Rizal's vision for a better Philippines.

Ma. Cristina D. Zantua



Legazpi City Government Streamlines Pension Payouts, Partners with GCash

Mayor Hisham B. Ismail recently spearheaded the payout of pensions for the city's senior citizens, affectionately known as "lolo and lola." The event, held at the Legazpi City Convention Center, saw hundreds of elderly residents receiving their much-deserved financial support. Mayor Ismail emphasized the city government's commitment to ensuring the well-being of its senior citizens, recognizing their invaluable contributions to the community.

In a move to further improve services for its constituents, the City Government of Legazpi has also entered into a Memorandum of

Agreement with GCash, a leading mobile wallet provider. The signing ceremony was attended by members of the 17th Sangguniang Panlungsod, led by Vice Mayor Luis Felipe L. Gutierrez.

The partnership aims to modernize and streamline financial transactions within the city, offering residents a convenient and secure way to receive payments and conduct business. GCash representatives highlighted the benefits of the platform, including reduced transaction times and enhanced security features.

Ma. Cristina D. Zantua



Mayor Ismail, City Treasurer Carlita P. De Guzman, Vice Mayor Gutierrez, City Councilors, & GCash happily forged a dynamic alliance--delivering faster, safer pension payouts for Legazpi's seniors.

RECOGNITION & AWARDS

City Veterinary Office Honored with National Award for Advancing Animal Welfare

In a significant achievement for Legazpi City, the City Veterinary Office (CVO) led by Dr. Emmanuel V. Estipona, has proudly received the Distinguished Award for Advancing Animal Welfare in the Philippines. This esteemed recognition underscores the office's relentless commitment to promoting and safeguarding animal welfare.

The award comes as a testament to the office's impressive efforts in the implementation and reinforcement of Republic Act 8485, the Animal Welfare Act of 1998. Furthermore, it acknowledges their vital contributions to the growth and development of the local livestock industry, which plays a crucial role in the city's economy and welfare.

Mayor Hisham B. Ismail expressed his heartfelt gratitude and

commendation to the employees of the CVO, praising their tireless dedication and sacrifices. He emphasized that this award is not merely a victory for the office alone, but a representation of the collective commitment of Legazpi City towards fostering a community that values kindness and responsibility towards both people and animals.

This prestigious recognition not only highlights past achievements but also serves as a source of inspiration for Legazpi City. It encourages the continuation and enhancement of animal welfare programs and initiatives, fostering an environment where compassion and responsibility towards all living creatures are cherished and upheld. I

Ruffa Mae A. Ogama



Mayor Ismail proudly joins Dr. Estipona and his service-driven employees as the CVO earns national recognition for their commitment to animal welfare.

City Government of Legazpi Earns Red Orchid Sustainability Award, Receives ₱100,000 Cash Incentive

The City Government of Legazpi has demonstrated its commitment to public health by winning the Red Orchid Sustainability Award on December 5, 2025, at the Oriental Hotel. This award, part of the National Tobacco Control Program, recognizes Legazpi as the only local government unit in the Bicol Region to excel in tobacco control efforts.

Representing the city at the award ceremony, Honorable Hisham B. Ismail, together with the City Health Officer, Dr. Francis Gerald



Gomez, and Program Coordinator, Ms. Portia O. Rogando, RN, were in attendance, showing commitment to the city's dedication to smoke-free policies.

This commitment has been especially evident in the efforts of Legazpi, which has earned this distinction through the implementation of effective smoke-free ordinances and strong collaboration with the City Health Office and the Department of Health. Their ongoing advocacy, strict enforcement of rules, and community involvement have established Legazpi as a leader in promoting a healthier, smoke-free environment for all.

As part of the recognition, the city also received a ₱100,000 cash incentive, underscoring the importance of its ongoing efforts in protecting residents from the dangers of tobacco use. This award not only honors past achievements but also motivates future public health initiatives.

At length, this acknowledgment represents Legazpi's vision for a healthier future, showcasing how effective governance and teamwork can lead to meaningful change.

Ruffa Mae A. Ogama



PESO Legazpi Wins 2025 Hall of Fame Award

The Public Employment Service Office (PESO) of Legazpi, Albay, led by PESO Manager Diosdado R. Rañeses, was honored with a Plaque of Recognition for being conferred as a Hall of Famer. This prestigious recognition celebrates their three consecutive years of outstanding performance in implementing the Job Fair Program. The award was formally presented on November 26, 2025, at Gamboa's Orchard during the Awarding Ceremony of the 2025 Kagalingan sa PESO.

The PESO team joyfully presented the plaque to Mayor Ismail, symbolizing their strong support for his administration's commitment

to strengthening the city's employment facilitation initiatives. Under the leadership of Mr. Rañeses, the office has consistently delivered successful job fairs that connect thousands of job seekers with employment opportunities, contributing significantly to the local economy and community welfare.

This Hall of Fame recognition highlights the dedication, innovation, and hard work of the Legazpi PESO team, reinforcing their vital role in promoting employment and livelihood programs in the city. Their continued excellence serves as an inspiration for other local government units to enhance their employment services.

Ma. Cristina D. Zantua



City GAD Office Earns Its First Major Provincial Award

The City Gender and Development Office set a new benchmark for the city governance on December 15, 2025, at Proxy by The Oriental Albay, by winning its first-ever provincial trophy for excellence.

The office was named the First Placer-2025 LGU Best Promising GAD Practices in Albay Province, besting other local government units to take the top spot. Along with the historic title, the office received a trophy and a P30,000 cash prize.

Marites V. Tagle-Pasa, GAD Officer-in-Charge, described the win as a product of “perseverance, unity, and teamwork.” She credited

the success to the GAD Focal Point System Technical Working Group and leadership of City Mayor Hisham B. Ismail.

The award was part of a province-wide search organized by the Provincial Government of Albay to recognize innovation in local governance.

Ms. Tagle-Pasa expressed gratitude to provincial organizers for the opportunity to showcase the city’s initiatives and congratulated fellow local government units for their participation.

Ruffa Mae A. Ogama



City Civil Registrar Office Earns PSA Recognition

The Philippine Statistics Authority—Regional Statistical Services Office V has awarded the Local Civil Registry Office of Legazpi City, Albay, third place in the Outstanding Local Civil Registry Office competition under the extra-large category.

City officials said the recognition highlights the office’s dedication, efficiency, and quality service to residents.

Mayor Hisham B. Ismail extended his congratulations to the Office of the City Civil Registrar, headed by City Civil Registrar Department Head I, Ma’am Prescilla L. Galicia. He commended the team for its consistent hard work, effective management, and commitment to public service, which led to the honor from the PSA.

The mayor added that the award is not only a success for the office but also for the entire city, reflecting the efforts of local

government sectors to deliver honest and reliable service for the community.

It should be noted that recognition serves as an inspiration for the Civil Registry Office to continue improving services for Legazpeños.

Ruffa Mae A. Ogama



Legazpi City Earns Commendation in the 2025 Regional Subaybayani Awards

The Department of the Interior and Local Government - Region V recognized Legazpi City as one of the top performers in the 2025 Regional Subaybayani Awards on December 17, 2025, at the Pepperland Hotel, Legazpi City.

Mayor Hisham B. Ismail, together with DILG Legazpi City Director Engr. Meredith O. Basquiñas accepted the Plaque of Commendation after the city placed second in the regional competition.

The Subaybayani Awards highlight local governments that demonstrate transparency and accountability in implementing locally funded projects. Legazpi City was cited for its effective use of the SubayBAYAN Portal, a platform designed to monitor

and track project implementation.

Mayor Ismail said the award reflects the administration's commitment to open and honest governance. They added that the recognition serves as motivation to continue improving public service and strengthening public trust.

"This achievement shows our determination to ensure that projects are managed responsibly and for the benefit of our residents," Mayor Ismail said in a statement.

The Subaybayani Awards is a part of DILG's efforts to encourage local governments to uphold good governance practices and promote citizen participation in monitoring development projects.

Ruffa Mae A. Ogama



Honoring excellence. Mayor Ismail had the privilege of standing alongside Mayor Robredo during the prestigious awarding of the Subaybayani Awards with the remarkable men & women of the main event.



Legislative Action

**APPROVED ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTIONS
(From November to December 2025 only)
Sangguniang Panlungsod
Legazpi City**

Ord/Res. No.	Title and Proponent
17-0017-2025	AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AND REGULATING THE NIGHT MARKET IN THE CITY OF LEGAZPI, PROVIDING RULES, GUIDELINES FOR ITS OPERATION, MANAGEMENT AND OTHER PURPOSES. Councilor Amore Rex B. Rañeses
17-0174-2025	RESOLUTION EARNESTLY REQUESTING ASSISTANCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH BICOL CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT FOR THE ADEQUATE ALLOCATION OF FLU VACCINE ANNUALLY TO THE CITY GOVERNMENT OF LEGAZPI ESPECIALLY FOR THE SENIOR CITIZENS Councilor Maria Paz Salud C. Imperial
17-0175-2025	RESOLUTION REQUESTING ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL HEADS IN THE CITY OF LEGAZPI TO STRICTLY IMPLEMENT AND INSTITUTIONALIZED DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DEPED) POLICIES AND GUIDELINES ON HEALTHY FOOD AND BEVERAGES CHOICES, AND FOOD SAFETY IN THEIR respective schools Councilor Alexander U. Jao
17-0176-2025	RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING DR. LYNNE LOURDES N. LUCENA FOR BEING NAMED AS ONE OF THE 2025 MOST INFLUENTIAL FILIPINA WOMEN IN THE WORLD BY THE FOUNDATION FOR FILIPINA LEADERSHIP GLOBAL SUMMIT ON OCTOBER 26-31, 2025 AT THE SA FRANCISCO'S HISTORIC MERCHANTS EXCHANGE BUILDING, SAN FRANCISCO, USA Councilor Maria Paz Salud C. Imperial
17-0177-2025	RESOLUTION DECLARING AS VALID AND OPERATIVE THE APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE OF SEVERAL BARANGAYS IN THE CITY OF LEGAZPI CONTAINING THEIR ANNUAL BUDGET FOR CY2025 Councilor Maria Paz Salud C. Imperial
17-0182-2025	RESOLUTION APPROVING THE LEGAZPI CITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (LCPDC) RESOLUTION NO. 03-2025, ENTITLED: RESOLUTION APPROVING THE REPROGRAMMING OF FORTY MILLION ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-FOUR THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED NINETY-ONE PESOS AND 89/100 (P 40,184,491.89) UNDER THE 2025 20% DEVELOPMENT FUND; INCLUSION OF THE PROJECTS AS SUPPLEMENTAL TO THE 2025-2027 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT PROGRAM (LDIP) AND ITS CORRESPONDING 2025 ANNUAL INVESTMENT PROGRAM (AIP); AND ENDORSING THE SAME TO THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD FOR APPROPRIATE ACTION Councilor Lourence M. Beltran
17-0188-2025	RESOLUTION GRANTING RECOGNITION TO GENERATION OF DEDICATED FARMERS TO ASSIST, TEACH AND HELP ECO-RESILIENT SOCIETY (GODFATHERS) ASSOCIATION AS CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION (CSO) OF THE CITY OF LEGAZPI Councilor Roberto Rafael N. Lucila II
17-0122-2025	RESOLUTION APPROVING THE DONATION IN THE AMOUNT OF FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P500,000.00) TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT OF MASBATE CITY AS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT TO THE DISPLACED FAMILIES OF THE CITY DURING TYPHOON "OPONG." Councilor Ismael B. Buban III
17-0195-2025	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MAYOR, HON. HISHAM B. ISMAIL, TO SIGN AND ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) BY NAD BETWEEN THE CITY GOVERNMENT OF LEGAZPI AND THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES (UP) FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEVELOPING ACADEMIC COOPERATION AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING Councilor Roberto Rafael N. Lucila II



Vice Mayor HON. LUIS FELIPE L. GUTIERREZ
City Councilors



HON. VICENTE F. BALTAZAR III **HON. LOURENCE M. BELTRAN**



HON. ISMAEL B. BUBAN IV **HON. ALEXANDER U. JAO**



HON. ROBERTO RAFAEL N. LUCILA II **HON. JOSEPH PHILIP L. LEE**



HON. CHARLTON S. LAJARA **HON. MARIA PAZ SALUD C. IMPERIAL**



HON. ALAN O. RAÑOLA **HON. RENATO A. VALLADOLID**



HON. ATTY. AMORE REX B. RAÑESES **HON. JOHN NICOLAS C. GARBIN**

WE GROW BY THE NUMBERS.

