

# The heart of Marinduque is peace

For the people of Marinduque, what matters most is that they live in peace. And for an island province that is a hub for the movement of people and goods, community cooperation is key to keeping the island safe.

Marinduque has been declared insurgency-free. But this is not enough. The challenge is in keeping the island paradise out of trouble and ensuring that the people are out of harm's way.

And for this to happen, inter-agency partnerships are essential to ensuring peaceful communities. Public safety is everyone's concern here.

Beyond agency compliance is an investment of time, effort, and commitment, says PD Ma. Victoria Del Rosario of DILG-Marinduque, as well as a dose of official and personal relationships nurtured over the years.



DILG cannot do its mandate alone, she added, and needs to tap other agencies to keep communities safe in Marinduque. Indeed, help she got from others—and with high enthusiasm and expertise!



From the Integrated Bar of the Philippines-Marinduque Chapter came the pro bono services to train the *Lupong Tagapamayapa* in mediation and amicable settlement.

With the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), anti-drug abuse campaigns in all municipalities and barangays of Marinduque were intensified.

To keep schools safe, DILG and the Bureau of Fire Protection worked with the Department of Education on the findings of the annual fire vulnerability assessment, based on the requirements of the Fire Code, and to institute preventive and corrective fire safety measures in public elementary and high schools.

With the of the Highway Patrol Group, Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, and Land Transportation Office, public safety concerns were dealt with, such as the use of helmets when driving and riding motorcycles, prevention and/or detection of criminality in the community, and organizing colorum vans into cooperatives.

Indeed, DILG-Marinduque may have limited financial resources to respond to peace and order and public safety priorities, but for PD del Rosario, the resources are out there to seize.

Agencies were willing to help, and the only thing she did was to ask.