



# QUEST

## Quality Education for Sarangani Today



OUR QUEST IS TO IMPROVE ACCESS OF ALL SARANGANI CHILDREN TO QUALITY EDUCATION.

August 2007-June 2013

### Sarangani's quest

## PROGRAM BRIEF



### Quality Education for Sarangani Today (QUEST)

is a program established by Sarangani Governor Miguel Rene A. Dominguez in 2007 to improve access of ALL CHILDREN in the province to quality education. Sarangani belongs to the 20 poorest provinces in the country and the provincial government believes that education is the key out of poverty. QUEST develops structures, attitudes, and empowering mechanisms that will enable Sarangani communities to actively participate in visioning, planning, implementing and evaluating programs to address the complicated problems in education. This is in contrast with the past practice of letting the Department of Education do its work with marginal participation from the community.

In 2007, QUEST was piloted in the municipality of Alabel which had the lowest performance in the province in terms of student's achievement. Alabel children were only able to answer 4 out of 10 questions correctly in the National Achievement Test. The project had significant great success generating com-

munity support and improving learning performance. In 2008, the municipalities of Malungon and Kiamba adopted the same model of community-participation in their public school systems. In 2009, Malapatan, Maasim, Maitum and Glan also followed. The provincial government SCALED up the education program in ALL the municipalities. To ensure the sustainability of the education reforms, QUEST was institutionalized as a provincial unit through Provincial Executive Order 2, Series of 2009 under the Office of the Governor.

There are significant improvements in Sarangani education year over year in terms of participation and performance of children. These improvements draw public attention which makes Sarangani as a constant resource in various education forums. It is recognized as a model **in Public-Private Partnership in Education and for SCALING up an Education Program**. Currently, QUEST continues to revolutionize education among its 7 municipalities and 140 barangays. It continues to strengthen its mutually reinforcing activities for teachers, local leaders, parents and students' education. Above all, it continues to strongly convey the point that *"As long as there's a single child who does not enter school due to poverty, the quest continues."*

### QUEST

strongly serves as a backbone organization for the collaborative efforts to:

1. improve access of all students to basic elementary and secondary education;
2. improve the performance of Sarangani students;
3. improve sight-reading and reading comprehension among Grades I and II pupils as a foundation for learning;
4. work with school officials, teachers and community leaders in training parents to create a support system that can enhance study habits in school and at home, and reduce dropouts;
5. build a constituency that would advocate for the continuation of collaborative processes in education reforms, transparency in programs, and accountability of schools to the community; and
6. gain leverage for additional resources for basic education from private sector.

# SARANGANI'S QUEST

## STRATEGY 1

**INCREASING  
AWARENESS AND  
ACCOUNTABILITY  
OVER EDUCATION**

### Education Summit



**Education Summit** is an annual forum conducted in each municipality and participated by LGU Officials, principals, barangay leaders, PTA leaders and parents. The governor delivers the state of education of the province while the mayor delivers the state of education of the municipality. The governor and mayor set the education agenda where the municipal resources and interventions should be directed.

### Capability Building for Parent Leaders



**Parent  
Leaders**  
  
**924 as  
Volunteer  
Parent  
Mentors**

Every year, new sets of parent leaders from Grade 1 (2-5pax/school) are trained and are organized into a pool of trainers for the conduct of the Parent mentoring in each school.

### Parent Mentoring



**Parent  
Mentoring**

**49,037  
Parents  
were  
Mentored**

**Parent Mentoring** is an annual activity conducted in all schools that requires all Grades 1 parents to attend. It organizes parents to become active learning support system at home.



# Sarangani's quest

## Reinventing the Local School Board

The members of the Local School Board are given workshop to stimulate their responsibility and accountability over the public school system. The membership has also been expanded to include representatives from principal's association both in the elementary and secondary, private sector, and civic groups. With the expansion, the members of the board become more involved and committed in the efforts to improve the public school system. The decision over the spending of the Special Education Fund has been more collaborative and transparent too. The quest did not end in the expansion of membership, and the League of Mayors decided to hold a joint PSB-LSB Meeting every year to ensure that all municipal efforts and resources are integrated towards the attainment of Sarangani's quest.



## Providing Resources for Hiring of QUEST Teachers



Aside from the the appropriation in the Special Education Fund (SEF); the province annually allocates more than 16M from Gender and Development Fund and Supplemental Budget to hire at least 275 additional teachers primarily to provide teachers in upland primary & elementary and integrated schools. 58% of DepEd teaching force has passed through QUEST.



## Raising Resources from Private Sector and Local Communities to Build Learning Facilities

Every year QUEST links with partners to continuously address the gaps on classroom needs and boarding schools especially in remote and strategic upland communities.



10 Classdorm Projects and 104 classrooms were constructed through private sector's grant.



# SARANGANI'S QUEST

## Opening of Primary Schools & Integrated Schools

To improve access for education especially among upland communities, Sarangani strengthens the



opening of new primary schools till it fully becomes an elementary school. To improve access for secondary education, the elementary schools are converted into integrated schools. Integrated schools has both elementary and secondary education. This is Sarangani's way of decreasing the gap between the number of elementary and secondary schools. In the past six years, 28 primary schools were opened, 54 primary schools were transformed into complete elementary schools and 33 elementary schools were converted into integrated schools. This greatly contribute to the increase in the participation rates and reduced the incidents of early marriages among indigenous students.

### STRATEGY 2

**GEARING –UP  
INSTITUTIONAL  
SUPPORT TO  
DEPED**





# SARANGANI'S QUEST

## Improving Capabilities of Principals & Teachers



Every year, we continuously update the teaching capacities of our educators as well as the leadership management abilities of our principals

### STRATEGY 2

**GEARING-UP  
INSTITUTIONAL  
SUPPORT TO  
DEPED**

## Boosting the Morale of Educators



To continuously recognize the value of teachers in building the future, the province holds an **I Love My Teachers' Day** either during celebration of World Teachers' Day. We believe that the quality of education depends on the quality of instruction, the quality of instruction depends on the quality of teacher's devotion.

### Balik-Eskwela Campaign

Balik Eskwela Campaign is a province-wide summer intervention (May 15-30) collaboratively worked by barangay leaders, school principals, teachers and youth volunteers. To increase public awareness, tarpaulins and streamers are posted. They also conduct home visits to encourage parents to enroll their kids in school.

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**11, 500 out-of-school  
children returned to school through  
Balik-Eskwela.**



# Sarangani's quest

## Providing 1:1 Ratio of English Workbooks



The province networks with private sector and raises resources needed for the reproduction of workbooks for all Grades I and II pupils. All of their teachers receive lesson plans too. Prior to the workbook distribution among all schools, the province holds an **Education Revolution** to unite the public to war against poverty thru literacy (*Karunungan Kontra Kahirapan*).



A total of 84,360 Grade 1 and 64,746 Grade 2 pupils benefitted.

## Sarangani Big Brother



A summer volunteer program designed to assist DepEd in eliminating frustration and instructional readers among Grades I and 2.

Sarangani Big Brother: Reading is Fun is a 15-day summer volunteer reading program designed to assist the Department of Education in eliminating frustration and instructional readers among incoming Grades II and III pupils. SBB is also an effective mechanism to instill the values of volunteerism among our youth and to strengthen the engagement of our communities in addressing education concerns. SBB has engaged a total of 7,115 volunteers and has helped 35,655 kids become better readers from Season 1 to 6.

### STRATEGY 3

**IMPROVING THE  
SIGHT-READING AND  
COMPREHENSION  
ABILITIES IN THE  
FOUNDATION YEARS**



Sarangani Big Brother stirred the spirit of volunteerism among youth.

# SARANGANI'S QUEST **SIGNIFICANT RESULTS**

## Awarded as No. 1 Outstanding Local Governance Programs



Galing Pook recognized QUEST as No. 1 Outstanding Governance Program in the Philippines in 2012.

## From Bottom-Dweller to Top Performer in the Region

**"COLLECTIVE  
QUEST  
PRODUCES  
GREATER  
GAINS"**

### Sarangani province tops all schools divisions in Region 12

By SERAFIN N. RAMOS JR.

MALUNGON, Sarangani (July 29, 2012) – Combined average performance of elementary and secondary schools in this year's National Achievement Test (NAT) has placed Sarangani on top of all provinces and cities in Region 12.

"With pride and honor Sarangani is the number one division in Region 12 because we are number one in secondary and we are number two in the elementary," Dr. Allan Farnazo, Saranga-

City – 71.28, 5. South Cotabato – 70.22, 6. Kidapawan City – 66.00, 7. Cotabato City – 63.81, 8. Sultan Kudarat – 63.78, and 9. Koronadal City – 61.55.

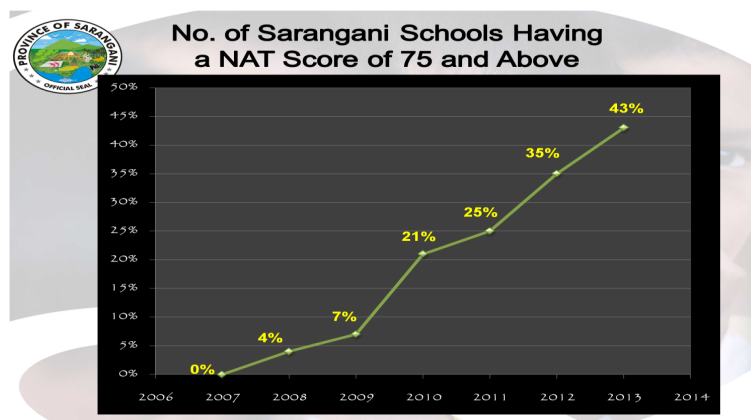
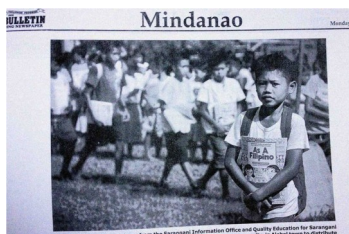
What pulled up Sa-

supervisors, principals and teachers "for achieving something that we never believed we could achieve."

"Because we all said that we can believe in ourselves, in our leadership. We

Sarangani Division was regarded as the most improved division in the region especially in the Achievement Level. From being Rank 9 out of 10 division in 2007, Sarangani now seats as No. 1 in the region.

## From 0% Passing Rate in NAT to 43%

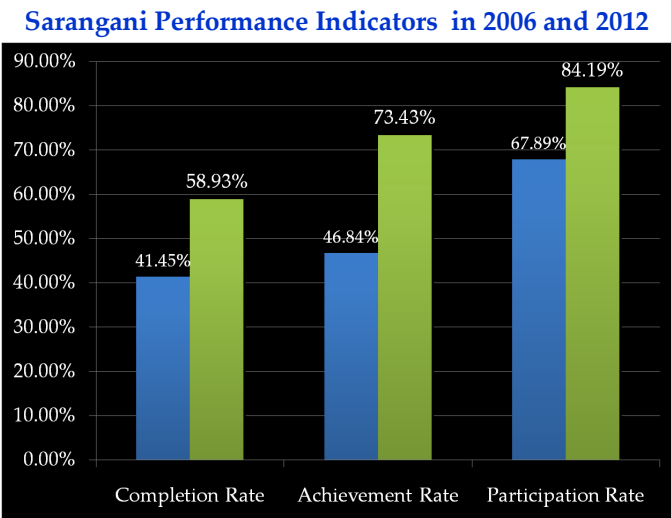


None of Sarangani schools was able to reach a passing score in National Achievement Test (75 MPS). Currently, 43% has a passing score.



Increasing Performance Indicators closer to EFA Targets

There was a significant increase year over year on the completion, participation and achievement rates in Sarangani comparing the province's performance from 2006 to 2012. The significant increase marks the province as the most improved division in Region XII.



Improved Access to Basic Education



Sarangani is always guided with *Kape and Tinapay Counterparting mechanism*. The openings of the schools are through local initiatives wherein the community constructs a make-shift building while the local government units provide the teacher requirement.

In the past six years, the opening of 28 *Primary schools*, the *bridging of 54 primary schools into complete elementary schools* and the *conversion of 33 elementary schools into integrated schools* strongly improved Sarangani's children access to education particularly among indigenous communities.





# SARANGANI'S QUEST SIGNIFICANT RESULTS

## Improved Reading & Proficiency Level in the Foundation Years



The provision of 1:1 workbooks among Grade I and II pupils and annual capability building for Grade I and II teachers have greatly contributed in improving the reading performances of Grades I and II. The results of the recent Phil-IRI shows that **23% of Sarangani Grade I have reading abilities of Grade II** while **26.53% of Grade II have reading abilities of Grade III**.

## Increased Commitment & Accountability over Sarangani's education

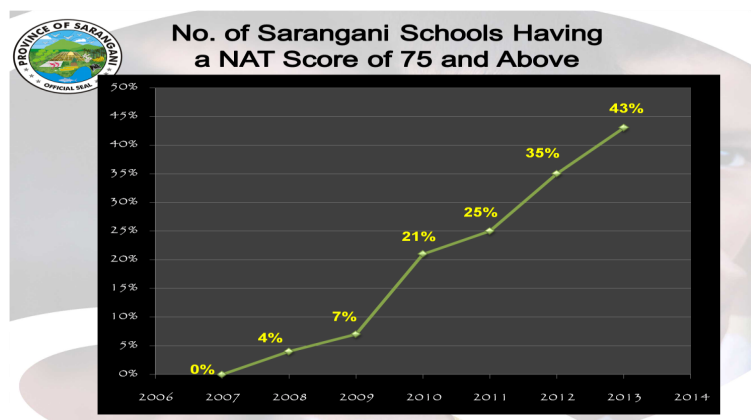
Community involvement in education-related activities such as education summits, parents' training, parents' mentoring, Sarangani Big Brother, Balik-Eskwela Campaigns, PTA Meetings, Brigada Eskwela, Division Integrated Competitions, among others, has never been a problem. Parents, teachers and community leaders became more aware of the state of education and actively take part in addressing the education concerns.

Budgeting of the SEF has become open and participatory also. Accordingly, allocation of funding greatly focuses on the projects that will directly improve the province's state of education. -



**"IT TAKES  
A VILLAGE  
TO RAISE  
A CHILD"**

## From 0% Passing Rate in NAT to 43%



None of Sarangani schools was able to reach a passing score in National Achievement Test (75 MPS). Currently, 43% has a passing score.

### Inspired other LGUs to DO Education Reform

Sarangani has served as model and resource for various local, regional and national education forums. The Municipality of Tampakan, the province of Compostela Valley, Palawan, the City of Koronadal, Cebu City, and Semirara are the Local Government Units that replicated QUEST and continue to receive mentoring from Sarangani.

Tampakan, South Cotabato  
Project CREST

Compostela Valley Province  
Project COMET

Koronadal City, South Cotabato  
Project CHECK

Semirara City, Capiz  
Project SEG

Palawan Province  
Project ABM



### The quest continues...

