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MAJOR EVENTS

Guv names Mayor Lim N7W lead campaigner

Bohol Gov. Erico Aumentado has designated Tagbilaran City Mayor Dan Lim to lead an aggressive campaign among Boholanos in the United States and Canada for votes to make the Chocolate Hills among the New 7 Wonders of Nature.

Meanwhile, Carmen Mayor Boy Molina is likewise in the thick of the campaign for Chocolate Hills in the 7 New Wonders of Nature. He started last Friday the distribution of flyers to the hundreds of tourists visiting the Chocolate Hills everyday. The flyers indicate the website where they can cast their votes for the Choco choice. The Carmen LGU will mount this week outdoor streamers to dramatize for more support.

The Chocolate Hills ranked 8th as of April 8, but moved up a notch higher - to No. 7 -as of yesterday.

But, the governor said, it is too early to celebrate because the voting pattern can still change, hence the need to aggressively campaign for Boholanos and even non-Boholanos in the United States and other parts of the globe to vote for the Chocolate Hills.

Aumentado expressed elation over Lim's acceptance of the designation. He enjoined the mayor to make a personal appearance with various Boholano associations in the US.

"This will surely go a long way in helping them understand and in convincing them about the need not only to vote but also to campaign for more votes," the governor said.

"I hope that you will not hesitate to accept this challenge and will rise to the occasion for Boholano honor and prestige," he added.

Apart from the Chocolate Hills, Philippine natural wonders that made it to the Top 77 in the list are the Tubbataha Reef in Palawan, and Mayon Volcano in the Bicol Region.

A check of the website yesterday however showed that Mayon Volcano has been dropped from the 77. Tubbataha Reef was already at 9th place while the apparently recently nominated Subterranean Caves of Puerto Princesa also in Palawan pops up among the choices under the continent of Asia.

Voting will go on until December 31, 2008 when the organizers will trim down the list to 21, and later on, to the final seven.

A user may have only one voice, but he or she has seven votes that must be complete. Birok is not allowed.

In Philippine elections, birok is a strategy wherein a voter writes in his ballot his choice of only one or two or more of his favorite candidates but not completing the list. -

leaving blank the other spaces. This means a voter can campaign for votes for a favored candidate among friends, relatives and acquaintances but none can be tallied for the opponents.

To cast one's vote, the website to go to is www.new7wonders.com.

According to its website, The New Seven Wonders of Nature is a proposed revision of the Seven Wonders of the World, organized by a Swiss-based, non-profit corporation called New Open World Corporation. It just created a new list of man-made wonders.

The sites, it added, are selected according to a tally of around 100 million votes cast by people around the world over the Internet and by cell phone text messages.

The campaign to pick the seven new wonders was begun in 1999 by Swiss adventurer Bernard Weber. His Switzerland-based foundation, called New7Wonders, received some 200 nominations from around the world and then narrowed the list to 21 candidates for the public to vote on.

All this while, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, or UNESCO, maintains its own list of World Heritage sites and has distanced itself from the seven wonders balloting, saying it reflected only the opinion of those who voted.