

Palompon celebrates maritime heritage

Written by Administrator

Friday, 16 December 2011 21:22



Long before the arrival of Spanish colonizers, natives of the present-day town of Palompon thrived on a culture that revolved around sailing, fishing and maritime trading.

Situated on Leyte's western coast, it faces the archipelago's rich bodies of water in the Visayas and southern Luzon.

Its ideal location has endowed it with a flourishing coastal lifestyle and a maritime heritage which to date has produced intrepid seafarers which will sail the seven seas of the world.

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This centuries-old tradition takes centerstage once more as Palompon celebrates the Lawig Festival to coincide with its 227th patronal feast of St. Francis Xavier.

Palompon Mayor Ramon Oñate said that the festivity will showcase the town's natural charm and its thrust for spiritual enhance social innovation, economic progress.

He said that the fest originated from the Cebuano word for sail on, which symbolizes the town's journey to excellence in ecotourism, environmental protection and governance.

The locus of the festival is the maritime-themed float parade, street dance tilt, cultural presentations, and the search for Lawig Festival Queen which was held Dec. 2.

Oñate added that the word Lawig also stands for "Leading, Achieving, Winning, Inspiring and Glowing" which are the attributes shared by the Palompongonans.

Palompon is known for Kalanggaman Island, regarded as the "hidden gem of Eastern Visayas" because of its powdery white sandbars and crystal clear waters.

Situated between the rich seas of Cebu and Leyte, it is also a marine sanctuary because of its diverse marine life, making it an ideal snorkeling spot.

The idyllic island recently hosted the first Eastern Visayas Kayak Marathon to promote environmental protection thru eco-water sports.

Largely pristine, Palompon's other eco-adventure tourist spots are Tabuk Marine Park Fish and Bird Sanctuary, the Buenavista Underwater Caves and Mabasa Falls.

The town is also home to historic American era heritage houses, the Plaza Libertad and the St.

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Francis church.