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Catbalogan, Samar (2 October) -- Local Regional Economic Development (LRED) enthusiasts from Lopez, Quezon turned up in Catbalogan recently to emulate LRED practices.

The 38-delegation led by Mayor Isaias Ubano also visited Baybay, Ormoc and Isabel in Leyte from September 28-30.

In Catbalogan, Samar, the last leg of the local study mission, Raul Reyes, LRED Focal Person presented LRED's best practices.

Ms Rosita de Asis, President of Lopez Quezon Credit Cooperative Incorporation (LQCC!) said that LREDS success in Samar and Leyte intrigued the group.

"We came to witness, and perhaps learn a thing or two from our counterparts," the winsome lady representing the business group enthused.

Mayor Ubano told PIA that Lopez was chosen as a pilot municipality for LRED.

LRED was introduced by the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) in the Visayas as a participatory planning and implementation process wherein public and private stakeholders in a locality work together to improve conditions for economic growth and employment generation.

LRED according to DTI-Samar is one of the major interventions in the Small and Medium Enterprise Development for Sustainable Employment Program (SMEDSEP), a development cooperation project between the Philippines and Germany which aims to improve the business and investment climate for SME in the Philippines.

Although Reyes proudly presented the quick wins of Catbalogan LGU in implementing LRED, he admitted that "Catbalogan is still a work in progress."

Reyes added that with a simplified business licensing process, more businesses registered giving the needed economic boost.

Stephany Tan, the city ABC President who represented Mayor Coefredo Uy attested that his father believed in the LRED process and gave full support in the implementation of the program.

"We did not only get one idea but many ideas that we can learn in financial management," Mayor Ubano said in his 'thank u' note to the host LGU. (PIA-Samar) [/top/](#)

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