



Republic of the Philippines
City of Canlaon
CITY MAYOR'S OFFICE



STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS 2023 (Budget Message)

To the Citizens of the City of Canlaon
Members of the City Council headed by Vice Mayor Diego Santiago
Department Heads, Assistant Department Heads
Office-in-Charge
Barangay Officials
Civil Society Organizations

Greetings in the name of Serbisyon ALang sa TANAN!

This is the fifth budget message that I have prepared, and it reflects both Canlaon City's continued economic resurgence as well as the real changes affecting the livability of our neighborhoods and health of our city.

Looking back to 2019 until now, this administration was confronted with multiple challenges. As a young leader, I realized quickly, I can't do it by myself and I am thankful that I am surrounded by magnificent people, I may not mention each one of you but your presence here today speaks volume of your support. I have a great city council. We have a wonderful city staff. But, the strength of Canlaon City is the people, who constantly lift me and motivate me to do more listening than talking, to overcome challenges and perceptions, and to focus on the people that I serve.

Now, join me as I share to you the highlights of CY 2023, a result of our collaborative efforts that draw upon trust and hope from our constituency:

- The completion of the Emerging Infectious Disease Center Phase 2 and its eventual accreditation boosted our capacity to manage the community's access to quality healthcare services. Early next year, is the commencement of its phase III, bringing our aspiration to have a city-owned 50-bed capacity and operated hospital close to reality which will offer free services to indigent families who are residents of this city. This year, I requested an appointment with the Department of Health Regional Director to personally request the medical equipment such as; Economic Electric Operation Table, Mobile Digital X-ray Machine, Baby Warmer with Resuscitator, Cardiotocography (CTG) Machine, Cardiac Monitor with Pulse Oximeter High End Branded, ECG Machine with Leads, Operating Table, Infant Incubator and other needs for our own City Hospital.
- The completion of the major rehabilitation of the Canlaon City Pension House gave life to my Charter Day Celebratory speech which is to provide more function halls and name those after the city's founder and former City Mayors bringing back the glorious days of this edifice. There is also an on-going construction of an additional training center located near the City Pension House wherein TESDA trainings will be conducted there after its completion;

- Added to this, is the establishment of an Incident Control Center which the Phase 2 is currently ongoing that will serve as the nerve center for emergency response operations. It's the place where a coordinated, rapid, and effective response to any incident is strategized and executed. Then for next year, another 9.6 million is allocated for the Phase 3.
- A few steps from it is likewise the ongoing Construction of the Wet Public Market with meat shops built in accordance with National Meat Inspection Services standards; which the administration would like to appreciate the cooperation and understanding of all our market vendors in order for this improvement to be implemented.
- In relation to our tourism industry, the construction of Tourism Information Center is near to its completion which is located to our City Bus Terminal wherein tourism transactions will be done there whenever tourists arrive in our city amounting P2,231,710.00 from Growth Equity Fund. This Tourism Information Center will also serve as the Pasalubong Center consisting of all the city souvenirs and local products.
- The time has come to implement the proposed permanent housing project for the families affected by Typhoon Odette, as identified through the Post Disaster Census and Housing Needs Survey. This initiative will benefit a total of 218 residents of Canlaon City, and it is set to begin in the month of November 2023; The City allocated 20 million for the Site Development or Improvement as counterpart for the implementation of the 218 Socialized Housing with the project cost of 86 million. This is through the effort of our City Planning and Development Coordinator, Miss Doris Y. Flores.
- This year, we already signed a Memorandum of Agreement with San Carlos City Hospital that our constituents who are members of PhilHealth that are outpatients if they have laboratory requirements, they will be endorsed to Konsulta Package which is free of charge. This will ensure that in times of emergencies, effective and efficient medical services are availed by our referred patients for laboratory and radiology services;
- The LGU released livelihood assistance to 432 individuals coming from different groups such as Hog/Goat Raisers, farmer associations, overseas Filipino workers, drug surrenderers, out of school youth, small business operators and small scale industries;
- Continued recognition to our beloved 6,318 senior citizens thru giving them birthday cash gift;
- We were able to purchase school lots for Ninoy Aquino and Bayog High School;
- 667 college students received educational cash assistance from the 1st Congressional District with the total amount of P2,331,500.00 and 800 college students also received P2,500.00 from Canlaon City Gender and Development Educational Scholarship Program with the total amount of P2,000,000.00 to augment their academic necessities and;

- To fully implement RA 0093 otherwise known as the “Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000”, 2 brand new equipment, 1 brand new 6-wheelers dump truck and brand new crawler excavator in the total amount of P16.5 million is undergoing procurement for the fully operation of Sanitary Landfill;
- Purchased one (1) unit of dump truck as support to speed up the implementation of by administration Projects;
- Provided rescue vehicles to our 12 barangays from the Growth Equity Fund which was downloaded to our LGU amounting P10.4 million demonstrates our dedication to the safety and well-being of our residents. These vehicles play a vital role in emergency response, ensuring that help can reach those in need promptly. It reflects our commitment to the welfare of all Canlaon residents. *(add adlib)*
- New Patient Transport Vehicle will be purchased this year to cater our 36-dialysis patient who are scheduled twice per week for dialysis in the amount of P1.8 million.
- Provided employment opportunities to students through SPES with 462 recipients and we had 486 beneficiaries of Tulong Pangkabuhayan sa mga Displaced/Disadvantaged Workers (TUPAD);
- Accomplished in helping the repatriation of seven (7) Overseas Filipino Workers with close coordination with OWWA and the Department of Migrant Worker. Kudos to Mrs. Emelia Demafelis on this especially the assistance to 80 OFWs who experienced maltreatment and abuse through the OFW Help Desk. That’s how we care for the well-being of our constituents;
- This year, we also launched the Convergence Program in Support to the Human Resource Infrastructure Program wherein residents of Canlaon City will be competitive in any field. Currently, we have 75 graduates trained under Organic Agriculture Production NC II at Teofela’s Nature Farm-Integrated Diversified Farm, 225 graduates trained under Production on High Quality Inbred Rice, Seed Certification and Farm Mechanization, 25 graduates trained under Agro Entrepreneurship NC II at Canlaon Potatoes and Flowers Corporation, and 67 graduates trained under a 3-year diploma program at Teamskills Technological Institute, Incorporated. According to the TESDA Regional Director Ramon Evan T. Ruiz, Canlaon City is by far the only city with this initiative that’s a best practice to address the problem with unemployment and absence of livelihood development that other cities and provinces of Region VII can also implement;
- We have completed 57 projects this year such as: solar electrification, road concreting, improvement of day care centers, establishment of agricultural development centers, improvement of basketball goals, and construction of water systems while 60 projects are still on-going;

- Right now, a total of 11.85 kilometers are roads completely concreted since the start of this administration in 2019 and on 2025 we target to complete 20 kilometers focusing on the agricultural road to give our farmers ease in transporting their crops to the Uptown Public Market;
- In line with the program of our President, we counterparted fertilizers to lessen the farmers' expenses, 774 beneficiaries were provided with In-Organic Fertilizer, 566 got Hybrid Rice Seeds, and 2,460 received Certified Inbred Rice Seeds. We commend the efforts of the Office of the City Agriculturist headed by Mrs. Andrea Canoy.
- Last 2020, I shared with you quite a number of first time that took place in our city but this year there are a lot of remarkable historical events that have taken place for the first time in our beloved city of Canlaon. These milestones represent not only the progress and development of our community but also the strong spirit of unity and cooperation that defines us as a city.

1. **Sen. Francis Tolentino's Visit During the Pasayaw Festival:**

It is a great honor for Canlaon City to have hosted Senator Francis Tolentino during our Pasayaw Festival. This distinguished visit not only highlighted the cultural richness of our city but also brought a sense of recognition to our unique traditions and celebrations. During his visit, it was also the turn-over of the new fire truck with 1000 gallons capacity amounting P14 million from Bureau of Fire Protection National Headquarters. The acquisition of the new fire truck was facilitated by Sen. Francis Tolentino.

2. **Canlaon City Athletics Association:**

The first Canlaon City Athletics Association was conducted with 15 sport events that brought 272 athletes to the Central Visayas Regional Athletics Association and garnered awards in 6 sports categories. This is our commitment to promoting sports and athleticism in our city. By providing a platform for local athletes to showcase their talents, we encourage a healthy lifestyle, nurture young talents, and strengthen the community through sportsmanship.

In relation to sports, the LGU also conducted sports clinic in the field of basketball and swimming that involves values formation so that our athletes are not just good in their preferred sports but also disciplined. We thank our spiritual leaders in giving them lessons that can help shape their character, competence and faith.

3. **Commissioner of Indigenous People's Visit:**

The visit of the Commissioner of Indigenous People George Largado and Regional Director Ana Burgosto to Canlaon hold immense significance. It allowed us to engage in a meaningful dialogue about the Indigenous People's Law, reaffirming our commitment to protect the rights

and heritage of our indigenous communities. This event not only recognized the indigenous cultures within our city but also demonstrated our dedication to their welfare.

4. **Launching the BIDA Program:**

The launch of the Buhay Ingatan, Druga's Ayawan (BIDA) Program, a multisectoral campaign against illegal drugs, is a significant step in ensuring the safety and well-being of our community. This initiative underscores our determination to create a drug-free environment, where our residents can thrive without the threats posed by illegal substances. Right now, we are gearing towards a Drug-Free City and kudos to the City Anti-Drug and Abuse Council with their focal person Mrs. Charisse Cardenas.

5. **Launching a Dairy Cattle Project:**

- The dairy cattle project launch is a vital step towards agricultural diversification. P7.5 million worth of 50 dairy cattle from the National Dairy Authority under the US PL480: Dairy Cattle Farming Component was granted to this city. This initiative not only promotes sustainability but also offers economic opportunities for our local farmers. It is a testament to our commitment to bolster the agricultural sector, a cornerstone of our community's prosperity. The city is already producing our own fresh milk and other dairy products that will be used during feeding programs of our City Health Office to ensure our malnourished children will be given health attention. This would not be possible without the effort of Mr. Ted Matas, President of Canlaon Organic Farmers Association.

6. **Hosting the Ordination of Two Priests:**

- The ordination of two priests Rev. Argie Ephan Vergara and Rev. Carlo Lisondra Lumenio in Canlaon City is a spiritual milestone for our community. It symbolizes our devotion and faith, as well as the importance of nurturing spiritual leaders within our city. We are proud to be the chosen location for this sacred event, emphasizing our spiritual unity.

- These historical events that have taken place for the first time in Canlaon City are a testament to our city's resilience, progress, and commitment to our people's well-being.

It is my distinct honor as well to recognize the remarkable achievements of our beloved city in various fields, as we continue to make our mark and shine brightly on both local and national stages. These achievements are a testament to the dedication, hard work, and talent of our community.

Peace and Order

When it comes to our Peace and Order, this administration is serious in resolving crimes and arresting most wanted persons. Thus, our Canlaon City PNP ranked 1st during the Overall Ranking of the Simultaneous Anti-Criminality Law Enforcement Operations proving that the Confidential Fund was utilized properly and if necessary, will be returned. Ever since this administration started, we are the only one re-aligning the budget for Confidential Fund for the benefits of the employees. *(add adlib)*

Royalty Achievements in Halad kay Kang-Laon:

Our city was not only victorious in the arts but also in pageantry. Yzeth Mae Calumba was crowned as Diwata during the Halad kay Kang-Laon, while Gio Blanco secured the first-runner-up position as Suta sang Kanlaon 2023. Their achievements are a testament to the grace, charisma, and talent that our city's representatives possess. Further, Canlaon City was also the 1st of the Booth Fair Competition. Out of the 6 participating Local Government Units, Canlaon City was the overall champion. Thanks to Ms. Jane Francis J. Cardenas for being hands on during these events.

Blood Service Award and Certificate of Excellence:

Canlaon City demonstrated its generosity and commitment to saving lives by winning the Plaque of Silver Blood Service Award and Certificate of Excellence for the Highest Overall Blood Collection in the year 2022 in the entire Province of Negros Oriental. The collection of 367 bags of blood is a true reflection of our community's willingness to make a difference.

This city also made an initiative to have a Memorandum of Agreement between the Philippine Red Cross so that our constituents who are patients that needed blood can automatically avail.

Triumph at the Buglasan Festival of Festivals:

Canlaon City stood out at the Buglasan Festival of Festivals Competition, earning several accolades including Champion, Best in Costume, Best in Choreography, and Best Choreographer. We also clinched the 2nd Place on the Booth Contest and Float Competition, showcasing our city's vibrant culture and creativity. Yzeth also made us proud by securing the 3rd Runner-Up position during the Search for Miss Negros Oriental 2023.

Shevyl Morte's victory as Gandang NegOrense Tourism 2023, and John Avila's impressive achievement as one of the top 12 contestants among 27 in Hari ng Negros 2023.

My salute to all the people behind this success particularly the Canlaon City Tourism Unit led by the Tourism Officer-Designate Jane Francis Cardenas together with the staff, choreographers, trainers, musicians, writers, consultants, special casts, contingent managers, handlers, dance masters, Department of Education Division of Canlaon City and Saint Joseph College Inc. for allowing their students to be excused in their classes. Relative to this victory, our Pasayaw Festival is invited to the Sinulog Festival on January 2024. *(add adlib)*

National Recognition for Desiree May Opsima and Jay Louie Jarbonido:

Desiree May Opsima made us all proud by being crowned as Miss Homeland 2023 Pageant on the national level stage. Her grace and poise reflect the beauty and elegance that Canlaon City embodies. While Jay Louie was crowned as Mr. Global World International 2022 during the Search for Mr. Homeland 2022.

Excellence in Local Civil Registration:

Our Local Civil Registrar, headed by Ma'am Marife Eleco, deserves special recognition for achieving the Circle of Excellence for five consecutive years. They have consistently ranked in the top 2 for the large category nationwide, with 370 local civil registrars to compete against. This recognition speaks volumes about their dedication and efficiency in providing vital services to our community.

Recognition of the Canlaon City Local Youth Development Council:

The Canlaon City Local Youth Development Council was honored as one of the most active LYDCs in the entire Negros Island, receiving the award for Community Exemplar during the Negros Young Heroes Awarding Gawad Parangal ng Kabataan. This recognition is a testament to the active involvement and commitment of our youth to the betterment of our city. This was led by our youth advocate, Miss Edna Lhou P. Masicampo.

These achievements reflect not only the individual talents but also the collective spirit and unity of Canlaon City.

As we look to the future in 2024, this is our spending power:

Personal Services	280, 208, 534.00
MOOE	188, 244, 124.00
Capital Outlay	22,050,000.00
Statutory Obligations:	
Debt Servicing	2,000,000.00
Budgetary Requirements:	
20% Development Fund	138,023,514.00
5% LDRRM Fund	38, 125, 164.00
Aid to Barangays	240,000.00
Others:	
Miscellaneous & Personal Benefits Fund	13,000,000.00
Gender and Development (GAD)	38,125,164.00
Senior Citizens and Differently-Abled Persons	7,625,033.00
Local Council for the Protection of Children	7, 163,033.00
Subsidy to City Schools Interim Division	<u>2, 500,000.00</u>
Total	PhP 737,304,566.00

In our 2024 Annual Performance Budget, all social services are perpetuated to multitude of programs, including education, healthcare, and more through the continued financial, medical, burial and educational assistance. These services touch the lives of countless individuals and families, providing essential support and opportunities for those who may be vulnerable, marginalized, or facing various forms of adversity.

The basic facilities and services such as establishment of water system with sufficient water supply and solar-driven street lightings in the barangays are significantly included in the 2024 Annual Performance Budget.

The year 2024 will witness an extraordinary acceleration in the speed of implementation and the efficient utilization of funds through projects such as:

- The renovation of our old cultural center, slated to commence next year, which will be transformed into a talent hub for the children and the youth of our city. This renovation project is not merely about modernizing a building; it's about creating a space where our children and youth can discover and develop their talents, enhancing their skills in a nurturing and inspiring environment.

- We allocated the amount of 20 million for land banking for future projects and infrastructures of the city.

- With regards to our tourism, next year, we will be initiating the proposed construction of the 360 Degree Viewdecks offer visitors breathtaking panoramic views of the Rice Terraces located at Sitio Kalubihan, Barangay Linothangan. This not only attracts tourists but also provides a memorable experience while the environmental condition of the area is maintained, encouraging them to return and recommend the destination to others. A comfortable environment with amenities like comfort rooms enhances the overall visitor experience.

- Added to that, is the construction of Elevated Pedestrian Pathway leading to the viewdecks ensures safe and easy access for tourists. It prevents accidents, especially in hilly or uneven terrain, and accommodates people with varying levels of mobility, making the site more inclusive.

These are not only investments in infrastructure but also in the overall well-being of the community. They have the potential to boost the local economy, promote environmental and cultural awareness, and create a safer and more accessible tourist destination. These projects are essential in attracting visitors, providing them with a positive experience, and benefiting the community in various ways.

In relation to the Cattle Project, the city allocated 8 million for the Milk Processing Center that will be able to produce more dairy products that are safe and would greatly benefit the health of our constituents.

The Local Government Unit of Canlaon will also sign a Memorandum of Agreement with the Local Government Unit of San Carlos City wherein the amount of P500,000.00 as trust fund for the payment of hospital bills and fees for patients endorsed through referral slip for medical assistance by our LGU.

Today, I am thrilled to announce our future plan to conduct free Golden Marriage Ceremonies starting this month of December for those couples who have been married for 50 years or more.

To qualify for this special celebration, couples must provide their marriage contract as proof of their enduring commitment. This event will be a touching celebration of not only the love between two individuals but also the countless memories, sacrifices, and shared moments that have shaped the lives of these couples. *(add adlib)*

On the other hand, I want to congratulate the newly elected Barangay Officials and Sangguniang Kabataan officials. As you take on these important roles, it is vital to remember that public service knows no political boundaries. I encourage you to rise above political differences and prioritize the welfare of our constituents. Together, you can drive the progress and development that your barangay deserves.

As your Mayor, my commitment to Canlaon City is unwavering. I am here to serve, to lead, and to work tirelessly to ensure that our city continues to flourish. We have set ambitious goals, and together, we will reach them. We will build a city where every resident has the opportunity to thrive, where our schools provide quality education, where our streets are safe, and where our local businesses flourish.

But, we cannot do this alone. Your involvement and engagement are crucial. Your ideas, your concerns, and your voices matter. Our city is not just a place on the map; it's a community of people who care for one another, who support one another, and who work together to create a better tomorrow.

I want to leave you with the belief that our city's best days are yet to come. We have a bright future ahead, filled with opportunities, progress, and a strong sense of community. I am honored to serve as your Mayor, and I am excited about what we can achieve more together.

Thank you for being here today, for being part of this incredible journey, and for your dedication to our beloved city.

SALTA, Canlaon!

JOSE CHUBASCO B. CARDENAS

City Mayor