Amidst the pandemic, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) Leyte Provincial Statistical Office conducted the 2020 Census of Population from September 1-30, 2020 pursuant to Batas Pambansa Blg. 72, Executive Order No. 32, and Republic Act 10625. A total of 2,371 hired fieldmen were deployed to 43 municipalities of Leyte to interview all households and institutional population to count all members and determine their respective demographics and socio-economic characteristics.

Among the total manpower, 1,914 were enumerators, 361 were team supervisors, 78 were Census Area Supervisors and 18 were regular staff of the Office which served as Head Census Area Supervisors.

Prior to above enumeration period, 6-day trainings in all cities/municipalities were administered in order to fully equip the CPH Manpower with the right concepts and rules governing the conduct of the census. The trainings were conducted in strict adherence to the COVID-19 precautionary measures.

PSA Leyte starts Philippine ID System Implementation

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) Leyte Provincial Statistical Office started its implementation of the Philippine Identification System (Philsys) in July 2020 in coordination with 30 Local Government Units (LGU) in the province who served as pilot areas for said operation.

These cities/municipalities include: Abuyog, Alangalang, Albuera, Babatngon, Barugo, Bato, Burauen, Calubian, Capoocan, Carigara, City of Hilongos, Isabel, Jaro, Javier, Kananga, Leyte, Mahaplag, Matalom, Mayorga, Merida, Ormoc City, Palo, Baybay, City of Tacloban, Dagami, Dulag, Ormoc City, Palo, Baybay, City of Tacloban, Dagami, Dulag, Ormoc City, Palo,
The major challenge for this operation was the occurrence of lockdowns in some barangays due to existence of people infected with the COVID-19 virus. Another was the risk faced by the field workers in doing house to house interview. Although there are other ways to interview the households like through the use of Self-Administered Questionnaire (SAQ), over-the-phone interview or Paper-Assisted Telephone Interview (PATI), or the Computer-Assisted Web Interview (CAWI), face-to-face interview was still the best among them.

The Office ensured that all personnel deployed to the field were COVID-free and were all following government health protocols like wearing face masks and face shields and practicing physical distancing.

There were also times that some of the workforce are being quarantined because they have contact with persons exposed to COVID-19 positive patients. Fortunately, nobody was reported to have been infected with the virus for all swab tests of the personnel yielded negative.

Indeed, the census operation was very risky for the fieldmen of PSA because they are like soldiers in the battlefield in which the survival is not certain. Moreover, most of the respondents are quite hesitant to be interviewed because of the COVID-19 threat.

However, through the efforts of all involved, all cities/municipalities of the province were interviewed and there was no one left behind.

The 2020 CPH is a nationwide government undertaking that involves the collection, compilation, evaluation, analysis, publication, and dissemination of data on population count, housing, household and barangay characteristics. It is the 15th census of population and 7th census of housing in the Philippines.

It aims to provide the government planners, policy makers, and administrators with population and housing data as basis for crafting of social and economic development plans, policies and programs for better service delivery and improved quality of life of the Filipino people.

The national ID or PhilSys is a platform to transform and streamline how services are delivered. The purpose is to establish a single Philippine Identification System for all citizens and resident aliens of the Republic of the Philippines for easier accessibility and application for eligibility to social welfare programs and benefits from the government.

Republic Act No. 11055, otherwise known as the “Philippine Identification System Act” was signed into law by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte on 06 August 2018. This mandates the PSA to be the implementing agency of the PhilSys and the creation of the PhilSys Policy and Coordination Council (PSPCC) to formulate policies and guidelines to ensure effective implementation of the PhilSys. Its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) was approved by the member-agencies of the PSPCC on 05 October 2018 and was published in Daily Tribune on 06 October 2018.
Leyte’s inflation rate rises to 1.3 percent in September 2020

The Inflation rate of Leyte maintained to 1.3 percent in September 2020.

Meanwhile, the region’s inflation rate decreased by 0.5 percentage point from 2.3 percent in August 2020 to 1.8 percent during the reference month. In comparison, the inflation rate of Leyte was lower than the region’s rate during the reference month.

Nine (9) major commodity groups contributed to the 1.3 percent overall inflation rate (IR) in Leyte. This includes Alcoholic beverages and tobacco (4.8 percent); Recreation and culture (3.9 percent); Restaurant and miscellaneous goods and services (2.5 percent); Furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house (1.8 percent); Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels (1.7 percent); Clothing and Footwear (1.4 percent); Food and non-alcoholic beverages (1.3 percent); Health (1.2 percent); and Transport (0.7 percent).

Communication and Education with 0.0 percent inflation rate during reference month showed no changes on its year-on-year CPI.

Seven major commodity groups showed no increase in its August 2020 and September 2020 inflation rates: Alcoholic beverages and tobacco; Recreation and culture; Clothing and footwear; Food and non-alcoholic beverages; Health; Communication; and Education.

Moreover, three major commodity group posted an increment on its month-month inflation rate. Transport posted the biggest increase with 0.9 percentage point, from -0.2 percent in August 2020 to 0.7 percent in September 2020. This was followed by Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels with 0.4 percentage point, from 1.3 percent to 1.7 percent; and Restaurant and miscellaneous goods and services with 0.2 percentage point, from 2.3 percent in August 2020 to 2.5 percent in September 2020.

Meanwhile, only Furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house posted a decrease inflation rate during the reference month with 0.4 percentage point, from 2.2 percent in August 2020 to 1.8 percent in September 2020.

Purchasing Power of Peso (PPP) remains at 81 centavos in September 2020

The Purchasing Power of Peso (PPP) in Leyte sustained at 81 centavos since January 2020.

Similarly, the PPP in the region was retained since December 2019.

This purchasing power of the peso indicates that the same basket of goods and services worth 81 pesos in 2012 (base year) is worth 100 pesos during the reference period.
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BUILDING CONSTRUCTION STATISTICS
IN LEYTE, SECOND QUARTER 2020

Leyte’s approved building constructions declines to 38 in 2020 second quarter

During the second quarter of 2020, total number of approved building constructions in Leyte recorded at 38. This indicates a 94.5 percent decrease from the 691 registered constructions during the same quarter in 2019.

All types of building constructions in the second quarter of 2020 substantially dropped its number. Residential types of building constructions decreased by 93.7 percent from 447 during the second quarter in 2019 to 28 in the current year. This notable decrease was triggered by the none application of duplex, quadruplex, apartment, accessoria and other similar types of residential building. Moreover, non-residential type of building recorded at 5 approved applications in the second quarter of 2020. The number was 96.5 percent lower compared to 142 approved building constructions in the same quarter last year. This was due to the minimal number of applications of major types of non-residential building constructions. Additions, alterations and repairs with a total number of 5 approved applications during the second quarter of 2020 dropped by 95.1 percent from 102 recorded in the second quarter of 2019.

Total value of building constructions in Leyte plunges to P47.3 million

Total value of building constructions in Leyte during the second quarter of 2020 decreased by 97.7 percent from 2.1 billion in the second quarter of 2019 to P47.3 million in the second quarter of 2020.

All types of building constructions decreased its total number and value during the second quarter of 2020. Non-residential type of building constructions decreased by 99.3 percent from P950.7 million in 2019 to P7.0 million in the second quarter of 2020. Meanwhile, residential type of building also declined its value by 96.9 percent from P977.4 million during the second quarter last year to P30.8 million in 2020. Similarly, additions, alterations and repairs also decreased to P9.6 million during the second quarter of 2020 from P152.9 million during the same quarter of 2019.

Average cost per square meter of residential building construction values at P8,527

Average cost per square meter of residential constructions posted at P8,527 during the second quarter of 2020. The value indicates a minimal decrease of 1.5 percent from P8,660 cost per square meter during the same quarter last year.

Single type of residential building valued at P8,527 cost per square meter in the second quarter of 2020, decreased by 6.4 percent from the average cost of P9,115 per square meter in 2019.

No data recorded for the average cost per square meter of the other two major types of residential building constructions due to no approved application for those types of building during the reference quarter.