**PROFILE**

City Mayor Joseph George Legayada – Lechonsito, MD, DPA was born on July 31, 1966.

He completed his elementary education, with honors and as Student Council Officer, at the Notre Dame of Tacurong Grade School.

In 1983, he graduated high school from the Notre Dame of Tacurong for Boys as a First Honorable Mention, as a recipient of the Gerry Roxas Leadership Award, and as President of the Supreme Student Council.

Mayor Lechonsito went on to study Bachelor of Science in Biological Studies at the West Visayas State University where he graduated in 1987. He graduated to be a Doctor of Medicine at the University of Perpetual Help College of Medicine in 1993.

He then continued to specialize as an Anesthesiologist at the Cotabato Regional and Medical Center from 1996 to 1999.

In pursuit of continuing knowledge in medicine, he graduated with a degree in Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Dr. Domingo B. Tamondong Memorial Hospital and College Foundation Inc. in 2003.

His first foray into politics was in 2004 when he was elected for the first time as a city councilor in the City of Tacurong.

In 2013, he was elected as the city vice mayor. He served for two terms, from 2013 to 2019.

During his tenure in the legislative, he continued his education with a Masters in Development Management and Governance at the PCL Academy, University of Makati in 2013.

He also finished a Doctor in Public Administration at the PCL - Legislative Academy in Lyceum Northwestern University, Dagupan City in 2015.

As a city councilor, Mayor Lechonsito initiated some key legislations, some of which are:

Institutionalization of the City Community Volunteer Health Workers/Barangay Health Workers Tacurong City Chapter (2014).

Enactment of the Health and Sanitation Code of the City of Tacurong (2015).

Enactment of the Rabies Prevention and Control Ordinance of the City of Tacurong (2015).

Institutionalization of the Annual Surgical and Medical Mission Program of the City of Tacurong.

Mayor Lechonsito was also instrumental in the conduct of the annual Free "Operation Tuli" in the city.

He also sought out funds for dengue and anti-rabies services of the LGU, and he spearheaded most free medical/surgical and dental missions in the city in cooperation with various medical associations.

The elderly is also close to the mayor's heart. He initiated the medical mission dubbed "Senior Citizens Database Profiling" where a database recording, medical consultations and laboratory examinations are given to the elderly in all barangays of the city.

Aside from free medical services, Mayor Lechonsito also played a principal role in the initiation of the grant of PDAF or Priority Development Assistance Fund to three tertiary level medical centers namely SPMC in Davao City, Cotabato Regional and Medical Center in Cotabato City, and Tamondong Memorial Clinic in Esperanza, Sultan Kudarat. In these hospitals, Tacurongnon patients can avail of discounted CT scans, admissions, laboratory tests, and other hospital services.

As a result, Mayor Lechonsito was instrumental in the city's achievement of a GRAND SLAM win in the Champions for Health Governance award, wherein the city won in 2015, 2017, and 2019. This award is given to LGUs that have excellent health governance and programs that contribute to the achievement of universal health care for all Filipinos.

Aside from his health advocacies, Mayor Lechonsito was also tireless in finding educational funds and opportunities for the youth of the city. He partnered with CHED to offer scholarship grants and assistance to Tacurongnon students.

His hard work and dedicated leadership resulted in the Sangguniang Panlungsod's award as an Outstanding Component City in the Region for four consecutive terms by the Local Legislative Award of the DILG; the most recent was given in November 2018.

Mayor Lechonsito has also held positions in various organizations in the country, some of which include:

National Chairperson — Philippine Councilors League - Committee on Health, 2010 - 2013;

National Vice Chairperson — Philippine Councilors League - Committee on Health, 2007 - 2010;

Vice Chairperson — Coalition Against Tuberculosis, SOCSKSSARGEN Region

Fellow — Zuellig Family Foundation

President — Philippine Medical Association - Sultan Kudarat Medical Society, 2020 - 2022;

Regional Vice Chairperson — Vice Mayor's League of the Philippines - Region XII, 2013 - 2019;

In the May 9, 2022 national and local elections, Mayor Lechonsito won the city's highest elected post. Bringing with him over a decade of leadership experience, the first time mayor promised Tacurongnons, "I will give the kind of government you deserve, with no less than my blood, toil, sweat, and tears."