

Walking the Extra Mile For
The Youth of Puerto Galera



The Puerto Galera Fortnightly JOURNAL

Volume 4 No. 7 November 16-30, 2006 Issue A PGOnline Publication

The Conquest of Puerto Galera

by Noe Lineses

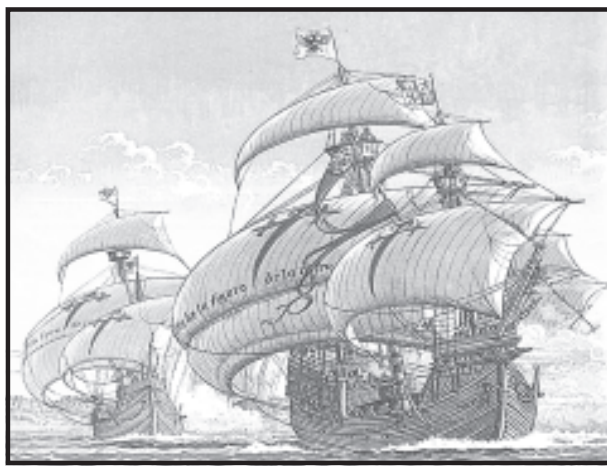
Second of Two Parts

The Spaniards were thrilled to go to the place they would later call Puerto de Galera; they wanted to see the strong fort that the people of Baco said to them.

Hernando Riquel, tasked to record the expedition, wrote: "Departing from the river of Baco in the morning, the Spaniards arrived, by noon, at the town of Mindoro, which is an excellent seaport."

Riquel described Minolo and the people they called Moros (Muslims) as follows: "The harbor has only one entrance. Its waters beat against a hill which is the first and the smallest of a chain of three hills overlooking the port. The other two hills are very craggy and thus form a defense to the pass for the natives. Many armed Moros appeared on the first hill—bowmen, lancers, and some gunners, linstocks in hand.

All along the hillside stood a large number of culverins. The foot of the hill was fortified by a stone wall over fourteen feet



The Spaniards called this place Puerto de Galera or Port of the Galley (not Port of the Galleon). But many galleons did come to Puerto Galera on their way from Manila to Acapulco.

thick."

The Moros were well attired after their fashion, and wore showy head-dresses, of many colors, turned back over their heads. Many of them were beating drums, blowing horns made from shells, and ringing bells."

Another account pegged the number of inhabitants to around 400 which disappointed the Spaniards as they thought they would see a big kingdom.

Riquel wrote: "The master-of-camp arrived with his ship, ahead of the oared paraos. When the first parao arrived, he embarked in it with the interpreter, and a recently-converted Moro, who served as guide.

With only these men, and one soldier armed with a shield, the master-of-camp advanced toward the Moro fort.

He reached the foot of the hill, without allowing any others to follow him; and, being unable to proceed any further on account of its steepness, he summoned from above two Moros, to treat for peace.

There seemed to be a difference of opinion among the Moros, as was gathered from their demeanor, for some made gestures of war, and others of peace, some of them even going so far as to throw a few stones and level the culverins.

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Mayor to enforce one-point of entry ordinance

IF MAYOR TEO Atienza will be true to his word then come December 13 passenger vessels must all dock at Balatero port.

In his letter to the Puerto Galera Business Development Association (PGBDA) dated November 14, the Mayor is "giving all vessels 30 days" to comply with Municipal Ordinance 05-06 commonly known as the One-Point of Entry Ordinance.

Mayor Atienza said that "this (directive) is in connection with the letter of the Vice Mayor challenging this office to implement" the ordinance.

The Mayor also met with

some shipping owners to tell them that he will implement the ordinance after receiving the Vice Mayor's letter.

Vice Mayor Johnny Ascan wrote to inform the Mayor that the Sangguniang Panlalawigan (provincial board) has already approved the ordinance and that it now awaits enforcement by the Mayor.

Vice Mayor's letter

In his letter, last November 9, the Vice Mayor narrated the sequence of events leading to the approval of the ordinance saying that the Mayor was the proponent of the ordinance.

The Vice Mayor wrote: "All the people who supported and spent time for this ordinance expect that after it has been approved and realized then you (the Mayor) will implement it. As proof of this, last year you submitted to the Sangguniang Bayan (town council) the Executive Budget or proposed budget for 2006, you suggested an income of 7 million pesos from terminal fees. We crossed this out as we were unsure (at that time) if the ordinance (MO 05-06) will be approved (by the provincial board)."

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Commentary on the one-point of entry ordinance

THE ONE-POINT of entry issue is again the headline. Mayor Teo Atienza announced he will implement the ordinance which means all vessels coming from Batangas will all have to dock at Balatero Port.

This issue according to Vice Mayor Johnny Ascan started more than 6 years ago and it was only last month when the Provincial Board approved the one-point of entry ordinance.

The Mayor knows many

community leaders and business groups are determined to fight the ordinance. And since the Mayor reportedly said he would run for Vice Mayor, it would be a huge political gamble to implement the ordinance now, barely 6 months away from the next election. Understandably, people thought the Mayor will not enforce the new law.

The Fortnightly has written numerous articles about the pros and cons of this issue. Let

us once more examine the ordinance.

The title of Municipal Ordinance No. 05-06 is "An Ordinance Declaring the Municipality of Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro to Have a One Point of Entry and Exit for All Vessels Plying the Route Batangas-Puerto Galera."

Note that the title says all vessels, meaning all kinds of sea vessels including so-called

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Commentary on the Environmental User Fee

It will be difficult for any councilor seeking re-election not to ignore the call of White Beach business owners to junk the Environmental User Fee (EUF) ordinance.

One speaker in the November 9 public hearing even said that White Beach votes will not be favorable to those who shall support the EUF.

But what made the San Isidro Business and Resort Owners Association (SIBROA) take a hard-line stance on the EUF which was meant to pay for environmental and tourism projects?

Leny del Mundo, president of the San Isidro Beach Resort Owners Association or SIBROA, said that they are against the EUF because "the ordinance might be bad for Puerto Galera." When asked why it would be bad for Puerto, she said "that the project that the EUF will be funding might be a burden to the people later on."

She was referring to the proposed Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) of Sabang which

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Mayor to enforce one-point... from p. 1

The Vice Mayor added: "The matter of this ordinance started in your first term as Mayor of this town (1998-2001). At that time, you instructed the Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator to coordinate with the town council to amend the Municipal Profile and Comprehensive Development Plan of Puerto Galera, page 40, paragraph 7. This was meant to designate a one-point of entry for this town but this was not carried out.

The Vice Mayor said: "This plan was resurrected during your second term (2001-2004). Because of your continued insistence, the Council came up with draft Municipal Ordinance 02-06 which was intended to amend the said Municipal Profile regarding the one-point of entry issue. A public hearing was conducted where most of those who attended were against the proposed ordinance. The report of the Committee on Ordinances and Legal Matters put an end to this after the said committee rejected the proposed ordinance. Almost all has forgotten about this (one-point of entry) issue."

The Vice Mayor wrote: "And in your last term (2004-2007) we have finally realized this much desired ordinance. Three years ago, you again approached and requested the Council to come up with the ordinance, and to comply with

your request, the Council, in spite of the (political) danger, threat and difficulties, was able to get this law realized."

"Our people are waiting for your ability to implement this ordinance," said the Vice Mayor.

Editorial: Real score

What made the Vice Mayor write this letter?

Pundits say that this was not only because of the non-enforcement of the ordinance but mostly to tell all that the Mayor was a key player in the passage of the ordinance.

The Vice Mayor might have felt that the Mayor is trying to alienate himself from the issue.

The single point of entry issue had caused a huge uproar amongst the people of Sabang and White Beach (San Isidro) especially the business sector.

The PGBDA is one of many organizations who have vowed to fight the implementation of the ordinance.

Mayor Atienza who reportedly said he will run for Vice Mayor in the May 2007 polls needs the support of the business community to win, possibly against Vice Mayor Ascan.

The Vice Mayor and the Mayor had been at odds for many months now and the recent reversal by the Council of a Mayor's veto may have further strained the relationship.

In his letter to the PGBDA, the Mayor is probably saying

that he is being forced to enforce the law, and that the Vice Mayor is to blame for this contentious ordinance.

Whether the people will believe this is another question.

Rockey Ilagan of Father and Son Shipping Lines said that "the Mayor is trying to wash his hands."

"We are not stupid. We know that the Mayor is the one behind this ordinance."

Asked whether they will comply with the Mayor's directive, Ilagan said they will not dock at Balatero "because we have an existing CPC (Certificate of Public Conveyance) with MARINA (Maritime Industry Authority)."

Under the CPC, both the port of origin and port of destination of passenger vessels are stated.

"We will only follow MARINA if they alter our CPC and not the Mayor," said Ilagan.

The San Isidro Beach Resort Owners Association (SIBROA) said they will join the PGBDA and the shipping companies in securing a TRO (Temporary Restraining Order) once the Mayor implements the ordinance. SIBROA believes that Balatero pier is not yet ready to handle all the vessels.

"There is also no sufficient parking space and comfort rooms. The safety of the pier during stormy conditions is also a grave concern."

Commentary on the one-point of entry ... from p.1

taxi bancas, private vessels and even yachts. There are no exceptions, no exemptions, so even the vessels of the Locsins and the Zobels, must first dock at Balatero port.

The authors of the ordinance cited health and security concerns as the primary reasons for the centralization of the entry points in Balatero pier.

The Council declared that "checking the entry of illegal drugs and prevention of terrorist attack" can be achieved by having a single pier. The Council also said that "spread of any highly communicable disease such as bird flu, meningo, SARS can be easily monitored" at one pier only.

But Roger Bigler of Portofino Resort said that such argument would be "meaningless."

Bigler wrote in his letter to the Council that "there would be no increase in security or health protection" if there is no infrastructure present, planned or budgeted for checking treating or quarantine of any suspected carrier of disease.

As to the terrorist threat, Bigler added, "any self-respecting terrorist would have the ease of finding 1000 ways of entering Puerto Galera with his contraband and destructive weapons without going through an established inspection station."

Councilor Berting Macatangay, staunch ally of Mayor Teo Atienza, is the main author of the

ordinance. The authors were once asked if there was a feasibility study and the reply just like the ordinance seems lacking in form and spirit.

The ordinance has only 5 sections. Section 1 is the declaratory provision making Balatero port as the only point of entry and exit for all vessels coming from Batangas.

Section 2 is the penal provision stating that "any shipping lines violating this ordinance shall be fined 2,500 for the first offense; revocation of the Mayor's Permit to operate for the second offense; and imprisonment of the boat owner and ship captain for the third offense upon the discretion of the court."

Notice how the ordinance becomes confusing. First, they say this was for all vessels, and then on the penal provision, they will only punish the shipping companies.

The remaining sections, Repealing Clause, Separability Clause and Effectivity Clause, are standard provisions of an ordinance.

There are no regulatory provisions, no definition of terms, no exemptions, and no policy declaration. In other words, the ordinance was not well-written, technically speaking. It also ignores the many questions associated with this very complicated, very divisive, very controversial issue. We seriously doubt whether this ordinance can truly be implemented.

PGBDA asks Council to suspend one-point of entry ordinance

The Puerto Galera Business Development Association (PGBDA) is asking the Sangguniang Bayan to defer the implementation of the one-point of entry ordinance.

In a letter, last November 18, PGBDA President Kit Garong and Secretary Kido Kalaw said that implementing the ordinance "will bring confusion and inconvenience" to tourists and a resulting drop in the collection of revenues from tourism.

Garong also said that there will be legal challenges raised against the government by the affected sector like the resorts, dive shops and shipping companies.

Councilor Raffy Cataquis said that the Council will tackle the request of the PGBDA on their session on November 22.

He added that he will study whether the Council should make a resolution requesting the Mayor to defer the enforcement of the ordinance.

Councilor Cataquis said if there will be a resolution it will be based on 3 reasons: (1) the Executive must first make the Implementing Rules and Regulations, (2) clarification from the Maritime Industry Authority on the scheduling of trips, (3) and whether or not the status of the facilities in Balatero would be adequate to the huge influx of passengers.

Town officials visits wind farm

Vice Mayor Juan Ascan Jr. led town officials who travelled more than 700 kilometers to Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte to visit the site of the Philippines' first wind energy project last Nov 9.

Philippine Hybrid Energy System, Inc (PHESI) sponsored the study trip.

PHESI is asking for a resolution from the Town Council to endorse their 1.7-billion peso wind power project in Tabinay which is similar to the Pagudpud wind farm.

A reliable source said that the Council will endorse the project.



Town officials on their study tour in Pagudpud Wind Farm, see no problem with similar PHESI power project in Tabinay.

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The Conquest of Puerto Galera ... from p. 1

On the whole, they were not very anxious to fight.

Meanwhile, the master-of-camp was so near them that they could have spit on him. All the Spaniards had already disembarked, and stood at a harquebus-shot from the master-of-camp. The latter was so anxious to win over those Moros and gain their confidence, because they exhibited fear, that he wished to climb the hill on all fours to reach them; but his companions dissuaded him from this.

At this time Captain Juan de Salcedo, the sergeant-major, the high constable, and the ensign-major, came up; and the master-of-camp, the captain, and the officials were assembled there, with but one soldier, for the master-of-camp would not allow the others to advance."

The Spaniards brought a guide from Baco who was known to the people of Puerto Galera. Riquel wrote: "The Moros having seen the peaceful attitude of our people, one of them descended the hill, almost on all fours. Our Moro guide advanced toward him; but, on account of the great steepness of the hill, he had to be helped up by the other Moro.

After they had seen and recognized each other, and after the customary embrace and kiss, they descended to the master-of-camp.

Martin de Goite told the Moro who had come down, through the interpreter that he need not fear; for he had not come to harm them, but to seek their friendship. The Moro carried the message to the others upon the hill, and a chief came down; and, upon reaching the master-of-camp, said that he and the entire town wished to be his friends, and to help the Spaniards with whatever they possessed.

The master-of-camp answered that the proposition was acceptable; whereupon the Moro chief asked him to withdraw from that place—saying that, after they had withdrawn, he would come to treat of friendship and of what was to be given."

The following will describe how the Spaniards scared the people into submission, Riquel wrote: "The master-of-camp, in order to please the chief, agreed to this; and told the chief that he was going to review his men, and that he should not be offended when he should hear

harquebus-shots and the noise of artillery.

Accordingly, he withdrew to the place where his men were drawn up in order, and there a fine review took place—the company closing ranks in such perfect order that both the friendly Indians (who came with us) and the Moros on the hill were greatly frightened.

The master-of-camp ordered that the cannon amidship on the large vessel be fired.

The review had not yet ended when a Moro came with 60 gold taels (nearly 3 kilos), which he gave to the master-of-camp—asking him not to be offended if the gift were not brought quickly, because the people had dispersed through fear, and therefore it could not be collected so soon; but he promised that they would raise the amount to 400 taels (18 kilos).

The master-of-camp received this gold, and had it placed in a small box, the key of which he gave to the Moro, telling him to keep it until the promise was fulfilled; but to consider that after treason nothing could be more blameworthy than falsehood."

Riquel wrote: "The Moro

salaamed low, and said that he would not lie, and that they would fulfill their promise, little by little. And so they did, for, on that same day, four more messengers came with gold; and all entreated and begged the master-of-camp not to be offended at the delay, if there should be any. With these flatteries and promises the Moros detained us about 5 days, during which time we had friendly dealings and intercourse with them, although they mistrusted us to a certain extent.

They had already abandoned the first town on the shore and had withdrawn to a hill about two hundred paces away. There most of them had taken their wives, children, and part of their goods, although the best part of their property was kept farther inland. This hill was so well fortified by nature, that, had it not been for the two ladders, which the Moros kept in two places, one could have ascended it only with wings.

Notwithstanding all these difficulties, our Spaniards paid them friendly visits. On this little fortified spot the Moros had built their huts, as high as Mexican market-tents. They resembled a crowd of children

with their holiday toys. During these five days, the Moros had, little by little, given 200 taels (9 kilos) of impure gold, for they possess great skill in mixing it with other metals. They give it an outside appearance so natural and perfect, and so fine a ring, that unless it is melted they can deceive all men, even the best of silversmiths."

While in this port of Mindoro the master-of-camp sought information concerning the distance to Manila

Riquel wrote: "Our interpreter disagreed with the Moros of Mindoro as to the number of days it would take; but they all agreed that it was far, and that perhaps the weather would not permit us to sail thither.

The natives of Mindoro added also that the Spaniards were crazy to go to Manila with so small a force and that they pitied us. They recounted so many wonders of Manila that their tales seemed fabulous; they said that there were very large oared boats, each carrying 300 rowers, besides the warriors; that the people were well armed and excellent bowmen; that the ships were well



Route taken by the Spaniards on their way to Manila

equipped with artillery, both large and small; and that any one of those vessels could attack two paraos, and sink them when within range. With these accounts the Moros tried to discourage the Spaniards; but the more they attempted to frighten them with such things the more desirous they all became to set foot in Manila. In view of this, the master-of-camp did not wait for the full payment of what the Moros had promised; but, warning them to have the remainder ready upon his return; he left them on friendly terms, and set out to Manila with all his men." (Source: *Relacion de las Yslas Filipinas*, H. Riquel, The Phil. Islands, Blair and Robertson)



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Noe Lineses SILVER BULLET

Teo everywhere and two more

I have been advised not to write ill of powerful men in so many words so many times. But again, this time, let me write about something I am not in agreement with the Mayor of Puerto Galera.

I will try to be subtle as much as can be on the issue of the strange markers on houses in Puerto Galera.

Why must the Mayor allow his name to be inscribed together with the house number on every house in all barangays?

To many foreigners, this is utterly preposterous. Tourist might mistake Mayor Aristeo Atienza as the owner of every house in Puerto Galera.

In the Philippines, politicians from national to local officials see nothing wrong in plastering one's name in all projects funded by public funds. Whether it is a building, a vehicle, railings and now, a house marker, our breed of politicians will find all reasons to inscribe, attach, paste, post and place their names so the public may forever be in their debt for projects the public spent for. Seeing their names and pictures, yes even photos, displayed everywhere are a source of great joy to them.

A shrink would have another term for this.

What happens to the markers when the Mayor's term ends? The next Mayor will most likely detach, remove, erase and destroy all traces of his predecessor from the memory of the public.

The government spent more than 400,000 pesos for the Teo Atienza house numbering markers. Each household paid 200 pesos per marker. They would have to pay for new markers once Teo is no longer the Mayor. If it was only the number as it should have been, then it would not have been a total waste of money.

The house numbering project is a good project minus the name of the Mayor on every marker.

There are quite a number of us who didn't get our houses marked. And yet the postman still delivers the mail...

Sangguniang Bayan Secretary Leo Persia is again on a fighting mood. He had filed several cases against Mayor Teo Atienza and now comes a letter to the Sangguniang Bayan requesting the august body to investigate one structure in the Balete plaza.

Persia surmise that the structure is an eatery. He said that no person can use any part of the plaza until the Sangguniang Bayan pass an ordinance giving authority to the Mayor to lease out spaces, stalls and structures owned by the government. The Sanggunian, Persia added, has not given any right for any person to use the plaza for commercial purposes.

Hmmm if this is true, then it would also be true to the commercial stalls adjacent the public market. Do they have a contract of lease with the municipal government?

Huwag kayong magalit, nagtatanong lamang po?

I spoke with Councilor Raffy Cataquis about the proposed tourism development plan and was surprised to know that he, SB Tourism Chairman, as well as Aileen Bareng, Tourism Officer, were not invited to the meeting. Ain't that strange?

Now Councilor Danny Enriquez sponsored a resolution to give the Mayor the authority to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the company that will "do" the tourism development plan for White Beach (San Isidro) and Aninuan. The cost for such a plan is more than 3.7 million pesos.

Mayor Atienza had pledge around 500,000 pesos from the Economic Development Fund. There was also a suggestion to deduct a certain percentage from the fees that will be collected in securing a business license or a Mayor's permit. The Locsins and Ayalas are also expected to contribute.

For Sabang, they are proposing a Management Plan. It seems that someone from up there thinks that Sabang is a hopeless case for a tourism development plan and a management plan is the best offer.

In all this, I say, Crikey! Here we go again.

Historical Notes

✓ On the Municipal Logo, the year 1574 is inscribed as the date when the town was discovered by the Spaniards. However, records show that the Spanish Conquistadores came 4 years earlier, on May 12, 1570. They stayed here for 5 days and the people of Puerto Galera paid 9 kilos of gold, as a tribute to the King of Spain.

✓ Puerto Galera was discovered 72 years before the Dutch discovered New Zealand and 200 years before Australia was claimed by Englishman Captain James Cook in 1770.

✓ On his way to his new headquarter in Manila, Miguel Lopez de Legazpi, "the Conqueror of the Philippines", passed by Puerto Galera and stayed here for 17 days with his entire fleet composed of 27 ships, galleons, galleys and big bancas called prahus or paraos.

✓ The first written account about the Philippines was made by a Chinese official named Chao Ju-Kua who recorded the Chinese trading with the natives of the island of Ma-I in 1225 AD, 300 years before the Spaniards came to this country. Ma-I was the old name of Mindoro.

✓ Numerous artifacts from the Song, Yuan and Ming dynasties were unearthed in gravesites in Tangalan, Baclayan and Bayanan, some are on display at the Museum near the Church.

✓ The first "census" of Puerto Galera was done in 1584 by Spanish historian Miguel de Loarca, who noted that there were around 250 Moros in Puerto Galera and around 500 total for the entire Mindoro, not including the Mangyans.

Liham sa Patnugot

Tula ni Ben Balaraw

Pakilathala naman po ng tulang ito mula sa isang taga-Puerto na matagal na ngayo'y naninirahan dito sa Europa. Sa pamamagitan ng isang kaibigan na nagpahiram ng inyong malayang pahayagan, nais ko ring ipahayag ang matagal ko ng saloobin para sa ating bayan. Mangyari po na hayaan n'yo na lamang na nakatago ang aking pangalan sa pamamagitan ng "balaraw" (apelyido na aking ama mula sa Bulakan, ang aking ina ang tubong Puerto Galera).

Ang multo na matagal nang kinakatatakutan ng Puerto Galera ay nagpakatoto't nabuhay, at ito ay maninindigan na gawin ang lahat para sa kanilang lupain at interes sa bayan. Ito ay kasalanang sanhi ng taumbayan, dala ng unang kasakiman sa kabila ng kahangalan, ngayong angkan, dadanasin ay kapighatian

Inang kalikasan ay tumatangis dala ng mga banyagang may pansamantalang nais, kapag umalis nang iniwan ay dungis di ito mabilang pagkat bayan salaping naiwan, mga hunghang di matapos mabilang

Matuto ka Puerto Galera! Salaping ibang kulay di pang habangbuhay. Ang kalikasan sa'yoy naghihintay, damayan mo ito at pagmalasakitan

Kayong mga taong nasa katungkulan, gawin ang mga mata'y salamin ng katotohanan, kapag salapi ang inipon, kapalit ay kagandahan ng likas na yaman, kapag lumindol, una kang matatabunan!

Commentary on the EUF ... from p.1

has a price tag of around 100 million pesos and annual operating cost of 12 million pesos. A big portion of the EUF funds will be allocated as a guarantee to investors and creditors who shall shoulder the initial cost of the WWTP.

It seems that Leny and SIBROA have not been informed of this project, its purpose and financial viability.

She said that those who would connect to the WWTP will be made to pay for the service. This she believes is the added burden to the people. This line of reasoning is highly contestable and simply naïve as it is but normal for households to pay for government services especially in a rapidly growing community.

One pays to get his water from the main waterline. He pays monthly for water services. Similarly, one pays to get connected to the sewer main and pays monthly for wastewater services. There is nothing extraordinary or illegal about it. It is the price we pay for the benefits we get from tourism and consequent urbanization and the pollution that comes with it.

The arguments against the EUF are not actually against the EUF but mainly criticisms of the Mayor, the councilors and government priorities.

Felix Manalo, the Vice President of SIBROA, made several strong arguments why they do not want to help the Council on

the EUF issue. Now, he said, the government is asking for our help when they had neglected White Beach for so long.

It is true that White Beach did not get a fair share from the 2006 budget.

There is a police outpost but no police officer, not even a barangay tanod in the area. The resort owners are left to themselves to worry about the security of their guests.

"Gusto nila umani bago magtanim" (They want to harvest before they have planted) – says Manalo who laments that most government projects are for improvement of the Balete plaza in Poblacion.

White Beach also does not have strong potable water which made Peter Manalo remarked: "Before we talk of wastewater, you should first give us clean water."

The composition of the Coastal Resource Management Board (CRMB) is not only ambiguous but highly questionable as well.

The CRMB, which has commendatory and oversight function in the management and use of the EUF funds, is composed of the following: the Mayor (Chairman), 2 SB members, 2 other government officials, 1 non-government organization representative, 1 dive resort owners representative, 1 non-dive resort owners representative, 1 from the academe, 1 from the dive professionals and

1 from an accredited club or organization. Noticeably, there are 2 representatives from the dive industry.

All the private sector "representatives" were appointed by the Mayor who also chose the organizations that should be "represented" in the CRMB.

The question is: How can they be called representatives when they were appointed?

The Mayor chose the Puerto Galera Yacht Club as the representative of more than 20 non-government organizations in Puerto Galera.

The Mayor appointed Manila-based and personal friend Romeo Roxas as the representative of the non-dive resort owners which in a sense represents all industries not related to diving. Can Mr. Roxas speak for White Beach and Sabang resort owners?

Henry Arago of the Muelle Bay Traders Association said that there are many professionals in Puerto Galera and that we don't need outsiders telling us what to do.

Arago said that all sectors should be represented regardless of the political inclination of the leaders.

The ordinance grants the CRMB tremendous power and responsibilities and the EUF will give the CRMB a huge budget to effect change. It merits a second look at the ordinance creating the CRMB and possible amendments on its composition.

The Puerto Galera Fortnightly Journal

Published by PGOL Printing Press
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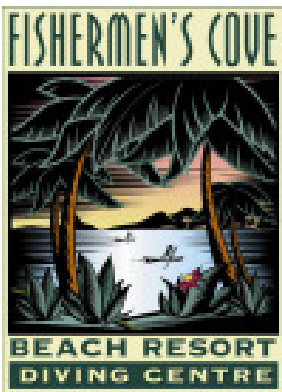
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Talk of the Town

The Philippine Army 68th Infantry Battalion conducted an anti-communism seminar last November 15 to 17 at Balatero to more than 600 residents of Balatero and Sto Niño.

The Seminar which lasted for 3-days is called Barangay Empowerment Seminar and covered topics including the Criminal Justice System, Threat Awareness on the Peace and Order, and a live testimony from a rebel returnee.

There were two stabbing incidents that happened this November, one of them fatal.

Victim Arnold Gaba Roa, 18 years old, from Bagong Pook, Poblacion, succumbed to a stab wound on the belly allegedly perpetrated by one Joel Corre, 33 years old, also from Poblacion, who is still at large as of this writing. His brother Esmeraldo Corre, who witnesses, say held the hands of the victim is in police custody. The victim, witnesses said, had an altercation with the suspects inside Angel’s Videoke Bar .

Another stabbing incident happened in Sabang and the victim is a grand-nephew of former Vice Mayor Robinhood Ylagan. Victim Rodmar Lopez, 18 years old, was mugged and

stabbed allegedly by Gary Como from Calapan City. Como escaped after the incident but 3 of his buddies who allegedly helped him are now in jail. Lopez is reportedly in stable condition. The police filed charges of frustrated homicide against the suspects.

All’s not well at the Coastal Resource Management Board (CRMB). This after some of its members threatened to resign after Councilors Raffy Cataquis and Danny Enriquez presented a new draft ordinance on the Environmental User Fee. The two authors decided to clip the powers it has previously given the CRMB after participants at the public hearing said that it might not be legal to grant enormous powers to the Board.

Kit Garong and Kido Kalaw want the Council to include a proviso that any disbursement or allocation of fund must be recommended by the CRMB prior to the use of the funds. This, they said, validates the participation of the private sector in the CRMB.

The CRMB was organized with the concept of government and private sector partnership in protecting and conserving the marine resources of Puerto

Galera. However, the Mayor and not the private sector appointed the representatives of the private sector.

One of the CRMB’s initiatives is the Environmental User Fee (EUF), which will generate annual revenue of around 50 million pesos. This money will go to a trust fund which the CRMB members hope they will have control on where it is spent and how.

Kalaw said: “As it stands, the draft ordinance is a product of the Sangguniang Bayan and not the CRMB and should be called something else other than an EUF. Call it an Admission Fee or an Entrance Fee as the CRMB has no active participation in the ordinance as it is.”

Another CRMB issue is the letter of Mike Tucker, a member of the CRMB, who wrote that the final version of the Marine Protected Area (MPA) as defined in the ordinance is not the one that was presented to the Board.

Kit Garong said he might run for councilor and is responsible for talking with ORMECO to conduct monthly seminars to new applicants here and not in Calapan as it was before.

Kit is also working on getting the implementation of the 1-point of entry deferred.

PGDA letter to Mayor Teo

Dear Honorable Mayor,

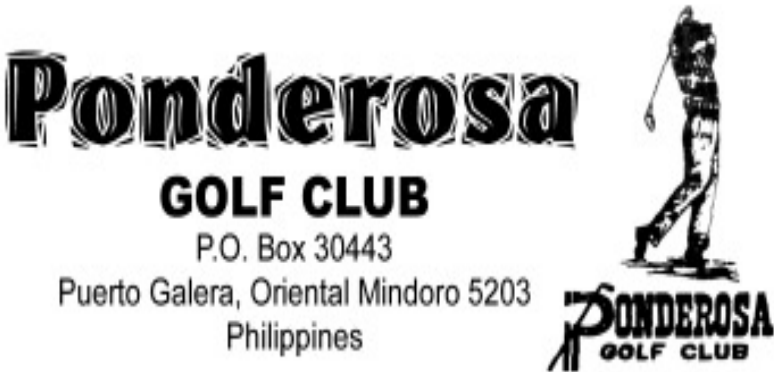
Thank you for your letter addressed o the PGDA concerning the implementation of the ‘One Point of Entry’; as per your suggestion representative of the business below met with the Vice Mayor this morning to ascertain his position.

Subsequent to that meeting and prior to the rules and regulations for the ordinance being completed we feel that it is imperative to make our position clear in writing. You will forgive us if the language we use is somewhat direct, but our feelings on the subject could not be stronger. For the sake of briefness we will bullet-point the key concerns:

- ✱ We object to a ‘One Point of Entry’ and/or any ordinance that restricts tourist travel to or from the municipality; it is further our view that the vast majority of local people are equally opposed to such legislation.
 - ✱ We believe the promises on which the ordinance has been passed (such as safety concerns) are ill-founded, poorly thought through and in most cases extremely vague.
 - ✱ It is a fact the Balateros is unsuitable as a location:
There is not enough pier space to dock the number of boats expected and it is unusable much of the year.
 - ✱ It is a fact that there is no infrastructure to support a ‘One Point of Entry’:
The concreted track (we make the point that it is not a road) between Sabang and Puerto Galera is unfinished and unsuitable for the volume of traffic; the road between Puerto Galera and Balatero is, in short, falling apart. There is no infrastructure between Sabang and outlying beaches such as Small and Big Lalaguna. Jeepneys and tricycles are unsuitable and inadequate to transfer large volumes of foreign tourists.
 - ✱ It is our belief that a ‘One Point of Entry’ will be a catastrophe for the local economy – effectively disseminating the tourist industry that we have worked so hard to build. Fast and efficient transfers have been key to our growth and we find it hard to understand that the municipality believes the way to build tourism is to severely inconvenience the very person that we should be making life easier for – the tourist
 - ✱ Lastly and possibly most importantly not one person seems to be able to outline exactly how this ordinance supports the local economy and/or local people; in our view it provides no benefits and clearly benefits only an extreme minority to the detriment of everyone else.
- Bearing these points in mind we ask for your written guarantee that the implementing rules and regulations will include provisions that resorts and dive shops may continue o operate transfer services as do we now directly between Lea Beach (or other parts of Batangas) and any point of entry in Puerto Galera without interference.

Thank you for your time; we look forward to your favorable response.

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Treasure Island

“The exciting discovery of valuable Ming Dynasty pottery on the seabed of Mindoro”

By Kevin Sinclair
as told by Brian Homan
Discovery Magazine, Sept 1984

It was another perfect day in paradise. I had finished what passes for my day's toil at my restaurant and diving club at Sabang Beach near the old harbor of Puerto Galera on the Philippine island of Mindoro, and decided to go for a swim.

Although I have worked in the area for almost four years and go diving just about everyday, the underwater wonders in the crystal waters never weary me. If the beaches drowsing beneath the palm trees are beautiful, then the underwater scenery with its coral heads and startling variety of tropical fish are even more spectacular.

I broke a rule I din into all the students to whom I teach the basics of underwater adventure: never dive alone. But I was only going a few yards offshore and persuaded myself that it didn't really matter.

As always, the wonders of the underwater world encompassed me as soon as the waves were a few feet above my head. I cruised slowly, casually, through the warm water, about halfway between the surface and the sandy sea bed twenty-two meters below the gentle swells.

I wasn't looking for anything in particular, not for anything at all, in fact, and when I spotted a circle in the golden sand of the sea bed, it was with no more than passing curiosity that I circled down to see what it was. There are two things that Mother Nature can't construct—a perfect circle and a dead straight line—and as I got closer to what looked like a round hole protruding up from the sand, it was obvious that this was not crafted by the art of nature.

At a depth of twenty-two meters, visibility was still clear. I flicked some of the sand away and the object, whatever it was, seemed to be a clay circle. I grasped and tugged. It didn't move. I dug deeper. From the open circle the sand parted to reveal secrets that had been buried for centuries. With a couple of centimeters more sand removed, snarling temple dogs glared at me. My heart began to race. I didn't know much, then, about archaeology, but I knew that this wasn't Filipino native art. Then the sand flew away as I scraped down, down, down to expose the sides of what was becoming more and more obviously a sizeable jar.

There was something embossed on the surface of the long-buried glazing. I scooped up more sand, rubbed my hand over the side of the jar and peered through the water, now made murky by the sediment I had stirred up. The excitement within me was now so intense I could hardly breathe into my air regulator. Could it be what I thought it was? Currents slowly cleared the water and there, shining golden a few centimeters in front of my face, was the curling, clawing, be-fanged emblem of the Dragon Throne of Imperial China.

How had this come to be here in the passage to a harbor on the northern coast of Mindoro? What was a Chinese jar of some obvious

antiquity doing resting in the sands of the Philippine sea floor? I began to cast my eyes about the underwater seascape. I prodded. I probed. I dug.

One by one, the secrets of the sands, concealed for centuries, were grudgingly revealed. Here was another jar! And another! And what's this? A piece of familiar white and blue Chinese porcelain comes to light. It shines in the subterranean sunlight with a gloss that looks as though it had just come out of a kiln in old China. The further I looked, the more I found. I surveyed the area frantically, fascinated by my accidental discovery. But my air was running out, so I memorized the spot and headed for the surface and the shore, mesmerized by the treasures left behind me.

And treasures, indeed, they proved to be. I trudged up the beach towards my home and my wife, Alina. What should I do? How could I best ensure that the ancient artifacts be preserved? Of one thing I was certain; I had to keep quiet about my discovery. It was common knowledge that, all around the world, priceless sunken cargoes had been looted by unscrupulous treasure hunters and curio seekers. I talked it over with Alina and, next day, we were on the ferry to Batangas, the southernmost port of Luzon, and then in my old pick-up truck heading north to Manila.

With me, I took a couple of the smaller samples I had retrieved. What I sought in Manila was the name of the top Philippine Government official in charge of buried underwater treasure. The two men I found were both from the National Museum.

The men I met that day in September 1983 were both impressive scholars whose high academic qualifications were tempered with common sense. I explained to them what I had discovered and both the assistant director of the Museum, Alfredo Evangelista, the curator, Jesus Peralta, were immediately excited. The excitement mounted as I reached into my bag and withdrew the items I had brought ashore. It was a pale, almost translucent green dish about 600 millimeters high. “A celadon incense burner,” Alfredo breathed. Then I drew out the other artifact, a curiously shaped flask with a pouring spout, rather like an elongated teapot, in white and blue patterned porcelain. Jesus identified it straightaway as a wine flask.

The fact that these two knowledgeable men were enthusiastic thrilled me. The long trip up to Manila had not been wasted. We talked for hours about my discovery; I outlined what I had found, described as best I could the items still on the sea floor and together, we laid out preliminary plans on how to go about making a scientific recovery of the site.

There were three main considerations. First, we were concerned to protect the sanctity of the site from pilferers and the curious, so

any items of historical interest would not be remove or destroyed. Then we wanted to plan a scientific and systematic recovery programmed so anything of archaeological and anthropological interest was not destroyed. Finally, there was the question of how to finance the project. We solved the last first, with the signing of a contract between me and the Museum. I would raise whatever was on the sea bed; the Philippine authorities would have first claim on every type of item reclaimed; and we would divide the remainder of the find. Both sides considered this fair.

To ensure the work was done in a scientific manner, the Museum provided divers who were expert in excavating archeological sites. They also arranged a Coast Guard team to provide security.

These arrangements took some weeks and, by the time we were ready to begin operations, I had spent many hours prowling the sea bed, probing in every increasing circles around the spot where I had made the original discovery. The longer I looked the more I found. As the Museum divers, the team of underwater workers employed and I took relic after relic to the surface, the experts began to piece together a fascinating historical jigsaw puzzle.

The 7,000 islands that make up the modern Republic of the Philippines lay sprawled across the trade routes of Asia. The Chinese traders came early to these protected channels and bays, sailing down from the delta of the Pearl River with the northeast monsoon pushing their big junks before the swells. The Arabs came, too, on their surge of exploration and spreading the word of Islam. There was always inter-island trade between local rulers, much of it carried in solid teak sailing vessels. Later came the Portuguese and Spanish in search of the legendary Spice Islands and, to harry them, Dutch freebooters and English privateers. The Spanish stayed for more than three centuries before the tides of history cut loose their political grasp on the country, which was replaced for almost fifty years by that of the United States. The Japanese briefly, also conquered and ruled.

Nature had taken its toll on all these sailors over the centuries; the seabeds of the Philippines, mostly unexplored, are littered with the wrecks of ships sunk by typhoon winds, uncharted reefs, warfare or piracy.

Jesus Peralta, Alfredo Evangelista and other experts patiently compiled the evidence brought to the surface. As they pondered above, workmates and I toiled below, scouring with powerful suction pipes that wiped away layers of sand laid down over six centuries. That is about how long the archaeologist and anthropologist, historians and art expert reckoned the relics had been on the bottom of the sea.

As we literally swept the seabed, more and more exciting pieces

of evidence came to light, helping fill in the blanks puzzle. Scraps of burnt wood, charred planks preserved in the sand, scraps of broken clay... everything went under the scientists' microscopes and the machine that pinpointed the age of the object using radiation techniques.

What emerged was a picture of a sophisticated and complex international trading pattern that flourished between China and the islands. Examination showed that the wood out of which the forty-five-foot vessel had been built was Southeast Asian teak. The boat was far smaller than a Chinese trading junk. The plates, jars, bowls and other objects we had discovered (some of the round glazed vases had been rolled hundred of yards by the currents before being buried) were typical Chinese trade items.

Supposition by the experts, reinforced by what historians already knew, was that Chinese traders had regular contacts with Mindorans before the early days of the Ching Dynasty. They believed the Mindorans would place orders one year, to be filled when the monsoon brought the junks down twelve months later. The junks would rendezvous with local trading vessels. The Chinese would unload silk, metal goods, jars of delicacies and wines and other prize products from its civilization. In return, into the commodious holds



An old photo of Brian Homan with Ming dynasty jars found at the wreck. Some of the items recovered are on display at Capt'n Gregg's Restaurant in Sabang.

of the junks would go rare birds, spices and herbs, beeswax, coral, deer, rattan and, of course, gold.

It is the rare metal that gives the island its name. In Spanish, Mindoro means the Isle of Gold and Puerto Galera, simply, the Port of Galleons. The Spanish trading pattern was similar to that of the Chinese.

So how did this vessel, this inter-island trader or coaster, that served the villages and towns scattered along the coast of the island, come to sink in a sheltered cove? The charred wood gave a cue; perhaps the cooking fire at the stern overturned, perhaps pirates struck. We'll never know.

Sitting on the beach at Sabang as darkness falls, I look out over the still waters and ponders what other secrets remain hidden on the

unexplored sea bed.

Alfredo Evangelista tells me my find is one of the most significant underwater archaeological discoveries ever made in his country. Jesus Peralta says there are countless more wrecks lying under the crystal waters awaiting discovery. Villagers on Mindoro tell tales, handed down through generations, of ships with huge wings—white sails?—which went past never to be seen again. Spanish? Portuguese? Dutch? English? Arab? Japanese? Who knows.

But out there, somewhere, amid the twisting channels and countless waterways, through the passages and lagoons that separate the Philippine islands, I believe there is a lot more to discover that can bring us closer to an unrecorded past. I'll be looking...

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***Puerto de Galera
mula pahina 8***

Dalawa sa mga kuta ay malaki, cuadrado ang corte, may 10 culverin (maliliit na kanyon) sa bawat tagiliran. Bawat pader ng kuta ay mahigit 3 metro ang tayog (2 estado, 10 feet), at bawat kuta ay paligid ng tubig, kulang-kulang 5 metro ang lalim (2.5 brazas, 15 feet deep). Maliban sa mga culverin, ang mga sandata ng mga nasa kuta ay mga pana at palaso, mga sibat, at mga malapad na cuchillo (knife, kampit ang tawag sa Tagalog). May pahid na lason ang kanilang mga palaso (flecha, arrows). Pinaligiran ng mga Espanyol ang unang kuta, at hinimok ni Salcedo ang mga taga-Lubang na sumuko at magbayad ng buwis. Sinagot siya ng mga palaso at putok ng mga culverin.

Fuego!

Isinigaw ni Salcedo ang paglusob at pinagbabaril ng mga Espanyol ang mga taga-Lubang ngunit wala silang nagawa sa 3 oras ng pagsalakay, hindi sila makalapit sa kuta dahil sa lalim ng tubig. Nagtago ng isang banca ang mga taga-Lubang, nakatali sa labas ng kuta, upang gamitin sa pagtakas kung sakali man. Sa malas nila, namataan ito ang mga taga-Cebu at nilangoy sa 2 sundalong Espanyol, at

hinila papunta kay Salcedo habang binabaril ng mga sundalo ang sinumang taga-Lubang sa kuta na pumana o kumanyon sa 2 lumalangoy. Pinagbabaril uli nang tumawid ang 15 sundalong Espanyol na sakay na sa banca, at pagdating sa kuta, sinugod ang mga taga-Lubang. Napaurong sa kabilang panig ang mga nasa kuta, naiwan ang 40 mandirigma na pinatay nang dumami na ang mga Espanyol sa paulit-ulit na hakot ng banca. Tuluyan nang nagtalunan at tumakas ang mga taga-Lubang nang dumating at sumampa na rin ang mga taga-Cebu at nadaig ang mga nagtatanggol sa kuta.

Mahigit 100 taga-Lubang ang napatay, mahigit 50 ang nabihag ng mga Espanyol. Nakuha rin ang 12 culverin, at lahat ng pagkain at ari-arian ng mga taga-Lubang sa loob ng kuta. Kinabukasan, pinakawalan ni Salcedo ang isang bihag na hindi sugatan at pinapunta sa pang-2 kuta sa bandang kalagitnaan ng pulo, upang himukin silang sumuko rin at magbuwis sa mga Espanyol. Hindi masyadong malayo ang pang-2 kuta at bumalik agad ang bihag: Ayaw sumuko ang pang-2 kuta at sabik silang makipagpatayan sa mga Espanyol!

Kinabukasan mismo, sumugod ang mga Espanyol at

ang mahigit 400 mandirigma mula Cebu at Panay, nadagdagan pa ng ilan-ilang taga-Mindoro. Humarap si Salcedo sa pang-2 kuta ang ipinasigaw sa tagapagsalita (interpreter) na magdurusa sila kapag hindi sila sumuko at ibigay ang kanilang mga pagkain at ari-arian sa mga Espanyol. Sigaw din ang sagot ng mga mandirigma sa pang-2 kuta, sinundan ng mga pana at paputok ng kanilang mga culverin. Pinagbabaril naman sila ng mga Espanyol. Buong maghapon silang nagbarilan at nagputukan sa init ng araw, walang nangyari. Malapit na ang takipsilim (night), pagod na ang mga Espanyol, gutom at buong araw hindi kumain, nang umurong sina Salcedo sa mga banca nilang nakadaong sa pampang ng kalapit na ilog. Ipinasiya niya na lumusob uli kinabukasan, paligiran nang malapit ang pang-2 kuta hanggang magiba nila ito.

Umasa ang mga tao sa pang-2 kuta na umalis na ang kalaban kaya nagulat sila at nasiraan ng loob nang makita nilang bumalik kinabukasan ng madaling-araw ang mga Espanyol at ang daan-daang mandirigmang kakampi. Lalo silang nasindak nang agad at masugid silang ginitgit at binakbakan uli ng mga Espanyol at mga mandirigma. Natanto nila na hindi sila titigilan ng mga

Espanyol hanggang hindi sila napapatay na lahat, at hindi nagtagal silang nagpasiyang sumuko na. Binigyan nila si Salcedo ng 100 tael, mahigit 4 kilo ng ginto, na pinaghati-hati sa mga sundalong Espanyol. Kinalkal din ng mga Espanyol at ng mga kasamang mandirigma ang mga pagkain at ari-arian sa pang-2 kuta.

Noong araw ding iyon, bandang ika-10 ng umaga, sinugod nina Salcedo ang pang-3 kuta sa isang maliit na pulo sa tabi ng Lubang. May 300 mandirigmang tagaruon ang nagkubli sa isang tuktok ng maliit at mabatong burol (hill) na mabilis pinaligiran nina Salcedo kaya naharang pa nila ang isang

banca, sakay ang 30 mandirigma na mabagal na tumatakas. Maghapon uling nakipagbarilan ang mga Espanyol sa 300 tao sa tuktok ng burol. Kinabukasan, gumawa ang mga Espanyol at mga kakamping mandirigma ng mga hagdanan upang akyatin ang burol. Nang magsimulang isaklay ang mga hagdanan sa burol, nasiraan na ng loob ang mga nasa burol at sumuko na kay Salcedo. Nagbigay sila ng 100 tael ng ginto, gaya ng mga sumuko sa pang-2 kuta.

El Conquistador

Hakot-hakot lahat ng nakalkal na pagkain at ari-arian nang bumalik sa Panay si Salcedo. Nakatagpo niya roon si Martin de Goiti, na kababalik

din kasama ng kanyang mga tauhan matapos salakayin at sakupin ang pulo ng Acuyo. Hinirang si Salcedo bilang conquistador ng Mamburao at Lubang, ang kauna-unahang nasakop niya. Bagaman at marami ang nakalkal ng 2 pangkat, hindi magtatagal ang pagkain, sang-ayon sa karanasan nina Legazpi sa Cebu, hanggang hindi sila nakakatagpo ng malaking pook na may sapat na bukirin upang mapakain taon-taon ang mga Espanyol. May ilan-ilan nang mga Espanyol ang humiwalay at nakibahay na sa mga tao sa iba't ibang pulo sa karatig upang makakain araw-araw.

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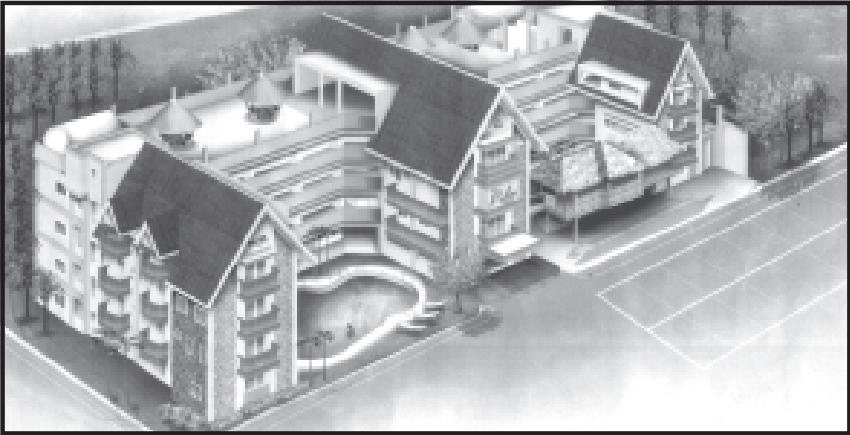
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The Puerto Galera Fortnightly JOURNAL

Puerto de Galera

Kasaysayan ng Mindoro(2 ng 5 serye)

Ika-2 Kabanata: Ang Unang Lusob sa Mindoro

Si Ferdinand Magellan ay dumating sa Pilipinas noon 1521. Napatay siya ng mga mandirigma ni Lapu-Lapu. Dalawa pang ekspedisyon ang tumulak galing Espanya na parehas nabigo na sakupin ang Pilipinas. Ang ika-4 sa ilalim ng pamumuno ni Miguel Lopez de Legazpi ang nagtagumpay taong 1565.

Kasama ni Legazpi ang 380 tauhan na biubuo ng 50 magdaragat (*marineros, sailors*), 200 kawal (*soldados, soldiers*), 5 frayle (*Augustine friars*) at mga alila (*servants*). Sakay sila sa 2 galleon, and San Pedro at San Pablo, at 2 pang maliit na barko na ang tawag ay patache.

Matapos dumating at sakupin ang ilang isla sa Visaya, nagpasya si Legazpi na humimpil at magtatag ng base sa isla ng Panay. Subalit napansin nila na hindi sapat ang pagkain sa Panay para sa mahigit 300 Espanyol at daan-daang mandirigmang Bisaya na sumapi sa kanila.

Taong 1570. Inutusan ni Legazpi ang kanyang apo na si Capitan Juan de Salcedo na maghanap pa ng mga malalaking

pulo na kung saan makakakulimbat ng pagkain at ginto. Kaya't sakay sa 15 malalaking banca na kinuha sa mga taga-Cebu at taga-Panay, dinala ni Salcedo ang 40 soldado at maraming taga-Cebu sa pulo ng Elem (Ilin ang tawag ngayon) sa timog (south) ng Mindoro. Walang lumaban sa mga taga- Elem, mabilis na sumuko lahat at nagbigay ng buwis at pagkain.

Kumuha ng isang gabay si Salcedo at tumawid sa pulo ng Mindoro (sa dagat ng Occidental sila naglayag). Tinunton nila ang baybayin sa kanluran (western coast) at isang madaling-araw (dawn), nilusob nila ang malaking barangay ng Mamburau (Mamburao) at marami ang nakamkam nila doon. Takbuhan ang mga tao at tumakas sa gubat-gubat sa paligid ngunit marami sa mga taga-Mamburao ay nabihag ng mga Espanyol. Kinunan ng pantubos ang mga may ari-arian, ang mga mahirap ay pinakawalan na lamang nang walang bayad, maliban sa isa na pilit nilang isinama bilang gabay sa marami pang mayamang bara-barangay sa maliit na pulo ng Loban (Lubang), 15 leguas (15 leagues, 72 kilometro) sa

kanlurang hilaga (northwest) ng Mindoro. Pagkaalis ng pangkat ni Salcedo, nagbalikan ang mga taga-Mamburao mula sa mga gubat subalit nang makita nilang wasak na ang buong barangay dahil sa pagkalkal ng mga Espanyol, ayaw na nilang itayo muli doon ang kanilang barangay. Sila na mismo ang sumunog sa kanilang mga bahay at sinilaban at lubusang binura ang buong barangay.

3 Kuta Ng Lubang

Kahit hatinggabi na nang dumating ang pangkat sa Lubang, nagpasiya si Salcedo na lumusob agad. Tahimik niyang inilagay ang pangkat-pangkat ng kanyang mga sundalo at mga taga-Cebu sa paligid ng mga barangay upang tambangan ang sinumang lumapit, at pagdating ng madaling-araw, sumalakay silang lahat. Ngunit walang tao sa mga barangay. Nabalitaan na pala nila ang pagdating ng mga Espanyol at tumakas silang lahat, hakot ang lahat ng kanilang pagkain at mga ari-arian, at nagtago sa 3 kuta (forts) na itinayo nila sa looban. Ang mga ito ang kauna-unahang kuta na nakita ng mga Espanyol sa Pilipinas.

>>> pahina 7

Sulat ni Vice Mayor tungkol sa “one-point of entry”

SA KGG, NAPUNONG-BAYAN ARISTEO E. ATIENZA

Pagbati!

Nais pong ipaalam ng Sangguniang Bayan na pinagtibay nang Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) ng Silangang Mindoro noong 25 Setyembre 2006 ang Municipal Ordinance No. 05-06. Kalakip po ng sulat na ito ang SP Resolution No. 265-2006, may pamagat na “Resolution Approving Municipal Ordinance No. 05-06 of the Sangguniang Bayan of Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro Entitled “An Ordinance Declaring The Municipality Of Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro To Have A One Point Of Entry And Exit For All Vessels Plying The Route Batangas-Puerto Galera”.

Inaasahan po ng lahat ng mga taong gumugol ng panahon at sumuporta sa ordinansang ito na matapos itong maisakatuparan at mapagtibay ay inyong ipatutupad na. Sa katunayan po, noong isang taon na magsumite kayo sa Sangguniang Bayan ng “Executive Budget” o ng panukalang pondo para sa taong 2006, ay nakapanukala roon ang pitong

milyong pisong (P7,000,000) kikitain ng munisipyo mula sa “terminal fee”. Ito po ay inalis natin sa panukalang badyet dahilan sa pangambang baka hindi mapagtibay ang Municipal Ordinance 05-06.

Ang usapin po ng pagkakaroon ng ordinansang ito ay nagsimula pa noong unang termino ninyo bilang Punong Bayan ng bayang ito (1998-2001). Noon ay inatasan ninyo ang tanggapan ng Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator na makipag-ugnayan sa Sangguniang Bayan upang Amendahan ang Municipal Profile and Comprehensive Development Plan of Puerto Galera, Or. Mindoro (1992-1996), page 40, paragraph 7. Ito ay naglayong magkaroon ng “One Point of Entry” sa bayang ito, subalit hindi ito nagkaroon ng katuparan.

Ang hakbangin pong ito ay muling binuhay noong pangalawang termino ninyo (2001-2004). Dahil sa patuloy ninyong panghihikayat sa amin, ang Sangguniang Bayan ay nag-akda ng panukalang Municipal Ordinance No.02-06, layunin muling amendahan ang nasabing Municipal Profile para uli sa “One

Point of Entry”. Nagkaroon po ng Public Hearing na dinaluhan ng maraming tao na ang nakalalamang sa bilang ay mga di-sang-ayon sa panukalang ordinance. Isang Committee Report ng Committee on Ordinances and Legal Matters ang kumitil sa kapalaran ng panukalang ito ng ipasiya ng nasabing Komitiba ang pagbabasura nito. Halos nakalimutan na po ito ng mga tao.

At sa huling termino po ninyong ito (2004-2007), sa wakas ay napagtibay rin ang matagal ng inaasam-asam na ordinansa. Makalipas po ang tatlong taon ay muli kayong lumapit at humiling sa Sangguniang Bayan na mag-akda ng ganitong ordinansa kaya bilang pagtalima sa inyong kahilingan ay sinikap ng Sangguniang Bayan na harapin at balikatin ang lahat ng panganib, pangamba, at hirap upang maging isang ganap itong batas.

Naghihintay po ang ating mamamayan sa kakayahan ninyo na ito ay maimplementa o maipatupad!

Maraming salamat po!

Lubos na gumagalang,

Kgg. Juan S. Ascan, Jr.

Pangalawang Punong Bayan

**Congratulations to the
Officers & Members
as well as the
Board of Directors
of the
New Galerian Business
Credit Cooperative
(NGBCC)
for becoming the**

**Second Best Cooperative in
the Province of Oriental Mindoro**

From Your Friend & Supporter

Dr. Oscar Evangelista



www.atlantishotel.com

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