

Walking the Extra Mile For
The Youth of Puerto Galera



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Mayor defends Land Bank loan

THE MAYOR IS STANDING firm in his decision to borrow money from the Land Bank amidst criticisms from former government officials who said that the projects to be financed were not "necessary". The projects are: renovation of the municipal building, construction of a dormitory at the third floor of the public market, construction of a convention center at the fourth floor of the public market, air-conditioning of the municipal gymnasium, purchase of heavy equipments and purchase of vehicles for members of the Sangguniang Bayan.

The amount of the loan is projected to be in the vicinity of 40 million pesos, the biggest ever to be borrowed by the municipal government.

Mayor Dolor said the municipal hall is in dire need of repair as termites have done considerable damage to the building. In the Annual Investment Plan (AIP), the Mayor also approved the construction of a second floor at the right and left wings of the municipal hall. The municipal hall was the product of 3 of the Mayor's predecessors: Mayor Pablo Lineses, Mayor Goring Delgado and Mayor Teo Atienza. A big por-

tion of the costs was donated by the Locsin family as well as the architectural design of the building.

Income-generating

In an interview, the Mayor strongly said that the dormitory and the convention hall would be income-generating and could pay for the loan as well as earn additional income for the municipality. The Mayor explained that the convention center can house 700 people and can be subdivided into smaller sections.

"So if only 100 people will use it, the other sections will be closed."

The Mayor also scribbled notes on how they plan to sell the beds of the dormitory, saying that the small investment that will be needed to finance the project can be paid for in a short period of time.

The air-conditioning of the gymnasium, the Mayor said, will showcase Puerto Galera as one of the most progressive towns in Oriental Mindoro. He added that the gymnasium will be rented out to any interested organization who may want to use it.

Mayor Dolor said that the municipal government will

purchase heavy equipments for it to provide basic services like garbage collection and road repairs. He said that almost all the equipments that he inherited from the past Mayor are no longer in good working condition.

The Mayor, however, relented on the purchase of vehicles for members of the town council. He said that they might not include this anymore in the loan negotiations with the Land Bank. He said that this might just be appropriated in the budget for next year to be taken from the general fund.

Councilor Virleo Persia said that the vehicles will be "second hand" and will be assigned to each councilor so they can go to the barangays and attend to the needs of their constituents. However, 4 of the 10-member town council had stated that they oppose the purchase of the vehicles.

Evil hand

"I will not accept a vehicle" says Councilor Ricardo Ilagan of Sabang in a privilege speech after withdrawing his support for the Land Bank loan.

He added: "I am just mirroring the sentiments of my con-

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Water rehab agreement to be finalized

MAYOR HUBBERT Dolor said that the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Puerto Galera Water Consortium (PGWC) on the rehabilitation and expansion of the water system will soon be finalized.

Municipal officials are stepping up preparations for the launching of the project on August 8 with a formal ceremony at Barangay Aninuan followed by a motorcade to San Isidro, Balatero, Poblacion, Palangan, Sabang and ending at Sinandigan.

The Mayor said that the Technical Working Group is reviewing the fourth draft of the MOA and once finalized the MOA will be sent to the Sangguniang Bayan for their approval. The MOA had undergone several revisions which

the Mayor said is meant to ensure that the agreement will be advantageous for the municipality.

Several key political personalities, including Ex-Mayor Herming Atienza, Ex-Vice Mayor Melanio Lopez and Ex-Vice Mayor Robinhood Ylagan have voiced concerns on the MOA saying that the matter of entering into a partnership with a private corporation to rehabilitate the water supply should be brought up in a series of public hearings.

Ex-Vice Mayor Lopez asked the Mayor if it's possible that the water supply project remain under the sole administration of the municipal government. He added, "Can we not just construct a main water line only for Sinandigan so that they will

have sufficient water supply?"

The Mayor said that that was a "piecemeal" solution and that the municipality needs a holistic approach to the water supply problem. The Mayor added that the municipality cannot on its own undertake the project and that the MOA is very advantageous to Puerto Galera.

When asked if the Agreement will mean an increase in water tariff, the Mayor replied that the matter will be decided by the Sangguniang Bayan and not the "private partner" as earlier reported.

The Mayor said that the "private partner" and the waterworks office will ensure the sufficient water supply of all the barangays including the 3 high-

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Iraya Mangyans now own 5700 hectares of PG land

THE PROVINCIAL DIRECTOR of the National Commission of Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) told the Sangguniang Bayan last July 15 that the Iraya Mangyans, the indigenous cultural minority of Puerto Galera now own more than 5700 hectares of land, making them the biggest landowner in the municipality.

The NCIP is helping the Mangyans get the Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT) from the Registry of Deeds.

In the NCIP website, the land was awarded to 2888 individual beneficiaries.

Reynante Luna of the NCIP said that his agency is also helping the Mangyans make a sustainable development plan for their land called ADSDPP or Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development and Protection Plan.

Ancestral Domain refers to

the territory or natural habitat of the Iraya Mangyan.

ADSDPP is important because it spells out the plan of the Mangyans for their newly acquired land.

The Mangyan land covers the boondocks from Talipanan all the way to Villaflor.

It is prohibited to go to the Mangyan land without first getting the permission from the tribal leaders or the Ambuyan, Mangyan priest.

However, in their development plan the Mangyans would like to develop parts of their land as tourist destinations. They also plan to build a Mangyan Cultural Center where handicrafts can be seen and sold.

The Mangyans also plan to develop large tract of their property for agriculture and are seeking the assistance of the government to provide them new farming technology, seedlings,

farm implements and financial assistance.

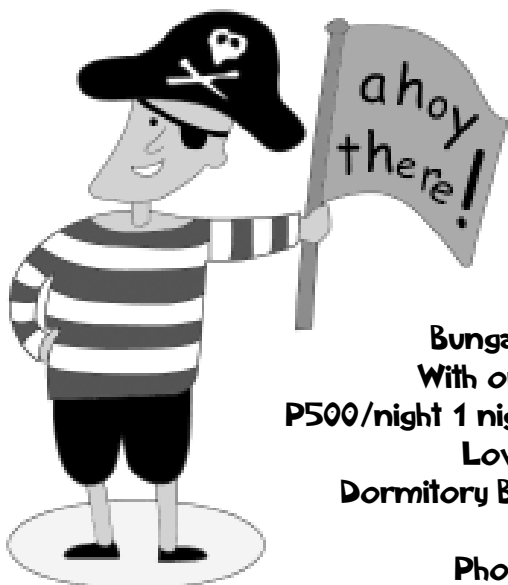
Meanwhile, environmentalists are concerned that the last remaining rainforest will be affected by the land grant.

Some Mangyans employ the slash and burn technique (kaingin system) when clearing the land for planting. The kaingin is worst than illegal logging as it destroys everything.

In their ADSDPP, the Mangyan said that kaingin is only allowed when the Ambuyan has found the land to be suitable for farming and should not be near watershed areas.

The Mangyans also said that they will have forest rangers (bantay-gubat) to prevent illegal logging activities.

Most of the illegal logging are done by Mangyans who deliver the logs to the lowlanders who ordered them.



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Notes on the water rehabilitation project agreement

The water rehabilitation project of Mayor Hubbert Dolor is undoubtedly the biggest ever infrastructure project of the municipality. The Memorandum of Agreement or the MOA is a 37-page document that defines the partnership of the municipal government and the private partner.

The Mayor said that the MOA is advantageous for Puerto Galera. Some concerned citizens disagree. The best thing to do is to get a copy of the MOA and we got Draft number 2 and Draft number 3. The Mayor said that there is a 4th draft and there will most likely be a 5th draft as he said he is personally reviewing section by section to ensure that the municipality will get the most favorable conditions.

We only have the 3rd draft and perhaps making comments might later be moot or obsolete. However, in lieu of a document still deemed not yet for public consumption, we will still make short comments if only to give a bird's eye view to the public.

The private partner shall be called the Puerto Galera Water Consortium and the signatories in the MOA are Juergen Lorenz of JL Business Technology and Consultancy, Inc., Maximilian

Oppacher of OPPAX Group Holdings, Inc. and Fernando Suzara of Sanlahi Group of Builders.

If you google Dr. Juergen Lorenz, you will find someone who is an expert in mechanical and biological waste water treatment. Mr. Oppacher we know to be one of the owners of MAXBANK and Mr. Suzara is a local civil works contractor in Puerto Galera. Good combination: a technocrat, a banker and a builder.

Here are excerpts from the MOA, our comments are italicized:

2.1 OBJECTIVES -

2.1.1 Municipal Water Supply System:

(1) To provide sufficient, safe, potable water to all existing users/customers connected to the municipal waterworks system;

(2) To rehabilitate the existing water system facilities xxx;

(3) To identify and establish new sources of bulk water xxx;

(4) To increase service coverage through expansion of the water distribution network;

(5) To reuse and recycle treated water for horticultural and agricultural irrigation and other appropriate purposes. - *Does this mean that the waste-*

water treatment facility will be given to the same group that will rehabilitate the water system?

2.2 COOPERATION PERIOD - The Project shall have a cooperation period of twenty five (25) years, renewable for another twenty five (25) years upon mutual agreement of the Parties.

2.3 PROJECT COMPONENTS - The Project shall have the following components

2.3.1 Puerto Galera Water Supply Project (PGWSP) - The Private Partner undertake the project under a Rehabilitate-Transfer-Operate Scheme

xxx (5) xxx The Public Partner shall assist the Private Partner in the acquisition of water rights xxx and hereby grants the Private Partner use of its surface water and groundwater resources xxx

It is also understood that the Public Partner shall ensure the maintenance of raw water quality by disallowing activities that shall imperil the quality of raw water and groundwater xxx shall further disallow all individual extractions of water so as not to imperil the availability of the water and sustainability of the water supply project.

2.3.2 Energy Saving Re-

source Component - The Private Partner shall undertake this component under a Build-Operate-Own Scheme.

(4) xxx It is understood that the Public Partner shall ensure that any other project, or the withdrawal of water by other entities, which shall imperil the availability of water xxx shall not be permitted.

2.3.3 Reuse and Recycling of Treated Water - The reuse and recycling of treated water may be integrated as part of the PGWSP (Puerto Galera Water System Project), subject to separate bidding and agreement between the Public and Private Partner xxx

2.5 PUBLIC AWARENESS PROGRAM - The Parties agree to implement a public awareness program for the PGWSP and the energy saving component xxx

3. APPOINTMENT OF THE CONSORTIUM AS PRIVATE PARTNER

The Public Partner appoints the Private Partner xxx as the Engineering & Planning, Procurement & Construction provider xxx and Operations and Maintenance contractor with the latter under joint venture with the MPG (Municipality of Puerto Galera) for the Project.

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Water Rehab plan ...

priority villages of Sinandigan, San Isidro and Aninuan. The Mayor added that it is in the private partner's interest to see that more households get connected and all the leaks are taken care of as the private partner's return on investment is dependent on the revenues from the water bills.

The PG Fortnightly has a copy of the MOA but according to officials it was the third draft. In our copy, the Consortium is represented by two corporations, namely, JL Business & Technology Consultancy, Inc. and OPPAX Group Holdings, Inc. - both Manila-based and

represented by Juergen Lorenz and Maximilian Oppacher, respectively.

There are 3 annexes in the MOA, one of which is the "Conceptual Implementation Plan of the Water Supply Project" where a total budget of 170 million pesos is specified. Another annex details the timeline to start July 2008 and to end January 2010.

Municipal officials said that once the MOA has been finalized, it will be presented to the public. The officials added that before the Sangguniang Bayan ratifies the agreement, there will a series of public hearings.

Mayor defends loan...

stituents and none of the people I spoke with are in favor of the loan."

After the speech of Councilor Ilagan, the representative of the youth sector who is an ex-officio member of the Sangguniang Bayan also spoke against the Land Bank loan.

A reliable source close to the Mayor said that there was an "evil hand" in the sudden turnaround of Councilor Ilagan and the president of the youth council.

Our source added that the Mayor is blaming Vice Mayor Teo Atienza for the growing opposition against the Land Bank loan.

Our source said: "The Vice Mayor is trying to derail the projects of this administration so there will not be any significant accomplishment."

Vice Mayor Teo Atienza will run again for Mayor in 2010 and will be running against the incumbent Mayor, his nephew, Hubbert Dolor.

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PG Adopted Son rises to the occasion after Senate bashing

"THERE IS ANOTHER Hubbert aside from the Mayor that we should be talking about" says one resident to me a few days ago.

"And who is that," I inquired.

"Hubert D'Aboville!"

"Ah, yes, Mr. D'Aboville. Is it because he was the one who worked hard to give us the coveted title of being one of the most beautiful bays in the world?"

"Not really."

My friend told me that D'Aboville's most recent coup was when he rose to the occasion after our senators reprimanded him and other officials of the Joint Foreign Chambers of Commerce (JFC) in a senate hearing last June 6. Earlier the JFC, where D'Aboville sits as the spokesman, wrote a letter to President Arroyo asking her not to touch the EPIRA law, to do so, the JFC said would dampen more foreign investments to the country. Under the EPIRA law, foreign corporations are able to buy NAPOCOR's assets and our "patriotic" senators would like the NAPOCOR to remain under the government's control.

Consequently, the senators didn't like the JFC's letter and they took turn in bashing Mr. D'Aboville et al.

Senator Juan Ponce Enrile told D'Aboville to "get out of this country if you can't live with us." And when D'Aboville tried to read the statement of the JFC, Senator Miriam Santiago cut him short and said, "You may not continue. You do not determine what you can say or not say, I determine."

D'Aboville and the other officials of JFC kept their cool and prudently apologized for the letter sent to the President which the senators claimed should have been sent to them instead.

The senate hearing was televised and major TV networks showed the dressing-down of the foreign investors in primetime news. Commentaries

and editorials from all major newspapers were critical of the senators for their attitude towards the JFC. A few days later, President Arroyo—possibly having been informed that several European ambassadors were prepared to file a formal diplomatic protest—came out with a statement thanking foreign investors for being part of the country's "success".

D'Aboville whom reporters later interviewed said that he was not "necessarily offended" by Senator Enrile, and that he would be willing to stay "for the next 30 years."

"Many of us have been here in the Philippines not because we are forced to be here, but because we like it here, because we love it," he said.

"I am a living testament of these happy foreign expats, having lived in the Philippines for nearly 30 years and being happily married to a Filipina who is a granddaughter of national hero Dr. Pio Valenzuela."

"My wife and I have been blessed with four Filipino-French children who can speak Tagalog fluently. Furthermore, after having built our house and farm in Puerto Galera 13 years ago, I am proud to be named an adopted son of Puerto Galera after our Puerto Galera Bay became a certified member of the Club of the Most Beautiful Bays in the World through my humble personal initiative."

But when prodded about his reaction to Enrile's outbursts, he said: "I have never heard anything like this before, as far as I am concerned."

D'Aboville wrote a column in Business Mirror and said: Like any human being, "foreigners also appreciate being treated with civility and respect as guest, with the understanding that it is our genuine interest to see the Philippines succeed and prosper because our business depends on it."

He added: "Last year, foreign direct investments to the country were at a two-year high of \$2.9 billion, with the biggest

chunk coming from Europe... There is no doubt that what the country is getting now is just a drop in the bucket."

The Philippines is lagging behind other ASEAN countries in terms of foreign direct investments. Last year Vietnam attracted \$15 billion while Singapore got \$36.9 billion. D'Aboville believes the country can get "as much as \$10 billion annually in the years to come provided that barriers and bottlenecks in the administrative and legislative sectors and the Constitution are addressed."

"We need a road map. We need the government to show us the direction it wants to take. We also need a competitive and stable business environment."

Thank you Mr. D'Aboville for those kind words; you gave us another reason why we should not vote for Enrile or Santiago. Also, what you said does not only apply in the national sphere, they are also true even in our small town of Puerto Galera.

We need to attract more foreign investments and the Mayor as well as the members of the town council should try and get inputs from Mr. D'Aboville on how to do this. More investments mean more jobs and better economy.

Puerto Galera is so blessed not only with the natural resources but also with our multicultural human resources. It is high time that the community acknowledges the many great things we got from the foreign investors and make them feel "they belong" instead of just being "guests" in our municipality.

Mr. D'Aboville is the president of the country's European Chamber of Commerce and is also the president of the Puerto Galera Most Beautiful Bay Club. He comes home to a sprawling Puerto Galera property which he calls a farm house. Next time you meet him say "hi" to the guy that made Senator Enrile really look bad.



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Happy 13th Birthday Paulo Emmanuel C. Lineses
August 4, 2008

SILVER BULLET**Ordinance vs loud bikes needed**

IT'S hard to understand why our town and provincial legislators remain deaf to the growing clamor by majority of their constituents to enact ordinances against loud motorcycles that produce nerve-racking noise even in the late hours of the night not just along major roads but also along quiet neighborhood streets.

In some parts of Metro Manila, namely Makati and Marikina, ordinances against the use of loud noise producing open or free flow pipes for motorcycles is being prohibited.

Our councilors should enact an ordinance against the nauseating noise being produced by the "modified" motorcycles, particularly the barebones, scooters and other mini-motorcycles.

The new leadership of the Land Transportation Office (LTO) has issued its own guidelines in operation of motorcycle on roads and highways for the benefit of the general public. Among these is the prohibition of modifying any part of the original design of a motorcycle or scooter without approval from the agency and the Department of Trade and Industry.

The LTO must have noticed that many motorcycle riders modify their stock exhaust pipes with much louder open or free flow pipes. The agency has imposed a P2,000 penalty for violators of this rule. But since the LTO has very few field staffs, local government officials must still do their share.

Ordinances and rules against the fast growing number of loud motorcycles should be enacted by municipal governments to ensure effective implementation of the law.

Our councilors can pattern the ordinance after motorcycle level standards being implemented in the United States.

In the State of Arizona, for instance, rules for motorcycle riders are very clear: "A person shall not operate or as an owner permit the operation of a motorcycle in this state that is not equipped with the Manufacturer's Original Muffler Or Other Original Noise Reduction Equipment or with a replacement muffler or replacement noise reduction equipment capable of reducing the noise levels below the maximum operating noise levels. A person shall not use a muffler cutout, bypass or similar device on a motorcycle

operated in this state."

Because of the public's clamor, state and local legislatures in America, still enact laws against loud motorcycles although under current federal noise statutes, it is illegal to modify an exhaust system to increase noise.

In Boulder County, Colorado, for example, has a law stating: "No person shall operate anywhere in unincorporated Boulder County any vehicle having a muffler that has been equipped or modified with a cutoff, bypass, or any similar device or modification."

All the measures against the use of open and free flow pipes by motorcycle owners inside and outside our country have only a single purpose - to reduce noise, which is defined as "any sound which annoys or disturbs humans or which causes or tends to cause an adverse psychological or physiological effect on humans."

Resort owners in the Sabang area along the main road to Poblacion have been complaining to officials regarding the loud noise generated by the motorbikes. One resort owner even had to give a discount to a group of divers when they threatened to file a suit against the resort for the discomfort caused by the loud motorbikes.

Mermaid Resort had to install thick glasses on their windows to ensure their guests will not be bothered by the noise.

Many residents residing along the road especially where there are habal-habal bikes had been clamoring for regulations not to disallow bikes but to disallow modification of the bikes to produce those terrible roaring noise.

The barangays can also make a barangay ordinance prohibiting loud bikes and collect penalty payments for those violating the ordinance.

"It is very disturbing. I can't even sit on my porch without having to hear someone blasting by and making sure they goose the throttle to make more noise," said one resident. "Anyone who invests more money to make a motorcycle louder just hasn't grown up yet. Most of these guys are older, I can see them riding by. I am not saying don't ride a motorcycle, just tone it down."

Calling our municipal councilors, an ordinance versus loud motorbikes is needed. Please help us rid Puerto Galera of irritating loud motorbikes.

Editorial Tidbits

by Noe Lineses

Sabang jetty pier

Now that the municipality has passed the 4 points of entry ordinance, it is high time that the government develop a jetty pier in Sabang if only to ensure the safety and convenience of the riding public.

Ferry passengers have to hop into a dinghy especially during low tide to board an outrigger ferry or disembark from it. It is dangerous and very inconvenient as sometimes one needs to take off the shoes so as not to slip from the slippery deck or get wet from the waves.

It will also be a great investment for the government as passengers will willingly pay for the use of the jetty pier.

Fare hike for trikes

The Tricycle Franchising and Regulatory Committee (TFRC) of the Sangguniang Bayan (SB) has approved the proposed fare increase of the Puerto Galera Tricycle Operators and Drivers Association (PGTODA). Following the rising cost of gasoline and other basic commodities, the PGTODA proposed an increase between 2 to as high as 5 pesos per route of the tricycles. That means if one pays 6 pesos from Sto. Nino to Poblacion, he/she now pays 8 pesos for the regular trip. A regular trip means 4 passengers in a tricycle.

The TFRC should enjoin the drivers to post the fare matrix inside the tricycles for the passenger's information. The SB can also give tax rebates so that the PGTODA will not again ask for a fare hike once prices petroleum products begin to go up again.

Consumers group needed

While attending the public hearing on the fare hike for tricycles, I noticed that almost all those who attended are drivers and/or owners of tricycles. Almost all the questions came from the tricycle association except for one senior citizen who complained that the drivers are ignoring her because of the mandatory discount given to senior citizens. Another exception was from a foreign resident who pointed out clerical mistakes in the fare matrix.

Clearly missing was the concerns of riding public, the voice of the consumers. That is what is lacking in Puerto Galera, no consumer group to object to fare hikes or advance to the authorities the concerns of the consumers.

The jeepneys also increased their tariff. Now its 90 pesos when before it was 70 for the trip to Calapan. The ferries also increased the price of the ticket from 180 to 230 and now to 250.

In all these, the riding public had remained a passive observer, a mere spectator, a dumb victim? Someone should push for the organization of a Consumer Group NOW.

Mining in Dulangan

Gold mining is now undoubtedly the biggest industry in Dulangan and Tabinay with more than 500 employed. Many of the miners are not from Puerto Galera coming from as far as Benguet or Abra. Many holes had been dug, with tunnels cricrossing beneath the mountains.

The government allows small-scale mining with minimal requirements. Some residents however feel that there should be health and environment seminars for the miners to make the industry sustainable.

Whale shark sighting

Last July 15, Dulangan residents saw a whale shark near the shore along Varadero Bay. News spread quickly and later some divers swam with the butanding.

The butanding left after several hours. Whale sharks are migratory animals, they travel from 1 feeding ground to another, traveling hundreds of miles. One famous butanding area is Donsol, now frequented by thousands of tourist for the opportunity to swim with the butandings.

Muelle Hotspot

Good news for Internet users in the Muelle pier area. Joonee of Krisnee Internet Cafe had just installed a powerful antenna which provides Internet access within Muelle pier and surrounding area. Joonee said that most of his customers are yachtees who can browse the net while on board their yacht 500 meters away. He added that they now sell prepaid Internet access.

New adopted son

Hans Jorgen Nielsen is the latest foreign resident to become an adopted son. Nielsen donated used computers worth nearly 5000 US dollars to the Municipal High School. In a ceremony at the High School, Mayor Hubbert Dolor and school officials heaped praises to Nielsen and Ex-Councilor Danny Enriquez read the ordinance making him an adopted son of Puerto Galera.

Enriquez who sponsored the ordinance said Nielsen promised to give more help to Puerto Galera schools.

There are many more foreign residents who the Sangguniang Bayan should recognize. There others who contributed more than what Nielsen has given but who has remained unrecognized. There contributions will amount to thousands of US dollars in terms of promotions, community projects and donations to social events over many, many years. I hope the SB will not be miserly in granting due recognition to them.

Another SWTP solution

A foreign resident who is a consultant on wastewater technology had suggested that the government's proposed wastewater treatment plant might be too big for Sabang and that building 15 huge septic holding tanks will be more feasible and cost one-tenth of the proposed 110-million pesos wastewater treatment plant.

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Forum for Visitors and Residents of Puerto Galera

ED: The Community Forum of our website, www.puertogalera.org, is receiving many posts from its members and we believe, although sometimes we do not agree with the opinions of the forumers, that many of the ideas and views expressed are interesting and newsworthy. If you wish your views to be published in this section, join the forum and share your ideas. A Forumer may use a nickname to protect his/her identity. There are now more than 240 members and over 900 posts under 250 topics as of July 7.

Topic: Environmental tax

netmagus: Dear Friend, I just spoke Ms Aileen Bareng, head of the tourism office and she said that tourism arrival last year was in the vicinity of 1.7 million. I agree that this figure must be somewhat too high as we estimate that maximum tourist arrival would be around 700,000 to 800,000 - given present capacity. Now the thing that baffles the mind is that it is almost one-half year since they started collecting the EUF (they started December) and as of May, they have only collected 6 million pesos which translates to 120,000 tourists. Hmmm, peak season is almost over and the question is: why only 120,000 at this point in time???

KiddoKalaw: The figure of 120,000 tourists annually is not a surprise to most in the business community. Factor in the number of rooms in Puerto Galera and the number of trips from Batangas and occupancy rates and you get a figure of 300,000-500,000. (Note: Boracay has just over 500,000 annually) I have always wondered what the basis was for tourist arrival numbers given by the Tourism Office. This astronomically, exponentially, erroneous number seems to have ignited a raging inferno of self interest on the unrealistic expectation of collecting 50-100 million annually from the EUF.

netmagus: I do not wish to cast aspersions but the govt should explain why they are declaring 6 million pesos as of May, when it should be more if we based it on estimates of the past coming from the govt. Are there that many tourists able to

evade collection agents at the pier?

KiddoKalaw: Obviously, the LGU estimates are wrong. And yes, collection is not 100%. Also a system of controls for the monitoring of collections at the source should be put in place. This function is given to the Local Chief Executive, not the CRMB, as per the Ordinance

netmagus: Next question is: why is the CRM Board not meeting, why has the Mayor not called a meeting... when will he convene the Board... who replaced the members who resigned... under the ordinance the Board is the one that has authority to allocate, appropriate, disburse and make policies re: use of the EUF. What happen to the CRM Board?

KiddoKalaw: The CRM Board has met 4 times in the past year. At the last meeting the amount of P3.5M was recommended for the purchase of land for a new dumpsite/landfill and P 2M for the road access. Contrary to public perception, the CRMB's only role in the EUF Ordinance is to recommend disbursement. The Management and Administration of the Funds is the function of the Local Chief Executive. There will be a new CRMB starting September to be appointed by the Mayor.

netmagus: We have voiced our concerns many times before and after the ordinance was passed... the SB need to review the creation, composition and powers of the Board... otherwise, politics will come into play... Alas.. WWF, the people who crafted the ordinance did not listen to the people who had

seen so many bright ideas that never saw the light of day.

KiddoKalaw: Politics has been in play from the start. The ordinance passed by the SB is a different version from the draft initiated by WWF and the CRMB. The Ordinance is defective and should be reviewed. Any amendments dictated by politics or self-interest will just magnify its defects.

The Willingness to pay Survey conducted by the WWF was premised on the Private Sector, through the CRMB, managing and administering the funds. This is nowhere to be found in the EUF Ordinance.

netmagus: How do we make the EUF work to fulfill the objectives for which it was created...

KiddoKalaw: It is difficult, if not impossible, to implement a defective ordinance because this usually ends up in the regional trial court for clarifications, declaratory relief... Or in the cases where legitimate business and taxpayers are affected by a defective ordinance - Temporary Restraining Orders.

It is not up to the private sector to be a "hero". The private sector has given its' support and inputs with regard to the EUF. The Local Government Code and Municipal Ordinance 04-14 have provided the legal basis for the composition and powers of the CRMB. Yet the SB passed the EUF Ordinance transferring the management and administration of the EUF Funds from the CRMB to the Mayor and the monitoring and review of the EUF to the Sangunian Bayan in total disregard of the Local government

Code, Municipal Ordinance 04-14 and the willingness to pay survey for the EUF conducted by WWF. Why?

Because of public hearings against the powers of the board. There is no logic wherein the private sector and stakeholders, who are members of the CRMB - composed of 14 persons - find themselves too powerful that they decide to let one person handle the administration and management of EUF funds.

Could it be that the astronomical, exponential, and erroneous figures on the millions of tourist arrivals have something to do with this? We don't need a hero, we just need that the SB stop being the villains. But will they? Their legislative track record is not impressive. The 1 point of entry ordinance was defective, the EUF ordinance is defective. How many other new ordinances are defective because of the so-called public hearings or in the case for major stakeholders in the tourism sector, non-public hearings?

elgalleon: Thank you Kiddo for the info. I don't understand when you said that there will be a different board. What is the new CRM and how is it gonna be different?

KiddoKalaw: The Mayor is supposed to appoint new representatives from the private sector and on the list below as our 3 year term will be over in September: Sec. 2.1. Creation of the Coastal Resources Management Board (CRMB). A Coastal Resource Management Board is hereby created which shall be composed of the following: (a) the municipal mayor or his/her duly authorized representative as Chairperson; (b) the chairperson of the Committee on Tourism of the Sanggunian as Vice-Chairperson; and, (c) the chairperson of the Committee on Environmental Protection of the Sanggunian; (d) the Municipal Planning and Development Officer; (e) the Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council

(MFARMC) chairman; (f) one (1) non-governmental organization (NGO) representative; (g) one (1) representative from dive resort owners; (h) one (1) representative from non-dive resort owners; (i) one (1) representative from boat operators/boatmen association; (j) one (1) representative from academe/scientific community; (k) one (1) representative from the dive professionals; and (1) one (1) representative from an accredited club or organization as members. The Board shall meet at least once every two (2) months or as often as may be necessary. The members of the Board are enjoined to provide voluntary counterpart contribution in any form that would support its operation.

Sec. 2.3. Term of Office. Board members shall serve for a term of three (3) years without compensation and the nature of service rendered is voluntary; Provided that whenever a vacancy occurs during the term of a member, a new member shall be appointed in the same manner as the original appointment in order to complete the unfinished term of the said vacancy.

1. What will happen to the CRMB?

This is entirely up to the SB. Probably changes in its composition. But it does not matter as the CRMB never had any real function in the EUF ordinance, as most people are led to believe.

2. What is to be done if the Mayor disagrees with the CRMB recommendation?

This will not happen because: "The Municipal Mayor shall administer and manage all the collection, disbursement and allocation of the funds collected based on the purposes identified in this Ordinance."

1. The Mayor Allocates the EUF funds based on the purposes identified in the Ordinance.

2. The CRMB has no choice but to recommend the allocation as long as it is "based on the

purposes identified in the Ordinance."

3. The SB Approves the allocation and recommendation.

The CRMB is a rubber stamp for the LGU. It is more like a clerk checking that the t's are crossed and the i's dotted. So it will never happen that the mayor will not like the recommendation of the CRMB. The CRMB can only recommend what the mayor allocates and the phrase "based on the purposes identified in the ordinance," is so broad in the ordinance and IRR that it includes non-environmental matters.

So the EUF funds are no different from from Land Bank loans or development aid wherein the Mayor allocates and the SB approves.

kitkat: can the business groups lobby for more private sector participation in decision-making process especially on the allocation of funds in the amendment to the ordinance. The biggest problem is that there is no united business sector and most of the major players have given up. No corporate social responsibility among major resorts because most of them are not professional operators.

Private Sector participation in decision-making process especially on the allocation of funds has been the basis for the Willingness to Pay Survey conducted by the WWF. This is nowhere in the EUF Ordinance. The problem is the SB has refused to recognize this basic premise. The LGU does not want private sector participation in the allocation and approval of EUF funds. Period.

And, I agree, most major players have given up, not because of lack of corporate social responsibility as they provide a substantial part of EUF collections remitted to the LGU, but because the former, and current, LGU has a policy of disregarding the concerns of the stakeholders/private sector/taxpayer



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Saving the rainforest, a must now!

The municipality's environment program has been largely superficial and limited. Now the new Mayor is listening to environmental advocates on how to conserve Puerto Galera's natural assets.

When people speak of nature in Puerto Galera, they often relate it to the marine environment. However, Puerto Galera's rainforest is equally stunning and equally endangered.

If the marine ecosystem has problems with illegal fishing or pollution, the rainforest biggest enemies are the illegal loggers and the Mangyan slash and burn farming technique called kaingin.

The crux of the matter is the destruction of these natural assets will also destroy tourism, our main source of livelihood.

Ironically, many tourism operators are the main customers of illegal lumber. The proverbial "killing the goose that lays the golden egg" is always true in Puerto Galera, as the community and the government remain in a state of denial when it comes to the continuing, enduring, non-stop destruction of our natural assets.

One cannot ignore the warnings clearly written on the wall.

The recent floods in White Beach are clear indications of the current state of our deteriorating forest cover. No more trees mean bigger stronger floods. No more forest means landslides. One doesn't need to be a rocket scientist to figure that out. However, talk to local officials and the conservation of the rainforest would be the least of their priorities.

The resort owners would be too busy to talk about nature. They'd say: "Let them environmentalists handle that." Some would say, "That's the government's problem."

Sadly, this is OUR problem, and the sooner we realize that, the better for our economic and tourism future.

Mayor Hubbert Dolor said that he will listen to a group of concerned residents who has been for many years trying to get more interest especially from the government in nature conservation. One in the group is Michael Wolfe who had been trying for years different ways to influence people to care for the environment. He has published a website and even made a "rainforest prayer" to make people aware of the state of

our rainforest and its continued decline.

Michael with wife Bernadette has been knocking on many doors to get as many people involved in saving the rainforest. He made hiking trails to the boondocks to generate more interests. In his website, Michael posted moving photos of how hectare by hectare, year by year, the forest becomes victim of human greed.

Michael said that the main destroyer of the rainforest and its ecosystem is the kaingin. He detailed how some Mangyans would come in to burn one area of the rainforest after the illegal loggers had cut the trees; how kaingin would destroy everything leaving a smoldering land with ashes of former living things; how termites would later eat away the roots and transform the earth into "powder" soil.

Another in the group is Danny Enriquez who during his time as councilor was tenacious in his advocacy to protect the marine environment.

Danny shares Michael's concern: "We now realize that everything in nature is inter-related, inter-connected and that the marine environment is affected by what is happening in

the mountains. For example, a loose earth created by extensive kaingin will gradually find its way to the seashore causing siltation and killing the coral reef."

The celebrity in the group, at least in terms of popularity amongst environmentalists, is Mario Lutz, the founder of the Reptile Zoo near Ponderosa. Mario aside from his passion for reptiles also got hooked on rainforest conservation and has special interests on orchids found only in Mindoro. He has documented and photographed rare species of orchids which everybody from Puerto Galera can be truly proud of. These orchids like all the trees, reptiles, insects, birds and other living things are all in danger of extinction because of the kaingin and the illegal logging.

Boyot Galang who is the founder of the biggest cooperative in Puerto Galera is also part of the group and shared his experiences as a deputized forest ranger. He also had dealings with the Mangyan leaders and had suggested livelihood alternatives as well as new farming techniques that will help address the problems of the Mangyans.

I help the group in disseminating information and liaising with government officials and other major players in Puerto Galera.

Now that the primary focus of government is the rehabilitation of the water system, perhaps more attention will be given on the conservation of the watershed areas which is actually our rainforest. The rainforest acts like a sponge that collects the water. Even if millions of pesos are spent for infrastructure and nothing for conservation it would ultimately be a foolish venture.

Now what can you do to help us? (by Noe Lineses)

Mayor wants common façade...

Fortes wrote that the reasons were clearly common sense.

"It was not designed in relation to the range of the magnitude of the impacts and direction of the waves that will eventually wash White Beach, especially in the coming years when this natural process is becoming increasing stronger and more frequent. Do they believe in global climate change?"

Fortes said: "It is very close to the water, aggravating the negative impact of the waves."

Fortes added: "The materials used were just hollow blocks! They were too, less than 2 meters, too shallow to withstand natural erosional processes."

"There are no additional

structures to support them, especially now that people are using it as a bridge and a walkway. I suggested to one barangay council member to plant native trees with good potential to hold the sand and protect the structure."

Fortes said that if people will not replenish the sand lost from getting them for construction, to the establishment of shops and putting picnic tables closest to the water, the entire sandy beach will lose its usefulness and quality

Lastly, the professor said, "Unless the people of White Beach will sustain their contribution with the support from the Municipal Government, if any, it cannot be sustained in the long-term."

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Oktoberfest plan in progress

MAYOR HUBBERT Dolor has approved a private sector-led plan to hold an Oktoberfest in Puerto Galera. When given the tagline "München Deutschland in Puerto Galera Oktoberfest", the Mayor exclaimed, "Wow! Let's do this."

München Deutschland means Munich Germany, birthplace of the Oktoberfest which is the world's largest fair with over 6 million people attending each year. Many cities across the world also hold Oktoberfest celebrations including Manila, modeled after the Munich event.

This year's worldwide Oktoberfest celebrations will be held from September 20 to October 5. However, local Oktoberfest organizers are targeting the last week of October as the finale of the event.

Among the activities being considered are as follows:

- * Ceremonial Opening with the Mayor, after a twelve gun salute, tapping the first keg and uttering the word "O'zapft is" which means "it's tapped."

- * Locals especially Germans will be asked to wear the Sennerhut, Lederhosen, and the girls in Dirndl which are traditional German dresses.

- * The streets will be converted into venues for tents where beers will be served on

Stein mugs— Oktoberfest beer mugs (1-litre-Steins, Maßkrug in German) are made from heavy glass and typically have a decorative logo on the side, thus making them very popular souvenirs among visitors. There will be long tables inside the tents with lots of German sausages and roasted pigs and chickens.

- * Bavarian music with the local Oompah band will be played all throughout the venues.

- * Banners of blue and white will be hung in all the establishments near and along the main venue.

- * Colored mementos and souvenirs will be printed to be given to visitors and guests.

- * Local girls will be trained to carry and serve large beer mugs and to wear traditional apparels.

- * A website will be published with complete information and an online booking facility.

- * Half-page advertisements in the Manila Bulletin and Philippine Daily Inquirer for 2 consecutive Sundays leading to the event.

The organizers are targeting, this year, foreigners residing and working within the Philippines. They believe that the event will be a "great excuse"

for them to come to Puerto Galera. Organizers expect 100% occupancy for Puerto Galera resorts during the event.

The organizers are also soliciting the support of German corporations like Adidas, Bayer, BMW, Heidelberg Philippines, Lufthansa and Maxbank. The organizers are appealing for support from the community especially resort owners to sponsor the accommodation and/or meals of guests like the European diplomats and officials of corporations sponsoring the event.

The organizers said, "That this is a true tourism event for Puerto Galera, one which is worth every peso as the return will be great and lasting for tourism establishments and the community."

"This will be a yearly event and will be part of the tourism calendar of Mayor Dolor."

The organizers said the event will be handled by professional event organizers, among them are Europeans residing in the municipality.

If you wish to help the organizing committee, share comments and suggestions, feel free to send e-mail to them: Oktoberfest@puertogalera.org or call our mobile at 0926-8484500.

Mayor wants common façade for White Beach

Mayor Hubbert Dolor wants the frontage of White Beach to have a common façade before the year is over.

The façade will be built on the walkway along the marine salvage zone.

Municipal officials are now engage in information drive to convince owners of beachfront establishments to build the façade.

The façade was designed by the Municipal Planning Office and was meant to give a good first impression to visitors going to White Beach.

However, business owners and members of the San Isidro Business and Resort Owners Association (SIBROA) are opposed to the project.

SIBROA President Leny Del Mundo said that the design is unacceptable as it would make White Beach look like a cemetery.

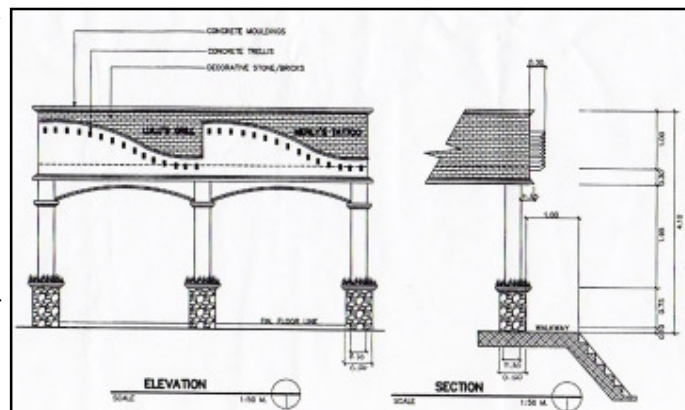
She said that they are totally opposed to the project even as municipal officials assure them that the façade will beautify White Beach.

Del Mundo said that beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

"It does not mean that if you suggest to a woman to put on make up that that woman will be beautiful because of the make up," said Del Mundo who owns Mindorine Oriental, a beachfront resort.

Another SIBROA member had asked other members not to initiate the building of the façade.

"The Mayor is asking the beachfront owners to pay for the building of the façade. Why would we pay for something that we dislike?"



Municipal Engineer Rod Manongsong said that he spoke with SIBROA officials and had told them to air their grievances directly to the Mayor.

Engr. Manongsong said the Mayor wants the project done before the next renewal of business permits on January 2009.

Owners are concerned that the Mayor might again require them to build the façade like the walkway. SIBROA said that the Mayor required business owners to first build the walkway before business permits were given to them.

This time, however, SIBROA said their members are united in opposing the project and will seek legal remedies if the Mayor will again force them to undertake the project.

A White Beach resident commented that the design of seawall and the walkway were flawed according a UNESCO scientist and that the structure might not last long.

Professor Mike Fortes said that he is giving the structure 3 to 4 years and "you will see its eventual collapse."

>>> on page 6



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Notes on the water rehabilitation project agreement ... from page 2

The Private Partner at its sole option may assign part or all of its rights and obligations under this MOA to any of its members, and/or their affiliates, assigns, equity partners and form a new company for the PGWSP and the energy savings component.

In the event it is necessary, the Parties agree to form a joint

venture corporation (JVC) or any other form of cooperative endeavor which is deemed mutually advantageous to the Parties. In this case Public Partner agrees that Private Partner, at its option shall participate to at least eighty percent (80%) of the JVC.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES AND OBLIGATIONS OF PARTIES

UNDER THE MOA

4.1 PRE-IMPLEMENTATION, ENGINEERING & PLANNING PHASE

4.1.2 Detailed Project Studies xxx

The Private Partner shall be responsible for the design, construction and operation and maintenance of the facility xxx

(c) Review of applicability of

current water rates and make recommendation for the schedule of water rates (water tariff), environmental fees, and other pertinent fees which shall be chargeable to residential, commercial, institutional and industrial customers; xxx

(e) Prepare the financial plan in accordance to legal, technical, environmental, social and

environmental criteria, sustainable operations for twenty five (25) years, and that can meet the required minimum return on investment of equity partners and interest rates and terms of loan providers; xxx

(g) Prepare all the necessary documentation for Project Financing; xxx

4.1.3 Promulgation of Perti-

nent Municipal Ordinances – Public Partner shall have the following responsibilities:

(a) Promulgate all the necessary ordinances to make the Project operative, as well as successful implementation;

(b) Organize and undertake public consultations and forums as required for permit purposes, rebasing /re-pricing of water rates, and attendant fee chargeable to the Customer or user; and facilitate the public awareness program as necessary;

4.1.4 Acquisition of Permits and Licenses – The Parties shall work jointly to acquire all the necessary licenses and permits for the Project, including those necessary from the local, provincial, regional and national levels of government. xxx

4.3 OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE (O&M) – The operation and maintenance of the Project Facilities to be undertaken by Private Partner shall be in accordance to the terms and conditions stipulated herein and as may be mutually agreed upon by the Parties.

The services may be extended to other functions should this be advantageous to the Public Partner and based upon mutually acceptable terms and conditions for such additional services. xxx

4.3.3 Management Fee – For the technology transfer, management of the operating and maintenance services, over-all administration and general supervision of the Project xxx Private Partner shall receive a management fee of ten percent (10%) of the gross revenues from the Project. - This means if the gross revenue is 20 million pesos, the private partner gets 2 million pesos. Plus, according to a source they get 80% of the net revenue.

The management fees shall only cover general overhead expenses of the head office of the Private Partner. This excludes specific costs for day to day operation, maintenance and management, consultants and specialists provided by the Private Partner necessary for the efficient and sustainable operation of the project. xxx

4.3.4 Coverage Area – The coverage area shall be the entire area of the Municipality of Puerto Galera, The Parties may at their option provide services to areas outside the MPG to improve and enhance the financial viability of the Project, provided however, that this is not detrimental to the Customers within MPG and subject to prior approval of the Public Partner.

* xxx more text prior/follows

TO BE CONTINUED
NEXT ISSUE...

**TODAY AUGUST 8, 2008, WE ARE
FORMALLY LAUNCHING THE PUERTO GALERA
WATER SYSTEM REHABILITATION AND
EXPANSION
UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF
HON. MAYOR HUBBERT "MD" A. DOLOR.**



Puerto Galera Water System Rehabilitation and Expansion Project

**To Rehabilitate, provide sufficient potable water and expand
water distribution coverage**

**Maraming salamat po sa inyong pakikiisa, pakikipagtulungan at pagsuporta sa aking
mithiin para sa Puerto Galera.... Bayan ng "Malaparaision Dalampasigan"**



HUBBERT CHRISTOPHER A. DOLOR M.D., M.P.A.
Municipal Mayor

Sa puso ko...Kayo ang Una...Sulong .. **PUERTO GALERA**

**TODAY AUGUST 8, 2008, WE ARE FORMALLY
LAUNCHING THE SEWERAGE AND WASTEWATER
TREATMENT PLANT (SWTP) PROJECT LOCATED
AT SITIO BIG LALAGUNA, BARANGAY SABANG,
PUERTO GALERA UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF
HON. MAYOR HUBBERT "MD" A. DOLOR.**



SWTP Big Lalaguna, Sabang

S.W.T.P.

Sewerage & Wastewater Treatment Plant at Sitio Big Lalaguna, Barangay Sabang

**To establish a sewerage and wastewater treatment facility in Puerto Galera
in order to protect the coastal and marine environment and natural resources
from land-based sewage pollution.**

**Maraming salamat po sa inyong pakikiisa, pakikipagtulungan at pagsuporta
sa aking mithiin para sa Puerto Galera... bayan ng "Malaparaision Dalampasigan."**



HUBBERT CHRISTOPHER A. DOLOR M.D., M.P.A.
Municipal Mayor

Sa puso ko...Kayo ang Una...Sulong .. **PUERTO GALERA**

New Barangay Officials

Barangay Poblacion

Barangay Chair
Garcia, Herminio Y.
Barangay Councilors
Villanueva, Michael C.
Arevalo, Paul Rene L.
Garcia, Abad Bernabe M.
Quinto, Nympha B.
Candava, Noemi R.
Quinto, Romeo C.
Sandoval, Apolonia C.

Barangay Aninuan

Barangay Chair
Bunquin, Gloria C.
Barangay Councilors
Luzon, Melquiades D.
Garcia, Charito C.
Reniva, Ruben B.
Evangelista, Guillermo A.
Garcia, Federico C.
Agbing, Ruben C.
Tagapan, Baby Marelin A.

Barangay Baclayan

Barangay Chair
Banaag, Marcelino A.
Barangay Councilors
Sundalo, Jimmy S.
Vidal, Robert S.
Banaag, Estanislao A.
Tarnate, Petronila B.
Sundalo, Jose Rico C.
Banaag, Aurea C.
Caringal, Jerry P.

Barangay Balatero

Barangay Chair
Candava, Wilberto P.
Barangay Councilors
Binay, Corazon P.
Datinguinoo, Paulino B.
Adarme, Diosdado G.
Magsipoc, Leomar c.
Cruzat, Josephine M.
Parilla, Rowena A.
Axalan, Joene B.

Barangay Dulangan

Barangay Chair
Ascan, Juan III V.
Barangay Councilors
Balinton, Alex L.
Ascan, Edgar B.
Babao, Neopito L.
Caganan, Jarwin N.
Gelera, Federico Sr. A.
Suzara, Amando A.
Lopez, Rodrigo C.

Barangay Sto. Nino

Barangay Chair
Visayana, Danilo M.
Barangay Councilors
Andal, Susan V.
Danao, Jaime E.
Adarme, Adelina M.
Garcia, Armando S.
Loring, Levi John V.
Garcia, Ederlyn G.
Manongsong, Agustina M.

Barangay Tabinay

Barangay Chair
Arago, Melchor J.
Barangay Councilors
Agellon, Romeo B.
Ceniza, Leonides L.
Rapada, Edgardo M.
Manongsong, Climaco L.
Quinto, Eduardo S.
Evangelista, Ariel H.
Gutierrez, Natalia Q.

Barangay Villaflor

Barangay Chair
Magpantay, Lorna B.
Barangay Councilors
Florida, Teodoro R.
Florida, Bernardo M.
Aspecto, Melvin M.
Mahusay, Loretto S.
Javier, Ariel M.
Florida, Wendel A.
Florida, Ronaldo G.

Barangay San Isidro

Barangay Chair
Candava, Elino B.
Barangay Councilors
Bunquin, Genaro S.
Garcia, Luisito M.
Magbuhos, Vilma M.
Del Mundo, Genciano C.
Sandoval, Reynald T.
Dela Pena, Vencent S.
Tatlonghari, Arnold B.

Brgy Sinandigan

Barangay Chair
Arban, Amparo G.
Barangay Councilors
Manalo, Laila C.
Atienza, Gregorio M.
Magallanes, Cesar B.
Datinguinoo, Eleno A.
Abante, Brigida G.
Lingon, Rizal L.
Espiritu, Prumencio B.

Barangay Palangan

Barangay Chair
Caguete, Wilfredo V.
Barangay Councilors
Chan, Lydia L.
Del Mundo, Restituto C.
Dalangin, Enelito J.
Dela Pena, Cancio G.
Manalo, Domingo M.
Yaco, Cristita C.

Barangay Sabang

Barangay Chair
De Chavez, Benjamin A.
Barangay Councilors
Arago, Antonio C.
Caspe, Cresencio I.
Atienza, Juanito B.
Talamisan, Rafael M.
Cataquis, Lacoracion A.
Magsino, Lutgardo E.

Brgy San Antonio

Barangay Chair
Cusi, Francisca Magsino
Barangay Councilors
Garcia, Emiliano S.
Castillo, Eugenia D.
Marquez, Joeby V.
Marquez, Rufino G.
Marquez, Rosemarie R.
Flores, Inocencio G.

*A **barangay** also known by its former Spanish adopted name, the **barrio**, is the smallest administrative division in the Philippines and is the native Filipino term for a village, district or ward. Municipalities and cities are composed of barangays. Barangay is sometimes abbreviated as "Brgy" or "Bgy". As of December 31, 2006 there are a total of 41,995 barangays throughout the Philippines. Puerto Galera has 13 barangays.*

A barangay is governed by its barangay officials. The "barangay officials" is considered as a Local Government Unit. It is composed of a Punong Barangay (Chair), 7 Barangay Councilors or Barangay Kagawad, and a Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) Chairman which is considered as a member of the Council.

Talk of the Town

Important Numbers

The municipal government has just installed a telephone trunkline which the Mayor said will reduce the cost of telephone calls and make all municipal offices more accessible to the public. The trunkline numbers are 2873045 and 2873028 and the extension number of the offices are as follows: Mayor (101), Sangguniang Bayan (103), Treasurer (102), Budget (104), Accounting (105), Waterworks (106), Engineer (110), Assessor (109), Planning & Development (111), Social Welfare (113), Civil Registrar (112), Personnel (114), Agriculture (115), Legal Office (116).

Other important numbers:

Police/Fire - 2873043

Health/Hospital - 2873049

Electricity - 2873472

Cable TV - 2873178

Burned alive

The police found the body of a dead man sprawled on the ground in Barangay Aninuan. Police have yet to identify the victim whose body was burned beyond recognition. However, the police believe that the victim was a Mangyan.

Mayor Dolor who is a doctor said that the victim could have been burned alive.

Tourism seminars

The municipal government through the tourism office is holding a series of tourism seminars, namely: Front Office Operations on August 26-27 and Comprehensive Housekeeping on August 28-29. Venue of the seminars will be at the Puerto Nirvana Beach Resort in Poblacion.

Tourism Officer Aileen Barend said that "the undertaking aims to upgrade existing tourism services for our frontliners and will make us

competitive with other tourist destinations.

Participants are requested to pay a registration fee of 600 pesos per course covering two lunches, four meriendas, seminar kit, venue and ID. In view of the limited number of participants, admission is on a first-come-first-serve basis. The tourism office encourages early confirmation.

Certificates of Attendance from the Department of Tourism and the municipal government will be issued only to participants who will finish the two-day course.

Should you have further inquiries, please contact Tourism Office at their landline number (043) 287-3051.

Garage Sale

There will a big garage sale called First Subastahan sa Galera 2008 organized by the Puerto Galera Multi-media Society to be held on August 16 at the municipal gymnasium in Poblacion. The event is done in coordination with Mayor Hubbert Dolor and the New Galeran Business Credit Cooperative.

The organizers said that the event will be "a trade fair of second hand and used goods."

During "Low Season" earn extra money by selling used and old goods from your stockroom and convert them into cash. You can also come and buy good second hand items at the lowest bargain price. For more details, call/text: 0919.585.03.73 or 09278031770.

Councilor pleads for the plaza

Councilor Berting Macatangay recently made an impassioned speech to drum up support for the restoration of the municipal plaza to its former glory. He said that the plaza is now filthy, needs repair and has no electricity. The plaza is one of the landmark projects of former Mayor Teo Atienza.



*Malinis, Matulin
Less than an hour*

Schedule of Trips

Batangas Pier

5:00
6:30
7:00
7:15
8:30
9:00
9:15
9:45
10:15
11:45
12:05
12:15
12:45
1:30
2:00
2:45
3:30
4:00
4:30
5:00

Puerto Galera White Beach

5:30
6:15
6:45
8:20
8:55
9:45
10:15
11:10
11:35
12:15
12:45
1:00
1:30
1:45
2:15
2:45
3:15
4:30
5:00

Myrna V. Ilagan Cell # 0906-513-6889

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Dakilang Pari ng Puerto... mula sa p. 11

Buhay na banal: Tia Vering ng Puerto Galera

rin antiks kaya meron din sa Museum na galing sa Tangalan at sa Baclayan.

Sa mungkahi ni Pablo Lineses na magkaroon ng sariling pagamutan ang mga Mangyan at para rin sa lahat na taga-rito sa Puerto Galera. Si Fr.Thiel ay nagsikap na humingi ng tulong sa kanyang bansa sa pahintulot at sa tulong na rin ni Bishop William Duschak ay naipagawa ang pagamutan. Naitayo ang Misereor Clinic sa ating bayan na noon ay may kumpletong kagamitan at mga gamot. Unang naglingkod dito sina Pablo Lineses, Estelita Abac, Dr. Garcia, at Sister Carmen Castro, bilang volunteer doctors. Ang mga gamot noon ay buhat sa Germany at libreng ibinibigay sa mga maysakit na mga mamamayan.

Noong May 1981 ay isinilibra ni Fr. Thiel ang kanyang ika-50 taon ng pagkapari sa ating bayan Puerto Galera. Si Rev. Bishop Simeon Valerio ang Obispo sa pangangasiwa ni Father Eswald Dentes at dinaluhan ng lahat na mga pari at mamamayan.

Nakita ng pamahalaan ang lahat na pagsisikap ni Father upang ang bayang ito ay umunlad kaya naging Adopted Son siya ng Puerto Galera.

Pagkatapos ng Misereor Clinic dito sa bayan, “pusilum” naman ang ipinatayo sa dalawang ektaryang lupa sa Tangalan na ibinigay ni Teodora Axalan Lineses kay Bishop Duschak SVD at kay Father Thiel sa pakiusap na ito ay para sa retreat house at tirahan ng matatanda na at may sakit na mga pari. Kaya’t nang malimit na si Father ay magkasakit ay sa Tangalan na siya tumira. Si Father Schenk SVD ang humalili sa kanya bilang Parish Priest. Ngunit nang lumubha na ang kanyang sakit sa puso at arthritis nakiusap siya kay Bishop Valerio na ilipat na lamang siya sa bahay ni Maximo at Verginia na siyang nag-aalaga sa kanya sa Tangalan. Ito ay para rin mapalapit sa kanyang manggagamot.

Sa pitong taon niyang pagtira sa amin ay pitong taon din na araw araw ay nagmimisa siya kahit naka- upo, at kung minsan pati si Bishop William Duschak SVD at iba pang mga pari ay kasama niya sa pagmimisa, kapag dumadalaw sa kanya.

Para sa aming pamilya malaking biyaya ang pagtigil niya sa amin. Dahil sa Banal na Misa na araw araw na ginagawa niya. Simula 1976 hanggang 1982.

Gabi, ika-12 ng Hulyo, nabatid ko na darating ang Tia Vering noong araw na yaon. Bagama’t ang balita ay hindi maganda ukol sa kanyang kalusugan, ang nasa isip ko ay ang ipakita sa kanya ang ika-12 isyu ng Fortnightly na kung saan nakalathala ang sinulat niyang artikulo tungkol kay Fr. Thiel. Matagal ko nang sinabi sa Tia Vering na ilalagay ko sa dyaro ang kanyang sinulat subalit matagal na natigil ang Fortnightly sa maraming kadahilanan. Matutuwa ang Tia Vering kapag nakita niya ang dyaro sabi ko sa sarili ko at plano ko ay pag bumisita ako kinabukasan saka ko ipapakita sa kanya.

Namatay ang Tia Vering ganap na alas tres ng umaga ika-13 ng Hulyo. Lubha kaming nalungkot sa paglisan ng pinaka-mamahal naming tiyahin. Dumating ako bitbit ang mga dyayo at sinabi ko sa kanya na eto na po yung sinulat ninyo. Subalit wala na siya; sa ihip ng hangin naramdaman ko na natutuwa siya at malalaman ng mga tao ang istorya ni Fr. Thiel, ang dakilang pari na inaruga ng mag-asawang Gutierrez.

Marami ang nakidalamhati sa pamilya ng Lineses at sa kaluwalhatian ng Maykapal. Sa araw ng kanyang libing, andun ang Tio Imo at isa siya sa mga umasiste sa misa - huling araw na kasama niya ang Tia Vering sa loob ng simbahan. Nakakatuwa na nakakalungkot, batid ng lahat ang malalim na pagmamahalan ng mag-asawa. Pinaggala sila ng mga anak na mababait at magagalang. Dama nila ang hinagpis at pagmamahal ng sambayanan sa kanilang ina.

Lumisan na ang Tia Vering pero ani ng kura meron tayong malakas na tagapamagitan upang ang ating mga kahilingan, hinaing ay magkaroon ng katuparan. Salamat po Tia Vering.

Sa amin na mga pamangkin, malaking kawalan ang Tia Vering. Tuwing me problema sa pamilya, ang Tia Vering ang nagiging sandalan, hingahan ng loob at ang kanyang mga salita ang nagbibigay sa amin ng lakas ng loob upang harapin ang mga hamon ng panahon. Lagi niya kami pinagdarasal at kanyang mga ngiti, ang kanyang mga tawa ay lubha naming m-mimiss.

Maraming salamat po sa lahat ng tumulong at nakidalamhati sa pamilya ng Gutierrez at Lineses.

Bukas na Liham para sa ating Punong-Bayan

Kagalang-galang Hubbert Christopher Atienza Dolor M.D., M.P.A.

Kami po na mga Concerned Citizens ay sumusuporta sa inyong hangarin at programa na isaayos ang supply ng patubig ng Puerto Galera lalo na ang patubig ng barangay Sinandigan, San Isidro at Aninuan.

Ang atin pong patubig ay biyayang mula sa kalikasan at sa simula’t simula ay pinatatakbo ng pamahalaan ng Puerto Galera para sa mamamayan ng Puerto Galera.

Amin pong nabatid na magkakaroon ng “partner” ang pamahalaang lokal para isaayos ang ating patubig.

Kami po ay nananawagan na mailahad ang nilalaman ng kasunduan tungkol sa partnership upang sa ganoon po ay maging maliwanag sa lahat ang nasabing kasunduan. Naniniwala po kami na ang hangarin ninyo ay busilak, kaya’t ang isa pong malayang dayalogo tungkol sa nasabing kasunduan ay papawi sa mga agam-agam at maling inpormasyon.

Naniniwala rin po kami na sa inyong puso ay may puwang ang mga komento at suhestiyon na tunay na magiging daan upang lumitaw ang pinaka-magandang solusyon para sa problema ng patubig.

Ang liham pong ito ay aming ginawa ng walang pasubali at malisya manapa’y para sa kapakanan ng mahal nating bayan.

Sumasainyo,

Mga Concerned Citizens ng Puerto Galera

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Dakilang Pari ng Puerto... mula sa p. 12

nagbibigay sa kanyang trust fund na ginamit ni Father para ipagawa ang kumbento.

Pagkabalik niya buhat sa Germany dinugtungan at pinalaki ang ating simbahan at nilagyan ng mataas na kampanaryo na may tatlong malalaking kampana at tabernakulo buhat pa sa Germany.

Pinalagyan ang mga barrio o barangay ng kapilya at nagtatag ng ibat-ibang samahang pangrelihiyon. Inakit niya ang mga tao na lalong mapalapit sa Diyos sa pamamagitan ng paglalaan ng kristyanong edukasyon.

Noong makalipat na ang mga Mangyan sa Baclayan, lagi rin kasama ang mga katekista. Nagawa ng rice terases marami ring na-aning palay dito. Pinaturuan din sila sa mag-asawang Peace Corps na sina Mr. and Mrs. Bonita Bacman para sa wastong pagtatanim ng repolyo, culrabi, carrots, kamatis na malalaki at iba pang mga gulayin. Ang mga bunga ay ibinababa sa bayan sa kanilang Baclayan Cooperative Store. Nais din ni Father na mabigyan ng magandang edukasyon ang mga Mangyan. Kaya pumunta siya sa Manila kasama ang labing-isang mangyan, upang humingi ng pahintulot ang ipapatayo niyang paaralan para sa mga Mangyan na kikilalanin ng pamahalaan. Inilapit niya ito kay Unang Ginang Imelda Marcos kaya naipatayo ang Mangyan Trade School. Nag-aral ang mga kabataang mangyan dito simula 1962 hanggang 1966. Hindi sila nagtagal sa paaralang ito, sapagkat mas ninais nilang mamuhay sa kanilang likas na kinagawian sa kabundukan.

Ang 87 pamilya na nasa bayan ay inilipat na sa Baclayan kasama ang mga batang nag-aaral sa Mangyan Trade School. Lumipat sila sa binili ni Father na 33 ektaryang lupa sa Baclayan para sa kanila. Nagbukas din ang paaralan doon upang

ipagpatuloy ang kanilang pag-aaral. Nagpagawa rin ng kapilya para sa Banal na Misa. Nagpatayo ng ilang bahay para sa mga gustong tumigil sa Baclayan. Pinagawan din ng daan buhat sa Small Tabinay hanggang Baclayan.

Ang dating Mangyan Trade School ay pinalaki at ginawang Puerto Galera Academy at may mga nagbigay ng tulong kay Father para sa marami niyang pagawain. Si Mr. Taylor ang nagbigay ng mga picadas ng marmol, sahig sa altar at sa mesa na pinagmimisahan. Si Mr. Buena na may loging Concession sa San Teodoro ang nagbigay ng malalaking tablang troso para rin sa marami niyang pagawain. Ang mga troso ay doon itinatambak sa Muelle, walang mga bahay noon dito. Sa gabi pag mataas ang tubig o taog, ay isa-isang hinihila ang mga troso nina Fr.Thiel, Fr.Togonon, Maximo at Melchor. Ito ay dinadala sa baba sa tapat ng grotto upang doon ipalagari na ayon sa sukat na kailangan.

Para sa mga taga malayo na nag-aaral sa Puerto Galera Academy nagpagawa din ng dormitoryo, isa para sa mga lalaki (San Tarsisius) at para sa mga babae (Santa Maria).

Nabalitaan ni Father na may naghuhukay ng mga antiks sa Bayanan at ang mga basag ay itinatapon o iniwan na lamang, hiningi niya ang mga ito. Sa tulong nina Pablo Lineses, Estanislao Cobarrubias Jr., Maximo Gutierrez at Melchor Sur, kinulekta nilang lahat ang mga basag na iniwan na antiks. Nangako si Father na hindi niya aalisin ang lahat na mga antik sa Puerto Galera.

“Sa pangangasiwa niya, ako ang naglinis at nagbuo ng lahat na basag na antiks.” Dahil dito nagkaroon ng Museum sa ating bayan na ipinangalan kay Fr. Thiel. Nagpahukay din si Father sa Baclayan at sa Tanganan at may nakuha

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Tutol si Vice Mayor ... mula sa p. 12

tain ng heavy equipment ay lubhang magastos. Bakit hindi na lang natin ipagawa at gamitin ang ating dati ng bulldozer at payloader.

f) Vehicles for the SB Members Use - Naku po, kayo na ang sumagot nito kung tama ang gagawing ito.

Noong July 10, tumawag po ako ng isang consultative meeting sa mga taong naghirap at naglaan din ng panahon sa bayang ito; mga naging lingkod bayan din tulad natin upang magtanong sa kanila o humingi ng mga payo tungkol sa mga issue ng bayan tulad ng Resolution No. 2008-116 at tungkol sa ating water supply.

Ang mga dumalo ay ang mga sumusunod: Ex Mayor Herming Atienza, Ex Vice-Mayor Milan Lopez, Ex Vice-Mayor Noe Lineses, Ex Councilors Tony Olavere, Cenon Salcedo, Rafael Romey, Flor Persia, Ex Barangay Captain Islao Bagos, Mr. Rony Brucal as the representative Ex-Mayor Islao Brucal. Si Ex Mayor Gregorio Delgado ay hindi nakarating subalit pinuntahan namin at siya ay tutol tulad ng mga ibang dumalo.

Dumating din si Councilor Robertito Macatangay.

Ang mga opinyong

ibinigay ay halos pare-pareho. Na sila ay hindi sang-ayon at tahasang tumututol sa bawat issue, gaya ng mga sumusunod:

Water Supply - Hindi naman kabigatan ang problema natin sa tubig. Ang source ay easily available at ang distribution naman ay by gravity lang. Hindi ito nangangailangan ng komplikadong proseso at makinarya. Ang Barangay Sinandigan ay sa summer lang naman nawawalan ng tubig. At ito ay mareresolba sa pamamagitan ng paglalagay ng direct line para sa Sinandigan, kaya hindi kailangan ang utang at foreign partner dito.

Renovation of Municipal Building - Hindi nangangailangan ng pag utang dahil hindi naman sira ang building.

Air-conditioning ng Gymnasium - Kapag nilagyan ng air-condition ay napakaluhog at napakagastos. Hindi bagay sa building kaya sayang lamang ang mga aircon.

Convention Center at Low Cost Dormitory - Hindi kailangan, dahil ito ay pagkumpetensya sa private sector. Dapat bigyan sila ng “incentive” at hindi kumpetensyahin pa.

Sasakyan ng mga konsehal - Tutol din sila dahil kahiyahiya na ang mga sasakyan ng mga

lingkod-bayan ay manggagaling sa utang na babayaran ng mga mamamayan sa loob ng maraming taon. At ito ya magiging pandagdag na problema sa trapik, at karagdagang gastos ang gasolina at maintenance na ang taong-bayan ang magbabata.

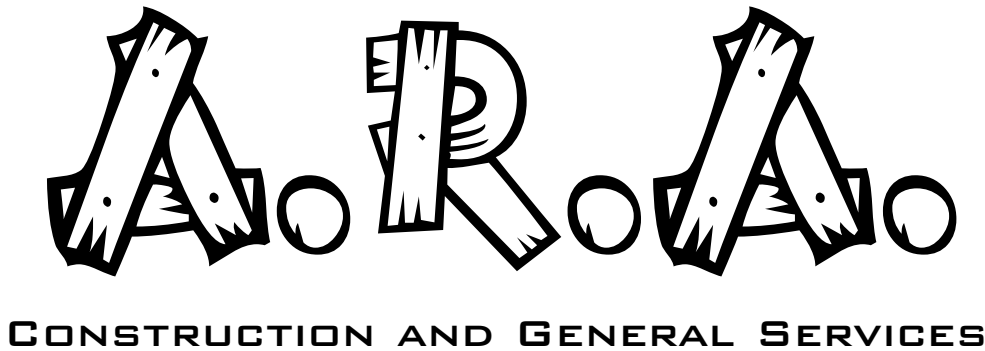
Rekomendasyon ng Grupo: Nakikiusap ang grupo na sa komposisyon ng Municipal Development Council ay maglagay ng miyembro na galing sa grupong ito na ang bilang ay “proportionate” sa kabuuang bilang ng nasabing Council.

At tumawag ng isang malawakang public assembly upang maipaabot at mahingi ang opinyon at desisyon ng taong bayan.

Nasabi ko na ang lahat. Hindi na ito sarili kong pagpapasiya kundi ito ay desisyon ng mga taong nanunungkulan at naghihirap para sa ating inang bayan.

Mga kababayan, magsama-sama tayo at ipakiusap natin sa punong bayan na huwag nang ituloy ang pangungutang sa bangko at huwag na baguhin ang sistema ng ating water system. Kawawa naman tayo...Tayo ang magpapasan nito...

Salamat and God Bless Puerto Galera



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FROM BATANGAS PIER

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5 : 45 AM
6 : 30 AM
6 : 45 AM
7 : 00 AM
7 : 30 AM
8 : 00 AM
8 : 45 AM
9 : 15 AM
9 : 30 AM
10 : 00 AM
10 : 30 AM
11 : 15 AM
12 : 15 PM
1 : 15 PM
2 : 30 PM
3 : 00 PM
3 : 30 PM
4 : 30 PM
5 : 00 PM

FROM WHITE BEACH

6 : 00 AM
7 : 00 AM
7 : 30 AM
8 : 00 AM
8 : 15 AM
9 : 00 AM
9 : 30 AM
10 : 15 AM
11 : 00 AM
11 : 30 AM
12 : 15 PM
12 : 45 PM
1 : 30 PM
2 : 00 PM
2 : 30 PM
3 : 00 PM
3 : 30 PM
4 : 00 PM
4 : 30 PM

CONTACT NUMBERS

BATANGAS PIER: 09196994309 / 09283834360 / 09173345115
WHITE BEACH: 09164407450 / 09198822648
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Volume 4 No. 13

August 1-15, 2008

Father Erwin Thiel, SVD (1902-1982):

Dakilang Pari ng Puerto Galera

ni Verginia Lineses Gutierrez +++

IKALAWANGBAHAGI

Nagpagawa si Father ng card na may tatak ng silyo ng simbahan, para sa lahat na pamilyang tagalog, upang mabigyan na rin ng mga harina, mais, bolgor, kuaker at gatas. Iba-ibang baryo ang binibigyan ng rasyon bawat araw.

Nagpagawa si Fr. Thiel ng isang Grotto sa may likod ng simbahan sa tapat ng paaralan. Isang taga-Bongabong na kung tawagin ay Mang Dalma ang naggawa nito. Marami ang tumulong sa paghahakot ng mga bato at buhangin at nagtanim ng mga bulaklak na rosas at iba pang bulaklak sa paligid ng simbahan at Grotto. Ang grottong ito ang pinaglagyan ng mahal na Birhen ng Fatima na buhat pa sa Portugal na inilibot sa buong Pilipinas at dito ibinigay sa Puerto Galera, dahil noon ito ang bayan na lahat ay katoliko. Dumating dito sa bayan ng Puerto Galera ang mahal na Birhen ng Fatima noong May 13, 1959. Ito ang unang pagdaraos ng Pilgrimage sa bayang ito. Inihatid ng mga taga Calapan, at lahat na mga pari at mga parokyano ng Silangang Mindoro. Sa Grotto inilagay at dito rin sila nagmimisa ang mga pari kasama ang kani-kanilang parokyano. Buong hapong may nagmimisa dito. Dahil sa ito ang bayan puro katoliko, kaya pag may dumarating na ibang sekta at nabalitaan ni Father, inaalang agad niya kung saan nakatira. Pinupuntahan at pinakikiusapan ang may ari ng bahay, na paalisin na lamang sila. Noon din nagsimula na ang lahat na bahay ay nilagyan ng Ave Maria sa

taas ng pinto, tanda na ang lahat na taga Puerto Galera ay katoliko. Naglagay din ng labing-apat na estasyon o Daan ng Krus sa labas ng simbahan buhat sa lugar ng Museum paikot sa baba ng simbahan malapit sa dagat paakyat sa may grotto ng Fatima patuloy sa baba ng paaralan ng PGA at natatapos sa tapat ng malaking puno ng mangga, at doon nakalagay ang ikalaginglimang estasyon sa may puno ng chico.

Taong 1959 bago pumunta si Father sa Germay, pinag-aral niya si Maximo sa “carpentry shop” ni Brother Richard at Brother Wonirabot sa Christ the King. May araw na sa Philippine College of Art and Trade naman siya pumapasok. Pagkatapos niya, sa Rattan Craft sa Valdez Factory sa Angeles, Pampanga siya pumapasok. Dalawang taon din siyang palipat lipat sa tatlong lugar na ito. Nang sya ay bumalik na dito nag-anyaya si Father ng gustong mag-aral at may hilig rin sa carpentry at tuturuan sila ni Maximo at sina Sancho Ceniza, Rolando Axalan, Panchito Torcuator, Efren Balita, Antonio Persia, Danilo Lineses at Pablito Lalongisip at may ilang mga mangyan din ang tumugon sa paanyaya ni Father.

Sa marami niyang balak ipagawa kinailangan niyang pumunta sa Germany upang humingi ng tulong sa kanyang mga kaibigan at mga benefactors. Hindi naman siya nabigo. Hindi lahat na nagbibigay ay mayayaman, subalit marami ang regular na

>>> pahina 11

Mayor sinagot mga batikos ni Vice

Giliw na Mambabasa:

Sa lugar pong ito sana nakasulat ang mga sagot ni Mayor sa mga batikos ni Vice Mayor. Ginawa po namin ang aming magagawa upang makuha ang panig ni Mayor subalit hindi po ito umabot sa aming deadline. Kailangan na po namin ilabas ang dyaryo sapagakat huli na po ito ng may tatlong araw. Kaya po, minarapat namin na sa susunod na isyu na lang isasama yung sagot ni Mayor. Ang amin pong hangad ay ibigay ang bawat panig ng mga isyu upang magkaroon po kayo ng balanseng pananaw sa mga bagay na nakaka-apekto sa ating bayan.

Sumasainyo: Ang Patnugot

La Brisa sisimulan na, lalabanan ng “tenants”

Sisimulan na sa Oktubre ang La Brisa Del Mar, isang subdivision na itatayo sa mahigit na 16 na hektaryang lupa na napapaloob sa Bagong Pook at Aguada sa may Poblacion. Nabili ng La Brisa ang 14 na hektaryang lupa sa PNB na nagsubasta ng lupa matapos maremata nila ito sa dating may-ari, ang pamilya Chua.

Kaugnay nito, mahigit na 200 pamilya na nakatira sa loob ng lupain ng La Brisa ang sinabihan na lumikas na. Ang La Brisa ay nag-alok ng 2 bagay sa kanilang mga “tenants” upang likasin ang lupa: halagang 2,000 pesos o kaya ay lupa sa sigayan na kung saan pede silang lumipat. Kung lilipat sila sa 1 hektaryang lupa sa Sigayan ng La Brisa, 2 taon raw ang libre na renta at pagkatapos nito pede

rin nilang bilihin ng “installment” ang lupa.

Subalit, marami sa nakatira ang nagsabing lalabanan nila ang planong reloksasyon. Anila, meron sila mga dokumento na nagpapatunay na nabili nila ang mga lupa na kung saan nakatirik ang mga bahay nila.

Sinabi ng La Brisa na nagreklamo ang mga nakatira sa may Aguada na sila di-umano ay nagbayad sa pamilya Candava sa lupang kinatitirikan nila ngayon. Dagdag ng La Brisa na ang pamilya Candava ang dating me-ari ng lupa subalit ito raw ay napunta sa mga Chua at pagpakatapos ay napunta sa PNB. Sinabi ng La Brisa na nanalo ang PNB sa isang kaso laban sa mga Candava na nagpapatunay na PNB ang talagang me-ari ng lupa.

Plano ng La Brisa na makipag-ugnayan sa mga apektadong pamilya at sa mga lokal na opisyaes upang maging maayos ang reloksasyon ng mga tenants.

Sa isang panayam, ibinunyag ng La Brisa na magtatayo sila ng isang “first class” na subdivision, na kung saan ang malaking bahagi ay mapupunta sa sona na Agro-residential - magkasamang taniman at bahay. Mga 18% ang para sa residential at me bahagi din na commercial.

Ani La Brisa sa mga tenants nila: “Gusto namin pare-pareho panalo. Happy kami at happy din sila.”

Subalit ngayon pa lang ay marami sa mga tenants nila ang nagsabi na lalabanan nila ang planong reloksasyon. Anila: “Meron kami karapatan dito.”

Tutol si Vice sa proyekto ni Mayor

Ed: Sa pambihirang pagkakataon, bumaba si Vice Mayor Teo Atienza bilang Presiding Officer ng Sangguniang Bayan para mag-talumpati sa Regular Session noong July 14. Ito ang nilalaman ng kanyang Privilege Speech tungkol sa mga proyekto ng administrasyon.

Bilang isang lingkod-bayan na naglingkod isang termino bilang Pangalawang Punong-Bayan noong 1995-1998 at naglingkod ng tatlong termino bilang Punong-Bayan simula 1998-2007 at ngayon ay kasalukuyang naglilingkod bilang Pangalawang Punong-Bayan. Sa mahabahaba ko rin paglilingkod ay totoong napamahal na sa akin ang bayang ito.

Tungkol sa issue na ating pinagtatalakayan, Resolution No. 2008-116 “A Resolution Authorizing Hon. Hubbert Dolor, Municipal Mayor To Enter Into Loan Negotiation With The Landbank Of The Philippines In Connection With The Proposed Renovation Of The Municipal Hall, Conven-

tion Center And The Low-cost Dormitory In The Public Market Building And Municipal Gymnasium (Aircon) And Purchase Of Heavy Equipments And Vehicles For The SB Members Use”.

Kung bubuksan natin ang section 296 of the Local Government Code, it lays down the two parameters of credit financing on government indebtedness:

First, the expenditure must pertain to local infrastructure and other socio-economic development programs;

Second, the same must be in accordance with the approved local development plan and public investment program.

Sa resolution na hinihingi ng ating magaling at matalinong Punong-Bayan na bigyan siya ng Authorization upang makipagnegotiate sa Land Bank of the Philippines para sa mga sumusunod:

a) Ang pag renovate ng municipal hall - Maganda nga po pero kasama ba ito sa sinasabi ng Section 296? Bakit kailangan na bang i-renovate ito? Kayo na po ang sumagot?

b) Convention Center - Balikan natin ang nakaraan, nagtayo si Mr. Padilla ng masasabi nating isang Convention Hall na naglalaman ng 500 or more participants, pero anong nangyari? Kayo na rin po ang sumagot. Ang Yokota Club ay ganun din ang malungkot na nangyari.

c) Low-Cost Dormitory - Sa inyo bang sariling pagpapasiya akma ba sa sinasabing lugar ang proyekto na yon? Kayo na po ang magisip ng kasagutan.

d) Municipal Gymnasium (air-conditioning) - Sa yari po ng ating gymnasium ay hindi kailangan lagyan ng aircon, bakit? Hindi po akma sa kayarian at napakamahal po ng magiging gastos sa kuryente. Problema sa kasalukuyan ang mahal na fuel (diesel, gasoline, at iba pa). Kailangan-kailangan ba itong malagyan ng aircon?

e) Purchase of Heavy Equipment - Bilang naging isang dating contractor sa mahabang panahon, ang mag-main-

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