

Walking the Extra Mile For  
The Youth of Puerto Galera



## The Puerto Galera Fortnightly JOURNAL

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### Mayor Dolor ready to die for the water rehab project

"I WILL LAY DOWN my life so that Sinandigan will have water, remember that!"

This was what the Mayor said during a visit to Sinandigan where a public forum was held last July 23.

I just like to impress upon

you how dedicated I am, together with the Councilors who are here...by hook or by crook, this project will be done, remember that" says the Mayor.

Editor: The water rehabilitation project was formally launched last August 8. The

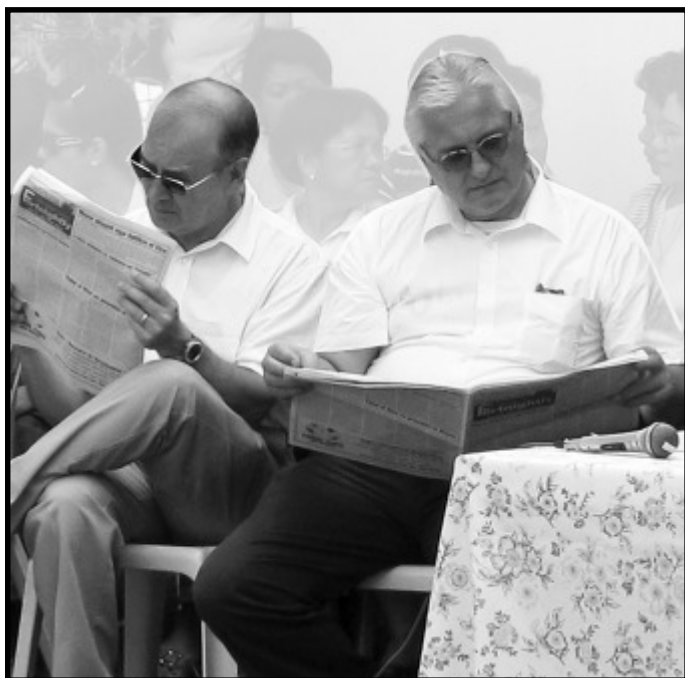
project is reportedly worth 170 million pesos. It was noticeable that the issues were mixed up during the forum. We would like to clear this up so as to prevent confusion in the minds of our readers.

There were 2 major issues discussed during the forum; one is about the water project and the other was about the Land Bank to fund now controversial projects. These are 2 different issues.

The water project will be done under a Build-Operate-Transfer scheme or BOT. The BOT scheme is defined under the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the municipal government and the Puerto Galera Water Consortium. According to the Mayor, the Municipal Government does not have the capacity to carry out the project and thus, the consortium will help finance the water rehabilitation and expansion project.

The issue of the Land Bank loan is a different subject. This came out after the Sangguniang

>>> on page 2



Mr. Maximilian Oppacher and Juergen Lorenz of the Puerto Galera Water Consortium while reading The PG Fortnightly during the August 8 launching of the Puerto Galera Water Rehabilitation Project reportedly worth 170 million pesos.

### Legal officer says Vice Mayor must sign Land Bank resolution

This was the gist of the letter, dated August 4, of Provincial Legal Officer Lorybelle M. Tanyag to the Sangguniang Bayan which sought her opinion after Vice Mayor Teo Atienza refused to sign a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into loan negotiations with the Land Bank.

Tanyag wrote: "Please be informed that the Municipal Vice Mayor, as presiding officer of the Sangguniang Bayan, possesses no discretionary power to withhold his signature on a resolution duly enacted by said body... In no case shall the will of the majority of the legislative body be subordinated with the lone dissent of the presiding officer who after all...cannot vote except to break a tie."

Tanyag said that the "power of the presiding officer to sign a resolution is ministerial in nature where the performance of such authority is imperative requiring neither judgment nor discretion on the part of the holder."

Vice Mayor Atienza said he disagrees and objects to the passage of the resolution and will only affix his signature when directed by the Provincial Legal Officer. However, a reliable source said that the Vice Mayor has yet to sign the resolution.

The Vice Mayor contends that the projects mentioned in the resolution to be financed by the Land Bank do not fall within the approved development plan and public investment program of the Municipality.

The proposed projects are: renovation of the Municipal hall, establishment of a convention center and low-cost dormitory at the public market, air-conditioning of the gymnasium, purchase of heavy equipments and purchase of service vehicles for



Vice Mayor Teo Atienza during his speech on why he refuses to sign Land Bank resolution passed by the Municipal Council.

the members of the Sangguniang Bayan.

The Vice Mayor said that the Mayor did not inform the Sangguniang Bayan how much money will be borrowed from the Land Bank.

The Vice Mayor said that the resolution's "passage is tantamount to giving blanket authority for the executive to secure a loan without enlightening us on the amount of the loan and of his budgetary allocation for principal and interest payments. Likewise, the executive department has not submitted to the SB...the terms and conditions of the loan, feasibility study of the projects and certification of the borrowing capacity of the Municipality in contracting a loan."

Councilor Robertito Macatangay said that the amount of the loan can reach up to 43 million pesos which is the estimated borrowing capacity of the Municipality.

ity of the Municipality. The Provincial Legal Officer said that the resolution merely authorized the Municipal Mayor to enter loan negotiations with the Land Bank.

She added that the "authority empowers only the Municipal Mayor to undertake exploratory negotiations."

She added that whatever will be the result of the negotiation will not be final and binding with the local government. For this to be binding, Tanyag said, the Sangguniang Bayan need to pass another resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a loan agreement "under terms and conditions which the local legislative body may deem necessary and proper."

Atty. Tanyag said that the Sangguniang Bayan had rejected the arguments of the Vice Mayor and that he should now submit himself to the will of the majority.



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# Mayor Dolor ready to die for the water project...

Bayan passed a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into loan negotiation with the Land Bank to finance the following projects: renovation of the Municipal Hall, construction of a low-cost dormitory at the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the public market, construction of a convention center at the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the public market, air-conditioning of the Municipal Gymnasium, purchase of heavy equipments and purchase of vehicles for Sangguniang Bayan members

The Municipal Government can borrow more than 43 million pesos from the Land Bank.

Now let us go back to the question and answer of the Mayor in his public forum in Sinandigan.

"Mayor, what is the Memorandum of Agreement with Max Bank that we heard about?" asks Brigida Abante.

The Mayor said that the agreement is with the Puerto Galera Water Consortium and not with Max Bank. The Consortium is composed of the JL Business and Technology Consultancy Inc. and OPPAX Group Holdings Inc. — one of the owners is Maximilian Oppacher who is also one of the

owners of Max Bank.

The Mayor stressed that the multi-million peso water project is not a loan but will be under a BOT scheme.

The Mayor lambasted the privilege speech of Vice Mayor Teo Atineza during one Sangguniang Bayan session where the Vice Mayor purportedly said that it is only during summer when there is no water and that a direct pipeline from the source to Sinandigan is all that is needed. This solution, the Vice Mayor said, does not require a foreign partner.

The Mayor said: "What month is it now, July, its not summer, why don't you have water, why must we send our firetruck here to bring you water... You have been waiting for many years, don't you now have a direct line from the source, do you have water—none—is it summer today, from January up to now, you do not have water."

Genaro Caguete asked how the municipality will pay for the millions that will be spent for the rehabilitation of the water system.

Again, the Mayor explained that the project is not a loan and that the income of the private

partner will be taken from the income from the water supply.

A source said that if the net revenue of the water supply is 10 million pesos per year, 8 million pesos or 80 percent will go to the private partner and 20 percent will go to municipal government.

The Mayor said that after 25 years, the municipal government has no more obligations to the private partner whether they profited or not from the project.

The Mayor added: "They are saying that the water tariff will increase. That will not happen because the Sangguniang Bayan will be the one to approve (the increase) and even if they increased the tariff, if I don't sign that will also not happen."

Barangay Chair Amparo Arban asked why the power supply should be given to the private partner.

Under the MOA, the private partner will build a hydro-electric power plant but it will be under a Build-Operate-Own scheme. This means that after the lapse of the agreement, after 25 years, the private partner will be the owner of the power plant.

The Mayor said that ex-

perts say that there a strong water source for the water system that could also generate electricity.

"Now because gravity is not enough...could not drive the water to Sinandigan which is the reason why we will use booster pumps. The booster pumps need electricity. If we will get this from ORMECO, our expenses will increase because we need to pay for the electricity. We thought about this; we can make our own electricity which can be used by the booster pumps and the excess power we will sell to other consumers," says the Mayor.

The Mayor added that there are plans to build windmills on the mountain of Tabinay and Baclayan.

"We can now disconnect from ORMECO, we can be on our own, we can setup a Puerto Galera Electric Cooperative. We can administer our own electricity, not rely on the service of ORMECO which is on and off..."

Barangay Chair Arban asked: Is it true that the councilors will each have a vehicle?

The Mayor said that the issue is just "a fantasy" of those who criticize him.

Mayor said: "It is wrong

when they think of the Sangguniang Bayan vehicles... the vehicles are for the town."

The Mayor had been widely criticized for the proposal to buy each councilor a service vehicle. However, 4 of the 10-member Council had said they do not want a vehicle.

Barangay Chair Arban asked asked why the mayor had cut off the electricity for plaza Iluminada?

"I did not cut off the power for plaza Iluminada but I did cut off the electricity of private persons who are connected to the town's electricity", says the Mayor. The Mayor did not clarify who the private persons were but a source said that their houses are near plaza Iluminada. The Vice Mayor's house is near the plaza.

At this point, the Mayor mentioned that there are persons who tapped into the direct mainline to Sinandigan which caused the inadequate water supply to the barangay.

The Mayor said: "That tapping (into the mainline) did not happen during my term, you ask the people to whom they paid (the money to connect) to the line to Sinandigan and they will tell you who received (the

money)..."

The Mayor added: "This is my commitment together with Councilors Grace, Leo, Polying Lopez, Joseph Andal, Jayjay Evangelista and ABC Elin Candava, these are the 6 honorable councilors who will help me make this water project a reality."

Elin Datinguino asked: "Who are the people who are getting in the way of your water project?"

The Mayor answered by naming the following: 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, Councilor Robertito Macatangay and Vice Mayor Teo Atienza.

However, the former town officials said that they do not side with the Mayor or the Vice Mayor but would like to clarify that they do not intend to be an obstacle to the water project.

"In our meeting we discussed that we request the Mayor to study the agreement thoroughly and that there should be widespread public hearings on the MOA."

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# Hiring of residents, to be a requirement for Mayor's permit

COUNCILOR POLYING Lopez introduced an ordinance that will force business owners to hire Puerto Galera residents as a requirement in securing and renewal of Mayor's permit to operate a business.

The title, An Ordinance Promoting the Full Employment of Puerto Galerans Within the Jurisdiction of Puerto Galera, many say, does not describe the ordinance.

## Full employment?

Apparently, the author's intention is to require employers to hire Puerto Galera residents; however, the title is vague in this regard. And because the title is vague, there were only a handful of business owners who came to the public hearing. If the ordinance was communicated as another requirement in getting a Mayor's permit, then business owners would certainly want to participate.

Councilor Lopez said that the government is committed to promote "full employment" of its constituency.

He added that the municipal government "desires to improve the quality of life of residents, free its constituents from poverty and raise their standard of living."

The councilor said that they do not like residents migrating to other places to look for jobs and be apart from their families.

However, the 2007 population survey shows otherwise; Puerto Galera has the highest growth rate among the 15 towns of Mindoro. One reason is the employment and livelihood opportunities available in the municipality. There are many residents from other towns in Mindoro who opt to stay for jobs offered here in Puerto Galera.

The proposed ordinance was meant to require employers to hire Puerto Galera residents instead of other Filipinos from elsewhere.

There are many observations made on the proposed ordinance.

Nowhere in the ordinance is the term resident defined. Can one be a resident by simply getting a Community Tax Certificate or is there a minimum period of time that one has to reside in Puerto Galera for him/her to be called a resident?

One provision requires applicants to secure a working permit before getting hired. This means if one is applying to become a waitress, she has to get a working permit before she gets a job as a waitress. What happens if she gets a Mayor's working permit, paid the fees for it and then could not get a job?

It is clear that the reason for the above provision is to ensure that those that get hired are resi-

dents of Puerto Galera. Another provision states that hiring of non-residents will only be allowed if there are no residents interested in the position. There is no provision as to how long must an employer wait and then be allowed to hire a non-resident if there is no resident interested in the job offered.

Under the ordinance, employers are required to submit all available jobs in their establishment and the Mayor will then announce the jobs available throughout the municipality.

No business permit or license shall be issued to any establishment if they fail to comply with the ordinance.

Violation of the ordinance shall be punished by a fine of 5,000 pesos and/or imprisonment of 1 year upon the discretion of the court.

One grave implication of the ordinance if ever it gets passed is that a resident can file a case against any establishment who will not hire him/her regardless of reasons why an employer would hire a non-resident.

Many are questioning the legality of the proposed ordinance. Councilor Lopez said he will study the observations made during the public hearing. Many business owners promised to attend if there will be another public hearing on the proposed ordinance.

## Aguada circumferential road now named after murdered lawyer

THE SANGGUNIANG Bayan approved an ordinance naming the Aguada circumferential road as Atty. Christian M. Garcia Street last Sept 1.

Garcia was gunned down by still unknown assailants last February 6 on his way home along Aguada road.

Councilors Polyling Lopez and Leo Persia, friends of the slain lawyer, authored the ordinance. The councilors said that the municipal government is empowered under the local government code to name or rename streets within the municipality.

"The people of Puerto Galera, most especially the residents of Barangay Poblacion know very well the great contribution and community service of late Atty. Christian M. Garcia during his lifetime", says the councilors.

Councilor Persia said that the naming of the street might also inspire the solving of the crime.

Acting Poblacion Barangay Chair Michael Villanueva said that the barangay welcome the ordinance and hope that the ordinance will help in getting justice for Atty. Garcia.

However, the new ordinance drew mixed reactions among residents in Poblacion.

Some said that the councilors should instead make a resolution urging authorities to find the killers of Atty. Garcia.

Some also said that there are many public officials who died who had contributed more good deeds to the community throughout their lifetime who should be honored by the Sangguniang Bayan.

Others remarked that the councilors never asked for the opinion of the residents along Aguada road

A registered member of the puertogalera.org community forum posted the "revised guidelines" for naming streets of the National Historical Institute.

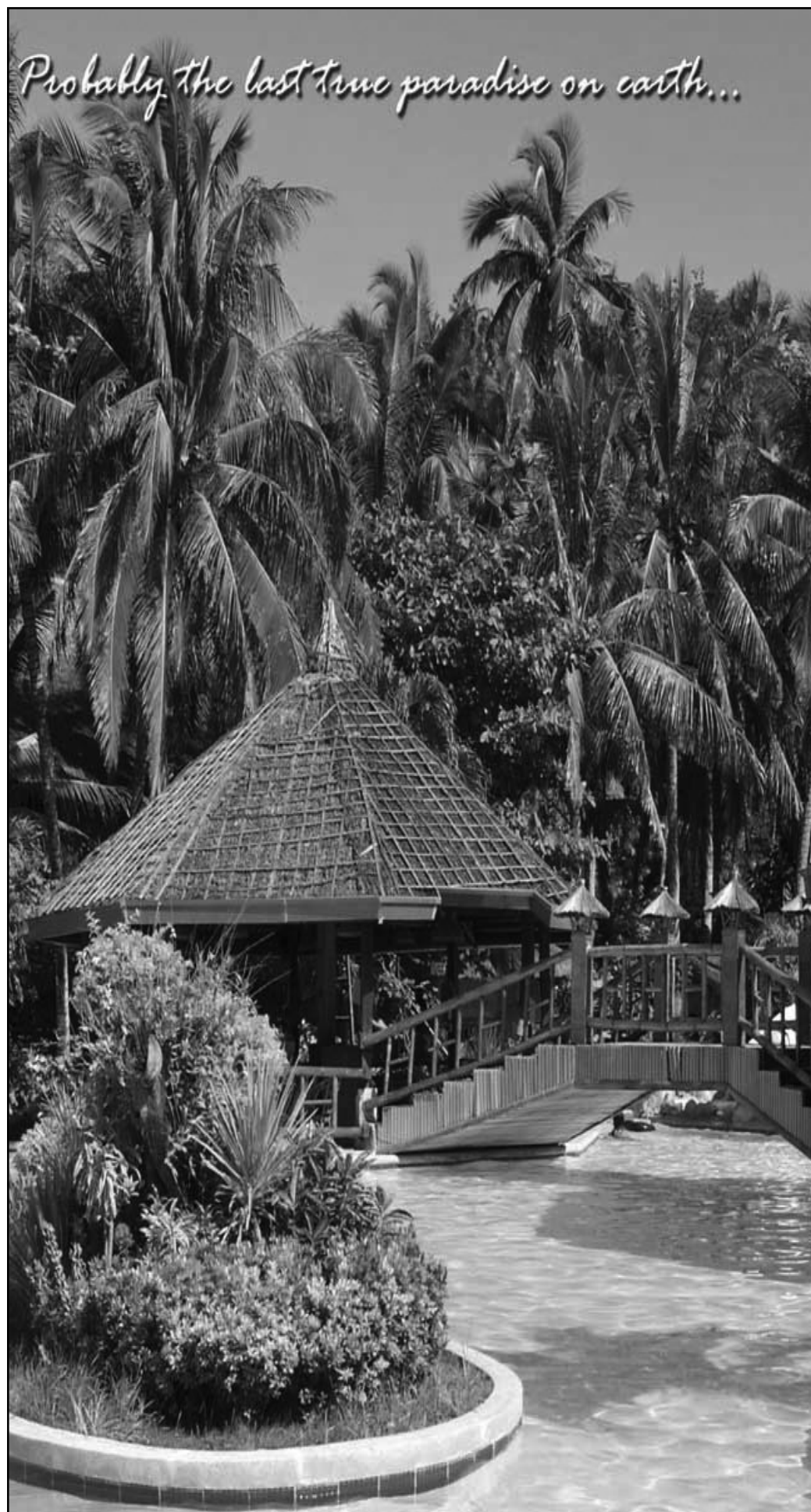
One provision states that "no public place should be named or renamed after a person within five years of his death except of highly exceptional reasons."

Examples of highly exceptional reasons were given as death due to assassination in the service of the country, death while trying to save others and the death was a result of his patriotism.

The poster nicknamed "promdi" said that the ordinance might be premature as the motive of the killing is still unknown and might not fall within the exceptions to the 5-year rule.

The ordinance was already on Third Reading when the guidelines were posted. The councilors elected to approve the ordinance in spite of being informed about the guidelines.

The ordinance will now be forwarded to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan (provincial board) which will review and approve the ordinance.



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*Noe Lineses SILVER BULLET***Are public hearings useful?**

Invitations to public hearings are communicated via the community channel of TVNET. Organizations normally get notices in writing to attend the hearings. Upon arrival to the hearing, only then will one be given a copy of the draft ordinance.

A public hearing is defined as a process where interested parties have the opportunity to ask questions and more importantly, to express their opinion for or against a proposed ordinance.

But how can one ask the right questions, or express an intelligent, informed opinion when the subject was given a few minutes before the public hearing. The Council should come up with a solution that will make it possible for the public especially the affected sectors to read the draft days before the public hearing. They can make use of the Internet, print hard copies, distribute them or post them at conspicuous places

To the councilors, a public hearing is an essential element of the law-making process. Without it, an ordinance may be deemed invalid by the courts.

To the public, many tend to question its usefulness. Here, more often than not, public hearings are conducted to satisfy solely the legal requirement in passing an ordinance. Whether an ordinance is rejected in a public hearing is of no consequence. Remember the meetings on the one-point of entry issue, which later became the two-points of entry issue, which finally became the four-points of entry ordinance. In all the hearings, the people spoke loudly against the issue, but the Sangguniang Bayan then and now did not heed the popular opinion. The ordinance was passed accordingly.

Soon the matter of the controversial water project will be the subject of the public hearing. It is an issue that demands the best and the brightest inputs from all sectors of the Puerto Galera community. Its implications are far reaching and go beyond the term of office of the incumbent officials.

Public hearings are useful when great ideas are heard with caveat that the councilors will know how to sift the grain from the chaff.

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Monday, August 4, 2008

**Puerto Galera waters contaminated — mayor**

CALAPAN CITY – The bluish and clear waters of Puerto Galera in Oriental Mindoro, one of the world's most beautiful bays, are contaminated.

Fecal coliform, a strain of bacteria usually present in sewage facilities such as septic tanks and canals, has infected the waters of three tourist spots in Puerto Galera, posing risk to the health of the many tourists visiting the major resort town, Mayor Hubert A. Dolor of Puerto Galera said.

Health experts said that the presence of coliform bacteria is a potential health risk to individuals who are exposed to the contaminated waters.

The seawaters in the three coastal zones of Puerto Galera, identified as Sabang and Sinandigan (Zone 1), San Isidro (white beach) and Aninuan (Zone 2), and Sto. Nino and Poblacion (Zone 3), were found to have been infected with fecal coliforms, a power-point presentation made available by Mayor Dolor stated.

Mayor Dolor, a medical doctor, cited a water-quality monitoring report of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) that fecal coliforms were found to have contaminated three beach areas in his town.

The potential health risks caused by

water-borne pathogenic diseases, such as ear infection, dysentery, typhoid fever, gastroenteritis, and skin diseases, among others, may affect swimmers in the affected areas, health experts said.

Inaction on the sewage pollution in Puerto Galera may cause further deterioration of the quality of the water in the bay, which is the habitat of corals, seagrass, and marine life, the mayor said. This, in turn, cause a decline in fish catch, Mayor Dolor told Region IV-B's sectoral committee on infrastructure development (SCID), chaired by Oriental Mindoro Gov. Arnan C. Panaligan.

Dolor, that town's former health officer, said that Puerto Galera's booming tourism industry may suffer a reversal because of the environmental problem.

This would affect the many people there who depend on tourism as their main source of livelihood, he said.

"The costs of doing nothing about sewage pollution are the loss of income due to illness and death, doctor's, drugs and other hospital expenses; and reduction in tourism income. Also adversely affected is fisheries income as well as the standards of living of the people, the municipal official said.

*Manila Bulletin article on Puerto Galera waters written by Robert Evora*

**Letters to the Editor**

*Ed: Last August 8, the above article appeared on the Manila Bulletin where Mayor Hubert Dolor said that Puerto Galera waters are contaminated with fecal coliform. We present two e-mail we received, one for and one against the Mayor Hubert Dolor's statements.*

**Welcome development**

The news that 3 beach zones in Puerto Galera are contaminated with coliforms is, on one hand, sad, because it surely will negatively affect tourism flow to the tourist destination. On the other hand, it reflects a most positive development that will echo through a lifetime. While other government and private individuals who have jurisdictional and personal stakes on tourism will do everything to hide such negative publicity, here is one leader of a town who has enough guts to say the truth, to say the least. Here is one mayor in the person of Dr. Hubert Christopher Dolor who is serious in transforming his town into what it truly deserves - a true Biosphere Reserve where conservation and development are in harmony to nurture the environment and sustain lives of its inhabitants.

We in the academic circle knew all the time that this degeneration of water quality will happen, as we also did in the case of Boracay, way back when it was just starting in the early '80s. It was just a matter of time. This is the reason why UNESCO, the National Committee on Marine Science of the UNESCO National Commission, the Marine Biological Society, The Packard Foundation, the Tokyo Institute of Technology and the University of the Philippines are all committed to pursue activities to gather the right data and information useful in protecting the town's waters and ecosystems.

We have made a number of early warnings of water quality and ecosystem degradation along Puerto Galera coasts but these fell on deaf ears. Perhaps some of us were also too timid to openly broadcast what we know.

Now that it is in the open. All of us can now move more aggressively and with greater resolve, as what the Mayor Dolor just did. But we need to move together. He may have created enemies with his pronouncement, but surely, he has gained many many more friends.

**Sent by: Dr. Miguel Fortes**

**Bad for Tourism**

What is striking is that our own Mayor is saying to the world the Puerto Galera's waters are unsafe for the tourist. The article added more credence to the Mayor's statement by saying that he, the Mayor, is a medical doctor and that he, the Mayor, is citing a water quality monitoring report from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

If I'm not mistaken our business is tourism; and that we are selling Puerto Galera to the world as a tourist destination. I am not sure if statements like that will be good for tourism.

We are all for the Wastewater Treatment Plant but why do we have to tell the world about our incredibly dire situation? Can we not do the solution without making pronouncements that will dissuade tourist from coming here?

**Sent by: John Cassey**



# puertogalera.org/forum

Forum for Visitors and Residents of Puerto Galera

ED: The Community Forum of our website, [www.puertogalera.org](http://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.

## Topic: Jetty Pier for Sabang

**johncassey:** So it seems that the Mayor has several projects lined-up and there are those who are against and those who are in favor of the projects.

I think one project that many people will find hard to object is a new jetty pier for Sabang. Every passenger that rides at Sabang knows how nice it would be if there was a jetty pier. We all know how inconvenient, sometimes dangerous to transfer from the boat to the dinghy.

I think most will be willing to pay a reasonable fee for the convenience of not taking off your shoes and climbing up and down a dinghy when getting in and off a boat. In this project, everyone is happy and the town will earn money from happy paying passengers.

It is a viable project, big impact and no negative feelings.

**netmagus:** Yes johncassey, I think this is a win-win solution. Perhaps, a portion of the Land Bank loan, they say 43 million pesos, should go to the building of the jetty pier. It is a project where everybody will agree as to the necessity and its viability.

## Topic: ORMECO forever brownouts

**luis:** We seem to forget ORMECO's unreliable services. How come we still experience hours of brownouts in these high-tech modern world? Worst are the few-minute brownouts when we have no time to unplug our appliances and they breakdown as a result of the brownouts. As if we are not a tourist town. Okay, let's

say we have a modern hospital and some surgeon is in the middle of an operation then suddenly, brownout!

We pay on time, and when we are late in paying, they, including munisipyo, threaten to cut off our power.

Overload? Well, that is progress. ORMECO should update or modernize their facilities. How many consumers pay for your salaries guys? Even us, the lowly fishermen, farmers, tricycle drivers and mere porters give you our hard earned money just to be able to let our kids read in the night or wives watch wowowee.

**shelton:** Luis is correct. There is no justification for the poor service of OMECO. I retired here after 35 years in the electrical industry in another country and am shocked that they can't provide more dependable power. Not only outages but the quality of power is extremely poor. When I questioned an engineer at the generation facility in Calapan he told me that the trees and bamboo were the culprits. It is a fairly simple matter to have a crew of cutters constantly patrolling and clearing the right of ways. Not an expensive proposition and it would provide employment for a few locals.

**netmagus:** I have been telling this time and time again. As a member of the advisory council of ORMECO, we have been campaigning for a Puerto Galera seat in the ORMECO Board of Directors (BOD).. That is where we can air our concerns and grievances against the management of ORMECO, we need a voice in the Board of Directors. And the thing is, its not diffi-

cult to get this done. The Municipal Council and the Mayor should make the appeal to the NEA and if NEA finds merit in the petition, they can make a resolution creating another seat in the BOD of ORMECO. And once we have a director, we can tell that director to tell management to attend to our needs and complaints.

So I guess we are barking at the wrong tree, we should pressure the municipal government. After all, Puerto Galera is the 2nd biggest consumer of ORMECO. Bigger than Naujan, Victoria and Bansud — each has a seat in the ORMECO Board.

## Topic: Save the Rainforest Club

**netmagus:** This morning our group went to the Mayor to present to him and other govt officials a Status Report of the current state of the remaining rainforest. The club is composed of Michael and Bernadette Wolf, Mario Lutz, Boyet Galang, Danny Enriquez, Noe Linesses and Police Chief Catalbas.

The objectives of today's presentation were: To show the beauty and uniqueness of the Rainforest; To present a general Status Report of the state of the Puerto Galera Rainforest; To provide an overview of the importance of the Rainforest to Puerto Galera; To show the effects of the destruction of the Rainforest; To unite the community to come up with a solution to stop the degradation of the remaining Rainforest; To present some solutions to the problem.

Michael made a very informative presentation about the

rainforest, its function as a water reservoir, protection against floods, landslides and mudslides, the continuing destruction of the rainforest by illegal logging and kaingin.

Michael showed many photos of illegal logging and kaingin. I guess everybody was moved by the photos and Michael ended his presentation with a high school experiment showing what will happen if there will no longer be a rainforest.

We went there to ask for the following: Creative Enforcement of Environmental Laws—for example: Building Officials to monitor and check lumber being used in construction; Formulation of a Sustainable Conservation Program with relation to and in coordination with the ADSDPP of the Mangyans; Formation of the Watershed Protection Council; Assistance in our Information Campaign Outreach Program (Venue, Sound System, Projector)

The Club will be conducting an information drive to High School Students, SIBROA, Church Organizations, Barangay Officials and other town officials.

The Mayor thanked the group for its advocacy and the Mayor also said he will join the group and also encourage other officials to join the Club. He said that we should do a similar presentation the SB and to barangay officials. The Mayor said "start with the leaders" and make your presentation more simple and comprehensible especially to barangay leaders.

The Mayor also instructed the municipal engineer to make billboards - encouraging every-

one to save the rainforest.

He also directed the police to confiscate un-registered chainsaws.

He also instructed the environment office and the agriculture office to coordinate and join the club.

We thanked the Mayor for his comments and actions and we welcomed him with open arms to the club...

In the days to come we will be going around town and attending meetings to spread the word around.. There is a real danger especially to white beach - danger of landslides and mudslides and flooding. There is an imminent danger on the water supply drying up... if we do not save the rainforest. We are doing this for the future of Puerto Galera. Please help us, join us.

**cheguevara:** The resort owners of White Beach should take the lead in saving the rainforest. Their business, their lives, their future - are stake here. Remember Ormoc.

I have seen the presentation of Michael Wolf and I too was greatly affected when I saw the unrelenting annihilation of the rainforest and all plants and animals. Magising sana ang mga taga-White Beach. Umakasyon sana sila bago mahuli ang lahat. Balewala ang milyones na investment ninyo pag dumagasa na ang kalikasan sa mga ulo ninyo.

**netmagus:** After talking to Leoncio Banaag, one of the leaders of the Mangyans, I now have a different perspective of the situation of the rainforest and the Mangyans. Leoncio gave us an insight on why the Mangyans are doing the kaingin

(slash and burn), which is the biggest destroyer of the rainforest.

The kaingin before was done below 2,000, now the kaingin is done above 2,000 feet where the remaining rainforest is located. The reason for this is related to tourism.

Tourism made the prices of land in Puerto Galera go up. Lowlanders whom the Mangyans called Tagalogs seeing the potential of the lands in the boondocks in terms of real estate connived with land officials and had hectares of land titled in their names. The lands that the Mangyans used to kaingin became properties of the Tagalogs.

Recently, the government awarded more than 5700 hectares of land to the Mangyans. However inside the Mangyan lands are big parcels of land titled to 32 or more Tagalogs, some are not even residents of Puerto Galera.

Leoncio said that some of the owners are from Calapan and Batangas and they bought the lands from Puerto Galera residents, not knowing that there lands are now part of the Mangyan ancestral domain.

The Mangyans do the kaingin to establish a "mark" of ownership and to prevent the Tagalogs from grabbing their land. Now they go up and up to the rainforest because the lands below are being claimed by the Tagalogs.

It will take many years and lots of money, which the Mangyans do not have to reclaim their lands. To stop the destruction of the rainforest, we need to help the Mangyans reclaim their lands.

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## Mayor Hubbert Dolor pagbubuwisan ng buhay ang programa sa patubig...

at hindi sa Max Bank. Ang Puerto Galera Water Consortium ay binubuo ng JL Business and Technology Consultancy Inc. at ng OPPAX Group Holdings Inc – na ang isa sa may-ari ay si Maximilian Oppacher na siya ring may-ari ng Max Bank.

Idiniin ni Mayor na hindi utang ang patubig at ito ay gagawin sa ilalim ng BOT scheme.

Binatikos ni Mayor ang talumpati ni Vice Mayor Teo Atienza sa Sangguniang Bayan na kung saan di-umano ay sinabi ni Vice Mayor na tuwing sa tag-araw lamang nawawalan ng tubig at isang direktang linya mula sa tangke ang kailangan para makarating ang patubig sa Sinandigan kaya't hindi na kailangan ng isang foreign partner para isaayos ang patubig.

Ani Mayor: "Ano buwan na po ngayon, July na, bakit summer ba ngayon, bakit wala kayong tubig, bakit naghahakot ang bombero ng tubig... Ilang taon na kayong naghihintay ng patubig, di ba direct line naman yan, may tubig kayo- wala – summer ba ngayon, mula January hanggang kasalukuyan wala kayong tubig."

Nagtanong si Genaro Caguete kung paano mababayaran ang gagastosin sa pagsasaayos ng patubig.

Muli ipinaliwanag ni Mayor

na hindi utang ang pagsasaayos ng patubig at ang kikitain ng pribadong partner ay kukunin sa kikitain sa patubig ng municipio.

Ayon sa isang source, kung ang kita o net revenue sa patubig ay 10 milyong piso kada taon, 8 milyong piso o 80 porsyento ang mapupunta sa pribadong partner at 20 porsyento naman ang mapupunta para sa kaban ng bayan.

Sinabi ni Mayor na pagkatapos ng 25 taon, wala na obligasyon ang pamahalaan sa pribadong partner, kumita man sila o hindi.

Dagdag ni Mayor: "Sinabi nila na itataas ang singil sa patubig hindi po mangyayari yan sapagkat ang Sangguniang Bayan po natin ang mag-aapropa at kahit ganon na po ang aprubahan nila kung ayaw ko pirmahan hindi rin po mangyayari yon..."

Itinanong ni Kapitana Amparo Arban kung bakit ang kuryente ay ibibigay sa pribadong partner.

Napapaloob sa MOA na may itatayong hydro-electric power plant ang pribadong partner subalit ito ay sa ilalim ng Build-Operate-Own scheme. Ibig sabihin, pagkatapos ng 25 taon, ang pribadong partner na ang may-ari ng planta.

Sinabi ni Mayor na ayon sa

mga eksperto malakas ang source ng patubig at kayang mag-generate ng kuryente.

"Ngayon dahil nga po hindi kayanin ng gravity...hindi kayanin na paabutin ang tubig sa Sinandigan, kung kaya nga po tayo ay gagamit ng mga booster pump. Ang booster pump mangangailangan ng kuryente. Kung atin po itong kukunin parin sa ORMECO lalaki po ang ating gastusin, kasi magbabayad tayo ng kuryente. Ang naisip natin, gumawa po tayo ng ating sariling kuryente, para po yong ating mga gagamiting booster pump ay hindi na po natin bibilhin sa ORMECO, at yong sobra po na mapro-produce na kuryente ay ibebenta sa ating mga consumer..." sagot ni Mayor.

Dagdag pa ni Mayor na may mga itatayo din na mga wind-mill na kung saan ang kuryente ay manggagaling sa hangin.

"Puwede na tayong humiwalay sa ORMECO, puwede na tayong magsarili, puwede na magkaroon ng Puerto Galera Electric Cooperative. Tayo ang mangangasiwa ng ating sariling kuryente, hindi na tayo aasa sa ORMECO na laging papatay-patay, sino po ulit ang makikinabang, gobyerno po ulit, mamamayan, mumura na ang ating

kuryente..."

Muli nagtanong si Kapitana Arban, "Totoo ga pong may tigi-isang sasakyan (na bibilihin para sa) mga konsehal ng bayan?"

Sinabi ni Mayor na ang usapin ay "kathang-isip" lang ng mga bumabatikos sa kanya.

Ani Mayor: "Mali po yong iniisip na mga sasakyan ng Sangguniang Bayan... yan po ay Sasakyan ng Bayan-SB Vehicle... sino ba ang bayan, tayo po."

Itinanong ni Kapitana Arban kung bakit pinaputulan ni Mayor ng kuryente ang plaza Iluminada?

"Hindi ang (plaza) Iluminada ang pinaputulan ko (kundi) mga pribadong tao po na nakakabit sa ilaw ng bayan, yan ang pinaputulan ko," sagot ni Mayor. Hindi nilinaw ni Mayor kung sino yung mga pribadong tao na nakakabit sa kuryente ng municipio.

Sa puntos na ito, binanggit din ni Mayor na may mga kumabit sa direktang linya ng tubig sa Sinandigan na dahilan kung bakit mahina ang dating ng tubig sa nasabing barangay.

Ani Mayor: "Yun pong pagta-tap na yan ay hindi po sa ating panahon nangyari, tanungin nyo po ang mga tao, kung kanino sila nagbayad...para sa linyang sinasabi papunta sa Sinandigan...at kaya nilang



Provincial Board Member Bonz Dolor, Mayor Dolor sa launching ng water rehabilitation project - August 8, 2008

sabihin kung sino po ang tumanggap (ng pera)..."

Dagdag ni Mayor: "Ito po commitment namin kasama sina Kon. Grace, Kon. Leo, Kon. Polyong Lopez, Kon. Joseph Andal, Kon. Jayjay Evangelista at ABC Elinio Candava, yan po anim na magiging na Sangguniang Bayan members ang kaakibat po natin para po isakatuparan natin ang proyekto po ng patubig para po sa inyo."

Nagtanong si Kagawad Elinio Datinguino: "Sino ang humaharag sa (programa ninyo) sa patubig?"

Sinabi ni Mayor ang mga pangalan ng 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, Councilor Robertito Macatangay at Vice Mayor Teo Atienza.

Sinabi ng mga dating naglingkod sa bayan na hindi sila nakikia-alam sa labanan ni Mayor at ni Vice Mayor at wala sila pinapanigan.

"Sa amin pong meeting ang aming napag-usapan ay ang hilingin sa ating Mayor na pag-aralang mabuti ang kasunduan sa pagitan ng pamahalaang lokal at pribadong partner at ang magkaroon ng malawakang talakayan tungkol sa nasabing kasunduan. Hindi po namin hinaharag ang programa sa patubig ng Sinandigan."

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# The Puerto Galera Fortnightly JOURNAL

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## Mayor Hubbert Dolor pagbubuwisan ng buhay ang programa sa patubig

“ITO PO AY pagbubuwisan ko ng buhay para ang Barangay Sinandigan ay magkaroon ng patubig, tandaan nyo po yan!”

Ito ang mga katagang sinabi ni Mayor Hubbert Dolor sa kanyang pagbisita sa Sinandigan na kung saan nagkaroon ng talakayan sa mga isyu ng bayan noong ika-23 ng Hulyo.

“Para lang po ipakita at iparamdam sa inyo kung gaano po ako kadidikado sampu ng mga konsehal na naririto... kaya po ito ay by hook or by crook matutupad po ang proyektong ito, tandaan po nyo yan!” – dagdag ni Mayor.

*Patnugot: Ang programa sa patubig na binigkas ni Mayor ay pormal na inilunsad noong ika-8 ng Agosto. Nagkakahalaga di-umano ng 170 milyong piso ang Water Rehabilitation and Expansion Project. Kapansin-pansin ang pagkalito at kakulangan ng kaalaman ng mga nagtanong sa isyu ng patubig at iba pang isyu ng bayan. Kaya’t minarapat namin na linawin muna ito bago ituloy ang artikulo sa itaas para maiwasan ang pagkalito ng mga mambabasa.*

*Dalawa ang pangunahing isyu na tinalakay sa Sinandigan, ang patubig at ang pag-utang sa Land Bank para sa iba pang pagawaing bayan. Magkahiwalay ang dalawang isyu.*

*Ang patubig ay gagawin sa ilalim ng tinatawag na Build-Operate-Transfer Scheme o BOT. Ang BOT scheme na ito ay napapaloob sa isang*

*kasunduan o Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) sa pagitan ng pamahalaang lokal at ng Puerto Galera Water Consortium. Ayon kay Mayor walang kakayahan ang pamahalaan na ipagawa ang proyekto kaya ang Consortium ang tutulong mag-pondo para isaayos at palawakin ang patubig.*

*Ang isyu ng pag-utang sa Land Bank ay hiwalay na usapin. Lumabas ang isyung ito nang aprubahan ang isang resolusyon ng Sangguniang Bayan na binibigyan ng kapangyarihan si Mayor na makipag-negosasyon sa Land Bank para pondohan ang mga sumusunod na proyekto: pagsasaayos ng Municipio, pagtatayo ng low-cost dormitory at convention center sa taas ng palengke, pagpapa-aircon ng Gymnasium, pagbili ng mga heavy equipments at pagbili ng mga sasakyan para sa mga kasapi ng Sangguniang Bayan.*

*Mahigit sa 43 milyong piso ang pwedeng utangin ng pamahalaang lokal sa Land Bank.*

*Ngayon balikan natin ang mga tanong at sagot ni Mayor sa Malayang Dayalogo niya sa Sinandigan.*

“Mayor, ano po yong naririnig namin Memorandum of Agreement sa Max Bank...” tanong ni Brigida Abante.

Sinabi ni Mayor na ang kasunduan ay sa Puerto Galera Water Consortium >>> **pahina 7**

THE PRIDE OF PUERTO GALERA

LIEZEL

“ako si Liezel, maliit, maitim,  
magaling, nakakapuwing”

TEXT PDA LIEZEL

2331 - Globe / TM / Sun

231 - Smart / TnT

IBOTO NYO PO AKO MGA KABABAYAN KO!



## PDA magtatapos na, Ma. Liezel Garcia kailangan ng boto natin

Ilang araw na lang at magtatapos na ang PDA Season 2. Ang magkakamit ng pinaka-mataas na boto sa Top 6 ang tatanghaling Grand Star Dreamer.

Ang Top 6 ay sina Van, Cris, Miguel, Bugoy, Laarni at ang kababayan natin na si Liezel Garcia, mula sa Suli, Balatero, Puerto Galera.

Malaki ang tsansa ni Liezel na maging Grand Star Dreamer. Sa katunayan, si Bugoy, Laarni at Liezel ang inaasahang papasok sa Top 3.

Excited na ang mga fans ng mga scholars di-lamang dito sa Pilipinas kundi sa buong mundo. Kanya-kanyang kampanya ang mga fans para manalo ang mga ini-idolong scholars.

Ang mga fans ni Liezel, Laarni at Bugoy ang pinaka-aktibo sa pangangampanya. Sa forum ng ABS-CBN, mababasa mo ang ibat-ibang opinyon ng mga fans ng mga scholars. Matindi ang labanan sa pagitan ng mga fans ni Liezel at fans ni Laarni. Dumarating sa puntos na nagkaka-sakitan na ng pananalita.

Binibida ng mga fans ni Laarni na ang idolo nila ang nangunguna sa survey at 73% ang nakuha nilang boto para iligtas si Laarni nang mapalagay siya sa probationary list. Sumagot ang

mga fans ni Liezel na kaya naging “probi” si Laarni ay nang talunin ni Liezel sa showdown nilang dalawa noong isang Gala night.

Si Liezel ay 5 beses naging Star Scholar at may pinaka-mataas na grado sa lahat ng scholars. Sila lamang ni Bugoy ang hindi pa napasama sa “probi” list o listahan ng mga muntik na ma-expel na scholar.

Hinahangaan si Liezel sa kakaibang timbre ng kanyang boses at maging sa kanyang pisikal na anyo. Ayon kay Maestro Ryan Cayabyab - “Ito very obvious naman, si Liezel merong voice quality na kanyang-kanya. Pagka narinig mo boses ni Liezel, alam mong sya yun. Wala akong narinig na ibang singer sa Pilipinas na katulad ni Liezel.”

Marami din ang humahanga sa kagandahan ni Liezel. Kilig na kilig ang fans kapag nakikita na pinag-aagawan ng mga scholars na lalaki si Liezel. Maraming mga fans na lalaki ang nagpapadala ng flowers para kay Liezel na sa edad na 23 ay hindi pa nagkaroon ng boyfriend.

Sa website ni liezel, sa <http://liezelgarcia.puertogalera.org> nagtitipon ang mga fans ni liezel para mag-chat at magkabalitaan.

Ang [puertogalera.org](http://puertogalera.org) ay nakatanggap ng mga e-mails mula sa mga fans na nag-mamakaawa na iboto namin si Liezel.

Natutuwa kami sa sobrang suporta at pagmamahal ng mga fans ni Liezel na maging kami ay sinulatan pa.

Mga kababayan, atin pong IBOTO si Liezel, ang pride ng Puerto Galera. Ipakita po natin sa buong mundo na ang pinaka-malakas na suporta ay manggagaling sa bayang pinang-galingan ni Liezel. Boto na po!

### ERRATUM:

*Nagkamali kami sa listahan ng Barangay Officials ng Palangan. Ito ang itinamang lista:*

### Barangay Palangan

Barangay Chair  
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