

Walking the Extra Mile For  
The Youth of Puerto Galera



# The Puerto Galera Fortnightly JOURNAL

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## Mayor Teo vetoes ban on lewd shows

IN A SURPRISING MOVE, Mayor Teo Atienza last October 9 rejected the Ordinance banning lewd shows inside girlie bars. Eight of the 10-member Sangguniang Bayan sponsored the Ordinance following calls from influential Church leaders to uplift the moral values of the community.

In his letter to the Sanggunian, the Mayor wrote: "My veto of this Ordinance is not a question of what is morally right and what is morally wrong. Rather, it is based on

the pragmatic assessment of the conditions of the business industry and the influx of tourism, without disregard to the mandate to safeguard the moral fabric of the community. There must be a balance between absolute restriction and enlightened entertainment acceptable to our visitors."

The Mayor said that "while the reasons for its enactment may be laudable, its severity will tremendously and adversely affect certain industries in the tourism business."

The owners of the girlie bars in Sabang strongly objected to the new regulations claiming that the proposed Ordinance will kill the adult entertainment industry. The Sabang bars have sent position papers to the Sangguniang Bayan saying that the "bars provide alternative entertainment for tourists." They also said that "the second reason why tourists go to Sabang is because of the bars and the girls."

Broadway Disco chided the

>>> on page 2

## Provincial Board okays 1- point of entry ordinance

NOW IT'S OFFICIAL. The One-point of Entry Ordinance is awaiting implementation after the Provincial Board passed a resolution approving it.

In their regular session last September 25, the Provincial Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 265-2006 entitled a "Resolution Approving Municipal Ordinance No. 05-06 of the Sangguniang Bayan of

Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro Entitled, "An Ordinance Declaring the Municipality of Puerto Galera to have a One Point of Entry and Exit for All Vessels Plying the Route Batangas-Puerto Galera."

Ms. Diwata Fetizanan, secretary of the Provincial Board, cited the report of the Committee on Legal Matters as the basis for the approval.

In their committee report, the following observations were made:

1. The ordinance was within the power of the Town Council.
2. The ordinance is not infringing on existing laws, rules and regulations. The Committee reported that the ordinance does not contravene with provisions of RA9295 known as the

>>> on page 2

# The Black Rice of Muelle

by  
Noe Lineses



NOTED historian William Hesselstine wrote: "Writing intellectual history is like trying to nail jelly to the wall."

In the case of the burned grains scattered along the banks of Muelle cove, it goes far beyond that. Writing the history of the "black rice" is like looking for a needle in a haystack. I have not seen any old manuscript that tells the story of the "black rice". I interviewed many old folks and they can offer only accounts handed to them through generations.

There are however quite a number of myths about its origin, one of which had been used by a few enterprising resort owners as a come-on for sightseeing tours. Before I tell you the myth, let me first tell you the facts we have gathered.

From several interviews, we found out that a garrison for Spanish soldiers was built in Muelle. The Spaniards built watchtowers in Dampalitan Point, near Coco Beach to sound off warships patrolling Puerto Galera Bay against Moro pirates. The Bay had been used extensively by Spanish galleons and Chinese merchant ships

that sought refuge and traded with the natives for food and other re-supply necessities. The rugged topography of Puerto Galera made it essential for the Spaniards to build a warehouse for palay (rice) adjacent to the barracks. Farmers from far-flung villages brought their sacks of palay to the warehouse to be stored until a ship would come to collect them.

One night the warehouse caught fire and was burned to the ground along with an unknown number of sacks of palay. The garrison also did not survive the fire. The blackened grains were scattered all over the banks of Muelle and were preserved for more than 200 years and now known as the "Black Rice of Muelle."

The basis for saying that the warehouse got burned in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century was a murky account of a great, great grand-

father who lived in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century narrating that the "black rice" was already there before he was born. Perhaps, a scientific study can be made to determine the real age of the mysterious grains. It can be earlier but what great news would it bring if it would be much, much older.

How many of the grains are still in Muelle? No one can tell but for sure there are not a lot of them now in Muelle. Not only because the grains had become popular souvenir items but the oil and other chemical pollutants that pour into Muelle can dissolve the tiny artifacts into mere ashes. When I was young, circa 1980, one can still see the "black rice" along the shore in front of the Coco Point Restaurant. Now, you can only find the "black rice" if you dig a foot deep and only in certain por-

>>> on page 2

Save the *Muelle*

*Black Rice*

*Mahalin Natin Ang Nakaraan,  
Para Makamit Ang Magandang Kinabukasan!*

by: Vice Mayor Juan Ascan Jr.

## ALDANMAR APARTMENTS

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## Provincial Board okays ...

Domestic Shipping Development Act which was one of the main arguments raised by the oppositors.

Given this fact, Fetizanan said the Board has no choice but to approve the ordinance.

The Local Government Code states that the Provincial Board must first review and approve a municipal ordinance before it can be enforced.

### To be or not to be

Vice Mayor Johnny Ascan said that "the ball is now with the Mayor".

"The Mayor told me that if we get the approval from the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, then he will implement the Ordinance," said Ascan. Enforcing the Ordinance would mean that all sea vessels plying the Batangas-Puerto Galera route must all dock at Balatero Port.

Observers however say that "the Mayor is afraid of the political repercussions if he enforces the Ordinance now." There are many business groups who are opposing the Ordinance and had vowed to fight its implementation. One member of the Puerto Galera Business Development Association said that they will ask for a Temporary Restraining Or-

der (TRO) to block the implementation of the Ordinance.

Mayor Teo Atienza reportedly plans to run for Vice Mayor in the coming May 2007 local elections. Atienza can no longer run again for Mayor because of a legal prohibition on a fourth consecutive term.

A source said that the Mayor may not be keen on enforcing the Ordinance as it might hurt his chances in the 2007 polls.

On the other hand, groups supporting the One-Point of Entry Ordinance are wondering why the Mayor has not yet enforced the Ordinance. Members of the Puerto Galera Tricycle Operators and Drivers Association said that they fully support the Ordinance and that they are hoping that Mayor Atienza will have the courage to implement the Ordinance.

### Municipal Ordinance 05-06

The One-Point of Entry Ordinance was approved last September 21, 2005 with 6 votes in favor, 1 abstention and 1 vote against.

Those that voted in favor are Councilors Raffy Cataquis, Danny Enriquez, Florendo Candava, Minda Justiniano, Robertito Macatangay and ABC

President Edwin Suzara. Then opposition Councilor Ruel Lumpas was the only one who objected to the Ordinance while Councilor Isidro Bunquin, representing Sabang, abstained from voting.

There were 4 primary reasons cited in the Ordinance why there should be only one point of entry, to wit:

1. "The peace and order will be easily ensured (sic)". Sanggunian said the police can check the entry of illegal drugs and prevent terrorist attack if there is only one entry point.

2. "The economic benefits of the tourism (sic) industry will be distributed to all barangays and to all sectors such as the transport sector and the business sector in other barangays."

3. "The spread of any highly communicable diseases such as bird flu, meningo (sic), SARS can easily be monitored, detected and checked."

4. "The riding public and tourists will be benefitted if there is a healthy competition among the shipping lines for they will provide cheaper, better, fast and more comfortable services to the riders (sic)."

Mayor Teo Atienza signed the Ordinance on Sept. 26, 2005.

## Forum on the BMBE Law held

THE ROTARY Club of Downtown Calapan held a forum on the Barangay Micro Business Enterprise (BMBE) Law last September 26 with Vice Governor Estee Aceron as the main speaker.

The BMBE Law provides for incentives to small and medium scale enterprises including tax exemptions. A qualified BMBE does not pay income taxes.

Vice Governor Aceron, president of the Rotary Club of Downtown Calapan, said that aside from the tax exemption, a BMBE is also exempted from the coverage of the minimum wage law and given priority in getting loans from financial institutions.

To qualify as a BMBE, the applicant's business must be less than 3 million pesos not including the land on which the business is located. Doctors,

lawyers and other professionals who took government licensure examinations cannot apply as a BMBE.

Representatives from the Department of Labor and Employment, the Department of Trade and Industry and the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) attended the meeting and spoke on their respective agencies role on the implementation of the BMBE Law.

Atty. Ben Torres, the Provincial Head of the BIR, expressed concern that the BMBE Law will greatly affect their collection targets. It is estimated that a big portion of Puerto Galera businesses can qualify as a BMBE.

"The Law has been in effect for more than 3 years now and we want to avail of the benefits at the soonest possible time" says one businessman.

However, a government circular states that the Sangguniang Bayan must first pass an ordinance charging registration fees for BMBE applicants. The Municipal Treasurer is mandated by law to process applications within a period of 15 days. If he/she will not act on the application within the given period, the application is deemed approved.

Vice Mayor Johnny Ascan, Councilors Danny Enriquez and Isidro Bunquin were present in the meeting and said that they will study the BMBE Law.

The meeting was co-sponsored by the New Galerian Businessmen Credit Cooperative (NGBCC), Puerto Galera's biggest business group, in coordination with the newly-organized Rotary Club of Puerto Galera.

For more info on the BMBE Law, please contact the Editor.

## Q and A on the BMBE Law

1) What is the law all about?

The "BMBEs Act of 2002" encourages the formation and growth of barangays micro business enterprises by granting them incentives and other benefits.

The Act was signed into law by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on November 13, 2002. Its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) which was issued on February 7, 2003, was published in the February 11, and 26, 2003 issues of the Manila Bulletin.

A BMBE is defined as any business enterprises engaged in production, processing, or manufacturing of products, including agro-processing, as well as trading and services, with total assets of not more than P3 million. Such assets shall include those arising from loans but not the land on which the plant and equipment are located.

For the purpose of the Act, "services" shall exclude those rendered by any one, who is duly licensed by the government after having passed a government licensure examination, in connection with the exercise of one's profession (e.g., Accountant, Lawyer, Doctor, etc.)

2) What is the objective of the law?

BMBEs are essential to the country's economic development since they effectively serve as seedbeds of Filipino entrepreneurial talent. Thus, the Act primarily aims to integrate micro enterprises in the informal sector in the mainstream of the economy. Strengthening BMBEs would mean more jobs and livelihood, and a better quality of life for Filipinos.

3) What are the incentives that BMBEs will be receiving?

Registered BMBEs can avail of the following incentives:

- ☉ Income tax exemption from income arising from the operations of the enterprise;
- ☉ Exemption from the coverage of the Minimum Wage

Law (BMBE will still receive the same social security and health care benefits as other employees);

- ☉ Priority to a special credit window set up specifically for the financing requirements of BMBEs; and
- ☉ Technology transfer, production and management training, and marketing assistance programs for BMBE beneficiaries.

The LGUs are also encouraged to either reduce the amount of local taxes, fees, and charges imposed or exempt the BMBEs from local taxes, fees, and charges.

4) How does one register as a BMBE?

Based on the guidelines issued by the DTI and the DOF, any person, cooperative, or association owning an enterprise that fits the description of a BMBE may register for the first time or renew its registration with the Office of the Treasurer of the city or municipality where the business is located.

4.1) Basic requirements for new applicants and for BMBEs applying for renewal of registration:

- ✓ Duly filled out application form (BMBE Form 01) in triplicate, signed by the owner or manager of the entity applying for registration; and
- ✓ Three passport size ID pictures.

4.2) Additional requirements for new applicants:

a.) For those with assets worth three hundred thousand pesos (P300,000) and less -

- ✓ Registration as a business entity or enterprise from the appropriate government agency (e.g., Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) registration in the case of corporation, partnership or association; Cooperative Development Authority (CDA)

registration in the Case of cooperative; Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) business name registration in the case of sole proprietorship); and

✓ Mayor's Permit or City/Municipal Business Permit. b.) For those with assets worth more than three hundred thousand pesos (P300,000) up to three million pesos (P3,000,000.00) -

✓ Registration as a business entity as explained above.

- ✓ Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN);
- ✓ Certificate of Registration from the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR);
- ✓ Mayor's Permit or City/Municipal Business Permit;
- ✓ Sworn affidavit executed by the sole proprietor or the President of the enterprise, as the case may be, that the enterprise is barangays-based and micro-business in nature and scope;

- ✓ Sworn Statement of Assets and Liabilities supported by pertinent documents;
- ✓ Pictures of the place of business and its assets, other than cash, receivables and intangibles;
- ✓ Copy of Loan Contracts, if any, and duly-notarized Certification of Amortization Payments on the Loan; and
- ✓ Income Tax Return (ITR).

5) How much will it cost to register?

Registration and issuance of the Certificate of Authority of the LGU is free of charge and shall be done promptly. However, to defray the administrative costs of registering and monitoring the BMBEs, the LGUs are allowed to charge a fee not exceeding P1,000.00

6) How can a BMBE avail of

>>> Next page please

## Mayor Teo vetoes ban ...

Councilors saying "this is not what we expect from you when you were asking for our support (votes)... there are other problems of the town that you should worry about."

Councilor Minda Justiniano, principal author of the Ordinance, criticized the Mayor's veto and said that "only a few benefit from this kind of business and the entire community is gravely affected."

Mayor Atienza defended his position saying that "lewdness and obscenity may well be a state of mind in a specific situation, but for the business in

Sabang, for instance, this situation is not lewdness or obscenity but entertainment."

The Mayor suggested that "if the concern of the Council is to nurture moral values and prevent moral degradation among the youth and the members of the community, then perhaps it can simply work along the line of limiting access to these establishments and/or imposing guidelines on the hiring of entertainers and artists."

A reliable source said that the Councilors will study if the Sangguniang Bayan will override the veto of the Mayor. Two-

thirds of the membership will need to vote to override the Mayor's veto. No veto has ever been reversed by the Sangguniang Bayan in recent history.

Meanwhile, religious leaders say that the proposed Ordinance has no effect on the thriving Videoke bars in Hundura, Poblacion which consequently triggered the widespread clamor for more regulations on the adult entertainment industry.

"These bars do not feature lewd shows. However, some have girls who allegedly are engage in prostitution."

## The Black Rice of Muelle ...

tions of the cove.

The construction of the wharf and subsequent renovation buried most of the grains under concrete and marble riprap. The municipal government had passed an ordinance prohibiting the collection of the "black rice", however, there is no provision to preserve and more importantly, no budget to protect it.

Now let me tell you about the myth. An old woman appeared one day and begged for food from the soldiers manning the garrison. The warehouse was full of palay but the soldiers refused to give the old hag any food. And so, it was said, that the old woman uttered a curse against the soldiers and that very night a fire

broke out and burned the garrison and the warehouse to the ground along with the Spanish soldiers. The grains remain in Muelle to serve as a grim reminder of the fate of the greedy officials of the past; it can be a warning to abusive officials of the present to mend their ways or suffer the deathly consequence.

Puerto Galera has a rich history and wonderful culture that need to be recounted, revived and preserved.

We are forming Puerto Galera's Historical Society with the aim of collecting, preserving, and interpreting our town's past for the education and enjoyment of present and future generations. Come, learn and join us.

**Q and A on the BMBE...**

the exemption from the coverage of the minimum wage law?

Once a BMBE is registered and issued with a Certificate of Authority by the Municipal or City Treasurer, it is automatically exempted from the minimum wage law.

7) What is the effect of the law on wages of existing/newly hired employees?

Existing employees shall continue to receive their wages, allowances, and other benefits. On the other hand, wages of employees hired by BMBEs after the latter's registration shall be exempted from the coverage of the minimum wage law.

8) Is the exemption from the coverage of the minimum wage law prospective in nature?

Yes. The rule is that laws shall have prospective application only. Thus, an enterprise's exemption from the coverage of the minimum wage law can only be applied to employees hired after its registration as a BMBE.

9) How much should a BMBE worker be paid for his services?

It depends between the employer and the worker. They shall mutually agree on the acceptable wage rate.

10) What are the steps in availing of the Income Tax Ex-

emption?

The BMBE registers with the BIR Revenue District Office (RDO) where the principal office or place of business is located and its submission of the necessary documents.

11) What are the documents to be submitted to the BIR to avail of Income Tax Exemption?

- ✓ Copy of the BMBEs Certificate of Authority
- ✓ Sworn Statement of Assets of the BMBE and/or its affiliates, supported by pertinent documents.
- ✓ Certified list of branches, sales outlets, places of production, warehouses and storage facilities.
- ✓ Latest audited Financial Statement or Account Information Form or its equivalent.

12) What document should be filed with BIR by an Income Tax exempt BMBE?

In lieu of an income tax return, an income tax exempt BMBE is required to submit an Annual Information Return. This is filed on or before the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the 4<sup>th</sup> month after the close of the taxable year with an Account Information Form, which contains data from its financial statement and Sworn Statement of Assets Owned and/or Used.

**Talk of the Town**

PHESI President Nicanor Villasenor sent an SMS message saying that he got the endorsement of the WWF on their 30-million dollar wind power project. The WWF is a very influential environmental group and their Puerto Galera office has been very helpful to the municipal government in crafting pro-environment legislations.

I heard that one of the directors of the WWF is Mr. Andy Locsin. Does this mean that the Locsins are now in favor of the wind farm project of PHESI?

A WWF insignia signifying the project as environmentally friendly is truly what PHESI needs. Now that they got the WWF, it will be easier for PHESI to sell their project to the Sangguniang Barangay of Tabinay and later to the Sangguniang Bayan of Puerto Galera for the needed endorsement to launch the project.

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I came across a speech of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo when she graced the Oriental Mindoro Investment Summit (ORMINVEST) held at the Filipiniana Resort Hotel Calapan City last April 6, 2006.

What caught my eye was her reference to the proposed submarine cable from the KEPCO power plant in Batangas to Oriental Mindoro. She said that KEPCO maybe the biggest power plant in the country and that "it suits their corporate plan to have a (submarine) cable here to Mindoro so that they can provide in the short run, your power needs from their power plant in Batangas."

The President added: "It suits their long-term plans because when you develop your own power generation sector here in Mindoro... power can be sold from here" to the Luzon grid and KEPCO earns money since they own the transmission.

The local officials of Mindoro presented to the President investment portfolios on the power generation sector. Mindoro has great potentials for wind and hydro-electric energy and several foreign investors have expressed willingness to bankroll power projects.

Once we are connected to the Luzon grid then we can expect

our electric bills to decrease. Our officials should make strong representations with national agencies to make this happen as we have heard that KEPCO might delay the \$50-million project indefinitely because of some problems with the National Power Corporation.

**"Eto sana ang itanong ng mga opisyal ng munisipyo at mga barangay captains kay Congressman RGV. Makibalita kayo kung ano ang nangyayari sa isang bagay na makikinabang ang marami ninyong kababayan. Tiyak na gaganda at mumura ang kuryente natin kapag konektado na tayo sa Batangas."**

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The President also made mention of Puerto Galera saying it is "very, very famous" like Boracay, Cebu, Donsol and Pagudpud. She was surprised to see other towns with great tourism potentials.

"I didn't know that Bulalakaw could have beaches that can give Boracay a run for its money. And somehow, these well-kept secrets need not be so well-kept anymore, mainly because your province is now part of the nautical highway."

Beachfront properties in Bulalakaw are 10 times cheaper than Puerto Galera. Indeed, it has great prospects but the local officials should ensure the security of investors as the area is said to be a haven for armed rebels.

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Congratulations to the newly-opened Toko Restaurant at Atlantis Resort in Sabang. I wasn't able to attend the opening. Try out Toko, I heard they serve great food there.

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My *kumpadre* Engr. Kiko Atienza celebrated his 45th birthday last September 23 with much fanfare. There was food and drinks galore. A roasted cow, spicy pulutan and lechon were on the buffet table. Congressman Rodolfo Valencia and Bishop Warlito Cajandig graced the occasion.

Happy Birthday Pare and may your wishes come true!

Well, the birthday celebration last October 12 of his older brother, Mayor Teo Atienza was a Fiesta. Good or bad, it was simply jaw-dropping.

Happy Birthday Mayor Teo Atienza.

**Save the Muelle  
Black Rice**



**Dr. Oscar "Oca"  
Evangelista**

*Ibantayog natin ang mayaman na kultura at kasaysayan ng ating bayan.*

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## Kaaldawan Festival re-visited

The municipality has once again concluded the so-called Kaaldawan Festival. Whether there will be another next year depends on the next Mayor and the next Sangguniang Bayan members. The loud music, the street dancing, the speeches, the games- all the revelry is gone- time now to reflect and reflect hard.

What really is the Kaaldawan Festival for? They say it is a tribute to the Mangyans. An event to showcase the Mangyan handicraft. They say it is a tourism event. Actually, it is the only government-sponsored "tourism event" with hundreds of thousands of pesos spent from the municipal coffers and donations from the private sector.

The Kaaldawan Festival has overtaken other traditional Fiestas in terms of money spent and the lavish preparations undertaken by the municipal government.

If it is a tribute, why were the Mangyans last to eat? Why were there many who queued for hours only to be told that the food is gone? The locals who feasted on the food entertained themselves with boxing matches Mangyan versus Mangyan. The gathered crowd laughed their guts out as one Mangyan stumbles in pain.

What were the small shanties for? To illustrate just how poor our Mangyans are. To entertain the tourists and the locals. To decorate and surround the plaza with what-Appalling poverty? Why are the Mangyans poor? Should the money spent for Kaaldawan be of better use on livelihood projects for the Mangyan?

If it was a tourism event, did we get our money's worth? Was there an incredible upswing in tourist arrival on October 12? Why October 12? Is it because it's the Mayor's birthday?

The Mangyans watched as schools make their pupils dressed in anything Mangyan perform and compete to win a prize. It would have been great to see the Mangyan dancing the Mangyan dance dressed in Mangyan dress as the schoolchildren watch.

The Mangyans clapped and clapped as the Mayor concluded his speech. One of their leaders spoke that they are sad because it is the last term of the Mayor and there might not be a Kaaldawan Festival again. The Mayor too was visibly sad. I can only shake my head, look up in the sky and wonder why. Why did food run out? Surely with the money available, you could feed them all and even feed them the next day, feed them the whole week, if need be.

But then that would have been promoting mendicancy. Wasn't there a saying that goes: "Give a Mangyan food and he will eat for a day, give a Mangyan livelihood and he will eat everyday."

Vice Mayor Johnny Ascan replied there will always be a Kaaldawan Festival. Sangguniang Bayan Secretary Leo Persia who is running for councilor said that if ever he gets elected the first ordinance he will author will be to transfer the date of the Kaaldawan Festival to its original date, on May 11 and 12.

Yes, dear reader, the Kaaldawan did not before coincide with the Mayor's birthday. It was the Mayor who requested that the celebration be held on October 12. So now will the next Mayor request that it be held on his birthday?

Balete plaza is once again empty and silent. Kaaldawan Festival has become a state of mind. To some it is a Mangyan party, others think it is but a birthday party.

To me, it is one noisy day.

### *The Puerto Galera Fortnightly Journal*

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## The Environmental User Fee Ordinance must be refined

It was a rare "thing" for me to speak against an ordinance in a public hearing. Having been a councilor once, I would rather talk with Sangguniang Bayan members on a person to person basis to express a position. But the matter of the Environmental User Fee (EUF) is of great import that I, once more after a long while, dared to speak in public.

The EUF ordinance is effectively an Entrance Fee whereby non-residents must pay 50 pesos at certain collection areas. I am, however, doubtful if they can be able to successfully implement the ordinance given the loopholes that were pointed out during the public hearing.

The EUF is the "wind beneath the wings" of the municipality's most ambitious infrastructure project, the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) of Sabang. The estimated cost for such a facility is around 100 million pesos while the operating cost would amount to 12 million pesos per year. Clearly, not within the budget of the municipality so they conceived of the EUF which will earn more than 50 million pesos a year, enough guarantee to investors and creditors who shall shoulder the cost of the WWTP.

The WWTP is the government's answer to the worsening pollution and sewerage problem of Sabang.

Officials say that not all of the money collected annually will be used for the WWTP; some will be for environmental and tourism projects and a certain percentage will be given to the barangays. The money collected will go to a trust fund which will be administered by the Coastal Resource Management Board (CRMB), composed of representatives from the government and non-government organizations.

Thanks to the assistance of the WWF, the ordinance was well-written but because it was most likely patterned after another WWF-assisted program in Batangas there was a tendency to take a simplistic and hurried approach which is counter-productive.

When the WWF and Mabini local government introduced the Diver's Fee ordinance, a new tourism outlook emerged clearly embodied in the tag-line "Pay before you Play." Before they say, "Welcome to Mabini, enjoy our dive spots. Now they say, "It is your privilege to be here and you have a responsibility to pay for our environmental projects."

Needless to say, there is an ocean of difference between Mabini and Puerto Galera. The scope of the proposed EUF ordinance is not just for dive spots but the entire Puerto Galera. It is

not just for divers but to all non-residents of Puerto Galera.

Consequently, the most crucial questions are: who pays, who does not pay and where will they pay. Incredibly, the draft ordinance left all this blank. Both the Identification System and the Collection Sites will still be determined in the future. There lies the Achilles' heel.

The EUF will be unacceptable to the people of Puerto Galera if relatives who would like to go to a funeral or a wake, relatives who would visit the sick, relatives who come for a wedding, a person who seeks employment, students and teachers who come for school affairs—when all will be charged to gain entry. However, if they will be exempted, how on earth will one be able to know who is truthful and who is not. Truly, the Identification System will either make or break the ordinance.

Another issue is the exemption of NIPAS (National Integrated Protected Area System) from the coverage of the EUF. NIPAS areas include bird and wildlife sanctuary, nature reserve, mangrove reserve, fish sanctuary, historical landmark, and ancestral land of indigenous people like the Mangyan. So if one will say that he/she will visit the Mangyan village then he/she will not be paying an EUF.

Lastly, the draft ordinance grants the CRMB the powers to collect, allocate and administer the funds which clearly contravene the Local Government Code or RA 7160.

Under Section 170 of RA 7160, only the Municipal Treasurer can deputize and authorize collectors not the CRMB.

Under several provisions of RA 7160, the Municipal Development Council and the Local Finance Committee together with the Budget Officer are in-charge of allocating funds and formulating development plans not the CRMB.

There is but one explanation why the Sangguniang Bayan would rather give the CRMB enormous powers than let the Municipal Mayor and other municipal officials handle the funds. Well, use your imagination.

The timing for this project is good if we have officials who have the public welfare in mind and who have the political will to make this a reality.

Councilors Raffy Cataquis and Danny Enriquez promised to discuss the inputs I shared. More importantly, they promised to hold another public hearing to gather more inputs, whether for or against the proposed ordinance. I thank them for being open-minded. Come to think of it, good things do happen in public hearings.

### **Letter to the Editor:**

#### **- Come back to earth -**

Reading your latest Fortnightly Journal made me wonder if we were talking about events in Puerto Galera. Imagine:

- a) a Wastewater project that will require 12 Million Pesos annually to operate but without any idea on where the financing to build the facility will come from;
- b) a giant Windmill to generate electric power that will cost Billions to build and again without any inkling on where the capital will come from;
- c) an Urgent Care Clinic that will require P150,000 monthly to operate and still searching for donors to supply the medical equipment;
- d) an Open Letter to the Locsin family demanding that they reveal their intentions for the Muelle area. Do we expect them to reply?

I agree with your Editorial entitled "Much Ado About Nothing". Why do we spend our time debating about grandiose projects that are pipe-dreams and will never take place? An example is this "one entry point" topic that still have your readers confused.

Please come back to earth and report on events that are real and attainable.

Sincerely- Eduardo Taylor

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# PGYC holds first Inter-school dinghy regatta

Ten in the morning on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September found 23 excited youngsters gathered on the beach at Boquete waiting for a briefing from our trainer, Ski, about day's activities. The boats were already rigged and waiting on the water's edge and a gentle on-shore breeze ruffled the palm trees. The group ranged in age from 11 to 17 and in sailing experience from one year to one month. There were 19 boys and 4 girls and had all been practicing hard for the preceding few weekends for this first Inter-Schools Regatta to be held in PG.

The schools represented, and the number of sailors from each, were: National High School – four; Puerto Galera Academy – four; Prince of Peace College – two; Minolo -three; St. Nino - six and Central School - six. With two sailors in each boat (three for the lighter ones), some schools had two entries, and some one. As it turned out, the strongest helms (the 'Subic boys') were evenly distributed between the schools so it was decided to score individual results rather than cumulative school ones. [A possible format for the future will be team racing]

Courses were pinned to the black-board, scrutinized, the briefing over and sunblock applied, the crews ran, Le Mans-style to get out onto the water for the 10.30am gun. The breeze was light and getting lighter by the minute. A large, omi-

nously dark cloud threatened to dump its contents over everybody at any minute. With five races planned for the day it was decided to run short, three leg, windward/leeward courses in the hope that it would keep the fleet together and the racing exciting.

As the first race started it was soon obvious that experience and training tells. The 'Subic boys' got off to flyers and were soon pulling away to battle it out between themselves. This was to be the pattern for the first day, with the top four places after five races going to the lads. They didn't have it all their own way, however, and a new, very promising duo from National High School split them on Sunday.

As for Saturday, the wind died after the first race so an early lunch was called. Back on the water at 1.30pm found the wind a little fresher and filling. More windward/leeward racing, with subtle variations to keep them thinking, saw exciting starts and nail-biting finishes,



with places being traded right up to the line. Good stuff and great fun to watch. It's a pity that more club members, family and school staff couldn't find the time to come. Spectators included one father who had travelled all the way down from Subic Bay to cheer his son on. It was not a wasted trip as DJ took overall honours.

At the end of the first day the leading school was Central School with 11 points, followed by PGA (14), Prince of Peace (19), St. Nino (21 and 22 points), Minolo (23), NHS (33 and 40), PGA 40 and

Central (48) and everybody was looking forward to an exciting day on Sunday.

Everybody that is, except for the wind-Gods who had taken the day off. It was a day of sailing in very light winds, with a bit of drifting here and there, especially for those who landed in the holes. Keeping the boats moving in the gentle breeze was a test of skills for everybody and, once again, it was generally the experienced sailors who made the best of the conditions, tho' the boys from National High School showed everyone how to do it with two 1<sup>st</sup> place finishes plus a 2<sup>nd</sup> and a 5<sup>th</sup> on the day. This was enough to knock Israel, the star of the first day, back into 4<sup>th</sup> overall. Perhaps it was the triangular courses that suited them better, or perhaps their helm/crew skills were better balanced because when we threw in a mandatory crew-swap race (i.e. the crew helms and vice versa) the 'Subic boys' proved to be better at steering than crewing, with an 8<sup>th</sup> and a 10<sup>th</sup> place for two of them. Frustrating for them but funny to watch and to hear the rising voices. The bowed heads and damp eyes were soon cheered up by the news that the rules allowed for one discarded result over the weekend.

What little breeze there was, died completely at 3pm so the final race was abandoned and all headed off to the yacht club for spaghetti,

pancit bihon and orange juice. The prize-giving was a hoot and it was gratifying to see more parents arrive, especially the matriarch of the Alinsuot family who had no fewer than three children participating and a 4<sup>th</sup> (Gary, our MarOps and part-time SBP man) on the safety boat, with a 5<sup>th</sup> (Eralyn, our Subic winner) assisting Donna on the committee boat. Another boat had three cousins all sailing together.

Unfortunately the Mayor couldn't make it for the afternoon celebrations, so it came down to me to present the awards.

Each crew was called up and received a hearty round of applause, with 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> getting smart trophies to take to school and show off.

It was a great weekend in which all were winners, but for those of you who wish to know the final results, see chart below.

The next few weeks are going to see all the boys and girls hard at it on the water training for the first **INTERNATIONAL LAWIN REGATTA**, which will be held over the Saturday and Sunday, (28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> October) of the DHL/Heavylift Manila ALL SOULS' REGATTA. It shows how far we have come in such a short time in that we are expecting teams from Hong Kong, Manila, Subic and the Philippine Sailing Association ('PSA') to participate.

If you want to help you can sponsor the Php1,000 (US\$20) entry fee for our school teams. I've already nabbed the Prince of Peace team and David and Mildred Balman and SHARKEES PIZZA has sponsored 2 more teams. Donna has grabbed Eralyn and Roland, 2 of our Subic sailors. Better get in quick and then come along and cheer for your crew. Fair winds...

*Written by Peter Stevens  
Puerto Galera Yacht Club*

### Announcement

You can receive a PDF copy of the Puerto Galera Fortnightly Journal via e-mail. For more information, please contact The Editor (0926) 8484500.



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SCHOOL	CREW	POSITION
Prince of Peace	DJ Caballes and Daniel Vasquez	1
Puerto Galera Academy	Gabriel Fetizanan and John Dael	2
Minolo Elementary	Kevin, Joemar and Jerome Bunquin	3
PG Central School	Israel Magsumbol, Arnell Perera and Gerald Alinsuot	4
National High School	Marco Polo Garcia and Darnell Leyco	5
St Nino Elementary	Kiervan Marquina and Anthony Evangelista	6
St Nino Elementary	Jeremy Rebucan and Lemmel Leyco	7
Puerto Galera Academy	Mark Maliksi and Cathlyn Magsumbol	8
National High School	Rosela Tome and Izzel Alinsuot	9
PG Central School	Efralene Alinsuot, Jordan Cabilin and Rommel Villeza	10

## Minahan ng Bayan tinutulan

Nagpasa kamakailan ang Sangguniang Bayan na nagpapahayag ng patutol sa panukalang "Minahan ng Bayan" na inilatag ng Mines and Geosciences Bureau ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Ayon sa Resolusyon Blg. 06-109, masisira ang aesthetic at ecological characteristics ng Puerto Galera kapag pinayagan ang naturang panukala.

Nauna dito, nagpadala ng

sulat si Guillermo G. Estabilo, Chairman ng Provincial Mining and Regulatory Board, kay Dulangan Barangay Captain Edwin Suzara na hinihiling na ma-ipaskel sa Barangay Hall ang kalatas na nagpapatid sa mga naninirahan tungkol sa panukalang "Minahan ng Bayan."

Panahon pa ng Kastila ay marami na ang nagmimina ng ginto. Ang mga "native" ng Mindoro ay nakikipag-palit ng

ginto sa mga Instik kapalit ng mga silk at porcelain.

Subalit kamakailan lamang ulit sumigla ang industriyang ito ng ma-diskubre ng ilan nating mga kababayan ang "potential" ng pagmimina ng ginto sa Dulangan, Baclayan at Tabinay.

Hiniling ng ilang residente ng Dulangan sa Sangguniang Bayan na huwag ng palawakin ang "area" ng minahan gaya ng nakasaad sa panukalang "Minahan ng Bayan."

## Mga kandidato sa 07 lumilinaw na

Oktubre na at mukhang lumilinaw na ang mga kandidato sa pagka-Mayor sa May 2007 elections. Inilabas sa pahayagang ito ang 13 pangalan na "pwedeng" tumakbong Mayor may ilang buwan na ang nakakaraan. Ngayon 6 na lamang ang nakikita namin na lantad na nagpapahayag ng kagustuhang tumakbo bilang Mayor.

Si Dr. Oscar Evangelista ayon sa isang source ay may line-up na at baka tumakbo sa ilalim ng partidong KAMPI. Si Dr. Hubert Dolor ay napapabalita na pinili ni Mayor Aristeo

Atienza na pumalit sa kanya at maaaring tumakbo sa ilalim ng Liberal Party. Si Mayor Teo na Chairman ng Liberal Party ay di-umano'y tatakabong Vice Mayor. Ang kanyang kapatid na si Engr. Kiko Atienza ay nagpahayag din na tatakabong Mayor. Si Jimmy Delgado ay siyang maaaring tumakbo sa LAKAS-CMD bilang Mayor. Si Vice Mayor Johnny Ascan ay gusto ring tumakbo subalit OK din sa kanya na mag-Vice Mayor na lang ulit. Isa pa sa nakausap namin na tatakbo raw ay si Neming Yaco. Wala kaming balita kung tutuloy si Polying Lopez at si Venancio Yap.

## Ilang mahalagang kaalaman

Batay sa pag-aaral, ilan sa mga nagti-trigger ng migraine ay ang sobrang liwanag ng ilaw, matinding ingay, masangang na amoy at maging ang usok ng sigarilyo at mga sasakyan. Sa mga may migraine dapat na iwasan nila ang sobrang pag-iisip at depression, paggamit ng contraceptive pills, mga pangkalmanteng gamot at pain killers, pagpapalipas sa oras ng pagkain, pagpupuyat, paninigarilyo, pag-inom ng alak, sobrang pagso-softdrinks, kape at tsokolate na may taglay na mapaminsalang cofeein. Ang mga pagkaing may salitre gaya ng tinapang isda, mga tocino at ibang karne na may nitrates ay ipinagbabawal din. Dapat na ipa-check-up palagi ang paningin gayundin ang sinusitis at iba pang respiratory problems.

\*\*\*

Alam n'yo bang ang kamatis

ay nakatutulong para masawata ang pagkalat ng oral cancer? Ayon sa medical researchers ng Hebrew University sa Jerusalem, ang kamatis ay may lycopene, at ito ang lumalaban sa oral cancer cells.

Sinabi ni Dr. Kim Key, senior epidemiologist at expert on diet and cancer, napaka-epektibo ng lycopene para labanan ang kanser. Ang lycopene ang nagbibigay ng pulang kulay sa kamatis. Batay sa pananaliksik ni Dr. Key, iniugnay na rin ang lycopene na lumalaban sa kanser sa suso, prostate, pancreas at colorectal. Napakabisa ng lycopene sa mga tomato products gaya ng ketchup at pizza toppings. Napag-alaman din buhat sa mga medical researchers sa University of North Carolina na ang pagkaing may taglay na lycopene ay nagpapababa sa bilang ng mga

nagkakaroon ng atake sa puso.

\*\*\*

Ang narra ang ating national tree. Ang narra ay mahal ang halaga dahil sa mga katangian nitong taglay. Ginagawa ito bilang kagamitang -pambahay tulad ng mga silya, kama, aparador.

Pero alam n'yo ba na ang balat ng narra ay gamot? Pinakukuluhan ito at ginagawang tsaa na mabisa ring food supplement na panlaban sa viral infection lalo na sa mga may problem sa pag-ihi. Ang ugat at dahon ng narra ay inilalaga at malaking tulong ito sa mga babaing nahihirapan sa pagrereglá.

Ang kulay dilaw na bulaklak ng narra ay pinakukuluhan din at iniinom ng mga nakadarama ng pa-mimigat ng dibdib. Epektibo itong pantanggal ng mga toxins na bumabara sa ugat at gamot din sa mga may asthma.

## B-day ni Kiko Atienza, dinagsa ng mga kaibigan at pulitiko



Dumating ang mga kaibigan at kamag-anak upang makisama sa pamilya ni Engr. Kiko Atienza sa selebrasyon ng kanyang ika-45 na taong kaarawan noong September 23. Kasama sa bonggang handaan sina Congressman Rodolfo G. Valencia, Bishop Warlito Cajandig, dating Bokal Dante Manzo, mga kapitan ng barangay at mga konsehal ng bayan ng Puerto Galera.

## Mga tanong sa budget . . .

pwedeng magamit kung sakaling magkaroon muli ng kalamidad.

T: Ano ang Senior Citizen Fund?

S: May nakalaan na 300,000 pesos para sa "maintenance" ng OSCA (Senior Citizen Office). Eto kayang pondo ay ginagamit para sa mga "happenings" ng mga Senior Citizen tulad ng katatapos na magaribong handaan sa Baleta Plaza???

T: Meron bang pondo para sa kababaihan?

S: Oo, at nagkahalaga ito na 250,000 pesos sa ilalim ng item na "Development Program for Women." Pwede humingi ang mga kababaihan ng isang livelihood project mula sa munisipyo.

T: Magkano ang nagastos para sa Baleta Plaza?

S: Milyon na ang nagastos dito ng pamahalaan. Kung magkano lahat, hindi pa namin

alam. Subalit ngayong taong ito, isa sa pinakamalaking nilagyan ng pondo ay ang Baleta plaza. Para sa "improvement" ng plaza, may nakalaan na 500,000 pesos. May nakalaan din na 250,000 pesos para sa "fountain" sa plaza. Para sa daan galing slaughterhouse, may nakalaan na 300,000 pesos. Sa laki ng nagastos mula pa noong una, maaaring sabihin na ito na marahil ang pinakamalaking project ni Mayor Teo Atienza mula ng siya ay manungkulan.

Panahon na para isaayos ng Sangguniang Bayan ang pamamahala ng plaza. Kailangan siguro na mag-"create" kayo ng posisyon para sa isang "Plaza Administrator" para may opisina na titingin sa pamamahala ng plaza.

T: Magkano ang pondo para sa turismo?

S: Para sa Tourism Develop-

ment Fund, may nakalaan na 630,000 pesos. Dito kukunin ang gagastusin para sa Kaaldawan Festival (October 12), at tourism promotion ng munisipyo.

Marami pa ang nakalagay sa budget para 2006. Nakakalungkot na wala yatang plano na isa-publiko ito. Higit na nakakalungkot na hindi yata interesado ang mga tao sa pondo ng gobyerno.

Ika nga ng marami, okay lang, wala akong pakialam dyan. Ganito tayo noon, ganito pa rin tayo ngayon. May kasabihan sa English: "The people deserve the government they elect." Totoo, di ba?

Wala man o merong pakialam ang mga taga-Puerto sa budget ng munisipyo, alalahanin sana ng mga pinuno natin na sila ay inihalal upang itaguyod ang kapakanan ng mamamayan.



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## Mula sa isang mambabasa

Marami kaming nalalaman dahil sa Fortnightly. Sa susunod na halalan, dapat nga pala pag-isipang mabuti ang isusulat sa balota. Hindi porke kamag-anak, kumpare, magaling kumanta o magaling magsalita ay iboboto kung wala ding kakayahan na maglingkod sa bayan.

Ang hindi ko lamang ma-intidihan dito sa ating bayan ay sa dami ng mga professionals at mga nag-aral ay hindi pa rin magkaisa para sa ikauunlad ng Puerto Galera. Kanya-kanya pa rin tayo kaya huwag ka ng magtaka kung bakit maraming naghihirap sa bayang ito.

# Mga Opinyon, Istorya at Anunsyo na isinulat sa Filipino

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The Youth of Puerto Galera



## The Puerto Galera Fortnightly JOURNAL

### Ang "regalo" kay Junior

*Dalawang buwan na lang at kampanyahan na ulit. Kapansin-pansin na nagkalat na ang mga pulitiko sa lahat ng handaan, lamayan, kasalan at binyagan.*

*May nag-mungkahi sa amin, na isulat kung ano kaya ang pananaw at pakiramdam ng isang botante sa panahong ito. Minarapat namin na gumawa ng isang maiksing "script" para bigyang kulay ang konseptong ito.*

*Ang istorya sa ibaba ay kathang-isip lamang. Walang intensyon na mabahiran ng dungis ang sinuman.*

Ramon: Tatay, sino ga ho ang kukunin kong ninong ni Junior? Kulang pa ng lima at labing-apat na ho.

Tasyo: Nakasulat na ga dyan si Vice Mayor Alcancia? Tatakabong Mayor yun. Pag nanalo yun pede mo ipasok ang nanay mo na midwife at ang kapatid mo sa waterworks.

Ramon: Tatay, balita ko ho ay hindi raw galante yun magpakimkim, malaki ho gastos namin ni Estee. Si Mr. Camilmil na lang kaya, tatakbo din daw ho yun at malaki daw magbigay.

Estee: Babaero raw yun at sugarol. Tatay, nagpapaputok pa raw ho ng barrel yun, kukunin ga ho yun?

Tasyo: Ala problema yun. Kunin nyo parehas.

Estee: Tatay, ang balita ko ho ay si Mr. Valiente ang dadalhin ng mayaman.

Tasyo: Eh di kunin din ninyo. Marami palang tatakbo. Maganda yan. (Lihim na iniisip na maaayos na ang bubong ng bahay pati kubeta at lababo nila sa biyayang makukuha sa mga kandidato.)

Estee: Baka naman ho Tatay pabor yun sa pagsasara ng pabrika, mawawalan ho ako ng trabaho.

Tatay Tasyo: Eh bobo pala ereng misis mo Ramon. Mag-apply ka ng trabaho sa munisipyo.

Kinuhang kumpare ni Ramon at Estee ang tatlong kandidatong Mayor. Dumating ang araw ng handaan. Hindi dumating si Vice Mayor Alcancia at nagpadala na lang ng regalo. Tuwang-tuwa si Mr. Valiente dahil si Mr. Camilmil ay wala pa. Agad nagpa-pogi points kay Ka Tasyo.

Mr. Valiente: Kita ninyo naman Ka Tasyo, binigyan ko ng oras para makarating ako rito kahit busy ako.

Tasyo: Alam ko yun, kaya't umasa kayo sa suporta namin. Labing-apat ang botante ko, hindi pa kasama dun mga pamangkin at manugang.

Mr. Valiente: (Dumukot sa balsa. Inabot ang isang sobre, laman ay isang libong piso.)

Pare, para sa inaanak ko.

Ramon: Salamat pare.

Ilang sandali pa nag-paalam na si Mr. Valiente. Patuloy ang handaan, maya-maya ay dumating si Mr. Camilmil.

Mr. Camilmil: Ka Tasyo, pare, pasensya na kayo ngayon lang ako nakarating galing pa ako ng Calagan. Ang mahalaga, pare, eh kahit papaano nakarating ako, di ba?

Ramon: Ok lang pare ang mahalaga ay andito ka. Kanina ka pa nga hinihintay ng Tatay.

Mr. Camilmil: Musta na, Ka Tasyo. Ako ho ay papalaot na at sana'y suportahan ninyo ako. Pare, ere nga pa lang limang libong piso, para sa inaanak ko. Tasyo: (Nanlaki ang mata sa perang inabot.) Alam ko yun, kaya't umasa kayo sa suporta namin. Labing-apat ang botante ko, hindi pa kasama dun mga pamangkin at manugang.

Estee: (Bumulong sa biyenang.) Tatay, hindi ga yun din sinabi ninyo kay Mr. Valiente.

Tasyo: Tumahimik ka dyan, mas magaling itong isa.

Natapos ang handaan. Imis na ang hapag-kainan. Bakat ang kasiyahan ng pamilya.

Si Junior tahimik na umiyyak sa kinabukasang regalo ng magulang. Mauubos ang tirang ulam at muling iikot ang mundo. (ni Noe Lineses)

## Kawawa naman ang mga negosyante ng Puerto

Isang katotohanan na mahirap ikaila matapos tila balewala ang kahilingan ng mga negosyante na magpasa ng Ordinansa ang Sangguniang Bayan upang maipatupad na ang Barangay Micro Business Enterprise (BMBE) law. Sa kasalukuyan, wala ni isang konsehal ang balak mag-sponsor ng Ordinansa tungkol sa BMBE.

Ang BMBE ay isang batas na ipinasa noon pang 2002 at nagbibigay ng mga benepisyo para sa mga maliliit na negosyo. Isa sa benepisyo ay ang hindi pagbabayad ng "income tax".

Sa dahilang ako ay naging konsehal din, ayaw ko sana na punahin ang mga kasalukuyang kasapi ng Sangguniang Bayan, pero wala talaga akong makitang dahilan kung bakit ayaw nilang tulungan ang mga maliliit na negosyante dito sa ating bayan ganung may batas na nagbibigay ng mga benepisyo para sa kanila. Ang susi sa maraming benepisyo mula sa BMBE Law ay nakasalalay sa mga konsehal ngayon.

Marami silang ginagawang Ordinansa, pero itong Ordinansa na higit na makikinabang ang mga negosyante ay ayaw nilang bigyang-

pansin. Wala silang sinasabing dahilan kung ano ang problema nila sa BMBE, kaya't hindi maunawaan ng publiko kung bakit wala pa silang aksyon. Kailangan pa ba na magpetisyon tayo para gampanan nila ang kanilang tungkulin?

Hindi nakakapagtaka kung bakit sa bayang ito, sa maraming pagkakataon, ay nakikita ang malaking puwang sa pagitan ng mga negosyante at ng pamahalaan. Hindi ito maganda at wala tayong ibang dapat sisihin kung hindi ang mga kasalukuyang pinuno.

Lagi na lang bang pakabig ang gusto ng pamahalaan? Sunod-sunod ang balak na mga batas para buwisan ang mamamayan. Kapag hindi agad nakabayad, sobrang taas ng "penalty" kung hindi ay putol ang iyong tubig o kaya'y may pananagutan sa batas.

Mga kababayan, hindi namin tatantanan ang isyu ng BMBE sa dahilang ito ay makakatulong sa maraming negosyante dito sa ating bayan. Aming ipapa-alam sa inyo ang mga lingkod ng bayan na magtataguyod sa kapakanan ng mamamayan at hindi yung mahilig sa "pogi points" lamang.

## Mga tanong tungkol sa budget

MULANG LUMABAS dito ang tungkol sa budget, marami ang nagtatanong at tila wari hindi ganap na naunawaan yung ilang items sa budget. Bilang tugon sa inyong mga katanungan, ilalahad namin ang mga nakalap na iba pang impormasyon tungkol sa kasalukuyang budget ng munisipyo.

T: Gaano kalaki ang budget para sa taong 2006?

S: Mahigit sa 51 million pesos ang budget ng munisipyo para sa taong ito. Halos 46% nito ay napupunta bilang sweldo ng mga kawani at opisyal ng munisipyo. Kapag pinag-samasama ang gastusin para sa mga pampublikong gawain (infra), 10% ng budget ang nakalaan para dito.

Marami ang nagtataka kung bakit ang San Isidro at Sabang,

pinaka-malaking "taxpayers" ng munisipyo ay mukhang wala o kakaunti ang proyektong nakuha mula sa munisipyo.

T: Paano ba humingi ng pondo sa munisipyo?

S: Siguro pinaka-mabisa na magpasa ng resolusyon na humihingi ng pondo o proyekto ang mga barangay mula sa munisipyo. Halimbawa: pagsasa-ayos ng patubig ng White Beach, Fire Contingency Plan para sa Sabang, atbp.

T: Ano yung Peace and Order Fund?

S: May budget na 1 milyong piso para sa Peace and Order. Sa aming palagay, ito ay maaring ibigay ng Mayor bilang tulong sa mga pulis, sa mga Barangay Tanod at sa mga bagay na may kinalaman sa seguridad ng bayan. Bilang tugon sa Barangay Tanod na nagtanong

sa amin: Try mo humingi kay Mayor ng mga batuta at flashlight para sa inyong grupo?

T: Ano ang Calamity Fund?

S: May nakatalaga na limang porsyento sa kabuo-ang budget para magastos pagkatapos ng kalamidad. Ito ay nagkakahalaga ng mahigit sa 2.5 million pesos. Ang pondong ito ay para sa mga biktima ng kalamidad. Marami ang naging biktima ng bagyong "Caloy", marami ang nagutom, nasira ang mga bahay at kabuhayan. Sa ganitong mga pagkakataon, dapat ang mga Barangay Captain ay lumapit kay Mayor para mabigyan ng tulong ang mga naging biktima ng bagyo. Dapat din ay itanong ng mga Barangay Captain kung magkano pa ang natitira sa Calamity Fund para alam nila kung magkano pa ang

>>> pahina 7

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