The New Capitol STANDARD

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City Engr., Asst. Bldg. Official Are Falsely Accused

City Engineer and Building Official Alfredo Macapugay and Assistant City Building Official Benjamin Malinao have been unjustly accused of having issued a fake building permit to the Grand Canyon Development Corporation for a P30,000 consideration.

The truth is as revealed by inquiries made by this paper, it is the President of the Grand Canyon herself and a certain Ernesto Villablanca of the defunct Action Center for Infrastructure Development of the MMA who are the guilty parties, the former as bribe giver, the latter as bribe-taker, both culpable under the law.

Grand Canyon in its illicit

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IN NEXT ISSUE

Watch for our expose on how applicants for electrical wiring permit and electrical inspection are victimized by private master electricians hanging around the Office of the City Electrician. We have a concrete documented case of how an applicant paid P306 for inspection fee and was receipted for only P6.00. No actual inspection was made.

Response To Privilege Speech Of Councilor Tamayo

By Ben O. Flores



TAMAYO

I am extremely happy that the honorable Councilor Emilio Tamayo has finally ceased to ignore me and our little paper. This alone, I consider a victory because after having been ignored for so long, our efforts to help in the fight against graft and corruption are finally getting some notice. I commend Councilor Tamayo for finally consenting to face the music.

I agree with the honorable Councilor that he had every right to ignore the "Copy furnished" letters I sent him. But he admits that I subsequently wrote him letters directly addressed to him. He cited my Oct. 28, 1991 and April 20, 1992 letters. He failed, however, to cite my third and final letter dated June 1, 1992.

In my first letter I did not claim that no sister-cityhood negotiations had been conducted. On the contrary, I presumed that such negotiations had been conducted by Councilor Tamayo but were unsuccessful which is why in said first letter I wrote:

"It appears that a sister-cityhood relationship with Daily City did not materialize. Could it be that the people and officials of Daly City are averse to a sister-cityhood relationship with QC? I am interested. Can you please enlighten me."

It is very clear from the above that I believed Councilor Tamayo did conduct sister-cityhood negotiations but was rebuffed by Daly City officials which is why he came back empty-handed.

It was six months after the first letter that I wrote the second letter to Councilor Tamayo. During these six months, I had already these letters from Daly City officials which led me to believe, rightly or wrongly, that there had been no sister-cityhood negotiations. So, in that second letter, I wrote the honorable Councilor that while I was inclined to believe that there had been no sister-cityhood negotiations because of the Daly City officials' letters, "I am still hoping there is something you can do or say to convince me to think otherwise . . .

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City Gov't. To Lose P264.6 M If . . .

The city government stands to lose P264,605,090.00 if the general revision of assessments mandated under Section 219 of the Local Government Code is not accomplished and made effective by the end of 1993 or before 1994, in which case the low assessment levels prescribed under Section 218 of the Code will be applicable.

This warning has been aired by City Assessor Constantino Rosas and Assistant City Assessor Benjamin Kasala and is especially directed to the City Council to which they had submitted a new Schedule of Fair Market Values for enactment through an ordinance as ordained in Section 212 of the Code instead of being submitted to the Secretary of Finance for approval as required by the Real Property Code, PD No. 464, which was the law in force before the effectivity of the Local Government Code.

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AUSTERE BUT SIGNIFICANT CELEBRATION

Quezon City Marks 53rd Foundation Anniversary

Quezon City marked its 53rd Foundation Anniversary with weeklong religious civic, cultural and educational activities, October 3-12 on the theme, "Quezon City: Progress Through Solidarity and Cooperation (Lunsod Quezon, Pagkakaisa at Pagtutulungan Tungo sa Kaunlaran).

Mayor Mel Mathay said that the celebration in which all sectors of the citizenry participated was a demonstration of how unity can be achieved.

A great deal of the success of the celebration can be attributed to Dr. Manuel S. Alba,, City Administrator, who was in charge in the preparation of the program of activities.

The celebration started with the fetching of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary of the "La Naval" to City Hall where a novena was started at 11:30 followed by a high noon mass. This La Naval novena and mass continued daily culminating on October 11. The following day, in the afternoon, Our Lady was brought in a procession to the Quezon Memorial Circle where a concelebrated mass was held headed by Bishop Teodo



DR. ALBA

ro Buhain in which all parishes in QC participated.

Mathay who officiated in the coronation of the blessed mother said that the religious rites honoring Our Lady were the "centerpiece" of the Foundation Day celebration. The concelebrated mass was followed by a candlelight ceremony by Rev. Fr. Sonny Ramirez and the Tiples of Sto. Domingo. Our Lady was finally returned to Sto. Domingo church in another procession.

In between October 3, when Our Lady came to City Hall, and October 12, when she left, all kinds of activities were held: sportsfests; fun-runs: singing, on-the-spot painting, drum and bugle corps and rondalla contests, medical services like harelip oper-

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INADEQUATE

Ordinance Vs. Graft Filed —At Last!

A proposed ordinance meant to prevent graft and corruption has been filed in the New City Council —at long last!

The late unlamented Old Council had, during more than four years legislation (Feb. 1988 to June 1992), had not enacted—not even as so much as introduced—any measure designed to fight graft and corruption, except a virtually useless resolution introduced by then Councilor Francis Pangilinan urging the adoption of transparency as a policy of the city government. The past Council's No. One Grandstander then Councilor, now

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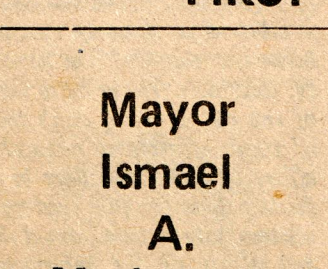

DEFENSOR

P3.5-Million Swimming Pools For Frogs

By Irma Villanueva
PRO of Vice Mayor's Office

This one is for Ripley or the Book of Guinness!

The sum of P3,557,070.00 was spent under the previous city administration for the construction of two swimming pools which are now overgrown with tall grasses, filled with dirty rain water and inhabited by hundreds of croaking frogs.

The pools, which are in Novaliches, one at Bgy. Nagkaisahang Nayon, the other at Zabarte Subdivision, Bgy. Kaligayahan, can not be used for non-frogs because they are uncompleted and lack certain facilities like the following:

1) No water supply source
2) No plumbing system connecting the comfort and shower rooms to the sewer lines
3) No tiling of the shower and comfort rooms
4) No water connection for the facilities from MWSS
5) No park lights installed at the pool sites
6) Electrical system not connected to Meralco

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The shower rooms showing signs of non-completion. They are allegedly not tiled inside.

Alpha Pools, Sianghio Deny Charge Swimming Pools Are Deficient, Uncompleted

(Editor's Note : : *Alpha Pools handcarried to us two letters: one, the letter of its Manager Nicanor Follosco, addressed to the "CITY GOVERNMENT OF QC," dated August 12, 1992, the other, letter of Cesar Sianghio, City Parks Development Administrative Officer, dated August 17, 1992, addressed to Mayor Mathay. This news story is based on these two letters.)*

Alpha Pools General Manager, Nicanor L. Follosco, Jr. and City Parks Development Administrative Officer Cesar Sianghio, deny the charges of non-completion and deficiencies of the two swimming pools referred to in the P3.5 Million Swimming Pools For Frogs" story.

The alleged deficiencies had been brought to the attention of Vice Mayor Planas

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FIRST 100 Days



Mayor Ismael A. Mathay, Jr.

QUEZON CITY Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr.'s first 100 days in office can be described in a few words: Winning back the people's confidence in the city government

To enable him to restore the trust of his constituents, he has to bring the cash-strapped city back into its feet, settling its long list of debts, resolving the garbage and traffic mess, the ever-deteriorating peace and order situation, giving permanent settlement to the city's thousands upon thousands of squatter families and most of all, improving the people's well-being through a quantum leap of economic and industrial development.

The mayor started his Day One by inspecting an uncollected garbage dump in Galas, Day Two by inspecting a

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Vice Mayor Charito L. Planas

Consonant with her commitment to render to the public and provide leadership by example and the need to maintain transparency, openness and access to the public, the Vice Mayor submits the following accomplishment report for the first 100 days of her term of office in cooperation with the government and private agencies, non-governmental organizations, the general public and her staff.

I. On Public Affairs

a. Elected as Vice President of the Vice Mayor's League of Metro Manila.
b. Presented proposals for a non-political Metro Manila Authority, funded by the National Government in areas involving traffic and road management, flood control, and identification and development of self-reliant and complete communities in depressed areas.

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QUEZON'S UNFULFILLED DREAMS FOR QUEZON CITY

By Ben O. Flores

(Editor's Note: *A condensed version of this article was supposed to come out in the Oct. 11, Sunday Magazine of a national publication but we missed the deadline given us by the editors. When we went to submit this article, they had only one and a half pages left available. So, here's the article in full. It was supposed to come out last Oct. 12.)*

TODAY, Quezon City marks its 53rd Foundation Day. It was on Oct. 12, 1939 that the late Pres. Quezon signed into law C.A. No. 502 creating QC. During that short period of 53 years, QC made tremendous progress, evolving from a veritable wilderness of cogonal land, forests, creeks and rice paddies into a bustling metropolis as exemplified by the Araneta Center in Cubao.

But has this tremendous urban growth and development fulfilled Quezon's dreams of what he wanted QC to be? As it commemorates its natal day tomorrow, there will be those who will do some critical assessment of present conditions in the city. They will surely come to the sad fact that most, if not all, of Quezon's dreams for the city he founded have not been fulfilled.

State of City Address

In his state of the city address delivered recently, QC's 8th mayor, Ismael A. Mathay, Jr., did not directly state that most of Quezon's dreams are still

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Standard FARE

by Ben O. Flores

English Lyrics of QC Hymn

In this column in our last issue, I wrote: "Congratulations to whoever thought of reviving the original QC Hymn." That "whoever" is the Vice Mayor. She told me so in a talk I had with her. Congratulations again, Charito.

I would like, however, to make a suggestion re the singing of the hymn. The original lyrics were in English and they were written by former Fiscal Lea T. Castelo, the better half of Councilor Miling Castelo and one time columnist of this paper. The Pilipino version of the hymn is only a translation of the original English lyrics. No matter how well done the translation is, the greater credit for the lyrics of the hymn belongs to Lea. Yet they have been completely forgotten. Only the Pilipino translation is sung at the flag-raising ceremony. Since she was responsible for the revival of the original QC hymn, may I suggest to the Vice Mayor that once in a while the hymn be sang in its English lyrics. After all, English and Pilipino are recognized as co-equal as official languages of the country. How about it, Charito.

In that talk I had with the Vice Mayor, we were interrupted by the arrival of a delegation of residents in that area which was flooded due to the collapse of the Capitol Golf Club wall. Charito told me to stay so I can hear the complaints of her visitors. They said that they had been complaining to City Hall for the last 15 years about *that* wall but were not heeded. The Vice Mayor had the City Engineer, Fred Macapugay, called. She ordered him to investigate the complaints of the victims of the collapsed wall. Before we went to press, we asked Fred for a copy of his report but he said it was not ready yet. We were invited by one of the complainants to visit their place, but we haven't had the time for that yet.

The Buck Stops at Vice Mayor's Office

Charito said that she had discarded the word "Indorsement" from the vocabulary of official communications prepared by her office, meaning to say, she said, that when a complaint is received by her office, she never indorses it to some other office. She acts on the complaint herself. Action Agad! The buck stops at her office.

It was already 12:30 P.M. when she and I stood up to leave. I must have looked famished, she gave me a piece of cake to allay my hunger.

Discouraging Statements of Ombudsman

In the September 16, 1992 issue of "The Philippine Star," Ombudsman Conrado Vasquez is reported to have made the following statements:

"It is not easy to convict big fishes. They have all the weapons to ward off or delay conviction."

"The trouble is that the big fishes have the resources to delay their trial or to get acquittal."

I could hardly believe my eyes when I read the above statements. Perhaps, the honorable Ombudsman had been misquoted, I thought. Many reporters are prone to misquoting. So, I wrote Ombudsman Vasquez to ask him if he had really made the above statements, but as we go to press, he has not yet deigned to answer me.

Of course, what the Ombudsman conveyed in his statements is true. Everybody knows how the rich can buy aquittal or delay their trial indefinitely. But it was very indiscreet of the Ombudsman, who is supposed to personify justice, to have made such public statements. For one like me who has filed cases of graft and corruption with the Ombudsman, the statements of the honorable Conrado Vasquez are very discouraging. They erode one's faith in the integrity of the Ombudsman and of the entire judicial system.

I hope and pray Ombudsman Vasquez had been misquoted.

New GSO Chief: Poor Visibility

Sometime ago, I spent almost one whole day trying to see the new General Services Officer, a certain Atty. Antonio Laudico. In the morning, I went twice to his office. He wasn't in yet, I was told each time. "What time do you expect him?" I asked." He usually does not come in the morning," was the answer. So, at 2:00 P.M. I went up again to his office. Not yet in, I was told. An hour later, I went again. Still not in. I am persevering sometimes, so I went a third time that afternoon at 4:00 o'clock. Thank heaven, Atty. Laudico was in at last. Unfortunately, his office door was closed. He was with some people obviously. His secretary, however, asked my name, jotted it down on a piece of paper and brought it in to the office. I was told to wait. I waited and waited and waited. Yes, I could be patient sometimes. Then an elderly woman with a young girl in tow showed up and without even a "by your leave" to the secretary, the two went straight into Laudico's office. She must be the wife, I thought. Only a husband's commander could barge in like that. If the lady was indeed the wife of the GSO Chief, then she must be my provincemate—from Abra.

Anyway, I continued to wait and wait, but since I do not have the patience of job, I finally gave up and left—frustrated and disgusted.

I had wanted to ask Atty. Laudico about the reported unreturned government vehicles and his comments on our suggestions on how to prevent ghost purchases and overpricing published in our last issue and reprinted in this issue on page 8. I also wanted to give him a copy of my complaint with supporting Annexes against his predecessor which I had filed with the Ombudsman.

Perhaps, the next time I go to see the GSO Chief, I'll have to bring a novel to read to while away the time while waiting. I'm sure by the time I finish reading it, I'd be called in. I like to think that it was not a typical day for Atty. Laudico that day I went to see him. It was just my bad luck I chose the wrong day.

What Happened to Anti-Movie Ticket Recycling Ordinance?

In the past Council, Councilor Eddie Serrano introduced an ordinance designed to prevent the recycling of movie tickets. It ordained the tearing of movie tickets into two, one part to be given to the entering movie-goer. This way, the tickets can't be recycled. I think this could be an effective way of preventing movie ticket recycling. I am reminded of this proposed ordinance because I understand the Mayor has formed task forces to monitor movie houses recycling their tickets.

RESPONSE . . .

Councilor Tamayo chose to ignore these two very polite and courteous letters of mine requesting information on a matter of public interest. The Honorable Councilor is obviously not aware of Sections 1 and 3 of Rule VI of the "Rules Implementing the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees," which state:

"In case of written requests, petitions, or motions, sent by means of letters, telegrams, or the like, the official or employee in charge shall act on the same within fifteen (15) working days from receipt thereof."

I had to write Councilor Tamayo a third and final letter in which I stated:

"This is my third and final letter to you asking your side on the so-called Daly City sister-cityhood negotiations.

"If, after a reasonable period, I do not hear from you, I will be forced to presume that there were no such negotiations, although there is really no need for such presumption because I have enough evidence, which includes letters from certain Daly City officials, that the alleged negotiations never took place."

The honorable Councilor still ignored this third and final letter. Can he blame me if I became convinced that no sister-cityhood negotiations had ever taken place? Now here he comes belatedly claiming in a privilege speech that he had a "pag-uusap" (conversation or conference) with Daly City officials on the subject of sister-city relationship between Daly City and QC. He further claims that the documents to prove this "pag-uusap" have been submitted to his lawyer.

If true, his lawyer will, of course, submit to the Ombudsman said documents if and when an investigation is conducted. So, let the Ombudsman decide which are valid: the Councilor's evidences and arguments or ours. This may sound paradoxical, but the truth is I would not be disappointed nor unhappy if Councilor Tamayo is exonerated. I would be happy enough that I had done what I believe is my duty as a newspaperman and as a citizen of QC. My purpose in filing the two graft and corruption cases mentioned in our paper is not punitive in nature; it is not to seek punishment for the respondents—that is unavoidedly only incidental. I have repeatedly stressed that I have nothing personal against the respondents. My real purpose in filing the cases is to provide a *deterrent* to the commission of similar anomalies in the future. It has been my experience that accusations, denunciations and exposes of these anomalies in media are ineffective in the fight against graft and corruption. They have to be *judicially pursued*, which means that documented cases of graft and corruption have to be filed in court. Incidentally, the city government's Graftbuster, the honorable Vice Mayor Charito Planas, agrees with me on this matter.

Councilor Tamayo tries to excuse himself for ignoring my letters by saying that I should have gone to his office to personally and verbally make the inquiry on his alleged participation in sister-cityhood negotiations in Daly City. With all due respect to the honorable Councilor, I believe I have the right to choose the manner of seeking and obtaining the information I want and need. I chose formal communication, firstly, because it was more convenient for me and, secondly, I wanted a reply in writing. I cannot understand why the honorable Councilor considers my writing him "ay hindi pagbibigay ng kaukulang paggalang sa aking katungkulan bilang isang konsehal."

If Councilor Tamayo wanted a personal and verbal confrontation, he could have answered my letters by asking me to see him in his office. I contend that the initiative to effect that personal and verbal meeting was his, not mine. Since he had supposedly made an official trip to undertake an official mission in behalf of the city government and the people of QC (which includes me), it was his duty to render a report on said trip and mission even without anybody asking him to do so. I recall that when he

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P3.5 MILLION . . .

in a letter to her of Bgy. Captain Angelito N. Mendoza of Nagkaisang Nayon where one of the swimming pools is located.

Hereunder are the "comments" of Follosco and Sianghio on the matter:

1. There is an existing MWSS water supply source at Bgy. Nagkaisang Nayon which can be the source of water for the swimming pool. For the swimming pool at the Zabarte Subdivision, a deep well has been installed because of the absence of a MWSS water supply source thereat. MWSS has failed to act on Sianghio's application for the installation of the necessary service connection to the pool.

2. There is a plumbing connection from the comfort and shower rooms to the septic vault as per plans. Additional plumbing connection from septic vault to sewer lines need a permit from MWSS which only the city government can secure as it has the necessary documents for the purpose.

3. As per contract, only the comfort rooms, not the shower rooms, are to be tiled and the tiles were installed on August 8, 1992.

4. Sianghio will file with Meralco the proper application for electrical installation as soon as water supply is available.

5. Installation of park lights at the pool site is not part of the contract. It may, however, be programmed for installation.

6. The pool site had been landscaped but the plants that were planted withered and died due to the unavailability of water.

7. The contractor did not abandon the project but withdrew upon the completion of the swimming pools and its facilities. If some minor items have been overlooked, the contractor can still attend to them because the contract provides a guarantee of three years on the structural works and one year on the finish, from date of completion.

8. With regards to the contract price of P 3,557,070.00, the Commission on Audit (COA) had approved it.

With respect to water facilities for domestic use, Follosco and Sianghio have conflicting statements. Follosco avers that water facilities for domestic use have been completed while Sianghio states that unless MWSS provides service connection from their existing pipelines, the swimming pool will not have any water facilities for domestic use.

(Editor's Note: *We can not render any judgement on these controversial pools until we can see them for ourself and until we can see the contract.)*

Why didn't the past Council enact Serrano's proposed ordinance? Could it be possible moviehouse operators blocked the ordinance and succeeded by resorting to under the table strategies. The new Council would do well to revive the proposed ordinance in question.

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EDITORIAL . . .

To City Council: Slow Down

As of September 30, 1992, the City Council had already filed, after only 26 sessions, 177 ordinances and 111 resolutions for a total of 288 measures. This means an average of 96 measures per month and, unless the honorable Councilors slow down, they will have filed 1.152 measures by the end of the year and by the end of their three-year term they will have filed 3,456 measures outdoing the Past Council's four-year total production of 2,434 measures by 1,032 measures in the span of only three years.

Of the past Council's total production of 2,424 measures, only 249 were approved by the Mayor or about 10% of the total. As to the new Council, of its total output of 288 measures, only 15, so far have been approved by the Mayor or about only 5% of total output, very much poorer than the 10% of the old Council.

However, those figures pertaining to the new Council are very tentative and should not be taken now as a gauge of its performance. **If it slows down** *in the filing of insignificant ordinances and resolutions, many of them rehashed versions of the measures that had been thrown into the trash cans of the committees of the old Council, and of appropriation measures without certification as to the availability of funds, the new Council is certain to have a better approval percentage than the old Council.*

The Council should slow down especially in filing appropriation measures without certification as to the availability of funds. One young Councilor (name witheld as an act of kindness) has filed so many appropriation measures calling for huge amounts that if he does not slow down, the entire income of the city government for this year would not be enough to fund the measures.

With the city government cash-strapped as it is, how many of the scores of appropriation measures already filed can be funded and implemented? Why does not the new Council deviate from the old Council's haphazard manner of legislation and set priorities to serve as guidelines in determining what measures to file? As it is **kanya kanyang kayod.**

For instance, there are so many appropriation measures for the installation of deepwells. of Lying–In Clinics and Day Care Centers, and for the asphalt overlaying of streets, Only a few of them, if any, will be ultimately funded and implemented. Why can not a survey be conducted to pinpoint the areas where such facilities and improvements are most needed so that the appropriation measures be limited to them and so that they can be introduced, co-introduced, sponsored and co-sponsored by all the honorable Councilors.

The kanya kanyang kayod *legislative practice is the result of the election of Councilors by district. They tend to hustle only for the welfare and interests of their respective districts instead of for the entire city. This reminds us of the late Councilor Rafael Mison, Jr. He was a member of the Council when it was composed of only eight members who were elected at large. When the Council was expanded to 16 members, who were elected by districts, Mison was no longer a member as he had run for Vice Mayor and lost. He used to chide us whenever we referred to the 16 Councilors as "Councilors of QC."*

"They are only Councilors of the districts that elected them," he would say, "not of QC."

So what if many measures will be unacted upon, what harm can that do? the honorable Councilors may ask. Plenty, dear Sirs. Those more than 1,500 unacted upon measures of the old Council, don't they represent a tremendous waste of time, effort and money? Think of the wasted time and effort of the Councilors in composing the measures, introducing them for first reading and referring them to the Committees only to be entomed there.1. Think of the wasted time and effort of the Secretariat in typing, stenciling and mimeographing said entombed measures. And do not the stationery, the stencil sheets and mimeographing ink cost a lot of money, especially at the grossly bloated prices they had been bought, such as the P 217 per ream of mimeographing paper which costs only P 98 in the bookstores as exposed by the Council's honorable Presiding Officer herself, Vice Mayor Planas.

May we suggest, therefore, that our honorable Councilors be **quality** *instead of quantity conscious in their legislative task, introducing only the most significant measures in accordance with established priorities and, with respect to appropriation measures, with certification as to availability of funds.*

With 288 measures already filed of which only 15 have been enacted and approved by the Mayor, a backlog of unacted upon measures may be building up. Wont it be a good idea to declare a moratorium in the filing of measures except very urgent ones, so that the piled-up measures can be acted upon and disposed of accordingly before new measures can be filed?

QUEZON'S . . .

unfulfilled but it is obvious from the not-so-bright picture he painted of the present state of the city that he knew that most of Quezon's dreams have yet to be fulfilled. His predecessor, Jun Simon, was more direct and candid: In his state of the city address when he assumed office in 1988, he said: "Now it is already 1988 and that dream (of Quezon) remains a dream to this date."

Though aware of the formidable task involved in bringing QC closer to the dreams of its founder, Mathay, like all mayors before him, pledged that the fulfillment of Quezon's dreams will be the focal point of all efforts he plans and hopes to do under his administration. He said:

"Our vision for QC should certainly be in keeping with the vision of the great man for whom the city was named, Manuel Luis Quezon."

Many Aspects

What precisely was Quezon's vision of QC? It had many aspects—political, social, economic, cultural, aesthetic, educational and spiritual.

In the political aspect, Quezon, as stated in his Sept. 18, 1939 message to the National Assembly urging the creation of QC, dreamed of "a capital city that, politically, will be the seat of the national government."

Parallelism

There is no doubt that this was among Quezon's more ardent dreams. He saw the parallelism between George Washington and himself. Both were known as "Father of his Country." The capital of the U.S. was named after Washington. Why not a city named after him as the capital of the Philippines?

Thus, on Feb. 26, 1940, just four months and two weeks after the legislative creation of QC, Quezon convened the QC officials he had appointed and the board of directors of the Philippine Homesite and Housing Corporation (PHHC, now NHA) he had created on Oct. 14, 1938 to purchase 1,572 hectares for P726,000 from the Tuason estate in Diliman to be the nucleus of the new city. To the officials and directors, Quezon said:

"In my opinion, QC should be made the capital of the Philippines. It is now a settled matter that the National Capitol Building shall be erected in QC and I am seriously considering recommending the construction of the Executive Mansion and the executive offices as well in QC."

World War II

Unfortunately, the outbreak of World War II in December 1941 thwarted Quezon's dream of a capital city for the country. It was only after the War that this dream of Quezon was realized. And the man who realized it for him was his former Secretary of Finance, Manuel Roxas, who became the first President of the independent Republic of the Philippines on July 4, 1946.

With war-ravaged Manila no longer fit to be the country's capital, Roxas created the Capitol Site Special Committee to find a proper site for a new capital city. The Committee, after two years of painstaking and controversy-wracked search, chose QC and the wooded I po-Novaliches area to the north out of 16 proposed sites. Roxas did not live to see QC become officially the capital of the country. He died suddenly on April 16, 1948 at Clark Air Base. It was his successor, Pres. Elpidio Quirino, who signed into law R.A. No. 333 designating QC as "the capital of the Philippines and the permanent seat of the national government on July 17, 1948."

Another Master Plan

Quirino tried very hard to continue the development of QC so that it may become a capital city worthy of Quezon's dreams. He created a Capitol City Planning Commission to prepare another master plan for the city. The implementation of the first master plan, known as Frost Plan, had been interrupted by World War II. Even this second master plan failed to be implemented due to lack of funds and other reasons. Thus, QC grew and developed in a haphazard, disorderly and unsystematic way resulting in a city of contrasts: Factories in the midst of residences and plush subdivisions side by side with squatter colonies.

Quirino nevertheless tried to push through Quezon's dream of a National Capitol Building in QC around which was to be constructred the government buildings that would make QC the National Government Center. When QC was officially inaugurated on Oct. 22, 1948, Quirino marked the occasion by laying the cornerstone for the National Capitol Building at Constitution Hill, Payatas. The steel framework for the building was erected, rising promisingly to a height of more than 150 meters. But for the next 28 years, 1948 to 1976, that steel skeleton, red with rust, stood as a dismal reminder of Quezon's unfulfilled dream of a National Capitol Building in the city he founded.

Final Blow

The final blow to Quezon's dream of a capital city as the seat of the national government came on May 29, 1976 when then Pres. Marcos issued PD No. 940 taking away the capitalship of the country from QC and giving it back to Manila. It was his "gift" to Manila which was marking its 405th anniversary on June 24 that year. The PD was issued so suddenly and without fanfare that QC residents did not have a chance to make even a squeak of protest.

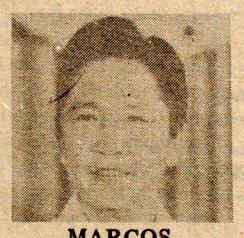
In his state of the city address, Mathay did not refer to QC's loss of the country's capitalship as one of Quezon's unfulfilled dreams. Neither has he made any public statements on the matter, no doubt in deference to his colleague, the Manila mayor, who is trying very hard to refurbish the image of Manila to make it a worthy capital of the country.

In a talk with this writer, however, Mathay said that he will certainly support any move for the restoration of the capitalship of the country to QC for that was at the top of Quezon's dreams, towards whose fulfillment he has pledged his administration. He said, however, that such a restoration move should be deferred. Prior attention should be given to moving QC closer to the dreams of Quezon so that there would be valid, forceful reasons for QC to agitate for the country's capitalship.



QUIRINO

He signed into law R. A. No. 333 on July 17, 1948 fulfilling Quezon's dream of a capital city named after him.



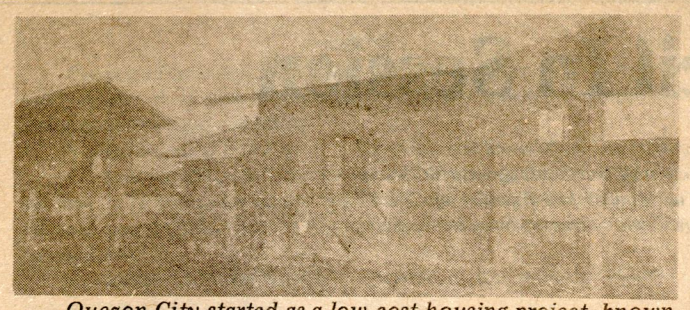
MARCOS

He shattered Quezon's dream by issuing PD No. 940 on May 29,1976 restoring the capitalship of the country to Manila.

"Workingman's Paradise"

We next brought up QC's enormous, monstrous squatter problem which is the cause of the non-fulfillment of another ardent dream of Quezon: a "Workingman's Paradise," where low income government employees and laborers would each have a house and lot of his own so that they can "live like men and not like hogs," to use the words of Quezon himself.

It was, in fact, his dream of providing decent shelter for low income government employees and laborers to which the birth of QC can be attributed. QC started actually as a low-cost housing project— the first, some say the last, truly low-cost housing project of the country. Known as Barrio Obrero, it was put up in a 35-hectare site in what is now Kamuning district, and this was part of the 1,572 hectares bought from the Tuason estate. The houses were raffled to the beneficiaries who paid for them in monthly installments fo P8.00.



Quezon City started as a low-cost housing project, known as Barrio Obrero. Picture shows how the houses looked. They were raffled to low income government employees and laborers who paid for them in monthly installments of P8.00.

After Barrio Obrero, the PPHC put up other socialized housing projects, eight of them, now known as Projects 1, 2, 3—up to 8. But the present occupants are relatively affluent families. The truly poor residents of QC live "like hogs" in shanties in the city's squatter colonies.

"Squatters Paradise"

Thus, instead of Quezon's "Workingman's Paradise," we have in QC a "Squatters Paradise." In his state of the city address, Mathay reported that the present squatter population is 106,175 familes out of the city's 301,283 families. That is about 55% of the city's population of 1.728 million. Mathay is no stranger to the squatter problem. In 1968, when he was acting mayor of QC in the absence of Mayor Amoranto who had gone abroad, he succeeded in relocating the thousands of squatters, many of them professional, along East Avenue and at that vast area presently occupied by the Manila Plant Seedling Corporation and other plant breeders. The squatters were relocated to Carmona in Cavite and to Sapang Palay in Bulacan, but they eventually returned and assumed an "as you were" position.

"We learned a lesson from this," Mathay said. "You can not relocate squatters to a place far from their means of livelihood. If you have to, they must be provided with cheap transportation."

No Immediate Solution

Mathay has no immediate solution for the city's 106,175 squatter families. There is no dearth of relocation sites either in or outside the city. But, the mayor said, it takes P35,000 to relocate—and resettle—one squatter family. That means, for the city's 106,175 squatter families, the gargantuan sum of P3.7 billion would be needed. This, in the face of an expected budget shortfall of P73.7 million by the end of the year.

Mathay's main concern now is containment. Absolutely no new squatters. Iron-clad measures will be enforced. Under the "Walang Tayuan, Walang Gibaan" policy, new squatters shanties will be demolished with or without court order. Barangay officials will be directed to perform their duty under LOI 691 of preventing the entry of squatters in their respective jurisdictions. Property owners will be enjoined to adopt the rudimentary preventive measure of fencing their vacant lots. Mathay has forged an agreement with a federation of 39 squatters associations whereby the members will police their respective areas and help the government in going after the syndicates responsible for the proliferation of squatters.

Dignified Concentration

Quezon envisioned a city that "socially, is a dignified concentration of human life, aspirations, endeavors and achievements and, economically, a productive, self-contained community." In simple words, Quezon dreamed of a city of happy, productive and prosperous people with sufficient income to meet the basic needs of food, clothing and shelter, medical and educational needs, and a little surplus for some comforts and perhaps even for some luxuries.

But what is the actual social and economic situation in QC today? As far as "concentration of human life" is concerned, that part of Quezon's dream has been amply fulfilled. With its growth rate of 3.5%, the highest in Metro Manila, QC has become the country's "melting pot." From only 39,013 in 1940, the city's population has exploded to 1.1728 million, not only catching up but edging Manila's 1.6 million.

Out of the city's 1.728 population, 40% of the 301,283 families composing it live below the official NEDA poverty line of P4,644 per month. Unemployment is 12% while underemployment is 21.3%. Of 140 barangays, 90 are in depressed areas affecting some 106,000 families. Of the 24 years and below age group, 245,027 are in the depressed areas, of which only 58% are employed.

This poor socio-economic situation obtaining in QC should not, however, be blamed on the lack of what Quezon calls "aspirations, endeavors and achievements." Poverty is a national phenomenon, not confined to QC, and is due to factors beyond the capacity of the people to overcome.

Economic Take-Off

Mathay realizes that only a big economic take-off will enhance the life of the people. He hopes to convert the city's undeveloped lands, like Payatas, the North and East Triangles, into massive business and commercial complexes "ala Ortigas and Ayala." This will require foreign investors who have been very elusive.

Recently, the Taiwanese ambassador to the Philippines, Liu Po Tun, visited the Mayor and assured him of forthcoming Taiwanese investments. Mathay must have taken the ambassador's assurance with a grain of salt. Under his predecessor, numberless trade missions to Taiwan, Japan and Korea had been undertaken by Councilors jointly with members of the Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce. They brought tidings of big consortiums of Taiwanese, Japanese and Korean businessmen ready to put up industrial estates in Payatas and Novaliches, but not a single peso came in. Mathay, while not totally skeptical, is keeping his fingers crossed.

Peace and Stability

He says that "any economic development in QC is predicted on peace and stability." Unfortunately, he assumed office when the image of the QC Police had hit rock bottom for having gotten involved in several atrocious criminal escapades. The crime rate in QC is the worst in Metro Manila, Mathay reported in his state of the city address: 307.59 per 100,000 population per year compared to 246 per 100,000 population per year for Metro Manila.

Mathay recognizes the need of augmenting the present QC police force of 2,208 with 1,246 additional policemen in order to achieve the ideal ratio of one policeman for every 500 inhabitants. But, he says, this ideal ratio is not as important as the quality of the members of the police force. And to be considered a quality policeman, he must enter the service not primarily to earn a living but to serve with integrity and dedication in enforcing and upholding the law. To improve the image and quality of the QC Police Force, Mathay may have to initiate a top to bottom revamp and the dismissal of scalawags—100 of them are so far in his list. Discipline, visibility and quick response are also to be stressed and, of course, better equipment and better pay. QC policemen will be given an additional P1,000 allowance per month, Mathay said.

Spiritually and Morally Clean City

Quezon had envisioned not only a physically clean and beautiful city but also spiritually and morally so. Thus, he had directed the first mayor, Tomas Morato, to rid the city of all forms of vice and gambling. In compliance, Morato closed the cockpits in La Loma, San Francisco del Monte and Galas. He followed this with the closure of the cabarets at La Loma and Galas which would not close up even when the Council imposed a prohibitive P10,000 license fee.

Quezon's dream of a spiritually and morally clean QC is another unfulfilled dream. The more than 200 discos, beerhouses and sauna bath and massage clinics in QC are cloquent proof of that unfulfilled dream. Mathay has launched a drive against lewd shows. He has formed Task Force to keep surveilance of those nite spots that cater to the baser instincts of man. But the drive has not been very successful. The trouble is that, more often than not, what the task forces do is not to monitor the nite spots but to *money*-tor them. And when the police conduct a raid, they see to it that the evidences they get can not stand in court.

Educational Center

Another dream of Quezon that has been substantially fulfilled is that of QC as the educational center of the country. Towards this end, Quezon had bought an additional 493 hectares from the Tuason estate as a site for the U.P. which he wanted to transfer to Diliman "in order to provide an atmosphere conducive to moral and scholastic standards appropriate to our highest institution of learning."

Quezon officially announced the transfer on October 19, 1939, just a week after having signed C.A. No. 502 creating QC. The construction of buildings started in 1940 and by 1942, there were enough university buildings and student dormitories to make the transfer possible. But the Japanese occupation of Greater Manila in February 1942 prevented the transfer. It was the Japanese soldiers who first occupied the U.P. buildings, then, after liberation in 1945, it was the American soldiers who took over from the Japanese.

When the transfer was finally effected in 1946 after more buildings had been constructed with U.S. War Damage funds, Quezon had already died. Of the U.P. transfer, he had said:

"Of course, I shall be out of office and perhaps no longer in this world by the time all the new buildings of the university will have been erected . . . but if I have done nothing else during my term of office than to effect this transfer, I shall have the satisfaction of having rendered some permanent service to our country."

Incidentally, one of the first infrastructure projects of Mathay when he assumed office was the asphalt overlaying of all streets at the U.P. campus. It was from U.P. that he "borrowed" Dr. Manuel S. Alba from U.P. President Jose Abueva to be the city government's City Administrator. Mathay himself is a U.P. BSBA (Economics) graduate.

Immemorial Problems

It will be noted that all the problems Mathay has to address to do his bit in moving QC closer to the dreams of Quezon, are problems that have been plaguing the city from time immemorial. Thus, as far back as 1948, then Police Chief Crisanto Alba was already complaining that "his handful of men were fighting great odds in their campaign against crime."

"Believe it or not," he said, "the underworld characters that are invading my territory are at times better than my policemen in that they are armed with 45s as against my police's 38s and they have vehicles to use in making a quick getaway, while often, my men have none."

Does not Mathay have the same problems now in the fight against crime as Alba had?

With respect to the squatter problem, it was already plaguing Mayor Bernardo's administration (1947-1949), He had tried in vain to acquire a donation of land for the squatters who, he said, "after being ejected by the courts just hover to other places and become again the object of ejectment proceedings." Just like they do today.

In 1963, under Mayor Amoranto, a report prepared by his office stated that "the problem that has eluded solution is the collection of garbage. Although for the last six months, garbage collection increased by 30 to 50 tons a day, the city cannot completely succeed in solving this perennial problem without the help and cooperation of residents themselves, through observance of personal hygiene and environmental sanitation."

As it was in Amoranto's time, so it is today: Public cooperation is vital to the solution of the garbage problem.

Political Will

Not only has Mathay the same immemorial problems of squatters, crime, garbage, etc. but also the same solutions and remedies. Nothing new, nothing novel, nothing ingenious, nothing dramatic. But there is something Mathay can apply to those time-worn solutions and remedies in order to give them new force and efficacy. And that is political will. He has plenty of that. It was developed during the seven years that he had served first as Assistant to the Governor of Metro Manila and then Vice Governor of Metro Manila. There was no room for complacency, for vascillation, for half-heartedness, for irresolution under the demanding, indefatigable former First Lady. More than ever, Mathay will need all the political will he can muster to meet the demands and expectations, not of just one woman, but of 1.7 million QC residents, for the improvement of political, social, economic, aesthetic, cultural, educational, physical and spiritual conditions in their city so that it may be brought closer to the dreams of its founder.

Capable Partner

In his vice mayor, Charito L. Planas, Mathay has a very capable and energetic partner in the task of administering and improving the city. Planas is the Presiding Officer of the QC Council, Chairman of the QC Anti-Drug Abuse Council and is in charge of the city government's Sports and Physical Fitness Development Program.

She has assumed the role of graft buster of the city government. She has already discovered and exposed several fraudulent financial transactions under the previous city administration and is preparing the necessary papers to file charges with the Ombudsman against those involved. She has charged her predecessor, former Vice Mayor, now Senator, Vicente Sotto III with not having turned in certain office equipment, communications facilities and firearms. She has trimmed her staff from 315 to only 72.

Next to graftbusting, her other priority is to make QC a Garden City. She hopes to plant enough trees in different parts of the city to counter the worsening air pollution caused by unregulated urban growth. At the Quezon Memorial Circle, whose development she had spearheaded, some 1,000 trees have already been planted.

Planas has turned to the NGOs (Non-Government Organization) and POs (People's Organization) for assistance in undertaking her many varied programs and projects. Some 500 NGOs and POs have already been accredited with her office.

There are some people who look on Mathay and Planas as strange bedfellows. They are indeed contrasting personalities. Mathay is the cool, suave, deliberate type. Planas is kinetic, an eager beaver who wants "action agad." The fear has been expressed that they may not be able to get along smoothly. Planas has scotched this fear. She said:



"Mayor Mathay and I are like father and mother to QC and like any loving mother, I will always support the head of the family."

City Council In Session

(This is the second in this series of critical review of Council sessions based on the Minutes and eyewitness reports of our staff. Our thanks again to Mr. Sotero Laude who has religiously furnished us Minutes and Agendas of Council sessions. He should permanently replace Vicente Alvarez who seems to prefer working for Senator Sotto.)

August 3

By this time, the 10th session of the New Council, the Presiding Officer, the Hon. Vice Mayor Charito Planas, after a shaky start in the initial sessions, had acquired proficiency in handling the sessions.

Absent were Councilors Ferrer, Jr. and Altuna. Late were Councilors Pumaren and "Bu" Mathay. Session started at 2:53 P.M.

Councilor Samson, who had not yet proved his claim that the tearing of cedulas by Bonifacio and his men occured in Bo. Kangkong, now Bgy. Apolonio Samson, not Pugad Lawin, questioned the approved Minutes for not being in Pilipino. Acting City Secretary Sotero Laude explained that while Minutes in Pilipino is possible, the stenographers will encounter difficulties since they are used to preparing Minutes in English.



After a shaky start in the initial sessions, Vice Mayor Planas has acquired enough proficiency as Presiding Officer to keep the Council under control.

We hope, our honorable Councilors wont use the difficulties mentioned by Laude as an excuse for creating positions for Pilipino stenographers. They have created so many new positions for their offices already in disregard of the city government's cash-strapped condition. What is really important are Minutes that are faithful accounts of Council sessions, whether in PIlipino or English. We have found the English Minutes prepared by the Office of the City Secretary very satisfactory.

Approved on third and final reading was the ordinance establishing the "QC Hall Yakap," a Day Care Center for children of City Hall employees. We had already questioned the necessity of this Center in our previous review.

Inconsistency

Also approved on third and final reading was the Resolution congratulating Sen. Sotto. In our previous review we had also pointed out the inconsistency of Vice Mayor Planas in having sponsored a congratulatory resolution for someone she had charged with not having turned over some office equipment, communication facilities and pistols and for having packed his office with a staff of 315, mostly 15-30s. In a talk with Charito, she told us that the congratulatory resolution was really the "baby" of Councilor Altuna who had implored her to sponsor it.

Councilor Samson questioned the use of the word, "adopted" in the congratulatory resolution. It should be "adapted," he said. The Councilor should consult his dictionary. "Adopted" is the correct word to use.

(At his point, may we reiterate what we stated in our previous review: Since measures approved on second reading are almost certain to be approved on third and final reading, we will skip mention of said third and final readings in this review-unless, of course, for one reason or another, such third and final reading is withheld.)

Among proposed ordinances taken up on first reading and referred to proper committees were:

1) Creating an Ad Hoc Local Government Code Technical Council appropriating P300,000 for the purpose, introduced by Councilor Angeles.

2) Establishing the Personnel Selection Board of the QC government. Referred to the proper committees and a proposed resolution granting P1,000 per month financial assistance to QC policemen and firemen, introduced by Councilors Medina, Castelo and Mathay.

A very important ordinance, which had been introduced by Presiding Officer Planas, was approved on second reading:

Appropriating P3,608,397.60 for the completion, start-up and operation of the QC Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Center.

Accepted was a motion of Councilor Hipol that NC (New Council) be replaced with SP (Sanggunian Panlungsod) to identify approved measures of the present Council.

Session was adjourned at 7:00 P.M., 49 minutes short of a five-hour session.

August 6

Councilor Pumaren was absent. Late were Councilors Tamayo, Bautista (the son) and Hipol. Councilor Castelo was absent on official time presumably due to a conference with Commissioner Luis Tungpalan of the Home and Land Use Regulatory Board. Altuna explained his absence in the previous session: He had been called by the Department of Local Government to confer with Director Doctor and with the Leagues of Councilors, Governors and Cities.

Session started at 3:13 P.M. more than an hour late.

Significant Ordinance

Among 14 proposed ordinances taken up on first reading and referred to the proper committees, the most significant was introduced by Councilor Defensor: It requires the posting of information on all public works and infrastructure projects within the city, including funds allocated therefore and performance time alloted thereto; and imposing a fine of P5,000 and/or imprisonment of not more than six months as penalty for non-compliance. The ordinance should specify who should do the posting—the city engineer, most logically.

We made similar suggestions to some of our friends in the past Council but nobody paid any heed, probably because, like one of these Councilor friends told us during a drinking session when alcohol had put him in a candid mood, for every infrastructure project approved by the Council, the honorable Councilors got a 3% tip while 5% went to somebody higher up.

The Defensor proposed ordinance should stress the posting of public bidding results, which are usually "lutong makaw." Our suggestions included information on GSO purchases to be posted on bulletin boards: purchase/requisition requests; purchase orders; canvassing results; public bidding results; payment vouchers and other pertinent documents. (For more details, please read the story on page 1, "Ordinance Against Graft And Corruption Filed.")

Other proposed ordinances of some significant taken up were:

1) Granting P600 monthly allowance to QC public elementary and secondary teachers, introduced by Councilor Liban.

2) Appropriating P3.5 million as stand by public assistance fund for hospitalization expenses of indigent patients in hospitals in QC, introduced by Councilor Calalay.

3) Appropriating P6 million for the purchase of 30 units of motorcycles with complete communication equipment, introduced by Councilor Bautista (the father).

4) Appropriating P3.5 million for the creation of a Horse Mounted Patrol to be known as "Mga Alagad ng Puting Bantayog ng Lungsod Quezon," introduced by Councilor Bautista (the father). This was a pet project of the late Vice Mayor Charlie Albert.

5) Appropriating P257,120 for the compilation, indexing and codification of QC ordinances and other pertinent measures, introduced by Vice Mayor Planas.

Of 11 proposed resolutions taken up on first reading and referred to the proper committees, four were introduced by Vice Mayor Planas:

1) Urging Secretary of Department of Transportation and Communication to declare as one-way Elliptical Road which encircles the Quezon Memorial Circle.

2) Urging Secretary of Public Works and Highways to have esteros in congested areas in QC concretely covered.

3) Urging NCR Director Jesus Camayo to conduct dredging operations in various esteros in QC

4) Requesting Secretary of Department of Public Works and Highways to study feasibility of constructing a fly-over at intersection of Tandang Sora and Commonwealth Avenue.

Approved on second reading: Ordinance establishing the Personnel Selection Board, introduced by Councilor Galarpe. The Board is mandated by Section 80 of the Local Government Code.

Session was adjourned at 7:20 P.M., seven minutes beyond a four-hour session.

August 10

Absent was Councilor Pumaren. Late were Councilors Alonzo and Angeles, Session started at 2:45 P.M.

Vice Mayor Planas delivered a privilege speech denouncing the two swimming pools at Bgy. Kaligayahan inside Zabarte Subdivision and at Bgy. Nagkaisang Nayon, Sitio Capri. (For more details, please read the story on page 1, "Swimming Pools for Frogs Denounced.")

Councilor Lagumbay also delivered a privilege speech on the peace and order situation in QC.

The motion for the use of Filipino in sessions of the Council during August was carried. The preparation of the Minutes of sessions during said month, whether in English or Filipino, was left to the discretion of the Office of the City Secretary.

Our honorable Councilors should not make so much fuse about what language to use. An inane ordinance or resolution can't be enhanced by the language used. They should be more concerned with substance than with form.

The three proposed ordinances taken up on first reading were appropriation measures:

1) P1,409,100 for the construction of roofing for a basketball court at Bgy. Ugong Norte, introduced by Councilor Lagumbay.

2) P947,143 for improvement of drainage along Malaya St. from A. Bonifacio Avenue to Tacio St., La Loma, introduced by Councilor Calalay.

3) Unspecified amount for Lying-in Center in Novaliches introduced, by Councilor Biglang-awa

Approved was an ordinance, introduced by Councilor Bautista (the father), extending assistance to the August 6 victims of fire that burned the residential houses of 110 families at Bgy. Tatalon at P1,000 per family-owner and P500 per family renter/sharer, and appropriating P68,000.00 for the purpose thereof.

Sessin adjourned at 7:17 P.M., 28 minutes beyond a 6-hour session.

August 13

On sick leave was Councilor Pumaren who had gone to U.S. for operation of a sprained ankle. Late were Councilors Dario and Hipol. Councilor Altuna was absent supposedly on official time.

Session started at 2:10 P.M.

Of 8 proposed ordinances taken up on first reading, three were introduced by Vice Mayor Planas:

1) Giving tax incentives to property owners in QC who will construct sidewalks along their properties.

2) Requiring cash deposits or performance bond from contractors who dig city streets as guarantee for restoration of the same.

3) Establishing free pre-elementary education classes for indigent children in strategically located elementary schools accessible to residents of depressed areas and appropriating funds therefore.

As to resolutions, nine were taken up on first reading: three of them again by Planas:

1) Requesting the Secretary of Transportation and Communications to study feasibility of narrowing down center islands in all major thoroughfares in QC; and

2) feasibility of designating bicycle lanes in said major thoroughfares.

3) Requesting Secretary of Public Works and Highways to plant green ornamental trees on the street islands of major thoroughfares in QC.

Of the six other resolutions, the following are worth mentioning:

1) Urging Mayor Mathay to explore possibility of establishing a second QC General Hospital at the Cubao side of QC, introduced by Councilor Montilla.

2) Requesting Mayor Mathay to constitute a body where QC government employees can present their complaints and grievances, introduced by Councilor Angeles.

Session adjourned at 6:45 P.M., 35 minutes beyond a four-hour session.

THE SCORE

(As of Sept.30, 1992)

ORDINANCES

Number Introduced	177
Number Enacted by Council	17
Number Approved by Mayor	14
Number Vetoed	3

RESOLUTIONS

Number Introduced	111
Number Enacted by Council	26
Number Approved by Mayor	1
Number Vetoed	0

(Note: Most resolutions do not need Mayor's approval - - only those that entail some liability on part of the city government.)

August 17

Councilor Pumaren still at U.S. on sick leave. Late were Councilors Sioson, Medina, Medalla, Dario, Altuna and Montilla.

Session started at 2:27 P.M.

The Presiding Officer yielded the Chair to Majority Floor Leader Galarpe. She had an appointment at Malacañang.

Councilor Samson complained that the Minutes and Agenda were not given a day before the session as per House rules. Acting City Secretary Laude explained that some reproduction machines and the xerox machine of his office were out of order. Instead of complaining, Samson should be commending the Office of the City Secretary for being able to cope with the tremendous volume of work it has to do: two Minutes, two Agendas and Journal of Proceedings per week—inspite of broken down machines.

Councilor Tamayo delivered a privilege speech denouncing the construction of Ever Gotesco along Commonwealth Avenue which is a residential area, R-1 zone. The P1.5 million building, he said, had no building permit. Upon investigation, he found out that HLURB had issued a locational clearance which was not its function. Its function is limited to subdivisions and housing projects. Tamayo asked that the matter be investigated by the Blue Ribbon Committee. The Committee was given 20 days to submit a report.

Councilor Lagumbay also delivered a privilege speech on floods. He said that his district was always flooded, particularly West Kamias. He blamed this to a foot bridge which has defied an order of the Department of Public Works and Highways for its removal. It was decided to invite City Engineer Macapugay and Engineers Camayo and Panganiban of the DPWH to the next Question and Answer Hour of the Council.

Approved were the following resolutions:

1) Authorizing Mayor Mathay to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Education, Culture and Sports for the construction of school buildings on real properties owned by the city government, introduced by Councilor Liban II

2) Authorizing any member of the Council to move for the designation of the main committee among the committees to which a measure had been referred which shall approve said referred measure, introduced by Councilors Sison, Lagumbay, Liban, Hipol and Dario.

3) Amending House rules to provide a system whereby members of the Council can be immediately informed of the final version of measures approved on second and third reading under suspended rules, introduced by Councilor Angeles.

Councilor Calalay and Vice Mayor Plans seem to be the most prolific in introducing measures. In this session, Calalay introduced two proposed ordinances and three proposed resolutions while Planas introduced two ordinances and one resolution.

The Calalay proposed ordinances taken up on first reading were:

1) Requesting applicants for building permits to plant shade or fruit trees in the site of the proposed building or structure.

2) Granting veterans and senior citizens free access to parks and playgrounds and other recreational areas in QC.

The Planas proposed ordinance taken up on first reading were:

1) Creating a canvassing committee in every barangay in QC

2) Creating a monitoring committee in every barangay in QC

The Planas proposed resolution taken up on first reading was:

1) Urging the Hawkers Division of the Business Permits and Licensing Office to relocate flea market vendors along Commonwealth Ave. to the old flea market site at the corner of Commonwealth Ave. and Katipunan St.

Other proposed ordinances taken up on first reading were:

1) Requiring Subdivision owners/developers to allow the public free passage through the subdivision roads, introduced by Councilor Castelo. This might meet opposition as an infringement of property rights.

2) Appropriating P250,000 for the construction of a Day Care Center at Tibagan, Bgy. Balingasa, introduced by Councilor

3) Prescribing sanitary inspection fees rendered by the Personnel of the QC Department of Health, introduced by Councilor Galarpe.

4) Imposing a tax on the transfer of real property in QC, introduced by Councilor Galarpe.

Session adjourned at 6:46 P.M., 19 minutes beyond a four-hour session.

August 20

Councilor Pumaren still on sick leave. Councilor Angeles on leave for 12 days without pay to go to U.S. Councilor Bautista (the son) absent on official time to attend a meeting at Bgy. Libis. No Councilor was late.

Session started at 2:36 P.M.

Councilor Montilla delivered a privilege speech on "frightening" conditions at the QC General Hospital. Its generator is out of order, hence, the hospital has no light during brownouts. The hospital's X-Ray and Ultra-Sound Units are also out of order, Montilla said. He urged the Council to appropriate P50,000 for the repair of the hospital's generator, X-Ray and Ultra-Sound Units.

Vice Mayor Planas chided the hospital director, Dr. Salud, for not attending to the needs of the hospital. She is right in ordering the investigation of Dr. Salud. She promised to see the City Treasurer for the needed funds.

Councilor Hipol also delivered a privilege speech on a subject which has little bearing on QC. He lashed at Vice President Estrada for the way he had arrested Majors Pring and Zarcal. Hipol should know that there are times when drastic measures are necessary. There are instances when justice is thwarted by due process.

Taken up on first reading were the following proposed ordinances:

1) Appropriating P1.5 million for the construction of historical markers, identifying landmarks and shrines in QC, introduced by Councilor Bautista (the son).

At the rate he is filing appropriation measures, the entire income of the city government may not be enough for them. It is so easy to file appropriation measures without certification as to the availability of funds. Such measures usually end up in the legislative trash can.

2) Regulating the testing and sealing of weights and measures, imposing fees and providing penalties for violators, introduced by Councilor Galarpe.

3) Requiring all business establishments to be sprayed quarterly with insecticides and be applied with rodenticides; Likewise for newly constructed buildings before occupation permits are issued, introduced by Councilor Bautista (the father).

4) Giving recognition to employees of the QC government who have rendered service for 25 years and above, introduced by Councilor Biglang-awa.

The Presiding Officer made of record that only P3,000 to P4,000 were spent in repairing leaks in the roof of the session hall, thanks to Councilor Medalla.

At the Question and Answer Hour, the guests were Engineers Camayo and Panganiban of the DPWH and QC Engineer Macapugay. The Councilors presented their problems on dilapidated roads, clogged esteros, squatters along creeks, etc. The guests promised to see what they can do so solve the problems.

The proposed ordinance which had been introduced by Councilor Tamayo adopting the "Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance of the National Capitol Region" was taken up on second reading but no final action was taken.

The session adjourned at 7:25 P.M., 11 minutes beyond a five-hour session.

August 24

Councilor Pumaren still on sick leave. Still on leave was Councilor Angeles. Late were Councilors Tamayo, Biglang-awa and Hipol.

The Presiding Officer announced that she was able to obtain a release of P12,000 for the repair of the QC General Hospital's generator.

Approved on second reading was the proposed ordinance, which had been introduced by Councilor Tamayo, adopting the "Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance of the National Capitol Region."

Taken up on first reading were the following proposed ordinances:

1) Mandating owners/operators of cinema theaters to limit moviegoers to the seating capacity of their theaters, introduced by Councilor Calalay.

2) Appropriating P250,000.00 for the construction of a Lying-In Center at Bgy. Capri, introduced by Councilors Liban and Biglang-awa.

3) Appropriating P250,000.00 for the construction of a Lying-In Center at Bgy. Apolonio Samson, introduced by Vice Mayor Planas.

4) Providing for compulsory apprenticeship, learnership and job training for secondary school graduates and for legitimate QC residents, setting mechanics therefore, introduced by Councilor Samson.

5) Prescribing age limits for drivers of public conveyances in QC introduced by Councilor Samson.

Proposed resolutions taken up on second reading were:

1) Authorizing Mayor Mathay to sell a certain parcel of land at East Fairview to bonafide residents presently occupying them, introduced by Councilor Defensor.

2) Authorizing Mayor Mathay to expropriate that parcel of land at the corner of Zamora and Mendoza streets, Bgy. Paltok, SFDM, to be sold to bonafide residents therein, introduced by Councilor Calalay.

3) Authorizing Mayor Mathay to make a list of domestic helpers who are eligible for assistance when the need arises, introduced by Councilor Samson.

4) Reserving at least 2 hectares of that property which is the site of the Skills Training Center at Bgy. San Bartolome for a site for the proposed QC Polytechnic University, introduced by Councilor Samson.

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4) Reserving at least 2 hectares of that property which is the site of the Skills Training Center at Bgy. San Bartolome for a site for the proposed QC Polytechnic University, introduced by Councilor Calalay.

Session adjourned at beyond
7:50 P.M., 8 minutes beyond a five-hour session.

August 27

Councilor Pumaren still on sick bay, to use the words of sportswriters. Councilor Angeles still in U.S., on leave without pay. Absent on official time were Councilors Alonzo and Miguel, the former to meet with the Novaliches police force, the latter for an unknown reason. Late was Councilors Hipol.

Session started at 2:49.

Councilor Samson delivered a privilege speech on a subject that is already moot and academic: sub-cities.We are willing to bet our last shirt the Mayor will junk the sub-cities.

Councilor Defensor's privilege speech was more significant. He spoke on the plight of 47 families who were being relocated to the PUD site, Escopa III from the C-5 area which had to be cleared for the circumferential road that passes through it. He alleged anomalies in the awarding of lots—the usual anomaly of non-legitimate residents being awarded lots to the prejudice of bonafide residents. Another job for the Blue Ribbon Committee. Let's hope it will not sit down on it as the past Council's BRC often did.

An unusually big number of measures were taken up on first reading: 13 proposed ordinances and 9 proposed resolutions. It looks like the New Council will be as prolific as its predecessor which had left more than 1,500 measures rotting in the committees to which they had been referred or left hanging in the council itself, representing a tremendous waste of time, money and effort. Many of the ordinances and resolutions being introduced now are just rehashed versions of the old Council's legislative multifarious output. May we reiterate the suggestion we made to the old Council-a suggestion to prevent a pile-up of measures in the committees: first, that no appropriation measures be filed without any certification as to the availability of funds and, second, a moratorium on the filing of new measures be declared until all pending measures in the committees and in the Council shall have been conclusively acted upon.

We commend Vice Mayor Planas for having trimmed down her office staff from 315 to 72. But with Dr. Alba trying to de-fatten and streamline the city government, she has to introduce an ordinance creating another department: Office of Veterinary Services. It is true such an office is mandated in the LGC, but wont it be better if priority is given to the construction of a slaughterhouse equipped with all the facilities for effective meat inspection?

Councilor Bautista (the father) introduced a proposed ordinance against truancy. This is commendable although the title of the ordinance is misleading. The impression one gets from the title is that the ordinance aims to make enrolment in school compulsory for all children of school age and it enjoins barangay officials to help children of the poor to be able to attend school. What the proposed ordinance actually stipulates as punishable is truancy—school children loitering around during school hours.

Two other proposed ordinances of Councilor Bautista are questionable: 1) prohibiting the showing of foreign films and 2) appropriating P5 million for the construction of boundary markers.

The first violates the right of an individual to choose the kind of film fare to enjoy while the second, considering the abject financial status of the city government, should be at the bottom of infrastructure priorities.

The other eight proposed ordinances and all the nine proposed resolutions are not of much significance, so we'll save space by skipping them.

The session adjourned at 5:02 P.M., 47 minutes short of a three-hour session.

August 31

Councilor Pumaren still on sick bay. Councilor Angeles still on leave without pay. Absent, not an official time, were Councilors Medina and Alonzo. Late were Councilors Bautista (the son), Defensor, and Hipol.

Good Sign

Councilor Sison questioned Councilor Miguel's being recorded in the Minutes as being absent on official time. This is a very good sign. We congratulate Councilor Sison. It looks like he and his colleagues, his fellow first timers, wont allow the New Council to abuse the "official time" privilege unlike in the Old Council when all a Councilor had to do to be considered "absent on official time" was to send word that "he was attending to his constituents."

Councilor Miguel explained his absence; He had to attend the burial of his mother. While this is non-official in nature, he was allowed to be considered "absent on official time," as a humanitarian expressin of sympathy for his bereavement.

Councilor Tamayo delivered a privilege speech denying the charge that he and three other former Councilors had faked "official trips" to Daly City, presumably to conduct sister-cityhood negotiations. (For our comments, please turn back to page 1 and read, "Response to the Privilege Speech of the Hon. Councilor Tamayo."

Councilor Bautista (the father) continued to dominate the Council in the number of proposed ordinances and resolutions. Of 10 measures taken upon first reading, one half of them were introduced by Councilor Bautista (the father).

The Councilor seems to have a penchant for arches. In the last session, he introduced an ordinance appropriating P5 million for the construction of boundary arches. This time the ordinance he introduced appropriates P3 million for the construction of "an arch with a tower joining Camp Crame and Camp Aguinaldo to be a reminder of the EDSA revolution and to be called "QC Arch of Triumph."

Vice Mayor Planas introduced an ordinance that will endear her to teachers: It provides an additional allowance of P600.00 for every public elementary and secondary teacher in QC.

Approved was a resolution she had introduced some sessions back "declaring the entire legislative wing of the City Hall building of QC as an area for the exclusive use of the City Council." The legislative wing, Planas said, refers to the first, second and third floors of the City Hall building and the affected areas are the rooms presently occupied by the Health Department, Pharmacy, Civil Registry and Public Affairs and Information Services. The "unsurped" spaces will be used, Planas said, to accommodate the city's four Congressmen, the five sectoral representatives to the City Council as provided for in the LGC, functional rooms for the 27 standing committees, PLEB, barangays, a library for the City Council and bigger space for the QC Anti-Drug Abuse Council.

The ordinance directs the General Services Office and the City Planning and Development "to make immediate plans" for the implementation of the ordinance, although Planas said that the actual implementation will start when the burnt offices at the 7th to the 14th floors of the City Hall building will be ready for occupancy by the ejected offices.

September 3

Councilor Pumaren still on sick bay. Councilor Angeles, on leave, has been away for half a month already. Councilors Alonzo and Sioson were absent. Late were Councilors Hipol and Mathy.

Session started at 3:15 P.M.

Councilor Bautista (the father) introduced another appropriation measure, this time for P1 million for the purchase of 140 pedicabs to be distributed to the 140 barangays of QC for the use of Barangay Tanods in patrolling their respective jurisdictions.

Aside from Councilor Bautista's ordinance, 8 other proposed ordinances were taken up on first reading, among them were:

1) Appropriating P50,000 as assistance to the family of SPO3 Inocencio R. Fragata who died while responding to an attempted robbery in Malabon, introduced by Vice Mayor Planas. This was approved under suspended rules but the amount was reduced to P30,000.

2) Appropriating P10,000 for the construction (sic) of directory maps at the entrances of the main and annex buildings of the QC Hall, introduced by Councilor Sison.

3) Amending certain sections of Ordinance No. 9309, S-72 regulating the establishments and operation of Sauna Bath, Turkish and Swedish Bath, Massage Parlors in order to make it conform to the LGC, introduced by Councilors Ferrer, Tamayo, Bautista (the father) and Lagumbay.

Session adjourned at 4:50 P.M., 35 minutes beyond a 1-hour session.

September 7

Councilor Pumaren still on sick leave. Councilor Angeles still on leave. Absent were Councilors Ferrer and Alonzo. Late were Councilors Tamayo, Altuna and Bautista (the father).

Session started at 2:44 P.M.

Councilors Mathay delivered a privilege speech exposing anomalies in the issuance of building permits. (For more details, please turn to page 1 and read, City Engr., Asst. City Building Official are Falsely Accused) The Blue Ribbon Committee was given 15 days to submit a report on the matter.

Nine proposed ordinances were taken up on first reading, among which were:

1) Creating an Electrical Division under the Engineering Department, introduced by Councilor Tamayo. (Turn to page 1 and read our expose of shenanigans at the Office of the City Electrician.)

2) Mandating the translation of city ordinances and resolutions to "Filipino" in order to enhance the comprehension thereof by the governed inhabitants of QC, introduced by Councilor Calalay.

This is going to be a very tedious job that may not be worth the time, effort and money needed to do it. If ever it is to be done, it should be on a selective basis—only those ordinances and resolutions that are realy significant, those that the people have to know to be good, law-abiding citizens.

3) Establishing the QC Youth Center, introduced by Councilor Bautista (the son).

Councilor Defensor introduced a resolution which the Budget Officer, Estrella P. Gerardo, may not like at all. The ordinance would compel her to "desist from decreasing the budget allocation for Barangay personal services."

Ms. Estrella had been invited to appear at the Question and Answer Hour. She sent a representative who was rejected by the Presiding Officer on the ground that "there is no substitute for a department head." If we know Lily like we think we do, she may not meekly submit to the idea that she can not be represented.

Taken up on second reading was the resolution providing for the assumption by the Council of the devolved powers and functions to process and approve subdivision plans, introduced by Councilor Castelo. After much discussion the ordinance was laid on the table.

After approving the annual budget for 1992 of Commonwealth, Alicia, Bagong Silangan and Pag-ibig Sa Nayon, the session was adjourned at 5:31 P.M., 13 minutes short of a 3-hour session.

September 10

Coundilor Angeles finally showed up after an absence of 21 days while poor Councilor Pumaren was still on sick bay. Absent were Councilors Ferrer, Alonzo and Medalla. Late were Councilors Hipol, Mathay and Bautista (the father).

Session started at 2:45.

In a privilege speech, Councilor Altuna appealed to his colleagues to give a personal contribution of P1,000 each to the Mt. Pinatubo victims. Nobody dared object as that would make the objector a heartless tightwad.

The Budget Officer, Ms. Estrella P. Gerardo, was the guest at the Question and Answer Hour but she asked to be excused as she was going to have a medical check-up. The Chair refused to recognize the representatives Mrs. Gerardo left.

No less than 20 proposed ordinances were taken up on first reading. Of these, we find only 5 worth mentioning:

1) Appropriating P250,000 for the construction of a shrine in honor of the late Police General Tomas Karingal at Camp Karingal, Sikatuna Village introduced by Councilor Medina.

We are 100% for a memorial for Gen. Karingal. He was a good friend of ours. But a shrine is too much. A statue should suffice.

2) Appropriating P1 million to supplement Day Care constructions in every barangay, introduced by Vice Mayor Planas.

3) Creating a Flood Control Task Force, introduced by Vice Mayor Planas.

4) Requiring all main houses, commercial establishments, and religious buildings along main thoroughfares to display the Philippine flag during public holidays like Independence Day, the flags to be furnished by the city government for which P1 million is appropriated, introduced by Councilor Bautista (the son).

5) Requiring owners of vacant lots to fence them with GI sheets on which slogans will be painted such as: "Mahalin, LInisin, at Luntiin Ang Lungsod Natin", introduced by Councilor Bautista (the father).

Aside from providing a place on which to write slogans, the fence would prevent squatters from occupying the vacant lots.

6) Creating a City Pound Section under the Office of the City Veterinarian, introduced by Councilor Galarpe.

7) Appropriating P2 million for the publication of an official organ of the city government to be called, "Ang Diyaryo Ng Lungsod," introduced by Councilor Dario.

The trouble with such a newspaper is that people will look at it as just a propaganda sheet, hence, of not much credibility.

Six proposed resolutions were taken up on first reading: Two are worth mentioning:

1) Urging Mayor Mathay to create a Special Committee to make a study on the holding of a QC Film Festival during the celebration of the 53rd Foundation Day of QC and all subsequent Foundation Day celebrations, introduced by Councilor Bautista (the father).

2) Granting P600.00 clothing allowance to police officers stationed at the Central Police District, introduced by Councilor Medina, et al.

Approved on second reading was the ordinance appropriating P1 million as initial fund for a Task Force Mt. Pinatubo QC Chapter, introduced by Councilor Dario and Vice Mayor Planas.

Councilor Lagumbay questioned the existence of a quorum. With only 12 Councilors left, there was none. It looks like the New Council will perpetuate the Old Council's practice of its members doing a disappearing act before the session is over.

The session, due to lack of quorum, adjourned at 5:20, 34 minutes short of a 3-hour session.

September 14

Councilor Pumaren still on sick bay, Councilor Ferrer went on vacation leave while Councilor Alonzo was again absent, Councilor Altuna was absent on official time to attend a seminar on the Local Government Code at the PICC. Eight Councilors arrived late: Councilors Tamayo, Biglang-awa, Angeles, Bautista (the son), Bautista (the father), Defensor, Montilla and Mathay.

Session started at 2:53.

The Budget Officer, Ms. Gerardo, was the guest at the Question and Answer Hour. She enlightened the Councilors on some aspects of the budgeting process:

1) Appropriations for personal services should not be more than 55% of the city government's income from local sources of the preceeding year.

2) As to priority projects of the City Council, the Councilors should have a dialogue with the Mayor.

3) It is the City Auditor that approves or disapproves barangay budgets. The Budget Officer merely recommends.

Approved was the resolution which had been introduced by Vice Mayor Planas, authorizing the Mayor to negotiate with Meralco for the off-setting of the city government's obligation of P32 million with its matured Meralco stocks and bonds.

In the discussion of this resolution, the Vice Mayor and Councilor Galarpe pointed out that there was no need to authorize the Mayor. The negotiation can be done with or without his authorization. To Councilor Defensor's view that the Council should always coordinate with the Chief Executive in order that there will be harmony in the delivery of basic services, the Vice Mayor said that "the Council has its duty and power to pass ordinances and the Mayor has the power to vote them, but to say that anything must be coordinated with the Mayor, it is (tantamount to) surrendering the power to legislate to the executive department."

Also approved was the resolution, which had been introduced by Councilor Castelo, providing for the assumption by the City Council of the devolved powers and functions of processing and approving of subdivision plans pursuant to the LGC.

Another approved ordinance, which had been introduced by Councilor Liban, creates two plantilla positions for Legal Officer IV with a rate of P8,250/mo. and one for Stenographic Reporter II, one clerk and one utility worker under the Office of the City Attorney whose primary duty would be to extend legal assistance to barangay officials pursuant to the LGC.

Approved on second reading was the ordinance which had been introduced by the Vice Mayor, granting P30,000 financial assistance to the late PO3 Inocencio Fragata.

Six proposed ordinances were taken up on first reading. They are the usual appropriation measures for the construction of basketball roof, asphalt overlay of some street and installation of artesian well—all without certification as to availability of funds.

Only 14 Councilors were left when the session adjourned at 7:15 P.M., 38 minutes short of a 6-hour session.

September 17

Poor Councilor Pumaren was still on sick bay. Councilor Alonza was again absent. Ten Councilors arrived late: Councilors Tamayo, Castelo, Biglang-awa, Medalla, Angeles, Defensor, Dario, Hipol, Montilla and Bautista (the father). Session started at 2:37 P.M.

Councilor Defensor delivered a privilege speech on the plight of victims of the Sept. 15 flood. He said he inteded to introduce an ordinance appropriating P2 million for said victims. The Vice Mayor informed the Council that she had helped the families of three death victims: She interceded when a funeral parlor was asking P24,000 for funeral services. She had the bodies of the victims transferred to the Arlington Funeraria which gave free funeral services.

Councilor Samson also delivered a privilege speech on "proper decorum" calling attention to the Council's non-observation of the following provisions of the Council's House Rules:

1) Sessions to start at 2:00 P.M.

2) A fine of P1,000 for late comers

3) Prooper House attire during session.

Councilor Samson said that the Council had already been criticized for the non-observance. He feared that the Council may become a "laughing stock"

(Turn To Page 7)

SIDELIGHTS

Phenomenon

What is considered a phenomenon in the New Council is the way the Presiding Office, Vice Mayor Charito Planas, is outdoing the Councilors themselves in the filing of proposed ordinances and resolutions. In contrast, her predecessor, now Senator Vicente Sotto III, hardly introduced any measure.

As of the last session for September on the 28th, the Vice Mayor had already introduced 14 resolutions and 23 ordinances, four or five of which had been co-introduced with some Councilor.

Ironically, the first measure she introduced, was a resolution congratulating her predecessor, now Senator Sotto, whom she had charged with not having returned some office equipment, communication facilities and firearms and for having packed his office with 315 employees, mostly 15-30s. When we pointed out to her the inconsistency of the resolution, Charito said that it was Councilor Altuna who had authored the resolution. She was only requested by Alt. to sponsor it.

Good Signs

In the August 31 session, Councilor Sison questioned Miguel's being recorded in the Minutes as being "absent on official time." This is a very good sign. We congratulate Councilor Sison. It looks like he and his colleagues, his fellow first timers, wont allow the New Council to abuse the "official time" privilege as the Old Council did when all a Councilor had to do to be considered "absent on official time" was to send word that "he was attending to his constituents," the invariable, standard reason given by absentees.

Another good sign has been given by Councilor Connie Angeles. She went on leave without pay for 15 days to go to the U.S. at her own expense. In the Old Council, no Councilor travelled abroad on his own. He always managed to find a reason, no matter how unlikely or hollow, to entitle him to travel "on official time." We like to think that our filing the "fake Daly City official trips" will serve as a deterrent to similar sham official trips by members of the New Council.

Uncollected Fines: P86,000.00

In the Sept. 17 session, Councilor Samson called the Council's attention to the non-observance of the House Rules ordaining the start of sessions at 2:00 P.M. and imposing a fine of P1,000 for tardy members. If these fines had been collected, the New Council would be richer by P86,000.00 as of September 28, 1992, corresponding to 86 cases of tardiness. Quite a sum that could be contributed to the Mt. Pinatubo victims.

In the session on Sept. 21, following Samson's questioning of the non-observance of House Rules on punctuality, not a single member was late and the session started at 2:02, just two minutes late compared to 30 minutes to one hour late in previous sessions.

But in the Sept. 24 session, 14—repeat 14—Councilors arrived late. Talk of *ningas cogon* mentality for which we, Filipinos, are often rebuked. Why the 14 Councilors certainly gave a super example of *ningas cogon* mentality. Who were they? Turn to our "City Council in Session" series.

Only the Presiding Officer continued to arrive punctually.

FIRST . . .

main road that snarls traffic.

Early on, he was setting the pace and style of his work. He is not a swivel chair administrator but a man of action who cuts deep into the heart of the problem and implements speedy solutions.

For Mathay, everything has to proceed according to the grand design of the "master plan" he has prepared anchored on his 10-point program to ensure better delivery of basic services to the city residents.

So how did Mayor Mathay fare in his first 100 days?

ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

To bolster the city's economic growth, the mayor has conducted an all-out campaign among potential investors, firstly, among the city's leading citizens such as the Rotarians, Lions, Filipino Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Cubao Merchants Association members and secondly, among foreign investors like the Taiwanese, Japanese and Chinese businessmen.

Mathay's call for a strong and healthy economic and business climate in the city was echoed during the first multisectoral consultative assembly of government, labor, civic and nongovernmental groups held last August19. He rallied the participants to transform the city from "an essentially residential and institutional city into a commercial center to generate not only additional revenues but employment opportunities."

PEACE AND ORDER

To woo foreign investors, an atmosphere of peace and industrial security must be established for a healthy business climate. Mayor Mathay called for a renewed discipline and integrity among the city's police force and announced an additional incentive of P 1,000 monthly allowance to bolster their sagging morale.

To enhance law enforcement, the mayor pushed for the creation of an auxilliary police force and the speedy reactivation of former barangay tanod brigades.

Mathay also called for the establishment of a joint police-civilian chechpoint to deter abuses in the guarding of main routes and to establish a cooperative spirit among police and civilians.

After conducting surprise inspections at the city's five police stations to check on the efficacy of their operations, Mathay created a 15-man committee to ensure the speedy administration of justice and get rid of overcrowding and inhuman conditions of inmates in the city and police jails.

Mathay has also endorsed an ordinance creating an executive-legislative Task Force which will conduct an all-out campaign against pornography and indecent tabloids in the city. He has also effected a round-the-clock foot patrol operation in QC's critical crime-prone areas.

ROAD PROJECTS AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

In the city's infrastructure agenda, Mathay has set up priority for the widening and opening of major roads and highways, particularly C3 and C5 which will traverse the entire length of Quezon City and will go all the way to the North Diversion road to ease the load of traffic along EDSA and Balintawak and open more areas for residential and commercial development.

Mathay has created a 24-hour repair and rehabilitation crew to repair damaged roads, cover manholes and clear obstructions on the city's busy streets. He also urged the DPWH to hasten the repair and rehabilitation of the city's drainage system to prevent the recurrence of the flashfloods that washed out squatter families' shanties along creeks.

Mathay has signed with the Land Transportation Office a Memorandum of Agreement involving the transfer of traffic management from the national to the local traffic police force. This is to ensure maximum efficiency in the handling of vehicular traffic in the local jurisdictions.

The mayor has ordered the hiring of some 400 or more traffic aides to be fielded after an intensive training on traffic management.

TASK FORCE PINATUBO

Mayor Mathay last Sept. 9 donated P 1 million as an initial amelioration fund, bankrolling Task Force Pinatubo, Quezon City Chapter, which he had created to undertake all relief efforts in the city for the Mt. Pinatubo victims.

In recognition of the role of women as "life giver, nurturer, food producer, healer, teacher, wife, earner and leader", Mayor Mathay proclaimed Quezon City as a Mother-Baby Friendly City on Aug. 11, first mayor in the world to do so. The proclamation, he said, is part of his adminitration's goal to improve the quality of life in Quezon City.

In tandem with Rosary International, Mayor Mathay launched "Tindahan Mo, Tindahan Ko" project, the Rotary Soup Kitchen, the Food Bank and Training program, all geared toward the provision of cheap foods to urban poor communities.

In line with Mayor Mathay's policy to enhance the quality of education, he has approved a P 600 supplemental monthly allowance for teachers, authorized an increase in their longevity pay and vowed to provide affordable housing under the socialized housing scheme.

The mayor has given priority to the building of more schools and providing more classroom facilities. He inaugurated just recently the newly constructed buildings at Lagro High School, Toro Hills Elementary School.

He has made available "specialized sports" for free to provide an alternative activity for the youth and divert their attention from drugs.

He is rushing for the completion of the drug rehabilitation center in Payatas to help restructure the lives of drug addicts.

URBAN POOR AND THE HOUSING PROGRAM

The mayor has continued to hold dialogues with urban poor groups and squatters to solve the problem of squatting and to find a permanent resettlement site where job opportunities and basic services are available. To push the socialized housing program, the mayor has coordinated the various housing authorities and the financial institutions like the National Home Mortgage Corporation to make possible the acquisition of a house and lot under easy and affordable terms of payment.

QC is set to distribute certificates of awards for houses and lots to 411 poor families belonging to the Urban Poor Homeowner's Association (HOA) of Old Balara and the Damayang Magkapitbahay ng Carinosa Inc. in Sta. Monica, Novaliches.

The mayor continues to implement the policy of "walang gibaan, walang Tayuan" and vowed to crackdown on City Hall syndicates which are victimizing the needy squatters and causing the proliferation of squatters in the city.

MANIFESTATIONS OF PUBLIC SUPPORT

With his intrinsic natural warmth and love for work, Mathay is slowly but surely gaining the support and confidence of his constituents as shown by the growing participation of the public in the city administration's quest for self-sufficiency and growth.

Last Aug. 14, Mathay received an advance payment of P 8.3 million representing real property taxes for the third quarter of this year from business establishments belonging to the Cubao Merchants Association (CMA) through its president, Lamberto Nanquil.

Nanquil said the move is "a show of support and belief of the business sector in the leadership of Mayor Mathay."

Another group, the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Association (CREBA), offered the city government financial and technical assistance to step up the Mathay administration's environmental and social housing programs.

The association, comprising some 1,700 real estate owners and developers, 90 percent of them being corporations, has also initiated anti-pollution and beautification drives in major streets and recreation grounds in the city.

Also in August, the city's business group, led by 3780 Rotary District Governor Bimbo Salazar, also pledged their support to the city government's plan to transform the East and North Trriangles in North EDSA, into a massive business and commercial complex ala Ortigas and Ayala in Makati.

The commercialization of the two triangles, when completed, is expected to give the city an additional P 10 million income annually.

The Rotarians also launched the "Adopt-a-Car" program, requiring each club in the city to assist in the repairs of the Central Police District Command's (CPDC) dilapidated cars. Eight mobile cars have been repaired by the group so far.

The Filipino–Chinese Chamber of Commerce offered to build a P 1 million four-classroom school building in Barangay Holy Spirit.

The Earthsavers Movement, Inc., a group advocating environment protection and conservation, vowed to help the city government in the promotion of the United Nations-inspired Tribal Youth Partnership program.

The group has started tapping QC schools in promoting tribal arts and introducing indigenuous resources as materials in educating children on the different tribal groups in the country.

Mayor Mathay said the city government will tap out-of-school youths and streetchildren for a proposed travelling circus patterned after the one in China to increase their productivity and keep them off the streets.

The movement also promised to give the city a hand in educating QC residents about " Garbology," the science of proper garbage disposal in line with the "Clean and Green" project of the national government.

With the people behind him, it would be easier now for Mayor Mathay to steer the helm of the city to make it what the residents want it to be.



More important than numbers is the quality of the policemen, says Mayor Mathay. He is shown here congratulating some of the 250 Novaliches Station policemen who had just finished a re-training course.

PEOPLE'S HOUR

To bring the government closer to the people and to make him more accessible , Mayor Mathay launched a regular "People's Hour" on August 10.

An average of 200 people flock to his office every Monday morning seeking solution to their problems such as aquatting, illegal vending, unemployment, financial difficulties and even personal matters.

CLEANLINESS AND BEAUTIFICATION CAMPAIGN

Mayor Mathay created a Task Force to implement the OPLAN–CLEAN QUEZON CITY tasked to rid the city of garbage, declog canals and creeks and engage in tree-planting and street cleaning activities.

The mayor has also launched a garbage-recycling program under which dry trash are collected and sold to manufacturers for recycling into reusable products.

FOOD CAMPAIGN AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

To alleviate the plight of his constituents, the mayor launched the SMILE mobile mini-marts in strategic places like the City Hall and in depressed areas to provide cheaper commodities.

Sotto, All Past Councilors, Included As Accomplices In Fake Daly City Trips Case

By Ben O. Flores

Upon the advice of our lawyers, we are including former Vice Mayor and Presiding Officer Vicente Sotto, all Councilors of the past Council and City Secretary Vicente Alvarez as accomplices in the "Fake Daly City Official Trips" case we are filing with the Ombudsman againstre-elected Councilor Tamayo and former Councilors Roldan, Del Mundo and Gaba.

The reason for their inclusion, our lawyers say, is that when said respondents returned from their alleged mission to Daly City to negotiate a sister-city relationship between Daly City and QC, not one Councilor bothered to inquire what happened in the negotiations, why the "negotiators" returned empty-handed. The same reason applies to Sotto and Alvarez, our lawyers add. This utter lack of interest and curiosity, very unnatural, is an indisputable indication that the past Councilors, Sotto and Alvarez were in cahoots with them.

In the case of Alvarez, we have also filed a complaint with the City Attorney's Office for violation of Sections 1 and 3, Rule VI of the "Rules Implementing the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees" for ignoring four letters of ours asking if he had conducted research and inquiry on the veracity of the alleged Daly City trips and requesting a Certification that the respondents had not submitted any report on their trips.

All members of the past Council, Presiding Officer Sotto and City Secretary Alvarez had heard the manifestations of then Acting Majority Floor Leader Galarpe, 1st Assistant Majority Floor Leader Castelo and Majority Floor Leader Altuna made at the start of sessions that, in the case of Councilor Tamayo, he was manifested in the August 20, 1990 session by Councilor Galarpe as being in "San Francisco, U.S. (sic) establishing the sister-city relationship with Daly City and that until such time the Hon. Tamayo arrives, he will be carried on official time"; in the case of Roldan, Del Mundo and Gaba, they were manifested in the September 12, 1990 session also by Councilor Galarpe that "they were in Daly City attending to the final discussion on the establishment of the sister-cityhood relationship" and in the September 17 session, Galarpe repeated his previous manifestation;

In the Sept. 19, 24 and 26 sessions, it was Councilor Altuna who manifested that Councilors Roldan, Del Mundo and Gaba were "still on official time as they are abroad to follow up the sister-cityhood in Daly City"; in the next sessions, Oct. 1, 3 and 8, it was Councilor Castelo who manifested that Roldan, Del Mundo and Gaba were still in Daly City; and the final manifestation was made in the Oct. 17, 1990 session by Councilor Galarpe again that Del Mundo had stayed behind after Roldan and Gaba had left purportedly to continue the sister-city negotiations.

Councilor Tamayo surfaced on September 5, 1990 after an absence of 16 days; Roldan and Gaba on Oct. 15, 1990 after an absence of 33 days; and Del Mundo on Nov. 7, 1990 after an absence of 55 days. All together the respondents were away a total of 71 days negotiating a sister-city relationship as had been manifested for the information of all members of the past Council, their Presiding Officer Sotto and the City Secretary Alvarez.

Yet, to repeat, not one of them was curious or interested enough to ask the returnees what had happend during their 71 days of absence. How explain this incredible, unnatural lack of curiosity or interest?

There is only one explanation, our lawyers say. Presiding Officer Sotto, City Secretary Alvarez and all 27 members of the past Council knew all along that Tamayo, Roldan, Del Mundo and Gaba were not in Daly City negotiating a sister-city relationship. Does that not make Sotto, Alvarez and the 27 Councilors accomplices?, our lawyers ask.

P3.5 MILLION . . .

While the average cost for the construction of standard swimming pools range from P300,000 to P500,000 at current prices, the Simon-Follosco contract called for the payment of P1,813,679.50 for the swimming pool at Bgy. Nagkaisahang Nayon and P1,743,390.10 for the pool at Zabarte Subdivision.

The above deficiencies were verified by Vice Mayor Charito Planas who, in the company of Councilors Godofredo Liban and Fresca Biglang-awa and media, made an ocular inspection of the swimming pools.

The pools were constructed by Alpha Pools, 116 Pasong Tamo St., Makati, with whose manager, Nicanor Follosco, then Mayor Jun Simon entered into a negotiated contract on June 8, 1991.

On the strength of a spurious 100% certification of completion in Disbursement Voucher No. 48005 dated December 19, 1991 signed by the City Parks Development and Administrative Officer, full payment was made to Alpha Pools on January 9, 1992 through Check No. 648005 in the amount of P2,987,938.80 representing the net amount due the contractor after the deduction of the 15% mobilization fee and 1% withholding tax totalling P569,131.20.

Vice Mayor Planas, who had said that the elimination of graft and corruption is her first priority, is preparing the necessary documents to support the administrative and criminal charges she intends to file against the person involved in the construction of an exhorbitantly-priced uncompleted swimming pools good only for frogs.

CITY GOVERNMENT . . .

It is necessary that the Council enact the new Schedule of Fair Market Values into an ordinance before the end of the year, Rosas and Kasala said, so that their office will have enough time to accomplish by 1993 or before 1944 the revision, a task that will require at least a year considering that about 300,000 parcels of land and improvements are involved.

The City and Assistant City Assessors said that before enacting the new Schedule of Fair Market Values into an ordinance, public hearings may have to be held first in the 21 Assessment Districts of QC.

Rosas and Kasala said that the new Schedule renders the petition of Mayor Mathay for the suspension of the implementation of the old Schedule moot and academic. In fact, they said, their lawyers had already withdrawn in the last hearing of the case before the Central Board of Assessments and they had "yielded their arguments in favor of the Petitioner," because "the Local Government Code has overtaken the case and if ever the Mayor's Petition is defeated and the Court lifts the suspension of the old Schedule of Fair Market Values, its effectivity, if implemented, will coincide with the effectivity of the new Schedule which, as ordained under Section 219 of the Local Government Code, should be "within two years after the effectivity of the Code and that would be by the end of 1993 or before 1994."

"It will result," Rosas and Kasala said, "in two closely successive revisions."

The Market Values in the new Schedule are slightly higher than those in the old Schedule because current market prices of real estate have increased since 1988 when the old Schedule was prepared.



WISE AND OTHERWISE
By Eddie C. Flores

Reform, Improve the Tax Collector

Hobbled with an expected budgetary deficit of P73.7 million at the end of the year, the city government is faced with the enormous problem of how to generate more revenues without further taxing the poor among the taxpayers who pay their taxes more religiously and correctly than the rich.

Invariably, city officials responsible for tax collection resort to the time-worn remedy of "intensified tax collection drive," which has been proven to be not very effective. Thus inspite of such drives at the end of the year, the financial status of the city government is as poor as ever. Then the question is asked: "What went wrong?" The question really should be: *"Who* went wrong?"

But our revenue officials and collectors are loathed to putting the blame on themselves. They would rather blame anything else, even the weather. They do not realize that they are barking at the wrong tree when they put the blame on tax collection laws, systems and strategies than on the tax collectors themselves.

The key to increased revenues lies in these tax collectors; unfortunately, many of them are incompetent and unscrupulous. Either these "scalawags" are thrown out or subjected to an intensive course on moral regeneration and improvement. It might be a good idea to establish an institute or center for that purpose, a place where the bad guys and gals in the tax collection service can be rehabilitated.

Better still, why not muster an elite force of tax collectors headed by a tax collector CZAR, the force to be composed of selected men and women of proven competence and probity who will be properly motivated and adequately compensated in order to give them the strength not to sucumb to the virus of graft and corruption. Proper motivation and adequate compensation will also provide them with a shield against undue political pressures, especially during the campaign season.

This envisioned elite force of tax collectors should as much as possible, adhere to a code of ethics and conduct as strict and severe as the Japanese Bushido's creed of "death before dishonor." If they can do that, then they can be considered to be the city government's soldiers of fortune tasked with the patriotic duty and responsibility of collecting the taxes which constitute the lifeblood of any government.

It is disheartening to note that this lifeblood of the city government has always been thin and anemic. And it has, of course, been due to the millions of pesos of revenues lost, not so much because of defective, and ineffective tax collection laws and systems but more because of defective, ineffective and dishonest revenue officers and tax collectors. At the risk of being called *makulit* (annoyingly insistent and repetitious), we reiterate that the key that could open the floodgates that will bring in an abundance of revenues is the moral reformation and regeneration of tax collectors.

Perhaps, it could be the political will of a tried and tested leader like the honorable QC Mayor Ismael A. Mathay, Jr. that can launch a tax collection revolution that will lead to the formation of the elite force of tax collectors who will fill the coffers of the city government with the taxes that are due it.

Persuasive Kiss, Caressing Sweetness

Here is one for the parliamentary books.

Councilor Willy Altuna was adamant. He strongly put his thumbs down on the proposal to create a committee on cooperatives, distinct and separate from the Committee on Trade and Commerce. Cooperatives, he said, already falls under the ambit of the Trade and Commerce Committee. A Cooperatives Committee is superflous, he added.

The President Pro Tempore turned a deaf ear to the strong and persistent clamor for the creation of a Cooperatives Committee. It was at this point that Councilors Ma. Fresca Biglang-awa and Connie Angeles came to the rescue. They decided to "assault" the unrelenting Altuna, not with clubs but with something that turned out to be more "lethal."

Councilor Biglang-awa planted a vigorous kiss smack on Altuna's cheek while Councilor Angeles caressed him with sweet looks and words. Said Altuna: "My heart was melted by that emphatic kiss of Ms. Biglang-awa and the caressing sweetness of Ms. Angeles." His opposition to the creation of a Cooperatives Committee also melted away.

There you are folks, we have just pictured to you a demonstration on parliamentary seduction. Now, Councilor Altuna is at the mercy of the two bold, astute lady Councilors. They know where he is vulnerable: not on his heel like Achiles but on his cheek.

PLEADING LADY

Recently, while I was passing by the office of Councilor Franz Pumaren a pretty young lady popped out and accosted me to plead: "Huwag mo naman ipagdiinan yong mga absences ni konsehal Pumaren." (Please do not be too emphatic on the absences of Councilor Pumaren.)

Unlike Altuna whose august heart melted at the sight of two charming ladies of the Council, the pleading lady froze my heart, delightedly though, because I was touched by the sight of a lady so young and beautiful and so concerned and worried about the absences of her good boss. Which is in stark contrast to the rank callousness of Councilors of the past Council who didn't give a damn to this paper's persistent harping on their habitual abseteeism and tardiness which often resulted in prematurely adjourned sessions to the detriment of public interest.

So, therefore, in the name of public interest and for the sake of LEA, the pleading lady, we would like to plead in turn that the good Councilor Pumaren when he gets well try his goddam best to attend council sessions religiously and punctualy. Unlike in the rough and tumble PBA ball games where Pumaren always runs the risk of breaking a neck or leg because of the daredevil courage which he never fails to dish out in every ball game he plays, here in the more sedate and scholarly ambience of the Council, Pumaren is not exposed to the same hazards.

If Pumaren, who is one of the finest point guards of the PBA, and a fine gentleman, does not exhibit the same daredevil courage and unbriddled enthusiasm in defending, fighting for the best interests and rights of his constituents, he will surely break their hearts. However, we are confident and have faith in the capability, accessibility, reliability, efficiency and sincerity, CARES for short, of Pumaren. He will never let his beloved constituents down and broken-hearted. Yes, we do believe, Pumaren truly cares for his adoring constituents. FRANZ, we do care for you, get well soon.

Man of the Hour

Definitely, the man of the hour on whose shoulders lie the burden of bailing out the city government from its dire financial state, is the honorable Mayor Ismael Austria Mathay, Jr. Will the man measure up to the crisis at hand? Definitely Yes. Mathay is a man who thrives on crisis. He seems to have mastered the art of crisis management in his long and remarkable career in the public service. In the words of Mrs. Lourdes Lansang, City Personnel Officer, "Mathay is a good management man who has the uncanny ability to attract good men and women to him and inspire them to work hard because he himself is always on the go.

VICE MAYOR PLANAS MISTAKES RADIO REPORTER FOR JOBSEEKER

By Eddie C. Flores

Recently, the swashbuckling and rampaging QC Vice Mayor CHARITO PLANAS mistook a radio reporter for a poor country or city rat, looking for a job. One day, this rat or radio reporter sneaked into the office of the good Vice Mayor for a sneak interview, but he had hardly settled in his seat when the quick-acting Planas without any preamble or the customary niceties like "Anything I can do for you" blurted at the radio reporter; "Kung naghahanap ka ng trabaho wala akong maibibigay sa iyo."

Flabbergasted, the poor radio man beat a hasty retreat and darted towards his favorite dugout in the office of our good friend, the ever genial, approachable, humble and helpful Councilor and Minority Floor Leader Reynaldo Calalay. The infuriated radio man poured out his humiliating experience in the hands of Planas.

Councilor Calalay, veteran newsman Fel Solis, who seems to grow younger and handsomer with the passage of time, and this writer listened and lent our symphatetic ears to the rantings and railings of our poor brother rat in media. *EEEK!* Vice Mayor Planas, please have mercy, give this poor rat a chunk of cheese, will you?

But what really got the goat of this radio reporter was that he had already interviewed Planas previously. Well, I guess, the rigors and exacting demands of her job as Vice Mayor and Chairman of the Quezon City Drug Abuse Council must have taken its toll on her, causing her to suffer temporary lapses of memory.

CITY COUNCIL . . .

The Presiding Officer said she was ready to start the session at 2 o'clock sharp but the trouble, she said, is that there is still usually no quorum at that time. What she does, she said, is to send someone to find out if there are already enough Councilors to make a quorum before going up. What is odd is that the Council did not discuss Councilor Samson's observation and decide, whether or not, to strictly enforce compliance with the House Rules in question. Obviously, the honorable Councilors were for continued non-compliance. They might as well scrap said rules.

Another privilege speaker was Councilor Liban. He assailed an article in the Sept. 14, 1992 issue of the "Taliba Express" insinuating that he and Councilor Tamayo were members of the syndicate responsible for giving a fake building permit to the Grand Canyon Development Corporation just because they had been seen at the construction site. He explained that he and Councilor Tamayo had been appointed members of a Task Force to conduct an ocular inspection of the site in question.

The Presiding Officer asked Councilor Liban if he intended to invite the Taliba reporter "and the reporter who likewise wrote an article regarding the alleged unofficial trip abroad by Hon. Tamayo" We are the other referred to. We will answer Councilor Liban's invitation when we receive it.

Another big batch of proposed ordinances were taken up on first reading, 12 of them, and, as usual, only a few are worth mentioning:

1) Creating the Livelihood Development Council and an independent Livelihood Development Office, introduced by Councilors Altuna and Angeles.

2) Establishing a QC Medical Care Program, appropriating P500,000 for the purpose, introduced by Councilor Angeles.

3) Appropriating P1 million for the purchase of two additional Units for the Health Department's mobile clinic, introduced by Councilor Montilla.

Why not convert one of the Hino busses donated by Taiwan?

4) Appropriating P4,936,002 for the conduct of the Sangguniang Kabataan elections to be held on Oct. 9, introduced by Vice Mayor Planas.

Seven proposed resolutions were taken up on second reading, three of which are worth mentioning:

1) Ratifying Deed of Donation executed by and between the city government and the National Orthopedic Hospital whereby the city government donates one Hino bus to the hospital, introduced by Councilor Galarpe.

2) Authorizing the City Treasurer to withheld from salaries/allowances of the Mayor, P10,000; Vice Mayor, P5,000; City Councilor, P1,000; and all other officials and employees earning P4,000 and above 1% of their salaries/allowances for September as their contribution to the Mt. Pinatubo victims, introduced by Vice Mayor Planas.

3) Urging Congress to provide an amendment to the National Building Code impossing the death penalty against Engineers, Architects, Builders, Contractors and Developers found violating said Law, introduced by Councilor Calalay.

Approved on second reading were:

1) Ordinance franchising and regulating the operation of motorized tricycles, which had been introduced by Councilors Sison, Galarpe, Altuna, Medina, Dario, Lagumbay, Mathay, Miguel and Calalay.

2) Resolution recognizing QC Hall employees who have rendered 25 years and above of service, which had been introduced by Councilor Biglang-awa.

3) Resolution providing for the membership of the Personnel Selection Board, which had been introduced by Councilor Calalay. The members will be: Majority Floor Leader or the duly designated member of the majority party; Minority Floor Leader or the duly representative of the minority party; and the Department Head or the office involved on the selection of its personnel.

Some informational matters were being discussed when the matter of quorum was brought up by the Presiding Officer. It turned out only nine Councilors were left. Fourteen (14) Councilors had taken French leave.

The session adjourned at 5:12 P.M., 25 minutes beyond a 3-hour session.

September 21

Councilor Pumaren still on sick bay. Councilor Alonzo was again absent. No Councilor was late and the session started at 2:02 P.M.

It looks like Councilor' Samson's privilege speech in the previous session made an impact on the Council.

Councilor Hipol delivered a privilege speech informing the body that the Councilors had been buying their office supplies from their own pockets. The Presiding Officer said that her office was encountering the same difficulty: lack of funds.

Seven proposed ordinances were taken up on second reading, among which were:

1) Restoring the salary grade levels of the positions which the defunct Joint Commission on Local Government Personnel Administration had reduced when the Salary Standardization Law was implemented, introduced by Vice Mayor Planas.

2) Appropriating P1 million for relief services for victims of the September 15 flood, introduced by Councilor Defensor.

3) Creating the QC Cooperative Development Center under the Office of the Mayor and appropriating P1 million for its operating expenses, introduced by Councilor Biglang-awa.

Guests at the Answer and Question Hour were City Engr. Alfredo Macapugay, Ms. Teresa Mariano, head of the Department of Social Welfare and Services; Armando Santos, Building Inspector; Bgy. Captain Manuel Mira of Bgy. Old Balara; and Kagawad Fidel Bondat of Bgy. Culiat.

They discussed the collapse of the Capitol Golf Club wall which had been built sans permit. It was decided to invite the members of the Club for a dialgoue in the next session.

Engr. Panganiban identified the creeks that needed to be looked into: 1) the creek at Sapang Kankong at Commonwealth Ave. going through Luzon Ave; 2) creek at Villa Biatriz at Bgy. Old Balara; 3) the creek at Banlat; 4) the creek at Bgy Immaculate Concepcion.

The session was interrupted by a brownout. It was resumed the following day in the afternoon at 5:05. The ordinance appropriating P4,936,002.00 for the conduct of the Sangguniang Kabataan elections was discussed but no final action was taken. The session adjourned at 6:05 P.M.

FIRST 100 . . .

c. Sponsored and organized weekly press conferences for City Councilors per district.

d. Proposed resolution declaring entire legislative wing of City Hall building of Quezon City as an area for exclusive use of City Council.

II. On Barangays and Urban Poor Affairs

a. Authorized by City Council to initiate talks with MERALCO, MWSS authorities and private/public sector for purposes of solving the lack of electric and water facilities in depressed areas of Quezon City, particularly Kaingin I and II, Bgy. Pansol, District III as initial areas of discussion, programming and immediate implementation.

b. Initiated dialogues with residents of Bgy. Batasan and Commonwealth and MERALCO, MWSS and PLDT for the facilitation of installation of facilities in the area.

c. Introduced resolution urging MERALCO to implement Depressed Area Electrification Program in Payatas by adopting the Payatas Road Network Plan, (Res. No. 523, S-91 and Ord. No. NC 187, S-91).

d. Initiated dialogues among Barangay Councils and the residents of Bgy. Payatas, landowners Manila Remnant Co. and city officials for land purchase by occupants of the land.

e. Initiated dialogues among Barangay Councils of Bgy. Pag-Asa, Sto. Cristo and Bago Bantay (Magsaysay) involving sharing of real property revenues from SM City, with appropriate city officials involved.

f. Initiated reconciliation moves among members and officials of the Barangay Council of West Kamias.

g. Introduced resolution requiring rationalized restructuring of Quezon City barangays based on appropriate and adjusted formula.

III. Quezon City Anti-Drug Abuse Council

a. Proposed resolution urging the Mayor to allocate in the 1992 Supplemental Budget the amount of P3.6 Million for the completion, start-up and operation of the Quezon City Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Center.

b. Concluded Memorandum of Understanding with NARCOM, Quezon City Regional Trial Court, City Fiscal, the Central Police District establishing certain procedures for cases relative to drug abuse and drug trafficking.

c. Conducted barangay orientation seminars on QCADAC and related agencies.

d. Conducted barangay surveys on drug problems in the locality.

e. Conducted agreement with the World Ecologists Foundation for the donation of 500 seedlings for planting at the Payatas Treatment and Rehabilitation Center.

IV. On Youth, Culture and Sports

a. Established a library for children's literature at the Quezon Memorial park "Bahay Kubo."

b. Launched, in cooperation with Ninoy Aquino Park, the search for Barangay Talents for a "Palarong Pilipino" on August 18, 1992, in connection with the project on Development, Rehabilitation and Education through Arts, Music and Sports (DREAMS) and the World Clean-Up Week with Earth Day from September 18-20, 1992

c. Spearheaded a week-long celebration with the theme "Ipagmalaki ang Sariling Atin" from October 5-11, 1992 in connection with Quezon City Foundation Day on October 12, 1992.

d. Coordinated the holding of the ABAP Go for Gold Boxing Championships held at Bgy. Pag-Asa on August 21, 1992.

e. Launched the First City Inter-NGO Sports Intramurals on September 13, 1992 at Bernardo Park featuring native sports as patentero, bunong braso, hilahang lubid ang patamaang bola.

V. On Environmental Affairs

a. Launched an environmental consciousness programs among the 140 barangay captains in coordination with Ninoy Aquino Park, with the theme in connection with the UN Decade for Environmental Activities and Earth Day.

b. Proposed resolution requesting DPWH to plant sturdy green ornamental trees on the street islands along main thoroughfares of Quezon City.

c. Proposed resolution urging the covering of esteros and creeks and the dredging of various esteros in Quezon City.

VI. On Non-Governmental Organizations

a. Called on all non-governmental organizations, people's organizations and the private sector to apply for accreditation for selection for membership in local special bodies under LGC.

b. Formed a Special Committee for NGO affairs composed of city officials and the private sector to assist in the processing of applications.

c. Prepared and distributed, without charge, application forms for accreditation.

d. Proposed a resolution extending the deadline for submission of application for accreditation to September 15, 1992 and completion of accreditation by October 15, 1992.

e. Drafted Rules and Regulations for Accreditation of NGOs, POs and the private sector and providing consultative mechanisms with such groups.

VII. Ordinances and Resolutions

(**Editor's Note:** 14 Ordinances and Resolutions are listed under this heading which we could not accommodate due to space limitations. Anyway, all of them are cited in our "City Council In Session.")

ORDINANCE . . .

Congressman, Dante Liban—there was hardly a session that he didn't deliver a privilege speech—also once delivered an impassioned privilege speech urging his colleagues to support then Mayor Simon's ZGME (Zero Graft, Maximum Efficiency) program. But he and his colleagues did absolutely nothing to extend legislative support.

Councilor Michael T. Defensor, the Benjamin of the Council at his age of 23 years, has introduced a proposed ordinance ordaining "that information on all public works and infrastructure projects within the city be required for posting fifteen days after the finalization of the contracts therefor with the same including: 1. the total amount of funds allocated therefor (and) 2. the performance time alloted thereto."

For non-compliance, "a fine of P5,000 and/or imprisonment of not more than six months be imposed as penalty."

We hail Councilor Defensor for being the first in both the old and new Council to join the fight against graft and corruption through legislation, although the proposed ordinance is a bit defective and quite inadequate.

Defective because it does not specify the official who is required to do the posting. The word "has" in line 8 should be "have."

Inadequate because, more important for posting than the amount of funds involved and performance time alloted, are the bidding results, the contracts themselves, which, as is the "general perception among our constituents" (to borrow Defensor's words), are often "lutong makaw."

The ordinance should be expanded to cover that notorious nest of grafters—ghost purchases, ghost suppliers, overpricing, under-delivery, below specifications, etc—the General Services Office, the city government's procurement arm.

We are reprinting hereunder from our last issue our suggestions on how to curb the fraudulent practices of the GSO people. As is already well known, we have already filed a case of graft (ghost purchase) against the former GSO head and eight accomplices.

Other Suggestions

*In the interest of transparency, why not post on a bulletin board all purchase/requisition requests; purchase orders; canvassing results; public bidding results; payment vouchers and other pertinent documents for the public's information. This way "Concerned Citizens" can keep vigilant track of government purchases and denounce anomalies that may be noted. Thus, it was a "Concerned Citizen" that furnished us with that spurious Abstract of Price Quotation which started us to do some research and investigation resulting in a fully documented case of a ghost purchase which we are filing with the Ombudsman (Please road our banner story, "Two Cases Of Graft And Corruption Ready For Filing).

*Revise the existing GSO List of Registered Dealers/ Suppliers and purge it of the non-existent ones. The existence of these non-existent deales/suppliers is one of the findings stated in the City Auditor's 1990 Annual Audit Report, as it was with us in the aforementioned ghost purchase case.

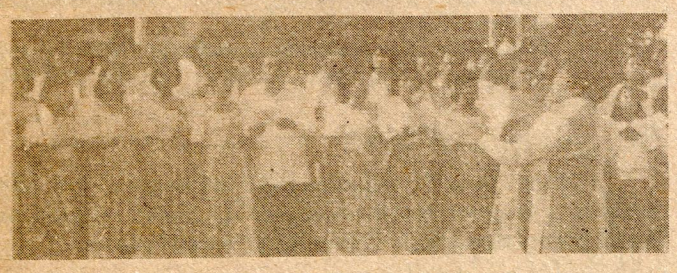
*GSO should adopt as a policy that, all things being equal, in making purchases, preference should be given to QC-based dealers/suppliers.

QUEZON. . . .

ations, deworming and immunization, health information lectures;exhibit of Philippine and recycled products; book distribution in depressed areas through the Book mobile,mass weddings; mardigras sa Timog awarding of Certificates of house and lot ownership, to squatter families.

Early in the morning of October 12, last day and highpoint of the weeklong celebration, citizens were awakened by the ringing of church bells throughout Quezon City.

October 12 was a Monday. After the flag raising ceremony at City Hall, the winners of the public elementary and secondary schools "Most Beautiful and Cleanest" contest were announced,the 192 newly hired Traffic Aides were presented by Arnulfo Banez of the Department of Public Order and Safety; and 3780 Rotary District Governor Bimbo Salazar presented for inspection by Mayor Mathay the police vehicles repaired by the various Rotary Clubs in Quezon City.



The Mayor sings the QC Hymn with the choral groups of several public high schools at last Monday's flag-raising ceremony. (Photo by Mario Domingo of the Mayor's Office)



The heads of the winning high schools in the "Most Beautiful and Cleanest" contest pose with (from left): Dr. Icasiano City Schools Superintendent; Vice Mayor Planas; and Mayor Mathay. The winners, holding the checks for their cash prizes are (from left) Dr. Soledad Dilao, Officer-in-Charge, Quirino High School, 3rd prize, P10,000; Dr. Teresita N. Turla, Officer-in-Charge, Judge Juan Luna High School, 2nd prize, P20, 000; and Mrs. Norma Mapanao, Principal, Juan Sumulong High School, 1st prize, P30,000. (Photo by Mario Domingo)

Single Entrance To Markets To Curb "Hot Meat" Traffic

An ordinance introduced by Councilors Vicente V. Ferrer, Jr. and Marciano P. Medalla requiring markets to have a single entrance will prevent the proliferation of "hot meat." With a meat inspector posted at the only entrance to a market, there is no chance of a slaughtered animal, not bearing the tell-tale meat inspector's stamp signifying freedom from disease, to gain entry.

Dr. Irineo Encomienda, Chief Veterinarian of the city government, said he hails the proposed ordinance. He said there are 43 markets in Quezon City, public and private, big and small; it would take an army of inspectors to guard the many entrances of these markets against the entry of "hot meat." With the approval and implementation of the "single entrance" ordinance, only 43 inspectors would be needed.

More inspectors would be needed, he said, to monitor the 14 lechon makers in QC who have their own private corals and mini-slaughterhouses. At present, Dr. Encomienda said, these corals and mini-slaughterhouses are not even required to get permits for their construction. All the lechon makers have are business permits. Dr. Encomienda said that they should be franchised. His office, he said, does not have enough personnel to inspect the 43 markets and 14 lechon makers.

Asked about the Mayor's observation that, while so much meat is sold in the markets, the veterinary office he heads reports that only about 200 slaughtered animals are inspected daily. Dr. Encomienda denies that his office has been reporting only 200—it's 500, he said.

He said there are four slaughterhouses in QC, two in Novaliches, one each in Kamuning and Project 8, all private. Two meat inspectors are assigned to each slaughterhouse. Two of these eight meat inspectors are veterinarians while the others had been trained by the National Meat Inspection Commission, now abolished by the Local Government Code.

QC, Dr. Encomienda said, has a daily consumption of about 1,500 hogs. With only 500 hogs coming from the city's four slaughterhouses, where do the 1,000 hogs come from? From neighboring municipalities, he said, like Cainta, Antipolo, Valenzuela, San Juan and Malabon. It is very probable many of those incoming hogs are "hot" but due to limited personnel, they escape inspection.

Pending in the City Council, Dr. Encomienda said, is an ordinance creating the Office of Veterinary Services, department level, as ordained in the Local Government Code. If the Office is provided with sufficient personnel and with the approval and implementation of the "single entrance" ordinance, meat inspection service will become so effective no "hot meat" could gain entry into the city's markets, Dr. Incomienda said. Competent and honest meat inspectors are of prime importance, however, he said. He admitted that some of his personnel may not be that honest. *(Editor's Note: There are some reports of not-so-healthy animals getting the meat inspector's nod provided the owner of the animals gives the proper incentives.)*

With the creation of the Office of Veterinary Services, department level, the construction of an abbatoir equipped with all the modern facilities needed for efficient slaughtering and meat inspection should also be considered Encomienda said. It would cost about P25 million at current prices, he estimated.

CITY ENGINEER . . .

desire to pay a much lower building permit fee for the 17-unit three-storey building it was constructing at 65 General Lim St., Heroes Hills, QC, conspired with Villablanca to defraud the city government of the building permit fee due it: about P64,000.00 for the 17-unit three storey building it was constructing.

It was to Villablanca, who hangs around at the City Engineer's Office, to whom Grand Canyon gave the building plans for processing. In preparing the Building Permit form for Grand Canyon, Villablanca used Building Permit No. 92-85449 which had been previously issued to a certain Pedro David of Villa España, QC, for the construction of a two-unit two storey building. As to the building plans Villablanca faked the initials of the Engineering personnel through whose hands the building plans were supposed to pass. He also forged the signatures of both City Engineer Macapugay and Asst. City Building Official Malinao.

On June 23, 1992, a representative of Grand Canyon gave Villablanca a "Pay to Cash" check in the amount of P30,000, although at that time the Building Permit was not yet ready. Villablanca encashed the check on that same day he received it. He issued a fake City Treasurer's Official Receipt for P24,446.00 and another one, No. 715038 which was not fake, for P6.00 representing electrical inspection fee. Why did the City Electrician issue on Order for Payment for an inspection fee for an electrical inspection that was not yet due?

It is very obvious that Grand Canyon knew that the money given to Villablanca would not go to the city government. If it did know, why did it issue a "Pay to Cash" check?

How did Grand Canyon find out that it had been gypped by Villablanca, that he had issued a fake building permit? Engineer Rolando Mamaid of the Engineering Department was inspecting sidewalks at General Lim St. when he noticed some defects in the ongoing construction of the Grand Canyon building. He jotted down the Building Permit number posted on the building, as required by law, and back in the office Mamaid did some digging up of records and found out that the Building Permit involved had been issued to a certain Pedro David.

Grand Canyon was accordingly issued a Notice of Illegal Construction. There is poetic justice here. Grand Canyon got a dose of its own medicine. In trying to fool the city government, it got fooled itself.

Giving vent to its indignation for having shelled P30,000 for a spurious building permit, Grand Canyon, thinking to get even, filed a graft suit against Macapugay, Malinao, and, of course, its co-conspirator, Ernesto Villablanca.

As has been shown Macapugay, Macalinao and Mamaid had nothing to do with the issuance of the fake building permit.

Villablanca never appeared at the hearing of the case by the Council's Blue Ribbon Committee—a very strong indication of guilt.

Macapugay and Macalinao are preparing to file an action for the demolition of the Grand Canyon building under construction.

A CAPITOL IDEA

A. O. FLORES



Mel Revisits U.P.

SOMEWHERE in this issue of the **New Capitol Standard** is an account of Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr.'s first 100 days in office. I shall confine my own assessment to the first 30 days for a clearer perspective. And only within the **barangay** where I live.

This barangay is the 450-ha. U.P. Campus which has become a full-blown community in itself since the University's transfer from Padre Faura, Manila, to Diliman, Q.C., in 1949. Because of its academic personality, the U.P. Campus functions under an autonomous administration, that is, the top University officials are themselves the policy makers. Non-academic matters are left to the discretion of those elected barangay officers.

Of a day in June campus residents literally woke up in the morning or came home from work in the afternoon to see their streets sporting a new macadam look. In plain language, each street had been graded and then paved with ready-mix asphalt in the space of one or two hours.

Whose work was it? The University Administration? One would have thought so, for street maintenance is one of the University's concerns. The answer was written on the fleet of trucks, graders, steamrollers and other road construction vehicles that came to the U.P. campus: Courtesy of the Office of the Mayor, Quezon City.

Maybe it was Mel's way of saying thank you to a constituency that had predicted him to be only a second placer in the mayoral poll. That he won there by a good margin was enough cause for Mel's extra jubilation. But, would he have done the same thing had he lost there? Moot and academic, I say.

Did I say all campus roads? No, not all. I'd say about seventy per cent, which is quite an accomplishment on any scale. Campus wags, however, couldn't help making the observation that the streets left untouched were those where anti-Mathay voters live. Joke only, of course. Those streets - - side roads, actually - - which did not get paving were still in good condition. Besides, campus traffic seldom passes there, if at all. Or maybe the good mayor ran out of asphalt, in which case he is devoutly asked to make a second visitation soon as he gets a fresh supply.

Speaking of visitation, Mel's making his presence felt on campus is actually a homecoming. As most everybody knows by now, Mel is a U.P. alumnus, BSBA (Economics) graduate, Class '52. Being mayor puts him in the best of position to improve relations between the QC government and the University administration. In fact, I understand his City Administrator, Dr. Manuel Alba, is "borrowed" from U.P. President Jose Abueva.

RESPONSE . . .

went on an official trip to Korea in 1988, Councilor Tamayo rendered a report in a privilege speech delivered during the Sept. 5, 1988 session of the City Council.

It is indeed strange and suspicious that Councilor Tamayo and the other respondents, former Councilors Roldan, Del Mundo and Gaba, did not render a report on their supposed "official trip" when they returned. If is even stranger that *not one* Councilor bothered to ask the "negotiators" what happened in the alleged negotiations. It is for this strange, unnatural behaviour of the Councilors that my lawyers have advised me to include all Councilors of the past Council, including the former Presiding Officer and City Secretary Alvarez, as accomplices.

Councilor Tamayo claims that he has documents to prove that he had held conversations with Daly City officials to pave the way for a delegation of the city government to go to Daly City to hold sister-cityhood negotiations. Even without seeing the documents, I can give the honorable Councilor the benefit of the doubt and presume that he had indeed conversations with Daly City officials. Councilor Tamayo was away for about 15 days. Did the conversations last that long?

Anyway, the complaint I have prepared against the Councilor ready for filing is separate from the complaint against Roldan, Gaba and Del Mundo. I am, therefore, considering,just considering,the deferment of my complaint against Councilor Tamayo pending further verification of the Councilor's claim of having held conversations with Daly City officials although that claim, if proven, will serve only as a mitigating circumstance—not complete absolution considering that he had been away for about 15 days. A lawyer-cousin of mine is going shortly to San Francisco; I have requested him to make a side trip to Daly City and make the necessary inquiries. I am determined to get to the bottom of all this if it takes on eternity.

As to the complaint against the other respondents, I have no choice but to file it, considering that they have continued to arrogantly ignore me.

I wish to assure Councilor Tamayo that, as I had repeatedly stated in my letters to him, I bear him no ill feeling. I hold him in respect as a Councilor contrary to his claim that my writing him letters instead of seeing him in his office is a sign of disrespect. In fact, I would not mind being a friend of the honorable Councilor. Unfortunately, I am squeezed between friendship and duty. I would lose my own self-respect if I am to sacrifice duty and principle to friendship.