For QC's Continued Progress, Vote Mathay-Angeles, Divine Providence's Gift To The City

The New Capitol STANDARD

VOL. XXVI No. 1 | Quezon City, Metro Manila | April 16-30, 1998

EDITORIAL

Performance: Key To The Right Choice

To be worthy of his right to vote, the voter must strive to make the right choice of whom to vote for. Performance is the key to the right choice of whom to vote for. With respect to the positions of mayor and vice mayor, making the right choice, based on performance, entails no difficulty at all. The right choices are, for mayor, Mayor Ismael Mathay, Jr., who is running for his third and last term, and, for vice mayor, Most Outstanding Councilor of QC, Connie S. Angeles. Why the right choices?

Mayor Mathay has behind him 31 years of varied public service: Vice Mayor, Secretary to GAO, MWSS Director, MMC Vice Governor, Assemblyman. The last six years of this as Mayor of Quezon City whose performance has consistently obtained high ratings -- an average of 70% -- in SWS surveys. And for this exemplary performance, Mathay has been the recipient of scores of Appreciation and Recognition Awards.

As to Connie S. Angeles, her performance as Councilor was non-pareil. For three consecutive years, 1992, 1993 and 1994, she was voted "Most Outstanding Councilor of Quezon City" by the QC Press Association, installing her in the Council's Hall of Fame. As Councilor, Connie was the author of landmark legislations like the ordinances creating MEDICAP, which provides free

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CRIMINAL CASE NO. 24278

Simon, Icasiano, et al Charged For Malversation Of Public Funds

By Ben O. Flores



SIMON

Former QC Mayor Brigido R. Simon Jr., former QC Schools Superintendent Bienvenido Icasiano, Former QC Treasurer Montano L. Diaz, former QC Asst. City General Services Officer Jonathan Africa, and former SEF Board Secretary Teresita N. Turla are charged with malversation of public funds thru falsification of public/official documents with the Ombudsman. (Editor's Note: We are surprised by the inclusion of Ms. Turla who was only the SEF Board Secretary, while Joel Solidum, Icasiano's canvasser is not).

The charge against these former city officials had been filedby the Commission on Audit which has designated the following witnesses: Marilyn L. Angeles, COA Auditor, Commission on Audit, Quezon City; Natividad V. Canlas, COA Auditor; Priscilla C. Cruz, COA Auditor; Felicitas C. Ona, Director IV, COA, Quezon

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Liban Has Not Cited Any Benefits Of Cityhood For Novaleños

By Ben O. Flores



LIBAN

In his press releases and "Letter to the Editor" letters, Rep. Dante Liban, author of RA 8535, creating Novaliches City, has not actually cited any benefits that Novaliches residents would get out of cityhood in addition to what they are getting now under the City government, especially under the Mathay administration. He has, instead, given four reasons which he claims justify the secession of Novaliches. We will give these four reasons (taken from his letter to the editor,

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Ansel Leads Field Of QC 3rd District Congress Bets

ANSEL Adriano, congressional candidate of the People's Reform Party (PRP)-Gabaybayan in the 3rd District of QC expressed confidence this week that he will emerge victorious in the May 11 polls based on the latest surveys of barangay leaders.

Adriano, erstwhile Lakas stalwart and executive director of the National Youth Commission bolted the ruling party recently to pursue his congressional bid "because of the *trapo* tactics of those running the Lakas-NUCD-UMDP despite their claims of honesty."

A lawyer, entrepreneur, advocate of youth power, defender of human rights, exponent of Filipino values and reformer, Adriano said that he will "lick the incumbent congressman of the 3rd district who is all sound and fury signifying nothing."

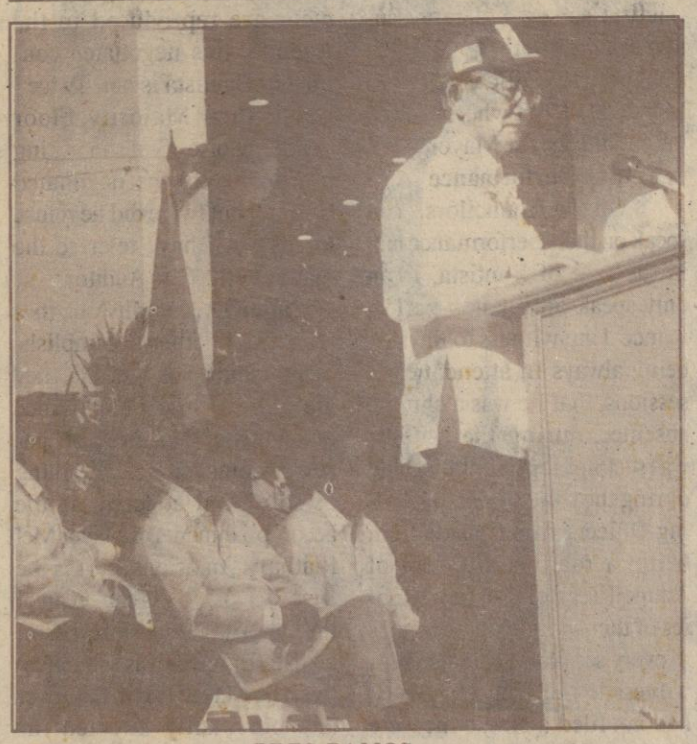


ANSEL

He said that the "leadership example of Mayor Mel Mathay should be emulated by young and emerging leaders of the city because it is based on sterling qualities and performance and not mere posturings of sincerity."

He vowed to pursue a legislative agenda to promote youth welfare and development, provide employment opportunities through livelihood projects and "other steps and measures to ensure a progressive and peaceful third district in concert with the Mayor's vision and mission."

Pres. RamosAnoints Mayor Mathay



PRES. RAMOS

President Ramos' visit to City Hall last April 13 was ostensibly to join City Hall officials and personnel in the flag raising ceremony but actually it was to anoint Mayor Mathay as LAKAS official candidate for Mayor of QC. He didn't exactly say: I anoint thee, Mel Mathay, as LAKAS official candidate for Mayor of QC, and poured oil unto his head but he did the anointment in a more forceful and eloquent manner when he said:

"Quezon City is an example of how the synergizing collaboration and interface between the local governments and the national leadership resulted in a total effort that benefits the constituencies of both.

"All the good things that have happened to us is not due alone to the national leadership. We realize that the contributions of our local government units have been crucial in moving our counrty forward, sustaining development and sharing the benefits of development."

The President has given priority to Quezon City in addressing the housing needs of the urban poor by launching one of the biggest medium-rise building housing settlements in the country at the National Government Center (NGC).

A total of 1,100 housing units valued at P180 million have already been awarded to the same number of squatter beneficiaries in the NGC project. This year, the National Housing Authority (NHA) will build another 840 housing units at the settlement site.

In addition to this, some 110 row-house units have already been awarded while the awarding of some 12,000 lots, with sizes ranging from 36 to 54 square meters per family are now being processed.

Save QC From Simon Comeback

Former QC Mayor Brigido "Jun" Simon Jr.'s campaign slogan is "Save Quezon City" but QC needs no saving anymore. It was already saved in the 1992 elections -- from Simon with his defeat. QC was saved from retrogression, saved from a rampage of graft and corruption, saved from the proliferation of squatters, saved from the stink of uncollected garbage, saved from the darkness of so many unlighted streets, saved from the big shortage of school buildings and teachers, saved from the atrociously over priced purchases of school supplies and equipment by former City Schools Superintendent Icasiano with whom Simon has a pending case for malversation of public funds at the Ombudsman, saved from the accumulation of unpaid electric light and water bills which could have resulted in the disconnection of these services.

The other slogan of Simon is "Simon Pa Rin." It is incomplete. It should be "Simon Pa Rin -- Ang Matatalo."

"If It Was Done By Mathay, It Must Be Correct" --Quezon

By Ben O. Flores

I am not, however, referring to Mayor Ismael Mathay, Jr. I am referring to Ismael Mathay, Sr. who rose from messenger at the Office of Insular Auditor to become the head of that office as Auditor General after it had been renamed General Auditing Office (GAO). He went into exile to Washington, D.C. with his boss, Manuel Luis Quezon, bringing along his wife, Mrs. Josefina Austria Mathay, who, on May 8, 1994, Mother's Day, was chosen posthumously the "Most Outstanding Mother Awardee" by the

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Former DECS Secretary Charged

Former DECS Secretary Ricardo T. Gloria, now a senatorial candidate (Lakas-NUCD), has been charged for violation of RA No. 6713 which mandates government officials and employees to answer letters from the public within 15 days of

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MATHAY-ANGELES TANDEM

The Invincible Team

By Ben O. Flores

It's the perfect combination: Youth and Experience -- Mel with his more than 30 years in the public service and Connie relatively young in her early 40s but already with a considerable experience in local legislation (twice elected Councilor) and in the field of social and health services promoted through the TV program "Kapwa Ko, Mahal Ko," which she co-hosts. For three consecutive years, 1992, 1993, and 1994, she was voted "Most Outstanding Councilor of Quezon City" by the QC Press Association, installing her in the City Council's Hall of Fame. As Councilor, Connie was elected Speaker Pro Tempore and was the author of landmark legislations, like the ordinance creating MEDICAP, which provides free medical treatment and services to indigents; and City Hall Day Care Center for children, 1 to 6 years old, of mother-employees of the City government. Her own colleagues have passed a Resolution of Recognition and Appreciation for her "great service to Quezon City." *(For more of Connie's credentials, turn to page 5)*



MATHAY & ANGELES

Connie will garner the youth and women's votes while Mel, based on superior performance, will get universal votes from both genders alike and from young and old. Add to that the 35% traditional advantage of the incumbent.

Added strength to the intrinsic strength of the Mel-Connie Team will come from the weakness of their respective opponents.

Bistek, The Perennial Absentee



BISTEK

Take a look at Mel's opponents. Twenty five (25) filed their candidacy for mayor. All are nuisance candidates, except "Bistek" Bautista, Jun Simon and Charito Planas. I am inclined to consider "Bistek" and Jun Simon as nuisance candidates also. Why shouldn't I? "Bistek" has nothing to show for the three years that he had been youth representative in the City Council and for the three years as vice mayor and Presiding Officer. As sectoral representative and Presiding Officer, "Bistek" distinguished himself as a perennial absentee. (I can personally vouch for this because since the City Council's resurrection in 1988 up to the present, I have been religiously attending all its sessions and have acquired copies of al Agendas and Minutes to be able to do my "City Council In Session" series in my paper. Even as an actor Bistek is a has-been, no movie for the last 10 or more years. Oh yes, until he filed his certificate of candidacy he had been acting in a Jollibee TV commercial, offering to treat every voter to a free Jollibee. I think his nickname should be changed from "Bistek" to "Jollibee."

Simon, The Mudslinger

In the 1992 and 1995 elections and now as he campaigns for the May 11, 1998 elections, Simon has been mudslinging Mayor Mathay, his nemesis, with all kinds of imaginary irregularities and anomalies. I still have one of his Octopus posters which he used in the 1992 elections, a vicious sight conceived by a deranged mind. Simon should be told the biblical injunction: "He who is without sin among you, let him cast the first stone." Simon should

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STANDARD FARE

By: Ben O. Flores

Manoling Morato

Of the 11 presidential candidates, I know personally only Manoling Morato. I used to be a good friend of his. I say "used to" because we have not seen each other for ages and it is possible his friendly feelings towards me may have gone cold. In fact, I have some basis for this possibility. When I was confined at the National Kidney Institute in April last year, it took four letters before he responded to my appeal for help from his sweepstakes and lotto earnings -- and he responded only when invoked RA 6713 which mandates public officials to respond to letters, appeals or petitions, especially from the public within 15 days from receipt of the letter. (Read the news story, "Gloria Charged For Violation Of RA 6713"). Aside from the delayed response, he responded with only P15,000. I know some people who were given as much as P50,000 for the same purpose.

I don't think Manoling will win but, if he does -- miracles do happen -- he'd not be a bad president at all. At least, he'd make a better president than JDV, the perfect prototoype of a trapo politician whose name is indelibly tarnished with an unpaid P4 billion behest loan. Very few people know this but JDV, when still a neophyte Congressman, had a rape case against him. Complainant was a beautiful model named Marilyn. Venue was the Manila Hotel. Where did I get all this stuff? From a lawyer cousin of mine who handled the case for JDV who got away through an amicable settlement.

Manoling would be the last person to be involved in a rape case. At 65, he is still a virgin. To the taunt that he is a *bacla*, he says, he is not a *bacla* but a celibate. He vowed celibacy after his -- surprise -- girl friend died. "I am a one-woman man," Manoling says, "I was going to marry Cristina Mejia, whose family burned in Matubig St., Pasay. She died on her birthday on July 25. We talked the night before until midnight and at four in the morning she was dead. I was hospitalized for three weeks." Read on for more intimate facts about Manoling's life, taken from a question and answer interview conducted by the INQUIRER staff published in its March 17, 1996 issue under, ironically or is it paradoxically, "My Life is not for Public Consumption."

Your anger with Erap is 30 years old?

He deserves it. I've known him for 27 years. I always told him I wouldn't intrude in your private affairs for as long as you are in the movie industry, because that would not spell the future of our nation. But the moment you run for the presidency, *ibang usapan na yan.*

Why did you lose respect for him?

In 1989 when I was chair of MTRCB, we were still friendly with each other. *Ang talagang inayawan ko sa kanya* was when he was forcing me to allow the showing of "Temptation of Christ." You cannot allow a film that attacks Buddha, Mohammed, much less Christ because we are a Christian country.

Do you consider yourself moral?

Yeah. I think I do adhere to the moral code because of my discipline. I come from a very conservative and strict family and a highly dictatorial father. I was 31 when my father died and my curfew was 7 p.m. I was made to abide by very strict rules. At 13 I was sent to Europe for my schooling. I was an intern. When I got to the States for high school, at Georgetown Prep, I was also an intern. Then I attended Loyola University of Los Angeles.

You are celibate?

For 28 years.

How does one take a vow of celibacy without being religious?

I made an arrangment through an archbishop to take a vow of celibacy. I made the commitment and the pledge, so I honor it.

Since you chose to be celibate, you're no loner attracted to women?

When you are married to your profession, you don't think of anyone special anymore.

What is immoral with our country?

The dictatorial regime destroyed our moral fiber. *Nabaliktad ang* sense of moral values *natin. Ang tama nagin mali, ang mali nagin tama.* I don't mind the money they had stolen. Money can be earned. Economists come and go. But it will take us generations to recover our moral fiber. We will never be a great nation if we do not go back to the basics.

Are you for martial law?

No but if they don't abuse it and you have a benevolent dictator, martial law is good. (Magsaysay said the same thing when red tape obstructed his actions.)

What can you say about the accusation that you were getting P30,000 up per movie during your term in the MTRCB?

You can ask the whole movie industry -- *maski si* Armida (Siguion Reyna) *na kaaway ko* -- if I am the type who can be bought. *Hindi ako talaga puwedeng malagyan. Wala sa ugali ko. Wala sa dugo ko.* Modesty aside, I was born rich. I am a giver, never a taker.

They say you should represent the gays in Congress.

I told them, I don't to be with pigs. *Nagalit sila sa akin,* and said, "why do you call us pigs?" "But don't you eat pork?" I told them. Why make the government spend when you have so many gays inside already. Just get one of them and make him represent the gays.

Is lotto gambling for a cause?

Lotto and sweepstakes are not gambling per se. They are games of chance in the category of entertainment and amusement. Gambling is defined as something addicting and habit-forming. In lotto *tataya ka* for a few minutes, then you go back to your work or home. *Ang mahjongeros,* they sit for days and nights without attending to their businesses or families. *Sa lotto* after you bought your ticket you can go. Over 120 countries in the world have lotto.

Generally, what's the first thing you'll do if you become president?

I'll put the house in order. I really am a good organizer. As an economist, I think a government is like a corporate world, sa pamilya ko 'yan ang training ko.

Fearless Forecast

ERAP will make it! There will be an Eraption of votes for him. My fearless forecast is based not only on the surveys which he has consrstently topped but I have this feeling that the time has come for the country to get a different brand of a President. All past presidents, with the exception of Magsaysay, were learned men, products of the highest institutions of learning. Yet not one of them has reduced the gap between the rich and the poor which, to me, is the true gauge of a country's economic progress -- not statistics like the GNP figure. Magsaysay, an auto mechanic, had he lived long enough, might have succeeded in making the government machinery to function effectively in the war against poverty. Erap is the driver of JEEP (Joseph Erap Estrada for President). He might just have the drive to drive the country to true economic prosperity -- not the statistical prosperity of the *viajero* and his predecessors.

The Other Presidential Candidates

FRED LIM, the surveys show, is breathing on Erap's back, but I don't think he'll overtake him. Lim would gain votes if he smiles more often instead of keeping a poker face. But he made up for his unsmiling face when he shed tears on TV when relating his parentage -- an out-of-wedlock child who never saw his father. It was a sight to see the tough cop who could not control his emotions and had to find lachrymal release. His romance with Cory will also get votes for him, especially if, as one columnist suggests they admit their engagement and entice votes by promising a palace wedding open to the public -- if Fred wins. I am repelled, however, by Lim's boast that he'd jail all government grafters and corruptors within 100 days from his assumption to office. Who will run the government?

IMELDA MARCOS is a brave woman. She does not wilt under the terrific pressures that are bearing down on her -- the 12-year jail term she faces if the Supreme Court confirms the lower courts guilty decision. For the alleged anomaly for which she has been charged, she has defiantly said: "I'll do it again and again and again!" I feel personally indebted to Imelda. The National Kidney Institute where I was confined last year for prostate trouble and where I am still an out-patient was the handiwork of Imelda. Medical services are very competent and very affordable compared to private hospitals -- 85% discount for indigents. While I feel close to being indigent, I could not be classified as such. I got only a 50% discount, which was good enough. Other hospital mansions attributed to Imelda are the Philippine Heart Center, Lung Center and Children's Hospital. The very much used PICC also bears the Imelda trademark. The loudest critics of Imelda, what can they show for accomplishment? Imelda's promise to give to the people the Marcos wealth -- if she wins -- will win her votes but not enough to make her win. Bongbong is a far cry from his father. He's not of much help to his mother.

JUAN PONCE ENRILE, the first beneficiary of *dagdag bawas,* knows he does not have the ghost of a chance to win but since he has billions to squander, what the heck, he might as well join the race for the fun of it or for some political limbering exercise. As an independent candidate, he cannot hope to duplicate the add-minus feat which catapulted him overnight from 17th place in the 1995 elections to No. 12, dislodging Nene Pimentel whose protest has become moot and academic with new elections coming up.

RENATO DE VILLA was sorely disappointed when he was not anointed by Pres. Ramos because he was surely expecting it. He's banking on the military to march him to victory, but that too won't be enough. What amazes me about De Villa is his easy transformation from the stern, stiff, no nonsense general that he was to the typical politician that he has become, doing all the silly antics that politicians do and making glib promises that, a military man, he has no idea of how to fulfill them. A plus factor for him is that his name is untarnished by any scandal or anomaly. Unfortunately, it is not a decisive factor. It is still money, party affiliation and sleight of hand at the polls which are the decisive factors.

RAUL ROCO, the extraordinary woman, has a good record as senator but I think he is not yet ripe for the presidency. It does not mean, however, that his premature move is a sign that *naloloco na si Roco.* (Pardon the corny joke). My fearless forecast is that Roco will be among the tailenders.

LITO OSMEÑA has what he has done for Cebu to recommend him to voters. Can he do it on a national scale? Many voters may want him to give it a try. My fearless forecast is that while he may not win, he will be among those on the top.

MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO believes, and many believe with her, that she beat Ramos in the 1992 elections. She might have won her protest if she had not ran for senator in the 1995 elections. It showed lack of interest, resulting in the dismissal of the case. Miriam is no longer the phenomenon that she was in 1992. To make matters worse, she has a running mate who has very little appeal to the people.

SANTIAGO DUMLAO. Who is he?

Only Worthy Opponent Of Mel

The only worthy opponent of Mayor Mel Mathay is Charito Planas, his vice mayor running mate in the 1992 elections who won with him. Mathay himself had commended Charito, saying that he was among "the luckiest mayors of the country for having a vice mayor with the caliber of Planas, a tireless worker when it comes to the welfare of the city." Her crusade against bold shows is well known. She has managed to be in the limelight with her Monday afternoon TV program "Bakit?" and her Sunday musical presentations at the Quezon Memorial Circle, she being the president of the QC Parks and Development Foundation. She was named "Woman of the Year" by the "QC Confederation of Senior Citizens" headed by former Fiscal Lea T. Castelo, also a former columnist of this paper. My fearless forecast is that she will be Mathay's runner-up in the May 11 elections. Mel, especially with Connie Angeles as running mate, is invincible, and that goes for Connie too.

As to the other opponents of Mel, Herbert "Bistek" Bautista and Brigido R. Simon Jr., they are, more or less, just nuisance candidates. "Bistek" is a has-been actor, he hasn't had a movie for the last 10 years or so. Instead he has been appearing on a Jollibee TV commercial. As to Jun Simon, he has been soundly licked by Mathay twice, in 1992 and 1995. Obviously, Simon has not yet learned his lesson. But he will, come May 11. Bistek might even beat him.

Herbert "Bistek/Jollibee" Bautista: The Non-Performer

Since its first session in 1992 up to the latest, I have been attending City Council sessions religiously. I have copies of the Agenda and Minutes every session as well as privilege speeches. I had to do all these for by "City Council in Session" series in my paper. I believe I can, therefore, speak with some authority on the performance of each and every Councilor, past and present -- including Herbert "Bistek" Bautista as sectoral representative of the youth, 1992-1995, as Presiding Officer, 1995 to March 27, 1998 when he filed his candidacy for Mayor.

Non-Performance

On the Councilors I can speak on their performance but, in the case of Bautista, I can only speak on his non-performance. I am witness to the fact, being always in attendance of sessions, that he was a chronic absentee, during the time he was sectoral representative and during the time he was Presiding Officer. Since, aside from being a regular attendee of Council sessions, I have copies of the Agenda and Minutes of every session, I can also bear witness to the fact that Bistek had not filed a single measure for the welfare of the youth he was supposed to represent. He seldom, if ever, stood up to participate in the deliberations of the Council; he just sat there snugly in his seat arms folded across his breast. Every now and then he would walk about in the session hall trying to look important.

Proof

As Presiding Officer, his absenteeism continued. Proof of this are the many ordinances enacted by the Council which do not bear his signature but those of whoever presided in his absence. Shortly after he had started to preside over Council sessions, the newspapers started calling him "immature and amateurish." To protect the image of the City Council, it passed a Resolution denying the incompetence charge. The sister and brother tandem, Winnie Castelo and Nanette Castelo-Daza refused to sign the Resolution while those who signed, I can imagine, did so with fingers crossed. The former Vice Mayor and Presiding Officer and would-be Mayor claims that the renovation of the Albert Session Hall was his doing. If so, he should explain why the renovation was undertaken through a negotiated contract, instead of a public bidding. There was no emergency situation to justify the contract that Bautista negotiated. City Secretary Atty. Gene Jurilla jestingly told me that it was probably a leak in the roof that created an emergency situation. Complete renovation to fix a leaking roof? Strangely enough, while all contracts entered into by the City government are reproduced in the Agenda, this negotiated contract of Bautista is not. Twice I wrote then Majority Floor Leader Moises Samson asking him to justify the negotiated contract but twice did he refuse to answer. I have referred the matter to the City Auditor.

"Paper" Accomplishments

As to other accomplishments claimed by Bautista, they are of very minor importance and many of them are just "paper" accomplishments, nothing as solid and concrete as the accomplishments of Mayor Mel Mathay. Traditionally, it is the Vice Mayor who is chairman of the QC Anti Drug Abuse Council. But Bautista was so ineffective, the Mayor had to take over and personally directed the anti-drug drive. Bistek's predecessor, Charito Planas, conducted the drive against bold shows and prostitution. Now the Mayor has to do it himself because of the ineptitude of his Vice Mayor.

No Respect For Flag

Bistek has no respect for the flag of our country. During his years as sectoral repesentative and even as vice mayor, he attended the Monday flag raising and oath of allegiance ceremonies only three or four times.

At 28, Herbert is still a bachelor although he is already a father.

How come he was able to beat Charito Planas in the 1995 elections? -- Charito of whom Mayor Mathay himself said he was lucky to have as a very hardworking Vice Mayor. It was Sharon Cuneta who won the vice mayorship for Bistek. Now that Sharon is no longer here to back him up with her name and money, it will be a landslide defeat for Bistek.

God in his mercy will not allow the tragedy of QC having a has-been movie actor and has-been Jollibee commercial actor for Mayor.

The New Capitol
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EDITORIAL. . .

medical services to indigents, and City Hall Day Care Center for the children, 1 to 6 years old, of mother-employees of the City government. Her own colleagues in the City Council have passed a Resolution of Recognition and Appreciation of her "great service to Quezon City." That "great service" includes her humanitarian outreach program of health and social services, which is promoted through the TV program, "Kapwa Ko Mahal Ko," of which she is co-host.

Now, take a look at the performance of the opponents. Herbert "Bistek" Bautista? -- the absentee Presiding Officer, has-been movie actor, Jollibee commercial plugger. Brigido R. Simon, Jr.? -- licked twice by Mathay, mudslinger pro-reform pretender, Simon Pa Rin -- Ang Matatalo. Charito Planas?-- the only worthy opponent, but still far far below the performance record of Mathay. Why, she was even licked by "Bistek" in the 1995 elections.

The Survivor: Mel Mathay

By Ben O. Flores

He is gentle of movement, soft-spoken, cool and affable but when the occasion demands, Mayor Mel Mathay can be tough: He does not get disconcerted by the pressure of crisis. Perhaps, the greatest crisis he had gone through in his public career was his being blamed by his political detractors, for the Ozone Disco fire on March 12, 1996, which caused the death or injury of 251 boys and girls, 162 of them fatally, celebrating their graduation. Upon his exoneration by the DILG, DOJ, NBI, Congress, Media and, above all, by the families of the victims themselves, who uttered not an angry or unkind word against him. INQUIRER columnist Adrian Cristobal wrote: "Not that Mathay is a perfect Mayor, but he has this exasperating talent for survival and popularity with his constituents."



Mel with Adrian

His talent for survival may be said to have started, though in a small way, during his UP and San Beda days. He survived all oratorical competitions and became UP's and San Beda's champion orator. (Incidentally, Mel was in the Board of Editors of the Philippine Collegian of which this writer's brother was Associate Editor and, at one time, Acting Editor-in-Chief).

A Business Administration graduate, majoring in economics, Mel first put to the test his talents in the business and corporate world. It was his family that started the supermarket mode or concept of vending groceries with a modest grocery store in front of Sto. Tomas University. He survived the growing pains of this grocery to become the giant Purefoods Corporation of which Mel became the first President.

Drastic Shift

Mel survived the drastic shift from the business and corporate world to the rough and tumble world of politics. He was elected Vice Mayor of QC in 1967 to Mayor Amoranto. In the 1971 elections, he challenged Amoranto who, at the time, was invincible. As expected, Mel lost. *(I dislike to think that I had something to do, albeit just a tiny bit, with Mel's loss. At the time I was very close to Amoranto. I put out a propaganda sheet, titled "QC Foolitics," for Amoranto against Mel. I said some nasty things about Mel which, to use Mel's own words said when we were already on friendly terms, were "below the belt." Mel is not one to bear grudges. He took me in at MMC when I needed a job.)*

It took 21 years before it can be said that Mel survived that 1971 loss to Amoranto. In the 1992 elections, he finally realized his dream of becoming Mayor of QC. In the interim, Mel went through a physical crisis. In 1985 he survived a quadruple heart bypass performed by top heart surgeons in Houston, Texas. It was his boss, MMC governor Imelda Marcos who arranged the surgery. Thirteen years after the surgery, Mel is hale and hearty. In his last check-up, the doctors said that his heart condition was as good as it was when he just had the bypass.

An emotional crisis came in 1993 when a grandson fell into the family swimming pool and drowned. This is probably the worst crisis of its kind Mel ever went through. It is said that a man or woman, for that matter, sometimes loves a grandson or granddaughter more than his/her own son or daughter. Mel seldom, if ever, loses his temper but, it is said, he blew his top, at those who were taking care of his grandson, Master Anthony Amarillo.

Hectic Pace

As MMC Vice Governor, 1979 to 1986, Mel survived the hectic pace of his boss, Governor Imelda R. Marcos, who was indefatigable. She had this habit of calling the MMC official she needs at unholy hours of the night. It was Mel who was her main Action Man, Trouble-Shooter, and Super-Metro-Aide rolled into one.

In the 1984 elections for the Batasang Pambansa, the anti-Marcos sentiment was intensifying. There was a landslide victory for opposition candidates. Only Mel survived the landslide. He was the only KBL candidate who won. Even Justice Minister Ricardo Puno lost.

The latest crisis Mel survived was the illegal demolition of the dwellings of squatters residing in Sitio Mendez, Baesa, on property owned by the Aranetas: He is supposed to have issued a Memorandum ordering the demolition -- a Memorandum which was found to bear his forged signature. Ever on the alert for things with which to hit Mel, his political enemies pounced on the Sitio Mendez incident to use in assailing Mel who was then vactioning in Europe. He cut short his vacation and rushed home to face the brewing crisis. He boldly promised the squatters, who had camped in lobbies of City Hall, that he would return them to their former dwellings. And he made good that promise.

He was able to persuade the Aranetas to sell the 1.4 ha. lot the squatters had been occupying at the incredibly low price of P2,200 per sq. m. The ease with which Mel had persuaded the Aranetas is not surprising. He had done the same to scores of other property owners whose properties were squatter-ridden.

After surviving the Sitio Mendez crisis, what next? The May 11 elections? But it will not take Mel much doing to survive that -- what with the kind of opponents he has: A has-been actor, now a Jollibee commercial actor; a twice-beaten candidate who has not learned his lesson; and, well, admittedly the only decent, worthy opponent who, however, is under some sort of loser jinx.

A Day In Mel's Life

By Larry V. Sipin

(Manila Standard Columnist)

Mel's third term will be very much like his first and second terms--three more years of back-breaking days and nights.

Care to share Mel Mathay's Day?

If an emergency does not rouse him out fo bed earlier, than usual, he's normally up at 5:00 a.m., at the least, 5:30 a.m. That means, more or less, four hours of sleep, because he calls it a day at 1:00 a.m.

Mel's wake up calls actually come from the radio networks and the early bird television news and public service shows who call him at break of day for interviews.

Mel attends to people the moment he wakes up. Constituents with hand carried problems would already be waiting for him at his home, which is open round-the-clock (but please if it's between 1:00 a.m. to 3:30 a.m., don't wake up the mayor, unless your problem is of life and death import.)

A leisurely breakfast is not in Mel's typical day but he has coffee with his guests as he attends to them, then he rushes to City Hall to attend to constituents with their hand carried problems.

Essentially Mel's job entails meeting and personally serving people all day.

Lunch is usually "on instalments" taken piecemeal at meetings, inspections and other such public appearances where people expect him to eat with them. "I take a plate of pancit here, chosuey there, salad elsewhere, and so on," says Mel, who considers himself lucky that his doctors do not restrict his diet. *"wala naman bawal,* the thing to do is eat in moderation, discipline comes in hand."

There are no breaks in a typical day of Mel Mathay. He attends to business even in his car through the car phone, sometimes on matters calling for on-the-spot decisions.

Evenings are usually for various fora, caucuses, speaking engagements, and the like, which usually end by about 11:00 a.m. to 12 midnight which, Mel says, leaves me about two more hours to read and sign papers.

What a day!

Weekends? A Mayor who likes giving the personal touch to over 2.2 million constituents, does not know the meaning of weekends.

Mel Mathay is the envy of re-electionist Metro Manila Mayors. It's because Mel is running virtually unopposed. To be sure, he has opponents but none of them can give him anxious moments.

Those who know Mel Mathay only as an unbeatable politician would be surprised to know that he embodies the ideal combination of business acumen and local administration savvy which City Hall demands in this troubled economic times.

For instance, you fans of Alvin Patrimonio and Gerry Cordiñera, are you aware that Mel Mathay is a former president of Purefoods Corporation? The Mathay family was among the founders of Purefoods Corporation which would grow into a food giant. An indication that Mel was successful in handling the family business is that he was pirated by Fiat Motors (Philippines) Corporation to become its president.

Unbeatable

With days like that, days with practically no nights, why would Mel Mathay, now 62, want three more years?

Quezon City says he has unfinished business to do: the LRT 2, LRT 3 and LRT4 and the C-5, which would install QC as the heart of Metro Manila mass transit. The year 2000 is the target date for the completion of these projects.

In the blueprint is the proposed inter financial district of QC in a 53-hectare area at North Triangle to be developed like the Ortigas Commercial Center in Pasig. Likewise programmed to rise is a satellite city in the Libis area which, this early, has attracted big multi-national companies.

Mel Mathay aims to complete these projects, and more, on his third and last term.

To be sure, a city like Quezon City shall always be unfinished business. A mayor's work is never done. But when Mel Mathay graduates, he shall have done his part. His successor shall carry on with the unfinished business.

But for now, Mel Mathay is unbeatable.



This is the 1.4-hectare lot which the Aranetas were persuaded by Mathay to sell to the City government for the return of the squatters who had been evicted previously.

Lighter Moments

The Mayor is known as a workaholic but he does take time sometimes to enjoy himself as shown by pictures below.



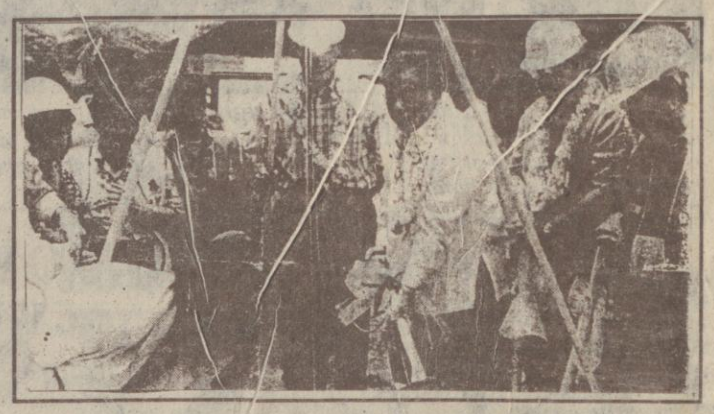
Mexican actress-singer Thalia shows off the key to Quezon City which was presented to her by Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr. (right) at the RPN 9 welcome party for the popular soap opera star.



Quezon City Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr. finds a good excuse to grab the camera of a news photographer to enjoy the Miss Asia Pacific beauties who paid him a courtesy call at his office.

Privatization Of Dapitan Market

The Dapitan Public Market in Bgy. Sta. Teresita has been chosen to be the first for improvement under the City government's privatization program. The improvement will be undertaken by Uthiel Corporation through the build-operate-transfer scheme. Mathay said that the project will introduce an innovative one-stop scheme where the supermarket, wet market and stalls selling basic goods and services will be integrated into one complex. He said that the planned 4,200 sq. m. wet market and an 8,000 sq. m. supermarket will benefit more than 70,000 residents in more than seven barangays surrounding the market.



Quezon City Mayor Ismael A. Mathay Jr. leads city and barangay officials and officers of the Ithiel Corp. in the groundbreaking ceremony for a consumer-friendly and integrated wet market and supermarket at the site of the Dapitan Public Market in Bgy. Sta. Teresita, Quezon City. The new market will be constructed by Ithiel Corp. under the build-operate-transfer scheme. Joining Mathay are Terry Lim of Ithiel, Councilors Ramon "Bu" Mathay and Antonio Sioson, and Bgy. Sta. Teresita chair Olivia Chico.



Quezon City Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr. made the rounds of Nepa-Q Mart along Edsa to check if stallholders are selling their wares at prices allowed by law. Accompanying the mayor are Trade and Industry Undersecretary Ernesto Ordoñez (to Mathay's left) and Greg Banacia, head of the Social Mobilization and Improvement of Life and Environment.

PICTORIAL

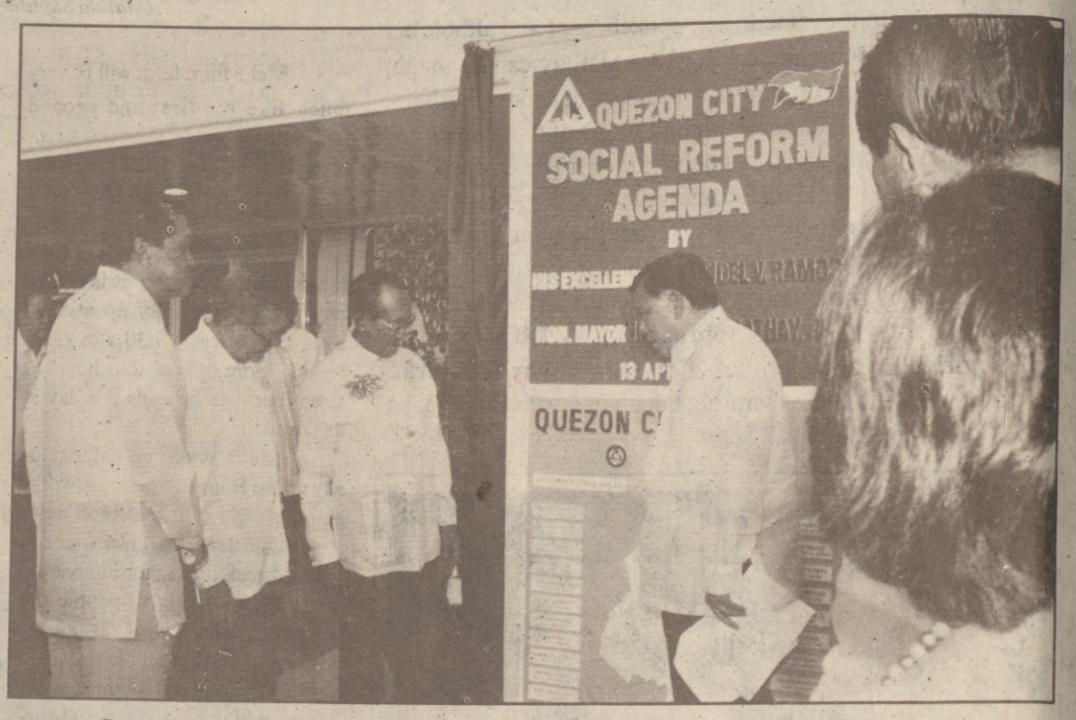
The President's Visit To City Hall

Monday Flagraising Ceremony, April 13, 1998

(All Photos By Vic Oliver)



President Ramos and Mayor Mathay saying their oath of allegiance to the flag. At the back, fourth from left, is Councilor Tony Sioson.



President Ramos and Mayor Mathay look over the different steps in the Social Reform Agenda that will lead to the grant of house and lots to City's squatter families.



Mayor Mel Mathay welcomes the President and thanks him for Proclamation 1119 which declares certain areas of NHA properties to be made available for the City government's socialized housing program. The proclamation was handcarried and given to Mayor Mathay.



Another thumbs up picture with Pres. Ramos (center). Mayor Mathay (at his right), Rep. Mike Defensor (second from left), Councilor and Acting Vice Mayor Jorge Banal (second from right), Vice Mayor candidate Connie S. Angeles (second from left), Councilor Eufemio Lagumbay (at her right), Rep. Calalay (extreme left) and others.



Mayor Mel Mathay (third from right) and his running mate, Connie S. Angeles (second from left) join Councilor and Acting Vice Mayor Jorge Banal, Councilor Lagumbay (second from right), Congressional candidate Ray Orosa (third from left) and an unidentified candidate in raising each other's hands.



Councilor Godofredo Liban asks Mayor Mathay to sign what looks like a folder of -- your guess is as good as mine.



President Ramos (center) doing the thumbs up with Mayor Mathay (at his right) Councilor and Acting Vice Mayor Jorge Banal (extreme right), Congressman Belmonte (second from right), Councilor Nanette Castelo-Daza (center), Councilor Bayani Hipol (at her left), Rep. Rey Calalay (at her right), Councilor Wilma Sarino (second from left) and others.



President Ramos departs, stops to talk to unidentified woman, Mayor Mathay and Councilor and Acting Vice Mayor Jorge Banal watch behind the President.



President Ramos with Mayor Mathay, MMD Chairman Oreta and Councilor and Acting Vice Mayor Jorge Banal

Compliments of a FRIEND

IF IT WAS DONE. ..

National Mother's Day Committee, as the "quintessential mother, wife and daughter."

"It Must Be Correct"

It is said that when Quezon came upon some papers on his table and was told upon his inquiry that it was Mathay who acted on them, Quezon would say: "If it has been done by Mathay, it must be correct!" My point in bringing up Mel's eminent parentage and Quezon's remark is that the qualities and virtues that have given Mel the capacity to do what is right and proper in administering QC in his genes -- in his blood. The competence and integrity of his father and mother in their respective fields is a legacy that he has striven to live up to and has succeeded enormously. That has been shown in his more than 30 years of public service, starting in 1967 as Vice Mayor of the late Mayor Norberto S. Amoranto, then, during the martial law years, Secretary to the General Auditing Office (GAO), in 1979 as Vice Governor of the MMC, elected Assemblyman to the Batasan Pambansa in 1984, Congressman in 1987, and in 1992, Mayor of QC, a dream of 25 years come true. It was during the past six years as Mayor of QC that the legacy of competence and integrity became most pronounced in his performance as a public official as well as a private person. If anything done by Mathay Sr. was correct, what Mathay Jr. has done for QC has been right and proper, as the records will show:

EDUCATION MAYOR

"I would like to be known as the Mayor of QC who has done most for education," Mel once said. I think he has already gotten his wish. He is now called the Education Mayor. On the belief that only education "can level the playing field," Mel has made top priority the enhancement and expansion of educational services and facilities and in equalizing educational opportunities to both rich and poor alike. Towards this end he has:

1. Built 61 school buildings with about 700 classrooms reducing the number of students per class from 70 to 55. More are ongoing and due for completion in no time at all;
2. Upgraded the professional competence of teachers through a retraining program under a Memorandum of Agreement entered into with U.P. and Ateneo de Manila;
3. Provided them with an incentive monthly allowance of P1,250 per teacher and P50 monthly longevity pay for every five years of service;
4. Provided another kind of incentive -- psychological -- by giving full support to the Annual Search for the Most Outstanding School Teachers in QC sponsored by the QC Jayceerettes;
5. Provided Special Education (SPED) classes for all kinds of special children: the fast and slow learners, the low achievers and the impaired of hearing and vision;
6. Provided special classes for out-of-school youths and unemployed adults;
7. Provided kindergarten classes for two-year-olds with the help of NGOs and parents;
8. Provided Parent Values Formation Program for parents through the Charitable Twin Hearts Foundation;
9. Provided scholarship grants to poor but bright secondary graduates who want to pursue their studies in college under the City government's Scholarship and Youth Development Program (SYDP);
10. Established the QC Polytechnic to provide vocational and technical training that will equip young people with the skills that will enable them to find employment;
11. Converted the QC Polytechnic into a University last year.

QC Public Library

A major component of the Mayor's Educational Development Program is the Quezon City Public Library (QCPL), headed by Chief Librarian Blanquita I. Del Barrio. It has 23 satellite libraries in the four districts of the City, including a Children's Library at the Quezon Memorial Circle. QCPL is well stocked, having, at present, more than 110,000 volumes of books and other printed materials, a considerable number of them being donations from the public -- NGOs, Foundations, Friends of the Library (a civic organization of book lovers) -- and private individuals, including U.S. Filipinos (see picture below). QCPL has an average daily attendance of more than 1,000. It is open even on Saturdays: 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Last year, about 1.3 million clients made use of QCPL's facilities and services, utilizing almost 1 million books and other publications. Among its services, it responds to inquiries made through fax, mail or telephone.



Dr. Alba receives books donated by US Filipinos. With him to receive the donation is Chief Librarian Blanquita I. Del Barrio.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The people themselves can attest to the good state of City roads, thanks to the Department of Engineering headed by Engr. Fred Macapugay. Since 1992, more than 180 km. of roads have either been cemented, asphalted or repaired, not to mention barangay roads and subdivision roads already turned over to the City government. Waterways were declogged and dredged for flood control.



Quezon City Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr. is joined by Councilor Connie Angeles during the inauguration of one of five newly-asphalted barangay roads in Payatas A during the mayor's recent visit to the area. The infrastructure projects were cited by Mayor Mathay as instrumental in the effort to improve the living conditions of Payatas residents who make up the majority of the city's urban poor population.



Quezon City Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr. is joined by BOYD (Philippines) Corp. chairman John Boyd in an agreement signing where the Australian-based firm will construct 11 pedestrian bridges in several strategic places in Quezon City to enhance the smooth flow of traffic in the city's busy thoroughfares. Joining them in photo are Mark Fishwick, who is the regional director of BOYD Corp.; City Planning Officer Gerardo Magat and City Engineer Alfredo Macapugay.



CONNIE S. ANGELES
Councilor, 3rd District

Personal Data:

Address: 160 Ermin Garcia Stret, Cubao, Quezon City
Date of Birth: October 31, 1955
Citizenship: Filipino

Educational Background:

Elementary: University of the Philippines Diliman, Q.C., 1968
High School: University of Sto. Tomas, 1972
College: University of the Philippines Diliman, Q.C., 1977
Course: AB Philiosophy

Work Experience:

PR Consultant, Air Manila International, 1977-80
PR Consultant, Travel Club International, 1980-82
PR Consultant, Globe Bland Recruitment Agency, 1982-83
Public Service Host, GMA Channel 7, Kapwa Ko, Mahal Ko, 1983-present
President, CEG Productions, Inc., 1985-present
President, Studio A Workshop, 1987-present
President, Mira Visions, Inc., 1991-present

Professional & Civic Affiliations:

U.P. Sigma Delta Phi Sorority, Batch 76
Board Member, Philippine Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (PRID)
Public Service Program Host, Kapwa Ko Mahal Ko

Awards/Decorations/Achievements:

Philippine Movie Press Club (PMPC) Star Awardee
Best Public Service Program Host, 1990
Best Children's Show Host, Pen-Pen de Sarapen
Best Children Show, Pen-Pen de Sarapen
(Producer of Pen-Pen de Sarapen)

RELOCATION AND RESETTLEMENT OF SQUATTERS

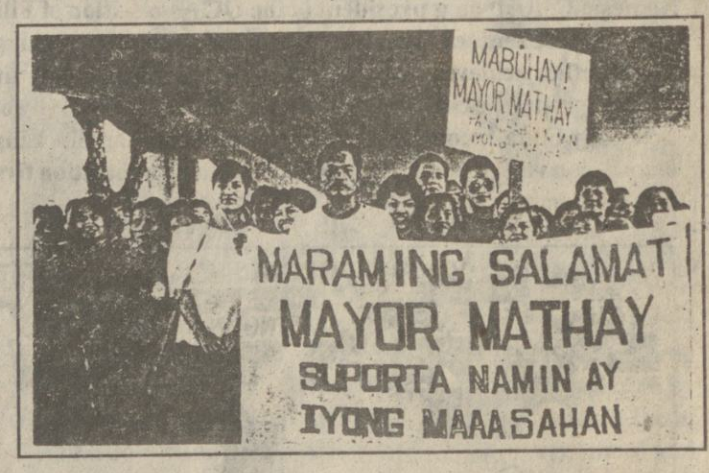
In, 1968, when then Mayor Amoranto went abroad, then Vice Mayor Mathay became Acting Mayor. With the power he acquired in that position. Mathay succeeded in clearing East Avenue of squatters. He had them relocated to Carmona, Cavite. But in no time at all, they returned to squat in other areas. Mathay said that from this experience, he learned a lesson--that you can not just relocate or transfer squatters to a site which is not livable. In other words, it should be relocation--*and resettlement,* the latter word meaning providing the site with all the amenities--water supply, lighting, streets, livelihood opportunities--that make it livable. Relocation alone would be tantamount to banishment or exile.

In tackling the squatter problem, Mathay has adopted the policy of relocation and resettlement, which is in accordance with the lesson of the East Avenue relocation and incidentally with the Lina Law.

But a better way of addressing the squatter problem is through the purchase of the land occupied by squatters and its resale to the occupants, who pay for their respective lots through the Community Mortgage Program (CMP). Mathay has succeeded in persuading the landowners involved to sell their properties, often at reduced prices. Latest example of this method of addressing the squatter problem is the now famous Sitio Mendez eviction case. The Mayor, who was then vactioning in Europe, had to cut short his vaction and rushed home to face the problem. He succeeded in persuading the Aranetas to sell the lot from which the squatters had been evicted--1.4 hectares at the reduced price of only P2,200 per sq.m.

Just two months ago, the Mayor handed Certificates of Program Award to 122 squatters in Bgy. San Antonio . This is the first step towards their acquisition of ownership of the lots they occupy, which will be sold to them an d for which they will pay through the Community Mortgage Program. The Mayor is also nogotiating with the owners of a 2,600 sq.m. land, also in Bgy. San Antonio, for its purchase to be resold to 56 squatter families. He has formed a committee to look for open spaces which can be used for the City government's Socialized Housing Program.

"All possible measures must be exhausted to help our poor residents to become landowners in order that they may no longer be called squatters," he said.



Some 7,000 squatters from 11 barangays staged a mammoth gratitude rally in front of QC Hall recently. They bore placards thanking Mayor Mel Mathay for their acquisition of the lots they had been squatting on for the last 15-20 years, through the City government's Socialized Housing Program. Aside from their land title awards, they will be issued tax declarations to further fortify their ownership of their respective lots, Mathay said. He urged the new lot owners to pay their amortizations religiously, which will be made under the Community Mortgage Program, for 25 years at only 9% interest. The city mayor thanked the owners of the lands involved -- some 15 hectares -- for their humanitarian spirit in consenting to sell their properties at reduced prices, for the sake of squatters.



Quezon City Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr. (center) cuts the ceremonial ribbon to formally open the SMILE Citihomes Model Units. More than 1,500 units will be made available at the low-cost housing project in Barangay Kaligayahan in Novaliches. Looking on are Willie Uy, president of PHINMA Property Holdings, the developer of the low-cost housing units.

Plaques of Recognition Awards



Quezon City Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr. is congratulated by PNP chief Director-General Recaredo Sarmiento III after he received a plaque of appreciation for his unrelenting concern for the preservation of public order and safety during the awarding ceremonies for Metro Manila's top 12 policemen at the Philippine National Police headquarters. A cash incentive of P5,000 was given by the mayor to each of the awardees. The search for the top 12 metro cops is sponsored by the Metro Police Chronicle and the Citizens' Crime Watch. Looking on are Chief Supt. Hermogenes Ebdane of the National Capital Region Command Police Office (NCRPO) and Chief Supt. Romeo Peña, director of investigation and detective management.



Quezon City Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr. receives from Nemesio Co, outgoing president of the QC Association of Filipino-Chinese Businessmen, Inc., a plaque of appreciation citing, among other achievements, the Mayor's unrelenting commitment to propel the city's growth and development. Looking on are: Tony Chua, incoming association president; Tan She Ling, association vice president; and Charles Chen, association first vice president.



Quezon City Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr. receives a plaque of appreciation from Juanito Cambangay, national president of the League of Local Planners and Development coordinators of the Philippines Inc. during the league's 8th National Convention at the the Jade Valley Restaurant in Quezon City.



Quezon City Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr. (right) receives a plaque of appreciation from Philippine Institute of Civil Engineers (PICE)-QC Chapter President Mariano Raner III on the occasion of the chapter's 16th anniversary celebration at the Sulo Hotel. Looking on is engineer Remigio Magaan, the chapter's outgoing secretary. The mayor was cited for his contribution to the growth and progress of the city. He called on the members of the institute to continue as partners of the government in its quest to make the city the country's premier metropolis.

VISITORS



In town is distinguished Los Angeles-based immigration lawyer Michael Gurfinkel (right). Photo shows his recent courtesy call to Quezon City Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr. who presented him the symbolic key to the city. A long-time supporter an advocate of the Filipino community in the US, Gurfinkel was lauded for furthering Filipino causes and concerns, helping thousands of Filipinos legalize their immigration status and bringing families together.



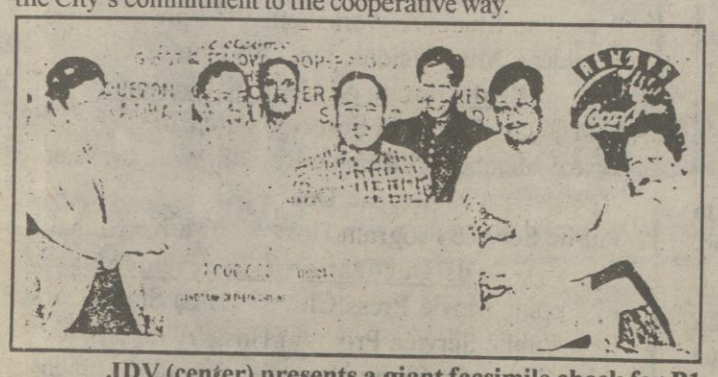
Quezon City Mayor Ismael A. Mathay Jr. presents the key to the city to P. Malueka who heads a nine-man delegation from the Greater Pretoria Metropolitan Council during a goodwill visit at the City Hall. The South African delegates arrived in the country for a four-day tour hoping to establish a sister-city agreement with Quezon City. Joining Mathay and Malueka are L.J. Botha, chief executive officer of the council; T.G. Khunalo of the executive committee for transport and land use; P.J. Venter, executive director for finance; R. Rosenberg, tour clerk for the Norther Pretoria Metropolitan Substructure; N.



Quezon City Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr. greets Mario Panoringan, the founding president of the Daly City-Quezon City sister city committee, who paid a courtesy call on the mayor at City Hall. Panoringan said they are looking to further expand the sister-city ties between Quezon City and Daly City in California. Mathay said further talks could include wider trade ties between businessmen of both cities. Looking on is city administrator Dr. Manuel Alba.

QC, Cooperative Capital Of The Country

JDV's one-million peso check is an acknowledgement of the City's commitment to the cooperative way.



JDV (center) presents a giant facsimile check for P1 million as his donation to boost the operations of the QC Cooperatives Development Council. Assisting in the presentation are Mayor Mathay (second from left), Councilors Anthony Alonzo, Victor Ferrer Jr., and Tony Sioson. At extreme right is Cooperatives Development Authority Administrator Bert Zingapan.

WISE & OTHERWISE

By Eddie C. Flores



Fernandez: A Political Stuntman Not Statesman

Rudy Fernandez, who made his fortune in the world of make-believe -- the movies where he made many forgettable action flicks portraying and glorifying the lives of notorious criminals, was hailed by another run-of-the-mill actor comedian turned politician, Herbert "Bistek" Bautista, a statesman (WOW, MALI) immediately after he was chosen as LAMMP QC mayoralty bet instead of Fernandez, who was also actively and eagerly seeking the party's blessing. "Bistek" praised Fernandez lavishly and graciously for yielding to him. But don't look now, immediately after "Bistek" turned his back, raging ambition -- desire for political power and glory -- took the better of Fernandez as he executed a daring political stunt by somersaulting into the camp of the Liberal Party (LP), which gladly welcomed him and baptized him as its candidate for the QC mayoralty post, thus exposing and revealing the true color of Fernandez as a mere political opportunist -- a stuntman and not a statesman.

After the sudden and dramatic entry of Fernandez into one of the country's oldest political party (LP), form QC Vice Mayor Charito Planas was unceremoniously and cruelly denied her own party's blessing as its QC mayoralty bet. In fact, prior to the entry of Fernandez, Planas was the LP first and logical choice, rightly so because Planas has always been a loyal, competent and dependable party member. Unfortunately, the LP junked poor Planas like an unwanted garbage in favor of Fernandez, thus choosing movie glamour, glitter and popularity over loyalty, competence and dependability and in the process exposing and revealing the true color of the LP as a pseudo advocate of principled politics, progress and reform. And, as such, the good people of QC will give the LP a good dose of their own medicine by junking its QC mayoralty bet -- Fernandez -- hook, line and sinker, when they troop to their respective polling precincts to cast their ballots.

I Can Not Ask For More – Liban

Sometime ago, QC Congressman Dante Liban, a rabid exponent of the Novaliches Cityhood movement, dropped by the office of QC Councilor Victor V. Ferrer Jr. who is leading by a mile in the race for the city's 1st district congressional seat. After exchanging pleasantries with Ferrer, Liban suddenly waxed nostalgic and sentimental as he reminisced on his harrowing experiences during his childhood days. "I could not ask for more, God has been so kind to me; I was orphaned at a very young age and was forced to do odd jobs like waitering and boot blacking to send myself to school until I became a Councilor and now Congressman. Thus lachrymously declared Liban to which Ferrer nodded approvingly. Indeed, Liban has gone a long way and there is no stopping him now from asking for more and seeking for greener pasture. But, don't look now, Liban is now asking for a big chunk of QC -- the separation of Novaliches and its conversion into his

(Turn To Page 7)

Quezon City Is In Reality, If Not In Law, The Capital Of The Country

Proof of this is the continuous construction of important National Offices, like those shown below.



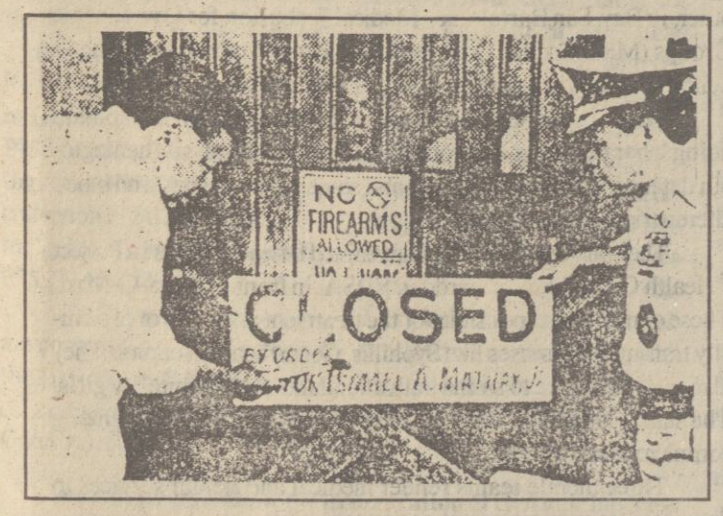
Assisted by Quezon City Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr. (right) and Sandiganbayan presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena (to Mayor Mathay's right), President Ramos lowers the time capsule during the groundbreaking ceremonies for the new Sandiganbayan building at the House/Senate Electoral Tribunal compound in Batasan Road, Quezon City. Partly hidden behind the President is Chief Justice Andres Narvasa.



Officials view a model of the administration building complex of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration following the cornerstone laying at the Science Garden in Quezon City. In photo are (from left) Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr., Science and Technology Secretary William Padolina, Rep. Sonny Belmonte and PAGASA officials.

"There Are No Untouchables In This City" --Mathay

With this battlecry, Mayor Mathay has launched a vigorous, determined and relentless drive against prostitution and bold shows in sauna baths, massage parlors and discos. He has been doing the padlocking himslef. He has already padlocked scores of these nightspots or funhouses (see pictures) but the prize catch is the closure of Maalikaya, reputedly the biggest of its kind in Asia. The court had turned down the owners petition for a writ of injunction and for good reasons. Maalikaya has no sanitary permit and that walone was sufficient ground for the



Quezon City Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr. (left) places a sign declaring the Bigwig Disco and Restaurant on Quezon Ave. closed for violation of PD 969, the anti-lewd show law. Also closed were Palace Health Center Suna Bath on Timog Ave., Klub Maginoo on Quezon Ave., Hype on Scout Ybardolaza, and Flirtation Disco on Aurora Blvd., Cubao. With Mathay are Central Police District Command director Chief Hercules Cataluña and Supt. Abner Cabalquinto, CPDC station commander.

Mayor to exercise his police power in closing the establishment. The closure was made jon Nov. 20 last year, which means that Maalikaya has stayed closed for more than five months in stark contrast to previous closures which were good for only four or five days, or even less, earning the City government's drive against sauna bath and massage parlors and discos the term close-open. Mathay is out to erase that term from the public mind.



Mayor Mathay and policemen at the Klub Maginoo on Quezon Avenue.

Biggest-Ever-Drug Bust

The biggest-ever-drug bust was made by operatives of the Central Police District Command (CPDC) in November last year. CPDC was then under Col. Hercules Cataluña. The haul consited of 253 kilos of shabu contained 1n 10 plastic bags. The two Chinese nationals, Que Ming Kha and Quing Que Yu, who yielded the drug, were arrested when the van they were driving sideswiped an 8-year old boy selling ice cream along Commonwealth Ave. Forty seven (47) kilos of the confiscated drug were subsequently pilfered and some of them was presented to Mayor Mathay who turned them over to the police. Kha and Yu were tried and sentenced to death.



Officials present to the media Go and Que (behind them) as well as the 253 plastic bags of shabu seized from them. The officials are (from left) Mayor Ismael Mathay, Interior Secretary Robert Barbers and PNP Chief Recaredo Sarmiento II.

The pilfered shabu led Mathay to suggest to then Justice Secretary Guingona that he lay down a rule that once the confiscated drug has been verified and accepted as evidence in court, they be immediately destroyed to avoid pilferage. There is now such a rule.



Two Chinese nationals, Que Ming Kha (right) and Quing Que Yu (left), face reporters after they were sentenced to death for drug trafficking yesterday by Judge Jaime Salazar of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 103. They were convicted of transporting 253 kilos of the banned drug, metamphetamine hydrochloride, popularly known as "shabu" or "ice." The two were driving a van on May 16, 1997 when it collided with a seven-year-old boy. Police caught up with them and discovered the drugs in the van, court records said.



Quezon City Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr., accompanied by Central Police District director Sr. Supt. George Aliño, enforces closure order on Club Giorgio.

INEFFECTIVE VICE MAYOR

Mayor Takes Direct Charge of Anti-Drug Drive

An ineffective vice mayor, Herbert "Bistek" Bautista, has driven Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr. to directly take charge of the Anti-Drug Abuse drive. He has taken over the chairmanship of the QC Anti-Drug Abuse Council (QCADAC) which has been traditionally chairmanned by the Vice Mayor -- until an incompetent vice mayor came along.

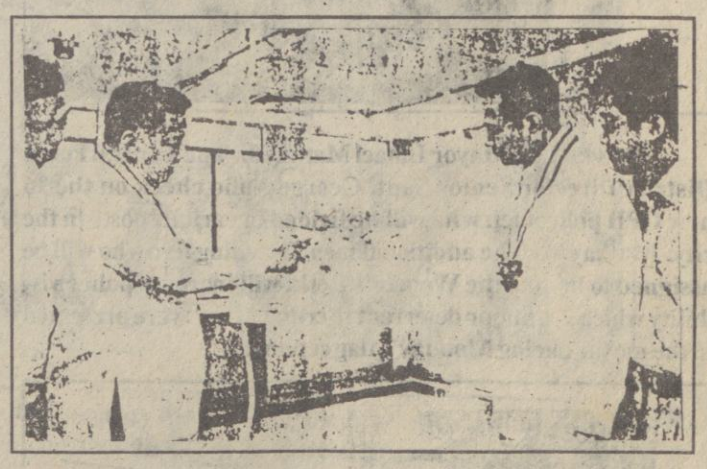


Quezon City officials sign a manifesto declaring their commitment to fight drugs in the city. The officials unveiled an action plan called 'Lungsod Quezon Laban sa Droga.' Signing the manifesto are (from left) City Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr., PNP Director General Recaredo Sarmiento II, Chief Supt. Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., and Councilor Ramon Mathay. Witnessing the signing are QC Reps. Dante Liban and Reynaldo Calalay.

After having hosted several national anti-drug congresses and seminars, the Mayor is well prepared to personally direct the drive. He has launched a "holistic approach" to tackle the drug problem, the the No. 2 problem in Q.C. It consists of Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation and Apprehension. The Prevention aspect of the "holistic approach" calls for intensive information campaign to involve the schools, barangays and NGOs. For the Treatment/Rehabilitation aspect, a Detoxification Ward at the QC General Hospital and another Rehabilitation Center -- there is one already in Payatas -- will be put up on a 5,000 sq. m. lot in Camp Karingal. It will accommodate about 120 drug addicts. For the Apprehension aspect that will be the job of the police who will be aided by Barangay Tanods.



Quezon City Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr. burns an effigy of a drug lord at the City Hall quadrangle at the start of the Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Week. The Mayor is joined by (from left): Councilors Ramon 'Bu' Mathay, Nanette Daza, Godofredo Liban, Wilma Amoranto Sarino, Jorge Banal and Bayani Hipol, and CPDC Director Col. George Aliño.



Quezon City Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr. (2nd from left) explains to Justice Secretary and acting chairman of the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB) Teofisto Guingona (2nd from right) the P20 million drug rehabilitation center to be built at Camp Karingal in Quezon City, during launching ceremonies for an Advocacy Seminar on Drug Abuse Prevention and Control at the Quezon City Hall. Looking on are Councilor Ramon 'Bu' Mathay (left) and Quezon City Vice Mayor Herbert Bautista.

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O. SOL PALACPAC



'It is reassuring to know that Quezon City under Mayor Mathay is leading the way to fight the drug menace.'

Mel's StrongPolitical Will

The determined efforts of Quezon City Mayor Ismael A. Mathay Jr. to rid the city of night spots used as fronts for prostitution and even lewd shows continue to gain the support of the residents, including religious leaders. The mayor's battlecry "There are no untouchables in Quezon City," which shows a very strong political will never before shown in the city -- to underscore his determination to go after the violators of laws and ordinances, no matter who they are -- is likewise earning the respect of residents not only in Quezon City but also elsewhere who had thought he was a "softie" simply because he did not shoot first and ask questions later.

Mayor Mel Mathay adheres to what is legal and right. He has a duty to perform, despite the political implications, and no matter who gets hurt, as long as he is doing it for the good of the greater majority of the residents. In other words, he is compassionate yet tough, while steering the city towards development and progress. Which cannot be said of other Metro Manila mayors.

Residents find this as one of the admirable traits of the mayor, despite the closeness of the 1998 elections, where he will be seeking his third and last term. A local government official made of lesser stuff, and not sure of the support of his people, could have done the cleansing long before -- even after -- the coming elections.

(Reprinted from the column of O. Sol Palacpac, MALAYA)

WISE...

dream city and, as a greener pasture land for the benefit of Liban and company -- political wise and otherwise. In the event, which is a remote possibility, that Novaliches is cut off from her mother city, the latter will become an orphan and will certainly go through the same harrowing experience that Liban suffered when he was orphaned. When Liban was orphaned it was the work of God but if Novaliches will be orphaned it will be the naughty work of Liban which will be very costly as it will cost the country's taxpayers ten million pesos to hold a referendum which will decide once and for all this distracting cityhood issue. The huge amount involved could be used for a better and more urgent purpose, like buying badly needed rice and foods for the starving people of Mindanao. Liban, if he is dead serious in realizing his dream city, must use his CDF fund for this not-too-urgent purpose and do the starving people of Mindanao a great favor and, who knows, out of gratitude, they will help Liban carve his dream city jout of the vast and unexplored land of Mindanao -- the so called land of broken and unfulfilled promises.

PEACE AND ORDER

The Central Police District Command (CPDC) is not under the City government but the Mathay administration has given it all out support in the form of patrol and mobile cars, motorcycles, communications equipment and, only recently, computerization sets to link the 11 police stations in QC for more efficient crime prevention and apprehension. Last year, the issuance of police clearance was computerized, the first of its kind in the country, thanks also to the City government. Incentive allowance of P1,000 per month is given to every policeman. Mathay gave P5,000 to each of the 12 Most Outstanding Policemen of QC. Response time has been cut to six minutes while crime solution efficiency has increased to 92.6%.



Sr. Supt. George Aliño receives the command flag of the Central Police District from Quezon City Mayor Ismael Mathay as Chief Supt. Hermogenes Ebdane, director of the National Capital Region, looks on. Aliño, a 1972 Philippine Military Academy graduate, took over from Chief Supt. Hercules Cataluña.



Mayor Mel Mathay tries out the computers to be used in linking the 11 police stations in Quezon City for more effective crime prevention and apprehension. Looking on are CPDC Director Col. George Aliño and Councilor Alberto Galarpe. Launched during Monday's flag ceremony, this computerization of police stations is the latest in the City government's computerization program. Last year police clearance computerization was put in place, reportedly the first of its kind in the country. Inter-office computerization of the city government was also started and will continue until all offices are covered, Mathay said.



Quezon City Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr. and Central Police District Director Senior Supt. George Aliño check on the 96 new CPD policemen who will be fielded in various posts in the city. Mathay said the additional men, including five who will be assigned to handle the Women's Desk, will increase police visibility which is a major deterrent to crime. They were presented to the mayor during Monday's flag ceremony.



Quezon City Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr. (right), together with Rep. Dante Liban, inspects the six brand-new ambulances which the Quezon City congressman presented to the mayor during Monday's flag raising ceremonies. The ambulances, which are part of Liban's Lingkod-Bayan project, will be turned over to each of the six councilors of the city's second district. With them are councilors Wilma Amoranto Sarino, Marciano Medalla, Dodi Liban and Fresca Biglang-awa.

CLEAN AND GREEN

Task Force Clean and Green was created by Mayor Mathay after the LGC had devolved the function of environmental management to local government units. This task force is in charge of cleaning, greening and beautification activities of the City government as well as air pollution contorl and solid waste management (garbage collection and disposal in plain language). The SWS has given high ratings for the cleaning, greening and beautification accomplishments of the City government. Air pollution density in QC is among the lowest in Metro Manilas. Garbage collection and disposal is still a probem but it has been greatly improved by the adoption of the Barangay Waste Management Program which puts the barangay in the frontline of the program. The Task Force Clean and Green is headed by Atty. Cesar Ramirez.



Quezon City Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr. , Sen. Heherson Alvarez and Environment Secretary Victor Ramos look on as an inspector of the Quezon City Pollution Control Unit checks on the emissions of a pick-up at the launching of a series of emission tests at the City Hall compound. The launching coincides with the observance of November as Clean Air Month. Mathay said the city's anti-pollution unit conducts the emissions test year-round. Alvarez, on the other hand, stressed that Quezon City has long been supportive of the anti-pollution efforts of nongovernmental organizations.



Quezon City Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr. congratulates Barangay Holy Spirit chairman Felicito Valmocina after the selection of the barangay as the cleanest and greenest in a search conducted by the Department of Interior and Local Government. Barangay Holy Spirit, which largely constitutes urban poor families, bested 13 other barangays in the city to earn the right to represent Quezon City in the National Capital Region level. Also in photo are Councilors Ramon 'Bu' Mathay and Almario Francisco and officials of Bgy. Holy Spirit.

HEALTH NOTES

(Editor's Note: We hope to make this a regular feature in this paper.)

Keeping oneself healthy is often expensive, what with the high cost of medicines. The cheapest vitamin pills or capsules cost a little less than P10 each and you have to take 2 or 3 of them a day. For our starting notes, we give you two prescriptions for enhancing your health which will not cost you anything: Laughter and Exercise. When he was still Secretary of Health, this is what Senator Juan Flavier said about the health-giving virtues of laughter:

- Five minutes of laughter has many health benefits. It is equivalent to one hour of exercise
- Laughter is an "internal jogging" which reduces stress and is good for the immune system
- Laughter relieves muscle tension because it helps the body to remove great amounts of accumulated carbon dioxide
- The facial laugh muscles instruct the brain to feel good
- Laughter is an effective cure for arthritis
- In many hospitals in the United States, they have "humour rooms," "nurses for laughing" and "smiling therapy" for ailing patients.

EXERCISE

Walking is one of the best forms of exercise. It does the following:

- It lowers blood pressure which causes strokes, heart attacks and kidney disorders
- It strengthens the muscles of the heart and regulates cardiac output for a slower and more efficient heart rate
- It improves lung efficiency in extracting oxygen from the air and in the delivery of oxygen to all parts of the body, tissues and cells
- It improves breathing capacity
- It strengthens the muscle fibers throughout the body to maintain muscle tone
- It maintains bone strength and structure by preserving the mineral content of the bone, thus preventing osteoporosis (bone thinning) and certain forms of arthritis.

HEALTH SERVICES

The City government maintains 58 Health Centers, 5 Lying-in Centers and 4 Mental Hygiene and Drug Intervention Clinics. The 250-bed capacity of QC General Hospital has been renovated to render medical and surgical services of the highest quality. Proof of this is that the QCGH has been designated a pilot hospital. As such, it has contributed to the establishment of the Philippine Society for Quality Health Care. Last year two branch hospitals were put up in Novaliches, one in Bgy. Sta. Lucia and the other, in Bgy. San Bartolome. Medical Extension for Low Income Groups (MEL Groups for short) have been conducting medical/dental missions benefitting indigent patients.

There is one City Laboratory jin the QC Hall compound doing laboratory examinations like urinalysis, fecalysis, hemoglobin determination, blood typing and sputum microscopy and blood chemistries.

There are two Sexually Transmitted Diseace clinics in Project 7 Health Center and Bernardo in EDSA, in front of Nepa-Q-Mart. These clinics are responsible for the treatment and control of sexually transmitted diseases like Syphillis, Gonorrhea and others. They also give clearance to sauna bath attendants and hospitality girls. The staff is also doing HIV-AIDS Surveillance of 6 months among commercial sex workers.

Three mobile teams render medical and dental services to depressed communities not easily accessible.

An Employee's Clinic at the 1st floor in City Hall attends to the medical needs of City Hall employees and those of offices and barangays surrounding it.

Family Planning Clinic in the QC Hall compound renders Familh Planning services, Pre-Marital Counselling for Marriage License applicants.

There are also nine Acute Care Centers in District IV manned by a team of physicians, nurses and midwives. They are open 24 hours.

A training center at Bernardo Health Center provides human resource development training for QCHD personnel. They are also in charge of the Affiliation Program of Nursing and Midwifery schools whose students undergo practicum in Community Health in different areas in Quezon City.

The City government's Health Department, presently headed by Dr. Magdalena M. Ybañez, renders wide ranging medical services under sme 13 different programs which include Maternal and Child Care, Control of Acute Respiratory Diseases, Control of Diarrheal Diseases, Family Planning, Nutrition, Tuberculosis Control, Leprosy Control, STD Control, etc.

The continuing improvement of public health in QC is indicated by the continuing decline in infanrt mortality rate, which is considered in the medical world as the most accurate indicator of the state of public health.



Quezon City Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr. cuts the ribbon inaugurating the San Bartolome annex (top) of the QC General Hospital. He reiterated the city government's continuing commitment to provide optimum delivery of health care and medical services to the city's poor constituents. The QCGH-San Bartolome Annex has a 25-bed capacity. Joining the mayor during the ceremony are QC General Hospital Director Marina Yulo-Bringas and Councilors Fresca Biglang-awa, Marciano Medalla and Minority Floorleader Godofredo Liban.



Quezon City Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr. inaugurates the health center in Payatas A, with the mayor reiterating the city government's continuing commitment to develop Payatas as the city's next growth area. The mayor expresses optimism that the newly inaugurated health center could be instrumental in the optimum delivery of medical and health services to the residents of Payatas, which constitutes majority of the city's urban poor population.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION

Inspite of the economic difficulties of th times, like peso devaluation and high interest fates, busniness development and expansion continues in QC. Business taxes collection is an indication of this continuous business uptrend. Records of the Business Permits and License Office, headed by Col. Rafael Galvez, show that business taxes collection in 1997 of P758,641,591.00 is 12.68% more than the 1995 business taxes collection of P673,265,531.00-- in figures, the increase is a hefty P85,371,060.00.

With the entrance of giant corporations like Ayala and the expansion of equally gigantic companies, like Robinson, Gotesco, Shoemart, some P100 billion in new investments are expected to pour into the City's business world. On the verge of implementation is the development of big business centers, like the North Triangle Commercial Center, the 100 hectare U.P. Commercial Center, the Redevelopment of the Cubao Commercial Center, Marvex Legacy Homes, Metal Testing Center, which is expected to make QC the industrial and technological advancement and development center in Metro Manila. The building boom is expected to continue. Last year 2,539 building permits for residential and commercial buildings, of were issued generating an income of P53,243,005.68.

Pictures below show the inauguration of two new business establishments and expansion of another, just a few of the manifestations of the City's ongoing business development and expansion.



HOTEL RESIDENTIAL PROJECT

Taipan John Gokongwei (left) and James L. Go of Robinson's Land Corp. brief Quezon City Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr. on the second tower project of the Manila Galleria Suites and a high-end residential condominium building at the corner of Ortigas and ADB Avenues during the groundbreaking rites for the new venture of RLC.



EXPANDED GALLERIA NOW OPEN

An expanded Robinson's Galleria was inaugurated during a formal reception at the mall with Quezon City Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr., center as guest of honor and actress/singer Donna Cruz, second from left, and Vice Mayor Herbert Bautista, left, as special guests. Also present during the ribbon cutting are architect William V. Coscolluela, 4th from left, and Robinsons Land Corp. president James L. Go, right.



54th GOLDILOCKS BRANCH

Quezon City Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr. (center) cuts the ribbon to open the 54th branch of the Goldilocks food chain at the corner of Aurora Blvd. and Anonas St. Mayor Mathay thanked Goldilocks, the country's largest bakeshop, for bringing affordable and high-quality baked products to city residents. Joining Mayor Mathay at the ribbon cutting are Harvey Tan of BCD Corp. and Goldilocks, mascot of the food chain.

For Lack Of Issues Against Mathay Opponents Rake Up Ozone Disco Fire Debris

Opponents of re-electionist Mayor Mel Mathay, for lack of issues they can pit against him, are raking up the Ozone Disco fire debris by holding masses and rallies at the ruins of the hapless disco. Their very apparent purpose is to revive the blame that had been put on Mathay for the tragedy, which had caused the death or injury of 251 young boys and girls celebrating their graduation. They forget, deliberately and pretendingly, that Mathay had been completely and absolutely rid of blame for the disco fire. The DILG, NBI, DOJ, Congress and Media gave Mel a Clean Bill of Health. But the most telling, most forceful, most absolute proof that Mel was blameless was that not one of the families of the victims and of the surviving victims themselves pointed an accusing finger at Mel. Instead of cursing and denouncing him, not an unkind word came from them -- instead they thanked him for all the help the city government and he, in his personal capacity, were giving them. *(The pictures on this page convey better than words the outpouring of gratitude of the families of the victims to Mel.)* He continues to assist the surviving victims, still undergoing rehabilitation.

Many associations and organizations supported Mel during the ordeal he went through as his political detractors, the wannabe QC Mayors, shrieked for his blood: They passed resolutions expressing their unstinted support, excerpts of which are as follows:

Metro Manila Council

"We pledge our individual and collective support to Mayor Ismael A. Mathay Jr. in his sincere efforts to comfort and provide assistance to the families of the victims.

"We commend Mayor Mathay's exemplary deportment and quiet courage in the face of the desperate efforts of his political enemies and critics to make him principally responsible for the tragic incident."

Quezon City Public School Teachers Association

"THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED to express full confidence and support to His Honor, Mayor Ismael A. Mathay, Jr. and prevail upon him to remain in his position and continue serving his constituents."

QC Association of Filipino-Chinese Businessmen, Inc.

"The resolution (of the QCAFCB) which was adopted by the association during its regular monthly meeting lauded Mayor Mathay for the assistance he has extended to the relatives of the Ozone fire victims.

"The association members believed that no other mayor had served QC better Mayor Mathay who, they said, continued to gain the people's trust and confidence for all the efforts he has undertaken to improve the living conditions of the city constituents." *(MANILA BULLETIN news story, April 22, 1996)*

Letters to the Editor

"What deeply saddens me at this time is what's happening to Mayor Mathay who is, at heart, a good man. During the kidnapping of two sons and a nephew of the letter writer in August 1994, he and General Panfilo Lacson were the two government officials who helped us recover the boys. They worked quietly in the background, even late into the night, monitoring the daily developments with no fanfare and publicity. Their sincere concern and dedication to duty were truly inspiring and restored our faith in good government."

Mrs. Kata J. Bellosillo
Diliman, Q.C.
(MANILA BULLETIN, April 3, 1996)

"I am appealing to some lawmakers and politicians who may expect to profit politically from the innuendos linking Mayor Mathay to be more objective and reasonable. They know, for a fact, that Mayor Mathay had nothing to do with the issuance of permits to Ozone disco and its inspection."

Rodrigo Samonte
UP, Diliman, Quezon City
(MANILA BULLETIN, April 16, 1996)



Quezon City Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr. (2nd from left) hands over a check for P37,000 to Jose Renen Galang, one of the survivors of the Ozone Disco fire, for his medical and surgical needs. Mathay has been personally attending to the needs of the survivors of the fire. Galang, accompanied by his parents Jose (left) and Melba thanked the Mayor for his continued support. Several survivors are now employed at the city's Social Services Development Department. Also in photo are Cynthia Dria and Fe Macacle of SSDD.

Sound Fiscal Position, High Credit Standing

Under Mayor Mel Mathay, the City government has always maintained a sound fiscal position. This is because, it does not resort to deficit spending. Under what is called High Prioritization Expenditures policy, the most urgent, critical and indispensable needs and public services are determined and expenditures are adjusted accordingly.

As to high credit standing, there are no better attestations than Land Bank's offer to pay the balance of the City government's PNB loan and a corollary offer to give additional loan. Not to be outdone, the PNB, (I suspect PNB management read our press release, Land Bank Offers To Pay QC PNB Loan, which appeared in the Feb. 8, 1998 issue of MANILA BULLETIN), also offered to give an additional loan to the City government, if it so desired.

The QC government is one of our prime clients, wrote PNB Vice President Josefino Gamboa to Mayor Mathay.

QC Files Bid To Host World Expo 2002

In a bid to host the World Expo 2002, the City government has submitted to the International Exposition Bureau (IEB) the 26-hectare Quezon Memorial Circle (QMC) and the 15-hectare Wildlife Park as the site of said Expo.

This was announced by Mayor Mathay on Jan. 30. He said that the choice of QC was made by the Department of Tourism. The combined area of QMC and Wildlife Park, 41 hectares, is a hectare more than the 46 hectares required by the IEB.

Mathay said that if QC succeeds with its bid to host World Expo 2002, millions of tourists will come to the City and QC will be projected as an investment field for the world's giant trade investors. (Turn to the October portion of this review for more on the World Expo 2002).



Quezon City Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr. is joined by Tourism Secretary Mina Gabor, City Administrator Dr. Manuel Alba, QC Parks Development Foundation director Charito Planas and University of the Philippines vice president for Planning and Development Fortunato dela Peña signing a memorandum of agreement to use the QC Memorial Circle as the site of the World Expo 2002 which the Philippine government has bidded to host. A preparatory meeting has been undertaken by all concerned agencies for the improvement and renovation of the said property, to which the city government is the administrator. The DOT has submitted its bid with the Bureau of International Exposition. Secretary Gabor is the commissioner general of the World Expo 2002 Philippine Commission.



Quezon City Mayor Ismael A. Mathay Jr. (with shovel at left) is joined by officials of the Bureau Internationale Des Exposition from Paris, France in a tree-planting activity at the Quezon Memorial Circle. Also shown are: Tourism Secretary Mina Gabor (extreme right) and QC Parks Development Foundation chairman Charito Planas. The BIE inquiry mission, headed by Gilles Noghes of Monaco, is embarking on a weeklong visit to the country to determine its chances of hosting World Expo 2002.

"What a great pity if Mayor Mathay is sacked! The low-profile, action-oriented City Mayor has a sterling record of achievements and sincere concern for his constituents."

Fr. Bel R. San Luis, SVD
MANILA BULLETIN, April 8, 1996

"Blaming Mathay for the tragedy is carrying the principle of command responsibility a bit too far. Its just like blaming Corazon Aquino for the massacre at Mendiola by the police just because she was the Commander-in-Chief at that time."

Ramon Tulfo
INQUIRER, March 28, 1996

INVINCIBLE TEAM...

be the last to cast stones at Mathay. His administration was replete with irregularities and anomalies, most of them in connivance with grounded GSO Officer Rolando Montiel and his Community Relations Officer (I don't recall his name). Since I have always adhered to the principle: "Get out first before you attack your employer" I had to watch helplessly. I had to watch how Simon leased an NHA lot located across SM City, purportedly for the relocation of sidewalk vendors. But what did he do? He subleased the lot to big business establishments. The sub-lease payments were never accounted for. It was under Simon's administration that then City Schools superintendent Bienvenido Icasiano malversed millions of the people's money through atrociously overpriced purchases of school supplies and equipment. (Read "Simon, Icasiano Charged With Malversation Of Public Funds, Page). A case I filed against Montiel et al for ghost purchases is still pending at the Office of the City Prosecutor to which the Ombudsman, where I originally filed the case, has endorsed. Against Simon's former Secretary Elizardo Agzalud, I had also filed a falsification of public documents charge -- documents in connection with ghost purchases. After three years litigation -- that's how slow our judicial system moves -- I succumbed to the tearful pleas of Agzalud and withdrew the case. After all, I thought, three years of mental agony and thousands of pesos spent for lawyer's fees were enough punishment for Agzalud. Believe it or not, Ely was a good friend of mine.

Bakit, Charito?


CHARITO

I admit, Charito Planas is the only decent and worthy opponent of Mel, who himself had once said that he "was a lucky mayor to have a hardworking vice mayor like Charito Planas." Charito has a TV program titled "Bakit?" *Bakit nga ba siya hindi nananalo?* She lost in the 1971 elections to Amoranto; she lost in the 1988 elections to Jun Simon; and, to "crown" it all, she lost to "Bistek" who won in the 1995 elections. The ignominy of it all! But it was not really "Bistek" who won in the 1995 elections. It was Sharon Cuneta who campaigned for "Bistek" and financed the campaign to boot. Charito's being a consistent loser is written in the stars. What is written in the stars cannot be erased. I grieve for Charito, who is a good friend, but she will lose again to a greater friend, Mel Mathay.

Take a look at Connie's opponents: Eight (8) filed their candidacy for vice mayor but all are nuisance candidates except, perhaps, a certain Michael C. Orosa (running mate of Charito Planas), Joseph S. Sison and Celso S. Canonigo.

Orosa, Who Is He?

Orosa? I've never heard of this fellow until now. I'm sure most voters don't know him from Adam. I think his only qualification is that he's loaded.

Right Hand Man Of Simon

Canonigo? He was one of the right hand men of former Mayor Jun Simon. All vouchers, especially the fat ones for the payment of suppliers and contractors had to pass through his hands although his position was that of Chief of UPAO (Urban Poor Affairs Office). He was able to build a mansion in no time at all.

Sison Needs More Seasoning


SISON

Sison? I must admit he's the only decent and worthy opponent, *ngunit wala pa siya sa kalingkingan ni Connie.* He needs more seasoning. I have a suspicion he filed his candidacy to spite Connie. *Kasi hindi natuloy ang "Dream Team" nila ni Connie,* with Sison as mayor and Connie his vice mayor. It was a dream team alright, until Connie woke up and realized that the true dream team was with Mel -- not only a dream team but an Invincible Team. (I like to think that I had a bit to do with the formation of this team).

IMPLICATIONS...

The two (2)-year transition period is needed to prevent jeopardizing vital operational functions that may be caused by the radical organizational changes that would have to be undertaken. Much-needed material resources will not be unnecessarily wasted or dislocated. Quezon City police personnel must be given ample time and opportunity to decide whether they want to stay on with the Quezon City Police or be re-assigned with the new Novaliches City Police Station or at the District Headquarters. As mentioned earlier, long-serving Quezon City police personnel stand to lose a lot of benefits and allowances from the local Quezon City government if they are transferred outside of the City. By the end of the two (2)-year transition period, the CPD should have been smoothly and properly reorganized with the Novaliches City Police Station being an integral part of it.

A considerable amount of time will also be needed to undertake the physical preparations that will be needed to house the Central Police District headquarters, the Quezon City police station headquarters and to construct or expand the Novaliches City Police Station headquarters. In this option, the CPD District Director will be able to oversee and personally direct all these changes.

It must be noted that the law creating Novaliches City will still have to be ratified by a plebiscite to be conducted in the entire Quezon City within 60 days from February 23, 1998 which will be sometime around April 24, 1998.

Should RA 8535 be ratified in the said plebiscite, the first set of elective officials can only be elected in the next local elections. This will take about three years to attain. Only then, when the first set of elected officials shall have assumed their respective positions, will Novaliches be able to achieve its full status as a City.

By that time, the new Novaliches City Police Station shall have, likewise, been adequately prepared, equipped and organized to assume its role in preserving the peace and enforcing the law in the said locality.

TWO MILLION REASONS

Icasiano Exonerated Despite Overwhelming Evidence Against Him

By Ben O. Flores

Former QC Schools Superintendent Bienvenido Icasiano has been completely exonerated in a decision penned by then DECS Secretary Ricardo T. Gloria, now Lakas senatorial candidate, despite overwhelming evidence showing not only beyond reasonable doubt but clearly and positively that Icasiano was guilty of the charges against him. It seems there were two million reasons for the whitewash.

These charges were contained in an Administative Complaint filed by former City Schools Supply Officer Cosme Quinto and this writer in September 1994. The charges were, among others, gross overpricing in the purchase of school supplies and equipment which were made without public bidding, purchase of school supplies and equipment in the absence of an Annual Procurement program in violation of Section 373 of the Local Government Code, technical malversation of public funds through the misuse of SEF (Special Education Fund), falsification of public documents, etc.

The Icasiano unit prices in the Table were taken from the purchase order, disbursement voucher and other documents involved in the transaction while the Salonga Music & Sports Store prices were furnished us by Mr. Ramil J. Castura, Branch Manager.

In the many years that Icasiano had been City Schools Superintendent, in Caloocan City and here, in Quezon City, he must have made hundreds and hundreds of purchases -- one can imagine the tremendous amount generated by overpricing. In Caloocan City, many complaints were filed against Icasiano by concerned citizens but he came out of them unscathed, in the same way that he has come out of our complaint immaculate as snow, due also, no doubt, to millions of reasons.

2. Icasiano's defense against the overpricing charge was that his purchase prices were the "lowest prices" per abstract of price quotations submitted to him by his canvassers. But we were able to prove that these abstracts were fabricated as no canvassing was actually done. We made ocular inspections of the business establishments indicated in the abstracts. They were nonexistent. We checked with the Business Permits and License Office. There were no records of them. Icasiano and his lawyers were not able to disprove our findings. In his decision, Gloria ignored this failure of Icasiano and his lawyers.

3. Icasiano and his lawyers questioned the authenticity of the documents we submitted to support our charges of overpricing: Requisitions, purchase orders, disbursement vouchers, sales invoices, etc. But he refused to produce his own copies of these documents kept in his office -- the Supply and Property Division to be precise -- taking refuge in the rule against self-incrimination. That was not really his reason for refusing to produce the documents called for. He knew that if his copies of the documents jibed or tallied with the ones we submitted, his questioning their validity would fall apart. A little bird in his office told us that Icasiano had the documents withdrawn from the Supply and Property Division for safekeeping.

4. One of the most devastating evidences against Icasiano consisted of 16 blank requisition forms -- blank but already signed by Icasiano. The obvious purpose of these requisition forms was to give the suppliers the blanket authority to fill up the forms themselves -- fill them up with the items purchased, the quantity in which they were to be purchased and at prices the suppliers wanted them to be purchased, which were overpriced sufficiently to yield a substantial "profit" for the suppliers and the supplied. Once, in between hearings, our co-complainant Cosme Quinto and our lawyer, former Judge Jose Sebastian, went to see Gloria in his office and showed him duplicate copies of the 16 blank requisition forms already bearing Icasiano's signature. When Gloria saw them, he Exclaimed angrily: "What kind of a man is this Icasiano!" He even summoned the head of the Investigating Committee and instructed her to consider the blank requisition forms as strong evidence against Icasiano. But in the decision, there was not a word mentioning the requisition forms. What softened Gloria's attitude towards Icasiano? Two million reasons, perhaps?

We asked for a reconsideration of the decision. After more than two months of waiting, we finally got the response from Gloria after telegramming him that we were filing a case against him with the Ombudsman for violation of RA 6713 which mandates public officials to answer letters from the public within 15 days from receipt thereof. Gloria denied our bid for reconsideration on this incredible excuse: "A dismissal of the administrative complaint against a public official or employee cannot be subject of an appeal by a private party or person since the true complainant is the Republic of the Phililppines and not any aggrieved person."

Gloria is running for senator. God save the country from public officials the likes of Ricardo T. Gloria!!!



Supreme Irony

Inspite of pending and past malversation of public funds charges against him, Icasiano gets an Appreciation Award. Mayor Mathay does the chore of handing the award to him but had nothing to do with the grant. City Schools Supt. Dr. Aquilina Rivas looks on.

Gloria created an Investigating Committee composed of DECS Legal Officer Naty Tancioco, as Chairman, and Dr. Alicia Peralta, City Schools Superintendent of Batangas City, and Dr. Peter M. Papel of the Rizal College of Science and Technology as members. Before the hearings started, Icasiano was suspended for 90 days in view of "strong prima facie evidence" against him but was reinstated at the expiration of 90 days. The hearings were still going on and continued for almost three years.

The decision came down in July 1997. It was based on the recommendation of the Investigating Committee -- that is with the exception of Dr. Papel who submitted a dissenting opinion. Following are a few of the evidences which clearly and positively pointed to the guilt of Icasiano:

1. Comparative table showing overprices in the purchase of musical instruments from Salonga Music and Sports Store in Cubao.

From this table, it will be seen that the overpricing ranges from P276 per unit to a high of P17,000. From this purchase of musical instruments

MATHAY SAYS...

Pathology is the scientific study of human diseases for the purpose of curing them. It has some relationship to politics, where politics is regarded as the study of society with a view of shaping it and curing its ills. In a sense, therefore, politics is the pathology of public life.

A serious politician emerges to remedy the ills of society. But more often than not, there are politicians who become part of the diseases themselves, who are themselves pathological.

It is unfortunate that some politicians can only rise by destroying other politicians. This is not healthy in a democracy where political contests are not supposed to be life-and-death affairs justifying all means fair and foul. In a mature democracy, a political fight is hinged on issues clearly explained. The outcome does not depend on who is the better destroyer and liar.

There are those who would cynically convert nobility and love to hatred. The cry for justice is legitimate if justice is what is needed. But others would make it a cry for vengeance. Vindictiveness will neither bring back the dead nor cure the survivors. Wounds will not be healed by hatred. -- *Speech before the Pathological Society of the Philippines, Manila Hotel, Feb. 20, 1996*

*****

All our efforts to alleviate their agony and sorrow can never be enough to console them. We can only assure them of our continuing regard, assistance, and attention. No one is an island in this world. *(Referring to Ozone victims)*

*****

Since they cannot come up with legitimate issues against me, they have to resort to all sorts of mudslinging, including personal attacks.

*****

WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT MATHAY...

"Fortunately, the people of QC know their Mayor well and are standing by him. If it is true that Mathay is being framed up as the sacrificial lamb to propitiate anger over the disco tragedy, the national government had better look for a more believable scapegoat, not one who by general consent is perhaps the country's most effective metropolitan administrator."

Blas Ople
MANILA BULLETIN, April 5, 1996

*****



Point of Order Jose L. Guevara

Mathay wards off two-some political wreckers

Mayor Ismael Mathay garnered an overall SWS rating of 67% for his varied achievements as mayor of the progressive city. He deserves reelection.

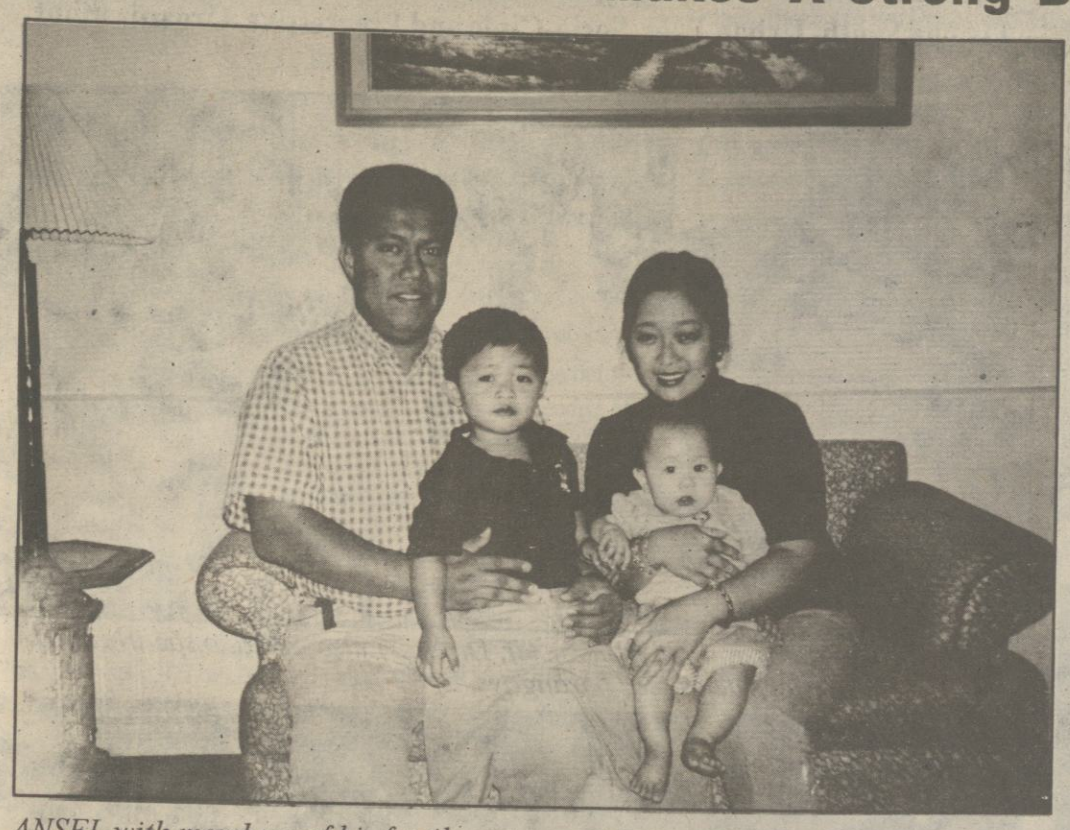
*****

The demolition efforts of a former QC mayor and QC vice mayor vs. the popular reelectionist Mel Mathay is gathering dust at the comical duo's wrecking boards.

*****

The slings and arrows are not hitting any target in the face of Mathay's many new schoolhouses, massive QC streetlighting of once dark streets and efficient garbage collection, to mention a few of Mathay's long list of achievements.

Atty. ANSEL Adriano Makes A Strong Bid As Congressman Of QC's 3rd District



ANSEL with members of his family.

ABOUT Atty. ANSEL ADRIANO

EDUCATION (product of public and private schools):

- Awarded in 1970 as an A-1 child by the National Federation of Women's Clubs
- Graduated with honors from the elementary grades in 1976 at the Kalantiyaw and Pura V. Kalaw Elementary Schools in Project 4, Quezon City
- Qualified as a scholar of the Philippine Science High School in 1977 by passing its rigid examinations (he opted to go to the Ateneo for his high school course).
- Completed High School at the Ateneo de Manila University in 1981
- Obtained a degree in A.B. Political Science at the University of the Philippines, Diliman in 1986
- Attended the Ateneo de Manila University School of Law from 1987 to 1990
- Obtained his Bachelor of Laws (LlB) degree from San Sebastian College in 1991
- Passed the Career Service Professional Examination in 1993 with a rating of 90.13% (Rank # 22 National Level)
- Passed the Bar Examinations in 1994 with a rating of 81.50%

- Married to Rhodelia Dasalla Bravo-Adriano at the Manila Cathedral on Dec. 26, 1993, with two sons, Anselmo Lorenzo III and Anselmo Kyle Satchel IV

WORK EXPERIENCE

- *Executive Director,* National Youth Commission, February 1997 to present
- *Director III/Head Executive Assistant,* Office of the Presidential Assistant for Political Affairs, Office of the President of the Philippines, October 1995 to February 1997
- *Philippine Representative,* Legalnett Consultants, Inc., Scarborough, Ontario, Canada, July 1995 to present
- *Head Executive Assistant,* Office of the Presidential Assistant for Political Affairs, Office of the President of the Philippines, July 1992 to October 1995
- *Consultant/Development Management Officer,* Office of the Director General, Technology & Livelihood Resource Center (TLRC), August 1995 to December 1996
- *Legislative Staff Officer VI,* Office of the Chairman, Committee on Ethics, House of Representatives, February 1990 to February 1991
- *Operations Manager,* ADBEL Realty and Agricultural Development Corporation, Sta. Maria, Bulacan, December 1985 to May 1987

SOCIO-CIVIC/POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

1997
- *Special Assistant to the Governor (on Human Rights),* Lions Club International District 301-D1
- *Chairman,* 3A Foundation of Quezon City
- *Charter President,* Quezon City Bukas Palad Lions Club, District 301-D1
- *Commentator, Radio ng Bayan,* "Konsultahang Bayan, Alay sa Kabataan," Philippine Information Agency, Quezon City

1995
- *Chairman, Committee on Human Rights,* 7th Asean Law Students Conference Bangkok, Thailand
- *Member, Board of Advisers,* Association of Law Students of the Philippines

1994
- *Member, Special Operations Group,* Presidential Provincial Visits, Office of the President of the Philippines
- *Member, Sub-Committee on People's Day,* February 1994 EDSA Celebration

1993
- *Member, Sub-Committee on People's Day,* February 1993 EDSA Celebration

1992
- *Member, Executive Committee,* People's Day, Office of the President

1991
- *Member,* Congressional Staff Association (CONSA)

1990
- *Chairman,* First National Law Students Conference, U.P., Diliman, Q.C.
- *Chairman,* First San Sebastian College of Law Bar Operations Committee

1989
- *National Vice Chairman,* Association of Law Students of the Philippines
- *Elected Junior Representtive,* Ateneo de Manila Law Student Council

1988
- *Member, Lakas ng Atenista-Law,* Ateneo de Manila School of Law
- *Staff Writer, El Ponente,* Official Student Newspaper, Ateneo de Manila Law School

1987
- *Elected Freshman Representative,* Ateneo de Manila Law Student Council
- *Area Coordinator,* Mercado Youth Movement, 1987 congressional elections, Sta. Maria; Bulacan

1986
- *Social Committee Chairman and Official Delegate,* University of the Philippines, First Model United Nations General Assembly, Department of Foreign Affairs
- *Volunteer, National Movement for Free Elections,* 1986 Snap Presidential Elections, Bulacan
- *Member, Association of Political Science Majors,* University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City

1985
- *Chairman, Catmon Youth Association,* Catmon, Sta. Maria, Bulacan, Official Group Entry to the First Magnolia Youth Achievement Awards

AWARDS/SEMINARS ATTENDED/PERFORMANCE RATINGS

1998
- *Young Achievers Awardee for Socio-Civic & Public Service, Parangal ng Bayan*

1997
- *10TH ASEAN Committee on Social Development (COSD)Meeting,* BSB, Brunei, Darussalam
- *14th ASEAN Sub-Committee on Youth (ASY) Meeting,* Hanoi, Vietnam
- *Electoral Reforms Conference,* Sponsored by the House of Representatives Committee on Suffrage, Comelec Compound, Baguio City
- *Workshop on Budgeting for Effectiveness in the ARMM and ZOPAD,* sponsored by the Department of Budget and Management and the Presidential Management Staff, Heroes Hall, Malacañang

1996
- *First Conference on Professionals, Business Management Sector,* sponsored by the Professional Regulation Commission, Manila Hotel
- *First National Fraternity and Sorority Peace Conference,* jointly sponsored by the National Youth Commission and the Commission on Higher Education, University of the Philippines College of Law

1994
- *Management Information Systems,* Office of the President, Executive Development Seminar
- *CSC Performance Appraisal Report,* July 1992 to December 1996 Rating: Very Satisfactory

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA & ADVOCACIES

Atty. ANSEL ADRIANO will pursue the following vision and mission in Congress:

Crafting of bills, resolutions and other initiatives to:

1. Promote youth welfare and development through the upgrading of laws relat to the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) and other concerns involving the youth.
2. Plug loopholes in drug abuse laws to effectively deter violators and curtail the activities of illegal drug traffickers.
3. Encourage and finance small Filipino entrepreneurs through the propagation of cooperatives and livelihood projects.
4. Pursue programs and projects to alleviate the plight and protect the lawful rights of the urban poor concerning their land and housing problems.
5. Protect and uphold the rights of urban workers in relation with their employers.
6. Establish a Geriatric/Rejuvenating Center for Senior Citizens
7. Other steps and measures to ensure a peaceful and progressive 3rd District.

MEL MATHAY
For Mayor

CONNIE ANGELES
For Vice Mayor



Youth leaders march with ANSEL as he emerges from the Comelec after filing his certificate of candidacy.



ANSEL was proclaimed as Official Candidate of the PRP-Gabaybayan in simple ceremonies. He is also a guest candidate of the Lapiang Manggagawa.



He carries the torch as he is warmly received by supporters in Escopa I.



With parents and their young children in a neighborhood gathering.



At the Pura V. Kalaw Elementary School, his alma mater, where he was invited as guest of honor and speaker.

ANSEL Confident Of Victory With The Support Of A Cross-Section Of The Youth, Urban Poor, Socio-Civic and Progressive Organizations



A medical-dental mission which his sister, Dr. Ma. Luisa Adriano spearheaded in one of the district's depressed barangays.



Leaders of Bgy. San Roque endorse his candidacy as Congressman of the 3rd District.



ANSEL's area rally in San Roque was a huge success.



Another area rally in Libis drew a horde of supporters.



ANSEL poses with campaign coordinators in Libis.

A Primer on the Party List System Of Representation in the House of Representatives
Commission on Elections
Intramuros, Manila

What is the Party-List System?

It is the mechanism of propotional representaiton in the election of representatives to the House of Representatives from marginalized or underrepresented national, regional, and sectoral parties, or organizations or coalitions thereof registered with the Commission on Elections (Comelec).
It is part of the electoral process that enables small political parties and marginalized and underrepresented sectors obatin possible representation in the House of Representatives, which traditionally, is dominated by parties with big political machinery.

When is the first party-list elections?

On May 11, 1998, simultaneous with the national and local elections

Who may participate

Instead of individual candidates, only registered organized groups may participate. These are:
1. Sectoral parties;
2. Sectoral organizations;
3. Political parties; and
4. Coalitions.

A *sectoral party* is an organized group of citizens whose principal advocacy pertains to the special interests and concerns of the following sectors:
1. Labor;
2. Peasant;
3. Urban Poor;
4. Indigenous Cultural Communities;
5. Elderly;
6. Handicapped;
7. Women;
8. Youth;
9. Overseas Workers;
10. Fisherfolk;
11. Veterans; and
12. Professionals

A *sectoral organization* is a group of qualified voters bound together by similar physical attributes or characteristics, or by employment, interests, or concerns.
A *political party* is an organized group of qualified voters pursuing the same ideology, political ideas and principles for the general conduct of the government. It may be:
1. a *national party* when its constituency is spread over the geographical teritory of at least a majority of the regions; or
2. a *regional party* when its constituency is spread over the geographical territory of at least the majority of the cities and provinces comprising the region.

A *coalition* is an aggrupation of duly-registered national, regional, sectoral parties or organizations for political and/or election purposes.

How may a party, organization, or coalition (hereinafter referred to as party) participate in the party list election?

It must first register with the COMELEC by filing a petition for registration under oath not later than 180 days before the elections. If it is already registered, it need not register anew, but it should file a manifestation of its intention to participate in the party list election not later than 90 days before the election.
For the purposes of the 1998 election, the petition must be filed not later than November 12, 1997
A sample petition may be obtained from the Clerk of the Commission, Comelec, Manila

Where shall a petition for registration or manifestation to participate be filed?

Petitions for registration and manifestations of intent to participate shall be filed with the following offices:
1. with the Clerk of the Commission, Comelec, Manila, if the petition/manifestation involves a party with a national constituency; or
2. With the Comelec Regional Election Director if the petition/ manifestation involves a party with a regioral constituency.

If individual candidates are not qualified to participate, how will the organized groups be represented in the House of Representatives?

A party shall, at least 90 days before the election, submit to Comelec a list of at least five (5) nominees to represent the said party. Once the party obtains the requires number of votes, the Comelec shall proclaim the party list representatives according to their ranking in the list of nominees submitted to Comelec.

What is the required number of votes to be obtained to qualify for party list seats?

A party should obtain at least 2% of the total votes cast for the party list system nation-wide in order to be allocated with one seat; 4% for two seats; and 6% for three seats.

May a component party or organization participate independently of the coalition of which they form part?

Yes, provided the coalition of which they form part does not participate.

For purposes of determining regional constituency, what is meant by the phrase, "spread over the geographical territory of at least a majority of the cities and provinces comprising the region"?

"Majority" means a number higher than 50%. Thus, if a region consists of, say, five cities and six provinces, in order to obtain the required majority, the party should have chapters in three cities and provincial offices in four provinces.

For purposes of determining national constituency, what is meant by the phrase, "spread over the geographical territory of at least a majority of the regions"?

"Majority" means a number higher than 50%. Since the country is composed of sixteen regions, including CAR, ARMM, and CARAGA, the party should have regional offices in at least nine regions in order to constitute a majority of the regions in the country.

What information is necessary to establish existence of a party in a city and province?

A party must have identifiable leadership, membership and structure. These may be shown by the following:
1. Addresses of its city chapter and provincial chapter; and
2. The names of the chapter officials and members, and their respective addresses.

What documents or other requirements should accompany a Petition for Registration?

A party may submit additional documents to prove its existence in the city and province.
1. Constitution and by-laws;
2. Platform or program of government;
3. Lists of officers and members;
4. Coalition agreement, if any;
5. Other information required by the Comelec;
6. Filing fee of one thousand pesos (P1,000); and
7. Research fee of twenty pesos (P20.00).

By whom shall applications for registration or manifestations to participate be filed?

By any authorized representative of the political or sectoral party with the appropriate Comelec offices.

What happens after the petition is filed?

The Comelec office concerned determines if the petition is in due form and substance and verifies the accuracy of the allegations therein. Within seven days, it submits the petition together with its findings and

How will a voter cast his vote?

Every voter shall be entitled to two (2) votes for the House of Representatives as follows:
1. *First*, a vote for the district representative; and
2. *Second*, a vote for the party he wants represented in the House of Representatives.

How shall the votes cast for the party-list be counted?

Because the voting will be at large, and not by sector, all votes obtained by a party regardless of constituency will be tallied on a nationwide basis the percentage of votes garnered by a party shall be computed in relation to the total votes cast for party-list nationwide.

How shall party-list seats be allocated?

Party-list seats shall be allocated as follows:
1. the parties shall be ranked from highest to lowest based on the number and percentage of votes garnered during the elections;
2. Only the maximum of three seats may be allowed per party. Seats are allocated at the rate of one seat per 2% of votes obtained.
3. Unallocated seats shall be distributed among the parties which have not yet obtained the maximum 3 seats, provided they have mustered at least 2% of votes. The variance or percentage in excess of 2% or 4% (equivalent to 1 or 2 seats that have already been obtained respectively) shall be ranked and be the basis for allocating the remaining seats.

How will the voters know which entities are participating?

Comelec will prepare and publish a certified list of entities qualified to participate. This certified list will also be posted in all voting booths on electionday.

What are the qualifications of a party-list nominee?

A party-list nominee should be:
1. a natural-born citizen of the Philippines;
2. a registeres voter;
3. a resident of the Philippines for a period of not less than one (1) year immediately preceding election day;
4. able to read and write;
5. A *bona fide* member of the party or organization he seeks to represent for at least ninety (90) days preceding election day; and
6. At least twenty-five (25) years of age on election day.

In the case of the youth sector, he must be at least twenty-five (25) but not more than thirty (30) years of age on the day of the election. Any youth sectoral representative who attains the age of thirty (30) during his term shall be allowed to continue in office until the expiration of his term.

How many seats are available under the party-list system?

20% of the total membership in the House of Representatives is reserved for party list representatives, or a ratio of 1 party-list representative for every 4 legislative district representatives. For 1998, there will be 51 seats for sectoral representatives.

Are political parties eligible to participate?

For the first party-list election on May 11, 1998, the five (5) major political parties on the basis of party representations in the House of Representatives at the start of the Tenth Congress are disqualified from participating. These are:
1. LAKAS-NUCD
2. Liberal Party (LP)
3. Lakas ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP)
4. National People's Coalition (NPC); and
5. Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (KBL)

How does the party-list system enhance the chances of marginalized or under represented parties of winning seats in the House of Representatives ?

In the party-list system, no single party may hold more than three (3) party0list seats. Bigger parties which traditionally will domintate elections cannot corner all the seats and crowd out the smaller parties because of this maximum ceiling. This syste shall pave the way for smaller parties to also win seats in the House of Representatives.

Is the enumeration of the sectors eligible to participate as sectoral party exclusive?

Yes. Only parties of those sectors enumerated in Sec. 5 of RA 7941 may register and participate as a sectoral party.

May an organization which is not listed among the sectors eligible to participate as a sectoral party still participate in the party-list system?

Yes, as a sectoral organization.

the list of nominees and of their ranking therein?

according to their ranking in said list.

What are the limitations on party-list nominations?

1. A person may be nominated by one party and only one list;
2. Only persons who have given their consent in writing may be named in the list;
3. The list shall not include any candidate for any elective office in the same election or has lost his bid for an elective office in the immediately preceding election; and
4. No change of name or alteration of the order of nominees shall be allowed after the list has been submitted to the Comelec, except in cases where the nominee dies, his nomination is withdrawn in writing and under oath, or becomes incapacitated, in which case the name of the substitute nominee shall be placed last in the list.

Shall incumbent sectoral representatives in the House of Representatives nominated as party-list representatives be considered resigned?

No, by express provision of Sec 8 RA 7941

If nominees of political parties and sectoral parties and organizations are employees of the government, whether by appointment or by election, are they deemed *ipso facto* resigned from office upon the filing of the list of nominees?

Yes. In Sec 8 of the party-list law, the last sentence reads: "Incumbent sectoral representatives in the House of Representatives who are nominated in the Party-List System shall not be considered resigned." The provision creates a special class for incumbent sectoral representatives as to remove them from the general application of Secs. 66 and 67 of the Omnibus Election Code which is quoted hereunder:
"Sec 66. *Candidates holding appointive office or position.*—any person holding a public appointive office or position, including active members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and offices and employees in government-owned or controlled corporations, shall be considered *ipso facto* resigned from his office upon the filing of his certificate of candidacy"
"Sec 67. *Candidates holding elective office.*—any elective official, whether national or local, running for any office other than the one which he is holding in a permanent capacity, except for president and vice

recommendations to the Commission.
The gist of the petition shall be published in two national newspapers at the expense of the petitioner.
The Commission, after due notice and hearing, resolves the petition within fifteen days from the date it was submitted for decision but not later than ninety days before election day.

May the Comelec refuse and/or cancel registration of any entity?

The Comelec may, on its own, or upon verified complaint of any interested party, refuse or cancel, after due notice and hearing, the registration of any national, regional, or sectoral party, organization, or coalition on any of the following grounds:

1. It is a religious sect or denomination, organization or association, organized for religious purposes;
2. It advocates violence or unlawful means to achieve its goal;
3. It is a foreign party or organization;
4. It is receiving support from any foreign government, foreign political party, foundation, organization, whether directly of indirectly or through its officers or members, or indirectly through third parties for partisan election purposes;
5. It violates or fails to comply with laws, rules or regulations relating to elections;
6. It has made untruthful statements in its petition;
7. It has ceased to exist for at least one year (applicable after the 1998 election); or
8. It fails to participate in the last two preceding elections or to obtain at least 2% of the votes cast under the party-list system in the two preceding elections for the constituency in which it has registered (applicable after the 2001 elections).

How will representatives be nominated?

The party shall submit to the Comelec not later than 90 days before the election a list of not less than five names from which representatives sahll be chosen in case it obtains the required number of votes.

Will the names of nominees be included in the certified list of registered parties?

No. the names of the party-list nominees shall not be shown on the certified list of participating parties.

What is the importance of

In case the party obtains the required number of votes, the nominees listed shall be proclaimed by Comelec president, shall be considered *ipso facto* resigned from his office upon the filing of the certificate of candidacy."
The specific mention of incumbent sectoral representatives for non-coverage of the above provision implies that other party-list nominees who are not in that class shall be covered by Secs 66 and 67.

Is it necessary for a nominee to be a member of the party nominating him?

Yes. A nominee should be a *bona fide* member of the party or organization he seeks to represent for at least 90 days preceding the day of election.

Are registered political and sectoral parties and organizations prohibited from revealing during their campaign the identities of those they included in the list of nominees submitted to the Comelec?

The law is silent as to the revelation of the names of nominees of the registered political or sectoral parties, except that in the last paragraph of Sec 7 of the Party-list law, it states that, "The names of the party-list nominees shall not be shown on the certified list."

What will be the effect if a party-list representative changes his political party or sectoral affiliation during his term of office?

He shall forfeit his seat. Moreover, if he changes his political party or sectoral affiliation within six months before an election, he shall not be eligible for nomination as party-list representative under his new party or organization.

What is the status of party-list representatives vis-à-vis representatives of legislative districts in the House of Representatives?

Party-list representatives are considered elected members of the House and as such, entitled to the same deliberative rights, salaries, and emoluments as regular members of the House of Representatives. They shall serve for a term of three years with a maximum of three consecutive terms.

Number of Seats By Type Of elective Positions
1998 National and Local elections

ELECTIVE POSITIONS	NO. OF SEATS
President	1
Vice-President	1
Senators	12
Party List	51
Representatives	207
Governor	78
Vice-Governor	78
Sangguniang Panlalawigan	722
City Mayors	72
City Vice-Mayor	72
Sangguniang Panglungsod	816
Municipal Mayor	1,535
Sangguniang Pambayan	12,308
Total	17,488

SAMPLE OFFICIAL BALLOT
MAY 11, 1998

Fill out this ballot secretly inside the booth. Do not put any distinctive mark on any part of this ballot.

PRESIDENT _____

VICE-PRESIDENT _____

SENATORS

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____

PARTY-LIST

Select one from among the Political Parties, Sectoral Parties (Labor; Peasant; Urban Poor; Indigenous Cultural Communities; Women; Veterans; Elderly; Disabled; Fisherfolk; Overseas Workers; Youth or Professional), Organizations or Coalitions enumerated in the certified list posted on the voting booth.

_____

CONGRESSMAN/
REPRESENTATIVE _____

GOVERNOR _____

VICE-GOVERNOR _____

MEMBERS SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN/
PROVINCIAL BOARD

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

CITY MAYOR _____

CITY VICE-MAYOR _____

MEMBERS SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD/
CITY COUNCIL

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS

SUPPORT THE CONDUCT OF HONEST, ORDERLY AND PEACEFUL ELECTIONS ON MAY 11, 1998. REPORT TO THE COMELEC ALL VIOLATIONS OF PROHIBITED ACTS DURING THE ELECTION PERIOD.

LIST OF PROHIBITED ACTS DURING THE ELECTION PERIOD

FROM JAN. 11, 1998 TO JUNE 10, 1998
- Alteration of territory of existing election precincts or establishment of new ones.
- Carrying of firearms or deadly weapons, and the use of uniforms, insignias, etc.
- Transfer of assignment of officers and employees of the civil service including public school teachers.
- Organization of strike forces or similar groups.
- Use of bodyguards or security forces by candidates.
- Suspension of elected officials at the provincial, city, municipal, and barangay levels.

FROM FEB. 10, 1998 TO MAY 11, 1998
- Giving of donations or gifts in cash or in kind.

FROM MARCH 12, 1998 TO JUNE 10, 1998
- Release of prisoners.

FROM MARCH 27, 1998 TO MAY 10, 1998
- Appointment or hiring of new employees.
- Creation or filing of new positions.
- Promotions or giving of salary increases or privileges.
- Release of public funds for public works, social services, and development.
- Construction of public works, delivery of materials for public works and issuance of treasury warrants and similar instruments.

FROM APRIL 9, 1998 TO APRIL 10, 1998
- Campaigning

MAY 10, 1998
- Campaigning
- Serving, selling, buying, and taking of intoxicating liquor.
- Giving, accepting free transportation, food, drinks, or other things of value.

MAY 11, 1998
- Campaigning
- Serving, selling, buying, and taking of intoxicating liquor.
- Giving, accepting free transportation, food, drinks, or other things of value.
- Voting more than once or voting by proxy.
- Conduct of fairs, cockfights, boxing, horseracing, and similar sports.
- Opening of kiosks or small stores of wares or drinks within thirty-meter radius from the polling place.

Certified List of Candidates for President for May 11, 1998 Elections

1. DE VENECIA, Jose Jr. C.	Lakas-NUCD-UMDP
2. DE VILLA, Renato S.	Partido Para sa Demokratikong Reforma-Lapiang Manggagawa
3. DUMLAO, Santiago Jr. F.	Kilusan Para sa Pambansang Pagpapanibago
4. ENRILE, Juan Ponce	Independent (LP)
5. ESTRADA, Joseph E.	Partido ng Masang Pilipino-LAMMP
6. LIM, Alfredo S.	Liberal Party (LP)
7. MARCOS, Imelda R.	Kilusang Bagong Lipunan
8. MORATO, Manuel L.	Partido Bansang Marangal
9. OSMEÑA, Emilio R.	Progressive Movement for Devolution of Initiative Political Party of Central Visayas
10. ROCO, Raul S.	Aksyon Demokratiko
11. SANTIAGO, Miriam Defensor	People's Reform Party

Certified List of Candidates for Vice President for May 11, 1998

1. ANGARA, Edgardo J.	LDP-LAMMP Coalition
2. MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, Gloria	Lakas-NUCD-UMDP
3. ORBOS, Oscar M.	Partido Para sa Demokratikong Reforma-Lapiang Manggagawa
4. OSMEÑA, Sergio III DLR	Liberal Party (LP)
5. PACHECO, Reynaldo D.	Kilusan Para sa Pambansang Pagpapanibago (KPP)
6. SABIO, Camilo L.	Partido Bansang Marangal (PBM)
7. SANTIAGO, Irene M.	Aksyon Demokratiko
8. SUENO, Ismael D.	Progressive Movement for Devolution of Initiatives (PROMDI)
9. TATAD, Francisco S.	Grand Alliance for Democracy (GABAYBAYAN)

Certified List of Candidates for Senator for May 11, 1998 Elections

1. ABADIA, Lisandro C.	Lakas-NUCD-UMDP
2. ANDAYA, Rolando R.	Lakas-NUCD-UMDP
3. AQUINO-ORETA, Teresa	LAMMP/LDP Coalition
4. BADOY, Ludovico D.	Kilusan Para sa Pambansang Pagnapanibago (KPP)
5. BAGATSING, Ramon Jr. S.	LAMMP/LDP Coalition
6. BARBERS, Robert Z.	LAKAS-NUCD-UDMP
7. BIAZON, Rodolfo G.	LAMMP/LDP Coalition
8. BONDOC, Eduardo D.	KPP
9. CASTRO, David	KPP
10. CAYETANO, Renato	LAKAS-NUCD-UDMP
11. DAZA, Raul	LIBERAL PARTY
12. DE OCAMPO, Roberto	LAKAS-NUCD-UDMP
13. GARCIA, Renato	KPP
14. GERONIMO, Adolfo	Partido Para Sa Demokratikong Reporma-Lapiang Manggagawa
15. GLORIA, Ricardo	LAKAS-NUCD-UDMP
16. GUINGONA, Teofisto	LAKAS-NUCD-UDMP
17. IRIBANI, Abraham	Partido Para sa Demokratikong reporma-Lapiang Manggangawa
18. JAWORSKI, Robert	LAMMP/LDP Coalition
19. LAGMAN, Edcel	LAMMP/LDP Coalition
20. LANGIT, Reynante	Partido Para sa Demokratikong Reporma-Lapiang Manggagawa
21. LEGARDA-LEVISTE, Loren	LAKAS-NUCD-UDMP
22. LOZANO, Oliver	INDEPENDENT
23. MARALLAG, Fred Henry	KPP
24. OPLE, Blas	LAMMP/LDP Coalition
25. OSMEÑA, John Renner	LAMMP/LDP Coalition
26. PAGDANGANAN, Roberto	LAKAS-NUCD-UDMP
27. PEREZ, Hernando	LAKAS-NUCD-UDMP
28. PIMENTEL, Aquilino	LAMMP/LDP Coalition
29. PLAZA, Charito	LIBERAL PARTY
30. RASUL, Santanina	LAKAS-NUCD-UDMP
31. REVILLA, Ramon	LAKAS-NUCD-UDMP
32. ROMERO, Miguel, Luis	LAMMP/LDP Coalition
33. SEBASTIAN, Roberto	Partido Para Sa Demokratikong Reporma-Lapiang Manggagawa
34. SEÑERES, Roy	Partido Para Sa Demokratikong Reporma-Lapiang Manggagawa
35. SOTTO, Vicente III	LAMMP/LDP Coalition
36. TAMANO, Hadja Putri Zorayda	Partido Para Sa Demokratikong Repoirma-Lapiang Manggagawa
37. TORRES, Ruben	LAMMP/LDP Coalition
38. VILLEGAS, Jose	Partido Para [illegible] molkratikong Prourma-Lapiang Manggagawa
39. WEBB, Freddie	LAMMP/LDP Coalition
40. YORAC, Haydee	Partido Para SA Demokratikong Reporma-Lapiang Manggagawa

IMPLICATIONS OF THE IMPENDING CITYHOOD OF NOVALICHES

(*Editor's Note:* Prepared by the Central Police District under the command of Col. George Aliño. Due to lack of space, only the most important parts are reproduced, except that portion titled: "VII Police Force," which is intact. We thank Col. Aliño for sending us a copy.)

I. BACKGROUND

History reveals that Novaliches was created as a town, carved out of the former Tala Estate on January 26, 1856. It was named after the 62nd Spanish Governor General to rule the country, Manuel Pavia y La Marquez DE NOVALICHES who ruled for quite some time and became very popular that the town was gradually associated with his name until Hacienda Tala was replaced by Bayan ng Novaliches.

On November 8, 1996, the proposal to convert Novaliches into a city was formally reaffirmed by *Novalenos'* during a huge rally sponsored by the Novaliches Cityhood Movement headed by one Cesar ROQUE, reputedly a very influential person, at the covered basketball court of the Novaliches Plaza. Presented during the rally were House Bills No. 995 and 1235 principally sponsored by Rep. Dante V. LIBAN, Second District, Quezon City.

On February 23, 1998, House Bill No. 1235 was finally signed into law as Republic Act No. 8535 by President Fidel V Ramos (ANNEX A, RA 8535). This act will still have to be ratified ***"by a majority of the votes cast by the qualified voters in a plebiscite to be conducted in the barangays comprising the City of Novaliches... and in the entire Quezon City within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act"*** (Sec. 50 Art. X, RA 8535). The City of Novaliches will be composed of fifteen (15) barangays excluding the La Mesa Dam watershed (Sec 2, Art 1, RA 8535). Meanwhile, "*The City of Novaliches shall continue to be a part of the Second Legislative District of Quezon City*" (Sec. 52, Art. X, RA 8535).

II. GEOGRAPHY

A. Précis

Total land area of the newly-created Novaliches City is placed at approximately **3,176.92 hectares** or **21.03%** of the parent territory (Quezon City - 15,106 hectares) with an estimated population of **328,920** (based on the 1995 national census) which is **15.44%** of the total (2,130,024) population of Quezon City. This would roughly translate into a population density of **103.53** person per hectare. (ANNEX C, Basic Data).

The City of Novaliches will be comprised of fifteen (15) barangays, all uprooted from Quezon City. These include **Barangays SAUYO, BAGBAG, SAN BARTOLOME, GULOD, CAPRI, NOVALICHES PROPER, SAN AGUSTIN, STA. MONICA, NAGKAISANG NAYON, TALIPAPA, KALIGAYAHAN, PASONG PUTIK PROPER, STA. LUCIA, GREATER LAGRO, and NORTH FAIRVIEW.** The act specifically excluded the La Mesa Dam watershed and, likewise, did not include that area also called "Novaliches" in Kalookan City.

B. Implications

1. The total land area of Quezon City which is 15,106 hectares will be reduced by 21.03%. In effect, Novaliches with 3,176.92 hectares will leave Quezon City with only 11,929.1 hectares.

2. The total number of barangays (142) in Quezon City will decrease by 10.56% (15 barangays) and will now stand at **127**.

3. Total population of Quezon City (2,130,024) will be reduced by 15.44%, the City of Novaliches getting an estimated 328,920. The parent territory (Quezon City) will then have about 1,801,104 left.

III. ECONOMY

A. Précis

1. Industrial/Manufacturing

The City of Novaliches is considered one of the traditional industrial zones in Quezon City, evolving as such due to its proximity to the industrialized areas of adjacent towns/cities. With a total land area of 3,176.92 hectares, 322.92 hectares or 10.16% are devoted to industrial use while 147.71 hectares or 4.64% are occupied by commercial entities. (ANNEX D, Business Ventures).

In his "State of the City Address" delivered before a special session of the Quezon City Council on October 28, 1997, the Honorable Mayor Ismael A. Mathay, Jr. aptly described its personality in the following manner:

"Novaliches developed the way it has as essentially an industrial zone because it was planned that way - for it to be the industrial enclave of the City. Just as in other cities, an industrial zone is provided. Novaliches would not have developed as it has now if it were not part of Quezon City".

Among the medium and large industries established in the new city include the production of tin cans/carton containers/package, cell batteries, garments, steel products biscuits and similar food products. (ANNEX E, Significant Business Establishments).

Manufacturing firms account for about 20.97%, construction - 0.63%; transportation - 0.56%; agriculture - 0.18%; and banking/financing - 3.0%.

There is NO PUBLIC MARKET in the area. All markets situated in Novaliches are privately-owned.

B. Implications

1. The creation of the City of Novaliches has virtually deprived Quezon City of one of its industrial zones pre-planned to be a substantial source of government finances. This easily translate to about **13.68%** loss in city revenues.

2. Quezon City will also sustain losses in investments and completed infrastructure projects. Sec. 51, Art. X of RA 8535 provides that **" the City of Novaliches shall succeed to all the assets, properties, liabilities, and obligations of the fifteen (15) barangays comprising said city...".**

3. The absence of any PUBLIC MARKET may give rise to the **proliferation** of sidewalk vendors, already a perennial problem in the **area**. All **markets situated** in Novaliches are privately-owned.

IV. SOCIOLOGY

A. Précis

The fifteen (15) barangays comprising the City of Novaliches has a combined population of 328,920, of which, 58% or 190,774 are females and 42% or 138,146 are males. The annual growth rate is 2.32%.

Majority or about 80% of the total local population are Tagalogs, followed by Ilocanos and some are Ilonggos and Visayans.

Literacy rate is relatively high. Sixty seven percent (67%) of the population are college degree holders, 14% are college undergraduates, 11% are high school graduates and 8% are elementary graduates.

Government learning institutions include 16 elementary schools and seven (7) high schools, a number of colleges and a polytechnic school. There are numerous vocational schools and learning centers in the area.

The City of Novaliches is likewise provided with adequate health facilities: eight (8) government health centers manned by about 51 personnel and more than six (6) private hospitals.

B. Implications

1. The creation of the City of Novaliches would give rise to problems such as:

a) Education: Considering that all the teaching staff/personnel of city public schools are being sustained by the Quezon City government and considering further that the city likewise is wanting of more teachers, these mentors will definitely transfer to Quezon City, their original employer, in which event elementary and secondary education in Novaliches would be jeopardized. The question of benefits and allowances being provided them by QC is another precipitating factor for their exodus.

b) Health: The same situation and problems that exists in Quezon City-managed health centers are also present. The difference would be on the capability of the new city government to address such problems given its inherent limitations and the other numerous social problems it must deal with immediately.

c) Employment: Quezon City residents may be unduly prejudiced with the separation of Novaliches into city. The new local government may be inclined to seek more preference for the employment of its legitimate local residents in industries and companies situated in their area.

2. As a new-born city, Novaliches will be hard up in providing essential public services for *"Novaleños"*. While it is mandated that the city will still be part of the second legislative district of Quezon City, no where in the law is a provision mandating the Quezon City government to financially support the City of Novaliches in the meantime that it is still in its "infant stage". Neither is there any provision providing for the refund of taxes already collected by the QC government to the City of Novaliches.

V. POLITICAL FACTOR

A. Précis

Section 51, Article X (Transitory and Final Provisions), provides that the first set of elective officials of the City of Novaliches shall be elected in the **NEXT** local elections following the approval of this Act. In addition, Section 53, of the same article states that the City of Novaliches shall continue to be a part of the Second Legislative District. This is a a unique provision since it provides for a legislative district that would have a "city within a city" as its representation. A close similarity would be the case of Olongapo City which is also a part of the First Legislative District of Zambales.

Considering that the above are transitory provisions and while it is not explicitly defined in RA 8535, it still possible that the City of Novaliches will be bound to have atleast one (1) Legislative District of its own and consequently, a representative in Congress in the next local elections following its approval. This is clearly provided for in paragraph (3), Section 5, Article VI (Legislative Department) of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, "*Each legislative district shall comprise, as far as practicable, contiguous, compact, and adjacent territory.* ***Each city with a population of at least two hundred fifty thousand (250,000), or each province, shall have at least one (1) representative***". The new City of Novaliches with a population which is more than 250,000 will definitely qualify for this provision of the Constitution.

It has a total of **157,536** registered voters as of the end of the continuous registration of voters in 1998, broken down as follows:

Politics in Novaliches is always a serious issue. At this point in time, concerned *Novaleños* are already "***rushing up***" preparations for the plebiscite which they want held on March 23, instead of April 23, 1998. Notwithstanding the provisions mandated by Section 51, Article X of RA 8535, the *Novaleños* would like to interpret it to be referring to the May 11, 1998 elections which may be found to be physically or logically difficult to achieve given the very limited time and resources available.

B. Implications

1. With the City of Novaliches still wanting of local elective officials from Mayor down to Councilor, a problem arises on who will hold the reigns of local government. Will it remain with the political realm of Quezon City until after the next local elections and the eventual election of its own first set of city officials? Will it be able to meet the deadlines and requirements to be able to elect their first set of city officials by May 11, 1998? Who will govern the new city through the transition period which is expected to last for three years? Republic Act No. 8535 is silent on this.

2. Sec. 53, Article X of RA 8535 provides that *"the City of Novaliches shall continue to be a part of the Second Legislative District of Quezon City"*. This provision is unique for it seemingly establishes, for the first time, a legislative district having **"city within a city"**. Even on a temporary basis, it is clear that with such a political structure, territorial problems and preferences may arise among constituents who need to be properly represented.

3. The forthcoming plebiscite for the city of Novaliches will be a very critical political exercise. If the results of the plebiscite affirms the new law, Quezon City loses a vital part of its territory and its history. On the other hand, if RA 8535 loses in the plebiscite, the incumbent mayor will stand lose to a very significant number of votes and corresponding support from the Second Legislative District as this will be taken very negatively by the concerned *Novaleños* against the incumbent Quezon City Administration.

VII. POLICE FORCE

A. Précis

While Article IX of RA 8535, provides some details on the establishment of the City Fire Station Service and City Jail Service, the law has remained silent on the Philippine National Police and any peculiar requirement on the possible establishment of a City Police Station. Hence, the Novaliches City Police Station will follow the typical organizational structure prescribed for a city police station in the National Capital Region. (ANNEX F, City Police Station)

1. **Police Stations**

The impending cityhood of Novaliches will adversely affect three (3) police stations of the Central Police District (CPD). All the nine (9) barangays under the AOR of Novaliches Police Station (PS 4) will constitute the main part of Novaliches City while the Lagro Police Station (PS 5) will be left with but Barangay Fairview for its AOR. On the otherhand, Sangandaan Police Station (PS 3) will be dispensed with only Barangay Talipapa, leaving ten (10) barangays for its AOR, the present police station headquarters of Sangandaan Police Station (PS 3), however, is situated in that very barangay (Talipapa) that will now become part of Novaliches City. Even its proposed re-location site is still situated in Barangay Talipapa.

This does not include the different traffic units situated around the area. In the case of Novaliches, Traffic Sector 2 headquarters is co-located at the Novaliches District Center (NDC).

2. **PNP Personnel**

a) Novaliches Police Station (PS 4) has eleven (11) PCOs and ninety-one (91) PNCOs or a total of **102** uniformed personnel and three (3) non-uniformed personnel (NUP) or a total personnel strength of **105** as of this date.

b) Lagro Police Station (PS 5) has ten (10) PCOs and seventy-five (75) PNCOs or a total of **85** uniformed personnel and five (5) NUP or a total personnel strength of **90**.

c) Sangandaan Police Station (PS 3) has ten (10) PCOs, ninety-two (92) PNCOs or a total of **102** uniformed personnel, complemented by six (6) NUP, or a total personnel strength of **105**.

d) Most of the civilian personnel are contractual employees of Quezon City government.

3. **Equipment**

Most of the equipment of Novaliches (PS4), Lagro (PS5) and Sangandaan (PS3) Police Stations were either donated or loaned by the Quezon City government and/or non-government organizations. Many of these equipment donated by the city government include patrol vehicles, fax machines, computers and even firearms. It is expected that most, if not all, of these equipment and civilian personnel will be re-called by the local government of Quezon City.

B. Implications

1. The AOR of the Novaliches (PS4) and Lagro (PS5) Police Stations will be practically extinguished and obliterated from the CPD. The police station headquarters of Sangandaan Police Station (PS 3) which is located in Barangay Talipapa will have to be re-located to another strategic site outside of the proposed Novaliches City.

2. If higher headquarters chooses to incorporate the new city police station of Novaliches with the Central Police District the *"one police district - one city"* set-up such as the WPD, will be totally altered.

3. Section 52, Art. X of RA 8535 provides that "The City of Novaliches shall succeed to all the assets, properties, liabilities and obligations of the ***fifteen (15) barangays comprising said city...***". (emphasis supplied). This provision refers only to assets, properties, etc. of the fifteen (15) barangays. These assets and properties further refers to the barangay halls, other buildings and the like. No where does it point to assets and properties donated or loaned by the Quezon City government to PNP stations and personnel thereat.

C. Options

The common options that could be immediately undertaken by higher headquarters, are as follows:

1. Re-alignment of the territorial jurisdiction of CPD police stations. Most probably, CPD police stations would be seriously reduced from **eleven** (11) to just about **nine** (9) police stations or sub-stations depending on the final outcome of the status of the District.

2. Resources, particularly, Quezon City **donated/loaned** equipment such as, but not limited to, firearms, vehicles and computers, **issued** to the affected police stations will be retained by the Central Police District. Meanwhile, resources and allocations, both human and material, coming from the PNP organization must be momentarily **FOCUSED** on the new **Novaliches** City Police Station.

3. Movement of personnel, re-alignment of units and resources, and particulars on the transfer of equipment and property must be properly planned and explained **in detail** through appropriate implementing orders to be issued by higher headquarters.

4. Considering that the City of Novaliches will **still remain** with the Second Legislative District of Quezon City, a relative status quo may be observed until such time that the Novaliches City Police Station shall have been considered fully operational. A transition period of **two-years** can be given for this purpose.

5. CPD personnel to be assigned with the Novaliches City Police Station must be given ample time and opportunity to decide whether they want to stay on with the Central Police District or be assigned with the new Novaliches City Police Station. It must be noted that **long-serving CPD or Quezon City police personnel** stand to lose a lot of benefits and allowances from the local **Quezon** City government if they are transferred outside of the City.

On the aspect of what District will have jurisdiction over the new **Novaliches** City Police Station, the following are the recommended options:

OPTION A:

The new Novaliches City Police Station would be placed under a reorganized Central Police District.

This may prove to be the more **direct** move. However, such undertaking would obligate significant changes and may cause some complications even up to the NCRPO organization.

Firstly, the Central Police District (CPD) *"one police district - one city"* set-up such as the Western Police District (WPD), will be **totally altered**. The Central Police District will have to activate a separate District headquarters and designate a separate "*Chief of Police*" each for Quezon City and Novaliches. The present status of the remaining police stations of Quezon City will slightly be downgraded.

Separate headquarters will be needed to house the Central Police District headquarters and the Quezon City police station headquarters. Local Quezon City government support will consequently be diverted from the Central Police District to the Quezon City police station. The entire process might be considered too abrupt for the affected units to absorb the changes that it would necessarily entail.

If the new Novaliches City Police Station will only be considered as an additional police station of the Central Police District aligned with the other police stations under Quezon City, a serious organizational dysfunction will occur. This will create problems in control and leadership wherein a city police station under one and the same police district will operate differently and thus, **awkwardly**. Further, the Novaliches City Police Station can be deprived of specific support and benefits which are already traditionally given to the other police stations under Quezon City.

In addition, since the CPD will only have two (2) city police stations under its jurisdiction, it may need to adopt the Marikina City or the San Juan Police Stations from the Eastern Police District (EPD) to **rationalize** its new personality as a Police District. This will, in effect, oblige the EPD to re-claim its jurisdiction over the Taguig and Pateros police stations so as to level-off the very large AOR of the Southern Police District (SPD) with all the other Police Districts of NCRPO. Hence, this will cause a region-wide re-alignment of police stations and will entail a lot of movement and changes on the part of the NCRPO.

OPTION B:

The new Novaliches City Police Station will be placed under the Northern Police District (NPD) after a proposed two-year transition period.

This is considered as the **simplistic** alternative. Although at the onset, it may be perceived as somewhat impractical.

In this case, higher headquarters decides to retain the Central Police District's *"one police district - one city"* personality. The new Novaliches City Police Station will be considered as an **ADJUNCT** police station of the Central Police District **only on a *"hold over"* capacity for a two-year transition period**.

This procedure will allow ample time for the new city police station to undertake the needed changes and preparations before it becomes fully operational. After which, it can then be officially placed under the **Northern Police District (NPD).**

OPTION C:

The new Novaliches City Police Station will be placed under the Central Police District which will have a concurrent Quezon City Police Station under an interim set-up for a proposed two-year transition period.

A more **gradual** approach would be a variation of OPTION A. In this option, vital operational functions will NOT be jeopardized, crucial resources - both human and material will not be unnecessarily dislocated.

In this process, higher headquarters still decides to place the new Novaliches City Police Station under the Central Police District and alter its *"one police district - one city"* organizational set-up. The Central Police District will then organize a separate District headquarters, a separate "*Chief of Police*" will be designated for the new Novaliches City Police Station while the Quezon City Police Station will have to be activated with the CPD District Director acting in **concurrent** capacity as the Quezon City Chief of Police. The present status of the remaining police stations of Quezon City will be downgraded gradually as a re-organization process, which must be undertaken in phases, will be completed for a maximum period of two (2) years.

(Turn To Page 10)

Disadvantages of Novaliches Cityhood

By Ben O. Flores

The cityhood of Novaliches will bring many disadvantages to the Novaleños.

First, and foremost, is that Novaliches will lose the prestige it enjoys as a part of a premier city like QC and instead become a little undistinguished city like the 25 other little undistinguished cities all over the country.

It is very doubtful if an independent Novaliches City can stand on its own feet. Its income of about only P300 million a year, even if augmented by the BIR allocation, will hardly suffice to meet the multifarious needs concomitant with the birth of a new city. Payment for the salaries of officials, elected and appointed, with their respective personnel, will eat up much of its income, leaving very little for public services, water and lighting, transport and communications, infrastructure, etc. When you come to think about it, it is only the new city's officials and employees who will be the beenficiaries of cityhood.

Sooner or later, taxes will have to be increased to increase the city's insufficient income. It is true that RA 8535 contains a provision disallowing tax increase within five years from its approval, but, when the city government feels the pinch, it will surely agitate for the repeal of the prohibitory provisions or, at least, reduction of the five years to, say, one or two years. Once freed from restraint, the cash-strapped Novaliches City government wil go on a rampage of increasing business and realty taxes to the great woe of the city's businessmen and real property owners.

Since the Novaliches City government wil most likely not be able to give the P1,250 incentive pay they are getting under the City government, these deprived teachers will hit the trail in an exodus to QC's public schools.

Big business establishments wil be reluctant to move in to Novaliches, if n longer a part of QC. They would rather put up their businesses in the commercial and industrial zones the City government is developing in Payatas, North Triangle and the 100-hectare UP property.

Our paper made a survey of big business establishments in Novaliches. Seven out of 10 interviewed said that, while they were not against cityhood, they preferred to remain a part of QC. They admitted they had fears business taxes may be increased, sooner or later.

LIBAN. . .

INQUIRER, March 23, 1998 in answer to my own letter to the editor, "An Act of Ingratitude"

INQUIRER, March 16, 1998) and debunked them at the same time:

1. The "thriving municipality that Novaliches was, as early as September 1855" should be restored as an autonomous unit.

The "thriving municipality" Liban speaks of, was actually an undeveloped land full of jungles and, as pointed out by himself, it is in these jungles where the Katipunan freedom fighters sought refuge. In 1900, under American occupation, Novaliches was reduced to the status of a barrio and ceded to Caloocan because its revenues could not sustain a municipality status. It continued to be a barrio, disguising as a municipality, until it became a part of QC in 1948, signaling the start of its development to become the Industrial Center that it is now. What benefits will an autonomous Novaliches City bring to Novaleños? The only ones to be benefitted will be the officials who will take over the autonomous administration of the new city. Most of the city's income will go to the payment of the salaries of these autonomy-enjoying officials (most likely to be headed by Liban as fist Novaliches City Mayor) while the ordinary residents, for lack of funds, will suffer a diminution of the public services they are now getting under the Mathay as well as past administratiions.

2. Novaliches has been "largely ignored by the City government and the monstrous traffic that plagues the area daily is but one proof of this."

When Liban wrote this in his "Letter to the Editor" letter, cited above, he must have suffered a mental lapse of intelligence. To blame the "mostrous traffic" on QC and cite it as an indication of its neglect of Novaliches borders on stupidity. When you come to think of it, "monstrous traffic" is an indication of progress, and that means Novaliches progressed under the solicitous care of the City government. If Liban cares to look around, he will see literally concrete evidences of this progress; the many school buildings, health and day care centers, barangay halls, covered basketball courts, two branch hospitals of the QC General Hospital, the Polytechnic University, the biggest low-cost housing project of the city government, SMILE Citihomes. In fact, it can even be said that the City government has been partial to Novaliches. It is the only district where a Mini City Hall has been put up to service the Novaleños. Largely ignored? Come now, Mr. Liban, don't be a paranoid and imagine afflictions that do not exist.

3. The secession of Novaliches can not be called a dismemberment of QC because Novaliches was not part of the City originally created by Quezon.

Maybe so, but Quezon envisioned the city he created to grow and expand. In fact, his dream city started with only 7,000 hectares bought from the Diliman estate of the Tuazons. When RA 520, creating QC, was enacted in 1939 by then National Assembly, many contiguous areas were added to the original 7,000 hectares. It was in 1948 that Novaliches -- part of it -- became a part of QC, which became "the capital of the country and seat of the national government." That was 50 years ago -- repeat, 50 years ago. In those 50 years, Novaliches lost its identity as a municipality and became a district of QC. And in those 50 years, Novaliches became integrated to QC, not only physically and geographically, but also spiritually and emotionally. It has coalesced, merged with QC so completely and thoroughly that it has become a part of QC's heart, body and soul. Now, what do you call the slicing of Novaliches from QC? Is it not a clear case of dismemberment, Mr. Liban -- just like amputating one of your legs or anybody's leg?

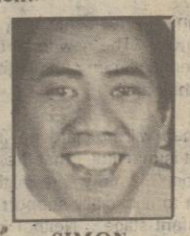
4. The cityhood of Novaliches is a fitting Centennial gift of the Presidency to the Filipino people.

I doubt if the Filipino people will accept a gift given at the sacrifice of the dismemberment of the dream city of the man whose memory they revere.

P27.8 M Unliquidated Cash Advances Of Former QC Officials

By Ben O. Flores

Twenty-two (22) former QC government officials have turned their backs to more than P27.8 million in unliquidated cash advances, as per records of the Accounting Department.



SIMON

Leading the pack of delinquent former officials are former Mayor Brigido R. Simon, Jr. with an unliquidated cas advance of P14,631,232.00 and former Vice Mayor Vicente Sotto with P10,105,239.97. This means that the unliquidated cash advances of Simon and Sotto have been pending the last 6 years. Under COA rules and regulations, cash advances must be liquidated within 60 days from receipt thereof.

The 20 other delinquent officials have a total unliquidated cash advances of P3,899,407.53, ranging from a low of P0.90 to a high of P1,656,232.66. They include five former City Councilors and other high ranking officials.



SOTTO

These delinquent officials had left the City government long before the time of the incumbent City Auditor, Atty. Jose Ortega, who assumed office only in October last year. The cash advances had been incurred under his two immediate predecessors, he said. Legal action can still be taken to recover the unliquidated cash advances but there would be difficulty in producing the original vouchers.

People's Bureau Has New Head

The People's Bureau has a new head: Ramon T. Asprer. He replaces Atty. Remedios Balbin who has been appointed Commissioner on Revel returnees. Asprer is a Bachelor of arts (Philosophy) graduates from the university of Sto. Tomas and has earned 45 units, 2nd Year Law, at the Far Eastern University. He took graduate studies (MBA-TEP) at the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila. Last year, he was the recipient of a foreign scholarship grant, IHS, Netherlands, for the 71st International Course on Housing and Urban Development.

The People's Bureau Acting head started as a casual employee in 1986. He rose steadily up the ranks, occupying various positions: District Field Officer, Senior Urban/Settlement Coordinator, Housing & Homesite Regulation Officer V, and finally City Government Assistant Office Head, the position from which he became Acting Head.

Asprer has attended 31 In-Service Training courses, the last on March 23 this year, on the subject, "Pasig River Environmental Management andd Rehabilitation Project."



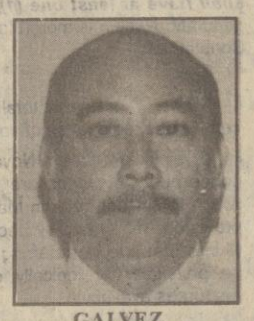
ASPRER

The People's Bureau Acting Head is a native of Tarlac. He is married to Remedios A. Asprer, a City government employee, with whom he has three children.

(Editor's Note: Asprer has very impressive credentials. He deserves to become the permanent head of the People's Bureau, the office which attends to the squatter problem and to the City government's Socialized Housing Program. He has a very competent Chief Operations Officer in the person of VICTORIA LLANES.)

P86,276,918 INCREASE
Total BPLO 1997 Collection: P 833,775,525

Last year's collection of the Business Permits and License Office (BPLO) headed by Col. Rafael Galvez from business taxes, mayor's permit fees, garbage fees and sanitary fees was a whopping P833,775,25. P86,276,918 more than the 1996 collection of P747,498,607. Business taxes yielded P758,641,591; Mayor's permit fees, P30,207,916; garbage fees, P29,030,241; and sanitary permit fees, P16,895,777.



GALVEZ

Business taxes collection came from 39,069 business permit renewals and 14,032 new business permits, for a total of 53,101 business permits issued in 1997.

For occupational permits, 2,155 were renewals while new occupational permits numbered 70,032. This very significant: it means 70,032 additional persons found gainful employment in 1997.

Revenue from real property taxes and Internal Revenue Allotment in 1997 totalled P2,226,225,617 -- an increase of P311,682,861 over the 1996 revenue from the same sources of P1,914,542,756.

This year's estimated income of P3,850,000,000 (as per 1998 budget) is P789,000,000 mor than last year's income of P3,061,000,000 (rounded).

Figures Don't Lie
Tremendous Progress Under Mathay Administration
1992-1998

1992 Budget	*1998 Budget*	*Increase*
P1,237,052,133	P3,850,000,000	P2,612,947,867

SIMON. . .

Ctiy; and others.

The information on the case filed by Special Prosecutor Officer II Wilfredo L. Pascasio of the Office of the Ombudsman is reproduced verbatim hereunder:

INFORMATION

The undersigned Special Prosecution Officer, Office of the Ombudsman, accuses Brigido R. Simon Jr., Jonathan E. Africa, Montano L. Diaz, Teresita N. Turla and Bienvenido Icasiano, for complex crime of Malversation of Public Funds thru Falsification of Public/Official Document, defined and penalized under Article 217 in relation to Article 171 of the Revised Penal Code, committed as follows:

That during the period from February 17, 1992 to July 30, 1992, or sometime prior or subsequent thereto, in Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines, and within the jurisdiction of this Honorable Court, accused Brigido R. Simon Jr., then City Mayor of Quezon City, Jonathan E. Africa, then Assistant City General Services Officer, Montano L. Diaz, then City Treasurer, a such an accountable officer, Teresita N. Turla, then SEF Board Secretary, all public officials of the city government of Quezon City, and Bienvenido A. Icasiano, then Schools Division Superintendent, NCR-DECS, Quezon City taking advantage of their official positions, conspiring, confederating and helping one another, did then and there wilfully, unlawfully and criminally falsify documents supporting the purchase of computers in 1972, namely: SB Resolution, purchase request, purchase order, disbursement vouchers and others, by making it appear that the price of the computers was P63,800.00 per item when in fact and in truth the cost was only P35,000.00 for each unit, and paid out about P1,658,000.00, which the aforenamed accused did then and there misappropriate, embezzle and malverse for their personal benefit, to the damage of the government for the same amount.

CONTRARY TO LAW.
Manila, Philippines, August 25, 1997
WILFRED L. PASCASIO
Special Prosecution Officer II
BAIL BOND RECOMMENDED: P30,000.00 EACH

The crime for which Simon, et al are charged was also one of the charges in the administrative complaint that we, Cosme Quinto and this writer, had filed against Icasiano in 1994 and for which Icasiano has been exonerated, together with other charges in our complaint, in a decision made by then DECS Secretary and now senatorial candidate Ricardo T. Gloria which was unmitigated whitewash. (Please read "Icasiano Exonerated Despite Overwhelming Evidence Against Him," page 1).

FORMER DECS. . .

receipt thereof.

The charge has been filed with the Ombudsman by Ben O. Flores, publisher-editor of the **New Capitol Standard**, a local newspaper in Quezon City. Flores said his letter was received at the office of then DECS Secretary Gloria on December 5, 1997 but until now he has not received an answer. Gloria's resignation, he added, does not extinguish his culpability under R.A. 6713 as per Rule VI, Section 1 of the "Rules Implementing the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employes, as follows:

"As a general rule, when a request or petition, whether written or verbal, can be disposed of promptly and expeditiously, the official or employee in charge to whom the same is presented shall do so immediately, without discrimination, and in no case beyond fifteen (15) days from receipt of the request or petition.

In his letter, Flores said, he asked Gloria to declare a misinvestigation and order a re-investigation of a case he and a co-complainant, Cosme Quinto, had filed with DECS against former Quezon City Schools Superintendent Bienvenido Icasiano for various violations of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices law, principally overpricing in the purchase jof school supplies and equipment.

The decision on the case the publisher-editor continued, was "a clear and simple case of an immaculate whitewash," which is why, he added, he wanted a re-investigation. The decision, Flores pointed out, was unilaterally signed by Gloria based on the recommendation of a three-member panel he had created to do the investigation. The dissenting opinion of one of the panel members was completely ignored in the decision. Flores said, as well as all the documentary evidences he and Quinto had submitted which included: 1) blank requisition and issue voucher forms signed by Icasiano and 2) comparative tabulations of open market prices and purchase prices of Icasiano in the procurement of school supplies and equipment, showing overpricing of 100% to 500%. This overpricing is also one of the findings of the COA audit of purchases made by Icasiano in 1992, Flores added.

In the decision, he said, attempts are made to discredit the comparative price tabulations and all other documentary evidences and arguments we had submitted, but no mention at all is made of the blank requisition and issue voucher forms, a clear indication, Flores said, that they constitute irrefutable evidence against Icasiano -- enough to have convicted him.

-- (Jimmy Oliver)