QUEZON DAY SUPPLEMENT, Pages 6-A & 6-B

SUBDIVISION DEVELOPER GIVEN ULTIMATUM

B.C. Regalado and Co., Inc., developer of the North Fairview Park Subdivision, had been given an ultimatum to turn over to the city government 190,941 square meters of open spaces worth more than half a billion pesos, which the developer has failed to develop after 18 years, in violation of a provision in the city ordinance approving the North

(Turn to page 2)

The New Capitol STANDARD

QUEZON CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY MAIN OFFICE

ATTENTION PLEASE! Comelec Chairman Monsod!

What is the matter with your staff? We sent our representative to get some statistics, particularly the Statements of Contributions and Expenses submitted by our winning local officials of QC, which we wanted to publish

(Turn to page 2)

Vol. XX, No. 2 | Quezon City, Metro Manila | August 1 - 15, 1992

EDITORIAL

Top Priority: Fight Vs. Graft and Corruption

We have called this issue, "Anti-Graft and Corruption Special Issue," to stress our belief that the fight against graft and corruption should be among the top priorities of the new city administration of the honorable Mayor Ismael Mathay, Jr. In his State of the City Address, Mathay did not mention this all important fight as one of his priorities but the reason, obviously, is that his Vice Mayor, the honorable Charito Planas, who spoke before him, had already mentioned "the elimination of graft and corruption starting from my office" as her first priority.

We like to think Mathay had chosen Planas to be his vice-mayoral candidate precisely to have a gutsy graftbuster, a role that the kind and mild Mel Mathay would find painful and difficult to play although we are certain he will give full support to Charito.

Even before her speech, the Vice Mayor, in her first flag-raising talk on July 13, had sounded a cry for what she called a "revolution against kurakot." We hope, these fighting words are not just "sound and fury signifying nothing." We say this because we recall how Planas had lost interest in the P1.4 million T-shirt case she had filed against the previous administration after her so-called reconciliation with the respondent.

Perhaps, she realized that the case was weak although we remember having read a FREE PRESS article in which the documented evidences presented seemed to show that there was an airtight case. All these are now irrelevant, so much water under the bridge. Anyway, the reconciliation resulted in something good for the city: the development of the long neglected Quezon Memorial Circle.

For the last more than 20 years, this paper, primarily a public service paper given out free although we intend to go commercial with our next issue, has been doing its bit in the fight against graft and corruption. But it has been our experience that denunciations, accusations and exposes made in our paper have been mostly exercises in futility--like fighting windmills. They have been unheeded, dismissed with a shrug, perhaps even with a contemptuous laugh.

(Turn to page 2)

GHOST PURCHASE, FAKE OFFICIAL TRIPS

Two Cases of Graft and Corruption Ready For Filing

By Ben O. Flores

We are ready to file with the Ombudsman two cases of graft and corruption, one involding a ghost purchase made by the General Services Office (GSO) and the other, fake official trips perpetrated by one re-elected and three former Councilors.

We have already prepared duly notarized "Sworn Statements of Complaint." In fact, these complaints have been ready since last year but we have pended them due to some indecision on our part. Some of those involved are our friends and we know what a big bother it is to pursue a case in court.

Deterrents

But we feel it our duty as a newspaperman and even as an ordinary citizen to file the cases. It is our experience that denunciations, accusations and exposes made in our paper have been exercises in futility - ineffective in the fight against graft and corruption. They have to be *judicially pursued* to be effective. It is our hope that the filing of these cases will serve as deterrents to the commission of similar anomalies in the future under the new administration of Mayor Mathay who has a clean image to maintain.

Ghost Purchase

Involved in the ghost purchase case are Rolando Montiel, GSO Chief; Elizardo Agsalud, Cultural and Tourism Affairs Office (CTAO) Chief; Perlita Gruba, Tourism Officer I, CTAO; Artemio Mascarina, Fiscal Examiner III, Fiscal Control Unit; Dolores Bobila, Chief Supply Officer, GSO; M.B. Tarrobal, Supply Officer III, GSO; Catalino A. Aquino, Procurement Division Chief, GSO; Iluminada A. Fajardo, Building and Equipment Maintenance Division Chief, GSO; and Alicia de Leon, who posed as the Proprietor/ Manager of a ghost establishment.

Fake Official Trips

Involved in the fake official trips case are re-elected Councilor Emilio Tamayo, former Councilor now Congressman Dennis Roldan and former Councilors Cielito del Mundo and Elizabeth Gaba.

In the "Sworn Statement of Complaint", which is supported by 13 Annexes, against th respondents in the ghost purchase case, they are charged with "having conspired to defraud the QC government in the amount of P191, 014 committed as follows:

Spurious Abstract Of Price Quotations

"Agsalud prepared a spurious Abstract of Price Quotations (Annex A) after having allegedly caused the canvass of three alleged business establishments, namely: Aldianza General Merchandizing, 63 Lime St., SSS Village, Marikina; Philven Trading, No. 5, Farmers Market Arcade, Cubao, QC; and Peterson Commercial, 2489 Legarda St., Sampaloc, Manila.

Fictitious Business Establishments

"These three-named business establishments are *fictitious and non-existent*. We checked them

(Turn to page 10)

THE RESPONDENTS



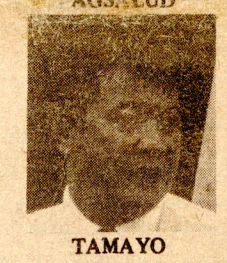
MONTIEL



AGSALUD



ROLDAN



TAMAYO



DEL MUNDO



GABA

IN THE INTEREST OF THE SERVICE

City Officials, Employees Freezed

In accordance with the ongoing reorganization and streamlining of the city government, several city officials and employees have been re-assigned from their mother offices, purportedly "in the interest of the service ", in the words of the reassigning Office Orders.

In current City Hall parlance, reassignment is called "na Magnolia" probably because Magnolia ia a frozen product.

The first to be reassigned was Rolando Montiel, General Services Officer,- - to the City Administrator's office, presumably to make a study on better procurement procedures—no overpricing, no ghost purchases, no kickbacks.

Others followed, among them are the following:

Mario Velasco, Local Revenue Collection Officer V; Clarissa D. Habacon, Local Revenue Collection Officer IV; and Josefino Mercado, Local Treasury Operations Officer III--all of the City Treasurer's Office. They have been re-assigned to the QC Public Library "to undertake continuing studies and research on the improvement of collection of taxes, fees and other revenues of Quezon City" **(Why not improve the tax collectors instead? - - Editor)**

(Turn to page 12)

Sotto's Office Denies Planas Allegations

By Ben O. Flores

In a letter of Senator Sotto's Administrative Officer Markilo Rosales, which was hand-carried to us, the allegation of Vice Mayor Charito Planas that some office equipment and firearms had not been turned over by former Vice Mayor is denied.

The denial, however, is not made "for and in behalf of the Senior, hence, we can not equate it to a denial by the Senator himself. Besides, the only proof the Administrative Officer gives is a xerox copy of a "Property Accountability Clearance" signed by re-assigned General Services Officer Rolando Montiel. Considering the case for graft and corruption we are filing against Montiel et al., we can not accept the Clearance as gospel truth.

Rosales claims that " the records of the Quezon City General Services will readily show that the properties for which then Vice Mayor Sotto was accountable were already issued individual Memorandum Receipts under the name of persons other than then Vice Mayor Sotto."

Sotto's seemingly unauthorized letter - writer– at least in this particular case - - has not furnished us copies of the al-

(Turn to page 4)

NEW ERA

Revolution Sa "Kurakot"

Quezon City is the cradle of two revolutions—the 1896 Revolution started by Bonifacio at Pugad Lawin and the EDSA Revolution of 1986.

A third revolution has been launched: A Revolution against "Kurakot." This was first announced by Vice Mayor Charito Planas in her maiden flag raising ceremony talk last July 13. It will usher in a "New Era" in QC, she said.

In her speech at the inaugural session of the City Council last July 23, Planas reiterated the fight against "kurakot". She declared that her first priority is: "The elimination of graft and corruption starting from my own office." It seems she had been jolted into the declaration of War against "kurakot" by her shocking discovery of "such scandalous expenditures indulged in by our predecessors to spend P1,950.00 for one basketball and P1,500.00 for one volleyball which any parent with a child would know cost only P300.00 to P700.00 a piece." In her flag-raising ceremony talk she said she had also discovered that "our predecessors" had been buying mimeographing paper at P217.00 per ream, P119.00 more than the P98.00 it costs in bookstores.

Another fantastic discovery the Vice Mayor disclosed in her speech is that under the offices of her predecessor, now Senator Vicente Sotto III, personnel numbered—hold your breath—350. Incidentally, in her flag-raising ceremony talk, Planas had alleged that Sotto had failed to turn over some office equipment, communications facilities and firearms.

The Vice Mayor said that she intends "to set up, under the powers vested in my office, a purchasing office which will provide the needs of the council and by which means, the purchase prices of the city government can easily be the subject of comparison and transparency."

(Turn to page 11)

STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

A DREAM TO FULFILL

By Ben O. Flores

After more than 20 years, the Hon. ISMAEL MATHAY, JR. has finally fulfilled the dream to become Mayor of Quezon City. Now he has another dream to fulfill—not his own dream, but the dream of "the great man for whom the city was named, Manuel Luis Quezon." He said so, in his State of the City Address delivered at the inaugural session of the City Council last July 23, 1992.

"What is our vision for QC?" he asked and proceeded to give the answer:

"It should certainly be in keeping with the vision of the founding father and of the great man for whom the city was named, Manuel Luis Quezon. It is the vision of a model city. A congenial community to live in, to work in. A beautiful city in many respects. A city of opportunities for the hardworking, for the talented, for the enterprising and creative, for the young with ambitions and for a committed citizenry cager to define a future of peace and progress for a city they can love and work for."

A tall order, no doubt, tall order made taller by the not so bright, not so good state of the city he pictured:

The darkest spot in the pic- is the poor financial status of the city goverment he had inherited, "Not exactly bankrupt but so precarious as to seriously limit the New Administration's initiatives with respect to priority programs, unless revenues rise dramatically and expenditures cut significantly." Unfortunately, "revenue projections show slight increases in real estate

(Turn to page 4)



Mathay is congratulated after delivering his State of the City Address by (from left) Councilors Hipol, Medina and Sioson. At extreme right, partially shown, is Vice Mayor and Presiding Officer Charito Planas.



Standard FARE

by Ben O. Flores

Congratulations!!

Congratulations to whoever thought of reviving the original QC Hymn. I had been urging this revival many times in this column to no avail. I'm glad somebody finally saw it my way. The revived hymn was played and sang for the first time after more than 10 years during the flag-raising ceremony last July 27. It was met with thunderous applause in contrast to the cold reception that the previous hymn, with its dirge-like strains and tempo, usually got. The spirited tempo and inspiring lyrics of the revived hymn are truly stirring, as a hymn should be, unlike the previous hymn which was depressing, more fit for a funeral procession than as an official hymn.

The music of the revived hymn was composed by the late Dr. Eliseo Pajaro, then U.P. Presidential Assistant for Cultural Affairs and the country's top composer and director. He had been commissioned by then Mayor Amoranto. Dr. Pajaro did not charge a single peso, again in contrast to the P60,000 paid by the city government to then Councilor Canseco, composer fo the junked hymn. Fortunately, the past Council did not pass the ordinance Canseco introduced appropriating P2.5 million for the taping of his hymn for distribution to schools, civic clubs etc. That would have been a major musical disaster

The English lyrics of the revived hymn were written by former Fiscal Lea T. Castelo, better half of perennial Councilor Miling Castelo and former columnist of this paper. They were translated into Pilipino by Dr. Ligaya D. Perez, columnist of the then *Philippines Daily Express*.

The hymn was launched on March 10, 1976 at the Quezon Memorial Circle with the mass singing of thousands of pupils and students of public and private schools in QC and 13 choral groups of national offices conducted by Dr. Pajaro himself. Guest of honor was then Secretary of Education Juan Manuel, who was introduced by then City Schools Superintendent Conmemoracion Concepcion. This launching event was the banner story of this paper, then called THE CAPITOL STANDARD, without the NEW, in its March 10, 1976 issue.

I had chided in this column, Councilors Miling Castelo and Wilma Amoranto for not bringing to the attention of the Council the existence of an official QC Hymn—Miling because it was his better half who had written the lyrics and Wilma because it was his old man who had commissioned Dr. Pajaro. But I suppose, it was *delicadeza* that held them back. Anyway, they have been vindicated by the revival of the original official QC Hymn. And everybody is happy.

New Words In City Hall Parlance

The new administration has caused new words in the parlance of City Hall. Words and phrases like "magnolia" and "magnificent seven". I understand "magnolia" refers to city officials who have been frozen as a result of their having been relieved from their offices and detailed to the City Administrator's office - no, not to lick Magnolia ice cream, but simply to twiddle their fingers. The "magnificent seven", I also understand, refers to city officials/employees who are expected to get the axe. I have an inkling of who they are but I can not divulge them until I am positive of their identity. Even the Mayor is reportedly reluctant to point a direct finger at them. All he will do, in a meeting he is supposed to call of all department heads and chiefs of offices is to appeal to the conscience of those who had actively campaigned in the last elections, contrary to CSC rules, so that they may voluntarily call it quits instead of waiting to be booted out. Let's hope those concerned have consciences.

State of City Address

Fairly well-written comprehensive and very well delivered, what with Mel's sonorous baritone and flawless diction--like the San Beda and U.P. Gold Medalist orator and debater that he had once been. But, like all addresses of this purpose and nature, whether on the state of the nation or of the city, Mel's address contains a generous dose of the usual cliches, platitudes, statistics, rhetorics and generalities. *This is not intended to be criticism.* The addresses I used to prepare for past administration mayors were just as full, if not fuller, of said cliches, platitudes, etc. My point is that: state of the nation/city addresses by their very nature and purpose can not avoid or dispense with these stock ingredients.

Even the recent state of the nation address of President Ramos was called "unexciting, boring and lacking in substance" by--well, of course, by oppositionists like Peping Cojuangco, which is why such comment should be taken with a grain of salt. Even an oppositionist wont apply such a negative comment to Mel's address which, in fact, was substantial and punctuated by many applauses. While he admitted there were "poetic generalities . . . even fantasies" in his address, he promised "in due time (to) circulate to the Honorable Council Members details and specifications of these in support of the Plans and Programs that the City Administration will be submitting to the Council for consideration."

It's about the statistics cited in the address that I have some misgivings. I know from my own experience that, if based on accomplishment reports of the different departments and offices, statistics are not always reliable. I used to get conflicting statistics: For instance, the City Engineer would report that, say, 15 school buildings had been constructed during the year while in the report of the City Schools Division, it would be 20. When in such a dilemna, I usually chose the statistics in the better-written report. Incidentally, some--repeat *some*—accomplishment reports I used to get were lousily written.

It's the statistics on the crime rate cited in Mel's address that surprise and puzzle me: "307.59 per 100,000 population, much higher than the 246 per 100,000 for Metro Manila." In the accomplishment reports I had been receiving from the police, the crime rate has been for the past few years about only 20 per 100,000 population. It is possible, the statistics cited in the address are based, not only on index crimes, but even on such petty, trifling offenses as jaywalking, littering, etc. Even so, I am inclined to think there is a mistake somewhere.

It is precisely in the interest of accurate— and readily available— statistics that I have submitted to the City Administrator a proposal for the creation of a Research and Statistics Division to be under the City Planning and Development Office or the Public Affairs and Information Services Office (PAISO). I hope this time it will be given some attention as it did not get any in past administrations.

KUNG MAY REKLAMO LABAN SA ISANG OPISINA O EMPLEYADO NG PAMAHALAAN MAGSUMBONG SA OMBUDSMAN

ANG TANGGAPAN NG OMBUDSMAN

Itinatag ang Tanggapan ng Ombudsman upang labanan ang katiwalian sa gobyerno at mapadali ang mga program ng pamahalaan. Ang paglikha ng Ombudsman ay itinalagang saligang batas at binigyang katuparan naman ng RA 6770 na pinagtibay noong 1989. Ang batas na ito ang nagbibigay daan kung paanong maririnig ang hinaing ng mamamayan.

MGA KARAINGAN O REKLAMO NA MAAARING IHARAP SA OMBUDSMAN

Kriminal o administratibong reklamo, hinaing o paghingi ng kaukulang tulong.
Mga gawain ng mga kawani ng pamahalaan na labag sa batas o regulasyon.
Mga gawaing hindi makatarungan at makatuwiran, mapaniil o kaya'y pagtatangi.
Mga gawaing hindi naaayon sa nararapat na pagtupad ng tungkulin ng isang tanggapan o ahensya kahit naaayon sa batas.
Mga gawaing salungat sa mabuting kaugalian, imoral o walang katarungan.

SINU-SINO ANG MAAARING IREKLAMO

Opisyal, kawani at tanggapan ng pamahalaan kasama na ang mga korporasyon sa ilalim o pag-aari ng gobyerno.

PAANO MAAARING MAGREKLAMO

Ang isang reklamo o hinaing ay maaaring idulog na pasalita lamang o sa pamamagitan ng pagsulat. Makababuti kung ito'y may kalakip na sinumpang salaysay ng nagrereklamo at ng kanyang saksi at iba pang ebidensyang magpapatibay sa sumbong.

Maaaring ipadala ito ng libre sa pamamagitan ng telegrama (hindi hihigit sa 150 salita) sa Bureau of Telecommunications.

OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN
NWSA Bldg., Arroceros St., Manila

Ombudsman	Hon. Conrado M. Vasquez	47-67-01
Overall Deputy Ombudsman	Hon. Jose C. Colayco	47-38-63

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND CORRUPTION PREVENTION OFFICE

Assistant Ombudsman	Hon. Arturo C. Mojica	47-38-81

EVALUATION AND INVESTIGATION OFFICE

Assistant Ombudsman	Atty. Abelardo L. Aportadera, Jr.	47-42-94
Deputy Ombudsman for Luzon		47-38-75

Hon. Manuel C. Domingo
NWSA Building Arroceros St.
Manila

Bold Shows

The drive against the so-called bold shows--the dancers no longer need boldness, being used to such total body manifestations--had, I think, better be left entirely to the police, so that, if it fails, as it is bound to fail, the city administration wont be blamed. I understand, however, Mel has created task forces to undertake the drive. Nothing wrong in that, I guess, but Mel should, perhaps, not make very emphatic, strong promises that bold shows will be eradicated. I'm afraid, the bad, bold "ladies" who display themselves in their birthday clothes for the delectation of their supposedly respectable "gentlemen" patrons are here to stay. There had been anti-bold show task forces galore in past administrations but the show goes on. Trouble is, more often than not, what the task forces did was not to monitor the nite spots but to *money*-tor them.

I think the drive should be directed less against the bold "ladies," who are forced to boldness for economic reasons, and more against their "gentlemen" patrons. In other words, some kind of a public morality drive should be undertaken, by the church, perhaps, to dissuade said "gentlemen" from patronizing bold shows by appealing to their sense of decency and self-respect. The past Council enacted an ordinance making both bold dancer, and viewers liable. Unfortunately, the courts threwout the ordinance as unconstitutional. Mel might try dialoguing again with pub and disco owners, as Mayor Rodriguez did, to draw up guidelines on what shows are obscene and what are not.

Sometimes, I think, tolerating these bold shows would, in the long run, be more effective in eradicating them, paradoxical as it may sound. It could be possible on the premise that too much and too long of anything will be detested or at least disliked when the point of satiation is reached. Have eggs for breakfast, lunch and dinner everyday for, say, even just a week and the mere sight of an egg will make you throw up. Same with bold shows, - incessant, continuous, uninhibited viewing of such anatomical exhibitions will, sooner or later, make you lose interest in them. After all, if you have seen the private parts of one woman, you have seen them all. The variations are negligible, anyway.

Mel-Charito: Strange Bedfellows?

Some quarters are inclined to look on Mel Mathay and Charito Planas as strange bedfellows. They are indeed contrasting personalities. Mel is the cool, suave and deliberate type. Charito is kinetic, an eager beaver who wants "action agad." Mel is deep, though not necessarily silent, waters, Charito, the roaring, rushing rapids.

Mel seems to have a penchant for choosing an antithesis for a running mate as though subject to that law in physics about, opposite polls attracting each other. In the 1971 elections, when he ran for Mayor, he chose the late Rafael Mison, Jr. a his vice mayor candidate. Mison was a tough, rugged former policeman who became known as the "stormy petrel" of the 1968-1971 Council, what with his fire and brimestone oratory. He and Mel really made an old combination.

The fear has been expressed that Mel and Charito may not be able to get along smoothly. I think the fear is unfounded. Though of contrasting personalities, they have a common denominator in their zeal for public service, which should enable them to work in harmony.

The New Capitol STANDARD
53 Malvar St., Proj. 4, Q.C.
EDUARDO C. FLORES
Publisher-Editor
JAIME O. OLIVER
News Editor
A.O. FLORES
BEN. O. FLORES
Editorial Consultants

EDITORIAL . . .

We do not want to continue fighting windmills. We will pursue judicially any anomaly that we may find or is brought to our attention. We are starting with two cases as reported in our banner story. Incidentally, it was a "Concerned Citizen" who furnished us the spurious Abstract of Price Quotations which prompted us to undertake the painstaking research and investigation which resulted in our being able to put together the documented evidences supporting the "ghost purchase" case.

We referred this case to the Mayor as a matter of courtesy considering that the respondents are still officials/employees under his administration but he has been noncommittal. We interpret this to mean that the decision to file or not to file should be ours entirely. We hope his being noncommittal does not, however, mean that we will not get any moral support.

The fight against graft and corruption, as a priority, has an advantage over the other priorities. It will hardly need any funds to undertake it—on the contrary, it will generate considerable funds, the millions that will be saved if the fight is successful. All the other priorities like increasing the police force, building streets and schools, providing shelter for squatters, improving, social, medical and educational services, all these need enormous funds which, at the moment, are wanting, thanks to past rather profligate spending.

In the light of the city government's strained finances, the fight against graft and corruption may, in the meantime, occupy top priority.

Cause of Breakdown In National Growth

(Excerpt from a speech delivered by Supreme Court Justice Teodoro Padilla at the 1991 UP Alumni Homecoming.)

What has been the reason, the cause, of this national disaster? In my candid assessment, it has been our basic indifference to, tolerance of, and even participation, directly or indirectly, in graft and corruption in government.

Graft and corruption, it is sad to say, has become almost a part of our national culture. Graft and corruption has been rampant not only in the present government, but, the truth is in all previous governments. The difference has only been in degree and, shall we say, intensity.

People seem to be always prepared to give and receive what is uncalled for, immoral and definitely illegal, to ensure favorable and speedy action in whatever government, in the first place, is duty-bound to do, whether in delivering essential or basic services, promoting public welfare, or enriching the climate for economic growth. The result of this deplorable state of affairs has been national stagnation, decadence and even retrogression.

It is for this reason that we, the ruby jubilarians of the University of the Philippines, would like to call upon all UP alumni and the entire Filipino people to arrest and stop this continuing atrophy in our political and social life.

Let us, with all the sincerity, earnestness and strength we can muster, fight graft and corruption in all levels and branches of the government including the Courts. Let us, to begin with, refrain from being parties or privies to irregular transactions with government officials and employees; let us denounce, and demand action on, the irregularities we see around us. We may not be able to produce the *quantum* of evidence necessary to support conviction in a scrimi-nal case but we would have succeeded in exposing the venality. Unless we actively take part in this crusade, we will lose not the battle but even the war for a clean and honest govenment.

ATTENTION . . . .

in the same way that the Statements of national officials had been published. These are public documents, why was our representative told to get the "legal opinion" of your lawyers? Is that necessary?

On his **third** trip to Comelec, he got bumped by a reckless driver, one of those that infest our streets. He suffered a broken legs, which is now in plaster cast.

Why blame me? you'd probably say. Not exactly, but if your staff hadn't given him the run-around, he didn't have to make that fatal third trip. Get the idea?

Our official letter of complaint follows.— — BEN O. FLORES.

SUBDIVISION . . . . . .

Fairview Park Subdivision Plan.

The ultimatum is contained in a resolution filed by Councilor Melencio Castelo, Chairman of the Committee on Real Estate and Subdivisions. R.C. Regalado and Co. is given "sixty (60) days from the date of this Resolution . . . to effect and consummate the /turnover."

DREAM . . . . . .

sources, but expenditures will rise faster" and there are huge pending obligations such as bank amortizations and MMA contributions.

The Mayor cited statistics, as of June 30, 1992, to show the dire state of the city government finances:

1. Abudget shortfall of about P 73.7 million by December 31, 1992.

2. Expenditures against appropriations have exceeded the 50% proportion (over 53%) leaving just 47% for the second half of the year. Key offices are the ones with exhausted appropriations such as the Mayor's office with just 16% balance and the Vice Mayor's with a balance of only 23 % "The situation, Mathay said, means the Mayor's leeway and flexibility for instituting and implementing new programs and projects may be restricted."



Mathay delivering his inaugural address at the turnover ceremony last June 30, the day marking the fulfillment of a "magnificent obsession."

3. The allocations of expenditures show disturbing proportions; 38% goes to personnel, 61% to maintainance expenditures and only 11% to capital expenditures. "This are proportions that are reflective of poor prioritization and inefficiencies as personnel and maintenance, particularly the latter, are exceedingly high for the standards of government offices, "Mathay said, "There is hardly any capital expenditures budget left again incapacitating the new administration launching new development programs and projects particularly in urgently priority areas of public services such as garbage collection."

4. "The cash position is comfortable,"Mathay admitted "(although) the cash balances include items that are not easily short- term cash sources, such as the Ramawil Time Deposit (and) "our P50 million Treasury Bills with the Land Bank of t e Philippines (which) could not preterminated as it is a collateral to our loan from the LBP. "

Aside from the financial state, other dark spots in the picture painted by the Mayor are in the following areas:

1. Peace and Order. High crime rate of 307. 59 per 100,000 population, much higher than the 246 per 100,000 crime rate for Metro Manila.

The QC Police Force of 2,208 officers and men has a ratio of 1 is to 782 population much below the ideal of 1:500. There is need for an additional 1,246 policemen.

2. **Traffic and Transport Situation.** Daily traffic jams in the city's major avenues—the fault of the three Es: Enforcement, Engineering and Education. Needed are more roads, underpasses and flyovers, pedestrian walkovers, additional lanes, passenger loading and unloading bays. Also needed: to educate and discipline drivers, commuters and pedestrians.

OPLAN CLEAN UP QC

3. Garbage Collection. Mathay "inherited" when he assumed office an accumulation of about 7,200 tons of uncollected garbage to which 1,500 tons are being added daily. With the onset of the rainy season, garbage clogging waterways is the prime cause of floods. Oplan Clean Up QC is the new administration's immediate initiative to improve garbage collection. Community participation and education, an imperative to further improvement.

4. **Health.** High incidence of malnutrition affecting about 292,000 pre-school children, 45% of whom suffer first degree malnutrition. This high incidence rate can be attributed to poverty.

Upper respiratory diseases are the leading cause of morbidity while pneumonia and tuberculosis are the leading causes of death- - about 93 per 100,000 population for pneumonia and 82 for tuberculosis, an indication of high degree of pollution in the city.

5. Education. There are 168,909 elementary school children and 7,643, secondary. While situation is improving, there are still significant shortages of classrooms and teachers–a bit worse than the other major cities in Metro Manila.

6. Demographics. QC has one of the fastest growing population rates among Metro Manila cities at 3.5% compared to 1.5% of Manila, Makati, Pasay, Caloocan and Mandaluyong. The 1991 official population is 1.78 million, a density of 172.8 per hectare.

Age group below 24 year old is 65% of the total population, 22.6% of whom are below 15 years. Of these, 245,027 are in the depressed areas, of whom only 58% are employed.

More than 40% of the city's households fall below the NEDA poverty line of ₱4,644 per month. Sixty nine (69) percent of the families derive income from wages and salaries and only 9.72% from entrepreneurial activities.

There are 106,175 squatter families, slightly more than one-third of the city's total of 301,283 families.

There are 140 barangays, 90 of which are in the depressed and semi-depressed areas, 66.4% of the total. There are 106,000 families and 76 structures in these 90 barangays.

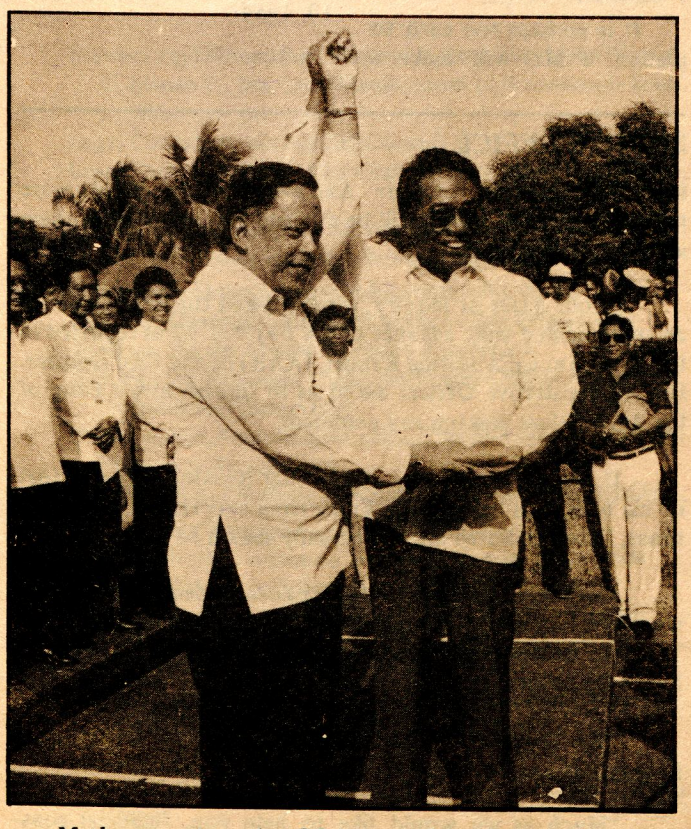
Enormous Demand

"These demographic indicators," Mathay said, "show the magnitude of the social and economic problems that the city must contend with given this population profile. The implication is for an enormous demand for educational and health facilities, housing and shelter and employment not to mention the prospect of higher incidence of drug addiction and criminality."

Devolution Difficulties

Mathay forsees difficulties in the full implementation the first time this year of the Local Government Code. In the devolution of national functions to local units, "the complications revolve around the need to resolve the extent by which the local government units assume the personnel and budgets attendant to the powers and functions being devoled. He fears that the city government would not be able to absorb the personnel involved in the devolution. He cited an example: The devolution of garbage and sanitation functions would mean the absorbtion of 2,000 Metro Aides.

The creation of various councils and committees with executive and regulatory functions provided for by the Code will take some time, the Mayor said, handicapping current operations of the city government in the meantime.



Mathay receives the QC banner from his predecessor, Jun Simon, symbolizing the formal turnover of the city administration to him. To the eternal credit of Simon, he had immediately, gracefully conceded "to God" which ultimately meant "to Mathay,"

Conflict

Another difficulty he cited is the possible conflict between the city government and the barangays as both are given by the Code taxation and regulatory powers over businesses, a situation, Mathay said, "that could make life uncomfortable for investors and existing economic enterprises."

The last dark spot cited by the Mayor in the state of the city picture he painted has to do with the structure of the city government itself: the bloated administrative bureaucracy which employs "an excessive number of casuals and contractuals, about 5,600 in all, many of whom are unmonitored as to what exactly they are doing."

Overlapping Functions

Mathay also pointed out the "offices that are duplicative and overlapping in functions particularly those dealing with public assistance and social services." He called the space utilization of office premises as "horribly bad hindering efficient performance and communication. He cited the need for a "central monitoring of activities and operations to keep the Mayor informed instantly and evaluate results and impact of activities quickly."

"This is the state of the city," Mathay concluded the first part of his address. "A lot of problems. But indeed a lot of opportunities too. Therefore, a lot of challenges to us whom our people chose to manage our city, for all of us."

Glimpse

To meet the challenges, Mathay gave a glimpse of the programs of his administration:

1. Public Order and Safety. The police force will be augmented, deployed efficiently and adequately equipped, trained and paid. Police visibility will be stressed.

An OPLAN for better traffic management is being prepared in coordination with national agencies. The essential features are strengthening the traffice aide personnel and coordination with the police also needed flyovers at remaining unflyovered intersections, especially Tandang Sora and Commonwealth Ave. intersection. The completion of major roads like Commonwealth, Visayas, Araneta and Republic Avenues will be pushed. Signalling system will be improved and the traffic flow pattern redesigned for greater efficiency.

Industrial Estate

2. Business and Economic Development. The ample land resources of the city will be developed to attract investors, particularly an Ayala and Ortigas like development of the North Triangle, East Triangle and Diliman. The Board of Investments has already approved the establishment of an industrial estate (as an exception to the 50-km limit) where high value products will be manufactured like garments and electronics.

Dialogues with the business sector will be held to offer them assistance in exchange for honesty in the payment of their taxes and licenses. A major multi-sectoral consultative assembly will be held on August 19.

3. Public Services. The city's infrastructure program will be expanded to increase the kilometrage of city roads, accelerate the repair of the damaged ones, the clearing of obstructions, the dredging of waterways, the construction of more artesian wells in areas not served by MWSS. To achieve these, the City Engineering Office will be streamlined for quick action and better coordination with other agencies, local as well as national.

Quicker Response

4. Social Services. Ongoing social programs and projects and services will be continued and provided with more funds to expand them. Relief and assistance during emergencies and calamities will be improved for quicker response. NGOs, women's groups, homeowners associations and the barangays will be mobilized to participate in the city's social services programs and projects.

More mobile clinics will be fielded particularly inthe depressed areas.

Squatter Problem

Regarding the problem of squatters, now numbering 55% of the city's population, measures will be adopted to check the influx of new migrants.

Housing development programs for the resettlement of squatters are being formulated especially with respect to their financing schemes such as the issuance of Municipal Bonds or that scheme available at the National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation.

Intensive School Building

In education, the city government will coordinate with the national government in undertaking an intensive school building program. In recognition of the magnificent work of the public school teachers, their ₱650 cost of living allowance, which was abolished with the implementation of the salary standardization law, will be reinstituted

A long range project is the establishment of a Polytechnic University, using as nucleus the existing Skills Development Training Center at San Bartolome, Novaliches.

The city will aim to lead in the implementation of the No-Drop-Out policy recommended by EDCOM (Educational Commission of Congress).

Monitoring Facilities

5. Public Assistance. A Command Center Operations (sic) based in the Mayor's office will be installed. It will have monitoring facilities to effect quick response in times of disasters or when there are criminal and violent acts. The Center will also have a Management Information System to enable the Mayor and other city officials to monitor activities throughout the city.

6. Financial and Administrative Management. The many opportunities and possibilities for increasing revenues to be brought about by expanded business and economic development in the city with the inflow of investments and the rise in property values will be availed of even as greater efforts will be exerted in the collection of revenues from existing sources.

The reconstitution of land titles will be fast tracked to completion within the year. The Committee in charge of this task will be reconstituted with new members.

Transparency

The new administration will be transparent with the people. They will be constantly informed of where their tax money is going thereby giving no cause for non-payment of their tax obligations.

The assessment of the organizational, personnel and administrative systems of the city government is being rushed in order to streamline operations and effect greater economy and efficiency.

The Mayor expressed the belief that the disorderly, unsystematic physical growth of the city due to the lack of a master's development plan like Quezon's Frost Plan or of Roxas Capitol Development Commission's master plan both unimplemented, the first because of the outbreak of World War II and the latter because of unknown reasons, can still be rectified if a feasible city planning and development program is formulated and implemented.

Advisory Council

The assistance of professional, managerial and academic authorities who are QC residents will be solicited to lend their technical and managerial expertise in city administration . Such authorities have already been recruited in the persons of Dr. Manuel Alba, the new City Administrator, and former Education Minister and Central Bank Governor

(Turn to page 11)

THE WINNING TANDEM: MATHAY-PLANAS

Then



Now



Note the sideburns (left photo) for which he was dubbed "Tom Jones."

ISMAEL "MEL" AUSTRIA MATHAY, JR.

By Ben O. Flores

I hardly see any need to do a write-up on Mayor Mathay. After more than 25 years in the public service, he is pretty well known not only in Metro Manila but in the entire country. The name Mathay was already a household word even as far back as Quezon's time when Mel's father, the late Ismael Mathay, Sr., was the Auditor General. The Austria in Mel's name is that of her mother; the late Josefina Austria.

While Mel is well known, especially with respect to his record as a public official, it seems many readers going to the QC Public Library want more biographical details which are not available there, according to Ms.. Blanquita L. Del Barrio, City Librarian,ina letter to me dated dJune 8, 1992,, in which she requests "a brief biographical sketch of Mayor Mathay."

Unfortunately, due , no doubt, to his very tight schedules, Mel has had no time yet to give me a chance for a one-on-one talk with him. But in our last chance encounter, he said he would do that. In the meantime hereunder is his bio-data. This was published years ago in the May 10, 1984 issue of our paper but I have up-dated it.

- **Second of the four children of former Auditor General Ismael Mathay, Sr., and the late Josefina Austria.**
- **Born June 26,1932 in Manila.**
- **Married to former Sonya Gandionco with whom he has four children.**
- **Bachelor of Science in Business Administration – Education , UP 1953.**
- **LLB, San Beda College, and Bar Exam, 1957.**
- **Doctor of Public Administration,*Honoris Causa*, PLM.**
- **Former Member, Editorial Board, Philippine Collegian.**
- **Member, UP Upsilon Sigma Phi Fraternity and Capitol Vanguard.**
- **At UP and San Beda, Gold Medalist in oratory and debate.**
- **Co-founder and President of Purefoods Corporation (1959-1961)**
- **President and General Manager, Capitol Motors Corporation (1963-1967)**
- **Former Secretary to the Commission on Audit (COA) and Acting Manager, 1973-1975 Local Goverment Audit Office**
- **President and Director, Pagdanan Timber Products**
- **Assistant to the Governor of Metro Manila, February 14, 1979 to January 4, 1980**
- **Vice Governor of Metro Manila from January 4, 1980 – February 26, 1986**
- **Member of the Board of Directors, MWSS**
- **Deputy Minister, Ministry of Human Settlements (exercising supervision over National Capitol Region)**
- **Batasan Pambansa, (QC at large) , 1984-1986.**
- **Congressman, Batasan Pambansa(4th District,QC), 1988-1992**
- **City Mayor, Quezon City, July 1, 1992 to 1995 (and most possibly up to 1998)**

I first came to know Mel Mathay in 1971, the last year of his term as Vice Mayor of QC. That is the year I first came to QC Hall and put out this paper, then THE CAPITOL STANDARD, without the NEW, which was inserted in 1986 when, after a respite of two years, the paper resumed publication, this time with my son, Eddie, as the Publisher-Editor registered with the Bureau of Commerce although, until he is trained to take over completely, I still call most of shots.

Mel served as Acting Mayor in 1968 when then Mayor Amoranto went abroad. In this more authoritative position, he is remembered for the resolute way he relocated the squatters, mostly proffesional, a long East Avenue and in that vast area presently occupied by the Manila Plant Seedling Corporation among other seedling breeders. For this "feat," Mathay earned the sobriquet, "Nemesis of Squatters," which was unfair, considering that he was prompted by the best of motives. Now as incumbent Mayor , I think he will continue the "Walang Tayuan,Walang Gibaan" policy of his predecessor as well as his socialized housing program. That is something to commend about the new Mayor: He is not going to junk previous policies and programs just because they had been started by somebody he had replaced. He said so in his state of the city address:"We are of course pleased that there are actually a large number of social programs and projects and services that are ongoing serving the poor, the underserved. We need simply to expand on these, providing more funds."

In 1971, election year for local officials, Mel decided to go for broke and cast his eye on the mayorship. Naturally, there was an open rift between him and then Mayor Amoranto. But this rift was closed later on by a rapproachment engineered by mutual friends, whereby Mel consented to run again as the vice mayor of Amoranto who, in turn, consented to resign after two years. Thus, I had this article, "Together Again," in the August 6,1971 issue of the "Weekly Nation Magazine" but in the last paragraph I nevertheless stated that "inspite of the rapproachment, anything can still happen."

I remember very clearly how Mel said as he passed by me along a corridor in City Hall: "Ben, tama yong last paragraph mo," referring to the article. Obviously, he had changed his mind and, true enough, he did ultimately run for mayor.

To my eternal shame, I put out a black propaganda sheet, "QC Foolitics," against Mel. My only excuse is that I had become very close to Amoranto, and besides , what the heck, politics is dirty business, anyway. I am mentioning this, which is better erased from my mind, to show what kind of a man Mel Mathay is. Inspite of my having libeled him, in 1979 when he was already MMC Vice Governor, he took me in his staff as "Press Officer and Writer." But I had to leave after less than two years out of **delicadeza**. Mel had wanted me to amicably settle my differences with then City Architect and concurrently RESC, North Sector Head against whom I had filed administrative charges. I was then not in the mood for that, so I had to leave. Fortunately, I then had a standing invitation from CPDO Chief Gerry Magat to join the city goverment as speechwriter for then Mayor Adelina Rodriguez and continued doing so under Mayor Jun Simon.

It is perhaps too early to predict if Mel will make a good Mayor although there are already indications that he will. A good basis for predicting that he will make a good Mayor is his performance as MMC Vice Governor, a position he occupied for seven years. Hereunder are some published comments on said performance:

"Since the integration of four cities, 12 towns of Rizal and one of Bulacan into the Metro Manila administration, Mel has served very capably and effectively. He has, moreover, projected across the years an image of deep concern for, and prompt attention to, the problems and needs of the underprivileged of the metropolis. No fire-eating rabblerouser, Mel Mathay has, nevertheless, endeared himself not only to the 'Great Unwashed' in the shantytowns but also to the ' bluenoses' of Quezon City's sprawling plush subdivisions."
— JESUS E. BIGORNIA, Bulletin Today, March 12, 1984.

* * * *

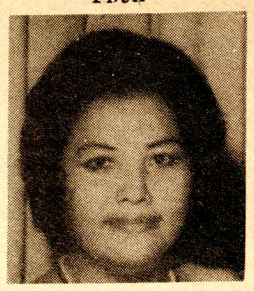
Mathay has earned for himself the reputation of being a man of action. . . . . He approaches problems in terms of what can be done soonest, with the most immediate and visible results. . . . . .He is a man one cannot help liking He has a kind smile and a warm handshake and looks you straight in the eyes. . . "

— SHIELA S.CORONEL, Panorama, April 10, 1983.

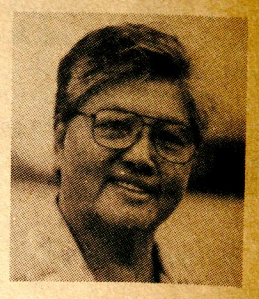
* * * * *

"Mel Mathay is variously known as MMC's Action Man, Trouble-Shooter Par Excellence, and Super-Metro Aide. As such, he attends to the needs, problems and complaints of the 8 million residents of Metro Manila - - a task he has undertaken patiently,compassionately, tactfully, understandingly, indefatigably and effectively. His approachability has become legend; thousands are beholden to him for some favor or help extended."— THE CAPITOL STANDARD, May 10, 1984

Then



Now



Left photo taken from "Escape" by Chik Fortich.

CHARITO LIM PLANAS

By Ben O. Flores

When she won in the last elections to become Vice Mayor of Quezon City, it was actually the first political victory of Charito Planas. She had lost in five previous political contests: in the 1963 elections when she, for Vice Mayor, and Charlie Albert, for Mayor, ran under the Citizens League for Good Government (CLGG); in the 1971 elections when she, this time for Mayor, and Albert, for Vice Mayor, ran under the Liberal Party; in the 1972 elections for Barrio Captain of Barrio Mariana (now New Manila); in 1978 when she ran for the interim Batasan Pambansa; and in the Jan. 18, 1988 elections when she lost to former Mayor Jun Simon.

Great Victories

But these political defeats pale into insignificance beside the many great victories Charito had achieved in other areas of endeavor; as a UP student leader and orator, as youth activist leader, as businesswoman, as social worker, as world traveler, as opposition leader in the fight against the Marcos regime, a role which led to her greatest victory: Her Escape from the murderous clutches of the Dictator to live the life of an exile in the U.S. for eight years where she helped to keep the torch of democracy burning until it finally flared up in the 1986 EDSA revolution enabling her to return to her country.

"Escape" by Chic Fortich is the title of the Charito Planas life story. The account of her perilous escape through the country's so-called southern backdoor is as thrilling and exciting as any adventure story one has read or seen in a movie. The account tells of riding in small motorized bancas or *kumpits* through miles and miles of stormy seas from Jolo to Sabah in Malaysia, thence to the Malaysian Capital, Kuala Lumpur, where she finally took a flight to the US with the assistance of the UN and Red Cross.

Remarkable Woman

The fearlessness, the intrepedity, the vigorousness which enabled Charito to make that daring escape, she inherited from her mother, Concepcion (Aling Concha) Reyes Lim, a dynamic, aggressive, industrious woman who, though unlettered and only a Divisoria stallholder, rose to become a prosperous realtor and industrialist. *Time* considered her remarkable enough to do a write-up on her. Aling Concha was married to Iluminado (Lolo Adong) Buenaventura Planas who was her exact opposite. He was the quiet, retiring type and unlike his unlettered wife had a college degree from the Ateneo.

It was to this contrasting couple that Charito was born on April 28, 1930 in Folgueras St., Tondo, Manila, the youngest of eight children. The eldest was Carmen who became Manila's first woman Councilor. She was thrust into the limelight when she boldly attacked Quezon who, though not a dictator, was an imperious man who brooked no criticism. Many years later, it was Charito's turn to attack the country's ruler and to do that needed more boldness than that of her sister's because Marcos was a dictator under martial law. Charito's favorite object of scorn was Imelda's jewels which prompted Marcos to say: "When I see my wife cry, I could kill."

Indeed, he might have caused Charito to be killed but his hit men were no match to the wily Charito who, disguised as a nun, eluded them and went to Jolo for her daring escape to the U.S.

Multifarious Causes, Activities

The hectic, active, eventful and exciting life of Charito is reflected in the multifarious causes and activities in which she had been involved and in the equally multifarious positions she had held. These causes and activities pertain to business (RP Trading, an import firm, which she put up after graduation from U.P. with a Bachelor of Laws degree), kindergarten education, scouting, cooperatives, arts and culture, parks development, women's rights, socialized housing, family planning, blood donation, youth welfare, civil liberties, ad infinitum.

These causes and activities, she undertook as either President, Director, Legal Adviser or Member of some 50 different organizations or entities. She had attended 13 conferences abroad and had gone on trade missions to Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, India, Taipei, Scandinavian countries, Spain and England.

Needless to say, Charito is the recipient of numerous awards:

Plaque of Recognition by the Quezon City Press Association . . For her outstanding and dedicated contributions in the beautification and development of the Quezon Memorial Circle;

Mariang Maya Achievement Award in the Field of Politics . . . as an active, fearless, tireless and unflinching gladiator in the political arena by Sigma Delta Phi Alumni Association of the University of the Philippines (UP);

Outstanding Alumna in Human Rights Advocacy Award for her fortitude, patriotism and courage in the struggle to restore democracy in our country; for her endurance and consistency of purpose toward nation-building and for the upliftment of the plight of the disadvantaged;

Isang Tunay na Huwaran na may Pinakamatayog na Mithiin ng Pagkamakabayang Pilipino by Andres Bonifacio Foundation;

Special Awardee by the Association of Red Feather Executives, Inc. (ARFEI) . . . Dedicated service to the social amelioration of the underprivileged . . . exemplary civic spiritedness through the Citizens National Electoral Assembly (CNEA);

(Turn to page 12)

SOTTO'S OFFICE . .

leged Memorandum Receipts . And even if he did, if they were signed by Montiel, it will still be difficult for us to accept them as gospel truth.

In our letter of inquiry, we also asked the Senator about an unliquidated cash advance of P 8,091,492.92 as reported in the 1990 Annual Auditing Report (AAR) of the City Auditor. His Administrative Officer asked us to furnish him a copy of the AAR before making any comment.

If we are inclined to doubt that Rosales' denial is that of his boss, it is because we know from experience that sometimes, letters to Sotto are not actually shown to him.

In a letter to then Vice Mayor Sotto dated May 22,1991, we asked him about the fake official trips of then Councilors Tamayo, Roldan, Del Mundo and Gaba. Would you believe it, here's the answer

"We appreciate your letter of May 22, 1991 requesting financial assistance from this office.

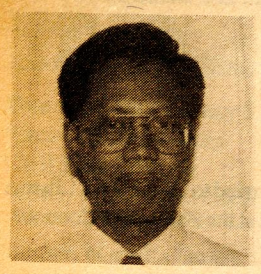
"Much as we would like to help you, financial constraints and the demands of our equally needy constituents for such financial assistance compels me to express regrets. "

Signed "For and by Authority of the Vice Mayor" by then Executive Officer Vicente Canlas.

KNOW YOUR FIRST-TIMER COUNCILORS

(Editor's Note: *Most of them, except the actors and the basketball player are not so well known, hence this Section, up to the next two pages. The bio-datas submitted are published "as is;" Some bio-datas are very sparse but we did not have the time to ask the Councilors concerned to improve them.*)

Solomon A. Lazo
In charge of this Section



VICTOR FERRER, JR.

Councilor, 1st District

Date of Birth: July 30, 1957
Place of Birth: Manila
Present Address: 3 August St., Congressional Village, Quezon City
Religion: Roman Catholic
Education:
Elementary, San Sebastian College
High School, San Sebastian College
College: University of the East, BSBA-Accounting
Passed Government Board Exam for CPA
: University of the East, Bachelor of Laws LLB
Quezon City Council:
Chairman, Committee on Markets, Slaughterhouses & Other Franchises
Member, Committee on Laws, Rules, and Internal Government
Member, Committee on Appropriation
Member, Committee on Education
Member, Committee on Games and Amusement Board
Member, Committee on Peace and Order, Public Order and Safety
Member, Committee on City Planning, Building & Zoning Regulation
Chairman, District I, P.L.E.B.
Work Experience:
Bookkeeper - Commercial Bank & Trust Co.,
Asst. Chief Accountant - Manphil Investment Corp.
Loan Supervisor - Manphil Investment Corp.
Marketing Manager/Sales Manager - Tradewind Marketing Corp.
Senior Partner - V.V. Ferrer and Associates CPA's
President - Pentagon Trucking and Services Corp.
Political/Civic/Social Affiliation
Member : Nationalist People's Coalition
: Rotary Club of Kamuning
: Knights of Columbus, 6183
: Congressional Village Homeowners' Assn.
Barangay Councilman, Bahay-Toro, 1982-86
Barangay Captain OIC, Bahay-Toro, 1986-89
Barangay Captain, Bahay-Toro, 1989-92



MOISES S. SAMSON

Councilor, 1st District

Date of Birth: November 25, 1953
Place of Birth: Balintawak, Quezon City
Married: Rosalina T. Antonio
Children: Marnelli, Marco, Marinette
Louie Martin and Mario
Residence Address: No. 17 Luis Andrade St.
Samson Compound, Bgy. Balingasa, District I, Balintawak, Quezon City
Office Address: Rm. 224-C Natividad Building, Escolta, Manila
Telephone: 48-83-58

Educational Attainment:

Admitted to Philippine Bar, 1979
Bachelor of Laws, Lyceum of the Philippines, 1978
Master of Laws (academic), MLQU
Bachelor of Science in Political Science, Lyceum, 1974
Secondary - E. Rodriguez Jr. High School, La Loma, Q.C., 1970
Elementary - Masambong Elementary School, Quezon City, 1966

Employment Background:

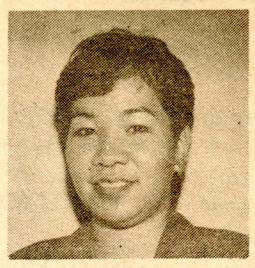
Practicing Lawyer - Since 1979 continuously up to the present
Law Professor - College of Law, Adamson University, Mla., since 1983 to the present

Lecturer in Remedial Law and Civil Law

Officer-In-Charge, Office of the Dean, College of Law, Adamson University, Manila

Senior Law Partner - SAMSON LAW OFFICES at Rm. 224-C Natividad Bldg., Escolta, Manila

Law Partner - Subido & Associates Law Offices at Rm. 310 Calvo Bldg., Escolta, Manila



MA. FRESCA M. BIGLANG-AWA

Councilor, 2nd District

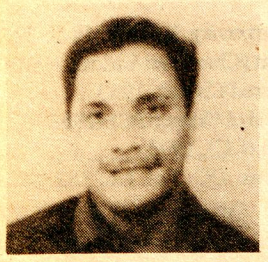
Personal Information
Date of Birth: 18 January 1960
Place of Birth: Manila
Age:32 years old
Address: 06 de Jesus Compound, Novaliches, Quezon City, Philippines 1117
Religion: Catholic
Civil Status: Married
Name of Spouse: Vic J. Biglang-awa
Profession: Private Employee
Name of Father: Salvador C. Mata
Occupation: Government Employee, Professional Regulation Commission
Name of Mother: Esperanza G. Gonzales
Occupation: Public School Teacher, Novaliches High School
Educational History
Elementary, San Agustin Elem. School, 1971
High School, Novaliches High School, 1975
1st yr. G.N., Far Eastern University, 1977
Graduate Nurse, Manila Doctors, 1979
Rural Health Service, Virac, Catanduanes, 1980
BS Nursing, Metropolitan Hospital, 1985
Passed the Nursing Board Examination, PRC - Apr. 10, 1979.
Seminars:
1. Total Parenteral Nutrition and the care of the Critically Ill and Dying - Jul. 16, 1984.
2. Care of Critically Ill Child - Apr. 28, 1986.
3. Common Diseases of the Breast - Apr. 28, 1987
4. Drug Dependence & it's Implication to Nursing - Jul. 27, 1986
5. Pharmacology Drugs and Solution - Jun. 1987.
6. Conjoint Session on Trends in Nursing - Oct. 27, 1986.
7. Hepatitis A & B, a Nursing Concern - Jul. 05, 1988.
8. Computer Education in Nursing - Sept. 24, 1988.
9. Nurses on Recruitment: A Larger Perspective than the Job Itself - Feb. 27, 1989.
10. An Update in Diagnostic Investigation in Adult Cardiology - Apr. 18, 1989.
11. Nurses' Participation and Concern in the Worldwide Grave Problem in a Human Society: Drug Addiction - Sep. 30, 1990.
12. Commitment: Its implication to Nursing Profession - Jun. 06, 1991.

Other Trainings
1. Leadership Training on Moral and Spiritual Values, Children's Museum and Library Council, Baguio City - 1973.
2. Development of Discipline as a Way of Life, Young Men's Christian Association, Baguio City - 1974.
3. Barangay Administration and Development, Dept. of Local Gov't. & Community Dev't., Q.C. - 1975.
4. Anti-Narcotic and Prohibited Drugs Seminar, Dept. of Loc. Gov't. & Community Dev't., Los Banos - 1975
5. Community Projects for Youth Development in Metro-Manila, Min. of Educ./DLGCD, Q.C. - 1976.
6. Q.C. Scouting Movement and Greening of Metro-Manila, Dept. of Local Gov't. & Community Dev't., Q.C. - 1976.
7. Convention, Seminar, Workshop and Program Planning, K B Q C, Sierra Grande, Tagaytay City - 1982.
8. Seminar/Clinic for Sectoral Leaders, QC Physical Fitness Dev't. Program - 1982.
9. Delegate QC Youth Congress, QC Child Youth Month and United Nation Children's Day - 1982.
10. Training Orientation/Seminar on Bgy. Administration and Dev't., UP Los Baños, Laguna - 1989.
11. Training Workshop on Livelihood Program, Dep't. of Trade and Industry - 1990.
12. Training Course on Cooperative Development - 1990.
13. Launching of Bagy. Retail System - 1991
14. Managers and Treasurers Seminar Workshop on Cooperative Development - 1991.
15. Barangay Budgeting Orientation, Dep't. of Budget and Management - 1992.

Other Information:
- Elected Chairman, KB San Agustin, Novaliches, QC - 1975.
- Chairman, Committee on Health, Community Dev't. Projects, MMC, DLGCD, Quezon City, 1978.
- Selected by QC Jaycees & Quezon City Gov't. as "AUDITOR", QC Role of the Child Week (1979 Int'l Role of the Child Week).
- Director of Secretariat Staff, First QC Sports Congress, KB Federation of QC, DLGCD, Quezon City - 1979.
- Chairman, Cultural Committee, Assembly for KB Cultural and Tourism Affairs, Office of the Mayor, QC - 1980.
- Re-elected Chairman, KB San Agustin, Novaliches, QC. - 1980.
- Elected Treasurer, KB Federation QC - 1982.
- Outstanding Youth Leader, Phil. Heritage & Prosperity Award.
- Outstanding KB Chairman - 1980 to 1985.
- Appointed Barangay Kagawad - 1987.
- Elected Second Barangay Kagawad - 1988.
- Chairman, Bgy. San Agustin Livelihood Committee.
- Member, Phil. Nurses Association.
- Member, Association of Private Duty Nurses Practitioners, Philippine/Metropolitan Hospital Chapter.
- Member, Novaliches Ladies Association.
- Member, Concerned Citizens of Novaliches.
- Member, Novaliches Development Cooperative.
- Founder, San Agustin Multi-Purpose Cooperative.
- Coordinator, Quezon City Womens Council.



Mathay including Vice Mayor and Presiding Officer Planas and the 24 Councilors, 17 of them neophytes. Only seven past Councilors survived.



ANTONIO V. HERNANDEZ (Anthony Alonzo)

Councilor, 2nd District

Date of Birth: April 2
Place of Birth:
Civil Status: Single
Religion: Catholic

Educational Background
Elementary: Espirito Santo Parochial School
High School: Mapua Institute of Technology
College: Mapua Institute of Technology, BSC

Awards
Famas Best Actor - 1983
Manila Film Festival Best Actor — 1983, 1985, 1987

Affiliation: Board Member, Hope Foundation

Committee Position
Chairman, Committee on Urban Poor
Vice Chairman, Committee on Parks and Playgrounds

Address
Block 26, Lot 1, J.P. Rizal St., New Capitol Estates Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City

Former Legal Researcher - Mariano & Associates Law Office at T. Alonso St., Sta. Cruz, Manila, since 1976 continuously up to 1979
Legal Consultant, Manila City Council
Legal Counsel, (Manila City Council) for Councilor Ponciano Subido
Legal Counsel/Consultant of various business establishments and corporations including foreign corporations/investors
Civic & Religious Organizations/Professional Affiliations:
Director, Damayan Lions International Club, Quezon City
Director, Greater Manila Barristers Association
President of Presidents Club, San Roque Church Association, Balintawak, Quezon City
Past President, Simbahang Katoliko, Patron San Roque, Barangay Balingasa, Quezon City
Past President, Samahang Minsan Isang Buwan Foundation, Inc., Barangay Balingasa, Quezon City
Faculty Member, Adamson University Faculty Association
Member, Adamson College of Law Foundation, Inc.
Member, Integrated Bar of the Phils., Quezon City Chapter
Member, Lyceum of the Phils., College of Law Alumni Association
Member, Citizens League for Good Government, Quezon City
District Chairman, PDP LABAN (Political Party)
Auditor, PDP LABAN Quezon City Council
Legal Adviser, Barangay Council, Barangay Balingasa, Quezon City
Member, Pangkat Tagapagkasundo, Barangay Council, Balingasa, Q.C.
Member, Boy Scouts of the Philippines
Past President, Kalinangan ng Liping Pilipino
Reserved Training Officer, Armed Forces of the Philippines



ANTONIO L. SIOSON
Councilor, 1st District

Date of Birth April 10, 1946
Place of Birth Malabon, Metro Manila
Name of Spou. Josefina S. Sioson
Religion: Roma Catholic
Children: Luciano, 20; Ma. Margarita, 18; Jose Carmelo, 16; Ma. Antonietta, 11

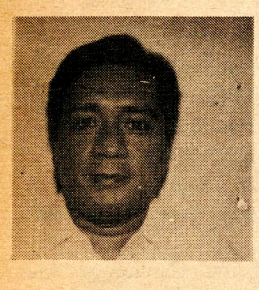
Education
- Elementary: St. James Academy, 1958
- Secondary: St. James Academy, 1962
- College: BSC (Accounting), 1966
- Passed CPA Board Examination, 1966

Positions Held (Goverment)
- Bank Examiner, Central Bank, 1969-1973
- Bgy. Kagawad, Bgy. Lourdes, 1987-1989
- Bgy. Captain, Bgy. Lourdes, 1989-1992

Positions Held (Private)
- Bookkeeper, BPI, 1962-1968
- Junior Auditor, L.C. Diaz & Associates, 1968-1969
- Proprietor, ALS Insurance Agency, 1973-1976
- General Manager, Metro Regent Insurance, 1976-present

Affiliations
- President, Rotary Club of Sta. Mesa Heights, 1988-1989
- Member, QC Chanber of Commerce, 1992
- Chairman, People's Economic Council

Address: 87 Kanlaon St., Quezon City; Tel. No. 731-75-36



CESAR A. DARIO, JR.
Councilor, 3rd District

Place of Birth : Barangay Rodriguez, Cubao, Quezon City
Date of Birth : 12 April 1953
Home Address : 3rd Floor, 384 P. Tuazon Boulevard Barangay Milagrosa, Project 4, Quezon City
Status : Married to the former Lillian R. Iledan of Lezo, Aklan and with four children

WORK EXPERIENCE/BUSINESS AFFILIATIONS:

June 1, 1991 to Present : MANAGING DIRECTOR INT'L. SALES & SERVICES DIVISION, HARIBON EXPRESS INT'L., INC., A.S. BRAGA BLDG., ANNEX EDSA corner NEW YORK STS., CUBAO, Q.C.

July 1, 1983 to May 31, 1991 : PRESIDENT/GENERAL MANAGER/ DIRECTOR, ASIA OVERSEAS TRANSPORT CO. INC., Cargo City, Nayong Pilipino Complex NAIA Center, Pasay City

July 1976 to Dec. 1982 : FOREIGN TRADE ANALYST (Asst. Com'll. Attache), Ministry of Trade and Industry Philippine Consulate General

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

GRADE SCHOOL : Don Bosco Technical Institute, Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, 1965

HIGH SCHOOL : Ateneo de Davao, Davao City, 1969

UNDERGRADUATE : University of the East, Claro M. Recto Ave., Manila, B.S. Business Administration Major in Management, 1974

POST GRADUATE UNITS : Woodbury University, M.S. in Int'l. Business, Los Angeles California, U.S.A., 1981 - 1982

BUSINESS/COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS:
- Phil. Amateur Baseball Association (PABA)
- Airfreight Forwarders Association of the Phils., Inc.
- Association of Young Professionals and Entrepreneurs, Inc.
- Manila Int'l. Airport (MIA) Forwarders and Brokers Asso.
- Confederation of Truckers and Haulers of the Phils.
- Integrated Customs Brokers Association of the Phils.
- University of the East Alumni Association of the Phils.
- Ateneo de Davao Alumni Association
- Davawenos, Inc.
- Marriage Encounter - Alpha Zeta Class 73 (Tuklasan Sector)

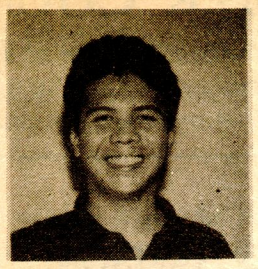
SPORTS INVOLVEMENT/AFFILIATION:

May 1988 - April 1990 : PRESIDENT, Airfreight Forwarders Sports Association of the Phils., Inc.

1988 - 1990 : TEAM OWNER/MANAGER, Asia Overseas Transport Co., Inc. Baseball Team, Played with Phil. Amateur Baseball Asso.
Tournaments

1989 : TEAM OWNER/MANAGER, Asia Overseas Transport Co., Inc. Basketball Team to the PABL Int'l. Invitational Tournament

1988 and 1989 : TEAM MANAGER University of the East, Basketball Team - Varsity to the UAAP

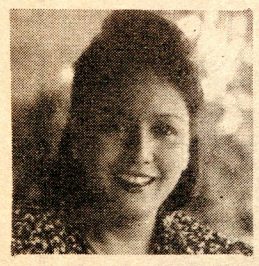


MICHAEL T. DEFENSOR
Councilor, 3rd District

Address: 63 Mangyan St., La Vista, Q.C.
Date of Birth: 30 June 1969 (Youngest member at 23 years)
Place of Birth: Manila
Civil Status: Single
Educational Background
- Elementary, U.P. Integrated School, 1982
- High School, Miles McKinley High School, 1985
- College, U.P. Diliman (A.B. History) 1991

Credentials:
- Program Director, **Youth Council of the Philippines** (1992)
- Program Co-Coordinator, **Mt. Pinatubo Youth Aid Caravan** (1992)
- Co-Convenor, **Kabataan Para Sa Bayan (KABAYAN Movement)** (1992)
- Member, **Coalition Against Fraud in Elections, Quezon City** (1992)
- Assignatory, **DECS-DND-Students Peace Accord** (1990)
- National Chairman, **National Union of Students of the Philippines** (1989)
- Head, **Students Negotiating Panel on the Tuition Fee Issue** (1989)
- Chairman, **Education Forum Student Volunteers Corps** (1989)
- Philippine Representative, **North-South Convention - Rome, Italy** (1989)
- Head, Negotiating Panel, **DECS-DND-Students Peace Accord** (1989)
- Chairman, **Task Force Anti-COCOPEA Bills** (1988)
- Chairman, **Task Force Leyte Evacuees** (1988)
- Vice-Chairman, **U.P. Student Council** (1988)
- Presiding Officer, **U.P. Diliman League of College Councils** (1988)
- Acting National Chairman, **National Union of Students of the Phi-lippines** (1988)
- Campaign, **U.P. Student Council** (1987)
- Varsity, **U.P. Wrestling Team** (1987)
- Chairman, **U.P. Student Council Education Committee** (1987)
- Chairman, **U.P. Student Council Students' Rights and Welfare Committee** (1987)
- Representative, **U.P. System Library Board** (1987)
- Coordinator, **Anti-Tuition Fee Campaign** (1987)
- Coordinator, **August 1987 Anti-Coup Campaign**
- Staff Writer, **The Oblation** (1987)
- Member, **Task Force Anti-Fraud Anti-Terrorism in Elections Coalition** (1986)
- Member, **Days of Our Lord** (1986)
- **Center for Nationalist Studies Fellow** (1985)
- **Letterman Awardee for Sports and Academic Excellence,** Miles McKinley High School, Ohio, USA (1985)
- **Rotary Exchange Scholar** (1984)

Address:
63 Mangyan St., La Vista Subdivision, Quezon City



CONNIE S. ANGELES
Councilor, 3rd District

Personal Data:
Address: 160 Ermin Garcia Street, 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 Santo Tomas - 1972
- College : University of the Philippines, Diliman, Q.C. - 1977
- Course: AB Philosophy

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, Kapwa Ko Mahal Ko - 1990
- Best Children's Show Host, Pen-Pen de Sarapen - 1988, 1989, 1990
- Best Children Show - Pen-Pen de Sarapen - 1990 (Producer of Pen-Pen de Sarapen)



GODOFREDO LIBAN
Councilor, 2nd District

PERSONAL

Born on December 8, 1942, Godie is married to Corazon L. Liban, a public school teacher and Training Specialist at the Philippine Coconut Authority. They have three children.

EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Godie holds the degrees in Bachelor of Arts (cum laude), Bachelor of Laws (with honors), and Master of Public Administration (consistent honor student), from the Far Eastern University and the University of the Philippines.

Godie is a Managing Partner of the firm, The Lawyers, and Barangay Captain of Barangay Pasong Putik.

His in-service, religious, and professional affiliations include: Regional Representative for Asia-Pacific of the International Executive Committee, World University Service, Geneva, Switzerland; Director, Lingap Panlipunan Foundation and Public Administrations Soceity of the Philippines; Former Director and Secretary, Kiwanis Club of Kalayaan; Member, Asean Law Assembly, People's Law Enforcement Board (PLEB), and Knights of Columbus; Former Legal Consultant, St. James Foundation and Domus Mariae Foundation; Graduate, Bible Institute-Couples for Christ; and Secretary, Association of Barangay Councils, QC-District Two.

TRACK RECORD

As Barangay Captain, Godie has occasioned the construction of Elementary and High School buildings at Maligaya Park; concreting of sidewalk around Lagro Plaza, Lagro Elementary and High School; development and lighting of Lagro Plaza; asphalt overlay of main roads in Lagro, Teresa Heights, Maligaya Park and Hilltop; construction of more than 30 deepwells at Maligaya Park; construction of Multi-Purpose Hall. Teresa Heights; construction of Basketball Court and concrete pavement, North Fairview; establishment of day-care center, Maligaya Park; construction of 2 basketball goals, Maligaya Park; organization of cooperatives; holding of sports competition and seminars on Drug Addiction and Peace and Order; holding of free legal service to indigent residents; restoration of the Lagro Police Detachment and its elevation into a Sub-Station 5 of the Central Police District; Barangay Retail Stores in Maligaya Park.

He then envisions to provide free legal aid, undertake urban land reform and housing, introduce comprehensive health care approach, promote physical education and sports programs, establish scholarship and other grants-in-aid programs, provide technical, management and financial assistance to cooperatives and NGOs and create economic opportunities for them, and provide training for adults, the disabled and out-of-school youth for vocational and other skills efficiency.

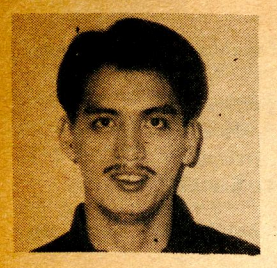


REYNALDO N. MEDINA
Councilor, 2nd District

DATE OF BIRTH : September 1, 1927
PLACE OF BIRTH: Balintawak, Caloocan
SPOUSE : Adelina Z. Medina
FATHER : Ernesto D. Medina
MOTHER : Iluminada A. Nadurata
CHILDREN : Raul, 37; Eric, 35; Nini, 33; Elma, 31; Reynaldo, Jr., 28; Reynaldo III, 25; Rodel, 23
EDUCATION : Elementary, Caloocan Elementary School, 1934-1941
Secondary, Caloocan High School, 1941-1945-1948
College, Far Eastern University, BSC, 1948-1952
CIVIL SERVICE ELIGIBILITIES: Patrolman (Chartered Citics), 1962
Police Sergeant (Chartered Cities), 1963
Police Lt. CP/Inspector 3rd Class (CC), 1968
Police Officer 1st Class (CC), 1975
ADDRESS : 7 Eulogia Dr., Balintawak, QC; Tel. No. 362-24-38

(Editor's Note: *In the Bio-Data submitted by Councilor Medina's staff, there is this notation (see attached) under TRAINING COURSES, SERVICE RECORD, SPECIAL SKILLS, and OTHER QUALIFICATIONS. Due to lack of time, we were unable to follow up the supposed attachments.)*

Catholic Mass Media Awardee, Best Children Show Pen-Pen de Sarapen - 1989
Miss Tourism, Quezon City - 1977
Gintong Ina Awardee - 1990
Most Outstanding Youth - Philippine Institute of Leadership
Children's Museum and Library, Inc. (CMLI) Awardee
Most Distinguished Alumni - Eskwelahang Munti



FRANZ S. PUMAREN
Councilor, 3rd District

Date of Birth: February 5, 1962
Place of Birth: Manila
Civil Status: Single
Father: Filomeno Pumaren, Consultant of San Miguel Beer Basketball Team
Mother: Marietta Santos, Central Bank Employee
Education:
- Grade School, Lourdes School
- High School, University of the East
- College, De La Salle University, BSC Marketing, 1986

Work Experience:
- Professional Basketball Player, San Miguel Corporation Basketball Team, 1986 to present
- Amateur Basketball Player, RP National Basketball Team, 1981-1986

Other Qualifications:
- Kagawad, Sangguniang Barangay of Loyola Heights, Quezon City, 1989-1992
- Kagawad Ng Katipunan Awardee for exemplary contribution to the community of Loyola Heights

Affiliation: Member, Rotary Club of Valle Verde, 1991 to present
Address: 15-B Gonzales St., Xaviervilleille I. Loyola Heights, QC
Tel. No. 96-69-13 (residence); 922-20-18 (Office)



HIPOL V. BAYANI
Councilor, 4th District

Date of Birth: May 22, 1953
Place of Birth: Quezon City
Name of Spouse: Fiscal Anunciacion Molina
Address: 27-K Kamuning, Quezon City, Tel. No. 96-63-37
Name of Father: Emiliano Hipol of La Union
Name of Mother: Aurora Villafranca of Batangas
Children: Josephine Bernardin, 10 years; Aurora Catalina, 8 years; and Emil Lorenzo, 3 years
Education:
- Elementary, Kamuning Elementary School, 1959-1965
- Secondary, QC High School, 1965-1969
- College, Far Eastern Univ. BSC Mgt., 1969-197
- University of Sto. Tomas, LLB, 1974-1979
- Passed Bar Examination, 1979

In-service Training:
- Operation-Savings and Loan Bank
- Pawnshop Operation
- Military Science and Tactics
- Advanced ROTC Graduate

Service Record:
- Project Officer, P.A.L.A.O.
- Board Member, L.L.K.B.,
- Professor, Propesor, May 1989
- Bank Manager, Mariveles Savings and Loan Bank, 1081-1993
- Professor, P.U.P. 1987
- Legal Officer, Malayan Motors

Deputy Ombudsman for Visayas 21-31-97
Hon. Juan M. Hagad 21-31-95
Cebu Palace of Justice
Capitol Site, Cebu City

Deputy Ombudsman for Mindanao 62-658
Hon. Cesar E. Nitorreda
Mantrade Bldg., 3rd Floor
Sta. Ana, Davao City

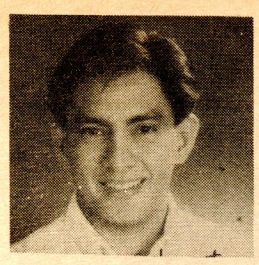
Deputy Ombudsman for the AFP 741-64-55
Hon. Francisco A. Villa 741-64-12
1610 J.P. Laurel St.
Malacañang Annex, Manila



RAMON "BU" MATHAY
Councilor, 4th District

Birthdate: April 20, 1959
Education:
- 1983 Bachelor of Science, Business Administration Woodbury University, California, USA
- 1977 High School, San Beda College, Manila, Philippines
- 1973 Grade School, San Beda College Manila, Philippines

Background:
- Entrepreneur, President of Manila Organic Fertilizer since 1985
- Second son of QC Mayor Mel Mathay and Sonya Gandionco
- Married to Pinky Emeterio Olives
- He is a loving father of four; Sophia 5, Monty 3, Ikee 2 and Pelle 3 months old.
- Bu was born and raised and lives in the 4th district of Quezon City.
- Sportsman: Basketball, Tennis, Swimming, Golf.



JOSEPH PETER S. SISON (Jopet)
Councilor, 4th District

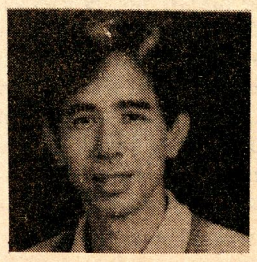
Date of Birth: October 19, 1965
Civil Status: Single
Father: Atty. Jose C. Sison
Mother: Josefina S. Sison
Sister: Joyce
Brothers: Joel, Jay, Jolly, Jaybee
Education:
- Elementary, Ateneo de Manila University, 1972-1978
- Secondary, Ateneo de Manila University, 1978-1982
- College, Ateneo de Manila University, 1982-1987
- Manuel L. Quezon University, Bachelor of Laws, 1992

Positions Held:
- Vice Governor, MLQ University, College of Law Council, 1991
- Founder, Rotaract Club of KAKAIBA
- President, Immaculate Concepcion Parish Intergrated Youth, 1987
- Chairman, Commission on Elections, Ateneo de Manila University,
- Council Member, Ateneo Catechetical Instructions League, 1986
- Member, Rotary Youth Group, Immaculate Conception Parish, 1984

Work Experience:
- Associate Executive Producer, "Kapag Nasa Katwiran... Ipaglaban Mo", 1991
- Trustee, Ipaglaban Mo Foundation,
- Vice President and General Manager, Nova Enterprises International
- Unang Kagawad, Barangay Pinagkaisahan, 1989

Address: 77 Ermin E. Garcia St., Cubao, QC; Tel. No. 98-70-14

EUFEMIO DEL CARMEN LAGUMBAY
Councilor, 3rd District



Date of Birth: October 12, 1954
Place of Birth: Manila
Spouse: Romanita T. Casino
Children: Wenceron, 18; Rowen, 17; John Paul and John Michael (twins), 12; Tricia Ann, 6.
Education:
- Asian Institute of Management, Masters in Business Management, 1981
- Letran College, 1976

Civil Service Eligibility: First Grade, 1986
Positions Held:
- Chief of Staff, Office of the Deputy Minister of Human Settlement, 1985-1986
- Area Coordinator, Farm Systems Development Corporation, Port Area, Manila, 1977-1978
- Automotive Salesman, Delta Motors Sales Corporation, 1978-1979
- Marketing Manager, Interbag Corporation, 1981
- Import Manager, Filsoy Shipping Corporation, 1982-1983
- Vice President, La Suerte International Manpower Agency, 1987 to present

Affiliations:
- Jaycees, 1981-1983
- Sunrisers, 1974 to present
- Fraternal Order of Utopia

Address: 64 Highland Dr., Blue Ridge, QC.; Tel. No. 78-94-36

REMINDER TO CITY OFFICIALS

***(Editor's Note*: time and again, some city officials fail to respond to our written as well as verbal requests for certain services and for data and information needed by our paper. An extreme case is that of City Secretary Vicente Alvarez, prompting us to file a complaint agains him with the City Attorney (Please read the news story, "City Secretary Charged For Violation Of Public Officials Code Of Ethics." We are, therefore, publishing this Reminder to city officials/ employees who might behave like Alvarez.)**

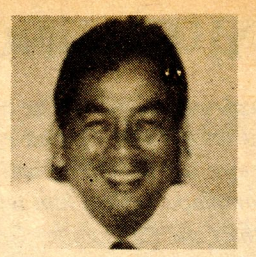
RULES IMPLEMENTING THE CODE OF CONDUCT AND ETHICAL STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES

Prepared by Civil Service Commission

RULE VI. DUTIES OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES

SECTION 1. As a general rule, when a request or petition, whether written or verbal, can be disposed of promptly and expeditously, 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.

SECTION 3. In case of written requests, petitions, or motions, sent by means of letters, telegrams, or the like, the official or employee in charge shall act on the same within fifteen (15) working days from receipt thereof.



MARCIANO P. MEDALLA
Councilor, 2nd District

DATE OF BIRTH : November 2, 1947
PLACE OF BIRTH: Sto. Tomas, Batangas
SPOUSE : Rosalinda G. Medalla
CHILDREN : Mary Rose, 14; Maria Rizza, 13; Maria Rinna, 10; Maria Rochelle, 7
EDUCATION : Elementary, Novaliches Elementary School, 1959
Secondary, University of Sto. Tomas, 1963
college, University of the Philippines (1st year), Mapua Institute of Technology, Civil Engineering, 1971, passed Board Examination in 1972
GOVERNMENT SERVICE RECORD : Bgy. Councilman, Sta. Monica, 1978;
Bgy. Chairman, Sta. Monica, July 1988 to Match 1992
POSITIONS HELD : Construction Engineer, Attains Kroll & Co., 1971-1980
Project Manager, B.C. Regalado & Co., 1981-1984
Proprietor/General Manager, M.P.M. Builders, 1984 to present
AFFILIATIONS : Knights of Columbus, 4th degree member, 1977 to present
Rotary Club of Novaliches, 4th degree member, 1990 to present
Pugad Lawin Lions Club, 4th degree member, 1989 to present
Marriage Encounter Phils., 4th degree member, 1987 to present
Couples for Christ, 4th degree member, 1992 to present
ADDRESS : 314 Dumalay St., Novaliches, Q.C. Tel. No. 90-19-61

FE CONSUELO S. ANGELES
By Glenn Jamora

In a City Council dominantly populated by honchos and machos, 23 to 2, it is heartwarming to note that one lady councilor has committed herself to pursue the traditional feminine task of strengthening the family, the old fashioned "Ilaw ng Tahanan" way.

Councilor Fe Consuelo "Connie" S. Angeles, elected as Chairperson, Committee on Women and Family Affairs , is no accident. Her campaign platform and speeches were natural expressions of what she does best and wants to do more – caring for the family,helping mothers cope up with the health needs of their brood, as she does in the Kapwa Ko Mahal Ko TV program, and helping the kids develop the right values, skills and confidence, as she does in Pen-Pen de Sarapen, her other TV program.

A peep into the personal circumstances of Connie explains her concern for the family as the quintissentially powerful atom of society.

Councilor Angeles belongs to a close - knit family as the eldest of three children were taught early the value of education and the virtue of caring for their fellowlme. Dad is the amiable Mr. Feliciano Angeles, a Quezon City Policeman for years, while Mom was the late Mrs. Leonora Sonota, a very solicituos and loving mother.

Connie finished her AB Philosophy at U.P. and went on to establish a name in the field of Public Relations as PR Consultant for a number of reputable firms. She also heads as president her own production outfits – the CEG Productions, Inc., Studio A Workshop, and Mitra Visions, Inc.

She is most known as host of Kapwa Ko Mahal Ko in Channel 7 and the children's program, Pen–Pen de Sarapen in Channel 9.

For her various humanitarian activities she has been a recipient of various awards, among them the Gintong Ina Award in 1990.

Her TV programs have garnered various awards, among them, the "Best Public Service Program Host" for Kapwa Ko Mahal Ko, and the "Best Children Show Host" for three consecutive years for Pen–Pen de Sarapen and also the "Best Children Show" for the same TV program.

As a testimonial to the main thrust of her TV programs, which is social service and value formation and education, she likewise received the "Best Public Service Host" and "Producer of Best Children Show" awards given by Catholic Mass Media . It is worth mentioning that from the numerous children shows now being aired on TV, it is only "Pen–Pen de Sarapen" which has been accredited by DECS as a children's Educational Program.

The lady councilor's initial work in the City Council indicates her direction and general agenda. Her maiden proposed measure which has already been approved in all Committees it had been referred to, calls for the establishment of "QC Hall Yakap,", a Day Care Center in the City Hall premises for children of City Goverment employees, ages 3-6 years.

"This project," she enthuses, "aims basically to give working mothers, peace of mind with regards to their young kids as they work."

In a large perspective, she confides that the "City Hall Yakap" will be the prototype of the Day Care Center she aims to set up in barangays. "The high cost of pre-school education," she says, "prevents low-income families from enjoying the services of privately - owned Day Care Centers."

(Turn to page 9)

CITY COUNCIL IN SESSION

(This is the first of a series of critical reviews we shall be making on the sessions of the New Council. It is a blow by blow account of Council sessions based on the Minutes and eye-witness reports of our staff. Our thanks to Mr. Sotero O. Laude, Officer-in-Charge. He is more accomodating and competent than Alvarez who, coincidentally or deliberately, went on leave when we filed a complaint against him with the Office of the City Attorney for violation of Sections 1 and 3, Rule VI, of the Code of Ethics and Conduct for Government Officials and Employees. **Editor***)*

July 2

Bang! Bang! Bang! With uncommon force, the Presiding Officer, the Hon. Vice Mayor Charito Planas, pounded her gavel on the table and declared the session open. The uncommon force was probably meant to impress on the Councilors that she will exercise firm and tight control over them to insure an orderly, disciplined Council. Not many minutes had passed however, when it became obvious that the Presiding Officer was not yet ready to exercise that firm and tight control. It appeared she had not yet had the time to do her homework, that is, study Roberts Rules of Order and the House Rules of the Council. Every time a situation occurred which she could not handle, she had to declare a recess to consult with the Councilors, particularly the veterans, the seven re-elected ones. The gallery roared with laughter at the rapid succession of recesses she had to call, prompting Councilor Butch Bautista to stand up and shout angrily at the gallery to keep quiet.

Feeling insulted, many in the gallery left in disgust. Many more joined them when after seven or eight recesses, the Chair declared a recess and asked the Councilors to go up to the Councilors Lounge for a merienda-conference session which took almost half an hour.

House Rules

The first matter taken up was the resolution introduced by Councilor Galarpe adopting the Rules of Procedure of the previous Council. Councilor Samson, asked that said Rules be read despite the fact that copies had already been furnished all Councilors days before this opening session. Unnecessary, Galarpe said, naturally, and when Councilor Miguel the holdover ABC sectoral representative chimed in, Councilor Defensor questioned his presence, saying that his term had expired with that of the past Council. However, in the recess that was declared, Defensor was "enlightened" and was prevailed upon to withdraw his objection to Miguel's presence. The enlightenment came from a letter and circular of Secretary Cesar Sarino of the DILG.

Upon resumption of the session, there being no further objection, the resolution of Galarpe adopting the Rules of Procedure was approved.

Next matter taken up was the election of officers. Councilor Samson objected on the ground that the Local Government Code provides that the election of officers should be conducted on the first regular session. In the recess that followed, Samson was also "enlightened" that what was being held was the first regular session of the new Council. (We hope this is not a foreshadow of how this new Council will perform—wasting time on trivial matters.)

Defensor's Allergy

The first officer to be elected was Councilor Altuna as President Pro-Tempore. Election was by *viva voce*. Before the Council could proceed to the election of the Majority Floor Leader, Councilor Defensor's seeming allergy towards Councilor Miguel recurred despite the letter and Circular of Secretary Sarino which had previously "enlightened" him. He now argued that said letter and ordinance were "mere opinion and not binding." He insisted that the ABC should be consulted if it still wanted Miguel as its representative. Somebody should have told Mike (he must be a relative of Miriam the way he can talk) that the ABC had no choice on the matter by virtue of that provision in the LGC stipulating the ABC President as its representative to the Council regardless of whether or not he is still in the members' good graces.

Upon Defensor's insistence, the House was divided. The result, 13 to 11 in favor of recognizing Miguel as ex-officio member of the Council.

Election of Officers

The Council proceeded with the election of its officers. Councilor Galarpe was elected Majority Floor Leader; Councilor Liban, 1st Asst. Majority Floor Leader; and Councilor Ferrer, Jr., 2nd Asst. Majority Floor Leader. The respective Chairmen of 16 different Committees were also elected. Deferred was the election of the Committee on Sports. President Pro-Tempore Altuna and Majority Floor Leader Galarpe were automatically made Chairmen of the Blue Ribbon Committee and Committee on Laws, respectively.

Defensor "manifested", to borrow a favorite word in the Minutes, that the minority members of the Council will have to discuss first who among them will be elected Minority Floor Leaders as well as their acceptance of the Chairmanships given them.

This first session adjourned at 7:00 P.M. short by 18 minutes as a five-hour session.

July 6

Unlike in the first session when attendance was perfect and nobody arrived after the roll call, Councilor Pumaren was absent while Councilors Castelo and Bautista (the son) arrived late. (We recall that son Bautista arrived late even at the induction of Councilors by Mayor Mathay held on June 30.)

More Committees

Approved under suspended rules, first, second and third readings, was the proposed resolution introduced by Councilors Altuna and Galarpe creating additional committees provided for in the LGC and fixing the day and time of Council sessions at "every Monday and Thursday to start at 2:00 P.M." The Committees are on Environmental Protection and Ecology and on Women and Family. The Committee on Environmental Sanitation, Beautification and Parks and Playgrounds was split into two: Committees on Environment Sanitation and Beautification and on Parks and Playgrounds. The Committee on Trade and Commerce was also split into: Committees on Trade, Commerce and Industry and on Cooperatives.

The election of officers, chairmen, vice chairmen and members of the different committees was resumed.

Councilor Calalay was elected Minority Floor Leader and Councilor Sison, Asst. Minority Floor Leader. The election of chairmen, Vice Chairmen and members of all committees, 27 of them, was completed in this session.

PLEB

The Peoples Law Enforcement Board (PLEB) was discussed. Councilor Tamayo briefed the Council: PLEB was created by R.A. 6975 and is to be composed of one representative from the ABC, one Councilor from each district except the 2nd district which is entitled to two representatives being the biggest in area and population. The main concern of PLEB, Tamayo said, is to investigate police offenses and misdemeanors.

The nomination and election of representatives to PLEB was deferred for the next session.

Before adjournment, the Presiding Officer instructed the Council not to use the session hall for committee hearings beacause of the enormous power consumption entailed. Use Function Room A & B instead. She also congratulated the Council for having organized itself in only two sessions. The session adjourned at 6:00 P.M. short by 20 minutes as a 4-hour session.

July 9

The Councilors Bautista, father and son, arrived after the roll call so did Councilor Castelo for the second consecutive time.

Councilor Defensor has the distinction of delivering the first privilege speech in the new Council. (We are now convinced he is a relative of Miriam.) He lamented the failure of the Council to commemorate the centennial of the Katipunan.

Councilor Galarpe reacted quickly with a not very bright suggestion: a resolution of the Council urging the city government to celebrate every July 7 to commemorate the founding of the Katipunan. Councilor Altuna immediately threw a wet blanket on Galarpe's suggestion. August 23, the Cry of Pugad Lawin, is already commemorated every year, he said, celebrating July 7 would be overdoing things, a case of overacting. Altuna reminded Galarpe that the only reason July 7 was celebrated this year is because it marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the KKK.

Challenge

Councilor Castelo remarked that one of their colleagues, Councilor Samson, was the great grandson of Apolonio Samson who was a Katipunero. Samson acknowledged this and even went on to claim that the tearing of cedulas occurred in Bo. Kangkong, now Bgy. Apolonio Samson. Altuna challenged him to prove this, saying that the National Historical Commission has already confirmed that the cedula tearing incident occurred in Pugad Lawin. Samson accepted the challenge but until now he hasn't made good his boast.

But Councilor Samson could be right. In the November 2, 1973 issue of this paper, we published an article, "Apolonio Samson and the Cry of Balintawak" by Anacleto Madrilejo, Secretary to the Mayor under Mayor Amoranto. In this article, Madrilejo claims that the tearing of cedulas by the Katipuneros really occurred in what is now Bgy. Apolonio Samson. His claim derives authenticity from the fact that it was his father, Domingo Madrilejo, and other Katipuneros, who participated in the cedula tearing, who told him that it was in Bgy. Apolonio Samson that this dramatic episode in our history occurred.

TAYO MUNA

"Tayo Muna" seems to be the primary guideline of the new Council in setting its legislative priorities. The people who put them in office can wait.

The first three ordinances introduced creates two contractual positions for ***each*** of the ***27*** standing committees of the Council and two each for the offices of the President Pro-Tempore, Majority Floor Leader and Minority Floor Leaders and increases the salaries of six existing positions in each Councilor's office, entailing total appropriation of P6,833,776.00.

The first ordinance was submitted by Councilor Calalay. The positions it creates are for Researcher and Coordinator and will mean 60 additional personnel for the Council, requiring an appropriation of P 3,153, 663. 00.

The second ordinance was submitted by Councilor Biglang–awa. It upgrades and correspondingly increases the salaries of five existing positions in each office of the Councilors, requiring an appropriation of P2,669,638.00. These five existing positions are:

1. Legislative Staff Officer IV upgraded to V, salary increase from P 6,199 to P8,250 per month;
2. Legislative Staff Officer 111 upgraded to IV, salary increase from P 4,786 to P 6,199;
3. Legislative Staff Officer 1upgraded to 111, salary iincrease from P 3,309 to P 4,786;
4. Driver 1 upgraded to Driver/Security, salary increase from P 2,156 to P3,540; and
5. Utility Worker 11 upgraded to 111, salary increase from P 2,156 to P 3,309.

The third ordinance amends an ordinance of the previous Council which created one position for Technical Assistant 11 (P 8,000), two positions for Technical Assistant 1 (P 6,000) and two positions for Legislative Coordinator (P 2,500), The amendment upgrades the two postions from Legislative Coordinator to Legislative Staff Officer 111 with a salary of P 4,786.00/month.

From the above ordinances, which were referred to the proper committees, each office of a Councilor will have a staff of 12 personnel, that is, if he is chairman of only one committee, 14 if two committees, 16 if three committees, etc.

The following Councilors were elected as the Council's representatives to PLEB:

District I——— Councilor Victor V. Ferrer, Jr.
DistrictI I———Councilor Marciano P. Medalla
District III———Councilor Michael T. Defensor
District IV ———Councilor Herminio O. Bautista

Session adjourned at 5: 12 P.M., 5 minutes short as a 3 hour session.

JULY 13

Father and son, Councilors Bautista, arrived after the roll call, so with Councilors Ferrer, Altuna and Mathay.

Call to order at 2:25 P.M.

Councilor Tamayo delivered a privilege speech to "congratulate the members of the August Body for the smooth and speedy organization of the Council, " He then "enjoined his collegues to harness their momentum and move forward with alacrity and certainty. " Then he furnished each of his colleagues a copy of his proposed resolution adopting a three-year legislative agenda for the Council.

Congratulations

The Presiding Officer, Vice Mayor Planas, introduced a proposed resolution congratulating her predecessor, Vicente Sotto III for garnering the most votes in the last elections. Isn't there some inconsistency in congratulating someone whom she had charged with packing his office with 350 , 15-30 personnel and for not returning some office equipment, communication facilities and firearms? Sotto has not answered our inquiry regarding these charges of his successor and as to whether or not he has already liquidated his cash advance of P 8,091, 492,92 reported in the 1991 Annual Audit Report of the City Auditor as unliquidated as of December 31, 1990.

The date for the inaugural session was set on July 23, 1992. A committee was formed to take charge in preparing the program.

Resolutions of Bgys. San Antonio and Talayan adopting their respective annual budgets were referred to the proper committees.

The Presiding Officer reminded the Body that it will meet with the Mayor on July 15 to discuss the sub-city concept.

The session adjourned at 6:20 P.M. five minutes short as a 4 hour session.

JULY 16

Councilors Tamayo and Medalla arrived late.

Session started at 3:04, more than an hour late.

Councilor Montilla delivered a privilege speech on a very trifling matter: a memorandum of City Administrator, Dr. Manuel Alba, to the City Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Councilors and heads of offices re the budget proposal for 1993 in which these officials are not addressed as "honorable. " This is just a ceremonial term, signifying nothing. The important thing is for the Councilors to be truly honorable men and women. Fred is such a man, so he should not be bothered too much by a little lapse committedby Dr. Alba who has been borrowed by the Mayor from Dr. Abueva of U.P. to help streamline the bloated city government.

The Presiding Officer yielded the Chair to the President Pro-Tempore.

The following proposed measures, among others not too important, were referred to the proper committees:

1. Ordinance submitted by Councilor Angeles providing for the establishment of a Day Care Center within the City Hall compound for the children, 3-6 years old, of mothers employed in the city government appropriating P50,000 for the purpose.

2. Resolution amending Chapter I, Section 4 and Chapter IV, Section I of the Council Rules to conform with the provisions of the Local Goverment Code. The proposed amendment of Chapter IV, Section I is as follows:

"The discipline of members for disorderly behavior and absences without justifiable cause for four (4) consecutive sessions, for which they may be censured, reprimanded, or excluded from the session, suspended for not more than sixty (60) days or expelled, provided that the penalty of suspension or expulsion should require the concurrence of at least two thirds(2/3) vote of all the Sanggunian members and/provided further that a member convicted by final judgement to imprisonment of at least on (1) year for any crime involving moral turpitude shall be automatically expelled from the Sanggunian"

3. Resolution introduced by Councilor Altuna urging the Mayor to extend the services of all casual and contractual employees for another two months except contractual employees under the Office of the Mayor whose nature of appointment is either technical, confidential or co-terminus.

Approved under suspended rules, first, second and third readings, is a resolution conveying greetings and felicitations to the Iglesia ni Cristo on its 78th Foundation Anniversary on July 27, 1992 introduced by all Councilors. It looks like the Councilors still believe in the political clout of INK although it was debunked in the last elections.

Another resolution that was referred to the proper committees would grant financial assistance to the family of the late MTC Judge Nestor Batungbakal in the amount of P282,000. The murder of Judge Batungbakal has not been solved yet after so many years.

Approved on second reading were the three ordinances taken up on first reading in the previous session providing for the creation and upgrading of positions in the office of the Councilors. It looks like the "Tayo Muna" legislative priority of the Councilors will be implemented. The session adjourned at 5:45 P.M., a 2 hour, 41 minute session.

JULY 20

Absent was Councilor Montilla. Late arrivals: Councilors Tamayo, Biglang-awa, Defensor, Lagumbay, and Altuna.

Call to order at 2:30.

For unstated reasons, Councilor Calalay, the proponet of that ordinance creating the position of Researcher and Coordinator, two each for the Council's standing committees, which had been approved on second reading in the previous session, moved for its recommitment to the committees. The other two ordinances upgrading existing positions were approved on third and final reading.

The following measures were referred to the proper committees:

1. Ordinance introduced by Councilor Tamayo creating the office for Senior Citizens Affair as embodied in the Local Government Code.

2. Resolution introduced by Councilor Calalay prescribing proper attire for Councilors during first session of each month - for male members, strictly barong tagalog; (long sleeve) and for female members, strictly ladies barong tagalog; During other sessions - coat and tie or barong tagalog (long sleeve) and Filipina dress formal party attire or ladies barong.

3. Resolution introduced by Councilor Calalay urging Congress to enact a law banning public officials within the premises of gambling houses, night clubs, bars, cocktail lounges, beerhouses, cabarets and other similar places.

4. Resolution introduced by Councilor Medina granting a P50. 000 financial assistance to each of the families of the policemen slain on July 13, 1992 at sub-station 2, Novaliches, namely: SPO4 Rogelio Tapan, PO3 Reynoso Bacnot and PO3 Renato Zafra.

At this jucture Councilor Lagumbay presented a "Proposed Resolution creating the Internal Accounts Committee. "This is a very laudable measure. It is hoped that by the end of their term, they will, like the Senators and Congressmen, cause the publication of the total expenses of their respective offices, the expenses of the Office of the City Secretary, and all other expenses of the Council in general so that we may know how much of the people's money went to support the legislative branch of the city goverment during the three years of the Councilors' term.

Approved was a resolution introduced by Councilor Samson requiring Committees to submit their reports on measures referred to them within 30 days from date of referral unless a written petition is made by a majority of the committee members for an extension justified by valid reasons. This resolution will prevent the pile-up of measures in the committees as what happened in the previous Council resulting in 1,539 resolutions and ordinances interred in the committees or left hanging in the Council.

Also approved was a resolution introduced by Councilors Altuna and Galarpe updating the composition of the Council pursuant to provisions of the LGC. The composition of the Council will be as follows:

Twenty four (24) duly elected Councilors; the presidents of the ABC, and the Sangguniang kabataan; a sectoral representative of women; a sectoral representative of workers, and of any of the following sectors: urban poor, indigeneous cultural communities, disabled persons or other sectors.

The session adjourned at 5:42, a 3-hour, 12-minute session.

JULY 23

Perfect attendance and punctuality. No Councilor arrived late.

Call to order at 2:07, just seven minutes after the official start of sessions.

It was the inaugural session. The honorable Mayor Mathay was to deliver his State of the City Address.

Present as "distinguished guests", so-called, were the four Congressmen of QC, department heads, chiefs of offices and other city officials, barangay officials and representatives from the private sector.

BOW

It was an occasion for presenting the honorable members of the so-called August body that is the Council. As the President Pro-Tempore Altuna called out their names, each Councilor stood up and took a bow.

A special committee was created to fetch the Mayor.

The Presiding Officer delivered her welcome address in her ususl forceful manner.

The highpoint of the session came with the Mayor's delivery of his State of the City Address. (A critical review of both addresses is in the articles, "Revolution Against "Kurakot" and "A Dream To Fulfill", page one.)

Session adjourned at 4:12, a 2 - hour, 5-minute session.

JULY 27

Absent were Councilors Defensor and Pumaren, the latter for the second time. Lone Late arrivee was Councilor Altuna.

Call to order at 2:25 P.M.

Minutes of the July 20 and 23 sessions were approved. The August body failed to note a gross mistake in the July 20 minutes. Councilor Samson is reported to have said:

"If they (the Councilors) will use their time well he believes that they are *not* entitled to be voted . . . . . "(Underscoring supplied)

Approved on third and final readings were the resolution requiring committees to submit their reports within a specified period and the resolution giving additional powers and duties to the Majority Floor Leader.

Apology

At this point Councilor Montilla apologized to the Vice Mayor for having addressed her as "Mr. Presiding Officer" at the inaugural session. Fred couldn't be blamed too much for his mistake. Charito is more manly than some Councilors.

There was a rash of introduced appropriation measures - - all without certification as to the availability of funds. Looks like this new Councii is same banana as the old, filing measures indiscriminately.

Councilor Bautista (the son) led with three appropriation ordinances: 1) P2 million for the proposed QC Child and Youth Decade Sports Development Program; 2) "Sufficient Funds" for the proposed Department of Youth Affairs; and 3) P2.5 million for the proposed QC Youth Brigade.

Councilor Calalay came up with two appropriation measures:1) An unspecified amount for additional retirement and disability benefits for members of the Central Police District and 2) Also an unspecified amount for the construction of a waiting shed along and adjacent to the Elliptical Road fronting City Hall. (there is one already.) Calalay also introduced a proposed ordinance declaring 4:00 to 5:00 P.M. every Tuesday and Thursday as "Physical Fitness Hour" for QC officials and employees. Also a proposed ordinance declaring Oct. 12, 1992 and every 12th day of October of every year thereafter as "All Filipino Day".

Councilor Galarpe introduced the 5th appropriation measure: P1,711,100.00 for the improvement and extension of General Avenue, GSIS Village, Bahay Toro.This is probably funded in the 1992 Infrastructure Development Program of the Engineering Office.

Councilor Tamayo introduced a proposed ordinance adopting the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance for the National Capitol Region particularly the provisions therein applicable to QC as the "Interim Zoning Ordinance of QC."

Councilr Sison, et al. introduced a proposed ordinance franchising and regulating the operation of private and public motorized tricycles in QC.

Councilor Sison introduced a proposed resolution requesting the City Administrator to mark the smoking areas in City Hall. This has been done already by the previous administration but after a month or so of compliance, violation became rampant and continues to the present, the violators including some Councilors themselves.

"This reminds us of that Sgt-At- Arms who ousted from the session hall somebody who was smoking. When this violator pointed to some Councilors who were smoking, the Sergeant said: "Mag Konsehal ka muna."

Approved on second and third readings, under suspended rules, was the proposed resolution introduced by Councilor Liban urging the Secretary of Public Works and Highways to construct vehicular traffic overpass or underpass at the intersections of Commonwealth Avenue and Tandang Sora.

Approved on second reading was the proposed ordinance creating two contractual positions for each of the regular committees of the Council and the offices of the President Pro-Tempore and Majority and Minority Floor Leaders. Also approved on second reading: Proposed resolution updating the composition of the Council pursuat to certain provisions in the LGC.

Session was adjourned at 4:00 P.M., short by 25 minutes as a 2-hour session.

JULY 30

Absent were Councilors Hernandez, the actor, and Pumaren, the basketball player, the latter for the *third* time. It looks like basketball and legislation can not mix. Late arrivee is another actor: Councilor Bautista (the son)

Call to order at 2:36 P.M.

Approved on third and final readings were the proposed ordinances/resolutions previously approved on second reading. (Henceforth, in this review of Council sessions, it is understood that measures approved on second reading will be approved on third and final readings so that there will be no more need for us to mention said final readings.)

Councilor Bautista (the son) continued to go on a spree of filing appropriation measures all uncertified as to availability of funds. Here they are: 1) P1 million for the implementation of the QC Child and Youth Decade Educational Development Program; 2) P314,096,11 for the completion of the Bgy. Villa Maria Clara Hall, Alimundin St., Proj.

The Presiding Officer herself introduced a very important appropriation measure: "P3,608,397.60 for the completion, start-up and operation of the QC Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Center at Payatas. This is certain to be Funded.

Approved on second reading was Councilor Angeles proposed ordinance appropriating P50,000 for the establishment of the "Quezon City Hall Yakap." (Let us hope this will be funded but is there really an urgent need for it? There are already more than 70 Day Care Centers all over QC. Can't the City Hall-employed mothers leave their children to the Day Care Center nearest their residence.)

The congratulatory resolution for Senator Sotto was approved before adjournment at 4:07 P.M., a 2-hour session, short by 29 minutes.

(Due to lack of time and space limitations, the succeeding sessions will be reviewed in our next issue. Comments, corrections on our review, most welcome.) - - - - - - **Editor**

CONNIE . . .

"Without the headstart enjoyed by their peers from moneyed families, " she further stresses, "these children would lag in performance when finally enrolled for formal education."

"And the 'handicap' generally prevents these kids from passing exams in some schools, " she adds.

In the planning stage is a proposed ordinance which would set up skills training and livelihood centers in all the four districts of the City. The proposed measure also aims to integrate into one cohessive program the skills training and livelihood programs now being undertaken by no less than five(5) city goverment offices.

As with the first proposed ordinance, the proposed program will again center on the family: affording mothers the chance to develop skills and augment family income,developing the out - of - school youths into productive individuals and giving unemployed fathers the opportunity to be the strong pillars of the family that they are supposed to be. In other words, the integrated appoach to skills training will give it a social and more human dimensions.

The "human dimension" should color all efforts, according to her, in such areas as sub-contracting job orders for goods, packed manpower services, manpower placement here and abroad, adopting a wider range of high-tech and handicraft skill development offerings,and an honest to goodness livelihood program which will immediately translate into pesos for the beneficiaries at the end of the day or the week. At a time when our people are tired of technocrats in the City Hall who can not point to any tangible achivements at the end of their terms, her's are refreshing words. "Let us be realistic," she emphasizes.

"The realities of the present economy," she says, "make it almost impossible for the thousands of unemployed to find relief and the solution lies only in self-employment and, therefore, an effective skills development program should be a major concern of the local goverment."

Connie who is used to a "fast-lane" working style having been in the hectic world of showbiz, believes that with the City Council and the Executive Branch working harmoniously for a common goal, things cuold move faster in Quezon City so the people could find the blessings of a good and effective zoverment right at their doorsteps.

Despite her forcefulness and aggressiveness to fulfill her campaign promises, the lady councilr still strikes one as a totally demure and even shy personality.

"I still have to learn parliamentary procedures better so I can also debate," she says jestingly.

But what macho would want to debate with a likeable lady with such an agenda as the full development of the family?

An Appeal To Realty Taxpayers Of QC

By Ben O. Flores

In his state of the city address, Mayor Ismael Mathay, Jr. reported that a deficit of P73.7 million is expected by the end of the year. This would have been covered by the additional income the city government would have realized if the increased realty taxes had been implemented by even just one third, in accordance with the condition imposed by the Department of Finance in approving the new Schedule of Market Values.

Mathay obtained a restraining order from the Supreme Court in March last year. In the last elections, he made a campaign promise that the restraining order stays and there will be no increased realty taxes.

It is said that this promise was one of the main reasons for his victory. I don't think so. It may have helped a bit but the main reasons are his exemplary record as a public official as MMC Vice Governor and Congressman of the 4th district and his clean image.

As a man of honor who can keep his word, Mathay will not renege on his promise. I, for one, would not urge him to. It is the realty taxpayers of QC that I urge to release Mathay from his promise for their own good and for the good of all the people of QC, especially for the non-realty tax paying poor who have to depend on their affluent real estate owning brethren to provide the city government the funds for the improvement of their plight and for the delivery of essential public services, which are hampered by the present strained finances of the city government.

Contrary to the popular impression that the increased realty taxes are "excessive, oppressive and confiscatory," they are fair and reasonable enough besides being long overdue, considering that the last upward revision of assessments in QC was made in 1980. The mistaken impression is the result of inaccurate press releases which allege that the increases are "as high as more than 500 percent." Some tume ago, I read a news item in which the alleged increases are "up to 2,000 percent." Crazy!

The fact is, in the Schedule of Market Values upon which the increases are based, there are only *seven* areas in the 21 Assessment Districts into which QC is divided where the increases are above 500 percent. They range from 525 to 694 percent and this is because the areas involved are prime commercial lands with very high market values upon which their taxable values are based. There are only 19 commercial and industrial areas where the increases range from 400 to 500 percent, and 26 areas where the increases range from 300 to 377 percent. As to residential areas, there are only *two* areas where the increases are high: at the Ayala subdivision, 471 percent, and from Congressional Avenue (proposed) to Tandang Sora along Visayas Ave., 344 percent. There are only 10 areas where the increases range from 200 to 250 percent.

But in the overwhelmingly big majority of residential areas—582 of them—the increases range from 0 to 192 percent.

If implemented, should the restraining order be lifted, the above percentages of increase would be further reduced by two thirds because, as earlier stated, the Finance Department had imposed the condition that, during the first year, only one third of the percentages can be applied in the collection of the taxes.

It will be seen, therefore, that the percentages of increase are not really as high as they are made to appear in the press releases. The slight increases may not even make up for the depreciation of the peso during the 10-year period between 1980 and 1990. Thus, if the increase to be applied for the first year is, say, 100 percent (one third of 300 percent), a property owner who is now paying, say, P1,000 under the old rates, will have to pay P2,000 under the increased rates. Now, because of the depreciation of the peso, the P2,000 may be even less in value, purchasing power-wise, than P1,000. This means that with P2,000 the city government will be able to provide less services than it was able to provide with P1,000. From this, it can be seen very clearly that the slightly increased realty taxes are very justified, that it is the city government more than the realty taxpayer that is prejudiced. Even if in some areas the percentage of increase is high, still that can be justified by the greater services that can be provided.

Even Mayor Mathay, I *venture* to say, has not absolutely closed the door to increased realty taxes. In a speech at the induction program of the Public Librarians Association of the Philippines, he deplored the low tax declarations of big property owners, the same owners, he said, who complain of poor public services. (Tax declaration is one of the bases in the determination of the current market value of a property for tax assessment purposes.)

I understand from Atty. Mario Laqui, one of the closest aides of the Mayor, that Mathay's objection to the increased realty taxes stems more from the lack of due process in the way the upgraded Schedule of Market Values had been prepared. In his petition to the Supreme Court which resulted in the restraining order, his lawyers enumerated the following reasons why there was no due process:

1) The Schedule of Market Values on which said taxes were determined had not been the result of joint action with the City Assessors of the three other cities of Metro Manila in violation of PD No. 921 as implemented by Assessment Regulation 7-77;

2) The Schedule was approved by only Undersecretary Victor Macalingcag instead of by Secretary Jesus Estanislao himself as required by law, the Real Property Tax Code;

3) Tax assessment notices were not sent the taxpayers depriving them of due process in protesting the taxes if they wanted to; and

4) No public hearings were conducted

Some of the above arguments can perhaps be refuted by the City Assessor and some of the allegations like the non-holding of public hearings or the non-approval of the Schedule by Secretary Estanislao himself, can be justified, but it is not the purpose of this article to discuss the pros and cons of the increased realty taxes.

The purpose, may I reiterate, is to urge the property owners of QC to release Mayor Mathay from his campaign promise so that the increased realty taxes may be implemented partially, that is, by one third. If released from his promise, Mathay can then ask the Supreme Court to lift the restraining order.

I believe I have given valid reasons to justify the slightly increased realty taxes. The impediment to their implementation is

(Turn to page 12)

REVOLUTION . . .

(Author's Note: At this point may we interrupt this review of the Vice Mayor's speech by inserting hereunder some suggestions on how to prevent overpricing and ghost purchases. One such suggestion is by Civil Service Commissioner Patricia A. Sto. Tomas, published in "The Public Manager," August 1991.)

ON BIDDING and SUPPLIES REQUISITION

By CSC Patricia Sto. Tomas

Do you know how much time we use for bidding out supplies and office equipment? If this ensures that government gets a better deal, then there should be no problem. But the fact is, bidding takes so long, the goods we get are substandard and the prices of these goods that were secured through bidding are so much higher than if you bought them from a regular store.

I had occasion to visit the US last year and I was impressed by their Price Clubs which are warehouse retail outlets that sell goods lower than the regular outlets if you pay a certain membership fee. I think we can use this also for government supplies and equipment purchase.

Why don't we put up a big facility for government agencies? Supply officers will simply carry a bankbook of sorts that tells the warehouse how much credit a government agency has for supplies on equipment purchase. Then, all that an agency has to do is enter that warehouse and put in his cart all that he requires for his office (e.g. 50 reams of coupon bond, eight car tires, 100 pieces of ballpens, etc.) and simply have it deducted from his credit balance.

The catch is that since this is bulkbuying, this government facility must offer prices lower than what you would get outside. If the prices are cheaper outside, then this may be reason to allow government agencies to source their requirements outside.

If we had a system like this, we'd have fewer bidding irregularities, prices of government supplies would likely go down and the quality of our supplies would probably improve.

What do you say, PS 2000? Isn't this an idea whose time has come? No more PBAC, no more COA disallowances and faster requisitions too.

Other Suggestions

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

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

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

We had asked some Councilor friends of the past Council to enact ordinances implementing the above suggestions but not one responded. Former Councilor Dante Liban, now 2nd District Congressman, the past Council's No. Grandstander with his incessant privilege speeches, once delivered an impassioned privilege speech urging his colleagues to help then Mayor Simon's ZGME (Zero Graft, Maximum Efficiency) program. Dante's speech was nothing but "saliva festival," to borrow the words of Presidential-reject Jovito Salonga. Of the 250 ordinances enacted by the past Council and approved by the Mayor, except one, there is not a single ordinances designed, even remotely, to counter graft and corruption in the city government. We hope the new Council will do better and support its Presiding Officer's Revolution against "kurakot."

The suggestions above given, on with the Vice Mayor's speech, of which, by the way, printed copies were distributed in advance, so the audience (the session hall was filled to the rafters) read and listened at the same time:

"My second priority," she said, "is geared towards the beautification, cleanliness and development of parks in the city . . . We shall *make QC a garden city*, a green city that would rest tired eyes, lift weary souls and provide fresh and healthy air to the polluted and heavy among brought about by unregulated progress and unenforced environmental laws."

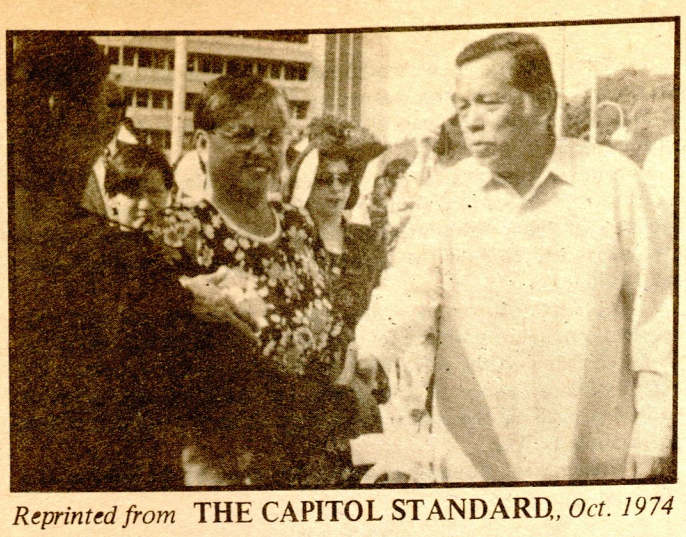
"My third priority," Planas continued, "is the combatting of the vicious crime of drug addiction and drug pushing. I will link this up with youth and sports development because I believe these two programs on drugs and sports are intrinsically inter-related. Youth take to drugs because no concrete programs exist to channel their energies and drives."

The Vice-Mayor said she will tap the services of NGOs and other community groups such as social professional, cultural, religious and business organizations which will form "Self-Help Programmes" wherein selected persons will be trained with the necessary tools and techniques to maximize their resources.

"With respect to culture," Planas said, "my office is undertaking studies to establish a c hildren's and youth cultural center which can be conducted jointly with Quezon Circle and Ninoy Aquino Park with facilities for the production and presentation of children's plays and provisions for children's books."

The sports and physical fitness development program she will implement will be "mass-based," the Vice Mayor said. She deplored the "spectator-oriented" sports and physical activities in the country. "Sports heroes become superstars and are idolized by the public," she said. "Our citizens are not actively engaged in sports. When they do so, sometimes, their emphasis is not on the health and physical fitness aspect but on the "Glamor" side of it—as body building for display, winning trophies, wearing uniforms or being 'in' with the latest fads and fashion."

Planas concluded her speech by presenting the Council to the



Reprinted from THE CAPITOL STANDARD, *Oct. 1974*

Speech of the late then Auditor General Ismael Mathay, Sr. as guest of honor in QC's celebration of Quezon's 96th birth anniversary

honorable Mayor Mathay as "your partner in government" which "has made outstanding accomplishments, not easily paralleled by other local government units." The unparalleled accomplishments, the Vice Mayor referred to was the ability of the Council, in two "marathon" sessions, to approve its house rules, elect its officers, create its committees and unlike the previous Council distribute the chairmanships to all members regardless of party affiliation and to formulate rules and regulations for the accreditation of NGOs.

In the printed copies of the speech which were distributed, there was an insertion in each copy of a leaflet containing the Vice Mayor's Program of Government for the 1st 100 days of tenure. It lists proposed ordinances under 25 different headings which will be the legislative priorities of the Council. These should prevent a repetition of the old Council practice of filing measures indiscriminately, haphazardly.

TWO CASES . . .

ourself at the given addresses and found no such establishments. No wonder in the 1990 Annual Auditing Report, one of the findings is: "non-existing dealers," stated on page 33 (Annex D) of the report.

"Aside from Agsalud, the Abstract of Price Quotations is 'Certified Correct' by Gruba, which is why she is included as respondent . . .

"The space for Canvasser in the Abstract of Price Quotations is unfilled, most likely because no employee under Agsalud was willing to play the role of bogus Canvasser.

"The price quotations in the Abstract are for 21 different items, materials for the construction of 90 arches used in the Santa Cruzan held on May 3, 1991 in Cubao sponsored by the Cultural and Tourism Affairs Office headed by Agsalud. The materials consist mostly of hardware, lumber and bamboo."

Fantastic Quantities

The quantities of the 21 different items ordered and purchased are fantastically way above the actual quantities needed for the construction of only 90 simple arches (See the sketch) . . . Some examples are: 10,000 pieces Japanese paper at P3.30; 25 gallons Elmers glue at P645; 720 pieces of lumber, 1x1x6/1x2x6, at P68 and P72; 200 kilos old newspapers at P8.00.

Do you know that 200 kilos of old newspapers would make a pile of more than 100 feet tall and that 25 gallons of Elmer glue would half-fill a big drum and would be good for four to five times more arches than the 90 that were constructed?

We referred the spurious Abstract of Price Quotations to Montiel telling him that the three establishments supposedly canvassed are fictitious and non-existent. He referred it to Agsalud who said that he was not aware that the establishments were fictitious and non-existent and that their names and addressed were in the list of establishments registered with GSO. Obviously, said list contains some fictitious and non-existent suppliers which are used when ghost purchases are made.

Fake Inspections

The 21 items in the Spurious Abstract of Price Quotations were supposedly inspected by Mascariña who certified full delivery. (Annex G). When we asked Mascariña if he had a weighing scale considering that four items (old newspapers and nails of three sizes) were in kilos, Mascariña said he had none, he merely "calculated."

The ghost delivery was also certified by Tarrobal and verified by Bobila. Aquino and Fajardo are included as co-conspirators because it was Aquino, in his MEMORANDUM FOR: THE GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER" (Annex L), who reported officially that the 21 items in the Abstract of Price Quotations had been made "under Purchase Order No. 216717 (Annex E) in the total amount of P191,014.50 . . . " while Fajardo, according to Aquino's Memorandum, was the one who informed him that all the 21 items were utilized in the construction of 90 arches.

P50,000 Bribe

But what convinced us beyond the shadow of a doubt that a ghost purchase was made is that the supposed supplier, Alicia de Leon, came to see us to offer a P50,000 bribe to desist from filing the case. Agsalud also sought us to plead that we drop the case and concentrate on what he called "the big cases."

Fake Official Trips

In the fake official trips case, respondents Tamayo, Roldan, Del Mundo and Gaba went on "official trips" to Daly City, California purportedly to negotiate a sister-city relationship agreement between QC and Daly City.

Evidences we have gathered show definitely that no such negotiations had been conducted in Daly City:

Respondents Tamayo, Roldan, Del Mundo and Gaba returned empty-handed—no sister-city relationship agreement.

They failed/refused to render a report on their so-called "official trips." They ignored our letters asking them about said "official trips." (We had to give them a sporting chance to give their side before filing the case.)

Accomplice

City Secretary Vicente Alvarez has refused to give us a certification that the respondents did not submit any report, which is why we could include him as an accomplice. In fact, we could include all the members of the past Council, including the Presiding Officer Sotto, as accomplices because when Tamayo, Roldan, del Mundo and Gaba returned from their "official trips," not one of them (the Councilors and Sotto) bothered to inquire about the sister-cityhood negotiations they were supposed to have conducted in Daly City. This is very forceful proof that the past Council was aware all the time that Tamayo et al. were not negotiating in Daly City but were obviously junketing at the people's expense. Since the trips were considered "official", the junketeers were supposed but were not entitled to collect transportation expenses and per diems for the sessions they missed.

Conclusive Evidence

The most devastating, most conclusive evidence against Tamayo et al. are the letters of two Daly City officials *disclaiming knowledge of any sister-cityhood negotiations.*

It was Tamayo who first went alone to Daly City, supposedly. In the Aug. 20, 1990 session of the past Council, then Acting Majority Floor Leader Alberto Galarpe "manifested" (a favorite word in the Minutes) that "Councilor Tamayo was in San Francisco, U.S. (sic) establishing the sister-city relationship with Daly City and until such time the Hon. Tamayo arrives, he will be carried on official time." Tamayo returned 16 days later on September 5, 1990—empty-handed.

It was on Sept. 12 that a group composed of then Councilors Roldan, Del Mundo and Gaba went to Daly City supposedly to resume negotiations. Roldan and Gaba returned 35 days later on Oct. 15, also empty-handed. Del Mundo stayed behind still supposedly to continue the negotiations. She returned on Nov. 7 after an absence of 56 days on official time", of course also empty-handed.

PLAP Officers Inducted By Mayor

By Ben O. Flores

The officers and board members of the Public Librarians Association of the Philippines (PLAP) were inducted last July 17 at the QC Public Library conference room by Mayor Ismael Mathay, Jr.

Ms. Blanquita L. del Barrio, QC Librarian, was inducted president, quite an honor for QC considering that PLAP is composed of public librarians throughout the country. The other officers inducted were:



Mathay inducts the officers and directors of the Public Librarians Association of the Philippines (PLAP). (Photo by Vic Oliver)

Vice President, Emilio Supsupin, Baguio City; Secretary, Eva Arenas, Manila; Asst. Secretary, Delmina Magadia, Manila; Treasurer, Paz Gagolinan, Manila; Asst. Treasurer, Aida Capitin, Pasay City; Auditor, Veronidia Garcia, Makati; Business Manager, Alicia Mirania, Batangas City; and PRO, Jessie Capulong, Bulacan. The board members who were inducted were:

Ofelia Mijares, Parañaque; Aurora Cruz, Malabon; Elsie Elcano, Manila; Evangeline Paragas, Pangasinan; and Filemon Gecolea, Manila, as ex-officio member. PLAP adviser is Ms. Fe Abelardo of the National Library.

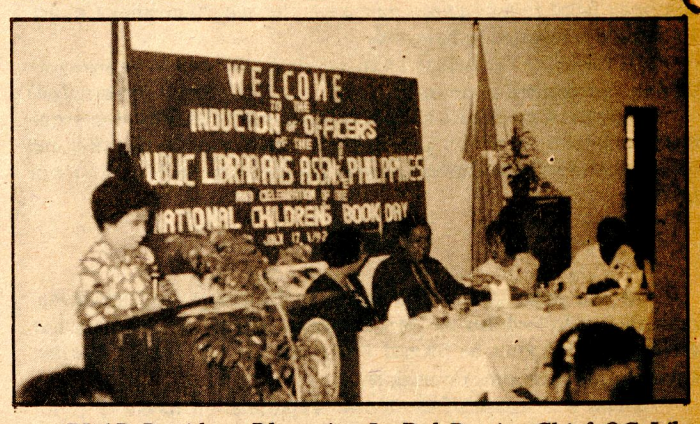
Full Support

In his speech, Mathay pledged full support for the expansion of the QC Public Library, saying that libraries are responsible for the continuing education of the people and, under the Constitution, he added, education gets the biggest budgetary outlay. It is fortunate, he said, that the expertise of the City Administrator, Dr. Manuel S. Alba, is on education. The Mayor said that he had "borrowed" Dr. Alba, a U.P. professor, from the UP president, Dr. Jose Abueva. He mentioned other eminent persons who, he said, have volunteered to help the city administrations—experts in their respective fields such as Jaime Laya, Angel Yuico and Rosa Rosal, who, incidentally, is a sister of the PLAP president.

Mathay also cited the role of the library in the fight against the drug menace, which, he said, came out, in a survey, as one of the gravest problems of the city. He said that the library, by encouraging and developing the reading habit, can draw away the youths from drugs.

In her inaugural speech, PLAP president del Barrio traced the history of the QC Public Library from its humble beginnings. She recalled how the library used to occupy very limited space—that space now occupied by the Business Permit and License Office. The Library shared this space then with the QC branch office of the

(Turn to page 12)



PLAP President Blanquita L. Del Barrio, Chief QC Librarian, delivers her inaugural address. (Photo by Vic Oliver)

The unending Odyssey of Diogenes

(Part I)

By: Alfredo O. Flores

Reprinted from THE PUBLIC MANAGER, September 1991 Official Newsletter of the Career Executive Service

(About the Author: Formerly an Assistant Executive Director of the Presidential Reorganization Commission chairmaned by Dr. Armand Fabella, now Secretary of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS). The present QC Acting City Administrator, Dr. Manuel M. Alba, was then in a higher body, Special Presidential Reorganization Committee headed by then Pres. Marcos himself. The author is also a fraternity brother and contemporary at U.P. of Mayor Mathay. Dr. Fabella drafted him again to work under him at the Instructional Materials Corporation, which is under DECS.)

Defined simply, graft and corruption is the deliberate act of gaining material benefit through dishonest means. Some witty segments of media have coined their own amusing but apt description of this malfeasance as the "conscious dipping of one's fingers in the cookie jar." Per se, there is nothing wrong with this, except that the cookie jar belongs to someone else.

To be a successful practitioner of this increasingly popular and lucrative profession, the aspirant must meet minimum qualification standards. Foremost among these is that he must be inordinately greedy, preferrably of the insatiable type. He must have a compulsive desire to make a fast buck not only by hook but more so by crook.

Another requirement is that he must be completely heartless, that sterling quality of the corrupt which allows him to remain complacent amid the public anguish that his reprehensible wrong-doing causes. A corollary requirement is that he must be exceedingly callous to criticism. He has that brazen ability to be unmindful of the ensuing public outcry against his heinous offense. And, to rub salt over raw wound, he should have the guile to be whistling a lively tune amid angry jeers and catcalls.

Moreover, the prospective perpetrator of irregularity must be utterly devoid of a conscience. This qualification enables him to sleep soundly through the night and not be bothered a bit by remorse over his vile act. It also enables him to remain nonchalantly composed even as he feeds his family with exotic fare and showers them with all the trimmings of a good life from the proceeds of his ill-gotten wealth. Mere possession of even a tiny modicum of conscience is therefore a ground for disqualification and outright rejection to join the profession.

Finally, he must have the cunning of a sly fox, which means the ability to avoid getting caught and punished for committing graft. He therefore plots out very carefully the strategy he uses in attaining his criminal intentions. The stupid ones, however, who are bereft of imaginativeness, simply resort to crude methods to achieve their purpose, like outright theft and pilferage.

Other desirable qualifications would be helpful, such as: possessed of a natural lust to have a mistress or two, have a gnawing yearning to own a high-rise condominium in the city where the disco neon lights alluringly beacon to the consumate jetsetter, have a passion for status symbols such as providing a car for the maid to use in going to the market, strongly attracted by the glitter of gold preferably in the shape of a Buddha, or similar proclivities designed to whet the appetite for getting rich.

Whenever the subject of graft and corruption comes up, as it does with recurring regularity, Diogenes of Sinope comes to mind. A Greek philosopher who lived during the period 400-325 B.C., Diogenes is best known for his legendary quest for an honest man. Lugging along an old-fashioned lamp, he would roam the streets of Athens in broad daylight and put the face of every man he met before the searching light of his lamp and ask: "Are you an honest man?" Each time, the respondent would shake his head and a forlorn Diogenes would then move on to continue his futile search.

Aside from being a philosopher, Diogenes was also a cynic, founding a school where his wards were taught to look at things from a perspective that was several dark notches lower than the outlook of the pessimist. Having such a phlegmatic attitude, it is no wonder that Diogenes resorted to a sarcastically symbolic way of expressing his disgust and helplessness over the rampant graft and corruption apparently going on his country.

Goaded by the force of his eccentric disposition, it is recounted by the imaginative story-teller that even after his death, Diogenes went on to pursue his mission of looking for that elusive honest man. Only this time, considering the frustration he suffered in his own native land, he brought his search to other countries. Thus began Diogenes' own odyssey through time and space, signifying the end of reality and the birth of an enduring legend.

In the course of his journey, as the story goes, Diogenes would find out that graft and corruption is an age-old phenomenon taking place the world over. Still failing to find an honest man, a disappointed Diogenes was at least able to determine the wily techniques and pinpoint the vantage points for the effective commission of irregularities. For one, the imagined survey of Diogenes shows that the more common forms of graft and corruption are bribery, influence peddling, kickback and malversation. Some illustrative examples of each form, gleaned from the international experience of Diogenes, indicate the actors usually involved and the manner of carrying out the acts mentioned.

For instance, the Diogenes survey shows that bribery takes place when a traffic enforcer takes the money bill neatly tucked in the license of the errant driver being accosted. Usually, this occurs during *merienda* or breaktime. If this happens during suppertime, the rate is doubled. The moral of the story for motorists: If you have to commit a traffic violation, do it at breakfast time. In all probability, the traffic enforcer is still sleeping at that time, having spent the night in a disco joint lavishly spending the take for the day.

Influence peddling is when a so-so lawyer, for a huge fee which is ridiculously out of proportion to his ability (he passed the bar on his third try), represents an affluent client not before a court of law but before government economic bodies. Such a lawyer is, quite incidentally, usually someone close to if not a relative of the powers-that-be. The other way around is also equally true. This is when a non-lawyer this time, obviously as influential with the sacrilegeous earthly denizens who play god, intercedes for his client before a court of law, naturally for a fee.

Kickback is the "service fee" for which the table must have been invented—to effectively cover up the surreptitious transfer of the fee from the hand of the giver to the hand of the receiver, known as an under-the-table transaction. The kickback is usually linked to questionable agency purchases. As the amount involved gets to be more substantial, the lowly government buyer is bumped off from the picture in favor of those progressively occupying higher and higher rungs in the hierarchical ladder. Naturally, the "pay envelop" passed on under the table gets proportionately fatter as the stature of the official involved gets higher. If the deal gets all the way to the top, the kickback would surely pack a mighty wallop stronger than the hind kick of a wild stallion, sending the recipient soaring to high heavens in ecstasy. Sometimes, kickbacks are given in kind and most certainly, we do not refer to neatly wrapped apples, even if they are red and delicious.

Malversation is the type reserved for the unimaginative performer, involving outright robbery of money in the public till. This crude act of the vulgar practitioner of the art is easily detectable, making the culprit vulnerable to apprehension and conviction.

The purported Diogenes findings also indicate that world-wide, the more common agencies that are graft-prone are the revenue collection agencies, the law enforcement groups, the legislature, and the administrative power centers. For sure, not all the personnel of these agencies are corrupt, but the small minority of scalawags therein unfortunately succeed in evoking public contempt for the whole workforce. At any rate, the *modus operandi* of the undesirable habitues of these agencies are detailed in the imaginary travelogue of Diogenes.

In the customshouse, there is that guard who is apparently cross-eyed or is conveniently blinded by the dark glasses he puts on, preventing him from distinguishing the real nature of the importation of the confident smuggler. This kind of inability makes wristwatches and pieces of jewelry innocously look like green little apples. Then there is also reportedly that long row of desks where processing is done, all with open drawers which serve as drop-off points certainly not for postal matter.

In the internal revenue service, there is that examiner or investigator who suddenly develops amnesia and conveniently forgets the original assessment imposed, now settling for a much lower figure. At other times, he is also figuratively figure-blind, issuing an official receipt which indicates a figure that is less than the amount actually paid. The tantalizing smile which forms in his lips eloquently communicates the desired message to the payee who can only nod in agreement, content that he has at least been able to bargain for a scaled-down assessment of his deficiency.

The Diogenes findings also indicate that there have been instances when the revenue collection agencies were in fact headed by well-meaning officials of impeccable integrity. However, almost invariably, they would fail to break the well-entrenched syndicate of shenanigans responsible for graft and corruption in these agencies. The honorable ones would end up resigning in disgust. But the pragmatic ones who could not lick them would simply decide to join them. After that, what remained impeccable was not anymore their integrity but their natty suits with matching ties which could very well, hopefully, serve to choke them.

Among the bad eggs in law enforcement agencies is that checkpoint guard who has attained marked proficiency in collecting fees from shippers of goods passing through the checkpoint. The hitch, however, is that he collects "tong" instead of toll. Believing that the early bird catches the early worm, he makes it a point to man the checkpoint in the wee hours of the morning, ready to prey on the early merchants of perishable goods plying the highway on their way to the city markets. The moral of the story: Don't be the early worm. The early bird is sure to gobble you up.

Then, there is that jail tender who gives the VIP treatment to the prominent and moneyed prisoner or detainee, allowing him to have such conveniences inside his call as a bed with a thick mattress wrapped in an embroidered silk cover sheet, a colored TV and betamax ensemble, an electric fan, a coffee table with the holy book on top, and a maid in waiting for good measure. It does make his cell look like a luxury suite in a six-star hotel. Most certainly, the generous prison superintendent is not doing all these just out of the goodness of his heart.

In any legislative body, a potent weapon which the enterprising solon wields to "persuade" a target client, usually an industrial or business magnate, to respond positively to his expose, is the privilege speech. He pursues his goal with persistence, delivering for the purpose a series of speeches. The moment of truth comes when he suddenly keeps silent about the matter, a 180-degree turnabout which is a mute but emphatic indication that he has finally attained his objective.

Then, there is that delightful story about the assemblyman who proposed to have a ten-span bridge built in his district chargeable against the infrastructure funds alloted to his constituency, anticipating with eagerness the profuse and generous token of gratitude he'd get from the contractor. When reminded that there was no river in his legislative domain, he promptly retorted: "That is no problem. We'll build the river later on and we'll see to it that it flows under the bridge."

Typical of administrative power centers, where the potential for committing graft is high, are the departments and the city or municipal halls. Where the department holds the power of life and death over business concerns, such as the issuance of a license or franchise or the dispensing of incentives, then you can be sure that the graft-disposed tenants in the office would be in the habit of cheerfully crooning that "happy days are here again." Where the city or municipal coffers are filled to the brim, it is an occasion for the host of influence peddlers and percenters waiting in the wings to rejoice. Verily, where there is sugar, there are ants, and black ones at that. Should the shenaniganism extend all the way to the top of the authority ladder, then the proper framework for facilitating the commission of all sorts of scams by some wretched scums, or for the frenetic dipping of fingers in cookie jars, is effectively established.

With these findings, Diogenes, as the fiction-weaver continues to narrate, is reportedly on his way to the Philippines on the last leg of his swing through Southeast Asia. Will he at last find that honest man and put an end to his ordeal? Or will he instead find out that he may need to discard his old gas lamp and don a miner's lamp?

(To be continued in next issue)

MARAMING SALAMAT PO!

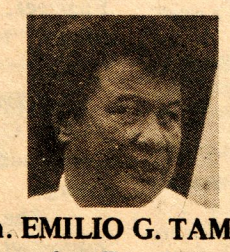
We, the re-elected Councilors of Quezon City, survivors of the last elections, thank the voters and the people in general of our respective districts for the new mandate they have given us.

We take it to mean that in re-electing us, you have found our performance in the past Council satisfactory.

We pledge to strive even harder to improve our performance in the new Council in order that we may continue to deserve your support.



Hon. REYNALDO A. CALALAY
1st District



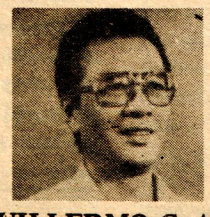
Hon. EMILIO G. TAMAYO
1st District



Hon. ALBERTO M. GALARFE
1st District



Hon. MELENCIO M. CASTELO
2nd District



Hon. GUILLERMO C. ALTUNA
4th District



Hon. FRED MONTILLA
4th District



Hon. HERMINIO " BUTCH" C. BAUTISTA
4th District

A DREAM . . .

To be constituted shortly will be an Advisory Council to the Mayor composed of leading citizens of the city.

Closer to Fulfilment

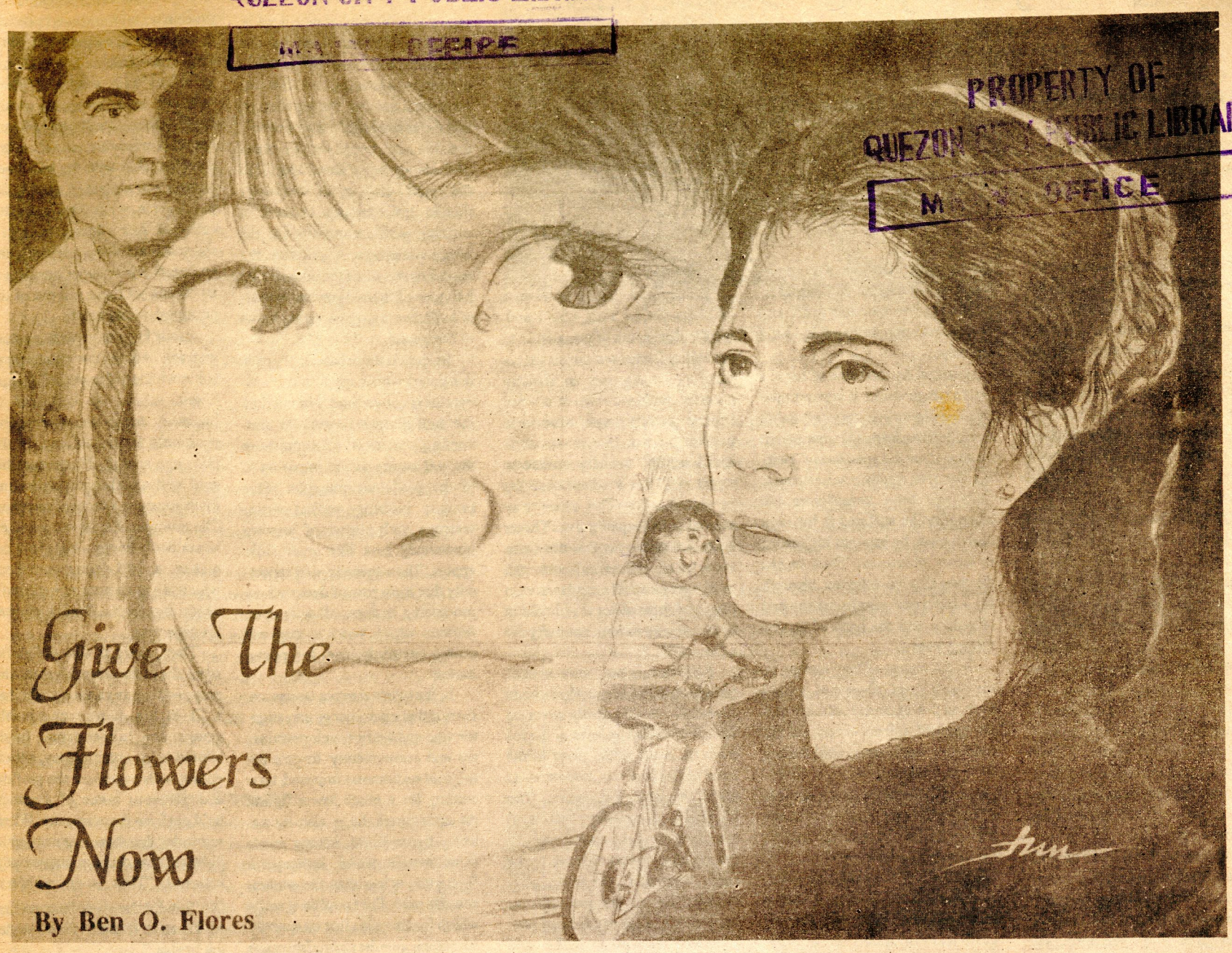
The Mayor concluded his address by appealing for total unity of efforts in meeting the challenges he had cited in order tc bring closer to fulfillment the dream of Quezon of what Qeuzon City should be, "a city that we deserve."

SERVICE WITH A SMILE

PROPERTY OF QUEZON CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY

FICTION

Reprinted from PHILIPPINES FREE PRESS, June 8, 1992



PROPERTY OF QUEZON CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY

By Ben O. Flores

IT was an enormous golden-hued papaya that Martha was cutting into slices to be put in the refrigerator. Standing beside the table was her eight-year-old daughter, Nenita, a second-grader, waiting for her school bus. She was watching the slicing operation with great interest. Her mouth watered as she gazed at the delicious-looking slices.

"Mommy, can I have a slice," the little girl said, unable to contain her craving.

"These are for supper tonight," Martha decreed emphatically.

"Can I have my share now?" Nenita persisted. "I won't ask for another slice tonight."

"No, you can't," Martha said firmly, "you'll only soil your uniform."

"I'll be very careful, Mommy," the second-grader insisted.

"Sigue na, Mommy."

"I said No," Martha's voice was stern this time. "You better go out now. Your school bus will come any moment."

Nenita left reluctantly, after a lingering look at the papaya slices. She noted that there were so many of them, more than enough for the four of them: her mother, her brother Tommy, their maid Rosa and herself.

Why couldn't her mother have given her one of the extra slices, Nenita thought. Besides, she was willing to forego another slice at dinner. In her childish, simple mind, mother was just being selfish.

Perhaps, she thought, if her father were alive, he would have told her mother to let her have the papaya slice. She was barely five years old when her father died in an automobile accident, but she had one vivid recollection of him. They were walking past many department stores in Cubao when she saw a big doll displayed in the window of one of the stores. It had pink cheeks, blue eyes and golden hair, and was garbed in a brief flower-dotted blue dress.

"Daddy!" Nenita had exclaimed. "That doll, it's so beautiful. Look at the eyes, Daddy, they are so real. Let's buy it, Daddy."

Nenita recalled how her father had not hesitated a bit. They immediately went into the store and bought the doll.

When they arrived home, Nenita lost no time in opening the box which contained the doll.

"Look, Mommy," she said, "It's so beautiful."

She was so excited hugging and fondling the doll that she did not notice the not-so-enthusiastic reaction of her mother.

Neither did she hear Martha chide Danny for buying such an expensive doll.

"Come now, Martha, she's a child only once. Before you know it, she will be too old for dolls," Danny said.

Martha had just stored the papaya slices in the refrigerator when she heard the schoolbus come to a stop in front of their apartment. Just then Tommy came rushing down from upstairs. He was big and tall for an 11-year-old boy—a spitting image of his father.

(Continuation below)

At the sight of her son, Martha took a deep breath to steel herself against the pressure she knew she would be subjected to again. It had become almost a ritual. Every morning, before leaving for school, Tommy would badger her to buy a second-hand bicycle which a classmate was selling to him. Tommy tried to persuade her mother that the bike, only slightly used, was a bargain at P750, but she didn't like the idea.

"Mommy, Jimmy says he cannot wait any longer," Tommy said. "He will sell it to somebody else if I don't buy it now. *Sayang na sayang,* Mommy. It's truly a bargain."

But her mother was adamant.

"Don't worry, I'm sure there will be other good bargains," she said.

Tommy left in a huff and like her sister, he thought his mother was rather selfish.

It was not really the P750 that deterred Martha from yielding to her son's importunities. Her late husband had left her a considerable amount of insurance money. And she was earning good pay as a professor in literature at the university, teaching poetry and short story writing at which she was quite proficient, having many of her works published in national magazines.

But she regarded her son's desire for a bicycle as just a young boy's passing fancy that would die a natural death soon enough. He never wanted a bicycle until his classmate offered to sell him his bike. Besides, Martha feared a bicycle would make him neglect his studies and, worst of all, he might get into an accident—like his father.

Whenever she thought of the accident Martha would feel a painful twinge in her heart. It was not so much the pain of loss because, after three years, she had already resigned herself to that loss. It was more the pain of recalling what had happened or rather had not happened that morning of the day the accident occurred.

A week before the fatal day, she and Danny had a rather heated argument in which she felt she got a beating, hurting her deeply. After that they started to ignore each other, not a peep coming from either of them. Absolute silence erected an impregnable wall between them.

But at breakfast that morning of the fateful day, Danny finally tried to break the ice. He said something she pretended not to hear.

She did not even lift her head to look at him, much less utter a word. It was when he stood up to leave that she took a surreptitious look at him. It was then that she noted how haggard and depressed her husband looked. He had been working so hard lately trying to meet his quota of sales for the month. A sudden surge of sympathy and affection engulfed her. As Danny made his way to the door, Martha wanted to call out to him to say she was sorry. But a residue of pride and hurt made her hesitate. The words she wanted to say died in her throat.

Anyway, she consoled herself that tonight when he arrived, she would be at the door to greet him. She even thought of preparing his favorite dish for dinner. But alas! there was no Danny who arrived that night.

It was already 9:00 o'clock when Martha was ready to leave—just in time for her first class at 10:00. She was giving Rosa some last-minute instructions when the phone rang.

It was the owner of the school bus calling. Martha froze as she listened to what the caller was saying.

There had been an accident. The school bus was a total wreck. The injured children were rushed to the hospital. Three of them were pronounced dead on arrival. And one of them was—Nenita.

Martha let go of the phone, staggered away and dropped on the sofa, shaking in a paroxysm of grief. It was not the injuries her daughter must have suffered that she visualized. All she could see was a little girl pleading for a slice of papaya. She had a crazy impulse to take out the papaya slices from the refrigerator and throw them into the trash can.

A week after the interment, Martha and Tommy went to the cemetery. Nenita's tomb was beside that of her father's. Martha placed flowers on the tombs—red, pink and white roses. She and Tommy stood there silently for a long time. Through her tears, all she could see were a crestfallen man going out the door and a little girl pleading for a slice of papaya. Suddenly, Martha said to Tommy:

"Has your friend sold the bicycle yet?"

"Not yet, Mommy," Tommy answered, much surprised, his face lighting up with hope.

"How much did you say it costs?" Martha said.

"Only P750," her son answered.

"When can you go and get it?"

"Right away, Mommy," Tommy was ecstatic.

"Good," her mother said. "Go now, don't lose any time. You are a young boy only once, you know."

That night, Martha, thinking of Danny, her husband and Nenita and of the flowers on the tombs, wrote:

Give the flowers now
Ask not why or how
Tarry not, don't hesitate
Tomorrow may be too late.

A shout below rudely interrupted her thoughts.

"Mommy, come and see my bike."

★

Seeks Detail To City Government



Alberto V. Felipe, former Public Health Sanitarian of the QC Health Department and Chief of Environmental Services, has sought his detail to the city government from the Department of Agriculture where he is presently the Senior Meat Inspection Officer of the National Meat Inspection Commission, a position in which he serves as Preventive Medicine Consultant and Liaison Officer of the Bureau of Animal Industry and assist in the inspection of meat establishments and slaughterhouses.

With this experience, Felipe said, he believes he can help in enhancing the city's veterinary services, particularly with respect to meat inspection and the modification of national sanitation laws to suit local conditions.

He said that he could also help in the city's Sports and Physical Fitness Development Program. A former basketball player during his school days, Felipe had once been the Physical Education Instructor of the American International School and Athletic Director of several colleges and universities in Metro Manila, a position in which he taught, among others, subjects on Public Health, Hygiene and Sanitation; Basketball Coaching and Officiating.

Felipe is a Bachelor of Science in Commerce graduate, major in Management, Philippine Law School; Bachelor of Education, major in Pilipino and Physical Education, MLQ; and Bachelor of Laws, University of the Philippines.

MAYOR MATHAY . . .

BIR, del Barrio said. When this BIR office moved out, she continued, she asked then Mayor Adelina S. Rodriguez permission to occupy the vacated space, to which she said, Rodriguez retorted: "Why don't we construct a separate building for the library?" And that was how the present elegant QC Public Library building came into being in 1982, del Barrio concluded.

CITY OFFICIALS . . .

In place of Velasco, Pedro Valenzuela, Local Treasury Operations III, has been designated Acting Chief of the Taxes and Fees Division without additional compensation.

Also reassigned to the QC Public Library is Ramon Matabang, City Civil Registrar, "to assist the Revenue Group (Velasco et al) in their studies on how to improve collection of taxes, fees, etc." "Ms. Rosenda Manaois has been designated Acting City Civil Registrar.

Jose L.R. Reyes, Legal Officer, Office of the City Engineer, has been reassigned to the Office of the City Attorney "to assist in handling cases/resolving legal issues re-

Elizardo Agsalud, Chief of the Cultural and Tourism Affairs Office, escaped being re-assigned by going on leave. Dominador B. Ocrisma has been designated Officer-in-Charge.

The reassignment of the above personnel was presumably prompted by their incompetent, dishonest performance in their former offices. But ignoring the adverse implication of their re-assignment, these "na-magnolia" officials and employees can consider themselves lucky because, with nothing to do, they will continue to receive the salaries and allowances attached to their respective positions. But, of course, out of delicadeza, they are expected to eventually resign.

AN APPEAL . . . . .

the Mayor's campaign promise which, as a man of honor, he can not break. It is up to you, the property owners, to release him from that promise, considering that it will be for your own good and for all the people of QC.

It is not enough that you had given him your vote. You must also help him make good. And you can do that by heeding this appeal to release him from a promise that denies him more funds for public services.

How to conduct a drive to make the appeal heeded is another matter to be taken up in another article. Suffice it to say now that the drive should perhaps start with a resolution of the Council voicing the appeal. The resolution is then disseminated through media and the barangays to be followed by, perhaps, a referendum.

CHARITO . . .

Most Outstanding Civic Leader, 1970 by the Quezon City Bar Association;

Civic, Philanthropic and Business Dedication Award, 1963 by the Economic Crusader.

Charito's latest feat before the elections was the development of the long-neglected Quezon Memorial Circle, once cogonal country where the buffalos—er--cows roamed but now visited daily by thousands of people. If her initial "action agad" performance as Vice Mayor of QC is any indication, the next three years will be another exciting, eventful episode in Charito's life.