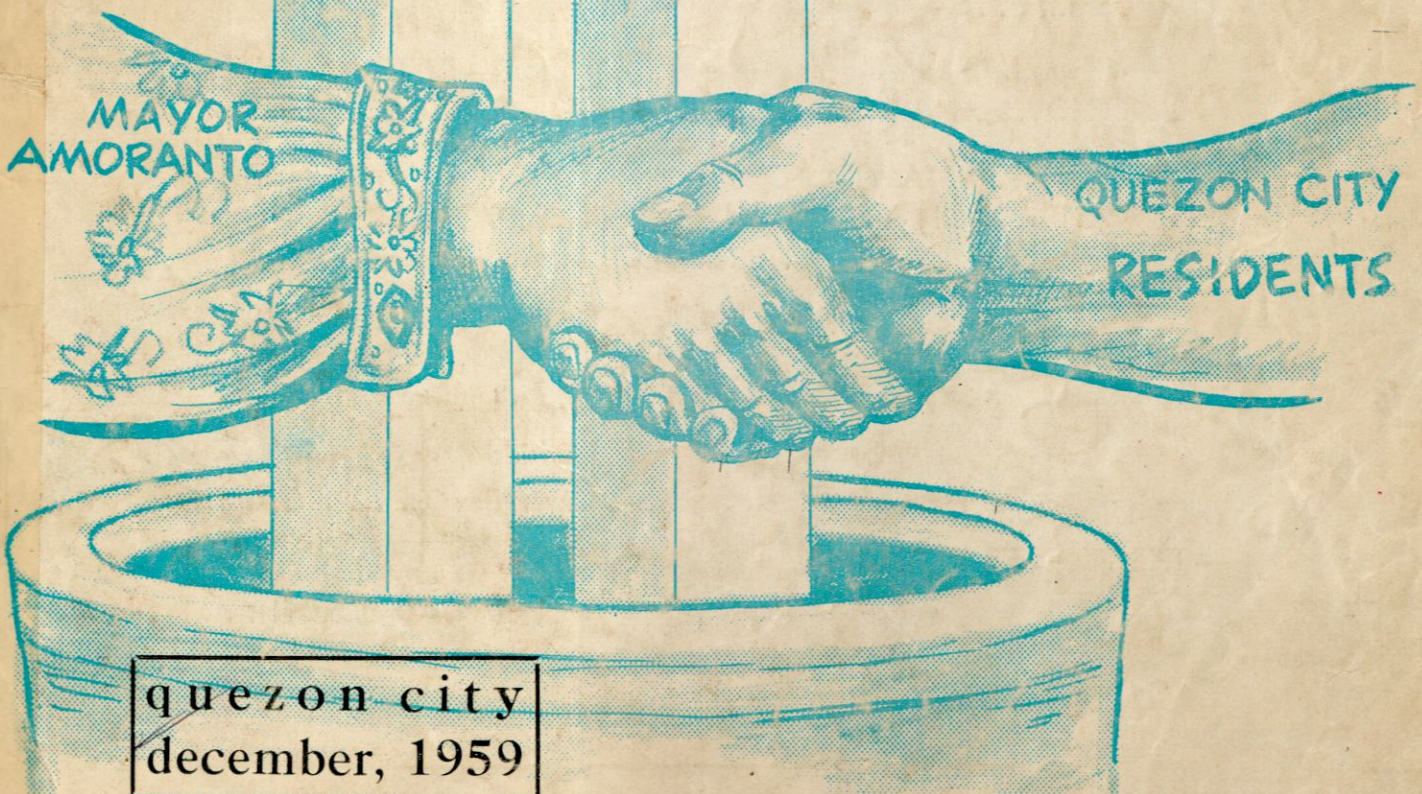


1959

WELCOME

*I solemnly swear that I  
will well and faithfully  
discharge to the best of  
my ability the duties of  
my present position.....  
I will support and de-  
fend the Constitution.....  
I impose this obligation  
upon myself voluntarily.*

*N. S. Amoranto*



quezon city  
december, 1959

Greetings to \_\_\_\_\_

**Mayor N. S. AMORANTO**

First Elected Mayor of Quezon City

# ARANETA COLISEUM

Quezon City  
World's Biggest

## ANNOUNCEMENT

- The ARANETA COLISEUM was conceived and built principally to RENDER SERVICE to the great mass of our people and NOT for profit . . .
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The Management

## FOREWORD

Mayor Norberto S. Amoranto wishes to extend his heartfelt thanks and gratitude to the residents of Quezon City who had expressed their faith and confidence in his administration during the past years. The new mandate given to Mayor Amoranto is a recognition of the integrity of the chief executive as a man and his actuations as a public official. Amoranto's good record and achievements were the gauge on which the electorate based their support. The residents having valued Amoranto's accomplishments, had elected him to the mayoralty of Quezon City in the first election under the Omnibus Bill.

As a response to the overwhelming endorsement of the people to his administration, Mayor Amoranto is set to do his best in cooperation with the other elective officials and the residents to continue the projects and program of administration that he had initiated for the overall development of the Capitol City.

On the occasion of this inaugural ceremonies, Mayor and Mrs. Amoranto reiterate anew their gratefulness to the Quezon City electorate who made possible his victory in the last elections.

## The Q C M C

(CIVIC ORGANIZATION)

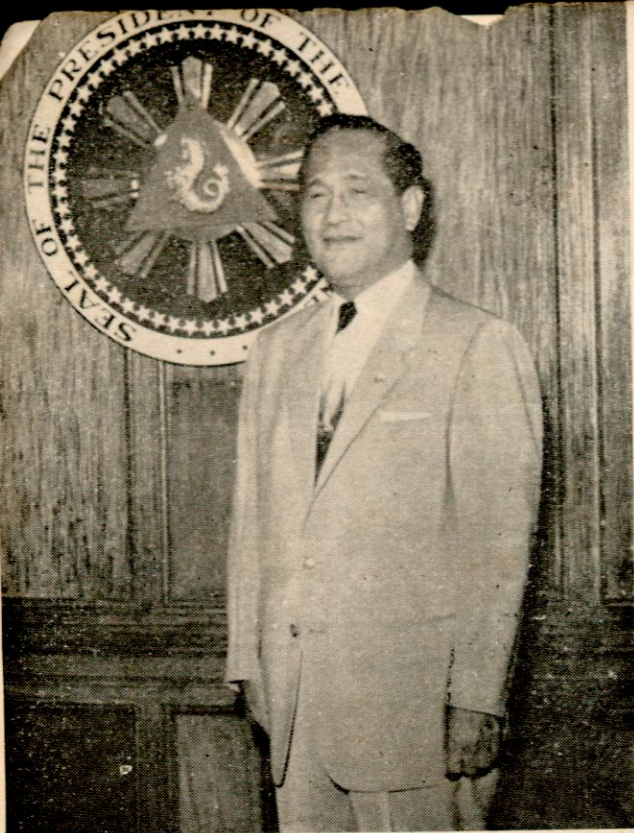
*Wishes His Honor, Mayor Norberto S. Amoranto  
continued good health and success.*

### MEMBERS

joe DE GUZMAN  
gil ENRIQUEZ  
ed PAREDES  
piding MENPIN  
emong SY  
eddie ENRIQUEZ  
eddy NAVASCA  
bert POLUMBARIT  
laly DE LA CRUZ  
nong BERNANDINO

tinno LAPUS  
philip TING  
pete CAMORONGAN  
andoy MENDOZA  
paeng MISON  
dan DANCEL  
bots REYES  
deny GONZALES  
doming OCAMPC  
canding BALTISOTO





MALACAÑANG  
Manila

### Message

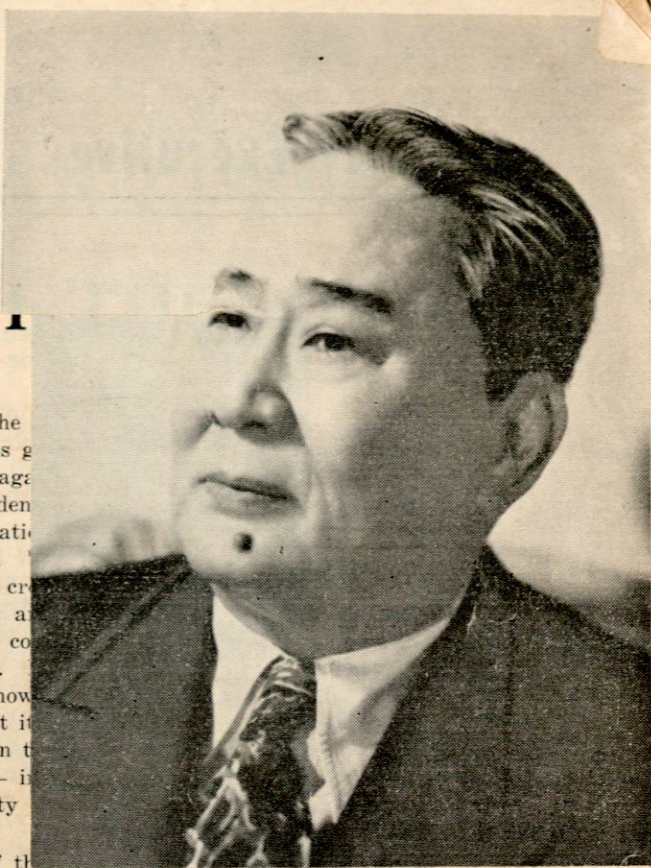
*As Mayor Norberto Amoranto begins another term in office, I share the hopes and the gladness of the people of Quezon City and join them in wishing the city executive continued good health and success. For the entire country, the years ahead are crucial ones in administration and in social and economic development. This is particularly true of Quezon City which, as the nation's capital, reflects in the most sensitive way the spirit for progress and the measure of prosperity that the country aims to achieve. His previous administration of the city's affairs has been marked with notable achievement that have earned for Mayor Amoranto wide admiration. It is with deep pleasure that I anticipate similar success in his new term.*

CARLOS P. GARCIA  
President of the Philippines

Republic of  
OFFICE OF THE PR

THROUGH  
QUEZON CITY — the expanding metropolis. Its growth cities in the world is a saga of city officials and the residents and faith for the realization of a progressive community. Since 1939 when it was created, 502 up to the present is a record of leaders and the steadfast cooperation increase is quite amazing. The number of residents now exceeds 400,000 but it is things yet to take place in the development and expansion — in social aspects — in the city their government.

As the future site of the mentalities, Quezon City has been envisioned since 1939 when the construction of low-cost housing



### Message

*I convey cordial felicitations to the newly elected officials of Quezon City who shall formally assume office on December 31.*

*It is well known that the recent elections were a landmark in the history of the City. I have had the rare privilege of being among those who conceived the plan to establish this city to serve as the nation's capital. Said conception, occurred during the incumbency of the late President Manuel L. Quezon, who envisioned Quezon City as a community patterned after Washington, D.C., governed by Commission responsible to the national government.*

*Much has happened since Quezon City was established, and in accordance with public sentiment, Congress passed the "Omnibus Bill" which made the officials of all chartered cities, including Quezon City, elective, instead of appointive, responsible to the people of the community instead of to the national government. Quezon City therefore elected its officials, and they are officials of the highest caliber.*

*I reiterate in this message my unflinching interest in the welfare and improvement of this City. I say this, not only because I believe I owe it to the memory of the late President Quezon, but also because I hold the opinion that this City should be made a showpiece of the country as its Capital City.*

*May the Almighty blessed this community with more progress and prosperity!*

(Sgd.) E. RODRIGUEZ, Sr.  
President of the Senate

Manila, Philippines



## My Program of Government

I WOULD LIKE to start this message by thanking all the residents of Quezon City who have reposed their heartwarming trust in me by electing me into office. In all candor and honesty I can say that the impressive victory I have achieved is not mine alone but also the people's.

Before the election, I pledged to give the public a much better administration by way of improved general services. Hereunder are the details of my program of action, which I do intend to carry out to the best of my ability and within the limits of the power vested in me by the revised Charter of our beloved City.

But then, it is quite imperative, as in any joint undertaking, that I get the unqualified assistance of the people and my fellow elective officials — the distinguished members of the City Council in particular — before I can even hope to accomplish the manifold tasks I have set my heart on. Without such cooperation, our noble cause for a real good government is hopelessly lost.

(Continued on page 6)

## HISTORY AND GROWTH THROUGH THE YEARS

QUEZON CITY — the capital of the Philippines — is a fast expanding metropolis. Its growth into one of the most beautiful cities in the world is a saga of the hopes and aspirations of the city officials and the residents alike who look forward with vision and faith for the realization of their goals and objectives for a progressive community. The development of the Capitol City since 1939 when it was created under Commonwealth Act No. 502 up to the present is an indication of the dedication of its leaders and the steadfast cooperation of the city populace whose increase is quite amazing. From a population of 57,800 in 1939, the number of residents now is estimated to be 600,000. The increase is rather heavy but it is an index of progress and greater things yet to take place in this metropolis. The pattern of development and expansion — in residential, industrial and commercial aspects — in the city is a symbol of faith, and trust in their government.

As the future site of the national government's vast instrumentalities, Quezon City has a bright future:

Quezon City was envisioned by President Manuel Luis Quezon in 1939 when he was personally supervising the construction of low-cost housing projects in line with his social justice program. Seeing the vast, undeveloped areas northeast of Manila, he saw in his mind's eye the fulfillment of a dream: a Capitol City of the Philippines.

On October 12, 1939 — twenty years ago — Quezon City was created by Commonwealth Act No. 502. Lands were purchased by the government; plans and a zoning ordinance was drafted by Harry T. Frost and A. D. Williams — advisers to President Quezon — in order to build a model city in consonance with the needs and trends of the time. Before the outbreak of the war, however, Quezon City was merged into what was known as Greater Manila for closer and coordinated supervision in case of emergency. During the war, the architect of the Capitol City — Manuel Luis Quezon died in August 1, 1944.

But Quezon's ambition was carried on by his successors. In July, 1946, President Manuel A. Roxas created in his Administrative Order No. 5, the Capitol Site Committee, which selected the old Quezon City as the suitable site for the nation's capital. On January 2, 1947, the city's charter was formally reconstituted and restored to its corporate existence by virtue of Republic Act No. 54. When President Roxas died, his successor — President Elpidio Quirino — undertook the capitol city project. On July 17, 1948, President Quirino signed Republic Act No. 333 creating the Capitol City Planning Commission and declaring Quezon City as the capital of the Philippines. The master plan prepared by the City Planning Commission was likewise approved. On October 22, 1949, Quezon City was formally inaugurated as the Capital City with the laying of the cornerstone at Constitution Hill.

With the creation of the city, the influx to the once-wooded, rice paddies area began. A network of highways and city roads — the arteries of trade and commerce — were undertaken at a fast pace. Government buildings, residential houses, subdivisions, housing projects and other constructions has been and is being undertaken at a rapid pace. This is a fact and a great sign of progress and growth in present-day Quezon City.

Before the enactment of Senate Bill No. 2, known as the "Omnibus Bill" and its approval into Republic Act 2259, Quezon City like the other cities, is governed under a special charter which provides for an appointive mayor, a vice-mayor and eight councilors. However, with the passage and approval of the

"Omnibus Bill" the residents of this city voted for the first time last November 10, the city officials to govern the affairs of this fast expanding community.

The results of the elections are: Norberto S. Amoranto, mayor; Vicente O. Novales, vice-mayor; Pedro Tuazon, Proceso Sebastian, Vital Tan, Conrado Benitez, Carlos Albert, Jose Narcelles, V. Diamonon and Anastacio Yabut, councilors.

However, Quezon City is a study in contrast; this metropolis which has an area of 17,171.5943 hectares is both urban and rural in scenery.

It is no wonder that the peace and order condition that prevails today throughout the city as well as the material and tangible improvements that we see today are the effect and consequences of the achievements and efforts of the present administration.

The population of Quezon City is fast growing. Commercial and industrial activities are moving at a rapid pace. Educational centers are sprouting in strategic parts of the city. Residential houses and subdivisions are being constructed with brisk rapidity. All over the sprawling city, the hustle and bustle of progress is evident.

As the population increases, all endeavours of everyday living for a growing city are being accelerated, the services and facilities for the people have likewise increased. Even with the improved and widespread government services for the well-being of the people, the allotment of the city from the national government remains the same. Hence, while taxes and aids have not increased, the cost of public services rose to big proportions.

Compared to Manila which has an annual income of more or less than P50 million a year, Quezon City which is five times larger in area has an income of only P8 million. While the problem of Manila is improvement, the problem of Quezon City is expansion and development. Here lies the comparison, the contrast. One can just imagine the multifarious activities that the Quezon City authorities had to reckon with in their efforts to serve the increasing population of the Community.

Because health is of much greater value than wealth, I shall dwell first on my immediate plans for the health department. As you probably know, the City government is by law under obligation to contribute seven per cent of its annual income for the maintenance of national hospitals in the City. This sizeable amount, which totals to no less than P300,000 at present, practically goes all to the Labor Hospital in Project 4.

It is decidedly more advantageous on the part of the City Government and the city residents to have the City put up its own hospital manned by our own personnel and financed with the funds that otherwise go to said national hospital.

Ours is indeed a fast-thriving City, and because of this, it behooves us to increase the number of our health centers correspondingly, especially in thickly populated areas as well as in far-flung places. We will have more physicians, nurses and social workers who will regularly visit outlying districts to render services.

One of the perennial complaints that plague the city authorities pertains to inadequate garbage collection. Towards this end, we will purchase more garbage trucks to cover the vast areas of the City. Complementing these vehicles are garbage receptacles which will be placed at strategic spots. Most important aspect of this problems, however, is the revision of the method of garbage collection to achieve the maximum efficiency.

One of our basic rights as democratic citizens, a right that is amply guaranteed by our Constitution, is the protection of our lives and property. This delicate function, naturally, belongs to the police department which gets a substantial part of the City's annual budget for maintenance. Within our financial resources we will acquire additional mobile units, instal more outposts which will maintain a round-the-clock vigilance over their respective territories, and introduce the so-called police call-back system.

I am set to divorce the police department from politics, if doing so would rebound to the general welfare of the city residents.

Ably assisting the police department in life and property preservation is the fire department. The phenomenal growth of our City has necessitated the construction of more fire stations and the acquisition of additional fire engines and other fire-fighting equipment.

Our City Government is doing its share in hiking the literacy rate of our country by giving due emphasis on our public schools. This is attested to by the fact that the biggest amount of our budget is spent on education. The present situation demands more and more school buildings and schoolteachers, a fact we cannot afford to close our eyes to if we must carry on the splendid work.

On the aesthetic side, I am glad to report to you that in the not-so-distant future you will see Quezon Boulevard gaily illuminated, rivalling the beauty of Dewey Boulevard. Other dark streets, which have hitherto been the favorite haunts of unsavory characters, will also be lighted. Not only that. These roads, long the cause of grievances because of their deplorable state, will be repaired and improved to the full satisfaction of the general populace.

I also intend to eliminate various eyesores, especially the squatters' areas, by having these ubiquitous squatters resettled in some place. Parks, playgrounds and recreational facilities designed to develop the community in general and to combat juvenile delinquency

in particular, will spruce up certain areas in the City. So will artesian wells and public faucets.

There are many other ways of improving the City's essential services. One of them, for instance, is improving the status of City Hall personnel by standardizing their salaries to provide them further incentives. And speaking of City Hall, the day will not be far when a modern one will rise from its new site some distance from that of its present one.

But, of course, the realization all these grandiose plans entails no little amount of money. In fact, every single item of improvement we will effect will inevitably cost the City something. So what do we do? Boister the City revenues, naturally.

The City's resources can be tapped by any or all of the following measures: pursuing a vigorous policy of attracting industrial and commercial establishments to the city; reclassification of commercial, industrial and residential districts; and reassessment of real property to bring such assessment up to date.

It is quite possible to boost the City's annual income without necessarily imposing additional taxes on the people, thus we aim to carry out this arduous task at no expense on the part of the people.

All I plead with the public is the positive demonstration of their civic spirit towards the solution of our common problems. With this end in view, I have decided to form a "Civilian Advisory Board" through which I expect all community problems to be aired and remedied.

As I said at the outset, city building is not my sole responsibility; it is a joint enterprise — or rather a partnership — between the city officials and the people. Without the needed teamwork we will surely fail.

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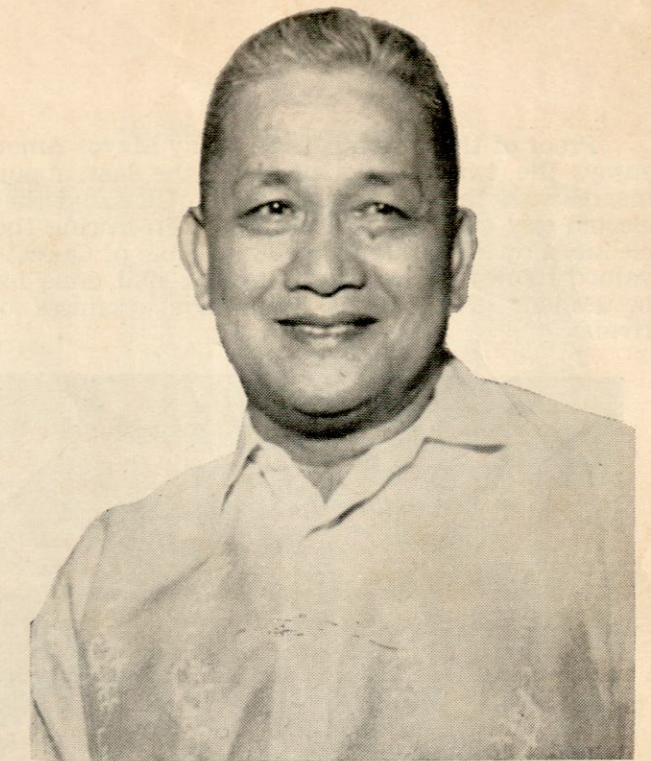
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## NORBERTO S. AMORANTO:

*The Barrio Boy Who  
Became City Mayor*



IN THE SCENIC TOWN of Biñan, Laguna, some fifty years ago, a boy whose daily chore was to tend the soil never dreamed that someday he would become a personality with a dual distinction — as the last appointive Mayor and first elective executive of Quezon City — the capital city of the Philippines.

The little boy was aflame with ambition; he wanted to get ahead in life. Through the years, he worked his way until he finished elementary and secondary schooling. Convinced that it was through the legal profession that he could translate his cherished dreams into reality, he enrolled in the Philippine Law School where he graduated in 1934 with the degree of Bachelor of Laws.



Mayor Amoranto discusses the problems of the city before Manila newspapermen. Sitting beside him at the left side is Press Secretary Jose C. Nable.

Not contented with his educational attainment, this young man known in his hometown as plain "Berting", furthered his studies, worked his way through college, till he was conferred the degree of master of laws in 1950. Earlier, however, he had been actively engaged in the law profession.

However, in 1936 when he was a second year law student, he married the former Asisola Lim of Sta. Cruz, Laguna. A high school teacher, his wife gave him inspiration to continue further the realization of his ideals and ambitions. They were blessed with four children.

The boy who used to pasture carabaos had his first taste of success when, as a lawyer of the Federation of Tenants' Association of the Philippines, he was able to effect fifty percent reduction of the price of lots sold by the Araneta, Inc. Later, he was elected first vice-president of the League of Parent-Teacher Association of Quezon City. His capability as a civic leader and his qualities as a man who is sincere and

honest in his dealings earned for him the presidency of the La Loma Parent-Teacher Association for twelve consecutive years.

The Capitol's first elected mayor, Norberto S. Amoranto, as the little carabao herder is now one among the rising leaders of the country. He has accumulated a wealth of experience through his more than twenty years in the public service. His first government position was that of a lowly messenger in the defunct Executive Bureau in 1930. Then he joined the Bureau of Internal Revenue, working in various capacities until he was one among the few senior examiner in the entire bureau.

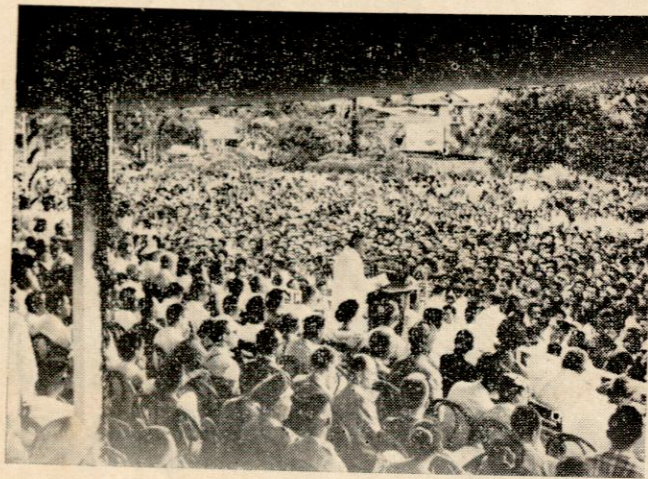
Feeling the irresistible urge to practise law, he resigned in 1952. As a practising lawyer, he handled various delicate cases and was considered as one of the top legal luminaries in taxation. But, in the course of his life, he was initiated into the art of politics. He entered politics with the aim in view that through it, he will be of greater service to the country and his people.

After the 1953 elections, Amoranto was given the trust to rehabilitate the Capital City of the Philippines by virtue of his appointment as Chief Executive in January 14, 1954. Amoranto's achievements in this position proved his capabilities as a builder of a city, in line with the dreams of the late President Manuel L. Quezon



Visiting dignitaries from Asian countries pay a courtesy call on Mayor Amoranto at his office at the Quezon City Hall.

Proof of this claim is that, today Mayor Amoranto enjoys the twin honors of being the last appointive mayor with the longest tenure of office and the first elected city executive. Amoranto won during the last elections by a big majority. The people of Quezon City valued more the tangible things he had done for the betterment of the City than mere promises of his rivals.



Mayor Amoranto address a crowd during Quezon Day on August 19 this year

During his six years of administration, Amoranto was able to chalk up a series of achievements in all fields of the local government. In most cases, he accomplished things almost single-handed and in the face of stiff opposition from his critics and, in certain instances, from his very own colleagues. Judging from the uncertain finances of the city government, particularly when he had just taken over the mayoralty, his accomplishments are far beyond what could be righteously expected, considering the stringency and limitations of the city finances. For this reason, one may cite with pride his achievements as a proof of success

### EDUCATION

From a total of ten elementary and secondary schools in the city before he assumed office, Amoranto was able to hike the number to 23, thus realizing an increase of 130%. Enrolment soared from 20,456 to



One of Mayor Amoranto's achievements was the establishment of public schools like this elementary school in La Loma district.

51,998, or an increase of more than 300%. He has increased the number of permanent and semi-permanent school buildings from 23 to 74, and the value of permanent structures jumped from P186,848.00 to P2,409,446.30. And there are now 428 rented school buildings

### BUILDING CONSTRUCTION

Here is a comparative study, with data, of building construction in the city:

Year	Bldg. Permits Issued	Cost
1953	1300	P15,451,600.00
1954	1592	19,738,413.00
1955	1980	19,745,409.00
1956	2948	35,812,721.00
1957	2254	44,318,190.00
1958	1850	40,025,338.00
1959 (June)	1990	41,180,038.00

### REAL ESTATE-ASSESSMENT REPORT

Year	Parcels	Valuation
1954	40,624	P228,295,830.00
1955	43,769	266,187,430.00
1956	46,389	283,746,760.00
1957	49,172	301,802,650.00
1958	55,012	346,948,660.00
1959	60,649	420,328,300.00
	Total	P1,847,309,730.00

### MUNICIPAL COURTS

The branches of the municipal court was originally three. This was increased by Mayor Amoranto to four, in view of the tremendous increase in population and the corresponding hike in the number of cases.

### FISCAL'S OFFICE

The Fiscal's Office was formerly manned by six men, including the city attorney himself. Now this has been increased to 21 assistant fiscals and special counsel due to the unprecedented rise in the number of complaints.

### FIRE DEPARTMENT



Fire-fighting units and equipments purchased by the city government during the incumbency of Mayor Amoranto as appointive mayor.

From an insignificant fire fighting unit, the fire department has so expanded under the administration of Mayor Amoranto that today there are five fire stations located in strategic areas of the city. It has more than 100 officers and men and 16 fire engines. The department is now second to Manila's fire fighting department in number of men and facilities.

### HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Quoted hereunder is a capsule report from Dr. Petronio G. Monsod, city health officer:

"... Comparing figures on the budget of 1949 and that of 1959, and the intervening years, the expenses borne by the city in the operation of the department has increased by almost four times from P163,700 to P741,500 in 1959. The personnel have multiplied at the same rate, resulting in the expansion of



Conscious of the fact that healthy citizens are assets in the community, health centers are established in strategic parts of the city.

services to all districts and making the city one of the few places in the Philippines operating more health centers in proportion to the population.

As a result, infant mortality decreased from 164 per 1000 births in 1947 to 70 in 1959, a continuous downward trend.

Some salient accomplishments of the department during the administration of Mayor Amoranto:

1. Substantial decrease in both the crude mortality and the infant mortality rates
2. Placed health center establishments on permanent buildings whose medical, dental, nursing and midwifery as well as sanitation services are based in every district.



As part of his public relations, Mayor Amoranto, accompanied by other city officials, visits business firms.

3. Participated in the training program of the Department of Health.
4. Activated community participation by organizing women's organizations and participating in welfare drives.
5. Extended domiciliary health services in obstetrics, premature infant home care, tuberculosis and control of communicable diseases.

### PUBLIC LIBRARIES



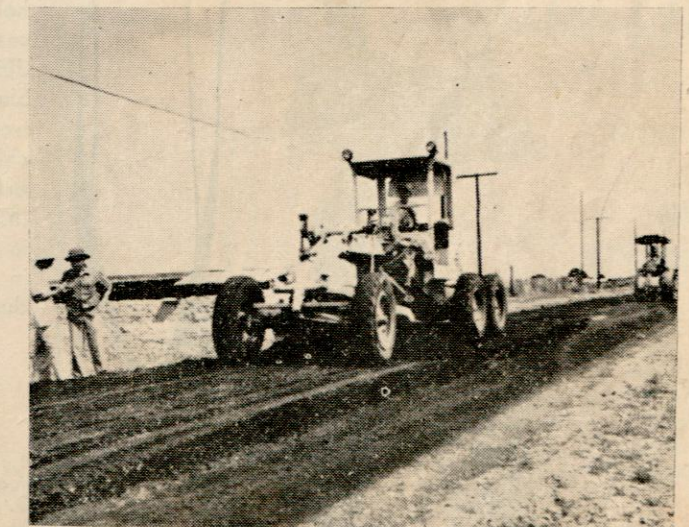
The city administration established ten libraries in the city for the benefit of its growing population

The Quezon City Public Libraries, headed by Atty. Felicidad A. Peralta, enriched its collection from the year 1954 to the present. It has 7,807 volumes of reference books, 5,290 fiction, 4,000 pamphlets. During this period it has increased its branches to ten, including the main library at the City Hall. These are: Project 3, Cubao, Novaliches, Project 4, Balara, Roxas, La Loma, Project 2 and Bagong Pag-asa.

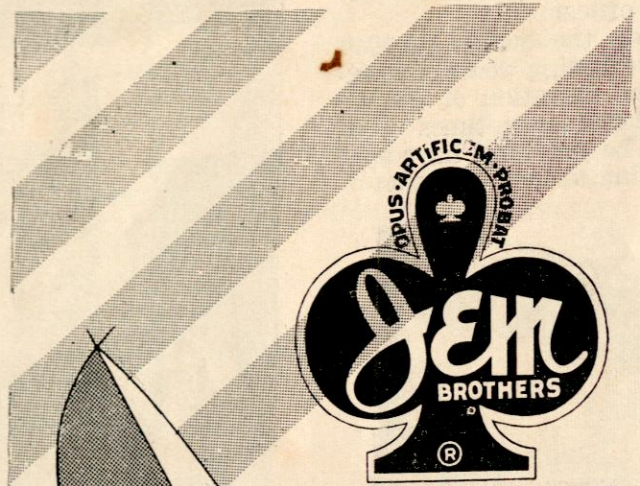
### ENGINEERING AND PUBLIC WORKS

In public works, the present administration under Mayor Amoranto had contributed a lot for the construction of additional roads, sewerage system and other engineering projects for the well-being of the residents and beautification of the community. Under Mayor Amoranto, 245.02 kilometers of city streets has been constructed since 1954. The City has also maintained in good condition through repair and improvement 209.06 kilometers of city roads.

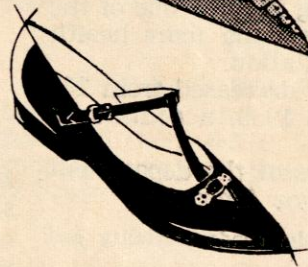
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Public works and other community improvement are given emphasis in the overall development of the city.



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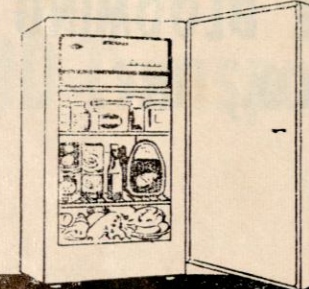


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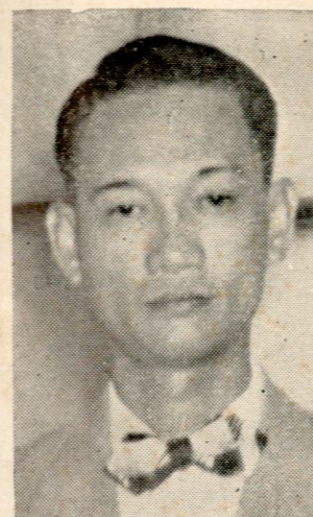
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*the*

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The Honorable  
DELFIN GARCIA



The Honorable  
JESUS V. MERRITT



The Honorable  
PONCIANO REYES

# MANUEL I. QUEZON

By JESUS V. MERRITT  
Member, City Council, Quezon City



*While Burgos instilled in the souls of his people dignity and racial equality and Rizal gave concrete form to their ideals and aspirations and sanctified them with his blood in Bagumbayan, Quezon, with a master's hand drew the blueprint of our national existence and gave it a name before its birth . . . . . Speech of Pres. Quirino delivered on August 19, 1947.*

Seventy-three years ago — to be exact, on August 19, 1878 — Manuel L. Quezon was born in Baler, a small seacoast town in Tayabas, now Quezon Province.

At the time of his birth, events of world-shaking proportion were developing in many regions of the world. It was a rip-snorting, tearful and shouting year.

The American people had just survived a great constitutional crisis which threatened a second Civil War arising from the celebrated Tilden-Hayes presidential dispute.

In England, Disraeli was at the height of his diplomatic triumphs, marked by the consolidation of British authority in India and the acquisition of the strategic isle of Cyprus.

In our part of the globe, the Asian countries were beginning to be "beset internally by popular revolutionary forces and externally by the pressure from foreign powers."

Quezon came from a Catholic family of modest circumstance. He was born, so to speak, with a pewter spoon in his mouth.

In his early teens, his father, "Maestro" Lucio Quezon brought him to Manila to enroll at the Colegio de San Juan de Letran.

Recommended by the Spanish "Padre" in his town, young Quezon was readily admitted as a working student in the "Colegio."

In the classroom, as well as in the campus, young Quezon was admired for his precocious mind, his many-sidedness and his flair for the histrionics which later made him one of the most vivid and colorful statesmen of his time.

He was just beginning his studies of law in 1898 when the Philippine-American hostilities broke out. Without hesitation, he brushed aside his law books, picked up arms and joined the scattered band of patriots that swarmed the vicinity of Manila. Convinced of the tragic futility of continued fighting against superior forces, he surrendered to the enemy after the Americans had captured Aguinaldo in the fastness of Palanan. This was followed by four months of incarceration in an American military prison. It was more by accident than by design that while a prisoner, he met Douglas MacArthur, who was destined to become one of his closest friends and wartime advisers three decades later.

The years that followed saw his meteoric rise in the civil government that was subsequently established by the Americans. He entered the

public service in 1904 as prosecuting attorney, then governor, representative, resident commissioner to Washington, senate president, commonwealth president and wartime leader of his people. But, it was as the spokesman of his people's aspiration for political self-determination that he achieved the glory of his dazzling career. During the hectic Japanese occupation, Quezon was on exile in Washington but his name glowed like the Holy Grail in all resistance circles during the war. Quezon married Aurora Aragon in 1918 and she had been a sustained and powerful influence up to his death.

One of his outstanding qualities — and, incidentally the secret behind his success as political leader — was his sense of kinship with the common people, the humble underpossessed. He instinctively identified himself with the common man and it was not infrequent that he proudly referred to himself as "descamisado" (Shirtless) whenever he recalled his early youth.

"My ambition," he once told Congress in a joint session, "is not to leave a name as a great statesman but to be known by future generations as a friend of the common man."

There are many anecdotes, some apocryphal, illustrating his deep-seated interest in the well being of the common man. One of them was how he conceived over a breakfast table the idea of founding a city for the working man in the suburb of Manila. He labored hard to realize that vision which finally crystallized in the emergence of Quezon City which the late President Roxas described as "the crowning jewel of the fame that was to outlast him." Here, today, the backwash of Manila's overflowing population, especially those from the poverty-blighted areas of the city, come to build their homes in an atmosphere free from filth and squalor. The present administration has established model homesites in Quezon City for the benefit of employees and laborers of the low-income bracket.

Once Quezon tackles a problem, no emotion of any kind colors the working of his mind. He had a special gift for molding the most abstract concepts into striking formula which everyone can understand. At times, his difficulty as a politician was his fidelity to reason.

He had a most salutary philosophy of law. He believed law was an instrument to advance the common weal. He did not believe that the law is inflexible, certain and unbendable — rather it is a thing of the wax to be molded and shaped and used to promote the interest of the greatest number.

And he used this concept of law to benefit the underprivileged class of our people. Once he went to the extreme of publicly repudiating a Court decision to uphold the right of an ordinary wage earner to a just compensation.

Seven years have already elapsed since Quezon's death at Saranac Lake and yet, unlike other men who have left their mark in history, nobody has succeeded to build up a legend around him. Why? Because there was nothing mythical nor nebulous about the man. He was intensely human. Today is the 73rd anniversary of his birthday and it is remarkable how time keeps adding to his stature.

Some men, once famous, shrink with the passing of years but Quezon grows and grows. It may be said now that in the historical perspective of our people, he ranks next only to Rizal.

# QUEZON CITY: a review

By VERONICA F. AGBAYANI

Today, August 19, marks the birthday anniversary of the late President Manuel L. Quezon and the twelfth anniversary of Quezon City since its creation in 1939. In memory of this great man after whom this City has been named, we review in brief not only his life and all that it has consistently stood for but also the history of this City, its growth and development and the efforts of the men who have been entrusted with the great task of transforming Quezon's dream city into a living reality.

The birth of this City was conceived in the original plan of President Quezon to provide decent homes on unexpensive lots for the landless and working class of Manila, in consonance with his social amelioration program. In 1939, he ordered the acquisition of the Diliman Estate, comprising 1,572 hectares upon which low-cost housing projects were constructed by the People's Homesite and Housing Corporation headed by the late Don Alejandro Roces. This blazed the trail for the creation of a City that was destined to become the Capital City of the Republic of the Philippines.

President Quezon personally supervised his "barrio obrero" project and it must have been during one of his frequent inspections that he noted the large undeveloped tracts of land northeast of Manila. The necessity of transferring the center of government activities from a crowded Manila to a more spacious and desirable surroundings has long been felt and the picturesque, rolling countryside was deemed most ideal for the purpose. Thus was conceived a city for both the rich and poor alike but more especially for the underprivileged, a city which "politically, shall be the seat of the National Government; aesthetically, the showplace of the nation — a place that thousands of people will come to visit as an epitome of the culture and spirit of the country; socially, a dignified concentration of human life, aspirations, endeavors and achievements; and economically, as a productive, self-contained community". This is the gist of the plan President Quezon envisioned in one of his great dreams and the role this City was destined to play.

On October 12, 1939, Quezon City was created by Commonwealth Act No. 502. The acquisition by the government of more lands that was to be Quezon City was effected and plans were subsequently drawn and a Zoning Ordinance drafted by the planning advisers to President Quezon, Harry T. Frost and A. D. Williams, to insure the proper development of a city of orderliness and beauty in contrast to the haphazard manner of development into which most cities fall.

Sensing, however, the danger of an impending war that would involve the Philippines, President Quezon issued an Executive Order merging Quezon City and certain towns of the province of Rizal to Manila proper to constitute what was referred to as "Greater Manila". It was not long before World War II actually broke out on that fateful day in December, 1941, disrupting whatever initial activities have been launched by President Quezon, Don Alejandro Roces and the pre-war City Engineer and Vice-Mayor Ponciano Bernardo in their efforts to build up the props of a promising city.

Death came to President Quezon in August, 1944, but the indomitable spirit with which he pursued his plans for this City did not die with him. Other men fired with the same vigor and strength of purpose carried on where he left off in the great task of building the City. President Roxas created in his Administrative Order No. 5 in July, 1946, the Capital Site Committee which after careful deliberation selected the old Quezon City as the most suitable site for a Capital. He sent a mis-



sion of Filipino architects and engineers to the United States and South American countries to study the latest trends in modern Capital City Planning sometime during the summer of 1947. When death overtook President Roxas, President Quirino took up the Capital City project. On July 17, 1948, he signed Republic Act No. 333 creating the Capital City Planning Commission and making Quezon City the Capital of the Philippines. The Master Plan prepared by the City Planning Commission shortly after its creation was approved by President Quirino on April, 1948. Quezon City was formally inaugurated as the Capital City on October 22, 1949 with the laying of the cornerstone at Constitution Hill from which shall one day rise a structure of architectural magnificence.

It was not until the liberation, January 2, 1947, that Quezon City was formally reorganized and restored to its separate and corporate existence, by virtue of Republic Act No. 54, fathered and sponsored by the then Congressman Ignacio Santos Diaz, now incumbent Mayor of Quezon City. The ravages of war wrought destruction and havoc to this City. Badly damaged roads, broken bridges, dilapidated homes, poor sanitary conditions, an alarming peace and order situation, hungry and unemployed inhabitants were tell-tales of a war-torn Quezon City. The liberation forces contributed much in returning to normalcy the conditions of living and in improving the deplorable state of things.

The treasury was virtually empty, nevertheless, the City government resumed its activities and operations. This was made possible by the National aid of ₱170,440.50 which added to the income from collections of taxes and fees amounted to ₱704,988.86, exceeding the estimated expenses of ₱548,471.76 in the budget of 1947 by a comfortable margin. With this amount, the city government tried to make both ends meet to rehabilitate this City from the debris and ashes of war at the same time that it had to cope with the demand for public services by 80,000 people, which was approximately the population in 1947 as compared with about 57,880 at the time of its creation in 1939.

Within a period of twelve years, the population of Quezon City has increased to 150,000 owing to the housing projects of the People's Home-site and Housing Corporation in the Kamuning, General Roxas and President Quirino districts and the transfer to this City of the University of the Philippines, the barrio of Novaliches and other barrios and sitios formerly belonging to the municipality of Caloocan, Rizal. Furthermore, people from different parts of the country sought refuge in Manila and Quezon City from dissident elements whose activities have become alarming in their respective provinces. Far from the hectic tempo of life, Quezon City offers an ideal place and atmosphere for the construction of residential homes, attracting people from crowded Manila and the surrounding areas to reside here. Everyday, houses of all types of architectural designs are cropping up like mushrooms.

The present accelerated growth in population means more income for the City government. However, we must not overlook the fact that this City has a limited source of income compared to Manila. On account of its location and other predisposing factors, it is more residential in nature than commercial. The establishment of some industries and the investment of capital on various business enterprises are being encouraged as a means of bolstering the City finances, but other ways and means have to be devised yet to swell its income.

The income for the fiscal year 1949-50 amounting to ₱2,168,766.84, together with a national aid of ₱63,084.00 had to be spent on corresponding increased needs for public services by an ever-increasing population. A study of the yearly allotment for expenses incurred as dictated by public needs within the bounds of the city treasury's financial capacity will show that 24% is spent for education, 22% for police protection, 19% for collection services and administration, 15% for health and sanitation, 10% for permanent improvements and the rest for miscellaneous items. Needless to state, other government entities, civic and social welfare organizations, and other loyal partners of the City government dedicated to the common task of building a City, also contribute a great deal towards the development of Quezon City. Indeed, under the present state of the finances of the City, such help is still needed and most welcome.

One way of combating ignorance and illiteracy is through the education of the masses. In line with this policy, elementary schools have been gradually constructed in suitable school sites as fast as funds warranted. To supplement the City's limited finances, Parent-Teacher Associations contributed their own share in providing school equipment and schoolrooms. There were only 6 elementary schools in 1947 with a total number of 10,446 pupils and 142 teachers. On July 1, 1947, a local high school was established and more and more schools were added thereafter so that by the end of the school year 1950-1951 there were 70 elementary schools and 1 high school with 17,678 pupils enrolled and 403 teachers.

The City government also devised a 10-year school plan that would save a yearly rental of ₱27,000 for school buildings which is expected

(Continued on p. 26)

## Programme

August 20, 1951

### I HOLY MASS

7:30 — Masses in all Quezon City churches

### II INAUGURATION of the Left and Right Wings, Quezon City Hall, Main Building.

8:30 — Cutting of Ribbons by Mrs. Consuelo Salazar-Perez and Mrs. Nini Quezon - Buencamino.

### III PARADE

8:00 — Participants in the parade will assemble at their designated places of formation (See backcover page)

8:30 — Arrival of the Guests at the Grandstand (Ushers-GSP, U. P. High School and Roosevelt Memorial Troops.)

9:00 — Arrival at the Grandstand of the Guest of Honor, His Excellency Elpidio Quirino, President of the Philippines.

9:00 — Start of the Parade.

### IV CEREMONIES AT THE GRANDSTAND

Floral offerings at the Quezon Monument:

Bugle Call by the GSP, U.P. High School Troop.

Laying of wreaths at the Quezon Monument by:

Mrs. Consuelo Salazar-Perez, Adviser, Federation of Women's Associations of Quezon City with Hon. I. Santos Diaz, Mayor, Quezon City; Miss Carmen Planas, Representing the Board of Directors, PNRC, Quezon City Chapter.

Invocation — the Most Rev. Gabriel Reyes, D. D. Archbishop of Manila.

Introduction of the Guest Speaker by the Honorable I. Santos Diaz, Mayor of Quezon City.

Address by the Guest Speaker, the Honorable Ricardo Paras, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the Philippines.



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Chairman

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HON. I. SANTOS DIAZ  
Mayor, Quezon City

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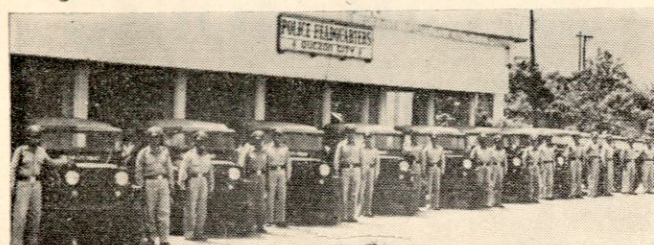
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NORBERTO S. AMORANTO . . . (Cont'd. from page 9)

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The foregoing details in effect constitute a portion of the accomplishments of Mayor Amoranto, from the time he assumed office on January 14, 1954, to the present.



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