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THE CAPITOL STANDARD

A MEASURE OF QUEZON CITY'S METTLE

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STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

(The correct and full version)

By Mayor Adelina S. Rodriguez

(Editor's Note: The address was delivered yesterday, January 14, before a record audience that filled the Carlos Albert Session Hall to the rafters. The Mayor ad libbed a lot for which she was roundly applauded. It took her more than an hour to deliver the address, which is published hereunder with some editing.)

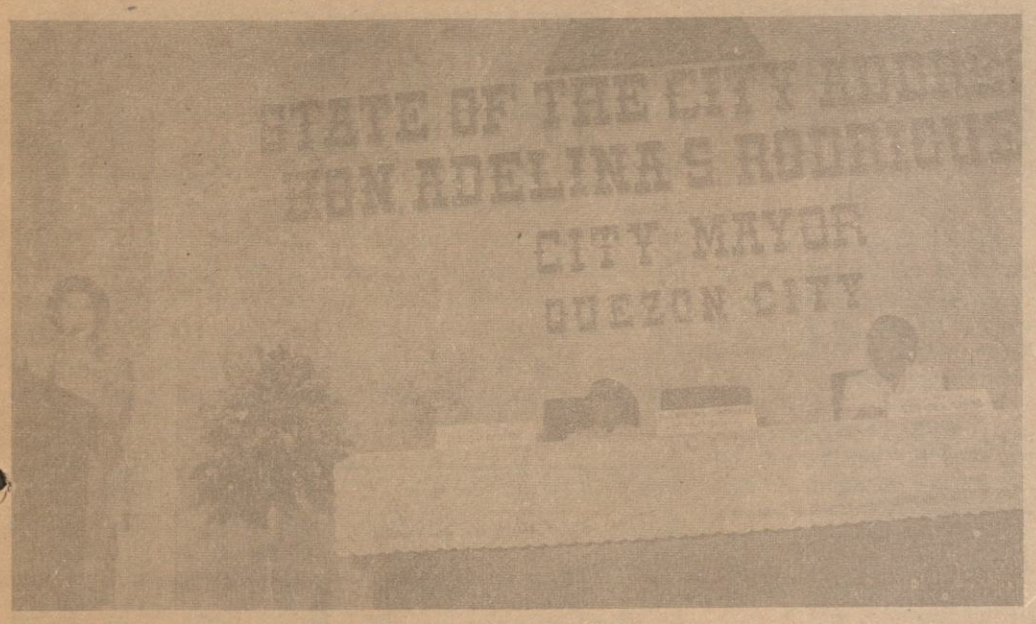
Our substantial achievements and the continuing economic stability of your city government inspire me to render my annual report to the people of Quezon City with renewed vigor and moral strength, despite the occasional adverse publicity. For the truth is, I have always kept faith with the trust you gave me when you elected me your mayor in 1980.

It will make you happy to know that our 1984 income was much more than our 1983 income. More people paid their taxes. What is even more remarkable is that businesses in Metro Manila set up their firms and plants in Quezon City, defying the seeming business difficulties in our country.

And even more remarkable is our discovery of some 3,140 parcels of undeclared real properties with an assessed value of P531,205,770 which would mean an additional income of P13.28 million for our city treasury.

To top it all, the all-out cooperation of the private sector-the civic, trade and religious groups – has grown to millions of pesos in man-hours and peso value of the infrastructures they have donated. I shall detail these to you in my report.

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THE DELIVERY

Seated: Executive Club Chairman and Emcee City Fiscal Sergio AF Apostol and Vice Mayor Stephen N. Sarino.



A corsage for Her Honor, the Mayor



In the picture are, from left: Dr. Reynaldo Lupisan, X, City Engr. Pablo Suarez, BPLO Chief Bert Galarpe, City Budget Officer Lily Gerardo, City Schools Superintendent Dr. Edna Azurin, SWSD Chief Lulu Vergara, and City Health Officer Dr. Magdalena M. Ybanez. At her back is Assistant Secretary to the Mayor Mrs. Viring A. Ramos.

Easily the most distinguished guest was Brig. Gen. Alfredo S. Lim, new Northern Police District Superintendent, (second from right). The Mayor interrupted her speech to acknowledge the presence of Gen. Lim and introduce him to the audience. Aware of Gen. Lim's reputation as a non-nonsense police officer, Mayor Rodriguez remarked that with him at the helm of the Northern Police District, vice, crime, bold shows, etc. will finally be contained in Quezon City.

"Strengthen, Not Abolish, The MMC"–MATHAY

By Ben O. Flores

(Editor's Note: This news story is based on Nick Tolentino's interview with Vice Governor Ismael Mathay, Jr. in his TV program, "Focus: Personalities On Camera," last Saturday, Jan. 13, on Channel 2, 12:00 noon to 1:00 P.M., which we were fortunately able to watch. We say fortunately because in the interview, Mathay answered practically all the questions we had intended to ask him when we went to see him at his residence last December 22, 1984. Like we reported in our last issue, the Vice Governor had so many visitors at the time, that by the time he was ready to see us it was already 11:00 o'clock and he said he had an urgent appointment at that hour, so we were unable to interview him. While waiting for his call, however, we had jotted down the questions we intended to ask him. Mel asked us to give the written questions to him but we failed to make an appointment with him for the answers. Anyway, as we have already stated, most of the questions were answered in the TV interview of Nick who, incidentally, is our Associate Editor. Incidentally, also, Chit Estella, the little lady reporter of TEMPO, had a story on what Mathay said in Nick's TV interview in the January 13 issue of TEMPO, but she did not even cite the source of her story.)

MP/Vice Governor Ismael Mathay, Jr. said that instead of abolishing the Metropolitan Manila Commission, it should be strengthened. By this, he said, he did not mean giving the MMC additional powers but reviewing its functions with a view to finding ways and means of undertaking said functions with more efficiency and vigor.

Parliamentary Bill No. 2

Mathay said, however, that there was no reason why PD 824 creating the MMC should not be reviewed because, after all, he said, even the Constitution is subject to amendments and the MMC has been in existence for more than nine years now. This is why, he said, Parliamentary Bill No. 2, which has been filed by the coaleased minority seeking the abolition of the MMC, will be subjected to public hearing, the first to be held in Caloocan City.

The Assemblyman/Vice Governor recounted the events that led to the creation of the MMC. He recalled that even long before the issuance of PD 824, there was already a trend towards integration as evidenced by the organization of the Metropolitan Mayors Coordinating Council. Mathay said that in the referendum held in February 1975, the people voted overwhelmingly for the commission type of government. He pointed out that Metropolitan Tokyo, Jakarta, Washington D.C., and Greater London all have a commission type of government.



MP/Vice Gov. MATHAY

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BULACAN TREASURER TO SUCCEED REGIS

Provincial Treasurer Agustin Talavera of Bulacan will succeed City Treasurer Anselmo O. Regis when he bows out at the end of his second extension of service on February 28. Regis's birthday will be on March 13 yet, but, the City Treasurer said, that it is the policy of the Ministry of Finance to set the last day of service of retiring treasurers at the end of a month.

Regis said that he is definitely not inclined to a third extension of service. He said that, anyway it won't be offered anymore because the Ministry of Finance's commitment to the Bulacan Provincial Treasurer should have been implemented last year yet. In fact, the City Treasurer said, Talavera, accompanied by Bulacan Governor Santiago, already showed up

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IN NEXT ISSUE

The accurate and complete story of the proposed Brain Surgery Center in Quezon City which was the subject of sketchy and erroneous reports in some national papers.

To Confine Nite Spots In Designated Areas In Metro Manila?

The Office for Planning of the MMC is studying the feasibility of confining nite spots –discos, beerhouses, night clubs–in areas to be designated for the purpose within Metro Manila in order to prevent their proliferation and to keep them under strict control. This was revealed by MMC Commissioner for Planning Nathaniel Von Einseidel in a letter to Mayor Adelina S. Rodriguez asking her comments and recommendations as to suitable areas for confinement of the city's nite spots.

Von Einseidel stated in his letter that the confinement of the establishments concerned "can be effectively carried out through zoning considering its objective of promoting the health, morals, peace, good order, safety and general welfare of the people." He also asked to be furnished copies of local ordinances, laws, rules and regulations regarding the operation of beerhouses, discos, and night clubs for ready reference in

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24 TEACHERS' DEMANDS

Claiming that "the increase granted to us in January 1984 has been reduced to nil as a result of galloping inflation and peso devaluation, " the Quezon City, Marikina, Mandaluyong, San Juan Public Secondary School Teachers' Federation has presented 24 demands enumerated below to the City Schools Division, Metro Manila Commission, Minister J. Laya of the Ministry of Education, Culture, and Sports, the Mayors of Quezon City, San Juan, Marikina and Mandaluyong, and Deputy Minister Herminigildo Dumlao.

The Federation has also sent a position paper expressing vigorous objection to Section 3 of P.D. No. 1913 which excludes public secondary school teachers from the coverage of the Special Education Fund. Said section 3 provides that said Special Education Fund "may be used for the salary adjustments of teachers of the national government." Public secondary school teachers are not teachers of the national government because they are paid out of local government's fund. The position paper suggests that "teachers of the na-

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Standard FARE

by Ben O. Flores

Manoling Santos, RIP

The death last January 6 of Atty. Manuel Santos, former Secretary to the Mayor, came as a shock to his many friends and acquaintances. Manoling was one of the most likeable officials that had served the city government. The last time we saw him–he used to drop in the office of Architect Gerry Magat where we are attached–he was looking hale and hearty. Manoling was only 49. Do the good really die young? Is there truth to the common saying that "mahirap mamatay ang masamang damo?" This reminds us of the prayer of a not too saintly man: "God, I am not worthy of heaven. Let me stay here on earth."

We are reproducing hereunder what we wrote about Manoling in this column in the July 28, 1976 issue of this paper:

"Atty. Manuel Santos has received his appointment as Secretary to the Mayor effective July 12, 1976. This position was occupied by my good friend Ka Etong Madrilejo until his retirement last year when Sally Molina took over only to resign when Mayor Amoranto retired whereupon the Assistant Secretary, Mrs. Veronica A. Ramos, pinch hitted as Acting Secretary until Atty. Santos got his appointment. The appointment could not have fallen to better hands.

"Congratulations, Atty. Santos! Manoling, as his friends call him, is a regular guy. Barely three and a half months in City Hall, he is now universally liked by city officials and employees. He has shown superior PR with his cordial, courteous, prompt and attentive way of dealing with City Hall visitors. He does much of the spadework for the Mayor with the able assistance of Viring Ramos.

"A few weeks ago, I succeeded in 'dragging' Manoling up to the fifth floor at Fiscal Castelo's office where we were celebrating her birthday with a little 'blow out' I gave my star columnist. Manoling said he did not drink–I had brought a bottle of Fundador with me–but he did drink anyway to please us, even as Fiscal Castelo declaimed: 'Drink to me only with thine eyes, and I will pledge with mine or leave a kiss but in the cup and I will not look for wine.'

"We held Manoling a 'prisoner' for some 30 minutes during which we fired at him some candid questions. The wine had spirited away some of our inhibitions. Manoling said that he didn't go so much for physical seduction as he did for intellectual seduction. So, ladies, if you want to make a shine to Manoling, what you need is not a strong SA (sex appeal) but a high IQ."

City Budget Officer Recuperating

Lily P. Gerardo, after a major intestinal operation at the Makati Medical Center about a month ago, is reported to be well on the way to complete recovery. I am sure The Capitol Standard and its readers join us in hoping and praying that Lily will be back with us soon. In the meantime, our good friend Johnny Ortiz, Assistant City Budget Officer, is doing fine as OIC of the Budget Office, a position he should have automatically assumed without benefit of a Memorandum designating him as such. But, if I know Johnny, he is not one to quible over such trivial technicalities.

10% Discount

At the flag raising ceremony last Monday, Jan. 7, it was announced that the QC Mini Restaurant will give a 10% discount to City Hall personnel. This is long overdue, considering that this restaurant is built on city government property and is intended primarily for the benefit of its officials and employees. Prices at this restaurant are far from being moderate, hence the 10% discount is very justified; in fact, it could perhaps be increased to say 15 or even 20%. For us, the 10% discount is not an incentive because the restaurant does not serve beer which is a must with our lunch.

BULACAN TREASURER. . .

at City Hall in February last year ready to assume office as City Treasurer the moment Regis stepped out. Unfortunately for him, Regis was extended. This time, however, no extension is going to thwart Talavera. Before he became a provincial treasurer, the future QC Treasurer was a Director in the office of Local Government Finance, Ministry of Justice.

The outgoing City Treasurer said that he has no definite plans yet as to how he will spend his retirement. It will be recalled that two years ago when he was due for retirement, Beer Hausen offered him a high paying executive position, but this did not materialize because of the extension that was offered to him and which he was prevailed upon to accept.

"You can be sure, however, that when I retire, I wont go into hibernation. I will still be up and doing," Regis said. *(Editor's Note: City Treasurer Regis has a young wife to keep him up and doing.)*

STRENGTHEN. . .

Importance Of Integration

Mathay said that from 1975 to 1985, the population of Metro Manila has doubled which is why present resources are no longer adequate to meet all the needs of the four cities and 13 municipalities comprising Metro Manila. And herein, Mathay said, lies the chief importance of integration under the MMC: the limited resources can be used according to priorities whereby the small towns with very little income can be assisted to undertake projects for the public welfare–projects which otherwise they could not untertake.

The Vice Governor cited flood control as an example of the importance of integration. He said that before the creation of the MMC, each city or town in Metro Manila adopted its own flood control measures which often resulted in the flood waters of one city or town emptying into an adjacent city or town. Under the MMC, Mathay said, an intergrated and coordinated flood control project of nine pumping stations at strategic locations and the Blumentrit interceptor has been undertaken to serve the entire Metro Manila area. Now, Mathay said, flood waters subside in a matter of minutes instead of the days it used to take the waters to subside, citing Campa St., in Manila where, he said, he grew up, as an example. Garbage collection, the Vice Governor said, is another public service that has been systematized and improved under integration with dump sites far from residential areas.

20% Contributions

With respect to the charge that the MMC is virtually a parasitic dependent of the four cities and 13 municipalities comprising Metro Manila because each and every city or town has to contribute 20% of its income, Mathay said that the contributions are being returned in the form of services. He cited the case of Pateros where the MMC had put up a high school whose 3,200 students formerly had to go all the way to Pasig to attend school and the case of the 70-hectare Tala Estate where the MMC also put up the Bagong Silang High School to accommodate the children of uprooted families. Furthermore, the Vice Governor said, think of the national aid given to the cities and towns of Metro Manila –aid, he said, solicited by the MMC through Governor Imelda R. Marcos.

Mathay disclosed possible and projected sources of additional funds for the MMC, such as the Economic Support Fund, the P2 billion rental of US military bases in the Philippines. He said, also being mulled is the possibility of getting a share from the gasoline tax in consideration of the fact that of the one million vehicles in the 13 regions of the country, 70% of them are using the roads in the National Capital Region. Mathay also disclosed a once-upon-a-time plan of the MMC to create a trust fund for basic services to be generated by an additional 5% tax on PLDT subscribers. But the plan was junked, Mathay said, because of the economic crisis.

Taxation Without Representation?

With respect to the charge that under the MMC there is taxation without representation and that the local governments have lost their autonomy, Mathay said that in the February 1975 referendum, the people had mandated the President to appoint the officials of the MMC. But inspite of this mandate, Mathay said, the positions of Mayor and Vice Mayor were made elective in 1980. He said the mayors are implementors of the MMC. Once the budget of a town or city is approved by the MMC, the mayor has the full responsibility of implementing it, unless there is a realignment of budgetary expenditures in which case a supplementary budget has to be prepared for approval again of the MMC. In the old Council-Mayor type of government, the mayor can not spend without a corresponding appropriation act of the Council and it often happened, Mathay said, that the city or town government had to operate on the old budget because of the failure of the council to enact a new budget.

The Dream

Asked if he had any intention of running for mayor of Quezon City in the 1986 elections, Mathay said that he had just won in the Batasan elections, that his term as Assemblyman expires in 1990, and that his position as Vice Governor depends on the pleasure of the President, so, he said, he would prefer to stay in his present positions and continue pursuing the programs for the upliftment of the people. He admitted, however, that he did have this dream, amounting almost to an obssession, of becoming mayor of Quezon City. He said that in the 1980 elections, he could have run for mayor of Quezon City but he deferred to the wishes of the President and the First Lady.

'Kindi Kami Natatakot"

Mathay said that if the positions of Governor and Vice Governor of the MMC are made elective, he and the First Lady will certainly run. "Hindi kami natatakot," he said.

The Vice Governor deplored the fact that this early, people should be so engrossed in thoughts on the forthcoming elections. The 1986 elections for local officials, he said, is still a good 15 months away–probably in May as may be fixed by the Batasan. Over and above personal ambitions, Mathay said, we should devote our thoughts and efforts to the task of pursuing the programs designed to improve the quality of life of the people. The law prescribes a 60-day campaign period, so let us wait for that period, Mathay said.

"Ineffective " Mayors

With respect to the alleged survey which resulted in the identification of 10 "ineffective" mayors, Mathay said that the survey was not political in nature but a survey of the needs and problems of the cities and municipalities comprising Metro Manila. He recalled that immediately after the 1980 elections for local officials, the elected KBL mayors called on the First Lady and asked her what were to be the guidelines in their administration of their respective governments. The First Lady, Mathay said, answered that she did not have any guidelines to give. She said that a survey of the needs and problems of the cities and municiaplities should be made to determine the program of government to be pursued.

Mathay pointed out the necessity of making such a survey at least every six months because there is a constant change in the needs and problems of the cities and municipalities. Thus, he said, formerly the housing problem used to be No. One priority, but after the low cost housing and resettlement projects of the government had been launched and undertaken, it dropped to No. 10 or 11. The drug problem, he said, used to be at the bottom of the priorities, but now it has gone up to No. 2 or 3.

Mathay said that he had talked to the three mayors who had reacted to the "ineffective" reports–Mayors Rodriguez, Bagatsing, and Cuneta. Mathay said that he agreed with Mayor Rodriguez who said that the mayors should be informed of any survey that may be undertaken.

Police Supervision

With respect to the Integrated National Police, Mathay said that there is an on-going study on the wisdom of transfering supervision to the local governments but letting the INP retain administrative control, which includes recruitment and training, operations, discipline, and others. Local supervision, however, may include the power to suspend an erring policeman by seven to 15 days, Mathay said.

Finally, with respect to the P120 time deposit of the city government, Mathay stressed that the amount is intact–repeat intact. What is being investigated is whether or not there had been any irregularity in the itnerest rates granted by the PNB. The investigation, he said, is now being handled by the NBI, which is the investigating arm of the Tanodbayan.

The Capitol STANDARD

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Editorial

Revamp May Strengthen MMC

We concur with the stand of the Vice Governor that the MMC should not be dismantled but should be strengthened. The commission type of government has succeeded in such great cities as Tokyo, Jakarta, Washington D.C., and Greater London, there is no reason why it can not succeed in Metro Manila. If the MMC has not lived up fully to expectations, it is not the system but the implementation that is to be blamed. And if implementation has been less than competent, who is to blame? Is it not possible that some key officials of the MMC are less than competent?

We have long known of the Vice Governor's intention to do a thorough revamp of the MMC, "from top to bottom," he once said, most especially the four sectors of the Environmental Sanitation Center. Perhaps, one of the means to strengthen the MMC, as the Vice Governor wants to do, is to implement the revamp that he has long been meaning to do. An assessment of the performance of all key officials should be made to determine those who have performed below par. In the entire MMC, we are aware of only two very competent key officials: Special Assistant Atty. J. Mario Laqui and Administrative Director Atty. Lourdes Santos. As to the incompetents, we have no personal knowledge of who they are except some officials in the Legal Services Section and an Administrative Officer in one of the ESC sectors.

TO CONFINE. . .

the preparation of locational guidelines.

The MMC Commissioner for Planning stated that the proposal to confine night establishments to designated areas came from Lt. Gen. Fidel V. Ramos, Acting Chief of Staff and Director of the Integrated National Police. In his letter to Von Einseidel, Gen. Ramos stated that the Sub-Committee on Crimes Against Public Morals of the PC-INP National Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee had reached the conclusion that "the proliferation of bold/lewd exhibitions in nite spots largely contribute to the moral decadence of the youth and serve as source of violent crimes in Metro Manila." To prevent such proliferation of bold/lewed exhibitions, the committee proposes strict control on the location of the establishments giving the exhibitions, Gen. Ramos stated in his letter.

Von Einseidel has assigned Ms. Johanna P. Placido of his staff to coordinate with the Office of the Mayor on matters relevant to the study being made on the feasibility of confining nite spots to designated areas.

24 TEACHERS'. . .

tional government" should be replaced with simply "public school teachers."

The Federation teachers demands are as follows:

A. On the Full Implementation of Mandated Laws

1. Fully implement in Metro Manila MMC Executive Order 84-02 granting a 10% increase in pay for all public school teachers effective January, 1984 with December 31, 1983 as salary base. (For Mandaluyong and Marikina only).
2. Immediately implement Executive Order 985 (NCC No. 31) granting a P150 COLA for those with salaries from P1,500 and below, P100 for those with salaries above P1,500. (For Marikina, Mandaluyong and San Juan).
3. Effectively implement Executive Order 951-A (NCC No. 27) providing for a 10% across the board increase effective May, 1984, to all public school teachers.

B. On Specific Economic Demands

4. Immediately adjust teachers' salaries eroded by government's devaluation policies to the minimum requirement called for by consumer price index standards of decent living:

Basic Salary	P2,300.00
COLA	700.00
TOTAL	P3,000.00

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1st Year Implementation Of Realty Tax Increase Wont Give City Additional Income

This may sound paradoxical and unbelievable but the higher real estate taxes based on the upward revision of real property assessments will actually not give the city government any additional income during the first year of implementation. On the contrary, said higher real estate taxes could result in less income.

City Assessor Ricardo E. Villena gave two reasons for this seemingly paradoxical and unbelievable negative effect of the higher real estate taxes;

First, as per rules and regulations issued by the Ministry of Finance, the implementation of the upward revision of real property assessments is made gradual and during the CY 1985, only 40% of the increase in real property valuation brought about by the revision will be added to the old real property valuation and this will be the basis in computing the tax due.

Second, also as per aforementioned rules and regulations issued by the Ministry of Finance, taxpayers who pay before the deadline will be given a 10% discount.

Villena gave a concrete example of how the implementation of the general revision of real property assessments can actually reduce the income from the higher real estate taxes:

Suppose a residential lot has a taxable valuation of P50,000 in 1984. As a result of the upward revision of real property assessments, this was increased by P10,000 to P60,000 in 1985. But for CY 1985, only 40% of P10,000 or P4,000 can be added to the old taxable valuation of the lot in question. Thus, P50,000 plus P4,000 or P54,000 will be the basis for computing the tax due this year on the lot. The tax rate for residential properties is 2½ percent. So, 2½ percent of P54,000 is P1,350, the tax due on the lot in question. But if the lot owner pays before the deadline, he is entitled to a discount of 10%. Ten percent of P1,350 is P135. Subtract this from P1,350 and you get P1,215 which is the tax the lot owner has to pay. Now, under the old taxable valuation of his lot which was P50,000, the tax he would have paid was 2½ percent of P50,000 or P1,250 which is P35 more than the tax he has to pay under the higher taxable valuation of his lot brought about by the upward revision of real property assessments.

Villena said, however, that even if the higher real estate taxes would yield less income because of the two aforecited provisions of the rules and regulations issued by the Ministry of Finance, the 10% discount incentive for taxpayers will result in greater tax collection efficiency and this can more than offset the lower taxes caused by the 40% limitation and the 10% discount.

24 TEACHERS'. . .

5. Integration of all allowances to the basic pay;
6. Longevity pay of P50.00 per month for every two (2) years of service ;
7. Clothing allowance of P100.00 per month ;
8. Inclusion of the substitute teachers in the coverage of the clothing allowance and the longevity pay ;
9. Automatic basic salary increase of teachers who have met the required number of units leading to a master's degree as well as those who have already completed their masteral degree without the teachers individually working for it ;
10. Chalk, audio visual, eraser and class record supply for each teacher every year ;
11. Granting of honoraria to guidance counselors, department chairmen, coordinators, registrars, librarians and other teachers who render 8-hour service ;
12. Abolish PAG-IBIG funds and reimburse with interest collected contributions. Fully restore GSIS real estate loans and other benefits.

C. On Demoratic Rights

13. Demand for teacher representation through genuine teacher organizations in local school boards
14. Assert full academic freedom for elementary and high school teachers ;
15. Fully protect teachers' rights to self-organization and freedom of assembly for redress of grievances
16. Restore PPSTA to classroom teachers and its management to genuine teacher leaders.
17. Fully implement the MAGNA CARTA and the CIVIL SERVICE MANUAL in the protection of teachers' rights .

D. On National Policies Affecting Education

18. Restore education's share of the national budget to pre-martial law levels (minimum of 1/3 of the national budget) ;
19. Rechannel military funds, infrastructure allocations, and foreign debt payments to education ;
20. Repeal PD 711 and PD 1913: Fully implement RA 5447 as amended by RA 6363 for teachers' salaries in SEF;
21. Disclose and reevaluate all World Bank, ADB and UE AID conditions attached to educational loans and grants ;
22. Stop further tax increase and devaluations ;
23. Oppose WB-IMF and all other forms of foreign instrusion into the educational system ;and
24. Promote nationalist, scientific, and relevant education for the Filipinio people.

In presenting the above demands, the Federation teahers alleged that "the city coffers are practically unscathed by the present economic crisis." They also brought out a recent Supreme Court ruling that if a person has an income of only P2,500 a month in Metro Manila and P2,000 in the province, he is considered a pauper. "This means," the Federation teachers stated, "that even by provincial standards, the Quezon City, Marikina, Mandaluyong and San Juan public secondary school teachers are considered paupers because they only receive a grosss pay ranging from P1,500.00 to P1,850.00 a month."

"I Was The First International Bold Star"

By Alex Orbito, Dean of Filipino Faith Healers

(Editor's Note: Speech delivered by Orbito on the occasion of his birthday last Nov. 25. We believe our readers will enjoy reading Orbito's faith healing adventures)

It is not unusual to celebrate one's birthday. Everybody has, of course, a birthday. But not everyone has a birthmark. They say that one's birthmark dictates his own destiny or signals his character and behavior. Whether this is true I cannot ascertain, but there are strange coincidences which often make us wonder.

Birthdays are special personal events. For me, it has become more than a personal celebration. In fact, for many years now, we have made it a point to invite those dear to us, to this occasion. If this can be called tradition, it is a tradition of thanksgiving, sharing and renewal which, as long as the Holy Spirit allows, will be a simple but joyful yearly observance.

As a spiritual healer, I claim no superiority over my fellowmen. Neither do I boast of the miracles confirmed by the faithful who submit their sick bodies to the touch of my hands. If there is power to heal vested in me, let not mine be the glory but God's. I beseech you, my loved ones, to always remember the greatness of God's power, love and salvation.

"In France, in 1976, the doctors wanted to prove the efficacy of so-called body vibrations by experimenting on a paralytic lady. They stripped me naked, making me the first Filipino international bold star, and asked me to lie down with her and covered us with a blanket. After half an hour, the cover was removed. A miracle happened. The lady was able to move!"



Speaking of destiny, I must recount to you the countless times our Good Friend up there spared my life so that I can serve humanity better and longer. With several extensions to my borrowed life, what must I do but appreciate His goodness and remain steadfast to the calling of the Holy Spirit, a calling which was revealed to me when I was only 14 and a struggling high school junior in the rural plains of Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija.

About 10 years ago while in Sicily, in Italy I was abducted and brought to a remote village many miles away. Having done no harm against no one, I thought that was the end of dear life, away from my wife and family. It turned out that in the village, hundreds of patients were waiting for cure. After satisfying their need by "forced labor", my abductors paid me handsomely and released me via a chartered plane to Rome. I was to learn that they belonged to the Mafia!

Not much later, I was arrested in the United States and put to jail on charges of illegal practice of medicine. Conviction would definitely mean harsh prison terms, by the mere fact that I was a foreigner plying my trade in a foreign country. But thanks to concerned friends who bailed me out by collecting contributions and to a volunteer lawyer who argued my case in court, I was allowed to leave the U.S. without any criminal record and no marks on my passport although the case dragged for a almost three years. My brilliant lawyer finally won me an acquittal by insisting that my "doctorate" was granted by the Greatest Healer of all, no less, and that I was graduated from the best medical school of Spiritual Dimensions.

In Saudi Arabia, particularly in Oman and Abu Dhabi, it was extremely difficult to penetrate a culture bound by the strict laws of Islam. But the miracles of healing are boundless, and with the help of God who heard and answered my prayers, the Arabs discovered that religious beliefs and culture are not barriers to spiritual power. Today, I receive many letters from Arab nations making arrangements for healing consultations. In fact, they come to the Philippines in big groups just to experience healing vibrations. A very significant and memorable occasion is the kind reception by king Said of the United Arab Emirates three years ago where I pledged to help his people whenever possible.

In Europe, I was subjected by medical and scientific experts to the most rigid laboratory tests and examinations. They checked my brainwaves, my heart and pulse beats, my blood, even my temperature and perspiration. Through the ultra-sensitive kirlian photography, they tried to determine the aura emanating from my fingers before and during a healing session. After all these detailed examinations, they still thought I was a superman from Planet Mars!

In France, in 1976, the doctors wanted to prove the efficacy of so-called body vibrations by experimenting on a paralytic lady. They stripped me naked, making me the first Filipino international bold star, and asked me to lie down with her and covered us with a blanket. After half an hour, the cover was removed. A miracle happened. The lady was able to move!

There are more of these uncommon experiences such as my imprisonment in West Germany and similar embarrassing treatment. But the most unlikely thing happened to me in Nigeria. In the African Continent. People there are black, of course, and I am quite lucky just to be a shade lighter. Would you believe that those loving people called me "The White Man" or mestizo and "The Handsome Boy"? I can't believe either.

The life of a healer is indeed very complicated. There are simply too many unbelievable occurrences which cannot be fully explained. I can not even understand myself at times, so that if some of our very own countrymen seem to make us their laughing stock and ridicule us with oft-repeated mockery, calling me and my colleagues "fake healers" in the process, I always stand by the rule that "to err is human, to forgive divine" with love, compassion and understanding.

Tonight marks not only my birthday but also my 30th year in the ministry. It is likewise the thumbmark on my destiny which has been characterized by controversies and intrigues. But then, there are more blessings than heartaches to count that every year, I celebrate this blessed event to pay my personal debt to God who, on November 25 many years ago, gave me my life and placed the tag, "born to heal."

Some people are afraid of growing old but I am taking exception. While I add years to my life, I feel younger each time the calendar turns a page. If the saying that "life begins at 40" is true, then I must just be in kindergarten by now! And would you believe I am just starting to exhibit firing power on the Golf Range? I picked up the sports only late last year, but rejuvenation has given me the edge over veteran players to score confortably under par. This year, I am very grateful to my friends from Osaka, Japan for sponsoring a two-day golf tournament at Camp Aguinaldo in my honor, the first time ever that a sports festival was organized to mark my birthday. There can be no happier man than he who is strong both in flesh and in spirit.

Perhaps, it is high time that the Philippine Government duly recognizes spiritual healing and the vast implications of its benefits to mankind. Legitimate healers, especially the members of the Philippine Healers' Circle of which yours truly is president, can best serve public interest if they are licensed like professional doctors. With this recognition, the subsequent integration of spiritual healing methods into our country's medical system may follow. There is no doubt that when this is realized, we can firmly establish the Philippines as the "spiritual healing capital of the world" and thereby attract more tourists for much-needed dollars.

NEW YEAR MESSAGE

(Delivered by Mayor Adelina S. Rodriguez at the scientific luncheon meeting of the QCHD Phhysicians Organization held last January 10 at the Camelot Hotel)

Before anything else, I would like to commend the QCHD Physicians Organization for starting the New Year in this very proper and significant manner: by holding this scientific luncheon meeting which is a manifestation of its concern for professional growth. For as long as you the members of the organization have this concern for the continuous upgrading of your professional competence and knowledge as physicians of the Quezon City Health Department, it is safe to say that public health in Quezon City is in good hands.

I have always considered the delivery of health services one of the most important functions of the City Government. In consideration of this importance, my office, as you very well know, has always been very supportive of the needs of the Quezon City Health Department, be it with respect to training seminars for its personnel, supply of medicines, and the maintenance, improvement, and expansion of our health centers. I recall that in 1976 when I assumed office, there were only about 35 health centers. At present, we have 45 and one lying-in clinic at the San Vicente Health Center is almost half through.

We may, therefore, look to the year ahead with guarded hope and confidence that the Quezon City Health Department may be able to continue delivering health services with as much efficiency and adequacy as our resources may permit. You will note that I said advisedly "guarded hope and confidence" and "as our resources may permit." I have to use these qualifying words because, in all candor, I must say that because of the current economic crisis, our revenues can not keep pace with the ever growing needs of our ever growing population.

So, as we look to the year ahead, the inevitable questions that obtrude in our minds are: "How will it be in the year ahead? Will things get better or worse?" It is very comforting to know that both state and the church assure us that 1985 will definitely be a brighter and better year. This assurance is given in the New Year messages of President Marcos speaking for the state and Cardinal Sin in behalf of the church. In his message, the President stated, and I quote:

"In a year of relentless struggle for economic recovery and stability, we have succeeded in putting together a long term economic recovery program that not only rallies our people behind it, but enjoys the support of financial institutions and governments abroad. There are now already encouraging signs of the positive effects of this program, the new economy that is coming in, known as the economic recovery program. But it is in 1985 that we shall truly see clear signs of revival in the economy. . ."

Cardinal Sin, on the other hand, stated in his message, and I quote: "I wish to tell you that 1985 will be a better year. With God's help, we will survive the tribulations besetting us. In His infinite mercy, God will grant us the grace to find the happiness and peace we all hunger for."

Both President Marcos and Cardinal Sin agree, however, that, while the worst may have already passed, "the crisis in our country," to use the words of the President, "is not wholly behind us." In fact, Cardinal Sin said that "the situation will probably get worse before it can improve. Because the economy can not be expected to recover instantly, there will be more suffering and pain."

So, while we should look to the year ahead with hope and optimism, let us, at the same time, gird ourselves to meet the challenges, the problems, and the difficulties that still lie ahead. Anyway, we should now be more able to cope with these challenges, problems, and difficulties because the rigors we went through during the past years have strengthened and hardened us in the same way that iron is forged into steel by fire. The trials and tribulations during the past years have brought out latent or dormant strengths and virtues in us. This brings us to the vital role the Quezon City Health Department in general and the QCHD Physician's Organization in particular play in enabling the people to meet the challenges, problems, and difficulties of the future. To be able to meet these challenges, problems, and difficulties, the people must have good health and this depends on the efficiency and adequacy of the health services that the city government can deliver.

With respect to economic revival and recovery, we may not be able to contribute much directly, for economic revival and recovery is mainly the responsibility of the industrial, commercial, and agricultural sectors. But even if we do not belong to these sectors, we can contribute indirectly by helping to promote national peace and unity. For only under an atmosphere of peace and unity can economic revival and recovery take place. How can we help in promoting national peace and unity? Let us start with ourselves. Let us look into our hearts and see if there is need for moral regeneration and purification. Let us probe the innermost recesses of our hearts and make sure that they are thoroughly purged of hatred, bitterness, anger, selfishness, pride and belligerence. Make sure that these ill feelings are replaced with love, goodwill, generosity, humility and benegnity, thereby paving the way for peace and unity.

In closing, may I revert to the New Year message of Cardinal Sin in which he said that, and I quote, "new heroes will certainly surface, heroes with the vision and the spirit of sacrifice to lead us to a better life in the manny tomorrows that lie ahead." Unquote. For us in the public service, however, it is not necessary to scale the heights of heroism. It is enough that in the year ahead, let us discharge our duties and functions with greater zeal, dedication, competence, and integrity. To be able to do that, let us have faith in God, faith in our government, and faith in ourselves. With such an attitude, we will not only survive. We will prevail.

Thank you and good day.

SWEEPSTAKES

PREMYO KALENDARYO

FOCUS ON REGIONAL ENTERPRISES



REGION I
ABRA • BENGUET • MOUNTAIN PROVINCE
ILOCOS NORTE • ILOCOS SUR •
PANGASINAN

JANUARY

SCHEDULE OF DRAWS AND MAJOR PRIZES

JANUARY 20

1st PRIZE	₱1,000,000
2nd PRIZE	400,000
3rd PRIZE	200,000

JANUARY 27

1st PRIZE	₱2,000,000
2nd PRIZE	800,000
3rd PRIZE	400,000

FEBRUARY 3

1st PRIZE	₱1,000,000
2nd PRIZE	400,000
3rd PRIZE	200,000

MILYUN-MILYON SA INYO
MILYUN-MILYON SA KAWANGGAWA.

PHILIPPINE CHARITY SWEEPSTAKES

STATE OF THE CITY. . .

At the end of the year 1984, we were able to realize an income of approximately P361.1 million which is about P4.134 million or 1.18% more than our income for the previous year. We expected to receive an additional P24.6 million from real property tax arrearages, but eight (8) major tax delinquent property owners failed to honor their commitment.

Notwithstanding fiscal constraints, we were able to pursue with vigor our developmental programs as outlined at the start of the year under review.

Our 1984 budget was apportioned into three broad categories: 17.24% for General Administration; 31.02% for Inter-Agency Aids which include the MMC, INP, the Trial Courts, and others, and 51.74% for Development Programs of the City.

INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMS

To ensure greater mobility within the City, we constructed and improved under our 1984 Infrastructure Program 50 streets with a total length of 24.81 kilometers. The repair and maintenance of 947 roads involved 566.475 kilometers. As of this date, 20 streets covering a distance of 13.19 kilometers are still under construction and improvement. They are included in our 1984 road program.

In line with our program of providing wholesome recreational facilities, we completed new improvements in 3 parks and playgrounds, 3 more are on-gong projects, while we repaired and maintained 34 others.

We also undertook other infrastructure projects like the construction of 26 new artesian wells and repair of 5 in various areas. One hundred eighty six (186) new street lights were energized and 305 have been approved and funded for installation by Meralco for a total of 491 new street lights. The repair and rehabiliatation of electrical facilities along the major thoroughfares are continuing projects of the City.

Of public buildings and offices, 4 are newly constructed, 15 were renovated and improved and work on 6 others are still on-going.

Other maintenance activities includded the repair of 200 manholes, installation of 375 manhole coverings, installation of 435 street signs, markings on 40.19 kilometers of pavement and 12 pedestrian crossings, repair of 80 lineal meters of concrete curbs and gutters, painting of 10 bridges and concreting of 40 square meters of sidewalk.

For their part, the Barangays, out of their 10% Real Property Tax shares, undertook a total of 251 community development projects.

ON EDUCATION AND CULTURE

In the field of Education, 5 new buildings for high school with a total of 51 classrooms were completed. A burned building was restored while a perimeter fence was constructed in another. Repair and improvement were also undertaken in 7 high schools and 1 elementary school, together involving 42 classrooms. There are still on-going construction of 2 high schools with 20 classrooms and improvements are being introduced in 1 high school and 1 elementary school.

Under the Special Education Fund being administered by the Quezon City School Board, improvements were completed in 18 elementary schools, while a 10-room building is still under construction. At the same time, repair and maintenance works were carried out in 303 classrooms in 79 elementary school buildings.

As we upgraded the facilitates of 81 elementary schools with 130,051 pupils and 30 high schools with 64,216 students, we did not forget the welfare of the 4,207 elementary and 2,651 high school teachers and other school personnel. They were included in the 10% salary adjustment as well as in the increase of clothing and living allowances and the grant of longevity pay. The elementary teachers and personnel were granted additional P200.00 each from the Special Education Fund pursuant to the implementation of P.D. 1913.

Our Library facilities complement our thrust towards the development and improvement of our educational system. Library users have increased tremendously that our Quezon City Public Library has decided to open on Saturdays to accommodate the reading public.

We acquired new books on the different fields of discipline and specialization through solicitation from different agencies, embassies, and institutions. Donations were also received from Quezon City Officials and employees as well as from civic-minded individuals.

For the promotion of our cultural heritage, the Division of City Schools, Quezon City Public Library, and the Cultural and Tourism Affairs Office join hands in undertaking cultural activities and information drives. The Quezon City Kabataang Barangay contributed to this drive by holding a "Himig ng Kabataan" Choral Competition participated in by youth organizations of the city.

We sponsored a one-week seminar on Filipino Ideology for our Kabataang Barangay in order to instill in these future leaders a knowledge of our history, our culture, and our values, enabling them to chose their goals and objectives properly.

A similar seminar was undertaken for the 3,000 members of the QuezonCity Baliktan Council of Women in 16 areas of the City.

HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES

Because of the rapid population growth of our City, another major concern of this administration was focused on the effective delivery of health services to our people. Intensified medical programs formulated and implemented by our Health Department and the Quezon City General Hospital cushioned the impact of the high cost of medicine and of health care.

Foremost in our concern are the children of the City. Thus, we launched programs such as the Under-Six Clinic Program with 5,759 beneficiaries .the Expanded Program for Immunization with 85,530 children immunized; and the Nutrition Program which rehabilitated 167,751 children. Other programs undertaken were on Dental Health Care with 94,785 patients treated; Family Planning Program with 37,317 acceptors, Mental Hygiene and Sexually-Transmitted Diseases Programs.

Under the Staff Development Program, 161 community health volunteers under the Urban Primary Health Care Program were trained to man the 25 different stations established in 10 pilot areas of Quezon City. Likewise, training designs were prepared under the Herbal Medicine Program to provide technical know-how on the preparation and usage of medicinal herbs and plants for pharmacists, drug inspectors and district staffs.

Complementing the health services of the Health Department is the Quezon City General Hospital which was established to provide both curative and preventive medicine, education and research. The comprehensive hospital program includes prevention, diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation and out-reach community-based primary health care services. In the year 1984, 93,713 patients were admitted, while hospital services were extended to 65,289 out-patients.

Of the 46 health centers located in different parts of the City, 7 centers have undergone renovation and improvement and 8 have been repaired under our infrastructure program. Another health center and a perimeter fence are still undergoing construction.

We are also aware that for efficient performance and consequent increase in productivity, the employees' compensation must be able to meet their basic necessities. Thus, we have implemented a two-step salary increase, equivalent to about 10% of the employee's basic salary to our 7,271 employees. To further augment their income, the P200 living allowance of employees was increased by P150.00 for those with monthly salary of P1,500 and below and by P100 for those with monthly salary of above P1,500.00.

In recognition of their long years of dedicated service to the City Government, 51 retirees received their retirement benefits in full amounting to about P3.0 million.

ANTI-DRUG ABUSE PROGRAM

Our continuing solicitude for the youth against drug abuse and dependence is reflected in the various projects being undertaken by our Anti-Drug Abuse Council. In coordination and cooperation with concerned agencies and non-government organizations, we have implemented the multifaceted activities of our program.

In the realm of preventive education and community information, we conducted 78 seminars, film showings, lectures and symposia in different barangays and schools. Seven hundred seventy (770) voluntary surrenderees were accepted for treatment and rehabilitation.

Law enforcement activities resulted in the arrest of 172 persons, while the prosecution and judicial services handled 189 cases involving 273 persons for various violations.

For these accomplishments, I wish to congratulate the officials of our Anti-Drug Abuse Council headed by Vice Mayor Stephen Sarino as Action Officer for their zeal and dedication in the implementation of the program.

PROTECTIVES SERVICES AND ADJUDICATION

Maintaining a peaceful and orderly City is another concern of the City Government. For more effective and efficient delivery of protective services to our citizens, proper coordination was closely maintained with the Integrated National Police.

During the period under review, a total of 4,347 cases were reported and investigated by the police, of which 80% were solved. Other police operations against various illegal activities brought about an arrest of 909 violations.

In support of the fire prevention program of the Integrated National Police, financial assistance was extended for the improvement and repair of 5 Fire Sub-stations. We have at present 16 Fire Sub-Stations supported by 22 fire trucks with sophisticated equipment to effectively combat fires occurring in Quezon City.

As the legal adviser of the City, the City Attorney's office acted on 2,165 referrals, administrative, and land registration cases. Two thousand nine hundred ninety three (2,993) collection cases were likewise acted upon resulting in the collection of fees amounting to P2.7 million.

In the adjudication of cases brought to our Courts, the City Fiscal's Office handled 15,960 cases, of which 6,462 were dismissed. The Board of Assessment Appeals, on the other hand, acted on 297 appeal cases on real property valuation.

The Regional Trial Courts attended to 11,684 cases filed in 1984 and decided 12,893 cases including those of previous years.

The Metropolitan Trial Courts also attended to 11,821 cases filed in 1984 and disposed of 14,468 cases.

In terms of in-house security, 2,479 operations were conducted by the Civil Security Office for the safety and protection of city personnel and properties.

OTHER UNDERTAKINGS

The continuing tax mapping operations of the City Assessor's Office has resulted in the discovery of additional 3,140 parcels of undeclared real properties and improvements with an assessed value of P531,205,770.00. This discovery will increase our tax collectible for the calendar year 1985 by about P13.28 million.

Through the Committees on Inventory of City Properties chairmaned by the City Administrator, we were able to retrieve 149 lots composed of 306,954 square meters of open spaces and road and alley lots with an estimated value of P4.5 million. To date, there are 70 TCT's pending with the Registry of Deeds for transfer to the name of the City Government. These cover 718,375 square meters valued at P8.75 million.

Due to our extensive infrastructure development program and the sincere public service of our employees, businessmen are encouraged to establish businesses in Quezon City. Thus, in 1984 8,389 new business permits and 4,687 new occupational permits were issued by our Business Permits and Licensing Office, bringing to a total of 35,439 business permits and 6,775 occupational permits that have been issued in Quezon City. To effect an increase in our revenues from these sources, a total of 459 collection information activities were conducted.

ON SOCIAL SERVICES

One of the major concerns of my administration is the effective and efficient delivery of social services. Along this line, we have pursued five (5) major service approaches, namely: Family Child Enrichment, Day Care Services, Youth Enrichment Program, Community Action Program and Special Projects.

During the period under review, we extended the desired support and assistance to 2,480 clientele on livelihood; 8,829 clientele on responsible parenthood; 1,604 mendicants and disabled and elderly persons. Four hundred nineteen (419) were recipients of material assistance while 2,576 were beneficiaries of inter-agency services.

We have 32 day care centers in different Barangays for supplemental feeding, socialization, creativity, value formation and mental feeding. In support of these activities, we conducted environmental health and sanitation and responsible parenthood assemblies in 38 depressed areas and coordinated with inter-agency health protection activities in 36 Barangays.

We conducted preventive education and community information on anti-social behaviour for 1,600 youth. Under our community action program, we served 1,400 beneficiaries during the "Paskuhan ng mga Bata"; conducted census/surveys of 10,693 persons in squatter areas and handled 1,964 cases in free medical and dental clinics.

MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

We continued to tap the undeveloped skills and potentials of out-of-school youths and unemployed adults of the city. In coordination with the private sector, particularly the Quezon City Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 38 vocational courses were conducted for 1,043 trainees. The City Government also assisted in the employment of these graduates through coordination with private establishments which accepted said graduates on apprenticeship basis until eventual full employment. Financial assistance was also extended to some 26 participants engaged in small business enterprises. To hasten the full implementation of our skills development program, the Q.C. Balikatan Sa Kaunlaran Skills Training Center was established at the building of the Federation of Civic Organizations of Quezon City within the City Hall compound.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

We have always recognized the importance of staff development for efficient and effective delivery of public service. Hence, the City Government conducted a total of 8 seminars for 485 employees. Six hundred sixty five (665) employees were sent to various agencies, universities, and foreign countries to attend some 54 special training courses.

SPORTS AND PHYSICAL FITNESS

The opportunity to keep trim and physically fit is also provided to our employees through the bi-weekly aeorobics being held right here in the City Hall Lobby. To cultivate further their inclination for sports, tournaments were held for basketball, volleyball, ping-pong and chess. These sports activities were duplicated on the Barangay level mainly through the Kabataang Barangay.

The other sports program of the City consists in the Takbuhan Clinics of which 112 sessions were held for 8,833 participants from the general public and 4 two-day seminars in 23 Barangays. The clinics were capped by the Araw ng Subukan as a sort of graduation for 5,000 participating runners. Six other marathons were held in which thousands participated.

In boxing, a total of 135 bouts were held in 10 Barangays. And in cycling, 4 Bicycle Moto-Cross races were conducted with hundreds of cycling enthusiasts participating in different events.

(Turn to page 6)

STATE OF THE CITY. . .

CONTRIBUTION OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR

In its task of rendering services to the people of Quezon City, the city government is indeed fortunate to have the unsolicited and selfless support of various civic, trade, religious and professional organizations, with whom it has established a healthy and effective partnership. These organizations have been very helpful especially in cultural, tourism and international goodwill programs, as well as in providing free medical and dental services, skills and vocational training, opportunities for livelihood development and other essential social services.

To express the city government's appreciation and gratitude for their humanitarian services they were given special recognition in the form of the PAGLILINGKOD AWARDS AND THE MAYOR'S COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS which were conferred in simple ceremonies held on the occasion of the city's 45th Foundation Day last Oct. 12, 1984.

MARKET AND HAWKERS MANAGEMENT

Under our 1984 infrastructure program for markets, we completed the improvement of one market. Still ongoing are the restoration of one market, improvement of another, and the construction of a Kadiwa Store.

The plight of the market vendors has never escaped our attention. To combat the nefarious practice of usurers who victimize them, we organized Credit Cooperatives in eight (8) public markets. I am glad to report that the Kamuning and Murphy Credit Cooperatives are already in operation and have loaned out a total of more than P120,000.00 to their members.

To boost their lending capital, we have pledged to grant each credit cooperative a P50,000.00 loan without interest, payable in one year. We will also provide office spaces for these cooperatives within their respective markets. With this assistance, we trust that the public market vendors will maintain low prices for their commodities for the benefit of the consuming public. This program of organizing credit cooperatives will be duplicated in the privately-owned markets as well as in the depressed areas.

For a more effective management of private markets, the City Government initiated the formation of the Quezon City Private Market Association. Such a move brought about a more systematic operation of public markets whereby common problems were threshed out and eventually resolved.

Considering the spiralling cost of goods brought about by the economic crisis, we thought of protecting the buying public from tampered or faulty weighing scales. Thus, the "Timbangan ng Bayan" project was launched. Twenty (20) accurate weighing scales were installed in conspicuous places in 16 public and privately operated markets.

And to promote sanitation in our public and privately-owned markets, a Market Cleanliness Contest was launched in which all markets in Quezon City participated. The project paved the way for the resolution of sanitation problems of the markets in Quezon City.

1984 saw the proliferation of hawkers in the City, brought about by the need of our low-income citizens to augment their income in order to survive during these times of economic crisis. Our solution was not to get rid of these hawkers, but to rationalize their activity. Thus, we designated vending areas in accordance with MMC Ordinance No. 2, series of 1979, to legalize their vending trade as well as to generate additional revenue for the City, Meanwhile, for the Christmas Season, we issued a total of 700 Hawkers Permit, in order that the hawkers might take advantage of the business boom during the holidays.

ON SQUATTERS

The concern that we have for the squatters is being translated into action through our Accelerated Settlements Redevelopment Program. The objective of this program is to improve the quality of life of the squatters. Towards this end the City Government is making arrangements with the property owners whereby they would sell the land at reasonable prices and acceptable terms to the actual occupants. Where this arrangement is not feasible, resettlement activities are pursued under the NHA program.

In Bagong Silangan, Certificates of Award were given to 458 families while the remaining 220 are being processed.

Of the 21 areas under the Accelerated Settlements Redevelopment Program, the Development Plan for 7 areas for some 2,695 families have been prepared. The balance of 14 areas for 4,435 families are expected to be finished within this year.

We have also identified 26 areas for our Zonal Improvement Program which are occupied by 12,265 families. Likewise, 66 areas for priority development occupied by about 20,000 families have been pinpointed.

HOUSING PROGRAM FOR QC HALL EMPLOYEES

As I had announced in last year's State of the City Address, I have created a Committee to conduct a study on the Housing Program for Quezon City Hall employees. Now I am happy to inform you that the Housing Committee has completed its study and, after evaluating several proposals, has recommended the selection of a Developer of the Quezon City Housing Project that will meet the standards and criteria set forth by said Committee. As a consequence, I have created an Ad Hoc Committee to draft the proposed agreement which will embody the terms, conditions, standards and criteria established by the Housing Committee. Hence, we expect to launch the Housing Program for Quezon City Hall Employees by the early part of this year.

PROJECTIONS FOR 1985

In the face of economic uncertainties, we have ventured to project for 1985 an estimated income in the total amount of approximately P381.9 million. As usual, the development programs of the City will receive the lion's share of the budget

We do not foresee any significant increase nor decrease in the City's income. We expect rather that a balance can be achieved between the economic slump and tight money situation, on one hand, and the effect of Presidential Decrees 1931 and 1955 which withdrew all exemptions enjoyed by government-owned and controlled corporations and private enterprises on the other.

It must be noted that in the estimate of our projected income, we have not included the possible windfall from real estate taxes as the result of the upward revision of real property assessment. For we believe that we do not have to raise nor impose additional taxes. What we need is an intensified tax collection which can be boosted by instilling tax consciousness among our citizenry and making them to be aware that the more income the City Government realizes, the more services can be rendered to the people.

For the year 1985, we will be introducing time and cost saving measures in the operations of the City Government. The study on the computerization of selected activities in the Offices of the City Treasurer and City Assessor is in its final stage, and we hope to effect this year the computerization of the Real Estate Tax Collection, Recording, and Reporting Systems, as well as the Assessment Transactions and Rolls.

Through our Personnel Office, we will continue the re-echoing of the New Performance Appraisal System among all the employees in the different Department and Offices for the effective determination of personnel productivity. The Manpower Development Program will be strengthened in order to amplify the competence and skill of our human resources.

Within this concept, we will implement the Entrepreneurial Program especially for the teachers to further develop resourcefulness and initiative in augmenting their source of livelihood. In relation to this program, priority will be given to the teachers in the KKK Program of the City.

Likewise, with the completion of the survey and data gathering on the Youth Development Training Program by the City Planning and Development Office, the preparation of the training design is now underway and its implementation is scheduled on the second semester of 1985.

An important component of this project is the Student Summer Program wherein the youth will be employed on a two-month duration to assist in the City's tax campaigns and other projects. Aside from earning some money which they can use in their formal education, this program will also train the youth in responsible citizenship and assist in augmenting the City's income.

Under our Infrastructure Program, we have scheduled the paving of 26 roads with a length of about 18.5 kilometers ; construction of 1 bridge; improvement of 32 roads with a length of 5.5 kilometers ; repair of 13 high school buildings and 14 health centers ; re-construction of 1 public market ; construction of 21 artesian wells in 15 Barangays ; repair of 6 public buildings and offices ; and improvement of 10 parks and playgrounds.

From the Special Education Fund, the following projects will be undertaken: construction of 3 elementary school buildings with 30 classrooms ; improvements in 24 elementary schools; and repairs in 27 elementary schools involving 272 classrooms.

In the area of protective and moral development services, we will double our campaign against illegal activities especially in drug abuse, gambling, bold shows and smut materials.

For the less fortunate members of our community, we will sustain our Accelerated Settlements Redevelopment Program in 21 sites with emphasis on self-help.

And to expand our health and medical services, we will pursue the transformation of the Quezon City General Hospital into a 350-bed hospital and medical school.

Particular emphasis will also be given to the administration of public markets in order to provide better and improved services to the consuming public.

For the short distance riding public, we are awaiting anytime now the approval by MMC of the Tricycle Programwherein we will be responsible for the regulation and supervision of tricycle operations, including the determination of fares within our jurisdiction.

We are conducting a continuing study on the systems and procedures of the different offices in order to streamline and facilitate the processing of papers which will redound to the benefit of businessmen and the general public.

Aware of the dictum "A sound mind in a sound body," we will continue pursuing sports activities primarily through our Kabataang Barangay.

Finally, we are finalizing the study on the establishment of the Barangay Executive Development Academy where our Barangay Officials can undergo a series of training and short courses on Public Administration and Livelihood Undertakings. This will equip the Barangay Officials with technical know-how in managing the affairs of the Barangay.

To help carry out all these plans and programs, we call on your spirit of nationalism and idealism. We live in a time of crisis, a time that will exact no little self-sacrifice from all of us. But our cause is just and our goal is worth every sacrifice: A great Quezon City where people live, love and labor in peace.



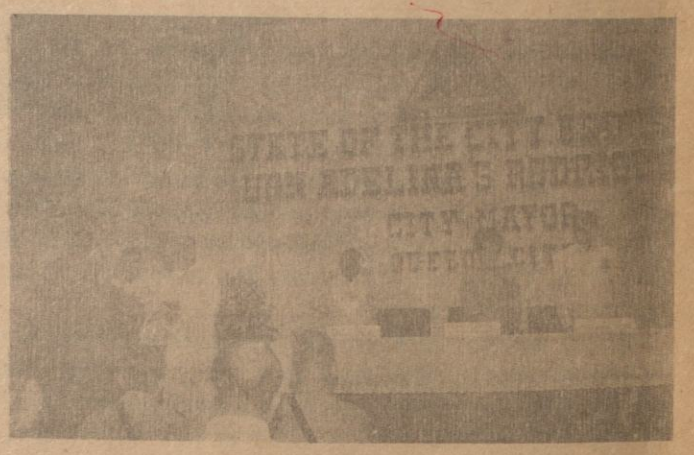
The Mayor stresses a point



The Mayor arrives at the Carlos Albert Session Hall



Singing the National Anthem; City Fiscal Apostol, Mayor Rodriguez, and Vice Mayor Sarino.



INVOCATION

From left: Rev. Dr. Aniceto Q. Lazo, Lutheran Church of the Philippines; Muslim representative Mustaz Berna Mucsin; Minister Ariel Ansano, Iglesia Ni Kristo and Msgr. Alfonso Caparas, Roman Catholic Church.