The New Capitol STANDARD

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In our next issue watch for a very special article "Profile In Leadership The Marcos Way"

By

Alfredo O. Flores

Editorial

National Historical Institute's Strong Recommendation Vs. QC Capitalship supported By Weak Arguments

The City Council had written the Office of the President requesting certification of pending bills restoring Quezon City as the capital city of the country and the seat of the national government. The request was referred to various government agencies for comment. (Read "Congress Should Pass a Law Making QC the Capital City of the Philippines—DILG." Of the agencies consulted, only the National Historical Institute (NHI), headed by Dr. Serafin Quiazon, "strongly recommends the retention of Manila as the capital city of the Philippines for historic-cultural reasons..."

From the above statement, one can immediately sense that the reasons supporting the Institute's strong recommendation are not quite as strong as its recommendation is strong. Historical and cultural reasons are certainly not the most important considerations in determining the suitability of a capital city for the Philippines ***particularly under present circumstances.***

The Institute makes much of the fact that "since June 24, 1571, for about 433 years, Manila was already proclaimed by Don Miguel Lopez de Legaspi as the capital city of the entire Philippine archipelago..." At the time, Don Miguel had no alternative; Manila was the only Spanish colony developed enough to pass as the archipelago's capital city. At present, there are 16 alternatives, aside from Quezon City. Sixteen? Yes, 16 because in 1946 the Capitol Site Special Commission created by then President Roxas to choose a proper site for a new capital city, chose Quezon City over 16 other proposed sites.

We have no quarrel over the Institute's statement that "Manila's historic past does not only bring honor and prestige

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P460 M School Building Program Nears Completion

The Office of the City Engineer, headed by Engr. Alfredo Macapugay, has reported an ongoing school building program involving 38 3-to-4-storey buildings with a total of 469 classrooms at a total contract cost of about P460 million. Of the 38 buildings, 15 are for high school and 23 for elementary. The completion of these buildings which is expected this year, will reduce the classroom shortage to almost nil.

The biggest of these school building projects are those for high school: 3-storey, 26-classroom building for the Alejandro Roces Vocational High School, costing P28,769,079.33 (as per contract with Carag Builders), 3-storey, 18-classroom building

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Elizardo Agsalud

Former Secretary To the Mayor Charged With Falsification Of Public Document

By Ben O. Flores



Elizardo Agsalud, Secretary to former Mayor Brigido R. Simon, Jr. until he was re-assigned to head the Cultural and Tourism Affairs Office (CTAO), has been charged by the Ombudsman with falsification of a public document, Article 11, Paragraph 2, Revised Penal Code. The information has been filed with the Third Division of the Sandiganbayan and docketed as Criminal Case No. 20254.

Offshoot

The charge against Ag-

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DISCIPLINE
Source Of The Nation's Strength

By
Hon. Ismael A. Mathay, Jr.
Chairman, Metro Manila Authority
Mayor, Quezon City

(Address at the Recognition Luncheon of the AY Foundation, Inc., 22 April 1994, Manila Polo Club)

I suppose my presence here today is needed to complete the last side of a triangle. One side is the business sector, the other, the academic sector, and I, of course, represent the government sector. This is also the triad of time in action.

The concern of business is the future. To borrow the words of Henry Luce: "Business more than any other occupation is a continual dealing with the future: it is a continual calculation, an instinctive exercise in foresight."

For investing in the youth of this nation—a wise investment into the future—the AY Foundation, Inc. deserves our commendation and appreciation.

There is nothing more reassuring than the thought that business is making all this initiative to make the public



Mathay

conscious of the imperative of discipline in national development. And it is starting where it is needed most: by nurturing and fostering the hope of our motherland—the youth.

The youth is representative of the present. Gov-

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P23.7 M Site for Squatters' Relocation

The City Council has passed a resolution authorizing the City Mayor to enter into a contract with R.A. Petines, Inc. for the purchase of its 23,710 sq. m. property at Bgy. Bagong Silangan, near Filinvest at P1,000 per sq. m., for a total amount of P23,710,000.00.

The property will be the site for the relocation of squat-

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P16,465,301.00

Emergency Purchases Of City Schools Division Questioned

A "Concerned Citizen" has belatedly sent this paper voluminous documents—Purchase Orders, Requisitions Requests, Sales Invoices, Vouchers—pertaining to emergency purchases made by the City Schools Division in 1992 for which it spent P16,465,301.00 out of its Special Education Fund. He alleges the following violations:

1. The emergency purchases were made in violation of Sec. 368 of Republic Act No. 7160 (Local Government Code) which allows emergency purchases only "when the need for the supplies is exceptionally urgent or **absolutely indispensable and only to prevent imminent loss of life or property."** (Underscoring supplied) None of the items purchased qualify to be acquired through an emergency purchase.



2. The supplies and equipment purchased were not included in an "Annual Procurement Program" as re-

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(In a previous issue, we had announced that we were studying the documents furnished the "Concerned Citizen." We enumerated the alleged violations, saying that the details will be given in a forthcoming issue —this issue. We saturated the City Schools Division with copies of that issue where the alleged violations were enumerated, most especially the office of the City Schools Superintendent Dr. Bienvenido Icasiano. We did not get any reaction from the Division, so we surmised that the officials and employees involved were not interested in giving their side, which is why in this news story, we could not give both sides as we always try to do whenever possible. — Editor)

Reckless Imprudence

City Government Sued for Damages, Rentals

By Ben O. Flores

Due to what may be called reckless imprudence on the part of the school authorities concerned, national as well as, perhaps, local, and the incompetence of a lawyer under the Office of the City Attorney, the city government may have to pay damages and rentals that could reach a hefty Pl million or more.

In October in 1987, under then Mayor Jun Simon, an annex for the Holy Spirit Elementary School was built in a 1,000 sq. m. lot adjoining the school site. Since elementary schools are financed by the national government, the project was undertaken by the Department of Education Culture and Sports (DECS).

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Two Bills Filed To Restore Capital City Title To QC; Sen. Tolentino To File A Third.

Senate Bill No. 1560 introduced by Senator Raul S. Roco and House Bill No. 11362 by Congressman Dante V. Liban would restore Quezon City as the capital city of the country and the seat of the national government. Sen. Arturo M. Tolentino, Dean of Senators, plans to file a third bill with the same purpose. (His letter below)

The bills of Roco and Liban both agree in their Explanatory Notes that it is the fulfillment of the "grand vision" of the late President Manuel L. Quezon that is the main consideration or motivation. (For many other considerations/motivations, read the Editorial

Roco: This is in keeping with the grand vision of President Quezon and his successors President Manuel A.

(Turn to page 8)

Dear Mr. Flores,

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated December 20, 1993.

Rest assured that I will seriously consider your objection to the separation of Novaliches from Quezon City to become a city. Meanwhile, I am not familiar about the transfer of the Batasan Pambansa to Manila. But it would be a good thing for the Senate and the House of Representatives to be close to each other.

I am planning to file a bill transferring the capital of the Philippines to Quezon City.

Thank you and most cordial regards.

Very truly yours,

ARTURO M. TOLENTINO

Congress Should Pass A Law Making QC The Capital City Of The Philippines—DILG

The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) has categorically and unequivocally stated its stand that "Congress should pass a law making Quezon City, the capital city of the Philippines."

This was revealed in a letter to the Council of Frumentio A. Lagustan, Assistant Executive Secretary for Legislation, Office of the President. The letter was in response to the Council's request for certification of the bill seeking to restore Quezon City as the capital city of the Philippines.

Lagustan had referred the Council's request for certification to various government agencies, namely: National Historical Institute, Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Tourism and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).

DILG justified its strong stand in favor of Quezon City as the capital of the country, as follows:

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Standard Fare

By Ben O. Flores

Na Indian Silang Lahat



Silang lahat refers to the 78 Miss Universe contestants whom Miss India Sushmita Sen, beat to the Miss Universe crown, while Na Indian does not mean its usual meaning of being "stood up," but to the way Miss India figuratively trampled on all of them. Like many others, my choice was Miss Venezuela but, I suppose, her inability to speak English was a factor against her. How could she be an Ambassadress of Goodwill if she could not speak the language that comes closest to being universal?

Our own Miss Philippines Charlene Gonzalez made it only to the 10 finalists. Anyway, she is also Miss Universe sa buhay ni Andrew E.

It is no surprise, Miss India's fluency and eloquence in English. In India, English continues to be promoted so much so that no Indian citizen can enter the government service without first passing an English test. In this country English is not exactly discouraged, except by overzealous advocates of Pilipino. Only recently, my good friend Councilor Tony Sioson (TS) almost could not deliver his privilege speech because another good friend, Rey Calalay, wanted it delivered in Pilipino because under the rules of the Council only Pilipino can be used in a first-of-the- month session. Fortunately, still another very good friend, the affectionate and endearing Connie Angeles, batted for Tony and succeeded in overcoming Rey's objection, so Tony was allowed to speak in English. By the way, Tony's initials, TS, stands for Total Service. He is now distributing 3-inch square yellow cards like this:

TOTAL TS SERVICE

While Sushmita was not my choice, I must agree now that she is more deserving of the Miss Universe title than my choice, Miss Venezuela whose main asset was a statuesque 6'2" height. It was her vibrant personality, her wit and humor, her superior intelligence, the aptness of her answers etc. that carried the day for Miss Sen. For aptness of answer, born out of superior intelligence, I like to cite her answer to reporters who asked her if she had invited President Ramos to visit her country during the luncheon given in her honor at Malacanang. She said: "I am too small a person to invite the President. I merely said that I would be greatly honored if he were to visit my country."

While we are talking about things Indian, I might as well ask how the term "Inindian Mo Ako" acquired its "you stood me up" meaning. For me, I think it is derived from "Hinindian mo ako," meaning "you said no to me" or "you denied me" a request.

Nagunting Na Ba Ang Buhok ni Councilor Samson?

Ito ang tanong ng mga officers and board of directors of SUMIGI (Sitio Militar Gitna, Org,n Inc.), an organization of residents of Pugad Lawin, in a letter dated March 14, 1994 to the City Council.

It seems that the SIMIGISTS are disappointed that, after his privilege speech denouncing the sale of 14 hectares of city-owned land in Pugad Lawin Bahay Toro, by the city government under the then Mayor Simon to J.C. Resources which built "plush condominiums and sold to affluent families instead of low-cost houses for the Urban Poor Dwellers in the area, Councilor Samson, the letter writers claim, has done nothing to "initiate a move to conduct a thorough review of the transaction and to find out whether or not fraud and/or negligence was employed and therefore prejudicial to the interest of the City Government as well as to US URBAN POOR DWELLERS, thus giving way for annulment of the contract void ab initio."

"Mukhang nawala ang lakas ni ginoong SAMSON." the letter-writers, led by SIMIGI president Fernando Esconde, say.

Hindi po nagugunting ang buhok ni ginoong Samson. Hindi naman mahilig is Councilor Samson sa chicks. Kayat wala siyang Delilah na puputol ng kanyang buhok gaya ng ginawa ni Delilah sa biblical name-sake ni konsejal.

Siguro busying busy pa si Councilor Samson sa paggawa at pagdeliver ng iba pang privilege speeches. Napakagaling siya diyan. Siya ang successor ni former Councilor now Congressman Dante Liban.

Kidding aside, unlike Liban's speeches which were mostly "sound and fury signifying nothing ," the elocutions of my favorite Katipunero or rather descendant of a Katipunero have been mostly significant and one of them resulted in the curtailment of the sale of health certificates by the Sanitation Division of Health Department. I am intrigued, however, by that privilege speech of his titled "Rift in the Lute." Though this title puzzles me, I admire the gallantry of Councilor Samson in having extended, through that speech the branch of peace to the erstwhile object of his tirades, Vice Mayor and Presiding Officer Charito Planas. As to the SIMIGISTS plea that he proves that his hair has not been cut by initiating a move to review the J.B. Resources land deal, I'm sure he'll get around to that. I suggest that he stay away from the barber a month or two to further strengthen him. Councilor Samson and I have something in common. We both think very highly of Mayor Mathay's capabilities, so much so on Samson's part that he concluded one of his privilege speeches by proclaiming the "Hon. Ismael Mathay, Jr. to be our beloved future President of the Republic of the Philippines."

Scene Stealer

Former Councilor now Congressman Dante Liban has a very good PRO. The Congressman from the 2nd district appears in very frequent press releases extoling his alleged projects and achievements. In the movies, when a minor character outshines the vida, he is said, in movie parlance, to be stealing the scene. Liban in some of his PRO's press releases appears to be a scene stealer. Take the press release titled, "Payatas dumpsite closing, Part I", in the January 12, 1994 issue of MANILA BULLETIN. It is graced by his favorite picture: it appears in all his press releases.

In this press release, it is stated that "Liban filed House Resolution No. 880 urging the House Committee on Health and Natural Resources to cause the immediate closure of the Payatas dumpsite due to the hazardous effects on the health of the residents within the surrounding areas." House Resolution No. 880 was filed in October last year and in a press release in the MANILA BULLETIN, October 13, 1933, "Permanent Closure of Payatas Urged,", LIban is reported to have said "that the closure of the Payatas dumpsite is an early Christmas gift for the people of Quezon City. Next year (1994) the environmental nightmare of air and water pollution will surely be a thing of the past."

Liban keeps anouncing the "immediate closure" of the Payatas dumpsite. Where does Liban propose to dump the more than 1,500 tons of garbage generated daily by Quezon City, Marikina, Caloocan and some other Metro Manila municipalities. While Mel Mathay is exerting utmost efforts to find alternative dumpsites, here comes Liban stealing the scene by claiming the credit for the supposed immediatee closure: of the Payatas dumpsite, Phase I. The immediate closure, Liban's press release announced, was the covering up of a few square meters of the dumpsite with lahar. Another press released picture showed Liban and DENR Secretary Angel Alcala doing the ceremonial, "immediate" closure of the dumpsite. My good friend City Administrator Dr. Manuel Alba attended the momentous event in lieu of Mayor Mathay who was probably inspecting the San Mateo and Carmona landfills in order to hurry up their expansion and improvement or promoting the zero waste management program in some school so Liban's premature announcement of an "immediate closure" would eventually be realized. When that time comes, Liban will claim the credit in another press release. But the people of Quezon City will know to whom the real credit will be due.

Another scene stealing stunt of Liban occurred also in Payatas. In a meeting he called of Payatas residents he assured them that they would all soon enjoy the blessings of electric lighting, thanks to him. Even Louise Beltran in his Straight from the Shoulder DZRH radio program cited this Payatas meeting of Liban, ribbing Liban for his credit-grabbing pakulo.

The lighting facilities that Payatas residents will enjoy, sooner or later, will be the result of Meralco's Electrification Program in Depressed Areas of QC, which the city government under Mayor Mathay, is encouraging and assisting.

Liban also announced in a press release, "3 pedestrian overpasses in QC", MANILA BULLETIN, Jan. 14, 1994, that "he has affected the release of additional funds for the construction of three pedestrian overpasses along Commonwealth. In fairness to Congressman Liban, it must be said that he has never claimed sole credit -only partial- for the existing flyover at Commonwealth Avenue.

MEL 888

This is the plate number of Mel's car. I wonder if 8 is his lucky number. I intend to ask him at the first opportunity. This reminds me of the late President Marcos. No. 7 served him well as a harbinger of luck—until the EDSA Revolution.

The infinite number of times the number 7 is used in the Bible probably gives the number the luck-bringing virtue attributed to it. I am not half through reading the Old Testament but I already have come across more than a hun-

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The New Capitol STANDARD
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Editorial...

to its people but also records its rich hispano-oriental culture and colorful history, which even dates back to prehistorical times."

But in determining the present suitability of Manila as a capital city, it is not its historic past that we should now look to—it is to its historic present. And what has contemporary history recorded about Manila? It is a dying—and literally sinking city—dying from suffocation and strangulation caused by urban congestion and, as geologically verified, sinking slowly but surely to dangerous depths below sea level. In contrast, Quezon City is way above sea level, 200 feet above at its maximum elevation, and being almost five times bigger than Manila. Quezon City has vast open spaces which allow further growth and development unlike Manila's territorial saturation, which has put a stop to progress. For the past many years, the city government has been implementing a Comprehensive Development Program.

The Institute belittles Quezon's dream of making the city he founded the capital city of the country and the seat of the national government. It alleges that Quezon's famous and oft-repeated declaration of that dream (I dream of a capital city that politically shall be the seat of the national government, aesthetically the showplace of the nation, etc.) was so much rhetorics and that he was not really serious in replacing Manila as the capital of the country because, so the Institute claims, "certainly, Quezon must have known earlier the historical, cultural and political significance of Manila as the time-honored capital of the Philippines and the consequent academic and political controversies, if any proposal to that effect (replacing Manila as capital) were entertained..."

Quezon was one person who could not be intimidated by "academic and political controversies." That he was dead-set on making Quezon City the capital of the country, contrary to the Institute's claim, was shown by the fact that on Feb. 26, 1940, just four months and two weeks after the legislative creation of Quezon City in October, 1939, he convened the QC officials he had appointed and the directors of the Philippine Homesite and Housing Corporation (PHHC) now the National Housing Authority (NHA) and told them:

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

In the light of the above meeting, it is not true that "in fact, from 1939-1944, or later, that is during Quezon's and his successor's administration, the idea of changing or transferring the capital city from Manila to Quezon City never occurred."

In fact, even before 1939, as far back as 1936, the Department of Public Works and Communications of the Commonwealth Government under then Secretary Mariano Jesus, Cuenco had recommended to Quezon the transfer of the capital from Manila to Tagaytay because "Manila was becoming so congested that pursuing the chores of administration was becoming to be difficult and unpleasant."

It was the outbreak of World War II in December 1940 that prevented the realization of Quezon's dream and not because, as claimed by the Institute, Quezon was not seriously bent in pushing through that dream. The dream was finally fulfilled on July 17, 1948 when then President Elpidio Quirino signed into law RA 333 "designating Quezon City the capital of the Philippines and the permanent seat of the national government."

On this signing of RA 333, the Institute makes this remark: "Even if it were done by President Quirino in 1948, it was corrected by P.D. 940, thereby re-establishing the historic Manila as the capital city of the Philippines."

Why "corrected?" Was the signing of RA 333 making Quezon City the capital of the country a mistake? If so, can the Institute cite any adverse effect on the country caused by Quezon City's being its capital for 28 years (1948-1976). On the contrary, it was the "correction" made by the issuance of PD 940 that was a mistake. Quezon City became the capital of the country as a result of a democratic process. It was the will of the people. But Quezon City lost its capitalship of the country as a result of a decree issued by a dictator. It was the will of one man. There was not a squeak of protest by the people of

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Standard...

dred passages or rather verses where number 7 occurs. At the very beginning, in Genesis, it is told that God, after creating the world, rested on the 7th day, which is why we have a 7-day week.

The fact that there are 7 Sacraments seems to suggest that the number 7 has some religious significance. Incidentally, what are the 7 Sacraments? I bet many of you, my dear readers, can't name them all and even if you can, you'll have to badger your mind first. For those who can't name the 7 sacraments, wait till the end of this column where you will be enlightened.

God Himself used the number 7 in giving a very important answer to an important question. To the man who asked Him if God would still forgive him after the 7th time, He answered,"Not only 7 times but 7 times 700."

In the Book of Proverbs of the Bible, it says that there are 7 things that the Lord hates and cannot tolerate:

1. A proud look
2. A lying tongue
3. Hands that kill innocent people
4. A mind that thinks up wicked plans
5. Feet that hurry off to do evil
6. A witness who tells one lie after another
7. A man who stirs up trouble among men.

Here are some other instances of the use of 7 in biblical counts:

1. When God spoke to Noah, He told him that "7 days from now I will send rain that will fall for 40 days and night." He instructed him to take with him to the boat 7 pairs of ritually clean animals and 7 pairs of each kind of bird.

2. On the 17th day of the 7th month after the rain had stopped, Noah's boat came to rest on a mountain in the Ararat range.

3. God's instruction to Abraham: "For six years plant your land and gather in what it produces. But in the 7th year, let it rest." (In modern agriculture, resting the land is called fallowing.)

4. Jacob, grandson of Abraham worked 7 years for Laban, the uncle of Rebecca, before he could marry her.

5. Mt. Sinai was covered with clouds for six days and on the 7th day, God called to Moses from the clouds and told him to go up and receive the 10 Commandments.

6. Under a law of Moses, a Hebrew slave after serving 7 years is to be set free without paying anything.

7. Under another law of Moses and his brother Aaron, 7 is very important in the curing of skin diseases. Anymore who has a sore or boil in his skin is brought to an Aaronite priest who isolates him for 7 days, then examines the sore or boil in his skin and if he sees no improvement, isolates him for another 7 days. He examines him again on the 7th day and if the sore or boil in the skin has been cured, the priest pronounces him ritually clean. The cured person waits 7 days before taking a bath and washing his clothes.

8. The people under Moses on their way to the promised land had days of worship when burnt offerings to the Lord were given consisting, among others, of 7 one-year-old lambs without any defect.

9. Another law under Moses decreed that debts after the 7th year were deemed cancelled.

10. Before Samson revealed to Delilah the secret of his strength, he had given her two false answers: First, "If they tie me up with 7 new bowstrings that are not dried out, I'll be as weak as anyone else," and, the second: "If you weave my 7 locks of hair into a loom, and make it tight with a peg, I'll be as weak as anyone else."

11. It took 7 years to build Solomon's temple which was 90 feet long, 30 feet wide and 45 feet wide. At the dedication of the temple, the Festival of Shelters was celebrated for 7 days. When it was rededicated under King Hezekiah, 7 bulls, 7 sheeps, 7 lambs and 7 goats were sacrified at the altar.

12. In the battle between Israel and Syria during the reign of Kings Ahab and Benhadad, respectively, the Israeleite army numbered 7,000.

13. Job (you know, the patient man) had 7 sons and owned 7,000 sheep.

14. King Xerxes of Persia had 7 ennuchs as personal servants and his highest and most trusted officials numbered 7.

15. During a time of hardship, Isaiah comforted the people of Jerusalem with a prediction of better times, saying "The moon will be as bright as the sun, and the sun will be 7 times brighter than usual, like the light of 7 days in one."

The 7 Sacraments are: Baptism, Confirmation, Confession, Eucharist, Holy Orders, Matrimony and Extreme Unction.

In his column, Windows, PANORAMA, April 10, 1994, Senator Blas F. Ople enumerates 7 keys to success:

"The first key to success, wordly or otherwise, is to set a goal for one's self.

"The second key is to develop a positive outlook in life.

"The third key is to develop an active, rather than a passive, view of one's environment.

"The fourth key is to stand by one's principles when Life's crises must be faced.

"The fifth key is to be absolutely dependable and trustworthy, so that your own colleagues know they can trust your integrity even in the most difficult times.

"The sixth key is a commitment to continuing personal and professional growth.

"The seventh and last key is to live a frugal and disciplined life, shunning all forms of waste, whether time, talent, money and other resources."

23.7 M...

ters at Minadanao Avenue Extension, Bago-Bantay and other places in Quezon City. The squatters at the Mindanao Avenue Extension had defied the relocation efforts of the DPWH, thereby delaying the completion of this project which is designed to ease traffic in the area.

Funds for the purchase will come from the P800 million PNB loan of the city government "subject to reimbursement from the Community Mortgage Program of the National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation." The reimbursement is called for, considering that construction of the Mindanao Avenue Extension is a national government project.

(Editor's Note: It is hoped that the professional squatters will not be among those to be relocated to such a choice, expensive site as the Petines property. It is also hoped that the P1,000 per sq. m. price is fair and reasonable.

Editorial...

Quezon City, but that cannot be construed as acquiesence. The people were in the grip of fear under the dictatorial rule; nobody dared to protest. Thus, it may be observed that, as stated by the Institute itself, Manila was decreed to be "the capital of the entire Philippine archipelago" by a foreign master or conquistador, Don Miguel Lopez de Legaspi, and it regained its capitalship from Quezon City through a decree of a local dictator, Ferdinand Edralin Marcos.

The weakest argument of the Institute to support its strong recommendation for the "retention of Manila as the capital city of the Philippnes for historico-cultural reasons..." is that "because of historico-cultural and political reasons, even ***Paris and Washington D.C.*** *(underscoring not supplied)...have remained the capital cities of France and the U.S.A., respectively." If this is so, it is because France and the U.S.A. do not have any better place to which to transfer their respective capitals. In the Philippines, Quezon City is definitely the better alternative.*

Like a tiresome refrain, the Institute keeps harping on the historico-cultural heritage of Manila as the only reason why it should be retained as the capital of the country. At about the end of its "comments and recommendations" on the city council's Resolution No. 93-13, s-93 (Urging Congress to repeal PD No. 940, etc.), the Institute states:

"The changing, therefore of the Philippines' capital from Manila to Quezon City or the repeal of P.D. 970 (sic) is not in harmony with the tenets of the preservation and conservation of our historico-cultural heritage and even common sense."

Please note the word "our". Wittingly or unwittingly, the Institute admits that the historico-cultural heritage of Manila is no longer its exclusive possession. It belongs to the entire country—that includes Quezon City—and whether Manila is the capital of the country or not, that historico-cultural heritage can still be preserved and conserved, as advocated by the Institute.

Quezon City has its own rich historico-cultural heritage that it can bequeath to the nation and, in the case of EDSA, to the entire world. Like Manila, it has also a colorful history, with the advantage of being very much more recent than Legaspi's proclamation of Manila as the "capital of the entire Archipelago" on June 24, 1571. Quezon City is the cradle of two resolutions, the Revolution of 1896 started by Bonifacio at Pugad Lawin and the EDSA Revolution of 1986, which focused the eyes of the world on Quezon City debunking the Institute's argument that only Manila is internationally known. A third revolution is ongoing: a Moral Revolution under the combined and harmonious leadership of Mayor Ismael Mathay, Jr. and Vice Mayor Charito L. Planas who are currently conducting a concerted drive against graft and corruption and against pornography, prostitution and bold shows.

We cited earlier how the National Historical Institute under Dr. Serafin Quiazon has belittled Quezon's dream of making Quezon City the capital city of the country and the seat of the national government. This is surprising and ironical considering that every year at the commemoration of the birth anniversary of Quezon on August 19 at the Quezon Memorial Circle, Dr. Quiazon invariably joins the other speakers in extolling the grand vision of Quezon in making the city he founded the capital city of the country. Come to think of it, Quiazon sounds very much like Quezon; we hope the similarity does not end there. We hope Dr. Quiazon will, after reading this Editorial, start to share Quiazon's or Quezon's dream of making Quezon City the capital city of the country.

This is a dream that is no longer the exclusive dream of Quezon. It has been adopted by the 2 million residents of Quezon City who nurture and cherish the dream passionately, relentlessly, led by the father of the city himself, the honorable Mayor Mathay, who, in his State of the City address delivered on September 2, 1992 shortly after his assumption of office as the city's mayor declared:

"Our vision for Quezon City should certainly be in keeping with the vision of the great man for whom the city was named, Manuel Luis Quezon." And that vision, naturally, includes the great man's dream of making Quezon City the capital city of the country and the seat of the national government.

Sincerity, Not Hypocrisy

(Privilege speech of Vice Mayor Charito L. Planas delivered in the May 26, 1994 session)



Permit me to correct some misconceptions brought about by the privilege speech of Coun. Samson delivered last April 19, insinuating that this representation is a publicity seeker. The matter of Coun. Samson's expose' takes the nature of entrapment operation to uncover an anomaly while mine is a product of verified reports advanced by concerned City Hall employees resulting to an in-depth inquiry with the purpose of abating an on- going anomaly in the issuance of health certificates.

While it is not my intention to dwell upon the actions I took which I deemed then necessary to secure and preserve the "corpus delicti", an act that earned me an administrative case before the DILG, allow me to refresh the memory of this august body of the actions taken by me consequent to the first expose' of Coun. Samson regarding anomalies at the Sanitation Division. You will recall that while Coun. Samson was delivering his speech, I instructed the Sec. to the Vice Mayor to immediately see the Mayor with the request for guards to secure the premises of the Sanitation Division or to obtain an authority for him to secure the premises, where at the time, it was believed that the evidences required to prosecute Catarroja are kept. And it was indeed secured. Consequently, documents were retrieved from Kamuning Health Center by a team created by the City Administrator to determine the compliance of persons to submit themselves to physical examinations prior to issuance of health certificates. These documents were turned over to Atty. Christian Valencia.

Soon afterward, a fact-finding committee was created by the City Mayor, chaired by Atty. Fider and where Adonis Mella represented my Office, to look into the allegations of Coun. Samson. Since there was no other reported anomalous incident, except the entrapment that Coun. Samson conducted, the task of the Committee was limited only to said entrapment. It is sad that because of lack of evidence "sufficient enough to warrant the filing of a formal investigation against the Chief of Sanitation Division in the person of Dr. Catarroja considering that there is no direct testimony implicating him directly on the alleged anomaly committed on February 10, 1993 other than the fact that his signature in the health certificate received by Mr. dela Cruz is authentic" (page 25 - Committee Report), the Committee had no other choice but to issue their report clearing Catarroja of liability in the instance.

Disappointed with the turn of events, I instructed Atty. Mella to make a thorough review of all documents available to him if only to salvage the situation, resulting to he dissenting opinion submitted by him that formed part and parcel of the Committee Report. (See Annex "B").

Lawyers in this august body will agree that each commission of a crime results to and constitute an independent and separate cause of action.

Sometime on the 4th week of March, this year, several employees of the City came to me with mind-boggling report on anomalies being committed by certain persons in the issuance of health certificates. They were accompanied by a ranking City Official. They offered their services to document the modus operandi of these scalawags, document their nefarious activities and come up with evidences that would once and for all provide the City Government with adequate means to successfully prosecute. They came to me because of their belief in my crusade for a better bureaucracy, because I am credible to them, because I enjoy their trust and confidence.

Because of their remarkable courage, we were able to document the following:

1. a) Health certificates issued WITHOUT laboratory examination.

b) Dr. Leonito Catarroja ISSUED and SIGNED health certificates after January 5, 1994, when by order of Mayor Mathay he was already relieved from his post and assigned to the study group of Payatas 2000.

2. Dr. Catarroja issued health certificates on the basis of lab. reports issued by the Holy Spirit Diagnostic Center. Said Center operates without license and accreditation as certified by Dr. Marietta D. Carpio-Baccay of the BRD-DOH.

3. A UDMC Lab. report for one (1) person was used eleven (11) times by superimposing ten (10) different names on the reproduction of the original, making it appear that UDMC conducted eleven (11) different examinations.

4. a) One hundred two (102) health certificates were issued by Dr. Catarroja dated February 4, 1994 to a certain establishment without subjecting employees to a pre-required examination.

b) Six days after the abovementioned health certificates were issued, the applicants submitted themselves to physical examination at the Kamuning Health Center.

c) On February 17th, 13 days after the issuance by Dr. Catarroja of the health certifi-

(Turn to page 4)

Mayor's Investigating Committee Exonerates Dr. Catarroja, But Vice Mayor Files Charges With Ombudsman

The Committee created by Mayor Mathay to investigate alleged anomalies in the issuance of health certificates exposed in a privileged speech by Councilor Moises Samson has exonorated Dr. Leonito Catarroja, Chief of the Sanitation Division, but Vice Mayor Planas has filed charges against him with the Ombudsman.

The Committee chairmaned by Atty. Alejandro A. Fider, Consultantin the Mayor's Office, and Co-Chairmaned by Assistant City Attorney Christian B. Valencia found "No evidences or documents that will show or prove that there are other health certificates which are printed personally by Dr. Catarroja... and "no iota of evidence against Norma Sanchez (an employee of the Drug and Food Section formerly under Catarroja), to whom, according to Samson, Catarroja sold the personally printed health certificate forms for P20 per form and who, in turn, sold them to fixers at P50 per form who, in turn, sold them to applicants for P70 in consideration of their not having to submit to the required medical examination and immunization.

The Committee, however, recommended action against Ms. Abysinia Legaspi an employee of the Sanitation Division, who was caught in an "entrapment" engineered by Samson, receiving P50 from Abet de Jesus whom Samson had sent to the Sanitation Division pretending to apply for a health certificate in the assumed name of Celerino de la Cruz. The P50 was in consideration of the supposed applicant not having to submit to medical examination and immunization.

"It can be concluded," the Committee states, "that the health certificate (issued to Abet de Jesus/alias Celerino de la Cruz) was liberally issued by Mrs. Legaspi without the necessary requirements in view of monetary consideration.." The Committee found Dr. Catarroja's signature on the health certificate "authentic" but did not consider it sufficient evidence to implicate him in the absence of "direct testimony" against him. The Committee, however, noted that the Sanitation Chief "was lax in the supervision of the personnel engaged in the system of releases of health certificates after his approval." Dr. Catarroja attributed this laxity to "inadequate and appropriate manpower."

Office of the Mayor concurs with the findings and recommendations of the Committee but Councilor Samson has written the Mayor expressing his disagreement.

With respect to the charges filed by Vice Mayor Planas with the Ombudsman she said that they are based on investigations conducted by her office distinct and separate from Samson's privilege speech and entrapment operation: The investigations were conducted with the help of some City Hall employees who, accompanied by a ranking City Official offered their services to document the modus operandi in the issuance of spurious health certificates.

The following, Planas said, were documented:

"1. Health certificates issued WITHOUT laboratory examination.

2. Dr. Leonito Catarroja ISSUED and SIGNED health certificates after January 5, 1994, when by order of Mayor Mathay he was already relieved from his post and assigned to the study group of Payatas 2000.

3. Dr. Catarroja issued health certificates on the basis of laboratory reports issued by the Holy Spirit Diagnostic Center which operates without license and accreditation as certified by Dr. Marietta D. Carpio-Baccay of the BR-DOH.

4. A UDMC Lab. report for one (1) person was used eleven (11) times by superimposing ten (10) different names on the reproduction of the original, making it appear that UDMC conducted eleven (11) different examinations. Six days after the abovementioned health certificates were issued, the applicants submitted themselves to physical examination at the Kamuning Health Center. On February 17, 13 days after the issuance by Dr. Catarroja of the health certificates, the results of the examination were released by the Health Center which showed that:

SIX (6) EMPLOYEES WERE POSITIVE FOR PARASITISM

5. One hundred two (102) health certificates were issued by Dr. Catarroja dated February 4, 1994 to a certain establishment without subjecting employees to a pre-required examination.

6. Examination of the logbook revealed that a number of health certificates is in the custody of Dr. Catarroja. Forty six (46) of these were issued to employees of a certain food outlet without the validating signature of Dr. Ybañez, the City Health Officer."

(For more details, read the privileged speech of the Vice Mayor, "Sincerity, Not Hypocrisy," on Page 3).

"Idissolve Na Lang Natin Ang Council"

By Ben O. Flores

"Idissolve na lang natin ang Council!"

I heard some Councilors uttering the above remark to express their disgust at the way the May 24 session was being conducted. This session will probably go down in the history of the Council as its most discreditable session.

Vice Mayor Charito Planas had stepped down to deliver a privilege speech yielding the Chair to Councilor Victor Ferrer, Jr. But before she could start to speak, here comes Councilor Moises Samson wanting to muzzle Planas. He questioned her right to deliver a privilege speech.

For the next two hours Planas and Samson battled, each repeating her/his arguments over and over again as neither combatant would

(Turn to page 13)

FLASH

The Court of Appeals has denied the petition of Councilor Moises S. Samson for the issuance of a restraining order and/or preliminary injunction against Vice Mayor Charito L. Planas to stop her from delivering a privilege speech. The decision to deny was penned by Associate Justice Ramon A. Barcelona with the concurrence of Associate Justices Ricardo J. Francisco and Hector N. Hofileña. The reasons given for the denial are as follows:

a) There is no clear showing that petitioner has a clear right to be protected and that the act of delivering a privilege speech before the Sangguniang Panglungsod of Quezon City sought to be enjoined is violative of said right.

b) No law exists prohibiting the presiding officer of the Sangguniang Panglungsod of Quezon City from delivering a privilege speech before said body, more so since the topic or subject matter thereof is yet to be known. This is not to mention that the Constitution guarantees the freedom of speech.

c) The sole issue in the case at Bench which is whether or not the presiding officer may introduce or co-introduce any ordinance or resolution, in the mind of the court, be rendered moot and academic even if the privilege speech is delivered since the same is not a single, final act; and finally

d) We fail to forsee any possible damage or injustice which will be occasioned if the Vice Mayor of the Sangguniang Panglungsod of Quezon City is allowed to deliver a privilege speech."

Had this decision come sooner, that ludicrous May 24 session would have been averted. And this story, "Idissolve Na Natin ang City Council," describing the sordid details of said session would not have been written.

SINCERITY...

tes, the results of the examination were released by the Health Center which showed that:

SIX (6) EMPLOYEES ARE POSITIVE FOR PARASITISM

5. a) Examination of the logbook revealed that a number of health certificates is in the custody of Dr. Catarroja. Forty six (46) of these were issued to employees of a certain food outlet without the validating signature of Dr. Ybanez.

Because of these discoveries, I immediately filed a complaint before the Ombudsman against Catarroja, received by the Office of the Ombudsman on April 12, 1994, to STOP THESE NEFARIOUS ACTIVITIES. The practice of Dr. Catarroja to subject the unsuspecting public to infection by persons suffering from contagious diseases thru the issuance of fake health certificates to waiters, foodservers, cooks, massagists and the like MUST DEFINITELY STOP and STOP NOW.

City officials are duty bound to ensure the welfare of their constituents and safeguard their well-being. We must not allow ourselves to be consumed by persons out to sow intrigues by questioning my motives and transform a serious matter like this to another opportunity to advance their personal interest, to take lightly the health hazards to our residents as if it were a laughing matter, to treat these life-threatening situations lightly and dismiss them as non-issues and to turn an eminent peril to an entertainment extravaganza.

This matter is definitely NOT a SIDESHOW. It is a reality that a waiter afflicted with a contagious disease and who is authorized to work as a result of an issuance of a false health certificate can infect unsuspecting customers. Would it not be tragic if the family of Dr. Catarroja would be a victim and be contaminated by the waiters to whom said false health certificates have been issued?

Instead of merely spending hours and hours of people's money on speeches and useless talks, we prefer to act decisively, and swiftly to forstall the spread to the whole City of the evil effects of such anomalous acts committed by no less than the Chief of Sanitation Division and assisted by his legion of ilks. My complaint is made on the basis of solid pieces of evidences gathered by the men of conscience inside and outside my Office. My gratitude goes to them.

I AM NOT IMITATING ANYONE. If it's a crime for me to act the way I did resulting in obtaining solid proofs of anomalies to back up my charges and pilloried the guilty parties to safeguard the health of the City, then I plead guilty. But this will not deter me to continue, even on the face of sarcastic comments and criticism because my conscience is clear and my only desire is to be of service to the very people I am pledged to serve when I assumed my position.

May I invite all my colleagues here to concentrate our collective efforts in fighting these real enemies; rather than divide to fail, let us unite to succeed.

Magandang hapon sa inyong lahat.

Violation Of Zoning Ordinance Averted

A violation of the City Zoning Ordinance has been averted by a privilege speech of Councilor Joseph Peter S. Sison.

The violation would have caused the construction of a 7-storey condominium in an R-2 zone where the height limit is only three storeys.

The Asia Cathay Realty Corporation (ACRC) had been given a building permit, as an exemption from the height limitation, to construct a condominium for Elenita Coyuito at Mariposa St. Bgy. Bagong Lipunan ng Crame following a locational clearance signed by the Mayor himself upon the favorable recommendation of the City Zoning Coordinator, Architect Gerardo Magat, who justified it by saying that it was for the sake of urban progress, considering the proposed construction's "proximity to EDSA and highly urban areas such as Greenhills and Cubao."

The Mariposa residents, except nine, protested the construction on the ground that traffic congestion would result from the increase of residents in the area, "not to mention water shortage and drainage problems." The Barangay Council of Bgy. Bagong Lipunan ng Crame also withdrew a resolution it had previously passed manifesting its objection to the ACRA project.

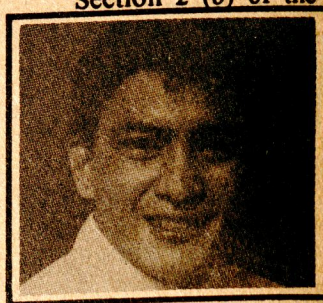
After a public hearing conducted by MMA Zoning Administrator Orlando Malabanan, ACRA was granted exemption from the R-2 height limitation, confirming the city government's issuance of a building permit for the construction of a 7-storey building.

In taking up the cudgels for the Mariposa residents, Councilor Sison stated:

"It is the incumbent duty of this City Government to give immediate attention and due regard to the complaints and pleas of the neighboring residents totally affected by the development. Such is the nature of the (City Zoning) Ordinance (which had adopted pertinent provisions of the MMA Zoning Ordinance). Such is the nature of devolution."

Sison pointed out a provision of the City Zoning Ordinance which was not complied with in the issuance of the locational clearance and building permit to ACRA:

"Section 2 (b) of the



Quezon City Zoning Ordinance provides that the Zoning Official 'shall endorse to the City Council thru the Committee on City Planning, Building and Zoning Regulations applications for exceptions, variances such that a resolution may be finally considered by the City Council to this effect."

Since no such endorsement was made to the City Council, which is mandated in the zoning ordinance with the task of determining if exceptions or variances from its provisions are to be granted, the building permit issued to ACRA was invalid, Sison said.

He appealed to Mayor Mathay, to the City Engineer, Alfredo Macapugay, and to the Zoning Official, Architect Nestor Rivaledo, "to unilaterally withdraw their favorable recommendations and revoke the building permit issued to ACRA."

"Let us not go through the time and resource consuming process of having the courts decide on the legality of your actions," Sison pleaded.

"We are all reasonable men and let us act and think as such."

Fortunately, the officials to whom Sison made the appeal were reasonable men. They did revoke the building permit issued to ACRA which, together with its client, Ms. Elenita Coyuito, took the rebuff graciously. Ms. Coyuito opted instead to develop a subdivision in the area where the 7-storey condominium building would have risen—in fact, three of them were intended, according to Architect Rivaledo, the zoning official who had given the locational clearance.

Line Reference Target LRT-BE4-V2

Discipline...

ernment often relies on past but time-tested values and principles. But it is also the role of government to ensure that the present meets happily the future—that the future be made bright—and that the hopes of today be tomorrow's fulfillment.

The students of today are passionately involved with living; the businessmen, with making a living; and public servants, with creating a better way of living. While we share a common concern with life, we differ only in the approach.

The youth looks to the eternal verities that make life worth living. Your "goal", according to President Kennedy, "is truth, pure and simple, without regard to changing currents of public opinion." The businessman's approach is on the practical plane, but unfortunately likewise "without regard to changing currents of public opinion."

We, in government, take a more pragmatic approach. Again, quoting from Kennedy, "compromises and majorities and procedural customs and rights affect the ultimate decision as to what is right or just or good."

I do not imply that our differences are irreconcilable or beyond repair. I have always believed in compromise as the best way of settling differences.

And so, by way of compromise, let us agree at least on one thing: where should our country go?

We all know that our country today is confronted by a host of problems, some natural-made and others, man-made. Perhaps, the man-made problems outweigh the natural ones. And unless timely remedied, these man-made problems become more complex and difficult to overcome.

The solution to a problem muddled by complexity and perplexity begins with the first step; we must leave behind the creeping anxiety.

Let us not despair but continue to hope for the best, for when hope springs eternal, the happiness is at hand. As Emerson said, "when it is dark enough, men see the stars."

With hope, nothing is impossible. Without it, nothing is possible. May the light of hope then guide us in the days ahead—inspiring and motivating us to move forward as a people bound to one nation and one fate.

But hope without action will not bring about national redemption. We need to temper our sense of hope with realism.

First, we must come to terms with the truth, however hard or painful. Our failings as a nation stem more from a blindness of the spirit—the lack of foresight, hindsight and at times, insight. This spiritual blindness, in turn, arises only because we are wanting in that singular quality that enables us to see more clearly and transcend our failings: discipline.

Discipline is the key that unlocks the solutions to our myriad problems.

Why, for instance, is there chaos in our streets creating a monstrous traffic problem? The root cause is basically a lack of discipline among drivers and pedestrians.

Why is there graft and corruption in the various levels of the government hierarchy? Again, this is a failing in discipline. For it is a matter of self-discipline to be honest and dedicated and true to the public trust.

Why is there a breakdown in peace and order or disrespect and disregard of the laws of the land? The culprit is lack of moral discipline.

We can go on endlessly from the small problems to the big ones we encounter in our day-to-day lives and we will find that the absence of discipline is often behind these problems.

Only through discipline can we discover the source of our greatest strength. Discipline shapes a nation's character. When both the government and the governed practice discipline as a way of life, we can expect order and harmony to prevail. A disciplined citizen is a law-abiding citizen. A disciplined public official is true to his conscience and calling. He thinks of the nation's good and promotes the people's welfare. He becomes the faithful servant of the people.

Discipline spells the difference between victory and defeat, between success and failure. We all know how an athlete goes through the rigors of discipline and sacrifices to hone his body to a winning form. We are also aware how a ballet dancer disciplines herself to attain grace, speed and beauty of form.

If our country is to achieve economic recovery and to gain the respect of the family of nations, we must be ready to pay the price and this is through sacrifices and discipline.

Discipline unifies our purposes and our actions, generating a collective strength that enables us to surmount setbacks and shortcomings.

Let me extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the recipients of the AY Foundation Award for National Discipline. I am confident that this award will inspire you to reach greater heights of achievement—and bring honor and pride not only to yourselves but also to your country in the near future.

Disraeli said, "Youth is the trustee of posterity." By this award, you carry on your shoulders our highest hopes. You are the bearers of the country's future. Please don't fail us.

Thank you and good day.

Emergency...

quired by Sec. 373 of Republic Act No. 7160, which provides that "(b) Except in emergency cases or where urgent indispensable needs could not have been reasonably anticipated, no purchase of supplies shall be made unless included in, or covered by, the approved procurement program."

"It could not be said," the "Concerned Citizen" wrote, "that items like tablet armchairs, teachers chairs, garden and carpentry tools, bookshelves, printing jobs, medals, computers and many others, could not have been reasonably anticipated for inclusion in the Annual Procurement Program."

3. Overpricing. The "Concerned Citizen" gave the following instances:

a) Cooking Range, Model 720W, KW-2925, La Germania, Gas & Electric, 4-gas burner and 1-electric plate

City Schools Buying Price——P28,500 per unit

Actual Prices quoted by three stores surveyed——P11,200, P11,178; and P12,250

Overprice: P17,300; P17,322; and P16,250.

b) Refrigerator, 10 cu. ft., no frost, Kelvinator, Model 79WE R1202

City Schools Buying Price——P25,000 per unit (4 units were purchased)

Actual prices quoted by 4 stores surveyed——P13,695; P13,755; P13,788; and P14,425

Overprice: P11,305; P11,245; and P10,575

c) Microwave Oven, Sharp, Carousel

Model R-4190

City Schools Buying Price——P18,500 per unit (6 units purchased)

Actual Price quoted by one store——P13,225

Overprice: P5,275

There are more than a hundred different items involved in the questioned emergency purchases, and it will take an eternity to complete the price survey for all of them. This paper's staff will continue the survey until fatigue and exhaustion overtake them.

4. Technical malversation was committed in the purchase of 5 cars (One unit NISSAN SENTRA and four units KIA PRIDE) for which Special Educational Funds were used.

5. The purchases were made within the period of the ban preceding the May 11, 1992 elections.

The "Concerned Citizen" gave a list of those involved, in one way or another (though not all of them are necessarily culpable), as follows:

1. Dr. Bienvenido Icasiano, City Schools Superintendent

2. Dr. Pedro Ramos, Assistant City Schools Superintendent and Disbursing Officer

3. Edwin Duran, Bookkeeper

4. Ramon Genova, Accountant

5. Arturo Martin, Typist

6. Deogracias Arevalo, Supply Officer of Caloocan City detailed in QC since 1988

7. Rodolfo Cruz who replaced Deogracias Arevalo also from Caloocan City and recruited by Dr. Icasiano who comes from there.

8. Arsenia C. Balance-Gonzales, Chief of Storage Section of CGSO

9. Reynaldo Ventura, former QC Auditor

10 Ester Laxamana, Assistant QC Auditor

The "Concerned Citizen" cites the penal clauses corresponding to the first two alleged violations, as follows:

1) Emergency Purchase: "Without prejudice to criminal prosecution under applicable laws, the local chief executive, the head of the department, or the chief of office making the procurement shall be administratively liable for any violation of this Section (Sec. 368) and shall be ground for suspension or dismissal from the service."

2) Annual Procurement Program: "A violation of this section (Sec. 373) shall be a ground for suspension or dismissal of any official or employee responsible therefor."

As to overpricing, the "Concerned Citizen" states:

"It is an act by any official or employee that illegally divests the government of its funds and therefore a ground for criminal prosecution, administrative charges, and dismissal from the service."

(Editor's Note: We are referring this matter to DECS Secretary Armand Fabella and Undersecretary Luis Baltazar through one of our Editorial Consultants, Mr. Alfredo O. Flores, who had been under Fabella for more than 10 years as his Executive Officer, Presidential Reorganization Commission, and who is also presently under him as Consultant on a project to project basis. Undersecretary Baltazar is a neighbor.)

POINT OF ORDER QUOTES

Congratulations keep pouring in to QC Mayor Mel Mathay, governor of Metro Manila (sic) and now concurrently Traffic Czar of the Metropolis.

The President displayed his wisdom in giving the mayor this additional job which needs extra intelligence and integrity to command respect.—Jose L. Guevarra, MANILA BULLETIN, April 29, 1994

***

There are few women as successful as the late Mrs. Josefa Austria Mathay, the Most Outstanding Mother Awardee of the National Mother's Day Committee.

She was the wife of an outstanding public official, COA chairman Ismael Mathay Sr. and the mother of 4 distinguished sons.

A bachelor of arts in history from the University of Santo Tomas, the late Mrs. Mathay produced 4 sons, all highly successful in their respective fields:

Ponciano, Simplicio, Ismael Jr. and Augusto.

Ismael A. Mathay Jr. is the mayor of QC, chairman of Metro Manila Authority, traffic czar of the metropolis, easily the leading executive of Metro Manila.--Jose L. Guevara, MANILA BULLETIN, May 8, 1994

Agsalud...

salud is an offshoot of a still pending Complaint I had filed with the Ombudsman in 1992 for violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Law in which Agsalud is one of the main respondents. The other respondents are ROLANDO MONTIEL, Chief of the General Services Office (GSO), who, however, is presently grounded; ARTEMIO MASCARINA, Inspector of the Fiscal Control Unit, who has already resigned; MERLITA GRUBA who was under Agsalud at CTAO and is still there; DOLORES BOBILA, Chief Supply Officer, GSO, also already resigned; M.B. TARROBAL, Supply Officer III, GSO; CATALINO AQUINO, Procurement Division Chief, GSO; ILUMINADA FAJARDO, Chief of the Building and Equipment Maintenance Division, GSO; and ALICIA DE LEON, Supplier, who claims to be the proprietor of a business establishment, Aldianza General Merchandizing, which we found to be non-existent.

The violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Law cited in my Complaint consists in the ghost purchase and ghost delivery of materials for which private respondent Alicia de Leon, the supplier, collected payment of almost P200,000.00 I showed in my Complaint how the above-named respondents conspired to consummate the ghost purchase and ghost delivery.

Conspiracy

The conspiracy started with a spurious Abstract of Price Quotations prepared by the CTAO of which Agsalud was then the Chief. This Abstract is the basis of the charge for falsification of a public document against Agsalud. The falsification consists in the forged signature of Domingo Guansing, Jr., a CTAO employee, who appears in the Abstract as the canvasser. Guansing has executed an affidavit disowning the signature and denying he had done any canvassing. The Abstract is further falsified by the use of fictitious, non-existent business establishments as the submitters of the price quotations, which were for materials supposedly needed for the construction of 90 arches which were to be used in a Santa Cruzan in Cubao sponsored by CTAO.

Motion for Reconsideration

The lawyers of Agsalud, Fornier Lava & Fornier, filed a motion for reconsideration and/or reinvestigation of the case against their client but was denied. I too have filed a motion for reconsideration of the Resolution of Graft Investigation Officer II Evelyn A, Almogela Baliton who had investigated my ghost purchase, ghost delivery Complaint. I pointed out that Montiel and Gruba should be included in the falsification charge against Agsalud. They also had some participation in the preparation of the spurious Abstract of Price Quotations, Montiel by supplying the names of the fictitious business establishments and Gruba by helping Agsalud in preparing the Abstract and certifying it as correct knowing full well it was falsified.

I also assailed Atty. Baliton's Resolution for recommending only Agsalud to be charged with falsification of a public document while exonerating him and his fellow respondents from the charge in my Complaint that by engineering a ghost purchase and ghost delivery they had violated the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Law. In my brief against Baliton's Resolution, I pointed out its many judicial flaws and her very obvious undisguised bias in favor of the respondents making me wonder what had impaired her legal perceptions. (Read "Resolution of Ombudsman Graft Investigator Biased, in next issue.)

P460 million...

for the Carlos Albert High School, costing P22,624,793.13 (as per contract with Marigold Dev't. Corp.); and 3-storey, 18-classroom building for the San Francisco High School, costing P20,175,000.00 (as per contract with B.C. Cuerpo Const. Corp.)

For elementary school, the biggest are: 4-storey, 16-classroom building for the Proj. 6 Elementary School, costing P17,090,962.20 (as per contract with F. Malaya Const. & Gen. Merchandize); 4-storey, 16-classroom building for the Batasan Hills Elementary School, costing P15,088,350.54 (as per contract with Graceland Const.); and 4-storey, 16-classroom building for the Commonwealth Elementary School.

Mayor Mathay said that the new school buildings will improve the quality of education in our public schools. In a flag-raising ceremony talk, he had deplored the failure of any of the city government's elementary and secondary schools to place at the top in the recent national competitive examinations.

(Editor's Note: With respect to the improvement of the quality of education being rendered by our schools, public and private, there is no doubt that more and better educational facilities (school buildings especially) and teachers are needed. A hotly contested proposal to improve the quality of education is to add another year to the high school course. Has it never occurred to our so-called educational experts that to improve the quality of education, there is also a need to improve the quality of the studentry? This need arises from the fact that the capacity of teachers to teach depends to a great extent on the capacity of the students to learn. Students are the raw materials which the schools and teachers are trying to mold into graduates of high quality, but, in any production process, if the raw materials are of inferior quality, the finished products are correspondingly of inferior quality. Hence, the need for students of high quality—students who are totally committed and dedicated to their studies who are not content to just take it easy or just breeze along, as the saying goes, students who are not content with just a passing grade of C but aim and strive for the summit grade of A. Thus, efforts to improve the quality of education should, perhaps, include the adoption of ways and means to improve the quality of the studentry.)

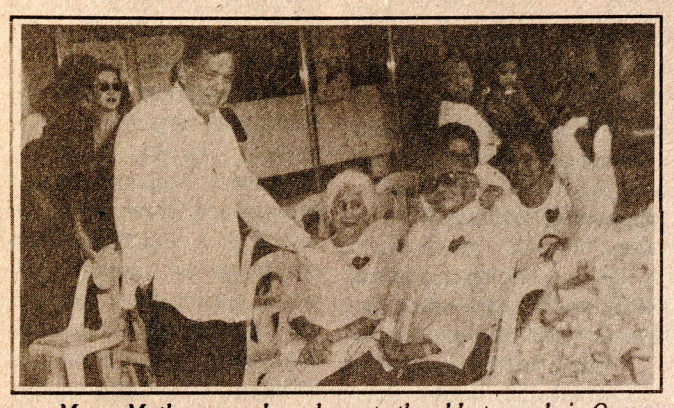
Line Reference Target LRT-BE4-V2

PICTORIAL

All Photos Taken By Vic Oliver



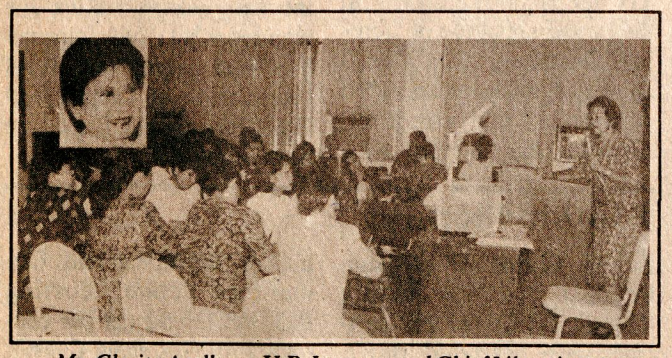
Mayor Mathay speaking at the launching last May 12 of the "Clean and Green" national contest at the Bulwagan of the City Hall, the first affair to be held in this assembly hall, which is on the third floor. The First Lady, Madame Amelita Ramos (extreme right), was the guest of honor.



Mayor Mathay awards a plaque to the oldest couple in Quezon City, Mr. Mamerto A. Ricafort, 92 years old and Mrs. Candida B. Ricafort, 82 years. They reside at No. 3 Aguada St., Proj. 4, QC.



Mrs. Diony Ventura cuts the ceremonial ribbon at the inauguration of the 19th branch of the QC Public Library at Camp Karingal. Assisting her are QC Chief Librarian, Ms. Del Blanquita L. Del Barrio, and Gen. Ricaredo Sarmiento. Behind Ms. Barrio is Mrs. Ofelia Lamayo, President, "Friends of the Library." At extreme right is Gen. Ventura, QC Police Chief.



Ms. Clarita Arellano, U.P. Lecturer and Chief Librarian, Ateneo de Manila University, lectures on the subject, "Reference Service," to the staff of the QC Public Library led by Chief City Librarian, Ms. Blanquita L. Del Barrio (inset), at the seminar held recently to upgrade their knowledge on "Indexing," "Collection Development," and "Reference Service." Other lecturers were Dr. Ursula Picache, Professor, U.P. Institute of Library Science, on "Collection Development"; and Mr. Rodolfo Tarlit, College Librarian, U.P. Mass Communication, on "Indexing".



Mayor Mathay announcing the grant of the traditional mid-year bonus of a half month's pay to officials and employees of the city government. The announcement was met with tremendous applause. Not applauding were the consultants, who are not considered employees and therefore not entitled to the bonus. But, they ask, are the honorable Councilors, who are also entitled, considered employees?



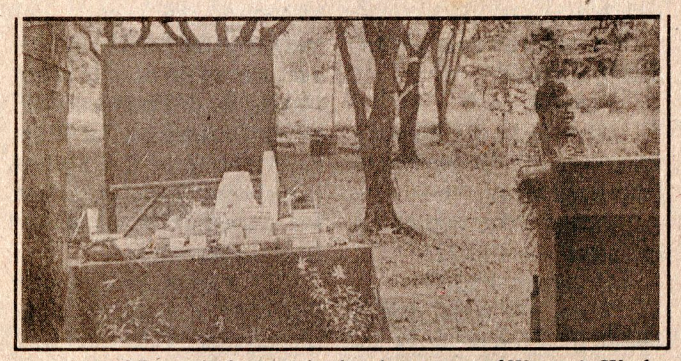
Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary of the La Naval, Patroness of Quezon City, led the procession of the May 28 Santa Cruzan which started at City Hall and wended its way to the QC Circle



Kris Aquino, one of the sagalas, escorted by movie actor John Estrada.



With the exception of some, all offices and departments were represented by their sagalas. Ms. Faye Lorenz Dondi V. Gaite was the sagala of the Vice Mayor's Office.



One of the main features in the observance of Women's Week was a project initiated by Vice Mayor Planas to promote the use of herbal medicine as an alternative to synthetic drugs. She said that, aside from their curative value, herbs have many culinary uses.



QC Vice Mayor Planas explains the waste disposal system which she herself has designed whereby garbage is placed in separate containers according to kind. They can be recycled and eventually sold. To her left is Ms. Lolita Amores, Parks Administrator of the Quezon City Circle



QC Vice Mayor Planas explains the proper use of a contraption she herself had designed for buko vendors that can catch the buko husks, thereby preventing their getting scattered and littering the streets.

Prime Cultural Promotion

Sunday Evenings At The Circle

The Quezon City Parks Development Foundation (QCPDF) headed by Vice Mayor Charito L. Planas as President, with the cooperation of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, leads in the promotion of culture in Quezon City with its cultural presentations every Sunday evening at the Quezon Memorial Circle. (There is a pending ordinance changing the Park's name to simply Quezon City Circle.) Billed "Sunday Evenings at the Circle," the one-hour presentations are held in an open amphitheater called Liwasang Aurora (See picture). The presentations are open—free admission—to the public.

First Presentation

The first presentation was held on November 7, 1993 with QC Mayor Ismael Mathay, Jr. and Vice Mayor Charito L. Planas as guests of honor. It was called "November Kaleidoscope: An Evening of Music," featuring Gamaliel Viray, Baritone; Stella Cristobal, Soprano; Edgardo Crisol, Tenor; and Zenas Reyes- Lozada, Assisting Artist. This initial performance was hosted by Ms. Susan Grace Manalo and sponsored by Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines, Inc.; Kamameshi House, Circle Branch; Sulo Hotel; Perlie's Flower Gardens; Max Fried Chicken, Circle Branch; and Art Patron Ms. Narda Camacho.

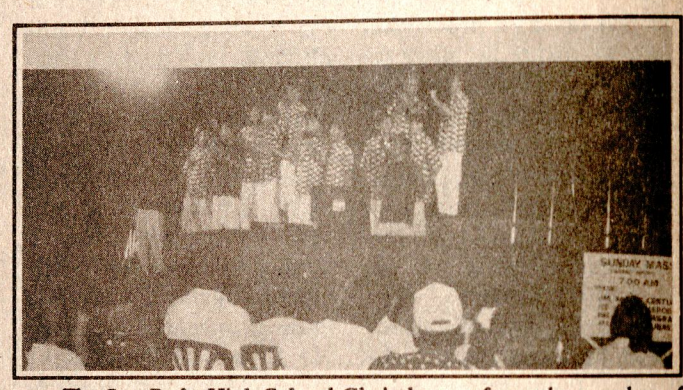
Since that November 7 performance, there have been 30 succeeding performances up to the end of May with not a single Sunday missed, by different prestigious cultural groups, with some of them, like the Association of Ballet Academies, performing several times.

Moving Spirit

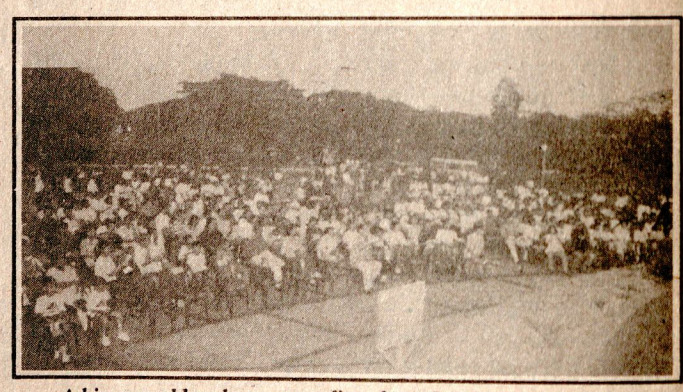
The main moving spirit behind this prime cultural presentations at the Circle is undoubtedly the QCPDF President, Charito Planas, ably aided by Parks Administrator Lolita Amores and Cultural Director Zenos-Reyes Lozada. In fact, she was also mainly responsible for the almost unbelievable transformation of the 26 hectare Circle from a cogonal wasteland, where murder victims were dumped even as lovers trysted clandestinely, into what it is now, a Shrine (three hectares around the Quezon Monument) and a Park with a myriad of recreational facilities which are attracting thousands every day. The Circle, by the way,is also called Reconciliation Park in recognition of the reconciliation between former QC Mayor Jun Simon and Vice Mayor Planas that was brought about when in 1990, Simon, taking the initiative, graciously offered to his erstwhile political opponent the presidency of the Quezon City Parks Development Foundation replacing his own wife.

Yeoman Role

With the yeoman role that Planas has played in the development of the Circle and in spearheading the ongoing promotion of culture, it is difficult to fathom the kind of mentality that would call the crowd drawing facilities and activities at the Circle nuisances like Councilor Samson did or of the mentality that prompted the filing of a resolution calling for the "irrevocable resignation" of Planas as QCPDF President as Councilors Samson and Galarpe did. (Samson says the resolution has a legal basis citing the Gordon case in Subic.)



The San Beda High School Choir has performed a number of times at the Circle's Sunday Evenings.



A big crowd has been attending these Sunday cultural presentations sponsored by the QC Parks Development Foundation. It has been temporarily suspended due to the onset of the rainy season.

A Pleasant Recollection

(Editor's Note: The recently concluded Miss Universe Pageant evokes a pleasant recollection of a similar pageant that took place also in the Philippines 20 years ago—in July 1974, to be precise. For Quezon City residents, July 8, 1974 was a memorable day. The beauty contestants were then billeted at the Philippine Village Hotel at Nayong Pilipino. Twelve of them were chosen to come to Quezon City (then still the capital of the country) on that memorable day of July 8, 1974. We put out a special supplement shown hereunder, to record for history the whole-day activities that the city prepared to entertain and enlighten the visiting beauties on QC's assets. Their pictures, except Miss Iran and Miss Surinam, are shown in this front page of the special supplement. Miss Spain Amparo Munoz came out as 1994 Miss Universe. The message of then Mayor Amoranto is, if we say so ourself who prepared it, is beautiful, befitting the beauties to whom it was addressed.

In the just concluded Miss Universe Pageant, no contingent of the participants came to visit Quezon City. Perhaps, if it were still the country's capital... Anyway, Mayor Mel Mathay, Jr., who, we are sure, is as good a connoisseur of beauty as the late Mayor Amoranto, had a chance to hand the key to QC to outgoing Miss Universe, Dyanara Torres. With Quezon City bypassed the recent Miss Universe Pageant was not as exciting for us as the 1974 Pageant.



MISS UNIVERSE BEAUTY PAGEANT SUPPLEMENT

UNIVERSE COUNTRY 1974 MISS PHILIPPINES

THE CAPITOL STANDARD

A MEASURE OF QUEZON CITY'S METTLE

Barangays Play Lead Role In Reception For Beauties

The barangays, which represent the true mind and heart of the Filipino people, will play the leading role in today's reception for the visiting Miss Universe Beauty Pageant participants.

After the luncheon at the residence of Councilor Genito, the 12 beauties will split into four groups, one for each district.

(Turn To Back Page)

Vol II, No. 13 Quezon City, Philippines, July 8, 1974 35 cts.

Royal Welcome Awaits Miss Universe Beauties

A royal welcome awaits the 12 Miss Universe Beauty Pageant participants who are coming to visit the nation's capital today.

Task Force "QC Barangay Universe" under the direction of Mayor Amoranto assisted by Director Eduardo Soliman, Jr. left no stone unturned in preparing a program of activities that will make the stay of the beauties as interesting, pleasant and profitable as possible. The council had appropriated P140,000 for the affair.

For some facts about Miss Universe Beauties and their vital statistics, please turn to the back page.

MESSAGE

In behalf of the one million residents of Quezon City, I am exceedingly happy to welcome, through THE CAPITOL STANDARD, the 12 Miss Universe participants who are visiting this nation's capital city today.

We open wide our arms, our hearts, and our homes to embrace you and to enfold you with our most fervent affection. No better expression and manifestation of this sentiment than that we are going to adopt you as daughters of our barangays—the units in our society wherein reside the true mind and heart of the Filipino people.

Exemplifying as you do the cream of feminine pulchritude, we are excited and thrilled, like normal human beings, to anticipate the sight of your youthful vibrant, and undefiled loveliness. But more than your physical beauty, we discern and appreciate the beauty of the goodwill and friendship which you bring to our city and people from your respective countries. We reciprocate this goodwill and friendship a thousandfold and may you convey this message to your countrymen upon your return.

Your visit was so eagerly awaited that this is one occasion when the people of Quezon City acted as one in exerting the utmost efforts to prepare a program of activities to entertain and enlighten you—to give you a taste of our hospitality and an inkling of our culture and traditions.

(Sgd.) N. S. AMORANTO
City Mayor

MISS BAHAMAS Agatha Watson

MISS PUERTO RICO Sonia Maria Siege

MISS MALTA Josette Pace

MISS SWEDEN Eve Roembke

MISS NICARAGUA Francis Duarte Tapia

MISS TURKEY Simten Califtee

MISS SENEGAL Thiere Tam

MISS ENGLAND Kathy Ann Anders

MISS MEXICO Guadalupe Ebergaza

MISS ITALY Lorena Pecchenino

In the recent 1994 Miss Universe Beauty Pageant, no beauties came to grace City Hall, but their presentation was held at the Araneta Coliseum. And there was Mayor Mel Mathay, Jr. to hand the key to QC to 1993 Miss Universe, Dyanara Torres. Joe Guevarra in his Point of Order column, MANILA BULLETIN, May 9, 1994, commented: "Mayor Mathay gave the key to Quezon City to Dyanara Torres. Might decide to stay afterward." (Certainly not for Mel. He has no need for another beauty--EDITOR)

ROYAL WELCOME

The Task Force's Operations Officer Humberto U. Amoranto has prepared a militarily precise schedule of the movements of the visiting beauties from the time at 9:00 A.M. when they depart in a bus from the Philippine Village Hotel at Nayong Pilipino to the time at 5:45 P.M. when they leave Quezon City to return to their hotel after a stay of more than eight hours.

The resetting of the visit, originally slated for July 5, and the cutting short of their stay to 5:45 P.M. threw out of kilter the elaborate plans and preparations intended for that day, but quick thinking and action on the part of the "generals" of Operation Oplan plus the generous understanding and cooperation of all concerned righted everything for today's visit.

From the Philippine Village Hotel, the beauties will proceed to the Quezon City-Mandaluyong boundary on Epifanio de los Santos Ave. (White Plains road) where they will transfer to individually assigned cars. In a slow motorcade, they will make their way to Quezon City via EDSA and Quezon Boulevard Extension. They will go to the Quezon Memorial Circle where they will lay a wreath at the Quezon Monument. Ateneo University cadets will serve as honor guard, assisted by a Boy Scout, Drum & Bugle Corps.

After the floral offering, they will proceed to the City Hall to make an official call on the Mayor. They will be greeted when they alight from their cars by department heads and escorted to the Mayor's office by councilors. Cultural Affairs Officer Francisco B. Alvarez will announce the name of each beauty and introduce her to the Mayor and his lady, Mrs. Asisola Lim Amoranto. The Mayor will then offer a toast in Pilipino to the countries represented by the visiting beauties to which one of them, Miss Senegal, will respond also with a toast. After the toasts, the beauties will sign on the guest book with Mrs. Barbara Soliman, Jr. attending.

At 11:15 A.M., the visitors will proceed to the Council Hall where they will be conferred honorary citizenship in Quezon City. This conferment ceremony will be followed by a brief welcome program of native songs and dances.

At 12:05 P.M., everybody will proceed to the residence of Councilor Andres V. Genito, Jr. at Robinia St., St. Dominic No. 4 Subdivision, Bo. Culiat QC where luncheon will be served.

After luncheon, the 12 beauties will split into four groups and each group will proceed to a district barangay hall where the ceremony adopting them daughters of Quezon City will be held. This will be followed by a sightseeing tour, exhibitions of native games, songs and dances, tree planting, etc. until 5:15 when they will proceed to the Vera Perez Gardens where the gift-giving, to the accompaniment of a Harana will be held.

At 5:45 P.M. sharp, as ordained by officials of the Miss Universe Beauty Pageant, the visiting beauties will say goodbye to Quezon City and return to their hotel.

PHILIPPINES...

government operations. Even the last Barangay Elections, which were supposedly non-partisan, affected to a large extent the normal flow of business in the government. Elections have a very queer way of adversely affecting the normal operations of the government machinery, whether we like it or not.

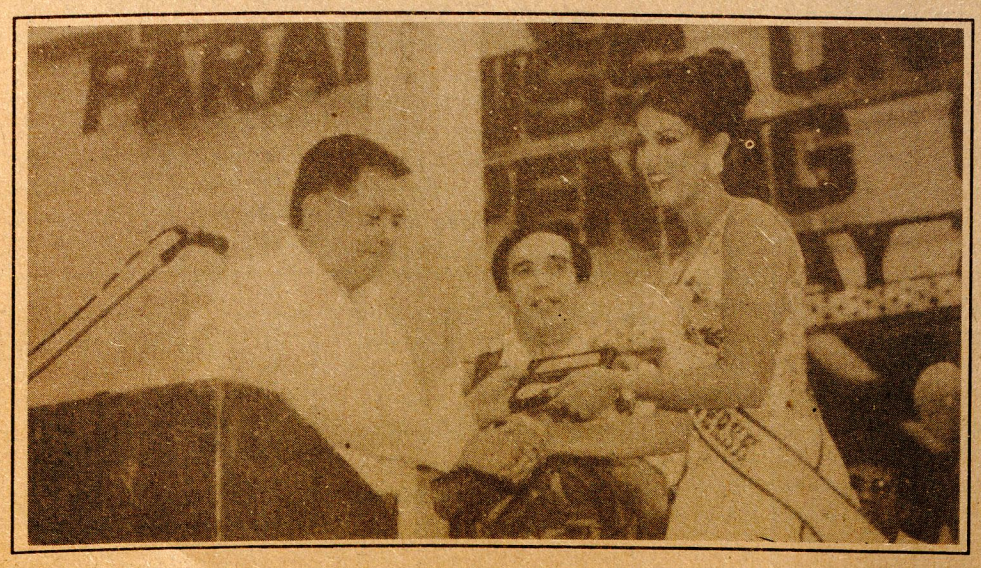
In the face of all these realities, may I propound to my fellow members of this august Council this question: Are we on the right path? Are we moving logically and steadily toward development and progress?

If so, let us retain the existing system. If not, do you not believe that it is time that we rethink the entire political set-up?

May I now enjoin a fellow member of this Council or this Council as a whole to make the required representation with the Philippine legislature by sponsoring a resolution urging the honorable members of the House of the Representatives and of the Senate to re-assess, re-think and re-examine the frequency of election years in our country through the introduction of the necessary enabling legislation as well as other necessary amendatory measures.

Let us all show our concern for the future of our country by unanimously supporting such a resolution.

Thank you, and good day.





Philippines 2000: Are We On the Right Path?

(Privilege speech delivered by Councilor Tony Sioson in the May 17, 1994 session— with some minor blue-penciling)



In the 60's when I was beginning to appreciate the significance of national goals and the enormity of the national problems being confronted, I was starting to realize the relative status of our country compared to the others in Asia. We were then second to Japan in the order of importance of Asian countries. At that time, Korea was recovering from the effects of the Korean War, Taiwan was nervously hiding behind the shadow of the United States as Chiang Kai-Shek and his government were trying to make a go of Taiwan in the face of an emerging powerful China, Malaysia was still facing the problems of communal conflicts in a multi-racial society left by the British in an uneasy balance, Singapore was just like the business sector of Makati, and the war clouds were gathering over the area referred to as the old French Indo-China.

Today, we are still no. 2 in Asia reckoned from the bottom. We are in a better and more stable position socially than Bangladesh only even as Thailand and Indonesia are threatening our relative importance in the region.

We inevitably ask, "what has happened to our country?" While all other nations in Asia have progressed, we seem to have stayed in a rut and retrogressed.

At a time when Japan, Korea and Taiwan were already reaping the economic benefits from the operation of Export Processing Zones, our national planners and leaders were still debating on the possible advantage of establishing such export processing zones in our country. We love to argue, to split hairs, to talk and talk so that we never resolve issues, we never agree on possible alternatives, we never make a decision to end any situation. We just let everything pend. That is why we always classify our documents as those being received, those pending, and those being sent out after a decision. Mostly, however, the papers are filed under those pending, subject to further study.

We want to exercise the luxury of waiting for the succeeding batch of leadership. We always wait for the results of an election before we move and get involved in developmental directions. We would rather keep attempting to analyze political situations.

We simply love politics. We love to campaign for relatives or friends who are candidates for an elective position. We love to analyze the results of an election, especially if our relative or friend wins. If we are on the losing end, we love to rationalize the election results, hinting that fraud caused our defeat.

Why have we become, as a people, totally politically oriented and have neglected, in the process, social integration and economic development, which are indispensable instruments of growth and prosperity?

Why have we come to love this madness called politics, particularly political campaigns and elections, so much? What have political exercises done to our body politic? Why have we allowed this situation to persist and strengthen its strangle-hold on our people at the cost of development and progress?

Let me venture a few guesses. Let me concede that there are many valid reasons why politics has become very important in the life of every Filipino. First, elections have become a combination of the fiesta, christmas, graduation, and every other conceivable celebration. The COMELEC keeps thinking of ways and means to minimize election expenses for candidates. In the end, however, all the COMELEC pronouncements are violated; money flows like water and there are indications that money determines the election results.

Second, the Filipino reward system is kept alive by the election process. Imagine how many of our people would be jobless if they were unable to approach some winning candidate for a recommendation for a job.

Third, many enterprising political campaigners have made a livelihood of elections, and have done quite well, no matter at what level. Their work begins immediately after an election ends and the winners have been proclaimed. Political campaigns and elections have, therefore, become a vicious cycle.

Our present electoral process has become something of the bread and circus of the Holy Roman Empire. But while the Roman emperors actually handed out bread to the Romans for their daily sustenance, the contemporary political candidates hand out money to bribe the voters making a mockery of the democracy we have valiantly fought to preserve.

In any case, our contemporary political leadership has seen fit to ride high on the propensity of our population to political activities by scheduling elections as often as possible. If we are, for instance, to list down the elections during the 10-year period, from 1994, when the last Barangay Elections were held, until 2003, we would be surprised to know that there would be seven election years during said 10-year span, leaving only three years strictly for the delivery of public services as the main work of the government.

It is no wonder, therefore, that our people consider political campaigns and elections as legitimate functions of government. The people can no longer appreciate the difference between political campaigns and elections and the main work of government, i.e., the delivery of essential services to the constituency.

Just think of it: over a 10-year span, from 1994 to 2003, we would be devoting more years—seven of them—to political campaigns and elections than to actual government work. I submit that the frequency of political campaigns and elections should be re-examined.

To top it all, our government spent something like P600 million for the recent Barangay Elections. So unlike the circus of the Romans, which was practically budget-free because the gladiators who were the circus performers were owned by the so-called Senate and People of Rome. Later on, the early Christians, who were fed to the lions and other wild animals, served as the main attraction in the circus. The Roman Circus was, therefore, for all intents and purposes, expenseless.

Our present election, on the other hand, demands a staggering budget. Like our regular payments to service our foreign debt, it depletes our national budget to an extent that allocations for other important programs and projects are rendered meaningless.

What do these frequent political campaigns and elections result in? They bring about petty quarrels, even among families, divisiveness on the part of our people, particularly among the political campaigners and sympathizers, at a time when the national thrust is toward reconciliation; wastage in government funds for the conduct of the elections; waste of private funds, time, efforts and talents spent for the political campaigns with all their gimmickry. We can ill-afford these wastages, particularly since we are looking forward to economic take-off in the year 2000 as envisioned by our President, Fidel V. Ramos in his Philippines 2000.

The government and many non-government organizations have been championing limited expenditures for political campaigns and elections. In the end, however, the government measures aimed at limiting campaign and election expenses have become subjects

(Turn to page 7)

Two...

Roxas and Quirino, and the sacrifices of the heroes and heroines of Quezon City."

Liban: There is now an urgent need to correct the course of history by restoring back (sic) the grand vision of the founder of this great and noble city and keeping faith with the sacrifices of our illustrious heroes and heroines and the later day statesmen such as the late President Manuel Roxas, Elpidio Quirino and others..."

Liban calls PD 940 issued by Marcos on May 29, 1976 but effective June 24, same year (Manila's 405th Foundation Day), taking away Quezon City's capitalship of the country and giving it to Manila "a freak of history" and "a temporary setback of (Quezon's) grand vision." He calls Quezon City's capitalship of the country "its birthright and lost glory."

From the grand vision of Quezon, Liban turns to "the advent of the vision of President Fidel V. Ramos towards achieving the status of a Newly Industrialized Country as enshrined in his Philippines 2000 program." Because of this program, Liban avers that "it is but proper to have an entirely new site for the Seat of Government." Its transfer to Quezon City, he adds, "would be in response to this new outlook of the present administration."

The Roco and Liban bills also agree that "the City of Manila shall remain as the cultural and commercial center of the country." They disagree on the time of transfer of the seat of government to Quezon City. The Roco bill actually does not have any specific provision on when the transfer should be made although in the absence of such specific provision, it can perhaps be presumed that the transfer can be started right after the bill's approval and 15 days after its publication in the Official Gazette. The Liban bill, on the other hand, provides a transition period of five years, the first four years for the construction of the necessary buildings for government offices to be transferred and the fifth and final year for the actual transfer of said offices.

Roco's bill, which consists of only three very brief sections including the effectivity section is in stark contrast to Liban's bill with its 14 sections and seven sub-sections which tell in detail how the transfer of the seat of government is to be effected, the funding needed, and the duties and functions of a new office created. The Central Economic Coordinating Office, which "shall serve as the center for economic Coordinating Office, which "shall serve as the center for economic planning and implementation."

(Editor's Note: In his Explanatory Note, Senator Roco states that his bill "is a legislative request of the Sangguniang Panglungsod of Quezon City and the Liga ng mga Barangay, Quezon City Chapter." Could the three-sentence bill be just consuelo de bobo for those who requested it. Except for the five-year transition—one or two years should suffice—we are for the Liban bill.)

City...

Concrete Fence

The lot in question was vacant but was enclosed by a brick wall which was summarily torn down when the construction of the annex was started. Shortly after the annex had been completed, the city government was sued for encroachment and consequent damages and rentals at P10,000 per month by the Tambuntings who claimed ownership of the lot. The case was tried at a Municipal Trial Court (MTC) which rendered a verdict in favor of the Tambuntings. The case was appealed to a Regional Trial Court (RTC) which nullified the MTC's verdict on a technicality: The respondent should be DECS which had undertaken the construction of the annex.

Reversal

The Tambuntings appealed to the Court of Appeals, which, in turn, overruled the RTC decision and sustained the MTC's. This reversal by the Court of Appeals was due to the admission in the answer to the Tambunting appeal prepared by Atty. Marfil, who was assigned to handle the case, that it was the city government that was maintaining the Annex, instead of a statement that the city government was merely giving financial assistance to DECS. Marfil, who is notorious for the exhorbitant notarization fees he charges, (as much as a P100 for a simple affidavit in the case of a lady friend this writer once sent to him) reportedly did not refer the answer he had prepared to his chief, City Attorney Nescito Hilario.

No Valid Ground

Atty. Felixberto Abad, who has taken over the case from Marfil, is studying the feasibility of appealing the adverse Court of Appeals verdict to the Supreme Court, but, he says that, after the fatal admission made by Marfil that it was the city government that was maintaining the Annex, there seems to be no valid ground for making the appeal. The Supreme Court, he adds, is harsh on lawyers who make appeals not supported by valid grounds. The penalty could be disbarment, Abad said.

Since the suit was filed in 1987, the case is already seven years old, which means that, at P10,000 per month, the sum of P840,000 is already due the Tambuntings. Now, if the case is appealed to the Supreme Court, it may take years and years before it is taken up, considering how it sometimes takes an eternity before the SC can take cognisance of cases appealed to it. If the city government ultimately loses, which is not unlikely, the payment it has to make to the pawnshop kings, as stated earlier, could reach a hefty P1 million or more.

Forest Lands

The question that nags is why were the school authorities concerned so recklessly imprudent that they had to encroach on a lot that was already secured by a brick wall. In their defense, they claimed that they were under the impression that the lot in question was part of the "forest lands" which the Bureau of Forestry continues to claim still exist in Quezon City, a claim that is absurd in the light of the fact that there is hardly any stand of trees in these so-called forest lands. Incidentally, these absurd claim of existing forest lands has been responsible for the proliferation of squatters, because the Bureau of Forestry has been issuing Residential Permits indiscriminately to persons who want to squat on said lands.

Prudent Thing

Going back to the school authorities concerned, did not the concrete fence suggest to them that the enclosed lot could be private property? Was it not the prudent thing to have made some inquiries or conducted an investigation to determine the true status of the lot? Another question: What was the role, if any, of local school officials headed by City Superintendent Dr. Bienvenido Icasiano and of OIC Milagros Dimla of the Holy Spirit Elementary School in the construction of the controversial Annex? A final question: Did they just stand by with folded hands and watched the demolition of the brick fence without offering a word of caution?

(Editor's Note: Why don't DECS and the city government join hands in trying to persuade the Tambuntings to donate the controversial lot to the government in the name of higher quality of education for our children. As the behemoths of the pawnshop business, a 1,000 sq. m. lot is just a dot in their enormous assets. We understand Atty. Marfil, after his defeat in court, tried for an amicable settlement whereby the city government would buy the lot in question. He is reported to have said that the purchase would be profitable. He didn't say, however, to whom the profits would go. Anyway, the deal fell through. With respect to our suggested donation of the lot by the Tambuntings, we're afraid they won't be interested. If the donation will promote a higher quality of education for our children, that would be to their dis advantage. As better graduates, they would be able to get better paying jobs. And that would mean they will have less need for pawnshops.)

QC Govt. Motto:

SERVICE WITH A SMILE

Perennial Problem

Manholes

A perennial problem is the existence of open manholes. As far back as 19 years ago, in 1975, then Mayor Amoranto ordered the Department of Engineering to step up its "Cover Manholes" operation. We had a front page story on this operation in the August 8, 1975 issue of THE (old) CAPITOL STANDARD with this headline:

Watch Your Step: 1,871 Manholes

Mayor Orders them Covered

Hereunder are excerpts from the story:

"In a survey conducted by Assistant City Engineer Anacleto Nieto, it was found out that the PLDT has three open manholes...while MWSA has 68.

"What the Engineering Department did, Nieto said, (after PLDT and MWSA ignored the city government's request that they provide their manholes with covers)" was to cover the manholes with wooden planks but they are being constantly being stolen. The manholes, Nieto said, should be provided with concrete covers—not iron, because iron covers also invite thieves, considering that scrap iron now fetches a price of P1.00 per kilo. (That price was circa 1975. Now...)

"Supervising Civil Engineer Celso Batallones, who heads the Maintenance Division, said that the city owns 1,800 manholes consisting of the small circular manholes two feet in diameter and the huge rectangular drop-inlets and catch basis measuring .5 m by 1 m.

"Batallones said that of these 1,800 manholes, about 500 have not yet been provided with covers. He said that the sum of P140,000 (How much would it cost now?) is needed to construct concrete covers for the open manholes...Pending the construction of concrete covers, dismantled lumber from bridges will be used in providing temporary covers."

In its August 26 session last year, the Council took up on first reading a resolution filed by Councilor Medalla directing the City Engineer to conduct an inventory of open manholes in QC and provide them with temporary wooden covers pending the installation of permanent steel covers.. The Council refused to heed Councilor Calalay's suggestion that the directive be sent to the City Engineer in the form of a simple letter. The Council preferred to go through the rigmarole of the legislative process of doing things. The proposed resolution was referred to the proper committees where it slumbered for many months. It was only recently that the resolution was finally taken up and passed.

But with or without resolution, the Office of the City Engineer has been on the job of covering the city's manholes. We have been furnished copies of accomplishment reports of said Office for 1993 and for the first quarter of this year, Jan. to March. The reports were prepared by Actg. C.E. Aide Dante V. de Guzman, checked by Engineer Alex M. Aquino and submitted by Engineer V. Cesar M. Andres.

The 1993 Accomplishment Report contains a list of 353 manholes located in various streets that had been provided with covers, some temporary, probably made of wood, others, permanent concrete covers. Of the 353 manholes, 159 are in District IV, 133 in District III, 30 in District II and 31 in District I.

The first quarter report contains a list of 85 manholes of which 35 are in District I, 25 in District IV, 20 in District III and 5 in District II. Eighteen (18) of the 35 manholes in District I were brought to the attention of the Engineering Department by Councilor Tony Sioson.

(In both reports, not a single manhole is listed along Quezon Avenue. There are, however, manholes of a more dangerous kind in said Avenue. But it's the job of the police, not the city engineers,

Sorry, Sorry, Sorry

"In the name of Jesus, I really am sorry, sorry, sorry."

Thus, wrote Councilor Anthony Alonzo in the P.S. to his letter to Atty. Lourdes Santos, Secretary to the Mayor, apologizing for his privilege speech in the April 7 session in which he "denounced the allegedly improper way he was treated by Mrs. Santos when he was following up his infrastructure fund" (Quoted from the Minutes of this April 7 session).

We say "allegedly improper" referring to "the way he was treated" because when we met Atty. Santos a few days after April 7 and told her of Alonzo's speech, she said: "Maniniwala ka ba?" meaning to say, did I believe that she had treated the Councilor-Movie Actor improperly.

"Well, maybe Councilor Galarpe was right by saying you sometimes aren't aware of your actions because of your very hectic and busy day," wrote Councilor Alonzo.

What Alonzo or Galarpe probably meant was that Atty. Santos was not aware of the Councilor's presence and not that sometimes she is not aware that what she is doing is improper.

The Office of the Secretary to the Mayor is one of the busiest in City Hall—it is crowded most of the time. So, most likely, this is what happened: Atty. Santos failed to notice the presence of Councilor Alonzo which is why she could not give him the VIP treatment he probably expected.

Speaking of VIP treatment, we concede that high public officials deserve VIP treatment. Our Councilors are, in City Hall at least, considered high public officials. They certainly deserve VIP treatment which, according to Alonzo in his speech, they do not get in some offices of department heads. Probably the department heads concerned believe that VIP treatment should have very little place in a democracy.

Anyway, Atty. Santos has graciously accepted Councilor Alonzo's apology for his outburst and all is forgiven—and forgotten, we hope.

CONGRESS...

"Today Q.C. is evenly tempered by a balance of social activities and infrastructural advantages. A renowned Filipino writer, Celso Carunungan, once lay the city side by side its illustrious foreign counterparts.

'Unlike Brasilia,' he wrote, 'it was not hewn from the rough hinterlands in the boondocks; it was carefully picked out, piece by piece, from the best parts of several towns.'

'Unlike Canberra,' it did not sprout out of a backwoods to form a more than twenty kilometers from Rizal's monument.

"And unlike Washington D.C." waxed Carunungan further, it does not have a low, level terrain, with a bland, sometimes oppressive climate; it is rather a gently slopping country with a maximum elevation of about 200 feet above sea level, with an excellent climate the whole year round."

"Quezon City also happens to be bigger than all three; in fact, when it served as the Philippine Capital for over 30 years, it was one of the world's biggest. Its 15,539 hectares is a little bigger than the District of Columbia, three times bigger than Bermuda, ten times the size of Macau, twenty times of Wake Island, thirty times bigger than Gibraltar, 120 times of the Principality of Monaco, and 400 times bigger than the Vatican, it was, and still is five times bigger than the restored Capital City of Manila".

"Quezon City's appealing message is increasingly being recognized around the country and overseas, bolstering its image as a rapidly growing hub of Commerce, Trade and Tourism.

"With its numerous landmarks and tourism attractions, Congress should pass a law making Quezon City the capital city of the Philippines."

The Department of Foreign Affairs had "no objection to the resolution" but left "its determination to the Philippine Congress."

The Department of Tourism was "at the moment for the retention of Manila as the capital city of the Philippines because Manila is still the center of government, business, education and culture" and "it should be noted as a fact that Manila has often been interchangeably referred to and known as the Philippines internationally." This department, however, commended and upheld Quezon City as one of the country's premier city (sic).

Of the agencies consulted, only the National Historical Institute strongly recommended "the retention of Manila as the capital city of the Philippines for historico-cultural reasons earlier cited." (Read the Editorial for a repudiation of these so-called earlier cited reasons—Editor)

After considering the foregoing comments and recommendations, the Assistant Executive Secretary for Legislation concluded his letter to the Council by denying favorable action on its request for certification because: "we concur to the position of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs that the matter be best left to the sound determination of the members of Congress who are truly the representatives of the people's will as to which city should be the capital city of the country."

No! To Quezon City-Daly City Sisterhood Not Until....

By Ben O. Flores

This matter of Quezon City-Daly City sister-city relationship came back to our mind after the visit not too long ago of a certain Mike Guingona, reportedly a Fil-American member of the Daly City Council and allegedly a nephew of Executive Secretary Teofisto Guingona. We understand that Guingona had suggested that another QC delegation be sent to Daly City to negotiate a sister-city relationship agreement.

WHAAAAAT AGAIN! The controversial trips in 1990 of former Councilors Dennis Roldan, Cielito del Mundo and Elizabeth Gaba and incumbent Councilor Emilio Tamayo have not yet been resolved. In our April 1-15, 1992 issue, we had impugned said trips with this headline:

Sister-Cityhood Negotiations in Daly City, Cover Up for Junkets?

We had prepared a complaint against the above named Councilors for filing with the Onbudsman, but we have not come around to that yet. But we will, sooner or later; this is a vow to which we have committed ourself. If possible, however, we would like first to get a positive statement from Daly City officials on whether or not there really had been negotiations conducted by Councilors Roldan, Del Mundo, Gaba and Tamayo.

The Daly City officials we have contacted, however, refused to deny or confirm the sister-city negotiations in question, because, they said, they did not want "to be involved in a local controversy." One of the officials we wrote to was Mike Guingona himself. As a Councilor, he was in an excellent position to find out the truth regarding the negotiations. But the fellow did not have the courtesy to reply.

The Daly City officials' reason for not wanting to be involved in a local controversy may be valid now, but if Daly City and Quezon City are to become sister-cities, said reason becomes unacceptable. As sister-cities, Quezon City and Daly City would have to assist and cooperate with each other, whenever possible, in protecting and promoting each other's interests. It is certainly in the interest of Quezon City that the controversial trips in question be clarified. Thus, if Daly City wants a sister-city relationship with Quezon City, it must first deserve that relationship by helping its would-be sister-city to resolve the case against the four Councilors considering that the questionable trips were made to their city. This is why this piece is titled: No! To Quezon City-Daly City Sisterhood; Not Until....", that is, not until Daly City officials extend their assistance and cooperation in clarifying the trips we have impugned.

We stated earlier that sooner or later we will file the case against the four Councilors involved. At present, we are busy with the case we have filed against Montiel, Agsalud, et al. We probably won't have to press Daly City officials anymore for a positive statement on the negotiations. Come to think of it, their non-involvement stand of neither denying nor confirming that the negotiations actually took place is, in fact, an indirect proof that said negotiations did not take place. Simple logic points that out. Consider this:

If there had really been negotiations, Daly City officials would have readily and promptly confirmed them because, naturally, they would not have wanted the Councilors involved to be subjected falsely to the charge we had told them we were intending to file against the Councilors. But because they knew there had been no negotiations, the Daly City officials, out of a mistaken sympathy for the Councilors, chose to take an equivocal, neutral, non-involved stand to avoid being instrumental in the conviction of the Councilors.

Other very compelling indirect proofs that the negotiations were fictitious are as follows:

1. Although, as indicated in the Minutes of the Council, Tamayo was supposed to have conducted negotiations for 15 days, August 20 to September 5, 1990: Roldan and Gaba for 33 days, September 12 to October 15, 1990 and Del Mundo for 55 days, September 12 to November 7, 1990, not one of them rendered a report upon their return. They ignored our letters requesting such report.

2. The fact that not one Councilor nor then Presiding Officer Vicente Sotto asked for reports or made even just a casual inquiry as to what happened in Daly City when the Councilors returned, shows that Sotto and his Councilors were aware that the Councilors did not go to Daly City to negotiate but went junketing. Sotto and his Councilors were accomplices for which reason they are included in the complaint that we will file.

In closing, we stress that we have no ill feeling against any of the prospective respondents. But we feel we have a duty to perform and we don't like to start something we can not finish.

For their alleged trips to Daly City to negotiate a sister city relationship, Councilor Tamayo who was the first to go solo flight, collected a reimbursement for travelling expenses and per diems in the amount of P65,261.25 while Roldan got P84,010.00. There is something odd in the voucher of Tamayo. While in the Minutes of the Council, he is recorded to have been supposedly negotiating in Daly City during the period August 20 to September 5, 1990, in the voucher, it is indicated that the reimbursement is for travelling expenses incurred and per diems due the Councilor for the period September 6 to October 6, 1990. Is there not a bit of falsification of a public document here?

As to Del Mundo and Gaba, our reimbursement figures for them are not yet complete, hence the delay in filing the case we are finalizing. The index cards of the Fiscal Control Unit show that they collected reimbursements for per diems only, P9,785.00 for Del Mundo and P7,785.00 for Gaba. No record of reimbursement for travelling expenses are indicated in the index cards. The Fiscal Control Unit staff says, however, that it had been probably bypassed.



Wise and Otherwise

By Eddie C. Flores

Six Missed-Outstanding QC Councilors

This fad of dishing out most outstanding awards to award-conscious public officials has grown into a giant business enterprise fueled by these officials' obsession to be pedestalized. Taking advantage of this magnificent obsession, many a prestigious as well as dubious organization has cashed in on this flourishing most outstanding award business.

Now that an enterprising organization has chosen its six most outstanding QC Councilors, we venture into the business of choosing the Six Missed-Outstanding QC Councilors just for the fun and not for the fund of it. We refer to those QC aldermen who were missed by the awarding organization but whom we think are equally outstanding. So, hold your breath, Jan, Jaran, here they are:

1. VICTOR N. FERRER, JR.—A certified public accountant and former top Barangay Captain, for his innovative and progressive, though at times controversial, legislative measures. Like his tax incentive ordinance and his porcine measure requiring all public markets in the city to adopt the one-entry scheme in order to effectively check the illicit traffic of hot meat and thereby protect the health of meat consumers.

2. MICHAEL T. DEFENSOR—Dubbed the Mighty Mike of the Council for his daring exposes of anomalies in the city government made in a series of sizzling privilege speeches. He has come up with several anti-graft measures, the first Councilor to do so. Unfortunately, these long overdue measures have been honored more in the breach than compliance by the honorable city officials who are supposed to implement them. And what is more tragic is that our honorable aldermen seem not to give a hoot that said measures are ignored. Well, the good people of QC do give a hoot and they will surely register this loud and clear, come the day of reckoning at the polls.

3. MELENCIO M. CASTELO—A lawyer and a veteran, battle-scarred elective public official, for his deep and abiding concern in promoting the welfare of his constituents in the depressed areas through his extensive Deep Well Construction program which has provided free, accessible potable water, Urban Poor Electrification program, Barangay Roads program and Livelihood projects. What makes Castelo outstanding is his uncanny ability to accomplish his various programs and projects in record time and at the least cost to the city government. Yes, Castelo is synonymous to Speed and Tipid.

Incidentally, according to Castelo, during the time of former Mayor Adelina S. Rodriguez, some P1.3 million in permit fees were collected from the city's teeming sidewalk vendors. The collection has plummeted to an all time low of P300,000, he says. Perhaps, Castelo should initiate and spearhead a probe of this drastic drop in permit fee collection. Certainly, the cause could not be that the sidewalk vendor population has dwindled; on the contrary, it keeps increasing. Could it be that the collection is being diverted from the city coffers into the pockets of unscrupulous revenue collectors?

4. MARCIANO P. MEDALLA—A top-notch civil engineer and civic and political leader, for his show of engineering skill in having finally engineered the repair of a leaking session hall roof after previous attempts had failed—and this without any cost to the city government. Also for his continuing "Kasalan Ng Bayan" program for the benefit of couples who are living outside the holy sacrament of matrimony. By legitimizing their union, their families are morally and spiritually strengthened. For his apostolic work, the Councilor has earned the sobriquet, Monsigneur Medalla. The Counsilor-Engineer has also earned the gratitude of his constituents for the improvement of the drainage in the streets under his CAR (Councilor Area of Responsibility).

5. MA FRESCA M. BIGLANG-AWA--A registered nurse, a civic, religious and political leader, mother of ___children. She is the author of two very important ordinances: the construction of a Novaliches Health Center and the conversion of the San Bartolome Skills Training Center into a Polytechnic University—the dream of thousands of poor but deserving students. It was her forceful sponsorship of these ordinances that ensured their enactment.

Sad to say, however, Biglang-awa is one of those who are pushing the Novaliches cityhood movement. She has authored an ordinance creating a University for Quezon City, only to want to make it under the exclusive jurisdiction of Novaliches in the event it becomes a separate city. Isn't there an inconsistency somewhere? The separation of Novaliches would do violence to the revered memory of QC's great founder, the late President Manuel L. Quezon, who must be turning over in his grave now and were he alive today, he would probably be hurling a thousand punetas at the advocates of Novaliches' cessation.

We are, however, keeping out fingers crossed, hoping and praying that the Novaliches Lady Councilor and others of similar persuasion will ultimately see the light of what is right and proper and desist from supporting the Novaliches cityhood movement. Kaya, Konsehala Biglang-Awa, magbago na sana ang inyong paninindigan at tuluyan mo ng ibaon sa limot ang paghihiwalay ng Novaliches. Let us stick together. In unity, there is strength. That is basic.

6. GODOFREDO T. LIBAN II—An active lawyer and energetic community leader, for his zealous concern and support for the expansion and upgrading of the facilities and services of the QC Public Library. He is the author of an ordinance appropriating P1,687,500.00 for the purchase and maintenance of one unit of Bookmobile and another appropriating P108,160.00 for the purchase of law books and other publications to update and augment the reference materials in the Library's Law Research Section. Liban believes that a well read and informed citizenry makes for a disciplined, enlightened and progressive society. With the Councilor as staunch ally, the QC Public Library under the stewardship of Ms. Blanquita L. Del Barrio is bound to become a five-star library as befits a five-star city like Quezon City.

Calalay is My Guy

On the 17th day last March, the nation marked the 57th death anniversary of the late President Ramon Magsaysay. He was popularly and endearingly called My Guy by the teeming masses—the common tao and ordinary man in the street, whose rights and welfare he championed and defended with passion, spurred by his now famous and classic statement that those who have less in life should have more in law.

Unfortunately, Magsaysay did not live long enough to pursue and realize all his dreams and programs to uplift the common tao from his abject state of poverty. On that fateful day of March 17, 1957, the Presidential plane he was riding in crashed on the treacherous slopes of Mt. Manunggal in Cebu. When news of his sudden death reached the people, they poured into the streets and wept unabashedly venting their grief and sorrow over the loss of a man who had given them high hopes of making their lives more bearable and meaningful. The passing of Magsaysay left a void that has been unfilled up to the present, leaving unfulfilled the common tao's hopes and dreams of a better tomorrow.

In Quezon City, we have in Councilor Calalay a counterpart of Magsaysay though perhaps in a more modest degree. Like My Guy, Calalay, in his own simple and humble way, has been championing and defending the rights and welfare of the common tao. Thus, most of the ordinances he has authored and co-authored, are designed for the social and economic upliftment of those who have less in life, Because of his marked partiality to the poor, he is also endearingly referred to as My Guy ala Magsaysay.

Katulad ni Magsaysay, laging bukas ang palad at puso ni Calalay para sa kapos palad. Kaya naman pinalad siya na maloklok sa Konseho upang higit pa niyang mapaglingkuran ang mga maralita.

Sadyang mababa ang kalooban ni Calalay, wala kang mababakas sa kanyang pananalita, kilos at pakikitungo sa kapwa niya. Isa pang kaakit-akit na katangian ni Calalay ay ang kanyang malalim na pasensya at malawak na pagunawa. Kahit masama na ang pakiramdam niya, lapitan mo at tiyak buong puso na haharapin at aasikasohin ka hanggang matugunan niya ang inyong pakay. At kung kaagad hindi na niya matutugunan, pababalikin ka sa ganitong araw at oras. At tiyak pagbalik mo ayos na ang inyong problema, kung hindi man lubusan ay kahit papaano ay maiibigan at makakahinga ka ng maluwag. Mahaba ang lubid ng pasensya ni Calalay, makailang ulit mo man siyang abalahin, ang kanyang pagtingin at pakikitungo sa inyo ay hindi magbabago.

Kaya hindi na nakapagtataka kung sa darating na susunod na halalan ay makarating at maloklok sa Kongreso si Calalay. Ngayon pa lang ay para ko nang nakikita ang mga libo-libong mga pangkaraniwang mamamayan sa lansangan na sumasalubong kay Calalay sa Kongreso at buong siglang sumisigaw ng Calalay is My Guy, Calalay is My Guy.

JOPAK is Back

Fomer QC Councilor Jose Paculdo or JOPAK to his friends is back in harness at City Hall.

Though he lost his gallant bid for a seat in Congress to glamour boy Dennis Roldan, Paculdo never really bade goodbye to public service. When Vice Mayor Charito Planas, Chairman of the QC Anti-Drug Abuse Council (QCADAC) sent word that she needed his services, JOPAK responded with alacrity.

Planas could not have chosen a better man, Paculdo brings with him to QCADAC a wealth of knowledge and experience—administrative, legislative, managerial, and, his forte, security and intelligence work—acquired during more than two decades of service in the government, which was marked with Professionalism, Responsibility, Integrity, Competence and Efficiency (PRICE).

A typical Ilocano, Joe is frugal but not stingy. He shuns ostentatious display of affluence. Hidden wealth he has none, hidden fat he has aplenty tucked under his stocky frame. That is Fatculdo for you, Joke only, manong Pepe. Godspeed and full speed ahead in your task as Charito's sidekick in the drive to kick out the drug habit in QC.

Unfortunately, there are some scheming people in and out of QCADAC who want to kick out Paculdo. They have been peddling malicious tales of imaginary malfeasance at QCADAC. If these tattletales, whom Joe calls the "Bulong Brigade", want his post as Director that bad, they don't have to resort to underhanded tactics. JOPAK is not the kind of man who would cling to his post like a leech. In fact, during his birthday party last March 1 in his office, Paculdo took pot shots at his detractors and declared that he is ready and willing anytime to quit his post if his services are no longer needed. After all, he said, he did not seek the position. He just responded like a good soldier to the Vice Mayor's call for his services. He recommended his assistant, Mr. Cortes, to be his successor in the event he has to quit.

It would be a pity if Faculdo is forced to quit because of the machinations of the "Bulong Brigade." He is doing his damn best in pushing the drive against drug abuse despite the constraints of deficient logistics and manpower. The drug menance is so grave that the fight against it must not be hampered by partisan or political considerations. What is at stake is the future of our country, the youth especially, and not the fortune of any political party or person.

The Great Cesar Dalanon

In his birthday speech, Paculdo cited and commended Cesar Dalanon, a retired Police Major and erstwhile Chief of the QCADAC Law Enforcement Division. He had been spending his own money to keep his outfit going. Unfortunately, he was a victim of the "Bulong Brigade", and relieved of his position. His relief is a big blow to QCADAC.

A Brotherly Admonition to our Youth

To the youth of QC, may we address this brotherly admonition: Do not make guinea pigs out of yourselves by experimenting and playing with drugs, Drugs are deadly playmates. Remember that a short trip to heaven, through drugs, could be your ticket to a permanent sojourn in hell. So, be wise and be nice. Avoid drugs and avoid hell.

Shadow Boxing

In any human struggle, be it in politics or athletics, great champions are made and unmade inside the ring. Shadow boxing and throwing wild punches in the air inside the comfort and safety of a gym do not a champion make. To become one, you have to climb up the ring and slug it out with your opponent.

In the City Council, we have two potential champions in the fight against Kid Graft and Corruption, the reigning champion. They are Super Kid Moises Samson and Mighty Mike Defensor. But if they expect to knock out Kid Graft and Corruption and his proteges, they must do more than just shadow boxing in the comfort and safety of the session hall. It is not enough that they deliver blazing privilege speeches exposing alleged anomalies in the government. They must pursue these exposes by climbing into the ring of a court of justice—the Sandiganbayan through the Ombuidsman, in his case—and take legal, not merely verbal, action against the subjects of their exposes. But, perhaps, they have no time for this.

The least they could do, however, is to see to it that the anti-graft measures they have enacted are implemented. But, as it is, the GSQ Chief, Antonio Laudico, has haughtily ignored, nay defied, the resolution authored by the Mighty Mike, upon the suggestion of this paper, requiring the posting on a bulletin board of documents pertaining to city government purchases. The 26 honorable members of the Council have taken this mockery of their legislative efforts to lick Kid Graft and Corruption lying down without as much as throwing a jab at the chin of Laudico. We dare say that this defiance by the GSQ Chief is a blow against the authority, credibility and integrity of the City Council.

Yes, to dethrone Kid Graft and Corruption, what we need are Graftslingers, not Shadow Boxers.

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Most Significant Approved Ordinances, July 1992-April 1994

(SELECTED BY THE OFFICE OF CITY SECRETARY)

SP-5 Establishing the Quezon City Hall Yakap, a Day Care Center for children ages 3 to 6 of parents employed in Q.C. Hall, and appropriating the amount of Fifty Thousand (P50,000.00) therefor from any available funds.

Introduced by Councilor Connie S. Angeles

SP-11 Creating a Quezon City Project Mt. Pinatubo under the office of the City Mayor, appropriating the amount of one million pesos P1,000,000.00) as the city government's financial assistance to be considered as the initial fund for the purpose.

Introduced by Vice Mayor Charito L. Planas

SP-15 Franchising and Regulating the operation of motorized tricycles in Quezon City to be known as the Quezon City Tricycle Ordinance of 1992.

Introduced by Councilor Joseph Peter S. Sison

SP-22 Providing for a Quezon City Zoning Ordinance of 1992 "by adopting the pertinent provisions of Metro Manila Commission (MMC) Ordinance No. 81-01, Ordinance for the National Capital Region (NCR)", applicable to Quezon City.

Introduced by Councilor Emilio G. Tamayo.

SP-24 Regulating and Imposing fees for the testing and sealing of weights and measures and imposing fines and penalties to offenders and violators.

Introduced by Ramon "Bu" Mathay

SP-26 Appropriating the amount of ten million two hundred forty thousand pesos (P10,240,000.00) for the construction of Novaliches Health Center so as to expand medical services therein.

Introduced by Councilor Ma. Fresca M. Biglang-awa.

SP-30 Prohibiting the solicitation and collection of contributions from pupils and students in the public elementary and secondary schools of Quezon City, and imposing penalty for violatioin thereof.

Introduced by Councilor Cesar A. Dario, Jr.

SP-31 Providing for a new salary schedule for all officials and employees of the Quezon City government and appropriating the necessary funds therefor.

Introduced by Councilor Ramon G. Mathay.

SP-33 Creating an electrical division under the Engineering Department of Quezon City and providing for its personnel requirements, duties and functions as well as appropriating the necessary funds thereof.

Introduced by Councilor Emilio G. Tamayo.

SP-35 Mandating the observance of "International Day to End Violence against Women" Women every November 26, of each year in Quezon City.

Introduced by Vice Mayor Charito L. Planas

SP-36 Requiring only one single entry point in all public and private markets in Quezon City for the delivery and distribution of meat carcasses, organs or parts thereof and providing penalties therefor.

Introduced by Victor V. Ferrer, Jr.

SP-45 Appropriating the amount of six hundred fifty thousand pesos (P650,000.00) from any available funds necessary for the completion of the construction of the Barangay Capri Wet Market in Quezon City.

Introduced by Vice Mayor Charito L. Planas.

SP-47 Providing that the Internal Budget alloted for the City Council be sub-alloted for each and for every individual member of the City Council including the qualified representative thereof and giving them exclusive administration, supervision and control over the same.

Introduced by Councilor Moises S. Samson.

SP-53 Requiring the accredited authorized contractor to post information of all public works and infrastructure projects within the City, including funds allocated thereto; and prescribing for penalties for violation thereof.

Introduced by Councilor Michael T. Defensor.

Sp-55 Granting Relief to delinquent real property tax payers of Quezon City with respect to interests and penalties on their real property tax until June 30, 1993 subject to certain conditions.

Introduced by Councilor Moises S. Samson.

SP-56 Establishing rules and regulations in the processing and approval of subdivision plans for the residential, commercial or industrial and other development purposes in Quezon City.

Introduced by Councilor Melencio M. Castelo.

SP-57 Establishing the Office of Senior Citizens Affairs (OSCA) as embodied in Republic Act No. 7432, otherwise known as the Senior Citizens' Law providing the necessary appropriation for its operation and maintenance and for other purposes.

Introduced by Councilor Emilio G. Tamayo.

SP-61 Establishing a Quezon City Medical Care Program (QC MEDICAP), and appropriating the amount of two hundred fifty thousand pesos (P250,000.00) for the purpose.

Introduced by Councilor Connie S. Angeles.

SP-66 Appropriating the amount of one million pesos (P1,000,000.00) from any available funds in the City Treasury, as standby public assistance fund to cover for hospitalization and medical expenses of indigent patients in the various hospitals located in Quezon City and for other purposes.

Introduced by Councilor Reynaldo A. Calalay.

SP-71 Changing the name of Pasong Tamo High School into Sauyo High School (NIA Village) Barangay Sauyo, Novaliches, Quezon City.

Introduced by Councilor Melencio M. Castelo.

SP-81 Requiring medical examination for possible drug addiction and alcoholism of all uniformed men of Central Police District and Quezon City Fire Station, Philippine National Police, and forfeiture of the incentive allowance granted by the Quezon City government for those found positive for drug addiction and alcoholism.

Introduced by Councilor Moises S. Samson.

SP-83 Prohibiting loitering in and around the city government offices more particularly in the revenue generating offices under the auspices of the Quezon City government.

Introduced by Councilor Mike Defensor.

SP-89 Amending certain provisions of Ordinance No. SP-55, S-93, by extending the period of availment for tax relief for delinquent real properties in Quezon City up to September 30, 1993.

Introduced by Councilor Moises S. Samson.

SP-91 1993 Revenue Code

Introduced by Councilor Antonio L. Sioson.

SP-98 Changing the name of Garcia Compound, Barangay Bagbag, Novaliches Quezon City to St. Michael Homes and naming various Road lots (streets) located therein.

Introduced by Councilor Melencio M. Castelo.

SP-99 Creating a joint legislative-executive committee on barangay boundaries defining its powers and functions and for other purposes.

Introduced by Councilor Franz S. Pumaren.

SP-107 An ordinance renaming Tuayan Street in Barangay Tatalon of the 4th District of Quezon City as Raymundo Familara Street in honor of the late Raymundo Familara, first Barangay Captain of said barangay.

Introduced by Councilor Guillermo C. Altuna.

SP-111 An ordinance requiring all industrial and commercial establishments to put adequate, sufficient and cover trash receptacles and its implements and accessories within the vicinity of their establishments and providing penalty for violation thereof.

Introduced by Councilor Joseph Peter S. Sison.

SP-115 An ordinance amending Ordinance No. NC-48, S-88, providing preferential rights to registered voters of Quezon City to be employed and hired by infrastructure constructions and business establishments in Quezon City, by limiting said preferential rights to registered voters and bonafide residents of the barangays where such constructions or business establishments are located.

Introduced by Councilor Marciano P. Medalla.

SP-120 An ordinance amending certain provisions of Ordinance No. SP-89, S-93 by extending the period of availment for tax relief for delinquent real properties in Quezon City up to December 31, 1993.

Introduced by Councilor Mike Defensor

SP-123 Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 2793, which prohibits burlesque shows in Quezon City and providing penalties for violation thereof.

Introduced by Councilor Joseph Peter S. Sison.

SP-130 An ordinance approving supplemental budget No. 1 for calendar year 1993 involving the sum of seven hundred ninety million seven hundred ninety thousand three hundred forty-five pesos (P790,790,345.00) and appropriating the said amount for various purposes.

Introduced by all City Councilors.

SP-137 An ordinance granting monthly financial assistance to every Barangay Captain, Kagawad, Secretary, Sangguniang Kabataan Chairman and to all BSDO Executive Officers, regular Barangay Security Development Officers (BSDO) of Quezon City, effective January 1, 1994 up to June 30, 1994, the funding requirements therefor in the total amount of nineteen million six hundred sixty-five thousand pesos (P19,665,000.00) or so much thereof to be authorized in the 1994 annual budget.

Introduced by All City Councilors.

SP-139 An ordinance appropriating the sum of one million six hundred eighty-seve thousand five hundred pesos (P1,687,500.00) for the purchase and maintenance of one (1) unit of bookmobile.

Introduced by Councilor Godofredo Liban.

SP-140 An ordinance declaring January 6 of every year as "Tandang Sora Day" in Quezon City, in memory of the revolutionary heroine, Melchora Aquino.

Introduced by Councilor Herbert Bautista.

SP-141 An ordinance approving supplemental budget No.2 for Calendar Year 1993 involving the sum of five million nine hundred eighteen thousand pesos (P5,918,000.00) and appropriating said amount for various purposes.

Introduced by all Councilors.

SP-143 An ordinance prohibiting the parking of any ten (10) wheeler truck, trailer truck, cargo truck and other similar motor vehicles in any public road, street, sidewalk, thoroughfare at any time during the day or night, except for purposes of loading and unloading and providing penalties for violation thereof.

Introduced by Councilors Galarpe And Sison.

SP-145 An ordinance appropriating the sum of one hundred eight thousand eight hundred sixty pesos (P108,860.00) for purchase of two (2) sets of law books and other publications by way of updating/completing the reference materials in the law research section of the Quezon City public library.

Introduced by Councilor Godofredo T. Liban II.

SP-147 An ordinance approving the annual budget of the Quezon City government for Calendar Year 1994 in the total amount of two billion eight hundred forty-seven million three hundred and eighteen pesos (P2,847,394,818.00) covering the various expenditures of the city government for the year 1994, and appropriating the necessary funds for the purpose.

Introduced by Councilor Herminio C. Bautista.

SP-148 An ordinance granting Health Care Benefits to all Barangay Councils composed of the Barangay Captains, Barangay Kagawads, Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) Chairmen and SK Kagawads, Barangay Secretaries and SK Secretaries and Barangay Treasurers and SK Treasurers and appropriating the necessary funds therefor to be taken from any available funds in the City Treasury, for the period January 1, 1994 to June 30, 1994.

Introduced by Councilors Antonio L. Sioson, Melencio M. Castelo, Godofredo T. Liban II, Guillermo C. Altuna, Ramon G. Mathay, Herminio "Butch" Bautista, Marciano P. Medalla, Victor V. Ferrer, Jr., Cesar A. Dario, Jr., Bayani V. Hipol and Alberto M. Galarpe.

SP-150 An ordinance exempting taxpayers who declare business taxes of more than thirty percent (30%) of the same taxes paid in 1993 from inspection of business records, books, and other similar documents by the Quezon City Government such that the taxes due for the year 1994 may be collected by the City Treasurer.

Introduced by Councilors Victor V. Ferrer, Jr., Guillermo C. Altuna and Godofredo T. Liban II.

SP-151 An ordinance amending Section 15 of Ordinance No. SP-15, S-92 entitled "An Ordinance Franchising and Regulating the Operation of Motorized Tricycles in Quezon City to be known as the Quezon City Tricycle Code of 1992", so as to amend the imposition of penalties for violation thereof.

Introduced by Councilors Victor V. Ferrer, Jr., Joseph Peter S. Sison and Bayani V. Hipol.

SP-152 An ordinance amending Sections 1, 2 and 3 of Ordinance No. NC-223, S-91 entitled "An ordinance providing for burial benefits for Barangay Officials and regular members of Barangay Tanod Brigades and appropriating necessary funds thereof", so as to include duly elected Sangguniang Kabataan Officials including SK Secretaries and Treasurers, and providing the necessary funds therefor.

Introduced by Councilors Wencerom C. Lagumbay and Alberto M. Galarpe.

SP-153 An ordinance providing for group insurance coverage to regular Barangay Security and Development Officers (BSDOs) of all Barangays in Quezon City for

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MOST IMPORTANT...

injuries sustained in the performance of duty as well as authorizing the City Mayor of Quezon City to negotiate with a company for this purpose, appropriating five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) or so much thereof and incorporating said amount in the annual budget for Calendar Year 1994.
Introduced by Councilor Franz S. Pumaren.

SP-154 An ordinance extending financial assistance by way of additional retirement benefit to members of the Central Police District and appropriating funds for the purpose.
Introduced by Councilor Reynaldo A. Calalay.

SP-156 An ordinance adopting the various methods implementing a Zero-Waste resource management system or ecological waste management system through total recycling of domestic wastes and other similar institutions, both private and public, commercial and industrial establishments to mandatory sorting of domestic wastes at source and separate the two (2) kinds of wastes into biodegradable, non-compostable as factory returnable.
Introduced by Councilor Ma. Fresca M. Biglang-Awa and Joseph Peter S. Sison.

SP-157 An ordinance authorizing the Honorable Ismael A. Mathay, Jr., City Mayor of Quezon City, to negotiate with the Commonwealth Height Homeowners Association, the temporary use of the open space donated for parks and playground having an area of three thousand five hundred ninety (3,590) square meters for flea market under such terms and conditions as may be agreed upon by the herein parties, subject to the approval and ratification of the City Council.
Introduced by Councilor Melencio M. Castelo.

SP-158 An ordinance creating the Disabled Persons Affairs Committee (DPAC) in support of Republic Act No. 7277 otherwise known as the "Magna Carta for Disabled Persons" providing for its composition and functions and for other purposes.
Introduced by Councilors Emilio G. Tamayo and Antonio V. Hernandez (Anthony Alonzo).

SP-159 An ordinance establishing the new Quezon City Jail in Quezon City, and appropriating the amount of twenty five million pesos (25,000,000.00) for the construction thereof and for other purposes.
Introduced by Councilor Ramon G. Mathay.

SP-160 An ordinance converting K-5th Street from Luis Sianghio Street up to T. Gener Street and K-4th Street as one-way thoroughfares.
Introduced by Councilor Joseph Peter S. Sison.

SP-161 An ordinance creating a special legislative-executive task force to monitor the increase of prices of commodities including possible violations as hoarding and/or establishing of cartels as an effect of the January 29, 1994 oil price increase.
Introduced by Councilor Ma. Fresca M. Biglang-Awa.

SP-167 An ordinance prohibiting motor shops, body repair shops, "Talyers" and other similar establishments from using City streets and sidewalks for their business, and providing penalties for violation thereof.
Introduced by Councilor Joseph Peter S. Sison.

SP-171 An ordinance establishing a Quezon City Polytechnic University, directing its objectives and providing funds for the purpose.
Introduced by Councilors Ma. Fresca M. Biglang-Awa and Michael T. Defensor.

SP-172 An ordinance amending Ordinance No. NC-170, S-90 so as to include the conversion of the open space area owned by the Quezon City government in Barangay Vasra covered by TCT No. 262143 into a housing project site and for other purposes.
Introduced by Councilors Mathay, Ferrer, Calalay, Tamayo, Sioson and Samson.

SP-176 An ordinance amending Ordinance No. SP-113, S-93, an ordinance directing the Quezon City Zoning Review Committee, as provided in the implementing rules and regulations of Ordinance No.SP-22, S-92, otherwise known as the Quezon City Zoning Ordinance of 1992, to review the existing zoning classification and/or zoning boundaries of Quezon City and to draft and submit to the City Council for approval its recommendations for rezonification, and allocating the necessary funds therefor.
Introduced by Councilors Tamayo and Ferrer.

SP-177 An ordinance authorizing the use of designated City streets and properties as tricycle terminals and requiring the imposition of terminal fees on all tricycle units franchised in Quezon City.
Introduced by Councilors Joseph Peter S. Sison and Ramon G. Mathay, Jr.

SP-178 An ordinance directing the Quezon City Engineer to conduct an inventory of all uncovered manholes in Quezon City and to provide the same with temporary suitable covers or institute other corrective measures thereon.
Introduced by Councilor Medalla.

OTHER APPROVED ORDINANCES, July 1992-April 1994

SP-1 Upgrading the position titles of the 5 regular plantilla positions under the office of each councilor of Quezon City and appropriating the necessary amount from any available funds.
Introduced by Councilor Ma. Fresca M. Biglang-Awa.

SP-2 Amending Ordinance No. NC-36, S-88 which provided for the creation of 5 contractual positions under the office of each city councilor by upgrading certain positions thereon and appropriat ing the necessary amount from any available funds.
Introduced by Councilor Guillermo C. Altuna.

SP-3 Granting financial assistance to the families of the late SPO4 Rogelio Tapan, PO3 Reynoso Bacnet, and PO3 Renato Zafra, all members of the PNP assigned to the Central Police District Com mand, who died in line of duty on July 13, 1992 during a sneak attack perpetrated by lawless elements on the same date at sub- station 2, Novaliches, Quezon City in the amount of P50,000.00 for each of their respective immediate families and authorizing the amount of P150,000.00 to be charged against the appropriation for grants, subsidies and contributions, under the Office of the City Mayor in the 1992 Annual Budget, subject to usual auditing rules and regulations.
Introduced by Councilor Reynaldo N. Medina.

SP-4 Creating 2 Contractual positions for each of the regular committees of the City Council and the Offices of the President Pro-Tempore, majority floor leader to serve as researcher and coordinator and appropriating the necessary amount from any available funds.

SP-8 Augmenting certain items in the 1992 Annual Budget of Quezon City under the office of the Vice Mayor and the City Council, funding therefore to be taken from savings from other items of the same expense class of appropriation of the same office.
Introduced by Councilor Herminio "Butch" C. Bautista.

SP-9 Granting financial assistance in the amount of thirty thou sand pesos (P30,000.00) to the family of the late PO3 Inocencio R. Fragata, a member of PNP (CPDC), who died on August 18, 1992 while giving an immediate response to an attempted robbery in Malabon, Metro Manila; the amount to be charged against the appropriation for grants, subsidies and contributions in the 1992 annual budget of the Office of the Vice Mayor, or from any avail able funds of the City Treasury
Introduced by Vice Mayor Charito L. Planas.

SP-12 Granting financial assistance in the amount of fifteen thousand pesos (P15,000.00) for the activities in commemoration of the Cry of Pugad Lawin on August 23, 1992 to the History De partment of College of Social Sciences and Philosophy of the University of the Philippines.
Introduced by Councilor Michael T. Defensor.

SP-16 Appropriating the sum of three million seven hundred fifty one thousand eight hundred ninety pesos (P3,751,890.00) from the Kabataang Barangay funds held in trust by the city government covering the period from 1985 to 1992 for the conduct of the Sangguniang Kabataan elections to be held on October 9, 1992, and for other purposes.
Introduced by Councilor Michael T. Defensor.

SP-18 Appropriating the amount of three hundred fifty thousand pesos (P350,000.00, or so much thereof as may be necessary, for the completion of barangay hall located at Almudin Street, Barangay Villa Maria Clara, Project 4, Quezon City.
Introduced by Councilor Herbert M. Bautista.

SP-20 Reorganizing the Office of the Vice Mayor and appropriating the necessary amount thereof from any available funds.
Introduced by Councilor Joseph Peter S. Sison.

SP-21 Approving supplemental budget No.1 for calendar year 1992 involving the sum of two hundred seventy three million nine hundred thirty-five thousand six hundred ninety-one pesos (P273,935,691.00) and appropriating said amount for the purpose.
Introduced by Councilor Alberto M. Galarpe.

SP-23 Creating a non-governmental organization (NGO) people's organization (PO) accreditation committee which will process application forms for accreditation of non-governmental organiza tions and other private organizations for the purpose of repre sentation in the local special bodies of the Quezon City govern ment.
Introduced by Vice Mayor Charito L. Planas.

SP-25 Authorizing the presiding officer of the city council of Quezon City to augment certain items in the supplemental budget No. 1 of 1992 under the Office of the Vice Mayor from savings in other items within the same expense class.
Introduced by Councilor Herminio "Butch" C. Bautista.

SP-27 Appropriating the additional sum of two million four hun dred ninety seven thousand seven hundred pesos (2,497,700.00) to cover the expenses necessary for the conduct of the Sangguniang Kabataan elections which were reset from October 9 to December 4, 1992 under COMELEC Resolution No. 2499-B, the amount to be taken from the Kabataang Barangay funds.
Introduced by Councilor Herbert M. Bautista.

SP-30 Prohibiting the solicitation and collection of contribu tions from pupils and students in the public elementary and secondary schools of Quezon City, and imposing penalty for viola tion thereof.
Introduced by Councilor Cesar A. Dario, Jr.

SP-32 Extending the validity of tricycle franchises issued by the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board expiring within the period of July 1, 1992 up to June 29, 1993 to June 30, 1993.
Introduced by Councilor Joseph Peter S. Sison.

SP-34 Augmenting certain items in the 1992 budget of Quezon City under the Office of the City Mayor, funding therefor to be taken from savings from other items of the same expense class of appro priation of the same office.
Introduced by Councilor Herminio "Butch" C. Bautista.

SP-37 Changing the position title of the Tax Research Assistant under the Board of Assessment Appeals of Quezon City to Assistant Board Secretary to meet the personnel requirements of that office without any change in salary grade.
Introduced by Councilor Alberto M. Galarpe.

SP-38 Authorizing the payment of overtime pay at fifty pesos (P50.00) per hour for compulsory overtime services rendered by personnel of the Office of the City Secretary who officially serve as members of the Secretariat of the Quezon City Council during its session and committee meetings, including personnel of the same office who are officially and actually tasked with the preparation and production of agenda and minutes of the Quezon City Council and appropriating the necessary funds for the pur pose.
Introduced by Councilor Godofredo T. Liban, II.

SP-40 Appropriating the amount of one million seven hundred eleven thousand one hundred pesos (P1,711,100.00) for the im provement and extension of General Avenue, GSIS Village, Barangay Bahay Toro, Quezon City.
Introduced by Councilor Alberto M. Galarpe.

SP-41 Authorizing the City Mayor of Quezon City to augment any item in the approved 1992 annual and supplemental budgets for his office from savings in other items within the same expense class of appropriation.
Introduced by Councilor Ramon G. Mathay.

SP-42 Granting financial assistance to sixteen (16) house owners and twenty four (24) renter-sharers involved in the demolition of houses at Barangay Balingasa, Quezon City on November 24, 1992.
Introduced by Councilor Reynaldo A. Calalay.

SP-43 Appropriating the sum of two hundred fifty thousand (P250,000.00) from any available fund in the City Treasury for the construction of a lying-in extension of Barangay Capri Health Center, Quezon City.
Introduced by Vice Mayor Charito L. Planas.

SP-44 Extending financial assistance to the fire victims whose houses and properties were burned down by a blaze in Barangay Balingasa, Quezon City on November 25, 1992. appropriating the total amount of sixty-seven thousand five hundred

SP-46 Converting the former office of sub-city Kaunlaran located at Ignacio Santos Diaz Street, Cubao, Quezon City, into a lying- in clinic.
Introduced by Councilor Alfredo A. Francisco.

SP-48 Tricycle franchises issued by the Land Transportation Franchising & Regulatory Board expiring within the years 1991, 1992 and 1993 are extended to three (3) years from date of expi ration of their motor vehicle registration with the Land Trans portation Office for that respective year.
Introduced by Councilor Joseph Peter S. Sison.

SP-49 Granting financial assistance to Honorable Pacifico L. Punzalan, retired MTC Judge, in the amount of two hundred thou sand pesos (P200,000.00) in recognition for his outstanding services rendered as member of the bench assigned in Quezon City; such amount shall be taken from the appropriation of the Office of the City Mayor under grants, subsidies, and contributions in the annual budget for FY 1993.
Introduced by Councilor Alberto M. Galarpe.

SP-50 Appropriating the amount of one million four hundred nine thousand one hundred pesos (P1,409,100.00) for the construction of the cover of the basketball court at Project 8, Quezon City.
Introduced by Councilor Victor V. Ferrer, Jr.

SP-51 Appropriating the amount of five hundred nineteen thousand three hundred thirty pesos (P519,330.00) from any available funds of the City Treasury for the installation of artesian wells in Barangays Payatas, Capri, Kaligayahan, San Agustin, San Barto lome, Sta. Monica, Commonwealth, Talipapa, Holy Spirit and Pasong Putik, District II, Quezon City.
Introduced by Councilor Ma. Fresca M. Biglang-Awa.

SP-52 Appropriating the amount of one million four hundred nine thousand one hundred pesos (P1,409,100.00) for the construction of the cover of the basketball court at the intersection of Malaya and Angelo streets, La Loma, Quezon City.
Introduced by Councilor Victor V. Ferrer, Jr.

SP-54 Providing assistance consisting of financial grant to Quezon City Parks Development Foundation, Inc. (QCPDFI) and for other purposes.
Introduced by Councilor Reynaldo A. Calalay.

SP-58 Appropriating the amount of nine hundred forty-eight thou sand six hundred eighty-four pesos (P948,684.00) from the City Treasury for the improvement of Trinidad Avenue, San Antonio Subdivision, Damong Maliit, Barangay Magkasang Nayon, Novalich es, Quezon City.
Introduced by Councilor Ma. Fresca M. Biglang-Awa.

SP-59 Authorizing the Honorable City Mayor Ismael A. Mathay, Jr., to grant the beneficial use over a parcel of land, known as Lot 1, Block 3 PSD-39651 containing an area of one thousand seven hundred one square meters (1,701 sq.m.) covered by TCT No. 29733, owned by the city government to the Mariana Neighborhood Associa tion, for their management, maintenance and development.
Introduced by Councilor Joseph Peter S. Sison.

SP-62 Permanently closing the PMHA road for the use as school grounds of Hora vagan High School, Barangay Pinyahan, District IV, Quezon City.
Introduced by Councilor Guillermo C. Altuna.

SP-63 Granting authority to the City Mayor to augment any item in the approved 1993 annual budget of offices under the Executive Department of the Quezon City government from savings within the same expense class of appropriation.
Introduced by Councilor Alberto M. Galarpe.

SP-65 Upgrading the ten (10) regular plantilla positions in the office of the City Administrator and allocating from the savings of the same office under item personal services of the annual budget for 1993, the necessary funds for the purpose.
Introduced by Councilor Alberto M. Galarpe.

SP-67 Setting the deadline for those tricycle franchises extended by virtue of ordinance No. SP-48, S-93 to register and/or confirm their respective franchises with the tricycle regulation unit.
Introduced by Councilor Joseph Peter S. Sison.

SP-68 Allocating the amount of forty-six thousand pesos (P46,000.00) to derray the cost of material assistance for the thirty-two (32) fire victims in Bukidnon street, Barangay Ramon Magsaysay, Quezon City, the amount to be taken from the calamity fund of the city.
Introduced by Councilor Reynaldo A. Calalay.

SP-69 Allocating eighty-nine thousand pesos (P89,000.00),or so much thereof as may be necessary, to defray the cost of material assistance to the victims of the fire that affected fifty-six (56) families in Galino Street, corner 11th Avenue, Barangay Balingasa, Quezon City on March 10, 1993, the amount to be taken from the calamity fund of the city.
Introduced by Councilor Reynaldo A. Calalay.

SP-70 Granting financial assistance to the families of the late ex-councilors Isidro R. Saludes and Saturnino Bermudez who died on December 30, 1992 and January 8, 1993 respectively, in the amount of fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) each for a total of one hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00), funds to be charged against item "other services" of the budget of the City Council.
Introduced by Councilor Alberto M. Galarpe.

SP-72 Extending material assistance to the seventeen (17) fami lies who were victims of the fire that occurred last January 27, 1993 at Purok 1, Unit 2, Kaunlaran Street, Barangay Commonwealth, Quezon City in the amount of one thousand pesos (P1,000.00) per family owner and five hundred pesos (P500.00) per family renter and appropriating the amount of thirteen thousand five hundred pesos (P13,500.00) therefor.
Introduced by Councilor Melencio M. Castelo.

SP-73 Allocating the sum of seven thousand seven hundred twenty- three pesos (P7,723.00) or so much thereof to cover the salary differential of Mrs. Rosario V.E. Reyes as Acting Assistant City Treasurer covering the period from July to December 1992 and January to May 1993, the same to be taken from the salary savings of the Office of the City Treasurer.
Introduced by Councilor Alberto M. Galarpe.

SP-74 Allocating the amount of three million six hundred seventy- two thousand pesos (P3,672,000.00) or so much thereof from the special project fund of the City Mayor necessary to cover the allowances of one hundred fifty-three (153) barangay nutrition scholars for the services and continuation of operation and increase of their allowances of one thousand pesos (P1,000.00) to two thousand pesos (P2,000.00).
Introduced by Councilor Connie S. Angeles.

SP-75 Upgrading and/or revising the position titles of the regu lar plantilla positions under the office of the City Secretary and Appropriating the necessary funds for the purpose.
Introduced by Councilor Guillermo C. Altuna.

SP-76 Granting License to La Loma Cockpit to hold special cock fights on May 11 and 12, 1993 in observance of the feast of Nuestra Se$ora De Salvacion of La Loma District Quezon City.
Introduced by Councilor Eufemio C. Lagumbay.

SP-77 Granting Authority to operate motorized tricycles for hire, one route covering Loyola Heights, the other route covering Pansol, and providing the necessary route measure capacity for each.
Introduced by Councilor Joseph Peter S. Sison.

SP-78 Allocating five hundred fifty-seven thousand pesos (P557,000.00) or so much thereof to defray the cost of material assistance to the victims of the fire that gutted the houses of three hundred fifty (P350) families in Sitio Tagumpay, Barangay Ramon Magsaysay, Bago-Bantay, Quezon City, on March 13, 1993, the necessary funds to be taken from the calamity funds of the city.
Introduced by Councilor Antonio L. Sioson.

SP-79 Amending certain sections of ordinance No. NC-43, S-88, extending funeral as-

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Other...

sistance to the family or relatives of quali fied indigent residents of Quezon City, and appropriating the necessary funds thereof.
Introduced by Councilor Reynaldo L. Calalay.

SP-80 Allocating twenty-six thousand pesos (P26,000.00) or so much thereof to defray the cost of material assistance to the victims of the fire that gutted thirteen (13) houses in Barangay Del Monte, Quezon City, on December 9, 1992; the necessary funds to be taken from the calamity fund or from any available funds of the city.
Introduced by Councilor Alberto M. Galarpe.

SP-82 Creating the permanent positions of Sergeant-At-Arms and three (3) Deputy Sergeant-At-Arms for the City Council and appropriating the necessary funds for the purpose.
Introduced by Councilor Moises S. Samson.

SP-86 Authorizing the Acquisition by the Quezon City government of a 1,876 sq.m. road right of way to the relocation site of Bona Home Owners Association, Inc. at Bgy. Bagong Silangan, Quezon City, and allocating the amount of P345,200.00 for the purpose, from the Lingap Fund under the Community Relations Office, Office of the City Mayor.
Introduced by Councilor Melencio M. Castelo.

SP-87 Authorizing the Honorable Vice Mayor Charito L. Planas, Presiding Officer, Quezon City City Council to augment the appro priations of specific items under personal services of the Office of the City Secretary (Secretary to the Sanggunian) under the 1993 annual budget of Quezon City from savings of some var ious items under the same expense class for the implementation of City Ordinance No. SP-75, S-93.
Introduced by Councilor Joseph Peter Sison.

SP-92 Authorizing the presiding officer of the sangguniang panglungsod to augment certain items of appropriation in the annual general fund budget from savings in certain items of appropriation of the same expense classification.
Introduced by Councilor Fresca Biglang-Awa.

SP-93 Extending financial assistance to the March 16 victims of fire that burned the residential houss of seventy-eight (78) families at Bgy. Tatalon, Area 21, District IV, Quezon City at two thousand pesos (P2,000) per family owner and one thousand pesos (P1,000.00) per family renter/sharer and allocating the sum of one hundred ten thousand pesos shall be taken from the calamity or emergency fund of the city gov't ir from any avail able source of fund thereof.
Introduced by Councilor Butch Bautista.

SP-94 Extending financial assistance to the May 6 victims of fire that burned the residential houses of 290 families at Bgy. Tatalon, Area 21, District IV, QC at two thousand per family owner and one thousand per family renter/sharer and allocating the sum of four hundred fifty nine thousand (P459,000.00) which shall be taken from the calamity or emergency fund of the city government or from any available source of fund thereof."
Introduced by Councilor Herminio Butch Bautista.

SP-95 Granting a monthly financial assistance of two thousand pesos (P2,000.00) to every barangay treasurer of Quezon City with funds to be taken from the special assistance funds of the City Mayor effective January 1, 1993, or from any available funds of the city.
Introduced by Alberto M. Galarpe.

SP-96 Granting amusement tax exemption to the Philippine National Red Cross, Quezon City Chapter, for the film showing of "Kung Kailangan Mo Ako" and "Manila Boy" in all SM Cinemas for the duration of its showing anytime from June 09, 1993 to July 14, 1993 as provided for under section 192 R.A. 7160, the local government code of 1991.
Introduced by Coun. Galarpe.

SP-97 Increasing the incentive allowance of the fifty (50) in quest prosecutors of the office of the city prosecutor, Quezon City from one thousand pesos five hundred (P1,500.00) to two thousand five hundred pesos (P2,500.00) from July 1, 1993 to December 31, 1993 and allocating the sum of three hundred thou sand pesos from the approved lump sump appropriation of P1,500,000.00 under the Inter-Agency committee on justice in Q.C. under special projects of office of the Mayor, pursuant to Exec. Order No., 2, S-1992.

SP-98 Changing the name of Garcia Compound, Barangay Bagbag, Novaliches, Quezon City to St. Michael Homes and Naming various Road lots (Streets) located therein.
Introduced by Coun. Melencia M. Castelo.

SP-100 Reclassifying one (1) plantilla position of local treasury operations assistant (Item 29) with slary grade under the fiscal examination section, administrative division, office of the city treasurer to local treasury operations assistant ill with salary grade 10 and appropriating the necessary funds for the purpose.
Introduced by Coun. Guillermo C. Altuna.

SP-102 An ordinance granting financial assistance to Mr. Rodrigo A. Gomez, a casual employee under the anti-squatting surveillance and enforcement team (ASSET), office of the City Mayor, Quezon City who sustained and suffered gunshot wound as member of a demolition team on April 2, 1993, in the amount of P20,000.00) to be charged against the appropriation for grants, subsidies and contributions under the 1993 budget of the office of the City Mayor or from any available funds in the City Treasury.
Introduced by Coun. Melencio M. Castelo.

SP-103 An Ordinance amending Sec. 234 of ordinance No. SP-91 S-93, providing for the Quezon City Revenue Code of 1993, to specify the composition and strengthen the oversight committee.
Introduced by Coun. Antonio L. Sioson.

SP-106 An ordinance appropriating the unprogrammed balance of the internal revenue allotment (IRA) of the Quezon City government for infrastructure and other purposes.
Introduced by Councilor Reynaldo A. Calalay.

SP-110 An Ordinance appropriating the amount of P41,405.00 for the installation of one (1) public artesian well at Sitio Aguar diente, Barangay Sta. Monica, Novaliches, Quezon City.
Introduced by Councilor Antonio V. Hernandez.

SP-112 An ordinance granting the request of the Metro Manila North Council of the boy scouts of the Philippines for exemption from the payment of amusement tax for the showing of "Dennis the Menace" and "Masahol Pa sa Hayop" at the SM Cinema and SM Center point as part of their fund raising activity.
Introduced by Coun. Eufemio C. Lagumbay

SP-117 An ordinance granting financial assistance to the family of the late SPO1 Loreto C. Sison of the Baler Police Sub-Station, who died of gunshot injuries sustained during an encounter with Malefactors at the premises of the GL Supermarket, Barangay Paraiso, San Francisco Del Monte (SFDM), Quezon City.

SP-118 An ordinance extending financial assistance to the April 28 victims of fire that burned the residential houses of ninety- seven (97) families at barangay Roxas, Area 19, District IV, Quezon City, at two thousand pesos (P2,000.00) per family owner and one thousand pesos (P1,000.00) per family renter/sharer and appropriating the sum of P167,000.00) which shall be taken from the calamity or emergency fund of the City Government or from any available source of fund thereof.
Introduced by Councilor Herminio Butch Bautista.

SP-119 An Ordinance Appropriating the amount of P452,000.00 for the construction of an additional second floor of the existing Barangay Hall located at barangay Bagumbayan, Quezon City.
Introduced by Councilor Franz S. Pumaren.

SP-122 An ordinance appropriating the amount of (P562,000.00) from the calamity fund or from any available fund of the city government to provide material assistance for families affected by the fire at Mary Toen Compound Bgy. Loyola Heights, on April 13, 1993.
Introduced by Councilor Michael T. Defensor.

Alarming...

4. 16 from Bgy. MARILAG
   5 in Unrubia St.
   3 in A. Luna St.
   1 each from Nay-isa, Aguinaldo, D. Sumakwel, de Legaspi, J.P. Rizal, Ma. Hugo, C. Camerino and with no pinpointed address.
5. 4 from SOCORRO
   2 in Liberty Ave.
   1 each in 11th and 14th Ave.
   2 in Liberty Avenue
   1 each in 11th and 14th Ave.
6. 4 from Bgy. MILAGROSA
   1 each Tirona St., Poblete St., Pitong Gatang St. and 1 with no pinpointed address
7. 1 from Bgy. DUYAN-DUYAN
8. 1 from Bgy. AMIHAN at Batino St.
9. 5 from Bgy. Libis
10. 4 from Bgy. E. Rodriguez
    2 in St. Mary St.
    1 bigtime supplier plying the Nepa Q-Mart area
    1 each from Purdue St., and Imperial St.
11. 6 from Bgy. ESCOPA I
12. 12 from Bgy. ESCOPA III
13. 1 from ESCOPA IV
14. 1 from Bgy. QUIRINO 2-A in Bignay St.
15. 2 from Bgy. QUIRINO 3-B
    1 residing at Almaciga St. and the other at Aguho St.
16. 1 pusher from Bgy. WEST KAMIAS at K-8th St.
17. 1 from Bgy. QUIRINO 3-A residing at Molave St.
18. 4 from LOYOLA HEIGHTS
    2 in Rona's Garden
    2 in Esteban Abada St.
19. 10 from Bgy. BAGUMBAHAY
    3 in Malvar St.
    3 in A. Luna St.
    1 in F. Castillo
    1 in J. Bugallon St. and with no pinpointed address
20. 1 from Bgy. BLUE RIDGE A and 1 from BLUE RIDGE B
21. 9 from Bgy. Matandang BALARA

Defensor promised to reveal the pushers and suppliers in the other districts as soon as confirmed reports have been collected.

As of today, of the total 140 barangays in Quezon City, 64 barangays are being adversely affected by the growing drug menace. This constitutes almost half of the total number of Barangay Communities of our beloved city. This means that a large portion of our total population is being exposed to the evil menace of legal drugs.

A lot of work must be done.

"We must involve the communities in denying drug traffickers and users through our Turn in a Pusher (TIP) program," Defesor said.

CLUSTERED ENTERPRISES
50 Gold Street
Fil-Invest II, Quezon City

CESAR DEE VILLANUEVA
Proprietor

Dealer, Electrical and Construction Supply

CITY COUNCIL IN SESSION

Due to space constraints and time pressure we are discontinuing temporarily this series.—Editor

ATTENDANCE RECORD
July 1992 to May 31, 1994

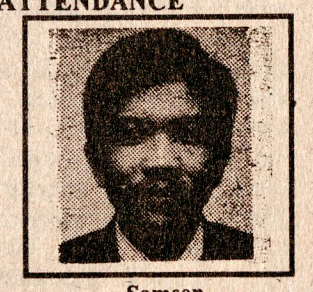
Legend
AOT Absent on Official Time
ANOT Absent Not on Official Time
LA Late Arrival
SL Sick Leave
OL On Leave

	AOT	ANOT	LA	SL	OL
1st District					
REYNALDO A. CALALAY	0	0	0	0	0
ALBERTO M. G ALARPE	10	1	2	0	0
EMILIO L. TAMAYO	0	7	22	10	0
ANTONIO L. SIOSON	8	6	17	0	0
MOISES S. SAMSON	0	0	0	0	0
VICTOR V. FERRER, JR.	4	5	44	0	0
2nd District					
MELENCIO M. CASTELO	6	1	8	0	0
GODOFREDO T. LIBAN	1	0	0	0	0
MA. FRESCA M. BIGLANG-AWA	2	2	29	0	0
ANTONIO V. HERNANDEZ	9	9	25	2	0
MARCIANO P. MEDALLA	1	1	17	0	0
REYNALDO N. MEDINA	17	4	16	0	0
3rd District					
CONNIE ANGELES	0	0	5	0	7
HERBERT M. BAUTISTA	8	8	48	0	0
MICHAEL T. DEFENSOR	5	7	40	0	0
FRANZ M. PUMAREN	2	19	27	29	0
CESAR A. DARIO, JR.	4	3	32	5	0
EUFEMIO E. LAGUMBAY	3	4	35	0	0
4th District					
GUILLERMO C. ALTUNA	4	8	18	0	0
JOSEPH PETER S. SISON	0	2	7	0	0
BAYANI V. HIPOL	4	1	39	0	0
ALFREDO A. FRANCISCO	3	2	52	0	0
RAMON T. MATHAY	9	8	26	0	0
HERMINIO G. BAUTISTA	2	5	58	0	0
Sectoral Representatives					
ROBERTO A. MIGUEL	2	2	6	2	0
WENCEROM C. LAGUMBAY	5	5	19	1	0

MESSRS. PERFECT ATTENDANCE



Calalay



Samson

Idissolve...

yield an inch from his/her stand. Recess after recess was called, about 10 of them during the two-hour period, some for as long as 30 minutes. In previous sessions, a recess invariably resulted in disagreements and differences being threshed out. But in this session, the 10 or so recesses failed to settle the question of the Vice Mayor's right to deliver a privilege speech.

I was disgusted as the Councilors who uttered the "Let's dissolve the Council" remark but I forced myself to stay put because I was anxious to hear the Vice Mayor's speech.

Fortunately, Samson finally acceded to a division of the house which fortunately resulted in the Council voting to allow Planas to deliver her privilege speech—in fact, two speeches, copies of which she distributed to the members of the Council as well as to media people present including myself. But with the privilege hour already exhausted by the interminable recesses, the Council went to a final recess up to the following Thursday May 26 when the Vice Mayor finally delivered her two privilege speeches, the first titled "Freedom of Speech Cannot be Abridged" and the second, "Sincerity, Not Hypocrisy." (The latter speech is published on page __4__)

It is in the first speech (Space constraints do not allow its publication now) that Planas argued her right to deliver a privilege speech:

1. The Local Government Code recognizes her as a member of the Sanggunian (City Council) and as such she is entitled to exercise the right to deliver a privilege speech, a right explicitly provided for in Sec. 28 of the Rules of the City Council: Any member desiring to deliver a privilege speech may xxx speak not more than one hour.

2. The Constitution provides that "NO LAW SHALL BE PASSED ABRIDGING THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND OF EXPRESSION."

3. There are two contrary court decisions on the powers and functions of the Presiding Officer. The first, issued on August 16, 1993 by RTC Executive Judge Pedro Santiago, Branch 101, affirms the right of the Presiding Officer to introduce measures and to participate in the Council's deliberations; the second, issued on September 17, 1993 by RTC Judge Felix de Guzman, Branch 99, declares that in the absence of any provision in the Local Government Code (R.A. 7160), an ordinance or a rule of the Council is needed to allow the Presiding Officer's participation. The Judge de Guzman decision, however, is not valid by virtue of a Supreme Court ruling in the case of Parco vs. Court of Appeals, 111 SCRA 262 that: "The various branches of the Regional Trial Court being co-equal, cannot interfere with the respective cases of each branch, much less a branch's order or judgement." (It must be noted that the de Guzman decision does not deny outright the Presiding Officer's right to participate in Council deliberations but simply lays down a condition: a Council ordinance or rule allowing the right.)

4. While it is true that the matter is still pending decision in the Court of Appeals, it is precisely because of this no decision yet status of the case and the absence of a temporary restraining order or mandatory injunction from a court of proper jurisdiction that the Vice Mayor as Presiding Officer, can exercise her right to deliver a privilege speech. (What has happened to the proposed ordinance introduced by Councilor Franz Pumaren providing for a "People's Hour" during which time any QC citizen can deliver a speech on any subject of his choice? If enacted, there would be no need for a Council ordinance or rule allowing the participation of the Presiding Officer in Council deliberations. He or she can deliver a privilege speech as an ordinary citizen.—Editor)

5. In a division of the house in a previous occasion, the Council had already voted to allow Planas to deliver a privilege speech.

In questioning the right of the Vice Mayor, as Presiding Officer, to deliver a privilege speech, Coun. Samson contended that the functions of the Presiding Officer are purely ceremonial and ministerial and he pointed out the still undecided status of the matter in the Court of Appeals.

(I have known Dr. Catarroja since 1971. He and I were among those quite close to the late Mayor Amoranto. Over a bottle of beer, Leonito told me how grieved he was by the way the bad publicity had impaired his reputation which included being featured in Hoy Gising's "Roll of Horror." For those who know the family background of Dr. Catarroja, like I do, it is not easy to believe that he would engage in such a petty business as the selling of health certificates for a measly P50 to P70 per certificate. Dr. Catarroja's father had been Mayor of their hometown in Quezon. His 12 brothers are all in the US and it is Catarroja who is managing their considerable properties in their hometown and in QC. He is married to a doctor of medicine. Their children are all professionals, two of them also doctors of medicine. We are convinced, however, that for the past many years, there had been rampant sale of health certificates by Sanitation Division personnel like Norma Sanchez (she is with the Food and Drug Division, formerly under Catarroja) and Abysinia Legaspi, but we can not believe that Dr. Catarroja had any share in the proceeds. We agree with the Investigating Committee Report that he "was lax in the supervision of the personnel engaged in the system of releases of health certificates after his approval."—BEN O. FLORES)

Creation of "QC Children's Desk" Proposed

Councilor Connie S. Angeles has filed an ordinance creating a "Quezon City Children's Desk" under the City Social Services Development Department (SSDD).

The Desk shall be composed of one Assistant to the SSDD Chief as its Head, one Legal Officer from the Public Assistance and Legal Aid Office and two representatives, one each, from two accredited Non-Government Organizations (NGO) involved in child welfare. The Desk shall be assisted by the necessary number of employees from the SSDD.

The Desk shall have the following duties and functions:

1. To receive complaints of child abuse of whatever form, investigate them and file charges before the appropriate courts;

2. To monitor and ensure the protection of the rights of children committing criminal acts;

3. To ensure that these juvenile offenders are separated from the adult criminals;

4. To decide and undertake the best possible ways and means of protecting the victims of child abuse;

5. To refer to the Molave Youth Home or to any other youth instituttion children in need of rehabilitation.

The children who are covered by the duties and functions of the Desk are those below 18 years of age and those over 18 but are physically and mentally disabled.

In the proposed ordinance, child abuse refers to maltreatment, habitual or not, which takes any of the following forms:

1) Psychological and physical abuse, neglect, cruelty, sexual abuse, and emotional maltreatment;

2) Deeds and words that degrade/debase/demean the intrinsic worth and dignity of a child;

3) Unreasonable deprivation of the child's basic needs for survival, such as food and shelter, and



4) Failure to immediately give medical treatment to an injured child resulting in impairment of his growth and development or in his permanent incapacity or death.

Councilor Angeles, who also authored the ordinance putting up a Day Care Center in City Hall, said that the ordinance she has filed is necessary because "while there are national legislations that seek to protect and promote children's right, they lack specific avenues and ways for their realization."

Dissertation Defended



Noel L. Lansang, only son of Jose S. Lansang and Lourdes L. Lansang, successfully defended his dissertation entitled "Quezon City Government Control Over the City Tricycle Transport Operation: A Critical Study" with the highest grade of "meritisimus" last March 14 at the UST Graduate School.

His adviser was Dr. Ligaya P. Jorge, DPA.

The study aims to show how an effective and efficient regulation of the tricycle transport industry in Quezon City can be done.

Lansang graduated last March 26 with a degree of doctor of philosophy, major in public administration, from the University of Sto. Tomas.

Dr. Lansang, formerly a KB Chairman of Barangay Kaunlaran, Cubao, Quezon City, is presently with the Tricycle Regulation Unit, Office of the City Administrator, as Sr. Transport Regulation Officer. *(A critical review of the Dissertation in next issue.*-EDITOR

QC Magiting Lions Club Launched

The Quezon City Magiting Lions Club, newest Lions club in the city, held Charter Presentation and Installation of Officers and Members ceremonies recently at the Capitol Hills Golf and Country Club.

The Charter had been granted by the International Association of Lions Clubs, District 301-D1. Elected president of the new Lions club is Rev. Dr. Aniceto Q. Lazo, a retired QC official who is back as Consultant, Budget Office of the city government under Ms. Estrella Gerardo.

The other Charter Officers are: Cesar C. Francia, 1st Vice President; Mariano Y. Andin, 2nd Vice President and Lion Twister; Antonio M. Olfato, 3rd Vice President; Gregorio T. Bañacia, Secretary; Aida B. Guerrero, Treasurer; Pedro Z. Montañez, Auditor; David Lazo, Lion Tamer; Ma. Benita Tanyag, PRO; and Artemio S. Mascarina, Organizer.

The Director's are: Manuel M. Villarama, Simplicio Mathay, Myrna Celestino, Bersamillo R. Osona, David Lazo and Alfredo Atienza, Jr.

The new Lions club has 27 Charter members.

In his message, President Lazo said:

"The QC Magiting Lions Club is pleased to join the Lions Clubs in QC and hopes to work with them in pursuing



the noble goals and objectives of Lionism.

"Quezon City, with its diverse needs and problems, is a rich field for undertaking civic activities that are needed to promote the public welfare.

"The QC government under Metro Manila Authority Chairman and QC Mayor Ismael Mathay, Jr. recognizes the significant role of civic organizations like the Lions Clubs in community development. This is attested by its Accreditation Program whereby hundreds of Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and People's Organizations (POs) have been accredited to the QC government as partners in the task of making Quezon City a better place to live in."

DIRECTORS



M. Villarama



S. Mathay



M.Celesti no

OFFICERS



Gregorio Bañacia Secretaru



Artemio Mascarina Organizer



Aida Guerrero Treasurer



Cesar Francia 1st V.P.



Mariano Andin 2nd V.P.



Antonio Olfato 3rd V.P.



David Lazo Lion Tamer



Benita Tayag P.R.O.

Does The End Justify The Means?

Dr. Loreto Santos, Acting Executive Director of the QC Skills Training Center (QCSTC) at San Bartolome, obviously thinks so.

On this belief, he caused to be collected the salaries of High-Speed Sewing Instructor Rosario Amoroto for the period May 16, 1993 to September 30, 1993 totalling about P26,000 notwithstanding the fact that Amoroto had already tendered her resignation, effective May 16, 1993, and had left for Japan to take up a six-month training course on High Speed Sewing.

The End which justified the (anomalous) Means of raising the P26,000 was, according to Dr. Santos, the replenishment of the Internal Office Fund which was used for the Center's daily expenses and for the payment of the salary of Maria Fe S. Relevante pending the approval of her appointment as Amoroto's replacement.

Dr. Santos was assisted in effecting the collection of Amoroto's salaries by his Administrative Officer, Juliana Sunga, his Computer Programmer and General Clerk, Ma. Teresa L. Arreola, and his Liaison Officer, Arturo Medel, the first two by preparing the disbursement vouchers in the name of the resigned Amoroto and the third by doing the collection of the amount due on the strength of a spurious Letter of Authorization from Amoroto whose signature he had forged.

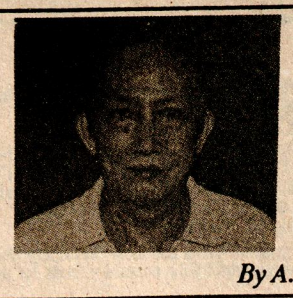
Sunga and Arriola stated in their affidavits that they prepared the vouchers upon the order of Dr. Santos, which they called an "irresistible force." Besides, they added, the good doctor assured them that he would justify everything (ako ang bahala) presumably on the strength of the "end justifies the means" tenet. Convinced that the salaries to be collected were for a "worthy cause" and a "noble purpose", Sunga and Arreola prepared the vouchers.

Out of P6,000 advanced to her for the period June 16 to July 30, 1993, when she was not yet getting her pay, Relevante admitted in her Affidavit that she was made to reimburse only P4,000. Since total collected salaries of Amoroto amounted to about P26,000, it follows that since Relevante made a reimbursement of only P4,000, the Internal Office Fund had been replenished by P24,000.

Was it so replenished? Or...

It seems that Dr. Santos is no longer around to answer this question to the Office of the City Attorney which is investigating the case, which arose from an administrative complaint filed by Amoroto upon her return from Japan.

Will the Office of the City Attorney exonerate Dr. Santos, Sunga, Arreola and Medel on the plea that "the end justifies the means?"



A CAPITOL IDEA

By A.O. Flores

Experience Cuts Two Ways

There's Senator Angara's advice to showbiz personalities planning to go into politics to first start local before going national. Like perhaps Dennis Roldan (councilor to congressman), Tito Sotto (vice-mayor to senator) and Joseph Estrada (mayor to vice-president). Right now I can't think of a governor becoming President. Can you?

Angara's thinking is that experience makes for better governance. Maybe, but what about performance? History of Philippine politics tells us that national leadership has mostly been in the hands of experienced politicians. (Trapos, we call them). Can we say that they have done a good job?

Maybe a helpful addition to Angara's lone ingredient in his formula for leadership is intelligence (which we usually equate with formal education). But again, a look at the Presidential lineage will show, ironically enough, that the one with the least scholastic credentials—and perhaps gray matter, too—has been the most endearing because of his integrity. In contrast, the shrewdest, the most brilliant of them all brought the country to social and economic ruins.

Indeed, experience is a double-edged sword. It can be wielded for better or for worse, as illustrated in the foregoing. At the risk of mixing our metaphors, I say that in basketball, the more experienced, the better player. Not necessarily so in the game of politics, however. The more experienced, the more power (as has been our sad experience). Power corrupts, absolute power corrupts absolutely.

What is needed, therefore, is restraint. Or just common sense will do. Underline this with dedication to duty and we have the picture of the good public official.

Does the incumbent chief executive of Quezon City fit into this image? (He has considerable IQ too, it need hardly be said.) That's for his constituents to tell. especially come election time.

But what's this I hear about a very popular movie action star aspiring to the mayorship? Whether he's heeding Angara's advice or not, the fact remains that this fellow is willing to "start local." If so, expect a lot of action in QC come 1995.

Councilor Herminio "Butch" Bautista has been cited by Vice Mayor Charito Planas for his perfect attendance at flag-raising ceremonies.

(Editor's Note: In this connection, may we suggest that, as an experiment, the compulsory nature of attendance to said ceremonies be lifted for a month or so—signing on attendance sheet be dispensed with. The purpose of this experiment is to determine if attendance would be



as big, as it is now, if not made compulsory. Attending the flag-raising ceremony is supposed to be a patriotic act. But if one attends simply to comply with an order, where is the patriotism in that?)

Alarming Drug Abuse Reports Bared

In a privilege speech, Councilor Michael T. Defensor bared confirmed confidential reports that there are 116 drug traffickers ranging from pushers to big time suppliers in his 3rd district alone, as follows:

1. 11 drug traffickers in Barangay TAGUMPAY
   - 5 in Tagumpay Proper
   - 3 in Evangelista St.
   - 1 in Rigor St.
   - 1 in Magat Salamat
2. 1 from Bgy. DIOQUINO ZOBEL
3. 20 from Barangay SAN ROQUE
   - 5 in 19th Avenue
   - 3 in 18th Avenue
   - 2 in Don Jose St.
   - 2 in 15th Avenue
   - 1 each in J.P. Rizal, 20th,19th,17th,16th,15th and 2 with no pinpointed address

turn to page 13