THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT
November, 1984

FORUM



Concordio C. Diel
MLG Deputy Minister

THE ACHIEVER

EDITORIAL

A NATIONAL CONCERN FOR A LOCAL PROBLEM

THE breakdown of peace and order in some parts of the country may be a national concern, but is more of a local problem. At any rate, it has prompted the government to institute a firmer policy – and, hopefully, faster action – to solve it once and for all.

President Marcos has directed the Ministry of National Defense and the Armed Forces of the Philippines to come up with a detailed security plan that is broad-based and practical as to involve the local governments particularly the rural cities and municipalities all over the country.

Several reasons prompted President Marcos to issue a "no compromise" policy recently. For one thing, military abuses and misbehavior have become widespread and rampant as to have alienated some people from the constituted authorities. ~~T~~The, there is the alarming resurgence of dissident activities in different parts of the islands particularly in Davao, Samar, Cagayan Valley, etc. Some of these have been behind the slaying of many local government officials, soldiers and innocent civilians. these and other causes have been behind the worsening law and ~~orde~~ situation in the countryside which has contributed to the decline of our economy and internal security, thereby affecting the political stability, too.

A more comprehensive plan to avert the erosion of confidence in the AFP, and loss of lives, must be effective to gain mass support and cooperation. Such security plan should have the participation of local officials and citizens of the country's 1,500 towns and cities. All must respond to the escalation of violence primarily caused by the New People's Army and MNLF in the countryside.

To insure more effectiveness and smooth implementation, it must be, however, closely monitored and supervised. Two crucial areas in this regard must be considered. First, arming civilians should be accompanied by proper orientation and motivation. It's worth remembering that instilling in them the discipline which only training and the proper perspective is a must. Theyjust might turn out vigilantes, feared but not respected, encroaching on what should purely be military in nature. Secondly, local executives, particularly the town or city mayors, should be on top of the situation at all times. And this presupposes two things – one, there is an open channel of communication between the planners in Manila and the local officials; and two, these local officials must have intimate knowledge of what is really going on in their respective spheres of responsibility.

To be sure, all these steps are not insurmountable or impossible to realize. Constant dialogues, close coordination and a firmer commitment to the overall objectives outlined in the 'no compromise" stand of the government against all forms of subversion and terrorism should go a long way in keeping the countryside safe and the nation secure and stable.

The crimes perpetrated by law-enforcers and the military call for drastic and immediate solution. Unless checked soon enough, the consequences can be very grave, indeed, in the face of escalating activities of Communist insurgents and MNLF seccessionists in our midst. It's about time the people and government acted in concert for the preservation of the democratic system and the survival of the Republic itself.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FORUM

Vol. III No. 11
November, 1984

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THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FORUM is published monthly and is registered with the Bureau of Domestic Trade under Certificate of Registration No 10193 issued on May 28, 1982, with Editorial and Business Office at Suite 403, SCC Bldg., R.M. Blvd. cor Santol Road Sta. Mesa, Metro Manila. Telephone Numbers 61-96-66 to 69 Local 29 P.O. Box SM 457. Editorial contributions are welcome, but should be sent accompanied with self-addressed stamped envelopes. The editors do not assume responsibility for loss of unsolicited materials.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

One year: P180.00
6 months: P 90.00

ADVERTISING RATES may be furnished upon request.

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LOCAL HISTORY

THE PUBLISHER'S DESK



REAGAN'S REELECTION MEANS A LOT TO RP

NO nation on earth exerts vaster influence and greater impact on the philippines than the United States of America. That's why political events like presidential elections are watched closely by Filipinos here and abroad. Their results, particularly of the latest elections, have significant relevance to this country's economic and political future and our people's lives.

Like it or not, this fact has been so binding on our people since 1898, when Spain ceded this country to the US for a measly $20M. That deal was deemed irregular and illegal, because the country at the time was almost entirely in the hands or control of Filipino armed forces of the First Republic under the President Emilio Aguinaldo. After a war of attrition between the Filipinos and the new colonizers, America prevailed, and the Philippines became an American colony (from 1899 to 1934) and Commonwealth (from 1935 to July 3, 1946). And despite the grant of political independence on July 4, 1946, the Philippines continued its intimate relationship with the mother country, despite certain iniquities in the grant of rehabilitation assistance or development.

Indeed, while the US provided billions of dollars to former enemy countries like Japan and Germany, RP got the crumbs only – until sometime ago, under the Republicans and Reagan, which has started paying rentals for the use of the US bases here.

Anyway, if Filipinos have had closer affinity with the Americans, it's because of several reasons or factors, political, economic, security and sentimental. For one thing, Filipinos fought for Mother America in two World Wars, not to mention our government's fighting men in the Korean and Vietnam conflicts. Moreover, the Americans and Filipinos fought and bled side by side, particularly during the early part of the Pacific War against the Japanese. As such, in more ways than one we have become blood brothers, despite differences in color and culture, interests and ideals.

Secondly, countless Filipinos have flocked in the US, over a million have embraced American citizenship. As such, they have contributed a lot to American society and economy. As one of the biggest minority groups in the US, they have been absorbed into the mainstream of American society. Most of them, however, have not cut off their links with their motherland, the Philippines. Were it not for strict American immigration laws, there could be more brown Americans than the over 2.3 million now in Hawaii and in the mainland.

Thirdly, Filipinos love the political and economic system of that land of opportunity. This explains why we have many brown Americans in the US and even in this country. This explains why there are many Filipinos who would prefer to convert this country into one of the States – the 51st - of America. As exposed by the Federal Party of the Philippines, headed by former Congressman and Assemblyman Bartolome C. Cabangbang, our economically weak Republic would do well to join the US. Union. Its leaders, however, still have to assure their followers whether the Americans would agree to such "state status." If that happens, which is a very remote possibility, this country will be the most populous among the states of the Union – and there will be a chance for a Pinoy to become President of the US.

Another compelling reason that binds the Philippines with the US is the uncertain international situation in the face of the power struggle between two superpowers (US and USSR), plus of course the threat of China and a rearmed Japan. If the US is maintaining two of its biggest military (naval and air) bases outside that country, it's because of the threat of Soviet and Chinese power in this part of the world. America must protect her interests, economic,

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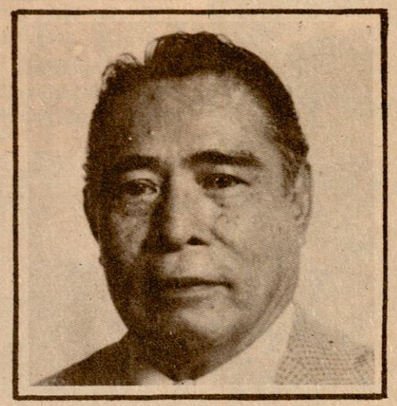


DM CORDING C. DIEL

THE ACHIEVER TAKES OVER

SOMETIME in 1969, when a group of PACD officials barnstormed several provinces in Mindanao, they discovered Misamis Oriental as the most impressive, development-wise. The reason: scores of infrastructural and community development projects had sprung up in its towns and villages, thereby opening up remote areas for development and progress. The projects included roads and bridges, irrigation and water systems, community and health centers, and schoolbuildings, and barangay halls – multipurpose pavements, etc.

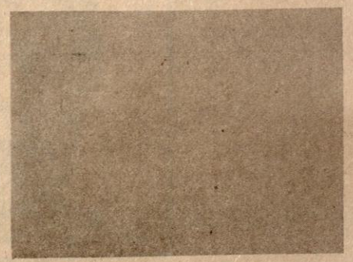
Indeed, Misamis Oriental was observed to have active and dynamic local government officials and cooperative inhabitants. Hence developmental improvements were initiated and implemented via people-local government teamwork. And all this was largely because of the successful efforts of a man who had united or integrated the community forces together – human and material – toward such fruitful endeavors. The catalyst and achiever: then Provincial Governor and now Assemblyman Concordio C. Diel.

Through his long public service career that goes back to 1959, "Cording" (as he's belovedly known) has been a development-conscious and results-oriented public servant. In fact, as early as the 1960s when his province was included under the then US-aided infrastructure program (known as SPREAD), together with then Tarlac Governor Ninoy Aquino, Jr., Diel immediately demonstrated his being resourceful go-getter and achiever. With the managerial savvy and speed in getting things done, Misamis Oriental soon became and was proclaimed as the "top SPREAD Province" in the entire country.

In subsequent years, Governor Diel himself was repeatedly honored for his achievements in community development and allied fields. In 1970, he was conferred the "Order of the Fighting Cock," a presidential award by President E. Marcos himself in Malacanang. He was one of several outstanding governors honored during the 14th anniversary celebration of the Presidential Arm on Community Dev-



DM Concordio C. Diel addresses MLG employees during one of his visits to the ministry offices.



elopment (PACD). He was cited for having actively and successfully pushed his province's development programs, a fact that endeared him to his people and the national leadership.

He was to excel in allied fields later and was accordingly recognized for his achievements in public administration, manpower development and labor and humanitarian services. The Leyte-born public servant received various awards and plaques of distinction from the Regional Development Council, the National Science Development Board, the Trade Union Congress and from several schools and universities.

LONG PUBLIC SERVICE CAREER

Diel's public service career formally began when he was elected Councilor of Cagayan de Oro City nearly 25 years ago. In 1967, the city alderman was elected Provincial Board Member and subsequently rose to Vice-Governor of his adopted province. Prevailed upon to run in the gubernatorial elections in 1969, he won impressively. He was still his province chief executive when martial law was proclaimed in late 1972 and went on as such up to the end of his term.

From 1974 to 1978, he served as Undersecretary of Industry and Chairman of the Commission on Small and Medium Scale Industries. At the same time he sat as Chairman of the Regional Development Council and as Presidential Regional Action Officer.

Cording aspired for a legislative seat in the interim Batasan Pambansa polls on 1978, representing Region X. The softspoken Assemblyman was reelected for the regular National Assembly last May, representing Misamis Oriental. As MP, Diel is chairman of the BP sub-committee on personnel and compensation and on latber and industrial relations, among other posts. He's also Minister of State for the Budget and Industry.

DM APPOINTMENT

It was therefore not surprising when President Marcos appointed Diel as a Deputy Minister for Development, considering his checkered career as local government administrator and legislator. As a Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Local Government (MLG) since last November 14, he has already been given a lot of authority and power as MLG's "development czar." As concurrent MP, his job as DM is complementary. Hence, former PACD fieldman now serving the MLG were delighted over his appointment. They know that as DM for local development, he fits the job as the job fits him to the proverbial T.

Now he has the responsibility of taking charge of the management and implementation of the Ministry's various sectoral programs. As an experienced local government administrator and a fast worker who wants things done fast without the attendant red tapes. He's someone whom the Ministry needs most in those times when resources are scarce and results are expected to cushion the impact of the economic and political difficulties besetting the countryside.

Diel took over most of the duties and responsibilities formerly held and discharged by Deputy Minister for Local Government Development Salvador P. Socrates, who is Palawan's provincial governor.

MLG Minister Jose A. Rono, who hss a lot of confidence in his former colleague in the League of Provincial Governors and City Mayors, is harnessing his experience and expertise in the developmental and infrastructural programs of the Ministry. In a circular he issued last December, Diel has been tasked to manage and coordinate several infra programs including the multi-million-peso Barangay Roads Development Program, Bagong Lipunan School-building Program, and the Construction, Rehabilitation, Betterment and Improvement Program. Cording is also in charge of the Rural Service Center Project/City Development Assistance

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THE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC BUSINESS OF LEYTE LOCAL GOVERNMENT



Leyte Governor Benjamin Romualdez shows to Chinese delegates to the FAO Conference how the province had transformed a swampland to greenbelt — one of the very successful projects in that province.

LONG before the KKK and Sariling Sikap were conceived, some local governments of Leyte were already preaching and practicing these ambitious rural development concepts, and their dare to go ahead with their untested, then unorthodox idea is now paying solid dividends.

The principal challenge was to set up a different brand of farm program specifically at a northeastern section of the province that had the lowest productivity level and generate its own funding to establish a melange of projects and keep them going, too. The solution: pool the natural and financial resources the provincial, the seven municipal and the City

of Tacloban governments could muster, then invite the national government and the private sector to pitch in. With this powerful conglomerate, go into private business to support a fund-intensive rural uplift enterprise, and they did just that thus keeping economic revisions on the rural residents at bay since nine years ago.

Starting as a rather wishful thinking perculating in the mind



of its principal author Gov. Benjamin "Kokoy" Romualdez, it has turned out as the only of its kind in the country. Here, the national and local governments in partnership with private businessmen organized an honest-to-goodness business venture to obtain socio-economic benefits for the inhabitants within a specified service area, and still gain clean profits! In a word, here is a good example of the government joining hands with the people to run a private company and hitting two wild bird with a sharpshooting stone; pursuing barrio development and earn money in the process.

This national phenomenon is called the Leyte Sab-a Basin Development Authority (LSBDA). It was created in 1974 by PD No. 625 principally to integrate government and private section efforts and resources for the development and growth of 88,600 hectares of generally almost-zero producing agricultural land in seven municipalities in Northeastern Leyte including Tacloban City's southwestern periphery. The mandate: to implement the program through a combined and harmonized system of entrepreneurial and social objectives on a self-sustaining basis. Incorporated as main thrusts are the reclaimation of swamps and wastelands, draining the perennially water-clogged plains to check the endemic schistosomiasis and fasciolasis diseases; development of a food basket on the reclaimed parcels; and providing a model for the development of agricultural estates in the region.

Essentially, the targeted idle property is 80 percent of the entire real estate affected which has been for centuries water-logged and practially useless but the biggest breeding ground of the dreaded schistosomiasis ailment and site of the widest quicksand in the country.

The Authority, as a corporate body vested with government and proprietary functions exercised through its five-man board of directors, was formally organized on September 29, 1975 with Governor Romualdez as chairman (he has retained that position to the present). Other members of the governing body are Felix C. de Veyra, vice chairman and administrator; Cesar C. Jesena, Jr., representative of the chairman; Rufino D. Ayaso, Jr., ministry of agriculture regional director, member; and Fernando A. Bernardo, president of the Visayas State College of Agriculture, member. Its territoial jurisdiction, with all disposal be public lands transferred and conveyed to it, cover the municipalities of Alangalang, Jaro, Barugo, Palo, San Miguel, Sta. Fe and babatnon, and the City of Tacloban. All the lands embraced by these localities is referred to as the Basin. The combined population, a little over 250,000, subsists on agriculture, forestry and fishing as the major industry, while the rest are preoccupied with quarrying, manufacture and commerce.

The financial structure of the Authority is supported by a capital fund for operations and another capital fund for social services. The first has a maximum authorized capitalization of P100 million which is devoted primarily to profitmaking or self-liquidating projects. The second fund, consisting of grants and endownments from different sources including monies gained from Authority business endeavors, is administered as a trust for investment, only the income from which is earmarked to finance social benefits and public services to the populace of the Basin, like hospitalization and scholarship schemes, infrastructure construction, and agro-scientific researches.

The biggest subscriber to the fund for operations is the national government claiming 88.7 per cent interest on the total equity holding; the province of Leyte, 4.4 percent; City of Tacloban, 2.3 percent; and the rest of the shareholdings are subscribed by the seven municipalities concerned proportionate to their individual investing capacities. Public offering or private placement of the unissued shares was resorted to insure public participation in Authority undertakings as one of the underlying coporate intents, but these shares did not exceed one-third of the total government subscription. To spin off a planned two-year operational priming-up, the national government immediately advanced the full requirement of p5.66 million.

"Save for the start-up fund, the Authority does not receive any national government subsidy for its operating expenses," revealed Administrator "Esing" de Veyra during our recent meeting with him at his modest office at the spankingly modern LCBDA modern LSBDA building at the Government Center in Palo town. "Alongside with development goals, we must generate income to sustain our varied rural uplift project and activities.

The principal challenge was to set up a different brand at of program at a northeastern section of the province that had the lowest productivity level and generate its own funding to establish and keep going a melange of projects.

For financial backstopping, three income-generating subsidiaries were organized, said De Veyra. They are in co-venture with private groups and individual investors with LSBDA sinking in 60 percent equity participation in each of these companies. Some of the LSBDA earnings from these businesses are set aside for social amelioration and health projects and services.

One such entity, the Eastern Visayas Resources Trading Corporation (EVRTC), has set up a big corn milling complex selling its own corn grits and by-products to consumers in the region. The first semester of last year alone, EVRTC disposed of 17,722 bags of corn grits and 9,769 sacks of corn by-products, according to Administrator De Veyra. "But our major drawback was the unavailability of milling material during the heavy dry spill last year that is even felt this early 1984," bewailed De Veyra.

Another self-sustaining enterprise under Authority funding and control is the East Visayas Agricultural Projects, Inc. (EVAPI) which manages for LSBDA the 200-sow piggery project and a feed mixing plant located in Tacloban City. the piggery has Large White, Landrace and Petrain sows and boars, 95 percent are gestating, on an eight-hectare lot in Barangay Salvacion intended to complement an upcoming sow dispersal program for Basin residents. The feed mixing plant at Barangay Marasbaras has a working capacity of six tons a day; and had produced during the first semester of 1983 alone 29,778 kilos of hog mash raking a revenue of P58,000. This year EVAPI is ready to construct a 5,000-layer egg farm, already approved by the board for implementation, and a chicken hatchery and breeding farm. With these projects, the provincial fowl requirement of 40,000 per week shall be filled up soon, and Leyte will cease to import 140,000 eggs each week from Cebu (local egg producers can only market 28,000 eggs per week). A fish meal processing plant is also set to be established to support the poultry activity.

Easily the biggest peso earner among the three LSBDA subsidiaries is the Basin Dredging and Development Corporation (BDDC) which has at present multi-million-peso dredging and reclamation contracts for the Cebu Port and the Zamboanga Fish Port works. Other on-going BDDC activities include the manufacture and fabrication of fiberglass and steel products, coco tiles, landscaping accessories; and production of crushed rocks and aggregates for infrastructure projects.

Total net income of the Authority in 1982, as reflected in its 1983 annual report, amounted to P2.8 million compared to the P1.6 million in 1981. This is a recognition of De Veyra's administrative abilities when he succeeded the first administrator Enge. Lauro Castillo during that banner year. (De Veyra is also a recognized expert in community development). This earning in turn became the source of more outlays for the increased socio-economic projects for the Basin people, undertaken in close cooperation and coordination with the government service agencies involved.

One of the first of the mayor moves of the Authority was the realization of the Farmers Training Center for Rural Development complex on a sprawling and rolling countryside in Barangay Tabangohay, Alangalang. Basin as well as Leyte and Samar farmers undergo both basic and specialized agricultural methodologies and practices in a continuous fashion. The center is a farmers' university in itself.

Another important problem attended to was the containment of the devastations incurred on the forested portion of the Basin by kaingeros and their brother-squatters found in the lower portion of public lands. The solution extended also to the urban squatters, displaced landowners and marginal fishermen. LSBDA went into human settlements by constructing resettlement models, the San Paglaum Housing Project and the Kauswagan Center.

Started in 1977, the San Paglaum's first 30 housing units were turned over in 1980 to beneficiary slash-and-burn families who were persuaded and trained to become low-land farmers. They were contracted by the Authority to enter into any of these arrangements: one-half hectare for vegetable farming, one hectare for rootcrops, or the 100-broiler-head per week project. For its modest but finely constructed dwelling costing P10,000 that time, the family amortizes it for 25 years paying in cash or in harvests without any interest.

The Ministry of Agrarian Reform presently manages the 1,300-hectare Kauswagan Agriculture-Cooperative Resettlement in Barangay Barayong, Palo. Designed to improve the living standards of urban squatters and displaced landowners and tenants at a five-year development cost of P13.7 million, the project has so far completed 107 housing units, a schoolbuilding, health center, public market, and a multi purpose pavement. At the same time, 45 farm lots, at one hectare per allotment, has already been getting returns for the deserving families.

Two other linkages with more government entities saw plan fruition last year. The Fiber Research Center located on a 20-hectare compound in Sta. Fe, leased by the Authority to the Fiber Development Authority, started operations. Another undertaking, tied up with the Human Settlement Development Corp. this time, is the KKK Agro-Forestry Project covering 1,800 hectares of hilly public property within the Basin. It is ongoing and involves also the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Another ambitious strategen that is presently hitting pay dirt is the massive integrated coconut development program which ushered in improved high yielding coconut varieties, especially the Mawa hybrids. LSBDA, in coordination with the Philippine Coconut Authority, is now revolutionizing the vast coconut land within Basin territory. "Intercropping was likewise introduced giving the farmers added income from the cacao, pineapple and calamundin harvest," said PCA Regional Director Pedro Aquino. A model farm was put up serving as laboratory by the Farmers Training Center for Rural Development. Twenty-five hectares of the experimental farm has been planted to 14 coconut varieties, the Mawa plants now fruitbearing. It is also complete with a fish pond and rabbit and pigeon raising sections.

The magnificent obsession of the Authority, however, is the final creation of a foodbasket out of the expansive marshy areas to sustain food self-sufficiency in the province, and eventually the entire Region 8. Clearing tracks of the soggy soil is a continuing task given to the Ministry of Public Works and Highways and the National Irrigation Administration that little by little these watery lands are transforming into productive plots. A major accomplishment has been shown by way of the construction of a circumferential roadway facilitating farm transportation initially serving resettlement communities. In reclaimed sectors government rural agencies like the BAEX, BPI, NFA, Bureau of Forest Development, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, among others, are now having their hands full in promoting food production among the inhabitants.

One successful farmer in Sta. Fe, erstwhile provincial chief of the defunct ACA Doddy Tibe, is enjoying remunerating harvests from his farm. 'The very rich soil of the once-aquatic earth yields crops beyond one's expectations," confided Tibe. He personally manages a rice and corn farm, and giant tilapia and hito ponds. Nearby, the Authority runs its five-hectares Pulak Sab-a Farm planted to cash crops like orn, cabbage and watermelon. It is at the same time a nursery of Brazilian cacao seedlings for final distribution to Basin tillers.

A bigger challenge to the rural folk has recently been posed by Governor Kokoy Romualdez. Their benevolent provincial executive has launched a P20,000-per-Barangay Special KKK Program, envisioned to further boost the socio-economic status of the 362 beneficiary barrios. The Authority is the lead agency in the implementation of this new program dovetailing it to the overall Basin grand design. As of this writing, the respective municipalities are still in the process of identifying projects and documentation of project proposals.

Here is manifested an adoptable people-government business compact that is self-sustaining; that can on its one generate needed wherewithal for its human development obsession; and that can orchestrate a concerted planning and implementation mode for fruitful projects.

At this stage of our government barangay uplift efforts when much human and financial resources are wastefully expended because of overlapping service functioning and haphazard plannings, the Sab-a Basin experience clearly stands out as a revealing example to emulate in other provinces and regions in the country. Here is manifested an adoptable people-government business compact that is self-sustaining; that can on its own generate needed wherewithal for its human development obsession; and that can orchestate a concerted planning and implementation mode for fruitful projects for the commonwealth.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ASSASIN'S FAVORITE TARGETS?





AT the rate local government officials, from provincial and city chief executives to municipal mayors and barangay captains, are eliminated, the common impression is that assassins are having a field day. What's so tragic about this rash of assassinations is that nobody seems to have any solution or remedy. So vulnerable indeed are local officials and helpless too!

For instance, Zamboanga City Mayor Cesar C. Climaco, while inspecting the ruins of a newly burned building at the outskirts of the city this November 14, was shot dead. One of the most colorful officials to ever serve the local and national governments, the former graft-buster had lived under a death threat. But the former PACD Chief and Customs Commissioner during President Macapagal's term had no choice but to go in despite the hazards of the job.

Sometime earlier, Calbayog City Mayor Pablo B. Lucero met a similarly tragic end. The sports-loving city hizzoner was playing tennis at the community gym when he was sniped at, reminiscent of the assassination attempt on then President Jose P. Laurel, who was playing golf at the Wack-Wack when shot. Lucero, however, didn't survive as Laurel did.

Last Easter (April 12, 1984) Angadanan, Isabela, Mayor Jacinto G. Ong was assassinated in church, (like Ilocos Sur Governor Floro Crisologo, who fell several year ago). Ong was attending the Easter mass when he was shot from behind and killed instantaneously by perpetrators who have remained seat free.

MLG's newly appointed Deputy Minister Concordio C. Diel remarked recently that local officials' main problem today is "how to survive their term of office." During his induction by Local Government Minister Jose A. Rono this early November, he narrated that in a month's time, four barangay captains including the Provincial Association of Barangay Councils President in his province (Misamis Or.) were slain just like that.

A local newspaper editor has assessed the tense situation of the country just as pointedly. "Local officials have become fair game – more so in NPA-menaced areas where their political enemies can always have a convenient scapegoat and often get away with it." Indeed, the common come-on "Join the Navy and see the world" has now a current counterpart – in the form of a warning – among local government folk. "Join local politics and see the other world."

Because of rising mortality rate among local officials these days, there is a loud outcry among local brass for authority to carry firearms for self-defense. And there is also a clamor for more security protection and for bigger insurance coverage too.

Meanwhile, absenteeism is very common among local chief executives from their official posts. They either take an official leave of absence or sick leave or go on AWOL lest they be shot at by terrorists and other assassins. No wonder, many mayors and other local officials





can be frequently seen in Metro manial with the pretext of following up certain important papers but are in fact trying to serve out their term on office.

Why the rush of killings or assassinations?

Well, Local Government and Defense brass have some likely explanations or reasons for the growing number of slaying among local government officials. These include the following.

1. *Political feuds and vendetta.* This is common in cities and towns where political rivalries and feuds have prompted politicians and their followers to resoirt to violence to eliminate one another. One raw deal by one politician or party can provoke vengeance or vendetta later. While the killings are often attributed to other parties like the NPA rebels or MNLF successionists, there are those who know that political terrorism is often behind such violence.

Indeed, the most common reason or motive behind the slaying of local public servants is partisan politics. And this is not only true in our time but even long before the declaration of martial law which was imposed partly because of the escalating lawlessness and terrorism fueled by private armies in many parts of the country. The most celebrated of such politically motivated murders involving local officials was the unforgettable torture killing of a Negros town mayor Moises Padilla. The perpetrators of that heinous crime (including a provincial governor) were eventually dragged to court and convicted. That celebrated case later became a subject of a full-length movie, written by veteran *Free Press* Writer Leon O. Ty, which won several FAMAS awards including for best picture and best actor (Leopoldo Salcedo) in 1959.

According to the National Secretariat of the Municpal Mayors League of the Philippines, most slayings happened during the campaign period. "Four of the seven League members who died during the first four months this year were murdered," *The Local Leader*, the MMLP official publication, reported. 'Three of the murders occured at the height of the election campaign . . ."

Of the 18 municipal who died this year, four were ambushed, and six murdered in connection with the May 14 elections. Among the mayors slain in connection with the elections were: Francisco M. Herrera of Magallanes Agusan del Norte, who was slain by a band of armed men who had barged into his home and peppered him with eight bullets; Marcelo P. Bayungan of Plaridel, Misamis Occidental, who was campagining in a barangay for the registration of voters when an unidentified gunman shot him at close range; Recaredo B. Castillo of Bislig, Surigao del Sur who was presiding a conference in his house when he was shot through the window by a gunman who fled on a motorcycle; Saturnino G. Calulo of Polomolok, South Cotabato, who was murdered while delivering a speech during the coronation of a barangay beauty queen; and Bienvenido Andilab of Sergio Camena, Zamboanga del Norte, who with his aide during a raid of a barangay by armed men who also burned a civilian militia outpost.

2. *Liquidation by dissidents.* This is said to be the more common cause or reason behind most assassination these past several months. According to reports, most of the more recent killings occurred in areas infiltrated or even dominated by NPAs and MNLF rebels. Hence, the usual conclusion is that they were perpetrated by NPA/MNLF liquidation squads.

The most recent example was the ambush killing of Mayor Dionesio Pao of Sapang Dalaga, Misamis Occidental, together with his wife and two others. The killings were attributed to NPAs in that troubled region. Seven armed men ambushed them at 7:30 AM last Nov. 9, 1984, at the remote barangay of Sapac.

Pedro Anganay, Barangay Captain of Tingalan, Opol, Misamis Oriental, suffered an even more humiliating fate. He was with some barangay tanod brigade members last May 20 when he was picked up by 20 armed men, brought to the barangay plaza and executed in public!

3. *Criminal elements/terrorists.* Many other slayings of local brass have been attributed to non-ideologues or fellow politicians but plain criminal elements. For example, sometime in March of 1982 Mayor Pablo Solar of the Municipality of Kabankalan, Negros Occidental, was riding in his vehicle when he was riddled with bullets by an unidentified group. The fatal ambush which made headlines in Manila dailies, was attributed to criminal elements roaming the mountains of Central Negros.

Of course, these are many more slayings whose perpetuators or motives are never determined or known. But whatever the intent, the results are terrifying to the general public and demoralizing to the local government officials particularly the barangay officials who are always in the 'frontlines." No wonder, the greatest number of casualties in the current 'reign of terrorism" in the countryside consists of barangay officials, many of them have died or got disabled through violent means or causes. As compiled and reported by the National Barangay Operations Office, at least 240 of them died or got injured during the first half of 1984.

Among the casualties was Barangay Captain Ricardo P. Reminajeres of Alucao, Sta. Teresita, of Cagayan Valley, who reportedly was kidnapped and killed by the New People's Army, sometime ago. Barangay captain Cecilio Mariano of Batong Labeng, Ilagan, Isabela, on the other hand, has been reported missing – and presumed dead. That's why his position was declared vacant. He was succeeded by former councilman Rodrigo Camaso.

These gruesome slaying incidents involving local officials at various levels, whatever the reason, is alarming indeed. The rising mortality rater has become so deplorable for obvious reason. By request of the GSIS and through a bill now pending in the Batasan, the life insurance is being raised from P5,000 to P8,000 for barangay captains and Sanggunian Bayan members and from P3,000 to P5,000 for other barangay officers. The Ministry of Local Government (MLG) pays for the premiums in behalf of these local officials.

President Marcos has shown concern over the fate and plight of local officials, too. He has exhorted them to actively participate in the curent peace and order campaign in the countryside. The President, following Climaco's murder, noted:

'At no period in our history has the specter of violence and terrorism so blighted our national life. At no time is there so great an urgency for our people and government to affirm the rule of law and justice."

What must be done to at least minimize those killings and encourage local officials to work more wholeheartedly in their communities?

Will the return of control and supervision to mayors over the local police, which was turned over years ago to the Integrated National Police-PC, restore peace and order among our local units?

What must be done to restore or firm up the faith of the people in the local peace officers and local administrators?

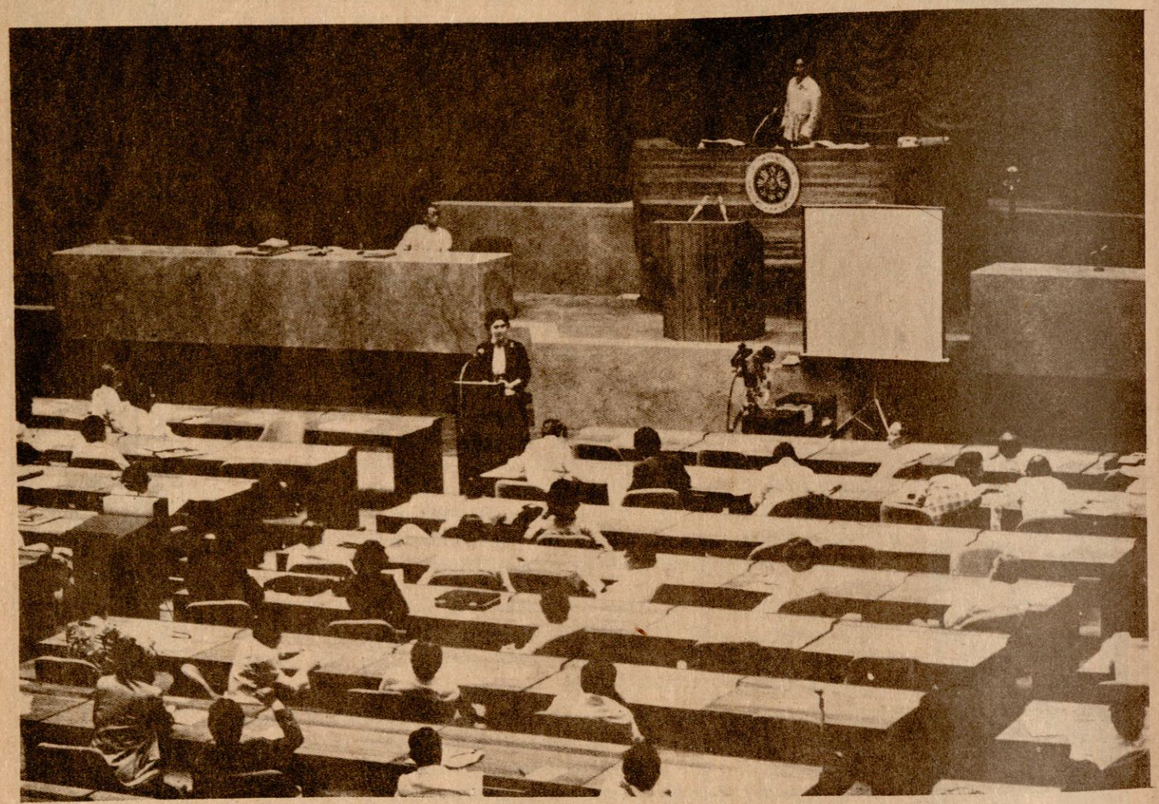
These are basic and vital questions that must be answered if we are to arrive at any substantial and lasting solution to the current peace-and-order problem among our local units!





LOCAL OFFICIALS AS CANDIDATES FOR BATASAN MEMBERS

By NICANOR M. PATRICIO



IN the obituary of the late opposition leader Cesar Climaco, there appears below his name the words "City Mayor and Assemblyman." Climaco, who, like Ninoy Aquino, was felled by an assasin's bullet recently, was the incumbent mayor of Zamboanga City when he ran for and was elected assemblyman. He, however, did not assume the office of assemblyman. Had he done so, would it have been possible for him to hold both offices of city mayor and assemblyman?

His case is one of several that calls for an understanding of section 13 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 697, terminating the stay in office of public officials who run for the office of elective members of the Batasang Pambansa. Known as the law on the 1984 Batasang Pambansa Elections, it declares that "(1) any person holding a public appointive office or position, including active officers and members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Integrated National Police, as well as officials and employees of government-owned and government-owned controlled corporations and their subsidiaries, shall ipso facto cease in office or position as of the time he filed his certificate of candidacy."

It, however, contains a proviso saying that "the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister, the Members of the Cabinet, and the Deputy Ministers shall continue in the offices they presently hold nothwitstanding the filing of their certificates of candicacy." Moreover, it says that "(2) governors, mayors, members of the various sanggunians or barangay officials shall, upon filing a certificate of candidacy, be considered on forced leave of absence from office."

Evidently, this provision covers both appointive and elective public officials, whether rendering service to the national government or local governments. A public appointive official is one who acquires a public office or establishes his official relation thereto by appointment, while a public elective official does so by election. The President of the Philippines, for instance, is a national elective public official, while a provincial treasurer is a local appointive official.

In order to run as candidate for a public elective office, like the office of elective assemblyman or mambabatas, an individual has to file a certificate of candidacy with the Commission on Elections or its designated representatives who receive and give it due course, if filed in accordance with law. In his certificates of candidacy, he states his intention to run for the public office, among other things.

Under the above cited provision, the general rule is that if one is a public official holding either an elective or appointive public office, he shall, upon filing of his certificate of candidacy, cease in the office or position he was then holding. If, for example, a city treasurer runs for office of assemblyman, his official relation to the office of city treasurer ceases from the moment his certificate of candidacy therefor is received by the Comelec or its representative. If after filing it, he later on withdraws his certificate of candidacy, the effect is the same.

Since a public official ceases in office, he can no longer exercise or perform the powers, duties and functions of the same. Necessarily, too, he loses the rights and privileges, like compensation, allowances, etc. attached to the public office. Strictly speaking, his office becomes permanently vacant and may be filled by another in the manner provided by law.

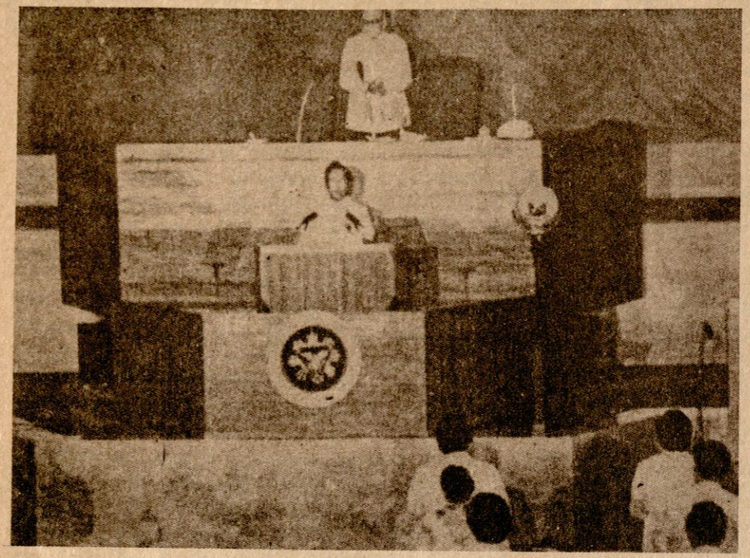
However, the law exludes certain public elective and appointive officials from the effects of running for office of mambabatas. The Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister, the Members of the Cabinet, and the Deputy Ministers can continue in their respective offices. Under the law, the Members of the Cabinet and Deputy Ministers are appointed by the President. Though they are appointive officials, they may run for the elective office of assemblyman and not lose their posts.

Incidentally, under section 10, Article VIII of the New Constitution, as amended, the prohibition against members of the Batasang Pambansa holding any other office or employment in the Government or any subdivision, agency or instrumentality thereof during their tenure does not apply to the Prime Minsiter, Deputy Prime Minister, Members of the Cabinet and Deputy Ministers.

The law excludes also "governors, mayors, members of the various sanggunians or barangay officials" from its scope or coverage. It declares that they 'shall, upon filing a certificate of candidacy, be considered on forced leave of absence." This means that if any of them runs for the elective office of mambabatas, he does not cease from office since he is regarded merely on forced leave; that is to say, that if he loses in the elections, he may continue in office upon the expiration of the election period. But if he wins or is elected to, he may assume the office of mambabatas; or, if he does not want to, he may remain in his old office.

It is here where problems may arise or have arisen, especially as regards the vice governors and vice mayors and appointive members o the various sanggunians. Otherwise put, since they are not included in, are they deemed exluded from, the enumeration of local officials who are considered on forced leave of absence upon the filing of their certificates of candidacy, and, if so, do they cease in office?

". . . any person holding a public appointive office or position. . . shall ipso facto cease in office or position as of the time he filed his certificate of candidacy."



The provision of Sec. 13 of BP 697 indicates that the policy of the law is not fixed or clear. There are exceptions and exclusions which result in the confusion of the public and officials concerned.

Actually, section 13 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 697 is a modification of sections 29 and 30 of the Election Code of 1978 (Pres. Dec. No. 1296) as well as section 1 of Pres. Dec. No. 1659. The first paragraph of said section 13 is practically a reproduction of section 29 of the 1978 Election Code, except that in case of members of the Cabinet, BP Blg. 697 directs that they shall continue in office while section 29 of the 1978 Election Code makes their continuance in office dependent upon the pleasure of the President.

Likewise, in section I of PD 1659, elective provinvial, city, municipal who run for an office other than the ones they are holding are considered *ipso facto* resigned from office upon the filing of the certificate of candidacy. Section 30 of the 1978 Election Code excludes barangay officials from the enumeration of local elective officials, so that the construction of the law then was that barangay officials who run for an office other than the local elective offices mention, they are considered on forced leave of absence.

Take the case of James Barbers, who, while vice mayor of the City of Manila, filed his certificate of candidacy as a KBL candidate for assemblyman in the May 14, 1984 Batasan Pambansa elections. When he lost in the elections, Vice Mayor Barbers continued in office as vice city mayor. This was, it is said, in accordance with a ruling made by the Ministry of Justice to the effect that he was considered as merely on forced leave of absence when he filed his certificate of candidacy.

Or, Ismael Mathay Jr., who, while vice governor of Metropolitan Manila, filed his certificate of candidacy as a KBL candidate for assemblyman in the same May 14 elections and won a seat. It is said, however, that he is or was a deputy minister of Human Settlements when ran for office of mambabatas, and, since he did so as such, the law would not apply to him.

How about members of the various sanggunian? Under evisting law, the membership of the sangguniang pampook of Regions IX and XII, sangguniang panlalawigan, sangguniang panlungsod or sangguniang bayan is composed of both elective and appointive members. Some are elected by the qualified voters of the local government unit concerned while the others are appointed by the President of the Philippines.

Under section 13 of BP 697, they are considered on forced leave of absence upon the filing of their certificate of candidacy for assemblyman. In said ruling. a distinction was made. If the sanggunian member is appointive, he is considered to have ceased in office and if elective, merely on forced leave of absence.

Pursuant to the provisions of section 13 of BP 697 indicates that the policy of the law is not fixed or clear. While it declares that those holding public appointive office shall cease in office upon the filing of certificate of candidacy, the law excludes some; also, while it considers local elective officials as on forced leave of absence, it excludes others in the enumeration. Hence, the confusion.

While it may bepersuasive upon, the ruling cited is not controlling upon the courts. Since, to date, no actual case has reached the courts, there is, therefore, no definitive ruling on the matter which may serve as guide. At present there is a move in the Batasang Pambansa to modify or change existing electoral laws. Perhaps, it will do well for the law-makers to consider this matter to remove the confusion once and for all.

PUBLISHER'S . . .
From page 4

political and military by assuring the safety of the sealanes that assure the smooth traffic of commerce between her and business partners like Japan in the Pacific. Security imperatives dictate that her naval and air fleets control this vast area or risk the chance of being pushed out of the region by the growing Soviet and Chinese presence and power in Southeast Asia.

The Philippines appears to have no choice but to let the US retain its Subic and Clark bases or risk the take over by the Russians which has gain strong beachhead in Asia through Cam Rahm Bay in Vietnam. What alarms many Filipino leaders, however is the presence of nuclear power in the islands as represented by the two powerful US bases could serve as a magnet for nuclear attack by the Soviets or Chinese on the event of violent confrontation between or among the nuclear powers. In short, there is always that danger of being dragged into the quarrel of the giants with our people becoming the victims in a war not of their own making.

In any event, Filipinos have to cast their future with mother America for sentimental and security reasons. Economic expediency also has a hand in such an arrangement. For aside from being a principal trading partner, the US also grants some aid to this one-time US pratectorate.

For the use of the two bases in Subic and Clark alone, at least $1 billion, spread over four years, is granted as rental – usually called economic and military aid. Thus until the US decides to pull out from this area, – possibly to Tinian or Saipan – the country will receive at least $250M a year for the use of the strategic bases.

BRIGHTER PROSPECTS

At any rate, the results of latest polls in the USA are expected to have crucial effect on the Philippines. With Reagan's reelection, a better economic and political deal for the Philippines is expected from the US government. According to an Associated Press story, President Ronald Reagan, even before winning a second term by beating Democrat Part bet Walter Mondale in 49 of the 50 states in a landslide victory, ruled out its old protectionist economic policy. Such a policy has been deplored by the Philippines as a frustrating bar to US-Philippine economic relations.

'We are not just fighting protectionism but we want to go forward toward more open market," Reagan himself told election eve rally at the Pierce College grounds in Los Angeles on the eve of the election.

Three years ago at Cancun, Mexico, President Marcos had appealed to the American president for the abolition of trade barriers imposed by many industrial nations on the 'have-not"countries.

Politically, the White House was quoted as having expressed support for the Marcos government because of its importance in the fight against communism. Although a US state department spokeman later modified this statement to include the use of other options, the belief among key members of the Reagan staff is that the substance of his commitment to the Philippine government has not changed.

Anyway, the stronger position of the reelectionist American president on RP-US relations was believed to have aroused more sympathy among the Filipino communities in California and other states. In California alone, where there are about 800,000 Filipino-Americans, many of the 200,000 registered voters from this have been openly pro-Reagan. This was not surprising since, as a former California governor, Reagan had been partly responsible for the active participation of Filipino-Americans in state politics.

Because of the growing number and influence of Filipinos in this biggest State of the Unions, some Filipinos have won elective ports – in sity or state offices. Among them is Mayor Leonardo Velasco of Belano, a growing community in the grape producing area of Southern California.

President Reagan, whose administrations has had a better deal from Reagan's Republicans than from the Democrats hailed the us president's reelection. He said, it would 'boost" the fight of the Third World against communist subversion and improve chances of avoiding a thermo nuclear world war."

"As far as the developing countries like the Philippines as concerned, there is much to cheer about in this electoral victory," Marcos said in a congratulatory statement.

A well known editor columnist had a broader assessment of the Reagan triumph. He said.

"What does this all mean for us? It is too early to conclude, as some of us already have, that a Reagan victory augurs well for RP-US relations. For while the American presient wields vast powers, his best wishes could be scuttled by the various elements in America – the US Congress not being the least. Those of us who think a Reagan victory would mean more of the same (tuloy and ligaya) might find their hopes dashed rather early. No matter how tightly we cling on to his TV debate remarks that are totally reassuring for our leaders, the fact that his views had to be interpreted by an agency of his own government in a manner that was contrary to our reading says a lot for not depending so much on campaign rhetoric which is what the statement on communism being the only alternative to the present dispensation here really was."

DI NGA KASI..!

Pitak ni KA TINO LAPUZ



Sa proyektong Sariling Sikap, kasama ang Unang Ginang.

Sadyang kakatwa, kahi't kanginuman,
Masama't mabuti, ang LABIS o KULANG,
Kapag naging labis sa panunungkulan
Anila ay isang imbing karahasan.

At kapag nagkulang sa takdang tungkulin,
Isa kang pabaya, na itinuturing;
Sadyang pambihira itong mundo natin,
LUMABIS MAGKULANG ay kapintasan din.

Ang isang biktima'y si Mayor Rodriguez,
Labis ang unawa't sobra din ang bait;
Karato-rato mo'y laging nadadawit,
Sa gayo't ganitong paratang at tsismis.

Anila'y nagkulang sa suri at ingat,
Sa mabuting layon ay nagiging palpak;
Pati kasulatang opisyal mang ganap,
Di kaginsa-ginsa'y mayron pa ring butas.

Sa mga talaang anila'y tiwali,
PNB deposit, *panibagong mali;*
Ang pobreng si Mayor ang inaaglahi,
Mga patudsada'y naka-ka-kulili.

Sa kaso pong ito, lumikha ang Mayor,
Ng tanging komite sa imbistigasyon;
Nagsisiyasat din si ganito't gayon,
Agawan sa bola ng animo'y basketbol.

Ito'y katunayang ang Lunsod na ito,
Daig pa ang isang aktor na idolo;
Nakagagayuma ang pagiging macho,
Kinaiingitan ang pag-unlad dito.

Ang mga kritiko, sa anu't anuman,
Sa pagka-masuri dapat papurihan;
Paano'y sa tsismis, ganap na lumitaw,
Si Mayor Rodriguez dapat pang hangaan.

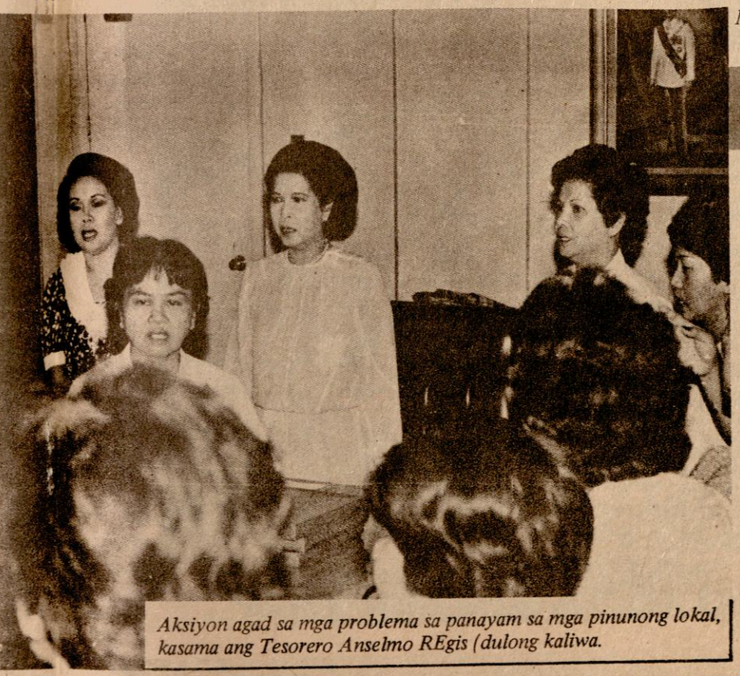
Aba'y hindi birong sa bansang hikahos,
Lumantad ang tatag nitong ating Lunsod;
Sa dami ng mga waldas sa palibot,
May isang Alkaldeng masikhay mag-impok.

Kay Mayor Rodriguez: pang-unang tuntunin,
Eleven Basic Needs *ihandog sa atin;*
Ang mga serbisyo't mga pagawain,
Kagalingang madla, makita't damahin.



Nagkakaloob ng sertipiko sa pangkaunlarang lokal.





Aksiyon agad sa mga problema sa panayam sa mga pinunong lokal, kasama ang Tesorero Anselmo REgis (dulong kaliwa.

May kilusan siya na Lingap sa Kapwa,
Saka aksyon agad sa mga problema;
Ang tinutustusan lalong mahalaga,
Sa mga nabimbim ay mayrong mahalaga,

Basta't ang sagutin ay sa Quezon City,
Agad tinatakda yaong **priority;**
Saka malimit pang ang **national duty,**
Si Mayor Rodriguez, nakiki-bahagi.

Sa ganang kay Mayor ay walang perpekto,
Nagkakamali rin ang sinumang tao;
Nguni't ang marapat na tiyakin ninyo,
Nakalusot lamang o sinadya ito?

Sa tingin po namin, kung nagkamali man,
Si Mayor Rodriguez ay may kasalanan:
Sa labis na bait, unawa at dangal,
At pagka-matapat sa lingkurang bayan.

Dynamic ABC for Quezon City

By CARMENCITA R. VELASCO

THE Local Government Code clearly defines the role of the barangay as a basic political unit in our democracy, to wit.

"As the basic political unit, the barangay serves as the primary planning and implementing unit of government programs, projects and activities, and as a forum in which the collective views of the people in the community may be crystallized and considered (Sec. 81).'

The barangay therefore serves as the vehicle for direct participation of the people in the process of governance – not only in the planning and implementation aspects but as an instrument of participation democracy through public meetings, referenda and plebiscites wherein people power is mostly felt.

The delicate task of organizing the barangays or the sangguniang barangay lies on the Katipunan ng Mga Barangay, an organization which is institutionalized in the Code.

Section 108 (Chap. 8) of the Code provides that: "There shall be an organization of *sangguniang barangays* to be known as follows: in municipalities, *katipunan bayan;* in cities, *katipunang panglunsod;* in provinces, *katipunan panlalawigan;* in region, *katipunang pampook;* and on the national level, *katipunan ng mga barangay.*"



Quezon City memorial circle.



Metro Manila Deputy Gov. Ismael Mathay, Jr. briefs ABC officers at Quezon City Grandstand.

Thus, the formerly loose association or union of barangay governments before the adoption of the Code now becomes a legal body with certain functions and responsibilities.

As provided for in Section III, the following are the functions and duties of the Katipunan ng Mga Barangay

1. Adopt measures for the promotion of the welfare of the barangay officials;

2. Give priority to programs for the total development of the barangays, consistent with the policies, programs and projects of the national government;

3. Assist in the education of barangay residents for the development of good citizenship, cooperation and unity, in order to promote a united and concerted action for the achievement of the country's development goals;

4. Supplement the efforts of government in pointing out opportunities and creating an atmosphere conducive to gainful employment within the barangay;

5. Serve as a forum of barangay officials in seeking the necessary assistance of government and private entities for the common welfare of all barangays; and

6. Promote, assist and serve all sangguniang barangays.

QUEZON CITY

The Katipunan ng Mga Barangay or Association of Barangay Captains (ABC) of Quezon City, otherwise known as the 'Premier City" owing to its progress, is one KB or Katipunan which already had a set of specific plans of aciton immediately after the promulgation of the Local Government Code.

The Katipunan, through its able leader, Atty. Braulio A. Arriola, Jr. first identified the "welfare" needs of the barangay officials based on the social, economic, political and spiritual needs – or "total personal development" of those involved, listed down the priority programs of the QC Katipunan ng Mga Barangay as follows:

1. Mutual Savings and Loan Project – capital build-up of credit extension;

2. Medical and Mortuary Assistance Project – intervention scheme re GSIS papers;

3. Social Development Project – for the physical and psychological welfare through sports and recreation;

4. Education Project – through seminars to develop leadership potentials.

Realizing the value of education in community development, the QC



ABC President, atty. Braulio Arriola, Jr.

Katipunan is also undertaking an educational program in Quezon City through the following measures:

a. by determining the existing formal and non-formal educational programs in the City; and

b. by determining the amount and quality of educational assistance needed by the barangays in particular and the Katipunan in general. There is at present total of 140 barangays in Quezon City.

Towards this end, there has been established a linkage between the Division of City Schools and the Katipunan from the City Level, District Level, down to the barangay level. Corollary to this, the QC Katipunan envisions a non-formal educative scheme using the cell or study circle approach.

The channels to be used are the following: books, barangay assembly, sangguniang barangay, lupong tagapagpaganap, lupong tagapayapa, kabataang barangay, Council for the Protection of Children. Parent-Teacher Association, barangay brigades, community organizations.

Atty. Arriola sees the program as mass-based and designed to saturate the barangay. This however needs manpower support and considerable logistical assistance from the city government.

THE KB AS FORUM

As mandated by law, the QC Katipunan ng Mga Barangay serves as a forum of barangay officials in seeking the necessary assistance of Government and private entities for the common welfare of all barangays of Quezon City.

In order to achieve this the QC-Katipunan sees to it that the body holds a regular dialogue with the City Mayor Adelina Rodriguez, and other key officials and department heads of the city government.

The Katipunan also holds regular meetings or dialogues with private entitles, business and commercial and industrial sectors for economic assistance and other agencies involved in barangay affairs.

Dialogues are also held with law enforcement agencies for protective and security services, as well as other agencies for social or community services.

It is also the function of the Katipunan to promote, assist and serve all the sangguniang barangay within the City. It conducts periodic meetings with the members of the Sangguniang Barangay. The objective is to stress the importance of the Sanggunian as a barangay governmental institution – a process in participatory democracy.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Atty. Arriola enumerates the achievements and successes of the Katipunan as follows

1. Leadership development of barangays officials.

This is a training for administration management and community relations through a series of seminars in cooperation with the Ministry of Local Government and Metro Manila Commission. These seminars upgraded the capabilities of the Kagawad, treasurer, secretary, brigadas, tanods, etc.

2. Enhanced participatory democracry as mass-based

This was done by strengthening the barangay assembly and the regularization (twice a year) of meetings of pulung-pulong of the assembly.

3. By strengthening the *purok* system.

Purok is a neighborhood cell with minimum membership of 10 families and maximum membership of 25 families.

"People now looks up to their neighborhood for help and protection, unlike the old "kanya-kanya" system before when one did not give a damn about what happens to his neighbor," says Atty. Arriola.

He said this was done through the revival of the community spirit of belongingness and togetherness and the restoration of Filipino values of 'bayanihan" and "tulungan" through the brigadas or cells – "without which the barangay could never function or achieve its goals," stressed the energetic ABC President.

4. By strengthening the lupong tagapamayapa or barangay justice.

The barangays have settled a batting average of ninety percent (90%) of cases or disputes within the barangays of the Katipunan are fast becoming closely-knit communities.

The Katipunan also developed standard forms in the lupon which greatly contributed to the speedy settlement of cases.

5. Improved child protection and youth development pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 603 which promotes children welfare and youth development.

In this regard, the ABC has already laid the groundwork in strengthening family ties and moral values of youth by coordinating closely with the religious and education sectors.

6. Developed the sangguniang barangay as legislative and consultative body.

Done through regular training and seminars, this is in accordance with Section III of the Local Government Code which lists down the functions and duties of the Katipunan ng Mga Barangay. This is also in line with the priority program of the ABC to educate barangay officials.

COMMITTEES

According to its president, Atty. Arriola, the ABC or Katipunan has already established uniform house-rules for all the barangays of Quezon City. It has also standardized its legal committees into seven, as follows:

1. comittee on social affairs – first and foremost because it involves society;

2. committee on economic affairs – next in line because of its inevitability;

3. committee on political affairs or government;

4. committee on youth development;

5. committee on recreation affairs – looks into the needs of the elderly members; and

6. committee on moral, cultural and spiritual affairs – caters to the spiritual or internal development;

7. committee on budgetary affairs or the financing aspect.

The ABC was formerly known as the Federation of Councils of Barangays in Quezon City. It has originally a membership of only 44 barangays which was later increased to the present number of 140 under the present setùp of the Association.

The first ABC president Atty. Rogelio Quiambao. He was succeeded by Atty. Braulio Arriola, Jr. in 1978 whose dynamic leadership consistently won for him the seat of the ABC presidency.

The ABC has eleven (11) officers distributed as follows – 3 from District I, 3 from District II, 3 from District III and only 2 from District IV. The policy is to lessen number of representatives from the District where the president comes from. The ABC president is a resident of Roxas District.

At the rate the ABC accomplishes its tasks, it seems that it will soon achieve the objectives set forth by the Code – for the Katipunan to organize the sangguniang barangays as active partners in progress for national development. A quick look-around Quezon City, in comparison with other cities in Metro Manila or the country, for that matter, will confirm and justify this statement. The ABC of Quezon City is tops, hands down, thanks to its leadership.

That is, because the Premier City deserves nothing less.



ABC President together with Quezon City officials during the award rites of the youth baseball championship game of "Munting Palaro 79.

***Atty. Braulio Arriola Jr. is also the secretary-general of the Katipuman ng mga Barangay ng Metro Manila and the Floor Leader of the Sangguniang Panglungsod.

LOCAL *GOVERNMENT* OFFICIALS

DEATH CLAIMS INCREASE AS DEATH CLAIMS MORE



By ALMA T. TIRAZONA

WITH more local government officials dying or getting disabled these days due to violence and other causes, there is a loud clamor for bigger insurance benefits for disability and death among barangay and sanggunian members. And as the rate of deaths and disabilities rises, the claims for insurance benefits increase too.

This year alone, according to statistics at the National Barangay Operations Office (NBOO) of the Ministry of Local Government (MLG), there were more than 160 barangay officials who died in eight regions, even as reports from the four remaining regions of the country were still being compiled. This is not to mention hundreds of barangay officials being hospitalized due to sickness and accidents that incurred while performing their official duties and responsibilities.



Barangay officials listen to a lecture conducted by an MLG fieldman on barangay insurance.

Municipal and city council (Sanggunian members) who are also covered by free insurance, have also suffered more casualties in the line of duty. All these also require insurance protection and settlement of insurance claims.

Yearly, the claims for insurance benefits of barangay officials alone far exceed the funds alloted for the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), so that thousands of such claims are left pending. The benefits provided by law have become insufficient to tide over such claims of local officials and their beneficiaries. Blame it on the increasing cost of living and the rates provided for such claims which were not subjected to prior actual studies before the enactment of such laws.

Statistics at the GSIS (which administers the barangay officials' insurance program) and the Ministry of Local Government (which pays for their premiums) show some P8 million is allocated annually to settle hundreds of claims ranging from disability to death among village leaders. Since 1978, the GSIS have paid more than P25 million for death and disability claims and it needs P10 million more to settle some 1,190 pending claims which have remained unpaid since last year.

Hundreds of claims have remained unsettled the past three years.

Last year, for instance, 1,196 claims from GSIS Are II (consisting of 11 cities) were pending settlement. Amounted needed: P2,770,-250, according to Engineer F. del Fierro of the GSIS.

At the NBOO, many letters of complaints regarding unsettled claims in behalf of deceased barangay officials have been sent by heirs. "The unpaid claims deserve immediate attention and action," said NBOO Executive Director Nora Z. Petines.

Considering that barangay officials as well as members of the sangguniang panlalawigan, panglunsod and pangbayan perform very vital functions in eliciting grassroots participation in the affairs of the government and have become pillars in the actual workings of the overall democratic process, it is but imperative workings of the overall democratic process, it is but imperative that the benefits for these people should be integrated with existing laws granting insurance benefits to local officials for a more effective local government administration.

Several months ago, the GSIS made representations with the MLG and the Batasan Pambansa to seek for bigger allotments for insurance benefits in order to have sufficient funds for the payment of pending claims and increase the yearly funding. As a result, a bill has been filed at the legislative body, geared towards such direction.

The Batasan Pambansa bill is aimed at increasing, consolidating and integrating insurance benefits for barangay officials under Republic Act No. 4898, as amended, and some members of the sangguniang under Presidential Decree No. 1147.

As proposed, the barangay captain, members of the sangguniang barangay, chairman of the Kabataang Barangay, the barangay secretary and the treasurer and each member of the Sangguniang panlalawigan, panglunsod and pangbayan who were duly elected or appointed and duly qualified and who do not receive fixed salary or compensation, are automatically covered by the following range of benefits.

The bill is in recognition of the valuable and free services of the local officials towards their respective communities.

– Barangay Captains, members of sangguniang panglalawigan, panglunsod and pangbayan shall be entitled to P7,000 and members of the barangay council including barangay secretary, barangay treasurer and chairman of Kabataang Barangay to P5,000 in the event of loss of life during incumbency;

– In case of full and permanent incapacity or disability as determined by GSIS and provided that the disability has not been existing at the time of election or appointment, the barangay captain or members of the sangguniang panglalawigan, panglunsod and pangbayan shall be paid P5,000 while members of the barangay council, barangay secretary and barangay treasurer and chairman of the Kabataang Barangay shall be paid P3,000.

– For injuries resulting from an accident occuring during incumbency, a barangay captain or members of the sangguniang panlalawigan, panglunsod and pangbayan shall be paid benefits but in no case shall exceed P5,000 per covered year, consisting of: P5,000 for injury to brain resulting to loss of sanity; P5,000 for permanent loss of sight in both eyes; P4,000 for permanent loss of sense of hearing in both ears; P2,500 for permanent loss of sight in one eye; P2,000 for permanent loss of hearing in one ear; P5,000 for loss or destruction of two or more limbs and P2,500 for loss of one limb only; P4,000 for loss or destruction of both feet at or above the ankle or P2,000 for one foot only; P1,000 for loss or destruction of every thumb and P250 for loss or destruction of every finger or toe; P1,500 for any injury requiring hospitalization of at least 40 days; P500 for other injuries requiring medical attention for at least 15 days and P300 for less than 15 days.

– For members of the barangay council, barangay secretary and treasurer and chairman of the Kabataang Barangay, the amount of P3,000 for injuries resulting from an accident during incumbency is alloted.

The bill also proposes that the national government shall appropriate in the General Appropriations Act the total annual premiums as determined by the GSIS in accordance with its rules and regulations based on actual number of local officials as certified by the MLG, that the annual premiums shall be P96 for every barangay captain and members of the sangguniang panlalawigan, panglunsod and pangbayan and P40 for every member of the barangay council. the barangay secretary and treasurer and the chairman of the Kabataang Barangay.

The approval of the proposed bill is imperative, no doubt. It is not only in recognition of the contributions performed by local officials towards development and progress but also in consideration of their valuable but free services towards their respective communities.



LEGALLY SPEAKING...

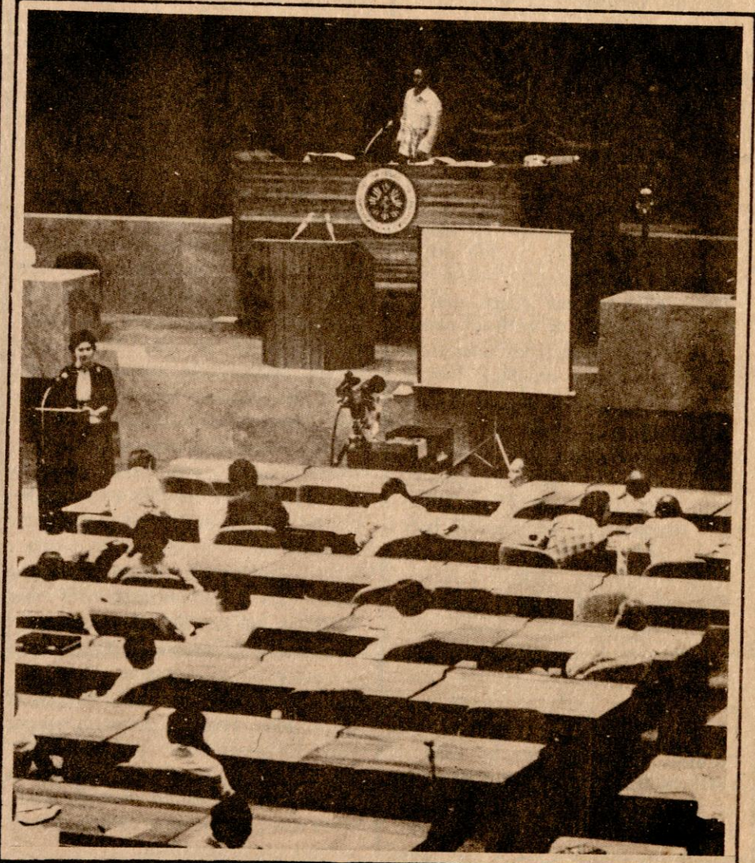
By NICANOR M. PATRICIO

MATTER OF SUCCESSION

OF the many subjects on local government, one which has engaged our attention is succession in case of permanent or temporary vacancy in a local elective office; for, though the provisions of the local government code are detailed enough, the intention behind which was evidently to cover every conceivable situation, questions still do occur, and they are questions which challenge the mind.

The Code (BP 337) provides for common officials in each province, city, municipality or barangay. These local officials hold either elective or appointive offices; meaning, they are either elected or appointed thereto. It is the mode a person acquires a public office which distinguishes an elective from an appointive office. If the law provides that the holder thereof be appointed, the office is appointive; or, if he be elected, the office is elective. Incidentally, the nature of an elective office is not changed though a vacancy thereof may be filled by appointment.

In a province, the local elective offices are the provincial governor, vice governor and elective members of the sangguniang panlalawigan;



The nature of an elective office is not changed though a vacancy thereof may be filled by appointment.

in a city, whether highly urbanized or a component of a province, city mayor, vice mayor and elective members of the sangguniang panlungsod (except of those in Metro Manila) in a municipality, municipal mayor, vice mayor and elective members of the sangguniang bayan (except those in Metro Manila); and in a barangay, punong barangay and six kagawads. All others are appointive offices.

Simply put, a public office is vacant where there is no incumbent appointed or elected to hold it. It, too, is vacant when it is not filled by a *de jure* incumbent, which implies that although the public office is held by a *de facto* or intruder, it is, in legal contemplation, vacant. Legally, speaking, there is no vacancy, which could be filled permanently, when the incumbent has been suspended or dismissed illegally or without cause.

The Code prescribes situations or circumstances creating permanent as temporary vacancies in local elective offices. These are, in case of permanent vacancies, refusal to assume office, failure to qualify, death, removal from office, voluntary resignation, permanent incapacity and assumption of another office. Otherwise states, if any of these occurs or arises, the local elective office becomes permanently vacant and succession operates.

IT, too, provides for the order of succession and the mode a vacancy is filled. The order of succession, for instance, in case of permanent vacancy in the office of provincial governor, is (1) vice governor, (2) the sangguniang panlalawigan member who obtained the highest number of votes in the election immediately preceeding, and (3) whoever is appointed; in the office of city mayor, (1) city vice mayor, (2) sangguniang panlungsod member who obtained the highest number of votes, and (3) whoever is appointed; in the office of municipal mayor, (1) municipal vice mayor, (2) sangguniang bayan member who obtained the highest number of votes, and (3) whoever is appointed; and, in the office of punong barangay, (1) the sangguniang barangay member who obtained the highest number of votes, and (2) the member who obtained the next highest number of votes.

A permanent vacancy is created when there is refusal to assume office; this means that the local elective official, upon being elected thereto refuses to enter upon the discharge of the powers and duties of the office, or, the official who should succeed to the vacancy, refuses to assume the office. Likewise, the office is deemed or becomes vacant where the official elected or the successor fails to qualify; that is, he fails to take the requisite oath or submit the reports of election.

A permanent vacancy arises when the incumbent thereof dies while in office. So, also, when he voluntarily resigns therefrom; meaning he relinquishes his office without duress or fraud imposed upon him. Here, a problem arises; for jurisprudence requires that tender of resignation must be in writing and accepted. But the Code does not provide who or which may accept the resignation.

A permanent vacancy is also created when the incumbent is removed from office; that is, he was, after the conduct of an inquiry where he was duly heard, found guilty of the offense, and meted the sanction of removal from office. Moreover, if the incumbent becomes permanently incapacitated. But who or which determines such is not defined or provided in the Code. It is, however, our personal view that it should be the incumbent himself who should do so.

How does the rules on permanent vacancy in the local elective office operate? If the office of provincial governor becomes permanently vacant for any of said causes, including filing of a certificate for the office of elective member of the Batasang Pambansa, the vice governor succeeds to the vacant office by operation of law. Supposes the vice governor did not want to succeed or assume the office of governor, then, it would be the senior member of the sangguniang panlalawigan who should.

But supposes, he, too, did not want to assume the office of provincial governor, could the *next* senior member of the sangguniang panlalawigan succeed? No, he could not. It would be he who would be, upon recommendation of the Minister of Local Government, appointed thereto by the President of the Philippines.

How about permanent vacancy in the office of vice governor? It would be the senior member of the sangguniang panlalawigan who should succeed to the vacant office of vice governor. Suppose said senior member refused to assume the office of vice governor, could the *next* senior member of the sangguniang panlalawigan succeed? The answer is no, he could not. It would be he would be, upon the recommendation of the Minister, appointed thereto by the President.

Let's take a hypothetical case. Suppose the provincial governor died and, because of the refusal of the vice governor to succeed in the office, the senior member of the sangguniang panlalawigan did; and said senior member, while holding the office of provincial governor, also died, who should succeed? The vice governor should! His refusal to assume the office of governor when it first became vacant is of no moment. But, suppose, the vice governor refused again, who should be noted that the senior member, who should succeed.? Here it should be noted that the senior member, who should logically succeed, had died. There would be no senior member to succeed. Could the President appoint is silent.

How about a permanent vacancy in the office of member of the sangguniang panlalawigan? The sangguniang panlalawigan is composed of both elective and appointive members. The elective members, the number of which may be four, six of eight, depending upon the population, are elected by direct vote. While the appointive members who are appointive by the President are the president of the Katipunang Panlalawigan and the president of the kabataang barangay provincial federation.

The permanent vacancy may be filled by a qualified person to be appointed, upon recommendation of the Minister, by the President. The law requires that the person so appointed must come from the political party of the member who caused the vacancy; meaning, if the holder of the vacant office is a KBL a KBL member may be appointed to the vacancy.

There is, however, a problem on who or which may appoint the successor to a vacant office of a member of the sangguniang bayan. This local legislative body is likewise composed of elective and appointive members. They are elected by the electorate or appointed by the President. Section 50 of the Code vests the power to the provincial governor. However, section 146(2) places the power to appoint the appointive members, like the president of the Katipunang bayan, president of the KB municipal federation and the representatives of the agricultural and industrial sectors in the President.

In a query, the Ministry of Local Government made a distinction. If the vacant office in the sangguniang bayan is elective, it would be the provincial governor who should appoint the successor and, if appointive, it would be the President.

The Code also provides for the rules regarding temporary vacancies in the offices of governor, city mayor, municipal mayor or punong barangay. The temporary incapacity must be due to physical or legal causes, official leave of absence, or travel outside the Philippines. Physical causes may refer to a temporary illness or ailment while legal causes to preventive suspension from office of the incumbent. Official leave of absence contemplates of an approved application for leave. Travel outside the Philippines may be for a private or public purpose or reason.

The Code designates the vice governor, vice city mayor, vice municipal mayor or the senior sangguniang barangay member, as the case may be, to succeed temporarily to the office. However, unlike in a permanent vacancy where in the successor can exercise any and all powers vested in the office, in temporary vacancy, the successor cannot exercise the powers to appoint, suspend or dismiss employees of the local government concerned. The limitation shall be for a period corresponding to the temporary incapacity, official leave of absence or travel abroad or for a period of not more than three months. Upon expiration of three months, if such still subsists, the prohibition or limitation ceases. But if the incumbent is on official travel, there shall be no automatic assumption of powers, duties and functions; otherwise, or, if the travel is private or has nothing to do with the discharge of his duties and functions, then, the successor may automatically assume thereof.

Incidentally, the officer-in-charge provision in Batas Pambansa Blg. 51, where the local chief executive may designate an officer-in-charge in case of his temporary absence is no longer controlling. Likewise, a permanent vacancy may be created if the local elective official, who is subject of recall, loses in the election; but it is not the successor designated by law who succeeds but the person elected thereto. Also, if a local chief executive runs for member of Batasang Pambansa, because, upon his filing of the certificate of candidacy, he ceases in office.

The law of succession in case of temporary and permanent vacancies, while it does not cover every conceivable situation, is not satisfactory enough. What is needed is a re- reading of the permanent provisions of the law.

The LOCAL SCENE

By J.P. ABLETEZ

FIRST LADP SCHOLARS

The Local Administration Development Program has launched a scholarship program designed to provide career opportunities for local administrators.

The LADP scholarship committee recently chose three LADP alumni as first set of scholars, including Mrs. Avelina P. Tanglao of Davao City and Mr. Meinrad B. Yanga of Jolo, Sulu.

They took an entrance examination with the UP College of Public Administration on Padre Faura, Manila before they were taken in for the second semester for school year 1984-85.

Under the LADP scholarship program, a subject of a memo of agreement with the University of the Philippines, the scholars are to take up a course on public administration.

The LADPAAP has donated to the UP P50,000, the interest of which will be used to finance the scholarship scheme.

According to Director Romeo B. Ocampo of the UP College of Public Administration, the total expenses for the 1st semester for one scholar is P528.50, for the 2nd semester – P1,346.50 and for the 3rd semester – P1,346.50 – for a grand total of P4,215.50.

The amount will cover tuition and miscellaneous fees, book allowance, etc.

PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION GUIDELINES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS

LOCAL government units – provinces, cities, municipalities and barangays – are not required to launch their own personnel administration programs to insure efficiency in public service, as provided for in the new Local Government Code.

In the Code's implementing rules and regulations, the responsibility for local government personnel administration is in the hands of the local chief executive, namely, the governor, city or municipal mayor or the barangay captain.

Rule XXI of the implementing rules and regulations specifies, among others, the following guidelines:

– That the existing civil service rules and regulations as well as laws shall apply to all appointive officials and employees of local government units except as otherwise provided by law;

– That the opportunity for employment in local governments shall be open to all qualified Filipino citizens and positive efforts shall be exerted to attract the best qualified to enter the service;



A LADPAAP board meeting with President Augusto Gana and BLGS Director Gaudioso C. Sosmena, Jr. presiding as they discuss the association's scholarship project.



MLG Minister Jose A. Rono (standing) is shown before top MLG officials during a year-end conference where he urged them to redouble their efforts to implement more projects while pursuing the austerity program of the government.

- To ensure the judicious and objective selection of personnel for promotion, a selection board shall be established in local units which shall be responsible for the formulaton of formal screening procedures and criteria for evaluating the candidates for promotion in the first and second levels of the career service; that the selection board shall be headed by the local chief executive and with members determined by resolution of the sanggunian concerned;

– That appointments to positions in local governments except those classified by the Civil Service Commission as policy-determining, primarily confidential, or highly technical in nature, shall be made according to merit and fitness;

– That all officials and employees paid wholly out of local government funds shall be appointed by the local chief executive concerned, except otherwise provided in the Local Government Code; that the nature of appointment shall either be permanent or temporary;

– That the local chief executive shall create a grievance committee composed of a chairman with two members; with the chairman coming from the office of teh chief executive and the other two members composing the following: head of the administrative department and the head of the particular department where the grievance started; and

– That the chief executive shall have the authority to remove, separate, suspend and otherwise disciplinary actions against all appointove local officials and employees whose appointments originate from national offices shall be heard and decided by the national official responsible therefor.

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SUPREME COURT RULINGS

BY
PROF. NICANOR M. PATRICIO

**E. PILAR V. SANGGUNIANG BAYAN ET AL. OF DASOL, PANGASINAN,
G.R. L-63216, March 12, 1984**

THE Mayor Is Personally Liable For Vetoing Without Cause Resolution Appropriating For Salary of Petitioner

In this case, it appears, *inter alia,* that the sangguniang bayan of Dasol, Pangasinan adopted a resolution appropriating money for the salary of petitioner Espedito Pilar. When the resolution was presented to him, municipal Mayor Lodovico Espinosa vetoed the same.

The matter reached the Supreme Court and the issue was whether or not the municipal mayor may be held liable for vetoing the resolution.

The Highest Tribunal declared that "Respondent Mayor vetoed without just cause on October 26, 1982 the Resolution of the Sangguniang Bayan appropriating (for) the salary of the petitioner. While to veto or not to veto involves the exercise of discretion' as contended by respondents, respondent mayor, however, exceeded his authority in an arbitrary manner when he vetoed the resolution since there exists sufficient municipal funds from which the salary of the petitioner could be paid. Respondent Mayor's refusal, neglect or omission in complying with the directive of the Pronvincial Budget Officer and the Director of the Bureau of Local Government that the salary of the petitioner be provided for and paid the prescribed salary rate, is reckless and oppressive, hence, by way of example or correction for the public good, respondent Mayor is liable personally to the petitioner for exemplary or corrective damages."

**ESQUIVEL V. COMMISION ON ELECTIONS ET AL.,
G.R. L-53475, April 28, 1983**

A Person Cannot File An Election Protest Over An Office He had Been Occupying at The Time

E. Cusio, KBL, and A. Esquivel, np, were candidates for office of city mayor of Palanan, Nueva Ecija. On February 1, 1980, the Board of Canvassers proclaimed Esquivel as mayor-elect; however, the Commission on Elections, upon petition of Cusio, set aside the proclamation because the board was illegally constituted. A new city board of canvassers was constituted which proclaimed Cusio as mayor-elect on March 27, 1980. The next day, Esquivel sought to annual the proclamation of Cusio with and the Supreme Court issued a restraining order.

Hoever, on October 14, 1980, the Supreme Court dismissed Esquivel's petition and lifted the restraining order. Whereupon Esquivel filed a joint petition. 1) annulment of proclamation of Cusio, which was assigned to division I, Comelec, and (2) election protest *ad cautelam,* assigned to division II. On July 29, 1981, division I dismissed Esquivel's petition for annulment, citing Arcenas v. Comelec (G.R. L-50435) where it was ruled that after an election duly held and proclamation thereafter made, a pre-proclamation controversy should no longer be viable. Meanwhile, division II set the hearing of Esquivel s election protest. Cusion went to the Supreme Court, seeking to bar Comelec from taking cognizance of Esquivel's protest *ad cautelam* for lack of jurisdiction inasmuch as said protest had been instituted beyond the 10-day period prescribed in section 189 of the 1978 Election Code.

On the issue of whether or not the Comelec has jurisdiction, the Highest Court observed that from March 27, 1980 until October 14, 1980, when the restraining order was lifted, Esquivel had assumed and discharged the duties of the office of mayor. Under this factual setting, it would have been illogical and absurd for him (Esquivel) to file an election protest over an office had been occupying at that time. Indeed, he had neither cause nor reason to seek such recourse. Thus section 189 of the Election Code should be considered as having been suspended during the pendency of G.R. L-53475 (annulment of proclamation) and that said statutory period be computed from October 15, 1980, the day after the dismissal of his (Esquivel's) petition. "The suspension of section 189 of the Election Code until such time as the Comelec has finally decided the pending pre-proclamation controversy is but logical and just, since if the protestant (Esquivel) previals in the pre-proclamation controversy, there would be no further need for him to file election protest. To specifically grant him of such period would be to effectively deprive him of fundamental right of due process. '

The Highest Court dismissed Cusio's petition and ordered the Comelec to proceed with the trial on the election protest of Esquivel.

**GABATAN V. COMELEC ET AL.,
G.R. L-58113, May 2, 1983**

The Comelec Has Jurisdiction Since Case Was Filed Ahead To That of the Court of First Instance (Regional Trial Court)

In this case, Adelina Gabatan and Leonardo Macalalag were candidates for the position of municipal mayor of Pagsanjan, Laguna in the January 30, 1980 local elections. The municipal board of canvassers proclaimed Gabatan as the winner. On February 2, 1980, Macalalag filed a petition with the Commission on Elections seeking to disqualify Gabatan on the ground of political turncoatism, she having changed political party affiliation within six months preceding the election; likewise, he filed a petition for quo warranto against her with the court of first instance (now regional trial court), invoking the same ground.

Gabatan moved to dismiss the petition for disqualification on the ground that the Commission has no jurisdiction, relying upon section 190 of the 1978 Election Code and alleging that since the matter involves an election protest for municipal offices it is the court of first instance which has jurisdiction over the case. The Comelec denied her motion so Gabatan went to the Supreme Court on certiorari and prohibition.

On the issue of whether an aciton for ineligibility against a municipal or the court of first instance (now regional trial court), the Highest Tribunal ruled that the Commission is vested with jurisdiction under its enlarged powers to act on a petition contesting the qualification of mayoral-candidat-elect on the ground of changing party affilication; even if there were any element of ambiguity on which tribunal has jurisdiction (either Comelec or CFI) over election contest involving disqualification issues, the fact that the case was first filed in the Commission ahead to that of the CFI, then the Commssion on Eleetions has jurisdiction over the case.

However, the dissenting opinion of Mr. Justice Abad Santos appears to be more persuasive than the majority opinion penned by Chief Justice Fernando. He said that the controlling provision is section 190 and not 189 of the 1978 Election Code. Paragraph 2 of section 189, which should be read with paragraph 1, deals only with 'any member of the interim Batasang Pambansa or any provincial or city officials." In this light, said paragraph 2 must necessarily refer to those officials only and cannot apply to the case at bar which involves a municipal office; the operative provision should be section 190 which deals with municipal offices.

LOCAL SCENE . . .
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GUIDELINES FOR PAYMENT OF BENEFITS TO DISASTER VOLUNTEER WORKERS HERE

THE implementing guidelines of Executive Order 948, which provides for the payment of compensatory benefits to disaster volunteer workers engaged in emergency operations, were issued recently by the office of Local Government Minister Jose A. Rono.

At least P5,000 will be paid for death resulting from the performance of work in disaster operations and for injury resulting in total and permanent disability.

The guidelines also provide the following:

– P3,000 - for injury resulting in permanent partial disability;

– P2,000 - for injury requiring hospitalization for more than 15 days;

– P1,000 - for injury requiring hospitalization for more than five days but not more than 15 days; and

– P300 - for injury requiring hospitalization for more than one day but not more than five days.

in addition, injured disaster volunteers workers are entitled to free medical care in any government or private hospital for the duration of confinement, although the equivalent amount charged will correspond only with the charges in payward of a government hospital or institution in case of confinement in a private hospital.

The guidelines also provide that disaster volunteer workers or their authorized representatives may file a claim for compensatory benefits by submitting the following requirements:

1. Duly accomplished compensatory benefits form; and

2. A certification by the local disaster Coordinating Council/ Chairman or the task unit head as to the actual particulation of the volunteer worker in the disaster operation indicating the time, place and nature of the disaster.

Minister Rono stressed that claims for compensatory benefits shall be filed not later than two weeks from the date of injury or death. Those filed after two weeks may be accepted only if any members of the Disaster Coordinating Council has knowledge of the injury or death sustained by the claimant.

The payment of compensatory benefits shall come from two sources – 1) the local government concened that may appropriate an advance amount from any available fund subject to reimbursement by the Ministry of Local Government; and

2) the annual appropriations for National Calamity Fund released to the MLG.



Deputy Minister Concordio C. Diel (second from right, photo) is shown while briefing MLG officials (lower photo) following his appointment as DM for local government development. Others with him are BLCD Director Cosio, Dep. Minister Tito Primicias, Jr., and MLF Asst. Sec. Eduardo Soliman.

THE ACHIEVER . . .
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Program as well as the Paglilingkod Bagong Lipunan Program, the Program for Essential Municipal Infrastructure Utilities Maintenance and Engineering Development, Regional Cities Development Program.

As former Governor who worked closely with USAID and other foreign agencies, his taking over the RSC/CDAP is also welcome. The RSC gets US assistance and Diel can surely work productively with Americans.

Apart from the implementation of such programs, the new DM is also expected to advice and assist the Minister in the formulation and implementation of policies on local government development.

And above all, he'S to coordinat e all sectoral programs and projects "to strengthen the capabilities of local government officials for development; exercise general supervision over the Bureau of Local Government Development (BLGD) and the implementation of local government development

program involving local government development."

Since the new Deputy Minister had the chance to implement similar such programs while he was yet City Mayor and Provincial Governor, he surely has the head-start or edge over other ranking officials in the national government. As one of his colleagues observed: "While carrying out programs or projects being implemented as board national schemes, Deputy Minister Diel can directly put himself into the shoes of a local government administrator that he used to be – and as such can right away know where local officials stand regarding the implementation of such programs and projects. In other words, he immediately pinpoint any problems in the program implementation process."

Diel, who spent nearly a month in briefings designed to acquaint himself with all programs and projects of the Ministry of Local Government shortly after he was sworn in by Minister Jose A. Rono, last November, has started streamlining the implementation of the various sectoral programs of the MLG. The idea is to cut duplication of efforts and wastage

tered in the implementation of government programs while he was yet a provincial and city executive could be attributed to red tape. "If we can just lessen red tape, then half of the problems in the implementation of the programs would be eliminated and half of the battle would be won," he said.

Diel is also looking forward to the restoration of the power of local governments to implement and maintain local infrastructure projects, as provided for in Executive Order No. 767 issued two years ago. He's of the belief that local units can do the job better particularly in maintaining barangay farm-to-market roads, schoolbuildings, etc. Anyway, he would like all local units like provinces and cities to be technically capable and equipped to undertake infra projects with minimal national aid or technical supervision.

Diel earned his law degree at the MLQ University and shortly after obtained a rating of 88.6% in the bar exams. He is working for his Master of Laws at the University of the Philippines.

This well-travelled official earlier

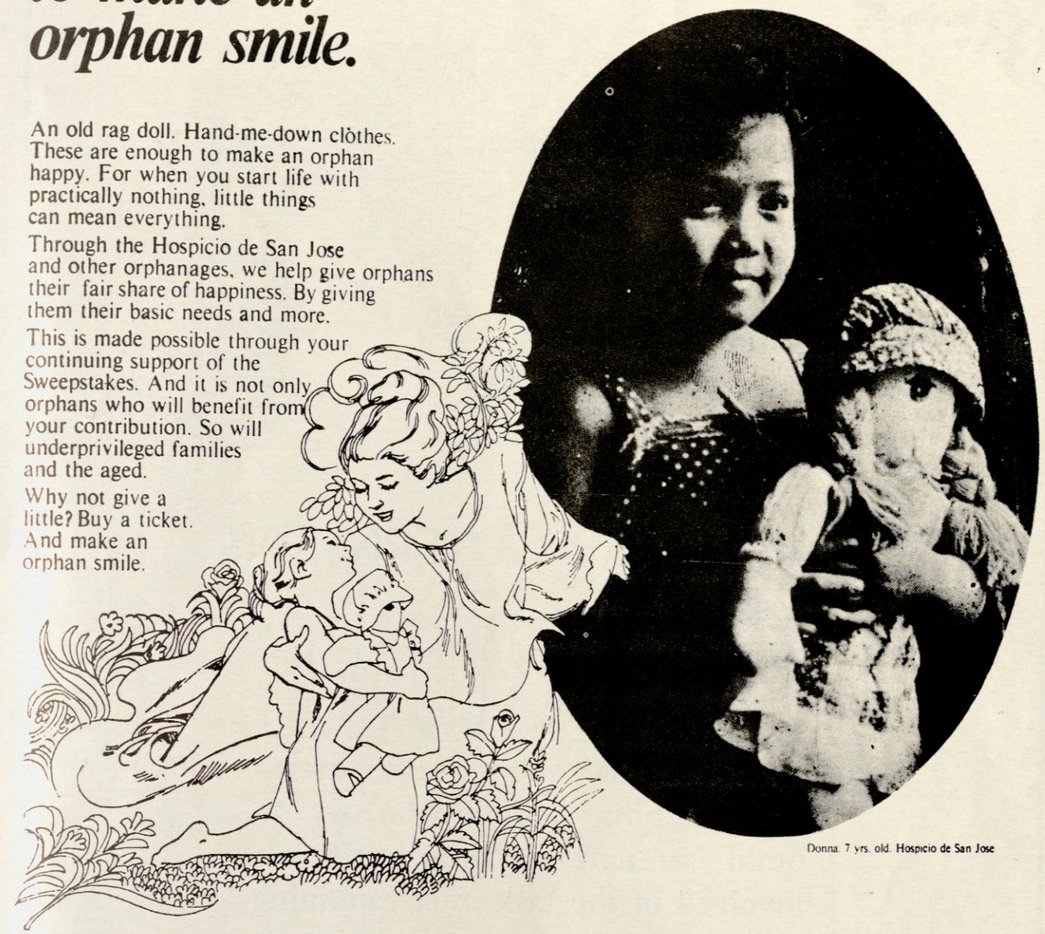
It takes so little to make an orphan smile.

An old rag doll. Hand-me-down clothes. These are enough to make an orphan happy. For when you start life with practically nothing, little things can mean everything.

Through the Hospicio de San Jose and other orphanages, we help give orphans their fair share of happiness. By giving them their basic needs and more.

This is made possible through your continuing support of the Sweepstakes. And it is not only orphans who will benefit from your contribution. So will underprivileged families and the aged.

Why not give a little? Buy a ticket. And make an orphan smile.



Donna 7 yrs. old. Hospicio de San Jose

PCSO, Cagayan de Oro Branch
Women's Club Bldg.
Caston Park, Cagayan de Oro City
Tel. # 30-34; 28-84

PCSO, Cebu Branch
Patria de Cebu Bldg.
Corner Lapu-Lapu and Legaspi Sts.
Cebu City
Tel. # 7-57-11

PCSO, Davao Branch
Maglangit Bldg.
Quirino Avenue Corner Gen. Luna St.
Davao City
Tel. # 7-56-87

PCSO, Legaspi Branch
Puericulture Center Bldg.
Imperial Street
Legaspi City
Tel. # 542

PCSO, Iloilo Branch
Boys Scout Bldg.
Bonifacio Drive
Iloilo City
Tel. # 7-46-40; 7-36-36

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