

Walking the Extra Mile For
The Youth of Puerto Galera



The Puerto Galera Fortnightly JOURNAL

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Phase One of Sabang road construction to begin soon

In fulfillment of one of his campaign promises, Mayor Rocky Ilagan announced that the first phase of the Sabang road construction will start this March or April. The Mayor said that the national government allotted P25 million this year and another P25 million for 2018 to complete the road project.

The initial plan of an 8-meter wide road did not push through as affected landowners opposed the idea. The Mayor met with 48 landowners who afterwards gave the chief executive

consent for the required right of way of the proposed road widening. In a phone interview, the Mayor said that he was able to negotiate a wider road and that "the road will be less than 8 meters, but definitely more than 4 meters in width."

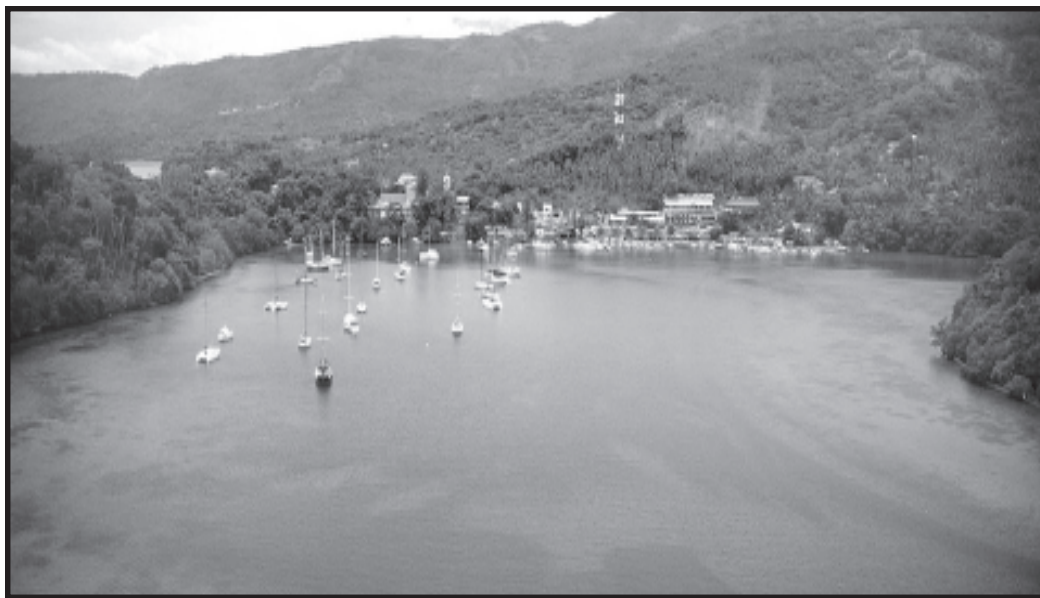
The Mayor also said that the road must be completely closed to traffic during the construction period. The first phase to last for 3 months will start from Poblacion up to Palangan. The second phase in 2018 to last also for 3 months will start from

Palangan to Sabang. The second phase will also have a budget of P25 million.

The explanation for the full closure of the road is simple - Quality. The contractor can only assure that the new Sabang road will be built properly if the under-layer and the foundation will be done over the entire width of the road and not the usual half now, half later procedure.

Another addition to the Sabang road is a detour from the

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Beautiful Muelle Pier to become a heritage park

TIEZA awards 60 million pesos for the Muelle heritage park

The Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) granted the request of Mayor Rocky D. Ilagan for the funding of the Muelle Bay Puerto Galera Cultural Heritage Park project worth 60 million pesos, in a letter received by the Mayor's Office last February 23.

Nestor M. Domalanta, Assistant Chief Officer at TIEZA's

Architectural and Engineering Service Sector asked the local government unit to submit the Terms of Reference for their final evaluation and approval.

Upon receipt of the letter, the Mayor submitted to TIEZA the requirements and is now awaiting the transfer of funds to the municipal coffer.

Once completed, the project

is expected to make Muelle one of the most beautiful tourist spots in the province. A full-size replica of a Spanish Galley (the San Miguel), a cultural center and a "Black Rice" glass display will be featured in the Muelle project.

The project is expected to further boost the tourist industry and give livelihood to many.

P6-B wind project steadily takes shape

The wind farm project in Puerto Galera is steadily moving ahead in spite of it being one of the hottest issues in the island of Mindoro. Probably not only because of the P6 billion price tag but its wide-ranging impact to the community.

It started way back in 2006 when Nicanor Villasenor, the former president of Philippine Hybrid Energy Systems, Inc or PHESI came to town and presented a very ambitious Wind Energy Power System to be installed on top of the mountain of Tabinay and Baclayan.

Initially, the project was worth P1.7 billion with a capacity of 18-megawatt but 6 years later, it ballooned to P6 billion and with a capacity of 48-megawatt, making it one of the biggest wind farm projects in the country. The plan was to build the project in 3 stages of 16-megawatt each.

Puerto Galera needs around 6-megawatt during peak season while the entire province has a maximum power consumption of only 43-megawatt. Clearly, there



Site of Tower One of the Puerto Galera wind farm project

is an over-supply of electricity with the current power suppliers and even more once the PHESI project is completed. However, the long term plan is to sell the excess power to the Luzon grid. Prior to this, a submarine cable connection must be installed to link up the Luzon grid to the ORMECO grid which

the electric cooperative said is now underway being a priority project of President Rodrigo Duterte.

The ground-breaking ceremony of the wind farm project was held in 2012, attended by then former Mayor Hubbert

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Council mulls approval of RDI's flagship projects

In a recent article posted at The Manila Standard website, Mayor RDI made clear that projects to solve the garbage and water problems have yet to be approved by the Sangguniang Bayan. Both are basic services and are spawning frequent complaints from the community and in social media.

Vice Mayor Marlon Lopez and some Sangguniang Bayan (SB) members are certainly not happy with the article which many say would further widen the rift between the two co-equal institutions of the local government. Before the Mayor can implement a project such as the sanitary landfill or a large-scale construction of the water system, he needs authorization from the Sangguniang Bayan.

The SB is waiting for the Barangay Captain of Villaflor to prove that public consultations were made before giving the go signal to the Mayor to develop the land to be used as a temporary controlled dumpsite.

Further, the SB wants a dec-

laration from an authoritative entity stating that the Lapantay dumpsite is no longer suited to become a sanitary landfill and thus, there is a need to find another site for a landfill which shall be in Villaflor. Once they got this, they might then issue a resolution paving the way for the usage of the Villaflor dumpsite or sanitary landfill.

In the case of the rehabilitation and construction of the water system, the SB is waiting for the so-called Water Consortium to give a letter of no objection to the project. The last administration contracted the construction of a new water system and sewerage treatment plant to the Consortium which remains suspended since no "notice to proceed" was given to them. The SB clearly wants to be sure that there will not be any legal case filed against them if another contractor will be doing the water project.

Being a first-term Mayor, Ilagan wants to swiftly solve the garbage and water crises which might go from bad to

worse if not addressed quickly due to the approaching high tourist season. The Mayor opined that both the MDRRMC and the Association of Barangay Captains passed resolutions clearly stating the importance of having a new dumpsite in Villaflor.

The Mayor also stated that he is willing to go to court versus the Consortium to tackle the water problem. He said that the funds are available and that there will be great improvement in the water supply once the projects are completed. All that is needed is the authorization from the SB which appears to be not forthcoming.

UPDATE: The SB last March 29 finally passed a resolution giving authority to the Mayor to use the 10.2 million pesos and enter into a contract for the rehabilitation of the watersystem. However, listed were several conditions including one that states that the contract should be in harmony and not in conflict with the contract entered with the Consortium.

The New White Beach



White Beach aqua-sports rental is now located in one area and with one receiving booth. The rate for banana boat, jet ski, flying fish, para-sailing and other popular fun activities is posted in public areas



White Beach - swimming areas are now clearly delineated away from the aqua-sports to prevent accidents that unfortunately happened before.



White Beach - is now a clean beach 24/7. Mayor Ilagan employed several "beach cleaners" to ensure the cleanliness of the beach.



White Beach - more and more tourists can see the big difference of the new, better White Beach.

President Duterte's Visit to Mindoro

by Mario Lutz

It was March 29th, 2017 when the President of the Philippines, Rodrigo Duterte visited Oriental Mindoro. He arrived in Socorro around 4:20pm and had a speech for nearly 45 minutes. Everyone in the crowds was waiting to see and hear the president while he joined the People's Day Celebration of the municipality of Socorro. Crowds gathered together way before lunch to hear what he has got to say.

The long hours of waiting was not easy to take and the organizers did everything they can do to entertain the people. Governor Alfonso Umali Jr., Congressman Paulino Salvador C. Leachon and Congressman Reynaldo V. Umali had in impromptu concert and did a good job singing popular songs. So did some of the Mayors in attendance which did effectively erase the boredom while we all wait for the most powerful man in the country.

Almost all the Mayors were present. Some delivered speeches after the Governor, the Vice Governor and the two Congressmen and everyone had enough time to say what they wanted to say.

The first of the president's entourage to arrive by chopper was Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel "Manny" Fantin Piñol. He immediately informed the public about his plans for Mindoro. Saying Manila as the city with millions of hungry people; he emphasized how important Mindoro's role as the

producer of the needed food products for the capital region in the future. Feeding the people of Manila area is a big challenge and Mindoro will be the key solution together with Quezon and the Batangas Province.

He made clear, that he did not come to Mindoro right after his appointment as secretary of the Department of Agriculture by accident. He stayed true to his promise to help the people of our province to develop and prosper. Secretary Piñol also informed the crowd that there will be changes in micro lending for farmers and fishermen (more on that in our next issue of the Fortnightly Journal).

Finally, the chopper of the president arrived. Security was tight as expected and everyone was anxious to hear the speech of the president (and how many times he would be swearing of course).

In general, President Digong did not say anything new, he thanked the people of Mindoro for their support, talked about China the United States of America and why he believes that peace is more important than conflicts in our region. He was happy to announce, that China lifted the travel and export ban.

The president then ask the farmers to plant calamansi, pineapple and bananas as the demand in china is enormous and explained his support for Piñol's plans for Mindoro.

The president also made clear that he will not break the friendly ties of the Philippines with the USA, but he cleared his position on how important a good and respectful relationship

with China will be.

Regarding the repeated reports by the media that he might think about imposing martial law, he said: "Hindi talaga totoo! I was elected by the People of the Philippines to bring peace to our nation, not to declare war on our people".

He also defended his position on the war on drugs, how determined he is to rid the country of the drug menace. He also talked about the situation regarding NPA, ISIS and other rebel groups, and made clear that he is still willing to talk "sense into them".. with one exemption, ISIS! Calling them all

kind of names, Duterte promised to wipe them out. After that he told the European Union that he wants them to come here so he can slap them silly. The President left the scene and went back to Manila.

Everyone who was waiting for him to swear like a sailor, was pleased to notice that President Duterte will never change anymore. P...ng ina...

All in all, I can report that everyone enjoyed the day and it was with great honor to meet the man, who the Time Magazine listed as one of the most influential leader in the world. That must hurt Mr. Trump.

Finally, Sewerage System for Puerto Galera in reach

by Mario Lutz

The Fortnightly Journal recently received some very good news from Mayor Rockey D. Ilagan. The Department of Public Works and Highways granted the request of the municipality for a 100-Million peso budget for the construction of a Sewage Treatment Plant. Finally, one of the biggest problems of our town will be dealt with. The environment in and around Puerto Galera is our precious treasure, the future of the next generation, but also the future of Puerto Galera as one of the main tourist destinations in the Philippines.

The Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) will be built in Barangay Sabang, as the ocean has been abused there for ages. It is expected, that the planning

of the STP will start as soon as possible.

Sewage treatment is the process of removing contaminants from wastewater, primarily from household sewage. It includes physical, chemical, and biological processes to remove these contaminants and produce environmentally safe treated wastewater (or treated effluent). A by-product of sewage treatment is usually a semi-solid waste or slurry, called sewage sludge, which has to undergo further treatment before being suitable for disposal or land application.

Puerto Galera Fortnightly will follow up and continue to inform about the progress.

Congratulations to the Mayor.



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The Fortnightly got some pictures from concerned citizens of Big Lalaguna in Barangay Sabang. Photo show what experts call "dangerous clear-cutting" in eroded slopes near building structures. As expected, the folks around this area are unhappy to see that something like that can still happen in our town.

Phase One of Sabang road. . .

carwash (Castillo farm) going up to Sinandigan and down to the Sabang intersection.

The Mayor said he had finished consultation with Sabang residents and separate meetings with residents of Sinandigan and Palangan will be done to inform and prepare the public to make the adjustment while the road is being constructed.

Meanwhile, many residents of Sabang have voiced their opposition using Social Media to the proposed complete closure

of the road. They said that residents of the 3 barangays as well as workers and visitors will be greatly affected by the road closure. They are petitioning the Mayor to reconsider and use the half now, half later road construction method.

Further, during inclement weather, Sabang will be totally inaccessible and the greatest concern will be medical emergencies and the welfare of senior citizens and students.

Councilor Medel Candava said that it is the Council that has

the right to close any road and that the Sangguniang Bayan will have to consult the affected residents before making a decision. The Mayor said that he will submit the matter to the Sangguniang Bayan and that hopefully the Council can act swiftly so that construction may commence at the soonest time.

UPDATE: Mayor Rockey D. Ilagan was able to persuade the contractor to do a half-now, half-later construction method instead of the complete closure of the Sabang road.

P6-B wind project...

Christopher Dolor, Governor Alfonso Umali, Congressman RGV and many provincial and municipal VIPs. It was during the term of the former Mayor when the permits and clearances were issued, and sometime in 2015, PHESI started the road construction leading to the site where the first 8 wind towers will be established.

PHESI employed hundreds of Mangyan workers who are being paid high salary rates compared to what are normally given to them. They also spent millions of pesos to acquire all the right of way for the access road leading to the 1,296-hectare wind farm site.

Upon becoming the Mayor, Rockey Ilagan ordered a review and had a series of dialogue with PHESI to get acquainted with the project. The new Mayor reportedly did not receive from his predecessor any documents about the wind energy project. Mayor Ilagan concerned about the environmental impact, at first, approved a cease and desist order which was later lifted upon PHESI's compliance of the Mayor's requirements.

One such condition was the submission of a comprehensive program to solve the siltation, soil erosion and pollution of the



nearby coastal water.

The program includes the establishment of silt booms, silt ponds, drainage canals and slope protection measures including reforestation and planting of vetiver grass which is known as the most effective and natural method in preventing soil erosion and siltation.

PHESI explained that the silt boom could have been installed many months ago but a group of fishermen prevented them. Mayor Ilagan later convinced the fishermen to allow the putting in place of the silt boom as a necessary measure against siltation.

PHESI further described how they plan to stop soil erosion using vetiver grass to be planted along the road and in critical areas. The reason Vetiver works so well for erosion control is it produces a massive root

system that grows straight down rather than out from the plant. It creates a sort of curtain beneath the soil, trapping sediment and slowing down the movement of water and earth.

Aside from this, Mayor Ilagan also urged PHESI to fast-track and make good of their commitments to the Mangyan community. In response, PHESI is now building a community center for the Mangyans complete with a new Barangay Hall, health clinic and basketball court expected to be finished before April 2017.

The Puerto Galera wind farm is envisaged to become another major tourist spot of the island, and like other windmills in the Philippines, is expected to draw more visitors both locals and foreign due to its fantastic panoramic view of the Verde Island Passage, neighboring towns and islands.

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Malasimbo Festival, call for help!

Last March 10 to 12, Puerto Galera for the 7th time had the Malasimbo Music and Arts Festival. Again, thousands of tourists came to see the event, stayed at the hotels, ate at the restaurants and spent thousands of pesos while in Puerto Galera. Many did earn, many did benefit directly or indirectly. Further, before and after the event, there were numerous news articles about Malasimbo Festival which are valuable tourism promotion absolutely free!

Hubert d' Aboville and son-in-law Miro Grgic are the creators of what can only be considered "a phenomenal" event, who with their hard work, dedication and commitment always managed to bring to a successful fruition each Malasimbo Festival. Indeed, it is phenomenal given the extremely challenging logistics and organizational requirements, the high expectations of its unique public and the equally high standards of artistry and music maintained by the organizers.

Miro was widely acclaimed as one of a few in the country who can bring such a myriad of great musicians in a unique venue while his wife Olivia is the curator of fantastic artworks by 30 artists displayed at the festival grounds. Hubert and wife Ara gave the festival a special dimension through the D' Aboville Foundation and Demo Farm where the IPs of Mindoro were introduced, and the importance of our environment explained to all. The festival is anchored on 4 pillars, namely, Music, Arts, Indigenous People and the Environment – advocacies which has made Malasimbo a cut above the rest.

In spite of all the colorful accolades given to the event, Hubert d' Aboville regrettably is having second thoughts if ever there will be a Malasimbo Festival in 2018 as he mourns the lack of support from those who greatly benefit from the festival especially the resort owners in particular and even the people of Puerto Galera in general. To many who have seen and have been at the festival, this would be unbelievable – what with the efforts expended and the millions invested. To this d' Aboville can only say the festival had become unsustainable, more so, after they lost the usual sponsorship given by the Department of Tourism.

"Money will not come from my savings or my children's savings", says d' Aboville. "If Puerto Galera wants the festival to continue next year and the year after that, we need the support of everyone", he added.

Aware of the significance of the event, the Puerto Galera Tourism Council responded to the call for help and is appealing to the Department of Tourism to continue to subsidize the Malasimbo Festival.

The Tourism Council will also be enjoining all resort owners to support the organizers which can translate to giving a couple of rooms for free, buying advertising slots or a free meal to the many artists performing at Malasimbo.

The municipal government can help with the security, transportation and medical needs while the provincial government can help by assisting and organizing the Mangyans who sell their products and show their culture to the hordes of tourist that come to Malasimbo.

Yes we need to lend a hand to the organizers. Never mind if they earned tons of money, which obviously they did not; what matters is the positive effect of Malasimbo to our tourist industry, one that we desperately need.

Thank you and Viva Malasimbo!

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Solving the garbage problem



Villaflor residents were consulted by the Barangay Chairman and MENRO officials about the new dumpsite/ sanitary landfill to be built in Pagturian, Villaflor

The disposal of garbage is an ugly battle, not only in Puerto Galera, but all over the world.

As one of the most pressing issues, Mayor Rockey Ilagan has been trying his best to find the most effective and lasting solution to the problem. However, the Sangguniang Bayan (municipal council) has yet to approve the solution as proposed by the Mayor.

The recent article entitled "Puerto Galera faces water, trash crises" published on The Manila Standard website last February 20, 2017 exposed the issue nationwide and highlights the difficulties surrounding the issue.

What's happening?

The Puerto Galera Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (MDRRMC) and the Association of Barangay Chairmen (ABC) have endorsed the immediate transfer of the town's temporary dumpsite in Sitio Lapantay, Dulangan to Sitio Pagturian Villaflor to safeguard the health of residents and tourists coming this summer.

The municipal government rents the present temporary dumpsite in Sitio Lapantay which is private property. The site is geographically close to the upper part of the Tamaraw Falls and threatens the protected area. Secondly, the landowner has refused to renew the contract with the municipal government making it imperative to find a new dumpsite.

"There is a dire need to act immediately, to do away with creating a more serious problem that will affect our tourism industry and the health of our constituents," Mayor Ilagan said in his letter to the Sangguniang Bayan.

Studies show that the volume of garbage generated daily is around 110 to 150 cubic meters. However, this will escalate astronomically during the high and peak tourist season especially in Barangay San Isidro. White Beach will again "drown" in garbage if the Council will not authorize the transfer of the dumpsite to Villaflor.

Huge volume of domestic and commercial wastes is generated daily. In the case of Puerto Galera, numerous tourist and hospitality establishments mean the bulk of waste generated are kitchen wastes such as food trimmings and leftovers. Furthermore, there is also a high volume of plastic bottles, plastic wrappers and packaging's in the garbage produced.

In the Philippine setting, these wastes are often times lumped together and not segregated.

Since most of the trash in Puerto Galera is packed into plastic bags, these are many times scavenged and destroyed by night animals such as rodents, cats and dogs. This results to trash littering around and garbage leachate spilling making the surrounding areas smell foul.

Other households and business establishments are able to afford acquiring trash bins. Some are even able to sort their trash according to

recyclability. However, most garbage collection practices simply put these segregated wastes together in the garbage truck.

Objectives

To develop a new and reliable system, the objectives of the Mayor are clear:

1. Create a systematic and effective waste collection and hauling system for the municipality to ensure, timely and efficient waste removal from the point of waste generation.

2. Establish an innovative Material Recovery Facility that will pre-process waste to recover recyclables and other materials that maybe repurposed to become new raw materials thereby effectively reducing the waste and carbon footprint of the municipality.

3. To design and manage a state-of-the-art engineered sanitary landfill and disposal facility that will see the effective, safe and sustainable disposal of the residues of the municipal's wastes with minimal detrimental environmental and social impact.

4. To calibrate the entire waste management solution or program of the municipality, allowing it to establish in the future a waste to energy facility that will not only process waste but also yield energy as a by-product.

5. To setup a professional Operations and Management (O&M) Facility that will undertake to manage, oversee, supervise and direct the entire program into fruition, sustainability, profitability and success.

The search for a new disposal site is more urgent than ever as the Barangay Dulangan served notice to Mayor Rockey D. Ilagan, through a resolution that it is now opposed to the presence of the dumpsite in their area, saying it will be a health hazard to its residents and the environment.

The Villaflor Barangay council, on the other hand, has offered Puerto Galera a four-hectare site in Sitio Pagturian as a temporary landfill.

"Through this lot, Puerto Galera can maintain its cleanliness and orderliness," said the resolution unanimously approved by the council headed by Barangay Chairman Teodoro Florida.

Florida also stated to the Fortnightly Journal, that the necessary public consultation was held and was properly documented.

Now it is up to the Sangguniang Bayan presided by Vice Mayor Marlon L. Lopez, to act on the request of Ilagan to pass an urgent resolution, authorizing the Mayor to sign an agreement with the landowner of the soon to be developed dumpsite in Barangay Villaflor.

In the meantime, Mayor Ilagan is going ahead to look into different Integrated Waste Management Solutions; one of it is a Recycle Center to be built close to the new landfill site in Barangay Villaflor which will effectively reduce the disposed waste by up to 75%. (by Mario Lutz)

Puerto Galera: In the Early Days (Circa 1928)

Ed: A friend handed me this story which he said might have been given to him by my late father. As to how my father came into the possession of this manuscript I do not know.

I thought this old document would just be another tirade on environmental issues. As I leafed through this old manuscript, my lips began to tremble and my eyes filled with tears. It had such an emotional impact on me as my mind began to picture what Puerto Galera was like in the eyes of the author.

Many of us have heard endless remarks on how beautiful our town is. Becoming one of the most beautiful bays in the world was another feather on our cap, another slogan in colorful brochures.

Many of us have heard of endless warnings on how we need to protect our fragile environment. There were great speeches one after the other. We clapped, we listened but nobody did anything.

As I surfed through the Web, so many people have said how much we destroyed Puerto Galera. The subtitles were poetic, "The Lost Paradise", "The Lost Biosphere", so on and so forth. A former Tourism Secretary even said that Puerto Galera is an example of how not to develop a tourist spot.

All these fell on deaf ears. It was as if we were in a state of denial.

Nah, that couldn't be, look at the buildings being built to accommodate more tourists, we say. This will go on forever; it was the prevailing attitude.

Now look you here, dear townsmate. The truth hurts but it will set us free. We are destroying Puerto Galera and we need to undergo shock treatment to reverse the process.

Read this and see how this world-renowned biologist saw Puerto Galera in 1928. He wrote this story in 1979 when tourism had just started. Sabang was not yet Sabang. Imagine, how he would have written this if he will see Puerto Galera now.

---ooOoo---

I visited Puerto Galera as an undergraduate student in the summer of 1928; and as a graduate student in 1930 summer term. I returned as a faculty member in the 1954 summer team and several times thereafter. The changes wrought on the town between my early and later visits surprised me profoundly, particularly as regards its physical environment.

In the following description, only the conditions obtaining there during my early visits (as a student) will be treated. The reader may then compare the Puerto Galera then with what it is now.

Puerto Galera has always been a very small, sleepy town. In the old geography textbook that I used in the grade school, Puerto Galera appeared to be the capital of Mindoro province. How it earned that honor greatly surprised me when I set foot on its shore. It was completely isolated from the rest of the country. There was no vehicular road linking it to the next town – none even extending out of the Poblacion; only footpaths led towards Balatero in the west, Tabinay in the east and Sabang in the north. Even the path from the public school building to Muelle passing by the present Marine Biological Station (this was constructed in 1934 or 1935) was not yet clearly discernible beside a second growth forest.

If I remember right, there were only 27 houses in the Poblacion. Such beaches as Muelle, Baleta and Varadero were completely uninhabited. As mentioned above, there was no building hous-

ing the U.P. summer class – this was held in the public elementary school building. There was no church, only a small chapel without a resident priest. Some 15 to 20 people congregated there on Sunday morning and recited the Rosary. The small municipal building was located on a hill (about the same location as the present one). There were no ruins or any marks that testified to its being a provincial capital in previous times.

The municipality was run by the following officials: municipal president, municipal treasurer who served also as secretary and postmaster, and four policemen, without a chief, and sporting no uniform, recognizable only by the side arms that they carried.

No boat was calling regularly at the town. Occasionally, a sailboat (batil) put in from Bauan, Batangas or from Calapan, Mindoro (the island was not yet divided into Oriental and Occidental Mindoro). When the summer class was about to begin, the U.P. had to charter a steamboat plying towards the Visayas to drop us and all our equipment and supplies at Puerto Galera. We had to take along from Manila laboratory tables, microscopes and other instruments, chairs, stools, books, foodstuffs, etc. At the end of the summer term, the same boat picked us up and brought us to Manila. The boat anchored at Varadero Bay; we and all our things were ferried to shore by small bancas.

Our isolation would have been complete if the U.P. did not charter a small sailboat to pick up our mail from Bauan, Batangas. This sailboat made a trip once a week. Because it was completely at the mercy of the wind, its arrival at Puerto Galera could not be ascertained. Sometimes it arrived late at night and we used to rouse the postmaster in his house and then and there the mail bag was opened – so anxious were we for letters from relatives and friends. The postmaster manifested unusual sympathetic understanding of our needs.

The town then was heavily forested. I stated above that the present site of the Marine Biological Station was forested, so also were all the mountains around the town. In many places the forests extended to the beaches. This was the condition at Tabinay. The Tabinay River was bordered on both sides with tall forest trees. When we went to the river to collect freshwater crustaceans, we were watched by monkeys chattering, howling and jumping among the branches of the nearby trees. Yet we were not more than 100 meters up from the mouth of the small stream. We used to go to Balatero in bancas across the sandbar, the footpath being uncertain among forest trees.

I cannot recall of any house along the shore of Puerto Galera Bay on the mainland side. There were a few on Medio Island and one on Paniquian Island. As a graduate student, I undertook regeneration experiments at Muelle. I used to work there all morning all alone, without seeing a single human being; only the song of birds and rustling of leaves disturbed the penetrating solitude and silence.

The richness of marine life was amazing to say the least. Every cove harbored a thriving biotic community. No river flowed into Puerto Galera Bay so the salinity of its water was maintained at normal level; the adjoining highlands had a rich forest cover so sedimentation was minimal; the human population was small so pollution by man was negligible.

Some 5 meters from the shore at Muelle, the sea was deep enough to harbor many large sponges, *Petrosia lignosa* – Muelle was then our main collecting ground for this enormous

sponge. The "First Plateau" supported an extensive coral reef which was a rich collecting ground not only for coelenterates but also for *Pandocia aurata*. The tidal flat on the Puerto Galera side of Medio Island was literally covered with sea cucumbers of various species – *Stichopus chloronotus*, *Holothuria sanguinolenta*, *H. coluber*, etc. There was not a square foot of ground that did not have a sea cucumber. A little farther off, the giant, brick red *Thelenota ananas* was conspicuous with its numerous dorsal papillae. *Cassiopaea* carpeted the bottom of Muelle among the mangrove trees towards the cemetery.

It was in Puerto Galera Bay where we saw a large school of *Beroe*, the big *ctenophore*, that most of us in our group did not see before. Towards Buaya Point, we came upon a spectacular sight – a vast assemblage of *Porpita*, consisting of thousands of individuals of various colors (red, blue, yellow) floating serenely on a calm sea.

We gathered small *Dentalium* in the sandy bottom of Baleta. We just swept the surface of the sand under a foot of water with our open palms; any sharp object was *Dentalium*. Shipwreck Point in Varadero Bay was another place teeming with marine life. Everywhere we were treated to a great profusion of marine animals. Puerto Galera was yet an unspoiled natural habitat.

It's regrettable that in the early days, since U.P. students first went to Puerto Galera in 1925, no one foresaw that some day the place would be discovered by rich people and would be utilized for commercial purposes, conversion of coves into fishponds and attraction of tourists to its beautiful landscapes and beaches.

Even in 1934 when the present building was constructed, the University was given only 1,000 square meters of public land by proclamation of the Governor General. At that time, extensive areas were still forested and the entire shoreline might have been government property.

In 1954, at the initiative of the incumbent Chairman (then Head) of the Department of Zoology, the University petitioned the national government to declare the area around Puerto a reservation of the U.P. Marine Biological Station. The main reason for the move was to conserve

the terrestrial and marine communities by warding off ownership of the land by private individuals and entities, regulating the collection of biological products and preventing illegal fishing. The approval and favorable recommendation of the government agencies most concerned with the matter, such as the Navy, Customs, Lands and Fisheries Bureaus, were readily secured. However, when the people of Puerto Galera were sounded out, they refused to give their approval. It was too late! The areas behind the town were already denuded of their forest cover and cultivated and claimed by some inhabitants and the coves were already privately owned. The U.P. offered a compromise – to exclude from the proposed reservation those lands that were already claimed and cultivated by private parties. Most of them however were claiming the lands without legal papers in support of their lands. No amount of persuasion and assurance that their rights would be respected made them change their stand. The then Vice President of the U.P., Dr. Isidro, went personally to Puerto Galera to convince the people but failed.

Previous to this, the Chairman approached the Chief of the U.S. Aid Mission in Manila for funds to support the development and expansion of the Station. Col. Breen, then Chief of the Mission and a party of American officials accepted our invitation to visit Puerto Galera and personally look over the suitability and potentiality of the place. Some U.P. officials conducted them in a Philippine Navy boat. They were impressed but made the observation that unless the place were officially reserved for the exclusive use of the U.P., it was not wise and justifiable to finance the project for its future was dubious. The department chairman was lucky with his approach to the Colombo Plan – the department was given valuable reference materials and microscopes....

Nature has been very lavish towards Puerto Galera! It's lamentable that the U.P. was powerless to conserve its bountiful biological resources for the education and enjoyment of later generations of Filipinos.

Written by Francisco Nemenzo, 24 December 1979.

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Applicants should have:

-18yrs to 35yrs old

-at least College level or undergrad

-with dynamic personality

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---ooOoo---

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The new Tamaraw Falls, polished gem of Mindoro

by Mario Lutz

The Tamaraw Falls is undoubtedly one of the most visited tourist spots of Puerto Galera and on every tourist mind when doing an inland tour. Under Mayor Rocky D. Ilagan, the allure of Tamaraw Falls will increase ten-folds as it is transformed from a nearly decrepit state into a clean, safe and tourist friendly facility. Further, it will soon be the jump off point of the longest zipline in Asia.

To understand the tremendous work that was done and is being done, let us revisit the past. In June, 2016 a young businessman from Sabang became the new Mayor of Puerto Galera. Concerned with the financial health of the town, his first actions was to evaluate and audit all of the towns resources and assets. The Mayor knew the big potential of the Tamaraw Falls as an income-generating economic enterprise of the municipality.

Then came the news that Puerto Galera will be delisted as a Man and Biosphere Reserve (MAB) site. One of Puerto Galeras accolade is being the first to be declared a MAB site in Asia and of course, the Philippines by UNESCO in 1977. It would be such a shame if Puerto Galera will be removed from the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, a first delisting in the history of the UNESCO MAB program worldwide. And the Tamaraw Falls was one of the major considerations of the UNESCO in their assessment for making Puerto Galera as a MAB site.

The Mayor acted quickly, created 3 Technical Working Groups (TWG) that were tasked to submit the requirements of UNESCO to remain a MAB site. Time was of the essence, the UNESCO had given the new administration only 2 months to comply with all the requirements. Two months only! There were 3 TWGs created: one for the Man and Biosphere Reserve issues, another one for the rehabilitation of Muelle bay, and one for the Tamaraw Falls. I was part of all 3 TWGs, and was able to witness the entire process, the struggle of the new administration to turn things around from the very beginning.

The job was very clear keep Puerto Galera's listing as a Man and Biosphere Reserve, develop a rehabilitation program for Muelle Bay and the Tamaraw Waterfalls and do all



Tourists take a dip at the pool of the new Tamaraw Falls

of that with next to no money or time.

Eventually, Tamaraw Falls was aptly prioritized for conservation, development and areas for research and education under Mayor Ilagan.

Back to the Waterfalls

The Tamaraw Falls are located at Barangay Villaflor, Puerto Galera, 14 km from the town proper and on the southeastern part of the municipality. It can be reached by land or by sea transport. It has an elevation of 432 feet above sea level.

It has a declared total land area of 97,893 square meters consisting of 4 lots. The whole area, most of the property owned by the Municipal is actually located at the top of the falls and contains a rich ecosystem, is part of the MAB program.

The Tamaraw Falls is being proposed to be an excellent avenue for demonstration of the symbiotic relationship of man and nature, one of the main goals of the Man and Biosphere program. It will showcase the possibility that progress can be greatly achieved without putting the environment in jeopardy.

In order to achieve this, the Tamaraw Falls will be developed to contain different features, activities, amenities and opportunities for research and education. The most important task in the beginning was to take care of the lower part, the part where the public can gather together, use BBQ stands or swim in the natural pools of the Falls.

But first things first.

Upon the analysis of the situation of Tamaraw Falls, the following were the identified problems:

Activities at the Tamaraw Falls were limited to swimming and picture taking.

There were many dense trees that block the sunlight making the walkway and balusters slippery due to algal bloom.

The comfort room below the site had no proper drainage and the wastes coming from it had affected the water irrigation of the river and the rice fields.

Garbage was not properly disposed of. Litters were evident in the lower part of the Tamaraw Falls everywhere.

The pools were observed and found to be very dirty. Silt levels were more than one meter high in some parts of the pool area. Many of the massive rocks surrounding the pools had many algae and very slippery. Several accidents were recorded.

There was suspected mercury contamination in the water due to small scale gold mining on the top of the falls,

Dilapidated infrastructures also posed safety issues since they were not stable and could fall off at anytime. The areas with the old restaurant were not secured.

The comfort room (if you dare to call it by that name) below the site had no proper drainage, no septic tank. The whole area around it was infested with harmful bacteria and germs, and very smelly.

All this and more issues had been found during our site inspections.

Due to enormity of the problem and the lack of fund, the Tamaraw Falls project had to be divided into phases.

This March Phase One is done!

Overall improvements can be seen in every corner of the lower parts of the waterfalls. The budget for 2016 was only 1.5 million pesos and more funds had to be raised by the Mayor in order to fix the most pressing problems.

>>> on page 7

The Committees of the Sanguniang Bayan

Wikipedia defines the Sangguniang Bayan (Filipino: Municipal Council) as the local legislative branch of the municipal governments in the Philippines. It is responsible for passing ordinances and resolutions for the administration of a municipality. Our Sangguniang Bayan has several committees to facilitate its legislative work and address issues given to them. We are publishing the Chairman and Members of each committee for the information of the public.

a. Committee on Rules, Privileges and Legal Matters

Chair - Melchor J. Arago

Members:

Miko Mark Francis P. Atienza
Edwin C. Axalan
Joemer M. Sandoval
Joseph L. Andal

b. Committee on Finance, Budget and Appropriations

Chair - Melchor J. Arago

Members:

Hermilo M. Cataquis
Miko Mark Francis P. Atienza
Joemer M. Sandoval
Miguelito C. Candava

c. Committee on Ways and Means

Chair - Miguelito C. Candava

Members:

Joseph L. Andal
Melchor J. Arago
Edwin C. Axalan
Antonio J. Arago

d. Committee on Market and Slaughterhouse

Chair - Joseph L. Andal

Members:

Miguelito C. Candava
Miko Mark Francis P. Atienza
Melchor J. Arago
Edwin C. Axalan

e. Committee on Cooperatives and Livelihood Development

Chair - Edwin C. Axalan

Members:

Miko Mark Francis P. Atienza
Hermilo M. Cataquis
Melchor J. Arago
Miguelito C. Candava

f. Committee on Tourism, Trade and Investment

Chair - Miguelito C. Candava

Members:

Joseph L. Andal
Melchor J. Arago
Miko Mark Francis P. Atienza
Edwin C. Axalan

g. Committee on Health, Sanitation and Social Welfare

Chair - Joemer M. Sandoval

Members:

Edwin C. Axalan
Joseph L. Andal
Miko Mark Francis P. Atienza
Melchor J. Arago

h. Committee on Human Rights and Public

Information

Chair - Antonio J. Arago

Members: Miko Mark Francis P.

Atienza

Miguelito C. Candava

Edwin C. Axalan

Melchor J. Arago

i. Committee on Labor and Employment

Chair - Antonio J. Arago

Members:

Edwin C. Axalan

Hermilo M. Cataquis

Joseph L. Andal

Melchor J. Arago

j. Committee on Infrastructure, Public Works and Public Utilities

Chair - Edwin C. Axalan

Members:

Hermilo M. Cataquis

Miguelito C. Candava

Miko Mark Francis P. Atienza

Melchor J. Arago

k. Committee on Transportation and Communication

Chair - Miko Mark Francis P.

Atienza

Members:

Joemer M. Sandoval

Melchor J. Arago

Edwin C. Axalan

Miguelito C. Candava

l. Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Chair - Joseph L. Andal

Members:

Miguelito C. Candava

Melchor J. Arago

Miko Mark Francis P. Atienza

Antonio J. Arago

m. Committee on Public Order and Safety

Chair - Melchor J. Arago

Members:

Edwin C. Axalan

Joemer M. Sandoval

Miguelito C. Candava

Antonio J. Arago

n. Committee on Sectoral Affairs

Chair - Joemer M. Sandoval

Members:

Antonio J. Arago

Hermilo M. Cataquis

Melchor J. Arago

Joseph L. Andal

o. Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability

Chair - Miko Mark Francis P.

Atienza

Members:

Edwin C. Axalan

Melchor J. Arago

Joseph L. Andal

Hermilo M. Cataquis

p. Committee on Education, Culture and Arts

Chair - Miko Mark Francis P.

Atienza

Members:

Edwin C. Axalan

Melchor J. Arago

Miguelito C. Candava

Romeo Agellon

q. Committee on Barangay Affairs

Chair - Romeo Agellon

Members:

Edwin C. Axalan

Melchor J. Arago

Hermilo M. Cataquis

Joseph L. Andal

r. Committee on Youth and Sports Development

Chair - Miko Mark Francis P.

Atienza

Members:

Joemer M. Sandoval

Melchor J. Arago

Miguelito C. Candava

Hermilo M. Cataquis

s. Committee on Games and Amusement

Chair - Hermilo M. Cataquis

Members:

Edwin C. Axalan

Melchor J. Arago

Miguelito C. Candava

Miko Mark Francis P. Atienza

t. Committee on Energy

Chair - Antonio J. Arago

Members:

Miko Mark Francis P. Atienza

Melchor J. Arago

Edwin C. Axalan

Joseph L. Andal

u. Committee on Housing and Land Use

Chair - Edwin C. Axalan

Members:

Hermilo M. Cataquis

Melchor J. Arago

Miko Mark Francis P. Atienza

Miguelito C. Candava

v. Committee on Agriculture

Chair - Hermilo M. Cataquis

Members:

Antonio J. Arago

Joseph L. Andal

Edwin C. Axalan

Melchor J. Arago

The new Tamaraw Falls...



The Mayor flocked by tourists at the Tamaraw Falls

Mayor Ilagan said around 2 million pesos were spent so far to rehabilitate the lower section of the waterfalls.

The old buildings were demolished and removed, all baluster had been replaced, the gazebos located around the Pool have been repaired and repainted. A brand new multi-purpose hall has been constructed. Clean comfort rooms, proper connected to septic tank can be found now inside the multi-purpose hall.

All pools have been repaired and intensely cleaned, assuring that visitors will not have health issues while swimming in the cold and refreshing mountain river waters.

I spent during the rehabilitation works more than 3500 man hours to be able to open the lower part of the falls again for public use. There have been many struggles to accomplish the first phase -- waiting for salaries, excruciating works on ropes in order to clear the falls, angry visitors complaining why they can't enter the site and difficult logistics are only part of what everyone had to deal with.

Today, one can find properly dressed tourist guides with IDs. Members of the PNP takes charge of the traffic. Clean and shiny comfort rooms and refreshments and food are available at the site for thirsty and hungry visitors. Astounding views from all corners make the trip truly worthwhile.

But is that all? No, more projects have been lined up.

Within the next couple of weeks, one of the world longest zip lines will be installed. The needed funds of around 7 million peso are already assured, the Mayor told us. Starting right next to the multi-purpose hall, a 2800 meter long ride, going all the way down to the beach of Villaflor will blow everyone away.

The zipline will be financed and run by the municipal government ensuring a new source of big income for Puerto Galera. Thousands of tourists are expected to come to Puerto Gal-

era once the zipline is operationalized.

Aside from the zipline, there will be a "Conservation Breeding Aviary", "Free Climbing Walls", the "Tiger Den Temple", a Reptarium, "The Children Farm Land", "Orchidarium", "Butterfly Pavilion" and the "Tamaraw Eco-Farm". The new Tamaraw Falls Natural and Heritage Park has therefore the potential to become an international recognized top tourism destination with all year around income possibilities.

Ask about his objectives, the Mayor said:

"The objective is to enhance the tourism industry in Puerto Galera by developing the site and putting additional attractions for the tourists and local residents to see and experience its natural beauty as well as enhancing its educational and natural values."

To me, the project seems to be challenging but feasible. If Puerto Galera can accomplish a project like that, it would town straight away back on the map. The same map that seem to vanish little by little every year a bit more. The project aims to promote conservation of the natural resources, landscapes, ecosystem and species within the premises of Tamaraw Falls. The environmental considerations and protections are of top priority, something that were never really done before in Puerto Galera.

The Mayor said the pristine forest area consisting of 36,204 square meters on top of the waterfalls will be left untouched. Other additional attractions will be constructed beyond the buffer zone so as to make sure that the core zone of the Tamaraw Falls will remain protected.

I am looking forward to see more progress.

Ed. Mario Lutz is the environmental consultant for the Technical Working Group created by Mayor Rockey D. Ilagan for the development of Tamaraw Falls as a natural heritage park.

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Oriental Mindoro
MUNICIPALITY OF PUERTO GALERA
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



In this day and age, the local government needs an effective partner in disseminating important information and gauging public opinion on issues affecting our community. Having the new Puerto Galera Fortnightly Journal back in circulation is a welcome development for this administration.

We know the challenges of governance under the realm and scrutiny of Social Media and it is imperative more than ever to release accurate news and information that a community newspaper can only accomplish to a much wider audience.

It is of similar import that our beloved town must and should have a record of events unfolding during these interesting times. I have the honor to announce several key projects that we have been working on specifically to immediately deliver basic services to all the barangays. Included in this list are the following: improvement and rehabilitation of the watersystem, establishment of an enhanced garbage collection and disposal system, installation of a sewerage treatment plant, construction of the Sabang road and many more infrastructure projects. We are also working on having a fully functional health and medical care facility following the licensing of our municipal hospital a few months after I assumed office.

Since tourism is our primary industry, I have made it a priority and am confident that we will soon become a major tourist destination of the country, all under the umbrella of the Bagong Puerto Galera, Better Puerto Galera program.

It is my hope and fervent wish that the resurrection of the Puerto Galera Fortnightly will usher in an effective communication link between the government and the private sector in particular, and the public, in general.

*Lastly, my congratulations to the staff of the Puerto Galera Fortnightly.
Thank you and God bless.*

ROCKEY D. ILAGAN
Municipal Mayor

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Oriental Mindoro
MUNICIPALITY OF PUERTO GALERA
OFFICE OF THE VICE MAYOR



Magandang Araw Po sa Inyong Lahat!

Ang pagkakaroon po ng isang pahayagan sa ating bayan ay isang magandang kaganapan at ito ay mainit na tinatanggap ng inyong lingkod. Sapamamagitan nito maipaparating ng pamahalaan ang mga programa, plano at proyekto sa publiko. Sa kabilang banda, malalaman ng mga opisyaes ng pamahalaan ang mga opinyon at saloobin ng ating mamamayan sa mga isyung nakaka-apekto sa kanila.

Umaasa ako na ang muling pagbuhay ng pahayagang ito ay magiging kasangkapan para sa higit pang pag-unlad ng ating bayan dulot ng mainam, mapag-kalinga at bukas na pamahalaan.

Inaasahan din ng mga mambabasa ng Puerto Galera Fortnightly na ito ay magiging patas at hindi magagamit sa pulitika bagkus ay tangi at pawang katotohanan ang mailalathala sa pahayagang ito.

Sapamamagitan ng Puerto Galera Fornightly ipa-paabot namin ang mahahalagang anunsyo, impormasyon at balita mula sa inyong Sangguniang Bayan.

Maraming salamat, Congratulations at Mabuhay ang Bagong Puerto Galera Fortnightly Journal.

(SGD) MARLON L. LOPEZ
Municipal Vice Mayor

Walking the Extra Mile For
The Youth of Puerto Galera



The Puerto Galera Fortnightly JOURNAL

Volume 1 No. 01

April 16-30, 2017

Mahal ang presyo ng isda sa PG

Bakit mahal ang presyo ng bilihin sa Puerto Galera? Isang pang-karaniwang katanungan na walang tiyak na kasagutan.

Gawin nating simple at paliitin natin ang saklaw. Bakit mahal ang presyo ng isda sa Puerto Galera?

Ang sagot daw ay dahil tayo ay isang "tourist town", marami daw turista dito at "can afford" ang mga taga-Puerto.

Himayin natin ang sagot na ito. Sa lahat ba ng "tourist town" ay mahal ang bilihin. Mali, di ba? Maraming "tourist towns" na mura ang bilihin, tulad ng Cebu, Davao, Baguio, Palawan at kahit sa Boracay.

"Can afford" daw ang taga-Puerto, o ibig sabihin ay kayang bumili kahit mataas ang presyo. Tama ba ito, mali din di ba? Oo nga at marami ang kumita mula sa turismo subalit lahat ba ay kumikita ng malaki mula sa industriyang ito. Kung iisipin, ang tanging kumikita ng malaki ay yung may ari-arian sa Sabang at San Isidro. Labing-isang barangay o 80 porsyento ng populasyon ng Puerto ay hindi direktang nakikinabang sa turismo. Sa madali't sabi, mas marami ang hindi "can afford" sa taga-Puerto Galera.

Malinaw na hindi ito yung tinatawag na "law of supply and demand". Sa totoo lang maraming supply, pero kahit marami supply mahal pa rin ang isda.

Ayon isang tindera ng isda sa palengke maliit lang daw ang patong sa isdang ibinebenta nila kada kilo. Sampung piso lang daw. Subalit ng tanongin namin ang iba sa palengke, hindi raw ito kapani-paniwala.

May bumulong sa amin na ang karaniwang tubo ay mula 25 hanggang 40 piso kada kilo.

Sinabi naman ng isang mangingisda ibenebenta nila sa "middleman" ng mura at ito ay ibenebenta sa palengke ng halos doble

kada kilo. Ayon sa kanya depende ang presyo ng isda sa dami ng nahuhuli at sa klase ng isda.

Ang nakakapagtaka pa ay kapag ang isa ay nag-presyo ng halimbawa 180 lahat ng nagtitinda ng isda ay 180 rin ang pagbebenta. Eto daw ay kasunduan na ng mga mag-iisda.

Lahat po tayo ay gusto kumita. Sana lamang ay isipin natin na kawawa naman ang mga kababayan natin na hindi kayang makipag-sabayang dun sa mga mayayaman.

Meron pong solusyon dito sa problemang ito. Kaya natin na kontrolin ang presyo ng bilihin, partikular ang presyo ng isda.

Muli tayong manawagan sa Sangguniang Bayan. Tulungan ninyo kami na magbuo ng isang kooperatiba. Ang kooperatiba ang mamimili ng isda at ibebenta ito sa presyong tama at makatuwiran. Ang kooperatiba ang magdidikta ng presyo ng isda sa palengke.

Sa ating mga konsehal, kapag nagawa ninyo ito, lalo kayong mamahalin ng mga taga-Puerto Galera.

Sa mga mag-iisda, tingnan po ninyo ang ekonomiya ng taga-Puerto Galera at tingnan ninyo ang stratehiya sa pagbebenta. Maraming resort at restaurant ang hindi sa inyo bumibili ng isda dahil meron silang nakukunan na mas mura. Ang iisa ay sa Abra pa bumibili dahil kung sa palengke ay baka wala na siya tubuin habang ang isa naman ay sa isang supplier kumukuha, hindi sa palengke. Pwedeng makatulong sa inyo ang Sangguniang Bayan.

Kausapin ninyo ang mga konsehal na magpasa ng isang resolusyon na hinihimok ang mga may-ari ng resort at restaurant na sa inyo bumili ng isda. Yun nga lang, pagkaisahan ninyo na ibaba ang presyo ng isda. Ika nga ng Intsik, pag mura marami bili, pag marami bili laki kita. Sa huli, tayong lahat ay makikinabang dito.

LOT FOR SALE

Naghahanap kami ng mga ibenebentang lupa sa Puerto Galera para mga INVESTORS mula sa ibang bansa. Kung meron kang gustong ibentang property, makipag-ugnayan, tumawag o mag-text sa numerong 0939-9387818 o kaya ay mag-email sa puertogaleraoffice@gmail.com

Rambulan sa Galera, handa ka na ba!

Galeran, handa ka na ba sa UGB20: RAMBULAN SA GALERA, Beach Battle II, mangyayari ngayong April 28-29 sa White Beach.

Sa unang pagkakataon dito gaganapin ang isang Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) event na sasalihan ng mga magagaling na babae at lalaking fighters sa loob ng "cage" sa ilalim ng pamamahala ng kilalang Juego Todo brand.

Ang UGB MMA o underground battle MMA ay isang bagong fight organization na itinayo ni Ferdie Munsayac na layunin na lalo pang palakasin ang interes sa isports na MMA at magkaroon ng lugar para sa kompetisyon ng mga ligang amateur at propesyonal.

Sa loob lamang ng 2 taon, lumobo ang sumusubaybay sa isports at ngayon nga ay napili ang lugar natin bilang venue ng malaking event na ito.

Dalawampu't walong babae at lalaking fighters ang maglalaban sa

UGB20 at 2 dito ay mula sa Puerto Galera, si Dale Marvin Cataquis at ang aleman na si Marco Heft.

Ito ang unang laban ni Dale, 22 years old, mula sa Balatero, na nag-aral Muay Thai at Jiu Jitsu mula pa 2015. Si Dale ay ipinagmamalaki ng Balatero Soteria Jiu Jitsu Stable at lalaban sa kategoryang Strawweight (115lbs) bilang amateur.

Si Marco Heft, 33 years old, ay mula sa Chemnitz Germany at matagal na naninirahan sa Puerto Galera. Nagsimula siya sa martial arts sa edad na 8 taong gulang. Subalit natigil ng may 10 taon ng magturo siya ng diving sa ating bayan. Nasa magandang kondisyon si Marco na magaling sa Muay Thai at boxing ngunit ito rin ang kanyang unang kompetisyon. Lalaban siya sa kategoryang Bantamweight (135lbs) bilang isang propesyonal dahil na rin sa haba ng kanyang karanasan.

Mabibili ang tiket sa mga EUF agents sa Sabang, Muelle at White

Beach at pwede ring mag-reserve sa opisina ng Puerto Galera Fortnightly Journal. Dalawa ang uri ng tiket; ang VIP ticket ay malapit sa cage at para sa 2 araw na ay nagkakahalaga ng 1500 pesos, habang ang General Admission ticket ay 150 pesos lamang pero walang upuan at para sa isang araw lamang. May available na drinks at snacks sa venue at meron pang pageant para sa mga magiging "round girls". Magkakaroon din ng weigh-in at post-event party.

Sa April 28 sa ganap na 6:00 PM isisigaw ang LETS GET READY TO RUMBLE at magsimula na ang laban ng unang 14 na fighters.

Para sa higit pang impormasyon at ticket reservation, pwedeng tawagan ang Municipal Sport Coordinator, Jack Martin Paguio sa kanyang cellphone number (0917- 8564323).

Puerto Galera Fortnightly wishes all fighters good luck, but our hearts will be with our own guys of course.

Strawweight Division
MARVIN CATAQUIS
versus **JASON VERGARA**

Bantamweight Division
MARCO HEFT
versus **LESTER NACION**

UGB20

RAMBULAN SA GALERA

MIXED MARTIAL ARTS TOURNAMENT
APRIL 28 - 29, 2017
WHITE BEACH PUERTO GALERA

WSOF GLOBAL

BAYAN NG PUERTO GALERA
SILANGANG MINDORO

UNDERGROUND BATTLE MMA