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The New Puerto Galera
Fortnightly Journal

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4 kms to go on the Abra de Ilog-Puerto Galera road



Rapid progress of construction at the Abra de Ilog side



Working on the new bridge at Talipanan, Puerto Galera side

Anthony Nwaogo said that the deadline for the completion of the Abra de Ilog-Puerto Galera road is 2020 or 2 years from now. Nwaogo claims to be the “supervisor” of Algimar Construction company, the contractor of the road project from the Puerto Galera side to Abra de Ilog.

Nwaogo said that there is only 4 kilometers left before the national road from Puerto Galera will be connected to the national road of Abra de Ilog.

The remaining portion is the hardest part of the project as this entails “dynamite blasting” of very hard marble rocks along very stiff valleys.

Nwaogo said that the blasted rocks are then used as materials for anti-erosion and slope protection.

Nwaogo said that the amount of the contract given to his Algimar Construction is around 250 million pesos.

Algimar Construction is the contractor of the phase one of the Sabang road which has taken more than 16 months to finish.

FastCat plans to start Batangas-Puerto Galera by end of the year



FastCat, a brand new catamaran Roll-On Roll-Off Vessel might soon come to Puerto Galera

The president of the company that operates the fastest Roll-on/Roll-off (RoRo) vessels in the country, said that if it was possible he would have one FastCat ferry providing service for Puerto Galera tomorrow.

However, Christopher Pastrana, president of Archipelago Philippine Ferries Corp. (APFC), needs to build a ramp worth around 10 million pesos in a space to be allocated by the PPA at Balatero port which he said will take “conservatively” until the end of the year.

APFC has a fleet of 10 brand new, double-hull catamarans, all purchased from Australia,

called FastCat or Fast Catamaran and is known to provide not only fast, safe and convenient transport services to passengers, but also an efficient and economical solution to the shipping concerns of businesses.

Pastrana said the he will be talking with his staff to figure out a way if it’s possible to use Balatero port even without the ramp. He said that the FastCat may, for the meantime, just carry passengers and no vehicles while the ramp is being built. If this would be possible, then FastCat may be available sooner than expected.

FastCat speed is from 18 to 20 knots which means travel

time to Puerto Galera will only take less than 1 hour, even better than the fastcraft now operating in Puerto Galera.

Pastrana said he will be meeting with both the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) and MARINA for the 2 round-trip service that he will initially offer in Puerto Galera. The schedule will be announced here once available.

Meanwhile, many resort owners welcome the entry of FastCat in the Batangas-Puerto Galera route. They said that FastCat would be a “game changer”.

“FastCat is the ideal ferry for Puerto Galera tourism. It is fast, safe and convenient.”

Mayor urges massive clean up to prevent dengue outbreak

Mayor Rocky Ilagan has ordered all barangay officials to initiate massive clean-up activities in their areas of jurisdiction and undertake other measures to prevent the outbreak of dengue hemorrhagic fever, a mosquito borne disease prevalent during the months of July to September considered as rainy season.

This after 2 suspected dengue cases were reported to the municipi-

pal officials. The mayor, however, said that only the Department of Health (DOH) can confirm if the case is really dengue.

As a precautionary measure, Ilagan said, he has called an emergency meeting with all the barangay chairpersons to enjoin them to do massive clean-up activities. The mayor also informed the barangay officials that the municipality bought a misting machine and several

chemicals worth around half a million pesos for the misting operations to be done in all the barangays.

Vice Mayor Marlon Lopez said that the Sangguniang Bayan (town council) also passed a resolution requesting all the barangays to clean-up their surroundings after rumors of suspected dengue cases spread around town.

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Netizens decry chaos at passenger terminals

Last August 25 to 27 was a long weekend holiday and as usual, hundreds of tourists went to Puerto Galera. Many were "repeat visitors" those who want to spend their holidays again in Puerto Galera, supposedly a short distance away from Manila.

But after the MARINA phase out of wooden hulled vessels that took effect last July 1, everyone, tourists and local residents, experienced the confusion, disorder and chaos at Batangas pier. Many took to Facebook to express their anger, dismay and disappointment while many others swore it will be their last time to go back to Puerto Galera.

In a video clip, a tourist said that when they arrived at 6:30 AM in Batangas pier there was no more tickets for the 8:30 AM trip and that the next available trip was 1:30 PM which meant they needed to spend 6 hours of their vacation in Batangas pier.

Another tourist said that there were "ticket scalpers" who seem to be in connivance with some of the authorities at the pier. The scalpers sell the ticket double or even 3 times the amount. The tourist who did not

want to queue for hours were left with no choice but to buy the ticket.

Other tourists took the alternate route to Calapan pier – which meant additional 3 to 4 hours of travel time to reach Puerto Galera. At Calapan pier, some were told that there were no more van or jeepneys going to Puerto Galera and that they needed to take trikes at 1000 pesos to go to their destination.

On the return trip, it was the same story of long lines and rip-offs which clearly underscores the fact that there were not enough ferries for tourists and local passengers after the phase out of the wooden-hulled ferries.

In a post in ILPG, Buena Lynne said that "this is definitely not good for our tourist and for our town... The ticket queue is still very long and plenty of people keeps on piling up. It's still lean season and this is already the scenario. How much worse come summer season? Hope we can have more quality trips available at the soonest time possible."

Ian Diaper commented: "It is not easy to get to PG. Tourists waste half a day getting here ... So is PG a good option for a

weekend break? No. And when you do get here road transport is expensive. Balatero to Sabang on trike is 250 pesos."

Tour operator Sheena Ann commented: "Sad and nakakagalit in a way. Isang grupo ko today nagpasakay na ng Calapan kesa maghintay ng resume ng trips ng hapon. Doble doble gastos kasi mag van pa pa-Puerto, at doble din sa oras ng biyahe."

However, another netizen expressed his support for the phase-out, Leodegario Lalong Isip Villanueva wrote: "Mabuti nga tinanggal na ung mga bangka... mabuting tangkilikin natin ung malalaking barko kahit mejo mabagal safety ka naman."

David Rchrd suggested online booking may help and commented: "I think with the extra fastcraft and FastCat coming, it should be enough to serve the route properly. However the ticketing system needs to be upgraded to accept nominative advance bookings. Nobody wants to arrive in Batangas and face the queues, be bounced off full boats or be harassed by pushers or queue for one hour to pay their stupid P30 terminal fee. Nobody from Sabang or White Beach wants to leave

home 3 hours early to go buy a ticket in Muelle or Balatero."

Meanwhile, a reliable source said that an operator of a wooden-hulled ferry company is extremely confident that they will get a reversal of the MARINA ruling and that soon the outrigger ferries may be allowed to sail once more in the Batangas-Puerto Galera route.

The operator, our source, said filed a motion for reconsideration and is asking MARINA to set aside the termination order for the CPC (certificate of public conveyance) of the wooden-hulled ferries.

A CPC is the franchise issued by MARINA for a shipping operator to ferry passengers and cargoes within Philippine waters.

MARINA said that they conducted a market study and determined that the Batangas-Puerto Galera route can be fully served by operators of steel-hulled ships.

By "fully served", MARINA means the route wherein the public need or demand for water transport is sufficiently met on a daily basis.

The operator, our source added, is questioning the correctness of the "market study"



Tourists queue for hours to get on board PG ferries

and the subsequent conclusion that the route is fully served.

"As can be surmised from the chaos last August 25, it is clear that there are not enough steel-hulled vessels for the hundreds of passengers of the Batangas-Puerto Galera route."

Mayor urges massive clean up...

Both Mayor Ilagan and Vice Mayor Lopez agreed that cleanliness and sanitation are the chief measures necessary to prevent the spread of dengue fever.

Dengue fever is a disease caused by one of a number of viruses that are carried by mosquitoes. These mosquitoes then transmit the virus to humans. The virus that causes dengue fever is called an arbovirus, which stands for arthropod-borne virus. Mosquitoes are a type of arthropod. Dengue fever manifests as a sudden on-

set of a severe headache, muscle and joint pains, fever and rashes.

Meanwhile, Councilor Joemer Sandoval said that he requested the town council to initiate more measures to prevent a dengue outbreak. He said that suspected dengue case have been reported in Aninuan, Tabinay and Poblacion. He urged each household to clean their backyards and make sure that there are no stagnant water which serves as breeding ground for mosquitoes.

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Sangguniang Bayan lifts suspension of water rates hike

The Sangguniang Bayan recently passed a resolution lifting the suspension for the increase of the water rates as stated in the 2010 Revised Revenue Code. This means that water tariff for residential will increase from 35 pesos to 80 pesos and commercial from 50 pesos to 120 pesos for the first 10 cubic meters.

The previous administration suspended the implementation of the water rates hike pending the complete rehabilitation of the water system.

The Sangguniang Bayan acceded to the request of Mayor Rocky Ilagan to lift the suspension which will increase the revenue of the watersystem, an economic enterprise of the municipality.

However, Councilor Joemer Sandoval said

that the implementation of the new water rates will be done only after the end of the present state of calamity. He said that no increase can be implemented if the municipality is still under a state of calamity.

Aside from the lifting of the state of calamity, the Sangguniang Bayan is asking for a resolution from the Association of Barangay Chairpersons (ABC) certifying that all the barangays have strong water supply and that the waterworks office has completed the major projects to improve the watersystem prior to the implementation of the increase in water rates.

Councilor Sandoval also said that even if the increase is applied Puerto Galera will still have the lowest water rates compared to all the towns in Oriental Mindoro.

Mamamayan uma-aray na sa taas ng presyo ng bilihin

Ang mga taga-Puerto Galera ay uma-aray na sa taas ng presyo ng halos lahat ng pangunahing produkto tulad ng gulay, bigas, prutas, karne at kahit mga de-lata.

Mataas na nga dati ang presyo ay lalo pa itong mataas matapos mag-tala ng 6.4% inflation rate ang buong bansa.

Sa isang post sa I Love Puerto Galera Facebook page, inilarawan ni Jimmy Gaya ang kamahalan ng presyo ng bilihin sa palengke.

Aniya, sa 215 pesos ay konti na lamang ang

mabibili hindi kagaya noong nakaraan.

Agad namang sinang-ayunan ng maraming netizens ang post ni Gaya.

“Panahon na para taniman natin ng mga gulay at iba pa ang mga bakanteng lupa, paunlarin ng pamahalaan ang agrikultura nang sa ganun ay hindi tayo masyado umasa sa pang-angkat ng mga produkto sa ibang bayan at dapat ding itayo ang isang Consumer Rights group na siyang magtataguyod ng karapatan ng mga mamimili sa Puerto Galera”, sinabi ni PGF Editor Noe Lineses.

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TALK OF THE TOWN

Anthony Nwaogo, "supervisor" of Algimar Construction, said that the phase one of the Sabang road will be finished on or before September 31, 2018. Algimar is the contractor of the 2-kilometer Sabang road project which as of this writing is more than 16 months old.

King's Builder and Development Corp., the contractor of the phase two Sabang road, is requesting for scheduled full road closure from 9:00 AM to 12:00 noon and from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM starting on September 5 until November 30, 2018.

Project Engineer Gelissa Mae Mendoza wrote Mayor Rocky Ilagan that emergency vehicles will be given access if needed at all times in all parts of the road project.

Mayor Ilagan endorsed the request to the Sangguniang Bayan for their immediate action.

Under the law, it is the Sangguniang Bayan that can declare a temporary or permanent closure of a road.

Netizens were most active in expressing their opinions about earlier plans of the Mayor and Vice Mayor Marlon Lopez to completely close the Sabang road to speed-up the construction project.

I Love Puerto Galera Facebook Group, the biggest FB Puerto Galera said that it is one of the most commented and most visited issue in recent times.

The mayor's chief aide and cousin, Carmela Datinguino, informed the Fortnightly that the official first name of the mayor of Puerto Galera is Rocky and not Rocky as has been used in correspondences since he was elected into public office 8 years ago.

Mayor Rocky Ilagan served for 6 years as barangay captain of Sabang and now 2 years into office as mayor. He was Rocky before but ever since he needed official documents he used what is the written name in his birth certificate. To avoid confusion, it is advised to use Rocky from now on.

The Provincial Government is organizing the 2nd Mangyan Motorcycle Endurance Challenge this coming November 9-10, 2018. The 1000 km ride will start here in Puerto Galera then to Calapan then to Bulalacao then to San Jose, Occidental Mindoro and then to Abra De Ilog and then back and to end in Calapan City. The

Endurance Ride will last for 24 hours. Around 500 bikers are expected to join the Challenge.

Orlando Tizon of the PTIEDO will be coordinating with the Municipal Government to make arrangement for this tourism event.

The Municipality of Puerto Galera was present at the 29th Philippine Travel Mart held at the SMX Convention Center last August 31 to September 2. The Puerto Galera booth was one of the most popular and was later awarded as the 3rd placer in the booth competition.

The Puerto Galera booth showcased the Amazing Puerto Galera theme as conceptualized by Mayor Rocky Ilagan - featuring the dive sites, fun activities, tourist spots and the numerous resorts of Puerto Galera.

The Puerto Galera Children's Playground started as a chat between PGF Editor Noe Lineses and John Dunlap - that one thing missing in our town is a Children's play area. They were later joined by Eleanor Evangelista, Chuck Driver, Kees, Koornstra, Mike Chetkowski, Pedro and Amy Magsino, Poblacion Barangay Captain Aries Atienza, Danny Capit, Gilbert Lineses and MPDC Mc Niel Ceniza.

Mayor Rocky Ilagan expressed his full support for the Children's Playground which shall be located at around 900 sqm of land at the Plaza Iluminada in Poblacion (town proper).

The Mayor also said that he will tell the contractor of the rehabilitation and development of the plaza to prioritize the rehabilitation of the area where the playground equipment will be placed.

When the group started posting in FB about the playground project, several resorts and individuals contributed funding for the financing of the playground equipment.

"We have not solicited yet but suddenly funding came pouring in when generous and kind-hearted souls shared their blessings for the children of Puerto Galera."

We thank the following for their generous donations: John Dunlap (slides + 2k), Noe Lineses 2k, David Richard (10k), Herman Wittenberg (3k), La Laguna Villas Chris Shannon (100k), Lighthouse Sinandigan (50k), Anonymous (5k), Allison Loudon Manis (2k), Edgewater Dive & Spa Resort (20k), Mac and Will of Sinandigan (20k) - now being spent for the various equipment of the Children's Playground which will be finished very soon.

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This publication is written and published by Emmanuel "Noe" Lineses.

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“I will not be a return visitor “



Editor: This is an email from a guest of a resort forwarded to us apparently to somehow get the attention of the local authorities with the hope that something positive will be done about it.

I write to you as a returning guest, I have lived in Makati for the past 11 years and made roughly 30 trips down to Sabang for diving and exploration of the beautiful island of Mindoro. However, this last trip due to the change in ferry operation to Sabang and Muelle ports was the worst I have ever experienced and has effectively crossed Mindoro off my list of things I can do on a weekend trip from Manila. Id like to tell the story.

Ferry Trip:

We arrived at the Batangas pier on Saturday August 25th at 7:45 am expecting to get on a passenger boat and make the easy journey over. There was a scheduled fast craft to depart at 8:30 am to Puerto Galera. However, it was already fully booked, the “porters” laughed at me that showed me it was already booked up far before I arrived. I was told to line up for the 12:30 pm ferry and buy a ticket. (To note, the 12:30 boat sold out at 10 am. That is unreasonable to require that far advance arrival at a port.)

We were then presented with a few options:

1. Purchase a ticket on the RoRo at xx:xx am

from a SCALPER... for the price of 1,000 PHP each

2. Wait for the 12:30 fastcraft

3. Hire a private banca to Sabang for 8,000 PHP

We went outside to the area adjacent to the port where the private bancas were and tried to get on a banca but it was full. The seas were very rough that day and I'm glad we did not get on that boat. The boat was very small and I hope those passengers made it safely to their destination. I was later told this is illegal.

We went back to the terminal and purchase the scalped ticket... The sale of the ticket was hush-hush and very shady.

Batangas Pier Inside Facilities:

We preceded indoors to wait it out to find there were very few seats available. The place was packed and over the next few hours of wait it became a madhouse. Many people were left standing and the facilities were extremely under capacity.

Mindoro Local Transport:

We arrived at the port of Balatero and hired a trike to Sabang. The trike overcharged us – 300 pesos for a 2 person trip.

The road to Sabang was horrible. It is all busted up and it clearly points at extremely poor road replacement planning. It was a very uncomfortable ride.

Overall our trip took 7 hours to get from Batangas port 7:45am to Sabang 3:00 pm. This makes the situation so bad that I will not be a return visitor to your area until I am assured measures of reliable transportation, safety and... scalping tickets... are dealt with. This kind of behavior only leads to people not wanting to come to the island of Mindoro, and the Philippines in general.

Kalyani Yoga in Big Tabinay

Yoga is becoming more and more popular all around the world during the last years. This union of body and mind was born in India around 5000 years ago, then began to spread into Western countries, first in the late 60's and early 70's, later and much more powerful around the Millennium. Now this boom has reached the Asian capitals – and Puerto Galera.

Yoga is a philosophy and lifestyle, it combines movements (Asanas) with breathing practices, relaxation and meditation.

The practice of Yoga is well known for its healing effects on many complaints and diseases. Yoga is not sports, although some asanas do require power, patience and a lot of training. Trendy sports like Aerobic, Zumba, Pilates or Callanetics will be an exercise for the body only, but Yoga creates a junction between body and soul. This will lead to health improving effects, minimalizing the risk of injuries. As Yoga is not sports, there are no specific targets to be reached, there is no contest, the practices can be performed by old and young, strong or weak, healthy or disabled people.

In 2017 Rosalinda KALYANI Gomez Müller opened her Yoga house on the beach of Tabinay. The Yoga Hall is overlooking the garden and the sea, giving spiritual moments in the sunrise over Verde Island. Here one can discover and practice Yoga in a remote, quiet surrounding. The idea of Kalyani Yoga is to help you to find your island of relaxation and silence in a noisy world, combin-



ing your physical education with spiritual techniques, leading to self-realization. Single courses and Yoga classes may be booked, Ayurvedic treatments (hot oil massage with spices) and therapeutic Yoga for specific complaints are available as Kalyani is not only nurse, midwife and Yoga teacher of Yoga Vidya Germany (YT 500 Yoga Alliance), but also Yoga and Ayurveda therapist.

There are rooms available for people who want to stay overnight or for a longer period.

According to the historical principles of Yoga, the Kalyani Yoga House is not built for profit. All the income of the activities is dedicated to Kalyani's humanitarian projects. These are the development of the Puerto Galera Hospital, doing surgical consultations and operations twice a week, organizing surgical missions from Germany to the PGH since 2016 and establishing a center for health and livelihood for Mangyan people in Dulangan.

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The Rainforest Prayer

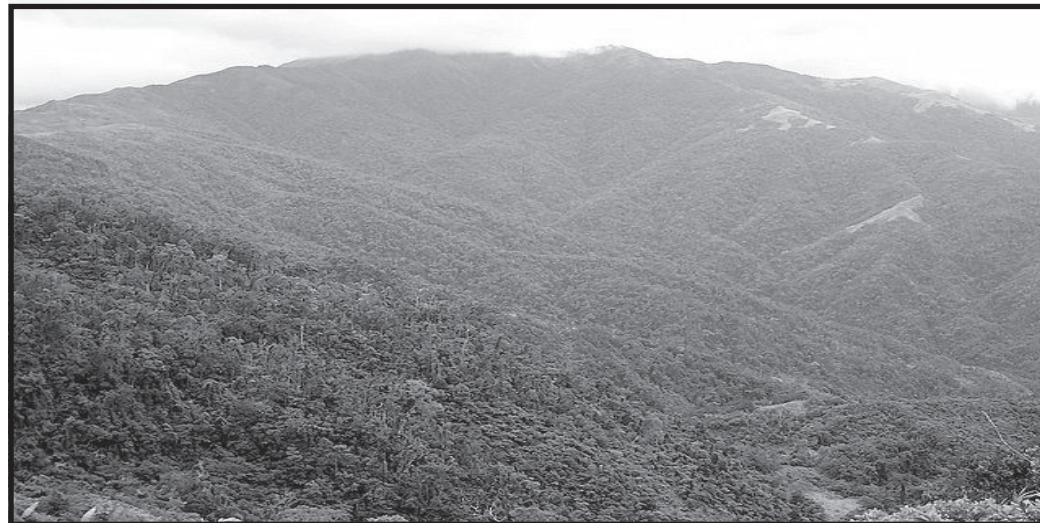
By Michael Wolf, Minolo

It is never to late to pray! This pertains in particular to the (remaining) Rainforest and the Mountains here in Puerto Galera; which just happen to be not only our main water reservoir but much more!

Why then to pray for them? Because much prayer is needed to balance the destructive forces which do their evil work here in our mountains and those allowing them to do so! Can we say "Our" mountains? – Well, the prayer that we will share with you reminds us that all comes from God. And, sorry for the reminder; this actually means that what was and is currently destroyed is, first of all, God's creation. – Who is doing this destruction? Who is to blame? – Many and many more—one might not even think of in the first place. – Ask yourself honestly. Did you or your relatives or friends have any constructions recently? Yes? – What kind of wood did you or they use? Did it come from legal sources or not? If you are not sure, ask the carpenter. Do they have to do lots of planing on the wood because of the rough chainsaw cut? One of the fastest and easiest ways to consume big amounts of illegal wood would be to use it for the roof construction. Not much or no planing is actually needed and once the GI-sheets etc. are mounted, everything is already quite hidden. You also might recall how the wood was delivered and when? – But then, as we contemplate a little further we will know that not only those who buy this kind of wood are to be blamed.

Generally, there are two classes of "players" – those who participate in the "business" and those who just "look the other way". These we dare to specify in that – there are the Hardware organizers, civil engineers and building supervisors who suggest to builders and homeowners the "cheap" solution. And then there are the politicians, the police, the military and of course, the influential families who allow and accept this kind of "business" or just close their eyes if friends or relatives are involved. Everyone will find it easy to hang onto one alibi or another just so one is free or do nothing about this rather "sensitive" issue (in particular if it serves one's own interest). And so, there are those very active players who rent their chainsaws and carabaos or trucks and bancas for these illegal activities. Another point in question, which might also be quite helpful, is "the poor Mangyan story". When someone tries to tell/sell you this line, just listen but don't buy it. – And apropos "poor" Mangyan. There are rumors that some of these "poor" Mangyans already own their personal 100,000-peso chainsaws; which gives you a bit of an insight of how lucrative this kind of "business" can be! And some of these guys can bet high amounts of money every week in the local lottery called the ending games. And as life teaches us, there is usually some truth with all these rumors. – These apparent rumors go hand in hand with observations that these illegal activities of wood-cutting, its hauling, selling and buying developed over the last couple of years into a kind of "Glondike Gold Rush" or you may aptly call it "Puerto Galera Mountain WOOD Rush" – better rush and cut, cut, cut before someone else might do it. This is supported by the mere fact that groups of people (no one recognizes nor has ever seen before in the area) go up the mountains not armed with guns but with big chainsaws (often hidden in cement or rice sacks). There are days upon days that up to four or five chainsaws are simultaneously heard in operation; particularly in the Ponderosa area or the slopes of Mt. Malasimbo. Cutting can be heard from 6AM to 6PM and at times up to 10PM even! We suggest

that you walk, hike, drive or take your bike up to Ponderosa and listen (let's say) from the golf-course hole #1— or even hike a little further to the old marble quarry and listen again! Now, where does "the poor Mangyan" story fit in? – All those who worked with Mangyans know their work attitude. They enjoy life much more than work and don't care much about "hard earned" money as long as they have something to eat. This is not a general statement and exceptions do exist! This trend of thought only serves to support the conclusion that the former "Mangyan business", of cutting the big trees with huge manual handsaws, was taken over mostly by "clever" Tagalog "businessmen" and their high-tech chainsaws. This has already been happening a couple of years since and is worsening year after year. – So you might ask those who sell/tell the "poor Mangyan Story" what they are not actually "telling" you. And if you should sense some real innocence on their part, please give them an update. Just get us right on this: The average Mangyan may belong to the lowest income class, so to speak, but this is NOT the Reason for the fast depletion of the rainforest. Also, always keep in mind that without buyers there would be no cutting of all these big old hardwood trees nor hear any chainsaws operations in the rainforest. But things are much worse because added to this vicious cycle of cutting hardwood trees comes big-scale kaingin (the slash-and-burn praxis). Why is this? It can be easily observed that the kaingineros follow the trails of the loggers. They then ask these chainsaw swingers to just cut all the remaining big old trees, which are spared due to their cheaper wood quality, and this is usually done wherever the terrain is not too steep. But this is not all and the whole problem escalates from this point on, because there are some insect species in the forest who just wait to get their "teeth" on all this dead wood. These are (in particular) the termites or locally called the white ants or any. They not only go for the cut-down trees (if they were not burned in the meantime) but for the dead roots of all the trees cut. The any lives in the soil and is just eager to change the wooden roots into soil—very loose, soft soil which can be experienced to be even waist-deep in certain areas. – Ever noticed that over the years a hole will appear where a tree was cut and the soil happens to be very soft? Now you know why! – Well, of course, the kaingineros find all these most ideal planting paradise...but it is only so until it is washed away! Ever wonder why the coastline area gets browner after a strong rain or typhoon? And it seems that there are still people who try to save the corals without tackling the issue of illegal logging and kaingin in the nearby mountains. One cannot simply blame them because the view of the mountains from the lowlands might look alright for the inexperienced eye. They do look all pretty green most of the time. But, only when you go closer (and this may even mean a hike up), will you see that it is mostly bush land, small trees, mostly kakauate and plantations made by the kaingineros. The problem is already huge as it is but what makes it even worse is that the mountains are high wind areas. What does that mean? It means that erosion is rampant! That is why you see so much kogon grass growing all over the Philippines. There is simply not enough soil for trees anymore and if a little tree should succeed to grow anyway, it might



The rainforest is one of Puerto Galera's greatest natural and tourism assets.



Destroying the rainforest is like killing the goose that lays the golden egg.

just be cut down for firewood or for the charcoal makers because there is nothing else left! Slowly but surely one can now understand and see the bigger and more complete picture.

NOW... just take a minute and imagine in your minds' eye a lush rainforest with big old mother trees, several hundred years old, flowering and bearing seeds year after year after year. Orchids and ferns cling to them. Many animals roam around; like deers, wild boars, tamaraws, monkeys, eagles, butterflies and many many more. The air is moist. Clouds, rain, mist and sunshine go hand in hand. Many plants and herbs thrive here; some might be still unknown to man and just be endemic to Mindoro or the Philippines. You can see that the whole mountain area is like a huge sponge holding the water and releasing it gently for everyone living at its foothills. – Now, in sharp contrast—think of bald hills just covered with kogon grass. For decades and centuries, Man, mainly because of his greedy nature ("I want to take/cut it before someone else does..."), has changed almost the entire landscape of this 7000 "Pearls of the Pacific". We here in Puerto Galera have a little bit of paradise left. A few, only a few of these big old trees are still standing erect and tall. But do we have the brain to keep and treasure them? Can we here make it differently? Yes, we can! But it requires that we all have the same responsible mindset.

Just as an additional eye-opener, here are some alarming figures: In 1900 the Earth had 30 million species. These species took billions of years of creation and evolution. Now, we have less than half that number -- fewer than 15 million species. And this all happened in an amazingly short span of 100 years mainly because we did not live in harmony with nature. What do you think how many more will vanish and cannot be seen nor experienced by our children and our children's children? They might only know how the different butterflies look like if they have the chance to go to a zoo. Will the water for them only be desalinated seawater and no longer invigorating mountain fresh water? Will the rainforest char-

acter around Puerto Galera change into rocky, desolate-looking mountains with some grass patches here and there? Do we want to risk floods and mudslides ala Ormoc with every strong rain or typhoon?

Visit White Beach after a strong downpour, for instance, and you will understand and see with your own eyes that strong possibility. – But can we really make it all differently? YES, we can! And EVERYONE can help! It might take a high amount of ecological awareness, concern, vigilance and active participation in reminding each other of each and everyone's responsibility towards the preservation of the rainforest—no matter the economic or social background. Yet be aware that there are (as we have said) many individuals wanting to take the easy way out and pretend to be helpless instead to standing up for the rainforest... But remember how we started this article? – At least everyone can pray. For instance the following prayer:

*Dear GOD,
Thank You for our Mountains
and the Forest!
Your Mountains and Your Forest!
GOD please bless them!
Bless the big old Trees,
The Eagles, Deer, Butterflies and Orchids
Bless our gentle Water.
God, please bless with Understanding
All those who go to the mountains
The Loggers
The Kaingineros
The Hunters
The Mountaineers.
As well as all those who are into
Money and earthly Power.
Make them understand that we need
These Mountains and the Rainforest
Not only for us, but for Our Children
and Our Children's Children as well.
Help Us to live in HARMONY with ALL.
Thank You - GOD!
Amen*

How To Exempt Your Business From Income Tax

Businessmen, especially small entrepreneurs, are often times challenged with the dilemma of how to generate more income and minimize their expenditures. It is in recognition of this that Republic Act (“RA”) No. 9178, otherwise known as the “Barangay Micro Business Enterprises (BMBEs) Act of 2002”, was enacted.

The policy underlying RA No. 9178 is a noble one. RA No. 9178 was crafted to encourage the formation and growth of BMBEs, which effectively serve as seedbeds of Filipino entrepreneurial talents, and to integrate those in the informal sector with the mainstream economy. Its most salient feature pertains to the tax incentives granted to BMBEs, specifically the exemption from tax of the income arising from the operation of the enterprise; exemption from or reduced rates of local taxes, fees and charges; and exemption from gross receipts tax (“GRT”).

How to Register

One can register as a BMBE if it is a business entity or enterprise, whether operated as a sole proprietorship or a corporation, partnership, cooperative or association, organized/incorporated and existing under Philippine laws and is: (a) engaged in the production, processing or manufacturing of products or commodities, including agro-processing, trading and services, and which activities are barangay-based and micro-business in nature and scope; and (b) whose total assets, real or personal, inclusive of those arising from loans but exclusive of the land on which the particular business entity’s office, plant and equipment are situated, shall not be more than PhP3,000,000.00.

The application for registration as a BMBE, or BMBE Form 01, should be accomplished in

triplicate and filed with the Office of the City or Municipal Treasurer where the principal place of business of the BMBE is located. The application should be processed within fifteen (15) working days upon submission of complete documents, otherwise, the BMBE shall be deemed registered. If the business entity or enterprise is found to be eligible, the Office of the City or Municipal Treasurer will register the business entity or enterprise as a BMBE and issue a Certificate of Authority (“CA”), which shall be effective for a period of two (2) years, and renewable for a period of two (2) years for every renewal. The Office of the Treasurer shall issue the CA promptly and free of charge, unless a fee, not exceeding One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00), is imposed by the local government unit concerned through a properly enacted ordinance.

Tax Incentives

The income of a BMBE arising purely from its operations is exempt from income tax. To avail of such tax incentive, all that is needed is to register the BMBE with the BIR Revenue District Office (“RDO”) where the principal office or place of business of the BMBE is located. If the enterprise is currently registered with the BIR, the BIR shall record its registration as a BMBE and shall correspondingly amend the registration certificate. On the other hand, if the BMBE has not yet been registered, the BMBE shall register for each type of internal revenue tax, except income tax, but including withholding taxes for which it is liable. If a BMBE is also entitled to exemption from income tax under any law other than RA No. 9178, it has to disclose this fact in its registration form and indicate whether it shall avail itself of such exemption or the privilege under RA No.

9178. The choice made is binding on the BMBE for the entire period of validity of its registration with the BIR, which is usually 1 year.

Every BMBE entitled to full income tax exemption is required to file an Annual Information Return, together with an Account Information Form, or its equivalent, containing data from audited financial statements and a sworn statement of assets owned and/or used in business. The Return shall be filed with the RDO or the duly authorized Treasurer of the city or municipality in which the BMBE has its principal place of business on or before the 15th day of the fourth month following the close of the taxable year.

It should be noted that the income tax exemption privilege of a BMBE can be revoked under any of the following circumstances:

- (a) When the BMBE transfers its place of business to another locality;
- (b) When the value of its total assets exceeds PhP3,000,000.00;
- (c) When the BMBE voluntarily surrenders its Certificate of Authority to the Office of the City or Municipal Treasurer;
- (d) In case of death of the registered individual owner of the BMBE, if it is a sole proprietorship;
- (e) In case of violation or non-compliance with the provisions of RA No. 9178, the Implementing Rules and DOF Department Order No. 17-04;
- (f) In case of merger or consolidation with an entity which is not eligible to be a BMBE;
- (g) In case of sale or transfer of the BMBE, if it is a sole proprietorship, without prejudice to the transferee applying for registration should it be qualified under the terms of DOF Department Order No. 17-04;
- (h) Submission of fake or false or falsified documents;
- (i) In case of retirement from business, or cessation/suspension of operations for one year; and
- (j) Making

false or omitting required declarations or statements.

If any of the above circumstances is found to exist, the BIR will notify the BMBE in writing of its findings and require the BMBE to pay the corresponding income tax.

Aside from exempting the BMBE’s income from tax, RA No. 9178 also encourages the local government units to either reduce the amount of local taxes, fees and charges imposed or to exempt the BMBEs from local taxes, fees and charges. Moreover, the BMBEs are exempt from the coverage of the Minimum Wage Law. However, its employees shall be entitled to the same benefits given to any regular employee such as social security and healthcare benefits.

Likewise, the interests, commissions and discounts derived from the loans granted by the Land Bank of the Philippines, the Development Bank of the Philippines, the People’s Credit and Finance Corporation, and the Small Business Guarantee and Finance Corporation to duly-registered BMBEs, as well as loans extended by the Government Service Insurance System and Social Security System to their respective member-employees for the purpose of establishing BMBEs, shall be exempt from GRT. To avail of the exemption, a certified copy of the BMBE’s registration with the BIR should be submitted to the lending institution concerned.

The incentives herein mentioned are only a few of those granted under RA No. 9178. While operating a BMBE is not expected to turn one into a business tycoon, the benefits that the law grants guarantees the micro businessman a better opportunity to compete in a more diverse and free market. **(by Rochelle Magnolia F. Tamin)**

MUNICIPAL TRICYCLE FRANCHISING AND REGULATORY BOARD APPROVED TARIFF RATES FOR PASSENGER TRIKE

| Destinations | POBLACION | STO.NIÑO | BALATERO | MINOLO | SAN ISIDRO | ANINUAN | TALIPANAN | SM. TABINAY | BIG TABINAY | DULANGAN | VILLAFLOR | PALANGAN | SABANG | SINANDIGAN |
|------------------------|-----------|----------|----------|--------|------------|---------|-----------|-------------|-------------|----------|-----------|----------|---------|------------|
| POBLACION | 0/0 | 12/10 | 20/16 | 25/20 | 30/24 | 35/28 | 45/36 | 12/10 | 20/16 | 25/20 | 50/40 | 22/17 | 35/28 | 45/36 |
| AGUADA | 12/10 | 15/12 | 23/19 | 28/23 | 33/27 | 38/31 | 48/39 | 15/12 | 23/19 | 28/23 | 53/42 | 25/20 | 38/31 | 48/39 |
| VALLEY OF PEACE | 15/12 | 20/16 | 28/23 | 33/27 | 38/31 | 40/30 | 50/40 | 17/14 | 25/20 | 30/24 | 55/44 | 27/22 | 40/30 | 50/40 |
| STO. NIÑO | 12/10 | 0/0 | 12/10 | 20/16 | 28/23 | 33/27 | 43/32 | 24/19 | 32/25 | 37/30 | 62/49 | 32/25 | 47/37 | 57/45 |
| STO. NIÑO (TAAS) | 17/14 | 12/10 | 17/14 | 25/20 | 33/27 | 38/31 | 48/39 | 29/23 | 37/30 | 42/34 | 67/53 | 37/30 | 52/42 | 62/49 |
| SAND BAR | 17/14 | 12/10 | 17/14 | 25/20 | 33/27 | 38/31 | 48/39 | 29/23 | 37/30 | 42/34 | 67/53 | 37/30 | 52/42 | 62/49 |
| BALATERO | 20/16 | 12/10 | 0/0 | 18/15 | 25/20 | 30/24 | 40/30 | 32/25 | 40/32 | 45/36 | 70/56 | 42/34 | 55/44 | 65/52 |
| LIBTONG | 33/26 | 22/18 | 17/14 | 25/20 | 35/28 | 45/36 | 50/40 | 42/34 | 50/40 | 55/44 | 80/64 | 52/42 | 65/52 | 75/60 |
| MALIGAYA | 23/18 | 17/14 | 12/10 | 23/19 | 30/24 | 37/30 | 43/32 | 37/30 | 45/36 | 47/37 | 73/58 | 45/36 | 68/54 | 78/62 |
| INTERIOR | 30/24 | 17/14 | 12/10 | 23/19 | 30/24 | 37/30 | 43/32 | 37/30 | 45/36 | 47/37 | 73/58 | 45/36 | 68/54 | 78/62 |
| SULI | 30/24 | 17/14 | 12/10 | 23/19 | 30/24 | 37/30 | 43/32 | 37/30 | 45/36 | 47/37 | 73/58 | 45/36 | 68/54 | 78/62 |
| MANIKNIK | 30/24 | 17/14 | 12/10 | 23/19 | 30/24 | 37/30 | 43/32 | 37/30 | 45/36 | 47/37 | 73/58 | 45/36 | 68/54 | 78/62 |
| MINOLO | 25/20 | 20/16 | 18/15 | 0/0 | 12/10 | 15/12 | 30/24 | 40/32 | 47/37 | 52/42 | 75/60 | 47/37 | 60/48 | 70/56 |
| PONDEROSA | 130/104 | 120/100 | 110/80 | 95/76 | 110/80 | 115/92 | 120/100 | 142/113 | 150/120 | 155/124 | 180/144 | 152/121 | 165/132 | 175/140 |
| SAN ISIDRO/WHITE BEACH | 30/24 | 28/23 | 25/20 | 12/10 | 0/0 | 12/10 | 22/17 | 42/34 | 50/40 | 55/44 | 80/64 | 52/42 | 65/52 | 75/60 |
| ANINUAN | 35/28 | 33/27 | 30/24 | 15/12 | 12/10 | 0/0 | 12/10 | 47/37 | 55/44 | 60/48 | 85/68 | 57/45 | 70/56 | 80/64 |
| ANINUAN (TAAS) | 40/32 | 38/31 | 35/28 | 20/16 | 17/14 | 12/10 | 17/14 | 52/42 | 60/48 | 65/52 | 90/72 | 62/49 | 75/60 | 85/68 |
| TALIPANAN | 45/36 | 43/32 | 40/30 | 30/24 | 22/17 | 12/10 | 0/0 | 57/45 | 65/52 | 70/56 | 95/76 | 67/53 | 80/64 | 90/72 |
| SMALL TABINAY | 12/10 | 24/19 | 32/26 | 40/32 | 42/34 | 47/37 | 57/45 | 0/0 | 12/10 | 19/15 | 46/36 | 34/27 | 47/37 | 57/45 |
| TABINAY LABRESA | 15/12 | 27/22 | 35/28 | 42/34 | 45/36 | 50/40 | 60/48 | 12/10 | 12/10 | 22/18 | 49/39 | 37/30 | 50/40 | 60/48 |
| BIG TABINAY | 20/16 | 32/25 | 40/32 | 47/37 | 50/40 | 55/44 | 65/52 | 12/10 | 0/0 | 17/14 | 42/34 | 42/34 | 55/44 | 65/52 |
| TABINAY (HULO) | 22/18 | 34/28 | 42/34 | 49/39 | 52/42 | 57/45 | 67/53 | 14/11 | 12/10 | 19/15 | 44/35 | 44/35 | 57/45 | 67/53 |
| SIGAYAN | 22/18 | 34/28 | 42/34 | 49/39 | 52/42 | 57/45 | 67/53 | 14/11 | 12/10 | 12/10 | 42/34 | 44/35 | 57/45 | 67/53 |
| DULANGAN | 25/20 | 37/30 | 45/36 | 52/42 | 55/44 | 60/48 | 70/56 | 19/15 | 17/14 | 0/0 | 37/30 | 47/37 | 60/48 | 70/56 |
| MARMULAN | 30/24 | 42/34 | 50/40 | 55/44 | 60/48 | 65/52 | 75/60 | 24/19 | 22/18 | 12/10 | 42/34 | 52/42 | 65/52 | 75/60 |
| KANLUMAN | 30/24 | 42/34 | 50/40 | 55/44 | 60/48 | 65/52 | 75/60 | 24/19 | 22/18 | 12/10 | 42/34 | 52/42 | 65/52 | 75/60 |
| BULABOD | 50/40 | 62/49 | 70/56 | 75/60 | 80/64 | 85/68 | 95/76 | 46/36 | 42/34 | 37/30 | 62/49 | 72/57 | 85/68 | 95/76 |
| PARAWAY | 40/32 | 52/42 | 60/48 | 65/78 | 70/56 | 75/60 | 85/68 | 36/28 | 32/25 | 27/22 | 52/42 | 62/49 | 75/60 | 85/68 |
| VILLAFLOR | 50/40 | 62/49 | 70/56 | 75/60 | 80/64 | 85/68 | 95/76 | 46/36 | 42/34 | 37/30 | 0/0 | 72/57 | 85/68 | 95/76 |
| PALANGAN | 22/17 | 32/25 | 42/34 | 47/37 | 52/42 | 57/45 | 67/53 | 34/27 | 42/34 | 47/37 | 72/57 | 0/0 | 25/20 | 35/28 |
| PALANGAN MAIBON | 12/10 | 24/20 | 32/26 | 37/30 | 42/34 | 47/37 | 57/45 | 24/19 | 32/25 | 37/30 | 62/49 | 12/10 | 15/12 | 45/36 |
| PALANGAN IBABA | 22/17 | 32/25 | 42/34 | 47/37 | 52/42 | 57/45 | 67/53 | 34/27 | 42/34 | 47/37 | 72/57 | 12/10 | 25/20 | 35/28 |
| PALANGAN HILLTOP | 20/16 | 30/24 | 40/32 | 45/36 | 50/40 | 55/44 | 65/52 | 32/25 | 40/30 | 45/36 | 70/56 | 12/10 | 30/24 | 30/24 |
| SABANG | 35/28 | 47/37 | 55/44 | 60/48 | 65/52 | 70/56 | 80/64 | 47/37 | 55/44 | 60/48 | 85/68 | 25/20 | 0/0 | 20/16 |
| SABANG HEIGHTS | 25/20 | 39/32 | 45/36 | 50/40 | 55/44 | 60/48 | 70/56 | 37/30 | 45/36 | 50/40 | 75/60 | 15/12 | 12/10 | 25/20 |
| DALARUAN | 50/40 | 64/52 | 70/56 | 75/60 | 80/64 | 85/68 | 95/76 | 62/49 | 70/56 | 75/60 | 100/80 | 30/24 | 24/19 | 35/28 |
| SINANDIGAN | 45/36 | 57/45 | 65/52 | 70/56 | 75/60 | 80/64 | 90/72 | 57/45 | 65/52 | 70/56 | 95/76 | 35/28 | 20/16 | 0/0 |
| LALAGUNA | 50/40 | 62/49 | 70/56 | 75/60 | 80/64 | 85/68 | 95/76 | 62/49 | 70/56 | 75/60 | 100/80 | 40/32 | 36/28 | 45/36 |

(Paunawa: Sa pasaheng P12 at 10, ang P12 ay regular na pasaha at ang P10 ay pasaheng may diskwento para sa mga mag-aaral, Senior Citizens at may kapansanang pisikal)

Ang pagtaas ng pamasaha ay nakaayon sa Kautusang Pambayan Blg. 019-2018 na aprobadong Sangguniang Bayan ng Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro



The New Puerto Galera
Fortnightly Journal

| NAME OF FERRY | TYPE/TRAVEL TIME | BATANGAS DEPARTURE | PUERTO GALERA DEPARTURE | PUERTO GALERA PORT | PASSENGER REG. FARE |
|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| MV GENESIS I | FASTCRAFT 1 HR 30 MNS | 8:30 AM | 6:30 AM | Muelle Port 0927-3099601 | 300.00 |
| | | 12:30 PM | 10:30 AM | | |
| | | 5:20 PM | 2:30 PM | | |
| MV GOLDEN RAPTOR | FASTCRAFT 1 HR + 30 MNS | 7:30 AM | 5:45 AM | Muelle Port 0917-5146520 | 300.00 |
| | | 10:30 AM | 9:00 AM | | |
| | | 2:00 PM | 12:30 PM | | |
| | | 6:00 PM | 3:45 PM | | |
| MV POLARIS | ROFO 2 HRS | 10:00 AM 6:00 PM | 5:00 AM 3:00 PM | Balatero Port 0917-6119926 | 225.00 |
| MV STAR SAN CARLOS | ROFO 1 HR 30 MNS | 7:00 AM 11:30 AM 3:30 PM | 9:30 AM 1:30 PM 5:30 PM | Balatero Port 0928-3374181 | 250.00 |

Volume 2 No. 06 Sept. 16-30, 2018

LOT FOR SALE

Naghahanap kami ng mga ibenebentang lupa sa Puerto Galera para sa 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

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