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Pumpboats for Samar-Leyte Typhoon Victims remain Undisposed

Sto. Niño Has Come A Long Way

All Roads may Soon lead to Calbayog

The Experience that Changed My Life

Dismissed Police ARD Dolina asks Ombudsman to Review Case

Murder Suspect Killed in PNP Oplan Lambat-Sibat

Samareños Oppose Php800M Gov't. Loan






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EDITOR'S NOTE



Calbayog, without a doubt, is a potential economic center of the island of Samar and there are plausible reasons to believe that.

Its very location and physical features make Calbayog an ideal site for long term investment.

The city is situated in the western part of the island so it is less vulnerable to storm surges induced by tropical storms that generally originate off Samar's east coast. This circumstance plus the abundance of streams, rivers, and creeks that flow towards the sea and help minimize flooding in the city's central business district make commercial properties there less prone to destruction and spoilage in the case of perishable goods make Calbayog an ideal site for shopping malls, office buildings, warehouses and single floor big box stores that require wide spaces.

Moreover, much of Calbayog's over 90,000 hectare land area is flat thus the inner city has ample room for expansion. The possibilities is almost endless.

The city's viability is enhanced by facilities that make up a destination of choice of commercial travelers- an airport that is slated for expansion; an alternative seaport that can accommodate foreign vessels; Roads linking the city to Luzon and Mindanao; a reliable power source; impressive hotels and resorts; clean fast food places; and Bars that make entertainment available at night- and to top it off is the presence of a business-friendly regulatory environment.

In order to hasten the materialization of its potential, Calbayog needs to rid itself of "gunslingers" that befool its reputation.

The Editor-in-Chief

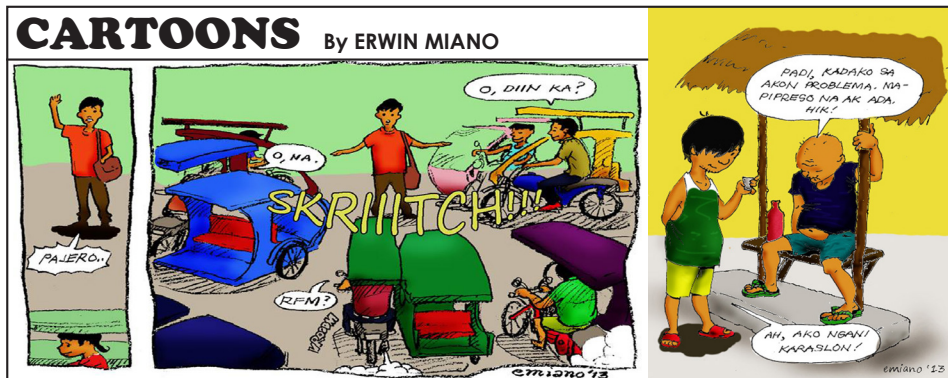


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The leader in On-line news reporting in Calbayog City

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Samareños Oppose Php800M Gov't. Loan

Hundreds of placard-bearing Samareños belonging to various cause-oriented organizations assembled in front of the Samar provincial capitol building in December 1, 2015 to air their opposition to the provincial government's intention to borrow from the banks hundreds of millions of pesos for projects they see as inconsistent with the pressing needs of the people in the province.

Earlier, the protestors, composed of members and supporters of the An Bag-o nga Samar Movement; People Surge-Samar; Kabataan Partylist-Samar; Makabayan-Samar; Gabriela; and representatives of different sectors of society moved their way through the city after converging at Mabini Street chanting slogans and expressing criticism over the provincial government's failure to address the urgent needs of the population specially those affected by four successive catastrophic typhoons

Million loan would later create financial problems for the province.

The opposition's cry, however, seems to have fallen on deaf ears as Governor Sharee Ann Tan and her brother Vice-Governor Stephen James Tan were reportedly not in the capitol building during the protest.

The protestors tore and burned copies of what is now dubbed "the borrowing ordinance" and dispersed quietly to the relief of policemen deployed to secure the capitol grounds. The protest ended without any untoward incident.

All Roads May Soon Lead to Calbayog

CALBAYOG CITY- Recent developments indicate the possibility of Calbayog City becoming the entire island's central hub.

Reports have it that two more national government agencies are moving their major branch offices to the city next year.

The Banko Sentral Ng Pilipinas (Central Bank of the Philippines) is expected to start the construction of a new building in Sitio Talahib in the first quarter of 2016 which will house the regulatory bank's Samar island regional office while the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) is relocating its provincial office to a still unannounced location in Calbayog.

The Banko Sentral regional office will serve as the center of transaction for all commercial banks operating in the island of Samar. Its presence in Calbayog is anticipated to help boost economic activities in the city as more people will then be travelling to Calbayog for business purposes.

The other national government agencies that set up branch offices in Calbayog recently are the Pag-Ibig Fund, the Bureau of Immigration, The Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, The Bureau of Internal Revenue, and the Land Bank of the Philippines.



in the last two years.

Rishel Yrigon, a member of the People Surge-Samar, urged everyone to rally behind the move to oppose the provincial government's intention to borrow from Landbank of the Philippines Php 800 Million saying that the projects for which the said amount is being designated should not be the priority of provincial officials as there are needs that require immediate action or attention one of which is the delivery of social services that the majority of the population do not enjoy.

Aurelio Bardaje, Jr., the secretary general of the Bag-o nga Samar Movement said that the assemblage is a prelude to a much bigger gathering in 2016.

Meanwhile, provincial board member Alma-Uy Lampasa, the lone oppositionist in the legislative body, expressed delight over the growing number of people publicly expressing their disapproval of the actions taken by provincial officials. She said that she will relentlessly oppose the borrowing of such a huge amount. There is fear that the Php 800

Murder Suspect Killed in PNP Oplan Lambat-Sibat OPS

CALBAYOG CITY- A murder suspect was killed while four others were taken into custody in the sudden simultaneous search by Police of various houses in the city in November 22,2015,

Killed in what was described by police as a "one-time, big time operation" was a certain Ronald P. Magbutay of Barangay Nijaga who allegedly fired his handgun at the police operatives. Magbutay was reportedly hit in the exchange of gunfire.

Police said Magbutay was previously charged for murder and was detained but was able to escape from the lock-up cell of the Calbayog City police station. Recovered from the scene were a 22-caliber revolver with five live ammunitions, three empty bullet shells, three large plastic sachet containing a substance believed to be



"Shabu", two digital weighing scales, bundles of plastic sachet, and cash amounting to more than Php 41,000 in various denominations.

His companion identified as 25 year-old Rodel B. Ongcal alias "Saddam" of Barangay Hamorawon was arrested on-the-spot after he was found in possession of a 45-caliber pistol with live ammunitions. A case for violation of P.D. 1866 as amended by R.A. 10591 has reportedly been filed against him at the city prosecutors' office.

The searches were executed on the basis of seven search warrants issued by Presiding Judge Jante M. Cabaluna of RTC Judicial Region, Branch 33 in Calbiga, Samar in line with the law enforcers' intensified campaign against the illicit trade of prohibited drugs in Calbayog City under an anti-crime police strategy called Oplan Lambat-Sibat.

Meanwhile three of the six other subjects of the search warrants were reportedly apprehended in three separate locations. Those taken into police custody were Edwin Yauder of Barangay Obrero who was allegedly caught in possession of a 45-caliber pistol, a hand grenade, and a Samurai; Ramil Magbutay of Barangay Hamorawon who was allegedly found in possession of Shabu and drug paraphernalia; and Michael C. Cinco who was taken from a lodgement named Samar Lodge in Barangay Carmen for alleged Possession of Shabu. Cinco was, however, released shortly by the police after forensic test results on the presence of Shabu in the transparent plastic sachet found inside his bedroom were Negative.

Police said that three other targets eluded arrest because they were not in the searched premises at the time of the operation.

Pumpboats for Samar-Leyte Typhoon Victims Remain Undisposed

TACLOBAN CITY- Over a month after the Calbayog Journal reported it and over four months after they were made, the 500 pumpboats donated by a Mindanao-based logging firm to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources(DENR) for distribution to fishermen in typhoon-affected communities in Samar and Leyte, remain undisposed up to now.

The pumpboats are still stored at the compound of the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office(PENRO) in Brgy. Candajug, Palo, Leyte.

Purificacion S. Daloos, the Chief of the PENRO Management Services Division told the Calbayog Journal that the boats were transferred to another location-behind the PENRO building-and were covered with canvas to protect them from the elements while awaiting their distribution.

The pumpboats, however, now appear to be consigned to decay as the DILG, the agency asked by the

"The pumpboats, however, now appear to be consigned to decay"

DENR to handle their disposal, refuses to give the boats to their recipients after the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources reported that the marine plywood used appears to be third class which is not recommended for sea craft construction and that the hull of the vessel is high and not proportionate to the length of the vessel.

The DILG reportedly refused to distribute the boats unless it is assured of their seaworthiness.

The fitness of the pumpboats draw special attention following the sinking in Ormoc City in July 2015 of a ferry boat which claimed the lives of over 60 people.





THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF STO. NIÑO, SAMAR UNDER THE ADMINISTRATION OF MAYOR LILIA COÑEJOS

GAWAD PARANGAL AT
 PAKIKILALA
 sa
 Municipality ng Sto. Niño
 sa
 Pagsunod sa
 Earth R

Earth from a billion kilometers away: a symbol of our need to find a new home?

By Alexander R. Walker



Twenty three years ago, a spacecraft named Voyager 1 took a photo of Planet Earth from some 6 billion kilometers away. The late astrophysicist Carol Sagan, upon seeing the photo, was quoted as calling it the "pale blue dot." The picture was the first photograph taken of Planet Earth from such a distance, and remains the most distant photo of Earth.

On July 19, 2013, NASA's Saturn-orbiting Cassini space probe took a series of photographs of Earth.

According to NASA, it was "the third time ever that Earth has been imaged from the outer solar system." The space probe took high resolution photos of Earth

when Saturn was hiding our sun due to a unique outer solar system eclipse. The photograph shows Planet Earth from far away, at a distance of 1.44 billion kilometers. In the photographs, Earth appeared like a tiny star barely illuminating the vastness of space, a pale blue dot. It is the first interplanetary photo taken of Earth with natural color. According to NASA, the natural color was created using a combination of blue, red, and green spectral filters.

Some people ask why a photo of Earth is such a big deal, and why is it so moving. Such photos of Earth is perhaps a reminder to us all of our common existence and of our vulnerability within the vastness of space. President John F. Kennedy once said that "Our most basic common link is that we all inhabit this planet. We all breathe the same air. We all cherish our children's future. And we are all mortal."

Earth is a special planet because it is the only planet in our universe inhabited by life. Approximately 6.5 billion people call Earth home. We have gazed at the stars since our earliest beginnings and wondered what is beyond our planet. Eventually, we visited the moon with unmanned rovers, set foot on the lunar surface,

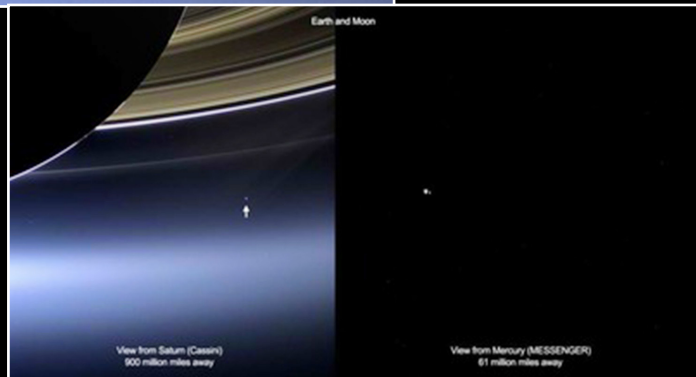
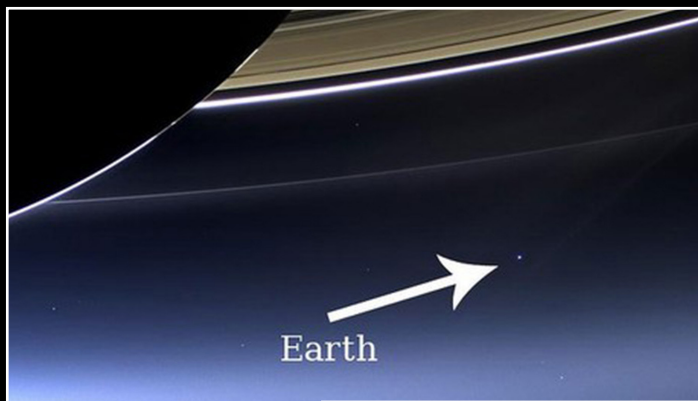
and now the United States has announced a plan to put mankind on the lunar surface by the 2030's. We have gone from exploring and sailing the world's vast unknown oceans to exploring the vast darkness of our solar system. The photographs of Earth by the Cassini space probe, though of little scientific significance, more than anything, is a testament of our achievements in exploring our universe.

Many people do not understand the rationale of exploring our solar system and our need to explore outer space. The fact is that necessity will dictate our need to leave Earth. We are mining nonrenewable resources on our planet to such a degree that eventually we will no longer be able to sustain ourselves. Further, our sun has a limited lifespan. At best, we have roughly 1 billion years left and at conservative estimates, we

only have 600 million years. In roughly one billion years, the CO2 levels will fall far below the levels of what is needed to even sustain plant life (photosynthesis). The sun will then gradually

expand in about 7 billion years, and it will reach the red giant stage, when only single celled organisms can survive on the planet. The sun will eventually expand over our current home and nothing will be left.

A time will come when mankind will realize the need to leave our planet and find another pale blue dot to call home. That will not be in our lifetime. It will also not be in our lifetime when future humans may look at stars from another planet and see the "pale blue dot" in the night sky, reminding them where humans came from. For now, it is our obligation to explore space for the future existence of mankind. A photo of Earth from billions of kilometers away is perhaps a symbol of our search for another planet.





There are some lessons that we can glean from applying the Money Generation Model to Calbayog's tourism potential.

Gather Data: First, we need to start gathering concrete data, not only with regards to the number of tourists but also with regards to average expenditure per tourist and the costs of goods and services in Calbayog, among others.

Hire an Economist: It may be worthwhile for Calbayog to hire an economist to provide more accurate figures than those a non-economist like me can put together. I find it difficult to imagine that decisions are being made without such data, but so far I have not heard of any economic modelling done on Calbayog's tourism industry. Proceeding without such data is like starting a business and never asking how much it would make.

Promote and Sell More Local Goods: Selling more local goods means that sales generated from tourists will remain in Calbayog. If we sell goods and services that rely on products that are made in Manila, for example, then a big portion of the total tourist expenditure actually goes to Manila and not to Calbayog. We should therefore, consider developing the production of locally made delicacies, pasalubongs, locally made drinks, and other products. For example, since tourists will very likely purchase plenty of bottled water, we should encourage the development of our own bottled water business in Calbayog. We may also encourage local Buko shake businesses to tie up with our local coconut industry as source for the Buko.

Attract More Tourists: It is basic sense that the more tourists will come, the higher the total tourist expenditures will be. So, attracting tourists to Calbayog is a necessity if we are to venture into the tourism industry. We must keep in mind, however, that Calbayog is not the only city attracting tourists. We have competition. We must also remember that tourists will not just magically appear in Calbayog because we made access to the waterfalls a lot easier. Attracting tourists to Calbayog requires a serious marketing and sales strategy. Absent a cohesive strategy, the chances that more tourists will come to Calbayog will be minimal. A marketing plan not only ought to include a unified slogan and theme, but should also reach the eyes and ears of those tourists we want to attract. This means spending money on advertising campaigns in places that have tourists we want to attract. If we want to attract Koreans, for example, it is a must that we have a Korean language ad that reaches these potential tourists. Facebook, for example, allows one to create such targeted marketing without spending an enormous amount of money.

Make Tourist Sites Accessible: It would be impossible to develop a tourism industry without making the tourist sites accessible by public transport. On this point, I would venture to say that every reasonable person in Calbayog would agree, save for concerns about the social and environmental effects of such developments. What the Money Generation Model exercise forces one to ask, however, is how much the City ought to invest given the estimated sales figures. Despite that the national government has funding for tourism development, the point remains that spending billions on a project that generates only thousands is the epitome of poor investment and mismanagement. Knowing that by 2015 we could generate P103.2 million in total tourist spending, means that the development of tourist sites by 2015 ought to be targeted at high impact development but proportional to the total estimate sales generated. In short, we ought to spend some time calculating what the rate of return would be if we were to spend a certain sum of money developing a tourist site, and we ought to answer first whether the rate of return would be worth the while.

Lessons from the Money Generation Model Exercise for Calbayog's Tourism

What You Can Do: If you are a tourism related business, offer data about your total sales to the tourism office. Write a letter to your local leaders asking for an economic study of tourism. Start a business that sells local products. Calbayognons need to learn to welcome and embrace tourists. This means charging foreigners the same price as locals for tricycle fares or products. This means being friendly and welcoming to foreigners. This means everyone should learn to speak English and to give proper directions. If we are friendly, welcoming, helpful, and honest to our guests, then more guests will come. If you live near the tourist area or if you have been to a tourist area before, offer to give a tour to visitors. Even if accessing a tourist site requires a long hike, some tourists may enjoy the adventure, especially with the company of friendly people. Most importantly, everyone needs to start promoting Calbayog in their own way by posting photos or write-ups of our tourist attractions on social media like Facebook and Instagram.

We all have to be the champions of our own City.



Hometown Pride and the History of Calbayog

Hometown pride simply means the good and wholesome feeling of coming from and/or living in a place one can call his very own spot on planet earth. My Hometown! In our case, by simply being proud to be Calbayognons, always expressing it with a confident smile on one's visage.

Pride in, love of and respect for one's roots undeniably make for a desirable recipe for molding better citizenship. How is that developed and handed down and instilled? It ought to be, but hardly alone, by parents and other household elders who themselves may not be equipped with the knowledge and opportunity to engage in good citizenship development by way of story-telling, in the first place. How many of our parents, and even teachers, possess an intimate familiarity with the history and heritage of Calbayog? Bountiful enough to hand down to our eager-eared young ones? There is no known yardstick with which to make that assessment. Nonetheless, no one can deny that the extent or the lack of such intimacy with local heritage is indeed a good measure of the quality of our flock.

The better steeped in local history, the better familiarity with our hometown's beginnings and background, the better a knowledgeability enhances citizenship. Without doubt, when we raise and educate our children with a sufficient dose of local lore and heritage, the safe calculation is that truly we are indeed nurturing more useful citizens who possess pride in being Calbayognons.

As a formal adjunct and component of one's upbringing and education, there is no substitute for the classroom. How then has the classroom of Calbayog performed in this regard? Not much really. Not even a solid hour exclusively devoted by the school, whether public or private, to this specific subject. But there is, at hand, an opportunity that the collective

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The Man Who Popularized The Christmas Crib

The rain had slowed down to a drizzle, and the air was humid but only slightly cold. The days were noticeably shorter on that last week of November, 1223. In a few days it would be December and the wicked cold wave would once again hit the Lazio Region, in the heart of Italy. The wet season kept the visitors out of Greccio, a small town in the region that sat on top of a hill about 705 m (2,313 ft.) above sea level. The town was quiet most of the day, but it did not matter to the residents because the cold climate was associated with Christmas. Somehow the religious and festive mood made the weather bearable.

John Vellita and His Special Mission

For some special reason John, a forty-year-old town resident, was thrilled about the Christmas season that year. Fifteen days before Christmas he met with a dear friend, a holy man named Francis from Assisi, who shared with him a burning wish. "If you desire that we should celebrate this year's Christmas together at Greccio, go quickly and prepare what I tell you; for I want to re-enact the memory of the Infant who was born at Bethlehem and how He was bedded in the manger on hay between an ox and a donkey. I want to see all of this with my own eyes." (From *The First Life of St. Francis* by Brother Thomas of Celano, the Franciscan biographer.) Accepting the wish as a challenge, John was unaware that he was about to become a main character in a defining moment in Christian history.

John was of noble origin, an heir of the landed Vellita family. In the prime of his youth he was a military man and a lord in Greccio. He indulged himself in the pursuit of worldly pleasures, a behavior fostered by the protective wings of wealth and influence of his family. But his outlook and lifestyle changed when he and Francis, who was as old as he was, met at one preaching tour, and developed a friendship devoted to the pursuit of spiritual happiness. The Franciscan writer Fr. Leonard Foley wrote: "John had fallen under the spell of Francis, had renounced all worldly honors and was trying to live a life imitating that of Francis as well as he could."

John understood what Francis wanted: A Christmas Crib depicting the the nativity of Christ using a manger, a figurine of the baby Jesus, a bed of hay, an ox and a donkey. He decided to build it in a cave he found in one of the hills of Greccio that was rarely visited by the town's meager population. The serenity engendered by the lush green forest, the nesting birds, the chirping cicadas, the fireflies in glow at night, the animals in free range pasture and the cool breeze made the cave an ideal place for the Christmas Crib.

Ordinarily John would spend the early weeks of December idly waiting out the cold season and preparing for Christmas. But for two weeks before Christmas of this particular year John was busy. He mobilized a group of villagers and men of the cloth to build the Christmas Crib. They worked tirelessly to meet the deadline. A manger was hewn out of a brownish stone -- roughly three feet high and two feet wide -- with a topside indentation. A figurine of the Baby Jesus was whittled out of a rock, and hay was stored. A live ox and donkey were tended to at the cave waiting for the grand occasion. Because of the enthusiastic response of the volunteers John was convinced the crib would be ready on Christmas Eve.

Francis of Assisi, a Man of God

Francis of Assisi had lived a fascinating life. He, like his friend John, was of noble origin, an heir of the wealthy Di Bernardone

garments merchant family in a town called Assisi, near Greccio. He was also a military man. In his youth he was carefree and pompous, often sporting bright clothing. Thomas of Celano described how Francis spent his youth: "Almost until the 25th year of his age he miserably squandered and wasted his money. He was the admiration of all; and in pomp of vainglory he strove to surpass the rest in frolics, freaks, sallies of wit and idle talk, songs, and soft and flowing attires, for he was very rich." Although Francis was spoiled and carefree, Celano wrote that Francis was, "however, very kindly in his dealings, very easy and affable..."

But as the carefree Francis reached adulthood he was afflicted with bouts of disillusionment, an emotional state which unwittingly became the first milestone in his road to conversion. Two significant incidents engendered his change. The first happened one day when he was routinely selling cloth at the marketplace and a beggar approached him for alms. Francis ignored him, so the beggar moved on. At the end of the business day the image of the dejected beggar walking away stabbed him with remorse. Straightaway he left all his wares to look for the beggar. When he found him, Francis gave him all the money he had, including the sales for the day. Some of his friends who saw him with the beggar heckled in disbelief.

The second incident took place after his military career was cut short by captivity and illness. One day he visited the dilapidated church of San Damiano near Assisi. As he knelt in prayer in front of the image of the Crucified Christ he heard a voice telling him, three times: "Francis, Francis, go and repair my house which as you can see is in near ruins." He thought that the house referred to was the concrete church of San Damiano. Immediately he accepted the task of repairing the church, selling his horse and the clothes from his father's business to raise funds. After completing the repairs he realized that the voice referred not only to the church of San Damiano but also to the whole institutional Church. When he accepted this lofty challenge, Francis was convinced that he had

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Equality for Women is Progress for All!

Equality has been my personal battle cry for more than thirty (30) decades already in this playing field of tears, war, and injustice. "Life is (indeed) **difficult**." (M. Scott Peck), especially when you grow up being raised in an environment of persistent pain caused by battering. Unknowingly you develop an unconscious medical dysfunction called **battered person syndrome (Lenore E. Walker), in effect of your so called homing instinct.**

"Love is what we are born with. Fear is what we learn." (Marianne Williamson)

The younger generations and the feeling-young generations are the easy target of war-driven organizations, the likes of ISIS and of any what-have-you's in the local scene, taking advantage of their weak state of being due to immature thinking and understanding of what really life holds true for us, humans.

There is so much power in mind conditioning, not only in the animal kingdom, but also in the supposed higher rationality found in the human specie. It is very sad to know that many of us have degraded ourselves into the lower level of understanding. Sayang na sayang ang pagiging tao natin. At patuloy na palubha nang palubha nating sinasayang!

The freedom I earned during that fateful night of October 10, 2003, has and will always be very precious to me. I called that day my Independence

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Lamrag . . .

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non-partisan elders of the City can assess as to its merit and relevance. And then, collectively, move for its implementation.

Inclusion of "Calbayog History" as a component of classroom material is a must for our students. The details of the syllabus and its implementation would, of course, be best left to the relevant education officials.

Sometime in 2008, the City Government of Calbayog and the Museo de Calbayog published what is the most complete background material of Calbayog's history and heritage that cover the dawn of Christianity in the islands from the late 1590s all the way up to the present, backed up by impressive bibliographical materials. It is the Calbayog Coffee Table Book. This publication became a physical reality also because of the support given by some forty individuals and families who trace their roots to Calbayog, obviously proud enough of their hometown to financially assist and sponsor the publication.

The Coffee Table Book is a documented showcase of our history and heritage as a community. At the time of its publication in 1968, the project called for only 1000 copies to be published. It is of course understandable that there has been no review of the impact the book has had upon those who purchased copies for display atop their coffee tables. Beyond thumbing through some 200 photographs in the 185-page opus of dedication and love, no survey has been taken of those who actually devoured the volume from cover to cover, perusing every page and reading the material line by line. Well, I have had such good fortune and with every reading, my pride as a Calbayognon and a Samarnon swells even more. Simply because there is much to be proud of.

The advertising blurb about this publication stated that it "will instill pride among generations of Calbayognonns." But how can that happily happen when the project was of limited numbers and of limited circulation necessarily because it was priced only for the elite of our society to acquire?

Sometime in the early 1950s, the Department of Education commissioned all municipalities of the Republic to conduct recordation of all local histories which came to be known as the "Historical Data Papers" now in the custody of the Philippine National Archives. This cultural wealth has remained in sad fallow. It would have been highly desirable for such material to have been used as historical material for the school children of every municipality to learn of their respective town's heritage. Unfortunately, no such event materialized. We, for Calbayog's sake, can do something about this. For ourselves and our children.

Perhaps by action initiated by the Mayor, Vice Mayor and the City Council and supported by the various socio-civic organizations, that Calbayog Coffee Table Book can be re-edited and republished for popular circulation, distribution via even more popular pricing and be mandated as History course material, one for elementary level use and another for secondary level, even for just a three to five hour exposure for a well chosen level of every given school year.

The research and writing by the editorial board headed by Ms. Charo Nabong-Cabardo, Messrs. Rene B. Nachura and Pio Santos (R.I.P.) likewise



deserve to be rewarded and be celebrated by making their academic output a component not only of a schoolroom but of every Calbayog homestead.

Nothing can best enhance hometown pride than possessing the knowledge of, and the facility to trace, ones' roots, paying the hometown respect and reverence. That knowledge and facility can be found in a copy of the Story of Calbayog.

From my Mango . . . from page 9

found his vocation, a vocation that cost him his hefty share of the family inheritance.

Thereafter, he staged a heroic act: he renounced all worldly honors and possessions and imposed on him the life of poverty and humility. He sold all his properties and gave the proceeds to the poor. He lived the life of a beggar asking for alms at the church entrance to help raise money for the needy. He cared for the lepers, cleaning their wounds. He loved God's creatures so dearly he would talk to the sun and the moon, the birds, the flowers and the animals. He considered himself as the humblest of God's servants, which is why he called his body "Brother Ass", in reference to the lazy disposition of a donkey.

Many of his peers and relatives thought he had gone insane. Nevertheless, an expanding group of admirers followed him incessantly. Twelve of his ardent followers sold their properties, left the comfort of their homes, wore sandals, and subsequently became the founding members of the Franciscan Order in 1209. Its mission was considered too radical by contemporary standards: to live as a community in material poverty, to practice humility imitating Christ, and to teach personal reform by word and example. Armed with this mission, Francis and his followers travelled around Europe, spreading the gospel of peace, and accepting new members. (TO BE CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE)

Otherwise . . .

from page 9

Day! I was to know later that October 10 is International Mental Health Day. "There are no accidents nor coincidences in life." (St. Rita of Avila) I sweetly surrendered and vowed to never retreat to what lies ahead, no matter what lies beneath.

"The single most reason for a low self esteem is the absence of unconditional love." Every person, especially women, has a unique story to tell. But tell me, are there enough willing souls to listen? The ratio of loving souls to that of the number of cynics is very, very tilted. Is it any wonder then why the most agonizing women prefer and choose to keep their quiet and suffer in silence instead?

The Filipino culture of paternity adds more insult to injury for us women. It is this culture that nails us more to our cross because its effect is "silent brotherhood" effecting in women more "just tiis" instead of getting justice. It is mostly for this reason then, that us - the awakened women of our society - must form a strong and defiant bond (and band - of purple!) of sisterhood to neutralize somehow the skewed reality between men and women.

Let us help one another to further educate our young and not-so-young (regardless of gender) that we are all the same in one big family of God; that we have been given the same sets of gifts inside regardless our differences outside; that our differences of gender, and others, are but tests/trials for us to hurdle and handle; and that in the end our ultimate mission is actually **only Love!**

It must be about time that the band of purple is to be taken seriously, since purple is the color of good judgment. It is the color of purple seeking

spiritual fulfillment - where there is peace of mind. It is the combination of red (which is focusing, dynamic and active energy) and blue (which is cooling, calming, and expansive energy), both the warmest and coolest colors respectively, and it is this combination that is believed to be the ideal color. Ideal because it (purple or violet) brings a new dynamic to the expansion of blue and the activity of red.

Violet (purple) is the color of purpose. It is associated with the Crown Chakra (or the 7th Energy Center which is found on top of our head) which links the individual and the Universe. Red brings practicality to the undirected expansiveness of the blue, and allows more energy to emerge. It is for this reason that violet or purple is associated with imagination and inspiration. Rise up then, women of purpose, and be acknowledged!

The world is supposed to be a colorful world. It is not dead, therefore, not merely black and white, but more. The legal world is in black and white, and thus, deadly. Our redemption as living dead is our Divinity because there is founded our honest security. But the description of true divinity is hardly understood by the mediocrity of most humans because many have turned their backs to it by succumbing to the materialism of this cruel world. With this, therefore, as our HOME, is there anything more to ask?

Allow me to leave you these words once again as a penny for your thought, my brothers and sisters, as I bid you goodbye and rest my case by going back to my peace bringing with me my ever elusive **"utopian dream"** (St. Thomas More): **"Life is a choice; LOVE IS A DECISION."** Sisters, take care of yourself. It's your own home: your thoughts; your body. Love begins in you and with you. Your and the whole of our future depends on you.

I love you, everyone! And I pray for all of us real hard!

Sto. Niño has Come A Long Way

The island municipality of Sto. Niño in Western Samar has accomplished much since it was conferred with the Seal of Good Financial Housekeeping Award by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) in 2012.

The award recognizes the municipality's improved performance in the management of its funds, and that acknowledgement has embolden Sto. Niño mayor Lilia Coñejos to pursue her vision of a secure and flourishing community in spite of criticisms by his political opponents.

Mayor Coñejos argued when she delivered her State of the Municipality Address in October 2015 that the DILG declaration shows that her administration is



moving in the right direction for the municipality has been consistently recognized by the national government as a good handler of public funds in the last three years.

In 2014, because of that achievement, Sto. Niño came to be one of the Seven towns in the province of Samar that became eligible to implement the "Bottom-up Budgeting" projects of various national government agencies.

Mayor Coñejos is paying particular attention to the very areas identified by the DILG as core assessment areas under the SGFH award which are the areas of disaster preparedness and social protection. All villages were urged to work on a realistic and responsive risk reduction management plan, and a multi-hazard contingency plan as funds are being made available for various projects that include among others the construction of an evacuation center and the procurement of disaster preparedness and rescue equipment.

Meanwhile the mayor announced that a new police station which will be supplied with electricity will be constructed in Kamandag next year. She also reported that as of date 45 fishing nets and 50 pumpboat engines have been distributed to fishermen-recipients under a program that aims to help fisherfolks in the pursuit of their trade. A big percentage of the Sto. Niño population is engaged in fishing.



Dismissed Police ARD Dolina asks Ombudsman to Review his Case

TACLOBAN CITY - Former Acting Regional Director PSUPT. Asher A. Dolina of the Police Regional Office 8 has asked Ombudsman Conchita Morales to take a second look at the allegation lobbed against him and some other police officials in connection with the purchase of nearly Php 4.8 million worth of police coastal crafts in 2009.

Dolina made the request following the issuance by the anti-graft body of an order dismissing him and some other top Philippine National Police officials from the service for their alleged involvement in what the ombudsman described as anomalous procurement of "rubber boats".

The Ombudsman said that the boats were procured sans a public bidding and that in spite of noticeable defects the crafts were certified to have met the required standard. Dolina was replaced by PSUPT.

Cedric Gayona Train who now acts as OIC-Regional Director of the Palo, Leyte-based Police Regional Office 8. In a press release issued by the Regional Police Community Relations Division in October 26, 2015, Dolina said he is saddened by the Ombudsman's biased and unfounded decision that violated their right to due process and the right to speedy disposition of cases.

He said that the Ombudsman sat on the case for over three years then suddenly issued a decision without giving him the chance to answer the charges. Dolina said they can prove that a bidding was actually conducted and that the supplier was not a favored bidder.

He added that the Ombudsman appears to have made the decision without studying carefully the merits of the case.

The former PNP acting regional director asked Ombudsman Morales to review the case as all the accused have a career and a reputation to protect.

Aside from the accusation that the procurement of the boats was carried out without a bidding, the Ombudsman also reportedly established that there were undated and unnumbered procurement documents.

Greetings from:



EMILIO ZOSA

- THE MAN WHO IS TAKING UP THE CUDGELS FOR SAMAREÑOS

Emilio "Emil" Zosa's penchant for public service is revealed in his choice of careers to pursue. In his youth Emil wanted to be a priest but for one reason or another he ended up defending freedom and protecting the land rather than defending the faith and protecting the church. Whichever road he takes, however, Emil would still be serving the population.

In the 90s after completing his military training at the Philippine Army's Officers candidates School(OCS), Emil joined the Armed Forces of the Philippines and for 25 years worked to protect the country from forces seeking its destruction and dismemberment.

Emil exhibited his bravery not only in fighting insurgents and bandits but in the battle against political corruption as well. In 2004 Emil figured prominently in the controversial "Hello Garci" incident being one of those who witnessed against former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo over the latter's phone conversation with an election commissioner in the electoral exercise that year.

With characteristic strong inclination to oppose government officials who use their powers for private gain, Emil called on Samareños lately to rally behind him in putting an end to the political domination of the Tan family in Samar known for its regressive style of governance.

When Emil retired from the army in September 30, this year, he made known his desire to take up the cudgels for Samareños and filed his certificate of candidacy for governor of Western Samar.

In October 29, 2015 Emil who hails from Sta. Margarita town in Western Samar released his 9-point People's Agenda for a New Samar which incorporates the moves he will take in order to redirect the province towards a truly prosperous future where the population, not just the few, will feel the impact of economic growth.

The Experience That Changed My Life

BY: Nina Pia Mendoza Boco

When one of my teachers asked me to represent the school in the Miss Anyag 2015 competition I hesitated to accede to her request at first because of my inhibition and various concerns about myself. I wasn't sure of myself but I didn't want to simply turn down the request without giving it serious thought. Eventually I decided to give it a try for I figured that if others think that I could make it in spite of my imperfections then why shouldn't I?

Three days later I found myself in a hotel with some girls wearing a beautiful dress and a full glam make-up. I felt nervous during the screening of contestants because it was my first time to participate in such a contest, and besides I am not used to wearing high-heeled shoes. The screening was done a month before we were housed in the hotel and the pageant proper and it gave me ample time to prepare for the competition. The first thing that I focused on was in losing weight for I was one of the weighty contestants so I enrolled in a gym and reduced my food intake which, for me, was the hardest part of the preparations. I was lucky that my teachers and friends were always around to stop me from buying snack food at the canteen when the temptation to indulge in snacking comes.

I went through trainings on how to walk like a beauty queen, to pose properly, and to talk sensibly. Answering questions wasn't an easy task but I had to learn to speak well in front of people.

The week-long stay at the hotel with all the contestants was the most enjoyable part of the preparations for it was there where I met new and wonderful friends. Although the rehearsals were physically demanding and time-consuming,



we still found time to hang out together and learn more about each other which I found pretty cool. It was there that I also learned new techniques- ways of doing things which were previously totally unknown to me.

When the pageant night came I was wondering what it would be like when we come to the point where we have to stand "queenly" before an audience despite all the preparations and repeated rehearsal. I remember telling myself quietly that it is okay to lose as long as I don't lose composure. All I wanted at that point was to make my parents and the school I represent proud of my performance on stage.

The cheering of my friends in the audience gave me the confidence I needed to be comfortable on stage. When the moment of truth came everything seems to have become slow-moving. When my number was called as the candidate chosen to wear the 2015 Miss Anyag crown I didn't know what to say or do for I was actually surprised by the decision of the judges. It was the greatest feeling that I have ever felt in recent years. I was happy and the feeling was tinged with excitement for I knew that I have been placed in a situation that will change the course of my life.

Three months earlier I was just this teenager who likes nothing but reading and eating. Nobody has the idea then that I would be wearing the Miss Anyag crown Ninety days later. I know I wouldn't have reached this stage had it not been for the support of my family, my coaches, my teachers, and the students of CCNHS, and most significantly my creator and almighty father in heaven.

The crown did change me. I noticed that I am no longer shy when people are around. I also find it easier now to smile back when others smile at me, and respond to people and situations in a responsible and mature manner. I am aware that I am no longer representing just myself but the pageant and the crown and this awareness is helping me grow. But please don't get me wrong. I still have both feet on the ground. I am still Nina Pia Mendoza Boco.



AYAW PAG PUDLA AN TUOG

Harold L. Mercurio

Ayaw
Pagpudla an Tuog
Didto sa ligid san bingalog
Kay punod san tuna nga naaanas
Tikang sa bukid, balay san tutulihaw
Nga pirme nahapon sa Halawihaw,
Tigaman san giutan san
Katakip nga tuna.

Ayaw
Pagpasipara
Pagpulod
San
Tuog
Diida sa
Igbaw
San sapa.
Kay tugon
Ni Apoy
Nga iton
Atamanon

Sugad san iya saad
San naistar nga diri sugad sa aton.

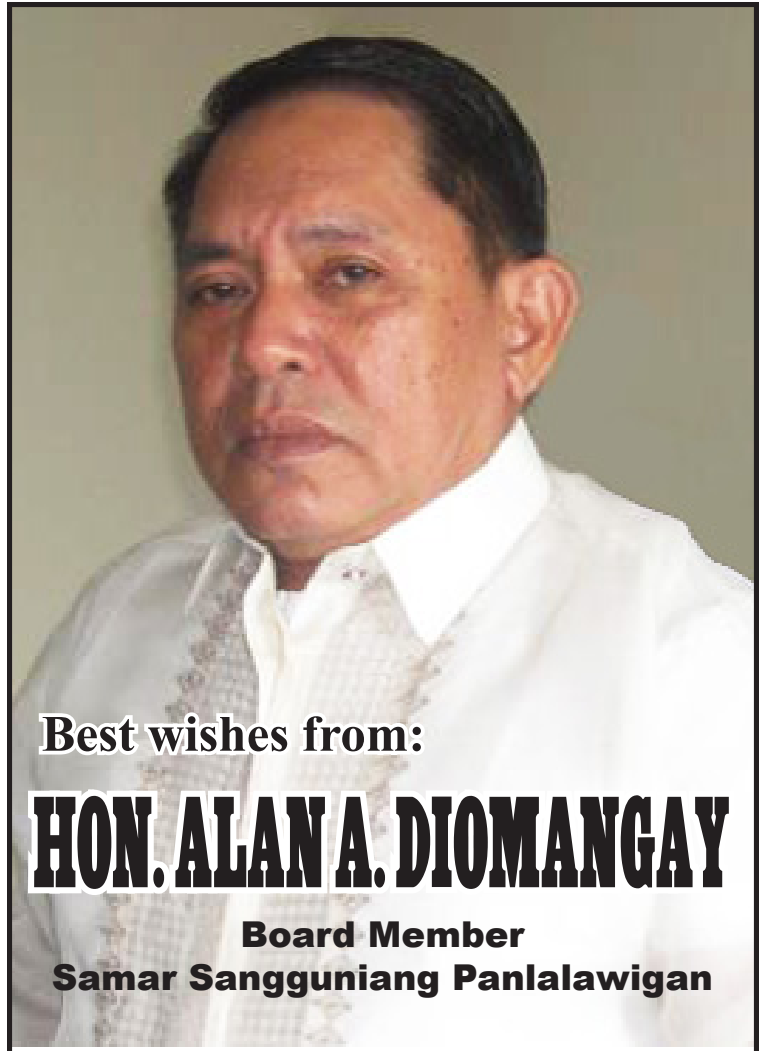


Greetings from:



SUNSHINE D. IGNACIO

**Entrepreneur
Calbayog City**



Best wishes from:

HON. ALANA A. DIOMANGAY

**Board Member
Samar Sangguniang Panlalawigan**

EDGAR MARY S. SARMIENTO HAS THE QUALITIES OF A GOOD LEADER

Edgar Mary S. Sarmiento must have a keen eye for minute details as his accomplishments in the construction industry tend to show for one who does not possess that ability cannot thrive in such a high hazard business.

Edgar who is presently the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Manila-based Oscar Sarmiento Construction Inc. was introduced to the construction business early in life as the building of infrastructure is his family's main occupation.

This is perhaps the reason why after finishing his secondary education at the University of San Carlos-Boys High in Cebu City in 1976 Edgar enrolled in Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering at the Cebu Institute of Technology. When he completed the course in 1981 Edgar went through a management training at the UP Engineering Construction Management of the Philippines to prepare himself for the job of dealing with situations and people, coordinating their efforts to accomplish the goals of the family-owned firm which was then regularly engaged in multi-million construction projects in different parts of the country.

His early exposure in the industry that is characterized by toughness, courage, and strength of mind enabled Edgar to face challenges head-on - a quality that makes for a good leader in various other fields of human activity.

Edgar was born in Calbayog City in 1957 and attended primary school at Christ the King College in 1996. He is married to Helen W. Sarmiento and has three children.



GREETINGS OF PEACE AND PROSPERITY

from:

HON. RONALD

P. AQUINO

**City Mayor
Calbayog City**



A PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT AT THE HELM

What many of the over 170,000 population of Calbayog do not know is that a “public accountant” is at the helm, directing the course of the city government in a way that a person adept at analyzing financial data for the formulation of investment and regulatory policies steers.

Mayor Ronaldo P. Aquino is, by profession, a Certified Public Accountant(CPA) trained in interpreting the “language of business” for the benefit of investors, managers, and regulators. That skill is what a community which is in the process of becoming the economic center of the archipelago’s third largest island needs in maintaining the momentum of growth and in averting derailment.

Aquino earned his accountancy degree at the University of the East in Manila where he attended school after completing his secondary education at the Christ the King College in Calbayog City.

For a time before entering politics as a city councilor in Calbayog in 1992, Aquino run the family-owned company- MBA Trading- that was engaged in the exchange of commodities where he learned, first hand, the workings of business.

Since entering public service in 1992 up to the present, Aquino devoted all his time to finding and making ways to keep Calbayog stay on course towards a destination dreamed of by two of his immediate predecessors- Calbayog City as the economic hub of the whole island of Samar.



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