



BORONGAN MAYOROLONG BALANGKAYAN LLORENTE HERNANI MACARTHUR SALCEDO MERCEDES GUBIAN QUINAPONDAN CIPRILO BALANGOCA LARAPAN SANJULIAN SULAT TAFT CANAVED DOLORES ORAS ARTECHE MASLOC

EASTERN SAMAR NEWS AND VIEWS

BORONGAN CITY

www.estenews.org



E. Samar participates in a network for transparency and accountability

p.7

VOL. 2 NO. 6

JUNE 2014

HELP, DON'T PROSELYTIZE – Bishop Varquez



'Yolanda' survivors in Eastern Samar are still in the process of recovery and rehabilitation eight months after the typhoon.

A Catholic bishop denounced the practice of giving assistance to typhoon Yolanda victims in Eastern Samar supposedly in exchange for their faith, technically called "proselytizing".

Borongan Bishop Crispin Varquez said several religious denominations, which he did not identify, have been recruiting survivors, mostly Catholics, into their groups through financial and relief aid.

These groups, he said in his fourth pastoral letter after Yolanda, are "taking advantage" of the survivors' vulnerability "in the guise" of compassionate response.

"Proselytizing from among the vulnerable calls into question the sincerity of one's charity. To them I say: If you really desire to give help, do so without conditions," Varquez said.

"Lack of respect for the faith of others can never be Christ-like," he said.

The bishop said the survivors could accept the assistance they are given but "never give up your Catholic faith".

"Faithfulness is a mark of true faith. As members of the Roman Catholic Church, let us unite ourselves in living, preserving, defending and proclaiming our Catholic faith," Varquez added.

The prelate earlier criticized international and local non-government organizations (NGOs) by distributing contraceptives such as condoms and pills to typhoon victims.

According to him, these NGO "unfortunately also abuse" the vulnerability of the victims by making contraceptives as essential components of their assistance.

Varquez called on Catholics to make a moral stand with the local clergy and resist all forms of artificial birth control services.

"This phenomenon is alarming," he said. "They violate Catholic norms of morality and many times adversely affect the health of persons, especially women". (*Pacific Times*)

MCA-P gives accomplishment updates on the ongoing E. Samar road project

Ma. Natividad Bagas

Millennium Challenge Account-Philippines (MCA-P) organized a presscon attended by press people of different radio stations and newspaper staffs of Borongan City at Doña Vicenta Poolsite on June 14, 2014. The meeting was materialized to give updates on the level of accomplishments in the four contract packages of the Secondary National Road Development Project (SNRDP); to determine the related issues and challenges faced by MCA-P in carrying out the project; and to present the schedule of completion.

Among the MCA-P presscon representatives were SNRDP Director, Engr. Rudy L. Arias; Project Manager of MCC-PMO, Engr. Teresita Bauzon; Katahira Engineers International consulting firm Director, Engr. Akira Iwashita; SNRDP Program Manager, Junzo Ishii;

SNRDP Resident Engineer, Engr. Edmundo Onias; ESGA Director, Engr. Criste Navide; CP2 Project Engineer, Engr. Reynaldo Galapan; and ESDEO/DPWH Maintenance Chief, Engr. Domecilio Natividad.

As an introductory, MCA-P presented the topics for discussion and stressed on the status of accomplishments in the four contract packages (CP) of SNRDP, especially the road works at the city proper of Borongan which faces numerous problems and issues.

The CP1 covers the road from Buray Junction to Brgy. Tinani Road under the joint venture of D.M. Consunji, Inc. and CM Pancho Construction, Inc. as its contractors, which contract amounts to 808 Million pesos. CP2 covers the road from Hinabangan to Sulat/



Photo by: Dave Panaguiton

San Julian under Qingjian Group Co. Ltd. with a contract amounting to 2.5 Billion pesos. CP3 covers the road from Sulat/San Julian to Balangkayan/Llorente under the joint venture of Qingjian Group Co., Ltd. and MacBuliders with a contract amounting to 2.455 Billion pesos.

CP4 covers the road from the boundary of Balangkayan/Llorente to Guiuan under the joint venture of Hanjin Heavy Industries and Construction Corp. and Yakal Construction with 2.2 Billion peso contract.

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Cases of Dengue suspects soar

Alice Nicart

As the onset of rainy days come, the Provincial Hospital here has recorded a continuing admission of patients suspected of Dengue.

Ms. Concesa Balanga, Dengue Sentinel Nurse of ESPH informed through Radyo ng Bayan DYES that, suspected cases have reached to 351 as of press time. According to her this is higher than last year's 300 cases on the same period but may not be alarming however.

This number includes 99 suspects in Borongan, 100 in Guiuan, 52 in Balangiga, 52 in Lawaan and 1 in Mercedes. In Borongan, barangay Tabunan has been reported to have more suspected cases.

She added however, that until after the result of an RDC Test in a patient reveals positive, Dengue cannot be ruled-out yet.

Meanwhile, the Health Officer urges households to be serious in arresting the disease which is highly transferable by mere mosquito bites.

"We call on households to cooperate with their respective health personnel and barangay officials in various activities aimed to control or eradicate mosquitoes that are carrier of the virus", Ms. Balanga said.

It is important, she said to do the 4:00 o'clock habit when households clean regularly their surroundings at this hour.

Also, the 4S has been found out to be effective in preventing the possible outbreak of Dengue be practiced: Search and destroy of breeding places, Seek early consultation, observe Self-protection, and Say no to indiscriminate fogging.

In response, the Provincial Health Office (PHO) here, in coordination with the World Health Organization (WHO) is currently holding massive trainings in different barangays for "Dengue Brigades".

Four representatives for each barangay are trained who then are expected to share the knowledge and skill to their neighbors.

Earlier reports (PNA) said that Director Jose Llacuna, Jr. DOH Regional Director underscored that the factors that may cause Dengue outbreak are present particularly in "Yolanda" affected areas:

too much rain, garbage which are not collected that could serve as breeding sites, possible increase of adult mosquitoes, and possible presence of the virus.

The report added that the DOH RD encourages all local government units to take active participation in the garbage collection stressing further that fogging operation must be done by technical experts and done in proper time only. Self-medication must be avoided also, because some diseases like Chikungunya and Pneumonia mimic symptoms of the dengue fever, the report said.

In 2010, a Dengue outbreak was observed here, where at least 1,000 suspects were reported by PHO with a few deaths. (PIA-Eastern Samar/aen).

Operation Smile gives 52 indigents big smiles

Alice Nicart

More or less 52 indigent individuals from this city will now smile their life through, after the 50-member team of Operation Smile Medical Mission (OSI) granted them free surgical operations.

Led by Mr. James Reid, International OSI Coordinator, the patients were granted free nose, palate and lip repairs at the Provincial Hospital here.

In the Send-Off Party tendered to them today by Governor Conrado Nicart, Jr., Mr. Reid said they are happy to extend medical service to "Yolanda" affected communities and happier still when seeing people crowd near them to get enlisted for the operations. He mentioned that they are happy to perform free services particularly to poor provinces like Eastern Samar.

Dr. Jessica informed also that the Medical Mission, most of them Americans,

came on their own expense including their accommodation at the Doña Vicente Hotel where they stayed for a week.

In his message, the very young OSI Coordinator, Mr. Reid, candidly mentioned the many challenges they faced in their mission, including the air conditioning units they bought on their own. But, they were able to overcome those difficulties through their sheered cooperation.

Mr. Levi Nicart, who represented Governor Conrado Nicart thanked the visiting doctors. According to the former Nicart, the mission's output will surely leave an unforgettable print in the lives of some indigent patients, as he wished them for a safe travel back home and good luck in their future medical missions.

"We hope this will not be the first and last mission that you will conduct in our province as we project an improved

hospital facilities in your next Operation Smile Medical Mission in our place", the Disaster Risk Reduction Management Officer said.

After the short program, the medical team indulged in the Lechon and other local foods served and, certainly, most of

them danced to their hearts desire.

The project was made possible by the Borongan Diocese through focal person Ms. Marly Cenera, in coordination with the provincial local government unit (PGO). (PIA-Eastern Samar/aen)

Population, Labor Survey up Short-term jobs up for grabs

Alice Nicart

The Philippine Statistics Office (PSO) is set to conduct in August, a Special Census of Population (SCP) in "Yolanda" hard-hit areas and enumerators will be in want.

This was aired recently over DYES by PSO Provincial Director Ronnie Bajado.

According to him, after the tragic incident last November 8, 2013, it is highly relevant to hold the special census in order to establish the correct number of population in the nine most affected municipalities: Guiuan, Mercedes, Salcedo, Lawaan, Balangiga, Giporlos, Quinapondan, Hernani and Balangkayan.

Super-typhoon "Yolanda" rendered more or less 230 deaths in the southern part of the province and hundreds of missing individuals, hence the need to determine the exact number of population for

government to deliver the appropriate services, Bajado said.

Similarly, this July, a Labor Force Survey will be done also by PSO, for government to determine the employment and unemployment rate in the country, including underemployment.

Bajado also informed that they will also determine the employment trend in the locality or the job preferences of job seekers.

Relevant to the upcoming two surveys, PSO will be wanting more than a hundred enumerators who will be paid P280.00 a day until they are done with the job. The following: Assistant Statisticians, Office Clerks, Control Clerks and Utility Boys. (PIA-Eastern Samar/aen)

“LET LOVE BE SINCERE” (Rom 12:9)

Fourth Pastoral Letter of the Bishop of Borongan After Yolanda

Beloved People of God:

Grace and peace of the Lord Jesus Christ to you all!

It is almost eight months after Super Typhoon Yolanda hit most of Central Visayas and, particularly the Diocese of Borongan, especially its southern part. Although this is already my fourth pastoral letter after the fact, as Shepherd of the Diocese, I am pastorally and morally obliged to issue it. This is because of two observations I have made regarding the situation of the super typhoon's survivors.

First, several religious sects and denominations have been proselytizing from among Yolanda's victims, mostly Catholics, to recruit them into their groups through money or relief goods in the guise of compassionate response. Let me make this clear. They are taking advantage of the survivors' vulnerability. Proselytizing from among the vulnerable calls into question the sincerity of one's charity. To them I say: If you really

desire to give help, do so without any preconditions. If the Word of God truly moves you, then heed the Apostle Paul's advice: "Let no one go after his interest, but the interest of the other" (1 Cor 10:24). Lack of respect for the faith of others can never be Christ-like.

On the part of the survivors: Accept the assistance you are given, but never give up your Catholic Faith. Love and cherish this Catholic Faith because it gives you the fullness of the means of salvation: not only the Scriptures but also the Sacraments, not only the Bible but also Apostolic Tradition. Jesus Christ our Savior also gives us the wealth of his love in the devotions we have to his Mother, Mama Mary, and the saints. Never give up your devotion to her and to the saints. They have helped us obtain protection from the full wrath of super typhoon Yolanda through the motherly embrace of her prayers and the saints' powerful intercessions. Mama Mary loves you so much. So do your patron saints.

Faithfulness is a mark of true faith. As members of the Roman Catholic Church, let us unite ourselves in living, preserving, defending and proclaiming our Catholic Faith.

Second, a number of INGOs, NGOs and other agencies, while laudably assisting Yolanda survivors towards recovery, unfortunately also abuse their vulnerability by including reproductive health devices as essential components of their assistance. This phenomenon is alarming. I urge our Catholic flock to make a moral stand with me and our clergy. To our brethren among the survivors I say: We understand you have to accept all the help being made available to you, including shelters, livelihood programs and others. But I appeal to you to resist all

forms of reproductive health services. They violate Catholic norms of morality and many times adversely affect the health of persons, especially women.

In these trying times let us not fail to listen to the words of the Savior: "I am sending you like lambs among wolves. Be wise as snakes but gentle as doves" (Mt 10:16).

Truly in the Lord,

Most Rev. Crispin B. Varquez, DD
Bishop of Borongan

MOTHER BUTLER

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**We call on all citizens and
leaders of our country**

BE HONEST

***Even if others are not
Even if others will not
Even if other cannot***

**Heed the clamor of
our whole nation.
The time is now!**



**Brotherhood of Christian
Businessmen and Professionals**

Bishop Varquez visits BJMP

Ma. Natividad Bagas



Photo by: Dave Panaguaiton

Bishop Crispin B. Varquez of Borongan paid visit to deliver a talk in a Christian Life Program (CLP) participated by 30 inmates in the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), Borongan City on Sunday, June 1, 2014 organized by Couples For Christ (CFC) Borongan Chapter.

The Christian life program is an initiation course leading to membership in CFC ministry. It is normally held over a period of three months, with 13 weekly sessions that consists of an orientation session, followed by the CLP proper of 12 sessions. Its goal is the evangelization and renewal of an individual, family and the church, addressing to their vision: 'Families in the Holy Spirit renewing the face of the earth'.

The ongoing Christian life program in BJMP started on May 11, 2014 and is expected to conclude on August 3, 2014. The 30 inmate-participants of the program comprises of eight aspiring CFC

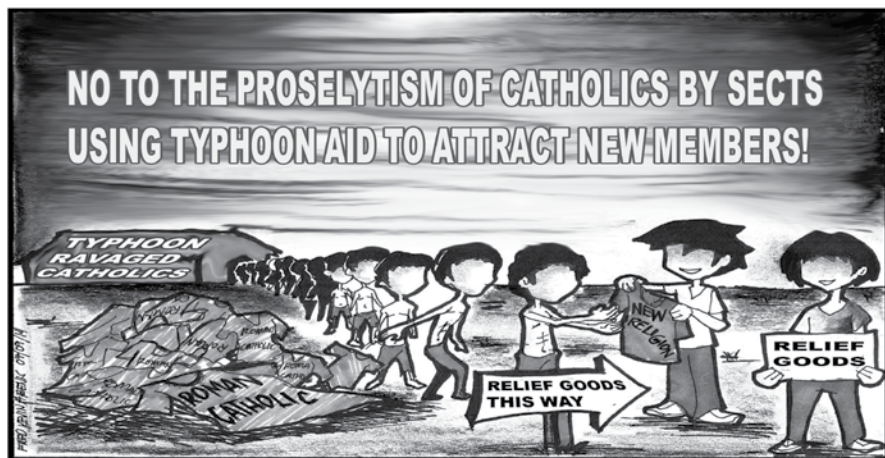
(married participants), five aspiring Servants of the Lord (single, ages 41 and above), and 17 aspiring Singles for Christ (single, ages 21-40).

"Knowing who Jesus is in our lives is very important in strengthening our faith in him and having a whole new life with him", says Bishop Varquez on his talk titled 'Who is Jesus Christ?'

"In Christ, you will experience the real richness, the real happiness, and real peacefulness in the midst of this noisy and tempting world. If you know Jesus, you will not be the same anymore. If Christ is in you, your life is in peace," he added.

Bishop concluded his talk by encouraging the participants not to harden their hearts in God's call. "If we know Christ, his kingdom is never far. If we heed his call, we will have a peaceful and happy life. Now is the beginning of a new life, a life with Christ", Bishop says.

A Christian life program in such setting is a very first in the history of CFC family ministry. Hence, the program has been made possible with the benevolent and steering support of Chief Inspector (CINSP) Benedicto D. Catudio Jr., provincial admin and jail warden; Rev. Fr. Leroy R. Geli, moderator of Team Ministry of Borongan Cathedral; and the CFC-CLP Team of Borongan headed by Mr. Albert Donceras, provincial coordinator of CFC and Singles For Christ (SFC).



EDITORIAL

Zombie Catholics

Zombies are popular characters in contemporary movies. They are curious creatures- walking dead, who devour anything not of their own kind making their victims "deader" than themselves.

Zombies may be a hit in today's movie industry yet they can also illustrate much the malaise affecting our present Christian culture. The scourge of relativism and secularism can, in fact, be ultimately traced to the crisis involving 'zombie' Christians.

A zombie Catholic, for instance, can be a walking-dead with regards to his/her faith, usually having a self-flagellating attitude towards his/her Catholic identity, infected with a false idea of ecumenism, and overly obsessed with self-censorship when it comes to publicly expressing his/her values. In short, he/she is a "relativist" Christian- believing that all other religious perspectives are the same including his own. For him/her, no moral values, no religious standpoint or culture can be said to be BETTER than the rest.

But is this the case in reality? Is our relativistic world a fervent believer of the equality of all religious convictions? Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI has this to say: "In our contemporary society, thank goodness, anyone who dishonors the faith of Israel, its image of God, or its great figures must pay a fine. The same holds true for anyone who dishonors the Koran and the convictions of Islam. But when it comes to Jesus Christ and that which is sacred to Christians, instead, freedom of speech becomes the supreme good."

Add to this problem the programmatic interventions of First World countries to root out the influence of the Catholic Church over large populations. Again, Pope Benedict makes the following keen observations: "The United States is involved to a large extent in promoting Protestantism... -and hence in the breakup of the Catholic Church- through the work of free church formations. It does so out of the conviction that the Catholic Church is incapable of guaranteeing a stable political and economic system, since it is considered an unreliable educator of nations."

Obviously, the solution to the above maladies is to resuscitate 'zombie Catholics,' to make our ecclesial institutions and organisms more life-giving and life-changing, and to be enlivened by the Spirit that only the true Church of Christ can give.



SIMPLE & HUMBLE THOUGHTS

BISHOP CRISPIN B. VARQUEZ, DD

A human being is composed of body and soul. Humanitarian responses to any calamity that happens to people in an area should be inclusive. This means that not only the needs of the body but also those of the soul and spirit of the people should be attended to. Many INGO, NGO, FOUNDATIONS and even CARITAS do not mind helping people rebuild/repair their houses of worship like churches and chapels because they think that these are not part of the basic needs of the victims/survivors. The fact is, if these houses of worship are rebuilt and repaired, the spirit of the people becomes alive again. They regain their strength, hope and inspiration. Thus, they are capacitated to re-

build their own lives, their shelter and livelihood. I believe this is a very important aspect of the interventions which should not be neglected.

Together with the Social Action Commission of the Diocese, we work together for the smooth implementation of our interventions to the survivors of the super typhoon Yolanda. These interventions include livelihood, shelter, scholarship programs, health, water and sanitation, psycho-spiritual intervention and disaster risk reduction management. We hope and pray that two or three years from now, the survivors can fully recover from the destructions done

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ANTIGO

MSGR. LOPE C. ROBREDILLO, VG

CHANGES IN THE NAME OF BALANGKAYAN. As can be attested in several Spanish and American documents, the name of the village was not Balangkayan, but PAGBABALANGKAYAN, and it is most unlikely that the Americans simply copied the Spanish documents. When the village was created into a barrio or visita, it officially assumed the name SAN BUENAVENTURA, the name that one encounters in official documents until May 2, 1959 when it was raised to the status of municipality through the efforts of Congressman Felipe Abrigo. A 1959 map of Samar island shows that the place was known as SAN BUENAVENTURA, after the patron of the place, Saint Bonaventure, under whose protection the sitio was placed when it was created a visita.

TAGI DAW HIN MAM-UN. In some parts of Eastern Samar, there are still Estehanons who love to chew a mixture of betel leaf, areca nut, tobacco, shell lime; but how was it done in pre-Hispanic Eastern Samar? For what purpose?

INGREDIENTS. It seems that nothing changed in its entirety. The ingredients were the same: [1] BUNGA, the nut taken from the fruit of the areca palm; [2] DAPUN, an aromatic leaf of a climbing vine, called BUYO, of which there were two varieties: cultivated (TICOM, LABILAB and MANGADLAO); and wild (SINANGIL, BUHOAN, POCAO, CAGASCAS and CAGANG); [3] LIME and, sometimes, [4] TOBACCO. The Estehanons enclosed into the aromatic leaf a little lime and a small part of the bunga, and masticate the preparation. After chewing it continually, they spat out the left-over which was called GOMA. Those in the upper class had little vessels of silver or even gold for spittoons.

USES. [1] The early Estehanons used the MAM-UN to entertain guests who ascended to their house. Women ordinarily served it to them. [2] They believed that it strengthened the teeth and destroyed bad breath. [3] They also offered it others to reconcile with them over some petty issues. [4] But if a wom-

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Publisher:

Editor-in-Chief:

Associate Editor:

Lay-out Artist:

Photographer:

Cartoonist:

Business Manager:

Circulation:

ESTE! – Eastern Samar News & Views
2nd Floor, Bishop's Residence, Borongan City

Diocesan Commission on Mass Media
& Social Communications

Fr. Neil Tenefrancia

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BALIK BALAY

SARAH MABANSAG PUNO

This year's Father's Month Celebration reminded me of a father who is worthy to be applauded for his performance of his roles as head, provider and priest of his home.

As the head of his family, he was firm but loving. He punishes for correction and would even shed tears for he hates to hurt his children, if not only to straighten them. He would say, "Anak an tanum samtang mahumok pa angay tadungon kay kon matigha na mababari na."

He taught his children how to work, sacrifice and share. He would say: "Diri ka magugutom kon diri ka hubya magtrabaho;" Pagsakripisyo para ka mabuhin ngan umasenso"; "Waray magugutom kon an ngatanan hibaro pagpaangbit". He often would say, "Bisan an walo nga magburugto nagpakakaon hin usa la nga monggo." He was true to his word because all who would visit his home during meal time are cordially offered with a plate in their dining table. And if the visitor would be ashamed to dine, he would say "Pastilan it makakaon hit walo

makakaon gad hit napulo."

As a provider, he was so generous with his time, talents and treasures. With his time, one memorable occasion when his eldest daughter was yet in elementary in a Catholic school, the school was open for observation by parents for the whole day. This father was commended by the school because he sacrificed his work just to be with his child. He was the only parent observer, the rest were just guardians and yayas.

With his talents, he shared his songs and his siday to his family. He shared beautiful real life stories. He showed his children how to dance gracefully. He taught them how to draw, to be artistic and creative. He shared his passion in sports especially in boxing and wrestling. And the best thing, he supported his children in their interests.

With his treasures, he would never say no for his children's needs but cautious for their wants. He taught them what are essential from what are not. He was willing to give up things for the

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THOUGHT FOR THOUGHT

REV. EUTQUIO 'EULY' B. BELIZAR, JR., SThD

HONESTY in SCRIPTURES

It is like a wild boar let loose on the streets of national consciousness. The raging pork barrel controversy involving, as of now, several lawmakers (three senators, a number of congressmen) and their aides, a businesswoman, private citizens and other government officials continues to rile, bewilder, shock and distress many. Public interest rises especially as more evidence is presented on the extent and amount of public money adjudged to have been stolen. The drama surrounding the issuance of arrest warrants, actual and imminent surrenders of the accused, and the media coverage of the story's every detail only heighten it. All this should not distract us from the core issue. The travesty of honesty in government seems, at times, beyond belief. In addition, from all indications, we have yet to see the matter beyond the tip of the iceberg. Now since the Philippines claims to be a Christian country (if the majority of its citizens were to be the criterion

of judgment), people who regard the Bible as their guiding light in life, aside from Apostolic Tradition and magisterial teaching (for Catholics), need to bear in mind what the Scriptures say on honesty apart from the simple ordinary common sense it is associated with.

So we ask: What does the Scriptures say about honesty?

The PMA honor code motto is a good place to start in our consideration of honesty in the Scriptures: "I will not lie, cheat or steal, or tolerate others who do so" [my wording]. Even Webster's New World College Dictionary affirms this as a working definition of honesty.

It is by no means easy to say that Scriptures have a specific and clear-cut definition of honesty. On the other hand, there are several verses and passages from both the OT and the NT that, on various contexts and circumstances, address aspects of our

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LEGAL INSIDER

ATTY. MAU OBON

Landowner vs. Builder

Pedro and Jose are neighbors and the registered owners of their respective lots. Each of them built their houses on their lands believing all the while that their properties were properly delineated. The peaceful possession by Pedro and Jose was soon disturbed when another lot (Lot 3) was foreclosed by a bank. During the foreclosure proceedings, the bank caused the relocation survey of Lot 3 and it was discovered that Pedro's house encroached on Lot 3. Pedro was successfully ejected by the bank. As a result, Pedro also requested for a relocation survey of his land and it was found out that Jose's house also invaded a portion of his property.

What are the rights of Pedro as the landowner and Jose as a builder?

By virtue of his right of accession, Pedro as the landowner is entitled to the improvements introduced by Jose on his land. This rule however is limited by the rights of the builder, if he is in good faith.

A builder in good faith is one who honestly believes that he is the owner of the land, or that by some title he has the right to build thereon, or that, at least, he has a claim of title thereto. The rights of the landowner and builder in good faith are stated in Article 448 of the New Civil Code. The Supreme Court in the case of Tuatis vs. Escol (G.R. No. 175399, October 27, 2009) ruled that the landowner has two options under Art. 448, (1) he may appropriate the improvements for himself after reimbursing the buyer (the builder in good faith) the necessary and useful expenses under Articles 546 and

548 of the Civil Code; or (2) he may sell the land to the buyer, unless its value is considerably more than that of the improvements, in which case, the buyer shall pay reasonable rent.

The builder in good faith can compel the landowner to make a choice between appropriating the building by paying the proper indemnity or obliging the builder to pay the price of the land. Remember though that the choice belongs only to the landowner in accord with the principle of accession, i.e., that the accessory follows the principal and not the other way around.

Can the landowner choose to remove the building from his land?

The landowner cannot instantly demand for the removal of the building without exercising first either option under Art. 448. It is only when the owner chooses to sell his land, and the builder or planter fails to pay for the same that he is entitled to demolish the improvements.

What is the right of the builder if the landowner decided to appropriate the improvements but fails to reimburse him for the expenses?

The builder in good faith is given the right to retain the building or improvements until he is reimbursed by the landowner.

Note that the amount to be refunded to the builder under Article 546 of the Civil Code should be the current market value of the improvement.

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RIVIER CORNER

BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF BLESSED MARIE RIVIER,
FOUNDRRESS OF THE SISTERS OF THE PRESENTATION OF
MARY P.M. Sisters of Brongan

Marie Rivier was born in Monpezat, Ardeche, France, on December 19, 1768. Handicapped early in her life, she was one of the little ones of this world, completely surrendered to the action of the Holy Spirit, and awaiting everything from the Virgin Mary.

An interior determination lived in her, a desire to be cured of her infirmity so as to educate, teach, and make Jesus Christ known and loved. For four years, she prayed insistently to the Pieta that she might cure her: Holy Virgin, cure me, and then, she waited for God's hour. "I always expected everything from prayer".

Once cured, she kept her promise and moved forward in faith during the time of the French Revolution. In the midst of great poverty, both in means and in personnel, she found her vocation and forged ahead passionately, showing everyone, children, youth and adults, the way of the Gospel, the way of life. On November 21, 1796, she founded the Congregation under the title of the mystery of the Presentation of Mary.

Despite the particular characteristics of her times, one discovers in her a strong personality, totally surrendered to the will of God, burning with love for Jesus Christ, and docile to the action of the Holy Spirit. She served the Congregation as Superior General from the foundation until her death on February 3, 1838. Pope

John Paul II declared her Blessed on May 23, 1982, in Rome.

DPWH-Eastern Samar District Engineering Office Conducts Information Drive on Road Right of Way

Jeymar Grafil

The Department Public Works and Highway Eastern Samar District Engineering Office is strictly implementing the Presidential Decree No. 17 (Revised Philippine Highway Act) as amended specifically Section 23 thereof pertaining to the Road Right of Way in the National Highway.

Engineer Efren Balmes the District chairman of the Road Right-of-Way Task Force and his staff made a representation on the Sangguniang Barangay and Sangguniang Bayan sessions in every Barangay and Municipalities along the National Highway in Eastern Samar.

On May 23, 2014, the Task Force went to Barangay Bagtong and Bua-Bua, both located along the National Road of Salcedo, this province. They conducted the first information drive on the district's implementation of road-right-of-way where they sit-in during the Sangguniang Barangay sessions. Then this was followed on May 27, 2014 where they headed to Brgy. San Pedro in Quinapondan. They discussed with them some violations on Road Right-of-Way.

During the discussions, the barangay officials were very thankful to the district office because they said it is only then that they learned that such drying of copras & palays along the National Road, scattered stray animals and structures built encroaching the RROW are all violations of Road Right-of-Way. Engr. Balmes added that this law has been existing since 1970's and all structures, therefore, that exist after the effectivity of the law that are within the prohibited road-right-of-way which is 10 meters from the centerline of the na-

tional highway sideward are considered illegal structures and in violation of the law and are then subject for removal.

Meanwhile, another barangay official presented his apprehension that while it is true that these structures now exist along our national highway and were constructed in violation of PD 17 that this move would face great opposition from owners if implemented. Engr. Balmes explained to the body that it is true that the District Office will be facing great opposition from the owners but will follow a procedure that is not harsh in implementing the law that's why the District Office first action was information dissemination and to request the assistance of the Local Government Unit.

OIC-District Engineer Manolo Rojas said that the implementation of the PD 17 is beneficial for everyone not just the commuting public but to the residents near the national highway and to prevent accidents. Many cases that are reported were through the obstructions along national highways, Rojas said.



Engr. Efren Balmes presented to Balangiga SB Session the Presidential Decree No. 17, Section 23 and DPWH Department Order No. 52, Series of 2003.

LEGAL INSIDER...(from p.5)

What if the builder is a builder in bad faith?

A builder in bad faith is any person who builds or places any improvement on the property of another without the latter's permission. If the builder is in bad faith, he has no right of retention although he has the right to be reimbursed for the necessary expenses for the preservation of the land.

In this case, the landowner is given three options: (1) he becomes the owner of improvements by virtue of the "principle of accession" without paying indemnity (art. 449 and art. 451); (2) he may demolish the improvements at the expense of the builder (art. 450 and art. 451); and (3) he may compel the builder or planter to pay the price of the land, and the sower the proper rent (art. 450 and art. 451). In these three instances the landowner is like-

wise entitled to be indemnified for damages.

What if the landowner is in bad faith and the builder is in good faith?

There is bad faith on the part of the landowner when he has knowledge that the builder is introducing improvements on his property and he did not oppose or prevented the builder from doing so. In this case (1) the landowner must pay for value of the improvement plus damages; or (2) the builder may remove/demolish the improvement and the landowner must pay for damages (art. 454 and art. 447).

What if both the landowner and the builder are in bad faith?

Art. 453 says that both of them will be treated as though they are in good faith.

*Caveat: This article is for general information only and NOT a legal advice.

Balik balay...(from p.5)

future of his loved ones even those with sentimental value. He would say, "kay diri man ini madadara ha lain nga kali-butan." He was successful in letting his six children finish their studies.

As the priest of the domestic church, his home, he was prayerful. He would pray the rosary every day until his old age. His children could hear him in his prayer lifting to the Lord all his children, their husbands and wives and his grandchildren and great grandchildren, including the deceased members

of the family, his wife and his parents.

This father accepted wholeheartedly the family that the Lord has entrusted to him as a blessing to be the shepherd and His representative that in spite of his imperfections and weaknesses he was able to show the best in him.

This father that I have featured is my own father, Claudio Navarro Mabansag who just had his first death anniversary last May. Tatay, I owe a lot from you for being what I am now. I salute you for a job well done! May you be glorified in His kingdom! To all the fathers, may the Lord bless you all!

Thought For Thought (from p.5)

working definition and even go beyond it.

General Meaning Covering the Model Christian Conduct. St. Paul, for example, gives us a comprehensive exhortation that covers honesty as we understand it but also includes aspects of the model Christian life linked to honesty: "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you" (Eph 4:8-9).

Focus on the Mouth: Truthful Words. The Scriptures put premium in the quality of words from a person's mouth as a vehicle of truth not falsehood. Put negatively, dishonesty in words is frowned upon and is opposed to faithfulness which is lauded. "Lying lips," the book of Proverbs states, "are an abomination to the Lord, but those who act faithfully are his delight" (Prov 12:22). This point is also reaffirmed elsewhere in the same book: "Better is a poor person who walks in his integrity than one who is crooked in speech and is a fool" (Prov 19:1). Also among the seven things abominable to the Lord is "a lying tongue" aside from "haughty eyes,...hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers" (Prov 6:16-20). From a Christian perspective St. Paul characterizes lying as incompatible with the new life in Christ a Christian puts on: "Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices" (Col 3:9). This is one occasion, among others, on which St. Peter agrees: "Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit" (1 Pt 3:10-11). The most emphatic declaration comes from the Lord himself and his words cement the focus on honesty in words that should characterize his disciple: "Let what you say be simply 'Yes' when you mean yes or 'No' when you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one" (Mt 5:37). It is because of this that St. James, another pillar of the Christian life, sees a lying tongue as a denial of the true religion or faith in Jesus Christ: "If anyone thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, that person's religion is worthless" (Jas 1:26).

Focus on the Deed: Righteous Behav-

ior. The letter to the Hebrews recognizes that honesty in one's acts does not simply require a person's will but also the help of God's grace. Consequently its writer makes an urgent request: "Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things" (Heb 13:18). This prompts me to ask: How much do we pray for honesty in ourselves and in our leaders? In Luke Jesus uses as criterion for honesty in one's behavior the good one wishes for himself from others: "And as you wish that others do to you, do so to them" (Lk 6:31). In Matthew he sees this as the full expression of the teachings of Moses and the prophets: "So whatever you wish others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets" (Mt 7:12). St. Paul expands on the Lord's teaching to include not repaying evil for evil and steering clear of a vengeful spirit: "Repay no evil for evil, but give thought to what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' To the contrary, 'if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" (Rom 12:17-21). This is certainly an interesting point because obviously those of us who are victims of dishonesty in government many times desire to get even. In fact, there are vigilantes who actually punish and even kill dishonest criminals. That response, though admittedly human, suffers from the same evil nature of any dishonest act that we abhor. In a word, the Christian faith does not tolerate evil both as an end and as a means. Let's take, for instance, those who work or engage in business to earn a living. Earning a living is a good objective in life but it should not admit of evil ways or means. So says the book of Proverbs (again): "A false balance is an abomination to the Lord; but a just weight is his delight" (Prov 11:1). The book of Leviticus states it positively: "You shall do no wrong in judgment, in measures of length or weight or quantity" (Lev 19:35).

What is the point of our long discourse? As far as Philippine (and world) society is concerned, honesty is vital as it is an aide to justice. Justice, according to Pope Benedict VI in Deus Caritas Est, is what runs society's political life. In the words of St. Augustine in The City of God, "there is no right where there is no justice".

E. Samar participates in a network for transparency and accountability

Ma. Natividad Bagas

Training for Monitoring and Reporting Public Transparency and Accountability was conducted at Rawis Resort on June 28, 2014. The training is organized by the Citizen Action Network for Accountability (CANA) aiming to engage ordinary citizens with the local governments for better transparency and delivery of public services.

The group of training attendees decided to form a monitoring group as a provincial network of the Citizen Action Network for Accountability (CANA) that sought to work for the improvement of transparency and accountability of the

local government of Eastern Samar. The group will undergo series of training under CANA. The second training is said to be held on August 2014.

CANA is the third collaboration of the Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR), the Center for Community Journalism and Development (CCJD), the MindaNews and the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP). CANA believes that the more we ordinary people understand and engage with the government, the more accountable and effective we can all hold it to be. Thus, its tagline: "Magmulat. Magsama-sama.

ESAMELCO inaugurates 15MVA power transformer and two digging trucks

Ma. Natividad Bagas

Eastern Samar Electric Cooperative, Inc. recently celebrated the inauguration of the newly commissioned 15MVA power transformer and two digging trucks in ESAMELCO Function Hall, Borongan City last July 14, 2014. The power transformer donated by KEPCO through National Electrification Administration (NEA) improves the power quality, reliability and safety. It will also address the present and future increase in capacity of residences and business establishments.

The inauguration started off with a thanks-giving mass officiated by Rev. Fr. Neil Tenefrancia. It was formally opened by the ESAMELCO Board of Directors, General Manager Atty. Jose Michael Edwin S. Amancio and other selected em-

ployees.

The 15MVA which replaces the 5MVA power transformer serves the city of Borongan and municipalities of San Julian, Maydolong, Balangkayan, Llorente and Hernani. It can handle triple of the load of the previous 23 year-old power transformer that was granted to the municipality of Taft, Eastern Samar and replaces their previous 3.5MVA transformer.

The new Terex GMC C7500 digger trucks were purchased from the US on an installment basis. It is perfect for installation of utility posts which can dig up to six feet. It is designed to increase hydraulic power and give operators increased load handling and lifting capacity within a 10-foot radius. The operators of the digger

Magmatyag. Makialam." (Understand. Organize. Monitor. Get Involved.)

ABS-CBN Bayan Mo, Ipatrol Mo and NUJP Chairperson Rowena C. Paraan as a representative from CANA spearheaded the training together with The Philippine Star correspondent, Ricky J. Bautista. Among the attendees were staffs from Eastern Samar Social Action, Radyo Natin, RV FM and ESTE! News and Views; local teachers; local residents; and some of the barangay and government officials. Shane Mercado of Radyo Natin co-organized the meeting.

The topics covered in the training revolved around good governance, public finance and pork barrel. The participants also shared some issues on public transparency and accountability facing by the local government and its respective communities. Among these issues

were the rampant vote-buying during elections which pointed out as the main root of government corruption; lack of implementation of projects on health, social welfare and education; and lack of transparency of information on a multi-billion road widening project in Eastern Samar.

In closing, Ms. Rowena Paraan appealed for support for the passage of the Freedom of Information (FOI) bill by signing in a nationwide online petition which CANA strongly supports. The FOI Bill remains pending at the Committee level at the House of Representatives amidst the government's stand and advocacy in transparency and clean government. Paraan stressed the necessity for FOI to promote transparency in our government, to combat corruption and abuse of power.

trucks went proper training under Iloilo I Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ILECO I) to maximize and perform proper equipment usage.

The new equipments will be a great advantage for both the management and member-consumers and stakeholders. ESAMELCO will be able to deliver fast and efficient services among consumers. It will also aid in a stable electricity supply, thus lesser power interruptions.

In addition, ESAMELCO's board of Directors through its president Edito G. Mengote, general manager, the manage-

ment and employees are also working on other developmental projects and activities to provide better services. Some of these are the electrification in Manicani Island that uses the very first submarine cable in the whole Samar Island and the most awaited collection office within the town proper of Borongan for greater accessibility. The new office is located at Brgy Alang-alang near Petron, the old Quedancor building and will open by the end of July, ready to accommodate consumers for electric bills payment and maintenance concerns.

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"If anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones, because he is a disciple of mine, I assure you, he will not go unrewarded."

MATTHEW 10:42

MV-BFAR unloads thousands of fishing gears

Alice Nicart

After some days of cruising the Manila - Visayas waters, MV-BFAR's (Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources) Cargo Vessel has finally docked yesterday at the Borongan Seaport, bringing here, hundreds and thousands of fishing gears for typhoon "Yolanda" victims and other beneficiaries.

In a phone interview, BFAR Provincial Officer, Jaime Salazar informed that the vessel had been to the ports also of Aurora province and Tacloban to unload the same fishing paraphernalia.

In a separate interview over Radyo ng Bayan DYES, Salazar said some 70-units of Fishing Shelters, locally known as Payaw are to be distributed to Fishermen's Organizations of Arteche down to Guiuan towns while 5,225 of Tuna Hook-and-Lines (Kawil) are to be given to fishermen-"Yolanda" victims from Maydolong to Guiuan.

According to him, the same vessel will bring the Payaws to the different beneficiary-areas and set-up the same with the heavy, concrete anchors, for the local fishers to just catch from inside the shelters.

Salazar cautioned the fishermen though, to take heed of BFAR's warning not to use lighting equipment, Squid Ink (Toyum) nor "Likom" in catching the

fishes around the Payaw, because either of these fishing techniques will harm or drive away the fishes inside the shelter.

"Only the hook-and-lines must be used", he said.

It is also important he said that the fishermen, maintain the state of the fishing gears.

"That is only their counterpart", Salazar stressed, "to see to it that the fishing gears are taken cared of. But their daily catch should also be recorded in a Logbook that they have to maintain", he added. "This is so, because BFAR likewise has to evaluate later the success and benefits of the project to the target beneficiaries".

BFAR's current project is one answer to the livelihood uproar of hundreds of "Yolanda" victims here. Other fishermen, particularly in Guiuan have already received fishing boats from international humanitarian organizations and other agencies.

Meanwhile, the Provincial Rehabilitation Plan which was submitted to the Office of the Presidential Assistance on Recovery and Rehabilitation (OPARR) indicated the need of some P1,151,800,00,000.00 for livelihood assistance. (PIA-Eastern Samar/aen)

Borongan gets new Fire Truck

The city of Borongan is now blessed with one more Fire Truck making two of this fire-fighting motor vehicle, mainly intended for the protection of Borongan populace.

City Administrator Dayan Ivan Agda cited, that this highly-modernized Fire Truck arrived the City recently, as a gift from Secretary Mar Roxas, Department of Interior and Local Government(DILG).

Agda informed that, this could be a DILG incentive for implementing the "full disclosure policy" in the city LGU, which is a criterion in the Seal of Good Governance reward system. He added, that there are only two in Region-08, of

this P17.5M- priced Fire Truck, the other one being in Baybay, Leyte.

In a separate interview, City DILG Director Gemma Amit informed likewise, that transparency is indeed implemented here, such that, all Financial Transactions of the city are now posted in the government Portals and likewise in the City Hall's Bulletin Boards.

"It has been a long-standing desire for Mayor Ma. Fe Abunda to acquire one more Fire Truck to ensure the security of the public and this more modern one is a very nice answer to her wish", Agda quipped.

He added, that the lady Mayor is planning to procure a Mini-Fire Truck to

be able to serve barangays with narrow streets, particularly Tabok and Libertad.

"Both the old and new Fire-Trucks will not be able to get into these barangays, should there be an emergency in these appendix areas, hence her target to buy a mini-Fire Truck", Agda added.

Over Radyo ng Bayan DYES, Fire Officer Rommel Montes said, because of its modern gadgets, the drivers and other personnel of City Fire Marshalls Division underwent a thorough training on how to handle the Rosene Model Fire Truck.

Montes said, the new fire-fighter vehicle is capable to reach the 8th floor of a building without the use of stairs. It has also a featured compartment where a chemical mixture is locked-in, and in just a light operation by the driver, it

readily can mix with the water to quickly extinguish a big fire.

He added that, they have to maintain the upkeep of the Truck and its functionality because this is a rare opportunity to preserve for the welfare of the public and besides it is what is expected of them by the people.

"We hope, this time around, accidentally or otherwise, no more fire-truck would be burned to ashes, nor used personally as in previous years," the media crackled.

Montes concluded that, to ensure the safety of the Fire-Trucks, Mayor Abunda is targeting to construct a separate and exclusive building for the trucks alone. (PIA-Eastern Samar/aen)

MCAP warns contractors of P1M a day penalty for unfinished road projects

Alice Nicart

Millennium Challenge Account Philippines(MCAP) gave notice to dilly-dallying contractors of the on-going Secondary National Road Development Project(SNRDP) here.

MCAP Project Engineer Rudy Arias said this over Radyo ng Bayan DYES in the recently held press conference. He said that contractors who will not be able to complete the project as scheduled, will be charged of some One Million Pesos (P1M) a day.

Arias particularly referred to the contractor of Contract Package-2, covering Taft to San Julian stretch that involves some P2.5B, the biggest cost so far, of the four Contract Packages.

Contracted by Qingjian Group Company Ltd., CP-2 has so far achieved a 4% of its 13.52% target as of press time. The contractor however informed of their biggest problem on the lack of equipment, manpower and construction materials. Arias however, stressed that they have to complete the project on time in order to avoid more complicated

problems.

CP-3 is no better, Arias implied, as it destroys main roads here and there, in alleged preparation for a rehabilitation work. But damaged roads which are actually the main routes in the city are left undone for long periods, leaving students and working public scamper through lengthy detours.

The contractor however sought apology for the mistake committed when it destroyed ahead of schedule, lane-one of the Loom bridge approach (to the side of Amistoso residence), Arias informed media. Still untouched today, it is causing inconvenience both to motorists and nearby residents.

Qingjian and McBuilders are given until October 15, 2015 to complete the San Julian-Llorente Asphalt Overlay road project lest they pay the P1M a day penalty, the MCAP Engineer jibed.

"But there's good news", Arias continued. "CP-4 which covers the Llorente to Guiuan stretches is ahead of schedule. As of press time, it has accomplished

11.29% of its 8.8% target to rehabilitate the 77.51 kilometer road", he said.

One more thing to ponder today, is the completion of the concrete road (and not just Asphalt overlay) in the devastated Hernani area. Lane one of the long stretch from Garawon to barangay Poblacion is now completed with a matching seawall to protect the area from sudden rise of the sea level. The project costs MCAP some P2.2B.

Asked why some CPs are concrete while others are Asphalt overlays, Arias informed that in particular, CP-1 is a concrete road project. It's because, he said, that the Burray-Taft 16.36km stretch is soft and watery which necessitated the use of concrete materials instead of Asphalt.

CP-1 which was done by the only all-Filipino joint venture, DM Consunji Inc. & CM Pancho Construction Inc. is now 100% complete and is referred to as the model project of the three others. Should the firms joined in the bidding for CP-3, it could have won the process,

but it did not, Arias concluded.

SNRDP intends to rehabilitate the Wright-Taft-Borongan-Guiuan roads as financed by a grant from the U.S. government's Millennium Challenge Corporation with an allocation of \$214.M. It mainly aims to "help improve the living conditions of the people of Samar. With more accessible and safer roads, people will have more socio-economic opportunities because of reduced transport time and cost. Farmers will be able to transport their produce in less time to the urban markets. People from the rural areas will have more opportunity for employment and education in the urban center and people living in rural areas will have faster and better access to health care, especially in cases of emergency and the project".

Further, the whole project package is expected to be completed by 2016, and finished or not, it will pull-out from the country, but so far, so good, as it is providing local employment to both skilled and unskilled workers. (PIA-Eastern Samar/aen)

One-term village officials can be civil service eligible_CSC

Alice Nicart

Barangay officials who at least have completed one term in public service can now avail of the Barangay Officials Eligibility(BOE).

So said Civil Service Commission (CSC) Provincial Director Alexander Navales today through media.

This is in revision to previous privilege given only to barangay officials "who have completed five years of aggregate service".

Republic Act No. 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991, grants the BOE to "elective barangay officials, composed of the barangay chairman or punong barangay, regular Sangguniang Barangay member or barangay kagawad and Sangguniang Kabataan chairmen. It is also granted to appointive barangay officials, namely, barangay

treasurer and barangay secretary who are appointed by the duly elected barangay chairman".

Navales added that the BOE is equivalent to sub-professional eligibility required for first-level positions.

"This refers to clerical, trades, crafts, and custodial service positions that involve non-professional or sub-professional work and requiring less than four years of college studies", he said.

The opportunity opens to those former barangay officials who want to continue their public service even if they have finished their term in the barangay local government unit.

Navales stressed that barangay officials who have completed their term before August 1, 2012 can still apply for

the BOE until August 1 of this year. While those who have completed their term in the barangay LGU on August 1, 2012 and thereafter can still apply onward.

"But they should not be more than 65 years old", the CSC head quipped.

The following include the requirement for the BOE: fully accomplished CSC Form, 3-pcs. passport size ID picture, colored with white background, 2-copies original and photo copy of I.D. Card, birth certificate, marriage certificate, certificate of no pending case, certificate of non-employment in government, certificate from COMELEC or DILG as barangay official, P500.00 application fee, P200.00 validation fee and P300.00 processing fee among others. (PIA-Eastern Samar/aen)

Simple & Humble...(from p.4)

by the super typhoon.

Our personality, character and values are so influenced by how we were brought up by our parents in the family when we were young. Our experiences in the past, whether happy or painful, form part of our personality at present. To develop a wholesome personality, we need to forgive and leave behind our sad and painful memories and allow the grace of God to heal and replace them with happy, joyful and good ones. In the end, the decision belongs to every person. No other person can help yourself but yourself.

Typhoon victims helping typhoon victims: St Joachim Parish in Dolores reach out to those in greater need

Ma. Natividad Bagas

"Never underestimate the difference you can make in the lives of others. Step forward, reach out and help" says a remarkable quote of Pablo. When I read this line, I instantly remember a parish priest from Dolores. His name is Rev. Fr. Juan Adamson G. Albert, Moderator-Team Ministry of Parish of St. Joachim the Patriarch.

Fr. Albert led most of the post-Yolanda interventions of their parish to different parts of municipalities of typhoon victims and survivors and their own people. He has a very passionate way of helping others and sees his service as a pastoral opportunity. In an interview, he said "When you're out there, remember that you are a priest. Your assurance and com-

fort are greatly needed. You have to walk with them for what we are doing is not a job, we are doing an apostolate."

After the devastation of Super typhoon Yolanda, came a horror of loss and grief. The Parish of St. Joachim the Patriarch with the leading of Fr. Juan Adamson Albert, Fr. Linus Aquilino Bacayan and Fr. Romeo Lito Cardoso, aided in dissemination of information on the real aftermath of Yolanda in different municipalities and their immediate needs.

While the Dolores community and the Parish support relief operations to the typhoon-struck municipalities through the diocese, Fr. Albert appealed help from his personal friends in Manila as benefactors and donors for the series

of relief programs that focused on food, shelter and livelihood in their own community in Dolores that was unfortunately left behind. Most of the help goes to the South municipalities which has high number of cases of casualties, so Fr. Albert together with Fr. Bacayan and Cardoso decided to focus in the people of Dolores who were also victims of the typhoon.

Over 40 houses and 60 pump boats were reported damaged in Hilabaan, Caybani, Tikling and Dolores mainland altogether. Fr. Albert and his group were able to provide food relief, shelter and livelihood assistance. Within the second week of November, they initially distributed three plywoods, 300 nipa palms, nails of different sizes and plastic ratans

for each house. By the end of November, complete set of materials for pump boats were provided as a livelihood to the residents. On March 16, 2014, the blessing of boats was conducted and now providing livelihood to the families of their owners. As of June, 2014, over 50 pumpboats were already donated to the beneficiaries of Dolores.

More than any material thing, the victims of the super typhoon Yolanda wanted compassion, for them to feel that they are cared for. Fr. Albert said that though there are a lot of set-backs in accomplishing the things to be done, we should never say that we can't do anything. We should always ask and look for means to help.

YRC-DMV, Transform Relief and NS MHC synergize for Yolanda victims in southern Samar

Ma. Natividad Bagas

A livelihood program called "Project Tindog Bungtu: Fishermen's boat project" was formed in collaboration of Yolanda Relief Campaign of DC Maryland Virginia (YRC-DMV), Transform Relief US and the National Shrine of Mary Help of Christians (NS MHC) chaired by its former rector, Fr. Chito Dimaranan.

The livelihood project was developed as Fr. Dimaranan saw the need of Yolanda victims to start their lives over and help themselves through a livelihood program. Fr. Dimaranan appealed help from different groups in Maryland Virginia, New Jersey and Chicago. Apart from these groups, he was also doing his own collection in California, where he

studied. As the central processing unit of these groups and main supporter of the funds, Yolanda Relief Campaign of DC Maryland Virginia suggested Fr. Dimaranan to spearhead a relief program that would really help the survivors, thus the formation of the Project Tindog Bungtu: Fishermen's boat project. He coordinated with Transform Relief, a local NGO to do the legwork, headed by Michael Sellers. They identified the recipients and arranged for the construction of boats.

A first batch of 12 units of motorized pump boats worth 300,000 pesos was distributed to selected beneficiaries of Lawaan and Balangiga fishermen on July

11, 2014, conducted in Sitio Guinob-an of Lawaan, Eastern Samar. Each boat is good for two fishermen and is designed for use within Leyte Gulf. The blessing and awarding of the motorized pump boats was presided by Fr. Chito Dimaranan himself together with Fr. Neil Tenefrancia, ESTE news Editor-in-chief and Jhun Gacho, member-coordinator of Transform Relief group.

Heart-felt words of gratitude are expressed by the beneficiaries as they received their newly owned pump boats. "Fishing is our main livelihood. We get our food and able to sustain our family through it and we are very thankful that we were given this kind of blessing",

says one of the beneficiaries.

After the blessing and distribution of the motor boats, Fr. Dimaranan led the turn-over of the check worth 300,000 pesos for the second batch of 12 units of pump boats; and another check worth 200,000 pesos for house repair kits that can produce a total of 150 kits. The identification of recipients, materials and its purchase is managed by Atty. Jose Nick Mendros. The house repair kits were funded by Boat People SOS, Inc. (BP-SOS), a national Vietnamese American community organization based in Virginia. Fr. Dimaranan is also planning to do another boat project of ten big pump boats designed for Pacific Ocean sailing with the help of his friends from Europe.

MCA-P gives accomplishment...(from p.1)

MCA-P reported, as of May 2014, the percentage accomplishment of the payment to project-affected entities. CP1 now reached 100%, CP2 is at 96.43 %, CP3 at 99.79%, while CP4 reached at 97.47%. According to Engr. Teresita Buazon, "new project-affected entities are to be assessed by the resettlement unit." She also encourages citizens to monitor as well in their local areas in the issue of payment duplication to project-affected entities, if there is any existing.

Furthermore, the shedule of accomplishment in CP1 is from October 2012 to April 2014 and was extended to June 2014, now assessed as completed. "The project is still in warranty, any damages will be reconstructed and same goes with other contract packages", says Engr. Arias. CP2 target schedule is from July 2013 to March 2016. According to Engr. Arias, they are currently focusing on CP2 because of many arising problem in this project. However, he was not able to give in details the issues arising in CP2. He stated that a bidding for CP2 has started and still awaiting. CP3 target schedule is from September 2012 to September 2015 but extended to October 23, 2015.

The rehabilitation of 11 bridges and reconstruction of six others due to Super-

typhoon Yolanda caused the delay of CP3 project. Moreover, according to Arias, the contractors will accomplish roads of Borongan town proper before the town fiesta. The CP4 target schedule is from April 2013 to April 2016. Based on their accomplishment report, CP4 is ahead of target schedule. The contractors already completed an actual of 11.29% versus their target of 8.8% as May 2014. Works are still ongoing in Hernani and Guiuan'sconcreteroads, seawall and bridges devastated by the typhoon.

SNRDP's overall objective is to provide greater and easier mobility to commuters from rural to urban places which contribute to the overall social progress of its beneficiaries. Whereas the MCA-P serves as the project implementer and overseer of Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) in the Philippines which supports poor countries through the U.S. Government fund. However, the issue on transparency of the SNRDP fund and its management is still undisclosed.

This issue on roads of substandard quality resurfaced during the prescon, pointing out the differences of road project designs. SNRDP Director, Engr. Arias explains that environmental considerations are the basis for projects deisgn.

CP1 and CP2 should be concrete mainly because its terrain which is mountainous and the water pressure underground greatly affects the base. While having a flat terrain, the CP3 and CP4 should make use of asphalt which undergoes recycling and stabilization first. However, Arias confirmed that other concrete sections of CP3 that they believe is still in good condition will not be replaced and they'll only be working on its road shoulders and drain-ages instead.

Other issues were raised regarding Borongan town proper's road works particularly the slope and drainage problems; traffic management that causes heavy traffic and accidents; lack of effeicient supply materials for road construction; and long perforated roads along the town proper that causes too much inconvenience to motorists. MCA-P failed to respond to these issues due to the absence of CP3 contractors or representatives during the presscon. Other CP3 defects has was also observed by a commuter, specifically in Balangkayan and Santa Fe roads. Engr. Arias noted of these issues and promised that they will check on those locations. He further ensured to raise these issues during the CP3 Meeting later in the month of July.

Antigo.... (from p.4)

an offered it to a man, it could be taken to mean that she had a desire for him; and if the man accepted it, well... ahum.

JUAN SULSE—THE FIRST ESTEHANON GOVERNOR OF THE WHOLE ISLAND OF SAMAR. To be sure, four Estehanons became governor of the whole island of Samar (before it was divided into three provinces in 1965), but the first one was JUAN SULSE, a Tubignon. He seemed to have risen to fame because of his involvement in the fight against the Pulajanes. Like Lt Puno of Borongan who became well-known in the whole island for the capture of the last Pulajan leader, Isidro Pom-pac, Juan Sulse, in his younger years as a lieutenant of the Constabulary, was part of the company—led by Capt Cromwell Stacey—that captured Enrique Dagohob, the No 1 Pulajan leader of the whole island, in 1905. Sulse was appointed Lieutenant-Governor for 1907-1908, and served as an elected Governor in 1922. He was also appointed Provincial Sheriff in the mid-1920s.



EASTERN SAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
(ESAMELCO)

Brgy. Cabong, Borongan City, Eastern Samar

ESAMELCO 15 MVA POWER SUBSTATION INAUGURATION

July 4, 2014



WALO NA KABULAN

Ni Ernilo A. Maraya

Walo na kabulan kahuman han bagyo
Nakatindog na mga lugar nga apektado,
Pero pag-uswag mahinay hin duro
Kay waray katuman mga saad han gobyerno.

Taga iba nga nasud it naniniguro
Nga mabuligan it nagkukuri nga mga tawo,
Suporta nira duro hin kadamo
Waray nira gin-aaro bisan ano nga kabalyo.

Bulig hit gobyerno бага waray klaro
Puro la yawyaw ha dire lugod magtrabaho,
Waray kinikita plano nga kongkreto
Tungod nga eleksyon duro pa hin kahirayo.

Pasensiya la kun akon pulong mayda na-igo
Pero angay gudla nga hinumduman niyo,
Nga it mga tawo nag sasangpit ha iyo
Nag papahimatngon nga gumi-os na kamo.

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It's more fun in Eastern Samar

Sunset in Lawaan, Eastern Samar



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LAWAAN, EASTERN SAMAR

“In Career and Business, LOVE is the best business strategy in the world.”

-Bro. Jon Escoto [The Feast]