

# 2008 Operating Highlights

## City Government of Naga\*

### INTRODUCTION

- Six months ago, I rendered my most recent State of the City report amidst an economic crisis characterized by runaway fuel cost, rising inflation and a negative outlook driven by a wounded US economy.
- Today, the situation is worse: the crisis has gone global, sending developed economies into recession; the prognosis is grim, even with a new Democratic leadership taking over the US; and while the Philippines is not badly hit as others, the overall economic outlook is not encouraging.
- Nonetheless, we are not losing and will not lose hope. On the balance, the city did well last year under difficult circumstances: judging by our performance indicators across the board, they were generally better than last year (although the crisis did affect us). But then again, prudence dictates that we exercise greater caution as the world, and our country, moves forward in a decidedly more challenging environment.

Given this context, allow me to summarize the operating highlights of the City Government of Naga for 2008:

## I. Economic Services

### 1. Naga City Investment Board

- ***Bicol's premier business hub.*** During the year, the city maintained its standing among the Top 10 Most Competitive in the small cities category of AIM's biennial City Competitiveness Survey. The Metro Naga Chamber of Commerce and Industry also maintained its preeminent status, having been recognized as the most outstanding business chamber by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
  - But notwithstanding our solid scores for governance, the city's ranking slipped in the AIM survey, especially in areas not directly within our control. This should be a cause for concern, not only for us but for other stakeholders in the city.
- ***Investments.*** While building construction and property development stood still in terms of volume, the number of new local enterprises still managed to grow by around 30%, from 858 to 1,111. But in terms of value, the city still managed to register solid growth: an average of 117% increase (from P774.3 million in 2007 to P1.682 billion in 2008) broken down into
  - 113% for new enterprises (from P341.5 to P728.7 million)
  - 55% for building construction (from P373.3 to P576.9 million), and
  - 533% in property development (from P59.5 to P376.1 million).

Using the standard investment-to-job conversion rate, these investments translate to 6,727 new jobs added into the local economy.

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\* Presented by Mayor Jesse M. Robredo before the Sangguniang Panlungsod during its regular meeting on January 20, 2009.

- **CBD II.** The biggest investment in the city to date, the Naga City mall of the SM Group of Companies will tentatively open on May 15, 2009. Phase I of the Bicol Access Health Centrum, a health and wellness facility, is now being constructed at CBD II.
- **Magsaysay.** The Magsaysay area also maintained its fast-paced development, highlighted by the completed expansion of the Villa Caceres Hotel and the Olivan Seoil project, and the rise of new upscale restaurants and joints like Cereza, Red Platter and Kopiroti-Bacolod Chicken Inasal.
- **Computer animation.** Human resource capability building is ongoing, with focus on developing original content, through the Naga City Creative Media Center
  - “*Sa Gabos na Panahon*” won as Best Regional Entry and Best Animation (Professional Category) during the Animahenasyon 2008, an annual animation contest organized by the Animation Council of the Philippines.
  - E-learning modules production is also on-going in partnership with the Naga City School Board, with 6 pilot modules under development.
  - The Center is currently incubating two firms, down from the original 3, but is eyeing two more solid leads this year.

## 2. Metro PESO

- **Livelihood.** Beneficiaries increased by 34% (from 1,102 in 2007 to 1,471 in 2008), loan releases by 59% (from P8.6 to 13.6 million), and loan collections by 29% (from P6.4 to P8.3 million).
- **Local employment.** Local job applicants assisted increased by 48% (from 4,092 to 6,069). However, local employers assisted decreased by 1.5% (from 795 to 783), and local job placement by 4% (from 2,656 to 2,546). The decrease is attributed to spiraling fuel and food prices that dampened local economic growth in contrast to usual increase in spending during the 2007 election campaign.
- **Overseas employment.** On the other hand, overseas job applicants assisted increased by 71% (from 1,110 to 1,895), overseas agencies assisted by 65% (from 31 to 51), and overseas job placement by 372% (from 36 to 170).
- **Local and overseas jobs fairs.** During the period, the frequency of jobs fairs increased by 100%, from 3 to 6, enabling us to raise the number of local employers and overseas agencies assisted by 71% and 74%, respectively. Similarly, the number of micro-entrepreneurs assisted went up by 100%, from 25 to 50. Nonetheless, the number of local and overseas applicants assisted went down by 36% and 25%, respectively, indicating a significant contraction in the local labor market.
- **Business center for women.** In partnership with the CIDA-funded Great Women project, a Metro Naga business display center had been inaugurated and operationalized at the back of the Plaza Quezon.

## 3. City Agriculturist Office

- **Rice and corn production.** The city recorded a total harvest of 6,503.80 metric tons for 2008, a 42% increase in production over 2007 due to
  - increased hectarage from 1,264.33 to 1,690.79 hectares, and
  - improved farm yield from an average of 3.63 tons per hectare in 2007 to 3.84 tons in 2008.

- In partnership with the Department of Agriculture, certified seeds and synthetic fertilizers were distributed to 316 farmers while cost-reduction technologies such as palay seed inoculation and organic fertilizer use were introduced to 236 farmers.
- As for corn, production slipped from 3,516 tons in 2007 to 3,134 metric tons or by 11% notwithstanding the subsidized distribution of corn seeds to 55 corn farmers. The steep rise in fertilizer prices last year took its toll on corn farmers.
- **Vegetable, fruit tree, and livestock.** A total of P80,355 was granted to 19 vegetable associations benefiting over 300 households in 11 agricultural barangays and are now supplying fresh vegetables to local markets.
  - On the other hand, 100 farmers are undergoing farmers field school in cacao propagation to be linked later on to a national marketing system once volume production starts.
  - As for livestock, 29 farmers were beneficiaries of offsprings of earlier cattle and carabao dispersal program while the city's share from disposal of fattened livestock reached P279,214 last year representing payments from 11 beneficiaries.
- **Farm machineries.** A total of P247,363 was collected from 104 recipients who availed of our farm tractor services while 13 farmers availed of flat bed dryer services representing production from 40 has. of rice and corn land. These were two of the mechanized service offerings of the city.

### 3. Naga City Public Market Office

- The Naga City Public Market Office generated a total revenue of P22.4 million for 2008, which is actually 11% higher than 2007's P20.1 million before the unexpected November 6 fire that devastated the second and third floors of the 40-year old facility.
  - Of the total, market rentals contributed P15.2 million, cash tickets P5 million and goodwill payments P1.4 million, with other income accounting for the balance.
- Nonetheless, the conflagration, while creating dislocation and inconvenience for occupants and the general public, also presents us an opportunity to build/rebuild a new and better facility that will be more competitive and responsive to modern needs of our citizens – and one that will anchor the ongoing renewal of CBD I.

### 4. Naga City Abattoir

- The Naga City Abattoir focused its attention towards improving efficiencies to make up for its P0.99-million operating loss during the year – built around multi-tasking staff that also performs carpentry, masonry, welding and clerical duties on top of their main butchering function.
- This led to the
  - minimization of fuel used for the steam boiler because of the newly repaired, much bigger facility, reducing consumption from 22,800 liters in 2007 to 19,500 liters in 2008
  - minimization of water consumption from the monthly average of P41,315.63 to P37,919.69, and
  - the rehabilitation of canals, fabrication of flaying cart for cow de-hiding, construction of a firewood-fed chimney, all using NCA staff.

- The rehabilitation of restrainer box used in stunning the animals from dilapidated metal materials to one made of concrete brought positive results and facilitated the job of the stunner/butcher.
- More importantly, the NCA also served as the only TESDA-accredited training facility for butchers, having graduated 40 last year (26 of whom have been placed abroad), with around 50 more undergoing training.

## 5. Naga City Visitor's Center

- **Urban beautification and renewal.** The city started facelifting of CBD 1 by improving sidewalks and installing bright lampposts within the old commercial area. Beautification and improvement of Plaza Quezon and Quince Martires is ongoing. Side by side, a monument at soon-to-be revived Plaza de Nueva Caceres at the corner of Gen. Luna Street and Calle Caceres, fronting the Naga City Public Market, has been approved for implementation.
- **Tourist arrivals.** Naga continued to stretch its lead as a tourist hub, along with the province of Camarines Sur. From January to September this year, they posted a total of 547,194 foreign and domestic and tourists arrivals, which account for more than half of the 993,964 registered for Bicol during the period – an increase of 56% over the 350,944 tourists registered last year. The regional total, incidentally, is only 6,036 shy of the one-million mark that DOT-Bicol targets to hit before year end.
- **Convention and tourist hub.** Naga hosted a number of important national events during the year: the National Executive Officers and National Board Meeting of the Philippine Councilors League on July 18-20, the national convention of the City and Municipal Engineers Association of the Philippines on August 13-15, and the 7<sup>th</sup> Regional Jamboree of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines from November 22-27. It also co-hosted the 9<sup>th</sup> National Cooperative Summit in October 16-17 where major hotels served as billeting centers for delegates coming from all over the country.
- **Governance tourism.** During the year, further highlighting our reputation as a leading destination for governance tourism, we also welcomed the South Luzon caravan and National Executive Board meeting of the League of Cities of the Philippines on April 17-20, the Annual Conference of Public Librarians on October 27-29 as well as the New Public Management seminar of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation on October 7-10.
- **Pilgrimage city.** Being the center of religious history in Bicol, Naga will play a key role in the grand preparations for the Tercentenary celebration of the 300th year of devotion to Nuestra Senora de Penafrancia that will culminate in 2010. A concept paper has been prepared for the installation of commemorative landmarks and historico-religious structures to highlight a devotion that started around 100 hundred years after the establishment of the Diocese of Caceres on August 15, 1595.

## II. Social Services

### 1. Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

- Notwithstanding the high standards we have set for ourselves, the city continued to make headways in poverty, education and health. Our malnutrition, elementary participation, infant and under-five child mortality rates and maternal mortality ratios all went up.

Immunization coverage maintained its performance last year, indicating a continuing challenge to promote greater local acceptance.

- The other education indicator remains a lingering weak area in our annual MDG tracking, as completion rate went down by 4 percentage points, from 74.5% to 70.3%.

| Goal                     | 2000-06 | 2007  | 2008  | Trend | Reg'l | Nat'l |
|--------------------------|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Poverty incidence        | 18.9%   | n.d.  | n.d.  | n.a.  | 40.5% | 24.4% |
| Preschool malnutrition   | 5.6%    | 4.4%  | 4.0%  | +     | 22.6% | 24.6% |
| Elem participation rate  | 100%    | 106%  | 130%  | +     | 85.1% | 84.4% |
| Elem completion rate     | 66.6%   | 74.5% | 70.3% | -     | 67%   | 69.9% |
| Under-5 mortality        | 3.68    | 5.55  | 5.54  | +     | 6.1   | 32.0  |
| Infant mortality         | 8.96    | 0.30  | 0.06  | +     | 9.3   | 24.0  |
| Maternal mortality       | 0       | 0.30  | 0.06  | +     | 1.2   | 162.0 |
| Fully immunized children | 81%     | 85%   | 85%   |       | 87%   | n.d.  |

## 2. Naga City Hospital

- The Naga City Hospital served a total of 48,858 patients, translating to an average of 191 patients daily for 2008. It is 15% higher than the 2007 figure of 42,425 and 3% better than the 2006 figure of 47,069.
- Of the total, 97% or 47,937 were out-patients, which translated to an average of 187 patients a day. The number of in-patients went down during the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of 2008 in view of ongoing facilities upgrading at the city hospital, which are already completed.
- A total of 34,385 laboratory examinations were performed by the Clinical Laboratory, ranging from routine microscopy to blood chemistry and serology. This already includes 1,362 ECG exams, using the equipment donated by the Bienvenido Tan Foundation. It is nonetheless 4% lower than the 35,717 registered in 2007.
- Pharmacy served 52,630 prescriptions, representing 63% of the 82,686 prescriptions issued. This is better than the 58% logged in 2006 but lower than the 70% recorded last year. They are, however, better than comparable numbers of other public hospitals in the region.

## 3. City Health Office

- Dengue cases decreased by 1% (from 229 to 228), chicken pox by 13% (from 109 to 95), pneumonia by 29% (from 922 to 656), influenza by 3% (from 499 to 484), and diarrhea by 82% (from 1,234 to 226) between 2008 and the previous year.
- For the second consecutive year, human rabies death remained at 0.
- On the other hand, typhoid fever cases increased by 60% (from 15 to 24) and measles by 280% (from 5 to 19)
  - The former is mainly due to intensified case finding efforts of CHO staff. The latter, on the other hand, is driven by three factors: the DOH directive to expand reporting coverage beyond 9 month-old children, documented measles cases among adults, and the refusal of mothers to have their children immunized, thereby exposing them to the disease.
- The city also maintained the number of fully immunized children at 85% of the total target population. But it remains 10% off the 95% coverage registered in 2005.

#### **4. City Veterinary Office**

- A total of 2,101 dogs and cats for 2008 were vaccinated during the year, a 26% increase over the 1,670 recorded in 2007.
- Dog registration also increased by 47% (from 1,368 to 2,010). Dogs impounded, on the other hand, went down by 25% due to increased citizen awareness about responsible pet ownership.
- Bite incidence also decreased by 16%; however, close to 10 cases of canine rabies were recorded, higher than the 2 cases registered in 2007.

#### **5. City Social Welfare Development Office**

- Thanks to efforts of the CSWDO and its partners, the city was again selected as the most child-friendly city in the Bicol region, and one of the four finalists for the Most Child-Friendly recognition at the national level, which we reached since 2002 and won for the first time in 2006.
  - This is notwithstanding huge resource constraints: our 2007 operating budget of more or less P400 million is only 6% of Makati (P6.8 billion), 30% of Cebu (P1.35B), and 50% of Bacolod (P803 million), and our 2007 SEF budget of P39 million is only 3% of Makati (P1.3B), 39% of Cebu (P99.8 million) and 50% of Bacolod (78.3 million).
- Sanggawadan, the special preventive program for street and urban working children, expanded its beneficiaries from 1,596 in year 2007 to 2,238 in 2008, a 40% increase in coverage. More than P3.5 million went to cover rice incentives, school supplies and free basic entrance school fees to beneficiaries.
- A total of 2,648 children aged 4 to 5 were being served in 72 day care centers, now called EduCare, which are manned by 85 teachers employing Montessori approach.
  - Of these 42 centers and 49 teachers had been accredited as outstanding by DSWD, having met standards of the Early Childhood Care and Development Act (ECCD Act).
  - Seed Montessori, the model center, got Exemplary accreditation . Naga is the only city in the region which had gradually complied with the new ECCD tool.
- 32 Tindahan Nation operators (30 more than what was originally programmed by NFA for Naga) were closely monitored, alleviating suffering at the height of the rice shortage last year, to address the needs of 8,000 recipients issued with access cards.
- 50 homeless and indigent families availed of the Core Shelter Project funding assistance from the DSWD amounting to P3.5 million, while 26,055 families benefited from the yearend food assistance initiative, with a total outlay of P2.3 million.
- Finally, we have also operationalized the Lindong sa Kaakian kan Naga halfway house, processing center and temporary shelter for street children at the Naga City Social Development Center within the city hall compound.

#### **6. Naga City School Board**

- The city spent P10.3 million to fund the hiring of 110 locally funded elementary and secondary school teachers (representing at least 10% of the total public school teaching staff). This helped reduce class size in the Naga schools division.
- But academic performance remains mixed

- While the best Naga students have proven to be better than their counterparts all throughout the region, indicated by our top ranking in the Regional Unified Achievement Test (RUAT) conducted by DepEd - Bicol, our National Achievement Test (NAT) results have barely moved over the last three years from the 45.4 to 48.2% range.
- The Division Achievement Test (DAT) results are more promising, increasing by about 7 percentage points to 52.3% in 2008 from 45.8 in 2007.
- In addition, it also
  - released around P6.5 million as quarter COLA and performance bonus to public school teachers in the city, and P6.1 million for the construction of 12 classrooms in Balatas, Calauag, Teodora Moscoso and San Rafael elementary and Leon Mercado high schools
  - allocated P9 million for the QUEEN and QUEEN Plus programs, benefiting 14,911 students or roughly 50% of the total enrolment in Naga public schools, and
  - provided a total of 86,640 free milk packs to 1,444 pupils in eight upland elementary schools in partnership with the Land O'Lakes Foundation. At the same, its P1.14 million funding outlay for the Nutri-Dunong program provided mongo, macaroni, champorado feeding commodities to the 21 other elementary schools in the city.
- Through the CHRMO, a total of 27 scholars graduated in March 2008, bringing the cumulative total to 397 scholars graduated under the Iskolar kan Ciudad Program. Aside from regular scholars, the city also entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with Don Bosco where 209 vocational students as of to date are now gainfully employed.

### **7. Raul S. Roco Library**

- The Raul S. Roco Library became the most widely used public library in the region, with its services and programs recognized as a Best Practice among LGU-run libraries nationwide by the National Library during the 2008 Conference of Public Librarians which Naga hosted on October 27-29.
- Notwithstanding the transfer of the DepEd Library Hub, it has improved the circulation of books among individual clients and schools, serving 21 public elementary schools and 56 EduCare centers which availed of its children's books. Moreover, 10 public elementary schools also accessed its Bookmobile references.
- Aided by around 1,400 books donated by the National Library and the Thomas Jefferson Information Center, the RSR Library raised its collection to 10,651 volumes – 40% higher than it was four years ago.
- Finally, it has maintained the Raul S. Roco Memorabilia and promoted the late senator's memory by leading the local observance of his 4<sup>th</sup> Death Anniversary and the Raul S. Roco Day, culminating with the recognition of the 2<sup>nd</sup> RSY Achievement Awards at the Universidad de Sta. Isabel.

### **8. Bicol Science Technology Centrum**

- The Bicol Science and Technology Centrum served a total of 60,139 students for 2008, 150% higher than target. Of the total number of visitors, 73% are students while the remaining 27% are professionals.

- This brought the cumulative total between June 1995 and December 2008 to 691,636, an average of 53,203 visitors per year. Cumulative monthly average is 4,256.
- During the year, the BSTC also generated a total income of P358,810, bringing its cumulative revenues to 3.3 million. Of the total, 88% of which came from entrance fees, with rental fees accounting for the balance.

### **9. City Population and Nutrition Office**

- Implementing a combination of home-based and center-based interventions under its Nutri-Ataman, Nutri-Nanay, Nutri-Mix and Nutri-Dunong initiatives (the latter in partnership with the Naga City School Board), the CPNO reduced the number of malnourished preschoolers to an all-time low of 4%.
- At the same time, it earned the following affirmations:
  - *Outstanding Pabasa sa Nutrisyon Award*. The Philippine Association of Nutrition, Inc. recognized the city's outstanding implementation of the Pabasa sa Nutrisyon Program for the 2007;
  - Nutrition Honor Award (NHA). The National Nutrition Council Regional Office cited the city's continuous implementation of the Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition from 1998 to 2007, garnering the highest score of 98.75%; and
  - Regional Outstanding Barangay Nutrition Scholar. Ms. Ma. Corazon Peñaflor, Barangay Nutrition Scholar of Calauag was also awarded as Regional Outstanding Barangay Nutrition Scholar on December 17, 2008 in Legazpi City.
- On the population management side, we have increased the number of Natural Family Planning acceptors, from 2% to 12% (where the national standard is around 5%), while coverage of the regular family planning programs among Married Women of Reproductive Age (MWRAs) inched up from 38% to 44%.

### **10. Urban Poor Affairs Office**

- Under the nationally and internationally renowned Kaantabay sa Kauswagan program, the city fully paid three urban poor sites (Austria, Abella and Canda) totaling 3.4 hectares amounting to P7.7 million; and partially settled four other properties (Ysaac, Ruiz, Capistrano and Cao, the latter two through expropriation court proceedings) totaling 1.25 hectares amounting to around P6 million, benefiting 286 households occupying them.
  - This brings the total number of beneficiaries to 8,285, more than twice the 4,000 households originally targeted for coverage when Kaantabay started in 1989. Of these, 1,793 households (or 22%) have been given title to their respective homelots.
- During the year, we have also
  - Secured LCMP accreditation on October 22, 2008, qualifying the city for a P50-million facility for land acquisition and upgrading projects from the Social Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC). What we need to work on is the approval and adoption of the City Shelter Plan to complete the LCMP documentation requirements.
  - Executed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Communities Philippines, Inc. covering the socialized housing compliance for its Tremazzo housing project in Barangay Del Rosario, making available another P2.6 million for social housing in the city

- Finally completed bidding for the P4-million UPSURGE project at the Maogmang Lugar GK housing project in December 2008 after several procedural delays and failed tenders, and
- Improved collections on Kaantabay amortization by 67% – from around P3 million in 2007 to more than P5 million last year.

### III. Protective Services

#### 1. Philippine National Police

- The Naga City Police Office was upgraded from its previous category as a mere police station to become an operating unit independent of the Camarines Sur provincial command, thereby giving it greater freedom and flexibility.
- During the year, it registered 1,542 crime incidents, 10% lower than the 1,714 incidents recorded in 2007. During the period, average monthly crime rate (AMCR) also dropped by 10%, from 91.2 to 82.
- Of these, 87% were solved, 12 percentage points better than last year's Crime Solution Efficiency (CSE). More importantly, the number includes all the major high-profile crime incidents that took place in the city.
  - Moreover, this represents a substantial reduction from the 57% CSE recorded in 2004, based on data from my 2005 State of the City report.
- Out of the 1,542 crime incidents reported, 38 percent were index crime (Murder, Homicide, Physical Injuries, Rape, Robbery and theft). The remaining 62% were accounted by police-initiated operations, violations of special laws, and other violations under the revised Penal Code.
- Theft, with 273 recorded incidents, emerged as the most prevalent index crime, followed by physical injuries with 212 and robbery with 80.
- Finally, in cooperation with other stakeholders and partners, including the Metro Naga chamber, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas - Naga regional office, AMSLAI, and several private individuals, facilities and equipment of the Naga PNP office were upgraded. This includes the provision of 20 sets of handheld VHF radios, 4 base radios, 12 PCs, two digital cameras and assorted office equipment and appliances, enabling us to lift up their morale and fuel these significant gains in maintaining peace and order.

#### 2. Public Safety Office

- The PSO netted 1,300 vehicles under its Wheel-Clamping Campaign. A pioneering effort in the Bicol region, its implementation drew wide public acceptance as a no-nonsense campaign that helped free city streets from illegally-parked vehicles and other obstructions.
- A total of 9,477 violators were apprehended. Majority settled their cases by availing of the administrative penalty while 1,620 traffic violations were forwarded to the City Prosecution Office (CPO) for filing of the appropriate cases in court.
- No less than 50 complaints regarding the misbehavior of public utility drivers were received by PSO per month. These include arrogance, charging excessive fare and refusal to convey passengers.

- To enhance their capabilities, PSO staff joined the PNP in undergoing trainings and seminars on motorcycle riding course and anti-carnapping to boost the capability and awareness of traffic enforcers.

### 3. Naga City Fire Station

The number of fire incidents in the city went down by 16% compared to 2007. However, estimated damages went up by 97%, brought about mainly by the fire that hit the Naga City Public Market where almost 331 stallholders were displaced.

## IV. Infrastructure and the Environment

### 1. City Engineer's Office

- The CEO supervised a total of P28.3 million worth of infra projects for 2008, ranging from construction of school buildings, government facilities and drainage lines to rehabilitation of major roads.
  - This includes the P6.1-million construction of five school buildings with 12 classrooms funded by the School Board, the P1.9-million renovation of the Naga City Primary Hospital, the P4.4-million lamp post and sidewalks project at CBD I, and the ongoing P1-million revetment project in Barangay Tabuco and P1.6-million road opening and concreting between the old Fiesta Sardines and Jolly Neighbors.
- More than P5 million in revenues were collected by the Building Section as payment for building and occupancy permits issued to developers and property owners.
- The Maintenance Division accomplished a total of P5.3 million worth of repair services, ranging from asphaltting of major roads to repair of city hall facilities. The Motorpool Division, on the other hand, completed a total of 940 job repairs that cost the city around P8 million.

### 2. City Environment and Natural Resources Office

- **Street sweeping, cleaning of gutters and weeding of roadsides.** City cleaners collect an average of 0.97 tons of mixed waste per day, translating to 11,174.4 tons per year.
- **Garbage collection.** Total garbage collected reached 72,275 tons, thanks to 10 units of garbage trucks plying seven major collection areas daily. Garbage are collected daily at CBD I and II while barangays are visited 3 to 4 times a week.
- **MRF operation.** A total of 31,776 tons of waste were dumped at the City MRF in 2008. Of the total, 14,687 tons of mixed waste were processed, including 6,650 tons of bio-wastes.
- **Air quality monitoring.** The city also brought down the volume of atmospheric pollutants from 99 microgram per cubic meter in 2007 to 80  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  last year, in the process improving air quality rating from Fair to Good.

### 3. General Services Department

- During the year, the GSD
  - responded to approximately 4,200 street light repairs in city barangays
  - converted 1,200 units of self ballasted mercury lights into 80 watts ballasted mercury lights for energy conservation
  - installed 56 new lamp posts within CBD I, and

- replaced 75 high-pressure 250-watt sodium lamp heads along Concepcion Pequeña, Concepcion Grande, Del Rosario, Plaza Quince Martires, and the city hall compound.
- It also processed the insurance of city government-owned buildings and various motor vehicles and heavy equipments.

## V. Fiscal Management

### 1. City Treasurer's Office

- The CTO recorded a 7% increase in real property taxes collection (from P100.5 million in 2007 to P107.4 million in 2008), a 5% increase in business tax collections (from P63.2 to P66.7 million), a 77% increase in other taxes (from P7.6 to P13.4 million) and 39% increase in other fees and charges (from P29.6 to P41.3 million).
- Property transfer tax collection however went down by 20%, from P7.2 to P5.8 million.
- The number of business establishments served during the 2008 Business One- Stop Shop (BOSS) annual event went up by 203, from 4,229 to 4,432.
- Because of this, Naga again earned the top Department of Finance distinctions being handed out annually for Region 5, topping all Bicol cities in total locally sourced income, business tax and RPT tax collections which we have been doing for the last 10 years.
  - It is also worth mentioning that nationwide, the city ranked either 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> among Philippine cities within its category based on a report prepared by the Bureau of Local Government Finance.
  - Our 51%-49% locally sourced-to-nationally source income ratio is also higher than the 40%-60% national standard for cities, according to the local treasury.

### 2. City Assessor's Office

- Through the CASO, the city prepared, submitted and adopted a new Schedule of Market Value (SMV) under City Ordinance 2008-080 with the end view of equalizing and updating valuation of real properties in Naga
- During the period, it also conducted the general revision of assessment and property classification within the city's jurisdiction, which is already 80% complete. Once fully completed, it is expected to yield a 10% increase in real property tax collection.
- At the same time, it conducted Tax Compliance and Tax Perception studies under the LAMP project in partnership with the BLGF and NTRC. These enabled Naga to implement international valuation standards and practices, making it the first city in the country to adopt valuation reforms.
- Finally, it initiated Naga's inclusion in the Innovative Support Fund (ISF) sponsored by AusAID, where a P4 million grant was allocated to the city for the strengthening of its land administration and management system.

### 3. City Accounting Office

- The City Accounting Office handled a total of 34,673 transactions for 2008, including vouchers and payrolls, inspection of purchases, loans and taxes withheld.

- Total income reached P470 million, 89% of which accrued to the General Fund (P417 million), 10% to the Special Education Fund (P46.3 million), and 1% to various Trust Fund accounts (P9.3 million).

## VI. Development Administration

### 1. City Human Resources Management Office

- The CHRMO prepared and submitted five publications in the CSC Bulletin for 45 vacancies in 45 permanent and 654 casual positions.
- During the year, the city's Personnel Selection Board screened applicants for 45 vacant permanent positions, of which 15 were approved for promotion and 6 casual employees were given permanent positions. These brought to 21 the total number of appointments for permanent position issued. In addition, 346 casuals, 150 contracts of service, 10 consultants and 16 job orders were given appointments.
- The various HRM standing committees conducted hearings for 15 administrative complaints: 8 were recommended for formal charge and 7 were subjected o counseling and administrative sanctions.
- Finally, it also completed the updating of the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Naga City Citizens Charter, our pioneering effort in performance metrics which has been enshrined into national policy through the rollout and implementation of the Anti-Red Tape Law.

### 2. City Planning and Development Office

- The CPDO prepared a number of planning documents, including the LGPMS-mandated State of Local Governance report, the Local Development Fund program, two State of the City, and the 2008 State of Children reports of the local chief executive, and financial studies on the proposed completion of the Naga Coliseum and the various terminals in the city.
- It also drafted the mechanics of the proposed Barangay Performance Management System (BPMS), which will be rolled out starting in the first quarter of 2009
- As secretariat of the Bids and Awards Committee, it also bided out 39 Infrastructure and 53 other projects for procurement of goods and supplies
- It also extended technical assistance in facilitation and documentation to several agencies, notably the Naga City Council for Welfare and Protection of Children, and
- Through its Zoning Administration unit, the office issued 545 locational clearances and processed four new subdivisions – Laura Village, St. Jude Orchard, Deca Homes Northfield Estate, and Tremezzo – notwithstanding the slump in property development. Although significantly lower than the previous year's record, it also managed to meet its P1 million targeted collection from locational clearance and zoning classification fees.

### 3. City Budget Office

- **Budget preparation.** For 2008, the CBO reviewed and consolidated 29 agency budget proposals into the proposed 2009 annual budget of the city government. In addition, it prepared 4 supplemental budgets and provided technical assistance to various entities, including the 27 barangays of Naga City, on budget matters and other concerns.

- **Budget review.** It also reviewed 31 supplemental budgets of the city barangays and endorsed these to the Sangguniang Panlungsod for approval.
- **Budget execution.** Finally, it prepared 386 Advice of Allotment and 13,727 OBRs for different offices and agencies of the city government aside from acting on 88 special requests regarding budget matters.

#### 4. City Legal Office

- During the year, the CLO issued wide ranging legal opinions that included the following:
  - established the validity of the new city ordinance prescribing guidelines for the issuance of PALC, DP and AP while invalidating the proposed “Sojourning Ordinance” on constitutional grounds;
  - sustained Executive Order No. 2007-014 that empowered the city government to monitor NGOs and POs to determine their viability as partner in local governance;
  - sustained the opposition of Tabuco residents to the erection of a Smart cellsite within their community;
  - clarified existing rules and regulations concerning bingo operations, barangay legislation, establishment of a tricycle terminal, and the powers of the City Vice Mayor to act in the absence of the City Mayor;
  - contested the BIR’s assessment of income tax on the city government while establishing the taxability of ABS-CBN, Casureco II and the GSIS, among others; and
  - sustained the validity of granting additional benefits to City Hall employees, especially year-end bonuses that helped lift their morale.
- It also contributed to effective business regulation, leading a team of inspectors that went after unregistered business establishments and junkshops that violated existing regulations.
- Finally, on top of handling five disciplinary cases within City Hall, it also extended legal assistance and representation to PNP and PSO operatives, barangay tanods, and city hall executives facing harassment suits, as well as needy residents referred by the City Mayor’s Office.

#### 5. Local Civil Registrar

- For 2008, the LCR registered 9,585 birth, 1,077 marriage, and 2,460 death certificates, in the process fully updating its civil registry database as of December 31. In addition, it processed 410 legal instruments, 53 court orders and 651 marriage applications.
- Aided by NSTP students from the University of Nueva Caceres, it also transcribed a total of 8,070 records into the local registry books, with birth and marriage certificates accounting for 85% of the total
- It also conducted a mobile mass registration in Barangay Lerma that yielded 20 registered and 24 acknowledged and legitimated children, processing them on site; and conducted two mass civil weddings in March and December 2008, benefiting a total of 52 couples.
- Moreover, its regular mobile passporting event in partnership with the Department of Foreign Affairs benefited 2,409 applicants, 3% higher than the 2,335 released passports recorded last year.
- Finally, it generated revenues of P2.6 million as fees for its various services, a 6% improvement over the previous year’s take of P2.4 million.

## 5. Electronic Data Processing (EDP) Unit

- For 2008, the EDP introduced access terminals – a small computing device connected to a host PC (sharing 1 PC to as many as 15 users) that consumes less power (40 watts vs. 250 watts), generates less heat, and produces less e-waste through improved data storage and file handling – to Metro PESO, City Engineering and the Sanggunian Panlungsod.
- Aside from maintaining the nationally-recognized city website – and existing systems related to frontline and back offices, server, database and network management – it provided
  - online services via regular webcast of RMN-DWNX
  - technical assistance for the installation of LAMP-2 components at the CAsO
  - technical support for offices involved in the annual one-stop-shop in January 2008, and the PCL National Conference in June 2008, and
  - the live webcast of annual Peñafrancia Festival activities in September.

## VII. Legislative Services

- For 2008, the 9<sup>th</sup> Sangguniang Panlungsod passed 558 resolutions, 553 of which were approved, and enacted 113 ordinances, 105 of which were approved.
- Resolutions and ordinances passed mostly tackled issues pertaining to Government, New Politics and People Empowerment. Landmark ordinances include:
  - A new schedule of Fair Market Value of all Real property including other structures and agricultural lands as basis for General Revision of Real property assessments in the city
  - The *i-Serve* ordinance
  - Guidelines on the use of Plaza Quince Martires
  - Creation of a trust fund account called Anduyog Fund
  - Rules for junk shop operations in the city
  - Requiring all barangays to allocate 1% of their IRA for the strengthening and implementation of the Naga City Council for the Welfare and Protection of Children's programs, and
  - Guidelines for Preliminary Approval for Locational Clearance (PALC), Development Permit (DP) and Alteration of Plans (AP) for residential subdivisions in Naga.

## CONCLUSION

- What is in store for the current year? Given the prevailing uncertainties that have dumbfounded most experts – with only a handful out of thousands practicing economists able to predict the 2008 crash of the global financial markets – it is difficult to hazard a guess.
- But this we can assure the residents of Naga: The city government will continue to maintain, if not surpass, the governance standards of which we have earned a name for ourselves. We will ensure that public spending for the year will translate into better outcomes where they matter – in jobs, public health, housing, education and social safety nets aimed at the bottom 20% of our household population.

- **ECONOMIC**

- **JOB CREATION, LIVELIHOOD DEVELOPMENT.** For instance, my administration will prioritize labor-intensive infrastructure projects that will benefit workers in the construction sector. At the same time, we will put more money for our own livelihood programs, create synergies with old and new partners like Allied Bank, while prodding our flagship Metro Peso to do more with its resources.
- **AGRICULTURE.** We will invest on growing the rice requirements of our social welfare programs like Sanggawadan internally – insourcing them under a contract farming scheme that will initially cover 50 hectares; or in other words, giving local farmers the first shot at producing the food incentives we are giving to about 3,500 households to encourage them to maintain their children in school.
- Moreover, we will also focus on increasing net farm income for the agricultural sector by
  - a. raising production output beyond break-even levels,
  - b. reducing production cost through mixed organic-synthetic approaches and other alternative technologies,
  - c. reducing risks and losses through broader insurance coverage, and
  - d. maximizing revenue through NFA sales, production of premium grains and vegetables (e.g. palay seeds, organic vegetables) and lower post harvest losses.

In the end, our ultimate measure of success in this sector is how well the lives of our farmers have improved rather than how large production levels have increased.

- **IMPROVED ASSET MANAGEMENT.** We will leave the city a new and more competitive public market – one that will underpin the ongoing revitalization of our old centro, and one that will be more responsive to the city’s needs in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. If our financials still warrant, we will also complete the surfacing if not the full roofing of the Naga City Coliseum.
- We will also create opportunities for the private sector to develop and optimize existing government assets at no cost to us. We will invite investors to put up through build-operate-transfer (BOT) schemes a Gwapotel-type dormitory at the second floor of the Integrated Central Bus Terminal and an integrated Filcab vans terminal at CBD II, aside from exploring ways of reopening the shuttered TLC Beatrice meat processing plant in Del Rosario.

- **SOCIAL**

- **SOCIAL WELFARE.** We will work towards the full accreditation of our EduCare system by focusing on the 30 of 72 which are yet to be accredited. Out of the DSWD building in Pacol transferred to us by the regional office, we will put up an integrated facility that will serve the needs of our legitimate street children and battered women.
- And through greater alignment of our internal resources, we will expand the coverage and scope of services of the Sanggawadan program through poverty mapping, and by maximizing built capacities and enhanced capabilities in the health sector – like the recently improved Naga City Primary Hospital which we will position towards upgrading to a secondary hospital.

- Moreover, we will also put up a center for the visually impaired at the ground floor of the Raul S. Roco Library, with operations target for start during the second semester of the year.
- PEACE AND ORDER. We will build on gains by the PNP and our PSO by installing CCTVs in key city locations to deter criminality and ensure better monitoring. At the same time, we will continue to work with them, encourage them and prod them not to rest on their laurels but to do even more – to ensure that we can literally “walk the streets at night unafraid” as we used to.
- ENVIRONMENT. We also take concrete steps closer to the establishment of a new sanitary landfill. During the previous year, we have completed the necessary technical and consultative meetings with local communities and other stakeholders affected by the project. This coming March, our partners from Enviros, the Czech Republic consulting firm helping us, will present to us a proposed design and the options available to us.
- Moreover, we will also start investing on regular water quality readings at key points along the Naga River, to make up for the slack created by the removal of national government subsidies for water quality monitoring.
- **GOVERNANCE**
  - BARANGAY-BASED PERFORMANCE TRACKING. We will engage with and align our efforts with the barangays more proactively. Toward this end, we have rolled out the Barangay Performance Management System (BPMS), an ambitious effort that will localize the MDGs at the grassroots where it really matters.
  - LSR ORDINANCE IMPLEMENTATION. We will also prioritize the implementation within the year of the landmark city ordinance on Local Sectoral Representation, thereby ensuring greater representation of the basic sectors of society in the local legislature.
  - IMPROVED SERVICE QUALITY STANDARDS. Finally, we will build on the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Naga City Citizens Charter (which will be released within the quarter, pursuant to the local mandate that it be updated every three years) by constantly reviewing and monitoring our service standards and commitments, especially by frontline agencies that regularly transact business with external customers at City Hall.
- And as we move forward to meet the challenges that 2009 and beyond will offer, let me reassure you of our unwavering conviction: Like 2008, the year ahead may prove to be just as difficult and fraught with uncertainties, or even more. But our track record as a “can-do” city of “can-do” people should be able to see us through. And just like the challenges we faced in the past, we will surely overcome.