

## MID-YEAR STATE OF THE CITY REPORT

# **PROUD AKO!**

**BY HON. JESSE M. ROBREDO  
CITY MAYOR**

Last July 1, 2004, we started another fresh term in local governance, powered by our people's overwhelming support, the fifth time in a row that our local ticket, from the mayor down to the last city councilor, swept the local election -- a feat perhaps unequalled by any local administration in any part of the country.

It is a victory not by us alone, but by the whole constituency of Naga City. Nagueños, they say, are among the most intelligent voters in the Philippines.

With over 82 regional, national, and international awards tucked under our belt as of latest count (more awards are sure to come before this year ends), Naga City rides high with its glowing badge of glory and honor.

With the awards, we have shown to the world what the Nagueños are capable of. We have been recognized as the most transparent and business-friendly city in the Philippines; one of the four most improved urban communities in Asia; a city whose best practices are emulated by the world community, and; a city whose efficient public service has been fittingly honored by no less than the United Nations recently.

What we are today is the result of the continuing partnership that we have been advocating and practising since the first time our people have entrusted us their mandate.

What we will be tomorrow depends upon the quality of life that we have achieved so far. We are not a finished product yet. We are in a continual process of re-creating ourselves, of facing future challenges.

Our life's emphasis is not on *possessing* but on *becoming*. We concentrate not on how we can have more, but how we can *be more*.

The way we applied our *power to be* determines what we are now. Yes, our greatest power is our *power to be*. To be more productive. To be more efficient. To be more participative. To be more orderly and peaceful. To be more honest and transparent. To be more compassionate. To be more accountable. To be more business-friendly. To be more women-friendly. To be more child-friendly. To be more circumspect. To be more vigilant. To be more alert. And to make the best even better.

Having achieved these, the usual question is again asked: What could be more desirable? What more can be done?

The answer to the questions will come in the second part of my address. In the meantime, let us pause to congratulate ourselves.

The good thing about how we started 16 years ago is that we know what we do **not** want to do. And then we started doing the things that we think are right that, as a result, built upon us a deep sense of pride.

Reaching that point, we begin to achieve more than we originally expected. Unknowingly, we have raised our standards in the succeeding undertakings until we realized that we have become better than others.

Setting humility aside, let us, for a moment, dwell on the things we are proud of. Let us praise ourselves for it and relish the experience. Let us all say: "Proud Ako".

The point, ladies and gentlemen, is that we need to give ourselves recognition because we deserve it.

It is not what others say to us that really count. When we compliment ourselves, the glow stays with us. It is still good to hear them from others, but it takes a higher level when we hear them from ourselves because by doing so, we continually raise the bar in meeting new challenges. Things become no longer difficult to achieve because of the high sense of confidence that we have built in ourselves. In fact, it has been opined that one's greatest enemy is his own self. And fortunately enough, the Nagueño has conquered himself, raised himself above the others, and took the highest honors for various achievements. *Dahil matibay ako, kaya ko 'yan*, one will say.

We should congratulate Bonus Bordado, Lorenzo Dy, Bryle Zapanta and Jonathan de Guzman for bringing us strings of gold and silver medals in various age-group swimming competitions here and abroad.

We should congratulate Jonathan Zaens for placing Naga in the world musical map as an international baritone singer who wows audiences in Europe and the American continent.

Let us congratulate the Diaz family, particularly Ramona Diaz, who won the grand prize in the Sundance Film Festival in USA for her controversial documentary film, "Imelda". Though she may be based in the US, in her veins undeniably runs the proud Nagueña blood.

Let us take our hats off to Boboy Pesimo for steering the Naga-based "Sarong Banggui" performing arts group to the championship in the "Wow Bata" Performing Arts Festival last June 2004 in Intramuros, Manila -- besting 10 other entries from such bigger cities as Manila, Cebu, Baguio, Bacolod and Iloilo.

Let us congratulate the Naga Central School 1 rondalla group for being one of the 12 Philippine performers in the 1<sup>st</sup> International Rondalla Festival held in

our city. We recently recommended this group to represent the Philippines in the World Expo to be held in Japan in 2005.

We rejoiced when the young Atty. William Enrile, Jr. topped the Bar only a few years ago.

Last year and the year before that, we congratulated Lyndon Cosay Tan and Jun Mongoso for being honored as Outstanding Young Men of the Philippines.

We also congratulated our gold medalists in Archery and Taekwondo in the last Palarong Pambansa held in Lanao del Sur.

We, too, rejoiced when Ariel Alvarez won the International Fashion Designers Competition held in Paris about 5 years ago.

We too, honored Ms. Rosario Estanislao, who, despite her late age, went to pursue her college education in between her chore as street sweeper and eventually earned her degree. She is an office worker now, at the City Environment and Natural Resources Office. With her meager salary as a street sweeper, she went to school along with her children who by now have found their decent jobs after obtaining their own college degrees. Ms. Estanislao's moving story of perseverance and determination should easily qualify on Charo Santos' *"Maala-ala Mo Kaya"*. Other Filipino families can surely emulate her success story.

Only two months ago, at the height of Typhoon Dindo, I saw Mr. Cristobal Requito of San Felipe, a 33 year old jeepney driver, with bolo in his hand cutting off to pieces a fallen tree fully blocking the road going to Carolina. His effort was not only valiant but also heroic, knowing fully well that the task was more than he can handle. When I told him that I was impressed by his strong sense of civic duty, Mr. Requito simply replied, *"Para maka-agi tolos Meyor an iba pang driver asin sasakyan."*

Of course, we have many more nameless and faceless Nagueños who, in their own way, have contributed much to making our city a beautiful place to live in --- a place where everyone exists not only for his own welfare and interest but more so for the good of the city. We, too, should congratulate them for their generosity of heart and strong sense of civic engagement, which are invaluable achievements in themselves.

Because we are great, the world congratulated us for being the Most Woman-Friendly City in Asia and the Pacific.

The TUGI - United Nations Development Programme conferred on us the Cybercity Award for Asia and the Pacific Region in 2003.

The United Nations Headquarters in New York also took notice of our outstanding achievements. It honored Naga City last June 2004 with the prestigious UN Public Service Award along with the best in the 4 other continents in the world.

We have been installed in the Hall of Fame in the fields of nutrition and population development and by the Galing Pook Foundation that cited us with the Award for Continuing Excellence (ACE) for various innovative programs and practices in governance and community development.

The honors and the distinctions we received are most deserving to the people of Naga, who, as the city's stakeholders have placed themselves above the traditional make-up of the bureaucracy in the pursuit for progress and development. More than mere recipients, the Nagueños have become the doers and key drivers in crafting a city that even fellow Filipinos are most proud of.

Indeed, we have a lot of reasons to be most proud of: Naga is experiencing a dynamic economic upturn. Our purchasing power is the strongest among consumers in Bicol.

- Compared to other cities and provinces in Bicol, Naga City is one of the best if not the best in infrastructure development, in basic services delivery, in business dynamism and even in public education.

Our city's transformation is a result, in large part, of our resolve to adopt good governance as a means of bringing vitality back into the city since we took over in 1988.

- We have adopted a governance philosophy of "growth with equity". Through this, we have carried on a more balanced and sustainable development by pushing economic growth while at the same time sustaining the implementation of pro-poor projects – that ultimately spurred prosperity for the community at large.

We have tried to give flesh to our philosophy by providing a committed leadership; and by ensuring that the government bureaucracy truly lives up to its task as a "tool for development".

A UN Conference in 2001 stated that "local government is the sphere of government that is expected to do the most with the least."

Because we have depended on our own resources, Naga City, in no small measure, contributed to national development in this critical period where the national government is in dire need of material resources.

By spending less per kilometer of road (42% lesser than the national government estimate) we built longer concrete roads, sparing the national government to allocate more for our infrastructure needs, which amount therefore, were reverted to projects elsewhere where they are needed most.

Because we have purchased more textbooks through our own resources and with the help of the Ford Foundation that showed confidence in our education development objectives, we allowed the national government to allocate funds

for other schools in other towns and provinces who are wanting of these textbooks.

By becoming less dependent on the national government dole-out, we as a proud constituency have kept our political independence. We are unafraid of what tomorrow will bring because we know that we can fend for ourselves, with our own strength, innovations and resources.

Our political, as well as our economic independence, are in fact our greatest strengths.

### **Mid-Year Highlights**

We have done better this year than last year. This is doubly significant because local elections normally put the local leadership off-track in many parts of the country. In our case, the results of our operations revealed otherwise.

#### Financial Operations

- Notwithstanding the slight decrease in IRA during the first half of this year, current income collection rose from P 167.6 M last year to P 170.6 M this year or an *increase* of around P 3.0 M or 1.8%. However, total income for the first half of this year of P 198.0 M is P 14.9 M less than last year. Non-recurring revenues during the previous year were P 17.9 M higher.
- Total expenditures for the first half of the year amounted to P 178.2 M. With total income for the same period amounting to P 190.0 M, this resulted to a first half surplus of around P 19.8 M.

#### Investments

- A total of 4,004 businesses registered during the first half of 2004 as against 3,832 during the same period in 2003 or an increase of 4.5 %.

- From January to June this year, Naga City attracted 717 new enterprises, compared to 547 generated during the same period last year. This is a 31.1% increment against the performance last year. This is also 70.8% of the total of new enterprises generated for the whole year of 2003 which was posted at 1,013.
- The total investments for the 6-month period translate to P518.4 M. Although, this is 5.2% lower compared to P 546.7 M generated for the same period last year, there was a significant increase in the number of new investments. Total development cost of these new enterprises alone amounts to P247.7 M with operating capital placed at P270.7 M.
- The major enterprises include, among others: Gee-bo Digital Animation, St. Jude Thaddeus Village 1, Green Park Village Subdivision, and Park View Village Phase III. New investments for 2004 included Kentucky Fried chicken fast food, East-West Bank and the recently-opened Banco de Oro.
- About 270 new building permits were secured and almost 300 occupancy permits were issued during the first half of the year.

#### Enterprise Development

- From January to June 2004, the Metro PESO was able to grant loans to 1,053 individuals and 1,210 cooperative members. This is a marked 330% increase compared to only 245 individual beneficiaries and 589 cooperative members last year.
- P 4.3 M was released to individuals while P 2.1 M was released to cooperative members. This translates to a 204% increase as compared to P 1.4 M last year.

- On employment, a total of 1,102 applicants have been given gainful employment in private establishments while 706 were referred for overseas employment.
- At least 850 job seekers were placed under the “Linis-Ganda” program where beneficiaries secured emergency employment by undertaking small infrastructure projects, declogging drainages and cleaning up the city streets.
- 198 poor but deserving students and Out-of-School Youths were placed under the Special Program for the Employment of Students and Out-of-School Youths (SPES), 5 were placed under the Government Internship Program (GIP) and 53 Out-of-School Youths took the TESDA-accredited Automotive Mechanic Course under the Manpower Skills Development Program.
- 2,640 graduating students were provided career guidance while 379 jobseekers found gainful employment from Job Fairs conducted by the Metro Naga PESO.

#### Infrastructure

- The P 90.0 M Almeda Highway was completed as scheduled. This opens at least another 300 hectares for new development in the Concepcion Pequena and Concepcion Grande area. The San Felipe – Sta. Lucia Bridge is now open, providing new access to Magarao-Calabanga area. We will start work to upgrade the road within the year.
- From January to June, 2004, small high impact infrastructure projects with a total worth of P 23.1 M were completed.
- Around P 6.2 M or 27% were allocated for improvement of roads, including concreting of the San Isidro-Carolina Road and the portion along the Naga City Coliseum. Around P 6.1 M or 26% percent of the

projects were utilized for drainage projects. P 4.8 M worth or around 21% were expended for school improvement projects, covering repair of classrooms, construction of covered courts and playgrounds.

- From January to June, the CEO was able to clean a total of 2.50 kilometers of open and covered drainage. Additionally, 51 units of manhole and inlet drainages were repaired.
- On maintenance of city roads and bridges, the CEO completed asphalt overlaying of a total of 2.2 kilometers of damaged paved roads. Likewise, the CEO rehabilitated 5 kilometers of unpaved roads and shoulders.

#### Water Supply

- At present, there are 18,668 households being serviced by MNWD. We are about to turn-over the P 30.0 M Kailinisan Spring Development Project to MNWD to augment supply for the district.
- From January to June, Task Force Tubig installed 308 new jetmatic pumps directly benefiting 23 barangays. In addition, 232 units were replaced. Total expenditures for Level I water system amounted to P 2.2 M. For Level II water systems, 80 public faucets were installed in various barangays worth P 0.6 M.
- Expansion of water lines in upper barangays is now on-going. We are assisting in the rehabilitation of the Panicuason Water Supply System (PAWASA). Once fully operational, the entire city would now be covered by a Level III system.

#### Environment and Solid Waste Management

- 266 diesel-fed vehicles were apprehended by the city's anti-smoke Belching Task Force. Of the 266 vehicles, only 84 or 31.57 percent

passed while 182 or 68.42 percent failed. Compared to 2003, apprehensions increased by 241%.

- The Naga City Materials Recovery Facility started operations last February 2, 2004. Forty (40) tons of garbage are being processed daily at the MRF. 50% of waste is converted into organic fertilizers, 35% segregated as recyclables and 15% are stored as residue for future use.
- With 11 garbage trucks making an average of 3 trips a day, we have increased our capacity by 83.3% compared to last year.
- Recently, all 27 city barangays were evaluated during the citywide contest on the Practice of Waste Segregation. Of these, 6 entries were submitted to the National Search for Model Barangays on the Practice of Waste Segregation with Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs).
- In partnership with the USAID, the city government is set to establish low-cost waste water treatment facilities at the Naga City Abattoir and the Nag City Public Market under the LINAW project. Once completed, the Naga River may be upgraded from its present status of Class C to A or B.

### Social Services

- The city's 85 Day Care workers in 65 Day Care Centers have been attending to some 2,568 preschoolers, aged 4 to 5 years. The number of preschoolers increased by 3.3% compared to last year.
- Under the *Sanggawadan* program, school supplies and rice allocation worth P 0.9 M were distributed to 2,055 parents and children. An innovation from the AusAid's Street and Urban Working Children Programme (SUWCP), the Sanggawadan provides incentives for children-beneficiaries to attend school.

- P 2.0 M was allocated to 7,615 indigent clients who needed assistance for transportation, food, medical, laboratory exam, burial and emergency shelter assistance.

#### Health and Medical Services

- In April, 22,802 Vitamin A capsules were given to children aged 12 – 59 months. This is 101% accomplishment of its target 22,802 children. This was made possible by the successful staging of the Garantisadong Pambata program.
- Some 2,474 pregnant mothers were also given 3 or more pre-natal visits.
- On Chicken Pox control, the 148 patients in 2003 were reduced to only 30 this year. This translates to an 80% reduction in the incidence of the disease.
- On Measles prevention, the 233 patients in 2003 were reduced to only 23 this year. This is a marked 90.1% decrease in incidence. This was due to the successful campaign of CHO's "Ligtas Tigdas" program.
- Deaths due to rabies also declined by 85.7%. There was only one death by human rabies this year compared to 7 deaths last year. Dog bites declined by 7.1%. There were only 929 cases of dog bites this year compared to 1,000 cases last year.
- Ten Leading Causes of Death from January to June are: (1) Diseases of the Respiratory System (2) Diseases of the Heart (3) Diseases of the Vascular System, (4) Pneumonia, (5) Malignant Neoplasm, (6) Renal Diseases, (7) Diabetes Mellitus, (8) Liver Diseases, (9) Diseases of the Central Nervous System, and; (10) Accidents

- Compared to last year, diseases of the respiratory system decreased by 3.0%; Diseases of the Heart decreased by 1.77 percent; Vascular Diseases decreased by 5.9%; Pneumonia decreased by 2.6%; Malignant Neoplasms decreased by 2.96 percent. Disease of the Central Nervous System by 1.2%, and; Accidents, 1.4%.
- This year's Operation Smile was conducted on February 19 to 27, 2004 at the Bicol Medical Center. A total of 3,034 patients were served by a series of medical, dental and surgical missions in coordination with students from USI and AdeNU, Mercury Drug and the Philippine Medical Association of America.

#### Naga City Hospital

- From January to June, the Naga City Hospital attended to a total number of 28,913 out-patients, or at an average of 231 patients per day. Another 618 accounted for in-patient admittance, for a grand total of 29,531 patients served.
- The Medical Social Services of the city hospital served a total of 10,011 patients. Of these, 1,870 were PhilHealth beneficiaries. Compared to last year's 6,885 patients, this translated to a 45.4 % increase.
- A total of 15,888 patients availed of laboratory services. Of these, 1,143 undergone drug tests. We are serving on the average 90 clients a day.
- The NCH was also able to serve 1,422 prescriptions to in-patients and 22,990 to out-patients. 76 % of the prescriptions were served while 24 percent were unserved.

- A total of 796 patients were attended to by the Emergency Rescue Naga (ERN).or on the average 4.5 patients a day.

#### Population and Nutrition

- The CPNO was able to provide center-based feeding to 912 underweight children and home-based feeding to 100 malnourished children.
- Of the annual target 3,250 beneficiaries, 2,350 were given Nutri-Mix or weaning food for the first six months of the year, registering a very high year-to-date 72.3 % accomplishment. A 100% accomplishment was also noted in CPNO's Nutri-Ataman and Nutrition Care for the Elderly.
- 7,890 households out of the target 12,784 were provided iodized salt duly packed by CPNO. Meanwhile, all of the targeted Nutri-ataman beneficiaries were provided free multi-vitamins and iron supplements.
- To combat malnutrition among children, the city government launched its City Nutrition Education Program or CNEP, designed to promote awareness on correct nutritional practices among preschool and school children with the use of IEC materials such as brochures, coloring books, posters and stickers to be distributed to households, Day Care Centers and public elementary schools. This is the first initiative of its type in the Bicol Region.

#### Urban Poor

- With its Kaantabay sa Kauswagan Program, the city government has to date expended the amount of P126.8 M for acquisition of lots. This translates to an annual average allocation of P 13.4 M for land acquisition alone.

- The number of beneficiaries now totals 7,887 who are settled in approximately 94.8 hectares of land in 16 on-site and 18 off-site projects.
- 14.5 more hectares have been lined-up for on-site housing developments amounting to approximately P 95.6 M. This is projected to benefit 1,675 families.
- Sites and communal facilities in Queborac, Pacol, Caluaug, and Sta. Cruz will continue to be upgraded in partnership with the World Bank at the cost of P 54.5 M

#### Education

- Because of our superior education program, Naga City has been selected as Bicol's entry to the 2004 National Literacy Awards and has been chosen as one of the 5 finalist. The final evaluation will be conducted during second week of August.
- We have achieved 1:1 pupil to book and pupil to workbook ratio in Math, Science and English for Elementary. We have focused our attention on Reading. The School Board has procured P 1.2 M worth of SRA materials to strengthen the program. Recently, we signed an agreement with the Sa Aklat Sisikat (SAS) Foundation to improve reading comprehension skills for Grade 4 students in the city. We are negotiating another agreement with the ABS-CBN Foundation to utilize a multi-media approach to improve learning proficiencies.
- The most recent achievement tests affirmed the significant improvements in academic achievement levels of upland barangay schools. We have asked DepEd Naga to adopt remedial programs for the non-performers.

- We have acquired school sites and are opening 2 new public elementary schools this year ---- San Rafael Elementary School in Cararayan and Rodrigo Moscoso Elementary School in Carolina.
- Students from our public elementary schools fared relatively well in the recently-concluded High School Readiness Test for School Year 2004 - 2005 (*Table below*)

Province /City	No. of Examinees					RANK
	PASS	%	FAILED	%	TOTAL	
Albay	8,202	60.73	5,304	39.27	13,506	2
Cam. Norte	135	30.27	311	69.73	446	8
Cam. Sur	5,608	31.17	12,381	68.83	17,989	7
Catanduanes	2,856	55.87	2,256	44.13	5,112	3
Masbate	3,971	33.78	7,786	66.22	11,757	6
Sorsogon	3,627	37.20	6,122	62.80	9,749	4
<b>Naga City</b>	<b>1,673</b>	<b>60.77</b>	<b>1,080</b>	<b>39.23</b>	<b>2,753</b>	<b>1</b>
Iriga City	516	35.03	957	64.97	1,473	5

- *PROJECT CLICK* has been a success. Around 60% of our elementary school graduates passed the computer proficiency test for the school year ending 2004.
- A total of 17,032 students and guests visited and availed of BSTC services and facilities at the Bicol Science and Technology Centrum (BCTC) which include 62 interactive exhibits. Total number of visitors for the first half of the year brought the cumulative total from June 1995 to June 2004 to 44,435; a cumulative monthly average of 4,133 and a yearly average of 47,204.

## Peace and Order

- Crime Volume (CV) from January to June, 2004 has decreased by 30 cases or 24% as compared to the same period in 2003. CV for 2003 is 126 while this year's CV is 96.
- As a result, the Average Monthly Crime Rate (AMCR) has lowered by 30% against last year's. AMCR was 14.5 in 2003 while this year's AMCR decreased to 10.2
- Of the total crime volume, 55 were index Crimes and 41 were Non-Index Crimes during the 6-month period this year.
- On Index Crimes, there were 3 cases for murder; 2 for homicide, 5 for physical injuries and 10 for rape, or a total of 20 cases. A 57% decline was observed for Index Crime compared to last year's 128 cases.
- On Non-Index Crimes, a 63% reduction was noted, with 41 cases this year against last year's 111 cases.
- A 62.5% reduction in the incidence of theft and a 20% decrease in the incidence of robbery were noted. There were 40 cases of theft last year compared to this year's 15 cases. Also, there were 25 cases of robbery last year compared to 20 this year
- Incidence of rape decreased by 16%. There were 12 cases last year compared to this year's 10 cases.
- Muder cases also decreased by 76%. There were 13 cases last year compared to this year's 3 cases.

- 8 suspected drug pushers and peddlers were arrested. 7 of them were charged in court while one signified his intention to undergo rehabilitation at Malinao, Albay.
- The success of drug control in the city resulted from the persistent buy bust operations made by the Drug Enforcement Unit last year where 75 suspects were arrested with more than One Million Pesos worth of shabu confiscated.

### Agriculture

- 3,139.8 metric tons of inbred rice and 249.1 metric tons of hybrid rice were harvested from January to June. This involved a total of 795 farmers yielding an average production of 4.2 MT for inbred rice and 6.5 MT for hybrid rice. Total area planted for inbred rice is 824.25 hectares compared to only 300 hectares in 2001.
- Corn production yielded 1,818 Metric Tons compared to 1,012.3 MT last year. This involved a total of 298 farmers yielding an average production of 4.5 MT covering a total of 404 hectares.
- High Value Commercial Crops Production (HVCC) yielded a total harvest of 368 metric tons over a total area of 33 hectares. 150 farmers in 5 barangays (Panicuason, Carolina, Pacol, San Isidro and Cararayan) established techno demo of 0.5.
- On cattle dispersal, 28 cattles, 20 carabaos and 83 swines were given to a total of 131 recipients.
- The city provided financial assistance to farmers in purchasing farm implements. On cutflower production alone, an estimated P 147, 510 was given to a total of 33 farmers. With a return of investment (ROI) of 181 percent, production yielded a value of P 25,000 per 1,000 square

meters. With a total of 3 hectares, production value is estimated at P75,000 to P 80,000 per harvest.

Given the state of our finances this year, clearly we have done more with less. Thus, despite our fiscal difficulties I am confident we can do more, we can be better and we will achieve the goals we have set for ourselves.

## **TARGETS**

### Urban Beautification and Renewal

- Beginning this fiscal year, Naga City will unleash program packages that are aimed at providing the city a heightened image of economic vitality, an urban center that will be attractive for tourism, conventions, sports events and other socio-cultural activities while sustaining our prime import as a regional center for trade commerce, education and religious festivities.
- We will be inaugurating the new Plaza Quezon on August 14. There will be a continuing collaboration with local artists, performing arts groups and the various colleges and universities for Bicol Culture advocacy with the renovated Plaza Quezon as the center of cultural activities.
- Together with the UAP-Camarines Sur Chapter, we will start work on Panganiban Drive soon.
- We will upgrade the city's major streets, the sidewalks to be uniformly tiled-up, and owners of private establishments, especially in the centro, will be asked to clean up their surrounding and give old buildings fresh coats of paint or brushing. We will endeavor to put order and beautify the CBD I.

- There will be an aggressive drive to clean up the Naga River, the Naga City Public Market, and other public facilities.
- We shall start building a 2,000-plus seater convention center at the Almeda highway while we shall pursue the phase-by-phase completion of the Naga City Coliseum.

**In this connection, I would like to request the City Council to review and amend the Trimoblie Color Coding and Sidewalk Vending Ordinances. I have also submitted for consideration an Ordinance Regulating Public Utility Companies. Moreover, I would like to seek authority from the City Council to offer on a Build-Operate-Transfer basis the construction of a commercial building on the city hall property along J. Miranda Avenue and also the Naga City Convention Center in along Almeda Highway,**

#### Urban Poor

- We shall endeavour to secure 2,314 more homelots for the city's remaining urban poor beneficiaries.
- We shall continue to upgrade and construct communal facilities within the city's various resettlement sites in collaboration with the World Bank and other concerned agencies
- We shall start constructing row-housing units at CBD worth over P7 M, in partnership with the National Housing Authority. We will expand our partnership with the Couples for Christ in its Gawad Kalinga Housing Program.

#### Health and Nutrition

- We shall modernize the Naga City hospital.

- We will distribute more Philhealth cards to cover all indigent patients; procure more medicines for indigent residents and pursue our preventive health care services in the 27 barangays
- We shall work to eradicate moderate malnutrition cases in the next three years and expand feeding program for children and pregnant and lactating mothers

### Water Supply

- In the Water and Sanitation Program of the city, shall cover 100% of the barangays, including remote sitios in rural areas by the end of 2007.
- We shall expand potable water access to all the 26,000-plus households of the city in the next 3 years.

### Environmental Management

- We shall sustain our title as the cleanest and greenest in Bicol by improving air quality, ecological balance and our Salvar Salog program;
- Cleaning of streets will be enhanced in close coordination with the barangays officials and residents
- After we have completed the city MRF, we shall establish MRFs in each barangay
- We shall purchase more equipment to attain 100% efficiency in garbage collection from its present 85% collection efficiency, which is already the highest in the entire Bicol

## Roads and Infrastructure

- To date, we have already concreted 151.6 kilometers of the 174.8 kilometers of roads that the city has constructed. We will seek additional resources so that the remaining 24.2-kilometers shall be fully-concreted in three years including new road networks to be opened this year until 2007.
- Once completed, the San-Felipe storm drain will address the flooding problem in Caluag, Liboton, Bagumbayan Sur and Bagumbayan Norte, We will work on the Queborac Drainage System to ensure that our relocation site will be free from flooding. World Bank, through COPE and Phillsa, have provided P 12 M to improve drainage in the Lerma and Triangulo areas.
- We will upgrade the pavement surface of our major thoroughfares, including the 4-lane Panganiban Avenue while subdivision roads will be fully rehabilitated

## Commerce, Trade and Investments

- New enterprises rose from 769 in 2002 to 1,013 in 2003, or a remarkable growth of 31.7%; in quantitative terms, we shall sustain 10% to 15% annual growth in terms of new enterprises, investment amount and number of new jobs generated
- Our qualitative target to generate new jobs is to develop a niche in Information Communication technology (ICT), especially in Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) sector (i.e. digital animation, call centers, medical transcription)

- We shall develop the Naga Southwest Development (Alameda) area as first-class commercial district in the next 2 to 3 years; giant malls have shown keen interest to locate business in the area
- We shall build more satellite markets with Tinago slated to open this month.

In this regard, I would like to request the City Council to review the Investment Incentive Code of the City to make it more responsive to the changing needs and opportunities that lie ahead of us.

#### Employment, Livelihood and Enterprise Development

- We will endeavour to provide each family in the city a means of livelihood. We will provide incentives to investors and entrepreneurs who will actively participate in the program

#### Social Welfare

- A more sustained effort shall be launched to drive off abandoned children and beggars from the streets and provide for ample parking lots to vehicle owners; at the same time, we shall give more support to street children and indigent adults thru educational and livelihood assistance.
- We will expand our Self-Employment Assistance Program in support to our program to provide a means of livelihood to each and every family in the city.

#### Education

- As we have already attained the 1:1 textbook-student ratio in the core subjects of English, Math and Science, we shall endeavour to cover the

same ratio for the remaining subjects and cover the Secondary Level as well.

- We shall open two more public high schools in the next two years
- We shall continue to maintain the adequacy teachers in all public schools; provide adequate classrooms; and endeavour to enhance science and technology consciousness among the students
- Computer literacy will continue to be widened among public school students

Of course, we shall not stop from going the distance in our continuing quest to give our people the best deal that they can have as beneficiaries and partners of our government programs and services. We shall continue to deliver as we have done in the past. Our covenant with the people is clear: Make Naga a city that we can always be proud of, a place that everyone would like to have.

As you may have noticed, the task of community-building become easier and doable each time because we started on the right foot by having restored our people's faith and confidence in local governance.

Now, we are celebrating with the highest sense of pride and honor. The whole nation and the world look at Naga as a model for effective and innovative way of addressing the needs of the people. The job of delivering excellent public service never ends. Let us look forward to more triumphant days ahead after we have accomplished so much within the first 6 months of this year.

Mabuhay kita gabos!