

# BALANGA ENCYCLOPEDIA



Presented by Balanga Historical Committee

*DEDICATION*

*This  
ENCYCLOPEDIA  
Is  
dedicated to you  
People of the City of Balanga.  
as an affirmation of  
our commitment  
to preserve  
the legacy of our forebears*

City of Balanga Historical Committee



# FOREWORD

In the past five decades, there are at least three books about Bataan and Balanga that had already been written. Commonly, these books contain real facts and very useful information about the province and what was once its capital town. Likewise include urban legends and hearsay – a typical format, perhaps, purposely meant to inject life and color to some interesting characters, places and events.

With this in mind, City of Balanga Historical Committee, in its intention to be more accurate and circumspect on some important subjects has come up with a new book, an encyclopedia that tells all about Balanga – its people, demography, history, culture and its gradual transformation into a well – developed and progressive community. Stories about the great sons and daughters of Balanga are well – written in this book.

There were quite a few things with the publisher and historical committee borrowed. Most notable among these is the publisher's use of Victor de Leon's book entitled *History of Bataan* (1953), the Department of Education's *Balik -Tanaw* (1990) and Fr. Wilfredo C. Paguio's *Bataan : Land of Valor, People of Peace* (1997). There were other books that also provided historical hindsight of the past five centuries, from the Spanish period to present

The undertaking took more than a year for the Historical Committee to come up with a readable sourcebook of general information about Balanga. The publisher would like to assure the readers that the BALANGA ENCYCLOPEDIA was written with fidelity as to historical dates, periods, people, places and events. It is hoped to bcome a part of Philippine history.

BALANGA ENCYCLOPEDIA is a gem of achievement that will serve as legacy to the next generation of Balangueños . This is the real story of Balanga and its people as an achiever. It is our hope that you will enjoy reading it.

*City of Balanga Historical Committee*



Republic of the Philippines  
Province of Bataan  
City of Balanga  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

## MESSAGE

In behalf of the city government of Balanga, I would like to extend my sincerest appreciation and gratitude to the great Balangueños, past and present, who have made us proud by giving us the honor and distinction that we know we are now entitled to.

Inspired by mounting calls from our kababayans for character renewal and genuine awareness of everything that is Balangueño, the City of Balanga Historical Committee is proud to present the Balanga Encyclopedia, a new book I shall consider as a repository of vast knowledge about our colorful history, the fine heritage and the legacy it had bequeathed upon the present generation. Never before had there been a such a very informative resource material that saw print which vividly captures the images, set in motion by interesting events describing the struggles and triumphs of Balanga's great achievers.

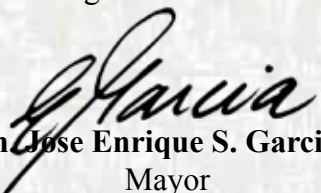
But while turning the pages of this awe-inspiring book, I urge our beloved readers to feel their own presence in a dramatic setting of our historical past and indulge themselves in a way we travel down memory lane. This will get us to take a closer look and bear witness to the times past as they slowly unfold and, perhaps, even answer some questions and doubts lingering in our midst on the otherwise obscured images of some significant events in our history.

Having perused this very informative material which had given me much enlightenment about our origins, I therefore suggest that we start thinking about the future of our city – the course we have to take, the tools we need to wield, and the strength that is required of us to muster.

At this point, please allow me to congratulate the members of the City of Balanga Historical Committee who had invested their precious time and effort to ensure the integrity of the texts contained in this wonderful treasure trove of valuable information. Truth to tell, the enormity of the task that weighed on their shoulders while conducting research is immeasurable.

Likewise, to the colorful and gentle people of City of Balanga who never cease to be part of our quest to stake-claim to the great legacy we all share.

Our good forefathers had a great beginning. Let us continue what they had begun and finish it with a flourish. That's the spirit of a genuine Balangueño!

  
Hon. Jose Enrique S. Garcia III  
Mayor

**Republic of the Philippines  
Province of Bataan  
BATAAN  
Office of the Governor**

**MESSAGE**

It is indeed my pleasure to congratulate the City Government of Balanga as they launch the Balanga Encyclopedia.

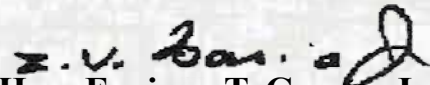
By law, local government units are tasked to preserve and develop its tradition, history and culture. This task has often been neglected in the past that is why this initiative is a welcome addition to the already stellar achievements of the people of the City of Balanga. This compilation of vital information pertaining to your city is truly a labor of love and a testament to your tireless commitment to good governance.

Once again, City Mayor Joet Garcia together with all the officials and employees of the City Government of Balanga proved that they are at the forefront of trailblazing programs and projects which have become the envy of other LGUs in the country. This encyclopedia proves this fact.

I encourage all Balangueños to read this work so that you will all learn lessons of our glorious past and have a glimpse of the promising future that this city can offer. It is my personal wish that the Balanga Encyclopedia will not only let its citizens get reacquainted with its city but will spark a new wave of pride and commitment to this land.

Mabuhay ang Lungsod ng Balanga!

Mabuhay ang Bataan!

  
**Hon. Enrique T. Garcia, Jr.**  
Governor





Republic of the Philippines  
House of Representative  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

## **MESSAGE**

Greetings to my beloved Balangueños !

The launching of this book “Balanga Encyclopedia” gives us a rare and wonderful opportunity to showcase the colorful history, prominent personalities and breathtaking sceneries of our city. This publication serves as our small but notable contribution in documenting the uniqueness of Balanga.

With the able stewardship of our Sangguniang Panglunsod in realizing this project, the future generation will be able to discover more about the important events, historic places and distinguished leaders of their very own hometown. In line with promoting eco-tourism of the Province of Bataan, this encyclopedia will give locals and foreigners alike the privilege of sharing of rich cultural heritage of Balanga City.

Again, congratulations to all the research staff and editors of Balanga Encyclopedia. Indeed, I am very happy to share your pride for the success of this project.

Mabuhay Tayong Lahat!



**Albert S. Garcia**

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
PROVINCE OF BATAAN  
CITY OF BALANGA  
OFFICE OF THE VICE MAYOR

## MESSAGE

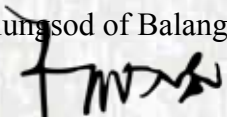
Foremost, my warmest congratulation to the City of Balanga's Historical Committee. For this singular accomplishment of publishing the Balanga Encyclopedia alone, the Historical Committee deserves, to say, *a round of applause*. Getting the rich history of Balanga, the pertinent data of historical places herein, prominent people, and beautiful spots, and afterwards, presenting the same in one book is a great feat. For as you know, it takes meticulous research and tremendous amount of time to consolidate these information into one book; one Encyclopedia, and publish the same without sacrificing its quality.

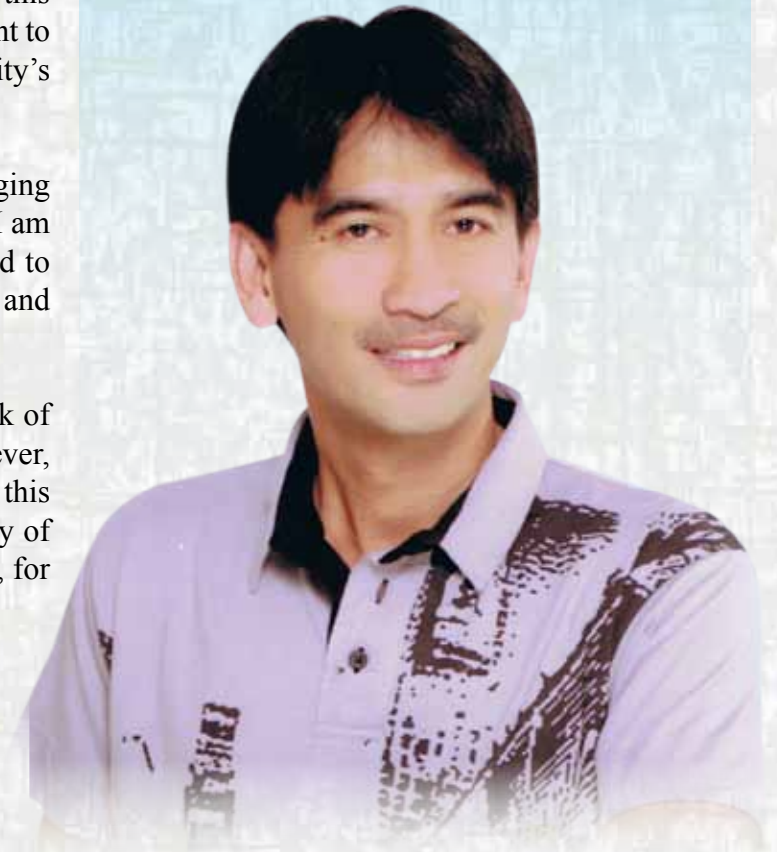
For that hard work, I am therefore inviting the reader's attention to feast upon the pages of this book. For, other than wanting the readers to see the artistic craftsmanship of his encyclopedia, I also want to share to our dear readers the treasures that the City of Balanga keeps - Treasures which consist of the city's priceless history, valuable people, and precious heritage.

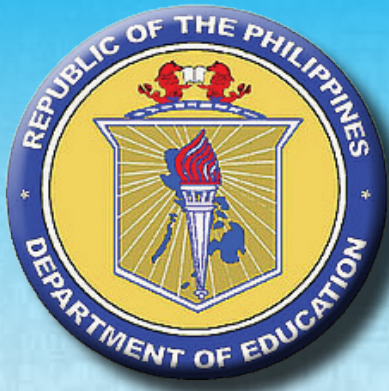
Balanga City has so many rich-*tales-pasts*, which, through time had been buried by the changing interest of the people. Thus, tend to be forgotten. This Encyclopedia comes in handy in this time. And I am hopeful that it will put upon the readers, who may grasp upon it, a certain level of astonishment. And to deliver upon our adored readers certain degree of appreciation for our City. To be fascinated on each and every turn of this page, until, alas, a great deal of knowledge comes before them.

Let me end my brief message with an expression of a problem, and a solution to solve it. Lack of awareness is a problem. Specifically, ignorance of what is the City of Balanga is a problem. However, unfamiliarity of her is not an irresolvable dilemma, it can be fixed. We can start by turning a page of this Encyclopedia. But we should do more – as our commitment to learn from the past, and from the story of other people sketched by history are very much needed to understand our present time, and ultimately, for the solution of tomorrows problem.

In behalf of the Sangguniang Panglungsod of Balanga City, I extend God Bless and Mabuhay.

  
NOEL JOSEPH L. VALDECAÑAS  
City Vice Mayor





Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Education  
Region III  
**DIVISION OF CITY OF BALANGA**  
City of Balanga

## **GREETINGS**

I wish to convey my warmest greetings and felicitations to those who made this book, the "BALANGA ENCYCLOPEDIA" possible.

I believe this is one important legacy that the City Government of Balanga can pass on to its people, for it will help them reminisce their glorious past/golden memories and have a glimpse of their humble beginnings and remarkable achievements.

I am confident that the Balanga Encyclopedia will greatly inspire our youth to conceptualize the past, nature the present and intensify their knowledge, values, attitudes, and skills and thereby contribute in the attainment of a world class city in the future.

Ten years after, I hope to see the emergence of a new breed of Balangueños sharing the vision of excellence in their respective field/profession.

I would like to commend the administration and staff, the historical committee and the other partners involved in this collaborative effort for providing this greatest gift to our constituents. The results of your labor will be appreciated and cherished by our fellow Balangueños for many years.

Indeed, it truly gives me genuine pleasure to be a part of his great endeavor.

Again, Congratulations to all of you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jessie D. Ferrer".

**JESSIE D. FERRER**  
*Assistant Schools Division Superintendent*  
Officer-in-charge





REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
PROVINCE OF BATAAN  
CITY OF BALANGA

## MESSAGE

Taking lessons from history means a lot to people who like to revisit the past in order to chart their own destiny. Whether or not certain subjects are debatable or rewritten, there still lurks an impelling urge that drives them to seek the ultimate truth.

For most part of Balanga City's past, researchers, historians and scholars have sifted through volumes of research materials – valuable information that had provided a rare glimpse of our origins and the legacy they had left behind.

Yet, in deciding to print the Balanga Encyclopedia the members of the Balanga City Historical Committee all agree that this book not only would share and enlighten readers about its history, culture and the people who carved Balanga's political landscape, but also to inform them of the numerous distinctions it had garnered through the years.

Now provided with such knowledge, let us try not to forget the lessons learned because this can be an indispensable guide toward a more meaningful life ahead.

All said, it is hoped that this wonderful piece of work will inspire the present generation to continue to nurture and preserve Balanga City's heritage.

To this, I'm proud to declare, "Mabuhay ang Sambayanang Balangueño!"

*Mrs. Isabel F. Garcia*

MRS. ISABEL F. GARCIA  
Chairperson, BCTCF





DIOCESE OF BALANGA

## MESSAGE

“I thank my God every time I remember you” (Philippines 1,3)

With grateful heart and appreciative spirit I joyfully acknowledge the praiseworthy and noble initiative of the Balanga City Historical Committee through the projector directorship of Rodolfo De Mesa to come up with Balanga Encyclopedia in order to collate and commemorate historic events, significant personalities and beautiful places of Balanga.

Life is a journey. And along the road of life we encounter unforgettable persons, we reach interesting places, and we experience memorable events. All of these and all of them are worth retelling. Much more must be put into writing for prosperity sake.

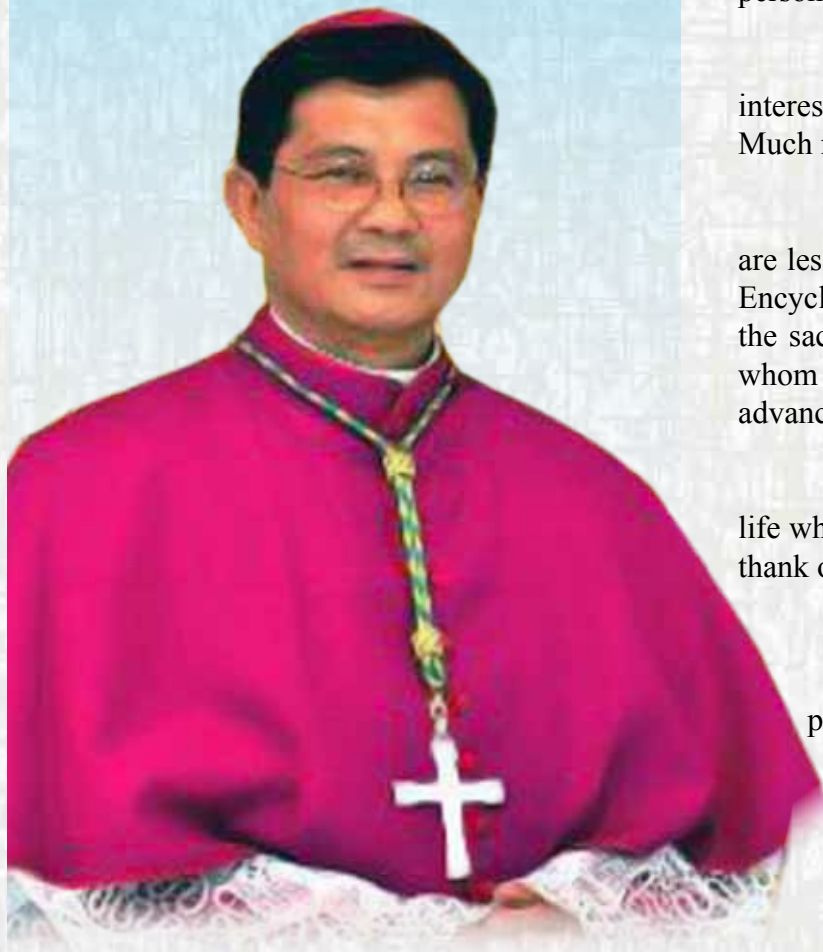
Life is a continuous learning. With those illustrious persons and meaningful relationships, they are lessons to remember, experiences to keep and exemplary deeds worth repeating. With this Balanga Encyclopedia we chronicle important and inspiring events, best and beautiful episodes. We also remember the sacrifices and success, hardships and heroism, trials and triumphs of these commendable persons whom in one way or another have contributed or will have a major impact to our human formation and advancement.

And so to turn these pages is to learn more about them and to resolve to apply into our very own life what we learn. To enjoy the pages of these breathtaking and scenic spots of Balanga is to praise and thank our Almighty God for His goodness and the wonders of His creation.

With my appreciation for this enlightening and inspiring Balanga Encyclopedia please accept my paternal blessings and prayers as I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ Jesus,

+Ruperto Cruz Santos  
Bishop of Balanga



# ABACA

**A**BACA is a plant almost similar to a banana tree. The only difference is that it does not bear fruit. And most importantly, coarse fibers can be obtained from the abaca plant which is used for the manufacture of rope and even cloth. The Bicol region became world famous for its abaca product called “Manila hemp.”

Back in the 1950s, abaca-growing was found to be feasible in Bataan, specifically in the Balanga-Pilar area. Bataan, it turned out, has similar type of soil with that of Bicol. Balanga, Pilar and some parts of Bagac were found to contain the Antipolo clay and the steep phase soil which are usually found in basalt, igneous and volcanic rocks.

As early as 1948, the provincial government tried to propagate abaca (*Musa textiles*, scientific name) in Bataan. It was the time when the provincial nursery was being set up in Pantingan, Pilar. The provincial government started importing abaca seedlings from Bicol and the accompanying technologies for making hemp.



In Balanga, the seedlings were planted in the upland villages of Maluya and Cabog-Cabog. Farmers, as expected, were able to produce abaca fibers but only in small quantity.

For lack of government support, coupled by the advent of wire and other synthetic ropes from Japan, United States and Europe, the abaca industry in Bataan simply died a natural death.



## ABAKADA NG BATAAN

**T**he ABAKADA NG BATAAN was the mandatory instructional and learning material for all first grade elementary pupils in the province starting in 1951 until the early 1970s. It was the same ABAKADA which was used by the first graders in the elementary schools of Balanga.

The first edition of the *Abakada* handbook, about 28 pages thick, was published through the financial support of the provincial government, during the incumbency of Governor Emilio Ma. Naval.

The late Feliza Sevilla Baens (1880-1972), a teacher from Bayan, Orani, was commissioned to write the Abakada book.

Some P5,000.00 were spent for the printing cost of about

5,000 initial copies which were distributed free to all elementary schools in the province. All primary and complete elementary schools in Balanga and other towns received sufficient copies for the use of all Grade One pupils.

The *Abakada ng Bataan* gained national recognition in 1953 after the owners of the Kayumanggi Publishing House based in Quezon City bought the publication rights of the book from Ms. Baens.

Ms. Baens' Abakada was replaced by modern and more effective beginning reading materials in early 1970s which were effectively utilized by all the teachers in the District of Balanga.



## ABELLO, Tomas P.

Dr. Tomas P. Abello was born in Peñaranda, Nueva Ecija on April 28, 1898. His parents were Bartolome Abello and Engracia Padilla, both from the same town of Peñaranda.

He completed his elementary education from the Peñaranda Elementary School as valedictorian in 1912 and his secondary education in Nueva Ecija High School as valedictorian in 1916. He went to the University of the Philippines as a government scholar and completed the course BS Mechanical Engineering, summa cum laude, in 1920. Because of this record of consistent academic excellence, he was able to pursue graduate studies, Ph.D. in Physics, University of Chicago in 1927, again on both studies, as a government scholar. He served the University of the Philippines as a professor in Physics hereafter.



He married a Balanga lass, Concepcion Banzon Banzon, a BS Education graduate of the University of the Philippines, who served as a librarian of the National Science Library. They have five children, Engracia, Amelia, Teresita, Victor and Fortunato.

After the wars, Dr. Tomas P. Abello and his wife decided to start life anew in Balanga. They ventured in some business undertakings to provide for the family and that was the beginning of their conjugal partnership, VETAF's, formed from the first letters of their children's name. This started with a "chicken and chips" restaurant, continued as an auto supplies store and later evolved to a hardware store, then school and office supplies and general merchandise store, the store always responding to their felt needs of the community and the changing times. Their children Amelia and Teresita took over VETAF's upon the couple's retirement. Ma. Clara Anastacio, a granddaughter now manages and leads VETAF's Superstore, Balanga's one-stop-shop.

Around 1949 some well-meaning citizen of Balanga

led by Damiana Banzon, Dr. Melanio Banzon, Jose Jimenez and Manuel Guevara thought of a private high school as an answer to the growing educational needs of the youth of Bataan. June 10, 1950, Tomas del Rosario came into existence. The school was then merely renting an old building Zulueta Street in Poblacion now Recar Building. Dr. Tomas P. Abello joined the school management and served as the second president from 1953 to 1970, and was responsible for securing the present site at the Capitol Road as well as the construction of the high school department building and later of the elementary department building.

Atty. Antonio M. Ortiguera, Dr. Abello's son-in-law, took over the school presidency from 1970 to 1978 and from 1979 to the present. He was responsible for the opening of the college department and later graduate school. He built the two story high school building, four story college building. The KKK or Kamalig, Kalinangan, Kabataan, a multi purpose hall. Dr. Abello passed away on November 28, 1982.

## ACUZAR, Jose Rizalino L.



JOSE RIZALINO LARION ACUZAR (1955- ) is one of the most successful Balangueños who made good fortunes in the construction industry. He is the proud owner of the so-called *Old Town* in Bagac, also known as *Las Casas Filipinas de Acuzar*.

Jerry Acuzar was born in Balanga on June 19, 1955 to parents Marcelino A. Acuzar and Maria Larion. He finished his

elementary and secondary education at the Balanga Elementary School (1967) and the Arellano Memorial (Bataan) High School (1974), respectively. It was while in high school when he lost his left hand due to a vehicular accident. He completed a vocational course in Drafting at the former Bataan National School of Arts and Trades in Balanga while working as cutter-welder in the iron works shop owned by an older brother named Ben.

Years later, Jerry put up his own iron works shop in Quezon City. He also took time to finish a college degree by

enrolling at the Technological Institute of the Philippines in Manila. He completed his Bachelor's degree in Architecture in 1983. Immediately, he established the New San Jose Builders, Inc. in Diliman, Quezon City, where he is the chair of the board.

His first major contract was the construction of the sports complex of the Philippine Columbian Association. It was followed by multi-million peso projects at the former Philippine Refugee Processing Center in Morong. An active member of the Contractors Association of the Philippines, Jerry is involved in several major infrastructure projects in the country.

He owns the Adriatico Grand Residences in Manila, the Victoria de Manila (Taft Avenue), Victoria Towers (Panay Avenue, QC), Victoria Station Condominium (EDSA, QC), Isabelle de Valenzuela (Valenzuela City), Metro Manila Hills (Montalban, Rizal), Fort Victoria (Global City) and the soon-to-be completed Galeria Victoria de Balanga (City of Balanga).

In 2009, Acuzar was named as one of the "Most Outstanding Filipino Achievers" in the category of brilliant entrepreneurs, together with Henry Sy of Shoemart and the Zobel Family of Makati. He was also a "Dangal Balangueño" awardee in 2010

Jerry is married to the former Maria Theresa Ochoa. He has seven children: Jose Maria, Maria Jose, Jose Cris, Maria Theresa Jose, Ma. Francesca Jose, Ma. Isabel Jose, Ma. Victoria Jose.



LAS CASAS FILIPINAS DE ACUZAR

# AGRICULTURE

**A**GRICULTURE is the science or practice of cultivating land on a small or large scale. It includes not only growing crops but also raising livestock.

Balanga is one of the richest towns in Bataan. Agriculture has always been its chief industry. The plains covering from Barangay Tuyoy down to Central and Cabog-Cabog are fertile grounds suitable to agricultural crops such as rice, corn, coconuts, sugar cane, bananas, pineapples, mangoes, vegetables and even abaca and hemp.

Based on the 1998 records of the Department of Agriculture, Balanga has over 8,900 hectares devoted to agriculture, distributed as follows: 1,017 hectares as forestland; 1,802 hectares, grazing/pastureland; 73,948 hectares cogonal land; 1,346 hectares national refuge (game refuge and bird sanctuaries/wilderness); 479 hectares reserve; and 4,215 hectares as crop production area.



# AGRICULTURE

These crop production areas are classified as riceland (1,851 hectares); vegetable land (417.54 hectares); fruitland (1,193 hectares); sugarland (39.22 hectares); coconut land (320 hectares); bamboo land (12.19 hectares); nipa land (5.65 hectares); mangrove/marineland (51.08 hectares); and fishpond (325.40 hectares).

Of the total land area devoted to rice production, 1,027.30 hectares were planted from May to August (rainy season); 1,320 hectares from September to December (*palagad* season); and 997.30 hectares were planted from January to April (dry season).

Rice is usually harvested twice or thrice a year because most of the rice lands are irrigated throughout the year. About 70 percent of the city's total potential irrigable area is covered by existing irrigation systems. These resources alone have contributed to the continuing progress of Balanga.

Some 3,968 metric tons of rice per hectare are being harvested annually from irrigated riceland, and 2,425 metric tons per hectare from rain-fed areas.



In 1996, the total mango production in Balanga was registered at 3,185 metric tons.

From July 1997 to June 1998, Balanga tended a total of 292,643 heads of livestock and poultry (commercial and backyard production). Swine is the most common animal raised in at least seven barangays, namely Cataning, Cupang Proper, Dangcol, Munting Batangas, Cabog-Cabog, Camacho and San Jose. The swine production in the city totaled 11,621 in 1998, comprising 72% of the livestock population. There were 4,343 heads for cows and 474 heads for carabaos for the same period.

Chicken is the dominant poultry population comprising 275,420 heads. Poultry farms are located in Cataning, Cupang Proper, Tuyo and Dangcol.

## FISHING INDUSTRY

FISHING is one of the most important economic activities in Balanga. The city's fishing ground is equivalent to 148.16 hectares.

The current livelihood activities in the area include *pamamalaisdaan* (fishpen), *pangangapa*, *panlalambat* (fish netting), crab culture, mussel culture, *panukot*, *pangingilaw*, *panunulib*, *panggagasang*, *pangangabya*, *pananahong* (mussel gathering) and others.

As of 2007, there are about 625 fisher folks in town using 168 motorized and 14 non-motorized fishing boats. There is one fishing port located in Barangay Puerto Rivas.

The number of baklad (fishpens) owners changed since 1986. In 2007, there were 29 fishpens in Balanga divided among 29 owners.

Mussel culture is also prevalent in Balanga as evidenced by the thousands of wooden and bamboo trellises dotting the coastline. The sea shell provides additional income for the local fisherfolks.



Inland fishing is also prevalent in town. It constitutes a very important sector of Balanga's fishing industry. Some 302.95 hectares are devoted to fishponds, 289.59 hectares is titled and 13.36 hectares are under the Fishpond Lease Agreement. These are mostly found in Tortugas, Puerto Rivas, Sibacan and Tuyo. The fishponds produce bangus, sugpo, tilapia and crabs.

These products generate an annual harvest of 973 metric tons more or less.

Approximately about 50 hectares of tidal flats in Puerto Rivas and Tortugas contain small benthic organisms that provide food for fishing during high tide and other animals during low tide. Puerto Rivas, Tortugas, Tuyo and Sibacan are also considered estuarine areas that are covered by mangrove trees. These areas are rich with larvae of crabs and shrimps and serve as nurseries of fry fish.

The city has an existing fishing port which caters mostly to the fish landing requirements of its coastal barangays, notably Puerto Rivas and Tortugas. The proposed construction of the Puerto Rivas municipal port is foreseen to accommodate larger fishing vessels, as well as sea ferries.

## AGUIRRE, Apolonio

**A**POLONIO AGUIRRE was the founder of the Banco Filipino, a national banking institution.

Polonio Aguirre was born in Meycauayan,



Bulacan on February 7, 1895. Hardened by years of working odd jobs, including a short stint as farm manager of Hacienda B i n a y a n

in Abucay, he finally found himself hobnobbing with Balanga's rich and famous when he opened a jewelry store

in town in the early 1920s. His "luxury" store was patronized well and became operationally profitable in just a few months. His skills as a successful "dealer" impressed many Meycauayan- and Manila-based jewelers so much that they entrusted him with unlimited supply of finely-crafted jewelry. Before reaching the age of 30, Aguirre was already a very wealthy man.

It was in Balanga where he met and married Pilar Banzon, the daughter of Tomas Banzon and Victoria Tiangco. The couple had three children: Tomas, Pedro and Remedios.

Aguirre ventured into agri-aquaculture and poultry business,

construction, metal trading, car and truck marketing. He also put up one of the first rural banks in the country. He, together with sons Tomas and Pedro, also established the Agencia de Empeños de A. Aguirre, Aguirre Securities Corporation, Filipino Merchandise Insurance Company, Pilar Development Corporation, BF Homes, Pilar Villages and the Banco Filipino, which became the flagship company of the Aguirres.

The Martial Law regime, unfortunately, devastated nearly all the business interests of the Aguirres in the country. Ferdinand Marcos closed down his companies when he refused to give in to the dictator's whims and caprices.

*The Aguirres have already risen from that economic turbulence. The Aquino government had given back what rightly belongs to them. The Banco Filipino Savings and Mortgage Bank, with main office located in Makati City, re-opened in the early 1990s. The BF-Balanga branch, which opened for the first time in Poblacion on October 16, 1981, reopened at the corner of Rizal and Zulueta Streets on December 3, 1999. The Aguirres have invested largely in start-ups and built them up into profitable companies all over again.*

## ALONZO, Benjamin M.

**B**ENJAMIN MANALAOTAO ALONZO (1944- ) was the 12<sup>th</sup> vice governor of Bataan. He served from July 1, 2004 until June 30, 2007. He was also a member of the provincial board of Bataan from 1988-1992 to 1992-1995.

Alonzo's birthplace is Cupang where he first saw the light of day on September 25, 1944. His parents were Emilio Leongson Alonzo and Fausta Paguio Manalaotao. He is the younger brother of (Ret.) General Delfin Alonzo.

Ben Alonzo is an alumnus

of Tomas del Rosario Academy, Class 1960. He completed his Civil Engineering course at the Mapua Institute of Technology in 1965. His past employment



*Alonzo returned to the political scene in 2004 as runningmate of gubernatorial aspirant and former Vice Governor Rogelio G. Roque of Limay. He won over his rival, Serafin Q. Roman of Orani, but Roque lost to former Bataan Congressman Enrique T. Garcia, Jr. He served Bataan until 2007. Despite his good showing, he opted not to seek reelection during the May 2007 local polls for he chose to concentrate on the various family businesses.*

includes various stints at the Export Processing Zone Authority in Mariveles, Provincial Engineers Office, Monark International, VL Construction, L.

Manrique Construction and the Office of the Provincial Governor.

He was the assistant director of EPZA's Engineering Department when he ran for a board member seat during the 1988 local elections. He won and was reelected in 1992.

He left politics in 1995 and concentrated on the family's business venture, the Farmlandia Resort and Hotel in Hermosa. At the same time, he was involved in the construction business as partner of the Abesco Construction and Development Corporation.

## ALONZO, Delfin M.

**D**ELFIN MANALAO TAO ALONZO (1927- ) is a native of Balanga who retired as a police general, the highest rank ever attained by a police officer in Bataan.

General Alonzo hails from Cupang Proper, Balanga, where he was born on July 30, 1927. He is the son of the late Emilio Leongson Alonzo and Fausta Paguio Manalaotao, a family of modest means. As a boy, he had his early education obtained from the Cupang Elementary School and the Balanga



Elementary School. The Japanese Occupation prevented him from pursuing his high school studies after completing his primary education. He waited for five more years before he was able to enroll at the Arellano Memorial (Bataan) High School (now Bataan National High School). He was already 23 years old when he completed his secondary education.

Initially, he wanted to join the US Navy after graduating from high school. But he changed his mind at the last minute and joined the local police instead. Upon the recommendation of erstwhile Balanga Mayor Faustino Vigo (1952-1955), he was accepted into the force as a regular patrolman. In 1961, he was promoted to the rank of police sergeant. Eight years later, he was sent to England (now United Kingdom) where he

completed his Scotland Yard-sponsored training in General Police Duties at the West Yorkshire Constabulary Training School, from July to October 1969.

When the Bataan Community College (now Bataan Peninsula State University, Balanga Campus) opened in Balanga in 1972, Alonzo took the opportunity to finish a college degree. He was among the first enrollees and was able to complete his Bachelor's degree in Management in 1976. He was already a lieutenant colonel in the police force when he completed his Master's degree in National Security at the National Defense College of the Philippines in 1978. He was promoted to the rank of full colonel in 1982.

Gen. Alonzo was married to the late Leonida del Mundo, of Cupang. The couple had

eight children: Susan, Marie, Cynthia, Claro, Lalaine, Eleazar, Elizabeth and Cristine.

As police officer, Alonzo held the second highest post (deputy police commander for administration) in the former Bataan PC-INP (now Bataan Provincial Police Office) starting in 1982 until his retirement in 1984. He served under a junior officer, Lt. Colonel Cesar Alvarez, who was a PMA graduate. Thereafter, was assigned as director for administration (RI) in Camp Olivias, Pampanga. Before he retired from service, he was offered the directorship of the Central Police District (Quezon City and San Juan) as a replacement to the late General Tomas Karingal. He declined the post and simply waited for his retirement date. He is currently residing in San Diego, California, USA.

## ALONZO, Domingo

**D**OMINGO ALONZO of Puerto Rivas, Balanga was the acknowledged leader of all the Katipuneros in Bataan during the Philippine Revolution of 1898.

Heneral Inggo was born and raised in Puerto Rivas, Balanga. In the book *Isang Balik-Tanaw*, it was mentioned that "... Alonzo, a former cabeza de barangay, was one of those brave and gallant Batañenos who revolted against the Spaniards in the late 1890s. Inspired by the successful Cavite Mutiny of 1897, Alonzo went to Salinas, Cavite where he joined the revolutionary movement. Later on, he founded a local Katipunan unit in Puerto Rivas with the support of Justo Carlos Gabaya, the recognized first organizer of the rebel organization in the barrio.

*"In April 1896, General Gregorio Gonzales of Morong called for a meeting of all Katipuneros in Bataan. Local rebel leaders like Rafael Malixi of Abucay, Victor Baltazar of Orion, Mariano Medina and Fausto Garcia of Orani, Baldomero Gutierrez and Mariano Siasat of Samal, Domingo Alonzo, and many others organized a "Comite del Revolucionarios" with the aim of overthrowing the Spanish government in the province. They unanimously elected Alonzo as the overall leader."*

Heneral Inggo proved worthy of the task. Based on old accounts, he initiated the attack on the Spanish authorities in Balanga on May 27, 1898, one day earlier than the scheduled simultaneous attacks on various

garrisons in the country as set by General Emilio Aguinaldo. The *Siege of Balanga*, 1898 was a complete success.

From Balanga, Alonzo and his men proceeded to Mabatang, Abucay where they helped Rafael Malixi's unit defeat the Spanish soldiers and their Macabebe mercenaries at the Battle of Dulmig. It also led to the defeat of the Spaniards in Samal. Thereafter, Heneral Inggo and his rebels went northward and freed Orani, Hermosa, Dinalupihan, as well as Olongapo and some parts of Zambales from Spanish domination.

Alonzo was given a hero's welcome upon his return to Balanga. His patriotic service, unfortunately, was not recognized by President Emilio Aguinaldo. Instead,

a revolutionary officer from Cavite named Lieutenant Colonel Bautista was appointed military governor of Bataan. When the Americans arrived in Bataan in 1900, Alonzo and his men laid down their arms to spare Balanga from another bloody confrontation.

After his release from jail, Alonzo was appointed as *cabeza de barangay* of Puerto Rivas by Captain John Gouldman, the military governor of Bataan from 1901 to 1903. Alonzo died unwept, unhonored and unsung.





## ALONZO, Teodoro R.

**T**EODORO RODRIGUEZ ALONZO (1937-1997) was the 26<sup>th</sup> mayor of Balanga. He was initially appointed as mayor in December 1979 until January 1980 due to mass purging of local officials during the later years of Martial Law. He was formally elected to the same position during the January 30, 1980 local polls. He served until March 1986. He is best remembered for establishing the Balanga Arcade in 1985.

Mayor Alonzo was born in Poblacion, Balanga on May 18, 1937. He was the president of Class 1955 of the Arellano Memorial (Bataan) High School. He finished his Mechanical Engineering course from the Mapua Institute of Technology in Manila through the support of his foster father, Diding Santos of Barangay Ibayo.

After college, he was employed as process operator at the former Bataan Refining Company (now Petron Bataan Refinery) in Limay. He resigned from his job at the oil refinery after being offered a dealership by the Mobil Philippines which enabled him to put up a Mobil gas station in Balanga. Later on, he got involved in the gasoline hauling business in Olongapo City and Manila.

In 1979, while serving as director of the former Bataan Electric Cooperative (Batelco), Engineer Alonzo was appointed by Governor Efren B. Pascual (1972-1986) to replace erstwhile Balanga Mayor **Celso V. Valdecañas**.

During the 1980 local elections, Alonzo ran for the same position against Valdecanas. He

won at the polls by 200 votes.

Despite his outstanding record in governance, Alonzo was removed from his post as a result of the 1986 EDSA Revolution. He was replaced by Atty. **Teodoro O. Camacho III**, former Balanga mayor. He returned to managing his business venture, the TRA Haulers and General Contractor, until his death on July 24, 1997.

**E n g i n e e r**  
Teddy R. Alonzo was married to Letty Tuazon-Alonzo with whom he had two sons and two daughters.



*During his administration, Alonzo ran the local government unit like a private enterprise. He was able to improve the financial standing of Balanga which qualified it to become a first class municipality. He also initiated the establishment of the BALANGA ARCADE which was inaugurated on December 12, 1985. For his accomplishments, he was adjudged as one of the three most outstanding mayors of Bataan in 1985.*

## AQUINO, Alberto M.

**A**LBERTO MAGTANONG AQUINO (1888-1972) was the 9<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> governor of Bataan. He was first elected as chief executive of the province in 1920, at the age of 32. He was re-elected in September 1935 and served until June 1938. He is best remembered for his barangay school building programs, as well as his fight against nepotism in government.



Born in Calaguiman, Samal

on November 21, 1888, Governor Aquino was the youngest of the three children of Pablo Aquino and Geronima Magtanong. He finished a Law degree and became a full-fledged lawyer on October 12, 1911. He was the second Samal native to become a lawyer. The first was Pedro Rich, his cousin, who also served as Bataan governor, in 1908-1910 and 1918-1919. It was former Gov. Rich who persuaded and helped Aquino win the governor's post in 1919.

In addition to establishing various school buildings in the barrios, Aquino also opened several farm-to-market roads in many parts of the province. It was

on July 4, 1920, during his first term as governor, that the **Bataan High School** (also known as Arellano Memorial Bataan High School and later, as Bataan National High School) was returned to Balanga from Orani. Governor Aquino sought re-election in 1922 but he was outpolled by Manuel Aguinaldo of Pilar. Immediately thereafter, he was appointed and served as judge of the Court of First Instance in Capiz, Aklan.

In 1935, after settling in Balanga with wife Ursula Banzon, he launched a successful comeback by defeating incumbent Governor Sabino de Leon Sr., also from Pilar As a returning

governor, Aquino was partly credited for the construction of major bridges along the **Bataan National Road**. The infrastructures, part of national preparations for an impending war, were funded by the American government. Aquino also completed irrigation systems for Bataan farmers, specifically in Balanga and Pilar.

Aquino returned to private practice after losing to a newcomer, Joaquin J. Linao of Morong, in 1938. He died on October 11, 1972. In his honor, the bridge in Calaguiman, Samal, was named after him.

## AQUINO, Jose B.

**J**OSE BANZON AQUINO is the youngest of the 10 children of former Governor Alberto M. Aquino and Ursula Banzon. He carved a name for himself by placing third in the Bar examinations held in 1954.



Jose is a product of the Balanga Elementary School, Arellano Memorial (Bataan) High School, and the Ateneo de Manila University where he finished his Law degree.

After passing the Bar in 1954, he was employed at the Central Bank as an investigation lawyer. Thereafter, he joined the teaching profession and became the Dean of the College of Law in one of the universities in Lanao del Norte. He also managed a local bank in Mindanao.

He and his wife, the former Josefina Ramos of Zambales, and four children had migrated to Canada. He is currently the vice president of a local bank in the said country.

Jose was a former president of the HAS Club of Balanga.

## AQUINO, Francisco B.

**F**RANCISCO BANZON AQUINO, son of former Bataan Governor Alberto M. Aquino and Ursula Banzon, is one of the major industrialists in the country. He is better known as *Mr. Café Puro* and *Mr. Fibisco*.

Francisco was born in Balanga on May 3, 1923. He completed his primary and secondary education from the Balanga Elementary School and the Bataan High School, respectively. He studied Law at the Francisco Law School in Manila.

While practicing his profession, Francisco ventured into the coffee-making business and put up the Commonwealth Foods Inc. (CFI) based in Makati. Starting in the 1950s, the company manufactured and introduced the first local brand of instant coffee in the country, under the brand name *Café Puro*. He also produced the *Fibisco* biscuits from his Pasig plant and the *Ricoa* energy drink manufactured in Mandaluyong.

Francisco, chairman of the board of CFI, is currently the

president of the Makati Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Inc.

He is married to the former Estela Dionisio Martinez of Orani with whom he has four children: Emmanuel (lawyer, Registrar of Deeds in Bataan), Vivian Aquino-Araneta, Francisco Jr., and Edward Thomas (M.D., St. Luke's Hospital).



## AUSTRIA, Doroteo M.

**D**OROTEO MANGANTI AUSTRIA (1963- ) was a provincial federation president of the *Liga ng mga Barangay* and served as an ex-officio board member of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Bataan from July 1, 2007 until December 15, 2007. He was the Punong Barangay of Bagong Silang starting in 1987 and was elected as president of LNMB -Balanga City chapter in 2002.

*Teddy* Austria, the son

of former Board Member Fernando C. Austria and Aurora Manganti-Austria, was born on July 15, 1963. He completed his elementary and secondary education at the Don Bosco School in Pampanga. He finished his high school studies at the Tomas del Rosario College in Balanga. After two years of college study at the San Beda College in Manila, he transferred to the Bataan Colleges in Balanga where he finished his Commerce

degree..

*Teddy* had been involved in the family's two major business ventures:

insurance and piggery farm in Barangay Bagong Silang. He was elected as Punong Barangay of Bagong Silang in 1992.



## AUSTRIA, Fernando C.

**FERNANDO CRUZ AUSTRIA** (1936- ), a former school teacher and a well-known insurance executive, is one of the very few politicians who never lost in his political career. He served as provincial board member of Bataan for 19 years, and as councilor of Balanga for six years, a total of 25 years in government service.

*Ped* Austria is the son of the late Benigno Austria and Rosario Cruz. He was born in Balanga on November 29, 1936. A product of the Balanga

Elementary School and the Arellano Memorial (Bataan) High School, he completed his course in Agriculture at the University of the Philippines-Los Banos in 1958.

After a short stint at the former Bataan Public Works, he joined the teaching force of the Balanga Elementary School. In 1971, he became a part-time insurance man after joining the Philamlife Insurance Company. Two years later, he resigned from his teaching job and concentrated in selling

insurance plans.

His political career started in 1980 when he ran and won a councilor's seat in the municipal council of Balanga. He was the lone opposition candidate who won during the 1980 local polls. His term ended abruptly in 1986, the year the Marcos regime fell.

Almost immediately, Austria was appointed as OIC Board Member of Bataan, together with OIC Governor **Leonardo B. Roman**. During the 1988 local elections, he

ran and was formally elected as board member. He was reelected in 1992.

Austria, past president of the Bataan Press Club (1981-1983), left politics in 1995 and concentrated on his insurance business which included Country Bankers Insurance, First Continental Assurance and the Workmen's Insurance Corporation.



*He returned to the political scene in 1998 and won in his third outing as provincial board member. He was reelected in 2001 and, for the last time, in 2004. He is presently involved with the People's General Insurance Company based in Balanga.*

## AUSTRIA, Gonzalo F., M.D.



**GONZALO F. AUSTRIA** was a Balanga native who served as one of the attending physicians to Philippine Presidents Manuel Quezon, Sergio Osmeña and Elpidio Quirino. He was also the first president of the Philippine College of Physicians, Philippine Society of Gastroenterology, Philippine Diabetis Association, and the Manila Medical Society.

**B o r n**

in Balanga, Dr. Austria was the valedictorian of his class at the Bataan High School in 1925. As a scholar of Fr. Mariano Sarili, he completed his course in Medicine at the University of the Philippines. He graduated on top of his class in 1932. Thereafter, he enrolled at the John Hopkins Hospital, USA, where he completed his Master's degree in Public Health. He also took up post-graduate course in Gastrointestinal Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania and trained in various hospitals in the United States like the Presbyterian Hospital, Cornell

Hospital, Mayor Clinic, Massachusetts General Hospital and the University of California. He had attended various international medical congress in Japan and Germany.

He was an Associate Professor at the University of the Philippines, Dean at the University of the East College of Medicine, Fellow of the Philippine College of Cardiology and the Philippine Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism. At one time, he served as chairperson of the board of Manila Doctors Hospital.

*Dr. Austria became an Associate in Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania (1942-1944) and a professor in Medicine at the University of Alabama (1978-1982). He was a Diplomate of the American Board of Internal Medicine, and an honorary Fellow of the American College of Physicians.*

## BAGALSO, SALUD A.

**D**r. SALUD A. BAGALSO (1944- ) is one of the best OB-Gynecologists in Bataan. She is the owner and medical director of the Women's Hospital in the City of Balanga.



Dr. Bagalso was born in Balanga on July 18, 1944 to parents (Ret.) Col. Claro Bagalso and Benesia Bagalso. She graduated salutatorian both in elementary

(Balanga Elementary School) and high school (Arellano Memorial High School).

She enrolled at the University of Santo Tomas where she obtained the degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1968. She had undergone post-graduate studies at the United Kingdom University of Exeter Devon, England, and Aberdeen University, Scotland in 1974 and 1975, respectively. She also took up a Master's degree in Hospital Administration from the Ateneo Graduate School of Business in 1990. She established the Women's Hospital.

Aside from being the most sought-after OB-Gyne specialist, Dr. Bagalso still finds time to involve herself in various socio-civic and religious activities. She was the president of the Bataan Medical Society (1995); National President of the Girl Scout of the Philippines; president, Bataan Tourism Council Foundation Inc. (1998-2004); West Central Luzon district director, Soroptimist International of Bataan (1990-1992) and many positions in other organizations.



## BAGSAKAN Center

**T**he BAGSAKAN CENTER (agricultural harvest depot) is the newest program of the city government to ensure residents of greater access to safe and affordable vegetable and fruits.

The city government represented by Mayor Jose Enrique Garcia III, the City

Agriculturist Office and the Department of Agriculture (DA) officially opened the Bagsakan Center on March 28, 2008. A simple launching rite and signing of the Memorandum of Agreement were conducted.

The depot is located at the upper

portion of the City of Balanga Public Market. It is the first City Government Agriculture established center in Bataan. It is also one of the city's thrusts in promoting food security, income enhancement and profitability for farmers, global competitiveness and sustainability through provision of sufficient, high quality but low-priced goods such as vegetables and fruits.

The center provides direct marketing of fresh agricultural products which are sold wholesale at prices lower than the prevailing prices in the public market.

Bagsakan Center serves as a trading post where farmers and fisherfolks of the city and other towns can directly trade their products to consumers without going through middlemen.



# BALANGA : The Capital City

The CITY OF BALANGA is the capital of Bataan. Formerly a *visita* (barrio) of Abucay town embracing the village of Pilar, it was established as a regular *mission* (town) of the Dominican Order in its Provincial Chapter on April 21, 1714. It was declared as a vicariate on April 18, 1739 under the patronage of St. Joseph, still covering the village of Pilar. It was only on March 10, 1801 when Pilar was separated from Balanga when it was finally made an independent vicariate under the spiritual ministrations of the secular clergy who replaced all regular Spanish missionaries in Luzon.

Upon the establishment of Bataan as a separate province from Pampanga in 1754, Spanish Governor General Manuel Arandia made Balanga as the provincial capital due to its favorable location, being at the center of the new territorial jurisdiction. From 1906 to 1911, however, Balanga lost its *capital* title after Governor Lorenzo Zialcita (1905-1907) made Orani as the new center of Bataan. Even the succeeding governor, Pedro Rich of Samal, retained Orani as the provincial capital. The said title was only returned to Balanga in 1911 during the administration of Governor **Mariano Rosaura** (1910-1912), a resident of Barangay Ibayo.

The municipality became a component city on December 30, 2000 through the initiative of then Congressman **Enrique T. Garcia, Jr.** and former City Mayor **Albert S. Garcia**.

The City of Balanga is situated approximately at 14 degrees 15' and 15 degrees 60' N latitude and 120 degrees 45' and 120 degrees 10' E longitude, in the mid-eastern part of Bataan. It is bounded on the north by Abucay, on south by Pilar, on east by Manila Bay and on west by the mountains of Bagac and Morong. It is located some 124 kilometers away from Manila and can be reached via two major roads -- the Bataan National Road and the Roman



Expressway. It is about 31.2 nautical miles across the bay from Manila and can be reached through the Orion Port, a 10-minute drive from Balanga.

The City covers an area of 11,163 hectares, making it the third largest community in the province. It has a recorded population of 84,105 in 2007 as per NSO Census, about 12 percent of the total population of the province. The capital city has 25 barangays.

The City's central business district is located in the Poblacion area which has been experiencing a tremendous increase in business activities for the past two decades. As a result, the demand for corporate and retail developments continue to grow.

The City of Balanga is one of the richest

naturally-endowed areas in the province. Its rich alluvial plains have contributed to its growth and agricultural economy. Agriculture has always been its chief industry. Its resources come mostly from palay production, sugarcane, corn, coconut, fruits and vegetables. Fishing also provides a steady source of income for the inhabitants. Fish products like milkfish, tilapia, shrimps, prawns, crabs, oysters and other shelled seafoods are abundant in Balanga.

## **Humble beginning**

Balanga had its humble beginnings. When Fr. Christopher Salvatierra, the first Dominican friar to set foot in Bataan in 1587, he surveyed the vast area from Orani to Orion, he found several established communities in Balanga. In all, he discovered 30 communities thriving in

the area already known as *Partido de Batán*. He and his other brethren began spreading the Gospel among the natives. The friars built the first church in Abucay in 1588. Other *visitas*, to include Balanga, were also established within the first 100 years of the Spanish colonization.

After the creation of Morong, Samal and Orion as regular towns, Balanga and Orani were also established as formal municipalities on April 21, 1714. A church was established in Balanga a couple of years before it became a vicariate under the patronage of St. Joseph. One of the oldest provincial government buildings in the country was erected in Balanga in 1729.

Balanga had its glory days. It became a progressive and one of the most exciting towns in the entire Luzon Island from the Spanish time

# BALANGA : The Capital City

up to the last years of the American period. Those glorious days came to an end in 1941 when Japanese bombers and infantrymen battered the town to bits and pieces. The Bataan Capitol, municipal hall, schools, and beautiful houses around the town plaza were razed to the ground during the fierce battles in Bataan. Even the Roman Catholic Church whose belfry was used as severely damaged.

Reconstruction of the province, specifically Balanga, became a monumental task immediately after the war. Little by little, Balanga has risen from the rubbles. Today, it serves as a catch basin for industrial growth areas in the province due to its vast resources and services. Cityhood came to Balanga on December 30, 2000.

The city has two major water tributaries, the Talisay and Cataning Rivers. Talisay River is considered the biggest and longest, snaking for more than 20 kilometers between Balanga and Pilar, and finally flowing into the Manila Bay. During rainy season, however, the town center and the coastal barangays submerged in knee-deep

water.

The City of Balanga was adjudged the 2008 “Most Business-Friendly” local government unit, a project of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce, Inc.

## Vision for Balanga

**“Balanga will be Bataan’s growth center and first city in the 21<sup>st</sup> century; a peaceful and God-fearing community that enhances the people’s quality of life through better social services, livelihood opportunities from balanced agro-industrial activities, and protection of the environment for sustainable development.”**

## Legend and Origin

In the book entitled “*Abucay: Rich in history, Rich in Culture*,” authors Dr. Felicidad C. Sinio and the late Gumercindo Rubiano of Mabatang, Abucay, wrote that:

*“...After Father Christopher Salvatierra, Father Juan Ormaza de Santo Tomas*

*came to Bataan in 1587. With him were Fr. Santa Rita, Father Eduarte and Father Pedro de Balanga. They laid down the groundwork for the establishment of a parish.”*

Two old books made mention how Balanga got its name. In the book, “*Economic and Historical Sketch of Bataan*,” author Eulogio Balan Rodriguez, one-time National Librarian of the Philippines, stated that:

*“...The origin of the word ‘Balanga’ is traced to the Tagalog word ‘balanga,’ a kind of pot made of clay used to cook fish in. The place was named after it in view of the fact that pottery is the best product of the people and it was the best of its kind that could be found.”*

Victor de Leon, former acting schools superintendent of Bataan in 1953, mentioned in his book “*History of the Bataan Province*

## Municipal Mayors/Vice Mayors of Balanga (1901-2010)

No.	Mayor	Vice Mayor	Year
1	Tomas B. Gallardo*	--	1901-1903
	Angel Mendoza*	--	1903-1905
2	Angel Mendoza	--	1905-1907
3	Antonio Tuason Sr.	--	1907-1909
4	Amado de Leon	--	1909-1912
5	Andres de Leon	--	1912-1916
6	Jose P. Banzon	--	1916-1919
7	Venancio Banzon	--	1919-1922
	Venancio Banzon	--	1922-1925
	Venancio Banzon	--	1925-1928
8	Antonio Tuason Sr.	Jose N. Gonzales	1928-1931
9	Venancio Banzon	Jose N. Gonzales	1931-1934
10	Mariano Batungbacal	Jose N. Gonzales	1934-1937
11	Mariano Herrera	Jose Gonzales	1938-1941
	Mariano Herrera	Geronimo Roman	1941-1942
12	Mariano Batungbacal*	-none-	1942-1943
13	Numeriano Quindoy*	-none-	1943-1944
14	Carlos Y. Gonzales*+	-none-	1944-1945
15	Mariano Herrera*	Jose B. Banzon	1945-1946
16	Jose N. Gonzales*	Jose B. Banzon	1946-1947
17	Graciano Pastorfide*	Jose B. Banzon	1947-1947
18	Pedro R. Dizon	Silvino dela Fuente**	
		Crispulo Torrico	
19	Crispulo Torrico	--	1951-1951
20	Faustino Vigo	Jose N. Gonzales	1952-1955
21	Pedro Dizon	Domingo Javier	1956-1959
22	Emilio Bernabe	Miguel Recano	1960-1963
23	Vicente Malibiran	Angel T. Banzon	1964-1967
24	Teodoro Camacho III*	Victor Y. Baluyot	1968-1971
25	Celso Valdecanas	Alfredo Jaraba	1972-1975
	Celso Valdecanas***	Alfredo Jaraba***	1976-1979
26	Teodoro R. Alonzo*	Herminio Dizon	1979-1980
	Teodoro R. Alonzo	Herminio Dizon	1980-1986
27	Teodoro Camacho III*	Gabriel Nisay Sr.	1986-1988
28	Melanio Banzon Jr.	Domingo Dizon	1988-1992
	Melanio Banzon Jr.	Domingo Dizon	1992-1995
	Melanio Banzon Jr.	Francisco dela Cruz	1995-1998
29	Albert S. Garcia	Noli Venzon	1998-2001
	Albert S. Garcia	Noli Venzon	2001-2004
30	Melanio S. Banzon Jr.	Noli Venzon	2004-2007
31	Jose Enrique Garcia	Noel Valdecanas	2007-2010
	Jose Enrique Garcia	Noel Valdecanas	2010-

\* appointed mayor \*\* resigned \*\*\* extended \*+ appointed/assassinated

## BARANGAY

Barangay	Barangayhood (date of creation)	Area (hec.)	Population (2007)	Households	Barangay	Barangayhood (date of creation)	Area (hec.)	Population (2007)	Households
Bagong Silang	1988	525.00	4,787	859	Munting Batangas	Apr. 13, 1973	653.47	2,116	509
Bagumbayan	Apr. 17, 1961	9.58	2,331	545	Poblacion	1915	21.84	707	199
Cabog-cabog	Jan. 1950	284.90	1,761	409	Pto. Rivas Ibaba	1915	18.29	4,343	933
Camacho	May 16, 1969	111.27	3,509	740	Pto. Rivas Itaas	1915	164.65	2,014	472
Cataning	1915	950.20	6,139	1,259	Pto. Rivas Lote	Feb. 1, 1982	27.68	2,611	399
Central	Jan. 15, 1968	433.86	4,035	829	San Jose	Feb. 29, 1960	92.34	7,130	1,402
Cupang North	Apr. 12, 1982	32.80	2,281	515	Sibacan	1960	97.78	1,713	442
Cupang Proper	1915	1,422.15	9,565	1,786	Talisay	1915	34.77	1,542	470
Cupang West	Dec. 12, 1971	25.87	1,915	455	Tanato	Oct. 10, 1949	1,403.93	642	129
Dangcol	Dec. 29, 1976	2,445.37	1,254	261	Tenejero	July 6, 1948	426.05	8,632	1,871
Dona Francisca	Feb. 1, 1982	71.60	2,432	461	Tortugas	1915	32.09	2,872	645
Ibayo	1915	62.77	2,177	443	Tuyo	1931	1,778.65	6,764	1,203
Malabia	1915	4.65	833	194	Total		11,163.00	84,105	17,430

## BALANGA Arcade

**B**ALANGA ARCADE was the first major commercial center established in Balanga in 1984. It was built by former Mayor TEODORO R. ALONZO (1979-1986).

As envisioned, the local government of Balanga did not spend a single centavo to complete the project. It was the first BOT (Built-Operate-Transfer) project in Balanga.

The arcade was erected at the site of the old Balanga Public Market which was relocated to Barangay San Jose during the terms



of Mayors TEODORO CAMACHO III and Engineer Celso V. Valdecañas.

Some 134 permanent stalls were initially built inside the Arcade at the expense of the stallholders, most of whom owned stalls at the old public market.

The arcade was officially opened on December 12, 1984. Present during the inauguration were San Juan Mayor Joseph Estrada (who later on became Philippine President), Vice-Governor CAROLINA N. BELTRAN, Pagasa Pascual (representing her husband, Gov. Efren B. Pascual), Balanga Bishop Celso N. Guevarra and some 6,000 residents.

The present Balanga Arcade is operated and maintained by the City Economic Enterprise & Development Office headed by Amalio Resuello. The number of stalls in the arcade remained at 134, excluding the more than 50 open stalls. The arcade's gross income in 2006 amounted to P2,157,455.00, and P1,973,864.00 in 2007 (December income not included).

In February 2010, the whole arcade was demolished to give way to a proposed five-storey commercial building cum hotel which will be known as Galeria Victoria Mall



## BALANGA Power Plant

**T**he BALANGA POWER PLANT was the biggest and most successful electric power producing company in Bataan prior to the establishment of the National Power Corporation and the Bataan Electric Cooperative.

The plant was established near the banks of Catanning River on February 15, 1928. The original incorporators were EMILIO MA. NAVAL, Engineer Jose B. Banzon, Guillermo Gutierrez and Dr. Antonio Banzon. It was established as the power supplier of the newly-opened BATAAN SUGAR CENTRAL and the Bataan Ice Plant which were set up in Balanga in 1929 and 1930, respectively. In time, the power plant became the sole distributor of electricity to residences and commercial establishments in Balanga and nearby localities.

The Balanga plant was damaged during the war but it was immediately rehabilitated. Thereafter, its scope of power distribution was extended to the neighboring towns, from Samal down to Orion. It even bought the Marcial Sioson Electric Plant in Hermosa as part of its expansion program in the 1960s.

The plant closed down permanently on June 15, 1975 as power distribution in the province was taken over by the Southern Bataan Electric Cooperative based in Calungusan, Orion. It was the forerunner of the Bataan Electric Cooperative (Batelco) which later on became the PENINSULA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE (Penelco).

# BALANGA Public Market

The BALANGA PUBLIC MARKET is the biggest income generating business concern of the capital city. It was adjudged as the most outstanding public market in Bataan in 2006. It also grabbed the title of the Outstanding Local Price Coordinating Council in Region III on the same year. In 2005, Balanga was cited as the City with the Cleanest Public Market Restroom in the country. These remarkable accomplishments had proven that the City Public Market was really Balanga's real *Pride*.



The public market had its humble beginnings. It started in 1902 as a simple but over-sized *talipapa* at the back of the old Bataan Capitol building, formerly located in front of the town plaza of Balanga. It expanded gradually as soon as the soldiers' barracks of the US Army Volunteers, situated beside the Capitol, was transferred to Talisay.

The whole market area suffered several minor conflagrations during its first 40 years of existence. The worst came in January 1941 when the whole area, including the old Bataan Capitol, was razed to the ground as Japanese planes dropped incendiary bombs on USAFFE soldiers gathered around the town center. The market was rebuilt immediately and continued to operate during the Japanese Occupation.

In 1950, a few months after the new Capitol building was inaugurated in Upper San Jose, the public market started occupying the whole area in front of the town plaza. More

stalls were opened and the surrounding areas became fully commercialized.

During the administration of Mayor TEODORO CAMACHO III, in 1969, the public market was transferred to San Jose, on the 2.4-hectare lot donated by Aurora Banzon Camacho. The market had permanent building structures: Buildings 1 & 2 for dry goods; and Building 3 for fish, meat, fruits and vegetables, as well as grains stalls, grocery stores and carinderias. The covered area totalled about 13,120 square meters.

Unfortunately, a fire of undetermined origin destroyed Buildings 1 and 2 on the night of August 14, 1983. The buildings were immediately replaced and the market remained operational. In 1995, the USAID, through the Local Government Infrastructure Fund helped build additional stalls for the fruit and vegetables section. Another covered building for fruits and vegetables was added during the



administration of Mayor ALBERT S. GARCIA (1998-2001, 2001-2004).

The market has a total of 1,063 permanent and open stalls as of 2007.

The Balanga Public Market and the City Slaughterhouse, as well as the Balanga Arcade, are presently operating under the City Economic Enterprises and Development Office, under the leadership of Amalio Resuello (as of 2007). The office maintains some 139 employees.

The public market generated some P9,010,523.00 income in 2006 and P9,467,887.00 in 2007.

The Balanga market is currently undergoing major rehabilitation and expansion programs worth P45 million.

### **First Balanga market**

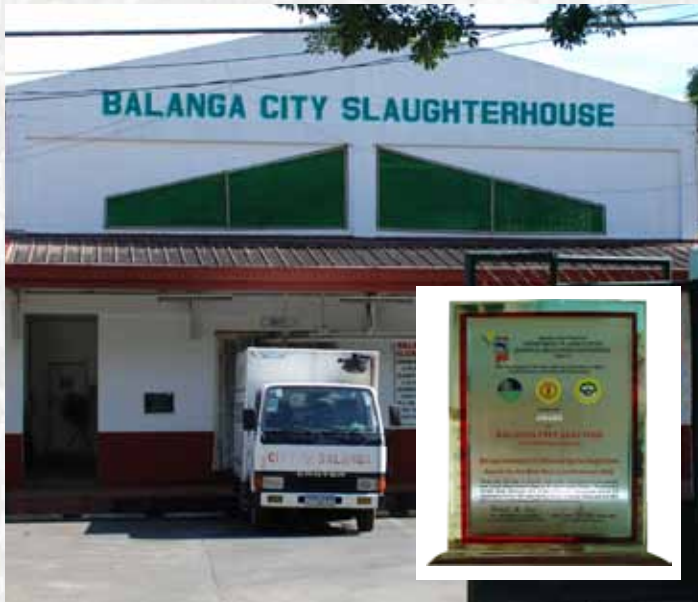
*Based on existing Dominican records, it was Fr. Benito Rivas, assigned in Balanga from*

*1845 to 1864 and again from 1867 to 1878, who erected the rectangular market at the site currently occupied by the Balanga Arcade (specifically at the back of the old Capitol building). The market catered to the whole province and where the women of Malabon sold articles needed by the natives of the province and from where they, in turn, bought sugar to take home. From here, tuyo (dried fish) and rice were also exported.*





## BALANGA Slaughterhouse



The present BALANGA SLAUGHTERHOUSE, a place where animals are slaughtered for food, is located along the Market Access Road in Barangay San Jose, at the back of the Balanga Public Market.

The present slaughterhouse building was built in 1994, during the administration of Mayor Melanio S. Banzon, Jr.(1988-1998). Some P5 million were spent for its construction. It replaced the old slaughterhouse originally located at the northern tip of Barangay Malabia, now occupied by the Malabia barangay hall/ barangay plaza.

Improvements worth about P2 million were introduced to the facility during the administration of City Mayor Albert S Garcia (1998-2004). The said improvements include a wastewater treatment unit.

The slaughterhouse, as well as the Balanga

Public Market and the Balanga Arcade, presently operate under the City Economic Enterprises and Development Office, under the supervision of Amalio Resuello, the market master as of 2007.

In 2007, some 29,681 hogs, 1,093 cattles, 42 carabaos, 132 horses and 171 goats were slaughtered at the Balanga Slaughterhouse.

The City Slaughterhouse, adjudged as the Cleanest and Most Disinfected Slaughterhouse in Region III in 2005, contributed about P1,665,700.00 to the city coffers in 2006 and another P1,712,207.00 in 2007.

On October 14, 2008, the facility won the Central Luzon Best Meat LGU-Operated Establishment Award. It was adudged second placer in the national level.

## BALANGA Water District

The BALANGA WATER DISTRICT is the major supplier of potable water to 6,004 households in Balanga through piped-in system, about 52 percent of the total 11,409 households in the city.

The water district started operating as a pumping station in 1929, during the administration of Mayors VENANCIO BANZON and ANTONIO TUASON. It was initially managed and operated by the Pampanga-based National Waterworks and Sewerage Authority (Nawasa).

At present, the water district operates and maintains nine water tanks (Doña Francisca, Poblacion, San Jose, Balanga Public Market, Taglesville, Sta. Maria, Barrio

Campo, Doña Maria and Cupang Proper). The list excludes the small water tank in Tuyo (Monark Subdivision). In addition, the water district maintains a total of 30 pumping stations, distributed all over the city.

The so-called Pumping Station Number One, located beside the present city hall, is being run by a powerful submersible pump. Initially, it was powered by a 25-horsepower turbine. Its main pipe, measuring 10 inches in diameter, has a depth of 135 meters. It has a main tank with a designed capacity of 100,000 gallons but had been downgraded to 60,000 gallons.

Paterno de Jesus of Balanga was the first supervisor of the Balanga Waterworks System

which was turned over to the municipal government after the war. Engineer Arsenio Dizon became its first general manager. He retired from his post in 2002 but was retained as consultant.

On August 1, 1980, the waterworks was placed under the supervision of the Local Waterworks Utility Administration (LWUA), the agency that regulates all water districts in the country. The said agency funded the procurement of the new turbine still being used by the district.

The water district has a gross collection of P25,061,601.00 in 2007.

Carlito de Leon is the current general manager of the Balanga Water District.



## BALUYOT, Victor Y.

VICTOR YAMBAO BALUYOT was the vice-mayor of Balanga from 1968 until 1971. He initially served as municipal councilor from 1964 to 1967. He was also elected as board member of the Second District of Bataan from 1988 until 1992.



Baluyot, a native of Tortugas, Balanga, was the son of Juan Baluyot and Mercedita Yambao. He completed his elementary and secondary education from the Maximino delos Reyes Elementary

School and the Arellano Memorial (Bataan) High School, respectively. He completed a college course in Manila.

Baluyot was a *consignacion* owner at the Balanga Public Market when he decided to run for a councilor's seat during the November 12, 1963 local polls. He won and served for four years, during the administration of Mayor VICENTE MALIBIRAN (1963-1967).

In January 1968, he started serving Balanga as vice-mayor, together with Mayor TEODORO CAMACHO III. Thereafter, he was involved in the contracting business and even managed a canteen at the Bataan Infant Jesus School in San Jose, Balanga.

Baluyot returned to politics in 1988 when he ran and won as provincial board member of Bataan. His reelection bid in 1992, however, was unsuccessful. He is currently staying in the United States.



## BANKS

A BANK is a financial institution where people deposit their money for safekeeping. People open savings accounts in the bank that earn them interest, about 12 percent per annum. They can open checking accounts so they can pay their bills with checks.

People can borrow money from the bank to build house, open a business and the like. The banks make profit by lending the deposited money to people and businesses, or by simply investing it. Banks play an important role in helping economic growth.

The City of Balanga has 20 operating commercial banks at present. Some of these financial institutions are owned by enterprising Bataeños.

The Pizarro family owns the Rural Bank of Pilar. In addition to its main office in Poblacion, Pilar, it has five more branches located in Balanga, Samal, Orani, Cabcaban, and in Poblacion (Mariveles).

The late Rufino Reyes owned the Balanga Rural Bank. Serafin Q. Roman, former vice-governor of Bataan, is one of the owners of the Bataan Development Bank which has a branch in Poblacion. The Rural Bank of Bagac, located along the Manuel Banzon Street, is owned by businessmen from Bataan. The Capitol-based Bataan Cooperative Bank is owned by its members.

Banco Filipino, located along Rizal Street in Poblacion, is owned by the Aguirre family. The Balanga branch opened on May 24, 2000.

The Cruz family of Hermosa also had a thrift bank in Balanga. Unfortunately, the Hermosa Savings Bank was taken over by the Philippine Depositors Insurance Corporation in February 2005.

In addition to the abovementioned institutions, there are other fifteen commercial banks operating in Balanga, to wit: Balanga Rural Bank in DFS, Banco Filipino Savings & Mortgage in Poblacion, Bataan Development Bank in Poblacion, Development Bank of the Philippines in DFS, BDO-Balanga (Equitable-PCI Bank) in Poblacion, Rural Bank of Pilar in Poblacion, Guagua Savings Bank in San Jose, Land Bank of the Philippines in Poblacion, Metro Bank and Trust Co. in Poblacion, Bank of Philippine Islands – in Rizal St., Poblacion, Philippine National Bank in Poblacion, United Coconut Planters Bank in Poblacion, LBC Development Bank in San Jose, Planters Development Bank in Poblacion, Bank of Philippine Islands in Banzon Ave in Poblacion, Bataan Cooperative Bank in San Jose, Unity Bank in San Jose, Rural Bank of Bagac in San Jose and China Banking Corporation in DFS.

## BANSON, Luis Manuel T.

**L**UIS MANUEL TANJANGCO BANSON is the current president of Monark Constructors Corporation, Concrete Masters Inc. and the CMC-Monark-Pacific Tri-Joint Venture, developer of the soon-to-rise *Novo City* in Quezon City.



Luis Manuel is the third of five children of Onofre Banson and Carmelita S. Tanjangco. He finished his elementary and secondary education at the Ateneo de Manila University. Just like his father, he finished a Bachelor's degree

in Civil Engineering from the University of the Philippines-Diliman. He completed his Master's degree in Industrial Engineering and Engineering Management from the Stanford University in the United States.

*Louie* Banson, a consummate corporate executive, is also the chairman of Nissan Gallery-Ortigas and treasurer of Regalia Group of Companies and Scorpio Land Properties Holdings, Inc. He holds directorship in other companies such as the Monark Equipment, Polar World Holdings, Halco Prime Holdings, Libra Agro-Industrial Contractors, Nissan Car Lease Philippines, White Craft, Inc. and GIS Aranet Inc.

Louie is married to Regina with whom he has nine children.

## BANSON, Onofre B.

**O**NOFRE BANSON BANSON was a well-known civil engineer from Balanga who founded Monark International, a multi-billion peso construction company.

Engineer Banson, the son of Dr. Antonio F. Banson Sr. and Feliza Banson, was born and raised in Paterno St., Poblacion, Balanga. He completed his secondary education as salutatorian at the Bataan High School, Class 1940.

Banson finished a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from the University of the Philippines-Diliman. He founded Monark International in the early 1960s, together with his second cousin Joaquin T. Banson and brother-in-law Reynaldo Tanjangco of Bulacan. The company's main office is located along E. Rodriguez Avenue in Libis, Quezon City.

The company was involved in various types of construction, such as roads and major irrigation projects. Monark undertook the Pilar-Mariveles phase of the Roman Expressway (also known as Bataan Highway), Pilar-Morong

Highway (known today as Governor Joaquin J. Linao Highway), Gamu-Roxas Road, and the Jaro-January-Calinog Road in Iloilo, among others.

Engr. Banson also completed the Chico Dam Irrigation Project, Pantabangan Dam, Danon Dam and the Magat Dam in San Ramon, Isabela, acknowledged as the most expensive and the biggest dam in Asia. It was completed at a staggering cost of P23.7 billion.

Onofre Banson was married to the former Carmelita Suntay Tanjangco of Bulacan with whom he had five children: Anafel B. Pastelero (Monark's finance vice president), Jose Antonio, Luis Manuel, Minette and Onofre Jr. He passed away in 1998.



## BANZON, Adela S.

**A**DELA SANCHEZ BANZON (1921- ) is a registered nurse from Barangay Tuyo, Balanga who on May 12, 1985 was named "Florence Nightingale of the Philippines" by the International Committee of the Red Cross based in Geneva, Switzerland. It was the result of her dedicated service as a staff nurse of the Bataan Provincial Hospital (BPH, now Bataan General Hospital) and the Hagonoy Emergency Hospital during the Japanese Occupation from 1942 to 1945. She was bestowed the same Florence Nightingale Medal Award by the Ministry of Health National League of Nurses Inc. on July 10, 1986.

Ms. Banzon was born in Tuyo on July 5, 1921. A product of Balanga Elementary School and the former Bataan High School, she completed her Nursing course at the University of the Philippines -Philippine General Hospital School of Nursing in 1942. She passed the board examinations on the same year.

In 1955, she was granted scholarships by the National Economic Council and International Cooperation Agency and the Nursing Service Administration of Syracuse University, New



York, USA. She had several hospital residency trainings in New York, Illinois, Washington, D.C. and China.

She finished her Master of Arts degree in Nursing at the Far Eastern University, Institute of Graduate Studies in 1968. She was the chief nurse of the BPH (1947-1954), Laguna Provincial Hospital (1954-1958) and Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital (1958-1986). She was also a delegate to the Joint International Congress of International Society of Hematology and Blood Banking held in France and Hungary in 1982. She retired from the government service on July 6, 1986.

In addition to the Florence Nightingale award, she was also named "Outstanding Daughter of Balanga" by the HAS Club in April 2002, and was a "Galing Pilipino Movement" awardee in August 2007, courtesy of the City of Balanga led by Mayor Joet Garcia.

## BANZON, Angel T.

ANGEL TIANGCO BANZON was Balanga's vice-mayor from 1964-1967, during Mayor Vicente Malibiran's administration.



Banzon, son of Angel Banzon and Josefa Tiangco, was born in Poblacion on March 14, 1922. The other Banzon siblings include Federico, Angelita, Perla, Mauricio and Filoteo. He studied an Engineering course at the Far Eastern University. His initial entry into the world of politics was during the November 1959 local polls when he ran for a councilor's seat. He placed on top of

the eight winning councilors, together with Mayor Emilio Bernabe and Vice Mayor Miguel Recaño.

During the November 1963 election, he ran as runningmate of mayoralty-candidate Vicente Malibiran of Puerto Rivas. Both of them won and reigned from January 1964 until December 30, 1967.

He ran for reelection in 1967 but lost to Victor Y. Baluyot of Tortugas, a former councilor. He suffered another defeat in 1971 when he ran for the same position against Atty. Alfredo Jaraba of Cupang West. His runningmate, Engr. Celso Valdecañas, however, won against reelectionist Mayor Teodoro Camacho III.

## BANZON, Aveto C.

AVETO CAPARAZ BANZON (1935-2009) was an ex-officio provincial board member of Bataan from 1994 to 2000. He was elected as Provincial Federation President of the Liga ng mga Barangay.



"Bening" Banzon was born in Cupang Proper, Balanga, on January 10, 1935 to parents Dominador and Basilia Banzon. He graduated from the Far Eastern University with a Commerce degree in 1960. He was employed at the Bataan

Public Works (1954-1957). After graduating from college, he joined the Philippine National Bank as credit supervisor.

He was initially elected as Punong Barangay of Doña Francisca in 1994 and, immediately thereafter, became president of the Liga ng mga Barangay in Balanga. He returned to his hardware and construction business after his term at the Capitol in 2000. His son, Jovy, continued the family's political tradition and had already completed serving his third term as city councilor of Balanga whom at present is one of the board members of the Second District of Bataan.

## BANZON, Conrado P.

CONRADO PIZARRO BANZON, a native of Balanga, was the country's most famous ophthalmologist. He was named "Most Outstanding Physician" by the Professional Regulatory Commission (PRC). In a fitting ceremony held at the PICC in Manila on June 22, 2000, the "Top Physician" award was conferred to Dr. Banzon by PRC Commissioners Hermogenes Pobre, Alfonso Abad and Avelina dela Rea-Tan, in the presence of former Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide, Jr.

Dr. Banzon was in the company of 35 other awardees cited for their excellence, achievement and unparalleled contributions to the country.

"Rado" Banzon was the son of former Congressman Manuel Banzon Sr. and Juana S. Pizarro. A graduate of the Arellano Memorial High School, he studied Medicine at the University of Santo Tomas. Thereafter, he founded his own EENT clinic in Sampaloc, Manila in the 1950s. He also finished post-graduate studies at the Bronx Eye and Ear Infirmary in New York City, USA.

Dr. Banzon pioneered in Refractive Surgery by



introducing Radial Keratotomy in the Philippines. He also spearheaded the unification of Filipino eye doctors into one specialty association in 1971. He served as secretary-general of the Asia Graduate Course in Ophthalmology and chairman of the EENT Department of UST where he also served as the medical director of the UST Hospital.

Banzon was one of the founding members and former president of the HAS Club of Balanga. He was also the President of the Bataan High School Alumni Association for 18 years. He was married to the former Filomena "Nenita" Delgado of Manila and had seven children: Radito, Dr. Marcel, Renato, Lizette Banzon-Cojuangco, Monique Banzon-Daza, Raul and Yvonne. He passed away on August 15, 2008.

## BANZON, Crisostomo G.

**C**RISOSTOMO GARCIA BANZON was Balanga's representative to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan from 1972 to 1992, with a two-year interruption from 1986 until 1988.

Board Member Ming Banzon was born in Balanga on August 13, 1930. His parents were former Bataan Congressman Manuel Banzon Sr. and the former Teofila Garcia. He graduated from the Pilar Elementary School in 1943 and

completed his secondary education at the Arellano Memorial (Bataan) High School in 1949.

He studied Law at the University of Santo Tomas while working as an assistant public relations officer at the office of Senator Amang Rodriguez. He passed the Bar examinations in 1957. Immediately, he was assigned as municipal judge of Orion from 1957 until 1969.

Following the footsteps of his

father, he entered the political scene in 1971. He ran for a board member seat and won handily in his first attempt. He served Bataan continuously from 1972 until 1986, under Governor Efren B. Pascual of Orani. After a two-year absence at the Capitol resulting from the EDSA People Power, he made a successful comeback as board member in 1988. He served his office until 1992, under Governor Leonardo B. Roman.

His reelection bid in 1992, however, resulted to his first defeat at the polls.

From then on, he shied away from politics and returned to his private practice as a lawyer. He was president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines-Bataan Chapter from 2001 until 2003.



## BANZON, Jose B.

**J**OSE BANZON BANZON was the vice-mayor of Balanga from October 1, 1945 until December 31, 1947, during the incumbency of three acting Mayors Mariano Herrera, Jose N. Gonzales and Graciano Pastorfide.

Banzon was born on March 27, 1898 in Poblacion to parents Buenaventura T. Banzon and Jacoba G. Banzon. He was the brother of Concepcion Banzon-Abello of



VETAF's Superstore. He was among the first graduates of the Bataan High School at the time it was still based in Orani. He completed his Mechanical and Electrical Engineering courses at the Indiana University, USA.

Banzon, one of the pioneering engineers in Balanga, initiated the establishment of the Balanga Power Plant. The power-generating plant started its operation in Balanga on February 15, 1928. The other incorporators were Emilio Ma. Naval, Guillermo Gutierrez and Dr. Antonio Banzon Sr. Engineer Banzon served as the general manager of the plant during its entire years of operation.

On October 1, 1945, Banzon was appointed as acting vice-mayor of Balanga by the newly-appointed

Governor Teodoro Camacho. He served his term under acting Mayor Mariano Herrera (1945-1946). When former Bataan Governor Joaquin Linao was appointed to replace Camacho, he appointed Jose N. Gonzales as the new acting mayor of Balanga. Vice-mayor Banzon was retained in his post and allowed to serve until January 15, 1947. Mayor Gonzales also did not stay long in his post. He was replaced

by another appointed mayor, Graciano Pastorfide, who reigned from January 15, 1947 until December 30, 1947. Again, Banzon remained in office during the same period.

Banzon did not run for any office during the November 11, 1947 local election. Instead, he concentrated in the expansion programs of the Balanga Power Plant. He passed away on April 28, 1980.

Banzon was married to Pura Ramirez, a commerce graduate from Gapan, Nueva Ecija. The couple had two sons, namely Dr. Restituto Banzon (deceased) and Luis "Lito" Banzon of the Golden Heart Pawnshop in Balanga.

## BANZON, Hugo

**H**UGO BANZON (1850-1898), son of Julian Banzon and uncle of former Bataan Congressman Manuel Banzon Sr.. He was a revolutionary leader and patriot. He was the lone fatality during the successful uprising of rebels from Balanga against the Spaniards in May 1898.

When the Filipino-Spanish hostilities broke out in the afternoon of May 27, 1898, Hugo Banzon, a wealthy landowner from Poblacion, gathered his bolo-wielding militiamen, mostly farmers, and proceeded to the town plaza. He was immediately tasked by General Domingo Alonzo of Puerto Rivas to secure the Cataning area which could be used as an escape route by the beleaguered Spaniards.

Unfortunately, Banzon and his rebels were met by a volley of cannon fire coming from a Spanish outpost located along the present Paterno Street in Poblacion. Banzon was mortally wounded and took his last breath. He was the lone casualty in the said uprising that lasted for three days (May 27-30).

The people of Balanga recognized his deeds and patriotism by naming the street where he died as Hugo Banzon Street.



## BANZON, Jose VH.



**J**OSE VICTOR HUGO BANZON (1913-1990) was a native of Balanga who was involved in at least three wars: World War II, Korean War and the Vietnam War. A WWII Silver Medal awardee, he was also an officer of the Philippine Expeditionary Force to Korea (PEFTOK) and one of the organizers of “Operation Brotherhood” that provided humanitarian services to the people of Vietnam.

Colonel “Pepe” Banzon was born in Balanga on April 11, 1913 to parents Don Manuel L. Banzon Sr., former Bataan congressman, and Arcadia Arca. Instead of using “A” as his middle initial, he decided to use “VH” (Victor Hugo).

Even before World War II broke out, he was already an officer of the Philippine Army with the rank of captain. He was assigned as commander of the Second Battalion, 71<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment, 71<sup>st</sup> Division that was based in Capas, Tarlac. On

December 20, 1941, the battalion was sent to Pangasinan by General Jonathan Wainwright to reinforce the 11<sup>th</sup> Division. As the Japanese Army advanced toward Central Luzon, the 71<sup>st</sup> Division and other units withdrew to Bataan. Banzon earned his Silver Star medal for bravery during an encounter with the enemy in Baliwag, Bulacan.

As part of the so-called Dinalupihan-Hermosa Delay Phase Line, the 71<sup>st</sup> Division occupied the eastern portion of the Bataan Highway, specifically the barrios of Pulo and Almacén, in Hermosa. After the said line was abandoned, the 71<sup>st</sup> was assigned in Aglaloma, Bagac, and was involved in the so-called “Battle of Points.” Banzon was among the USAFFE soldiers who surrendered to the Japanese after the Fall of Bataan. He also suffered the tragedies of the Death March and the hardships of being incarcerated at Camp O’Donnell. After his release, he joined the guerrilla movement.

He continued his military service even after the war. He was placed in command of a PEFTOK battalion that was sent to South Korea in the 1950s. During the Vietnam War, he organized the Operation Brotherhood.

After his retirement from the Army, Col. Banzon became a military attaché in Thailand, Cambodia, Indonesia and Vietnam. He also served as military adviser during the term of President Ramon Magsaysay. Thereafter, he became a director at the Philippine Refugee Processing Center in Morong, Bataan.

After his retirement from the Army, Col. Banzon became a military attaché in Thailand, Cambodia, Indonesia and Vietnam. He also served as military adviser during the term of President Ramon Magsaysay. Thereafter, he became a director at the Philippine Refugee Processing Center in Morong, Bataan.

Col. Banzon was married to Maria Nicolas. He was the doting father of Marietta, Rolando, Angelo and Victor. He passed away on January 23, 1990.

## BANZON, Jose P.

**J**OSE PUZON BANZON (1887-1943) was the sixth mayor of Balanga, from 1916 until 1919. He was the father of Luz Banzon-Magsaysay, who became the First Lady of the Philippines starting in December 1953.



Jose “Mameng” Banzon was born in Balanga in 1887. The sobriquet “Joseng Mameng” was derived from his mother’s nickname (Carmen Puzon). It was fondly used to differentiate him from the other Jose Banzons in Balanga and neighboring towns.

Scion of a wealthy family, Banzon ran for the mayoralty post in 1916 and defeated erstwhile Mayor Andres de Leon (1912-1916). Banzon did not seek reelection and instead supported his cousin Venancio Banzon who was elected mayor in 1919.

Mayor Banzon and his family, excluding daughter Luz who married Ramon Magsaysay in 1933, evacuated to Hagonoy, Bulacan during the Japanese Occupation. He passed away in an evacuation camp in 1943.

Mayor Banzon was married to Lucila Tiangco Rosaura (sister of former Bataan Governor Mariano Rosaura). His children were Encarnacion, Consuelo B. Catindig, Rosario B. de Gala, Elisa B. Cabal, Luz B. Magsaysay, became the wife of Philippine President Ramon Magsaysay Sr. (1953-1957), Aurelio, Agustin, Antonio and Eduardo Banzon.

## BANZON, Julian A.



**J**ULIAN ARCA BANZON, a noted chemist from Balanga, was the National Scientist of the Philippines in 1978. His greatest contribution to the progress of the country was his studies on sugar cane and

coconut as possible sources of renewable chemicals and fuel. He was able to produce ethyl esters from coconut and sugar cane. He also devised a novel method in the extraction of coconut oil through chemical process.

Dr. "Jules" Banzon was born in Balanga to parents Manuel Banzon Sr., former Bataan congressman, and his first wife Arcadia Arca of Cavite. He completed his Bachelor's degree in Chemistry at the University of the Philippines-Diliman. He finished his Doctorate

degree, major in Biophysical Chemistry and minor in Microbiology at the Iowa State University, USA, in 1940.

Starting in 1930, he was employed as assistant instructor at the UP College of Agriculture in Los Baños, Laguna. He spent the most productive years of his life at the UP-Los Baños where he initiated and completed his research works and inventions. He was associate professor when he moved over to the Philippine Atomic Energy Commission in 1958 as Chief Scientist and later as director.

In 1966, Dr. Banzon rejoined the UPLB as full professor and chairman of the Department of Agricultural Chemistry. In 1970, he became the first chief administrator of the Food Science and Technology Department until he retired in 1973.

In addition to his 1978 "National Scientist" award from the Professional Regulatory Commission, Dr. Banzon also received other recognitions: Distinguished Alumnus Award, given by UP in 1986; Distinguished Service Award by the Integrated

Chemists of the Philippines, Inc., 1980; PHILSUGIN Award for Research, Crop Science Society of the Philippines, 1976; and Outstanding Chemical Graduate, UP Chemical Society, 1970.

Dr. Banzon was married to the former Dr. Vivencia Fernandez of Cebu with whom had ten children, namely Cecilia, Teresa, Julian, Isabela, Genara, Joel, Daylinda, Julio, Patricia and Pacita. He passed away on September 14, 1988 and was interred at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Manila.

## BANZON, Manuel L. Sr.

**M**ANUEL DE LEON BANZON SR. (1884-1976) was Bataan's sixth Congressman. He represented the province in Congress from 1925 to 1928. One of his major accomplishments was the completion of the old Bataan National Road from Dinalupihan to Lamao, Limay.

Congressman Banzon was born in Balanga on June 13, 1884. He was the

eldest of seven children of Candido Banzon and Juliana P. de Leon. He completed his secondary education from the Bataan High School in Orani and enrolled at the Escuela de Leyes in Manila in 1905.

In 1907, he was elected as councilor of Balanga at age 23. In addition, he also worked as confidential secretary of his uncle, then Balanga Mayor AMANDO P. DE LEON. After two

years, he returned to Manila and continued his studies to become a lawyer. He supported his schooling by working as chief of staff of former Congressman Tomas del Rosario. He passed the Bar examinations in 1912.

His affiliation with the congressman became very handy when he ran for the same congressional position in 1925. He beat the incumbent Antonio G.

Llamas of Mariveles. It was during his term that he joined forces with Governor Gregorio R. Quicho of Orion to complete the Bataan National Road, specifically the Orion-Limay portion.

Don Manuel was a former president of the Bataan Lawyers League and the Bataan Sugar Planters. He was married twice, to Arcadia Arca and Teofila Velasco Garcia of Bulacan.



He had a total of 17 children. He passed away in February 1976.

## BANZON, Marcelino D.

A man who is headed for more successes, Marcel is the son of preeminent ophthalmologist, Dr. Conrado Banzon, who carries the genes of an achiever.

His name Marcelino D. Banzon is a well-known Life Fellow at the Philippine Academy of Ophthalmology and a pediatric ophthalmologist who had contributed much in the education and training of medical students in Ophthalmology.

At present, he is a Professor in the University of Santo Tomas

(UST) and the St. Lukes College of Medicine. He has been sharing with his students his expertise gained as practicing physician/surgeon and as post graduate fellow who has trained in the United States and United Kingdom. His experiences are further enhanced when he became the Residency Training Officer and Supervisor of the Out-Patient Department of the UST Hospital. He has been a member of the Board Examiners in the Philippine Board of Ophthalmology, since 1995 that makes him a multi dimensional

educator.

Marcel has been involved in two significant projects; one, that deals with the advancement of technical collaboration from the ophthalmologists of the world and the other, that involves the implementation in the Philippines of the World Health Organization project vision 2000 which covers three major areas: the treatment of cataract, the eradication of the childhood blindness, and the elimination of errors of refraction

among children. As President of the Philippine Academy of Ophthalmology (PAO) in 2005, he was able to make the American Academy of Ophthalmologists to come to Manila for a first ever joint meeting with Asian counterparts.



## BANZON, Melanio S. Jr.



MELANIO SANCHEZ BANZON JR. (1950- ) was the 28<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> mayor of the City of Balanga. He was first elected for three consecutive terms, from 1988-1992, 1992-1995 to 1995-1998. He made a successful comeback

in 2004 and served as city mayor until 2007. Prior to his successful return to Balanga, he was elected twice as provincial board member of Bataan, in 1998 and 2001.

Melanio “Boying” Banzon is a mechanical engineer by profession. He was born in Balanga on October 1, 1950. His parents were Herminia Sanchez-Banzon, a retired public school teacher and Dr. Melanio T. Banzon Sr. He completed his elementary and secondary education from the Balanga Elementary School and Tomas del Rosario Academy, respectively. He finished his Mechanical Engineering course at the Mapua Institute of Technology in 1972 and passed the

board examinations in 1974. He was married to Eva de Guzman-Zabala with four children namely Melanio III, Melissa Ann, Evita and Eva Victoria.

He was initially employed as maintenance engineer at the Monark International which was involved in the construction of the second phase of the Roman Expressway. Later on, he became the head maintenance engineer of Fracia Development Corporation in Balanga. He was also involved in the construction business as a full-time contractor.

In 1988, he ran for the mayoralty position in Balanga. He bested his rival, former Vice Governor *Carolina N.*

*Beltran* of Puerto Rivas. In 1989, he was elected as president of the Bataan Mayors League.

Banzon’s second victory came in 1992 when he outpolled three contenders -- Carolina Beltran, former Balanga Mayor *Celso V. Valdecañas* and businessman Leonardo David. In 1995, Engineer *Jimmy Bustamante* of Puerto Rivas also challenged Banzon’s leadership but failed in his bid.

Banzon launched his campaign for a board member seat in 1998. He won and was even re-elected in 2001.

He returned as city mayor of Balanga in July 2004 against *Jose Enrique S. Garcia III.*



## BANZON, Tomas G.



**T**OMAS GALLARDO BANZON was the mayor (*presidente actual*) of Balanga from 1901 to 1903, during the term of Governor John Gouldman and remained in his post from 1903 until 1905, during the administration of

Governor Tomas del Rosario.

Don Tomas was born in Paterno, Poblacion, Balanga. His parents Bernabe Banzon and Ceferina Gallardo of Pangasinan. He was the eldest of the six Banzon siblings that include Julio, Sixta, Herminigilda, Jacoba and Silvestre,

Banzon was a former *kapitan municipal* of Balanga. He was the *directorcillo* of Mayor

Andres de Leon (the one who keeps records and correspondents of the municipal mayor, the equivalent of today's municipal secretary) when he was appointed to the position by the military governor of Bataan, Captain John O. Gouldman. He was recommended to the post by Fr. Mariano Sarili, the then parish priest of Balanga.

Mayor Banzon was married to Vicenta Tiangco with whom he had five children: Manuel, Mariano, Pilar, Margarita and Jose. He was the grandfather of Tomas B. Aguirre of Banco Filipino and Agnes Banzon Vea.

In 1957, the street where Don Tomas lived, was named as Tomas Banzon y Gallardo Street (from Cataning to Omboy) by the municipal council led by Mayor Pedro R. Dizon.



## BANZON, Oscar B.



**B**ANZON, OSCAR B. is a God-loving person whose thrust is to do anything good to his brethren for he believes this is done unto the Lord. He is that generous and benevolent in sharing his blessings to many.

It is in his principle that he has helped countless individuals, organizations, be it civic, social and religious. He has sent poor but deserving students to school through his scholarship program at the Bataan Peninsula State University which he has been doing for more than 15 years now.

He supported several religious programs and is a

regular sponsor of the projects of Bahay Puso, Munting Tahanan, DFS Chapel, Sto. Cristo Parish Church, Ultreya House and St. Joseph Parochial Foundations. He also supports seminarians financially.

A bonafide Balangaueno, Oscar was born on Spetember 24, 1944 to parents Dominador and Gloria Banzon. Oscar is married to Milagros Faith Aquende and has four children.

He finished his elementary and secondary at the Cupang Elementary School and Tomas del Rosario Academy, respectively. He graduated at the Mapua Institute of Technology with B. S. Chemistry degree.

After graduation, he started as Assistant Plant Superintendent of the San Miguel Corporation in Naga City.

To date, he is the president of the ABESCO Construction and Dev't Corp., Crown Royale Hotel and Resort Corp. and Magnolia One Dev't Corp.

Past President, Chamber of Real State & Builders Association, Inc. Bataan Chapter  
Treasurer, Bataan Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Inc.

Treasurer, Oplan Kalinga Movement (Bataan)  
Past President, St. Joseph Parish Council  
Outreach Head-Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen & Professionals Balanga Outreach.  
President-San Jose Parochial Foundation (Balanga).

## BANZON, Venancio S.

**V**ENANCIO SANCHEZ BANZON (1946- ) is the current chief of the Jose B. Lingad Memorial Medical Center in San Fernando, Pampanga.

Dr. Ven Banzon was born in Balanga on May 26, 1946 to parents Dr. Melanio T. Banzon Sr. and retired public school teacher Herminia Sanchez-Banzon. He is the elder brother of former Balanga Mayor Melanio Banzon, Jr.

He graduated from the Tomas del Rosario Academy and completed his

degree in Doctor of Medicine from the UERMMC in 1973. He spent five years practicing his profession as a resident doctor at the former Bataan Provincial Hospital (BPH), from 1974 until 1978. Thereafter, he was sent to the United Kingdom for his specialization studies in Anaesthesiology. He rejoined the BPH in 1980 and was designated as assistant chief of hospital for 10 years.

In 1990, he accepted the position of provincial health officer of Bulacan.

After eight years, he was assigned in Pampanga as chief of hospital at the J.B. Lingad Memorial Medical Center, from 1998 up to the present. He also supervised the operation of the Mariveles Mental Hospital before it was placed under the direct supervision of the Bataan Provincial Health Office.

Dr. Banzon is married to the former Marietta Resurreccion with whom he had four sons: Melvin, Carlo, Dennis and Ace.



## BANZON, Venancio Sr.



**V**ENANCIO BANZON SR. was the seventh mayor of Balanga (1919-1922, 1922-1925, 1925-1928). He also made a successful comeback as the ninth mayor from 1931 to 1934.

He was married to Trinidad Tiangco with whom he had eight children: Josefa, Julita, Melanio (*the doctor*), Lourdes, Leoncia, Felixberto, Aurora and Venancio Jr. (*the dentist*).

Mayor Banzon made history in local politics as the first native to win

three consecutive terms as mayor of Balanga. His first successful attempt came in 1919 when he defeated former Mayor Antonio Tuason Sr. (*grandfather of current Bataan governor Enrique T. Garcia Jr.*) for the mayoralty position. The Tuason camp, on the other hand, claimed the election was marred with irregularities.

Banzon was reelected in 1922 against a petty candidate.

Venancio ran for the third time unopposed in 1925. His administration ended in 1928. He simply watched on the sideline as Antonio Tuason Sr. made it back to

the municipal hall as elected mayor from 1928 to 1931.

During the entire 14 years he was in office, Mayor Banzon was credited for opening the barrio schools in Cupang (1921), Puerto Rivas (1921), Tuyoy (1932). He also initiated the construction of additional buildings for the Balanga Elementary School (1922), as well as the total transfer of the Catholic Cemetery from Malabia to Tenejero and expansion of the Balanga Public Market.

Poor health, however, prevented him from running for the fifth time in 1935. He passed away on November 12, 1938.

*He was honored by Mayor Pedro R. Dizon and the municipal council by naming the street in front of the municipal building as Venancio Banzon Street as per Resolution No. 63 dated October 7, 1951.*

**B**ARANGAY is the basic territorial and political unit in the Philippines. Derived from the original word balangay which means the “boat” used by the early Malayan settlers in the country, it was later used to refer to any established community in the municipality.

Balanga has 25 recognized barangays. These communities are categorized into the following:

***Town Proper Barangays***

Poblacion, Cataning, Bagumbayan, Talisay, Malabia, San Jose, Ibayo and Dona Francisca;

***Periphery Barangays***

Cupang Proper, Cupang North, Cupang West, Sibacan, Tuyoy;

***Coastal Barangays***

Puerto Rivas, Ibaba, Puerto Rivas Itaas, Tortugas;

***Lowland Barangays***

Central, Tenejero, Camacho, Bagong Silang, Puerto Rivas Lote; and

***Upland Barangays***

Dangcol, Cabog-cabog, Tanato, Munting Batangas.

Poblacion is often called the seat of the local government unit of Balanga. It is the barangay which hosts the city hall building and other offices of national agencies.

A barangay council manages the affairs of each village. Each barangay is governed by the Sangguniang Barangay composed of a barangay captain, seven barangay members, the Sangguniang Kabataan chairman, a secretary and a treasurer.

Members of the council exercise powers and perform duties and functions as provided for in the Local Government Code of 1991. Being the legislative body, they enforce all laws and ordinances which are applicable within the barangay.

## BARANGAY



# BARANGAY

# TOWN PROPER BARANGAYS

## CATANING



Catanning is one of the original town center barangays of the City of Balanga. It is located in the southwestern part of the city. It is bounded on the north by San Jose on the east by Poblacion, on the south by Cupang North, and on the west by Sitio Bani and Barangay Dangcol. It is accessible from the Roman Expressway via the Bani-Catanning Road and, from Poblacion, through the Hugo Banzon and Gallardo Streets.

It is one of the five biggest barangays in Balanga with a land area of 791.38 hectares and a population of 6,139 based on the 2007 NSO Census.



The barangay was initially recognized as Barrio Ugong (Ogon) in 1915, during the administration of former Governor Maximino delos Reyes (1914-1917).

In 1949, or during the reign of Governor Emilio Ma. Naval, the name of

Ugong was changed to *Katanning* after it was recognized as a regular barrio/barangay. A published book suggested that Katanning literally means “*kalapit*,” “*katabi*,” and “*karatig*.” It was named as such due to its proximity to its mother barangay, Poblacion.

Barangay Catanning remains as one of the most progressive communities in Balanga. It has a complete barangay school, a chapel, barangay health unit, day care center and a covered barangay plaza and stage. It hosts the Balanga municipal cemetery, Josefa Sioson Memorial School, Hillcrest and St. Francis Subdivisions, RG Ice Plant, and several poultry farms. At the same time, it is one of the biggest palay producers in the city.

Some of the prominent individuals who hailed from Catanning were former Auditor General Ismael Mathay Sr., Quezon City Mayor Mel Mathay and Don Tomas Gallardo Banzon, Balanga mayor (1901-1905).

## BAGUMBAYAN

Bagumbayan became a regular barangay of Balanga on April 17, 1961, during the administration of Mayor EMILIO BERNABE (1960-1963).

Bagumbayan is bounded on the north and east by Barangay Talisay, on the south by Talisay River, and on the west by Poblacion. It is reachable via the Talisay Street and the Camacho Street (part of the Bataan National Road). It has a land area of 9.58 hectares. In 2005 SWD Census, the population of the barangay registered at 2,617. It has five major streets: Hugo Banzon, Gomez, Zamora, Mabini and Basa.

The barangay used to be a tiny marshland due to its close proximity to Talisay River. A century ago, the same river flowed through the heart of the said barangay on its way to Manila Bay. The river changed course starting in 1937, the year the US Army Engineering and Construction Corps (US Concor) built the new Camacho Bridge. They excavated the

banks of Santa Rosa, in Pilar, and then allowed the river to flow on the newly-dug channel.

Meanwhile, the old riverbed in Bagumbayan was filled up with whatever was taken from Santa Rosa. In just three months, the former marshland became a new open plain. Even the existing Balanga Elementary School gained new land mass on its southern end. Bagumbayan initially became the headquarters of US Concor. After the war, the place was left vacant for the US Concor was transferred to Angeles City and Subic.

During the administration of Governor EMILIO MA. NAVAL (1948-1951) and Mayor PEDRO DIZON, the newly-acquired government property was subdivided and sold to the local residents.

The barangay has a barangay hall, health center, and day care center.



# BARANGAY

## TOWN PROPER BARANGAYS

### IBAYO

Ibayo during the Spanish times to the Commonwealth era was a sitio of Poblacion, Balanga. Its name was derived from the Tagalog word *ibayo* which means *adjacent but bordered by a body of water (which is the Cataning-Tenejero River).*

The barangay is located north of Poblacion. It is bounded on the far north by Tuyo, on the east by Malabia and on the west by Tenejero. It is accessible via the old Bataan National Road and the A. Banzon Street which is connected to Roman Expressway.

At present, Ibayo has a total land area of 62.77 hectares. In a SWD survey of 2005, its population was registered at 2,219.

The place which remained sparsely populated up to the end of the Spanish Occupation, was almost farm fields. Its population only grew starting in 1912, a year after Governor Mariano Rosaura built his new house on a former ricefield located at the corner of the present A. Banzon and Aguirre Streets.

The place became a new commercial site especially after

the public cemetery in Tenejero was fully operated. Other residents of Poblacion also transferred to Ibayo and called it their home. Three years later, in 1915, Governor Maximino delos Reyes incorporated Ibayo into the list of recognized barrios comprising Balanga. Increasing the total number of regular barrios in the province was the governor's best effort to improve the financial situation of Bataan.

Immediately thereafter, Ibayo was administered by a "cabeza de barangay" and later, by a "teniente del barrio." On July 4, 1963, Ibayo residents had the opportunity to elect their first barrio lieutenant as mandated in the Barrio Charter of 1960.

Of the total land area of the barangay, 8% of which is covered by residential area. But with the on-going development projects in Ibayo, specifically the ONE SQUARE KILOMETER



CITY CENTER and the Bataan Transport Mall, the barangay is bound to become the new commercial center of Balanga in the new millennium.

### DOÑA FRANCISCA

Doña Francisca, the financial district of Balanga City, was formerly a vast fishpond lot and agricultural area started out as a plushy subdivision developed by the Cuaderno-Pahati family in 1966. It was named after Doña

Francisca Rey Hipolito Pascual, the mother of the former Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno.

It was recognized as a regular barangay on May 3, 1982, during the administration of former Mayor Teodoro R. Alonzo (1979-1980, 1980-1986).

Doña Francisca is a town center barangay. It is accessible via the Bataan National Road. It is bounded on the north by Ibayo and Tuyo, on the south by Talisay, on the east by Sibacan and on the west by Malabia and Poblacion. It has a land area of 51.00 hectares, including the 10-hectare Eternal Shrine Memorial Park.

Phase One of the Doña Francisca subdivision, measuring three hectares and developed by Don Antonio Araneta, is partly under the jurisdiction of Barangay Malabia. Phases II, III and IV (located in the Sibacan-Talisay area) were developed by VL Construction in 1971.

Decades before its conversion into a subdivision, the barangay was part of Manila Bay. But due to continuous siltation of the Cataning-Sibacan River, land mass accumulated in the vicinity of Sibacan.

The area was initially converted into fishpond lots, later on, to ricefield. After the Balanga Diversion Road was completed in the early 1956, the Cuaderno family started developing the Malabia-Talisay area into a subdivision. In no time, it became the plushiest community in Bataan. The rich and the famous of Balanga and neighboring towns, including Manila residents and multinationals bought their lots and built their residences in the area.

Doña Francisca has the biggest barangay plaza in City of Balanga. It is complete with a chapel, barangay hall, picnic area, tennis court, basketball court and skating rink. The Joyous Fishpond Resort and Restaurant, and the Eternal Memorial Shrine are also located in Doña Francisca. The barangay hosts big companies like PLDT, Cable TV, Bataan Doctors Hospital, Bank of Philippine Islands. The La Katrina Subdivision, owned by Engr. Jimmy Bustamante, is accessible via Doña Francisca.

The population of the barangay was registered at 2,324 as per 2005 SW Census. A big number of the residents are mostly entrepreneurs whose businesses are based in the city.



# BARANGAY

# TOWN PROPER BARANGAYS

## MALABIA



Malabia is a town center barangay of the City of Balanga. It is bounded on the north and west by the Cataning River, on the east by Doña Francisca and on the south by Poblacion. It is accessible from the town plaza via the Aguirre-Malabia Street and the Bataan National Road.

The barangay covers about 2.15 hectares with no space available for further expansion. It was originally a one-street community until the old Roman Catholic cemetery of Balanga, which covered nearly half of the present area of Malabia, was transferred to Tenejero in the 1930s. The community also gained more space for residential purposes after the former slaughterhouse of the city was relocated to San Jose, at the back of the present Balanga Public Market.

The final expansion of Malabia came after the former agricultural land located on its northeastern portion was converted by the Cuaderno family into a subdivision during the late 1960s.

Legends have it that the name Malabia was derived from a freshwater fish called *biya* which was abundant in the Cataning-Malabia River during the early times. The area was said to be an inland trading post at the time when the said river was easily navigable by *cascos* and even big fishing boats coming from Manila Bay. Salt, vinegar, garments and other merchandizes from Manila were unloaded in Malabia for many years. Sugar products from the Bataan Sugar Central and other wood products also passed through the Malabia trading post.

Malabia is purely a residential area. The population of the barangay, as per SWD Census of 2005, was recorded at 974. It has one of the most beautiful barangay halls and plazas in Balanga. It hosts a few commercial establishments like the VL Group of Companies main office, and Quezon Furniture.



Poblacion is the heart of the City of Balanga being the seat of the city government. The city plaza, Balanga Cathedral, Balanga Arcade and major business enterprises are all located in the said barangay. It is also “Balanga’s central business district” which provides livelihood to a large portion of the city’s residents. The district complements the economic output from agriculture and fishing industry in the city.

Poblacion has been in existence since 1714, the time when Balanga became a mission of the Dominican Order. Initially, it covered a vast area to include the present barangays of Cataning, Talisay, Malabia, Ibayo, Bagumbayan and San Jose. But after the boundaries of the periphery barangays have been established, Poblacion’s area decreased into several sectors: Gitna (now *Paterno* and *Aguirre Streets*), Gipit (*Bonifacio Street*), Calle del Gobierno (*Rizal Street*), Omboy (*Gallardo Street*), Canalizo (*Camacho Street*), and Camposanto (*St. Joseph Street*). Later on, the eastern portion of the Zulueta Street was added to Poblacion.

At present, Poblacion has an area of 14.16 hectares

## POBLACION

and populated by 984 inhabitants as per 2005 SWD Survey.

Poblacion played host to the old Bataan Capitol before it was transferred to its present location in Upper San Jose in 1950. Even the old Balanga Public Market was formerly based in Poblacion before its transfer to San Jose in 1971. The old market site was converted into a commercial arcade in 1984.

The former campus of the Arellano Memorial (Bataan) High School, also located in Poblacion, is currently being occupied by the Centre Plaza Mall and Jollibee Restaurant.

In addition to the numerous trade and business establishments currently based in Poblacion, the barangay is also regarded as the education center of the city. There are a number of computer schools, training and vocational institutions operating around the city plaza area. A number of private hospitals, medical and dental clinics and communication facilities

are also currently operating in the heart of the city. Although the air quality in Poblacion is of major concern due to excessive gas emissions, the barangay is still considered one of the cleanest in the city.



# BARANGAY

# TOWN PROPER BARANGAYS

## SAN JOSE



**S**AN JOSE is the present seat of the provincial government of Bataan. It is where the Bataan Capitol and the offices of various government agencies are located. The barangay also hosts the main campus of the Bataan Peninsula State University (BPSU), Camp Cirilo S. Tolentino, Tomas del Rosario College, Balanga Public Market and the City Slaughterhouse.

San Jose is bounded to the east by Poblacion, to the west by Bagong Silang, to the north by Tenejero and to the south by Cataning. It is accessible via the Capitol Road.

The barangay was formerly a part of the old Cataning and Tenejero. It was then known as *Lote* and/or *Lote Kataning*. It was recognized as a regular barangay on February 29, 1960 during the term of Mayor Emilio C. Bernabe (1960-1963). It was named after the patron saint of Balanga, *St. Joseph, The Worker*.

San Jose has a total land area of 92.34 hectares.

Based on the 2005 CSWD Survey, San Jose had 1,402 households and a population of 7,012.

Formerly an agricultural lot, San Jose became a growth center of the City of Balanga after the new Capitol building was ordered built in the area in 1950 by former Governor Emilio Ma. Naval. The barangay's development was hastened by the completion of the 1.2-kilometer long Capitol Road. In a couple of years, both sides of the road were occupied by commercial and residential buildings, foremost of which were the Tomas del Rosario Academy, the first private high school in Balanga, and the Bataan National School of Arts and Trades (BNSAT, now the main campus of BPSU).

The opening of the Balanga Public Market and Slaughterhouse in 1971 further contributed to the tremendous growth of the barangay.



**T**ALISAY is a town center barangay. It is oftentimes called the gateway to Puerto Rivas and Tortugas. It is bounded to the north by Dona Francisca, to the south by Talisay River, to the east by Puerto Rivas Lote and to the west by Poblacion. It is accessible from the Balanga town plaza via the eastern Rizal Street.

The name of the barangay was derived from two Visayan words, *tal* and *isay*, which meant "*maraming isay*." "Isay" is a type of water fern (*Oscillatoria*) with long green leaves that float in great profusion on the surface of fresh water. The plant was abundant in what is presently known as Talisay River before it was unscrupulously dredged.

Talisay, the home of the Balanga Integrated School, has a land area of 34.77 hectares. The figure is small compared to Cupang Proper's area of 1,214.58 hectares. Still, it is a lot bigger when compared to Puerto Rivas Lote which has an area of 24.94 hectares only.

The population of Talisay was registered at 1,542, as per 2005 SWD Survey.

The barangay was part of the old Poblacion. This

## TALISAY

is evidenced by the fact that it also celebrates its fiesta on April 28. Centuries ago, Talisay was just a narrow patch of land bounded by the Talisay River and the former marshland that is presently known as Dona Francisca. It was used by Poblacion residents as a plain access road to Puerto Rivas.

As the Talisay River gradually changed its course, Talisay gained enough land mass to qualify as a new community. This development was hastened when the Balanga Elementary School was built in the area. More people settled in the area as soon as the Camacho and Manahan families built their respective residences in Talisay.

Talisay had the opportunity to gain more hectareage in the 1960s, at the time the Doña Francisca subdivision was being developed by the Cuaderno family. Later, the plush subdivision had evolved into a separate barangay.

Another legend tells that Talisay

got its name from a tree called "Indian Almond," also known by its scientific name *Terminalia Catalpa*. Locally, it is known as "Talisay." The tree, it turned out, is native of North America, the West Indies, Central Asia (not Southeast Asia) and the Middle East. The tree was merely propagated in the Philippines starting in the 1950s.



# BARANGAY

# PERIPHERY BARANGAYS

## CUPANG NORTH

**C**UPANG NORTH was part of the old Barrio Cupang. It was separated from its mother barrio and declared as a regular barangay on March 19, 1982, during the administration of former Mayor **Teodoro R. Alonzo**.

The barangay is accessible from the town center through the Paterno Street while Marcelo H. Del Pilar and Naval Streets are the two major arteries of the barangay. It is bounded to the north by Poblacion (Gallardo Street), to the south by Cupang Proper, to the east by the Talisay River, and to the west by Cataning and Cupang West.

Cupang North has a total land area of 17.23 hectares and a population of 2,592 as per 2005 SWD Census. In 2000, the population was registered at 2,196. It has its own

barangay hall, a covered court, day care center and barangay health station.

Most children of the barangay study at the Cupang Elementary School for their primary education.

Noel Joseph L. Valdecañas, former Punong Barangay of Cupang North (1997-2007) and current vice-mayor of Balanga City (2007-2010); Engineer Jose R. Valdecañas, former Undersecretary of the Ministry of Public Works and Highways and a Dangal of Balangueño awardee for 2008 and Engineer Benjamin Alonzo (former vice-governor, 2004-2007) were born and raised in this barangay.



**C**UPANG PROPER is the acknowledged mother barangay of Cupang North, Cupang West and Central. It was established as a regular barangay in 1915, during the administration of former Bataan Governor **Maximino Delos Reyes** and Balanga Mayor **Andres De Leon**.

With a present land area of 1,214.58 hectares, Cupang Proper remains as the one of the biggest communities in Balanga even after it was subdivided into four regular barangays. In terms of population, however, the former vote-rich barangay now ranks second to Tenejero which has 9,379 residents as per 2005 CSWD Survey. Cupang Proper only had

## CUPANG PROPER

8,930 inhabitants for the same year.

The barangay is accessible from the Balanga town center via the Gallardo and Paterno Streets. The Roman Expressway is its western gateway. It is bounded to the north by Cupang North, to the south by Central, to the east by Talisay River, and to the west by Cupang West and Dangcol.

Legends have it that *Cupang* was derived from the name of an old hardwood tree that once stood like sentinel along the west bank of Talisay River, on a spot currently being utilized as freshwater fishpond by former Mayor **Celso V. Valdecañas**, a native of the barangay. The Cupang tree is also known by its scientific name "*parkis roxburghii*", now still abounds in the forests of Morong and Cubi.

Existing historical notes revealed that in 1882, several residents of Cupang perished due to cholera epidemic. The inhabitants also suffered death and destruction caused by a major flash flood in 1923. The original families of Cupang were farmers. They worked in the fields owned mostly by rich landowners of Balanga. Before World War II, Cupang was the main gateway to Bagac via the old Sitio Maluya Road.

In 1929, the barangay earned the distinction

of being the first industrialized barrio in Balanga after the BATAAN SUGAR CENTRAL was established in the area. The sugar mill area later on became known as Barangay CENTRAL. Some enterprising farmers were also involved in small-scale sugar production by building and operating several *kabyawan* along the banks of the Talisay River.

The barangay is the only community in Balanga that operates and maintains its own barangay public market. The CUPANG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, where the main office of the Balanga City West District is located. The Santo Cristo Church, the center of all religious activities of the Roman Catholics in the three barangays, is located in Cupang Proper.

Due to the rapid urbanization of the city, the fertile agricultural lots of Cupang Proper have been converted into new residential areas. Only the barangay's southern portion, specifically the Maluya area, continues producing agricultural products.

Some of the well-known natives of Cupang Proper include former Vice Governor Faustino Vigo, Engr. Benjamin Alonzo, former Mayor Celso Valdecañas and former Municipal Judge Angelino Banzon.

It has no available English name. The tree is somewhat similar to a tamarind tree and bears fruits that are mostly edible to bats.





# BARANGAY



**C**UPANG WEST, formerly a part of the Old Barrio Cupang, was established as a regular barangay on December 10, 1971. It was former Mayor **Teodoro Camacho III** who initiated the separation of the Cupang West from its mother barangay.

The barangay is bounded to the north by Cupang North, and west by Cataning, to the south by Central, and to the east by Cupang Proper. It is accessible via the Marcelo H. del Pilar Street. Cupang West has a land area measuring 25.68 hectares.



Cupang West started out as an agricultural lot. After the war, it was converted into a municipal nursery

where kaimito, kalamansi, mango and avocado seedlings were grown and later sold to farmers and landowners in Balanga and neighboring towns. The residents also learned several home industries like basket-making and bag-weaving, as well as baby-carriage making. As a result, Barrio Cupang had become a model in increased food production and cottage industry.

In time, the population of Cupang West increased as more and bigger houses were built in the area. Additional roads were also constructed to connect the former nursery to its mother barangay.

The idea of creating a new barrio separate from the old Cupang came to the fore in 1960 or immediately after Republic Act (RA) 2370 was signed into a law by former President

# PERIPHERY BARANGAYS

## CUPANG WEST

Carlos P. Garcia. The law provided that a barrio will be converted into a quasi-municipal corporation which can adopt measures to generate its own funds through taxation and voluntary contributions from the residents.

The creation of Cupang West, however, took a long time to materialize due to its failure to meet the legal population requirement of 500 inhabitants. It was only 1971 that the move was revived by former Mayor Teodoro Boy Camacho III. The provincial council approved the corresponding resolution that same year.

The present Cupang West, populated by 2,227 people in 2005, has progressed steadily. It has a fully concreted road network, a three-storey barangay hall, a day care center, health station and a covered barangay plaza.

## SIBACAN

**S**IBACAN is one of the periphery barangays of the City of Balanga. It was formerly a coastal barangay, long before most of its shoreline was converted into fishponds.

The barangay is bounded to the north by Tuyo, to the south by Talisay, to the east by Puerto Rivas Ibaba and to the west by Doña Francisca. It has a land area of 97.78 hectares but about 95 percent of it is devoted to aqua-culture production. Its population was registered at 1,972 as per 2005 SWD Survey.

Sibacan used to be part of the old Manila Bay, which meant that it was under water hundreds of years ago. Just like the old Puerto Rivas, it was one of the boatmaking centers of Balanga during the Spanish and American periods. It was the main reason

why it was called *Sibacan*, a Tagalog word which means “*tableria*” (log mill, in English).

But after Sibacan gained enough land mass due to the continuing siltation of the Cataning-Sibacan River, the boatmaking industry in Sibacan came to an end. Early settlers in the area, formerly carpenters and boatmakers, became either farmers or fishermen.

There was a time when Sibacan was acknowledged as a sitio of Talisay. Puerto Rivas residents also had claimed that the place was part of their barangay as it was situated inside their old boundary.

Sibacan was recognized as a regular barangay in 1960 during the administration of Mayor Emilio C. Bernabe (1960-1963).

At present, Sibacan is inhabited

by more than 1,200 people. The place continued to be an aqua-agricultural area. It generates most of its income from the numerous fishpond lots operating in the area. A big number of its residents, however, found employment at the town center and other neighboring growth areas.

Sibacan has its own barangay hall and plaza, and a complete elementary school, the Miguel Cuaderno Memorial Elementary School. It is accessible via the Talisay (Poblacion-Puerto Rivas) Road and the major thoroughfares of Barangay Doña Francisca.



# BARANGAY



## TUYO

**T**UYO is the northernmost barangay of the City of Balanga. It lies at the southern boundary of Abucay and the capital city. It is about two kilometers away from the town center and is accessible via the Bataan National Road and the Roman Expressway.

In the olden days, it was said that residents of Poblacion and other low-lying areas either took refuge in Cupang or Tuyo during rainy days to escape from flashfloods that usually put the town proper under water. It turned out that Tuyo, just like Cupang, is about one to two meters higher in elevation than Poblacion. Tuyo is part of a low-lying

hill that extends from the Roman Expressway down to the Bataan National Road. At times, Tuyo remained dry and livable while Poblacion was already submerged in water.

The name *Tuyo* was derived from the topographical characteristic of the barangay.

Farmers working for Balanga's wealthy landlords were the first settlers of Tuyo. The population gradually grew as soon as former Governor Sabino de Leon (1931-1934) and former Congressman TEODORO CAMACHO SR. (1928-1931, 1934-1937 and 1939-1941) had completed the construction of the Dinalupihan-Limay Road (now called the Bataan National Road).

Fully accessible from the town

proper, migrants flocked and settled in the area which led to the accelerated development of the community. Tuyo was formally recognized as a regular barrio sometime in 1931.

As of 2005, Tuyo had an area of 1,778.65 hectares, one of the biggest in Balanga. The population of the barangay registered at 6,016 as per SWD Survey. The number is expected to rise in the near future with the recent opening of the New City Center in the said barangay.

There are two elementary schools in Tuyo: the Tuyo Elementary School along the Bataan National Road, and the G.L. David Memorial Elementary School in Upper Tuyo, near the Roman Expressway.

# PERIPHERY BARANGAYS



# COASTAL BARANGAYS



**P**UERTO RIVAS IBABA is a coastal barangay located on the northern part of the old Puerto Rivas. It covers the area starting from the corner of the Roman Catholic Church (Immaculate Conception Parish) and up to the so-called "Draga." It measured 27.42 hectares and is populated by 4,343 as per 2007 Census of Population. Puerto Rivas Ibaba and Puerto Rivas Itaas were initially recognized as one regular barangay in 1915, during the incumbency of Governor Maximino delos Reyes. Thirty four years later, in 1949, the two barangays were formally divided into two regular barrios.

The barangay is believed to be the pioneer settlement of Malayan people who arrived in Balanga from Mindanao and the Visayas. Just like Abucay, Puerto Rivas was already inhabited even before the Spaniards came. Unable to put up

an effective opposition against the well-equipped *conquistadores*, they did not resist the Spanish colonization and lost the freedom they earlier enjoyed.

Throughout the Spanish period, the Puerto Rivas society split into numerous disunified people. As a result, the residents experienced untold socio-economic restiveness. In 1898, however, an uprising was successfully launched by Domingo Alonzo and warmly supported by Puerto Rivas natives.

After Poblacion became the center of civilization in Balanga, Puerto Rivas remained a busy coastal seaport. It was utilized as a trading post and frequented by *cascos* and sailboats carrying merchandize from Manila and neighboring provinces. Up to this day, Puerto Rivas Ibaba remains a fishing village. In 2008, it was declared

## PTO. RIVAS IBABA

as a bird watching haven.

The original name of Puerto Rivas was *Dagat* (which means Sea). It was also called *Ibayong Malaki*, and divided into *Itaas* and *Ibaba*. Itaas covers the portion from the corner of Maximino delos Reyes Memorial Elementary School down to the Roman Catholic Church. Ibaba starts from the church and up to the northern shore. The name *Ibayong Maliit* referred to Tortugas.

The name "Puerto Rivas" was derived from the name of the Dominican priest Fr. Benito Rivas, who was assigned in the barangay for many years during the later part of the Spanish period. "Puerto" means port, since the barrio was a busy trading post during the Spanish and American periods.



# BARANGAY

# COASTAL BARANGAYS

## PTO. RIVAS ITAAS

**P**UERTO RIVAS ITAAS, formerly known as *Ibayong Malaki*, is acknowledged as the original mother Puerto Rivas. It was recognized as a regular barrio in 1915, during the incumbency of Governor Maximino delos Reyes. It was divided into two regular barrios (*Itaas* and *Ibaba*) in 1949.

The coastal barangay is reachable via the Rizal-Talisay Road. It covers an area of 136.70 hectares. As per 2007 Census of Population, the barangay's population was registered at 2,014.

Puerto Rivas Itaas was one of the early trading posts in Bataan during the Spanish times. It remained a busy seaport up to the American period. The Americans built the first schoolbuilding in Puerto Rivas Itaas through the initiative of Governor Maximino delos Reyes. It was constructed beside the Roman Catholic Church. Pedro Gonzales was the first school teacher in English.

When it was time to put up a complete

school in the barangay, an old saltbed was utilized for the purpose. The salt making in the area was abandoned after the water source in Puerto Rivas became polluted. The lot became the site of the present school, the Maximino delos Reyes Memorial Elementary School.

Puerto Rivas Itaas hosts both the Philippine Independent Church, locally known as Aglipayan Church. The Aglipayan Church, was constructed in Puerto Rivas Itaas in 1906. Originally made of nipa and bamboo, the church was improved by using stronger and heavier materials. The Aglipayans also built a cemetery in the barrio in 1923. The same burial ground is being used by both Catholics, Aglipayans and other religious denominations up to the present time. During World War II, the Aglipayan church was razed to the ground by the Japanese. The church was reconstructed in 1947.

The first provincial road from the center of the town to the barrio was constructed in 1915 as ordered by Governor Maximino delos Reyes. In 1934, the street was asphalted on order of Governor Sabino de Leon. The first wooden bridge connecting Puerto Rivas and Tortugas was constructed in 1922. It was converted and completed into a concrete-steel bridge on September 17, 1964, during the term of Governor Pedro R. Dizon. It was named Catalino Dizon Bridge.

Puerto Rivas Itaas is a densely populated fishing village. It has a barangay plaza, barangay hall, and day care center. The barangay also hosts the Maximino delos Reyes Memorial Elementary School, the Rural Health Unit II, the Iglesia ni Cristo chapel, the Puerto Rivas barrio cemetery and the Kabayan Cops Center.



**T**ORTUGAS is the easternmost barangay of the City of Balanga. It is a coastal village and Manila Bay is its eastern boundary. It is bounded to the west by Puerto Rivas Ibaba and Puerto Rivas Itaas, to the north by Sibacan and to the south by the Talisay River.

The barangay was originally known as "*Ibayong Munti*," while Puerto Rivas was called "*Ibayong Malaki*." When the Spaniards came and discovered the islet as nesting place of various species of turtle, they named the place *Tortugas*, from the Spanish word *tortuga* which literally means turtle.

Siltation of the Talisay River, coupled by soil erosion from upstream, contributed to the continuous increase in hectarage of Tortugas. The barangay currently measures 32.09 hectares and still growing. The latest dredging of the mouth of Talisay River added more land mass to the barangay. It



## TORTUGAS

is expected that the completion of the Tortugas Boulevard and Bay Park will further enhance the development and progress of the barangay.

The first settlers of Tortugas were the families of Dizon, Dela Rosa, Delos Reyes, Quesada, Torrico, Soyangco (from Navotas) and Gonzales Baldomero. It was the same Gonzales who donated the lot currently being used by the Tortugas Elementary School.

Congressman/Governor MAXIMINO DELOS REYES labored for the establishment of Tortugas and many other populated localities in various part of Bataan as regular barrios starting in 1915. He did it to boost the funds being allocated by the national government to the local government units. Delos Reyes also ordered the construction of the first wooden bridge connecting Tortugas and Puerto Rivas.

Former Governor PEDRO R. DIZON, a native of Puerto Rivas, had replaced the wooden bridge

with a concrete beam structure and named it Catalino Dizon Bridge, in honor of his father.

Former Congresswoman MEDINA LACSON-DE LEON, a Tortugas native, used her pork barrel to fund the construction of the barangay's inner road network.

Former Congressman Tet Garcia and City Mayor Albert Garcia allocated millions of pesos for the dredging and reclamation projects in Tortugas and through the continuous effort of Hon. Mayor Joet Garcia. it resulted to the Tortugas Wetland and Nature's Park. It is also recognized as one of the country's new birdwatching sites.

The 2005 population of Tortugas was 3,229 as per SWD Survey.

The barangay is acknowledged as the "Methodist country" of Balanga City.

Former City Vice Mayor Noli Venzon and Domingo Dizon are just two of the well-known residents of the barangay.

# BARANGAY

# LOWLAND BARANGAYS

## BAGONG SILANG

**B**AGONG SILANG is one of the newest barangays in the City of Balanga. It was formally recognized in 1988, during the term of Mayor Melanio S. Banzon, Jr.

The barangay is part of the so-called Upper Tenejero area. It is bounded to the north by Munting Batangas, to the east by Tenejero, to the west by the Mount Natib complex and to the south by Upper Cataning. It is accessible via the Roman Expressway, the Tenejero Road and the Balanga Public Market Road. It has a land area of 2,088 hectares and a population of 4,623 as per 2007 NSO Census.

At the onset, Bagong Silang was merely an agricultural land planted mainly to fruit-bearing trees, bamboos and wild grass. There were only a few farmers and migrant families settled in the area, like the Ellanos, Dizons, Molinas, Isuans and Tallaras. Things changed for the better in 1978 when the Ministry of Human Settlements headed by Director Willy

Ortaliz, Miguel Roberto and Armando Pizarro (former organization development specialist) established the first Bagong Lipunan Sites and Services (BLISS) project and the so-called *KKK Sanayang Pangkaunlaran* in the area. The nine-hectare training center was donated to the municipal government by Teopesto Tiangco.

With the opening of a new road leading to the center, informal settlers started arriving and building their abodes in the area. It prompted then Mayor Celso V. Valdecañas to develop the place into a resettlement area for landless families in Balanga. Mayor Teddy R. Alonzo continued the program and was responsible for the formal relocation of the said families. The new neighborhood soon became known as BLISS. After the closure of the training center, Mayor Melanio S. Banzon, Jr. subdivided the remaining lots and offered it for a cost to prospective residents.

Back in August 1981, there was

already a move initiated by the Sangguniang Bayan to convert the new community into a regular barangay. Residents of Tenejero and San Jose, however, protested because of boundary issues. Seven years later, the creation of the new barangay was approved by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan. From the original BLISS, the barangay was given a new name, "*Bagong Silang*." The barangay is presently divided into seven districts (*purok*).

The barangay celebrates its own fiesta every third Sunday of January. The Santo Niño is its patron saint. The barangay has three schools, namely: Bagong Silang Elementary School the Jesus is Lord School and the Bataan National High School.

The Vicarville Inland Resort and the Abu-abo River are just two of the barangay's main attractions.



**B**arangay CAMACHO is one of the periphery barangays located at the northern part of the City of Balanga. It is bounded to the north by Upper Tuyo, to the south and east by Tenejero, and to the west by Munting Batangas. It can be reached via the Tenejero-Camacho Road and the Roman Expressway.

Camacho measures some 71.33 hectares. It was originally a sitio of Barangay Tenejero. Before the place became a regular barrio, it was more popularly known as "Cadre" after it was designated as a training center for the Philippine Army starting in 1937. Cadre's population gradually increased after Army soldiers and trainors



## CAMACHO

built their abodes in and around the training camp. The number of inhabitants increased / expanded even more after the war as new families, mostly migrants from other provinces, settled in the area.

In 1954, the total number of residents in Camacho was registered at over 500. As of 2007, there were 826 households in Camacho.

During the administration of former Mayor TEODORO CAMACHO III (1968-1971), a municipal resolution was passed calling for the establishment of Cadre as a regular barangay. But instead of Cadre, it was given a new name, Camacho, in honor of former Congressman/Governor Teodoro Camacho Sr. Former Governor Adelmo Camacho donated a big portion of the family's property to the municipal government. The said municipal resolution was approved by

the Bataan Provincial Government on March 16, 1969.

In addition to the more than 3,509 people (NSO, 2007) currently residing in Barangay Camacho, a battalion of Army soldiers are currently stationed at the Camp Delatado Marin, the home of the 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, Philippine Army and the 305<sup>th</sup> Bataan Ready Reserve Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Regular Community Defense Center.

The barangay plays host to the Bataan Freeport 2000 (a garment factory), National Food Authority warehouse, San Miguel Corporation warehouse and the Camacho Nature's Park. It has a barangay hall, a covered barangay plaza, health station, day care center, and the Camacho Elementary School.

# BARANGAY

## LOWLAND BARANGAYS

### CENTRAL

CENTRAL is one of the fastest growing periphery communities in the City of Balanga. The barangay has a total land area of 321.17 hectares. It is bounded to the north by Cupang Proper, to the south by Sitio Maluya, to the east by Talisay River, and to the west by Maluwang-Dangcol. It is accessible via the Roman Expressway and the Cupang-Maluya Road.

Central, formerly a sitio of the old Barrio Cupang was established as a regular barangay on February 15, 1968.

Decades before Central became a regular barangay, it was recognized as the first industrial site in Balanga after the Bataan Sugar Central was established in the area in 1929. The main facility of the sugar mill was erected at the site presently occupied by the Central Elementary School.

Don Francisco Esteban, a businessman from the Visayas, put up and

operated the sugar mill. It was the time when sugarcane was the major agricultural product of the farmers in Balanga, Pilar and Orion.

The sugar mill was used as a war material and food supply depot of the USAFFE forces fighting in Bataan during World War II. Expectedly, it suffered major damages during the Japanese Occupation. As a result, Don Francisco decided to close the sugar mill permanently in 1946.

Central was classified as an underpopulated community for the last 20 years. Things changed for the better when the move to make Central an independent barrio snowballed during the administration of former Mayor Emilio Bernabe (1960-1963). By the end of 1963, Central residents have already elected their first barrio captain, Feliciano Reyes. At the same time, a primary school (Grades I to IV) also opened in the area.

The population of Central grew from about 900 in 1960 to 4,035 in 2007. The number of households also increased to 829 as evidenced by the on-going conversion of several agricultural lots in the area into residential areas. The barangay also attracted a lot of new migrants especially after the establishment of the Bataan Montessori School in 1996.

La Vista Inland Resort and the privately-owned Garden of Olives Memorial Park which play vital roles for economic progress are located in Central.

In addition to barangay school, Central has a two-storey barangay hall, a health station, day car center and a covered barangay plaza. Farming remains as the major source of livelihood of the residents.



PUERTO RIVAS LOTE was formerly a complex wetland of water ponds, swamps and marshes with surrounding arable lands, before it was converted into a housing community starting in the early 1960s. It was subsequently established as a regular barangay on May 3, 1982, together with Doña Francisca and Cupang North.

Puerto Rivas Lote is

### PTO. RIVAS LOTE

bounded to the north and east by Puerto Rivas Itaas, to the south by Talisay River and to the west by Talisay. It is accessible via the Rizal-Talisay Road. It has a total land area of 24.94 hectares. The (2007) population of the barangay was 2,611 people as per (2007 Census of Population)

Lote has a barangay hall, barangay plaza and a day-care center. It hosted the first ice plant in Balanga. Several apartments such as Diaz, FB, Bustamante, Encar and

many others are located in the barangay. The Green Oil Gas station operates in Puerto Rivas Lote.

Almost all streets in the barangays had been named after noted residents of the mother barangay, like P. Dizon, Bernabe, G. Roman, R. Enriquez, Gonzales, Quesada, C. Torrico, Beltran, A. Tuazon and Malibiran. Former Vice Governor Carolina N. Beltran is one of the well-known residents of the barangay.

# BARANGAY

## TENEJERO

**T**ENEJERO is a lowland barangay of the City of Balanga. It is bounded to the north by Tuyo, to the south by San Jose, to the east by Ibayo and to the west by Bagong Silang. The barangay is the home of the Bataan General Hospital and the Roman Catholic municipal cemetery.

The barangay used to be one of the biggest localities in the city in terms of land area. However, portions of its old territorial jurisdiction were converted into new barangays, namely San Jose, Bagong Silang, Camacho and Munting Batangas. The Bataan National High School campus, formerly part of Tenejero, now belongs to Bagong Silang. The former Bataan National School of Arts and Trades and the Bataan Capitol compound are now part of San Jose.

Despite the loss in hectareage, Tenejero emerged as the current leader in terms of population. As per SWD Survey, its 2005 population was registered at 9,379 residents, about 449 more when compared to the former leader Cupang Proper with only 8,930.

Tenejero's old name was *Tinajero*, taken from the Spanish word *tinaja* which meant "clay pot." Tinajero simply meant "clay pot maker."

Records have it that since the Spanish time, the place was the main producer of quality potteries such as *banga* (clay pots) and *tapayan* (water jar) in Balanga. At one time, there were seven pottery shops in Tenejero. The pottery industry in the area died a natural death after aluminum and carbon-steel kitchen utensils were introduced in the local market in the 1950s. As a result, the old pottery ovens in Tenejero were converted into charcoal-making

ovens.

Tenejero's almost unbelievable progress started when the former Bataan Provincial Hospital started full operation in the area after the war. A new bridge and road were built as access to the said medical facility and later on, to the provincial capitol. Its population grew as new families started relocating and building their homes in the area. The Roman Expressway, completed in 1977, also contributed to the progress of Tenejero.

On May 3, 1982, the Balanga municipal council attempted to divide Tenejero into two barangays. The move, however, did not prosper.

Governor ENRIQUE T. GARCIA JR., Congressman Albert S. Garcia and City Mayor Jose Enrique S. Garcia are just three of the most prominent residents of Tenejero.



## LOWLAND BARANGAYS



## UPLAND BARANGAYS



## CABOG-CABOG

**C**ABOG-CABOG, was established as a regular barangay in January 1950, during the administration of erstwhile Balanga Mayor Pedro R. Dizon. It is one of farthest barangays from the center of the City of Balanga beside Balanga-Bagac boundary located on the westernmost tip of the Talisay River, in the midst of the other upland barangays of Pilar town.

The barangay has three sitios (Colbo, Marilao and Gabon) with a total land area of 319.10 hectares. Its population was registered at 1,761 as per NSO 2007 Census. It is bounded



to the north by Tanato, to the south by the Mariveles Mountain, to the east by Pantingan (Pilar) and to the west by Bagac. It is accessible via the Governor Joaquin J. Linao Highway (Pilar side) and the Cupang-Maluwang-Tanato-Cabog-Cabog Road.

Legends have it that before the construction of the Balanga-Bagac Road in 1938, an old trail used to run across the place. The trail was used to get to the western part of Bataan, specifically Bagac and Morong. It was said that anyone walking on the said trail allegedly heard throbbing noise on the ground after every step was made. This peculiarity soon spread and it became a fascination for everyone to try to step hard when walking on the trail just to be able to hear the throbbing noise. People began calling the place "Cabog-

Cabog," a Tagalog word which means "noise of the underground." "sound under the ground"

Cabog-Cabog is purely an agricultural area. It is densely covered with trees, mostly mangoes and other hardwood. Vegetables, pineapples and bananas and vegetables are also grown in the area.

The first families who settled in the barangay mostly came from the Almarios, Atienzas, Bandongs, Bernatias, Brillantes, Desturas, Enmaralinos, Enos, Gadems, Jauriques, Landichos, Luceros, Macalalads, Maglaques, Micosas, Monsons and others.

Cabog-Cabog, at present, is moderately urbanized. It has a barangay hall plaza, complete elementary school and day care center.

# BARANGAY

# UPLAND BARANGAYS

## DANGCOL (BERNABE)

**D**ANGCOL is one of the upland barangays of the City of Balanga. Its name was officially changed to Bernabe on December 28, 1976 but it was not implemented as Bernabe, for former Mayor Emilio C. Bernabe, was still alive at that time. But even after Bernabe's death on August 31, 1993, the place continued to be called Dangcol.

The barangay is bounded to the north by Munting Batangas, to the south by Tanato, to the east by Cataning, and to the west by the Mount Natib complex. It measures some 2,445.37 hectares and currently populated by 1,301, based on the City Social Welfare Development Office survey of 2005. The barangay is accessible via the Maluwang and Bani Roads.

There is no verifiable explanation as to how the place got its name. One version suggested that the name was derived from

the two English words "dung" and "knoll." The words literally meant "mounds of animal excrement" that littered the place at the time it was being used as a ranch by no less than the American military governor of Bataan, Captain John O. Gouldman (1901-1903).

It was Gouldman who initially claimed ownership to the vast forest land at the foot of Mount Natib. As many as 30 homesteads were also awarded to his soldiers who eventually returned to the United States. Governor Gouldman prospered from the venture as he was able to sell the logs he felled from the forests. He also utilized the place as a ranch for cows and horses even after he was no longer the chief executive of the province. Gouldman left the place in the 1920s and returned to America.

Old farmhands, mostly

Batanguenos and Ilocanos, were left to tend to the remaining livestock in the area. But the ranch also failed as a result of the war. The cows and horses were taken forcibly by the USAFFE and Japanese soldiers. By 1943, the ranch no longer existed.

Migrants from the neighboring provinces started arriving in Dangcol after the war, as the new landowners started offering parcels of land for a small fee to anyone who would occupy and cultivate it for a certain period of time.

As of today, Dangcol remains an agricultural land. With new roads being developed in the area, Dangcol may soon become the new growth center in Balanga.



**M**UNTING BATANGAS belongs to the so-called upland barangays of the City of Balanga. Created as a regular barrio on February 15, 1968, it is situated at the northwestern portion of the city. It is bounded to the north by Upper Tuyoy, to the south by Bagong Silang, to the east by Tenejero, and to the west by the Mount Natib complex. It is reachable via the Tenejero-Camacho Road and the Roman Expressway.



The barangay is an agricultural area planted mostly to vegetables and

## MUNTING BATANGAS

fruit bearing trees like mango, kalamansi and avocado. Migrants from various towns in Batangas were the first permanent settlers in the area. The Magpantays, Miranias and Tenorios were the first Batangueno families to have settled there which explains why the place was called as such.

From a simple settlement for migrants from Batangas, it was created as a regular barangay on February 15, 1968, together with Barangay Dangcol.

Munting Batangas has a land area of 533.87 hectares and a population of 2,139 residents as per SWD Survey of 2005.

The barangay had the opportunity to host one major industrial plant, the Nobel Enterprises, a company which produced industrial explosives. The plant operated in the area for two decades before it finally closed shop in the late 1980s. From then on, the area was developed gradually to accommodate future demand for industrial land. The barangay has a barangay hall, day care center, health station, covered plaza and a complete elementary school. It is also the site of Balanga City's two Materials Recovery Facilities in support of the Solid Waste Management program of the city government.

# BARANGAY

# UPLAND BARANGAYS

## TANATO

TANATO is one of the upland barangays situated in the western part of the City of Balanga. Formerly a sitio of Barangay Cabog-cabog, it was recognized as a regular barrio in 1962, during the term of former Mayor Emilio C. Bernabe (1960-1963).

The barangay lies at the foot of the so-called *Bundok Tanato*, in between Barangays Cabog-cabog and Dangcol. It is easily accessible via the Maluwang-Dangcol Road and the Cabog-cabog-Dangcol Road through the Gov. Joaquin J. Linao Highway in Pilar.

Tanato was derived from the Spanish word "*tanto*," which, in the English dictionary, means "marker." During the olden times, Bundok Tanato was commonly used as natural marker or "point of reference" to guide travelers from Balanga in going to the

western part of Bataan, specifically Bagac. Geographically, Bundok Tanato lies in a straight line connecting Bagac and Balanga.

Records have it that as early as the Spanish time, the place was inhabited by the Aetas. They settled in the area throughout the Spanish and American periods. It was only during World War II that the Aetas left the place due to the intense hostilities between the Japanese Army and the USAFFE. Only a small number of Aeta families returned to the same place after the Liberation. Later on, they moved and permanently stayed in Bangkal, Abucay where an Aeta resettlement area was established by the provincial government. A remaining Aeta families resettled in Upper Bilolo, Orion.

Starting in the 1950s, migrants from Batangas, Ilocos and the Visayas settled in

Tanato, then known as *Bayan-bayanan*. It is the usual name given to a place where Aetas exist, as in the case of *Bayan-bayanan* in Orion and *Bayan-bayanan* in Dinalupihan.

To avoid future conflicts between the new migrants and the remaining Aetas in Tanato, the provincial government had allocated some seven hectares in the Tanato forests as resettlement area for the Aetas. Unfortunately, it did not stop the Aetas from leaving the place after more migrants arrived and settled in Tanato.

The families of Leonardo Decepeida and Dominador Ruiz were among the early settlers in Tanato. They gradually developed the former virgin forest into agricultural



lots. Banana, sweet potato (kamote), guava, cashew and mango became the barangay's major products. The settlers also engaged in sports hunting, wood gathering and charcoal-making.

In 1998, Tanato had a total of 115 families. In 2005, the barangay population was placed at 631, as per SWD

## BARANGAY WEEK PROGRAM

The City of Balanga, through the initiative of Mayor Jose Enrique S. Garcia III, launched the Barangay Week Program in order to improve public governance. Problems at barangay level were properly addressed and given immediate remedies through the collaborative efforts of the local officials. A more harmonious working relationship among the various sectors is established and improved.

The objectives perceived by the City Government in implementing the Barangay Week Program are directed towards the promotional and attainment of public service which is accessible to every Balangueño from all walks of life. Similarity, it aims to achieve the following aims:

1. Enhance and promote speedy delivery of services to Balangueños .
2. Enjoy autonomy of Local Government units with emphasis on working schemes beneficial to the interest of the public in general;
3. Encourage various sectors including non-government

organizations and private sectors to participants in the implementation of worthy projects and

4. Uplift the lives of the constituents of every barangay.

Among the activities undertaken during the Barangay Week are as follows:

1. Consultancy meeting with various sectors
2. Barangay governance performance management system
3. Orientation on Katarungang Pambarangay
4. Pangkabuhayang Proyekto para sa Balangueño
5. Organize and update Barangay Cooperative
6. Consultation on barangay infrastructure / site inspection
7. Computer Literacy Training
8. Barangay Health day
9. Financial management in barangay
10. Mobile registration of live birth
11. Registration of barangay skilled / professional workers / OFW
12. Assessment of real property tax

13. Solid waste management program
  14. Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction Management Trainings/ Workshop
  15. Family day. Tree planting, clean-up
- This program aims to attain the following expected output:
1. A faster and innovative delivery of programs and projects to the people;
  2. A more transparent government that is easily accessible to the people;
  3. An active involvement of various sectors in the promotion of development in the City;
  4. Harmonies coordination and active collaboration between and among the City Government and local barangay officials;
  5. Realization by the people that City Government and their officials are concerned for their general well-being and actively promoting the same, and
  6. A satisfied constituency.



# BATAAN



BATAAN is a strategic peninsula lying in the southwestern part of Central Luzon. Manila Bay and South China are its eastern and western boundaries, respectively.

The present peninsula of Bataan is comprised of 11 municipalities and one component city. The municipalities are Dinalupihan, Hermosa, Orani, Samal, Abucay, Morong, Pilar, Orion, Limay, Mariveles, and Bagac. The lone component city is the City of Balanga. They have a combined land area of 137,296 hectares or about 7.5 percent of Central Luzon. Except

for its northern portion, which is bounded by Zambales and Pampanga, Bataan is virtually surrounded by seawater.

The province has a total population of 662,153 as of year 2007. Population growth is 2.74 percent while the average household size is 4.90. In 1799, Bataan was inhabited by 16,654; it increased in 1850 to 39,008 residents; and in 1953, the population was 96,492.

Despite its small size in terms of hectarage, Bataan is one of the top grossing provinces in the region in terms of human development index, employment, and dollar-earning capability. The province hosts the first export processing zone in the country (BEPZ), the petrochemical complex in Mariveles, the Petron Bataan Refinery complex in Limay and several economic zones, including a big portion of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Area (SBMA).

Bataan, based on existing records, was part of the old *Pampanga* when the latter was created as a regular province in 1571. Pampanga's old territorial areas include portions of the provinces of Bataan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pangasinan, Tarlac and Zambales. By the decree issued by Spanish Governor Gomez Perez Dasmariñas in 1574, Bataan became one of the royal land grants and private estates (*encomiendas*), just like Betis, Lubao and Macabebe (Pampanga), Calumpit and Malolos (Bulacan). The *encomiendas* of Pampanga at that time had 18,680 whole tributes.

Cavite's old territorial areas, on the other hand, include Corregidor, Mariveles,

Bagac, Morong and the southern part of Zambales.

In 1573, Bataan, then known by another name, was awarded to and managed by an *encomiendero* named Juan Esguerra. It was he who initially named the province as "Batan District" (*Partido de Batan*). Esguerra, it turned out, was a native of Batan, an old residential community lying outside Madrid, capital of Spain.

Esguerra also managed the islands of Batanes and Batan in the north and were also originally named as *Partido de Batan*. Bataan, Batanes and Batan were named as such to differentiate one from the other. These three places were also ministered by the Dominicans.

The Dominican missionaries arrived in the old Batan District in 1586. They found some 30 coastal villages inhabited by natives who came from Borneo and Sumatra, via Mindanao and Visayas, between the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. These villages, it turned out, were already thriving in Bataan even before the Spaniards came to the country. The natives were predominantly fisherfolks, farmers and craftsmen. The hillsides, on the other hand, were found to be inhabited by Aetas.

On June 10, 1588, the Dominicans founded Abucay, the first town in the district to be recognized by the Spanish authorities. More towns were established later on, such as Morong (1607), Samal (1641), Orion (1667), Orani and Balanga (1714).

Bataan, with six established towns,

was recognized as a regular province in 1754, during the administration of Governor-General Pedro Manuel Arandia. After identifying its territorial boundaries, the old Batan District became formally known as "Bataan." At the same time, it absorbed the towns of Mariveles and Bagac from Cavite (1754 and 1873), Hermosa and Dinalupihan from Pampanga (1756 and 1865). Pilar and Limay were mere distant barrios of Balanga and Orion, respectively, at that time and only became independent towns of Bataan in 1801 and 1917.

Long before the advent of World War II, Bataan already earned for herself a place in the history of the Philippines. The "Prince" of Filipino Printers, Tomas Pinpin, was from Abucay. He authored



# BATAAN



in the peninsula where Filipino and American soldiers displayed a gallant defensive stand against the invading Japanese Imperial Army. The USAFFE's heroic deeds delayed the strategic timetable of the Japanese. It also allowed the Allied Forces

and co-authored some of the oldest books in the country and printed them himself between 1610 and 1639 in the printing press located inside the old Abucay parish church.

Bataan was also one of the provinces in Luzon that revolted against the Spaniards. Two of her sons, Tomas del Rosario and Cayetano Arellano figured prominently in the Malolos Convention of 1899. Del Rosario served as Bataan congressman from 1909-1912. Arellano, who declined President Emilio Aguinaldo's offer to become the first Secretary of Foreign Affairs, became the first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court from 1901 to 1920.

Bataan became famous worldwide during World War II (1941-1945). It was

to build up their military capabilities which eventually led to the surrender of Japan in 1945.

Today, the Shrine of Valor (*Dambana ng Kagitingan*) stands majestically atop Mount Samat in Pilar as testimony to the heroism and bravery of the men and women who gave their lives in defense of democracy.

Bataan Profile					
Town	Townhood	Area (hectares)	Population		
			1998	2000	2007
Abucay	June 10, 1588	7,970	30,161	31,801	38,654
Bagac	1873	23,120	22,321	22,353	24,202
Balanga	April 21, 1714 City of Balanga Dec. 20, 2000	16,560	65,017	71,088	84,105
Dinalupihan	1865	9,252	69,119	76,145	92,289
Hermosa	May 8, 1756	15,700	40,254	41,111	52,484
Limay	Jan. 1, 1917	10,362	43,974	46,520	54,782
Mariveles	July 1754	15,390	84,095	85,779	102,844
Morong	1607	21,920	21,273	22,059	27,119
Orani	April 21, 1714	5,926	51,694	52,501	59,530
Orion	April 30, 1667	6,540	41,671	44,067	49,164
Pilar	April 10, 1801	3,760	29,901	32,368	43,213
Samal	April 20, 1641	5,630	24,896	25,488	33,867
Total:		137,296			662,153

## Governors of Bataan (1901-2010)

No.	Governor	Vice Governor	Election date
1	John Gouldman*	-none-	(Appointment)
2	Tomas del Rosario*	-none-	(Appointment)
3	Lorenzo Zialcita	-none-	Jan 15, 1905
4	Pedro Rich	-none-	Nov. 5, 1907
5	Mariano Rosauro	-none-	Nov. 2, 1909
6	Maximino delos Reyes	-none-	June 4, 1912
7	Conrado Lerma**	-none-	June 6, 1916
8	Pedro Rich*	-none-	(no election)
9	Alberto Aquino	-none-	June 3, 1919
10	Manuel Aguinaldo	-none-	June 6, 1922
11	Gregorio Quicho	-none-	June 2, 1925
	Gregorio Quicho	-none-	June 5, 1928
12	Sabino de Leon	-none-	June 2, 1931
13	Alberto Aquino	-none-	June 5, 1934
14	Joaquin J. Linao	-none-	Dec. 14, 1937
15	Jose S. Manahan	-none-	Dec. 10, 1940
16	Simeon Salonga*	-none-	(war time)
17	Teodoro Camacho*	-none-	(no election)
18	Joaquin J. Linao*	-none-	(no election)
19	Emilio Ma. Naval	-none-	Nov. 8, 1947
20	Adelmo Camacho	-none-	Nov. 13, 1951
21	Emilio Ma Naval	-none-	Nov. 8, 1955
22	Pedro R. Dizon	Faustino Vigo	Nov. 10, 1959
	Pedro R. Dizon	Guillermo Arcenas	Nov. 12, 1963
23	Guillermo Arcenas	Efren B. Pascual	Nov. 14, 1967
24	Efren B. Pascual	Rufino Navarro	Nov. 8, 1971
	Efren B. Pascual	-none-	Nov. 8, 1976
	Efren B. Pascual	Carolina Beltran	Jan. 30, 1980
25	Leonardo B. Roman	Nelson C. David	(no election)
	Leonardo B. Roman	Serafin Roman	Jan. 18, 1988
26	Enrique Garcia***	Efren Pascual Jr.	May 11, 1992
27	Leonardo B. Roman	Efren Pascual Jr.	(Recall election)
	Leonardo B. Roman	Serafin Q. Roman	May 8, 1995
	Leonardo B. Roman	Rogelio Roque	May 11, 1998
	Leonardo B. Roman	Rogelio Roque	May 14, 2001
28	Enrique T. Garcia Jr.	Ben Alonzo	May 10, 2004
	Enrique T. Garcia Jr.	Serafin Q. Roman	May 14, 2007
	<b>Enrique T. Garcia Jr.</b>	<b>Efren Pascual Jr.</b>	<b>May 10, 2010</b>

\* appointed term \*\*\*\*recalled

Note: Not included in the list are those individuals who served in an acting capacity for a maximum of three months, specifically during election period.

\*\* died in office \*\*\* 4-year

## Bataan Congressmen (1907-2010)

Congressman	Term
Jose Ma. Lerma	1907-1909
Tomas del Rosario	1910-1912
Pablo Tecson	1912-1916
Maximino delos Reyes	1916-1919
	1919-1922
Antonio Llamas	1922-1925
Manuel Banzon Sr.	1925-1928
Teodoro Camacho Sr.	1928-1931
Fortunato de Leon	1931-1934*
Teodoro Camacho Sr.	1934-1934*
	1934-1938
	1939-1941
Antonio Llamas	1942-1946
Bonifacio Camacho	1946-1949
Medina Lacson de Leon	1950-1953
Jose R. Nuguid	1954-1957
	1958-1961
	1962-1965
Pablo R. Roman	1966-1969
	1970-1972
Antonino P. Roman Jr.	1978-1984
Antonino P. Roman Jr.	1984-1986
Felicito Payumo	1987-1992
Enrique Garcia	1987-1992
Felicito Payumo	1992-1995
Dominador Venegas	1992-1995
Felicito Payumo	1995-1998
Enrique Garcia	1995-1998
Antonino Roman	1998-2001
Enrique Garcia	1998-2001
Antonino Roman	2001-2004
Enrique Garcia	2001-2004
Antonino Roman	2004 -2007
Albert S. Garcia	2004 -2007
Herminia Roman	2007-2010
Albert S. Garcia	2007-2010
<b>Herminia B. Roman</b>	<b>2010-2013</b>
<b>Albert S. Garcia</b>	<b>2010-2013</b>

# BATAAN CAPITOL



**MISLEADING MARKER.**  
*The metal marker posted in front of the present Capitol building implying that the building was built in 1946 is misleading. The said marker was originally used for the four ready-made Quonset huts initially erected at the site of the old Capitol building near the Balanga town plaza. The huts were temporarily used by governors Teodoro Camacho, Joaquin J. Linao and even Emilio Ma. Naval. During this period, several other houses around Balanga were also rented to accommodate the other employees of the provincial government. After the new Capitol was completed and inaugurated, the same metal marker was posted in front of the new building.*

**T**he BATAAN CAPITOL is where the governor and members of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan conduct their official duties. It is also the workplace of some 1,000 provincial employees and staff members of various government agencies.

The present Capitol building is located at the western end of the Capitol Road in Upper Barangay San Jose, Balanga City.

The old Capitol building was located at the present site of the BALANGA ARCADE. The site was originally used by an unnamed Spanish *encomiendero* (land manager) for Bataan as his personal property and place of residence. He built a concrete house in the area sometime in 1729. When

the encomienda system was abolished and replaced with provinces in 1754, the first Bataan governor (*alcalde mayor*) used the encomiendero's house as the provincial government center.

Jose dela Guardia was the last Spanish governor to use the said building. He was among those who surrendered to the local rebels during the so-called Siege of Balanga on May 27-30, 1898.

The same building and the site were sequestered by the US Army in 1899. It was initially used as an Army barracks by American Army Captain John O. Gouldman, who eventually became the first military governor of Bataan from 1901 to 1903. The building expanded as new governors reigned over the province.

A portion of the lot was later used as the initial BALANGA PUBLIC MARKET while another portion was allotted as site of the first BATAAN HIGH SCHOOL. From 1906 to 1911, the Capitol building became a simple extension office of two governors, Lorenzo Zialcita (1906-1907) and Pedro Rich (1907-1911) who held office in Orani during their administration.

The same old Capitol building in Balanga was re-opened in 1911 by the newly-elected Governor MARIANO ROSAURO who also returned the seat of government to Balanga from Orani. Unfortunately, the Capitol building was razed to the ground by Japanese bombers in January 1942, during the early months of World War II. The bombings also burned

# BATAAN CAPITOL

and destroyed all building structures in the vicinity, except the ST. JOSEPH CATHEDRAL which sustained minor damages.

A new Capitol building was built in the former barren lot in Upper San Jose, during the first term of Governor EMILIO MA. NAVAL (1948-1951). The construction of type building was started in late 1949 and completed in June 1950. The cost of the initial building was P235,945.00. An engineer from Balanga named Horacio N. Cruz was the building contractor.

Part of the Capitol building project was the construction of a straight asphalt road, measuring some 1.2 kilometers and 12 meters wide. It started

from the corner of the present Recar building to the gate of the Capitol compound. Capitol officials negotiated with the Balanga Church hierarchy to sell the vacant lot located on the left side of the cathedral (*in front of the present Banco Filipino, going west to Cataning River*). The property was used as approach ramp to what is now known as Capitol Road.

The government spent P75,679.00 for the new road which replaced the old Ibayo-Tenejero road initially used by people in going to the new provincial government building. A wooden bridge was built across the Cataning River to connect Rizal Street in Poblacion to the new Capitol Road.

## ***Old Capitol Tragedy***

Bataan Governor Conrado N. Lerma (1916-1918), a native of Santa Rosa, Pilar, was shot to death inside his office at the old Capitol building on August 3, 1918. The gunman was Jose Baluyut of Orion, a former board member. He was tried and convicted of the crime.

Lerma was replaced by former Governor Pedro Rich of Samal (1918-1919) who immediately placed Pilar and Orion under Constabulary control in an effort to appease the warring supporters of Lerma and Baluyut. Former Orion Simeon P. Rodriguez, already a resident of Pilar at that time, was designated as mayor of the two towns from 1918 until 1919.

# BATAAN Library and Museum



The BATAAN LIBRARY AND MUSEUM is the only institution of its kind currently operating in the province. It offers a wide collection of books, records and even photographs for reference or borrowing.

It was established in Balanga City by the Rissho Kosei-Kai (RKK), an association of Buddhist laymen of Japan who donated the multi-million peso two-storey building. RKK president Nichiko Niwano, Rev. Kinjiro Niwano, Nikkyu Niwano, Rev. Koyata, Rev. Amaya, Rev. Kubo, Rev. Nishioka and Mr. Arakawa were among those who initiated the Philippine-Japan Friendship program starting in 1974.

The provincial government headed

by then Governor Efren B. Pascual (1972-1986) donated the 2,000 square meter lot located inside the Bataan Capitol grounds.

The Bataan Christian Youth Foundation Inc. (BCYFI) was the project administrator.

The building was inaugurated on April 8, 1985. In addition to the library and museum, the building has two conference halls, an audio-visual room and the RKK room.

BCYFI officials who served as BLM administrators include Ditas Consunji-Escalante, Eduardo Mangalindan, Nestor Tuason, Manuel Banzon Jr. and Alex Banzon. Annamaria B. Tuazon is the current chairman of the BCYFI.



## BATAAN Youth Center

The BATAAN YOUTH CENTER (BYC) is the first multi-purpose sports and cultural complex established in Bataan starting in 1962. It was constructed by the provincial government inside the campus of the former Bataan Community College in Barangay Poblacion, Balanga City.

The plan to put up the complex was approved by Governor Pedro R. Dizon in December 1961. Its initial construction started in January 1962 through the funds provided by former Congressman Jose R. Nuguid of Orani. The construction, however, proceeded very slowly and was even suspended indefinitely in May 1963.

The center remained incomplete during the second term of Governor Dizon (1964-1967) and through

the administration of Governor Guillermo Arcenas (1968-1971).

It was former Governor Efren B. Pascual of Orani (1972-1986) who saw the importance of having a decent sports and cultural complex in Balanga. In 1980, the provincial government funded the repair and expansion of the BYC. The new façade was completed based on the design provided by the late Architect Arturo Canare. A new stage was also built and wooden bleachers were constructed.

From then on, the BYC became the venue of various provincial and regional sports competitions, musical and dramatic presentations, public hearings and political conventions. At present, it serves as the gymnasium of the Bataan Peninsula State University - Balanga campus.

## BATUNGBACAL, Mariano

MARIANO BATUNGBACAL (1885-1943) was the 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> mayor of Balanga (1934-1937, 1942-1943). While serving his second term as an appointed mayor, he was shot and killed by an “assassin” on April 27, 1943.

Batungbacal was born in Plaridel, Bulacan on April 28, 1885. He grew up in Balanga where his parents migrated at the turn of the century. He graduated from the Bataan High School in Orani in 1908 and completed a Commerce degree from the San Juan de Letran College in Manila.

It was in Balanga where he met and married Ursula Banzon Tiangco with whom he had three children. Unfortunately, Ursula died when her oldest son, Benjamin, was only seven years old. Batungbacal remarried to Hilaria Vergara of Hermosa who bore him eight children. He managed the vast landholdings of the Banzon-Tiangco family in Balanga to support his big family.

Batungbacal was elected as the 10<sup>th</sup> mayor of Balanga, defeating Emilio Mendoza of Omboy, Poblacion during the June 5, 1934 elections. During his term, he initiated and completed the asphaltting of the Talisay-Puerto Rivas Road. He also ordered the dredging of the Talisay River to enable the ships owned by Manila-based merchant Teodoro Yatco get closer to Poblacion for the easy loading of locally-manufactured sugar and wine products. In addition to organizing the first fire brigade in Balanga, he also contracted a couple of marching bands to hold regular *serenata* at the Balanga town plaza once a week.

Batungbacal ran for reelection in 1937. Unfortunately, he lost to the former sanitation division president, Dr. MARIANO HERRERA of Barangay Talisay.

The two political rivals were involved in another showdown during the December 10, 1940 polls. Dr. Herrera bested Batungbacal for the second time. But the surviving heirs of

Batungbacal claimed that it was Dr. Herrera who lost at the polls by 100 votes. Unfortunately, Batungbacal was not able to file an election protest on time. Thus, Dr. Herrera was proclaimed as the mayoralty poll winner. The advent of World War II ended all the political bickerings in Balanga and elsewhere.

In August 1942, the Batungbacal family returned to Balanga after evacuating to Bulacan. They rebuilt their damaged home (then located beside the present VETAF's Store). A week later, newly-appointed Governor Simeon Salonga of Orani came to see Batungbacal and asked him to administer the affairs of the capital town in as much as Mayor Herrera who also evacuated to Hagonoy, Bulacan, had refused to serve his remaining term. Batungbacal accepted the offer and immediately began the task of rebuilding the town. He started with the construction of a temporary municipal hall to replace the old one which was razed to the ground by the saturated bombings of the Japanese warplanes.

During his term, however, he was branded as a “Japanese collaborator” by his detractors. He also received death threats almost daily. On April 27, 1943, while Batungbacal was in front of his home watching a religious procession, an armed man approached him and shot him twice in the stomach. Seriously wounded, he staggered toward the town plaza and went up the glorieta where he tersely announced that he never collaborated with the Japanese. He died on the same spot a few minutes later.

A lot of people went to his burial, including General Emilio Aguinaldo, first Philippine president and a friend of the Batungbacal family.



## BAUTISTA, Cesar B.



**C**ESAR B. BAZON BAUTISTA was the 13<sup>th</sup> Philippine Ambassador to the United Kingdom (England) and Northern Ireland from 1999 until 2003. He was also the Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) from 1996 to 1998.

Ambassador Bautista is the son of the late Pascual Bautista and the former Milagros T. Banzon, first muse of the HAS Club of Balanga and a descendant of Julio Banzon and Esperanza Quindoy.

Bautista completed his studies at the University of

the Philippines and the Ohio State University. He started out as a career executive in various multinational companies like Caltex, Biocon (Philippines) Inc., International Starch Corporation and Unilever (Philippine Refining Company). He was the chairman and president of Unilever from 1986 up to 1993, the highest position attained by a Filipino at that time.

He joined the government service in 1993 initially as Undersecretary of Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and later as Secretary. During his stint at DTI, he also sat as chairman of the Board of Investments and the Economic Monitoring and Mobilization Task Force. He had a say in the country's fiscal policy as member of the Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

In 1999, he joined the Department of Foreign Affairs

and was assigned as Ambassador to Great Britain. He succeeded former Ambassador Jesus P. Tambunting and held office at the Philippine Embassy located at 9 Palace Green, in London.

In addition to his assignment at the Court of St. James, he was also President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's special presidential envoy to Europe, a validation of his excellent service as a diplomat. He retired in 2003 and was replaced by current Ambassador Edgardo B. Espiritu.

Ambassador Bautista was awarded the Presidential Order of Merit, Distinguished Alumnus Award from UP and Ohio State University, Gintong Haligi Award from the Advertising Foundation of the Philippines, Professional Excellence Award and many others.

**C**AROLINA NAVAL BELTRAN (1931- ) was the fifth vice governor of Bataan. She served from 1980 to 1986. She is acknowledged as the Mother of the Economic Support Fund (ESF) projects in Bataan.

"Lina" Beltran is the daughter of the late Carmelo Naval and Bartola Reyes, both natives of Puerto Rivas. She was born on December 26, 1931. She completed her Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education at the National Teachers College in Manila. Her initial assignment as a public school teacher was in Kitang, Limay. Thereafter, she was transferred to the Balanga Elementary School.

Her marriage to Remigio Beltran of Tortugas led to the establishment of the family-owned Carbel Restaurant in Barangay Ibayo. The business venture flourished and led to the formal set up of the RC Beltran Enterprises. The company managed the development of several low-cost subdivision projects in many parts of the province, such as Maria Lourdes Subdivision (in Balanga) and Mountain View Village (Mariveles), to name a few.

The Beltran couple was also responsible for the establishment of the first luxurious and fully air-conditioned commercial center in Balanga, the Recar Shopping Mall. Mrs. Beltran serves as the general manager-treasurer.

Due to her immense popularity and financial capability, Lina Beltran was picked out as runningmate by then Governor Efren B. Pascual during the 1980 local elections. Backed by the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan political machinery, the Pascual-Beltran ticket won at the polls overwhelmingly.

In 1984, during the absence of Governor Pascual who took a leave of absence in the United States, Vice-Governor Beltran led the members of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan in approving the implementation of various ESF projects in Bataan. This led to the completion of the new Bataan National High School, the Capitol extension building and other major projects in the province.

The fall of the Marcos regime in 1986, however,

led to the purging of almost all incumbent government officials, to include Pascual and Beltran.

Lina Beltran attempted a political comeback in 1988 by running for the mayoralty position of Balanga. But against Mayor Melanio Banzon Jr., Beltran's bid proved unsuccessful. Her second defeat came in 1992 when she ran again for mayor against Banzon. From then on, she stayed away from active political participation and allowed her son, Emmanuel, carry on the family's political career.

Carolina and Remegio had seven children: Maria Theresa, Maria Elizabeth, Remegio Jr., Melencio, Emmanuel (currently a provincial board member), Maria Concepcion and Maria Lourdes.

## BELTRAN, Carolina N.





**E**MMANUEL NAVAL BELTRAN (1962- ) is the current representative of Puerto Rivas, Balanga to the present Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Bataan (2010-2013). He was first elected as provincial board member in 1995, 2004 and 2007.

Manny Beltran is the son of former Bataan Vice Governor Carolina Naval-Beltran and Remegio Beltran. He was born in Puerto Rivas on October 20, 1962. From 1979 to 1985, he finished two college courses -- Civil Engineering, and Environment and

Sanitary Engineering -- from the Mapua Institute of Technology in Manila.

He founded the Prestige Construction Company after graduating from college. His business venture is currently involved in various consultancy and construction projects, here and abroad.

Among the seven Beltran siblings, it was he who followed the footsteps of her mother who served as vice governor from 1980 to 1986. He entered the political arena in 1981 when he ran and won as chairman of Kabataang Barangay in Puerto Rivas. He also served as municipal chairman of KB-Balanga. After establishing his construction company, he ran for a board member seat in the Second District in 1995. He won on top of the five winning candidates

on his first attempt. Sporting from his previous victory and sterling performance at the Bataan Capitol, he ran for the mayoralty post of Balanga in 1998 against a newcomer, Albert S. Garcia. Unfortunately, he lost at the polls. Thereafter, he went back to managing his construction company.

Beltran made a successful political comeback in 2004. He won as senior board member of the Second District. He won his second term as board member in May 2007, again as topnotcher. His third victory came during the May 10, 2010 election.

He and wife Maria Dolores Banzon-Beltran have three children: Jose Miguel, Maria Isabel and Maria Betina.

**E**MILIO CALMA BERNABE (1910-1993) was Balanga's 22<sup>nd</sup> mayor. He served the people of the capital town from 1960 to 1963.

Emilio, the son of Mariano Bernabe and Maria Calma, was born in Puerto Rivas, Balanga, on July 30, 1910. He finished his Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from the National Teachers College and was employed as a public school teacher at the former Tortugas Primary School.

His marriage to the former Dominga Cornejo, a barriomate, produced nine children. To augment the financial requirement of his big family, Emilio ventured into the lucrative insurance business. He and Dominga also established the Bernabe's Furniture in Balanga.

His bid for the mayoralty post of Balanga during the November 10, 1959 local polls was a

success. He defeated former Vice-Mayor Domingo Javier of Cupang. His administration (1960-1963), however, was marred by political turmoil. He was charged with nepotism and malversation of public funds by a couple of his own councilors. For this, he was suspended by Governor Pedro R. Dizon for 30 days. The cases, however, was summarily dismissed in November 1963.

Bernabe sought reelection during the November 12, 1963 local polls against three other candidates -- Domingo Javier, Mariano Quindoy, and a barriomate named Vicente Malibiran. It was Malibiran who emerged as the poll winner. It was said that the combined support of voters from Puerto Rivas and Cupang, the first in many years, contributed to the victory of Malibiran.

Despite the setback, Bernabe remained a strong

political leader in Balanga. In late 1971, he was appointed by then Governor Guillermo Arcernas as acting board member of Bataan.

Bernabe is best remembered for his philanthropic deeds. He donated several personal properties for the poor residents of Puerto Rivas and Dangcol. He also donated a piece of land in Bagac which was developed as sites for the proposed hospital and high school in the area. He also donated a prime property in Binaritan, Morong which was converted as training and livelihood center, and public market. He passed away on August 31, 1993.



# BIRDWATCHING



**B**IRDWATCHING is a form of relaxation, study, sports, meeting new friends, improving one's personality, going places and learning more about the world we live in. It is also one of the most popular hobbies in the world.

City of Balanga, an attractive stop-over for migratory birds, has been identified by the Department of Tourism as a popular site for birdwatching. The three coastal barangays of Puerto Rivas, Tortugas and Sibacan are presently recognized as one of the most popular stop-over sites and feeding grounds for thousands of migratory birds that include gulls, terns, herons and egrets.

The migratory birds flock to the sites in Balanga from September to March while resident birds can be seen all year round.

Puerto Rivas and Tortugas share a wide expanse of coastal plain that becomes filled with winged global travelers during low tide. They also have a preserved thick mangrove forest, grassland and wetland areas that serve as favorable roosting grounds for crows, waterhens, rails, kites, doves, herons and egrets.

Sibacan, on the other hand, has a combination of marshlands, fishponds and wetlands that have become ideal habitats for various types of migratory and resident birds.

A visit to City of Balanga promises a spectacle of one of the largest concentrations of migratory birds. The capital city also provides great opportunities for bird photographers to get detailed and impressive bird shots.



# BIRDWATCHING



On December 30, 2007, a group of birdwatchers from the Wild Bird Club of the Philippines (WBCP) visited Balanga and conducted research and documentation of different bird species found in the area. The group, headed by WBCP President Michael C. Lu and Netherlands Ambassador Robert Brinks, found Balanga as among the most populated bird sanctuaries in the country. In fact, Balanga was number one in the list in 1998, 1999 and 2001.

This was followed by another group of birdwatchers and photographers visiting Balanga on March 8, 2008.

To drumbeat the new environment protection and preservation program initiated by Mayor Jose Enrique S. Garcia III, a bird photo exhibit was launched by the City of Balanga government on April 15, 2008.

The WBCP, recognizing Balanga's importance as a bird sanctuary, awarded the city government the honor of hosting the 2009 Bird Festival in its fifth year of celebration.

Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano, during his visit on June 16, 2008, has officially declared Balanga as a new bird watching destination in the country.

## **Balanga's migratory birds**

The list of recorded birds that visit Balanga City include:

Grey Heron, Purple Heron, Great Egret, Intermediate Egret, Little Egret, Cattle Egret, Little Heron, Black-Crowned Night-Heron, Rufous Night-Heron, Cinnamon Bitter, Yellow Bittern, Brahminy Kite, Peregrine Falcon, Buff-banded Rail, Barred Rail, White Browed Crake, White Breasted Waterhen, Common Moorhen, Grey Plover, Asian Golden-Plover, Little Ringed Plover;

Kentish Plover, Lesser-Sand Plover, Greater Sand-Plover, Eurasian Curlew, Whimbrel, Common Redshank, Common Greenshank, Wood Sandpiper, Grey-tailed Tattler, Ruddy Turnstone, Asian Dowitcher,

Sanderling, Rufous-necked Stint, Long-toed Stint, Broad-billed Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Black-winged Stilt, Black-headed Gull, Little Tern, White-winged Tern;

Whiskered Tern, Zebra Dove, Common Kingfisher, White-collared Kingfisher, Blue-tailed Bee-eater, Barn Swallow, Pacific Swallow, Pied Triller, Yellow-vented Bulbul, Golden-bellied Flyeater, Arctic Warbler, Glamorous Reed-Warbler, Striated Grassbird, Bright-capped Cisticola, Zitting Cisticola, Pied Fantail, Grey Wagtail, Yellow Wagtail, Brown Shrike, Long-tailed Shrike;

White-shouldered Starling, Chestnut-cheeked Starling, Crested Mynah, Olive-backed Sunbird, Eurasian Tree Sparrow, Scaly-breasted Munia and Chestnut Munia



# BRIDGES

There are 35 major and minor BRIDGES within the territorial jurisdiction of the City of Balanga. The bridges have a total length of 802.92 linear meters.

Four concrete bridges are located along the Bataan National Road, namely the Tuyo Bridge, Calero (Ibayo-Tuyo) Bridge, Balanga Diversion (Ibayo-Poblacion) Bridge and Camacho Bridge in the Poblacion-Bagumbayan area.

Situated in the heart of the city is the Cuaderno Bridge that connects Barangay Ibayo and Poblacion. The original wooden beam bridge spanning across the Catanang-Malabia River was built by the Spaniards in the 1850s. It was repaired by the Americans in the early 1900s and converted into a “covered bridge.” In 1951, it was replaced by a steel-concrete bridge through the initiative of Don MIGUEL CUADERNO, during his term as governor of the Central Bank of the Philippines. It was officially named as Cuaderno Bridge, in honor of Don Protacio, the Central Bank governor’s father.

The Capitol Road Bridge is another major overpass that connects Poblacion and Barangay San Jose. In the past,

the only access to San Jose was an old wooden bridge built in 1928 by the owners of the BALANGA POWER PLANT. Another wooden-steel bridge was built across the Catanang River in 1950 and came to be known as the Capitol Road Bridge. It gradually replaced the power plant’s bridge as the major access to the new Capitol building. In 1967, or during the incumbency of Governor PEDRO R. DIZON, the Capitol Road Bridge was converted into a steel-concrete structure.

A third bridge, the Catanang-San Jose wooden bridge, was also built in the 1960s. It was converted into a concrete bridge in the 1980s and used as major access to the Balanga Public Market in San Jose.

The Balanga Diversion (Ibayo-Poblacion) Bridge, located near the present Balanga Cockpit Arena, was built in 1955. It was made of steel beams and concrete flooring. It was rehabilitated and widened in 2002 during the administration of former City Mayor ALBERTS. GARCIA.

The 90-meter long and 10-meter wide Camacho Bridge that spans across the Talisay River was built by the US Army Engineering and Construction Corps in 1938 and completed in three months. It replaced the old Balanga-Pilar (Omboy-Sitio Maisan) wooden bridge which was totally dismantled before the war. It was named Teodoro Camacho Sr. Bridge after its wooden flooring was repaired and upgraded to concrete in 1946 by the US Bureau of Public Roads and the Philippine Bureau of Public Works through funds from the US-Philippine Rehabilitation Act of 1946.

The initial wooden Puerto Rivas Bridge was built in 1922,

during the term of Congressman MAXIMINO DELOS REYES. It connects Tortugas to Puerto Rivas. It was replaced by a steel-concrete bridge during the term of Governor Pedro R. Dizon (1960-1963, 1964-1967). It was replaced by another concrete bridge in 2009, during the administration of City Mayor Joet Garcia, with the support of Governor Enrique T. Garcia Jr. and Congressman Abet Garcia.

The other interior bridges are located in Central (1), San Jose-Ibayo (1), Tuyo (6), Sibacan (1), Tenejero (2), Cupang (Maluya, 2), Dangcol (3), Tanato (3), and Camacho (1). Barangay Cabog-cabog has a modular steel bridge

that connects the barangay and Tanato, also in Balanga.

Most of the bridges built in Balanga are made of steel and concrete and only five are made of timber materials.

There are six concrete bridges located along the length of the Roman Expressway: Tuyo (2), Camacho (1), Tenejero (1), Catanang (2) and Central (1). Some of these bridges are presently in dire need of rehabilitation or have to be replaced to conform to the bigger and heavier vehicles passing through the said highway.

## Old Balanga-Pilar Bridge

The old and narrow wooden Balanga-Pilar Bridge, connecting what are now known as Omboy, in Balanga and Sitio Maisan in Sta. Rosa, Pilar was built during the administration of former Governor Tomas del Rosario (1903-1905). It was deemed ready for condemnation as early as 1935. As replacement, a standard steel beam bridge was initiated in 1938 by the US Army Engineering and Construction Corps. The new bridge was completed in three months and, immediately thereafter, the old wooden bridge was dismantled.

In 2003, then City Mayor Albert S. Garcia attempted to put up a modular bridge across Talisay River, parallel to the Camacho Bridge. But the residents of Sitio Maisan in Sta. Rosa, supported by the local government officials of Pilar, rejected the said project.



# BRIGADA Eskwela



**B**RIGADAESKWELA is a yearly National School's Maintenance Week program instituted nationwide in 2002. Its primary goal is to help solve the inadequacies of all public schools in the country by engaging the private sector in helping the public schools physically prepared for the opening of classes in June of each year.

The private sector, represented mostly by parents, and the school teachers bond together to promote volunteerism in solving minor problems besetting a particular school in the community.

Brigada Eskwela is usually held before the school opens in June.

The volunteers undertake

minor repair and maintenance of a school, to include campus landscaping, repainting of perimeter fence and classrooms, repairing cracked walls, broken tables and chairs, and even replacing broken windows and damaged roof sheets.

Teachers and parents with skills in construction and repairs do the week-long projects. Other volunteers solicit funds and/or materials needed in the repair of the school. Other wealthy parents donate cash to support the projects.

In May 2008, the Department of Education cited the Balanga Integrated School and the Bataan National High School as one of the best implementors of the Brigada Eskwela nationwide in 2007. There



were 96 winners from the 17 regions who received plaques of recognition from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

DepEd's national committee chose the top schools based on the

criteria: *Teamwork* (number and kinds of volunteers, 40 percent); *Repair and Maintenance Work* (scope of work, 15 percent); and *Innovativeness and Creativity* (5 percent).

## BUS COMPANIES

**T**here are three BUS COMPANIES currently operating in Bataan, with Balanga as their main bus depot. These are the Genesis, the Bataan Transit, and the Victory Liner.

The Victory Liner plies the Balanga-Olongapo route, while the first two bus companies ply the Balanga-Manila route with fully air-conditioned buses. The Genesis Bus Company, in addition to its Balanga-Pasay route, also services the Mariveles-Balanga-Baguio City circuit.

A decade ago, four other bus companies complemented the transport requirement of

the local residents. These were the Philippine Rabbit, Panther Express, Pantranco, and Viva Aladdin Transit. Labor problems and mismanagement were the main reasons for the demise of the four bus companies.

Bataan, despite its reputation as a dead-end destination, had the luxury of having a transport service as early as the 1930s. The Pampanga Bus Company (Pambusco) was the first bus company to have been granted the exclusive right by the Public Service Commission to transport passengers from Balanga to Manila and back.

The Bataan Express bus company, owned by Primitivo Bernabe of Puerto Rivas, also plied the Balanga-Manila route before the war. But it closed shop after a year of operation.

Three years later, in June 1951, Pambusco and La Mallorca's joint operation took effect in Balanga. In 1954, Victory Liner started operating in Balanga, plying the Balanga-Olongapo route.

The La Mallorca-Pambusco stopped its Balanga operation in the 1960s and suddenly, Philippine Rabbit found itself as the major transport carrier in Bataan. Air-conditioned buses were

introduced. Pantranco buses also came in and joined the competition but Philippine Rabbit retained the people's patronage.

The 1980s saw the entry of the Panther Express and Viva Aladdin Transit. It was the time when Rabbit and Pantranco were already embroiled in their respective labor problems. Genesis entered the scene when Rabbit and Pantranco were about ready to stop operation. In the mid-1990s, however, Panther and Viva stepped out of the picture for still undetermined reason. Bataan Transit started operating in Balanga in 2001.



# CALAMITY



**C**ALAMITY is a disaster that occurs in a particular area.

Balanga had suffered several types of calamity, natural and man-made, such as:

**War.** World War II greatly devastated Balanga and most parts of Bataan. Thousands of lives, soldiers and civilians, were lost. Houses went up in smoke. Cholera, malaria and dysentery also claimed many lives.

**Earthquake.** The major earthquake that hit Luzon on July 16, 1990 sowed fear in Balanga residents.

On December 12, 1999 a temblor that lasted only 23 seconds with a 6.8 magnitude on the Richter scale also rocked Balanga. No damage was reported in the city.

Although the City of Balanga had experienced earthquake, fortunately no incident of major

destruction hit the city.

**Volcanic eruptions.** The eruption of Mount Pinatubo in June 1991 was a global shocker. It sent the Americans in Clark Air Base and Subic Bay Naval Base packing as ashes covered most of their military installations.

While the said eruptions heavily damaged Pampanga, Zambales, Pangasinan, Bulacan and Tarlac, it also affected Bataan, including Balanga where a relatively thin but widespread ash covered the whole city. Ashes also covered ricefields, fishponds and roofs of houses. Cataning River, Tuyoy River and other water tributaries became silted but only lightly. Balanga served as temporary refuge for the affected families from towns and nearby provinces particularly the Aetas.

**Typhoons.** The Philippines lies in the so-called typhoon belt. Great and minor typhoons come and ravage many parts of the country annually. Several devastating typhoons have been recorded during the last five decades or so:

*Dading* (1964) was a very destructive typhoon which uprooted tree, sent galvanized iron roofing and wood flying in all directions. *Welming* (1967) was much stronger than *Dading*. It toppled a big number

of houses and even electric posts. *Yoling* (1970), actually a hurricane, was packed with 150 kilometer-hour winds that blew lighthouses, sunk boats and uprooted trees in various places in Bataan.

Balanga was hit severely by several typhoons: 1960 - *Trix, Wendy, Agnes, Carmen, Della, Elaine*; 1962 - *Kate*; 1970 - *Yoling*; 1979 - *Mameng*; 1980 - *Aring*; 1982 - *Norming*; 1983 - *Bebeng*; 1985 - *Karing, Daling*; 1986 - *Gading*; 1997 - *Goring, Bining, Ibiang*; 1998 - *Emang, Iliang, Loleng*; 2000 - *Biring, Pitang, Edeng*; 2001 - *Ceria, Jolina*; 2002 - *Gloria, Florila, Hambalos*; 2004 - *Frank, James, Marie, Yoyong*; and 2006 - *Milenyo, Neneng*.

**Fire.** On April 17, 1981, Fire hits VETAFS, Eliong's Grocery, Stella's, Del's Gift Shoppe, Delita's Grocery, Wa Nam, Jomar's Variety Store, Pomer's Optical, Crazy Horse Tailoring, Bataan Grocery.

**Health epidemics.** The dreadful "Cholera" was recorded to have hit Balanga, Samal, Abucay and other towns during the Spanish period, from 1880 to 1890. Victims died as fast as they contacted the disease. A lot of people perished.

During World War II, cholera and malaria were the most dreaded

diseases. Malaria, still a scourge at the present time, claimed thousands of lives of civilians and soldiers on the opposing sides (Filipinos, Americans, and Japanese). Civilians also perished due to inadequate supply and/or absence of medicines.

**Red Tide.** The Red Tide problem is caused by a buildup of sea organisms that are toxic to fish, clams, mussels and oysters. When eaten by people, it causes poisoning. People are brought to the hospital for treatment. It has already claimed a number of lives in various parts of the country and fortunately, no fatality has been reported in Balanga up to this time. A lot of "tahong" and seashell vendors in town and other coastal communities, however, complained of considerable loss of income during Red Tide season.

**Infestations.** In 1961, a locust infestation hit Balanga and other neighboring towns. In mid-2010, a worm infestation also hit the city. The infestation left lonely, leafless, often, lifeless trees and decimated crops.

Nothing can stop natural calamities from happening. However, man-made conflagrations could have been prevented through proper actions by the people and the government.

## CALIMBAS, Edgardo P.



serving his third term, from 2007 to 2010.

“Ed” Calimbas is the son of Consolacion Perez-Calimbas of Puerto Rivas, Balanga, and Manuel Calimbas of Mariveles. Born in

**E**DGARDO PEREZ CALIMBAS (1952- ), a dentist by profession, is a member of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Bataan representing Mariveles and Balanga. He was elected as board member in 2001, 2004 and has completed

Barangay Cabcaben on April 18, 1952, he was raised in Balanga where he completed his secondary education at the former Arellano Memorial (Bataan) High School. He studied Dentistry at the UERM and De Ocampo University. After his graduation in 1977, he was immediately employed as company dentist at the Mitsumi Philippines, a multi national company based at the Bataan Economic Zone.

Dr. Calimbas started his political career in 1980 when he ran and won a councilor’s seat in Mariveles. He served until 1988. Thereafter, he ran for vice-mayor, together with Mayor Melba O. Buenaventura. Both of them, unfortunately, lost at the polls. Calimbas had two more

unsuccessful attempts in politics: in 1992, when he ran for mayor of Mariveles; and in 1998, when he aspired for a board member position under the ticket of Limay Mayor and former gubernatorial candidate Nelson C. David.

His last three attempts to become a member of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan were successful. He won in 2001, 2004 and 2007.

During the May 10, 2010 local polls, he ran and won as municipal councilor of Mariveles. He currently represents the Phil. Councilors League - Bataan chapter in the Sangguniang Panlalawigan starting in September 2010.

## CAMACHO, Adelmo Q.



Governor Camacho was born in Balanga on March 19, 1916 to parents TEODORO CAMACHO SR. (former governor and congressman) and Gertrudes Quindoy. He completed his Law degree from the University of the Philippines in 1938. He passed the Bar examinations and became a full-pledged lawyer

**A**D E L M O AQUINDOY CAMACHO (1916-1985) was Bataan’s 20<sup>th</sup> governor. He was a very controversial political figure during his incumbency as governor from 1952 to 1955.

on December 20, 1939.

Camacho joined the government service and initially served as provincial assistant fiscal in Bulacan. He was also assigned as a prosecutor in Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija. He returned to Balanga in 1948 and worked under Governor EMILIO MA. NAVAL as secretary of the Bataan provincial board. Unfortunately, he and the governor parted ways in 1949.

During the November 13, 1951 local polls, Camacho ran for governor against his former boss. Surprisingly, he beat Naval at the polls. He received 15,549 votes against Naval’s tally of 14,252 votes.

Through the support of then Congresswoman MEDINA LACSON DE LEON, Governor Camacho was able to put up the initial buildings for the BATAAN NATIONAL SCHOOL OF

ARTS AND TRADES (now Bataan Peninsula State University).

During his incumbency, Camacho was temporarily locked up at the provincial jail for ordering the demolition of several fishpond lots in Balut, Pilar. He defended his action by stating that the fishponds were illegally built and found to be blocking the flow of the Talisay River. The fisherfolks who lodged the complaints against the Manila-based fishpond owners joined Camacho in jail until he was released.

Camacho and former Governor Naval met head-on for the second time during the November 8, 1955 local election for the same gubernatorial position. Naval won at the polls. Camacho returned to his private practice after the said debacle. He passed away on December 26, 1985.

## CAMACHO, Jose Isidro N.



**J**OSE ISIDRO NAVATO CAMACHO (1955- ) is the first Balanga native who served as Secretary of Energy and later on, Secretary of Finance of the Philippines.

“Joselito” Camacho was born in Balanga on July 20, 1955. He is the son of Teodoro Q. Camacho Jr. and Leonarda Navato-Camacho. He is the grandson of former Bataan Congressman and Governor Teodoro Camacho Sr. He finished his high school education at the Don Bosco-Makati in 1972. He was then the president of the Student Council.

His talent for academic pursuits had been demonstrated early when he finished in just three years a Bachelor’s degree in A.B. Mathematics, *cum laude*, from the De La Salle

University in 1975. After graduation, he worked briefly at the Banco Filipino. He took up post-graduate studies and completed a Master’s degree in Business Administration with concentration on Finance from the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration in the United States in 1979.

Upon his return to the country, he became involved in the banking industry. On his spare time, he was a street parliamentarian. He was the founder and president of *Samahang Manindigan*, a non-government organization advocating good governance and people’s right to be involved in the affairs of the government.

In 1995, he was employed as Senior Managing Director and Country Head of the Bankers Trust Company of New York. Later on, he accepted the position of Managing Director and Chief Country Officer of the Deutsche Bank AG for the Philippines. From 1999 to 2000, he was the Managing Director and head of the Country Coverage for Investment Banking for the Asian Region of Deutsche Bank AG based in Singapore.

When President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo came to power in 2001, Joselito was initially tapped as Secretary of Energy. Later on, he accepted the Finance portfolio. As head of the department and, at the same time, Governor of the Central Bank of the Philippines, he uncovered several tax evasion cases. To further increase government revenue, he asked delinquent firms to file for reassessment before they are caught and sued for tax evasion. After two years in government service, he resigned from his job and resumed his involvement in the banking industry.

He was a recipient of the “*Dangal Balangueño*” award in Banking and finance during the administration of Mayor Jose Enrique S. Garcia III.

Joselito is married to Maria Clara “Kim” Acuna-Camacho, also a MBA graduate of Harvard Business School and Harvard University (Economics, *cum laude*). The couple has six children: Bea, Lorenzo, Carlos, Anuncia, Joaquin and Simon who are all professionals themselves.

## CAMACHO, Teodoro Sr. B.

**T**EODORO BANZON CAMACHO SR. was the 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> congressman of Bataan (1928-1931, 1935-1938 and 1938-1941). He was also the 17<sup>th</sup> governor of Bataan. He was appointed to the gubernatorial post by former President Sergio Osmeña Sr. and served from September 1945 until July 30, 1946.

Camacho was born in Balanga to parents Cirilo Camacho and Pascuala Banzon. He finished a Law degree from the Lyceum of Manila and became one of the pioneer municipal judges in Bataan. After his stint as *juez de paz* of Balanga, he was appointed as provincial fiscal of Bataan by then Governor Alberto Aquino (1920-1922, 1935-1937).

Camacho’s career as a lawyer-judge and public servant brought him into the political arena. During the July 31, 1928 congressional polls, he ran and won a close tussle against

reelectionist Congressman Manuel Banzon Sr., a townmate. He represented the province in Congress from 1928 until 1931.

His re-election bid, however, was not successful. He lost to another lawyer, 1929 Bar topnotcher Fortunato de Leon of Orion. Camacho contested the poll results and was declared the real winner. He replaced De Leon in Congress barely six months before the 1934 congressional election was held.

Camacho and De Leon had a rematch during the 1934 congressional polls. Camacho emerged as the poll winner. He was reelected in 1938 and served until 1941. During his administration, Congressman Camacho initiated the construction of the Limay-Mariveles Road, the Balanga-Bagac Road, and the Bataan Provincial Hospital. Unfortunately, he lost in his third attempt against Antonio G. Llamas, a pharmacist

from Mariveles.

As an appointed Bataan governor, Camacho immediately rehabilitated and re-opened the Bataan Provincial Hospital which was damaged severely during World War II.

Camacho was married to Gertrudes Quindoy. His son, Adelmo, became the governor of Bataan (1952-1955). His grandson, Teodoro III, served as mayor of Balanga (1968-1971, 1986-1988). Another grandson, Jose Isidro, served as Secretary of Energy, and later on, Secretary of the Department of Finance during the administration of President Gloria M. Arroyo (2000-2010).



## CAMACHO, Teodoro III

**T**EODORO OCAMPO CAMACHO III (1944- ) was only 24 years old when he was elected as the 24<sup>th</sup> mayor of Balanga in 1968. He still holds the title of being the youngest mayor ever to serve Balanga up to the present time. In 1986, he became the 27<sup>th</sup> mayor after being appointed as OIC mayor of the capital town.

“Boy” Camacho, grandson of former Congressman and Governor Teodoro Camacho Sr., was born in Balanga on August 7, 1944. His parents were ADELMO CAMACHO (former Bataan governor, 1952-1955) and the former Victoria Ocampo of Pampanga.

After completing his secondary education at the Arellano Memorial (Bataan) High School, Camacho enrolled at the San Beda College in Manila where he pursued a Law degree. While still in college, he ran for the

mayoralty post against the incumbent mayor, VICENTE MALIBIRAN of Puerto Rivas during the November 14, 1967 local election. He won at the polls and served his four-year term. It was during his reign that he was able to finish his studies and became a full-pledged lawyer in 1969.

In 1968, he initiated the construction of a new public market in Barangay San Jose. During the scheduled relocation of all stall owners from the old market site (*now known as Balanga Arcade*) to the new public market, he ordered the arrest of former Bataan Governor EMILIO MA. NAVAL for openly defying his order to vacate his stalls at the old market site. Naval, in turn, filed a criminal case in court against Camacho.

During the November 8, 1971 local election,

Camacho ran for re-election against Engineer CELSO V. VALDECAÑAS of Cupang Proper. Camacho was defeated at the polls.

In 1986, Camacho was able to return to the Balanga municipal hall as an officer-in-charge (OIC) mayor. He replaced former mayor, Engineer TEDDY R. ALONZO. After two years, Atty. Camacho returned to his Law practice in Balanga and has opened branches in Orani and Orion, Bataan.



## CAMP Cirilo S. Tolentino

**C**AMP CIRILO S. TOLENTINO originally known as the 15th Philippine Constabulary (PC) Headquarters is the home of the Bataan Police Provincial Office (BPPO) of the Philippine National Police (PNP). It is located at the back of the Bataan Capitol. It was named

after Sergeant Cirilo S. Tolentino, a dedicated and brave Constabulary soldier who gave his own life to save some 17 residents of Barangay Alauli, Pilar who were trapped in a flash flood that hit the barrio in 1956.

The camp was built in late 1949, at the time when the new Bataan Capitol was also being constructed in Upper San Jose, Balanga. The Constabulary unit in Bataan was given a new camp site in the area through the generosity of former Governor Emilio Ma. Naval. Starting in 1946, the Bataan PC unit was using the Balanga sports ground in Talisay as its camp. Camp Tolentino had evolved gradually through the years. New buildings were built, including the parade ground and the basketball court.

In 2000, the Bataan PNP was adjudged as the best police headquarters in the country. It presently maintains an administration office, officers’

quarters, unit quarters, barracks, parade ground with helipad, a covered basketball court, chapel and a new guardhouse.

**Sgt. Cirilo S. Tolentino** was born in Paniqui, Tarlac on July 27, 1927. He joined the Philippine Constabulary in 1948 after serving the country as a young guerrilla during World War II. It was while assigned in Balanga, Bataan when he met and married Aida Valeda Nuguid of Hermosa. The marriage produced four children: Guillermo, Evelyn, Patricia and Teresita. On September 1, 1956, Tolentino led a team of Constabulary soldiers in rescuing several families trapped by flood in Alauli, Pilar. After saving 17 residents from drowning, Tolentino succumbed to exhaustion which eventually led to his watery death. He had a son, Guillermo, who also joined the police force in 1972 and became known as “Giliw, the Rebel Hunter.” He was gunned down by NPA rebels inside a cockpit arena in Orani on June 25, 2000.



## CAMP Delatado Marin

CAMP DELATADO MARIN is the home of the 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, Philippine Army, and the 305<sup>th</sup> Bataan Ready Reserve Battalion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Regular Community Defense Center. It is located in Barangay Camacho, along the Roman Expressway.

It was initially used as training camp for Army cadets before the advent of World War II. Most Bataan

soldiers who served during the war took their basic trainings in the said camp.

A medical facility was also supposed to be built inside the camp for the soldiers. But Governor Jose Manahan, former Congressman Teodoro Camacho Sr. and Congressman Antonio G. Llamas were able to convince the Army authorities to build it in Tenejero

so residents can also avail of its services. The said ten-room hospital became the forerunner of the present Bataan General Hospital.

After the war, the training camp was temporarily closed. It was utilized temporarily as a coconut nursery.

During the Martial Law period, the camp became an out-of-town home of the Philippine Army.



## CATHOLIC Youth Organization

The CATHOLIC YOUTH ORGANIZATION was the foremost socio-civic alliance of young but concerned men and women of Balanga during the 1970s. It was organized by Fr. Antonio Dumauual who was assigned as parish priest of Balanga in early 1971.

At the onset, the CYO was primarily organized to ensure the holding of an honest and peaceful election in Bataan during the November 8, 1971 national and local polls. It was the time when

socio-economic issues and concerns had increased in magnitude and variety. People were already getting fed up with election frauds and violence, coupled with the anomalies plaguing the Marcos government.

Well-meaning citizens of Balanga -- young and old, rich and poor, educated and peasants -- came forward and answered Fr. Dumauual's appeal for volunteers. They signed up to undertake the mission in the hope that only those candidates willing to serve the people honestly and dutifully will win.

Other Balanga parish priests like Frs. Wilfredo Paguio, Felixberto Sison, Ruben Lenon and Abelardo Basilio also supported Fr. Dumauual's efforts.

Alfredo B. Nisay, a former school teacher, was the group's first elected president. Under his leadership, the Balangueños spirit of bayanihan and unity prevailed during the holding of the election. The CYO received a plaque of appreciation from Governor Efren B. Pascual for their

role in the peaceful outcome of the 1971 polls.

The youth organization, during the terms of Ronaldo Dizon and Jose "Pepe" Alonzo were involved in relief operations during times of calamity, in coordination with the Philippine National Red Cross in Balanga and the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office. They also held special caroling programs where they were the ones who gave gifts to the poor families, mostly canned goods and clothing which were donated by the former Subic Naval Base.

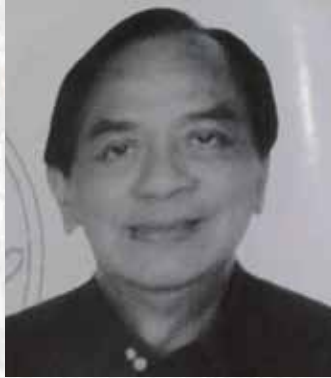
The CYO volunteers were also involved in various tourism projects, like the colorful Senakulo (Lenten festival) held yearly in Cataning. They also started the Philippine-Japan Friendship program with the Rissho Kosei Kai which was responsible for the construction of the Friendship Tower in Bagac, as well as the various Japanese donations to the Bataan National School for Filipino Craftsmen in Orani.

The CYO finally lost its bearing in 1976 after Father Dumauual was assigned at the St. Peter of Verona Church in Hermosa. The Bataan Christian Youth Civic Circle takes over where CYO left off.





## CATINDIG, Augusto B.



Augusto B. Catindig who is fondly called “Tito”, is noted for having been a recipient of awards as District and Regional Sales Manager of a prestigious company, the Johnson and Johnson Philippines. Despite of his being a Bachelor of Arts, major in English graduate, he has been successful in the field of selling, distributing and merchandising the products in all types of retails and wholesale outlets. He was cited as outstanding leader in Bayer-Consumer Products Division and Eveready Battery Co., Phils, Inc. As sales

manager, he was a recipient of Presidents trophy for Products Performance Award in 1969 and 1972.

His elementary education was completed at the San Beda College, Mendiola from 1950-1955. He pursued his secondary education in the same school where he graduated in 1959. For his college degree, he obtained it from the University of Sto. Tomas and graduated in 1963.

Augusto is happily married to Inocencia Victoria Mendoza with whom he has five

children. His family presently resides in Palanan, Makati.

Due to his diligence and hard work he was appointed as Director in the PNOC Exploration and Alternative Fuel from 1999 to 2007. While designated as Director of PNOC, he was likewise appointed as Consultant from 2007-2010 and as President/Manager of ABC Property Management Corporation starting in 2000 up to present.

On top of his successes, he remains humble, approachable and proactive.

## CEMETERY

**A** CEMETERY is a burial ground for the departed loved ones. To date, there are five operating cemeteries in Balanga, public and private.

The earliest eternal home in Balanga is the Roman Catholic Cemetery originally located in Barangay Malabia, immediately at the back of the present city hall building. It was constructed by Fr. Jesualdo Miñano who was assigned in Balanga from 1826 to 1845. It had a concrete arch at its main entrance, located beside the present water tank of the Balanga Water District. The whole area measured more than one hectare and was said to be fenced with lime bricks. It was closed in 1925.

The second cemetery is owned by the Diocese of Balanga. It is located in Barangay Tenejero Fr. Vicente Fernandez, Balanga’s parish priest from 1884-1886 and 1892-1898, was the one who initiated the construction of the said cemetery complete with high concrete walls, niches and a chapel of stone. Fr. Fernandez, however, was not able to finish the cemetery due to the outbreak of the Philippine Revolution against Spain in 1898. It

was only completed during the administration of Fr. Mariano Sarili (1898-1937). After the said cemetery became operational, the former Catholic graveyard in Malabia was gradually closed..



The second operating cemetery in Balanga is located in Puerto Rivas. It is situated at the entrance of the said barrio and owned by the Iglesia Filipina

Independiente (IFI). It was completed in 1923.

A third public cemetery continues to operate in Barangay Cataning. It opened in 1930.

The fourth and biggest cemetery in Balanga is the privately-owned Eternal Shrine Memorial Park in Barangay Talisay. It became operational in 1976. The ten-hectare memorial park is owned by the heirs of former Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno, and being developed and operated by the VL Group of Companies. In 2005, the Santuario Garden and Chapels, the first modern mortuary in Balanga, opened in front of the memorial park.

The Garden of Olives Memorial Park in Barrio Central is the fifth and latest addition to the list of operating cemeteries in Balanga. It is owned by the heirs of the late Gov. Pedro R. Dizon and Remedios Dizon and currently undergoing completion.

The Diocese of Balanga opened the first Ossuary of St. Joseph in 2009 beside the Balanga Cathedral. It is the brainchild of Bishop Socrates Villegas.

# CENSUS

Balanga Census as per NSO Data				
Barangay	1980	1998	2000	2007
Bagong Silang	1006	2305	2951	4787
Bagumbayan	2140	2412	2262	2331
Cabog-cabog	783	1307	1547	1761
Camacho	1301	2469	2651	3509
Cataning	2656	5099	5700	6139
Central	1316	2608	3534	4035
Cupang North	1325	2254	2196	2281
Cupang Proper	3806	6478	7566	9565
Cupang West	1495	1929	1887	1915
Dangcol	668	1059	1102	1254
Dona Francisca	894	2356	1969	2432
Ibayo	1330	1852	1880	2177
Malabia	1138	982	825	883
Munting Batangas	326	1221	1386	2116
Poblacion	1473	1107	834	707
Pto. Rivas Ibaba	2656	3918	3914	4343
Puerto Rivas Itaas	725	1910	1959	2014
Pto. Rivas Lote	668	1760	1691	2611
San Jose	2776	5523	5941	7130
Sibacan	2004	1516	1671	1713
Talisay	1347	1389	1307	1541
Tanato	407	521	535	642
Tenejero	2985	6841	7947	8632
Tortugas	2125	2902	2376	2872
Tuyo	1782	3577	5097	6764
<b>Total:</b>	<b>39,132</b>	<b>65017</b>	<b>71088</b>	<b>84105</b>

**C**ENSUS means the official count of the population in a locality. It also includes the characteristics of the residents, gender, sex, family size and occupation. The National Statistics Office (NSO) conducts the Census. The figures are also used to determine how many members or congressional districts a province will have in the House of the Representatives.

The NSO also conducts census of businesses,

transportation, agriculture and the fishing industry. They are conducted more frequently than the population census. At present, Census is being held every subsequent term of five years.

The earliest statistics on Balanga recorded some 1,194 residents in 1751; 7,442 in 1848; and 9,404 in 1882. The first government census held in 1946 counted only 10,000 Balanga residents. The low figure was attributed to the damage brought about by World War II. The figure steadily went up to 39,132 in 1990. The 1998 census found Balanga's population at 65,017.

The result of the 2007 National Census showed Balanga with a total population of 84,105 people.

Among the 25 barangays of Balanga, the largest in terms of population as of 2007 was Cupang Proper 9,565 residents. Barangay Tenejero came in second place with 8,632 while Barangay San Jose registered the third largest population with 7,130. The barangay with the smallest population size was Barangay Tanato with only 642 persons.

# CENTRE Plaza Mall



**T**he CENTRE PLAZA MALL is the elegant commercial building located in the heart of Balanga, right in front of the city plaza. The three-storey edifice is owned by Consul Eduardo Guzman, a native of Samal, Bataan Built on the former site of the Bataan High School, the commercial center opened to the public on July 13, 1999.

In addition to a number of accessories shops, amusement centers and open bargain stalls, the center maintains two fully air-conditioned cinemas, the only operating movie theaters in the city at present.

The Greenwich Pizza outlet and the newly-opened Red Ribbon are located at the ground floor. Adjacent to the center is the Jollibee Restaurant, also owned by Consul Guzman, which is the number one franchise food chain throughout the country.

# CHINESE

**T**he Chinese came to live in the Philippines as early as the 14<sup>th</sup> century when the barter trade was still in flourish. Some of them married and settled permanently in the country.

Bataan had a small number of Chinese residents. According to a census taken by the Spanish government in 1885, there were about 160 to 180 Chinese living in various places in the province. Local residents called them "intsik beho."

There were no rich Chinese in Balanga in the beginning. They all started from scratch. By being more active, more industrious and thrifter, they gradually acquired wealth and recognition in society. Almost all Chinese were engaged in commerce, mostly in the alcohol industry. Some

were engaged in the marketing of dried fish. Others started retail stores, groceries and restaurants.

Local residents started patronizing Chinese foods like pancit canton, pancit molo, asado, sweet and sour pork, fried chicken, hototay, patatim, fish in black bean sauce, and even fried rice. Very few Chinese engaged in agriculture.

Some of the more popular Chinese residents in Balanga were Eliong Co (Eliong's Grocery), Wong Wing (Wanam Restaurant), Beng Sengia, Huat Yak Wee (Flores Lumber), Lee Ban Huat (contractor who built the Balanga municipal building in 1950), Ting Tong, and Que Tiac, a building contractor who also served as barrio captain of Talisay from 1964-1971.

# CHURCHES

**R**ELIGION is the belief in the existence of a superhuman controlling power, especially of God or gods, usually expressed in worship.

Balanga residents, specifically the Roman Catholics, believe in the divinity of God and have built CHURCHES and chapels as center of their religious activities. Majority of the residents of Balanga City are Christians, the result of the colonization of the country by the Spaniards starting in 1521.

The ST. JOSEPH CATHEDRAL, situated in the heart of the town, is the main church of the Roman Catholics, the largest religious group in Balanga. The original church was

built in Poblacion (*located at the corner of Aguirre and Rizal Streets*) in 1739, some 25 years after Balanga was recognized as a missionary center of the Dominicans.

It underwent major and minor repairs during the last two centuries and is currently known as the Balanga Cathedral.

The remaining 24 barangays in Balanga have their respective chapels where patron saints are enshrined. Most notable among these minor churches are the Sto Cristo Church in Cupang Proper, Church of the

Immaculada Concepcion in Puerto Rivas and the San Roque Chapel in Tuyo.

Various religious sects sprang up in Balanga during the American period and even after World War



II. These sects include the IGLESIA NI CRISTO, Jehovah's Witnesses, Methodists, Baptists (or the so-called Protestants), Pentecostal, other Christian groups like the Dating Daan, the Born-Again Christians, Jesus is Lord Movement and the Philippine Independent Church (or Aglipayans). The Muslims, mostly refugees from the war-torn Mindanao, arrived in Balanga in the late 1970s.

The Iglesia ni Cristo, which found initial foothold in the rural areas, accounts for about five percent of the total population of Balanga as members. It maintains a district chapel in Barangay Ibayo and minor chapels in other parts of the city. The Aglipayans have a church in Puerto Rivas; a Methodist Church in Tortugas; a Baptist Church and Jehovah's Witnesses in Cupang and Doña Francisca; IEMELIF in Malabia; JIL in Bagong Silang; an Islamic mosque in Cataning and other places of worship.



# CITY HALL



The MUNICIPIO of Balanga, known in the olden days as *Presidencia*, is presently called the CITY HALL. It is the official home of the city mayor, city vice mayor, members of the city council and local government employees, to include the members of the police force, jail management and personnel of national government agencies.

The first municipal building in Balanga was constructed in 1913, during the incumbency of former Mayor Andres de Leon (1912-1916).

During the Spanish period and up to the time when Maximino delos Reyes was the governor of Bataan (1912-1916), those individuals who served as mayors (*gobernadorcillos*, *kapitanes municipal* and *presidentes actual*) of Balanga never had the

luxury of performing his duties inside a real *presidencia*. Instead, they used their respective houses as *municipio*. It was different from the other towns whose mayors held office in their own municipal building. This intriguing situation resulted from the fact that the Bataan Capitol, meaning the old Capitol building, was situated right in Balanga.

Starting in 1906, however, Governor Lorenzo Zialcita opted to use the *Tercenia* building in Orani as the new Capitol building where he performed his duties during his two-year tour of duty (1905-1907). He only used the old Capitol in Balanga during important

occasions. The old Capitol merely served as an extension office. But Zialcita allowed one of his (two) board members, Angel Mendoza (*then concurrent mayor of Balanga*), to use the old Capitol building as his own office. The second board member, Claro Pascual of Orani, performed his duties in Orani, together with Governor Zialcita.

Antonio Tuason Sr., who replaced Angel Mendoza as mayor of Balanga from 1907 until 1909, also used the Balanga Capitol as his office after Governor Pedro Rich of Samal continued using the Tercenia in Orani as the Bataan Capitol from 1907 until 1909.

Mayor Amando de Leon



# CITY HALL

(1910-1912) also used the Balanga Capitol as his place of work after getting elected as chief executive of the capital town.

A big problem arose when Mariano Rosauo of Ibayo, Balanga, won the gubernatorial election in 1911. After assuming the duty as new governor of Bataan (1911-1914), Rosauo immediately returned the seat of government to Balanga. Thereafter, he decided to use the old Bataan Capitol as his place of work. As a result, Mayor Amado de Leon found himself using his home as the *municipio*.

Incoming Balanga Mayor Andres de Leon (1912-1916) protested after finding himself without an office of his own.

To ease the tension, Governor Rosauo offered Mayor De Leon a space, across the town plaza, where a temporary municipal building was built at the expense of the provincial government. De Leon

started using the first Balanga municipal building on April 4, 1913.

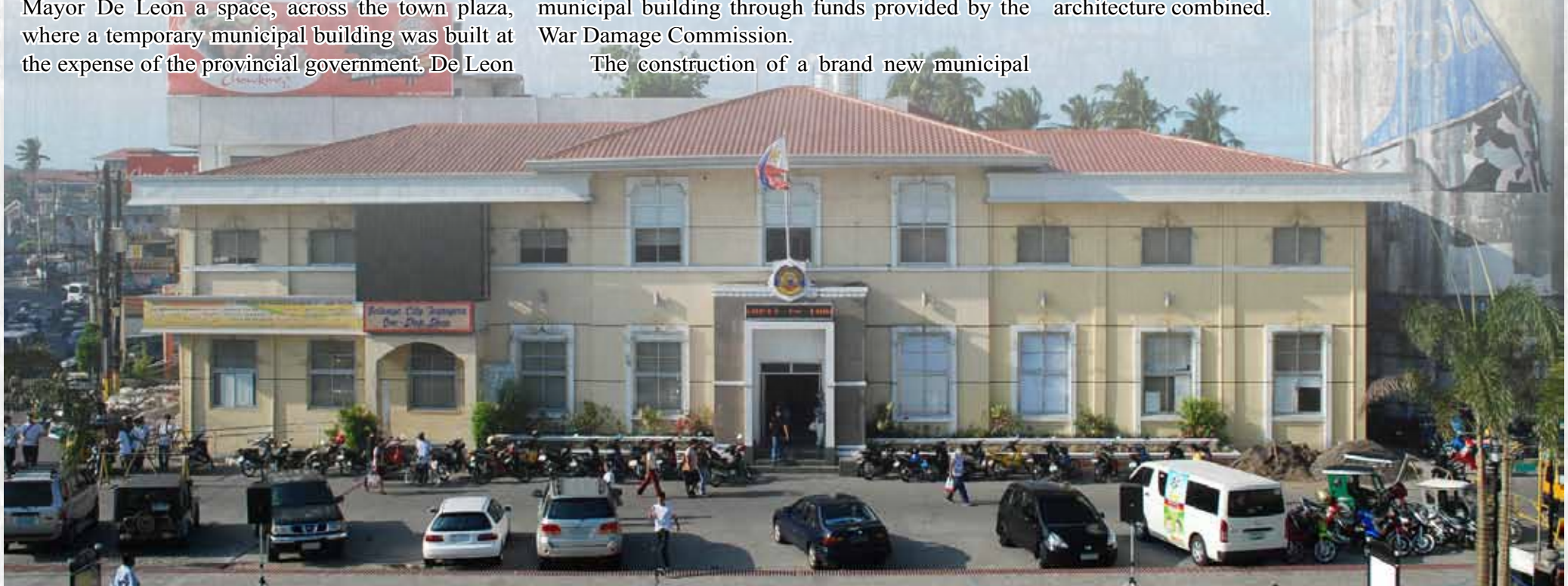
The first municipio of Balanga was a two-storey building made of light materials and roofed with galvanized iron sheets. It expanded through the years and underwent many repairs and rehabilitation. It was totally razed to the ground in January 1942, during the first months of the Japanese Occupation. It was rebuilt during the administration of Mayors Mariano Batungbacal (1942-1943), Numeriano Quindoy (1943-1944), Carlos Y. Gonzales (1944-1945).

Mayors Mariano Herrera (1945-1946), Jose N. Gonzales (1946-1947) and Graciano Pastorfide (1947-1947) also introduced major repairs on the municipal building through funds provided by the War Damage Commission.

The construction of a brand new municipal

building was the brainchild of Mayor Pedro R. Dizon. Early in his administration, he sought the help of the Department of Public Works and Communications for funds to be used for the construction of a new municipal building. The funds came late and the said project only commenced in August 1951, barely four months before the holding of the local election. Lee Ban of Balanga was the building contractor. The building was completed after the election and inaugurated during the administration of the newly-elected Mayor Faustino Vigo (1952-1955).

Fifty-five years later, the municipal building of Balanga, presently called Balanga City Hall, is still one of the most famous landmarks in Bataan. It is a good example of a functional and post-modern architecture combined.



## CITYHOOD

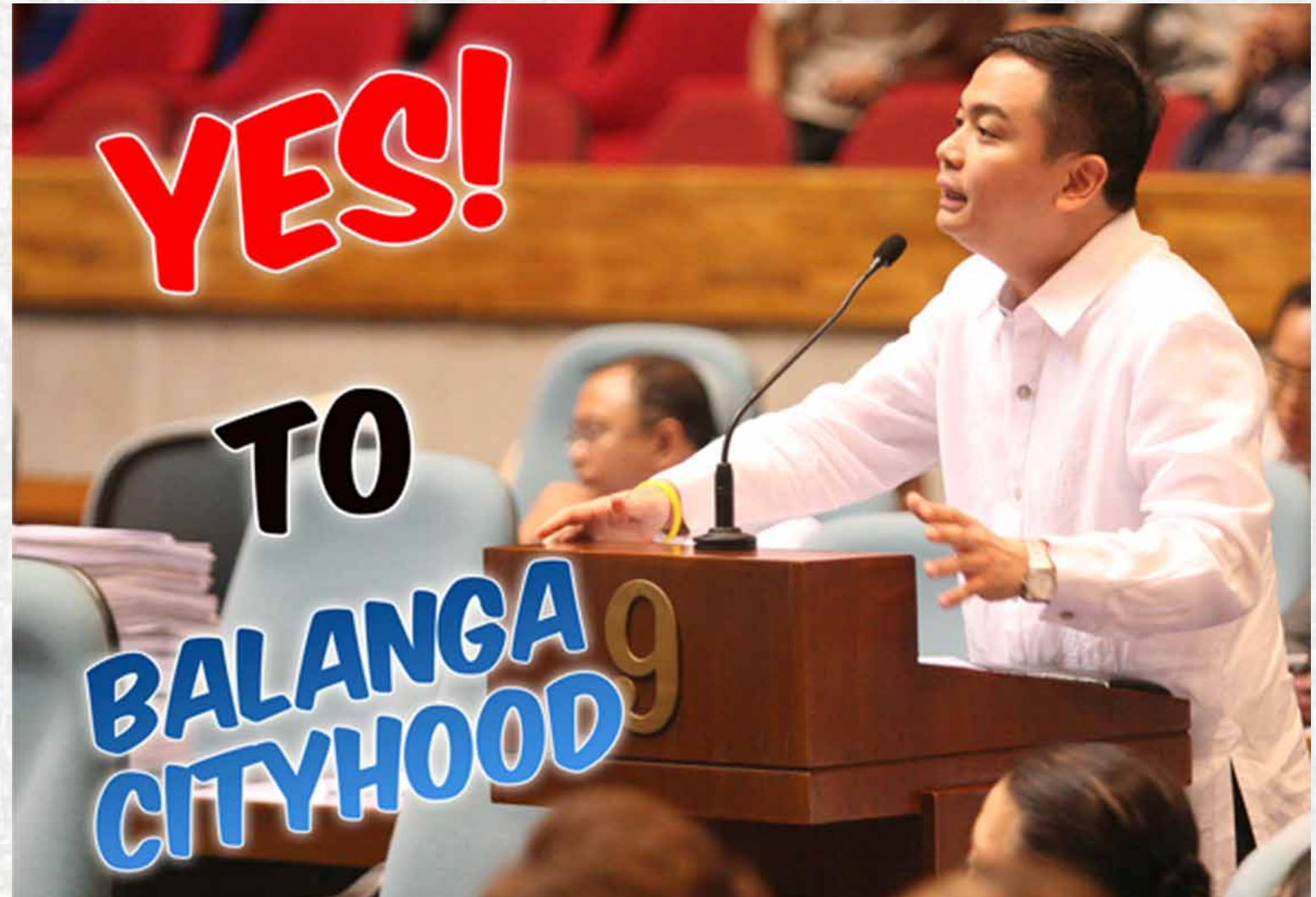
Balanga officially became a COMPONENT CITY on December 30, 2000, exactly 22 days after the City Charter was signed into a law by former President Joseph Estrada. The citihood became a reality through the initiatives of then Congressman ENRIQUE T. GARCIA JR., current governor, and former City Mayor ALBERT S. GARCIA, currently the congressman of the Second District of Bataan.

The noteworthy program started on April 15, 2000 when the local government unit of Balanga, under the leadership of Mayor Abet Garcia, passed a resolution calling for the cityhood of Balanga. The mayor said the annual income of Balanga worth P65 million was more than enough to cover whatever the town lacks in terms of population and land area.

Based on the Local Government Code, Balanga may be created as a city only by an Act of Congress, and subject to the approval of the majority of votes cast in a plebescite which shall be held within 120 days from the date of its effectivity.

On June 19, 2000, Mayor Garcia presented the resolution before the officers and members of the Bataan Mayors League. League President and Hermosa Mayor Gaudencio Ferrer presented no objection and fully endorsed the Cityhood resolution.

A public hearing was held in Balanga and on November 3, the House of Representative unanimously approved the Cityhood bill filed by then Bataan Congressman Enrique T. Garcia Jr. Former Senator



Sergio Osmena Jr. endorsed the bill in the Upper House. On November 27, the Senate approved the cityhood of Balanga in a record time of three weeks.

President Joseph Estrada signed the Balanga City Charter into law on December 8, 2000. The ceremony was held in Malacanang in the presence of Palace officials, Cong. Tet Garcia, Mayor Garcia and members

of the municipal council of Balanga.

Balanga residents unanimously approved the cityhood during the December 30, 2000 plebescite. The YES vote tallied 18,749 as against 1,917 NO votes. On the same night, Mayor Abet Garcia and Vice Mayor Noli Venzon took their oath as city mayor and city vice mayor of Balanga, respectively.

## CITY MARSHALLS



**B**alanga's CITY MARSHALLS is one of the reasons why the city has one of the lowest crime rates among the 12 localities in Bataan and other component cities in

the country.

Former City Mayor Albert S. Garcia (1998-2001 and 2001-2004), targeting a zero crime rate, thought of establishing a group of junior police, traffic enforcers and barangay marshalls who would support the local police force in patrolling the city streets at night, man traffic along the busy thoroughfares and even join police operations. It was then that the City Public Safety Office (CPSO) was created.

Police Senior Superintendent Celestino Malungcut Jr., then the chief of police of Balanga, welcomed the program since the City Marshalls' allowances would be shouldered not by the Philippine National Police but by the city government. He even personally trained the first 30 Marshall volunteers for two months before they were integrated into the junior police service starting in February 2002.

In support of the group, then Congressman Enrique T. Garcia had provided the City Marshalls with an operation headquarters, two patrol vehicles, one ambulance, two motorcycles, radio communication units, security camera equipment, handcuffs and even logistics.

Since the integration of the City Marshalls, the crime incidents in the city had been greatly reduced. Police crime response time was maintained at five minutes.

Joey Rivero was the first team leader of the City Marshalls in 2002. He was replaced by PSSupt. Raul Bulandos (Ret.) in 2004.

Lt.Col. Natividad J. Decada Jr. is the current City Public Safety Officer. He supervises the operation of 70 City Marshalls, 29 traffic enforcers and 25 barangay marshals.

## CITY OF BALANGA DIVISION OFFICE

**T**he BALANGA CITY DIVISION OFFICE was established in 2003, three years after the former capital town became a component city. The program was initiated by former Congressman Enrique T. Garcia Jr. and former City Mayor ALBERT S. GARCIA.

The division is composed of 16 public schools, to include the Bataan National High School in Tenejero. Some 400 teachers are presently assigned in the Balanga division. The Balanga Elementary School is the division's central facility. As a separate division, it currently conducts its own sports and academic competitions and participates in the regular Central Luzon Regional Athletic Association as a separate delegation from Bataan.

In 2006, Balanga Elementary School was expanded

into an integrated school with the establishment of the City of Balanga High School inside the same campus.

With the establishment of the division office, the Balanga was divided into two districts. The First District covers all public and private schools located on the eastern and northern portion of Balanga, namely the Balanga Integrated School, M. Cuaderno (Sibacan) ES, Maximino delos Reyes (Puerto Rivas) ES, Tortugas ES, Tuyos ES, T. Camacho ES, GL David Elementary School and Our Lady of Lourdes ES in Munting Batangas. The present First District supervisor is Mrs. Flordeliza Tuason.

The Second District covers Cupang Elementary School, Barrio, Central ES, Tenejero ES, Cataning ES, Cabog-Cabog ES, E. Bernabe ES (in Dangcol), Tanato



ES, Bagong Silang ES and the Bani Elementary School. The district supervisor is Mrs. Janet Lopez Andales.

# CITY OF BALANGA HYMN

## Dugong Balangueño

Himno ng Balanga

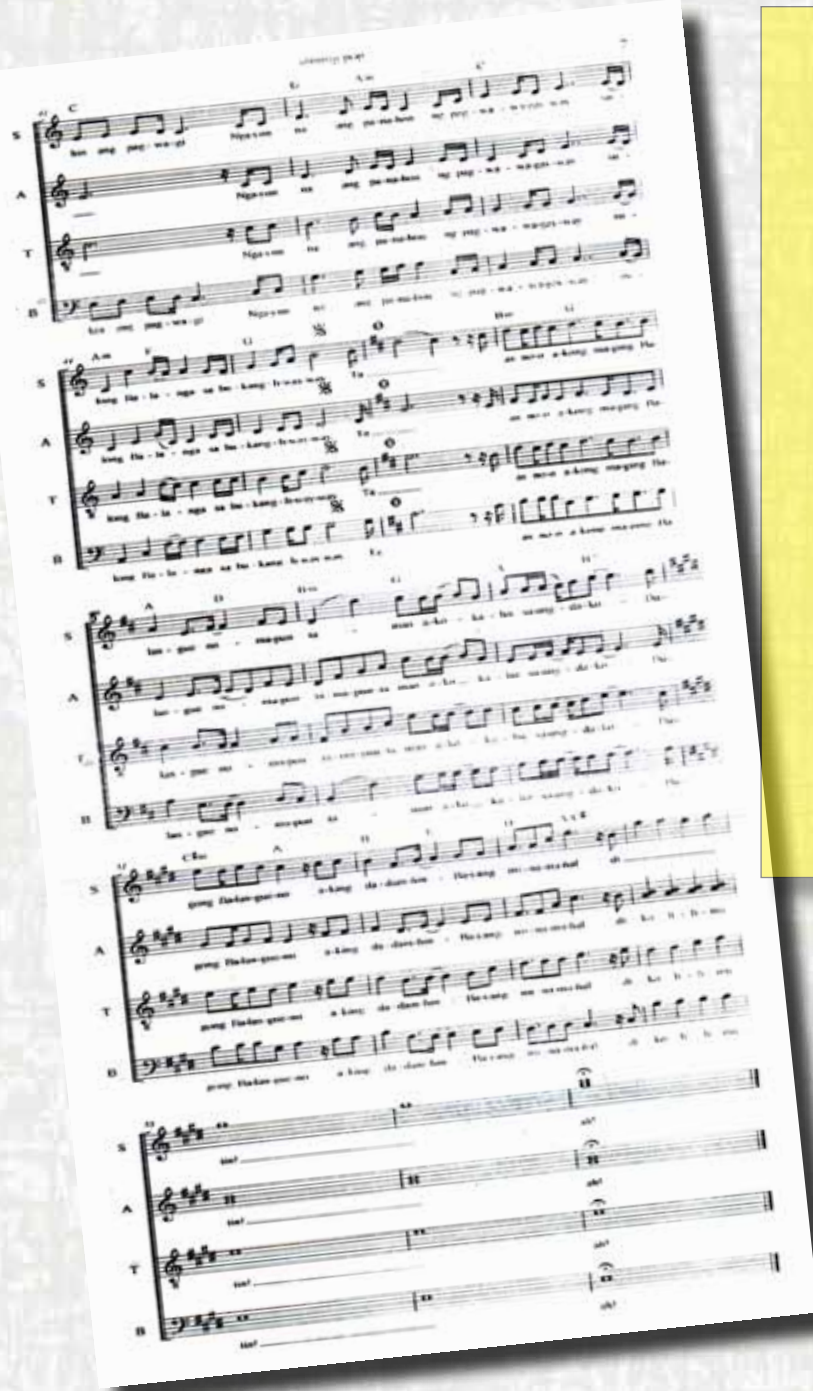
*Mula sa hinubog na banga  
Nagmula ang bayan ko  
Palihan ng talino, kalakalan ito'y sentro  
Galing Balangueño  
Isusulong ko ito*

*Taas noo ako'y isang Balangueño  
Mapunta man ako  
Kahit saang dako*

*Dugong Balangueño  
Aking dadamhin  
Lungsod kong mahal  
Di ka lilimutin*

*Mayamang kalikasan  
Mamayang ingatan para sa kabataan  
Buong loob, buong tapang  
Gabay ay Maykapal  
Galing Balangueño  
Aking itatanghal*

*Dugong Balangueño  
Aking dadamhin  
Lungsod kong mahal  
Di ka lilimutin*



The City of Balanga has an official CITY HYMN entitled "Dugong Balangueño." It was composed by Arjay Velasco, a song writer and composer from Barangay Cupang North. The hymn had its maiden performance on the night of the seventh year anniversary of the Balanga Cityhood held on December 30, 2007.

"Dugong Balangueño" was the result of a city-wide competition held in late 2007 under the sponsorship of the City Government of Balanga. Its aim was to promote and give the city the distinction as a cultural hotbed and as an educational and economic hub of the province. The hymn reflects the Balangueños' rich cultural heritage and natural wealth, and aspirations to reach new heights.

Arjay Velasco's winning entry had been adopted as the official hymn through an ordinance passed by the Sangguniang Panlungsod. The local government encourages the singing of the "Dugong Balangueño" in all schools and government instrumentalities of the city during flag ceremonies, programs, convocations and other socio-civic occasions.





# COMMERCE

**C**OMMERCE refers to all forms of trade and the services that assist trading, as banking and insurance.

Trade and services comprise the bulk of the business establishments in Balanga City. Figures indicate a total of 2,500 business registrants in Year 2000, a big increase in business activities for the past ten years.

Twenty (20) commercial banks, 19 hospitals and clinics, 32 dental clinics, 83 apartments, 77 canteens, 31 lending investments, 50 pawnshops, eight laboratories, three hotels, two lodges, 15 restaurants/coffee shops, 66 computer shops, 20 videoke bars, six inland resorts and another 15 recreational facilities (billiard halls/badminton courts) also fuel the city's economic development.

There are four printing presses in Balanga, namely Grandprints (Don Francisca), JC Printing Press (Poblacion), Patmos Printing (Catanning) and the Balanga Printing Press (San Jose), the first printing press established in Balanga in 1956.

One of the biggest investments established in Balanga which further spurred the city's progress was the Centre Plaza Mall which opened on July 13, 1999, the Jollibee Restaurant, the Greenwich Pizza outlet and the Isaac and Catalina Medical Center.

The new millennium also brought to Balanga the influx of several technical and computer schools with

specialization in the field of information technology, such as STI-Balanga, AMA Computer Learning Center, Asia Pacific Academy, Microcity Computer College, Eastwood Professional College (formerly Softnet), System Technology School, Tomas Del Rosario College Professional Training & Review School and the PWU-CDCCEC.

## **Business Establishments**

**Banks.** Accord Savings Bank, Balanga Rural Bank, Banco Filipino Savings & Mortgage, Bataan Development Bank, Development Bank of the Philippines, Equitable-PCI Bank, Rural Bank of Pilar, Guagua Savings Bank, Land Bank of the Philippines, Metro Bank and Trust, Bank of Philippine Islands (Rizal St.), Philippine National Bank, United Coconut Planters Bank, LBC Development Bank, Planters Development Bank, Bank of Philippine Islands (Banzon Ave.), Bataan Cooperative Bank, Unity Bank, Rural Bank of Bagac, China Banking Corporation, Balanga Savings and Loan Association,

**Hotels & Lodges.** Crown Royale Hotel, Elison Hotel (formerly Alitaptap), D' Samat Hotel, Buenavista Lodge, Hillside Garden Mansions, Mao and Mil Hotel.

**Dental.** AC Torre, Banzon and Austria Dental, Noel dela Cruz Dental, Roy Allan Escudero Dental, ML Lucero Dental, Valdecanas Dental, AMS Dental Clinic,

**Hospitals & Clinics.** Baluyot Polyclinic, Bataan Diagnostic Clinic, Bataan Doctors Hospital, Bataan Physical Therapy Clinic, Bataan St. Joseph Hospital, Inc., Calimbas Medical Clinic, Bataan Kidney and Dialysis Center, Holy Family Out-patient Clinic, Ilaya Medical Clinic, Isaac & Catalina Medical Clinic; Jesus and Mary Medical Clinic, Mother and Child Clinic, Sacred Heart Clinic, St. Anne's Clinic, Twin Hearts Adult & Pediatric, Valiente-Banzon Medical Clinic, Vinluan Medical Clinic, Women's Hospital, and the Bataan General Hospital, Zabala Ophthalmology, Angulo Kidney and Maternity Clinic;

**Optical:** Dizon Optical, Balanga Optical, Lopez-Daligcon Optical, Venzon Optical;

**Moviehouses:** Cinema I & 2.

**Shopping Malls.** Centre Plaza, Recar Shopping Mall, STIMall, Sunshine Mall, Balanga Arcade, Naval Commercial Building, Balanga Condomart, El Niño Mini-mart, Shoe Magic Shopping Center, K-One Angeles Shopping Center, Novo Mart;

**Fastfood Chains:** KFC Restaurant, Goldilocks, Max's Chicken, Chowking, Jollibee, McDonald's, Greenwich Pizza, Java Jam, Cindy's, Red Ribbons, Beanery, Tangway Grille, Chooks To Go;

**Video Shops.** ACA Video,

**Pawnshop/Money Changer:** Western Union, VETAF's Pawnshop, Romalus

Pawnshop, Dignity Pawnshop, Golden Heart Pawnshop, Fairlane Pawnshop, GMBT Financing Corp., Toledo Pawnshop, EGS Pawnshop

**Restaurants.** Joyous, Lou-is, J2, Razz, Aranice Barbecuehan, Big Papa's Place, Blue Horizon Bar and Café (Crown Royale Hotel), Dayrit's Kitchen and Grill, Indigo Bar and Resto, Luring's Barbecue, Master Chef Chinese Restaurant, Rhemin's Goto Atbp., Sonyda Ichi-ban, Sampalukan, The Coffe Hub, Andre's Burger, Wanam Restaurant, Den-Bel's Restaurant, Kitchen Delight, Michelle's Cake and Pastries, Arcee's (Roman Expressway), Estrella's Eatery (Cupang North), Idios' Pansit Luglog (Cupang Proper), Taglesville Restaurant (San Jose), Henry's Lechon and Restaurant (Dona Francisca), Goldilocks Restaurant, Fortune Hongkong Seafood Restaurant, Tito Pak's Lechon Manok,;

**Inland Resorts.** Bethsaida, La Vista, Joyous, Lou-is, Vicarville, Buenavista, **Supermakets/Stores.** Sunshine, Goodwill, VETAF's, Elizabeth's, Tess Grocery, Balanga Shopping Center, 7-11 Store, Fresh Option;

**Computer Shops.** Bitserv IT Services, PJMK Computer, Cupang.Com;

**Pharmacy.** Atigon, Angelita, Mercury Drug, We Care, Consumer, Jesusa, Dina Mae, St. Joseph, Prime Aid Pharmacy; and Health Plus Drugstore.

**Gas Stations:** Shell, Caltex, Total, Petron

## CRUZ, Francisco dela, D.M.D.



**F**RANCISCO OCAMPO DELA CRUZ. (1959- ), a professional dentist, served as vice mayor of Balanga City from 1995 until 1998. He was initially elected as number one councilor in 1992.

Dr. Dela Cruz was born in Balanga on January 15, 1959. He is the son of Ernesto dela Cruz Sr. of Balanga and the former Natalia Ocampo of Pampanga. He finished a Dentistry course from the Centro Escolar University in Manila and

immediately established a dental clinic in the capital town. He became well-known for giving free services to poor residents of Balanga

During the May 11, 1992 local elections, Dr. Dela Cruz ran for a seat in the municipal council and emerged as the number one councilor. Three years later, he aspired for the vice mayor's post and defeated erstwhile Vice Mayor Domingo Dizon of Tortugas. He served until 1998 under Mayor Melanio "Boyeng" Banzon

Jr.

Dela Cruz ran for reelection during the May 11, 1998 polls. Unfortunately, he lost to Noli Venzon of Tortugas. He suffered another defeat during the 2001 elections against Venzon. He continues the practice of his profession at present.

Vice Mayor Dela Cruz is married to Marcie Torres, a medical technologist from Bagumbayan. The couple has four children: Noel (DMD), Abel, Joan Isabel and Joshua.

## CRUZ, Oscar V. Archbishop

**O**SCAR VALERO CRUZ is a native of Balanga who served as the Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Lingayen-Dagupan in Pangasinan. He is a vocal critic of the Gloria Macapagal Arroyo administration.

Archbishop Cruz was born at the resthouse of the Valero family in Barrio Tuyoy, Balanga, on November 17, 1934. His parents were the late Narciso Cruz Sr of Lubao, Pampanga and the former Asuncion Valero, scion of a rich family in Balanga. He received his seminary training at the University of Santo Tomas. Central Seminary and completed further Theology studies at the Laterna University.

His sacerdotal ordination was on February 10, 1962, and his episcopal ordination was on May 3, 1976. He was appointed an auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Manila (1976-1978) and archbishop of the Archdiocese of San Fernando (1978-1988). He served as a Judicial Vicar of the Catholic Bishops'

Conference of the Philippines National Tribunal of Appeals, and director of the CBCP Legal Office. He was appointed Archbishop of Lingayen-Dagupan on July 15, 1991 up until his retirement in 2009.

Cruz has published many books, including *CBCP Guidelines on Sexual Abuse and Misconduct: A Critique*, and *Call of the Laity*.

A vocal critic of Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, Cruz has described the Arroyo government as a "killer government" for alleged killings in the administration's declared all-out war campaign against its leftist enemies. Cruz is one of the bishops who supported Caloocan City Bishop Deogracias Iniguez's impeachment complaint against Arroyo.

At one time, he accused the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (Pagcor) of using female staff to act like "guest relations officers" during the 2004 birthday celebration of First Gentleman Mike

Arroyo. Libel cases were slapped against him. He entered a not-guilty plea.

Cruz also criticized the El Shaddai for getting involved in partisan politics even if the Catholic Church vowed not to endorse any candidate for the May 14, 2007 elections.

He said "...the El Shaddai is Catholic but it behaves like a sect. It acts on its own. Members are Catholics but the behavior is sectarian."

Cruz is still active in his crusade against illegal gambling in the country.



## CUADERNO, Miguel P. Sr.



**MIGUEL PASCUAL CUADERNO SR.** (1890-1975) was a foremost lawyer, banker and economist. He helped organized the Central Bank of the Philippines and became its first governor from 1948 until 1959. Back in 1934, he was

elected as member of the Philippine Constitutional Convention, and member of the Sub-Committee of Seven (later known as the "Seven Wise Men") that drafted the 1935 Constitution. He was also a member of the 1971 Constitutional Convention representing the First District of Rizal province.

In the local scene, he was known as the principal owner of the Dona Francisca Subdivision, now a regular barangay of the City of Balanga.

Don Miguel was born in Manila on December 12, 1890. His parents were Protacio Cuaderno of Manila and Francisca Rey Hipolito Pascual of Balanga. He grew up in the ancestral home of the Pascuals in Talisay, Balanga.

Cuaderno finished his Commerce course from the Liceo de Manila, and his Law degree from the Philippine Law School as valedictorian. He passed the Bar examinations in 1919 as second placer. While employed as professional lecturer of Law at the Philippine Law School and lecturer in banking and finance at the Far Eastern University and University of the East (1922-1937), he also undertook special studies in monetary theory and central banking in the United States and England.

In 1934, he became a member of the Committee

of "Seven Wise Men" which included Felimon Sotto, Norberto Romualdez, Manuel Roxas, Vicente Singson, Manuel Briones and Conrado Benitez who drafted the 1935 Philippine Constitution. He was among the members of the Philippine delegation who traveled to the United States and personally handed a copy of the said Constitution to then US President Harry Truman. While in the US, he was admitted to the practice of Law in Washington, D.C. (1935).

As a financial wizard, he was a member of the board, then acting general manager and later executive vice president of the Philippine National Bank until 1936. Thereafter, he served as chairman of the board of directors of the International Stock Exchange until 1938. Consequently, he served as first president of the Philippine Bank of Commerce.

From June 1946 until December 1948, he served as Secretary of Finance under President Manuel A. Roxas. He was also a member of the National Economic Council (1946-1960) and chairman of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE) starting in 1948.

It was President Elpidio Quirino (1948-1953) who appointed Cuaderno as first governor of the Central Bank of the Philippines. He served for 12 years (1948-1959) under three presidents -- Quirino, Ramon Magsaysay (1953-1957) and Carlos P. Garcia (1957-1961). In 1953, he was appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations as member of a committee which drew up plans for the establishment of a special fund for the financing of economic development of underdeveloped countries (SUNFED).

In 1957, he was elected chairman of the Board of Governors of the International Monetary Fund, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the International Finance Corporation. Upon his suggestion, businessman Eugenio Lopez Sr. bought the Meralco from an

American multinational corporation.

On May 1, 1970, he was engaged by the Asian Development Center to draft an agreement among eight Asian countries for the organization of the Asian Payment Union which made possible the use in said countries of their respective national currencies, thereby promoting trade among them. In 1971, he was elected as member of the 1971 Constitutional Convention.

Don Miguel Cuaderno was married to Mercedes Martin. He had nine children. He passed away on January 14, 1975.

### **CUADERNO, Octavio M.**

OCTAVIO MARTIN CUADERNO Sr. was one of the nine children of former Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno and Mercedes Martin.

Born and raised in Manila, Cuaderno was educated at the Ateneo de Manila University where he completed a Bachelor's degree in Economics in 1950.

He was recognized as a foremost banker and economist much like his father. He became vice president of various banks in the Philippines, one of them was the Associated Banking Corporation.



*The golfmates at Wack-Wack from left to right Gregorio Licaros, Sen. Francisco Delgado, Senator Laurel and Governor Miguel Cuaderno.*

## CUICO, Wilhelmina G.



**W**ILHELMINA GISON CUICO (1954- ) is a native of Balanga who is currently the Senior Vice President of the ShoeMart (SM) Group of Companies.

Mrs. Cuico was born Wilhelmina Mendoza Gison in Ibayo, Balanga on August 17, 1954. She is the eldest of seven children of Master Sergeant Wenceslao Gison of Iloilo, a former soldier of the 18<sup>th</sup> BCT Company assigned in Balanga

in the 1950s, and Leonida Mendoza of Barangay Ibayo. She was the class valedictorian when she graduated from the Cataning Elementary School and the Arellano Memorial (Bataan) High School.

She was a university scholar from first to fifth year while finishing her Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, major in Accounting (*cum laude*) at the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila. She is a Certified Public Accountant. She earned her MBA units at the University of the East (1977-1978) where she also served as an Accounting professor.

After graduation, she was employed at the Sycip, Gorres and Velayo Accounting firm in Ayala,

Makati City. It was here where she specialized in computerized accounting. She joined ShoeMart, Inc. in 1979 as an accounting supervisor. She rose from the ranks and was named First Vice President – Controllership in 2001. At present, she is the Vice President – Controllership (Non-Retail Group) of SM Inc. She reports directly to Henry Sy, the company owner.

Wilhelmina is married to Rolando Cuico, an executive of the Manila Electric Company. The couple has five children: Ryan, Ray Michael, RJ, Matthew, and James (still in college at present). The Cuicos currently reside at the BF Homes in Las Pinas.

## CURSILLO

**T**he Cursillo is a spiritual renewal movement initiated by the Catholic Church. It originated from Spain and aimed to propagate the words of God worldwide. The Cursillo movement, a non-mandated Catholic organization, was introduced in the Philippines in 1960's. It was not a separate Catholic movement that aimed at reformation of lay people.

Orion was the home of the Cursillo movement for men in Bataan. The Carmelite Convent in Angeles City, on the other hand, was the common venue for women in the region. Both were opened to people from all walks of life, even to non-Christians who wanted to be enlightened about their faith, beliefs and ideals.

Participants to Cursillo movement underwent a live-in seminar for two days, starting on a Friday night and ending on the evening of Sunday with culminating and closing ceremonies. Resource speakers were priests and some laymen who were engaged in religious activities. Cursillo movement became active in Balanga

where more than a thousand residents have joined and participated actively in the various activities. There were some positive changes noticed in the spiritual and emotional behaviors of those who underwent the seminars according to the organizers of the movement and by those whom they mingled with.

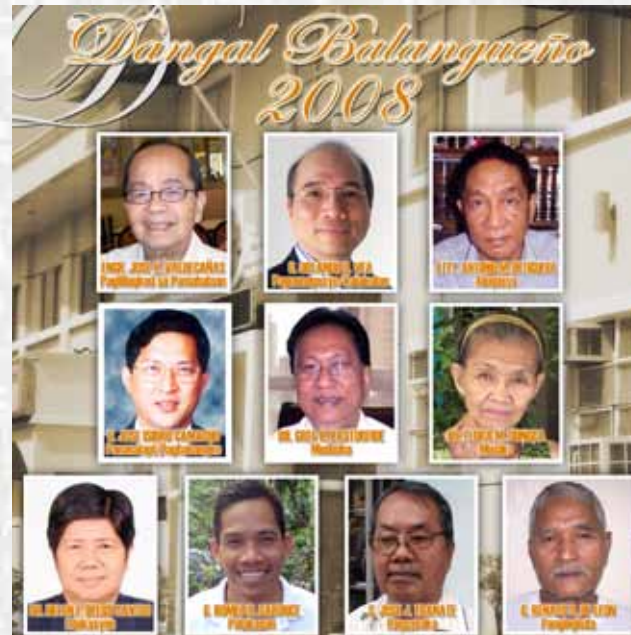
The popularity of the Cursillo Movement among the masses ensured a continued success.

However, with the advent of Martial Law in 1972, the fate of the Cursillo movement had

changed with restrictions like the imposition of curfew, illegal assembly and even the occurrence of petty quarrels among the leaders caused the derailment of the further growth of the movement which suffered its loss in popularity and a natural death in the late 1970's.



# DANGAL Balangueño



The Dangkal Balangueno is an important event being held annually in Balanga to recognize outstanding Balangueños from various fields of endeavor whose character, work ethics and service have greatly contributed to the progress not only of the city but of the whole province.

The Dangkal award is the brainchild of Congressman Albert S. Garcia who was Balanga's City Mayor from 1998 until 2004.

Current City Mayor Jose Enrique S. Garcia III continues this project which he started in 2008. The awardees were honored in ceremonies held in the different venues.

## DANS, Leonila F.



at the Philippine General Hospital and St. Luke's Medical

**L**EONILA DELA FUENTE DANS is an outstanding pediatrician- rheumatologist, multi-awarded consultant, researcher and educator. She continues to educate young would-be doctors at the University of the Philippines while attending to her responsibilities as consultant

Center in Manila.

Born in Balanga on July 17, 1958, Dr. Dans is the fourth of five children of industrious and hardy parents named Sixto dela Fuente Sr. and Librada Sioson. She graduated from the Philippine Science High School in 1969 and went to study at the University of the Philippines where she earned her degree in Doctor of Medicine. She also completed her Masters degree.

She was named Consultant of the Year by the Department of Pediatrics, College of Medicine, Philippine General Hospital. She has written several books on

researches and instruction materials. Her book, *Painless Evidence-Based Medicine*, which she co-wrote with husband Dr. Antonio L. Dans and Dr. Maria Asuncion A. Silvestre, is a bestseller among rheumatologists.

Her researches include "Randomized Controlled Trial and Cost Benefit Analysis-Zinc Implementation for Acute Diarrhea" for children less than five years old, and the "Utilization of Clinical Practice Guidelines in the Philippines."

Leonila and husband Antonio has three children: Sandra, Miguel and Nikki.

## DASIG, Eduardo T.

**E**DUARDO TUAZON DASIG (1937-2009) was perhaps the most successful musician of Balanga of all time. He played music through high school and college to become a regional director of the Department of Finance Local Government Auditing Office.

"Eddie" Dasig was a native of Cupang (North) where he was born on February 19, 1937. He was one of the five children of the late Edmundo V. Dasig and Maria Tuazon. He was still an elementary pupil in Cupang when he learned to play various musical instruments through the guidance of his father, then a member of a local marching band. Later on, he became a member of the same band together with his father. He finished his secondary education as a scholar at the Tomas del Rosario Academy (TRA) in Balanga. He was granted a four-year scholarship by the owners of TRA for his efforts in organizing the school band where he was also the leader and conductor.

Eddie's musical skills helped him get through college. While studying a Pre-Med course at the University of the East, he also joined the university

band, not just an ordinary musician but as assistant conductor. It entitled him full scholarship while in college. But instead of pursuing a Doctor of Medicine degree, he transferred to the Manuel L. Quezon University where he took up the study of Law, again as a university scholar. He graduated with a Bachelor of Laws degree and passed the Bar examinations in 1962.

He, however, was not allowed to practice his profession after the Integrated Bar of the Philippines discovered that he completed a Pre-Med course, not Pre-Law. He ended up working as a payroll voucher processor of the Comelec in Bataan. In 1977, he was employed as municipal assessor of Limay. Two years later, he was promoted as assistant provincial assessor of Bataan. Shortly thereafter, he was assigned in San Carlos City in Pangasinan as city assessor.

To improve his craft, he accepted a USAID scholarship grant for post-graduate studies in Real Property Tax Administration at the University of California in Los Angeles, California, USA in 1982.

Upon his return, he was immediately promoted as acting assistant regional director of the Department of Finance in Central Luzon. After a year, he was assigned as regional director of Region IV, covering the Calabarzon area and Palawan. He held the post for 18 years before retiring from the government service in 2002.

Mr. Dasig was involved in the purified water business. He owned and managed the Greenridge purified water plant in Balanga. His wife, Rosario Calvento-Dasig, manages the Dasig Accounting Office located along the Capitol Road. The couple has 12 children: Arnel, Jennifer, Evangeline, Eduardo III, Michael, Ericson Manuel, Rommel, Omar, Ruth, Shiela Marie, Manuel and Rosario Madonna.

Eddie passed away on June 1, 2009.



## DAVID, Albert G.

**A**LBERT GONZALES DAVID (1964-) is one of the very few sportsmen from Balanga who made it to the professional basketball league. He played for the Presto Icecream and later on for the Alaska Milk in the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA).

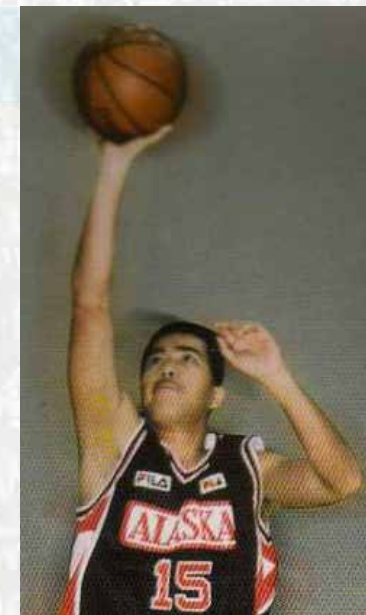
“Al” David was born in Poblacion, Balanga on October 4, 1964. He is the eldest of the six children of Jose E. David and Josefina Gonzales. He completed his primary and secondary education from the Balanga

Elementary School and the Bataan National School of Arts in Trades, respectively. He played for the Letran Knights basketball team while studying Commerce, major in Management at the San Juan de Letran College in Manila. He played with famous Letran Knights, such as Arthur Ayson and Samboy Lim in the NCAA days. He played Point Guard.

After college, he had a short stint with the AgfaColors in the Philippine Basketball League. In the PBA, he initially played for

Presto Ice Cream, then coached by Jimmy Mariano, from 1992 to 1998. Thereafter, he played for the Alaska Milk under coach Tim Cone, together with Jojo Lastimosa, Johnny Abarrientos and Bong Hawkins. He helped the team retained its grand slam championship from 1998 until 2000. He retired from active basketball competition in 2001.

Al David is married to Ann Frances “Pinky” Loy of Manila with whom he has three children: Kitchie, China and Jiggy.



## DAVID, Angelito



**A**NGELITO DAVID of Balanga is a world famous art restorer. Before his retirement, he was the resident restorer of the National Archives and the Lopez Memorial Museum. He was a member of the National Museum panel of experts

authenticating and appraising various artworks of Filipino masters.

“Lito” David was born in Balanga on July 28, 1936. He earned a Bachelor’s degree in Fine Arts at the University of Santo Tomas in Manila. He organized and headed the

Watercolor Society of the Philippines in 1975. He was also the prime mover of the Art Association of the Philippines. He held professorial posts at the Department of Fine Arts of the Philippine Women’s University, University of the East, and the College of the Holy Spirit.

He had a two-year scholarship at the Academie di Belle Arti in Italy where he took classes in Art Restoration, Fresco Painting, Restoration of Historical Monuments and Books. He also became part of a team that worked on the rehabilitation and preservation of voluminous manuscripts, books and paintings that were damaged by the great floods in Florence.

From Italy, he traveled extensively throughout Europe, the United States and Australia. He joined various art exhibitions and competitions where he garnered major awards, medals and trophies. While in New York, he was employed as chief arts restorer of Corcoran Studios.

Upon his return to Manila, he worked on thousands of impaired 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century manuscripts at the

National Archives. At the Lopez Memorial Museum, he worked on the entire Juan Luna collection. He also spent two years working on the restoration and preservation of the Malacañang’s art collection.

Lito migrated to the United States in 1992. In New Jersey, he co-founded the Society of Philippine-American Artists. He is a full member of the Hudson Artists, Inc. and the Garden State Watercolor Society. He has been published in the Contemporary Arts and Arts Philippines and was named “2005 Artist of the Year” by the Hudson Artists, Inc.

David currently freelances as a lecturer on arts restoration, practices his arts and teaching it. He also enjoys playing the *bandurria* and performs with a group at various venues. He teaches arts at the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey in Summit and at the Bloomfield Community Center. Lito, his wife Estrella and children presently reside in Linden, New Jersey, USA.

He was the son of Rafael T. David and Generosa D. De Leon.

# DEATH MARCH

THE BATAAN DEATH MARCH of 1942 is considered as one of the most barbaric acts committed by the Japanese Army on Filipino and American soldiers during World War II. It is often compared to the atrocities brought upon the millions of Jews who were arrested, tortured and gassed to death by the German Army at the height of the Nazi Occupation in Europe.

The Death March started in the morning of April 10, 1942, the same day when General Edward P. King formally signed the final documents of surrender of the 50,000 surviving USAFFE soldiers who fought in Bataan, excluding those still holed up in Corregidor.

From the two Kilometer Zeroes in Mariveles and Bagac, the points of assembly for all surrendered USAFFE soldiers, the grimy, hungry and spent men plodded down the road up to Balanga on the first day.

The Japanese guards delighted in making the marchers double time for a mile or two. Many of those in critical condition due to malaria, dysentery, and beri-beri dropped from exhaustion or sun stroke. Those who fell out were bayoneted where they lay.

The Japanese simply hit, harassed, and bayoneted captured soldiers to keep what each individual sentry thought was a reasonable speed while marching. Other soldiers did it to give vent to their vengeful and barbaric nature. They also looted all prisoners with anything of value.

On the first day of the march, some prisoners took the chance to break away from the column when no Japanese guard was watching. Sgt. Floro de Aro of Samal was one of those who escaped from the line upon reaching Orion. He was aided by the returning evacuees who also gave him civilian clothes.

The late movie actor Fernando Poe Sr., Medina Lacson-de Leon (*who became a congresswoman of Bataan*) and Colonel Rafael de Leon (*fastest*



*man of Asia in 1934*) were also yanked away from the line by brave civilians of Pilar.

The Japanese were naturally alarmed. Upon reaching Panilao, Pilar, the prisoners from Mariveles and Bagac were divided into groups of 100 and were separately placed under two guards each.

Upon entering Balanga, the prisoners were given a pack of cooked rice each





# DEATH MARCH

for supper. A big number of the prisoners, however, did not receive food or water. They spent the night at the back of the Balanga Elementary School, and in open spaces in Bagumbayan and Talisay.

The newly-established Japanese camp in Ibayo (*the lot presently occupied by the Iglesia ni Cristo district chapel*) was also filled with prisoners.

The returning residents of Balanga grieved deeply for the starved and beaten USAFFE soldiers who passed through the capital town on the first day of the infamous Death March. The residents risked the Japanese ire in secretly passing water and whatever food they have to the Filipino and American soldiers. The gesture was out of love for all the heroes who fought in Bataan in the name of freedom and democracy. Other residents snatched a few marching prisoners from the line and hid them safely. They also buried the bodies of those soldiers who died on the road.

That night in Balanga, a number of prisoners had the heart-breaking experience of watching a Filipino soldier being dragged into a pit by Japanese guards. The Filipino was screaming and crying while in the pit. He was prevented from climbing out by two Japanese who jabbed at him with bayonets while the third soldier shoveled the earth into the pit until the helpless fellow was completely covered.

The following day, at 10 a.m., the march continued. It was the start of the “real” Death March.

At the starting line, a Filipino corporal and a sergeant who accepted some rations from Filipino civilians near the town plaza were pulled out of the column and bayoneted to death. At the head of the

bayoneted.

The march was supposed to end in Lubao, Pampanga, by dusk. But only the lead prisoners made it across the northern boundary of Bataan. There were small groups that only reached Layac and Hermosa at the end of the day. The main bulk of the marchers, however, only got as far as Orani. Because of this, the Japanese decided to herd the prisoners in several pig sties in Barrio Kaparangan. It rained all night but the soldiers slept through, despite mud and water.

The lead marchers reached San Fernando, Pampanga on the fourth day. From there, they were loaded into narrow train cars and brought to Tarlac. At Capas, Tarlac, the soldiers were unloaded and ordered to march to Camp O’Donnell, their final destination.

The transport of the prisoners from Bataan to Capas, Tarlac lasted for at least two weeks. More prisoners arrived in Capas after the fall of Corregidor.

Charles C. McDougald, author of *The Marcos File*, wrote that some 1,200 Americans were among the

76,000 soldiers who surrendered to the Japanese starting on April 9. Seven to 10,000 soldiers died during the march. About 2,330 Americans also perished from malaria, exhaustion, starvation, beatings, or execution while in incarceration in Capas. Another 29,000 Filipino and American prisoners died before the Capas camp was officially closed in March 1943.



Poblacion-Ibayo Bridge, the prisoners were given small balls of rice for the day’s march.

What followed, thereafter, was the flagrant display of the barbaric nature of the Japanese. Prisoners who dared to run away from the line or refused to walk were clubbed with rifle butts and bamboo sticks, sometimes to death. Anyone who fell out of line were shot or

# DELICACIES of Balanga

The famous DELICACIES of Balanga are choices and savory foods, both simple and luxurious, and have their origins in the capital city. They all give pleasurable effect on the senses, especially taste.

This explains why costumers from as far as Orani and Orion do not mind travelling to Balanga just to buy products like the “*pansit luglug*” prepared by Estrella Sanchez and Remedios

“*Idios*” Bautista-Ongoco of Cupang; “*puto*,” leche plan and buko-gelatin by Lyn Nueva of Malabia; “*kalamay*” and “*kutchinta*” by

Pining Dizon of Cupang; “*lumpiang sariwa*” by Lou-is Restaurant; “*itlog ng kapak*,” “*tinapang kapak*,” *banak at tilapia*” at the Balanga Public Market; “*okoy*” and “*isdang talibobo*” by the Capricho Catering;

“*Suman*” and “*bringhe*” by Isabelita “Vita” Santiago of Puerto Rivas Lote; “*tinapang kapak*” and “*tuyo*” by Neth Malibiran-Martinez; “*Pitchy*-

*pitchy*” and “*pancit spabok*” by Josie Aguilar Cruz of Tita Agas;

“*Adobong pusit*” by J2 Restaurant; “*pinatisang page*” by Lilia Vivar’s Catering; “*adobong paniki*,” *baboy-ramo*” and “*tapang usa*” by Colonel Rene Lomibao’s Arcee Restaurant; “*abodong alimango*” by Joyous Resort and Restaurant.

Wa-Nam is another popular place in Poblacion that offers traditional Chinese foods like “*pansit guisado*,” “*hototay*,” fried chicken, *patatim*, *asado*, sweet and sour pork. The Master Chef Restaurant, located along the Capitol Road, also offers popular Chinese cuisine. A

few restaurants offer Korean foods.

Chain outlets like Greenwich Pizza, Jollibee Restaurant, Chowking, KFC, McDonald’s and Max’s Restaurants have their respective clientele.



# DIOCESE of Balanga



From the very beginning, the province of Bataan was placed under the supervision of the Archdiocese of Manila. It was transferred to the ministrations of the Diocese of San Fernando (Pampanga) for some time starting on December 11, 1948.

The St. Joseph Cathedral is the present home and headquarters of the DIOCESE OF BALANGA which was created on March 17, 1975. It was canonically erected on November 7 of the same year. The diocese covers the whole province of Bataan which was divided

into four vicariates, namely:

***Vicariate of St. Andrew*** – St. Joseph Cathedral (Balanga), St. Dominic of Guzman Church (Abucay), St. Catherine of Siena Church (Samal), St. Antonine of Florence (Mabatang, Abucay), St. Vincent Ferrer (Calaguiman, Samal) and Immaculate Conception Church (Puerto Rivas, Balanga);

***Vicariate of the Holy Rosary*** - St. John the Baptist Church (Dinalupihan), Our Lady of Lourdes (Colo, Dinalupihan), Holy Family Church (Balsik, Hermosa), St. Peter of Verona Church (Hermosa) and Our Lady of the Holy Rosary (Orani);

***Vicariate of Mary, Mother of the Church*** - Our Lady of Pillar Church (Pilar), St. Francis Xavier (Parang, Bagac), St. Catherine of Alexandria Church (Bagac), and Our Lady of Pillar Church (Morong); and

***Vicariate of St. Peter*** - St. Michael Archangel Church (Orion), St. Francis of Assisi Church (Limay), St. Joseph the Worker Church (Cabcaban, Mariveles), Our Lady of Fatima Church (BEPZ, Mariveles), St. Nicholas of Tolentino Church (Mariveles) and Vietnamese Martyrs Church (PRPC, Morong).

After its consecration on November 7, 2000, the diocese celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary on March 17, 2005. The diocese has its own website: [www.balangadiocese.com](http://www.balangadiocese.com)

## **Past and present Bishops :**

The Balanga Diocese was ministered by three bishops,



namely:

**Most Rev. Celso N. Guevarra, DD, STD.** : He was born in Capas, Tarlac on January 29, 1923. He was ordained as priest on April 10, 1949. He was initially appointed titular bishop of Vannida and auxiliary bishop of San Fernando, Pampanga. He was ordained and consecrated as a regular bishop on August 28, 1972. He became first residential bishop of the

Diocese of Balanga on June 4, 1975. He was officially installed in Bataan on November 8, 1975 and served as Bishop for 23 years. He passed away on August 13, 2004.

**Most Rev. Honesto F. Ongtioco, DD, STD.** : He was born in San Fernando, Pampanga on Oct. 17, 1948. He was ordained as priest on December 8, 1972 and was appointed rector of the Pontificio Collegio Filipino of Rome, in Italy on April 25, 1997.



Prior to his ordination as Bishop on June 18, 1998, he was already appointed as the replacement of Bishop Celso N. Guevarra and second residential bishop of Balanga on April 8, 1998. He was officially installed to his post on July 14, 1998. Six years later, he was appointed as Bishop of Quezon City.

**Most Rev. Socrates B. Villegas, D.D.** : He is the third and current residential bishop of the Diocese of Balanga. He was installed as Bishop by Pope John Paul II in May 2004.

He initiated the annual Diocesan Pilgrimage of the National Eucharistic and Marian Year Celebration held on top of Mount Samat. He was appointed Archbishop of Dagupan-Lingayen Diocese in late 2009.



## DISPO, Roberto Juanchito T.



**R O B E R T O**  
**J U A N C H I T O** T.  
DISPO, a native of Puerto Rivas, Balanga, is the current executive vice president and treasurer of the First Metro Investment Corporation (FMIC), the investment banking arm of the Metropolitan Bank & Trust Company (Metrobank). He

is a former executive director for the Central Bank of the Philippines-Board of Liquidators (1993-1998) and Deputy Treasurer of the Philippines in 1998.

Dispo was born in Balanga on May 18, 1964. He holds an Economics degree from the San Sebastian College and Business Management and MBA degrees

from the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila. He also completed a Business Economics Executive degree at the University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P). As a USAID-sponsored student, he finished advanced diploma programs in the World Banking and Finance and Business Management from the Economics Institute, University of Colorado (USA) and the Asian Institute of Management.

While in government service, Dispo was responsible for the establishment of major and critical debt-market infrastructures and systems such as the Automated Debt Auction Processing System (ADAPS), the first electronic auction system in Asia, and the Registry of Scriples Securities (ROSS), the first electronic registry and government securities clearing system in Asia. He was also responsible for the establishment of the World Association of Debt

Management Offices (WADMO), currently with 36 member countries.

While working for the Bureau of Treasury's Department of Finance, he was appointed as a Special Assistant to the Treasurer of the Philippines from 1991 to 1992; Division Chief for External Debt Management Division, 1992-1993; Director for Policy and Planning Service, 1993-1996; and Director of Public Debt Management Service, 1996-1998.

In 2002, Dispo was elected president of the Money Market Association of the Philippines, comprised of 76 financial institutions engaged in fixed income trading and general treasury activities.

In his present capacity as EVP and Treasurer of FMIC, Dispo directly oversees the investment advisory group's operation, direct management of equities proprietary account of the company.

## DIZON, Amado C.

**A**MADO C. DIZON (1909-2001) was a noted educator from Bataan who gained national prominence after he was selected as member of the Agrava Commission that investigated the tragic death of former Senator Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino in 1983. Dizon belonged to the majority group that named former General Fabian Ver as one of the brains in the Aquino-Galman double murder case.

Dizon was born in Puerto Rivas, Balanga in 1909. His intellectual capabilities were demonstrated early as he graduated valedictorian at the Balanga Elementary School. He finished his secondary education from the Bataan High School as salutatorian of Class 1928. For his college studies, he completed a Bachelor's course in Education at the Philippine Normal School in 1932.

From a simple teacher, he was promoted to school

principal in 1934. His first assignment was Baguio City. Later on, he was designated as district school supervisor in Tarlac and then in Mountain Province. He also served as chief of the Administrative Service of the Department of Public Instructions (*now Department of Education*).

Dizon also finished his Law degree from the Manuel L. Quezon University. He completed his Masters and Doctorate degrees from the University of Sto. Tomas. He was a full colonel in the Armed Forces of the Philippines, having completed his Reserve Officer Services Officers training in Laguna. He was also a Fullbright scholar.

As educator, Dizon served as president of Manila Central University; vice president of the Far Eastern University; and chairman of the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities.

In November 1983, he was selected as member of the Agrava Commission together with Amado Herrera, Dante Santos, Luciano Salazar and former Justice Corazon Agrava, the chairman. Justice Agrava, in her separate and unpopular report, named General Luther Custodio of the PAFSECOM as the highest military officer involved in the Aquino-Galman killing.

Dr. Amado G. Dizon was married to the former Pacencia Siojo of San Miguel, Bulacan. The couple had a son, Jose S. Dizon, who is based in the United States. Dr. Dizon passed away in 2001 at age 92.



## DIZON, Domingo D.



**D**O M I N G O  
D I V E R S O N  
DIZON (1924-2001)  
was the vice mayor of  
Balanga from 1988-1992  
until 1992-1995.

“Ka Inngo” was born in Tortugas, Balanga on June 11, 1924. His parents were Bernardo Dizon and Maria Diverson. He completed his elementary and secondary education from the Maximino delos Reyes Memorial Elementary School and

the Arellano Memorial (Bataan) High School, respectively.

Coming from a fishing village, many of his barriomates were surprised when Ka Inngo became involved in a business dealing with agricultural products such as fertilizer and livestock feeds. He operated a big agricultural store near the Balanga’s town center and, later, at the public market in Barangay San Jose. He also owned and managed a couple of public utility vehicles plying the Tortugas-Balanga route.

Dizon was the *teniente del barrio* of Tortugas from 1958 until 1968. He returned to

public service as barangay captain from 1982 until 1986. Thereafter, he was appointed as OIC councilor of Balanga from 1986 to 1988, together with OIC Mayor Teodoro Camacho III. He was elected vice mayor in 1988 and 1992. His third attempt, however, was unsuccessful. He was defeated by Dr. Francisco dela Cruz of Tuyo at the polls. He retired from politics but remained one of Balanga’s acknowledged political leaders until his death on August 30, 2001.

Vice Mayor Dizon was married to Milagros Almario-Dizon with whom he had three sons: Rolando, Ricardo and Domingo Jr.

**H**ERMINIO P. DIZON (1939- )  
was a member of the Provincial Board of Bataan from 1986 to 1988. He also served as Balanga’s vice mayor (1980-1986) and municipal councilor (1972-1980).

“Herming” Dizon, the son of Alfredo and Maria Dizon, was born in Puerto Rivas on January 1, 1939. He graduated from the Maximino delos Reyes Memorial Elementary School and the Arellamo Memorial (Bataan) High School. He enrolled at the Far Eastern University in Manila where he finished a Commerce degree in 1962. He was employed at the Luzon Stevedoring Corporation for 10 years.

Dizon won a councilor’s seat in Balanga

during the November 1971 local polls, together with Mayor-elect Celso Valdecanas. He won the vice mayoralty post against Miguel Recaño of Tenejero. His term, however, was cut short in March 1986 after the Marcoses were forced out of Malacañang through People Power.

Being the highest ranking opposition leader in Balanga, Dizon was offered the mayoralty post. He refused it in the belief that Mayor Teddy R. Alonzo should not be purged and instead be allowed to continue administering the affairs of Balanga. The purge was nevertheless implemented and Alonzo was unceremoniously replaced by former Mayor Teodoro Camacho III.

Dizon, on the other hand, was appointed

as provincial board member of Bataan. He served the province together with OIC Governor Leonardo B. Roman from 1986 to 1988. He ran for the same provincial post during the 1998 local election but lost at the polls. He retired from active politics since then.

Dizon is married to the former Virginia Cruz with whom he has five children. His fourth child, Christopher, is an incumbent city councilor of Balanga (2004-2007 and 2007-2010).



## DIZON, Herminio P.

## DIZON, Pedro R.



Atty. PEDRO REYES ADIZON (1906-1983) was the 22<sup>nd</sup> governor of Bataan. He was elected twice and served from 1960-1963 to 1964-1967. Early in his political career, he was the 18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> mayor of Balanga (1948-1951 and 1956-1959).

Governor Dizon was born in Puerto Rivas, Balanga on November 2, 1906. He was the valedictorian of Class 1924 of the Bataan High School. He finished his Law degree from the University of Manila and took his oath as a full-fledged lawyer on November 6, 1933. He was initially employed at the

Bureau of Internal Revenue in Manila for a few years. Upon his return to Balanga in 1945, he was employed as secretary of the provincial board of Bataan under acting Governor Teodoro Camacho Sr. (1945-1946).

In November 1947, he ran for mayor of Balanga and defeated acting Mayor Graciano Pastorfide and a political newcomer, Atty. Faustino Vigo. After completing his four-year term (1948-1951), he ran for a seat in the two-member provincial board. It was an unsuccessful attempt though. He placed third behind winners Raymundo B. Galicia of Orani and Anastacio Valencia of Abucay.

Atty. Dizon returned to the political scene of Balanga in 1956. He ran for mayor and easily won over Atty. Angelino Banzon of Cupang Proper.

After his term, Dizon aspired for another

provincial position, this time for the gubernatorial post. It was a successful campaign. He bested his neighbor and incumbent Governor Emilio Ma. Naval at the polls twice, in 1959 and 1964. Dizon served for two consecutive terms, from 1960-1963 to 1964-1967.

During the November 12, 1967 local election, Dizon ran for his third term but lost by two votes to his former vice governor, Guillermo Arcenas of Hermosa.

As governor, Dizon was well-loved by the Bataenos for his honesty, diligence and humility. He passed away on July 12, 1983.

Governor Pedro R. Dizon was married to Leonor Tuason Banzon Vda. de Leon and had a daughter, Bella, who is currently based in Italy.

## DUNGCA, Flora A.

FLORA SOMBOL DUNGCA (1929- ), a living legend in the field of music, is a “Dangal Balangueño” awardee for 2008.

Flora Dungca was a native of Cuenca, Batangas where she saw the first light of day on July 29, 1929. Her parents were Faustino Santos of Sta. Rita, Pampanga and Estefania Sombol of Bataan. She grew up in Balanga when the Dungca family moved to the capital city in 1938 due to the work of her father who was a District Registrar of the Land Transportation Office. She finished her elementary and secondary education from the Balanga Elementary School and the Arellano Memorial High School, respectively.

After completing her course in Education from the Philippine Normal College in 1953, she was assigned as a classroom teacher in Dinalupihan,

Orion and Balanga. In 1964, she served as Music coordinator of the Division Office of Bataan. She took up post-graduate studies in Music Education from the University of the Philippines (1970-1971) and thereafter became the Music and Art supervisor for the province. She was an Art and Music teacher at the



Tomas del Rosario College from 1985 to 2005.

Ms. Dungca, a great lover of music, spent her spare times during her younger years in organizing choir. She also helped organize the Ultreya Choir of the St. Joseph Cathedral that won first place in the National Singing Competition held at the PICC.

Flora, already a retired teacher, continues to play the piano, guitar and harmonica in her home in Tenejero, Balanga City.



# EDUCHILD



The EDUCHILD PARENTING PROGRAM which aimed at developing young parents to be equipped and responsive to the present call of responsible parenthood was given to the parents of the Day Care children in the 27 Day Care Centers of the City of Balanga.

The program was conceptualized last 2009 by the Hon. Jose Enrique S. Garcia City Mayor with the help of the EDUCHILD Foundation Inc. and the Pampamilyang Paaralang Agrikultura Inc. in his desire to uplift and improve the parenting capabilities of the young parents in response to the mandate that the state shall safeguard the

family being the basic unit of the society. The program has ten (10) modules and the training of trainers was conducted for almost ten months. The 26 Day Care Workers of Balanga were the ones trained and committed themselves to implement the program in June 2010 to coincide with the start of the Day Care classes.

The program ended up with an evaluation tagged as "Pagsasama-sama/Pagsasaya at Ebalwasyon ng Programang EDUCHILD 2011" for the 27 DayCare Center. The participants were all very thankful for the program saying that it has enlightened them in to the varied aspects of parenting and family relationship, it helped them a lot



to become a better persons and better parents. They were clarified and gained better understanding of themselves. The parents had their graduation coinciding with their children's, recognition day. There are 750 parents graduate. The program will be a regular and continuing part of the Day care program under the City Social Welfare Development Office since it is hoped that it will be institutionalized by the Sangguniang Panlungsod.

## EL CASTILLO



The El Castillo was a palatial house built during the Spanish time along the present P. Paterno St.

The house was Balanga's first bahay-na-bato. It was made of bricks and adobe and covered with roof tiles. The building was considered the biggest and most luxurious in Balanga during the said period.

The old house built during the Spanish time, in a 1,500 sq.m. property lot was originally owned by the family of Bernabe Banzon and Ceferina Gallardo. It was in this house that the couple's children namely Tomas, Julio, Sixta, Herminigilda, Jacoba, and Silvestre were born and raised.

The property was inherited by Doña Jacoba Banzon's elder sisters Sixta and Herminigilda.

Later, Felisa (daughter of Doña Jacoba) and

wife of Dr. Antonio F. Banzon, Jr. owned the property. Their children were also born and raised here.

Onofre, son of Felisa and Dr. Tunying Banzon occupied and owned the house but unfortunately, El Castillo was burned to the ground during the World War II and was never replaced.

The property then was donated by Onofre to the Diocese of Balanga through Bishop Socrates Villegas to be the house of the Bishop of Balanga exclusively.

A new house was built in the property lot and is now called and known as San Onofre Bahay Pari (formerly El Castillo). The house was donated by contractor Jerry Acuzar.

## ENVIRONMENT

The City of Balanga is concerned with the conservation and protection of sensitive ecosystems. Some measures are currently being undertaken to protect the environment

As per Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, waste segregation is already being implemented in Balanga, particularly in the heart of the city and in many periphery barangays. The local city government has

recommended that residents reduce, reuse and recycle their garbage. Solid wastes such as newspapers, magazines, empty bottles, tin cans, cartons and even plastics are being recycled or sold to junk shops instead of including them with ordinary household wastes. About 80 percent of the total number of household employs the segregation method.

The Balanga city government operates two Material Recovery





## ENVIRONMENT

Facilities in Upper Munting Batangas. The two facilities were built during the administrations of former City Mayors Albert S. Garcia and Melanio Banzon Jr.

Some barangay residents processed their garbage into compost and used it as fertilizer.

In May 2008, Mayor Joet Garcia and Mayor Charlie Pizarro of Pilar town signed a MOA that protects the Talisay River. Both mayors have agreed to convert the river into a

beautiful tourist attraction and commercial spot that may possibly generate fair income for the city and the Municipality of Pilar.



In June 2008, Mayor Garcia launched the *Balik-Bayong/Basket* and *Junkshop ng Bayan* intensify the implementation of Balanga's Solid Waste Management Program.



Balanga currently maintains a dumpsite in Upper Tuyo. Garbage trucks were provided by the city to be used for garbage collection in all barangays.



Protecting the coastlines and the forests is currently being addressed to by the local government. The mayor and the city council of Balanga have adopted and strengthen the regular "*Kontra Kalat sa Dagat*"

program launched by the provincial government in 1999. It is a coastal clean-up program continuously conducted by the present government officials.

In addition to the said clean-up project, the city government regularly carries out mangrove tree planting in every coastal barangays.

## ESCALADA, Remegio Jr.



**R**EMEGIO RMAGSINO ESCALADA JR. (1957-) is the incumbent Presiding Judge of the Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branch 3, Balanga City and is concurrently the Executive Judge of the Regional Trial Court in Bataan.

Judge Escalada was born on May 16, 1957. He is one of the children of lawyer-banker

Remegio Escalada Sr. of Puerto Rivas and the former Carmelita delas Alas Magsino of Mindoro. For his early education, he went to the Notre Dame High School where he graduated in 1974. He enrolled at the University of the Philippines where he completed his pre-Law course in 1978. Judge Escalada thereafter studied at the Ateneo de Manila University where he graduated with a Bachelor of Laws degree in 1982. He passed the Bar examinations on the same year.

Armed with a license to practice law, Judge Escalada entered the government service after three years of private practice as a Legal

Researcher and soon as Branch Clerk of the Bataan Regional Trial Branch 1. In time, he took up employment as Confidential Attorney of Justice Manuel Cruz Herrera of Pilar, Bataan in the Court of Appeals, and became a Regional Trial Court judge of Bataan. on April 7, 2000, succeeding retiring Judge Lorenzo Roque Silva of Abucay, Bataan.

Judge Escalada was named Executive Judge starting on April 12, 2005 up to the present.

He is married to the former Jeanette F. Soriano with whom he has two children: Raisa and Rodel.

# FIESTA



## Town Fiesta: April 28 Barangay Fiestas

**F**IESTA or feast day is a traditional religious celebration of people in a locality. Activities, sometimes week-long programs, are planned and held for the enjoyment of local residents and visitors, including tourists.

Fiesta in the Philippines is not necessarily fun and frolic. It is of religious origin. The Balanga is generally held in honor of the city's patron saint, St. Joseph, The Worker. The date of the annual fiesta celebration falls on April 28.

At present, eight town proper barangays are involved in the annual celebration of the Feast of St. Joseph, namely Poblacion, Talisay, Dona Francisca, Malabia, Ibayo, San Jose, Cataning and Bagumbayan.

The remaining 17 barangays have different fiesta dates.

There are fairs, bargain sales and craft shops, walk for a cause, *tilburin* race, amateur singing and dance contests, Mutyang Balanga beauty pageant, and the Tuyo and Banga streetdancing contest for all ages. Musical and variety shows are traditionally held at the town plaza on the eve of the fiesta. A *serenata* or band competition is also part of the celebration. Brass bands, drum and bugle corps, *ati-atihan* and free foods and drinks are the other major ingredients of a true Filipino fiesta culture.

Starting in 1999, the city government started honoring ten (10) Dangal Balangueño awardees to coincide with the fiesta celebration. The program was launched to recognize outstanding Balangueños from various fields of profession whose characters, work ethics and service have greatly contributed to the progress of the city.

Barangay	Date	Patron
Bagong Silang	3 <sup>rd</sup> week, January	Sto. Niño
Bagumbayan	April 28	St. Joseph
Cabog-cabog	May 15	San Isidro Labrador
Camacho	May 8	St. Michael Archangel
Cataning	April 28	St. Joseph
Central	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday, January	Sto. Niño
Cupang North	Last Sun, May	Sto. Cristo
Cupang Proper	Last Sun, May	Sto. Cristo
Cupang West	Last Sun, May	Sto. Cristo
Dangcol	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday, January	Sto. Niño
Dona Francisca	April 28	St. Joseph
Ibayo	April 28	St. Joseph
Malabia	April 28	St. Joseph
Munting Batangas	May 15	San Isidro Labrador
Poblacion	April 28	St. Joseph
Pto. Rivas Ibaba	December 8	Immaculate Conception
Pto. Rivas Itaas	December 8	Immaculate Conception
Pto. Rivas Lote	December 8	Immaculate Conception
San Jose	April 28	St. Joseph
Sibacan	October 24	St. Raphael
Talisay	April 28	St. Joseph
Tanato	1 <sup>st</sup> week, January	St. Niño
Tenejero	June 13	San Antonio de Padua
	January 1	Sagrada Familia
Tortugas	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday, January	Sto. Niño
Tuyo	August 16	San Roque

## FLORES, Adolfo M.



An alumnus of the Balanga Elementary School and Arellano Memorial (Bataan) High

**A**DOLFO MALIXI FLORES (1930- ) was Bataan's Highway District Engineer from 1989 until 1995.

Engineer Flores, the son of Victorino Flores of Ibayo and Rafaela Malixi of Cupang, was born on February 2, 1930.

School, Flores was able to continue his college studies through the support of his older sister who was a teacher, and an older brother who was employed in the US Navy. He completed his Civil Engineering course at the Mapua Institute of Technology in 1954.

He joined the government service in 1954 when he was employed as a casual employee at the Bataan District Engineering Office. He rose from the ranks and became a regular Junior Civil Engineer in 1959. He was already a Supervising Civil Engineer when he was assigned in Sulu

in 1968. After short stints in Basilan and Zamboanga, he was reassigned in Bataan as Assistant Highway District Engineer in 1973. Sixteen years later, in 1989, he finally assumed the post of Highway District Engineer. He retired in 1995.

Engr. Flores, still active in the Knights of Columbus and Rotary International, is married to Aleli Pastorfidelo-Flores with whom he has three children: Josefina Cecilia (UP, economist); Anna Fedelis (UE, dentist); and Arthur (Angeles U, physician).

## FUENTE, SILVINO DELA D.M.D.

**D**r. SILVINO DELA FUENTE, a dentist by profession, was the vice mayor of Balanga from January 1, 1948 until August 22, 1948.

Dr. Dela Fuente was born in 1902 in Poblacion, Balanga (in an old house located beside the residence of former Mayor Melanio Banzon Jr.). He was a relative of Victoria Banzon-Roman's mother and Dr. Melanio

Banzon Sr. He completed his Dentistry course from the University of Santo Tomas.

He joined the political scene in 1948 by running for vice mayor of Balanga, together with mayoralty candidate Atty. Pedro R. Dizon. Both of them won. Surprisingly, he resigned from his post after a little less than eight months in office for still undetermined reason. He was replaced

by Crispulo Torrico, the first councillor.

Vice Mayor Dela Fuente is the father of Shirley dela Fuente and a brother of Rosario, Minggoy and Emilio dela Fuente.



## FUENTEBELLA, Fe B.



Mrs. Fuentebella was born in Balanga in October 1932 to parents Manuel Banzon Sr. (former Congressman of Bataan) and Teofila Garcia. She is the younger sister of

**F**E GARCIA BANZON-FUENTEBELLA (1932- ) was vice-consul at the Philippine Embassy in New York in the 1990s, and later on, appointed as Consul General at the Embassy of the Philippines in Ankara, Turkey.

former Board Member Crisostomo Banzon and the late Colonel Jose V.H. Banzon.

After completing her primary and secondary education from the Balanga Elementary School and Bataan High School, respectively, she enrolled at the University of Santo Tomas where she finished her course in Education. She had a brief stint as a high school teacher at the Arellano Memorial (Bataan) High School.

It was her brother, Colonel Jose Banzon, then the military attaché in Indonesia, who persuaded her to join the Foreign Service. He facilitated Fe's first foreign assignment at the Philippine Embassy in Jakarta. It was

at the same embassy where she met and fell in love with a Bicolano, Jose Fuentebella, son of the erstwhile Philippine Ambassador to Indonesia. The couple has a daughter, named Christine.

Fe Fuentebella's dedication to work and passion for service to her fellowmen brought her to the Philippine Embassy in New York where she served as vice consul and trade and cultural officer under then Ambassador Rodolfo A. Arizala. Prior to her retirement from government service in 1997, she was assigned as consul general in Turkey. She and her daughter are currently based in New York, USA.

# GALING HEALTH CARD

**G**ALING HEALTH CARD is the newest pro-poor program of the city government aimed to provide residents access to government health facilities and other health-oriented services. The program provides special health service to enroll members to the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP) “Medicare Para sa Masa” which includes free confinement

at the provincial hospital.

City Mayor Jose Enrique S. Garcia III, representing the city government, had signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Bataan General Hospital and the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation to grant 8,000 families of health insurance coverage during their sickness and hospitalization.

The implementation of the program was

started in April 2008.

Initially, 1,050 cards had been distributed to indigent families with the



help of the punong barangay and the Kabalikat organization of the 25 barangays of the city.

The city government had assigned a physician and liaison personnel at the Bataan General Hospital to assist beneficiaries of the *Galing Cards*. In addition to free consultation and hospitalization, free medicines are also being provided to the card holders.

The *Galing* card will not only benefit the holders but also the other members of their families, including the spouse, children not more than 21 years old and still single, and parents aged 60 years old and above.

Governor Tet Garcia and Congressman Albert S. Garcia supported the new health program of the city.

**CERTIFICATION**

The person whose photo, name and signature appear on this card and his or her legal dependents are recognized beneficiaries of, and entitled to, all the rights and privileges under PHILHEALTH's **FAMILY HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM** by virtue of Republic Act No. 7875 or the National Health Insurance Program.

This ID must be presented when availing of services in all PhilHealth accredited service providers. An Affidavit of Loss must be presented when applying for replacement of lost ID card.

*Lorna O. Fajardo*  
LORNA O. FAJARDO  
Acting President and CEO




Benipisyong Medikal  
Mula sa Lungsod  
na Nagmamahal



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## GARCIA, Albert Raymond S.



A prominent figure who will always be remembered by the City of Balanga residents is Cong. Albert Raymond S. Garcia.

Congressman “Abet” Garcia was born in Manila on February 1, 1970 to parents current

Governor Enrique T. Garcia, Jr. and Victoria Sandejas. He graduated from the Dela Salle University with the degree of AB Philosophy and Letters. Right after graduation from college, he worked in Congress as chief of staff of his Congressman father.

The young bachelor started his political career as the Mayor of Balanga at age 28. At his first venture in politics, he won in the mayoralty bet over Engr. Manny Beltran of Pto. Rivas during the May 11, 1998 elections.

Mayor Abet ran unopposed during the 2001 local elections as a result of the unification agreement the Garcia and (Ding) Roman families.

The two-term mayor worked hard to make Balanga be at par with the other towns and cities in Central Luzon and in the whole country. It was in his term that Balanga was tagged as Tech City. His remarkable achievement that brought changes in his hometown was the proclamation of Balanga into cityhood. It was at the end of his second year in his first

term.

In addition to Balanga’s cityhood, Abet established the Balanga City Taxpayers One-Stop Shop, a project which won the coveted “League of Cities of the Philippines’ Best Practices Award.” He also instituted the Bataan Crime Laboratory, City Marshalls Office, COPS Kababayan Centers and several major programs which benefited the residents of the city.

In 2002, Abet was awarded as one of the “top five city mayors” of the Philippines, a nationwide search sponsored by the Local Government Leadership Award.

During the May 2004 local election, Abet ran for congressman against former Bataan Governor Leonardo B. Roman. Surprisingly, it was Garcia who win the poll.

Using his Community Development Fund, Congressman Garcia completed the P23-million Drug Training and Rehabilitation Center in Liyang, Pilar, Bataan. it was inaugurated in January 2008. He also finished the P35 million Diosdado Macapagal Cruise Terminal in Puting Buhangin, Orion through the support of President Gloria M. Arroyo.

In Congress, first-termer Abet played the role of Deputy Majority Floor Leader, representing the Kampi political party. He also

headed various committees, such as Appropriations, Bases Conversion, Education and Culture, Health, Higher and Technical Education, National Defense and Security Oversight, Public Works and Highways, Science and Technology and Youth and Sports Development.

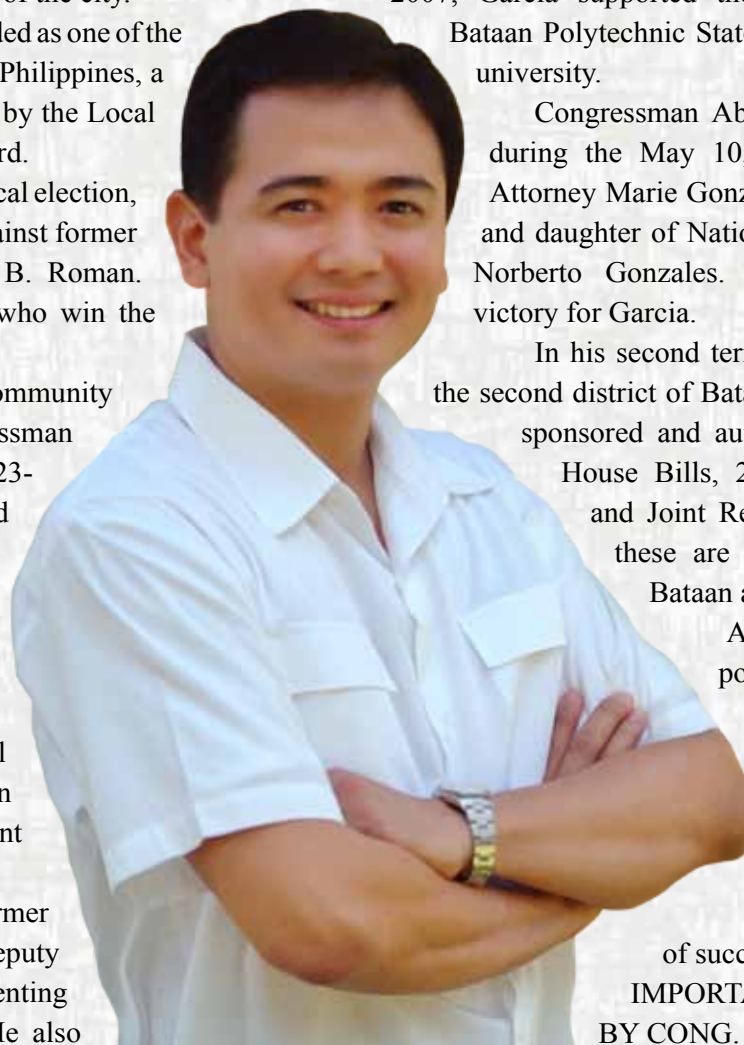
Before his first congressional term ended in 2007, Garcia supported the conversion of the Bataan Polytechnic State College into a state university.

Congressman Abet ran for reelection during the May 10, 2007 polls against Attorney Marie Gonzales of Puerto Rivas, and daughter of National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales. It was a landslide victory for Garcia.

In his second term as congressman of the second district of Bataan, Abet has already sponsored and authored more than 40 House Bills, 20 House Resolution and Joint Resolution Majority of these are for the goodness of Bataan and its people.

A young blood in politics, Cong. Abet is armed with an urge to serve that will surely make him go a long way to make his province marked in the history of success.

IMPORTANT BILLS FILED BY CONG. ABET



# GARCIA, Albert Raymond S.

14th Congress  
(As of June 2009)

HOUSE BILL NO. 1421

An Act Establishing the Mariveles District Hospital in the Municipality of Mariveles, Province of Bataan, and Appropriating Funds therefore.

HOUSE BILL NO. 1422

An Act Providing for the Establishment of A Multipurpose Sports Center in the City of Balanga, Province of Bataan, to be Known as the Balanga City Sports Center and Appropriating Funds therefore.

HOUSE BILL NO. 1423

An Act Creating an Additional Branch of the Regional Trial Court in the Municipality of Orion, Province of Bataan, Amending for the Purpose Section 14, Paragraph (c) of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, Otherwise Known as the Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980, as Amended by Republic Act No. 7154, and Amendment.

AN ACT CREATING TWO ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE RTC IN THE CITY OF BALANGA AND THREE ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE RTC IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF MARIVELES AND DINALUPIHAN, PROVINCE OF BATAAN x x x

HOUSE BILL NO. 1424

An Act Transferring the Territorial Jurisdiction of the Island of Corregidor from the Province of Cavite to the Province of Bataan.

HOUSE BILL NO. 1425

An Act Converting the Bataan Economic Zone Located in the Municipality of Mariveles, Province of Bataan into the Bataan Special Economic Zone and



Freeport, Creating for this Purpose the Bataan Special Economic Zone and Freeport Authority, Appropriating Funds therefore and for Other Purposes.

HOUSE BILL NO. 1970

An Act Converting the Bagac-Mariveles Road in the Province of Bataan into a National Road.

HOUSE BILL NO. 2807

An Act Amending Certain Provisions of Republic Act No. 8850, Otherwise Known as the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998, Providing for the Confiscation and Forfeiture of Fishing Vessels, Fishing Equipment and Catch Used in Various Unauthorized Fishing Activities Particularly Commercial Fishing in Municipal Waters, the Use of Fine Mesh Nets and the Use of Active Fishing Gears, Causing the Confiscation and Forfeiture in Favor of the Province with Jurisdiction over the case of the Vessels, proceeds and Instruments used in all Illegal Fishing Activities HB 3675.

An Act Establishing a National Technical Vocational High School in Brgy. Talisay, City of Balanga, Province of Bataan, to be Known as the Balanga City National Technical Vocational High School and Appropriating Funds therefore.

HOUSE BILL NO. 3768

An Act Converting the Four (4) Lane By-Pass Road in Brgy. Tuyoy, City of Balanga, Province of Bataan Into a National Road.

HOUSE BILL NO. 4127

With co-author Congw. Carissa O. Coscolluela An Act Establishing Livelihood and Skills Training Centers in Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Class Municipalities, and for other purposes.

Principal Author of Republic Act No. 9403, entitled: "An Act Converting The Bataan Polytechnic State College in the Province of Bataan Into a State University to be Known as the Bataan Peninsula State University (BPSU), Integrating therewith the Bataan State College in the Municipality of Dinalupihan, Province of Bataan and Appropriating Funds Therefore", which was enacted on March 22, 2007.

## GARCIA, Eduardo T.

**E**DUARDO TUASON GARCIA (1942-2008) was the provincial federated president of the Association of Barangay Captain (FABC) of Bataan and served as an ex-officio board member of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan from July 1989 until May 1994.

Ed Garcia was born in Balanga on December 21, 1942 to parents Enrique Garcia Sr. of Batangas and Emiliana Tuason of Balanga. After completing his primary and secondary education in Balanga, he studied Commerce at the De La Salle University.

Ed was the second to Enrique “Tet” Garcia of the many grandchildren of former Balanga

Mayor Antonio Tuason Jr. to get involved in politics. He started his brief but sweet political career by running for the position of barangay captain of Tenejero. Later on, he defeated Dona Francisca’s Avelino Batungbacal in the municipal level election for the presidency of the Balanga ABC. Thereafter, he ran for president of the Federated ABC organization and won the post against Norberto Simpao of Hermosa.

He started serving as ex-officio board member of Bataan on July 5, 1989, during the incumbency of Gov. Ding Roman. His term continued up to the time his brother Tet won as governor in 1992. He served as FABC chairman

until May 1994.

After his term, he contented himself by insuring the continued successes of the Garcia family’s political career. He saw the triumphant return of his brother Tet to the Capitol building in 2004 and 2007 as provincial governor.

Ed was married to the former Teresita Mangubat with whom he had nine children. He passed away in June 2008.



## GARCIA, Emiliana T.



EMILIANA TUAZON GARCIA – was a God-loving woman who was born on March 24, 1919 in Balanga, Bataan. She was a product of the Balanga Elementary School and Holy Ghost College in Manila for her secondary education.

She was married to Enrique Añonuevo Garcia where they brought forth into this world ten loveable children namely, Enrique, Eduardo,

Ernesto, Emmanuel, Edmundo, Edna, Elvira, Elison and Emily. (?)

The eldest son, Enrique is now the governor of Bataan.

She had gone through difficulties during the Japanese Occupation but she remained tough and steady to survive. Her great faith in God made her overcome every problem.

Emiliana entered into different business while she was bringing up her children. She went on hog-raising, sari-sari store, buy and sell, real estate and other more.

Despite being busy, she never lacked quality time for her children. She taught them to be

humble and God-fearing, too. To ensure close family ties, they pray together the rosary every day after dinner.

Her previous experiences in life led her to helping people especially the lowly and less fortunate. This act of benevolence was passed to her children by this generous woman.

She is regular patron of Bahay-Puso and other caregiving institutions.

On December, 1997, she was granted the highest honor from the Catholic Church... the Papal Award.

She passed away on March 17, 2009 at the age of 90.

## GARCIA, Enrique T. Jr.



**E**NRIQUE TUASON GARCIA (1941- ) is the incumbent governor of Bataan, the 28th in the long list of governors who led the province to progress and prosperity since 1901. His term covered from 2007 until 2010 and from 2010 up to 2013. He was first elected to the position in 2004. He also served as the 26th governor, from 1992 to 1994. Unfortunately, he was not able to complete his first three-year term after being subjected to a Recall Election on December 20, 1993.

Garcia, popularly known as “Tet”, also served as congressman of Bataan from 1987 to 1992, and continuously for three terms from 1995 to 2004.

He was born in Balanga on September 13, 1941 to parents Enrique Garcia Sr. and Emiliana Tuason. He graduated salutatorian from the Arellano Memorial (Bataan) High School in Balanga, Class of 1957. He finished his Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics at the

De La Salle University in 1963. He continued his studies and completed a Bachelor’s degree in Commerce, major in Accounting.

In 1965, Garcia was employed as Senior Auditor of Esso Philippines and was promoted as Assistant Marketing Economic Manager in 1968. He was sent as an Executive Trainee at Esso Standard Eastern in New York in 1969 and at Humble Oil in Texas, USA in 1970. Upon his return to Manila in 1971, he was made the Marketing Economist and Resident Manager of Esso Philippines.

In 1974, he resigned from Esso Philippines and put up the VicGar Trading where he was the president. Six years later, he joined the Bureau of Internal Revenue as Executive Assistant. In 1983, he founded the Garcia, Lava and Associates, an accounting office based in Manila.

He entered into the political arena in 1987 when he ran and won as congressman of the Second District

of Bataan, with the support of then OIC-Governor Leonardo Roman. But he broke ties with Roman when the latter supported the proposed relocation of a petrochemical plant to Batangas even after it was already approved to be established in Bataan.

The 1992 local polls was the day of reckoning between the Garcia and Roman families. Garcia ran against Governor Roman for the gubernatorial post. He won with a wide margin of 15,000 votes. But a Recall Movement was launched in 1993 by Roman supporters against Garcia. A special election was held in Bataan on December 20, 1993. Garcia lost at the polls but winner Leonardo B. Roman was only able to assume office in July 1994.

Garcia returned to Congress in 1995 after defeating erstwhile Congressman Dominador Venegas of Orion. During his term, he fought against the monopoly/cartel of the Big Three oil companies in the Oil Deregulation case.

He was re-elected in 1998. During the period, he crusaded for the establishment of an OilEx that would allow oil companies to participate in public biddings for the supply of the country’s total oil requirement from the lowest qualified bidder. At the end of his second term, he initiated the conversion of Balanga into a component city with the support of his son, Balanga Mayor Albert S. Garcia.

On December 30, 2000, the capital town came to be known as the City of Balanga.

Tet Garcia was re-elected Congressman in 2001. As third term congressman, he crusaded for the scrapping of the Value Added Tax (VAT). He was also credited for the nationalization of the former Bataan Provincial



# GARCIA, Enrique T. Jr.

Hospital and the establishment of the Bataan Polytechnic State College. He was working on the conversion of the said college into a university when his third term expired. His son, Congressman Abet Garcia, completed the said project.

In 2004, Tet Garcia aspired for the gubernatorial post, while his two sons – Albert and Jose Enrique – ran for congressman of the second district and city mayor of Balanga City, respectively. He won against Vice Governor Rogelio Roque of Limay. Albert Garcia also triumphed over former Governor Leonardo Roman. Unfortunately, mayoralty candidate Joet Garcia lost to the come-backing Melanio Banzon Jr.

Garcia ran for reelection during the May 14, 2007 local elections. He won overwhelmingly against former Governor Leonardo B. Roman. He served his second term until 2010. His two sons, Abet and Joet, also triumphed at the polls against their respective rivals.

Free college education, fiscal management and environmental protection are just three of the major concerns of Garcia's administration. During his second term, Garcia has elevated Bataan to the economic and social giant status.

Garcia is the current chairman of the prestigious Regional Development Council (RDC) of Central Luzon. He oversees the blueprint for development of Region 3 and supervises the monitoring of the implementation

of major inter-provincial and regionwide development programs, projects and activities, as well as, when called upon, represents the region in cabinet meetings and other activities at the national level.

He won his third term against Limay Mayor Nelson C. David during the May 10, 2010 elections.

In his administration the motto "Leave No Stone

in their minds and hearts. Truly, this man gained their honor and respect.

No one could deny the fact that Gov. Tet is highly appreciated because of his sound judgment and serving heart. He has gone way above and beyond for the welfare of his constituents by being sensitive to

their needs, detail-oriented and thorough in everything he does. His unquestionable credibility, unparalleled accomplishments and unwavering commitment to his job earned him the trust, confidence and respect of his colleagues and people. His tenacity and hands on leadership makes his vision attainable, his mission realizable and his objectives workable.

Governor Garcia's administration has earned the Province its first ever listing as one of the Top Ten Performing Provinces in the country through his campaign in reducing tax rates, increasing revenue, slashing crime rates and investing new resources in education and creating job opportunities.

After everything else is said and done, what matters most to

Gov. Tet is achieving concrete results to crystallize his goals for his constituencies in a transparent manner and participative governance. A man who, as a worker, had the hindsight to know where he has been...the foresight to know where he's going...and the insight to know when he had gone too far.

His work is truly his signature!



Unturned" could not be more appropriate to anyone than to Governor "Tet" Garcia. At every turn, he was always willing to explore what seemed like every last option until he had come up with the right decision. The people of Bataan are more than impressed by his vast dedication and hard work, not to mention his exceptional knowledge of everything he acted upon, thus his deeds are tattooed

## GARCIA III, Jose Enrique S.

**G**ARCIA III, JOSE ENRIQUE S. JOSE ENRIQUE SANDEJAS GARCIA III (1971) – is the 31st and current city mayor of the City of Balanga. He was elected during the May 14, 2007 local polls. His term covers a three-year period from July 1, 2007 to June 30,



Mayor Garcia, more popularly known as “Joet”, was born in Manila on November 12, 1971. He is the fourth child of incumbent Bataan Governor Enrique T. Garcia Jr. and the former Victoria Sandejas. His older brother, Albert, is the current Bataan congressman (2004-2007, 2007-2010 and 2010-2013).

Joet completed his primary and secondary education from the Colegio de San Agustin and De La Salle Greenhills, respectively. He finished his Bachelor of Arts degree in General Humanities with specialization in Political Economy from the University of Asia and the Pacific (UAP) in 1994. He is currently enrolled at the Graduate School of Business at the De La Salle University (DLSU) for his Masters degree in Business Administration.

In 1994, he co-founded the

Technistock Corporation and served as its vice president. He headed the company’s sales and marketing operations from 1994 to 2001. He also had a short stint as an Instructor at the UAP’s Department of Political Studies (June-October 1996) before he joined the DLSU’s Graduate School of Business as Co-Professor in Masters in Computational Finance (January-August 2000).

In 2001, he became the director of Technomarine Enterprises (Phils.) Inc., and at the same time, served as Group Vice President, Sales and Support, of the Technistock Pte. Ltd. (2001-2004).

Mayor Joet initially served the City of Balanga as Overall Barangay Coordinator from 2003-2004 in preparation for his entry into the political arena. He ran for mayor during the May 2004 election but

lost to former Balanga Mayor Melanio Banzon Jr. A poll protest was immediately filed by Garcia before the Comelec.

While waiting for the Comelec decision, Joet served as an IT consultant at the Bataan Capitol, and chairman of the Bataan Provincial Technical Education Skills Development Committee (2004-2007). At the same time, he was the director of the Manila-based Retail Operators, Inc. (2004-2007). He also founded the Mobilegroup, Inc. in 2004 and served as its managing director.

On January 25, 2007, the Second Division of the Commission of Elections ruled that it was Garcia who actually won the 2004 mayoralty race by garnering 18,412 votes against Banzon’s 17,489. The ruling nullified the initial poll results claiming that Banzon had won by more than 2,000 votes. The Garcias, however, did not pursue the actual implementation of the Comelec decision and simply prepared for the May 14, 2007 local polls.

His return to the political arena in 2007 proved successful. He defeated reelectionist Mayor Banzon by a landslide victory. As city mayor, Joet Garcia is busy providing the residents of Balanga City with an efficient, accountable and transparent public service.

Mayor Joet is married to Maria Isabel Fernandez-Garcia, an Assistant for Cultural Affairs, Instituto Cervantes



# GARCIA III, Jose Enrique S.

(Embassy of Spain) in Makati. The couple has three children: Diego Enrique (born in 2002), Paolo Jose (2005) and Nicolo (2009).

The adage “He who does his best for his own time has lived for all times.” would aptly describe our City Mayor, Hon. Jose Enrique “Joet” Garcia III. His desire for excellence is so fierce that he cannot afford to be second to anyone in matters of performance. Mediocrity is never welcomed. For him, a simple sculpture must be a masterpiece, an art and its finesse. A simple talk must echo veracity at all times. A simple task must be grandiose deeds. A dream must be a goal to be realized!

A mission-conscious leader whose enthusiasm and burning desire to translate vision into reality was engraved in his

heart and who started its realization when he immediately heeded the call to serve the people as City Mayor in 2007 with the passion for excellence, discipline, integrity, transparency and accountability as his armor to bring up radical and deep change to good governance.

Like Frederick the Great, he embodies the value of maximizing one’s time and resources. According to Mayor Joet, “dolce for niente,” i.e. being idle and unfazed by the happenings in our society would make us immune and numb to its ills, thus we would not take action to cure them.

In a span of three years from 2007 to 2010, during his first term as City Mayor, he rallied the quick transformation of the City of Balanga to fittingly serve as the center of excellent education, the heart of rich cultural heritage and the hub for dynamic business

and commercial activities in the Province, by initiating his self-coined programs and projects, like: World Class University Town; Barangay Week Program; Galing Card Para sa Masa; Balanga’s Fresh; KANIB (Kasama...Ani sa Barangay); Iskolar Balangueño; Edu-Child; Technology; Barangay Online; Talyer ng Bayan; Ipagmalaki Mo...Drayber Balangueño; Galing Balanga Products; and others

His undying dedication and devotion to his constituents, the Balangueños, and his meritorious accomplishments resulted in a big leap towards Balanga’s progress.

Upon assuming responsibility as City Mayor, he never wasted a moment in his life trying to realize a vision long etched on his mind and in his heart – Balanga City, a World Class University Town in 2020.

Persevering in the midst of adversity of opposition, he left no stone unturned.

His attitude towards work becomes contagious among his subordinates and constituents. From the Office of the City Mayor down to the Office of the Barangay Officials and the community, there is always a collaborative effort in making the most of Balangueños’ lives. With such scenario of people pursuing their dreams with a zeal and fervor, the realization of such vision is not a mile away but is within reach.

A noteworthy man, with his unquenchable service to his people, JOSE ENRIQUE “JOET” GARCIA III.

The milestone in his life mirrored in his quest for excellence to achieve breakthrough results!



## GARDUCE, Romeo R.



**R**OMEO ROBERTO GARDUCE (1969- ), fondly called “Romi”, is a native of Balanga City. He was among the first three Filipinos to reach the top of Mount Everest, the highest mountain in the world. He accomplished the amazing feat on May 19, 2006, at about 1:15 p.m. Manila time.

Romi Garduce was born in San Jose, Balanga on September 29, 1969. His parents are Flaviana Roberto, a retired college instructor, and the late Victoriano Garduce, a retired Philippine Scout from Samar. He is the youngest among the ten Garduce children. He completed his kindergarten, elementary and high school education at the Tomas del Rosario College where her mother spent many years as a teacher, principal and later college instructor. He finished his Bachelor’s degree in Mathematics, major in Computer Science, at

the University of Santo Tomas in Manila.

Garduce had been employed with Procter and Gamble for more than 15 years as a systems analyst. During the same period, he was able to climb and reached the top of the country’s highest mountains as member of the University of the Philippine Mountaineering Club.

His climb to the summit of the 8,848-meter high Mount Everest from base camp was completed in 10



hours. Still, he ended up as the third Filipino to get to the top of the world after another group of summiteers, including two other Filipinos -- Hericleo Oracion of Lucban, Quezon and Erwin Pastor Emata of Tagum, Davao -- reached the mountaintop an hour earlier. Oracion and Emata are both members of the First Philippine Mount Everest Expedition Team.

Garduce’s climb was fully documented by GMA Channel 7 while the ascent of Oracion and Emata was covered by ABS-CBN.

For showing Filipino’s capacity to overcome insurmountable odds, Romi Garduce, Oracion and Emata were honored in Malacanang on December 19, 2006. They were awarded plaques of the Order of Lakandula by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Garduce was also given a hero’s welcome by townmates upon his arrival in Balanga.

In addition to his job at Procter and Gamble, Romi hosts a weekly television program entitled “Born to Be Wild” shown on GMA 7 every Wednesday night.

Garduce was honored with the “Dangal Balangueno” award in April 2008.

## GONZALES, Baldomero

**B**ALDOMERO GONZALES is best remembered as the last *cabeza de barangay* of Puerto Rivas before the Spanish-American War broke out in the Philippines. He was also one of the three natives who founded the local organization of the *Iglesia Filipina Independiente* (IFI) in Puerto Rivas in 1906. The other two pioneering Aglipayan leaders were Damaso Bernabe (Puerto Rivas

Ibaba) and Mariano Escalada (Puerto Rivas Itaas).

Baldomero was a rich man who owned large tracts of land in Puerto Rivas Itaas and Tortugas. He donated the lot for the use of the Tortugas Elementary School.

He was married to Salome Naval of Malabon. His children were: Remedios Gonzales-Cruz; Carmen Gonzales-Quesada

(Charo Quesada’s grandmother); Pedro N. Gonzales (Dr. Louie Atienza’s grandfather); Mariano N. Gonzales (Escalada family); Jose N. Gonzales Sr. (grandfather of Norbie and Dr. Violeta Gonzales); Josefa Gonzales-Arcebedo; Jose N. Gonzales I (Balanga mayor and father of Director Nestor Gonzales and Dr. Primo Gonzales); and Maria Gonzales-Pajares.



## GONZALES, Carlos Y.



**C**ARLOS Ytalia GONZALES was the 14<sup>th</sup> mayor of Balanga, from November 15, 1944 up to February 28, 1945. He initially served as an appointed vice mayor of Balanga from 1942 until 1943.

Attorney Carlos Gonzales, a.k.a. “Langaw” to close friends, was born in Poblacion, Balanga. He was a lawyer and served as *juez de paz* of Balanga before World War II broke out.

Mayor Gonzales simply took over the post vacated by erstwhile Mayor Numeriano Quindoy (May 1, 1943-October 31, 1944) who

joined the guerrilla movement after receiving news of the landing of the US Armed Forces in Leyte. Gonzales, then the acting vice mayor, did not want to accept the position for fear of being accused as a Japanese collaborator. But Governor Simeon Salonga prevailed upon him to accept the position in order to maintain law and order in Balanga during those most trying times. Gonzales’ term started on November 15, 1944.

On March 5, 1945, however, Gonzales was relieved from office on orders of acting Governor Teodoro Camacho Sr., the first appointed acting governor of Bataan after the Liberation. Gonzales was replaced by Dr. Mariano Herrera, Balanga’s two-time mayor (1938-1941, 1941-1942). Atty. Gonzales became a regional trial court thereafter.

## GONZALES, Nestor E.



**N**ESTOR ESPINA GONZALES (1923-1996) was a lawyer from Puerto Rivas, Balanga, who became the National Capital Region (NCR) director of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).

Atty. Gonzales, the eldest child of former Balanga Mayor Jose N. Gonzales I (16<sup>th</sup>, 1946-1947) and Irene Espina of Bulacan, was born in Puerto Rivas on February 26, 1923. He was the older brother of Drs. Primo and Felipe Gonzales. He completed his Law degree at the University of the Philippines in Diliman where his other siblings went to study.

After passing the Bar examinations, he joined the NBI where he rose to the rank of regional director for Metro Manila. He was married to the former Aurora Dizon of Puerto Rivas and had three children. He passed away on May 18, 1996.

## GONZALES, Jose N.



**J**O S E Rivas, Balanga, on September 18, 1896. His parents were Baldomero Gonzales and Salome Naval of Malabon. He was married to the former Irene Espina of Bulacan. He had five children: Nestor (NBI director), Lolita G. Patricio, Amelia G. Cegara, Primo (UP, dentistry), and Felipe (UP, dentistry).

His administration covered from March 1, 1946 to January 15, 1947. He also served as vice mayor for four terms, from 1928 until 1940. His fifth term as vice mayor came in 1952 until 1955.

Mayor Gonzales was born in Puerto

Gonzales, a former *teniente del barrio* of Puerto Rivas, was elected as vice mayor of Balanga four times (1928-1931, 1931-1934, 1934-1937, and 1938-1941). On March 1, 1946, he was appointed as acting mayor of Balanga by Governor Teodoro Camacho Sr. He replaced Mayor Mariano Herrera, Balanga’s 11<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>

mayor, who openly declared support to the candidacy of Senator Manuel Roxas (who ran against incumbent President Sergio Osmena during the April 23, 1946 national polls).

Mayor Gonzales supported the candidacy of President Osmena, who eventually lost in the presidential race. Newly-elected President Roxas, in turn, replaced all public officials who supported Sergio Osmena, including Governor Camacho who was replaced by former Governor Joaquin J. Linao on August 5, 1946.

Mayor Jose N. Gonzales, however, continued serving as Balanga’s mayor

for the next five months despite his being a “political outcast.” His family’s affiliation with the powerful *Iglesia Filipina Independiente* in Puerto Rivas prevented his early relief from office. On January 8, 1947, out of *delicadeza*, he submitted his resignation to Governor Linao. On January 16, 1947, he was replaced by Graciano R. Pastorfide, erstwhile municipal council secretary of Balanga.

In 1952, he returned to the municipal building as an elected vice mayor, together with Atty. Faustino Vigo (20<sup>th</sup> mayor, 1952-1955). Gonzales passed away on May 10, 1967.

## GONZALES, Norberto B.



NORBERTO BORJA GONZALES (1947-) was the 36<sup>th</sup> Secretary of the Department of National Defense of the Philippines under the administration of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. His term covered from June 2009 until June 2010. Earlier, he served as Arroyo's Presidential Chief of Staff (August 2004 to February 2005) and later on promoted as National Security Adviser and Director-General of the National Security Council.

Secretary Gonzales was born in Puerto Rivas on April 17, 1947. He is the son of the late Jose Dizon Gonzales Jr. and Aurora Alonzo Borja. He was the class valedictorian when he graduated at the Maximino delos Reyes Memorial Elementary School. He was an honor student and medalist for academic excellence during his high school days at the Arellano University (Malabon). After one year of study at the University of the Philippines (UP) in Diliman, he

transferred to Ateneo de Davao University where he finished a Bachelor of Arts degree. He was employed as an instructor of Chemistry and Biology at the Western Philippine College (Batangas City) and St. Paul's College (Quezon City).

While working for his Master's degree at UP, he was detained by the military for being one of Senator Ninoy Aquino's LABAN leaders, and for co-writing with Fr. Romeo Intengan, SJ, the book entitled "The Philippine Crisis and Commitment."

He spent many years hiding in the United States and Europe during the entire Marcos regime to avoid arrest and detention "for political reasons." In the US, he established communications with Senator Ninoy Aquino and the other political exiles. In Europe, he joined the Social Democrats organization representing the Philippines.

He returned to the country in 1986, during the administration of President Cory Aquino. He was involved in the "peace talks" with the Mindanao rebels while serving as a panel member of the GRP-MNLF Peace Process. He likewise assisted Aquino in the consolidation of people's organization and

cooperatives but he never accepted any government position.

He co-founded the LAKAS ng EDSA Coalition that launched the presidential candidacy of Fidel V. Ramos. He also led the formation of the September 8 Movement, a coalition consisting of Catholic and Protestant Church elements.

He joined government service when Gloria Arroyo was elected Vice President of the Philippines in 1998. From Presidential Chief of Staff, he was promoted by Mrs. Arroyo as National Security Adviser and Director-General of the National Security Council. In June 2009, President Arroyo appointed Gonzales as the 36<sup>th</sup> Secretary of the Department of National Defense.

*Secretary Gonzales has four children: Marie, Terry, Donna and Jose Norbie. His eldest, Attorney Marie, ran for the congressional post of the Second District in 2007 and 2010. The attempts, however, were unsuccessful.*

## GONZALES, Primo E., DMD

PRIMO ESPINAGONZALES (1929-) is a highly-specialized dentist from Puerto Rivas, Balanga who once served as president of the International Dental Association. He was acknowledged as the personal dentist of former Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos, former First Lady Imelda Marcos, the late Senator Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino and the cream of Manila's 400.

Dr. Primo is the fourth child of former

Balanga Mayor Jose N. Gonzales I (1946-1947) and the former Irene Espina of Bulacan. His other siblings include Nestor (former NBI director), Lolita G. Patricio, Amelia G. Cegara, and Felipe (another noted dentist). He is a product of Arellano Memorial (Bataan) High School and completed Dentistry from the University of the Philippines in 1954. He has a private dental clinic in Makati and, together with his

brother Felipe, maintains a modern clinic at the Makati Medical Center.

In addition to serving the International Dental Association, Dr. Primo was a former commissioner of the Professional Regulatory Commission. Still active in his profession, he visits Bataan regularly and spends his weekends in Bagac where he owns a vast property. He remains a bachelor up to this time.



# GOULDMAN, John O.



US Army Captain JOHN OSWALD GOULDMAN was the military governor of Bataan from 1901 until 1903. He was originally a member of General Thomas Anderson's First United Volunteers Cavalry, one of the American military regiments that freed Manila from the Spaniards on August 13, 1898. He was sent to Bataan in 1899 as an officer of the American pacification forces.

Born in Cat Point, Westmoreland, Virginia, USA, on May 17, 1850, Gouldman joined the US Cavalry at age 22, exactly seven years after the Civil War in America ended. In 1895, he retired from military service after 26 years of serving his country.

He rejoined the US Cavalry immediately after the Spanish-American War erupted in 1898. He was sent to the Philippines as a volunteer and helped free Manila from the Spaniards.

He was assigned in Bataan on orders of General Arthur MacArthur, then the acting American governor-general in the Philippines. He, together with Major William Henry, Lieutenant Maury, Lieutenant Miller and other Cavalry volunteers, were tasked to pacify the local revolutionaries in the province who were still loyal to General Emilio Aguinaldo.

The Americans took possession of the province with very little opposition as Lieutenant Colonel Ambrosio Rianzares Bautista, the acting military governor of Bataan and one of the valiant soldiers of President Emilio Aguinaldo, immediately abandoned his post and ran back to his home province of Cavite with his men to avoid confrontation with the new conquerors.

General Tomas Mascardo, who assumed the governor's post of Bataan while hiding in Bagac, put up three garrisons in Dinalupihan, Balanga and Mariveles to oppose the Americans. One night, he gathered almost all of his forces and attacked the small garrison of Americans in Hermosa. But before they could do

any damage to the garrison, Gouldman and his men came from the nearby towns of Orani and Dinalupihan and defeated the Filipino rebels. One Filipino major was killed and several rebels were wounded.

With such disastrous results, Mascardo gave up the idea of ever attacking the American garrisons in Bataan again.

The "Caminong Putol" incident in Orion where the American Cavalry was ambushed was perpetrated by local rebels led by Gaudencio Mendigoren and Francisco Dinglas of Mariveles. As a result, the Americans burned all the houses in Barrio Santo Domingo to the ground.

On Christmas Eve of 1899, Major Manuel L. Quezon and his men entered Orion without being noticed. Quezon was taken to the house of the town mayor and stayed there overnight. He had no idea that Captain Gouldman was also in Orion and staying in the parish house. Quezon only learned of Gouldman's presence when the mayor and his subordinates called on the American captain the following day, Christmas Day, to wish him Merry Christmas.

Gouldman went after Quezon after that Christmas Day incident in Orion. In early 1900, the American officer ordered the burning of all houses in a village in Pilar in search of Quezon who was returning to Barrio Balut from Manila aboard the Yangco launch.

The incident drove Quezon to take revenge. Several times, he and his 50 men ambushed American soldiers trying to cross the Pilar mountain to get to Bagac. In one occasion, they killed two of the thirty American cavalrymen. It was Quezon's last engagement with the Americans,

After the capture of General Emilio Aguinaldo in Isabela in 1901, the Americans began the establishment of the civil government. The pattern of the provincial and municipal organization was guided by a plan formulated by a committee headed by Chief Justice Cayetano Arellano of the Supreme Court.

US Army Captain John O. Gouldman was appointed as provincial governor of Bataan in 1901. He used the old Capitol building in Balanga lastly used

by former Spanish *Alcalde Mayor* Jose dela Guardia as his provincial office. A military camp was established adjacent to the building and called it Camp Richmond. In addition, one company of American soldiers and Macabebe mercenaries were assigned in the towns of Dinalupihan, Orani and Orion. Mariveles only had a small garrison.

Governor Gouldman appointed local officials in each town and also started to open up schools in various parts of the province with some of the non-commissioned American officers serving as teachers. He even appointed Don Tomas del Rosario as one of his close advisers. He also established the first Constabulary unit in Bataan, composed mostly of former Filipino revolutionaries.

He was responsible for returning Mabatang to its original status of a barrio in 1903 upon the request of Abucay Mayor Catalino Enriquez (1901-1903) and members of the municipal council. It resulted to the loss of the right of Mabatang residents to select their own town officials.

It was said that Gouldman brought up idea to make Bataan a military fort in case of a global war. His plan called for the assembly of all forces in Bataan for the defense of Manila. He firmly believed that no enemy would be able to capture the City of Manila, Sangley Point in Cavite, and Corregidor as long as Bataan was in American hands.

The plan was approved by the strategists of the US War College in 1903. Thirty-five years later, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, the son of Gen. Arthur MacArthur, implemented the defense plan which came to be known as "War Plan Orange."

Gouldman stayed in Bataan during and after the administration of Tomas del Rosario (1903-1905) as provincial governor. He had a cattle and horse ranches, as well as banana plantations in Sitio Bani, Dangcol and Maluya, all in Balanga.

He returned to America in 1919 and rejoined his wife Anne Willis and their seven children. Unfortunately, there is no available record as to when and where he died.

# HEALTH SERVICES



**H**EALTH is the state of being well and free from illness.

The City of Balanga's policy of ensuring the best health services can be seen through the presence of health and day care centers in each barangay. The local government unit maintains three Rural Health Units (RHUs) and 20 barangay health stations that provide the residents with adequate health care.

There is also an existing public hospital in the city, the Bataan General Hospital, as well as four private hospitals -- St. Joseph Hospital, ICMC Medical Center, Bataan Doctors Hospital and Women's Hospital and some medical and dental clinics.

The Bataan General Hospital,

formerly Bataan Provincial Hospital, is the major medical facility in the city. It was established in 1941 and had expanded during the past 66 years. It serves residents from all over the province. The hospital has a 200-bed capacity and offers general health services. It is manned by some 240 personnel and equipped with x-ray, laboratory and ambulances.

In addition to the five hospitals, local residents can also avail of the services of the Orani Emergency Hospital which is about seven kilometers away.

The local government unit of Balanga currently maintains one City Health Office (CHO), three Rural Health Units (RHUs) located in Barangays San Jose (RHU I),

RHU II (Puerto Rivas) and RHU III (Cupang Proper). The CHO and the 3 RHUs give free consultations on Dental and General Health Services. Special services like general emergency, pediatrics, obstetric and gynecology and laboratory, such as urinalysis, fecalysis and CBC are also being rendered by city government health personnel.

There are 25 barangay health units all over the city. Talisay and Tenejero have two BHUs each. Poblacion, San Jose, Cupang Proper, Puerto Rivas Lote and Puerto Rivas do not have BHU.

The RHUs and BHUs also complement hospital services with the implementation of the referral system in health care delivery. All trained midwives stationed at their respective barangay health stations serve as first line contact of patients. They are allowed to give advises, and medications in accordance with the guidelines and those cases not within their scope are referred to nurses or doctors.

In addition to these, they also perform field works to carry out the following functions:

Maternal and Child Care, Immunization, Family planning



services, and other functions as may be assigned by the municipal health officer (MHO).

The CPO, 3 RHUs and 25 BHUs are manned by one health city officer, three doctors, three dentists, three health and education promotion officers (HEPO), one nutritionist, three nurses, one sanitary engineer, four sanitary inspectors, one social hygiene nurse, 25 midwives, three medical technologists, one dental aide, three utility workers, one job-order midwife, and two job-order utilities.





## HERRERA, Mariano B., MD



**M**ARIANO BANZON HERRERA (1896-1975) was the 11<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> mayor of Balanga. He was elected in 1937 and in 1940. In 1945, or immediately after the Liberation, he returned to the municipal hall as an appointed mayor upon the recommendation of acting

Governor Teodoro Camacho Sr.

Mariano, the son of Juan Herrera and Carlota Isabel Banzon, was born in Balanga on September 12, 1896. After finishing his elementary education in Balanga, he enrolled at the Ateneo de Manila (San Francisco Javier) in Intramuros for his high school education. He completed a Bachelor's degree in Arts, *cum laude*, at the Ateneo de Manila (Padre Faura). In 1918, he transferred to the University of the Philippines where he finished a course in Pharmacy. He continued his

studies at the University of Santo Tomas and finished a degree in Medicine in 1926. He returned to Balanga and became a private practitioner.

In 1934, he was elected as municipal councilor of Balanga, together with Mayor Mariano Batungbacal. He ran for mayor in 1937 and defeated his former mentor. The two met again in the political arena during the December 10, 1940 local polls and Dr. Herrera succeeded in his reelection bid.

Dr. Herrera's term, however, was cut short by the outbreak of World War II. The Herrera family left Balanga in late December 1941 and evacuated to Hagonoy. They only returned to Balanga in August 1942, three months after the Fall of Bataan. Unfortunately, Herrera was not able to continue his term since former Mayor Batungbacal had already accepted the post of acting mayor of Balanga. Herrera was left with no choice but to return to the practice of his medical profession.

It was only on March 5, 1945, or after Liberation, that Dr. Herrera was able to return to the municipal hall as mayor. His appointment was made possible by the newly-appointed

Bataan Governor Teodoro Camacho Sr. He replaced Carlos Y. Gonzales who reigned over Balanga from November 15, 1944 until March 4, 1945. Herrera's term was also short-lived after he was replaced by Jose N. Gonzales on March 1, 1946.

Herrera returned to his private practice until he was appointed as chief of Balanga's sanitation division (now known as Rural Health Unit). In late 1947, he was appointed by acting Governor Joaquin J. Linao as chief of the Bataan Provincial Hospital.

But Dr. Delfin Ordonez, the acting hospital chief at that time, objected to the appointment and claimed that Dr. Herrera was not eligible for the post since he did not pass the regular medical board examination. But Governor Linao stood pat on his decision. He even cited similar cases involving Dr. Antonio Sison and Dr. Fe Del Mundo who were also no board-passers but were serving as directors of Philippine General Hospital and North General Hospital, respectively, at that time.

Herrera, who remained a bachelor, served as hospital chief until 1963. He passed away on March 21, 1975.

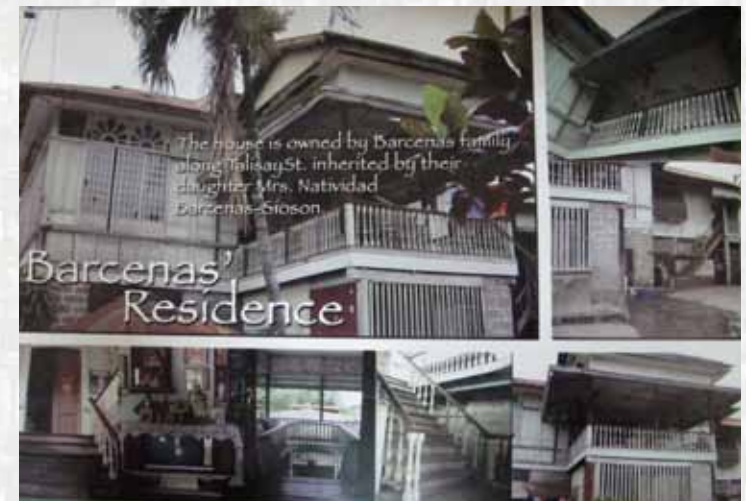
**E**arly HOUSES in Balanga, just like in other towns, had been built to suit the tropical climate. They were generally made of wood, bamboo and nipa palm or wild grass (*cogon*) for roofing and sidings.

The *bahay-kubo* was the basic shelter for the rich and poor classes of Filipinos of that time. The houses were set upon stakes, *arigues*, at least a meter above the ground. In the lower part were enclosures made of stakes and bamboos. One ascends into the house by means of ladders that can be drawn up. There were open galleries (*batalanes*) located at the rear or on the side of the house, which were used for household duties. There

was little adornment and finery in the house. Hang *kanggeras* were glassware and dinner wares can be found in the *kusina* or *comedor*.

Spanish architects and engineers and other community workers who arrived in the country in the 1800s changed the architectural design of houses in the country. Rich families of Balanga began constructing their houses based on Spanish designs. The *bahay-kubo* was refined, expanded and developed into the *bahay na bato*, usually a two-storey house with balcony (*azotea*). Stones or *adobe* replaced the regular wood and bamboo

## HOUSES



# HOUSES

stakes. Walls were either made of stone slabs and/or cut ltimbers. Clay tiles replaced the nipa roofing. Later on, galvanized iron roof sheets were introduced.

In time, Balanga's town center, now known as Barangay Poblacion, was adorned with bigger, higher and more expensive residences. By 1930, there were at least 150 houses of various types in the heart of Balanga. At least 20 houses were *bahay na bato*, complete with porches. Still, the *bahay-kubo* continued to outnumber the modern residential houses in Poblacion.

The "El Castillo," owned by Dona Jacoba Banzon, was the best remembered *bahay na bato* in Balanga.

In the late 1940s, after a big fire razed many houses in Poblacion, local officials prohibited the construction of houses made of light materials. This explains why many old houses in the town center were of the *bahay-na-bato* type.

The present design of houses in Balanga continues to suit the tropical climate, although a bigger number are semi-concrete residences with spacious rooms and concrete fences. Some were designed by trained

architects. Still, only the architectural concept or layout changed. The *bahay-kubo* remained the basic pattern especially in areas far from the center of the town.

Barangay Doña Francisca is acknowledged as the plushiest community in Balanga.

Shelter is one of the basic needs of man. This need is given priority and concern by both the government

market type or economic and socialized housing. The lot sizes vary from 100 to 240 square meters. Most of these subdivisions are provided with facilities such as open spaces, water, power and drainage.

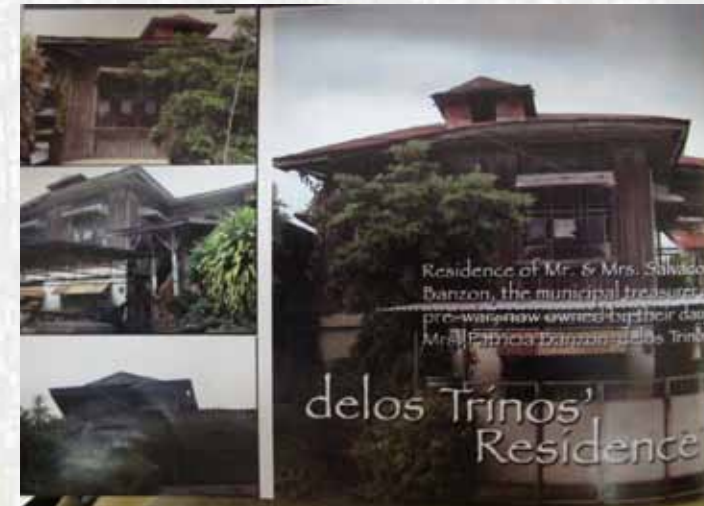
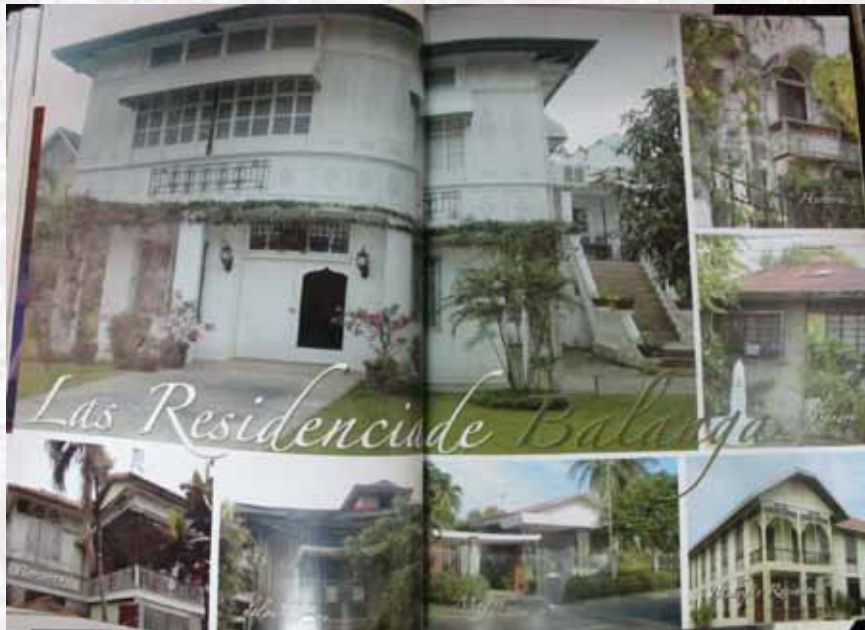
The 38 subdivisions are located in Camacho (2), Cataning (2), Central (2), Cupang Proper (4), Ibayo (1), Munting Batangas (1), Puerto Rivas (1), San Jose (4), Talisay (1), Tenejero (6), Tuyo (6), Cupang North (2), Bagong Silang (3), Dona Francisca (2) and Puerto Rivas Lote (1). The Dona Maria, Dona Francisca Subdivision (now a regular barangay) and La Katrina are just three of the plushiest subdivisions in the city.

One perennial problem of the city government

like in other government units is the squatter problem. So far, the issue appears to be a minor one in Balanga in the sense that the number is minimal and it does not pose any serious threat on political and social grounds.

Still, the present

administration is exerting efforts to have a resettlement area and low cost housing project under the concept of the National Housing Authority. Balanga has already identified sites for low-cost housing covering an area of 22 hectares in Puerto Rivas and Tortugas. The registered prospective beneficiaries for this socialized housing are 2,173 families, mostly residents of depressed areas.



and the private sector.

There are about 11,409 housing units in Balanga City as of 2000, according to the City Engineer's Office. Of these units, 51 percent (%) are made of concrete, 4% are semi-concrete using wood and mixed material, and 45% are made of nipa, bamboos and other light materials.

The dramatic increase in the number of units was due to the establishments of about 36 subdivisions during the past four decades. These are distributed in urban areas of the city and are classified as either open-

# HOSPITALS



**A**HOSPITAL is an institution, either public or privately-owned, where people are treated and nursed when they are ill or injured.

Balanga City, being the capital of the province, plays host to the biggest number of hospitals and medical clinics, excluding the dental clinics. At present, there are five fully-equipped hospitals based in the city, namely the Bataan General Hospital (located in Tenejero), Isaac and Catalina Medical Center (Ibayo), Bataan Doctors Hospital (Dona Francisca), St. Joseph Hospital (Poblacion) and Women's General Hospital (San Jose).

The five hospitals have a total capacity of about 500 rooms. The Bataan General Hospital alone has

250 rooms, 38 of them under the payward category.

Fifteen smaller hospitals, or medical clinics, are located in various parts of the city. Poblacion has three, namely Angulo Kidney & Maternity Clinic, Sacred Heart Clinic, and St. Anne's Clinic.

Barangay San Jose has nine clinics -- Baluyot Polyclinic, Bataan Diagnostic Clinic, Calimbas Medical Clinic, Holy Family Out-patient Clinic, Ilaya Medical Clinic, Jesus and Mary Medical Clinic, Mother and Child Clinic, Twin Hearts Adult & Pediatric, and Vinluan Medical Clinic.

Dona Francisca, in addition to the Bataan Doctors Hospital, has one clinic, the Valiente-Banzon Medical Clinic; Tenejero has the Bataan Physical Therapy Clinic owned by Dr. Catalino "Boy" Calimbas; and Cupang Proper has the Mary's Little Angel Pediatric Clinic.

Before the advent of World War II, registered physicians in Balanga

practiced their trade mostly using their own residences as clinics. The local government unit, meanwhile, maintained a sanitation division unit giving health services to sick people.

The Bataan Provincial Hospital was built in Tenejero, Balanga and inaugurated on November 30, 1941. It was one of the major accomplishments of former Bataan Governor Jose S. Manahan (1941-1942).

A doctor by profession and a former sanitation division president, Dr. Manahan gave extra attention to giving people access to medical care during his administration. He initiated the establishment of the said hospital to complement the various sanitation division units (later known as health centers) in the 12 municipalities of Bataan.

Through the years, the number of private hospitals and clinics in Balanga and elsewhere increased as medical health became a very lucrative business.



## ILAYA, Dante G.

**D**ANTE GEDARIA ILAYA (1954- ) is a noted human rights lawyer and a 1980 Bar topnotcher.

Attorney Ilaya hails from Barangay Ibayo, Balanga City, where he was born on July 17, 1954. He is the son of the Herminia Gedaria of Olongapo City and the late Attorney Pablo Q. Ilaya. As a boy, he had his early education obtained from the Balanga Elementary School. His intellectual capabilities were early



demonstrated as he graduated as an honor student from Grade I to Grade VI. He went to the Tomas del Rosario Academy and graduated in 1971. For his college studies, he went to the Manuel L. Quezon University where he took up the study of law. He graduated *magna cum laude*. He passed and topped the Bar examinations on the same year.

For a time after coming out of the MLQU, he engaged in the practice of his profession together with his lawyer-father. He immediately built a flourishing clientele and at the same time served as legal adviser for various labor organizations in Bataan. He established his own Law office in Balanga and became president of the IBP-Bataan in 1991-1993 and 1995-1997. He was deputy

governor of IBP-Central Luzon in 2002. He is currently the secretary of IBP-Bataan under President Atty. David Paguio.

Ilaya also joined the political scene in 1987 when he ran for congressman against eight other candidates -- Attorney Restituto Roman, Enrique T. Garcia Jr., Atty. Wilfrido Dizon, Atty. Vic Banzon, Florencio de Guzman, Virgilio Tordera, Carlos Sarreal and Abraham B. Escalona. It was Tet Garcia who won the May 11, 1987 polls.

Atty. Ilaya is married to the former Tessie Estrella of Abucay with whom he has two children: Dante II and Danathea. He has three other children from a previous marriage: Dulce, Beatriz and Daniel Pablo.



## INSTITUTION, Political

**T**he POLITICAL INSTITUTION in Balanga is similar to the other cities and municipalities in the country. The city's local government consists of two political units: the city and the barangay government, as specified in the 1991 Local Government Code.

The highest government official in Balanga is the city mayor who is elected directly by the people, together with the city vice mayor and ten (10) city councilors. Secret balloting is used during the conduct of the election. The term of office of elected officials is three years and a maximum of three consecutive terms.

During the Spanish era, the mayor (then called "gobernadorcillo," which later on was changed to *kapitan municipal*) was elected by only a selected few during a *Gran Tribunal* (from 1800 to 1898). They include the incumbent and former mayors, cabeza de barangays and

men of high status in society. Election was done through acclamation (*viva voce*). The elected officials served for two years.

The title kapitan municipal was again changed to *Presidente Actual* in 1901, at the beginning of the American Occupation (1900-1935). Officials were elected directly by the people but through acclamation. They served from two to four years.

Starting in 1935, the mayor's term of office was extended to four years. *Presidente Actual* was also changed to *Municipal President*. After Liberation, or starting in 1946, the title Municipal President was again changed to *Mayor*.

Starting in 1992, the term of office of local government officials was shortened to three years. In addition, the three-term limit was enforced, which means

that an elected official after serving for three consecutive terms cannot run for a fourth term.

The *Sangguniang Barangay*, meanwhile, governs the affairs of the barangay. The highest official is the *Punong Barangay* (barangay captain). He presides over a council composed of elected councilmen.

Even during the Spanish era, the *cabeza de barangay* is elected to his position through an election by acclamation. The title of the barangay official changed many times, from cabeza de barangay to *barrio lieutenant*, to *barangay captain*, and finally to *punong barangay* under RA 7160/LGC OF 1991

All city/municipal and barangay officials perform their duties and responsibilities in accordance with the Constitution and the Local Government Code of 1991.

# INTEGRATED Bar of the Philippines, Bataan Chapter

The INTEGRATED BAR OF THE PHILIPPINES, BATAAN CHAPTER is the organization of all practicing lawyers in Bataan. It has a provincial headquarters based at the Capitol compound in Balanga. It was inaugurated in July 2001, during the incumbency of erstwhile chapter president Attorney Crisostomo G. Banzon (2001-2003). (1999-2001).

The IBP Bataan replaced the old Bataan Lawyers League which was organized before the advent of World War II.

The 148-strong lawyers' organization as of 2009 was formally established in 1973 through the initiative of the late Attorney Restituto B. Roman, a Bar topnotcher from Puerto Rivas Ibaba. He was also the founding

president from 1973 until 1975, together with lawyers Gonzalo Nuguid (vice president), Rolando Cainoy (secretary), Luz Paguio (treasurer), directors Faustino Vigo, Fortunato de Leon, Angelino Banzon, Lorenzo Silva Jr. and Rustico Mallari.

The present IBP organization is headed by Attorney Emiliano Pomer (2009-2011). The other officers include: Judge Antonio Quintos, vice president; Atty. Erlinda Perez, secretary; Atty. Victor de Dios Jr., treasurer; Atty. Josephine Paguio, auditor; Atty. Renato Bagay, PRO; Atty. Dante Ilaya, Atty. Eliodoro Baluyot, Atty. Juliet Salaria, Atty. Charina Ramos, Atty. David Paguio Sr., directors.



## ISKOLAR NG BAYAN



Governor Enrique T. Garcia, Jr. and his son Congressman Albert S. Garcia started the "Iskolar ng Bataan" Program in 2004 initially benefiting 6,000 college students in Bataan. This idea was conceived by the governor because he feels the burden of parents in supporting their

children financially in their studies. Each beneficiary receives an annual stipend of P5,000.00.

Mayor Jose Enrique S. Garcia III upon consumption of the position of City Mayor, adopted the program and doubled the stipend to P10,000.00 the yearly allowance of college scholars who are residents of this City.

At present, Balanga City has more than 2,000 scholars due to the initiative of Mayor Joet S. Garcia to increase the number of beneficiaries from the city. Similarly, as the provincial government increased the

stipend to P6,000 per year, Mayor Joet also raised the amount of stipend to P12,000.00 annually stating in school year 2010-2011.

College scholars of Balanga formed an association called Association of College Scholars of Balanga City (ACSBC).

This association prepared its own Constitution and By-Laws which serve as guide in pursuing various activities that contribute in the development of the city. Mayor Joet considers the scholars as partners in youth development programs and makes them responsible in nation building and citizenship training.





## JOSE, Eugenia B.

**E**UGENIA BANZON-JOSE was the first lady municipal justice of the peace in Bataan. She was a native of Poblacion, Balanga, who served as municipal judge of Pilar. She was also one of the pioneering commissioners of the Export Processing Zone Administration and the Bataan Export Processing Zone.



Eugenia is the daughter of Francisco and Juana Banzon. She

was married to Luis Jose of Manila but not fortunate to have a child.

She finished her law degree at the University of the Philippines. She was the HAS club president from 1939-1940 together with Atty. Carlos y Gonzales.

## JARABA, Alfredo D.

**A**LFREDO DAVID JARABA (1939-1988) was Balanga's vice mayor from 1972 to 1976. Immediately thereafter, he served as Balanga's representative (board member) to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan until 1980. In 1986, he returned to the Capitol as an OIC board member of Bataan.

Fred Jaraba was born in Cupang, Balanga on January 19, 1939. Determined to succeed in life, he finished his Law degree at the Manuel L. Quezon University Law School in 1963. After passing the Bar, he immediately went to the practice of his profession.

It was only in 1971 when he aspired for a political post. He ran for vice mayor of Balanga during the November 1971 local election against Angel Banzon. He won together with elected-Mayor Celso V.

## JAVIER, Domingo P.

**D**OMINGO PENCIL JAVIER (1909-1987) was Balanga's vice mayor from 1956 until 1959. He was acknowledged as the first native of Cupang to become a millionaire businessman.

"Inggo" Javier was born on December 17, 1909 to parents Domingo Javier Sr. and Eulalia Pencil. He had three brothers: Mariano, Francisco and Jose. He enrolled at the Bataan High School in 1922 but it was not clear whether he completed his secondary education or not.

Determined to survive the Japanese Occupation and the post-war period, he learned to make a decent living for his family by producing and selling "uling" (charcoal) at the old Balanga Public

Valdecanas who branded him as "fiscalizer" at the municipal council.

Starting on February 1, 1976, he represented Balanga in the Citizen Assembly (or Provincial Council) then headed by Governor Efren B. Pascual. It was the time when the 14 members of the provincial board, including Vice Governor Rufino Navarro, were called provincial representatives, not board members.

In 1980, Jaraba joined the Opposition ticket and ran for a board member seat against Governor Pascual's KBL team. He and the whole Opposition ticket, led by Atty. Jaime Guerrero, lost at the polls.

During the 1986 Snap Election, he served as provincial coordinator of the UNIDO-Laban in Bataan. For his contributions, he was brought back to the Capitol as OIC board

member, together with OIC Governor Leonardo B. Roman. He served until 1988.

On January 10, 1988, while campaigning in Orani for a board member seat, Jaraba was ambushed and killed by unidentified armed men.

Jaraba was married to Pacita Geronimo-Jaraba of Cardona, Rizal. They have six children: Alpha, Gina, Jonah, Janet, Alfredo Jr., and Garet.



Market. Later on, he was involved in the buy-and-sell of spare parts for trucks and other motor vehicles. This led to the establishment of his major business, the Balanga Hardware, the first in the capital town.

With enough money to spare, Javier entered the world of politics in 1956. He ran for the vice mayoral post and won, together with the comebacking Mayor Pedro R. Dizon.

In 1959, he aspired to become the mayor of Balanga. Unfortunately, he lost at the polls against a former school teacher-turned-businessman Emilio C. Bernabe of Puerto Rivas. He took another shot at the mayoral post in 1963. He was one

of the four candidates who vied for the position against Bernabe. The other two were former Mayor Mariano Quindoy and Vicente Malibiran, a political neophyte. It was Malibiran of Puerto Rivas who won the tussle.

After the defeat, Inggo returned to managing his hardware business. He passed away on September 12, 1987.



## JOSON, Oscar R.

OSCAR RAMOS JOSON (1927-1942) was the youngest Filipino to receive the Congressional Medal of Valor for bravery and sacrifice of own life. He was the 14-year old Boy Scout who died in Balanga during the early days of World War II.

Joson was born in Cupang, Balanga, in 1927 to parents Gregorio Joson of Samal and Cecilia Ramos of Cupang. He was a first-year student at the Arellano Memorial (Bataan) High School (now *Bataan National High School*) when the war broke out.

At the height of the retreat of USAFFE soldiers to Bataan, a prerequisite of the *War Plan Orange B*, Joson and three other members of Troop 6 (Pedro Arceo, Pablo Arceo and Ricardo Dizon) and their scout master, Primitivo Nuguid, manned the intersections around the plaza of Balanga and directed the flow of traffic. At that time, local policemen had already

enlisted in the Army. Others had evacuated to safer areas with their respective families.

At about 10 in the morning of January 17, 1942, Japanese warplanes dropped incendiary bombs in the vicinity of the plaza where Filipino and American soldiers were concentrated. Joson, who was manning the intersection near the St. Joseph Church (now a cathedral), was hit mortally and died on the spot.

In 1946, Joson was awarded posthumously with a Congressional Medal of Honor. A marker honoring his name and bravery was erected at the corner of the Balanga plaza in the 1980s.



## JUNKSHOP NG BAYAN

JUNKSHOP NG BAYAN is the latest environmental project initiated by the city government to improve the Solid Waste Management program in Balanga.

In a vigorous campaign to regain the city's reputation as the cleanest city in the region, the local government unit has started encouraging people to put into practice the proper waste segregation at source to minimize if not totally eliminate the garbage in the city.

The city government has started buying from the public used plastic bags, candy wrappers, old newspapers, empty bottles, cartons, old batteries, used tires and other junk materials through the Junkshop ng Bayan project.

A roving Junkshop service vehicle being operated by employees of the General Service Office plies along the routes of all 25 barangays on a daily basis to buy the above-mentioned recyclable materials.

Balangueños welcome the new program as it provides additional income for the thousands of households in the city.

The active participation of the Rural Improvement Council composed of the 25 barangays contributes to the success of the ongoing program initiated by City Mayor Joet Garcia, the Sangguniang Panlungsod and the Solid Waste Management Division & Balanga City Division headed by Mrs. Nerissa B. Mateo..





There are idle home lots in Barangay Cataning, Balanga City which were turned into organic vegetable gardens. This was made possible by KANIB, organized three years ago by 25 housewives who learned to grow organic vegetables from experts of the Department of Agriculture High Value Commercial Crops (HVCC) in a training held in 15 weeks.

KANIB members also learned to produce organic insecticides from the training they attended. They discovered that fermenting gin, ginger, kakawati, garlic, onions, hot pepper, sugar and neem tree leaves produce potion that could control insect pests effectively. They likewise learned that using indigenous microorganisms can make foliar spray which can be applied to their crops.

The KANIB members sell their own produce. Customers are the ones going directly to the production areas to buy their veggies.

At present, KANIB has already borrowed around 2,000 square meters of idle home lots and are being offered by those who own idle lots for free for them to increase their veggies production.





## KAPITAN MUNICIPAL

**K**APITAN MUNICIPAL was the formal title given to the town chief or mayor of a town starting in 1796. It replaced the old title *gobernadorcillo*. Some historians, however, claimed that the use of the new title was only implemented in 1887.

A kapitan municipal was elected by the incumbent and former *gobernadorcillos*, *cabezas de barangay* and other individuals of high status in the locality. The so-called *viva voce* election (election by acclamation) was usually held during a GRAN TRIBUNAL. The elected kapitan municipal served for two years.

Also elected were the *teniente mayor* (vice mayor), and six *cordilleras*

(councilors). An *aguasil* (town messenger), a *juez de sementera* and *juez de policia* were selected through appointment by the kapitan municipal.

Balanga, unfortunately, was not able to preserve a record of those individuals who served as *kapitanes municipal* during the Spanish regime. The only available short list, however, includes the names of Julian Banzon, Pantaleon Banzon, Tomas Banzon, Pedro de Leon Angel Mendoza, Ignacio Naval, Antonio Tuason Sr., Bernabe Banzon, Alberto dela Fuente, and Felix de Leon.

The title kapitan municipal was again replaced by *Presidente Actual* in 1901.

## KUNDIRANA

**K**undirana is derived from the word “Kundi” which means “Kundiman” and “rana” which means “harana”. It is a high school glee club originated from La Salle Green Hills. It is a simple singing group which has the distinction of being the most famous high school singing group in the Philippines.

One of Balanga’s prides who excels in the field of music, Mrs. Rosa Garcia Balana, organized a Kundirana while she was teaching at the La Salle University. This group which comprised of young singers performed in Los Angeles and New York, USA, in Honolulu, Hawaii and

in two Asian Countries, Hongkong and Japan. Those were considered successful performances that gave honor to our country.

Kundirana, being a charity work, indulges in its public ministry to serve the needy. Among their missionary works, kundirana can claim to have built Bahay Pag-asa, a halfway house in Bacolod, Negros Occidental for juvenile delinquents, who in the past were being jailed with adult criminals who would abuse and corrupt then kundirana has also built a lot of classrooms in many parts of the country.

# LACSON, Primitivo D.

**D**R. PRIMITIVO DIZON LACSON (1907-1982), a native of Puerto Rivas, Balanga, was the 19<sup>th</sup> municipal mayor of Samal. He served from 1963-1967. He should have



been the 18<sup>th</sup> mayor but it was his rival, Artemio Saldaña, who was earlier pronounced as the poll winner and had already served for three years (1960-1963) before the Commission on Elections declared Lacson as the real

winner of the November 4, 1959 local polls.

Lacson also served as provincial board member of Bataan from 1948 to 1951, during the first term of then Governor Emilio Ma. Naval.

Lacson, a physician by profession, was born in Puerto Rivas, Balanga on November 3, 1907. His parents were Simeon Diaz Lacson (from Negros) and Maria Dizon of Balanga. He was the eldest among eight siblings, to include former Congresswoman

Medina Lacson-de Leon. He was a product of the Puerto Rivas and Balanga Elementary Schools and Bataan High School. He finished his course in Medicine from the University of Santo Tomas. He put up a medical clinic in Tabing-ilog, Samal, after his marriage to the former Apolonia Magpoc, an elementary teacher of the said barangay. The union produced a daughter, Cecilia Magpoc Lacson.

Prior to his stint as municipal mayor of Samal, Dr. Lacson was initially appointed by Governor Joaquin J. Linao as member of the provincial board on September 15, 1947. He replaced Emilio V. Reyes who resigned early from his post and ran for mayor of Dinalupihan.

After a two-month stint at the Capitol, Lacson had decided to run for a regular board member position during the November 11, 1947 elections. He won, together with Governor-elect Emilio Ma. Naval and Atty. Simeon Raya (board member). The three of them served until December 30, 1951.

His re-election bid in 1951, however, was not successful. The ticket of Atty. Adelmo Camacho, Raymundo Galicia and Anastacio Valencia wiped out Naval's team. Lacson

returned to his private practice in Samal but remained a political stalwart in the province.

During the November 4, 1959 elections, Lacson ran for the mayoralty seat of Samal against Artemio Saldaña (former mayor during the Japanese Occupation, 1941-1945). Lacson lost but immediately lodged a formal protest before the Comelec. The electoral body decided in Lacson's favor three years later. He immediately replaced Saldaña.

Lacson and Saldana squared it off for the second time during the November 12, 1963 polls. Lacson won overwhelmingly and served from 1964 until 1967. During his term, he initiated the creation of Barrio Imelda in 1965. He also beautified the town plaza, including the construction of the stage which is still being used at present.

Mayor Lacson retired from politics after losing in his reelection bid in 1967 against perennial rival Artemio Saldaña. It was a double defeat for Lacson as his sister Medina, the former congresswoman, also lost in her gubernatorial bid against reelectionist Governor Pedro Dizon and erstwhile Vice Governor Guillermo Arcenas, the poll winner.

Lacson passed away on July 22, 1982.



## LANDMARKS

**A** LANDMARK, according to the Webster Dictionary, is a conspicuous and easily recognized feature of a landscape distinguishing a locality. It could be a location, or a historic and prominent building.

As far as prominent buildings are concerned, Balanga has a handful of truly significant landmarks, namely the Balanga Cathedral, Centre Plaza Mall, Balanga Arcade, Sunshine Building, Recar Commercial Complex, Balanga City Hall, Condo Mart, Naval Building and the Balanga Water District water tank, all located in Poblacion.

The Bataan Capitol, Bataan People's Center, Crown Royale Hotel, Bataan Peninsula State University-

BNSAT campus, Camp Tolentino and the Balanga Public Market are the famous landmarks in Barangay San Jose.

Barangay Tenejero is proud of its Bataan Provincial Hospital (now Bataan General Hospital). Barangay Doña Francisca is famous for its Joyous Resort and Restaurant and the Eternal Shrine. Barangay Ibayo plays host to the Isaac and Catalina Medical Center and the Bataan Transport Mall while Barangay Central has the Bataan Montessori School.

Barangay Tuyoy is the site of the first four-lane boulevard in Balanga City and the Penelco main office building. Tortugas, on the other hand, had its seaside boulevard and Wetland and Nature Park.

# LAND AND WATER USE PLAN

After its conversion into a component city in December 2000, the local government unit expected future growth in terms of population and commercial activities. This led the city government to undertake a master planning program, the Comprehensive Land Use Plan, and various development projects. The city, in fact, has already extended its urban fringe to both sides of the Roman Expressway.

Munting Batangas, for example, was converted into an industrial zone. The area has been expanded to accommodate future demand in industrial land.

A new growth center with an area of 100 hectares in Barangay Tuyoy has also been delineated in the approved Land Use Plan. The so-called New City Center was designed as a desirable location for corporate business, government center, convention center, school, retail trade, entertainment, training centers and open park-recreational systems.

An access road from the coastal barangays of Sibacan, Puerto Rivas and Tortugas to the New City Center has been included in the said design. The Puerto Rivas fishport is also being eyed for conversion into a ferry port.

The New City Center has a four-lane boulevard which is accessible from two national highways, the Bataan National Road and the Roman Expressway. Since its opening in 2003, the new road has greatly improved the traffic situation in the city.



## LEON, Amando P. de



**A**MANDO PAGUIO DE LEON was Balanga's fourth mayor. His term covered from 1910 until 1912. He was the first mayor to be elected through secret balloting and whose term of office was extended to four years.

Mayor De Leon was born in Poblacion, in the family residence located along the Zulueta Street. He was married to Gavina

Banzon with three children namely Amanda, David and Belen de Leon-Baltazar. His siblings are Silvino, Angel and Juliana, the mother of Manuel L. Banzon Sr. who worked as Mayor de Leon's private secretary before becoming a congressman in 1925. Their grandchildren are Elenette Baltazar - Abello, Rodolfo, David, Jr., Antonio, Jose, Genando and Luisito.

In 1920, through the persuasion of then Mayor Venancio Banzon (1919-1928), De Leon donated the family-owned lot located on the eastern portion of the Balanga town plaza for the use of the Bataan High School (BHS). At that time, the

said school was already being returned to Balanga after being transferred to Orani in 1906.

The said lot was vacated by the BHS in 1986 and then leased to the owners of the Jollibee Restaurant.

To honor the donation of De Leon, former Mayor Pedro R. Dizon and the members of the town council passed Municipal Resolution no. 64 dated October 7, 1951, naming the street in front of the Bataan High School as Amando de Leon Street. The street was renamed St. Joseph Street in late 1990s.

## LEON, Andres N. de

**A**NDRES NAVAL DE LEON (1888-1945) was the fifth mayor of Balanga, from 1912 until 1916. He was the second mayor to be elected through secret balloting. His term was the first four-year administration since 1901.

Mayor Andres was born in Poblacion in 1888. His unnamed sister was Engineer Arsenio Dizon's grandmother. He was married to Dona Emilia Naval who bore him a son named Felix, the first husband of Leonor Tuason Banzon (who after his death married Atty. Pedro

R. Dizon) and their adopted grand daughter is Anabella B. de Leon - Santos.

Mayor de Leon initially ran for councilor in 1910 and won. Two years later, he ran for mayor and won over reelectionist Amando de Leon. During his term, he and then Governor Maximino delos Reyes formalized the creation of first nine regular barrios of Balanga, namely Poblacion, Talisay, Puerto Rivas Itaas, Puerto Rivas Ibaba, Tortugas, Cupang, Cataning, Ibayo and Tinajero (the old name of Tenejero).

De Leon did not seek reelection during the 1916 local polls. Instead, he aspired for a board member's seat and won.

In 1919, De Leon ran for governor but lost to Atty. Alberto Aquino of Samal. He retired from politics after the said defeat. He passed away on September 2, 1945.



## LEON, Apolinario S. de



**A**POLINARIO S. DE LEON, a native of Cataning, Balanga, was the National Treasurer of the Philippines during the administration of Commonwealth President Manuel L. Quezon from 1935 until 1942.

An accountant-lawyer by profession, De Leon was nominated to the position by no less than former Finance Secretary Manuel Roxas whose wife, Trinidad de Leon, was said to be a close relative of Apolinario.

On December 24, 1941, De Leon supervised the opening

of the vaults of the National Treasury building in Manila at about 10 o'clock in the evening. Together with Justice Secretary Jose Laurel and some bank personnel, they supervised a number of trusted Filipino and American soldiers in moving hundreds of crates containing Philippine paper currency and American dollars, as well as gold bars and coins from the vaults. The treasure was bound for Corregidor, to be used mainly for the procurement of additional food and military hardwares needed by the USAFFE forces in Bataan.

The precious cargoes were shipped to Corregidor by land and by sea before the Japanese entered Manila.

On December 31, Treasurer De Leon arrived in Corregidor

with more paper currency. He reported to President Quezon that Pio Pedrosa, an employee at the Treasury building, was seriously wounded during the Japanese assault on the said building.

De Leon stayed behind in Corregidor after President Quezon and party left for Panay Island on February 20, 1942. He took care of the disbursement of the food and supply of the USAFFE in Bataan and Corregidor.

De Leon, feigning ill health, retired from the government service after the war. It was said that he recommended his second cousin, Ismael de Leon Mathay Sr., to a juicy position during the short-lived administration of President Sergio Osmena Sr. (1944-1946).

## LEON, Jose E. de



**J**OSE ENRIQUEZ DE LEON (1947-2007) was the first district engineer of the Bataan First Engineering Office, from 1998 until 2001. He initially served as chief of the Bataan Public Highways starting in 1995.

Engineer De Leon first drew the breath of life in Tenejero, Balanga, on July 10, 1947. His parents were Hermenegildo de

Leon of Tenejero and Soledad Enriquez of Abucay. He is the son, in his own words, of “ordinary barrio folks.” As a boy, he went to study at the Tenejero Elementary School (1960) and at the Tomas del Rosario Academy (1964). He finished his Bachelor’s degree in Civil Engineering at the Far Eastern University (1969).

He started as construction foreman at the former Bataan Public Highways during the administration of District Engineer Rodolfo Palmera (1965-1970). For his diligence, he was promoted as assistant chief under Engineers Rogelio Fernando and Adolfo

“Ading” Flores. He succeeded Flores who retired from the government service in 1995.

In 1998, De Leon was tasked to lead the newly-created Bataan First Engineering Office covering Dinalupihan, Hermosa, Orani, Samal, Abucay and Morong. In 2001, however, he was relieved from his post and was reassigned in San Fernando, Pampanga. People described the assignment as “punishment.” De Leon never made it back to his old post. He passed away in November 2007.

De Leon was married to the former Elvira Hipolito with whom he had six children.

## LEON, Medina Lacson de

**M**EDINA LACSON DE LEON (1914-1984) was the 12<sup>th</sup> Representative of Bataan in Congress, from 1950 to 1953. She was acknowledged as the mother of the Bataan National School of Arts and Trades (BNSAT), the Mindanao Institute of Technology in Cotabato and the Women and Children’s Bureau of the Department of Labor.

Meding Lacson was born in Tortugas, Balanga on April 1, 1914 to parents Simeon D. Lacson and Maria dela Rosa Dizon. She finished her Law degree from the Philippine Law School in Manila and became a practicing lawyer starting on December 23, 1937. She was involved in private practice when World War II broke out.

In the midst of intense fightings in Bataan, “Tia Meding” was assigned as the official food coordinator of the USAFFE forces in Bataan. She was appointed by then Army General Manuel Roxas (*who became President of the Philippines from 1946 to 1948*). She, too was arrested by

Japanese soldiers when the defense of Bataan fell. She became one of the unwilling participants of the Bataan Death March. Luckily, she was able to escape from the prisoners’ column upon reaching Pilar.

She ran for the congressional seat in the November 1949 national polls and was able to defeat re-electionist Congressman Bonifacio Camacho of Abucay. While in Congress, she headed the Committees on Education, Health, Agrarian and Social Works. It was during her term that BNSAT was erected in Balanga. She sought re-election in 1953 but was outpolled by lawyer Jose R. Nuguid of Orani.

In 1967, she ran for the gubernatorial post against reelectionist Governor Pedro R. Dizon and erstwhile Vice Governor Guillermo Arcenas of Hermosa. Arcenas won the race by two votes over Dizon. Lacson placed third overall.

Being the president of the Liberal Party in

Bataan, she was appointed by President Diosdado Macapagal (1961-1965) as Undersecretary of Commerce starting in 1962 until 1965. She also held other government positions, such as chairperson of the Fair Trade Board, Civil Aeronautics Board, and director of the Bureau of Commerce. She was also elected president of the Women Lawyers Association of the Philippines, Council Undersecretaries of the Philippines, Filipinescas, and the Federacion Internacional de Abogadas. She was a member of the board of Philippine Christian College, Wesleyan College, and one-time chairperson of the Central Methodist Church. She passed away on October 12, 1984.



## LOPEZ, Emily R.

EMILY RELUCIO-LOPEZ (1946- ), born and raised in Balanga, was the governor of the Province of Guimaras from 1995 to 1998. She also represented in Congress the lone congressional district of the province from 1998 until 2001.

Emily was born in Poblacion, Balanga on August 2, 1946 to parents Godofredo Relucio of Nueva Ecija and Remedios Sevilla Paguio of Balanga. She graduated as an honor student from the Arellano Memorial (Bataan) High School in 1963. She completed her Bachelor's degree in Business Administration at the University of Santo Tomas.

She was one of the well-known ramp models of fashion designer Pitoy Moreno, together with Tingting Cojuangco and Chona Kasten. She was also the "first face" of ShoeMart (SM) where she did her first calendar with Monie Locsin, sister of the famed architect Lindy Locsin. She saw Henry Sy's empire grew to unbelievable

heights. She was on top of her popularity when she met and fell in love with Congressman Alberto Lopez of Iloilo (1987-1992, 1992-1995, 1995-1998). The couple was married in a Muslim wedding in 1976.

It was Alberto, son of former Philippine Vice President Fernando Lopez and a three-term congressman of Iloilo, who taught Emily the ropes of politics. He guided his wife after she was appointed by former President Fidel V. Ramos as governor of the newly-created Province of Guimaras in 1992.

In 1995, Alberto ran for his first term as Congressman of Guimaras. Emily, on the other hand, ran for another term as governor of Guimaras. Both of them won and served their respective positions for three years.

In 1998, Emily ran for congressman of the lone congressional district of Guimaras. Alberto, meanwhile, aspired for the gubernatorial post of the same province which was vacated by his wife. Emily won as

congresswoman, but Alberto lost at the polls. Emily served in Congress from 1998 to 2001. She was reelected and served until 2004. She retired from politics after her second term in Congress.

For her achievement in politics, the HAS Club of Balanga named Emily Lopez as the "Most Outstanding Balangueña" in April 2000.

In 2005, she was honored as one of the "Best Dressed Women of the Philippines" by the Philippine Cancer Society.

Emily and Alberto Lopez have two children: Celine (columnist of the *Philippine Star*; Miss Iloilo City 2002, socialite and fashion arbiter) and Albertito, businessman.



## LUPONG TAGAPAMAYAPA



The implementation of the Lupong Tagapamayapa Incentive Awards has led the development of initiatives that brought to the fore the efficiency, effectiveness, creativity, innovativeness and resourcefulness of the Lupong Tagapamayapa that became the determining factor for a number of them to be adjudged as outstanding in their respective categories: 1st to 3rd class municipality – category A 4th to 6th class municipality – category B, component city category and highly urbanized city category.

In the province of Bataan, the Lupong Tagapamayapa of Barangay Tuyo of Balanga City was the 1st barangay to join the contest where they got the 1st runner up in the National Level for the year 2001 under the chairmanship of PB Milagros Peralta, Hon. Albert Garcia was the mayor then. Comes the next year assessment, Barangay Tenejero under the leadership of Punong Barangay Lamberto Torres tie up with Barangay Tuyo with the score of 88% at the provincial level assessment, further, break it with the score of 88.50% by the regional assessment team in favor of Lupong Tagapamayapa CY 2002 – 1st class municipality category.

Manifesting strong determination in complying with the requirement of the criterion, Barangay Tenejero, after the three (3) consecutive national winners, achieved the Hall of fame Award CY 2004

for the Most Outstanding Lupong Tagapamayapa in the country.

Opportunity was seen by then Punong Barangay of Tuyo Milagros Peralta for the 2nd time, participated once again the search, with the support of the current mayor Hon. Joet Garcia and won the Most Outstanding Lupong Tagapamayapa CY 2009 – National Level city category, now, vying for the Hall of Fame award.

These awardees adhered strictly to the requirements of the Katarungang Pambarangay Law and even surpassed the standards and criteria of the awards. Such performance made them excelled among the rest of the LTA contenders. Now, became showcases of good governance and venues for learning of lipons from other barangays as they are today favorite destinations for Lakbay Aral Program.

## MAGSAYSAY, Luz B.

**L**UZ BANZON-MAGSAYSAY (1915-2004) was the Philippines' seventh First Lady from December 30,



1953 until March 17, 1957. She was the wife of late Ramon F. Magsaysay Sr., former Philippine President.

Luz Magsaysay was born in 1915 and raised in Balanga, in their ancestral home located along Zulueta Street (*in the former Banzon lot currently occupied by the Mormon's Church.*) Her parents were Jose Puzon Banzon (former Balanga mayor, 1916-1919) and Lucila Tiangco Rosauro (sister of former Bataan Governor Mariano Rosauro). She completed her primary education at the Balanga Elementary School before she was enrolled at the *Instituto de Mujeres*, an exclusive school for women in Manila.

She and Ramon Magsaysay met at the office of the *Try Tran* where the latter

was working as general manager. Luz was merely picking up the payment for a bus that her father (Jose Banzon) had sold to *Try Tran*, owned by Teodoro R. Yangco of Zambales. The two fell in love and were married on June 10, 1933. They had three children: Teresita M. Vargas (1934), Milagros M. Valenzuela (1936,



now deceased)) and former Senator Ramon B. Magsaysay Jr. (1938).

While she was the First Lady, she donated a big portion of the Banzon properties in Central and Bani to the landless residents of Balanga. She also supported various institutions like the Eye Research Center, Philippine Institute of Public Opinion, Archdiocese of Manila, EHWA Women University of Seoul and many others.

Noted for her warmth and simplicity, she served as honorary chairman of the Philippine National Red Cross for many years.

After inaugurating the POSCO oil depot in Barrio Kitang, Limay on February 8, 1954, local residents decided to name the southern portion of the barrio as *Barrio Luz* in her honor. On August 14, 1954, the barrio, then known as Sibacan, was formally named after the First Lady from Balanga. (The same barrio is also known as Kitang 2).

Unfortunately, President Magsaysay perished in a plane crash in Cebu on March 17, 1957. Luz became a widow at age 41.

Mrs. Magsaysay showed exemplary "delicadeza" when she disallowed the use of the name of her late husband as a replacement to Zambales, arguing that the province's name was so much a part of Philippine history. She also disapproved to rename the town of Iba as Magsaysay. She only agreed to use Magsaysay as the new name of the barrio



where the former president was born.

Luz Magsaysay passed away in 2004 at the age of 89.

### **Ramon Magsaysay Sr.**

Ramon Magsaysay was the seventh Philippine President. A native of Iba, Zambales, he completed a Mechanical Engineering course at the University of the Philippines in 1927. He also finished a course in Commerce from Jose Rizal College in 1932. He was appointed by General Douglas MacArthur as military governor of Zambales after the war. He then served as Congressman of Zambales twice before he was appointed Secretary of National Defense on August 31, 1950. He initiated the surrender of Luis Taruc and other Huk rebels. He won the presidency during the election held in November 1953. He opened Malacanang to the people. He died in a plane crash in Mount Manunggal, Cebu on March 17, 1957.

## MALLARI, WILFREDO S.



**E**NGINEER WILFREDO SUACOCO MALLARI (1955- ) is the current district engineer of the Bataan First District Engineering Office of the Department of Public Works and Highways. He occupied the position in an acting capacity starting in July 2002.

Engineer Mallari was born in Balanga on September 29, 1955 to parents Eduardo Umali Mallari (deceased) of Bulacan and Beatriz Medina Suacoco

(currently in USA) of Navotas, Rizal. The couple settled in Balanga before the outbreak of the war and called the former capital town their permanent home.

D.E. Willy, as he is more popularly known, completed his elementary and secondary education from the Balanga Elementary School and the Arellano Memorial (Bataan) High School, respectively. He then enrolled at the Adamson University in Manila where he finished a Civil Engineering degree in 1977. He also completed his MBA course from the Philippine Christian University.

He started his career in government service as an engineering aide at the former Department of Public Works, Transportation and Communications in Balanga immediately

after graduation. He rose from the ranks and became the assistant district engineer in 1998. He took over the helm of the district office in 2002 in an acting capacity. He was promoted as a regular district engineer in September 2008..

Two of the major accomplishments of D.E. Willy were the P40-million widening project of the Gapan-Olongapo Road, from Luacan to Roosevelt, Dinalupihan, and the completion of the new district office in Orani.

Engineer Mallari is married to the former Rosario Susana de Leon of Balanga. The couple has four children: Frederick (AB Economics graduate, CEU); Christopher (AB Psycho, DLSU); Ryan Jeffrey; and Charmaine Ann.

## MANAHAN, Jose S., M.D.

**J**OSE SANCHEZ MANAHAN (1901-1942) was the 16<sup>th</sup> governor of Bataan. He served from January 1, 1941 to April 15, 1942.

Dr. Manahan, an OB-Gynecologist by profession, was born in Balanga on February 14, 1901. He was the youngest of the seven children of Antonio Manahan, a postman from Mataas na Kahoy, Batangas, and Isabel Sanchez of Balanga. He completed his primary and secondary education in Balanga before enrolling at the University of the Philippines-Manila to study Medicine. He completed his course and passed the Board examinations in 1932.

He returned to Balanga to practice his profession. He became one of the four pioneering doctors in Balanga which included Dr. Antonio Banzon Sr., Dr. Joaquin T. Banzon and Dr. Mariano Herrera.

Although they practiced their profession in private, they also functioned as presidents of Sanitary Division Office (also called health center) in various parts of the province. All of them became Sanitation Division Office president of Balanga one after the other.

Dr. Manahan was Balanga's Sanitation Division Office president when he was persuaded to run for

governor during the December 10, 1940 local elections.

His timing was perfect. It was the time when the incumbent governor, Joaquin J. Linao of Morong, did not seek reelection after being politically ostracized for building the expensive Bagac-Morong macadam road using funds from the American government. Manahan ran against Jose Rivera of Hermosa, a former mayor (1925-1928) and one-time board member of Bataan.

As expected, Manahan bested Rivera at the polls and started his administration on January 1, 1941, barely eleven months before World War II erupted.

As governor, Manahan immediately gave extra attention to people's access to free medical care. He spent some P5,000 for the construction of the 500-meter long Tenejero Road extension leading to the new 10-room "Bataan Provincial Hospital", actually the medical facility intended for the soldier-trainees of the Army Cadre Camp in the present-day Barangay Camacho. He, former Governor Linao and Congressman Teodoro Camacho Sr. worked for the construction of the hospital in Tenejero, not in Camacho.

Manahan also bought additional medical equipment and hired additional nurses and midwives

for the hospital. Camacho, on the other hand, procured basic drugs badly needed by the patients of the hospital.

Manahan's term, however, was cut short by the advent of World War II. He, his siblings and their respective families joined the mass evacuation of civilians to Cabcaben, Mariveles which became the temporary seat of the national and provincial governments.

While in Cabcaben, he volunteered to serve at the Army Hospital One and Two during the war. It was his way of continuously providing basic medical services to the many residents living in the nearby Base Camp.

He also participated in the effort of providing food for the civilians and the USAFFE soldiers fighting in Bataan. He and Atty. Medina Lacson-de Leon organized the local fishermen and other volunteers into a Food Brigade to provide fish and other food supply for the soldiers and civilians.





## MANAHAN, Severino S.



**S**EVERINO SANCHEZ MANAHAN (1896-1970) was one of the few individuals who served as acting governor of Bataan for a brief period of time, about three months or less. Manahan's short stint at the Capitol covered from October 14 to December 30, 1947, during the campaign period for the November 11, 1947 local elections.

Severino, an older brother of Dr. Jose S. Manahan (Bataan governor, 1941-1942), was born on July 8, 1896. He completed a course in Elementary Education from the Philippine Normal College and, later on, finished his Law degree from the University of the Philippines. One of his classmates was Carlos P.

Garcia (Philippine President, 1957-1961).

Atty. Manahan served as *juez de paz* (justice of the peace/municipal judge) of Hermosa, Samal, Abucay and Pilar. He was also employed as corporate lawyer of the Bataan Sugar Central before the war broke out.

Just like Governor Manahan, Severino also attempted to enter the political arena. In 1949, he joined the Liberal Party convention in Bataan to get the nomination as the party's official candidate for the coming congressional election. But he lost the nomination to Atty. Medina Lacson-de Leon who eventually defeated incumbent Congressman Bonifacio Camacho of Abucay.

In 1958, Manahan was reported to have been offered a Cabinet position by President Carlos P. Garcia (1957-1961) but he politely turned it down.

Before Manahan retired from government service as municipal judge, he served as Register of Deeds of Bataan from 1960 to 1961, during the term of Governor Pedro R. Dizon. He passed away on December 12, 1970.

Manahan was married to Marta Paguio, a pharmacist from Pilar, with whom he had three children: Josefina, Antonio (doctor-founder of the Bataan Doctor's Hospital in Doña Francisca, currently based in the US) and Nicanor.

## MANALAYSAY, Dante R.

**D**ANTE ROBLES MANALAYSAY (1952- ) was a member of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Bataan from 1998 until 2007 for three consecutive years. He also served as a city councilor of Balanga (2007-2010) before returning to the Capitol as an elected board member on July 1, 2010.

Dante, the son of Fidel B. Manalaysay and the former Magdalena Robles, was born in Puerto Rivas on April 21, 1952. He is a product of the Maximino delos Reyes Memorial

Elementary School and the Arellano Memorial (Bataan) High School. He finished his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, major in Accounting from the University of the East in 1976.

He started his professional career as a bank teller at the Republic Bank branches in Balanga and Olongapo City. Later on, he was promoted as bookkeeper and acting accountant. In 1983, however, he resigned from his job and put up the Yellow Gold Construction Company.

Manalaysay's entry into the political scene came in 1998 when he ran for a board member seat under the ticket of Governor LEONARDO B. ROMAN. His first attempt was successful. The feat was replicated in 2001 and 2004. After three straight terms, he ran under JOET GARCIA's political bandwagon and won a city councilor seat during the May 14, 2007 local polls.

He was elected again as board member during the May 10, 2010 local polls.



## MATHAY, Ismael Sr. L.



**I**SMAEL DE LEON MATHAY SR. was a native of Catanning, Balanga who served as Auditor General of the Philippines from 1966 until 1972, under President Ferdinand Marcos.

Ismael was born and raised in Catanning, Balanga, at the Mathay family's ancestral home located along Gallardo Street, near Omboy. He was the eldest of five children of Gabriel Mathay, more popularly known in Balanga as "Bebeng Kastila," and Leona de Leon of Balanga. Ismael Sr. had four sons namely Ponciano, Ismael Jr., Simplicio and

Antonio to Josefina Austria.

Ismael Sr. finished a Law degree and was admitted to the Philippine Bar on January 16, 1925. Through sheer determination and hard work, he was appointed by President Sergio Osmena Sr. (1944-1946) as Budget and Finance Commissioner for the War Cabinet on October 2, 1945. He was also appointed as auditor of the Central Bank of the Philippines on November 23, 1956. At times, he served as acting Secretary of Finance and acting Auditor General. He was recommended for the position of Auditor General as early

as in November 1956 to replace the retiring Auditor General Manuel Agregado but he was not lucky to get the post.

He was serving as board director and general manager of the National Marketing Corporation (Namarco) when he was recommended by then Senator Arturo Tolentino for the Auditor General's post. His appointment was confirmed in May 1967 and he served until 1972.

Ismael Sr. was instrumental to the establishment of the GSIS Village High School in Quezon City. After his death, the school was renamed Ismael Mathay Sr. High School.

## MENDOZA, Angel



ANGEL MENDOZA (1865-1914) was the second mayor of Balanga during the early American period. He reigned from 1905 to 1907. He replaced Don Tomas Gallardo Banzon of Catanning, the first mayor from 1901 to 1905. He was the first official to be elected directly by the

residents, not by members of a *Gran Tribunal*.

Born in Barangay Cupang in 1865, Mendoza was among the very few residents who had attended high school in Pampanga. In 1903, after serving Cupang as *cabeza de barangay* for many years, he was elected as *teniente mayor* (or vice mayor) of Balanga during the administration of Don Tomas G. Banzon (1901-1905).

In 1905, he was elected by the people as *presidente*

*actual* (municipal mayor) of Balanga. His talent and leadership as mayor earned him the respect of the people. During his term as mayor, he also served as member of the provincial board under Governor Lorenzo Zialcita (1905-1907).

Mendoza spent a good part of his life in the service of his people.

He passed away in 1914.

## MENDOZA, Apolonio

APOLONIO MENDOZA served Bataan as provincial board member from 1941 until 1942 under Governor Jose S. Manahan.

Mendoza, a wealthy pharmacist from Poblacion, Balanga, won a provincial board member seat during the December 10, 1940 local polls. He won together with Simeon Salonga of Orani while their standard bearer, Dr. Jose Manahan, defeated Jose Rivera, former mayor of Hermosa (1926-1928) and one-time board member of

Bataan.

The advent of World War II, unfortunately, prevented Mendoza and Governor Manahan from completing their four-year terms. The latter died in Manila on November 24, 1942. Board Member Salonga, meanwhile, accepted the vacated governor's post and served Bataan during the entire Japanese Occupation (1942-1945).

Mendoza spent the remaining years of his life working in the farm. His son, Jeremias, continued the

family's political legacy. He ran and won four times as municipal councilor of Balanga (1952-1955, 1956-1959, 1960-1963 and 1964-1967) under Mayors Faustino Vigo, Pedro Dizon, Emilio Bernabe and Vicente Malibiran.

He was the father of Mrs. Dionisia "Isiang" Mendoza de Castro.



## MOUNTAINS



The mountainous area located in the western part of Balanga is part of the so-called Mount Natib Complex. Further south is the Mariveles Mountain, the bigger and higher of the two major mountain ranges in Bataan.

Along the crests of these two mountains runs the "Bataan Great Divide." All rivers and streams on the eastern side flow into Manila Bay while river tributaries on the western side run into the South China

Sea.

The Mount Natib complex stretches from Hermosa down to Balanga City. It is composed of Mount Santa Rosa (towering 800 meters above sea level), Mount Santa Rita (485 meters), Mount Natib (1,253 meters), Bataan Peak (1,000 meters), and Mount Silangan (910 meters).

Mount Santa Rita and Mount Santa Rosa supply water to the Almacen Watershed whose tributaries traverse the towns of

Hermosa, Orani, Samal and Dinalupihan. Mount Malasimbu, the so-called "Little Mount Mayon" of Central Luzon does not really belong to Bataan or Dinalupihan. The nearly perfect-coned mountain lies inside the Zambales provincial territory.

The highest peak in Balanga is the Bundok Tanato which towers about 329 meters above sea level. Tanato, Dangcol and Cabog-Cabog, the so-called Balanga's upland barangays, are located at the foot of the said mountain.

## MUSICAL ENSEMBLE

**A**RONDALLA is a group of musicians who played beautiful music using string instruments like bandurria, octavina and guitar. These musicians played an important role in the lives of Balangueños starting in the early 1960s.

The 15-membered “Tano’s Rondalla,” organized by Aniano Navata of Poblacion, was the best known rondalla group in Balanga in the 1960s. It was composed primarily of family members and some musically-inclined friends. The group was the delight of almost all special occasions during its popularity.

To propagate this brand of music among the youth, music teachers like Flora S. Dungca and Roberto C. Navata introduced it to the public school system. School children and even teachers were equipped with musical skills. Nearly all public schools in Balanga had organized their own rondalla group, in addition to the regular drum and bugle corps. For a period, school rondallas regularly compete with one another to further enhance their skills.

Rondalla’s fame, unfortunately, waned in late 1970s. Some schools retained the drum and bugle corps and even organized melodooon bands. Fortunately, the Balanga Elementary School still maintains a children’s rondalla.

In the 1990s, the teachers of the Bataan National High School organized a new type of musical band called “Anklong”, a musical instrument made of wood and bamboo.

### MARIA CAFRA

Balanga is also the birthplace of a musical group that became nationally famous as a showband. The “*MARIA KAFRA*” was one of the most famous musical bands in the Philippines for two decades starting from the late 1960s.

Maria Kapra had its roots in Barangay Bagumbayan where it was organized in 1964 by Resty

Fabunan, the lead guitarist and vocalist of the band. He hobnobbed with other famous bandleaders like Joey Smith, Heber Bartolome, Mike Hanopol and Sampaguita.

The other Maria Kafra band members were June Fabunan, Resty’s younger brother, who played rhythm; Pope Mangampo was base player; and Sammy Fabunan, drummer. They initially played hit songs of the *Beatles*, the most famous showband in the world at that time.

The Maria Cafra band had played in all the best and biggest nightclubs in Olongapo City and Pampanga during its heyday. Resty and his group, as recording artists, produced hit songs like *Kumusta Mga Kaibigan*,

*Karanasan*, and *Hatsing-hatsing*.

Another local showband, the “*Lacson Brothers Band*” of Cupang Proper, also dominated the world of music in Balanga starting in the late 1970s. The band was composed of former Balanga policeman, Jose Lacson, and his six sons (Jimmy, Joel, Jose Jr., Jefferson, Jonathan and Jason). Jimmy, the eldest, was only a fourth year high school student when the band was formed. Jonathan, the youngest, was 10 years old when he played the drums. Unfortunately, they were not able to replicate the success of Maria Cafra.

Jimmy, Joel, Jose Jr. and Jonathan are currently



performing in China while Jefferson and Jason are based in Japan.

The *Maria Cafra* and *Lacson Brothers* replaced the old “combo” bands which were so popular in Balanga in the 1950s. At least five barrios had their local combos who all played rock and roll music. The “*Hunters Band*” of Cupang was one of them. The local government unit even held regular competitions at the town plaza to determine the best band among them.

# MUTYA ng Balanga

**M**UTYA NG BALANGA is a yearly celebration of the beauty and wonderful traits of the women of Balanga. An annual search is being held in April of each year to determine who can best represent the city to the rest of the country, as well as in promoting local tourism.

The requirements in choosing the Mutya ng Balanga are simple: Candidates must be a local resident, at least 18 to 22 years old, a college student with pleasing personality.

Candidates undergo several interviews and elimination process to qualify for the Finals Night, usually

held a day or two prior to the fiesta celebration of the city.

In 1998, Ma. Cecilia Sanchez, a Commerce sophomore from Barangay Tuyoy, ruled the Mutya ng Balanga contest held at the city plaza on April 23. She was also the winner in Best in Casual Wear, Miss Congeniality, Miss Indigo Jeans and second runnerup in the Talent Category.

Bonalyn Madonna Cuasay of Bagumbayan was first runnerup. She also bagged the Best in Talent, Miss McDo, Miss VETAF's and Miss ABG awards. Second runnerup was Cristina Wells who also took home the Best in Swimsuit, Miss Natasha and Miss Everbilena awards. Third runnerup was Emily Nieves of Puerto Rivas Ibaba.

The City Tourism Council, the main sponsor of the program, has a partial list of previous winners of the tilt, such as Emma Andres of Cupang (Mutya ng Balanga 1981); Lotha Cayanan (1998); Celeste Legaspi (2000) who was later dethroned and replaced by Vernadette Llamzon of Puerto

Rivas; Camille Padilla of Pto. Rivas (2005); Charisse Wee of Dona Francisca (2006); Monica Verallo of Tuyoy (2007); Cecilia Sanchez of Tuyoy (2008); Arriane Bautista of Cupang Proper (2009); and Ann Barbara Lohfink of Cupang Proper (2010).



## NATATANGING Ama



The awarding of plaque of recognition to “Natatanging Ama ng Barangay” was started by Mayor Jose Enrique S. Garcia III in

2009. Considering the significant roles played by fathers in upbringing a family, he realizes to give them due recognition. Besides, he also considers the fathers to represent St.

Joseph, the patron saint of City of Balanga, as a real Model who symbolizes His good deeds as father of all mankind.

The selection of “Natatanging Ama”

was based on the criteria set by the committee created. These criteria include the personal characteristics as a family man, the outstanding accomplishments, the different associations he is affiliated with, the contributions he has done to his barangay in particular and to the city in general and a personal interview to further assess

his leadership and work ethics.

To facilitate an honest and clean selection of awardees, these criteria were discussed to all barangay captains and barangay secretaries for their guidance and implementation. A committee was created in each barangay that took charge of doing the selection. The decision that was reached by the committee in selecting their “Natatanging Ama” was final and they were the ones who recommended their barangay awardees.

The pictures below show the list of awardees for “Natatanging Ama ng Barangay” in three succeeding years, namely: 2009, 2010 and 2011.



## NAVAL, Emilio Ma.



**E**MILIO MA. NAVAL was the 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> governor of Bataan. He served from 1948 to 1951 and 1956 to 1959.

Don Emilio was born in Navotas, Manila to parents named Ignacio and Pacita Naval, both natives of Barangay Ibaba, Samal. He finished a degree in Pharmacy and settled in Balanga after marrying Doña Conchita de Leon, a philanthropist and a local resident of Poblacion, Balanga.

In addition to his drugstore in Balanga, Naval also established the Balanga Power Plant with other local incorporators like Jose Banzon, Onofre Banson, Dr. Melanio Banzon and Geronimo Gutierrez. He also formed an alliance with Apolonio Aguirre and Antonio Banzon and put up the Balanga Rural Bank.

Naval ran for governor during the November 8, 1947 local polls against two-time provincial board member Emilio V. Reyes of Dinalupihan. It was an easy victory for him, considering the support he received from his influential friends.

One of Naval's major accomplishments was the construction of the present Capitol building in Upper San Jose, in Balanga, and the access road in Barangay San Jose which is presently known as Capitol Road. Both projects were completed in June 1950.

It was also Naval who initiated the construction of the first three-classroom technical-vocational school building in Barangay Tenejero through the pork barrel

of Congresswoman Medina Lacson-de Leon. The school later on came to be known as the Bataan National School of Arts and Trades (now *Bataan Polytechnic State College*). He also pushed for the establishment of the Bataan National Agricultural School in Abucay (now *Bataan State College*) and personally supervised the reforestation of Roosevelt Park in Dinalupihan.

Earlier in his term, Naval broke the monopoly of the Pambusco in the transport industry of Bataan by allowing the "La Mallorca" and the "Bataan Express" to transport passengers from Bataan to Manila and back. He also worked for the creation of the judicial district in Bataan, separate from Pampanga, after discovering that there was no judge of the Court of First Instance (CFI) holding session in Balanga for many months in one year. Through the support of Congresswoman Medina Lacson-de Leon, CFI-Bataan was established and Carlos A. Imperial became the first CFI judge in Bataan.

During the November 13, 1951 local polls, Naval was defeated by Adelmo Camacho, a lawyer from Talisay, Balanga. Camacho posted a

margin of 1,297 votes over Naval. Naval evened up the score by winning over Camacho during the November 8, 1955 local elections.

His last term (1956-1959) was considered the glorious years of Bataan because of the establishment of Stanvac (now *Petron Bataan Refinery*) in Limay and the Bataan Pulp and Paper Mill in Samal. In 1959, Governor Naval and the provincial council also approved the creation of the office of the vice-governor for Bataan.

Naval suffered two poll setbacks at the hands of Governor Pedro R. Dizon before he retired from active politics. He passed away on May 27, 1976.



## NAVARRO, Gloria DG.

**G**LORIA DE GUZMAN NAVARRO (1931-), a native of Cupang Proper, is the proud owner of three Glori's Supermarkets in Manila.

"Glori" is the eighth among the nine children of the late Primo de Guzman of Bulacan, and Dominga Tecson of Cupang. She was born on November 11, 1931. After completing her elementary education at Cupang Elementary School, she enrolled at the Tomas del Rosario Academy where she finished her freshman year.

To help support the big De Guzman family, she quit her studies and went to Manila where she was employed as a salesgirl in one of the department stores in Avenida. It was here where she met and fell in love with Dionisio So Navarro of Caloocan City who at that time was studying at the University of the East, taking up Commerce.

It turned out later that Dionisio, a naturalized Filipino, had inherited a big fortune from his parents, both Chinese professional doctors who perished together in a plane crash when he was still a toddler. Dionisio's wealth was left in the care of one of his uncles who used it in sending him to college and in setting up the Freeman T-shirt Manufacturing Company in Caloocan.

Dionisio and Glori merely borrowed a small portion of the said fortune and used it in establishing a retail store in Divisoria. Thereafter, the couple put up the Gloria's Textile. They also got involved in textile importation, and in the production of ready-to-wear clothes.

The first Glori's Supermarket was established in San Francisco del Monte, Quezon City in 1971. The second store opened in Sikatuna Village, also in Quezon City. The third store, which is still operating

up to the present, was put up in Project 8. Before Dionisio passed away in 1985, there were already nine Glori Supermarkets. The remaining six stores were located in Laon-Laan, Novaliches, Project 4, Tandang Sora, Visayas Avenue, in Quezon City and Malolos, in Bulacan. Glori also invested in the ice-making business by establishing the Diamond Ice Plant in Kaingin, Balintawak.

Glori has already retired from her busy business schedules and presently spends her time alternately in the United States and in Manila.

Glori and Dionisio have six children: Alicia, George, Dionisio Jr., May, Luis and Jay.



## NEXT WAVE CITY

**T**he City of Balanga was recently added to the list of NEW WAVE CITIES during the eServices Philippine Global Sourcing Conference conducted by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) in cooperation with the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (CITEM).

The conference, held at the SMX Convention Center of the Mall of Asia, Pasay City on February 12, 2008, was graced by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

By being in the list, Balanga City

became part of the ever-growing Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) industry in anticipation of new investments from the global market. The BPO currently employs more than 300,000 Filipinos nationwide and the number is expected to reach the one million mark by 2010.

Mayor Joet Garcia, who attended the said conference, said Balanga is in a perfect position to take advantage of the situation. The city, at present, is already making progress as an Information and Communication Technology (ICT) hub in



## NEXT WAVE CITY



Central Luzon and has a pool of young, highly-skilled and knowledgeable residents who can be tapped by BPO locators.

With the support of the provincial government, the Bataan Transport Mall in Ibayo, Balanga, will be converted into a BPO Center. The building has 11,000 square meters of leasable space readily available to BPO locators and will be fiber optic-ready in no time. Various telecommunication companies based in Balanga have already committed to provide the necessary infrastructures.

On October 23, 2008, the city government unveiled the BPO Center

and, at the same time, launched the BPO website. Present during the ceremonies held at the Lou-is Restaurant were Commissioner Monchito Ibrahim of the Cyber Service Group of the Commission on Information and Communications Technology and Gillian Joyce G. Virata of the Information and Research of the Business Process Association of the Philippines.

Mayor Garcia is currently in the process of obtaining the "IT Building" accreditation from PEZA. He is optimistic that investments will continue pouring into the city because of its improved fiscal position and peaceful environment.

## NISAY, Felipe J.

**F**ELIPE JARABA NISAY (1930-1997) was the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) provincial director of Bataan from 1981 until 1995.

"Philip" Nisay was born in Cupang on August 19, 1930. His parents were Graciano Nisay and Isabel Jaraba. His being the son of ordinary farm workers may account for his over-zealousness to finish at least a high school education. After graduating from the Arellano Memorial (Bataan) High School in 1950, he was most surprised when his parents sold two of their carabaos to finance his college education. He enrolled at the Central Luzon State University in

Nueva Ecija where he completed a Bachelor's degree in Agriculture.

After graduation, he was employed as a public high school teacher in Balanga. Starting on June 16, 1962, he joined the Presidential Arm for Community Development (PACD) as a permanent Barrio Development Worker. He was promoted as a municipal development officer on Sept. 1, 1968; He was promoted as Community Development Officer on July 1, 1973, the year PACD became known as Department of Local Government and Community Development (DLGCD).

His promotion as an Assistant Provincial

Development Officer came on December 1, 1974. He was designated as Provincial Development Officer on March 1, 1981 and retired from government service on August 19, 1995. He passed away on July 2, 1997.

He was married thrice: to Leticia Javier, with whom he had three children; Corazon Salaveria; and lastly, to Jesusa Navarro who bore him two children.





## NISAY, Gabriel J. Sr.



**G**ABRIEL JARABA NISAY SR. (1926-1990) was Balanga's OIC vice mayor from March 1986 to January 1988. He served as an elected councilor from 1980 up to 1986. He was the first barangay captain of Cupang West starting in 1971.

Vice Mayor Gabby Nisay was born in Cupang on October 28, 1926. His parents were Graciano Nisay and Isabel Jaraba who both lived their lives as farmers. He had little schooling as the whole family spent most of their time in the fields in Maluya. But as a father, he gave his children the best opportunity to seek higher education he never had.

As a farmer, Gabby really worked hard to become one of the best and most successful crop producers in Cupang.

He became a politician when former Balanga Mayor Teodoro Camacho III (1968-1971) took the lead in converting the former nursery lot beside the Cupang Elementary School into a regular barrio on December 10, 1971. Gabby became Cupang West's first barangay captain, a position he held for the next 10 years. During the 1980 local elections, he ran for a town councilor's seat and came out number two among the other winning candidates. His term as

councilor ended in 1986 after the fall of the Marcos regime.

But instead of getting purged, he was instead promoted as vice mayor under OIC Mayor Teodoro Camacho III.

He ran again for a councilor's seat in 1988, the first regular election held during President Cory Aquino's administration. He won but was unable to finish his term as cancer claimed his life on July 20, 1990. He was replaced by Gabby Nisay Jr., his fifth child. A street in Cupang West was named in his honor.

## NOVICIO, Lourdes B.

**L**OURDES BURGOS NOVICIO (1934-2007) was a Certified Public Accountant from Cupang Proper who served as City Auditor of San Juan, Mandaluyong, Makati and lastly, Popcom.

Ms. Novicio was born Lourdes Quintero Burgos on February 3, 1934. She was the youngest of six children of Getulio Burgos and Tomasa Quintero of Cupang, Balanga. She belonged to the first batch of graduates of the newly-completed Cupang Elementary School in 1946. After completing her

secondary education at the Arellano Memorial (Bataan) High School in 1950, she took up an Accounting course at the Far Eastern University in Manila. She passed the CPA board examinations in 1955.

She joined the government service as a junior accountant of Quezon City and rose from the ranks. She was already the city assistant auditor when she accepted the position of a full-time auditor of San Juan, during the administration of former Mayor

Jinggoy Estrada. Ten years later, she was assigned as auditor of Mandaluyong City under Mayor Ben Abalos. Her last assignment was in Makati City under Mayor Jojo Binay before she became the auditor of the Population Commission in 1998. She retired in 1999.

Mrs. Novicio was married to the late Engineer Felicisimo Novicio of Mendez, Cavite. She had three children: Lilibeth, Homer and Conrado. She passed away on August 14, 2007.



## NUESTRO, Adelaida C.



**A**DELAIDA CABRERA NUESTRO (1954- ) is the current provincial manager of the National Food Authority (NFA) in Bataan.

Adelle Nuestro was born in Balanga on October 19, 1954 to parents Antonio Cabrera and Anicia Dizon. Church-goers in Balanga still remember her as the young lass who sang during Sunday Masses at

the St. Joseph Cathedral, together with her parents and younger brother. She is still an active church worker and plays the organ for the church choir.

After finishing her high school education at the Tomas del Rosario College, Adelle enrolled at the University of the Philippines where she completed her Bachelor's degree in

Statistics in 1976. She joined the NFA after graduation and rose from the ranks to attain the position she currently holds.

She is married to Virgilio Nuestro, an architect from Orani, Bataan, with whom she has five children: Peter Andrew, Joseph Anthony, Jerome Therese, Rosa Marie Vianney and Anne Frances.

## ONA, Rosalie V.



**R**OSALIE VIGO ONA (1954- ) is the current provincial director of the Department of Science

and Technology (DOST) in Bataan.

Rosalie is the daughter of the late midwife Pilar Vigo of Cupang and Rogerio Ona, a retired Philippine Navy officer from Batangas. She was born on October 20, 1954. A graduate of Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from

the Far Eastern University, Ms. Ona was initially employed at the National Food Authority (NFA) in Bataan as standard and quality assurance officer starting in 1975. She was assigned as provincial operations officer in Cabanatuan City in 1978 and in Tarlac in 1985.

She resigned from the NFA in 1989 and joined the DOST. She was assigned in Bataan in January 1991 to spearhead the provincial government's Red Tide Testing Center at the Bataan School of Fisheries in Orion, Bataan. As science and technology director, she also helped in the establishment of a ceramic manufacturing plant in Dinalupihan; a pottery plant in

Mariveles; and the implementation of Solid Waste Management projects in various towns in Bataan, particularly in the First District.

She also helped many Bataan students finish their two- and three-year technical courses, and/or four-year college courses through the DOST scholarship program.

Ms. Ona is former president of the Soroptimist International-Bataan chapter, and presently heads the UNLAD-PRRM Bataan, a founding partner of the community-based Pawikan Conservation Project in Morong.



## ONE Square Kilometer City Center

**B**alanga's newest City Center, otherwise known as the ONE SQUARE KILOMETER CITY CENTER, is the open area being developed by the city government in Barangay TUYO for corporate businesses. Measuring about 100 hectares, it is situated north of the town center and accessible from the ROMAN EXPRESSWAY and the BATAAN NATIONAL ROAD.

The City Center is linked by a new heavily landscaped four-lane boulevard which was completed in early 2004. It is the center's main

thoroughfare connecting the two national highways. It serves as the front door or main street for each new corporate facility that will be established in the

area. The road will greatly improve the traffic situation in the Poblacion area.

The City Center was initiated during the second term of former Mayor

*Albert S. Garcia* through the support of former Bataan Congressman *Enrique T. Garcia Jr.* It is destined to become one of the most desirable locations for corporate businesses, such as commercial establishments, hotels, restaurants, IT parks, conference centers, educational facilities, government buildings, retail trade developments, entertainment and recreations, shopping malls and even plush subdivisions. The center is provided with parks and open spaces.



# ONE-TOWN-ONE-PRODUCT

The ONE-TOWN-ONE-PRODUCT (OTOP) program is a novel undertaking launched by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) in October 2006. The program aims to identify the major product in a particular locality and help increase productivity and further development of the said product.

The DTI has spearheaded a number of seminars such as skills training, packaging and labeling seminar, product development and management, good manufacturing practices to enhance the competitiveness of the small-and-medium enterprises involved in the OTOP program.

The various OTOP products in Bataan had already been identified by the DTI, namely: Processed fish (Balanga City); Tourism (Pilar); Fresh mangoes (Orion, Hermosa and Limay); Bags (Mariveles); Cashew nuts (Bagac); Processed fruits (Morong); Lasa brooms (Abucay); Araro cookies (Samal); Prawns and crabs (Orani); and Bamboo-based products (Dinalupihan).

In Balanga, the fishing villages of Puerto Rivas and Tortugas had been identified as center of the processed fish industry. At present, there are 13 small-and-medium enterprises involved in the processing of fish products in the area.

Amanda Battad of Puerto Rivas is the proprietor of the Amanda's Marine Products. Her company is Balanga's largest producer of tinapa, tuyo, bagoong alamang, and processed kapak, tunsoy,



kabase, bangus and tilapia. Her market has expanded to Zambales, Olongapo City and Manila.

In November 2007, Amanda Marine Products was adjudged as the

2007 Most Outstanding OTOP-SME in Central Luzon. In 2006, the Bagac Cashew Nut won second place for the best OTOP SME regional award.

To support the OTOP program,

the city government has established two pasalubong centers in the province: the Bataan Tourism & Souvenir Center in Balanga; and the Mariveles Pasalubong Center in Poblacion.

# ORGANIZATIONS



Foundation, Provincial Women’s Commission, Balanga Public School Teachers and Employees Association, Bataan Association of Public School Teachers and Employees, Inc., and Alyansa ng mga Mangingisda ng Bataan (Puerto Rivas and Tortugas).

Religious organizations like the Parish Renewal Experience (PREX), Knights of Columbus, Adoracion Nocturna, El Shaddai, Daughters of Mary Immaculate, St. Joseph Parish Council, Apostleship of Prayer, and

various Charismatic groups also abound in the capital city.

Balanguenños residing overseas also have their own associations dedicated to the economic upliftment of the city. Balanga natives comprise the most number of members and officers of the Bataan Association (BAUSA), based in the New York-New Jersey area. Chicago-based and California-based Balanguenños have similar organizations.

Socio-civic organizations also thrived and flourished in Balanga during

the late 1950s, namely Puerto Rivas Civic Club, Cupang’s Kating Kabayo Klab and Tsama-Tsama Club.

Poblacion has the HAS (He and She) Club, founded in 1937 through the initiative of Dr. Andres L. Palma, the first elected president. The club usually holds their formal (black tie and gown) dinner dance at the Balanga town plaza on April 27, the eve of the Balanga town fiesta. Through the years, the club’s social events have funded the club’s various socio-civic activities.

Balanga has a long list of *Private Organizations* that promote development and cooperation among its members. These associations are classified as civic, social, religious, economic and institutional.

Active mainstream civic organizations currently based in Balanga include the Bataan (Host) Lions Club, Balanga Rotary Club, Ventures Club of Bataan Chapter, and Soroptimists International of Bataan, The Balanga “Kagitingan” Jaycees, organized in the mid-1970s, had been inactive since 1990.

Balanga is also the center of activity of local institutional organizations such as the Bataan Medical Society, Bataan Dental Society, Integrated Bar of the Philippines-Bataan Chapter, Bataan Hotel and Restaurants Association, Kabalikat, Bataan Tourism Council

## ORTIGUERRA, Antonio M.

ANTONIO MACALINAO ORTIGUERRA (1936- ), a well-known lawyer and banker, is the current president of the Tomas del Rosario College. He was a member of the Provincial Board of Bataan from July 8, 1980 until March 18, 1986.

Atty. Ortiguerra was a native of Samal where he was born on May 15, 1936. He is the son of former District Engineer Apolonio Ortiguerra. He grew up in Balanga where his father was assigned as district engineer of Bataan. He graduated from the Ateneo de Manila University with a Bachelor of Laws degree. He took up post-graduate studies in Bank Management from the Asian Institute of Management (1979) and the Development Academy of the Philippines (1982).

He was the president of the Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines in 1981, the former Orani Rural Bank, Integrated Bar of the Philippines-Bataan Chapter (1993-1995) and the Balanga Savings Bank Inc. He was a director of the Knights of Columbus Fraternal, and Anchor Savings Bank.

He is the senior partner and founder of the Ortiguerra, Zuniga, Pomer, Salaria, and Panganiban Law Offices. He is an

active member of the Ateneo Law Alumni Association and the AIM Alumni Association.

He was a former president of the Association of Barangay Captains of Balanga and represented the federation in the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Bataan from 1980 until 1986. He was awarded the Most Outstanding Rural Banker of the Philippines in 1983; Papal Knight of the Order of St. Gregory the Great in 1984; and Most Outstanding Knight of Columbus in 2003.

Atty. Ortiguerra, TRC president (1970-1978 and 1979 to present), is married to the former Teresita Abello with whom he has four children: Tomas Antonio, Ma. Contessa, Dennis Jose and Antonio Rey.





## PACHECO, Reynaldo D.



**R**EYNALDO DIUCO PACHECO is more popularly known as “Mr. Gunless Society” and co-founder of the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPRCV) and the Alay sa Kawal Foundation.

Pacheco, a native of Balanga son of Angustia Rosauro Diuco and Vicente Pacheco is a lawyer by profession but found his niche in public information and public relations from his stint as press officer in the Department of Foreign Affairs headed by then Vice President/ Secretary Emmanuel Pelaez. He was appointed as the first Filipino information officer of the United Nations headquarters in Manila. His 28-year career was capped by his promotion as chief information officer of the Asian Development Bank, the highest rank attained by a Filipino at that time. He retired in 1990.

As a cause-oriented individual, Pacheco founded the “Gunless Society” whose mission was “to eliminate gun pollution in order to save the endangered species of homo sapiens.” He co-founded PPRCV, Alay sa Kawal Foundation, Transparency and Public Accountability Today and Tomorrow (TAPATT) and NATURE (National Action for the Total Upliftment and Restoration of the Environment). He is a peace advocate through active non-violence means.

He was married to Priscilla Reyes of Manila.

## PALMA, Andres L.

**A**NDRES DE LEON PALMA (1899-1964) was the founding president of the He and She (HAS) Club of Balanga. He was the first Balangueño to attain a Doctorate degree in Economics and Philosophy.

Dr. Palma was born in Balanga on November 10, 1899 to parents Tomas Palma and Francisca de Leon. At a young age, he left the Philippines for the United States where he pursued his studies. He was able to finish his Doctorate degree at the University of Southern California at Berkeley.

Upon his return to Manila in 1931, he was employed as a professor at the Graduate School of Economics of the Far Eastern University. In 1937, he co-founded the HAS Club, together with Dr. Gonzalo Austria, Dr. Aurora Banzon-Camacho, Concepcion Banzon-Abello, Carmen P. Banzon-Gonzales, Natividad P. Banzon-Magat, Isabel L. Banzon, Dr. Victoria Banzon-Roman, Codrata L. Banzon-

Soriano, Anastacia Banzon-Pastorfide, and many others. He was the club’s first president.

He also served during President Ramon Magsaysay’s administration as manager of the Import and Export Division of the National Development Corporation (NDC). He passed away on March 6, 1964.

Dr. Palma was married to Fe Lagdameo, professor of Home Economics at FEU. The couple had two daughters: Teresita Palma-Medrano (currently based in New Jersey, USA); and Ma. Lourdes Palma-Varona.



## PALMERA, Rodolfo R.



**R**ODOLFO REYES PALMERA (1932-2003) was a brilliant civil engineer from Balanga City who served as regional director of the Ministry of Public Works and Highways (MPWH) in the National Capital Region (Metro Manila) and in Central Luzon.

Engineer Palmiera was the son of Luis Palmiera and Bartola Reyes, natives of Barangay Ibayo, Balanga. Born on November 15, 1932, he graduated from the Balanga Elementary School and Arellano Memorial Bataan High School. He worked his way in college to finish a Bachelor’s degree in Civil Engineering at the National University in 1953.

After graduation, he joined the Bureau of Public Works (BPW) where he rose from the ranks. In 1965, while assigned as supervising civil engineer at the Central Luzon River Control District in Pampanga,

he was promoted to the level of Public Works district engineer. He was assigned as replacement of the retiring district engineer of Bataan, Engineer Apolonio Ortiguerra of Samal.

It was during his term that the Roman Expressway was completed. Thereafter, he was transferred to the Manila Public Works and assigned as department head of the Operations unit. Later on, he became the regional director of the newly-created Ministry of Public Works and Highways for the National Capital Region (Metro Manila). He was responsible for keeping Manila free from flood through the construction of several pumping stations in many low-lying areas in the city.

After the fall of the Marcos regime in 1986, he was reassigned in Pampanga where he finally retired from government service. He passed away on May 11, 2003.

Engineer Palmiera was married to the former Miguela Francisco of Sta. Ana, Manila with whom he had five children: Luis, Ronald, Maria Corazon, Regidor and Maria Theresa.

## PASTORFIDE, Anastacia B.

**A**NASTACIA BANZON PASTORFIDE was acknowledged as the first registered nurse in Bataan.

“Tasya” was born in Poblacion, Balanga, on December 18, 1903. She completed her elementary and high school education at the Balanga Elementary School and the Bataan High School in Orani, respectively. She finished a



Bachelor’s degree in Nursing at the University of the Philippines-Manila in 1927.

After college, she was employed as a surgical nurse at the Philippine General

Hospital, also in Manila. After marrying Graciano Pastorfide in 1928, she decided to settle down in Balanga and worked as a government nurse at the Balanga Sanitation Division (presently known as Rural Health Unit) under four Division presidents, namely Drs. Antonio Banzon Sr., Joaquin T. Banzon, Mariano Herrera and Jose S. Manahan (the Bataan governor, 1941-1942).

As a nurse, Tasya helped deliver many babies of the prominent as well as the not-so-prominent families in Balanga. She retired from government service in 1968.

She and husband Graciano had seven children of their own, namely: Aurora (pharmacist, *dec.*); Fe (dentist); Aleli (optometrist); Gil (banker, Republic Bank, *dec.*); Carmelita (optometrist); Anabella (nurse); and Greg (OB-gynecologist).

## PASTORFIDE, Fe B., D.M.D.

**F**E BANZON-PASTORFIDE (1931- ) is a native of Balanga who is acknowledged as the first Filipino dentist who had the opportunity to teach at the Harvard University College of Dentistry in America from 1964 until 1981.

Fe was born in Balanga on June 6, 1931. She is the daughter of former Balanga Mayor Graciano Pastorfide and Anastacia Banzon-Pastorfide. She completed her elementary and high school studies at the Balanga Elementary School and the Arellano Memorial (Bataan) High School, respectively. She finished her college course in Dentistry at the University of the Philippines in 1954, together with Dr. Primo Gonzales of Puerto Rivas.

After college, she taught Dentistry subjects in Iloilo briefly. Thereafter, she returned to Balanga where she put up a private clinic. Her clientele include American and Filipino high-ranking personnel of the old Bataan Refining Company in Limay.

She migrated to the United States in 1963 in search of a greener pasture. She ended up teaching at the Harvard University College of Dentistry in Boston, Massachusetts, USA. She was a college professor from 1964 until 1981. Thereafter, she was employed as a college dentist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where she specialized in prosthetics, locally known as “*pustiso*”.

Dr. Fe, who remains unmarried, resides alternately in Boston and in Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila.



## PASTORFIDE, Graciano R.



**G**RACIANO ROCES PASTORFIDE (1901-1997) was the 17<sup>th</sup> mayor of Balanga. He reigned as an appointed mayor from January 16, 1947 to December 31, 1947. He was appointed by Governor Joaquin Linao as replacement of Jose N. Gonzales (16<sup>th</sup> mayor, April 16, 1946-January 15, 1947), who also substituted for Mayor Mariano Herrera (15<sup>th</sup>, March 16, 1945-April 15, 1946).

Born in Balanga on December 17, 1901, Graciano was the son of Gregorio Pastorfide and Rafaela Roces, both natives of Marinduque. He studied Law in Manila but was unable to complete the course. In 1928, he met and married Anastacia Banzon, a nurse from Balanga where the couple

settled down.

The couple had seven children: Aurora, Fe, Aleli, Carmelita, Gil, Anabella and Greg

During the Japanese Occupation, Pastorfide was employed as the secretary of the municipal council under the administration of Mayor MARIANO BATUNGBACAL (August 1, 1942-April 27, 1943). After Batungbacal’s untimely death, Pastorfide was retained as secretary by NUMERIANO QUINDOY (Mayor, 1943-1944), and CARLOS Y. GONZALES (Mayor, 1944-1945).

When Dr. MARIANO HERRERA took over as acting mayor of Balanga on March 16, 1945, Pastorfide was relieved of his post and replaced by a former municipal secretary, Pedro Gonzales. The succeeding mayor, JOSE N. GONZALES (1946-1947) also retained Pedro Gonzales as municipal secretary.

With the presidential election already set to be held on November 8, 1947, President Sergio Osmena suddenly

relieved Mayor Jose Gonzales and the other government officials from their posts for openly campaigning for Senator and Presidential-candidate Manuel Roxas.

Pastorfide, upon the recommendation of acting Governor Joaquin J. Linao, was brought back to the town hall, no longer as secretary, but as acting mayor. His administration covered from January 16, 1947 until December 31, 1947, for a total of 11 and one-half months.

During the same election, Pastorfide ran for mayor even after failing to get President Roxas’ endorsement. It was a three-way tussle among Atty. Faustino Vigo, Atty. PEDRO R. DIZON and Pastorfide. Atty. Dizon won at the polls.

Pastorfide was re-employed as municipal social worker of Balanga by Mayor Dizon. Later on, he joined the Insular Life Insurance Company in Manila where he spent the rest of his most productive life. He passed away on March 2, 1997.

## PASTORFIDE, Greg B., M.D.



**G**REG BANZON PASTORFIDE (1940- ) is a well-known OB-Gynecologist from Balanga who specialized in the “In Vitro Fertilization” (IVF), a process of fertilizing an ovum, the mature and unfertilized female egg cell, outside the body. Dr. Pastorfide is the current chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology of the Philippine General Hospital.

Dr. Greg, born on July 16, 1942, is the youngest child of former Balanga Mayor Graciano Pastorfide and the former Anastacia Banzon of Balanga. He is a product of the Balanga

Elementary School and the Arellano Memorial (Bataan) High School. He completed his course in Medicine at the University of the Philippines in 1967. He took post-graduate studies and internship at the Baltimore Medical Center in 1969; Residency and Fellowship at the Tufts University School of Medicine, New England Medical Center, St. Margaret Hospital, Harvard Medical Center, Peter Bent Brigham Hospital and Boston Lying-In Hospital from 1970-1974.

He is currently one of the most sought-after OB-Gynecologists in the country. More popularly known as the “Celebrity Doctor,” his list of clientele includes Sharon Cuneta, Imee Marcos-Manotoc, Kris Aquino, Charlene Gonzales, Claudine and Gretchen Barretto, Marjorie Barretto, Cristina Gonzales-Romualdez, and Angela Arroyo.

Dr. Pastorfide attends to his regular responsibilities at the St. Luke’s Hospital, Cardinal Santos Hospital and Makati

Medical Center. He was named OB-Gynecologist of the Year by the College of Medicine-Philippine General Hospital.

He has written several publications dealing with pregnancy, radioimmunoassay, gestational trophoblastic disease, missed abortion and fetal death in utero, ovarian malignancy and other related studies. His award-winning book was entitled “Gestational Trophoblastic Disease with Philippine Experience.”

Dr. Pastorfide, president and chairman of the Pastorfide Land Corporation, was the president of HAS Club of Balanga in 2001. He is a director of the All Asia Fund, Inc. and Honeycomb Investment Corporation. He is married to the former Georgina Concepcion of Nueva Ecija with whom he has two sets of twins: Gina and Grace, Georgia and Gail. The family resides in the Corinthian Gardens, Quezon City.

## PEACE and ORDER

**E**nforcement of law and maintenance of peace and order are always the top priorities of a leader in a locality. The Philippine National Police is in charge of maintaining peace and order in the City of Balanga. At present, the city police station has a total of 52 policemen, including VIP security personnel.

The force is equipped with three PNP patrol cars, one back-to-back patrol jeep, four motorcycles, four computers, 18 hand-held radios, one landline telephone (PLDT), and several bank and pawnshop alarms.

The city police station is located within the city hall compound. There are four other police outposts, or Kabayan centers, established in Cupang Proper, Puerto Rivas Itaas, Tuyo (along the Bataan National Road) and Tenejero (along the Roman Expressway).

With a total population of 84,105 (2007 Census), the current policeman-population ratio is 1:1,619, which only means that there is one policeman for every 1,619 inhabitants.

Since 1999, through the initiative of former City Mayor Albert S. Garcia, the city government had started maintaining the so-called City Marshalls, about 70 of them, as force multiplier. They assist the local police force in maintaining peace and order in the city. These men in black, most of them college graduates or had reached at least college-level education, underwent more than a month of rigid training to

measure their worth and mettle in solving crimes being committed in the city. They were also tasked to maintain high visibility along strategic locations and are “on call” 24 hours a day.

City Traffic Aides, numbering about 29, direct traffic flow in major intersections of the city daily, seven days a week.

Community participation has been effective through the barangay tanod and in addition to force multiplier are the barangay marshalls distributed among the 25 barangays in the city.

The present crime rate in the city is considered less or minimal.

The fire department, on the other hand, is manned by six firemen and volunteers. The unit is equipped with three firetrucks, all in running condition. In year 2000, the fireman population ratio with the total number of households (11,409) was placed at 1:1,901. The fire department is located at the Balanga Public Market.

On November 28, 2007, the City Government of Balanga and the Municipality of Pilar, represented by Mayors Joet S. Garcia and Charlie Pizarro, respectively, signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the aim of forming an alliance



and consolidating their efforts and resources in establishing a strong sense of security and maintaining peace and order within their territorial jurisdiction through the enforcement of existing laws.

The two mayors agreed to form a Special Action Group to conduct patrolling, intelligence gathering and pursuit operations against suspected criminals and lawless elements within their territorial boundaries.

# PENINSULA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



**T**he PENINSULA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE (Penelco) supplies the power requirement of the City of Balanga and the rest of the province. The power supply comes from the 480-megawatt oil-fired units being operated by the Asea Brown Boveri in Limay.

Penelco was registered with the National Electrification Administration (NEA) on April 10, 1990. It replaced the Bataan Electric Cooperative (Batelco) which was taken over by NEA on January 15, 1990 for failure to pay its P118 million loan. Batelco was officially dissolved on March 27, 1990.

Penelco was officially organized on May 2, 1990 after being given a 50-year franchise to distribute power supply to end-users, particularly residential consumers, commercial and small processing and manufacturing establishments in Bataan.

NEA Engineer Ed Piamonte, currently assigned in Pangasinan, was the coop's first general manager. Engr. Loreto A. Marcelino is the current manager starting in 1993 up to the present. It was adjudged as the "Most Outstanding Electric Cooperative" in the country starting in 2001.

The coop's electric rates vary for residential, commercial, industrial, irrigation, streetlights and BAPA users. In 2007, the cooperative's power rate was registered at P2.82 per kilowatt-hour, possibly the lowest in Central Luzon.

The present rate is P8.4457 per kilowatt-hour which is lower by P3.1018 as compared to MERALCO's P11.5475 per kwh.

Penelco is a non-stock, non-profit electric cooperative operating under the supervision of the National Electrification Administration (NEA). It has about 136,000

member-consumers as of 2007, the same period when Bataan became the first province to become 100 percent barangay energized. It registered as low as 9.49 percent system loss in 2009.

Penelco maintains 13 substations and 14 service centers in the province of Bataan. At present, all 240 barangays and 459 sitios have been energized. It has covered 136,560 household connections in the province, including 10,464 households in Balanga.

In late 2007, a move to register Penelco under the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) rocked the cooperative's management. The move was initiated by five members of the Penelco's board of directors. The move, however, was temporarily shelved.

Since 2001, PENELCO has been receiving awards and recognitions yearly from the award-giving body of the NEA.

The management of PENELCO attributes the achievement of the cooperative to the support and concerted effort of the provincial local officials of Bataan and member-consumers.

## 2010 Awards

- First Electric Cooperative to Energize all Sitios in the Province
- Best Electric Cooperative in the Philippines Single Digit Systems Loss
- Award to the Region with All Electric Cooperatives Registering Improvement in Systems Loss
- Most Complying Electric Cooperative in Adult Evaluation
- Best Information and Communication Technology Excellent Rating in Scoreboard on Electric Cooperative Corporate Governance
- Grand People Development Academy Champion
- Best Electric Cooperative General Manager



# PUBLIC GOVERNANCE SYSTEM

The City of Balanga is dedicated to their core values of integrity, to be God-loving and commitment in pursuit of their mission to provide a strong academic atmosphere that will ensure sustainable development for the city, to fulfill their vision 2020 to become a World-class university town, acknowledgement as the center of political, economic, social and cultural interaction in the region. This is supported by their roadmap centered on governance, livability and competitiveness, supported by their scorecard. This is now developed and being nurtured to second level departmental scorecards.

Balanga, being the capital of and one of the richest towns in the province of Bataan, has just recently been transformed into a City. Prior to this development, the City has managed to execute considerable measure to accelerate growth and development in the area, from extending its urban fringe to establishing a new growth center as defined in the Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

Accessibility and strategic location makes Balanga a potential haven for future investors. Existing eco-zones and industrial estates

surround the city compliments its bid to become one of the industrial areas in the region. It also serves as a catch basin for industrial growth areas in the province due to its vast resources and services.

While the City boasts its significantly high potential for industrial-led growth, the City believes that being the center of knowledge can also be an impetus for rapid area-wide development. Dubbed as the University Town of the Province, the city houses a number of universities, colleges, computer schools, training and vocational institutions that offer a wide range of courses. These institutions have consistently produced high quality and competitive graduates, and in fact greatly contributed to providing quality, abundant and affordable manpower resources for growing Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) industry needs.

The City of Balanga participated in the City Development Strategies (CDS) process and was able to identify some of its priority and come up with the corresponding Capital Investment Plan (CIP) for the next ten years. Despite this effort, the city did not find the mechanism to align the objective of these priority projects to



what it envisions to attain as given in its strategic imperatives and objective covering the constituency, finance, internal work processes and people development. That is, that city was

not able to identify the step-by-step process of how to achieve the city's vision and mission at the targeted time as indicated in its milestones.

ISA's PGS framework helped

# PUBLIC GOVERNANCE SYSTEM

Balanga position itself to strategically focus its resources towards attaining the above vision. Immediate outcome of the exercise will point to Balanga's high-rise housing project for government employees, the first of its kind in the country, which is viewed to be product of continuing intervention aimed at upgrading the bureaucracy's financial skills through tapping both the public and private resources. Essentially, PGS greatly assisted the city in tapping funding sources through the use of the language that those sources of capital understand.

By 2020, the city envisions to be a "World-Class University Town", acknowledged as the center of political, economic, social and cultural interaction in the region. This case study essentially will show how the City of Balanga manages to draw support from a wide array of potential partners, pool resources, contrite them to formulate and execute strategic projects, and

promote sustainable public-private cooperation toward attaining their common vision.

The Partner need...

Prior to its participation to the Performance Governance System (PGS) of ISA, the City of Balanga wanted a balanced and holistic



development without sacrificing its environment. It wishes to extend basic social services (e.g. health, education services) to its constituents and at the same time provide the necessary services and infrastructure to encourage investments and attract tourist, which in the end will boost

its development. However, with its aspired development, it does not intend to put aside the proper care of its environment and resources (e.g. solid waste management, pollution control, river clean-ups, etc.). These goals are quite enormous that the city believes it cannot attain all of them without

the cooperation and involvement of the entire community. Therefore, it is but on top of their concerns that the city promote and encourage private sector participation, from physical participation to sharing ideas and financial/funding assistance, in all its undertakings.

The City of Balanga considers its PGS participation a successful endeavor. For one, it did not only give the city government tools that harmonized the planning, programming and revenue administration of the city; but more importantly, PGS directed both the government and private stakeholders to a vision with well defined step-by-step process and measures and a gauge for assessing and evaluating their performance.

Immediate benefits are already realized, even at this very early stage implementing the principles of PGS. Efficiency and effectiveness are increased, while full cooperation of the citizenry and even other stakeholders are ensured. In the coming years, the City of Balanga believes that as they continuously pushed, challenged the summoned by ISA's principles to promote pro-active governance, Balanga City will definitely hit the mark in achieving breakthrough results.

# QUARRY



of 55.79 hectares. These quarry sites are located in Sitio Maluya (Cupang) and in Dangcol. The sites are being maintained and operated by Rockmix, Acumen and Rodelynns, respectively.

Resources being extracted from these quarry sites include boulders, gravel, selected and common borrow, the last one being utilized

as crusher feed of the three quarry operators.

The sites generate some P120,000 in annual taxes for the city government,

excluding income from license and franchising permit.

Unfortunately, the Balanga City Engineers Office noted some violations to the quarrying permits of Rockmix. The company allegedly violated the allowable excavation depth of one meter. The extent of the present extraction in some sites has reached a dangerous level that could possibly affect or divert the general course of Talisay River in Nagwaling and Alauli in Pilar, as well as in Cupang, Balanga.

The Engineer's Office has recommended the strict enforcement of all conditions stipulated in the permit and the suspension of quarrying activities for confirmed violators.

In 2005, quarrying in Bataan was temporarily banned by the provincial government.



**Q**UARRY is an open excavation from which stone or slate is obtained for commercial purposes.

There are three existing quarry sites in Balanga, with an estimated area

## QUESADA, Rosario G.

**R**OSARIO GONZALES QUESADA (1920- ) is acknowledged as the Teacher's Teacher of Bataan, a paragon of virtues and committed service to education.

"Charo" Quesada was born in Puerto Rivas on November 5, 1923 to parents Leonardo P. Quesada, a pre-war councilor of Balanga, and Carmen N. Gonzales,



one-time beauty queen. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Education from the Centro Escolar University; her Master's degrees in Guidance and Counselling from the Philippine Women's University; MA in Education Management at the University of the Philippines; and her MA in Teaching Pilipino at the Philippine Normal University.

Quesada started as a classroom teacher at the Maximino delos Reyes Memorial Elementary School and later on at the Tomas del Rosario Academy. After 12 years of teaching *Noli* and *Fili*, as well as *Florante at Laura*, she transferred to the former Bataan National School of Arts and Trades

where she served as guidance counselor for five years. From 1963 until 1969, she became Education Supervisor (ES) I. She became a supervisor at the Bureau of Public School (BPS), Filipino Division from 1971 up to 1975. From 1975 until 1977, she was Educational Researcher II of the DECS, Bureau of Higher Education.

Ms. Quesada returned to Bataan in 1977 as a General Education Supervisor. She initiated various activities aimed at developing her co-teachers into future leaders. She retired from the Department of Education in 1988. She then accepted a full-time teaching job at the Tomas del Rosario College where she served as

college dean from 1996 until 2006.

For her active participation in various socio-civic works, Ms. Quesada received prestigious awards from the Bataan Girl Scout Council (National Award for Meritorious Services), Soroptimist International-Bataan Chapter (Woman of Distinction Award), Venture Club Award, PNU National Alumni Award, HAS Club, Puerto Rivas Civic Club, Philippine Jaycees (Award for Social Works), and TRC (Dakilang Guro Award and Natatanging Gawad ng Pagmamahal, 2002). She was also awarded as the "Most Outstanding Alumnus" by the BNHS Alumni Association.

## QUEZON HIGHWAY

**Q**UEZON HIGHWAY is the old name of the present Bataan National Road. It covers the length of Bataan from Barrio San Jose, in Dinalupihan, down to Barrio Lamao, in Limay.

Former Governor Emilio Ma. Naval (1948-1951 and 1956-1959) and the Provincial Council approved the said name through a resolution passed in August 1950, to honor Manuel L. Quezon, the first President of the Philippine Commonwealth (1935-1944).

Quezon Highway is also known by another name. Based on the Sangguniang Panlalawigan records of 1957, the Bureau of Public Highways named the same highway as Highway 304 (*or Route 304*). The two-lane highway

is 44 kilometers long. It also starts from San Jose (*not Layac*) and ends up in Lamao.

When the Lamao-Mariveles coastal road was completed in 1947, the extension automatically became part of Route 304. Before the extension was built and completed, Mariveles can only be reached via the sea route.

The common belief that the Bataan National Road is also the MacArthur Highway is inaccurate. MacArthur Highway is known by its technical name, Route 3. It covers the long stretch from Caloocan City (*at the north end of Highway 54, now EDSA*) down to San Fernando, Pampanga, passing through Bulacan.

The expanse from Pampanga to Layac, Dinalupihan and onward to Olongapo City, on the other hand, is called Route 7. It is also known as the Gapan-Olongapo National Road.

MacArthur Highway became a by-word among the USAFFE soldiers while retreating to Bataan during the early months of World War II. It aided the Filipino and American soldiers in finding their way to the peninsula. They were made to believe that Routes 3, 7 and 304 were all parts of the MacArthur Highway.

The total length of the Bataan National Road that traverses within Balanga City is 6.15 kilometers, fully-concrete with asphalt overlay.

## QUINDOY, Numeriano V.

**N**UMERIANO VERGARA QUINDOY was the 13<sup>th</sup> municipal mayor of Balanga. He took over the reign of Balanga on May 1, 1943, three days after the 12<sup>th</sup> mayor, Mariano Batungbacal, was assassinated by Filipino guerillas in front of his house in Poblacion.

Quindoy was born in Poblacion, Balanga. He was the brother of Gertrudes Quindoy, wife of Congressman Teodoro Camacho Sr.

Captain Quindoy was a practicing civil engineer when World War II broke out. He joined the Philippine Army and was assigned with the 21<sup>st</sup> Division under Brig. General Mateo M. Capinpin. He was initially assigned in Lingayen where the Japanese Army actually landed in late December 1941.

In Bataan, he fought side-by-side with many of the Filipino and American war heroes, including Lt. Ferdinand Marcos. He miraculously survived numerous Japanese assaults while defending the Orion-Bagac Defense Line near the foot of Mount Samat. He was a participant of the Death March and was incarcerated in Capas, Tarlac.

The thought of being branded as Japanese “collaborator” never crossed his mind when he volunteered to take over the post vacated by the late Mayor Batungbacal. Governor Simeon Salonga approved his appointment as nobody else from Balanga wanted the said post.

Quindoy’s reign did not last long. Angered by the wanton killing of many male residents of Sibacan and

the knowledge of the American landing in Leyte on October 20, 1944, he immediately resigned from his position and joined the guerrilla movement. After the war, Captain Quindoy formally joined the Army of the United States (AUS) and was sent to Japan as part of the AUS peacekeeping force. He continued serving the Army until his return to the country.

In 1948, Major Quindoy was assigned in Bataan as commanding officer of the First PC Company in Balanga. In 1955, he took a leave of absence and ran for governor against reelectionist Adelmo Camacho and former Governor Emilio Ma. Naval. His campaign was unsuccessful. It was Naval who won at the polls.

Quindoy ran for mayor during the

November 12, 1963 polls against three other candidates: Mayor Emilio Bernabe, Vicente Malibiran and former Vice Mayor Domingo Javier. It was Malibiran who emerged as the poll winner. After the defeat, Quindoy settled in Davao where he spent the remaining years of his life.

Major Quindoy was married to Consuelo Labog of Abucay and had seven children: Mariano, Zenaida, Rogelio, Salome, Noli, Nicanor and Arthur.





## RAYA, Simeon Sr.



**S**IMEON RAYA SR. was a practicing lawyer from Bagumbayan, Balanga who served as provincial board member of Bataan from January 1, 1948 until December 30, 1951.

Simeon Sr., the son of Alfonso Raya, finished a Bachelor of Laws degree in Manila. He was elected as

board member during the November 11, 1947 local polls, together with Governor-elect EMILIO MA. NAVAL and Board member-elect Dr. Primitivo Lacson of Tortugas, brother of Medina Lacson-de Leon.

Attorney Raya passed away in Manila.

## RAYA, Simeon Jr.



**S**IMEON RASA Y RAYA JR. is a former vice consul at the Philippine Embassy in New York, from

1994 until 1999. He also served as First Secretary of the Philippine Permanent Mission in Poland.

Attorney Raya is the son of Simeon Raya Sr. of Bagumbayan, Balanga, also a lawyer and former board member of Bataan (1948-1951). He holds a Bachelor of Laws degree and at one-time an active member of the IBP-Bataan Chapter.

Raya is currently based in Clifton Court, Martinsburg, West Virginia. He is licensed to practice law in New York and New Jersey since 1989. He maintains a law office at 231 Ege Avenue, Jersey City, NJ and in West Virginia.

## RECANO, Miguel Q.

**M**IGUEL QUINTOS RECANO (1919-1988) was Balanga's vice mayor from 1960 until 1963 under Mayor Emilio C. Bernabe. He was a municipal councilor from 1956 up to 1959.

"Mike" Recano was a native of Barrio Tenejero where he was born on September 8, 1919. His parents were Mariano Recano and Victoria Quintos, a family of modest means. He completed his primary and secondary education from the Balanga Elementary School and the Arellano Memorial (Bataan) High School, respectively. World War II, however, prevented him from pursuing a college education.

He was already involved in

a small-scale logging business when he married the former Imelda Tuazon, also of Tenejero and had seven children: Zenaida, Luisa, Zorayda, Victoria, Mariano, Manuel and Marman. To support a growing family, he started developing the family's homestead in the Guitol forests into an orchard.

It was Atty. Pedro Recano Dizon, a cousin, who persuaded Mike to run for an elective position during the November 8, 1955 local election. He ran for a councilor seat and won at the top of the winning candidates. His good showing during the 1955 polls prompted mayoralty candidate Emilio C. Bernabe to enlist him as runningmate during the November

4, 1959 election. Both of them won and reigned until 1963.

Recano's reelection attempt in 1963, however, was not successful. He lost to erstwhile councilor Angel T. Banzon of Poblacion. Mayor Bernabe also lost to rival Vicente Malibiran. Recano attempted a comeback in 1980 only to lose for the second time against Vice Mayor-elect Herminio Dizon of Puerto Rivas.

On March 19, 1988, Recano was shot dead by unidentified gunmen in his farmhouse in Guitol. The motive of the killing was not determined.



# RESORTS and RESTAURANTS

**B**alanga has a long list of RESORTS AND RESTAURANTS that offer multi-purpose facilities for different activities:

Joyous Resort and Restaurant was established in Barangay Dona Francisca in 1974. It has various facilities, namely Café Isabel Gourmet and Piano Bar, conference rooms, Peninsula ballroom and disco, specialty bar, Koloseo sports bar, Palaisdaan seafoods grill, banquet hall, concert hall, function rooms, swimming pool, picnic huts, fishpond, art gallery, souvenir shop, kiddie playground and spacious parking space.

La Vista Balanga Inland Resort in Barangay Central, Roman Superhighway, has facilities like convention hall, picnic huts and swimming pools,

Lou-is Resort and Restaurants, located along the Capitol Road in Barangay San Jose, offers a well-maintained and fully air-conditioned main dining area that can accommodate 100-200 persons. Its resort area offers a farm house, swimming pools and cottages. Its Grand Ballroom has a 1000 seating capacity and is ideal for big celebration.

Barangay Ibayo has the Bethsaida Resort, owned by former Vice Governor Serafin Q. Roman. Buenavista Resort and Restaurant in Bagong Silang is owned by Dr. Antonio and

Chita Valdecanas.

Barangay Camacho hosts the Forest Garden and Restaurant, a forest-like hideaway complete with a restaurant, cottages and swimming pool. The new Aurora Restaurant is also located in Camacho.

In the restaurant business, San Jose has the most number of such establishments. The list includes Aranice

King, Jollibee Restaurant, Den-Bel's Restaurant, Kitchen Delight, McDonald's Restaurant, Michelle's Bakeshop, and Max's Restaurant.

Other famous restaurants are Arcee's (San Jose, Roman Expressway), Estrella's Eatery (Cupang North), Idios' Pansit Luglog (Cupang Proper), Taglesville's Ihaw-ihaw (Rolly and Erlinda Banzon, San Jose), Razz Bar Grill Restaurant (in front of Penelco-Balanga sub-station), Quinta Resto Bar, Sandok at Palayok, Hillside Garden Mansions (Munting Batangas), Dulang Restaurant, and Henry's Lechon and Restaurant (Dona Francisca).

Balanga's famous restaurants and eateries of yesteryears which are no longer operating include the Queen Restaurant and King's Restaurant (Poblacion, owned

by Jaime dela Fuente), Blue Goose Restaurant (Pablo and Victoria Roman), Driver's Canteen (Cita G. Alamil), Plow and Harrow (Alex Dayrit), AlGlo's Restaurant (Alfonso & Gloria Cruz, in front of BCC), Carbel Restaurant (Carolina Beltran), Maning's Restaurant (Ibayo), Patio Concepcion (Abello-Ortiguerra Family), M&M Restaurant (Mely Dizon), Magnolia's Restaurant (Delfin Diuco), D&L Restaurant (Ibayo, Delfin & Letty Rodriguez), and La Ventana (San Jose, Cubacub Family).



## REYES, Maximino de los R.



**M**AXIMINO REYES DE LOS REYES (1887-1923) represented Bataan in Congress from 1916-1919 and 1919-1922. He was only 26 years old when elected as the sixth governor of Bataan, from 1912-1916. He still holds the title of being the youngest governor of Bataan.

Maximino was born in Puerto Rivas, Balanga on June 3, 1887. His parents were Florencio delos Reyes and Pia Reyes. He was married to Doña Rosita Ocampo. They had six children but only two are still alive, namely Aurora delos Reyes-Tandoc, a pharmacist who served as vice mayor of San Fabian, Pangasinan and Gloria delos Reyes-Talastas, a former professor at the Philippine Christian College and former dean of the Bataan Educational Institute in Orani.

He was still in college when he made a name for

himself as a literary writer, playwright and poet. His zarzuela plays, "*Pawis ng Dukha*" and "*Dahas ng Pilak*," captured the hearts and minds of the Filipinos for their nationalistic themes. The two scripts were well-received by literary critics. A copy of "*Dahas ng Pilak*" is in the custody of the Division Office library in Balanga.

At age 21, Delos Reyes was heralded as one of the ten greatest writers in the country. He also wrote critical columns for the *La Solidaridad*, the newspaper founded by Marcelo H. del Pilar. In 1910, he was arrested for writing "*Huling Habin*," deemed by American authorities as a subversive article.

Delos Reyes completed a Commerce degree from the Liceo de Manila in 1912. His popularity as a writer easily earned him the title of Bataan governor in 1912. He easily defeated reelectionist Governor Mariano Rosauo, also of Balanga. His board members were Lorenzo dela Fuente of Abucay and Leoncio Espino of Samal.

During his reign at the Capitol, he openly opposed the move initiated by Pampanga legislators to reclaim

Bataan. Instead, he created new barangays in the province to stabilize the financial situation of Bataan. It was also during this period that he pushed for the creation of Limay as a regular town. It was realized on January 1, 1917 by virtue of Executive Order No. 93 issued by American Governor General Francis Burton Harrison.

While serving as governor, he continued his studies and finished his Law degree. He passed the Supreme Court's qualifying examinations on October 4, 1917, during his first year as congressman of Bataan. As legislator, Delos Reyes came to be known as the father of the country's Labor Code. He was also the first Bataño who attempted to write about a book on the history of Bataan. It was Eulogio B. Rodriguez of Orani who succeeded where Delos Reyes failed.

Delos Reyes passed away in 1923. To honor his accomplishments, the only public learning institution in Puerto Rivas was named Maximino delos Reyes Memorial Elementary School.

## ROAD NETWORK

**T**he existing road network in Balanga is adequate, compared to other municipalities in Bataan. Based on the 1998 inventory of roads prepared by the Provincial Planning and Development Office of Bataan, the total aggregate length of roads in the city registered at about 105 kilometers which are vital to people's mobility and the delivery of goods and services to and from the other municipalities and provinces.

The total road network is broken down as follows: 8.71 kilometers, national (Roman Expressway and the Bataan National Road); 32 kilometers, provincial; six kilometers, municipal; and 53 kilometers, barangay. Of

these, 52 kilometers are concreted, 23 kilometers are asphalt-paved, and the rest are gravel roads.

Despite these figures, there is a need to widen and improve existing roads, including the key intersections along the Roman Expressway, specifically in Central, Catanning, San Jose, Tenejero, Camacho and Tuyo. Future development plans will also require additional access to these areas.

The two national roads traversing Balanga are the Bataan (Roman) Expressway, 5.73 kilometers long, and the Bataan National Road, 2.98 kilometers. The total length of the two roads within the municipality is 8.71

kilometers wherein 100 percent is concrete with asphalt overlay.

The barangays that are situated along the Bataan Expressway are Tuyo, Camacho, Tenejero, Munting Batangas, Bagong Silang, San Jose, Catanning, Central and Cupang. Located along the Bataan National Road are Barangays Tuyo, Ibayo, Malabia, Poblacion, Dona Francisca and Bagumbayan.

Majority of the road surface for the provincial roads in the city are concrete, about 80.40 percent of the total, or 25.60 kilometers. The asphalted roads measure about 6.40 kilometers.

## ROAD NETWORK

The municipal roads, measuring six kilometers, are mostly located within the city. Some 53-kilometer barangay roads are distributed evenly in the agricultural areas surrounding the town center barangays. About 40 percent of these roads are made of concrete while the rest have gravel surfaces.

Most of the roads in the city are in good condition and receive regular maintenance.

### ROMAN EXPRESSWAY

The ROMAN EXPRESSWAY traverses Balanga starting from the Abucay-Balanga boundary down to the Balanga-Pilar borderline. The Balanga stretch covers 5.73 kilometers long.

The expressway, presently known as Bataan Highway, was purposely built as a major transport facility for the Bataan Export Processing Zone (BEPZ) in Mariveles. It is a 48-kilometer long highway starting from Palihan, Hermosa to Alas-asin, Mariveles, just before reaching the Mariveles zigzag road.

The project was implemented by President Ferdinand Marcos. Its construction started on April 7, 1973, well within the Martial Law period. It was completed on July 16, 1977.

The fully concrete road has an effective width of 30

meters, although some portions measured up to 60 meters maximum. “Phase One” of the total project covered from Hermosa to Alauli junction in Pilar, to include the Balanga portion. It measured 24 kilometers long and complemented with 14 steel-concrete bridges.

“Phase Two” also measured 24 kilometers but with only 12 bridges.

Two well-known construction companies worked on the said project: Construction Development Corporation of the Philippines (CDCP) owned by a known Marcos crony named Rodolfo Cuenca; and Monark International, owned by Onofre Banzon of Balanga. CDCP accomplished its task in three years and three months. Phase Two was completed by Monark in two years and 11 months.

The Department of Public Highways in Manila



designed and supervised the construction of the P164 million road project. Phase One costs P86 million, while P78 million was spent for Phase Two. The total amount includes the payment for the right-of-way of former agricultural lands. Some of the farmlots were even donated by the owners.

The Bataan’s major thoroughfare was named Roman Expressway in honor of former Congressman Pablo Roman, the acknowledged father of the export processing zone simply known today as the *Bataan Economic Zone*.

## ROMAN, Geronimo



**G**ERONIMO ROMAN of Puerto Rivas was the elected vice mayor of Balanga from 1941 until 1942. He served under Mayor Mariano Herrera of Talisay.

“Emong Paminta” Roman won the vice mayoralty post during the December 10, 1940 local election. He bested a barriomate named Jose N. Gonzales who was vice mayor of Balanga

for four times (1928-1931, 1931-1934, 1934-1937, and 1938-1940).

Just like Mayor Herrera, Roman was not able to complete his four-year term due to the outbreak of World War II on December 8, 1941. He and his family evacuated to Hagonoy, Bulacan in late December 1941. Instead of returning to Balanga after the fall of Bataan, they proceeded to Manila and stayed there during the whole Japanese Occupation.

Although Mayor Herrera was able to return to the municipal hall as mayor after the Liberation, Roman stayed in Manila due to ill health. After his death, he was buried in Puerto Rivas but his remains were later transferred to Manila.

Roman was married to the former Maria Banzon with whom he had two children: Restituto (lawyer, Bar topnotcher) and Ruperto (dentist).



## ROMAN, Leonardo B.



**L**EONARDO BANZON ROMAN (1946- ) was the 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> governor of Bataan. He served from 1986-1988, 1988-1992, 1994-1995, 1995-1998, 1998-2001, and 2001-2004, about 16 years more or less.

“Ding” Roman is the sixth of seven children of the late Dr. Victoria Banzon-Roman of Balanga and former Bataan Congressman Pablo R. Roman of Pilar. He was born on July 9, 1946. He is married to Carmencita Francisco. Happy, Bai, Alex, Kris, J.V., Martin Leonardo and Martina Joaquinne are their children.

Roman completed his elementary and secondary education at the San Juan de Letran College.

He finished his Business Administration course, major in Management, at the St. Joseph College in Pennsylvania, USA. He worked as manager of the family-owned Republic Alcohol Distillery from 1968 to 1972. Thereafter, he became president of the Pana-print Corporation until 1982.

Roman’s initial entry into the political arena was in 1984 when he ran an unsuccessful campaign for the Batasan election against then Assemblyman Antonino Roman Jr. On March 17, 1986, he ascended to power after being appointed by President Cory Aquino as OIC-governor of Bataan. During the January 18, 1988 local polls, he evened up the score with Tony Roman whom he defeated for the gubernatorial position.

During his watch (1988-1992), Roman successfully steered Bataan out of the clout of Communist insurgents who openly sowed terror in many parts of the province. He initiated the construction

of the Bataan *Bulwagan*, Justice Hall, DECS building, Bataan People’s Center, Bataan Cooperative Bank and the provincial jail. He also established day-care centers and senior citizens’ buildings all over the province.

Unfortunately, Roman lost to Enrique T. Garcia Jr. during the 1992 gubernatorial election. The two were involved in a Recall Election held on December 20, 1993. Roman outpolled Garcia by 4,000 votes and served from July 1, 1994 until June 30, 1995. Thereafter, he was elected three more times, in 1995, 1998 and 2001.

In 1999, Roman launched the *Kontra Kalat sa Dagat* coastal clean-up program which became a parallel site project of UNDP and PEMSEA. On the minus side, his administration was marred by some controversies, like the planned construction of a sanitary landfill in Bagac and the delayed payment of salaries of regular and casual employees of the Capitol.

## ROMAN, Pablo Jr.

**P**ABLO BANZON ROMAN JR. (1942- ) was the first barangay official to represent the provincial federation of barangay captains in the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, from 1976 to 1980. He is the eldest son of the late Congressman Pablo R. Roman of Pilar and Dr. Victoria Banzon-Roman of Balanga.

Born in a campsite in Mariveles on April 11, 1942, “Boy” Roman grew up to be a wise and successful businessman. A graduate of Wharton University (USA), he was called on to manage the family’s business ventures. He is currently the president of the Capitol Golf and Country Club in Quezon City.

Roman is married to Malou Roman with whom he has four children: Judy, Ludette, Paula and Phoebe.

Among the Roman siblings, it was Boy who

first attempted to follow the footsteps of his father, Congressman Pablo. In 1976, he ran and was elected barangay captain of Burgos, Pilar. It became his stepping stone to be elected as president of the Federated Association of Barangay Captains (FABC) in Bataan. He served as ex-officio member of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan from 1976 until 1980.

In 1984, he took a leave from his business affairs and managed the campaign of his younger brother, Ding, who ran for the Batasan election against Assemblyman Antonino P. Roman Jr. of Orani. The bid, however, was unsuccessful.

The 1986 People Power gave Ding Roman the opportunity to serve Bataan as OIC governor. During the 1988 local polls, Boy Roman again took the role of kingmaker and managed his brother’s political

career. The gamble paid off as Ding outpolled Tony Roman for the gubernatorial post.

Ding and Boy Roman both ran for office during the 1992 election. Unfortunately, Ding lost to Enrique T. Garcia Jr. while Boy lost in his congressional bid against a newcomer, businessman Dominador Venegas of Orion.

After the defeat, Boy shied away from politics but continued managing Ding’s political career from 1994 until 2007.



## ROMAN, Restituto B.



**R**ESTITUTO BANZON ROMAN, son of a former vice mayor of Balanga, was a Bar topnotcher in 1954.

Attorney Roman was born in Puerto Rivas Ibaba in 1924. His parents were former Balanga Vice Mayor Geronimo Roman and Maria Banzon. After completing his primary education at the Balanga Elementary School, he studied at the Arellano Memorial

Bataan High School where he graduated as an honor student in 1942.

He pursued his college studies after the war and obtained his Bachelor of Laws degree in 1954. He placed third during the 1954 Bar examinations. He went into private practice and was responsible for the founding of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines-Bataan Chapter in 1973. He also served as first president of the 148-strong lawyers' organization from 1973 until 1975.

Attorney Roman made a bid for a congressional

post during the May 11, 1987 elections. He ran under the Liberal Party (Salonga wing) banner against Enrique T. Garcia Jr., Atty. Dante Ilaya, Atty. Wilfrido Dizon, Atty. Vic Banzon, Florencio de Guzman, Virgilio Tordera, Carlos Sarreal and Abraham B. Escalona. It was Garcia who won at the polls.

Prior to his death, Atty. Roman owned and managed the Central Pawnshop Inc. in Andalucia Street, Sampaloc, Manila and the Central Jewelry Inc. at Farmers Plaza, Quezon City.

## ROMAN, Victoria B. M.D.

**V**ICTORIA BANZON - ROMAN (1910-1992) is acknowledged as Balanga's first female doctor, in addition to being the wife of the late Congressman Pablo R. Roman Sr.

Donya Toyang was born in Balanga on July 21, 1910 to parents Dr. Joaquin T. Banzon and Leonarda B. Tuason. She finished her high school education at the Arellano Memorial High School where she met and fell in love with the class president, Pablo Roman of Pilar. She

graduated on top of her class.

Toyang enrolled at the University of the Philippines-Diliman where she completed her degree in Doctor of Medicine. Pablo, meanwhile, finished a Law degree from the same university. The two got married after graduating from college. Mrs. Roman put up a private clinic in Balanga while her husband was employed at the Register of Deeds of Bataan. They had seven children: Lourdes, Lucila, Araceli, Pablo Jr., Victor, Leonardo and Victoria.

The Roman family survived the Japanese Occupation. After the war, they established the Blue Goose

Restaurant and invested in the newly-opened Cine Bataan in Balanga. Thereafter, they settled in Manila and put up more business ventures, such as R&B Rice

Granary, R&B Livestok, R&B Insurance, Towers Assurance Corp., R&B Tube Ice, Allied Chemical Industries, Republic Savings Bank, Roman Super Cinerama, Asiatic Integrated Corp., R&D Realty, R&D Agricultural Corp., and Capitol Hills Golf and Country Club.

Toyang Roman, mother of former Bataan Governor Ding Roman, passed away on November 10, 1992. In 1997, a public high school was put up in Barangay Pantingan, Pilar and was named Dr. Victoria Roman National High School.

### **Pablo Roman Sr.**

Attorney Pablo R. Roman Sr. was born in Pilar on June 22 1907. He ran and won as congressman of Bataan in 1965. The Bataan Export Processing Zone in Mariveles was his brainchild. It was inaugurated in 1969. He was reelected in 1969. He passed away on December 22, 1976.



## ROSARIO, Tomas del T.

**T**OMAS TONGCO DEL ROSARIO (1856-1917) was the second governor of Bataan. His term covered from 1903 until 1905. He succeeded Captain JOHN O. GOULDMAN, the first military governor of the province (1901-1903). In November 1909, Del Rosario was elected as congressman of Bataan.

Don Tomas was born in Binondo, Manila in 1856. He was the only child of Cipriano del Rosario, also from Binondo, who was employed as clerk of court in Balanga. It was here where Cipriano met and married Severina Tongco of Orani. The young Del Rosario grew up in Balanga and in Orani. He only left Bataan when it was time to continue and finish his high school and college studies. He enrolled at the former Ateneo Municipal where he completed his Bachelor's degree in Arts in 1875. He continued his post-graduate studies and finished his Law degree from the University of Santo Tomas.

During this period, Del Rosario settled in Puerto Rivas, Balanga together with his unnamed

wife who was a native of the coastal barrio. His wife passed away on December 22, 1891 and left him a daughter who also died at an early age.

Thereafter, he went to Spain and pursued his Licentiate in Jurisprudence from the Central Universidad de Madrid. While in Spain, he joined the Masonry and the reform group of Filipinos based in Madrid. He also started writing for *El Pabellon*, *Nacional*, *La Igualdad* and *La Revista* newspapers.

He formed a similar reform group in Manila upon his return to the country in 1895. Because of his involvement in the reform movement, he was deported to Africa in 1896 and only allowed by the Spaniards to return after six months of exile.

Del Rosario joined the Philippine Revolutionary Government of General Emilio Aguinaldo in 1898 and served as vice president of the Malolos Congress. During the process of drafting the Malolos Constitution, he, together with Cayetano Arellano and Pablo Tecson of Bulacan stood pat against a provision making Catholicism as the religion of the state. Because of their stand, the Malolos Constitution ultimately recognized the separation of the Church and State. During the American regime, Del Rosario was appointed as member of the "Consejo Superior" of Public Instruction while Cayetano Arellano became the first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court in 1901.



Del Rosario became one of the close advisers of Governor John Gouldman (1901-1903), who also appointed him as deputy governor/board member of Bataan. He finally resigned from the *Consejo Superior* when he was appointed as governor of Bataan in 1903. During his incumbency (1903-1905), he was able to solve the problem of banditry in various parts of Bataan. In 1904, he was appointed as commissioner and head of the Philippine delegation to the 1904 St. Louis Exposition in the United States.

Del Rosario sought an extension of his two-year term which ended in 1905. But he lost in the local polls against Lorenzo Zialcita of Orani. Thereafter, he accepted Cayetano Arellano's offer



## ROSARIO, Tomas del T.

for him to serve as Assistant Attorney General of the Supreme Court.

In addition, he also served as chairman of the 1908 Census initiated by the Bureau of Instruction and Education and chairman of the *Union Agraria de Pilipinas*. During this period, he co-founded the Partido Federal.

During the November 2, 1909 congressional polls, he ran and won as Bataan Representative to the Second Philippine Legislature (*now Congress, 1910-1912*).

He advocated measures on Irrigation

and Natural Resources. He also defended the Referendum Law of 1910. In 1911, he introduced a bill prohibiting women and children from entering cockpit and another bill on the free use of firearms. He also defended the compulsory education in the islands. He was against the divorce law. His term ended in October 1912.

After his stint in Congress, Del Rosario became a member of the nine-man Committee on Rizal Museum which raised P135,195.65 from popular subscription. The amount was used for the construction of a museum and monument of the

national hero, Dr. Jose P. Rizal, in Luneta, Manila. The shrine was unveiled on December 30, 1913.

He passed away on July 14, 1917 and was buried at the Cementerio del Norte.

To honor his good name and accomplishments, a private school in Balanga, now called *Tomas del Rosario College*, was named after him. Two other plazas, in Orani and Binondo (Manila), were both named *Plaza Del Rosario*. The main street of Puerto Rivas was also named after him. Another street in Pilar town was named in his honor. The said street is now a recognized barangay.

## ROSAURO, Mariano T.



MARIANO TIANGCO ROSAURO was the fifth governor of Bataan, from 1910 to 1912. He was also a former Register of Titles of Property of Bataan (1914), Tarlac (1919) and Nueva Ecija (1934), and a former judge of the

Court of First Instance in Pampanga (1931).

Don Mariano, son of former Balanga *maestro municipal* named Antonio Rosauro, was born and raised in Poblacion, Balanga. He was the brother of Rosa Rosauro - Tuason, grandmother of Governor Enrique T. Garcia, Jr. As a lawyer and Registrar of Deeds in Bataan, he became one of the ablest political leaders during the American Occupation. He ran for the congressional post in 1907 but was defeated by Jose Lerma of Pilar (1907-1909).

During the November 2, 1909 polls, Rosauro ran for governor and easily won against re-electionist Governor

Pedro J. Rich of Samal. He made his mark as governor in 1911 when he returned to Balanga its old title of “capital of Bataan.” It was former Governor Lorenzo Zialcita who named Orani as the new provincial capital in 1906 and at the same time transferred the Bataan High School (BHS) to the northern town.

Governor Rosauro, realizing the importance of having a public high school in Balanga, immediately made representations to the Bureau of Instructions and Education in Manila to resolve the BHS issue. Recognizing the governor’s influence, the bureau ordered the return of the high school to Balanga in early 1912. As expected, the residents of Orani, Dinalupihan, Hermosa and Samal protested the bureau’s decision. They brought the issue before the court. It took seven years before the Pampanga-based court finally resolved the case in favor of Balanga.

Rosauro did not stay long at the Capitol to see the

fruits of his labor. Even his successors – Maximino delos Reyes of Balanga (1912-1916), Conrado Lerma of Pilar (1916-1918) and Pedro Rich (1918-1919) -- were not able to implement the court decision. It was Gov. Alberto Aquino (1919-1922) who finally succeeded in returning the BHS back to Balanga. The school was renamed Arellano Memorial High School.

In 1914, Rosauro served as Register of Titles of Property in Bataan, Tarlac and Nueva Ecija. He also served as Judge of the Court of First Instance in Pampanga.

Gov. Rosauro was married to Dona Higinia de Leon and had a son who became a Jesuit priest, Fr. Jose L. Rosauro.

To honor his name and accomplishments as governor, the Municipal Council of Balanga led by then Mayor Pedro R. Dizon named the town plaza of the capital town as “Plaza Rosauro,” as per Municipal Resolution No. 22 dated January 11, 1948.

## SALAZAR, Carlito M.



**C**ARLITO MENDOZA SALAZAR (1951- ) of Barangay Tuyo, City of Balanga, was a board topnotcher in the Chemical Engineering professional regulatory examinations of 1973. He is a former College Dean of the De

La Salle University (DLSU) College of Engineering.

“Charlie” Salazar was born on December 1, 1951. His parents were Dominador Salazar and Leonarda Mendoza. A product of Balanga Elementary School and Tomas Del Rosario Academy (*valedictorian*), he finished his Bachelor’s degree in Chemical Engineering at the University of Santo Tomas as a consistent scholar. He passed the board examinations as second placer in the Top Ten qualifiers. He completed his Master’s and Doctorate

degrees in Australia.

He started as a college professor at the DLSU. After finishing his Doctorate degree, he was promoted to the post of College Dean. During this period, he completed his researches in Energy from Biomass, Prolysis and Gasification of Coal.

In 2006, he resigned from his post and stayed in Australia. He is currently a consultant in a Review Center in Manila.

Dr. Salazar is married to Rosario S. Villanueva and has three children: Rose Faye, Sonia and Karlo.

### *Other college professors*

Another Balanga resident, **Kimberly Cabrera** of Barangay Sibacan, is currently employed as a college professor at DLSU. **Helen Yulo Fernandez-delos Santos** of Tuyo, meanwhile, is a Professor III at the Philippine Normal University in Manila.



## SALAZAR, Guillermo A.

**G**UILLERMO ANTONIO SALAZAR, a native of Barangay Tuyo, was a former director of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA).

Salazar was the son of Jose Salazar and Josefa Antonio. He was married to Buenaventura “Ading” Bascara. They were blessed with six children, namely Perla, Cynthia, Grace, Jose (Pediatrician at UERMM, Manila), Danilo; and Marita, all residing in Manila.

Salazar finished a Law course at the University of the Philippines and the late Senator Jose W. Diokno was one of his classmates. At NEDA, he was involved in the processing of grants to Filipino students for foreign studies. Many Bataños benefitted from these study grants.

Salazar passed away in 1984 and interred at the Eternal Shrine in Balanga.



## SALAZAR, Severino P.



**S**EVERINO DELA PEÑA SALAZAR (1956- ) is an ex-officio member of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan in his capacity as secretary of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Bataan from 1992 up to the present.

Salazar, a lawyer by profession, was born in Tuyo, City of Balanga, on February 23, 1956. His parents were Orestes Antonio Salazar and Romualda B. dela Peña. He completed his primary and secondary education at the Tuyo Elementary School and the Bataan National School

of Arts and Trades, respectively. He studied Law at the Far Eastern University in Manila where he graduated in 1983.

After a short stint as a researcher at the National Science Development Board-National Pollution Control Commission in Manila, he returned to Balanga in 1987 and was employed as assistant provincial board secretary. He became the regular secretary in 1992, during the term of Governor Enrique T. Garcia Jr. (1992-1994). He kept the post during the nine-year reign of Governor Ding Roman (1994-2004) and under Governor Garcia (2004 up to the present).

Atty. Salazar is married to the former Priscilla S. Salamat and has a son, Kevin Charles.

## SANCHEZ, Jesus C.



**J**ESUS CRUZ SANCHEZ (1928- ) served Bataan as member of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan from 1971 to 1977. He started his political career as a municipal councilor of Balanga from 1967 to 1971.

Born in Balanga on December 25, 1928, Jesus Sanchez is the son of the late Antonino E. Sanchez and Eulalia C. Cruz. He was orphaned at age 15 after his parents and 12 other siblings perished during the Japanese Occupation. Raised by several foster parents, he managed to finish his secondary education while employed at the Bataan Provincial Hospital.

In 1952, he was employed at the US Naval Hospital

in Olongapo City and was able to complete a Bachelor of Science in Arts. Through sheer determination, he continued his studies and finished a Law degree at the Harvardian College in Pampanga. He passed the Bar examinations in 1961.

His affiliation with Philamlife Insurance Company starting in 1959, however, prevented him from practicing his Law profession. Instead, he devoted most of his time with the insurance company after he was promoted as regional branch manager covering Bulacan, Pampanga and Bataan.

In 1967, he ran for a councilor's seat in Balanga and was elected on top of the list of the winning candidates, together with Mayor TEODORO CAMACHO III.

In 1971, he was elected as number one board member of Bataan, together with Irene Flores and townmate Atty. CRISOSTOMO BANZON. He was appointed acting vice

governor in April 1976 after Atty. Rufino Navarro, a vocal critic of the Marcos regime, resigned from the post. A year later, Sanchez also resigned from the provincial board to show his indignation to the continued imposition of Martial Law. He even refused the offer of former Governor Efren B. Pascual for him to run for Assemblyman under the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan party in 1978.

Jess joined the St. Peter Life Plan based in Quezon City and the De Luxe Marketing Company in Manila. Later on, he founded the Gospel Outreach Alive, a charismatic movement which is currently based in Bulacan.

Jess was married to the late Lucila Navarro with whom he had 14 children: Divina, Bernadette, Leslie, Elizabeth, Portia Christian, Jura Corazon, Lucille Marie, Febe Socorro, Jesse Cyril, Joseph Nathaniel Ferdinand, John Earl, Mar Anthony, Jeslu Avygail and Jesus Zeus.

## SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD

**T**he SANGGUNIANG PANG-LUNGSOD (SP) is the legislative body of the City of Balanga. It is composed of the City Vice Mayor as the presiding officer, the ten (10) duly-elected city councilors, and two ex-officio members (the president of the city chapter of the Liga ng mga Barangay and the chairman of the Federation of the Sangguniang Kabataan). As of 2007, seven years after Balanga became a component city, the city government still has no sectoral representatives.

As a legislative body, the Sangguniang Panlungsod is mandated to enact ordinances, approve resolutions and appropriate funds for the general welfare of the city and its inhabitants, pursuant to Section 16 of the

R.A. 7160 and Section 22 of the 1991 Local Government Code.

The Balanga SP also reviews all ordinances approved by the sangguniang barangay and execute orders issued by the barangay captain to determine whether these are within the scope of the prescribed powers of the punong barangay and the sanggunian.

The SP members exercise other powers and perform other duties and functions as prescribed by law and/or ordinances.

City Vice Mayor Noel Valdecanas is the current presiding officer of the Sangguniang Panlungsod, from 2007 until 2010.



## SANTIAGO, Luz B.



**L**UZ CORNEJO BERNABE-SANTIAGO (1939- ) put Bataan in the national map after winning the prestigious “*Miss Bulaklak 1957*,” a nationwide popularity contest sponsored by the nationally-circulated *Bulaklak Magazine*.

Thousands of people, including famous movie stars such as Leopoldo Salcedo, Carmen Rosales, and Chiquito, came to Balanga on January 25, 1958 to witness the fabulous parade and coronation of the first Balangueña to win a

national beauty and popularity contest. It was former Senator Rogelio dela Rosa and movie actress Carmen Rosales who crowned the “*Miss Bulaklak*” winner.”

Luz Bernabe was born in Puerto Rivas, Balanga on December 3, 1939. Her parents were Emilio C. Bernabe (Balanga’s 22<sup>nd</sup> Mayor) and Dominga Cornejo-Bernabe. She is the third among the nine Bernabe children.

She completed her Commerce degree from

the University of Santo Tomas and worked briefly in a Federal banking institution in the United States. Her marriage to Leopoldo Santiago, a businessman from Obando, Bulacan, bore three children: James Richard, Christine and Maria Cristina. Luz is currently engaged in managing the family businesses which include the Bersan Marketing and Trading Company, Lucra Marine Products and the L.B. Santiago Insurance, all based in Balanga.

## SANTUARIO Garden and Chapels

**S**ANTUARIO GARDEN AND CHAPELS is the first mortuary in the City of Balanga. It opened on April 16, 2004. It is located in Barangay Talisay, in a one-hectare lot across the premier Eternal Shrine Memorial Park.

The Santuario’s four private chapels, all fully-airconditioned, feature modern facilities and tasteful interiors to help ease the burden of dealing with the loss of a loved one. Highly-trained staff from the St. Joseph Memorial Services of Balanga Inc., an affiliate of the VL Group of Companies, attends to every funeral requirements of the clients.

Ample parking space decorated with lush garden is available inside the one-hectare compound.

As of January 2008, Santuario charges P50,000 for every funeral service. It includes three-night wake service, casket, embalming, pick-up and park interment. An additional fee of P5,000 is added for every 24-hour wake extension. A two-chapel wake service is also



available.

Santuario is not only for the moneyed clients. A non-airconditioned chapel is also available at the rate of P2,500 per night.

Architect Mae Valdecañas-Illiscupides and her sister Dang Valdecañas-Cudiamat jointly

manage the operation and marketing of Santuario.

### ***Second Mortuary***

A second mortuary in the City of Balanga, the St. Peter Chapels, opened in Talisay, beside the Eternal Shrine Memorial Park in 2007.

## SARILI, Mariano Fr.



**FR. MARIANO NAVARRO SARILI** (1864-1937) was the first forane vicar (*vicario forane*) of Balanga. He was a man who during his lifetime had shown an exemplary character worthy of veneration both by the young and the old generations.

Fr. Sarili was born in Cupang on October 22, 1864.

He grew up as an altar boy and at age 16 was sent to a seminary in Pampanga to study priesthood. Don Inocencio Honorio and Don Jose de Leon, two Secular (Filipino) priests who were assigned in Balanga in 1878, persuaded him to become a clergyperson. The two Secular priests and Dona Juana Tuason of Balanga financed his studies.

Sarili was ordained as a Secular priest in 1890. However, he never had the opportunity to be assigned as

regular priest in any Dominican-ran parish in Bataan. Fr. Sarili got his first assignment as parish priest of the St. John Church in Dinalupihan from 1896 until 1898.

After the rebels' takeover of Balanga from the Spaniards, Fr. Sarili was designated as parish priest of the St. Joseph Church in 1899, as replacement of the two Spanish priests who were taken prisoners by the local rebels and sent to Cavite. Fr. Sarili was the first Balanga native to administer religious services to his townmates.

It was Fr. Sarili who recommended to Governor John Gouldman to appoint Tomas Banzon Gallardo, a former *directorcillo* of Balanga (the one who keeps records and correspondents of the municipal mayor, the equivalent of today's municipal secretary), as *presidente actual* of the capital town starting in 1901.

Fr. Sarili had been responsible for the education of many poor but talented children of Balanga. Dr. Gonzalo Austria, Jose Jimenez (TRA principal) and the other scholars of Fr. Sarili became successful and outstanding professionals.

Fr. Sarili passed away on January 12, 1937.

To honor Fr. Mariano Sarili's name, honesty, charity and philanthropic deeds, the Parents and Teachers Association of Cupang Elementary School installed a bust monument of Fr. Sarili in front of the barrio school on March 28, 1955 to inspire and emulate his good virtues. Through the initiative of Fr. Hernando Guanzon, the said bust was relocated and erected in front of Sto. Cristo Church, also in Cupang, on April 18, 1999.

In 2000, the officers and members of the newly-formed Knights of Columbus of Cupang named their organization as Fr. Mariano G. Sarili Council No. 11931.

### *Fr. Sarili's Scholars*

*Fr. Mariano Sarili's scholars include Jose R. Jimenez who became the first principal of the Tomas del Rosario Academy; Dr. Gonzalo Austria (who became the personal physician of three Philippine Presidents: Manuel L. Quezon, Manuel Roxas and Elpidio Quirino), Alfredo Guevarra and Jose Manalaotao.*

## SEAL of Balanga

**T**he SEAL OF BALANGA is the official symbol of the capital city. Some important documents of the city government are commonly found on it like official communication letters, government transaction records and other related instruments. An exact and bigger replica of the Balanga Seal is found in front of the city hall.

The present Balanga Seal shows the image of a **clay pot**, locally known as *balanga*, bearing two simple drawings which represent the two major industries of Balanga residents. On the left is the drawing of a **rice awn**, representing Agriculture. The drawing on the right shows a **fish**, depicting Fishing as the livelihood of the residents living along the shores of Manila Bay.

In the background, the rays of the sun is clearly

discernible, to include the numbers "2000," signifying the year when Balanga officially became a component city.

The words **City of Balanga** and **Bataan** are clearly shown on the seal.

The Seal of Balanga was designed by Milo de Leon of Kaparangan, Orani, who was among the 50 other designers who participated in the Logo Making Contest launched by the local government unit led by former City Mayor Albert S. Garcia in September 2002. De Leon won the P30,000 top prize.

The winning design was adopted as the official Seal of Balanga on December 30, 2002.

### *Old Seals of Balanga*

*There were at least three other insignias that had been adopted*

*as Seal of Balanga from the time it became a regular town in 1714. The first seal was introduced in 1725 and designed by then Balanga parish priest, Fr. Francisco Alonzo (1723-1725). The design was based on the Great Seal of St. Joseph, The Worker with Spanish scribbles on it.*

*The second seal was introduced in 1902 during the administration of Bataan Military Governor John Gouldman.*

*The third seal was adopted in 1950 during the administration of Governor Emilio Ma. Naval and Balanga Mayor Pedro R. Dizon.*





# SCHOOLS

## PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

### BAGONG SILANG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The BAGONG SILANG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL is one of the fastest growing public learning institutions in the City of Balanga. It opened as a primary school in June 1983, five years before Bagong Silang was officially recognized as a regular barangay.

It was former Mayor TEDDY R. ALONZO who came up with a working plan to establish a three-classroom primary school in the former cogonal area where informal dwellers (squatters) of Balanga and EMs Barrio were relocated in the early 1980s. The initial building was erected in a 1,500 square-meter lot appropriated by the local government unit.

Priscilla Ramirez was the first teacher-in-charge of the school in 1983. During the administration of Ruben Diverson (1983-1990), the school was adjudged as the

frontrunner in the “Dalaw-Paaralan” program for three consecutive years despite having only three regular teachers.

The population of Bagong Silang grew rapidly in the next ten years. It was former Mayor MELANIO BANZON, JR. (1988-1998) who addressed the educational concern of the children of the barangay by building additional classrooms in the area.

Teresita Q. Nisay was the first regular school principal in Bagong Silang in 1996. During her term, the school held its first graduation rites.

From the original 30 Grade I pupils in 1983, the school registered a total enrollment of 438 during the SY 2006-2007. There are 12 classrooms in Bagong Silang at present.



Mrs. Jovita Singzon, the current principal, and 13 regular teachers (including one pre-elementary teacher) attend to the educational needs of the school children.

### BALANGA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

THE BALANGA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL is the biggest public learning institution in the City of Balanga and is regarded as the premier school in the Division because it is a consistent awardee of various academic excellence in both regional and national levels such as Best Implementer of Project ESEM (Effective School in Elem. Mathematics), Project ISIP (Improving Science Instruction Program), and Project BEAM (Banking Educational and Allied Materials), all in the Regional Level and was adjudged as the Best Implementer of Brigada Eskwela in the National Level in SY 2007-2008.

BES is the center of different activities like

seminars, training / workshops, academics contest and also caters to social, cultural and sports development.

It is located in the Talisay-Bagumbayan area, at the corner of Talisay Road and Basa Street.

It was on record that there was no formal educational system in Bataan during the Spanish period. The first primary school in Balanga, actually a parochial learning center, was

established inside the St. Joseph Church in 1870 and ran by Spanish missionaries. It was said to be one of the 23 operating parochial schools in various towns and barrios in Bataan.

During the administration of Fr. Vicente Fernandez (1892-1898), the Balanga parochial school was said to be located at the basement of the St. Joseph convent, at the back of the so-called Spanish cuartel (garrison).

The coming of the Americans in Balanga and the hostilities (Filipino-American War) that followed thereafter, somehow, alarmed the parents of children studying at the parochial school. The parents pleaded with the Church authorities to



## SCHOOLS BALANGA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

build another school away from the church area. Their request unfortunately was denied.

In 1901, Mayor Tomas Gallardo Banzon (1901-1903, 1903-1905) seized the opportunity to be popular among his constituents. Supported by the newly-appointed military governor of Bataan, Captain John O. Gouldman, Mayor Banzon ordered the construction of the first four-classroom schoolbuilding in Talisay, some 600 meters away from the town plaza. The wooden building became known as the Balanga Primary School. A year later, Governor Gouldman inaugurated the intermediate school near the town plaza, at the back of the US Army barracks (presently occupied by Balanga Arcade.)

In 1903, when the primary school's population went beyond the 200 mark, newly-elected Governor Tomas del Rosario (1903-1905) ordered the construction of an additional semi-concrete four-classroom building in Talisay, at the back

of the first building. From that time on, the school became a regular elementary school.

Meanwhile, the intermediate school was converted into a regular secondary school and became known as BATAAN HIGH SCHOOL. But the said school was ordered closed in 1906 by Governor Lorenzo Zialcita who opened a new high school campus in his hometown in Orani. The Bataan High School remained in Orani until 1920 even though the court had already ordered the return of the Bataan High School to Balanga in 1919. It was newly-elected Governor Alberto Aquino who implemented the said order upon his assumption of office in 1920.

In 1912, Balanga Elementary School became one of the beneficiaries of the so-called Gabaldon school building program. The said building continues to serve its purpose up to the present.

All classes at the Balanga Elementary School

## PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

temporarily stopped in December 1941 as a result of the Japanese invasion. It was converted into a military garrison by the new colonizers. The Japanese even tried to torch some buildings in Talisay as the Liberation forces entered Bataan. Classes resumed immediately after the war.

Through the years, the Balanga Elementary School expanded as new school buildings were built inside the campus. It became the biggest public learning institution in Bataan.

In 2003, the back portion of Balanga Elementary School became the site of the newly created City Schools Division. The new division topped all other divisions in the Philippines in the 2007-2008 National Achievement Test for Grade VI pupils.

Dr. Lilia Santiago, the division superintendent, said Balanga got an overall average score of 84.16, followed by Northern Samar and Ormoc City.

## CABOG-CABOG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The CABOG-CABOG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL officially opened as a primary school in June 1957, at about the same time its close neighbor Pantingan (a barangay of Pilar) also had its own primary school. The Cabog-Cabog school opened during the administration of former Mayor Pedro R. Dizon (1956-1959).

Mrs. Gumoz was the first teacher in Cabog-Cabog. She held multi-grade inside the initial one-classroom school.

The idea of a school in Cabog-Cabog was conceived as early as in 1954 when the Balanga municipal council led by then Mayor Faustino Vigo (1952-1955) requested President Ramon Magsaysay to allot the 2-1/2 hectares of public land in the area for the use of the proposed Cabog-Cabog



barrio school. It was not known whether the request was granted or not. At present, the school sits on a lot measuring 8,786 square meters.

The school was completed in 1981 with Ricardo R. Pascual as its first head teacher.

The Cabog-Cabog school currently has one principal/teachers room and seven classrooms. The student population continues to grow every year. The highest tally, 274 pupils, was registered during the SY 2008-2009. With eight teachers presently assigned in Cabog-Cabog, the teacher-pupil ratio was placed at 1:40.

Cabog-cabog ES ranked first in Balanga in the National Achievement Test during the SY 2004-2005. It placed sixth during the SY 2006-2007. During the 2006 and 2007 Math Challenge, the school placed third in the division oral competition.

# SCHOOLS

## PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

### CATANING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The CATANING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL is the only public school in Balanga that was built outside the present territorial jurisdiction of the barangay. The school, in fact, is located in Barangay San Jose, along Quirino Street. But the fact remains that before San Jose was created as a regular barangay on February 29, 1960, the said area being occupied by the school was a part of the old Cataning.

It was Mayor Graciano Pastorfide who opened the Cataning Elementary School in 1947 as a primary school. It was a two-classroom building, just enough to fit in a 300 square meter lot initially purchased by the municipal government from the Banzon family. In its initial year of operation, however, only one classroom was used because parents still preferred to send their children to study at the Balanga Elementary School. Even the first hanging bridge that was installed across the Cataning River did not help in enticing the children to study at the newly-established school.

The late Mrs. Natividad D. Pasco was the first teacher

in Cataning.

The school had the opportunity to expand starting in 1951 after the heirs of former Mayor Andres de Leon donated the adjoining one-half hectare of Lot 1082 for its use. Although the donation had a condition that the school should be named Andres de Leon Memorial Elementary School, the said provision was not really enforced.

It was on record that Senator Manuel Briones appropriated some P15,000 from his pork barrel for the construction of another building for the school in 1957. Cataning finally became a complete school in 1962, during the administration of Mayor Emilio Bernabe. Religio Sevilla was the first teacher-in-charge in 1966.

The initial number of pupils in Cataning in 1947 was placed at 30. The population was registered at 1,075 during the SY 2000-2001. It went up to 1,261 pupils during the SY 2006-2007.



Mrs. Amelia T. Inieto is the current principal in Cataning. She supervises the 33 regular teachers and four utility workers assigned at the school.

Former Pilar Mayor Carlos Pizarro Jr., former Mayor Rolando Tigas of Samal, Dr. Wilhelmina Cuico of Shoe Mart, Mr. Rodolfo H. de Mesa, City Administrator of Balanga and Dr. Roberto Lucas are just some of those who completed their elementary education in Cataning.

### BARRIO CENTRAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

BARRIO CENTRAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL is the official name of the public learning center in Barangay Central, Balanga City. It caters to the educational needs of the children of the barangay and those residing in nearby Sitio Maluya, who in the past had to walk great distances in order to attend classes in Cupang Elementary School.

The school opened in June 1966-1967, during the administration of former Mayor Emilio C. Bernabe, an elementary teacher by profession. It started as a primary school offering classes for Grades I and II pupils only. It became a complete school in June 1988 through the initiative of erstwhile Mayor Celso V. Valdecañas.

City Mayor Albert S. Garcia added new classrooms to the school starting in 2000. The school currently maintains 13 classrooms and a teaching staff of 13, including the principal, Mrs. Agnes O. Magdalera.

From the initial 60 pupils during its opening school year, the total student population had burgeoned through the years. For the School Year 2006-2007, the number of pupils was registered at 490, the highest tally in its 36 years of existence.

The school occupies a land area of 2,527 square meters, situated at the very center of the former Bataan Sugar Central. It is accessible via the Naval Extension (Cupang-Central) Road.



# SCHOOLS

## PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

### CUPANG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Governor Alberto Aquino. It is located on the western side of the Marcelo H. del Pilar Street and serves the children of Cupang Proper, Cupang North and Cupang West.

From the initial 600 square meter lot donated by the heirs of Fr. Mariano Sarili, the school currently occupies an area of 10,993 square meters. The school started out as a three-classroom primary school. The earliest teachers were Jose de Leon, Consuelo Rueda and Adela de Leon. Pre-war pupils wanting to finish their elementary education had to enroll at the Balanga Elementary School.

The school was temporarily closed during the Japanese Occupation. Through the aid of the War Damage Commission and the US Army Construction Corps, CES was repaired and expanded into a complete elementary school when it reopened in 1946. The first graduation ceremony in Cupang was held in April 1948.

The school currently maintains 18 academic and vocational buildings, equivalent to 34 classrooms. It has a concrete stage, aviary, garden, water pond, and an open playground.

During the School Year 2006-2007, the number of pupils was tallied at 1,465, excluding the 50 day-care kindergarten children. Its highest population tally was registered during the SY 2005-2006 at 1,522 pupils. The children's needs are being attended to by one principal, 40 regular teachers, pre-elem teachers and three utility workers.

Cupang Elementary School is one of the best public schools in Balanga. It has received several recognitions from the provincial and regional offices of the Department of Education. It was adjudged as the "Most Effective School," Non-Central Category, in the Philippines for the SY 1996-1997.

**C**UPANG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (CES) is one of the major public learning centers in the City of Balanga. It was initially established as a primary school in 1921, during the administration of former Mayor Venancio Banzon and

### GL DAVID MEMORIAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**T**he GENEROSA L. DAVID MEMORIAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL is the public learning center serving the educational needs of the children of Sitio Pag-ibig and the neighboring communities in Upper Tuyo, City of Balanga. It was named after Generosa de Leon David married to Rafael Tuason David whose heirs donated the 2,214 square meter lot used as school site.

Inaugurated in 1993, during the administration of former Mayor Melanio S. Banzon Jr., it is still considered the latest addition to the long list of public elementary schools operating in the city. It started as a two-classroom primary school and became a complete learning institution during the SY 2002-2003. The members of the first graduating class of GL David

ES are currently in fourth year high school.

Alfredo Navarro was the school's first principal (1993-1995).

The school currently maintains eight classrooms, one of which is being utilized by pre-elementary pupils. The teaching force is composed of one principal, Mrs. Zenaida C. San Pedro, eight regular teachers and one utility worker.

The school registered a total population of 255 for the SY 2006-2007, a big increase compared to its 82 pupils during the SY 2000-2001.



# SCHOOLS

## PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

### M. DELOS REYES MEMORIAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



The M. DELOS REYES MEMORIAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, also known as Puerto Rivas Elementary School, was named after former Bataan governor and congressman MAXIMINO DELOS REYES. It is the only public learning institution serving the children of Puerto Rivas Ibaba, Puerto Rivas Itaas and Puerto Rivas Lote.

It opened as a primary school offering Grades I to III in 1921 during the administration of M. Delos Reyes as Bataan congressman (1916-1919 and 1919-1922). The school was located beside the Immaculate Conception Church. It remained a primary school up to the time World War II broke out.

The school was damaged and temporarily closed during the Japanese Occupation. It reopened in 1945 in its present site, at the entrance of Puerto Rivas Itaas. It was officially

recognized as a complete barrio school in June 1948 through the initiative of former Mayor Pedro R. Dizon, a native of Puerto Rivas. Two of the earliest known teachers in Puerto Rivas were Nonilon C. Magajes (1945-1950) and Corazon Q. Pizarro (1950-1952).

The present school occupies an area of 9,843 square meters. It maintains 23 classrooms and a teaching force of 18 and four utility workers.

For the School Year 2006-2007, M. Delos Reyes Elementary School registered a total of 715 grade school pupils.

The school has an annex located in Puerto Rivas Ibaba, which opened in June 2003, with an enrolment of 30 pupils for Grade 1 only. It was in 2004-2005 when Grade II was opened and Grade III was opened during SY 2006-2007 where the enrollment population was placed at 91. All these were during the administration of former City Mayor Albert S. Garcia.

It was in the SY 2008-2009 when Grade IV was established with the total enrolment of 134. Additional classroom for Grade V was opened this 2010-2011. This was

made possible through the effort of Honorable Mayor Jose Enrique S. Garcia III. Currently for this school year 2010-2011, a complete elementary school for MRMES-annex became possible.

Former Bataan Governor Pedro R. Dizon was a product of the M. delos Reyes Elementary School, as well as former Congresswoman Medina Lacson-de Leon, Vice Governor Carolina Beltran, former Mayors Emilio Bernabe and Vicente Malibiran. Former National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales, Dr. Violeta G. Tolentino, the then superintendent of BNSAT; Dr. Primo Gonzales, a well-known dentist; and Atty. Nestor Gonzales, a former NBI Director, studied at the same school.

In addition, prominent and successful men and women in their chosen career who also graduated from the said school were Benigno San Jose, a hospital owner in Cavite; Mr. Romulo Truguerro, former principal and adviser of T. Del Rosario College; Dr. Anita M. De Dios, former principal and supervisor of the Division of the City of Balanga; Dr. Mercedes G. Sanchez, Vice-President for Academic Affairs of the Bataan Peninsula State University (BPSU); Ms. Rosario G. Quesada, former Filipino supervisor Division of Bataan; Engineer Romeo Dilig, contractor and owner of DILGONZ construction; Engineer

Jimmy Bustamante, contractor-owner of La Katrina Village; Engineer Samuel Laus, manager of Uereka Agency; Dr. Alberto Dispo, pediatrician; Dr. Rossana Vichuaco, pediatrician; Dr. Marilou Santiago-Cabanag, OB-Gyne; and Dr. Joey Golding, General Orthopedic.



# SCHOOLS

## PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

### M. P. CUADERNO MEMORIAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The only public school in Sibacan opened officially on October 27, 1964, during the administration of former Mayor Vicente Malibiran (1964-1967). It was then known as the Sibacan Primary School since it offered only two classes on its first year of operation. The first teachers assigned in the barrio were Mrs. Yambao, Conchita Tallorin and Mrs. De Leon.

The school expanded every year and became a complete school in 1970. Ms. Amelia D. Gonzales was the school's first principal.

On July 17, 1978, the Bataan Provincial Board approved the change of the school's name to Miguel P. Cuaderno Sr. Memorial Elementary School in honor of the former governor of the Central Bank of the Philippines who donated the 8,409 square meter lot used as school site.

The school's student population was registered at 252 during the SY 2006-2007, an average of 42 pupils per class. Seven regular teachers, plus the school principal, are assigned in Sibacan at present.

Dr. Rosario Leano-Bugante and Professor Kimberly



Cabrera of De La Salle University are just two of the outstanding alumni of M.P. Cuaderno Memorial Elementary School.

### OUR LADY OF LOURDES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

SCHOOL, was inaugurated as a primary school in 1994, during the administration of former Mayor Melanio S. Banzon Jr. It was a welcome relief for the people of Munting Batangas, especially the parents, who for many years, had to send their children to either Camacho ES or Tenejero ES for their elementary education.

Alyn Fabunan was the first teacher assigned in Munting Batangas in 1994. She attended to the needs of the first 47 pupils who enrolled during the school's first year of operation. She was replaced by two new teachers, Marites Sumandal and Estrelita M. Mendoza, the following year. In 2001, or six

years later, the school became a complete public learning center through the initiative of former City Mayor Albert S. Garcia.

The Our Lady of Lourdes Elementary School is now a nine-classroom institution, two of which are being utilized as principal's room and teachers' room. Eight teachers are currently assigned in Munting Batangas.

The 1,736-square meter campus lot is located inside the Our Lady of Lourdes Subdivision, owned by Engr. Celso V. Valdecañas of the VL Group of Companies.

The school had a total enrollment of 241 during the SY 2006-2007.



The Munting Batangas Elementary School, officially known as OUR LADY OF LOURDES ELEMENTARY

### TANATO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The TANATO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL was established as a primary school in 1963, during the administration of Mayor Emilio C. Bernabe, a former schoolteacher

in Balanga. It became a complete school in 2000 during the term of former City Mayor Albert S. Garcia. At present, Tanato Elementary School has seven teachers and a school principal in the

person of Mrs. Norma Rico.

The enrolment of the school has remained small since the number of people residing in the barangay is relatively low.



# SCHOOLS

## PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS



Officially known as T. CAMACHO SR. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, it was inaugurated as a primary school in 1938, in a property donated by the

## TENEJERO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The TENEJERO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL started out as a three-classroom primary school. It opened in 1954, during the term of Mayor Faustino Vigo (1952-1955). The pioneering teachers of the former Tenejero Barrio School were Jose Jaraba (who became the first teacher-in-charge), Anita Hipolito and Leonor Rueda.

On November 9, 1956, the Tenejero barrio council requested Governor Emilio Ma. Naval to provide a bigger site and additional classrooms for the school. This was immediately remedied when Felix Caragay, a local resident, offered to lease his property (Lot 303) to the school for P20 monthly rental. The said lot was eventually donated to the school. The present land area of the school is placed at 11,833 square meters.

New pre-fabricated school buildings were added

to the school after the lot donation was consummated. In 1962, the Tenejero Elementary School was formally recognized as a complete learning institution. Religio Sevilla was designated as its first principal (1962-1969).

At present, the Tenejero Elementary School is the fifth largest public school in Balanga with 24 classrooms. Student population was registered at 900 pupils during the SY 1995-1996. The number of pupils hit the 920 mark in 2006. The school was adjudged as one of the “Best Performing Schools” by the City of Balanga Schools Division during the same year.

## T. CAMACHO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Camacho family of Balanga. The initial four-classroom building was purposely built to serve the children of farm workers and Army soldiers assigned at the pre-war Cadre training center established in the area four years earlier.

The school remained a primary school for many years and was placed under the supervision of the Balanga Elementary School. Children of Camacho who had the means to finish their primary education enrolled at Balanga ES since the nearby Tenejero ES only started offering Grades V and VI classes in 1962.

Camacho Elementary School became a complete

learning institution in 1981, some 12 years after Sitio Cadre was officially recognized as Barrio Camacho. It was former Mayor TEODORO R. ALONZO (1980-1986) who took the lead in completing the said school. It was also the time when the school was officially named after Teodoro Camacho Sr., former Bataan congressman (1928-1931, 1935-1938, 1938-1941) and governor (1945-1946).

The school sits on a 3,923 square meter lot located on the southern side of the Tenejero-Camacho Barangay Road. It has 17 classrooms, including the principal's office. Fifteen regular teachers are currently assigned in Camacho. The student population hit the highest mark in SY 2006-2007 with a total of 509 pupils.



The school currently maintains a staff of 27 regular teachers, including Dr. Bernadette G. Paraiso, the principal, and three utility workers.

# SCHOOLS

## PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

### TORTUGAS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



The TORTUGAS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL started serving the children of Tortugas in 1935. It was made possible after Baldomero Gonzales, former cabeza de barangay of Puerto Rivas, donated the lot measuring 5,111 square meters for the use

of the proposed primary school in the barrio. Former Balanga Mayor Mariano Batungbacal initiated the construction of the said school.

Emilio C. Bernabe (Balanga mayor, 1960-1963) had his first teaching assignment in Tortugas after graduating from the National Teachers College. He held multi-classes during his solitary stay in Tortugas. He was also the school's first

teacher-in-charge (acting principal) after two more teachers -- Macaria Reyes and Remedios Yambao -- were assigned in Tortugas.

Just like the M. delos Reyes Memorial Elementary School, the Tortugas Primary School also

reopened after the war. Its category as a primary school however continued for the next 20 years. Children of Tortugas continued enrolling at the M. delos Reyes ES to complete their elementary education. It was only in 1966 when the school became an elementary school. It was initially placed under the supervision of a teacher in-charge, Josefina Laus.

The growth of the student population in Tortugas rose steadily through the years. It passed the 330 mark starting in SY 2000-2001. The school presently maintains a two-storey building of 10 classrooms. Eight regular teachers, plus three administrative personnel and utility workers comprise the school staff. The present principal is Mrs. Jennifer G. de Guzman.

### TUYO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The TUYO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL is one of the two public learning centers in Barangay Tuyo. The other one is the Generosa L. David Memorial Elementary School located in Sitio Pag-ibig, Upper Tuyo, near the Roman Expressway.

Records have it that the Tuyo ES opened as a primary school in 1932. Two classrooms were initially installed in an agricultural lot measuring about 5,000 square meters. The school expanded gradually and it took nearly 38 years before it became a complete barrio school in 1970. Mrs. Ledilla M. Vergara was its first principal (1970-1974).

Former Governor Pedro R. Dizon and

Balanga Mayor Vicente Malibiran were credited for completing the Tuyo ES.

During the past six school years, the student population ranged from 352 to 365. School Year 2004-2005 registered the highest enrollment at 367.

In 2005, Tuyo ES was able to organize its drum and lyre marching band. It also became the recipient of the Local Government Finance and Development (LOGOFIND) School Building Project in 2007.

As of 2008, Tuyo ES maintains 12



classrooms. Ms. Ellen C. Macaraeg, the current principal, and 11 regular teachers and two utility workers are assigned in the barangay school.



## BATAAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

The first public high school in the province opened in Balanga in 1901. The school was initially called the BATAAN HIGH SCHOOL. Initial classes were held at the back of former US Army barracks, inside the soldiers' messhall which were converted into two adjoining classrooms.

Governor John O. Gouldman (1901-1903) ordered the opening of the school to ease the burden on the part of the parents who sent their children to Manila for their high school education. For three years, however, the number of students never exceeded the 50 mark.

When Lorenzo Zialcita, former commandant of General Emilio Aguinaldo's Cavalry Corps, became governor in 1906, he immediately named Orani, his hometown, as the new capital of Bataan. He also suspended the operation of the existing high school in Balanga and opened a new campus in Orani. He used a portion of the old Trecenia building as classrooms. To finance the operation of the said high school in Orani, he solicited voluntary contributions from the different municipalities. Thus, the Bataan High School remained in Orani during his two-year administration (1906-1908).

Lawyer Pedro Rich of Calaguiman, Samal defeated Zialcita during the 1908 local polls. Residents of the southern towns, specifically Balanga, also contributed to Governor Rich's victory. He, however, failed in his election promise to transfer the Capitol and the Bataan High School back to Balanga. Just like Zialcita, Rich held office in Orani during his incumbency (1908-1911). He also allowed the continuous operation of the Bataan High School in Orani.

It was a Balanga native, newly-elected Governor

MARIANO ROSAURO (1911-1914), who returned to Balanga its former title as provincial capital of Bataan. He also worked for the relocation of the Bataan High School to its former site. In fact, he already ordered the construction of a concrete school building at the same site formerly occupied by the US Army. He also made representation to the Director of Education in Manila for the immediate transfer of the



high school. His request was approved in early 1912,

As expected, residents of Orani and the neighboring northern towns protested against the school's transfer. They even filed a case in court which delayed the relocation of the school to Balanga.

Congressman MAXIMINO DELOS REYES (1917-1920, 1920-1922) worked for the resolution of the said issue. Before his first term ended in 1920, the court handed

a decision favorable to Balanga. Almost immediately, the municipal council led by Mayor VENANCIO BANZON (1919-1928, 1931-1934) worked for the establishment of a new high school building in Talisay, inside the BALANGA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL grounds. Congressman Delos Reyes, Governor ALBERTO M. AQUINO (1920-1922, 1935-1938) and Mayor Banzon had agreed that the new building in Talisay will accommodate the soon-to-be transferred Bataan High School.

Governor Aquino was the one who implemented the court order at the closing of the School Year 1919-1920. He instructed the principal in Orani, Andres Ranola, to pack up all books, records and equipment for immediate transfer to Balanga. Angry Orani residents tried to block the transfer which nearly resulted to bloodshed if not for the timely arrival of Constabulary soldiers.

The Bataan High School formally reopened in Balanga at the start of the School Year 1920-1921. It was also given a new name: ARELLANO MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL, the word Bataan not yet included. Eighteen students, including those who spent two years of study in Orani, graduated in 1922. The next batch of graduates (1922-1923) was led by Fortunato de Leon, the class valedictorian who became Bataan's congressman (1931-1934) and Executive Secretary

in Malacanang in 1956. Jose Jimenez, the salutatorian, became the first principal of Tomas del Rosario Academy which opened in Balanga in 1950.

Meanwhile, concerned citizens of Orani led by Felisa S. Baens raised funds for the establishment of the Orani High School, supposedly an extension campus of the Bataan High School to avoid the dislocation of students residing in the northern towns. Upon the approval of the Director of

# SCHOOLS

## PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS

### BATAAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Education, the Orani High School opened in 1925 using the same Tercenia building as classrooms. Unfortunately, a big fire razed down nearly three-fourths of Orani, including the Tercenia building and the old town hall, on March 16, 1938. In the absence of a school building, the Orani High School did not reopen after the incident.

Back in Balanga, the provincial government finally decided on building a new campus exclusively for the Bataan High School to ease congestion in Talisay. A new site was selected. It was the vacant lot located near the gate of the old Balanga municipal cemetery (at the back of the present water tank of the Balanga Water District). Formerly used as provincial jail, the site was totally vacated in 1935 after the remaining prisoners were released through presidential pardon.

To erase the stigma of being adjacent to a camposanto

(graveyard), Mayor Venancio Banzon and the municipal council worked for the immediate transfer of the remaining niches inside the said cemetery to the Tenejero Catholic Cemetery). It was the same burial ground that was started by Fr. Vicente Fernandez in 1897 but was not completed. Fr. MARIANO SARILI, assigned as parish priest of Balanga in 1899, completed the Tenejero cemetery later on.

In 1941, the school buildings were razed to the ground as a result of the saturated bombings of Japanese warplanes during the early months of World War II. The school remained closed during the Japanese Occupation. There was no graduation held in the school in 1942, 1943, 1944 and 1945.

It reopened in 1946 with a new name: ARELLANO MEMORIAL (BATAAN) HIGH SCHOOL to differentiate it from the Arellano High School in Manila which was also

named after former Chief Justice Cayetano Arellano. The classrooms were rebuilt through the funds from the War Damage Benefit Program. Hilario Hilario was picked out as its principal. Some of the teachers were Agnes Banzon, Rosario Ramirez, Catalina David and Justo Canare.

In 1950, some quarters tried to rename the school as Bataan High School but it did not materialize. In 1977, however, the name of the school was changed again to BATAAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL (BNHS) after it became a national comprehensive high school.

In 1985, a new campus of the BNHS was built in a six-hectare lot in Upper Tenejero, along the Roman Expressway. The area is now part of Barangay Bagong Silang. The initial three multi-storey buildings were constructed through the Economic Support Fund. Classes started at the new campus in 1986.

### CITY OF BALANGA HIGH SCHOOL (COBHS)

The COBHS is the newest center of quality education in Bataan. It was a joint undertaking of the City of Balanga and the Department of Education and recognized by the Commission on Higher Education. Also called the New Balanga Integrated School, it officially opened to first year high school students in June 2006.

Located in Barangay Talisay, at the back of the Balanga Integrated (Elementary) School, the high school was initiated by City Mayor MELANIO BANZON, JR., the City Council and the Balanga City Schools Division. It was unveiled on July 5, 2006.

Present during the ceremonies were Dr. Dinah F. Mindo, DepEd Regional Director, Schools Division Superintendent Dr. Nora M. Uy, and Mayor Banzon.

The school was primarily established to relieve the parents of their financial concern in sending their children to study at the BATAAN NATIONAL HIGH

SCHOOL (BNHS) in Upper Tenejero (now part of Bagong Silang). Children coming from Sibacan, Puerto Rivas, Tortugas the other neighboring barangays simply walk to the school. Enrollees from Puerto Rivas, Tortugas and Cupang save a lot in their transportation fares.

The school becomes an alternative learning center to the over-crowded BNHS. The COBHS also aims to uplift the students of Balanga in basic ICT and vocational technology. At the same time, it was dedicated to the development of the youth for a well-rounded personality and values and skillful in the craft of their choice.

For the School Year 2006-2007, the city school maintained three regular sections of about 100



freshmen. More students enrolled on its second year of operation.

Dr. Alma V. Poblete is the current principal of the City of Balanga High School.

## BATAAN PENINSULA STATE UNIVERSITY FORMERLY BATAAN NATIONAL SCHOOL OF ARTS AND TRADES

The BATAAN NATIONAL SCHOOL OF ARTS AND TRADES (BNSAT) was the first vocational and trade school in Bataan. It was established in 1953 in Balanga, beside the Bataan Capitol building. In 1989, the school was renamed Medina Lacson de Leon National School of Arts and Trades (MLLNSAT) in honor of its founder.

In February 1998, BNSAT was converted into Bataan Polytechnic State College (BPSC) through Republic Act 8562 sponsored by former Congressman of the Second District Enrique T. Garcia Jr. Since then, it became the main campus of the Bataan Peninsula State University (BPSU).

It was then Congressman Bonifacio Camacho of Abucay who in April 1949 envisioned the establishment of a vocational trade school in Cupang, at the site of the old Bataan Sugar Central. Before his term ended in December 1949, he was able to start the construction of the first 3-classroom schoolbuilding for the proposed trade school in Tenejero, beside the Bataan Capitol which was already nearing completion at that time.

Two new buildings were added to the school in 1951 through the pork barrel funds of Congresswoman Medina Lacson de Leon. She also allotted P100,000.00 for the purchase of equipment and materials needed by the school.

On December 27, 1952, Congresswoman Medina Lacson-de Leon filed a bill nationalizing the existing trade school in Balanga to be known as the National Trade School of Bataan. On June 1, 1953, House Bill 3496, nationalizing the Bataan trade school, was



approved by Congress. It also got a new name: Bataan National School of Arts and Trades.

BNSAT formally opened as a complete vocational and trade high school in Balanga in 1953. It competed for student enrollment against the already-established Arellano Memorial (Bataan) High School and Tomas

del Rosario Academy (established in 1950). On October 1, 1953, BNSAT called on qualified and deserving students, as well as out-of-school youths, to take short vocational courses in welding and other trades for free.

In February 1998, BNSAT became the main campus of the newly-nationalized Bataan Polytechnic

# SCHOOLS

## STATE COLLEGE

State College (BPSC). In 2002, BNSAT started the phase-out of its high school department to give way to the increasing student population of the BPSC.

Republic Act 9403 converted it into a state university on March 22, 2007 through the combined initiatives of Congressmen Albert S. Garcia and Antonino Roman Jr., Governor Enrique T. Garcia Jr. and Senate President Manuel B. Villar.

The state university has five campuses: BPSU-Bataan National School of Arts and Trades and the BPSU-Bataan Colleges, both in Balanga; BPSU-Abucay (formerly Bataan National Agricultural School/Bataan State College); BPSU-Orani (originally known as the Bataan National School for Filipino Craftsmen and later on Bataan National Polytechnic School); and the BPSU-Dinalupihan (also known as the Bataan Teachers College/Bataan State College).

The BPSU-BNSAT in Tenejero, Balanga serves as the main campus.

The school offers various courses to its college

students, namely Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Nursing, BS in Education, Secondary Education, Psychology, Business Administration, Accountancy, as well as Masters degrees in Nursing, Business Administration, Public Administration, Education (major in: Educational Management, General Science, Language Education/English, Social Science, Filipino, Mathematics) and Doctorate degree in Education.

Short-term courses like 2-year Trade Technology, Certificate of Technology, Associate in Industrial Education, Associate in Industrial Technology, Diploma of Technology, Secretarial, Home Economics and Midwifery are being offered at the BPSU.

BPSU had a student population of 4,259 during the Academic Year 2007-2008. Bachelor of Science in Nursing accounted for the biggest enrollment which is 2,343. Back in 2002, BPSU had a total of about 250 Nursing students only. It is expected that the number will further rise to 3,000 in 2009.

In 2004, Congressman Abet



Garcia and Governor Tet Garcia pushed for the expansion of the Nursing program at BPSU to take advantage of the huge demand for nurses abroad. Many of the nursing students are scholars under the “Iskolar ng Bataan” program initiated by the father-and-son tandem. Congresswoman Herminia Batista Roman also supports a big number of scholars studying at the BPSU.

In June 2007, some 607 Nursing graduates from the university attempted to get their professional license but only 312 passed the Nursing Board Examination. Still, the result placed BPSU’s passing rate of 52 percent, well above the national passing rate of 48 percent. Furthermore, a graduate from the university, Mel Antonette M. Lucero of Balanga, ranked fifth overall as she obtained a rating of 86.80 percent.

During the same year, some 64 BPSU graduates passed other board examinations: Architecture (2); Electrical Engineering (10); Registered Master Electrician (22); Midwifery (16); and Accountancy (2).



## BATAAN HEROES MEMORIAL COLLEGE

Is a private and non-sectarian educational Institution founded by the late Engr. Sesenio S. Rosales and Dr. Laureana S. Rosales in June 1979.

Aiming for academic excellence at having a school at par with the other schools in the country, the couple decided to open a school here in Bataan which is the fifth school they had established in Mindanao and other parts of the country, later to be known as the Capitol System of Schools.

BHMC started operation in school year 1979-1980 with 293 freshmen enrollees in General Engineering, Maritime Education, Commerce, Liberal Arts and Secondary Education. Before the year ended, the ROTC Department was activated as the 526th NROTC unit of the Philippine Navy.

Now, BHMC offers Engineering in different

discipline-Mechanical, Civil, Electronics and Communications, Industrial, Computer and Electrical. It also offers BS Computer Science, Criminology, and Secondary Education Majors in English, Science, Mathematics and Computer Education. Other associate courses are also offered.

Today, despite its still short existence, BHMC is already fast becoming a premier educational institution in Bataan and Central Luzon. It has brought countless young people into "Total Persons" well rounded professionals equipped with knowledge, skills, values and good attitude to become tomorrow's leader.

BHMC is located along Roman Super highway.



## BATAAN MONTESSORI SCHOOL



The BATAAN MONTESSORI SCHOOL (BMS) Incorporated is a school of high academic standards and excellent education. It was inaugurated in Barangay Central, Balanga City in 1996. It is owned by Pablo H. Lucas and wife, the former Nelia Caparas of Cupang Proper.

The school started as a three-classroom building. Fourteen smart kids from various towns in Bataan were the first BMS pre-school enrollees. The student population for the School Year 1997-1998 jumped to 270 after BMS opened its first two levels in grade school. The Casa and Grade School departments earned the government recognition in 1998 and 2001, respectively. At the same time, new facilities were constructed to

accommodate additional enrollees.

BMS had its first 29 elementary graduates in 2002. Ninety (90) pupils graduated in 2007. It has produced a number of Philippine Science High School passers and several Metrobank MTAP Math Challenge winners in 2006, 2007 and 2008. The school is also proud of its "Speak English" program which requires pupils to use English as their medium of communication.

The School Year 2005-2006 saw the birth of the BMS High School department, with two levels to start with. For the School Year 2008-2009, the school registered more than 1,000 pupils and 60 teachers.

# SCHOOLS

## PRIVATE SCHOOLS



The TOMAS DEL ROSARIO COLLEGE (formerly known as Tomas del Rosario Academy) is the first private secondary school established in Balanga. It was inaugurated on June 10, 1950 and has continued serving the educational needs of young people in Bataan.

The idea of setting up a private school in Balanga germinated from Jose Jimenez, an educator from Talisay. He sought out the financial support of people like Damiana

Banzon, Dr. Melanio Banzon Sr., Fr. Pacifico Araullo and Manuel Guevarra who immediately agreed to the idea. They pooled their resources together to put up the school. The other incorporators include Cresencia P. Camacho, Justo Canare, Florentino Simeon, Agnes B. Vea, Maria Manahan, Irene P. Roman, Leonarda B. Cruz, Dominador Banzon and Isabel Banzon.

The school officially opened at a site located along Zulueta Street, which is presently occupied by the Recar Building. The incorporators took the name of the school from TOMAS DEL ROSARIO, former governor and congressman of Bataan and acknowledged as one of the greatest parliamentarians of his time.

The school offered full secondary course in its first year of operation even though there were only about 200 enrollees. There were about 11 fourth year transferees from public schools and these students graduated in 1951. The first graduation rite was held inside the Bataan Theater.

The first teachers include Mr. Jimenez, Vicente Camacho, Dominador Banzon, Asuncion Abad, Isabel Banzon,

Agnes Vea and Salvador Bolivar.

In 1954, the school transferred to its new location in Barangay San Jose, along the newly-completed Capitol Road. In 1957, the school started offering a one-year secretarial course. This was replaced by a two-year secretarial course in 1972.

The TRA came to be known as Tomas del Rosario College in 1972 after opening its grade school department. In 1978, the kindergarten school also opened to the public. On the same year, TRC started offering Bachelor of Science in Commerce which, later on, was replaced by BS in Business Administration, major in Banking and Finance, Management and Accounting.

In 1985, BS in Secondary Education (major in English and Filipino) and BS in Elementary Education were also offered. It was followed by the introduction of BS in Accountancy in 1992. Other new courses were offered by the college thereafter.

In 1995, the school started offering graduate courses, such as Master of Arts in Education and Master's degree in Management.

## ST. JOSEPH COLLEGE

The ST. JOSEPH COLLEGE is the newest college in the City of Balanga. It is located in Sitio Mathay (near the Bahay Puso compound) in Upper Tuyo, Balanga. It is accessible via the Roman Expressway.

Owned by the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Concepcion (SFIC), the college officially opened in June 2006. The main facility of the school is a three-storey building utilized as classrooms, office, library and teachers room.

At the beginning, the school offered classes for

Kindergarten I and II only. The elementary and high school departments were added in 2007.

The college department was inaugurated at the start of the School Year 2008-2009. The first college course offered was Bachelor's degree in Education.

The present population of the school registered at 300 students, more or less.

Sr. Josefina S. Miguel, SFIC, is the head of the Religious Education department.

Balanga Bishop Socrates Villegas is the spiritual director of the St. Joseph College.



# SENIOR CITIZEN



**A** SENIOR CITIZEN is a person who reaches the age of 60. At present, about 20 percent of the total population of the Philippines belongs to the 60 years old and over age bracket. As erderlies, their number still makes them an integral part of the society.

The government, in order to maximize the contribution of senior citizens to nation-building, has come up with the Senior Citizens Act (RA 7432) and the Expanded Senior Citizens Act (RA 9257), two acts granting benefits and privileges to senior citizens.

The privileges include the granting of 20 percent discount from all establishments relative to the utilization of services in hotels and similar lodging establishments, restaurants and recreation centers, and purchase of medicines for the exclusive use or enjoyment of senior citizens, including funeral and burial services for the death of an elderly.

Theaters, concert halls, circuses, concerts and other similar

places of culture, leisures and amusements are also mandated to give 20 percent discount on admission fees of senior citizens, as well as fares for domestic air and sea travel, land transportation including railways and skyways. Senior citizens also enjoy free medical and dental services in all government health facilities.

To fully enjoy these benefits and privileges, senior citizens were obligated to organize themselves into active groups to show their full support to the government program.

In the City of Balanga, for instance, all barangays have organized their respective senior citizens organizations starting in 1992. They have their own social hall or headquarters separate from the office of the barangay council. They regularly elect their own officials who develop and implement programs for the members.

The Office of the Senior Citizens Affair-Balanga is the major organization in the city level. It has 2,006 total registered members.

## OFFICE OF THE SENIOR CITIZEN

City of Balanga

(2008-2010)

OSCA Chairman – Ernesto P. Alba – Catanning

### FEDERATION OFFICERS

President	–	Ramon S. Lamira – Tuyó
Vice President	-	Zenaida B. Samson – Lote, Pto. Rivas
Secretary	-	Rogelio G. Dela Cruz – Tortugas
Treasurer	-	Rosa E. Banzon – Poblacion
Auditor	-	Ernesto V. Mendoza – Catanning
PRO	-	Manuel C. Nueva – Malabia
PRO	-	Edilberto H. Din – Tortugas

### BARANGAY LEVEL PRESIDENTS

Zenaida B. Tallara	-	Bagong Silang
Alexander G. Dizon	-	Cupang Proper
Orlando I. Pinili	-	Tenejero
Leonila M. Mendoza	-	Munting Batangas
Bernardo M. Villanueva	-	Tuyo
Federico G. Ricarpo	-	Bagumbayan
Jose B. Guinarangan	-	Cabog-Cabog
Cirilo G. Sagay	-	Camacho
Martin C. Chavez	-	Central
Bernardo Flores	-	Cupang North
Jovita V. Guila	-	Cupang Proper
Conrado P. Santos	-	Cupang West
David T. Basalo	-	Ibayo
Lida V. Mardo	-	Dangcol
Mariano C. Malibiran	-	Pto. Rivas Ibaba
Anita M. de Dios	-	Pto. Rivas Itaas
Leonardo R. Tirona	-	San Jose
Camilo M. Cabral	-	Sibacan
Reynaldo E. Zabala	-	Talisay
Rita R. Destura	-	Tanato
Pedro P. Yuson, Sr.	-	Tenejero
Angelito M. Nuguid	-	Doña Francisca

## SISON, Henedina B.



**H**ENEDINA SIOSON BANZON-SIOSON of Balanga and Orani runs a school of cake baking and decorating which bears her name. She had the unique experience of producing and hosting a television cooking

show at SBN 21.

Heny is the daughter of Lolita Sison of Orani and the late Arcadio Banzon of Balanga. She graduated from the St. Joseph College in Manila, High School Class 1975 and completed her Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Sciences from the University of the Philippines.

She pursued her love for cake baking and confectionary production in various schools in

the United States, such as the Wilton School in Illinois, L'Academie de Cuisine in Maryland, Maid of Scandinavia in Minnesota, California Culinary Academy, Culinary Institute of America in California, and Draeger's Culinary Center, also in California.

Heny, in addition to being a television host, is currently the Director of Petal Craft International and Cake Art International.

## SUBDIVISIONS

**A**SUBDIVISION is generally a privately-owned housing project within a particular community. The development and marketing of housing projects became a lucrative business starting in the 1960s.

As of June 2008, there were 35 residential subdivisions in Balanga City, all privately-owned. About 80 percent of the 25 barangays in the city has one or two subdivisions within their territorial jurisdiction.

Barangay Tuyo, for instance, has seven operating housing projects, namely Monark Subdivision, Earth Field, Sunshine, Don Pepe, GSIS Village, Sta. Monica, and Nagkamayan.

Tenejero has six subdivisions: San Antonio, Villa Lina, Dona Maria, Santa Maria (at the back of Camp Tolentino), Villa Angelina, and Canyon Ridge (in front of the Bataan National High School).

Cupang Proper has three, Maria Lourdes, St. Anne, Silverland, while Cupang North has the Venzon Subdivision.

Dona Francisca started out as a plushy subdivision in 1966. It was developed by the heirs of Miguel Cuaderno, former Governor of

the Central Bank of the Philippines. Named after Dona Francisca Rey Hipolito Pascual, it was recognized as a regular barangay on May 3, 1982, during the administration of former Mayor Teodoro R. Alonzo. The 10-hectare Eternal Shrine Memorial Park is part of the said subdivision.

Within Dona Francisca, two separate subdivisions called La Katrina and Villa have been developed by Engineer Jimmy Bustamante.

Barangay Malabia has the Dona Francisca Phase One, measuring about three hectares and developed by Don Antonio Araneta. Dona Francisca Phase III is located in Talisay, near the Balanga City High School.

Puerto Rivas Ibaba also expanded when the Villa Carolina Subdivision was established on the northern portion of the Talisay-Puerto Rivas Road. Puerto Rivas Lote, formerly a marshland, also started out as an informal subdivision. It became a regular barangay on May 3, 1982, together with Dona Francisca.

Catanning has two housing projects: Hillcrest and St. Francis

Subdivision while Central has three: Marine1 Subdivision, the Green Meadows (beside the river control system), and another one at the back of Mason Lodge.

San Jose hosts the Taglesville, Virgin Mary Subdivision and the Bataan Homes Subdivision.

Barangay Camacho has two existing subdivisions: St. Rose Subdivision and Simple Living Subdivision while neighboring Munting Batangas has Our Lady of Lourdes Subdivision. Bagong Silang has acquired two housing projects called Vicarville and Buenavista Subdivision, originally within the territorial jurisdiction of Tenejero.

These subdivisions covered 100 hectares, more or less, about 1.60 percent of the total land area of the City of Balanga. It had provided some 1,700 new homes and lots to the residents.

Balanga has two reclaimed areas, in Puerto Rivas Ibaba and Tortugas, which were distributed among landless families of the two coastal barangays.





## SURRENDER SITE



The SURRENDER SITE refers to an specific area located inside the Balanga Elementary School where American Major General Edward P. King Jr. formally signed the formal documents ordering all USAFFE forces fighting in Bataan to surrender peacefully to the Japanese Imperial Army.

The historical event transpired in the afternoon of April 9, 1942, a few hours after the American general surrendered to Col. Motoo Nakayama in Lamao, Limay.

To immortalize the event, Governor Adelmo Camacho (1952-1955) initiated the construction of a concrete marker at the site formerly used as garrison by the Japanese from 1942 until 1945.

The same marker was improved in 1975 by the Rissho Kosei Kai, an association of Buddhist laymen based in Japan, in coordination with the local government unit led by former Mayor Celso V. Valdecanas.

The said concrete marker was replaced by a new monument which was unveiled on April 9, 2006. The monument contained life-size statues of the Japanese officers named Colonel Nakayama and Lt. Kanashiro (a Japanese interpreter) and the four ranking American prisoners such as General Edward King, Colonel Everett C. Williams, Major Wade Cothran and Captain Achilles Tisdelle) who were involved in the surrender signing.

The monument was a tourism-oriented project initiated and funded by

the HAS Club of Balanga represented by then club presidents Mario Magat and Joy Valdecanas-David.

### SURRENDER OF BATAAN

#### *The Way It Really Happened*

General Edward P. King, together with his aides Colonel Everett C. Williams (artillery deputy chief), Major Wade Cothran and Captain Achilles Tisdelle were taken to Balanga Elementary School, then being used as headquarters of Lt. General Masaharu Homma. From Lamao, Limay, the four American officers arrived at the school at 2:30 in the afternoon, April 9, 1942.

General Homma, who was at his headquarters in Balanga at that time, remained in his room and refused to see General King whom he regarded as an inferior military officer. He then asked his aide, Col. Nakayama, and the other members of the Japanese General Staff to interrogate King at the back of the semi-concrete Gabaldon school building, under the shade of the mango trees. The interrogation was fully documented by Japanese newspapermen and photographers.

During the interrogation, Colonel Kichio Uejima of the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment knocked a cigarette from the hand of Captain Tisdelle. Colonel Takeo Imai of the 141<sup>st</sup> Infantry punched Major Cothran on the shoulder and told the American officer to sit up straight.

An interpreter named Lt. Kanashiro tried to obtain from General

King the details about the defenses of Corregidor and the number of men and guns available for its defense.

King told them: "I can give you any information about my own command in Bataan but I am unable to tell you anything about the forces in Corregidor."

After an hour of fruitless interrogation, King and his aides were locked up in a small room inside the Gabaldon building while General Homma and his subordinates -- Gen. Kamerchiro Nagano, Colonels Nakayama, Uejima, Imai, Kyokei Yamamoto (146<sup>th</sup> Infantry), Yunosuke Watanabe (142<sup>nd</sup>), Yosekatsu Uedioka and Karuji Murita -- held a command conference.

Later on, the Americans were called out individually for more questioning. It was also agreed that April 9 shall be the effective date of the surrender even though the actual signing of the surrender documents was rescheduled the following day, April 10.

That same evening of April 9, some 600 Filipino and American soldiers holed up in Mariveles proceeded to Kilometer Post 182, the Headquarters of the Philippine Army (HPA) located at the boundary of the Mariveles-Bagac Road and surrendered to the Japanese Army.

Early at dawn of April 10, the horrors of the Bataan "Death March" began.

On April 12, or after three days of confinement inside the Comand Post of General Homma in Balanga, General Edward King, Colonel Williams, Major Wade and Captain Tisdelle were loaded into military trucks and transported to Capas, Tarlac.

## TANCIONGCO, Erasto D.

**ERASTO DAMITO TANCIONGCO** (1937- ) is the first and only lawyer from Balanga who served as provincial chief prosecutor (fiscal) of Bataan from 1993 until his mandatory retirement in 2002.

Thereafter, he took the opportunity to serve as Municipal Circuit Trial Court (MCTC) judge of Hermosa and Dinalupihan from 2002 until 2007.



Attorney Tanciongco hails from Talisay, City of

Balanga, where he was born on June 22, 1937. He is the son of the late Vicente Tanciongco, a Chinese mestizo, and Asuncion Tuason Damito of Pilar. He had his early education obtained from the Balanga Elementary School and the Arellano Memorial (Bataan) High School. For his college studies, he went to the Manuel L. Quezon University where he graduated with a Bachelor of Law degree.

After passing the Bar examinations, Tanciongco was employed as one of the assistant legal secretaries of the Bataan provincial board. Thereafter, he served as clerk of court of the Agrarian Court based in Talisay at that time. In 1976, he joined the Provincial Prosecutors Office in Bataan as an assistant fiscal, together with Atty. David

Paguio Sr. and Atty. Democrito Perez.

In May 1993, or 17 years after joining the Fiscal's Office, Tanciongco was finally designated as provincial chief prosecutor, succeeding the late Atty. Rustico Mallari of Dinalupihan (provincial fiscal from 1986 until 1993).

Upon reaching the age of 65 on June 22, 2002, Tanciongco retired from his post but took the job of an MCTC judge for Hermosa and Dinalupihan for the next five years. He finally retired from the government service in 2007, at age 70.

Attorney Tanciongco is married to the former Norma Eraes of Puerto Rivas with whom he has five children: Ernesto, Fernando, Gerardo, Irving and Helenet who are all professionals themselves.



## TAXPAYERS' ONE-STOP SHOP

The TAXPAYERS'S ONE-STOP SHOP of the City of Balanga was cited as one of the top "City Best Practices" in the Philippines in 2002. President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, assisted by Tagaytay City Mayor and League of Cities of the Philippines president Francis Tolentino, handed one of the ten LCP Best Practices awards to former City Mayor ALBERT S. GARCIA during the awarding rites held at the Century Park Sheraton Hotel in Manila on July 20, 2002.

The project was formally launched in February 2002 by Mayor Garcia. With the objective of attaining good and effective local governance, the city government established the said shop by housing all taxpayer's service agencies of the city under one roof. It was a unique way of providing the public a simplified system and procedure in transacting business with the city government. It also eliminated corruption-related opportunities, unnecessary inconveniences and bureaucratic red

tape in transacting with city hall employees. Most importantly, it assured speedy, more efficient and effective service delivery.

The services offered by the One-Stop Shop include: **Counter A** - Application/ Issuance of Business/Mayor's Permit, Issuance of Occupational Permit; **Counter B** - Application/ Issuance of Tricycle Franchise, Dropping and Sticker; **Counter C** - Payment of Taxes, Fees and Charges; **Counter D** - Residence Certificate; **Counter E,F,G** - Payment of Real Property Tax; **Counter H** - Public Assistance (Sanitary Permit, Locational Clearance); **Counter I** - Public Assistance (DTI, SSS, Fire Protection); **Counter J** - Registration of Births, Marriages, Death and other Documents; and **Counter K** - Copies of Births, Marriages and Death.

For the past six years, the shop has effectively and efficiently provided the city with considerable increase in revenues.



# THEATERS

A THEATER is a building or outdoor structure primarily used for the performance of plays, movies and similar forms of entertainment. Watching movies was a popular form of entertainment in Balanga since the mid-1930s.

Before the advent of World War II, Balanga already had two movie theaters: *Cine Raya*, owned by Jose Raya, opened in 1935. Its name was changed to Cine Fiesta in the 1970s before it officially closed in 2003; and *Cinema Bituin*, owned by Vicente Reyes, inaugurated in 1940. Both movie houses showed mostly American silent movies. The two theaters were razed to the ground in January 1942 due to Japanese bombings in Balanga.

Cine Bituin was built in a lot currently occupied by the Farmacia Reyes. It never reopened after the war. Cine Raya, on the other hand, reopened after the war.

*Cine Bataan*, located at the back of the present STI College, opened on April 15, 1946. It was owned by a corporation composed of Graciano Pastorfide, Teofilo Sioson, Damiana Banzon, Don Pablo and Victoria

Roman. It was the time when movies already had sounds capability.

*Cine Mila* and *Cine Concepcion*, owned by Jose Bernabe of Puerto Rivas, opened at the present Magikero Billiard Hall in the early 1950s.

Besides Balanga, five other municipalities in Bataan (Abucay, Samal, Orion, Orani and Dinalupihan) had their respective movie theaters immediately after the Liberation

Recar Shopping Mall's *Twin Cinemas* were the first fully-air-conditioned movie houses in Balanga. Owned by Remegio and Carolina Beltran, the theaters opened on October 23, 1981 at the corner of Capitol Road and Zulueta Street. It closed down after 10 years of operation as a result of the emergence of cable television and the videotapes-for-rent.

*Cine Letty*, situated beside the present KFC Restaurant, was inaugurated in 1983. It closed down after 10 years.

*Star Cinema*, another air-conditioned theater and



owned by Atty. Benjamin Cruz of Hermosa, opened along the Bataan National Road in 1984. It also closed down in 2003.

At present, Balanga has two operating movie houses, the *Cinema One* and *Cinema Two* located at the Centre Plaza Mall, owned by Consul Eduardo Guzman of Samal.

# TIBIG, Paulo



TIBIG, PAULO M. – is a young blood in the business world and who started himself from the bottom. He was born in September 2 to parents Felipe Tibig and Ofelia Magtanong.

He lived in his mother's hometown, in Calaguiman, Samal until he was in Grade

I. The family transferred in Balanga when he was in Grade II. It was here in this place where he finished his elementary and secondary education, at the Balanga Elementary School and Bataan National High School,

respectively.

He demonstrated exemplary performance when he was a student, thus, making him participated in regional and national contests in Campus Journalism.

He was a working student when still studying at the Philippine Aeronautical and Technical

### AWARDS AND RECOGNITION:

1. Ten Top Entrepreneurs – 2005
2. Teenpreneur Challenge Winning Mentor – 2007 (Entrepreneur School of Asia)
3. Finalist, Nokia Mobile Entrepreneurs – 2008
4. Dangal Balangueño in Business – 2011

### ASSOCIATION

1. President – *Association of Filipino Franchisers Inc.* (AFFI)
2. President – *Bataan Chamber of Commerce and Industry* (BACCI)
3. Honorary Member – *Young Entrepreneurs Society Worldwide*
4. Director – *Freeport Area of Bataan*

School (PATS) where he took up Airline Business Administration.

He started his career as a lecturer of Sunlight Insurance. With his wife, he ran a Laundry Business and from that followed a big success. They accepted promoting, handling and distributing products. He became known to entrepreneurship and this led him to shine more in “Go Negosyo” as a mentor of Teenpreneur Challenge.

Presently, Paulo is connected to big business enterprises like Sales Promotions Management Company, Transport Services and Business Retail Center Company.

Paulo is married to Abegail Delavin and has three children, Lia Victoria, Jose Felipe and Ma. Theresa.

## TOLENTINO, Violeta G.



**T**OLENTINO, VIOLETA G. Violeta Borja Gonzales-Tolentino is remembered as a young teacher with an award as Distinguished Teacher of the year from the Philippine Normal College (PNC). She was like was an awardee as a NSTA Science Teacher Achiever. As far as her language skills are concerned,

she had a good command of English language. She became well-known when she introduced operettas in grade school graduation rites that made them great and different. To her peers she was considered a blazing star who attended graduate studies committing to be the best that she can be. She completed her Master in Education degree at the PNC in 1976 then sacrificed her Saturday community to Manila by bus to earn her Doctor of Education degree.

Her commitment to excellence has marked her

career of 44 years with great accomplishment and awards. She was assigned in Orani, Dinalupihan, Mariveles and neighboring Pampanga as she got promoted in different positions. She retired from the service in 1997 as Vocational School Superintendent II at the Bataan National Schools of Arts and Trades (now Bataan Peninsula State University). She was also assigned as Superintendent II at the Bataan State College in Dinalupihan, and earlier as Assistant Schools division Superintendent in the Division of Pampanga. Along the way, she had also served at various technical groups. The Department of education, the TESDA the Regional and division Offices, her peers and colleagues recognized her work in educational programs and reforms, in the improvement of secondary schools in Pampanga, and her achievement of TESDA goals for world class middle-level manpower development.

After retiring from government service she was active as a sought-after speaker, consultant, leader, and adviser to socio-civic-religious organizations. The Bataan Polytechnic State College (BPSC) cited

her work in the establishment of BNSAT to BPSC in February 2003 and for making the BPSC-Bulacan State University (BSU) Graduate Studies Consortium a reality for the teachers of Bataan in July 2001. She was also recognized by the Philippine Normal University (PNU) formerly PNC for her outstanding accomplishments in Public Service in April 2007 while the Girl Scouts of the Philippines 9GSP), Parents-Teachers Association (PTA) and other organizations and societies also conferred her different prestigious awards.

Dr. Tolentino has chosen a life vocation bereft of financial rewards and remunerations from her first crack at teaching at Assumption College in far away province of Samar. She has metamorphosed to become a complete educator, a most respected “Gintong Guro” who journeyed for the most part of her life sowing the early seeds of knowledge and character. Former pupils, students and peers whose lives she has touched are forever grateful and shall never tire of saying “Maraming Salamat Po”.

## TORRICO, Crispulo B.

**C**RISPULO BARATA TORRICO (1906-1991) was Balanga’s 19<sup>th</sup> municipal mayor, on an acting capacity, from August to December 1951, a total of five months. He also served as vice mayor from 1948 until 1951, during the administration of Mayor Pedro R. Dizon.

Mayor Torrico was born in Puerto Rivas Ibaba, Balanga on May 30, 1906 to parents Julian Torrico and Anastacia Barata. He graduated from the Bataan High School together with Pablo Roman and Victoria Banzon. He pursued his studies and finished a Bachelor’s degree in Education from the Philippine Normal College in Manila. After graduation, he spent his first years of teaching in

Dinalupihan where he met his future wife, Elena Dizon, also a public school teacher.

Torrico initially served as *teniente del barrio* of Puerto Rivas from 1937 until 1947. He then ran for a councilor position during the November 1947 local polls and won the number one spot, together with the mayoralty winner, Atty. Pedro R. Dizon. Torrico had the opportunity to serve as vice mayor of Balanga from August 22, 1948 until August 1951 after Vice Mayor-elect Silvino dela Fuente resigned from his post for still undetermined reason.

From vice mayor, Torrico became the acting mayor

of Balanga starting in August 1951 until December 30 1951, after Mayor Pedro Dizon resigned early from his post and then launched an early campaign for a board member seat in Bataan. Torrico was succeeded by the duly-elected mayor of Balanga, Atty. Faustino Vigo on January 1, 1952.

Torrico passed away on June 9, 1991.



# TOURISM

The City of Balanga has great TOURISM potentials even though it does not have white sand beaches and significant scenic spots to serve as tourist attractions. Many unique areas of interest, such as the big number of inland resorts and beautiful restaurants, abound in and around the city. They were primarily set up to cater to the local residents and tourists as well.

There are historical tourism sites in Balanga. The Balanga Elementary School, in particular, was the site of the historical surrender of the USAFFE forces in Bataan to the Japanese Army on April 9, 1942. The historical St. Joseph Church in Poblacion was the site of the successful rebellion mounted by General Domingo Alonzo and his Katipuneros against Spanish authorities in May 1898. It is one of the regular destinations during *Visita Iglesia* season.

Cupang Proper, on the other hand, is where the biggest Lenten spectacle (*penitensya*) is held during Good Friday. Tourists, both local and foreign, troop to the barangay to witness local devotees perform their rituals and traditions.

Barangay Central is where the La Vista Resort is located. The man-made resort offers swimming pool facilities, cottages and snack houses, billiard hall and other indoor and outdoor sports facilities. More than half a century ago, Central was the site of the former Bataan Sugar Mill.

Dangcol is a unique haven for wildlife and nature lovers.

Another untapped tourist attraction is the Tortugas Boulevard and Bay Park that can be developed into a wonderful summer getaway. If fully developed, it can easily attract seafood and seashell lovers. Only recently, the barangay, as well as Puerto Rivas and Sibacan have been named by the Department of Tourism as a new birdwatching sites.

The defunct Bataan Freeport in Barangay Camacho was a potential tourism attraction in itself. During its heyday, it could have been opened to out-of-school youth and home



economics students interested in learning the process of garment manufacturing.

There are other man-made attractions in Balanga, like the Joyous Fishpond Resort & Restaurant (located in Dona Francisca), La Conchita Buenavista Resort and Lodge (Bagong Silang), Capitol Hills (San Jose), Vicarville (Bagong Silang), Forest Garden and Restaurant (Camacho), Atienza's Farm (Tenejero), and Rolancor Farm (Cupang). These

establishments cater to local and forest tourists.

Balanga also holds tourism-related activities such as the Tuyo and Banga Festival (April 28) where streetdancing and parade of youth are held; May Flower Festival (Santacruzán); *Semana Santa* (Holy Week Celebration); and the Cityhood anniversary celebration (December 30).

The Rizal Park, actually the city park, serves as a premonade for residents and visitors. The Dona Francisca Park maintains a children's playground, tennis court, skating and biking area, basketball court, chapel and a (Lion's) clubhouse.

The Eternal Shrine Memorial Park in Barangay Talisay is also a crowd drawer, especially during All Saints' Day. The Balanga Sports Ground in Talisay, at the back of the Balanga Elementary School, is a favorite destination among sports enthusiasts. It is one of the regular venues of the Central Luzon Regional Athletic Association sports competition.

Balanga also offers quality hotel and lodging for tourists, such as the Crown Royale Hotel, Elison Hotel, Mount Samat Hotel, Buenavista Restaurant and Lodge, and Hillside Garden Mansions.

A night out in Balanga offers many possibilities. The presence of several establishments with live entertainment, videoke, discos and game rooms, and dining facilities like Jollibee, Chowking, KFC, Joyous Restaurant, Max's Restaurant, Lou-is Restaurant, Greenwich Pizza, J2 Fastfood, Wanam Restaurant, Charo's Restaurant, Chip Chow, Goldilocks, Mamang's Fast Food, McDonald's Restaurant, Mister Donut, Dayrit's Grille and Restaurant, Almer's Canteen, JSG Fastfood, JL Canteen, Karrie's, Sampalukan, Balanga Republic, Master Chef, The Woods and Denbel's Fastfood are more than enough to satisfy tourist and local residents..

Visitors will also enjoy shopping at the Centre Plaza Mall, Bataan Metro Mall, Recar Shopping Mall, and the Naval Commercial Building.

## TRADE and INDUSTRY

Barangays Poblacion and San Jose are currently recognized as growth areas in the City of Balanga. They are also the centers of economic activity.

From 1991 to 1998, Poblacion dominated the Industry Sector with 47.76% share and 31.77% in the Services Sector. Barangay San Jose took second place with 28.60 percent share of the total establishments. Dona Francisca ranked third both in the Industry and Services sectors.

Some barangays situated far from the town center like Cabog-cabog, Tanato and Puerto Rivas Lote have no share on both sectors. Investors are more inclined to put up business specifically inside the growth areas.

As of 1998, there are 2,909 registered business enterprises that are engaged in manufacturing, wholesale

and retail, brokerage, servicing, construction, insurance and financing. A lot of banking establishments also operate in the city.

The trade sector is mostly on the retail trade: groceries and dry good stores. There is sufficient supply of commodities in Balanga and the price is much cheaper compared to the other towns. The service sector, on the other hand, is dominated by the restaurant/eatery section wherein fast-food chains like Jollibee, Cindy's, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Chowking, Greenwich and other big restaurants like Joyous, Lou-is, and J-2 Fastfood.

Other basic services are also operating in the town center, such as medical, dental and optical clinics, general merchandise traders, houseware traders, medical

supply traders, office-school supply, vehicle/parts traders, construction materials, funeral services, lodging services, manpower services, printing services, repair services, transport services, pre-need services, food products, garments, livestock farming, quarrying etc.

Communication facilities are also available, like fax, internet, computer, telephone and newspaper publishing. Balanga also has financial facilities, e.g., bank, lending investor, moneychanger and pawnshops. The city compensates for the lack of support services in other towns.

Small-scale industries, such as *bagoong* and *tinapa*-making, are currently being processed in private households. More often than not, the government is unable to generate much income from such type of industries.

## TUASON, Antonio F. Sr.



ANTONIO F. TUASON SR. (1878-1961) was the third and eighth municipal mayor of Balanga. His administration covered from 1907-1909 and 1928 to 1931. He was married to Victoria Banzon and he was the brother of Don Jose and Maximo Tuason. He is the great grandfather of current Bataan Governor Enrique T. Garcia Jr.

Mayor Tuason was born in Poblacion, Balanga, on November 4, 1878. Scion of a wealthy family, he was a diligent farmer-landlord and well-respected by local farm workers. In addition to having a commanding personality, he was also a certified philanthropist. He once served as *cabeza de barangay* of Poblacion during the later part of the Spanish period.

In 1903, he served as board member of Bataan under Governor Tomas del Rosario. At age 29, Don Antonio was elected as municipal mayor of Balanga. He was the second municipal chief executive to be elected directly by the

people. He succeeded Angel Mendoza, former mayor from Cupang. During his term, he teamed up with several mayors of the southern towns to persuade Governor Pedro Rich to return the Orani-based Bataan High School to Balanga. Their action, however, remained unanswered.

Don Antonio ran for reelection during the November 2, 1909 polls against Amando de Leon and former Mayor Angel Mendoza. It was De Leon who won at the polls and served from 1910 to 1912.

In 1911, Don Antonio ran and won as provincial board member under Governor Mariano Rosaura.

Tuason attempted a political comeback at the mayoralty post of Balanga in 1919, after the birth of his third child, Emiliana. He was matched against a newcomer, Venancio Banzon, for the mayoralty post of Balanga. Banzon won the election but the Tuason camp claimed the poll was mired with irregularities. Mayor Banzon was reelected in 1922. The Tuason family claimed that Don Antonio did not run for mayor that year.

In 1925, the expected rematch between Banzon and Tuason also did not push through. Instead, both camps have agreed that it would be Banzon's last bid at the mayoralty post. Tuason gave way and Banzon was reelected for the

third time.

Tuason finally had the opportunity to run the affairs of Balanga after winning the 1928 local election without any opposition from the Banzon camp. As mayor, he opened the Cataning-Bani Road as a parallel route to Cupang-Maluya Road leading to Bagac. He also made Pilar more accessible by gradually developing the Cupang-Panilao *camino* road (Manalaotao Street). Lastly, he initiated the construction of the Balanga Pumping Station No. I (water tank).

During his incumbency, however, Tuason finally realized that being a mayor was merely for prestige. At the end of his term (1928-1931), Tuason shied away from politics and returned to his old vocation of being a simple farmer.

On the other hand, the Banzon camp claimed that Venancio defeated Tuason during the 1931 local polls.

The succeeding years proved more gratifying for Don Antonio. He became more involved in farming as a result of the opening of the Bataan Sugar Central in Balanga. From rice production, he converted his farmlots into sugarfields. He became one of the mill's biggest suppliers of sugar cane. He also built a *kabyawan* in Central, along the banks of Talisay River. He passed away on June 30, 1961 at age 83.

## TUASON, Jose



**J**OSE TUASON, a lawyer from Poblacion, Balanga, was a gifted musician who composed several songs and verses that go with his music. The most famous among his works was the “*Magtanim ay ‘di biro*” which he composed

in 1900.

Another noted composition was his “*Regina Coeli Letare*”, sung during the *Salubong* ritual every Easter Sunday. He also composed Santacruzian songs which were sung during May festivals. Unfortunately, World War II left no trace of his compositions.

In addition to writing song, Tuazon also wrote and directed a play entitled “*Dahas ng Salapi*” which was well-liked and remembered by the old people of Balanga. A copy of the play is being kept by Mrs. Josefa Valero Anastacio, one of his nieces.

Jose and first wife Maria Cristobal of Navotas, Rizal, had two daughters: Simplicia T. Banzon and Encarnacion T. Valero. His second wife, Rosa Ramos Duria of Lucena City, bore him two sons: Antonio and Ramon. Engracia Banzon, a common-law wife, gave him four children: Rebecca, Maria, Abel and Raquel. He was the maternal grandfather of Leonor Tuason Banzon-Dizon and great grandfather of Ambassador Cesar B. Bautista and Engr. Manuel Banzon Camacho.

## Magtanim ay Di Biro

by Jose Tuason

*Magtanim ay di biro*

*Maghapong nakayuko*

*Hindi na makaupo*

*Ni hindi makatayo*

*Daliri mo’y nangangawit*

*Binti mo’y namamanhid*

*Baywang mo’y namimitig*

*Sa pagkakababad sa tubig.*

## TUASON, Pedro T.

**P**EDRO TIANGCO TUASON (1884-1961), who grew up in Balanga, served the country as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court from 1948 to 1954. He also served as Justice Secretary during the administration of President Ramon Magsaysay (1953-1957).

Justice Tuason, son of Rosa Tiangco, was born in Pilar on September 15, 1884 but spent most of his childhood in Poblacion, Balanga.

He was married to Encarnacion de Leon who owned a big Spanish-style mansion beside the present Balanga Cathedral where they lived during their early marriage. He was a government scholar sent to the United States to study Law. He finished the course at the Georgetown University. Upon

his return to the Philippines, he was immediately appointed as provincial fiscal of Misamis Oriental. Later on, he was assigned as chief prosecutor in Ilocos Sur.

From provincial fiscal, he was promoted as judge of the Court of First Instance in Camarines Sur, then in Quezon Province, and finally in Manila. It was President Manuel L. Quezon who appointed him as Solicitor General in 1936. When the Court of Appeals was established in 1938, he was installed as one of its first justices, a position he held until the end of World War II.

President Manuel Roxas appointed him as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court in 1947. He served until his retirement in 1954. In 1955, he was

picked out by President Ramon Magsaysay to serve as Secretary of Justice, a position he held for four years. Upon retirement, he ran and won as a Quezon City councilor under the ticket of the Citizens League of Good Government. He passed away in 1961 while still in office.

Justice Tuason was married to the former Encarnacion de Leon, sister of Sabino de Leon Sr., the 12<sup>th</sup> governor of Bataan.



# TUYO AND BANGA FESTIVAL



The TUYO AND BANGA FESTIVAL is a yearly festivity being observed on April 28 of each year in conjunction with the celebration of the Feast of Saint Joseph, the city's patron saint. The festival is part of the month-long festivity prepared by the city government, in cooperation with the officials and residents of the 25 barangays comprising Balanga.

The first festival, then known as Banga Festival,

was launched by former City Mayor ALBERT S. GARCIA on April 27, 1999. Later on, the said festival was incorporated into the week-long festivities of the yearly celebration of the cityhood of Balanga.

The 9<sup>th</sup> Tuyo and Banga Festival was celebrated on April 25, 2008. It was highlighted by various activities such as cultural shows, coronation of the *Mutya ng Balanga*, streetdancing competition and "Sayaw Musika

*sa Balanga (SMB) Night*".

The streetdancing competition was participated in by groups representing the 29 barangays, as well as the various socio-civic organizations based in the city.

The festival featured young and energetic performers garbed in colorful costumes while dancing along the major thoroughfares of Balanga. A specially produced musical arrangement was used by the competing streetdancers during the whole affair.

The actual streetdancing competition was held at the city plaza. Each group performed choreographed number before the public. Cupang North was adjudged as the Streetdancing Champions for the year 2008. Cash rewards were awarded to the winning performers. Special prizes were also given to the groups with the most colorful costumes.

The City of Balanga Tourism Council manages the holding of the yearly Tuyo and Banga Festival which highlights the city's most sought-after Filipino delicacy called *tuyo*, known for its crispiness and sharp salty aftertaste. The city is also famous for other processed fish products like *tinapa* (smoked fish) and *bagoong* (shrimp paste).

Bataan has a total of 82 fish processors, 48 of which are based in Balanga, particularly in Puerto Rivas, Tortugas and Sibacan.

The city's fish processing industry won the Department of Trade and Industry's Search for One-town-One-Product in Region III in 2007.





## BALANGA WORLD CLASS UNIVERSITY TOWN

AMA COMPUTER LEARNING CENTER • ASIA-PACIFIC COLLEGE OF ADVANCED STUDIES • BAGONG SILANG ES • BALANGA CITY DAYCARE CENTERS • BALANGA INTEGRATED SCHOOL • BANI ES • BATAAN ACES BATAAN HEROES MEMORIAL COLLEGE • BATAAN INFANT JESUS BATAAN MARITIME INSTITUTE • BATAAN MONTESSORI BATAAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL • BATAAN PENINSULA STATE UNIVERSITY • BO. CENTRAL ES • CABOG-CABOG ES • CATANING ES CUPANG ES • E. BERNABE ES • EASTWOODS PROFESSIONAL COLLEGE OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY • GENEROSA L. DAVID ES • GOOD SHEPHERD ACADEMY OF BATAAN • JIL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL • M. DELOS REYES MEMORIAL ES M.P. CUADERNO SR. MEMORIAL ES • MICROCITY COMPUTER COLLEGE FOUNDATION • MIGNO TRAINING CENTER • OUR LADY OF LOURDES ES PHILIPPINE WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY • REPAS INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JOSEPH COLLEGE OF LANGUAGE • ST. JOSEPH CDC • STI COLLEGE OF BALANGA • ST. JOSEPH'S • TANATO ES • TENEJERO ES TOMAS DEL ROSARIO COLLEGE TORTUGAS ES • TUYO ES

# UNIVERSITY TOWN



TOWN by 2020, a major program of current City Mayor Jose Enrique S. Garcia III. It aims to provide strong academic atmosphere that will ensure sustainable development for the city.

In line with the program, the city government has sought the services of Architect Felino “Jun” Palafox to design the architectural master plan of

Plans are underway to make Balanga City a world-class UNIVERSITY the University Town of Balanga. An area in the city measuring 80.4245 hectares has been identified for the purpose. Structures like campuses, residences of students, pathways, entertainment places for students and other facilities will be incorporated in the master plan.

The identified university town covers Poblacion, San Jose, Ibayo and Tenejero. The four barangays host most of the existing colleges and university currently operating in the city.

The city government under the leadership of Mayor Garcia has started strengthening links with the eight colleges and university already operating

in the city.

Meanwhile, the city government continues to extend scholarship program for the youth. For the School Year 2008-2009, it allocated P10 million for the annual stipend of about 2,000 college scholars under the *Iskolar ng Bayan* program of Governor Tet Garcia and Congressman Abet Garcia. Each scholar receives P10,000 annual stipend.

In addition to numerous laptop computers already distributed to all public schools, the city government also shoulders the PTCA collections of all grade school pupils in the city.

# URBANIZATION

**U**RBANIZATION is the changing of a place into a city-like area.

As of 1990, about 80 percent of the total population of Balanga lives in an urbanized condition. Even residents of upland and rural barangays like Dangcol, Tanato, Cabog-cabog and Munting Batangas had a taste of urban living. They enjoyed the benefits of modern technology like television sets, radio components, personal computers, video games and most importantly, cellphones.

With the presence of numerous educational facilities in every section of the city, both public and

private, everybody is given the opportunity to study and finish at least an elementary education.

Medical and dental health units are also present in every barangay.

Transportation is no longer a major concern among residents of far-flung barangays. Major and minor streets are being serviced daily, 24 hours a day, by public utility vehicles and the ever-increasing motorized tricycles. Gone were the days when carabaos and bicycles were used as modes of transportation for men and farm products. Even night travel is no longer a problem.

Rural folks no longer feel unattached with those

living in the urban centers. In fact, they can watch their favorite movies in air-conditioned theaters in Poblacion together with those living in and around the town center.

Admittedly, they also experienced urban inconveniences or the disadvantages of urban life, *e.g.* traffic congestion, pollution, higher power rates, higher house rents, vandalism and petty crimes.

With the new developments going on in and around Balanga, such as the establishments of new housing communities and the construction of new and better farm-to-market roads, chances are Balanga residents would be 100 percent urbanized in the next 10 years.

# USS BATAAN

**U**SS Bataan is a Wasp Class Amphibious assault ship commissioned in 1997. She is named to honor the defense of the Bataan Peninsula on the Western side of Manila Bay in the Philippines during the early days of United States involvement in World War II.

The USS Bataan was ordered on December 20, 1991 and built by Ingalls Shipbuilding which started on June 22 1994 and launched on March 15, 1996. It was commissioned on September 20, 1997 which carries a motto of "courage, commitment and honor". The size of the ship is 257 meters in length and with a beam of 32 meters. Its speed is 20+ knots with 1,894 marines on board. It has 104 officers and 1,004 enlisted.

The ship's sponsor, Linda Sloan Mundy, wife of former Marine Corps Commandant, Gen. Carl E. Mundy Jr.,

christened this ship "in the name of the United States and in honor of the heroic defenders of Bataan". More than 100 members of veterans groups associated with the defense of Bataan and the subsequent infamous "Death March", the "Battle of Corregidor" and the aircraft carrier USS Bataan were at the christening ceremony. Some government officials handed by the governor and congressman were invited and witnessed the christening ceremony.

At present, USS Bataan is still at great service to the United States in performing humanitarian missions. Bataan, especially Balanga, being its capital, is greatly honored for giving this privilege of naming one of the wasp-class amphibious assault ship of the most powerful country in the world.



# UTILITIES and AMENITIES

Balanga offers various amenities to local residents and tourists. The Peninsula Electric Cooperative (Penelco) supplies electricity to the whole of Balanga, and Bataan, in general. All the 25 barangays in the city are energized.

Telecommunication facilities are made available by the local exchanges of the Philippine Long Distance Company and Digitel. Globe and Smart Telecommunications provide modern telecommunication services through their many cellsites installed in various parts of the peninsula.

The city has its own water district, the Balanga Water District which takes charge of the water supply distribution through a piped system with individual household connections. Some households particularly those situated in the upland areas get their water from natural springs.

Postal and telegraph services are being provided by the Philippine Telegraph and Telephone (PT&T), Radio Communications Philippines Inc. (RCPI), Telefast, DHL,

JRS and LBC.

A total of 20 commercial banks are operating in Balanga, together with 19 hospitals and medical clinics, 32 dental clinics and laboratories, three hotels, two motel/ lodges, 15 full-service restaurants, 66 computer shops, 12 videoke bars, two airconditioned movie houses, five supermarkets/stores, one public market, six inland resorts and 15 recreational facilities such as billiard halls, badminton and tennis courts..

Three of the biggest investments established in Balanga which further spurred the city's progress are the Centre Plaza Mall, Jollibee Restaurant and Greenwich Pizza., all owned by Consul Eduardo Guzman of Samal.

Balanga also boasts of the numerous technical and computer schools with specialization in the

field of information technology, such as STI-Balanga, AMA Computer Learning Center, Asia Pacific Academy, Microcity Computer College, Softnet College, System School, Tomas Del Rosario College and PWU-CDCCEC.





## VALDECAÑAS, Celso V.

**C**ELSO VASQUEZ VALDECAÑAS (1939- ) served as the 25<sup>th</sup> mayor of Balanga. His term covered from January 1, 1972 until December 16, 1979, mostly during the Martial Law years.

Mayor Valdecañas was born in Cupang Proper, Balanga on January 5, 1939. His parents were Angel Banzon Valdecanas and Encarnacion Ramirez Vasquez, a family of modest means. He was raised under the care of his aunts, elder sisters and cousins after his sickly mother passed away when he was barely one year old. As a boy, he had his early education obtained from the Cupang Elementary School. He completed his secondary education at the Arellano Memorial (Bataan) High School (presently known as Bataan National High School).

To support his college studies, he worked as an engineering aide at the Philippine Tiles Corporation while attending evening classes at the Mapua Institute of Technology. He completed his Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering in 1962.

As a licensed engineer, he was employed at the Bataan Provincial Engineer's Office and later at the DPWH Engineering District. It was here where he met and fell in love with Lourdes Guño de Leon, then doing business at the Capitol as a hauling contractor. They got married in 1965. The union bore them five daughters: Joy, Belsha, Rina, Mae and Dang who are all professionals and presently have their own families.

To support their growing family, Celso and Lourdes put up several businesses such as

concrete aggregates dealership, and hauling. Later on, they got involved in subdivision and memorial park development. In time, they became the proud owners of the VL Group of Companies which manages the Joyous Resort and Restaurant (1974) and the Santuario Garden and Chapels (2005), the first modern mortuary in Balanga.

Celso ran for the mayoralty position in Balanga during the November 8, 1971 local polls. Although an independent Nacionalista Party candidate, he won handily over incumbent Mayor Teodoro "Boy" Camacho III (LP) and former Mayor Vicente Malibiran (NP). His runningmate, Angeling Banzon, however, lost to Atty. Alfredo Jaraba of Cupang.

As mayor, Valdecanas was able to complete the peaceful transfer of stallholders from the old public market site in Poblacion to its new location in Barangay San Jose. He also implemented major infrastructure projects in the capital town.

On December 16, 1979, Valdecañas' standby resignation letter was unceremoniously approved by then President Ferdinand Marcos. He was replaced by Engineer Teodoro R. Alonzo. During the 1980 local elections, Valdecanas attempted a comeback by running against Mayor Alonzo. He, unfortunately, lost to Alonzo by a slim margin of about 200 votes.

Valdecañas took another shot at politics in 1988 by running for vice governor, together with gubernatorial candidate and former Finance Minister Antonino P. Roman Jr. Both

of them lost to the tandem of Leonardo B. Roman and Serafin Q. Roman. His last attempt at making a comeback was in 1992 when he

ran for mayor of Balanga. He, together with former Vice Governor Carolina N. Beltran and businessman Leonardo David, lost to reelectionist Mayor Melanio Banzon Jr.

Celso and Lourdes Valdecanas are actively involved in various religious-socio-civic organizations, namely Lions International, HAS Club, SMED Council, Bataan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Bataan Hotel and Restaurants Association, Knights of Columbus, St. Joseph Parish Council, PREX, Mapua Alumni Association, Bataan Contractors Association, Philippine Institute of Civil Engineers-Bataan Chapter, and the Bataan Thursday Club Foundation Inc.

Celso has not disregarded spiritual pursuits. He headed the group that rehabilitated the Sto. Cristo Chapel in Cupang, Balanga. The Knights of Columbus - Bataan Chapter, on the other hand, conferred on him their outstanding Knight of Columbus of the Century award and elevated him to the highest, most revered ranks in the organization.



## VALDECAÑAS, Jose R.



**J**OSE RAMIREZ VALDECAÑAS (1930- ), a civil engineer by profession, served the country as Assistant Secretary of the Ministry of Public Works and Highways (MPWH), acting Secretary of the Department of Transportation and Communications (DoTC),

chief of the Land Transportation Office (LTO) and acting Postmaster General. He was the project manager of the Light Rail Transit (LRT), the first mass transport system in Manila.

“Peping” Valdecañas was born in Cupang (North), the barrio where he first saw the light of day on March 19, 1930. His parents were Manuel Valdecañas and Encarnacion Ramirez. Scion of a family of modest means, he was sent by his parents to study as a boy in the public elementary

and high school. His talent for academic pursuits had been demonstrated when he completed his Civil Engineering course from the Mapua Institute of Technology. While employed at the Bureau of Public Works, he completed a two-year study grant in Australia where he specialized in Town Planning.

In 1971, he became one of the most trusted technocrats of Engineer David M. Consunji who was appointed by then President Ferdinand Marcos as Minister of the Ministry of Public Works, Transportation and Communication (MPWTC). He helped Consunji reorganized and decentralized the ministry by putting up regional offices all over the country. He also helped organize the ministry’s Project Planning and Development Office (PPDO) to make sure that all infrastructure developments contribute to the social and economic well-being of the people and the community.

Valdecañas also promoted mass transport as a solution to the huge transportation mess in Manila. He even proposed

a subway system for the Capital City. Although the project was not implemented due to the enormous cost involved, Valdecañas whole-heartedly accepted an assignment as project manager of the LRT, the first rail transit system in Metro Manila covering the Caloocan-Pasay route.

While employed at DPWH, Valdecañas was promoted to Assistant Secretary of the agency. He was, at one time, the acting Secretary of the Department of Transportation and Communications, the chief of LTO and acting Postmaster General.

Engineer Valdecañas, who retired from government service in 1990, is a recipient of various awards, such as the President’s Merit Award for Leadership and a Plaque of Distinction as a PICE Fellow. He was a *Dangal Balangueño* awardee in 2008.

Valdecañas is married to the former Ofelia Cruz, an anthropologist from San Juan, Metro Manila. They are blessed with three children: Michael, Rowena and Aristotle who are already professional themselves.

## VALDECAÑAS, Noel Joseph L.

**N**OEL JOSEPH LAXAMANA VALDECAÑAS is the present vice mayor of the City of Balanga. His administration covers from 2007-2010 and 2010-2013. He reigns together with City Mayor Joet Garcia.

Valdecañas, a civil engineer by profession, was born in Cupang North, City of Balanga on November 19, 1960. His parents are Gerry Valdecañas (deceased) and former school principal Lourdes Laxamana-Valdecañas.

The city vice mayor is an alumnus of the Cupang Elementary School and Tomas del Rosario College (TRC). He completed his Civil Engineering course at the Manuel L. Quezon University in Manila in 1982.

After graduation, he was employed at the Summa Kumagai, a Manila-based construction company which was responsible for the completion of the Light Rail Transport (LRT). He returned to Bataan after a few years and joined the VL Construction as project manager. In 1986, he was employed as project evaluation officer at the Bataan Provincial Treasurer’s Office. A year later, he put up his own construction company called the VF Construction.

Valdecañas’ entry into the political scene came in 1984 when he ran and won as barangay chairman of Cupang North. He held the position continuously for 20 years or until he ran a successful campaign

for the vice mayoral post during the May 14, 2007 election. He beat his former teacher at TRC, former school principal and city councilor Romulo Triguero of Puerto Rivas Itas. He was reelected in May 2010.

He is married to Engr. Sheila Ann Flores. They are blessed with four children: Sharhea, Cherry, April and Sherilyn



## VEA, Orlando B.



**O**RLANDO BANZON VEA (1949- ) is one of the country's most respected technology entrepreneurs being the founder and first president and CEO of the Smart Communications Inc., still the leader in the mobile telecommunication industry in the Philippines

today.

Orlando Vea was born in Balanga on September 23, 1949 to parents Telesforo Vea (former BAEx regional director) and the former Agnes Banzon, a school teacher. He is the older brother of Dr. Reynaldo

B. Vea, current president of Mapua Institute of Tehnology. He completed his primary and secondary education at the University of the Philippines as valedictorian and class salutatorian, respectively.

In 1970, he graduated cum laude from the University of the Philippines where he completed AB Economics. In addition to being a "Iskolar ng Bayan," Orlando was former editor of the *Philippine Collegian*, the UP official student newspaper.

Vea gained national prominence when he founded Smart Communications Inc. in 1991. He was the first president and CEO of the company until 2000. He led Smart from start-up to a leadership position in the mobile telecommunication industry. His unprecedented success with Smart made him one

of the 50 multi-millionaries of the Philippines.

From Smart, Vea became head of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Group's media and content businesses. He was the president and CEO of MediaQuest Holdings Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of the PLDT Beneficial Trust Fund. He was responsible for the Group's thrust into mobile television, direct-to-home television and its initiatives toward other major mass media and new media platforms.

On January 1, 2008, Vea was appointed as Chief Wireless Advisor of Smart, under Smart Chairman Manuel Pangilinan.

Orlando Vea is married to Erlinda S. Vea. The couple has three children.

## VEA, Reynaldo B., Ph.D.

**R**EYNALDO BANZON VEA is the current president and chief executive officer of the Mapua Institute of Technology (MIT), the leading engineering school based in Intramuros, Manila. Prior to his appointment in January 2000, he was the Administrator of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), and Dean of the College of Engineering of the University of the Philippines (1993-1997).

Dr. Vea was born in Balanga to parents Telesforo Vea, former teacher and later regional director of Bureau of Agricultural Extension (BAEx), and Agnes Banzon-Vea, a former teacher at the Bataan High School in Balanga and Philippine Science High School (PSHS) in Metro Manila. Reynaldo was the valedictorian of the first batch of graduates of the PSHS in 1969.

During his sophomore year at the University of the Philippines, he was elected as University Councilor of the

Student Council. In his junior year, he became the editor-in-chief of the *Philippine Collegian*, UP's official student publication.

Engineer Vea completed his Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering, *magna cum laude*, in 1978. He devoted the prime of his life teaching at the UP College of Engineering. He also completed his naval architectural practice at the Hudson Shipbuilders, Inc. in Mississippi (1981-1982) while finishing his Master's degree in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He also worked at the Herbert Engineering Corporation, a ship design firm based in San Francisco, California (1982-1983).

Upon his return in 1983, he was named Dean of the UP College of Engineering. He led the creation of the National Graduate School of Engineering at UP.

His stint with the MWSS from 1997 until 2000 was made possible through an appointment from President Fidel V. Ramos. As administrator, he led the agency through a period of transition into privatization and through the worst *El Nino* phenomenon ever experienced in the country. It was also during this time that Dr. Vea earned his Doctorate degree (Ph.D.) in Engineering from the University of California at Berkeley in 1999.

As MIT President, Dr. Vea is leading in the realization of a vision of an international center of excellence in integrated engineering and information technology education.



## VENZON, Noli A.



**N**OLI ADRADOS VENZON (1952- ) was Balanga City's vice mayor from 1988 until 2007.

Vice Mayor Venzon was born in Balanga on March 3, 1952. His parents are Erlindo R. Venzon and the former Violeta Adrados. He is a product of the M. delos Reyes Memorial Elementary School (1964) and

Arellano Memorial (Bataan) High School (1968). He completed his Doctor's degree in Optometry at the Centro Escolar University in 1975.

After graduation, he worked as an optometrist at the Casaje Optical in Makati, Metro Manila. Thereafter, he became the general manager of the family-owned E.R. Venzon Construction which was involved in various construction projects in Manila and Bataan.

In 1998, he ran for the vice mayoralty position of Balanga as runningmate of newcomer Albert S. Garcia. Both of them won and immediately initiated the citihood of Balanga. They

were reelected in 2001.

During the May 2004 polls, Venzon teamed up with Jose Enrique Garcia, Albert Garcia's younger brother. He won but Jose Enrique lost to the comebacking Mayor Melanio Banzon Jr. Venzon's third and last term ended in June 2007.

It was his daughter, Vianca Lita Venzon-Gozon, who replaced him at the Sangguniang Panlungsod after getting elected as senior city councilor during the May 2007 local polls.

Noli is married to Rebecca C. Venzon, a registered nurse, with whom he has three children: Vianca Lita, Venecia Marcia and Emmanuel Jr.

## VETAF'S SuperStore, Inc.

**T**he VETAF's Superstore, Inc. is the biggest store and pawnshop in Balanga and the first to have a chain of similar businesses in Orani, Orion and Limay.

Dr. Tomas P. Abello, one of the founders of the Tomas del Rosario Academy, and his wife, the former Concepcion Banzon, founded the VETAF's Superstore in the early 1950s. It was named after the couple's five children: Victor, Engracia, Teresita, Amelia and Fortunato Abello.

The present three-storey fully-airconditioned Superstore is located along the Paterno Street in Poblacion. It offers books, school and office supplies, stationeries,

posters, hardware, paints and electrical supplies, cosmetics and toiletries, gifts and novelties, cards, bags, wallets, luggages, religious articles, Filipiniana, Home Center and modiste supplies.

On April 17, 1981, a big fire razed to the ground several business establishments along Paterno Street, to include the old VETAF's Store, Eliong's Grocery, Stella's, Del's Gift Shoppe, Delita's Grocery, Wa Nam Restaurant, Jomar's Variety Store, Pomer's Optical, Crazy Horse Tailoring, and the Bataan Grocery.

A new VETAF's building, complete with the Patio Concepcion, reopened on December 2 of the same year.



## VIESCA, Junilene E.



**J**UNILENE ENRIQUEZ-VIESCA (1977- ) represented the youths of Balanga and Bataan as ex-officio member of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan from 2001 to 2003. She initially served Balanga as federated chairman of the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) for three years (1998-2001) before she became a board member of

Bataan.

At present, Mrs. Viesca is the chapter administrator of the Philippine National Red Cross in Bataan.

Ms. Viesca is the daughter of Engineer Bonifacio Enriquez and the late Leonila A. Nisay of Cupang Proper. She was born on July 31, 1977. After finishing her elementary education at the Cupang Elementary School, she was enrolled at the St. Scholastica College in Angeles City where she completed her secondary education and four years in college. She was still in high school when she was elected as youth leader of Balanga.

While serving her term as board member of Bataan, she completed her Pharmacy course at the University of Santo Tomas in Manila.

Junilene ran for a city councilor's seat in Balanga during the May 2004 local elections. Her bid, however, was unsuccessful. In 2005, she was picked out by Governor Enrique T. Garcia Jr. to head the Bataan Red Cross Office, a job that really fits her qualifications.

Junilene, a granddaughter of former Balanga Vice Mayor Gabriel Nisay Sr., is married to Morris Viesca of Balanga with whom she has three daughters: Alliana, Allia and Allaine.

## VIGO, Eugenio V.



Lawyer EUGENIO VASQUEZ VIGO (1938- ), half-brother of former Balanga Mayor Faustino V. Vasquez, is a lawyer and former zone manager of the Bataan Economic Processing Zone (BEPZ) in Mariveles from 1985 until 1986.

Atty. "Gene" Vigo was born in Cupang on October 9, 1938. His parents were Basilio Pencil Vigo and Tomasa Ramirez Vasquez. Eugenio is the youngest among

five siblings. He graduated from the Cupang Elementary School and Arellano Memorial (Bataan) High School. He enrolled at the University of the Philippines where he completed his Law degree in 1961. He passed the Bar in 1962.

Gene Vigo started working in government as emergency laborer in the PACD while studying in college. From such humble job, he rose to a clerk position after a few years. After passing the Bar, he was immediately promoted to occupy the position of legal officer of the agency. He was appointed Election Registrar for the Comelec in 1964 and was assigned in Abucay.

He joined the Export Processing Zone

Administration (EPZA) in 1982. Three years later, he replaced Atty. Renato Cayetano (*father of current Senators Pia and Allan Peter Cayetano*) as zone manager. It was during his administration that BEPZ experienced industrial peace as strikes were prohibited inside the zone. He was replaced by Atty. Vic Banzon on August 13, 1986.

After a stint of more than 10 years with EPZA, Atty. Vigo resigned and joined his wife, Dr. Aida Dominguez-Vigo of Abucay, and children (Elmer, Liza, Nelson, Dennis, Paul, Jerome, Ma. Eugene) in the United States in September 1995. The Vigos presently reside in San Jose, California.

## VIGO, Faustino V.

FAUSTINO VASQUEZ VIGO (1915-1996), a lawyer by profession, was the 20<sup>th</sup> mayor of Balanga, from 1952 to 1955. He also served as Bataan's board member (1956-1959) and first vice governor (1960-1963).

Atty. Vigo was born in Sitio Maluya, in Cupang, on February 7, 1915. His parents were Basilio Pencil Vigo and Josefa Vasquez. He completed his primary and secondary education from the Balanga Elementary School and Bataan High School, respectively. He was the salutatorian of High School Class 1933. He completed his Law degree from the Far Eastern University in Manila.

After a short stint as a private practitioner, he joined the government service and served as *juez de paz* (municipal judge) of Dinalupihan. The first time he ran for mayor of Balanga was in 1947, against

Atty. Pedro R. Dizon and erstwhile acting mayor Graciano Pastorfide. Dizon emerged as the poll winner and reigned from 1948 until 1951.

Vigo ran again for mayor during the November 8, 1951 polls after Mayor Dizon opted to run for board member of Bataan. With the support of Dizon, Atty. Vigo easily defeated his rival, Atty. Angelino Banzon of Cupang.

During his term (1952-1955), Mayor Vigo completed the new Balanga municipal hall which was razed to the ground during World War II. It was also during his administration that the Balanga Diversion Road (Manuel Banzon Road) was constructed.

Vigo was acknowledged as the first environmentalist-mayor of Balanga after passing an ordinance requiring the construction of sanitary toilet and dump pit in every home and prohibiting the

dumping of garbage into the river. He also acknowledged the philanthropic deeds of the late Fr. Mariano Sarili by having his bust erected in front of the Cupang Elementary School.

After his term as Balanga mayor, Atty. Vigo ran for a board member seat in 1955. It was a successful bid. In 1959, he aspired for the newly-created vice gubernatorial post and won over Board Member Raymundo Galicia of Orani. In 1963, he ran for governor but lost at the polls against reelectionist Governor Pedro R. Dizon. Vigo returned to his private law practice after the defeat. He passed away on August 25, 1996.







## WASTE DISPOSAL

The City of Balanga is currently implementing the so-called Ecological Waste Management (EWM) Program. It is aimed to achieve the following goals: proper collection, transport and disposal of wastes; determine the importance of proper waste management and the benefits that can be derived from it; implement the program in accordance with the existing laws, specifically the RA 9003; involve participation of all sectors; and most importantly, adopt systems that will promote sustainability of the program.

Taking off from the previous program called Comprehensive Solid Waste Management initiated by former Mayor Albert S. Garcia in 2003, current City Mayor Jose Enrique S. Garcia has also drawn in all sectors of

the community, down to the barangay level, to get involve in the proper implementation of proper waste management.

The program calls for the basic strategies: *segregation*, segregating the recyclables from the compostables as well as from the residuals; *reduction*, the need to reduce wastes at source; and *recycling*, to reduce and at the same time generate income from the wastes. Another strategy addresses the wastes that can be decomposed, using composting and vermiculture technology.

At present, the Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs) in Munting Batangas are being readied to adapt to the requirements of the program. Likewise, another facility located at

the City Market Slaughterhouse is being reactivated to serve as a seedling generation bank, making use of the fruit and vegetable seeds from the market wastes.

In the meantime, wastes that are being collected from the households and commercial establishments are being dumped and burned at open dumping site located 200 meters away from the Roman Expressway at Barangay Tuyo. The city government is currently searching for a new feasible dumpsite to offset health threats to residents living around the area.

Proper waste disposal in each household is provided by several dump trucks, compactors and mini-compactors



# WATER RESOURCES

**W**ATER RESOURCES of Balanga consist of the various rivers, tributaries, creeks and streams from the mountainous portion of the Mount Natib complex. These tributaries discharge to the Manila Bay through the big rivers of the town, the Talisay and Cataning Rivers.

Talisay River is considered the biggest and longest river in Bataan. It stretches for more than 20 kilometers between Balanga and Pilar, and finally flowing into the Manila Bay in Puerto Rivas and Tortugas area. south going north, bisecting the town proper and stretching further northeast to the bay.

Other rivers present in the city are Pangulisan, Abo-abo, Ibayo, Mataan, Tiawir and Tuyoy River. These

rivers serve as the natural drainage of the town which explains why during rainy season, the town center and the coastal barangays submerged in knee deep water.

Flooding in Balanga is classified as severe, moderate, slightly flooded and no flooding. Most of the flooded areas are along the adjacent areas of rivers and major tributaries due to the inability of the river channel to occupy the large volume of run-off caused by the excessive amount of rainfall during rainy season.

Underground water, on the other hand, is readily available at depths of 10 to 20 feet in the valleys and plains and from 120 to 500 feet in the upland areas.



## WEBSITE



**T**he City of Balanga has its own website: [www.cityofbalanga.gov.ph](http://www.cityofbalanga.gov.ph). It was officially launched in 2004 by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo who personally logged in as the first visitor of the COB Website. The launching ceremony was held at the Lou-is Restaurant Function Center in Balanga.

President Arroyo was assisted by former City Mayor Albert S. Garcia.

The website includes four salient features: C.I.T.Y. (City Information To You), which incorporates basic information such as the city's socio-economic profile; CITYSEEN, where one can browse Balanga's important places; CITYSCENE which details

the city's historical and important events; CITYZEN, which features notable personalities and personages who excel in their respective fields of endeavor.

In the later part of 2007, Poweradio (107.7 FM) daily programs were incorporated into the Website for local and foreign internet visitors.

Mayor Abet Garcia, who was also the prime mover for the city's Medium City Development Plan, cited the importance of the COB Website in support of the government's information and communications technology thrusts. It is also a bold effort to make Balanga more economically viable and productive.

# WELLNESS



Healthy lifestyle is defined as a way of life which promotes and protects one's health and wellness. The City Government of Balanga, through the initiative of Mayor Joet S. Garcia, cognizant of the increasing prevalence of lifestyle-related diseases, has taken as one of its priorities for the year 2010. These healthy lifestyles emphasize the anti-

smoking campaign, regular physical activity and weight control. It also includes healthy diet and nutrition, stress management and regular health check-up.

In line with this healthy lifestyle program, the City of Balanga undertakes the *Hataw* Program being monitored by the City Health Office in collaboration with the

City Social Welfare and Development. This particular program aims to raise awareness of the people of Balanga on the need to practice healthy lifestyles and awaken the consciousness of the policy makers on the need to provide the *Balangueños* with an environment supportive of the healthy lifestyle.

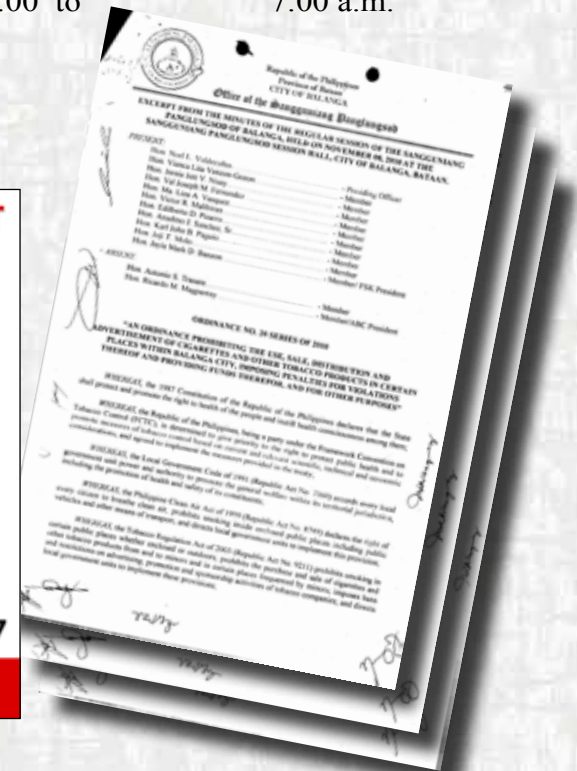
The target participants of the *Hataw* Program are primarily the City Government of Balanga employees and secondarily the senior citizens or anybody who wants to avail the benefits of this program. The schedule of the program is every Friday 4:45 to 5:45 p.m. and every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, 6:00 to 7:00 a.m.

**SMOKE FREE ESTABLISHMENT**



**FOR COMMENTS SEND TXT TO 09199-117117**

CITY ORDINANCE NO. 36, S. 2010  
"AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE USE, SALE, DISTRIBUTION AND ADVERTISEMENT OF CIGARETTES AND OTHER TOBACCO PRODUCTS IN CERTAIN PLACES WITHIN BALANGA CITY, IMPOSING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"



# X

An “X” marks the spot. To treasure hunters, an “X” simply means “buried treasures”.

Immediately after Liberation, and even up to the present, clandestine diggings are being done in various “treasures sites” in Bataan, most specifically Balanga. Highly-financed treasure hunters and aspiring individuals see Bataan like a “land teeming with buried treasures.”

Balanga continues to be the most favored hunting ground for the so-called *Yamashita Treasures*. The whole length of the Abo-abo River in Sitio Maluya and the hilly portions of Barangays Dangcol, Tanato and Cabog-cabog are the favorite sites of treasure-hunting expeditions.

The vicinity around the old Bataan Sugar Central was also the subject of multiple diggings immediately after the war. It was reported that several crates of gold bullions, precious coins, Philippine paper money and American dollars were unloaded at the supply depot in Barangay Central, Balanga. The crates, however, were said to have never been recovered after a

great number of those soldiers who buried them in and around the sugar mill facility also perished during the bloody encounters along the Pilar-Bagac Road.

Several old buildings in Balanga, as well as the schools



used as garrison by the Japanese soldiers during their stay in the capital town, became the subjects of past diggings by treasure hunters. The so-called *hacienda* in Sitio Bani, Cataning, rumored to be the “secret graveyard” of five Japanese military trucks full

of gold and silver coins, was “visited” by treasure hunters many times. Unfortunately, no successful digging was reported.

The “Sampalukan” area in Cupang Proper, along the Talisay River, was said to contain gold bullions buried by USAFFE soldiers during the war. Open diggings were conducted in the area during the mid-1980s. The “golden pot” was allegedly found but the diggers were unsuccessful in recovering the buried treasures.

Treasure hunters are still actively scouring various places in Balanga for treasures allegedly buried by USAFFE and Japanese soldiers alike. Dinalupihan, Pilar and Mariveles are the three other towns most frequented by the treasure hunters



# YOUTH

The YOUTH population also makes a nation, a town and a barangay.

The distribution of the population

in Balanga as of year 2000 was as follows: *Under one year old*, 717; *1-4*, 2,545; *5-9*, 3,357; *10-14*, 3,089; *15-19*, 3,001; *20-24*, 2,406; *25-29*, 2,367; *30-34*, 2,085; *35-39*, 1,840; *40-49*, 2,699; *50-59*, 1,473; *60-69*, 1,142; *70-79*, 486; *80 years old and over*, 217.

Based on these figures, the youth sector (*represented by children from one year old to 18 years old*) totalled 12,700. It was equivalent to 47 percent of Balanga’s total population. The distribution is almost the same as in other municipalities, except Mariveles.

With the said figure, it can only be expected that the local government spent more funds for the youth in terms of projects like schools, day care centers, health centers and



# YOUTH

other significant and meaningful programs.

Following the provisions of the 1991 Local Government Code, the YOUTHS of Balanga are well represented in local government. From the original Kabataang Barangay, each barangay currently has a Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) council composed of a chairman, seven members, a secretary and a treasurer. They are elected and served for a minimum of three years, or until they are replaced

through an election.

These youths promulgate resolutions necessary to carry out their objectives in the barangay. They initiate programs designed to enhance the social, political, economic, cultural, intellectual, moral, spiritual and physical development of the members. And to ensure smooth implementation of the programs, they consult and coordinate with all the youth organizations in the barangay for policy formulation.



by the end of the 1870s. The same art form was used effectively by the natives as an anti-American protest plays during the 1900s, the “era of suppressed nationalism.” It became very popular in Manila playhouses. They were staged by Filipino and Spanish playwrights and performed by popular stage artists.

The dramatic

**ZARZUELA** is a three-act musical drama played live on stage. It was the last dramatic form introduced by the Spaniards to the Filipinos

form caught the fancy of most Balanga residents. From 1910 until the advent of World War II, Balanga already had two organized dramatic groups, namely the *Campana de Zarzuela Balanga* of Poblacion and the Puerto Rivas’ *Immaculada Concepcion Drama Reveu*.

The Zarzuela Balanga was under the helm of actor-director-writer-composer Jose Tuazon, a lawyer and gifted musician. He trained several artistic individuals such as Domingo Banzon and Ricardo Reyes of Balanga, Leonor Mariano of Ibayo and Simeona Gonzales of Talisay. They have presented Zarzuela hits like Maximino delos Reyes’ “*Pawis ng Dukha*,” Arcadio Rubiano’s “*Gabi ng Pagsuyo*,” as well as “*Busilak na Puso*” which was written by Tuazon himself.

Barrio Puerto Rivas also took pride in having organized the Immaculada Concepcion Drama Reveu, through the initiative of Maximino delos Reyes, former

Bataan governor and congressman. His zarzuela plays, “*Pawis ng Dukha*” and “*Dahas ng Pilak*” were the drama revue’s signature presentations. The two plays had their respective first performances at the Balanga town plaza before being played in the barrios and other parts of Manila.

Delos Reyes even sought the services of Manila-based actor-director Amanding Montes and Nicolas Flores of Abucay to train the Zarzuela players of Puerto Rivas who were former Comedia talents. The last presentation of *Dahas* was held in Cine Bituin in 1938.

The advent of the talking movies in Balanga greatly affected the popularity of Zarzuela. Still, Manila-based Zarzuela groups continued to be in demand in the provinces which gave local artistic groups very stiff competition. The two Balanga Zarzuela groups disbanded in the late 1950s.

## ZARZUELA

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Balanga Historical Committee is deeply indebted, first, to our City Mayor, Hon. Jose Enrique S. Garcia III, for his initiative and enthusiasm to preserve and publish important events that took place in Balanga including prominent people, places and tourist attractions, and second, to the Sangguniang Panlungsod for passing the resolution creating the Historical Committee that signals the start of the research work.

It is worthy to mention further the expression of the Historical Committee Members' heartfelt gratitude to those who have contributed in giving vital information, documents, pictures, and the like for the completion of the book BALANGA ENCYCLOPEDIA, to wit:

- Members of families, relatives and friends of documented personalities
- Hon. Enrique T. Garcia Jr., Hon. Albert S. Garcia and Madam Isabel Garcia.
- Historians, Authors College Professors, Researcher – writers and Informants.
- Librarians, Statisticians, Encoders, Lay-out Artists / Designers.
- Publishers of Local Papers in Bataan and National Dailies
- Bataan : Isang Balik-Tanaw of DECS, Bataan
- Bataan : Isang Dugtong-Tanaw Hanggang 1999
- Bataan : Land of Valor, People of Valor
- Kasaysayan, “The Story of the Filipino People”
- HAS Club of Balanga Anniversary Magazines
- Pilar Encyclopedia
- KASALO Modules
- Bataan Women’s Graphics
- BNHS Souvenir Program
- Pictorials of World War II
- Provincial Tourism Council Foundation, Incorporated
- Myrna B. Roman, City Accounting and Internal Audit Office
- Nerissa B. Mateo, City Agriculture Office
- Engr. Marilen Z. Alonzon, City Asseccor’s Office
- Joer Grace H. de Mesa, City Budget Office
- Marilyn C. Cruz, City Civil Registry
- Rolando A. Dizon, City Cooperative Development Office
- Ruberto P. Garcia, City Economic Investment & Development Office
- Nelia G. Castor, City Environment & Natural Resources Office
- Engr. Miguel Sanchez III, City Engineering Office
- Nerissa Mateo , City General Services Office
- Dr. Mariano Antonio T. Banzon, City Health Office
- Cristina H. Apostol, City Human Resource Management Office
- Neil Erwin B. Dizon, City License, Permit & Franchising Office
- Engr. Dennis B. Mariano, Disaster Risk Reduction & Management Section
- Jose D. Cabrera, Employment & Manpower Development Section
- Ma. Fe Penerio, Galing Card Coordinating Center
- Roneth B. Santos, City Management & Information Services Office
- Elsa P. Ilagan, City Planning & Development Office
- Engr. Dennis Mariano, City Public Safety Office
- Gloria Abejar, City Social Welfare & Development Office
- Rodolfo S. De Mesa, City Tourism Office
- Joselito R. Evangelista, City Treasurer’s Office



Republic of the Philippines  
Province of Bataan  
City of Balanga

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MAYOR**

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 027, Series of 2010

**RECONSTITUTING THE BALANGA CITY  
HISTORICAL COMMITTEE**

**WHEREAS**, our Article XIV, Section 14 & 15, of the 1987 Philippine Constitution succinctly mandates that the State shall foster the enrichment and dynamic evolution of a Filipino national culture based on the principal of unity in diversity in a climate of artistic and intellectual expression.; and shall conserve, promote and popularize the nation's historical and cultural heritage and resources, as well as artistic creations;

**WHEREAS**, in furtherance of this mandate, the City of Balanga created the Balanga City Historical Committee on July 1, 2002, through Executive Order (E.O.) No. 006-02 of the then City Mayor Albert S. Garcia; The Committee was further reorganized on October 6, 2008, through E.O. No. 17, Series of 2008, and on February 23, 2010, through E.O. No. 27, Series of 2010;

**WHEREAS**, the City Government of Balanga is now in the process of finalizing the updated time-line of events from the pre-Spanish era to the present, which were previously collated and documented through the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the book on the history of Balanga, entitled "*Balanga: Noon at Ngayon*";

**WHEREAS**, the tasks of coming out for the updated publication on the history of the City of Balanga has been undertaken by respected educators, historians and other competent personalities;

**WHEREAS**, in order for the Committee to be more effective in the discharge of its mandate, it is imperative that the same be reconstituted;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, **JOSE ENRIQUE S. GARCIA III**, by virtue of the power

vested in me by law as the Local Chief Executive of the City of Balanga, Bataan, hereby declare the reconstitution of the Balanga City Historical Committee, to wit:

*Section I*

**COMPOSITION**

That the said Committee should be known as the Balanga City Historical Committee to be composed of the following:

**HONORARY CHAIRPERSON**

**Hon. Jose Enrique S. Garcia III**  
*City Mayor*

**HONORARY CO-CHAIRPERSON**

**Hon. Albert S. Garcia**  
*Congressman, 2<sup>nd</sup> District - Bataan*

**CHAIRPERSON**

**Dr. Hilario D. Garcia**  
*City Consultant on Education*

**VICE-CHAIRPERSON**

**Dr. Marita L. Navata**  
*Retired ES I for Social Studies  
DepEd – City Schools Division of Balanga*

**MEMBERS**

**Hon. Vianca Lita V. Gozon**  
*Sangguniang Panglungsod (SP) Member  
& Chairman, SP Committee on Tourism*

**Mrs. Isabel F. Garcia**  
*Chairperson, Balanga City Tourism Council*

**Mrs. Gloria M. Abejar**  
*City Social Welfare & Development Officer*

**Mrs. Evelyn C. Matias**  
*CLGOO, DILG – Balanga City*

**Mr. Danilo B. Nisay**  
*Bataan Press Club  
Historical Researcher / Writer*

**Mrs. Josephine S. Pagaduan**  
*Retired English Teacher  
Bataan National High School (BNHS)*

**Ms. Yolanda V. Pruna**  
*Master Teacher II  
Balanga Elementary School (BES)*

**BOARD OF ADVISERS**

**Engr. Celso V. Valdecanas**  
*Former Mayor, Municipality of Balanga*

**Mr. Jessie D. Ferrer**  
*Schools Division Superintendent, OIC  
DepEd- City Schools Division of Balanga*

**Dr. Mercedes G. Sanchez, Ed.D.**  
*Vice-President  
Bataan Peninsula State University (BPSU)*

**PROJECT DIRECTOR**

**Mr. Rodolfo H. De Mesa**  
*City Administrator*

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

**Ms. Nnette B. Santos**  
*City MIS Officer*

**LAY-OUT ARTISTS**

**Ms. Monina V. Tatel**  
**Mr. Venjo V. Baluyot**  
*City MISO*

*Section II*

**DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The **Balanga City Historical Committee** shall undertake the following duties and responsibilities, to wit:

1. Collate all materials collected for the publication of an updated book on the history of the City of Balanga;
2. Ensure that all researched/extracted facts material thereto shall be used solely for the said publication;
3. Research/extract objects d'art, works of art, artifacts and others subject to the provisions of the Intellectual Property Law; and
4. Disburse funds to be allocated thereto subject to accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

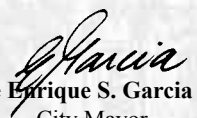
*Section III*

**EFFECTIVITY**

This Executive Order shall take effect immediately upon approval.

**SO ORDERED**

Done this 6<sup>th</sup> day of December 2010 at the City of Balanga, Bataan.

  
**Jose Enrique S. Garcia III**  
City Mayor

# CELEBRATE BALANGA HOME OF GREAT MEMORIES

