

May 20, 2008

By: Board Member CARLO M. BATALLA

1st District, Camarines Sur

Mr. Chairman: During our regular session last Tuesday our scheduled guest also failed to honor this august body with their presence. But I do remember that the Honorable gentleman from the 3rd district, Board Member Llaguno intimated that those invitees were busy on their jobs and suggested to resort to correspondence instead.

Truth be told, I find Board Member Llaguno's suggestion a splendid idea. Maybe the provincial treasurer and the provincial auditor are really saddled with gargantuan task and workload that their absence today resulted. Nevertheless, this humble representation is supposed to ask them a total of only six questions, which are the following:

1. Number one Mr. Chairman, I will ask them how much money the provincial government has spent for the construction of the Camarines Sur Water Sports Complex and Cable Wakeboard facilities.
2. Number two Mr. Chairman, I will ask them if this Camarines Sur Water Sports Complex and Cable Wakeboard facilities is earning money.
3. Number three Mr. Chairman, I will ask them the number of the Camarines Sur Water Sports Complex and Cable Wakeboard facilities employees, ilan po lahat ang empleado ng CWC. Ang nagpapasueldo ba sa kanila ay provincial government. How about the electric and water consumption, does the provincial government shoulder the bill also.
4. Number four Mr. Chairman, I will ask them how much money the provincial government will spend in the almost finished phase 2 of CWC which include the Boat lake facilities.
5. Number five Mr. Chairman, I will ask them kung sino ang contractor nang phase 2 Boat lake facilities na ito at kung saan napunta ang mga hinukay na lupa dun.
6. Number six and last Mr. Chairman, magkano na ang narelease sa provincial government ng DBP galling dun sa inaprubahan ng sangguniang panglalawigan na loan facility worth 2.050 billion.

I am not against the program of Governor LRay Villafuerte that needs banking loans funding. I am only against runaway spending that is putting this province deeper and deeper in debt everyday. The media hype, the publicity and advertisement of the CWC cable wakeboard facility as world class daw and a tourist destination probably endowed the governor with a modicum of confidence that give rise to his idea of putting a similar but bigger facility.

I am not against this expansion. The fact na walang nakakaalam kung magkano ang halaga na gugugulin dtto ay ok na rin sana wala ng kumikibo. But at least, the governor should have the courtesy of following the law in building this



boat lake. This project started construction way back last December pa and if you will recall I raise the issue of the absence of Environmental Compliance Certificate when the DENR Regional Director Joselin Mark Fragada appeared before this august body last April 30, 2008.

I went personally to the office of the Director of the DENR Environmental Management Bureau to get a copy of the ECC of this Boat lake project last May 14, 2008. I was personally informed by a certain HENRY A. LOPEZ, the OIC Chief of EI AM division whatever this means that only CWC phase 1 and the Gota Beach project at Caramoan had been issued ECC and this Boat lake facility ay wala pang ECC.

But last May 16, I received thru mail a copy of an ECC for this Boat lake facility issued and approved May 6, 2008. With this turn of events I am starting to see that Governor LRay Villafuerte cannot be trusted. And I am also accusing Director Gilbert Gonzales of DENR Environmental Management Bureau of manufacturing this document.

Nevertheless, Governor LRay Villafuerte broke the law when he started constructing this boat lake project a good six months without securing the required Environmental Compliance Certificate. And even this May 6, 2008 ECC, I repeat, I doubt its substance and authenticity.

And before I end, I also would like to question the Development Bank of the Philippines for releasing loan proceeds to a provincial government project with supporting documents which are insufficient and questionable in form.

That will be all Mr. Chairman and thank you. If there are questions relative to what I have just discuss I am willing to answer.

