

July 1, 2008

By: Board Member CARLO M. BATALLA

1st District, Camarines Sur

Thank you Mr. Chairman:

In my maiden privilege speech, when I raised the issue of the Environmental Compliance Certificate or ECC of the Eco-Tourism Projects and the 2 Billion Pesos DBP loan facility of the province- it is on record that almost half of my esteemed colleague in this august body reacted with passion. It seems that my action was an aberration of the Bicolano spirit. To their eyes, this representation became a scoundrel. But their kind of reaction Mr. Chairman is inconsequential. Their kind of reaction, I still find to be within the bounds of normalcy. Compared to the reaction elicited from Governor Villafuerte himself, the governor reacted with fury and vengeance. He reacted with the viciousness and ferocity of a feral hound. Bevy of broadcast media practitioners also resorted to hysteria and put in motion a blitzkrieg to damage my character. I am deeply agitated that such an occurrence should take place. It seemed to me that my statements and actions were a legitimate appraisal of what had already taken place in the Eco-Tourism projects, but not to Governor Villafuerte not to some members of this August Body and not to be nincompoops from radio station DZGE. I was criticized vehemently and savagely. It was apparently no longer the message, Mr. Chairman, but the messenger who was being attacked! In my twelve months as a member of this August Body, Mr. Chairman, nothing that I ever mention drew such an avalanche of disapproval, some of it couched in savage and brutal words. I admit to being emotional about this matter, but I am bewildered at the intensity of the outburst and retaliation my action regarding the ECC or the lack of it has generated, undoubtedly they were unnerved by the issue and I find the whole situation almost bizarre.

Mr. Chairman: In my maiden privilege speech, I mentioned that I am starting to see, Governor Villafuerte can no longer be trusted. Today, I rise to affirm this conviction. Today, I rise to harden this resolve. Today, I rise to give an example of his administration runaway spending. Today, I rise to ask questions on another anomalous transaction this administration has perpetuated. Today, I rise to ask questions about account 165 also known as the "UNDELIVERED 25,000 PIECES OF G.I. SHEETS COSTING this province Php7, 974,500.00 Pesos. The facts of this transaction, Mr. Chairman, are that on November 30, 2006 the Province of Camarines Sur suffered and was severely affected and ravaged by typhoon REMING". Thus, the provincial government purchased 25,000 pieces of G.I. sheets. These G.I. sheets were purchased with a very noble purpose in mind. This is to be distributed and donated to the different municipalities and families severely affected by typhoon REMING. Thus, Mr. Chairman, on DECEMBER 13, 2006, the provincial government of Camarines Sur issued Purchase Order No. 1407 in favor of KAIPABOOM TRADING. The distribution was meant to be charged against Trust Fund under "AID RELIEF, and REHAB SERVICES TO AREAS AFFECTED BY CALAMITIES." Said fund was received by the province under SARO-06-1338. The covering Purchase Order No. 1043 dated DECEMBER 20, 2006 described the items ordered as 25,000 corrugated G.I. sheets gauge 26 and length 18 with unit cost of Php318.98 totaling Php7,974,500.00 Pesos.

Holy Mother of GOD! On DECEMBER 22, 2006, Mr. Chairman, or just 2 after the issuance of the purchase order the province of Camarines Sur paid Kaipaboom Trading the amount of Php 7,496,030.00 Pesos under Check No. 1439562. As expected, the 25,000 pieces of G.I. sheets were not delivered. Nag isyu ng purchase order December 20, 2006, nagbayad ng December 22, 2006 dahil sa dalawang araw lamang na pagitan naideliiver na 25 thousand na yero – imposibleng mangyari, nahirapan ang mga madyekiro ng kapitolyo. Kawawang mga mahihirap na mamamayan ng probinsya ng Camarines Sur, kawawang mga biktima ng nanalasang bagyo, Binagyo na pinagnakawan pa ng tulong. Thus, this transaction clearly violates Section 338 of Republic Act No. 7160 and Section 88 of Presidential Decree No. 1445.

Mr. Chairman: Section 88 of PD 1445 also provides that "EXCEPT WITH THE PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE PRESIDENT, THE GOVERNMENT SHALL NOT BE OBLIGED TO MAKE AN ADVANCE PAYMENT FOR SERVICES NOT YET RENDERED, OR FOR SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS NOT YET DELIVERED UNDER ANY CONTRACT, THEREFORE, NO PAYMENT, PARTIAL OR FINAL SHALL BE MADE ON ANY SUCH CONTRACT EXCEPT UPON A CERTIFICATION MADE BY THE HEAD OF THE AGENCY CONCERNED TO THE EFFECT THAT THE SERVICES OR SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS HAVE BEEN RENDERED OR DELIVERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE CONTRACT AND HAVE BEEN DULY INSPECTED AND ACCEPTED. This transaction, Mr. Chairman, violated the fundamental proscription against advanced payment to the contractor or supplier. This transaction was disadvantageous to the province of Camarines Sur, since at the time of the payment it has received nothing in return for the province money. Now, Mr. Chairman, my questions are:



1. What happen to these 25,000 pieces of G.I. sheets? Nasaan na po ngayon ang mga yerong ito?
2. Who are the donees or the recipients of these G.I. sheets? Sino-sino ang nabigyan ng yero at nassan ang listahan ng mga lihitimong pangalan ng nasalanta ng bagyong REMING na nabigyan ng yero?
3. Who is the owner of Kaipaboom Trading? What is the relation of Kaipaboom Trading to a certain Mr. Ricky Magtoto and what is the relation of this Mr. Ricky Magtoto to Governor L-ray Villafuerte?
4. What is the registered capitalization of Kaipaboom Trading? If it has a credit line, what is the amount and in what bank was it deposited at the time of the transaction?
5. Is Kaipaboom Trading an authorized dealer or distributor of G.I. sheets? If so, who is the principal of Kaipaboom Trading?
6. If indeed, Kaipaboom Trading delivered the 25,000 G.I. sheets, who actually received the delivery? Are there acknowledgement receipt? Or, are the so-called deliveries constructive only, that is to say, no physical deliveries but only receipts were issued?
7. Where did Kaipaboom Trading keep or stored the G.I. sheets before it was delivered to whomever the provincial government designated to receive the deliveries?
8. Does the provincial government of Camarines Sur also received donations of G.I. sheets from good hearted Samaritans during this period, if so, what is the name of the donor?

Inconceivable, Mr. Chairman, but I sincerely hope that the questions I raised today will have answers! I sincerely hope that this issue I raised today which is among much anomalous transaction this representation will ventilate in this August Hall will also merit your scrutiny and will also merit the scrutiny of this August Body. I sincerely hope that news of this anomalous transactions travels far and wide, penetrates the four districts of the province and reach the consciousness of the people of Camarines Sur and I pray fervently, that it should not only merit their scrutiny, that it should also merit their anger, contempt and disgust!

From this undelivered G.I. sheets, Mr. Chairman, this representation will unmask next week the Kaogma Foundation, for violating Section 89 of R.A. 7160, for violating COA Circular No. 96-003, and for violating Section 2 of PD 1445. This plethora of anomalous transactions which I will continue to unfold in this August Chamber without letup without doubt will fan the spark that I ignited. The collective outrage of disgruntled citizenry and the collective outrage of the majority of the people of Camarines Sur who despised corruption-corruption that chained the poor deeper and deeper in deeper hunger and misery will spell the difference comes retribution day! Maniningil at ibabasura ng mga



mamamayan ng Camarines Sur ang mga buwitring nagpapasasa sa kaban ng probinsiya pagdating ng tamang panahon!

I therefore urge you my dear fellow Sanggunian members don't just bear witness to the damage being done to our province. Stopped believing in the windfall from eco-tourism expansion projects because not only this is plain and simple widescale dredging and excavation project, this is a blatant environmental destruction unparalleled in proportion. Stopped believing in the eco-tourism zone, for there is no such declaration. Do not be afraid; withdraw your support to Governor Villafuerte. Together as one Sanggunian, let us voice in the strongest words possible our opposition to the plunder and rape of our beloved province which is unfolding right before our very eyes by a cabal of few. The people voted us into office to serve and protect their interest, let us serve and protect our people now!

As we go through this process, Mr. Chairman, I ask that you continue to please keep an open mind. Please be open-minded and able to admit that perhaps your preliminary conclusions about me were wrong. And please also do not mistake my attitude for lack of respect. I am in awe of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan as a great institution just as I am in awe of the Governorship. Both are equal branches of government with separate areas of responsibility under the Local Government Code that I have taken an oath to follow and support. And I have done so, as many of you have. And although I do not agree with what the Governor and some of you my esteem colleagues have been doing- I do understand each of your own interest, situations and sentiments. In closing, Mr. Chairman, I thank you for this opportunity. I would just simply like to thank the hundreds of people who have communicated their support, encouragement, and prayers for me in this difficult time.

Thank you and GOD has mercy on this province! I am ready for questions, gentlemen.

