

P50M JATHROPA SCAM

July 6, 2009

HON. LUIS RAYMUND F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.

Provincial Governor, Camarines Sur

Dear Sir, As a Provincial Board Member representing the 1st District of Camarines Sur, I would like to be informed of the following:

(a) The progress of the JATROPHA Project, which you mentioned in your inaugural address in July, 2007 where you said:

“x x x Iyong Jatropa po, iyong enot ko pong sinabi sa publiko kadakul pong ang profession, ano ba yong Jatropa? Ano yong Jatropa? Siguro si Governor nahihilo na kaining tuba-tuba dati lason lang iyan na ginagamit asin kung may makulog po ang tiyan o an satuyang tulak ginagamit po iyong Jatropa. Ngonian, nababasa nindo siguro 2 days ago one full page sa Daily Inquirer, “Propagation and Promotion of Jatropa”. Ang benefits kan Jatropa as a promotion of bio-diesel pino-promote iyan kan provincial government 3 years ago mayo pa pong nagsasabing ngonian everybody is talking about Jatropa. We are on the right track nagpatanom na po kita nin nursery diyan sa Pili, Libmanan, igwa kita sa Caramoan, Presentacion nin over 100 hectares na nursery na ini pong gagamiton tanganing ma-achieve ta ang target. Ang target po natin within the next years sana 10,000 hectares nagkaroon na po kita nin MOA with the Philippine Forest Corporation, they will release initially P50 Million Pesos tanganing makatanom nin Jatropa diyan po sa Del Gallego to generate 3,000 jobs bakong pangako iyan sigurado may pondo; siguradong gigibohon kan satuyang administration. Manonongod po sa nutrition, ang mga malnourish po na aki; nang ako po ang naging Governor over 50,000 ang natawan ta nin atensyon in the last 3 years 35,000 covering 35 municipalities and 1 city asin i-expand pa po natin. So, with your help, with your support siguro lalo pa nating ma-appropriate ng additional budget for malnourished street children. x x x”

Considering that you have disclosed that the Philippine Forest Corporation was earmarking an initial amount of FIFTY MILLION (P50,000,000.00) PESOS to Camarines Sur, kindly furnish us the documents on how this amount was disbursed and the location of the one hundred (100) hectares nursery which you alleged to have spread in Pili, Libmanan, Caramoan and Presentacion, Camarines Sur.

b) The particulars about the TV advertisements of your goodself over ABS-CBN TV Network locally and nationwide. May we know the expenditures of the province for this TV advertisements and from which particular fund these were taken.

As Governor of the Province of Camarines Sur, your good self is merely a steward of the funds of the province and the undersigned being a member of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan is duty bound under Sec. 1668 of the Local Government Code as a member of the Sangguninang Panglalawigan to “approve ordinances and pass resolutions necessary for an efficient and effective government”. With this mandate, the undersigned needs the necessary documentary armaments to intelligently perform my duties and responsibilities and in the same vein report our achievements to the people from whom we owe our said mandate.

I am aware of your Memorandum dated July 16, 2008 directing "all chiefs of offices to seek authorization and consent from the Governor prior to release of any information or documents to any requesting party." We believe that this is contrary to the constitutional right of any citizen and for that matter to the undersigned as member of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan to information. A member of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan should be allowed to request disclosure of the above-indicated information necessary in the performance of his duties.

Under Republic Act No. 6713 also known as “CODE OF CONDUCT AND ETHICAL STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES” we respectfully demand official copies of the above-indicated matters within fifteen (15) days from receipt hereof for efficient and responsive public service. Failure on your part to comply herewith shall



mean you are compelling us, much to our regret, to seek legal remedies available to us. Let it not be said that politics motivate us. It is the recalcitrance of your subalterns, including the majority members of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, with your tacit approval that this simple information, as in the past, is being withheld from the undersigned's official scrutiny.

[Signed] CARLO M. BATALLA

Cc: Office of the President, Office of the Ombudsman, Vice-Governor Salvio B. Fortuno, SP Members

