

# UNDISCLOSED SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET

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November 19, 2009

**HON. SALVIO B. FORTUNO**

Vice-Governor

Presiding Officer

**HON. WILFREDO REX C. OLIVA**

Board Member / Chairman

Finance and Appropriation

**ATTY. JOSELITO FIGURACION**

Secretary

Sangguniang Panlalawigan

Legislative Building, Provincial Capitol Complex

Cadlan, Pili, Camarines Sur

Subject: **UNDISCLOSED SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET**

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Gentlemen,

This august body approved last September 22, 2009 a supplemental budget requested by the Office of the Governor in the amount of SEVENTY NINE MILLION EIGHTY EIGHT PEROR AND FORTY FIVE CENTAVOS (P79,000,088.45) amid my strong objection on the grounds that the request for the approval of the Supplemental Budget is only by means of a letter request without any enclosures of the specific Supplemental budgets as requested except what appears to be an Executive Summary thereof.

Again during the last session of this august body on November 10, 2009, I was surprised that our Legislative Agenda on that date included the approval of another two (2) Supplemental Budgets from the Office of the Governor. Once again I manifested my strong objection not only on the same grounds that it was not duly supported by proper and specific items of expenditure but because by this time SP members were not furnished with the letter by the Governor requesting approval of the said two (2) supplemental budgets EVEN THOUGH I STRONGLY DEMANDED THAT I BE FURNISHED A COPY THEREOF.

The Executive Summary is already insufficient in order for the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, as a deliberative body, to intelligently discuss the propriety of the Supplemental Budgets especially if the said budget request bears only the lump sum amount. But by purposely not furnishing the members of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan individual copies of this letter request by the Governor for additional supplemental budgets and by its subsequent approval is by any account could be liken to a plain and simple highway robbery!

Under Sec. 469 of the Local Government Code, it provides:

SEC. 469. Qualifications, Powers and Duties. –

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The secretary to the sanggunian shall take charge of the office of the secretary to the sanggunian and shall:

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Furnish, upon request of any interested party, certified copies of records of public character in his custody, upon payment to the treasurer of such fees as may be prescribed by ordinance;



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Keep his office and all non-confidential records therein open to the public during the usual business hours;

It is very clear therefore that the Vice Governor being the Chief of Office of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan and the Secretary of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan shall provide each and every member of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan the hard copies of the Executive Budget or Supplemental Budgets as the case maybe. This is in accordance with our function as the agency with the power of the purse under the Local Government Code.

It would appear that by this questionable scheme of procedure by the Governor, the Sangguniang Panlalawigan is merely lending its role as a rubber stamp of the Office of the Governor. How can we intelligently discuss the propriety of the budgets or financial request for public expenditures if we are not given the appropriate documents in support thereof?

For the record, I have no intention of being a part of this cabal. I denounce in no uncertain terms the profligate and criminal expenditure of public funds without the proper check and balance that this Sangguniang Panlalawigan is supposed to exercise.

In behalf of the people of Camarines Sur, I therefore demand that I be furnished the certified hard copies of these three (3) Supplemental Budgets and the specifics thereof including the amounts or breakdown requested to the last centavo, so that I can register my comments in writing. Failure on your part to furnish the undersigned of the said requested certified hard copies thereof within twenty four (24) hours from receipt hereof, I shall initiate the appropriate judicial, administrative, civil and criminal actions against you protective of the interest of Camarines Sur.

Please be guided accordingly.

SIGNED:

**CARLO M. BATALLA**

Board Member, 1st. District

