IN A SURPRISING MOVE, Mayor Teo Atienza last October 9 rejected the Ordinance banning lewd shows inside girlie bars. Eight of the 15-member Sangguniang Bayan sponsored the Ordinance following calls from influential Church leaders to uplift the moral values of the community.

In his letter to the Sanggunian, the Mayor wrote: “My veto of this Ordinance is not a question of what is morally right and what is morally wrong. Rather, it is based on the pragmatic assessment of the conditions of the business industry and the influx of tourists, without disregard to the mandate to safeguard the moral fabric of the community. There must be a balance between absolute restriction and enlightened entertainment acceptable to our visitors.”

The Mayor said that “while the reasons for its enactment may be laudable, its severity may be laudable, its severity will tremendously and adversely affect certain industries in the tourism business.”

The owners of the girlie bars in Sabang strongly objected to the new regulations claiming that the “bars provide alternative entertainment for tourists.” They also said that “the second reason why tourists go to Sabang is because of the bars and the girls.”

Broadway Discos closed the point of entry ordinance.

NOW IT’S OFFICIAL. The Provincial Board(okays 1-point of entry ordinance).

IN THEIR REGULAR SESSION last September 25, the Provincial Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 265-2006 entitled “Resolution Approving Municipal Ordinance No. 05-06 of the Sangguniang Bayan of Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro Entitled, “An Ordinance Declaring the Municipality of Puerto Galera to have a One Point of Entry and Exit for All Vessels Plying the Route Batangas-Puerto Galera.”

Ms. Dwinta Fittizanan, secretary of the Provincial Board, cited the report of the Committee on Legal Matters as the basis for the approval.

In their committee report, the following observations were made:

1. The ordinance is within the power of the Town Council.
2. The ordinance is not infringing on existing laws, rules and regulations. The Committee reported that the ordinance does not contravene with provisions of RA9295 known as the Entertainment for Tourists.

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Domestic Shipping Development Act which was one of the main arguments raised by the opposition.

Given this fact, Fetzianza and the Board has no choice but to approve the ordinance. The Local Government Code states that the Provincial Board must first review and approve a municipal ordinance before it can be enforced.

Mayor Teo vetoed ban …

Councillors saying “this is not what we expect from you when you were asking for our support votes.”, there are other problems of the town that you should worry about.

Councillor Minda Justino, principal author of the Ordinance, criticized the Mayor’s veto and said that “only a few benefit from this kind of business and the entire community is greatly affected.”

Mayor Atienza defended his position saying “the kawal and obscenity may be a state of mind in a specific situation, but for the business in Sabang, for instance, this situation is not lewdness or obscen- ity but entertainment.”

The Mayor suggested that “if the concern of the Council is to moral values and preserve moral degradation, they should be focusing on the collection of the “black rice”, however, there is no provision to preserve and more importantly, no budget to protect it.

Now let me tell you about the myth. An old woman appeared one day and begged for food from the soldiers. The soldiers refused to give the old lady any food. And so, it was said, that the old woman uttered a curse against the soldiers and that very night a fire broke out and burned the garrison and the ware- house to the ground along with the Spanish soldiers. The grains remain in Sabang to this day, for instance, this situation is not lewdness or obscen- ity but entertaining.

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Q and A on the BMBE...

the exemption from the coverage of the minimum wage law? Once a BMBE is registered and issued with a Certificate of Authority by the Municipal or City Treasurer, it is automatically exempted from the minimum wage law.

7) What is the effect of the law on wages of existing/newly hired employees? Existing employees shall continue to receive their wages, allowances, and other benefits. On the other hand, wages of employees hired by BMBEs after the latter’s registration shall be exempted from the coverage of the minimum wage law.

8) Is the exemption from the coverage of the minimum wage law prospective in nature? Yes. The rule is that laws shall have prospective application only. Thus, an enterprise exemption from the coverage of the minimum wage law can only be applied to employees hired after its registration as a BMBE.

9) How much should a BMBE worker be paid for his services? It depends between the employer and the worker. They shall mutually agree on the acceptable wage rate.

10) What are the steps in availing of the Income Tax Exemption? The BMBE registers with the BIR Revenue District Office (RDO) where the principal office or place of business is located and its submission of the necessary documents.

11) What are the documents to be submitted to the BIR to avail of Income Tax Exemption? Copy of the BMBE’s Certificate of Authority, sworn Statement of Assets of the BMBE and/or its affiliates, supported by pertinent documents.

12) What document should be filed with the BIR by an Income Tax exempt BMBE? In lieu of an income tax return, an income tax exempt BMBE is required to submit an Annual Information Return. This is filed on or before the 15th day of the 4th month after the close of the taxable year with an Account Information Form, which contains data from its financial statement and Sworn Statement of Assets Owned and/or Used.

Puerto Galera Fortnightly

Talk of the Town

PHESI President Nicanor Villaescusa sent an SMS message saying that he got the endorsement of the WWF on their $30-million dollar wind power project. The WWF is a very influential environmental group and their Puerto Galera office has been very helpful to the municipal government in crafting pro-environment legislations.

I heard that one of the directors of the WWF is Mr. Andy Locsin. Does this mean that the Locsins are now in favor of the wind farm project of PHESI? A WWF insignia signifying the project as environmentally friendly is truly what PHESI needs. Now that they got the WWF, it will be easier for PHESI to sell their project to the Sangguniang Barangay of Tabinay and later to the Sangguniang Bayan of Puerto Galera for the needed endorsement to launch the project.

I came across a speech of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo when she graced the Oriental Mindoro Investment Summit (ORMINVEST) held at the Filipinoza Resort Hotel Calapan City last April 6, 2006. What caught my eye was her reference to the proposed submarine cable from the KEPCO power plant in Batangas to Oriental Mindoro. She said that KEPCO might be the biggest power plant in the country and that “it suits their corporate plan to have a submarine cable here to Mindoro so that they can provide the short run, your power needs from their power plant in Batangas.”

The President added: “It suits their long-term plans because when you develop your own power generation sector here in Mindoro… power can be sold from here” to the Luzon grid and KEPCO earns money since they own the transmission. The local officials of Mindoro presented to the President investment portfolios on the power generation sector. Mindoro has great potentials for wind and hydro-electric energy and several foreign investors have expressed willingness to bankroll power projects. Once we are connected to the Luzon grid then we can expect our electric bills to decrease. Our officials should make strong representations with national agencies to make this happen as we have heard that KEPCO might delay the $50-million project indefinitely because of some problems with the National Power Corporation.

“Eto sana ang itanong ng mga opisyales ng munisipyo at mga barangay ang kapitan kay Congressman RGV. Makihalal kayo kung ang anong nazayayari sa isang bagay na maaahalin ang marami siyang kababayan. Try ak na gaganda at mumura ang kuryente natin kapag konstrudto nayo sa Batangas.”

The President also made mention of Puerto Galera saying it is “very, very famous” like Boracay, Cebu, Donsol and Pagudpud. She was surprised to see other towns with great tourism potentials.

“I didn’t know that Bulalakaw could have beaches that can give Boracay a run for its money. And somehow, these well-kept secrets need not be so well-kept anymore, mainly because your province is now part of the nautical highway.”

Beachfront properties in Bulalakaw are 10 times cheaper than Puerto Galera. Indeed, it has great prospects but the local officials should ensure the security of investors as the area is said to be a haven for armed rebels.

Congratulations to the newly-opened Toko Restaurant at Allamis Resort in Sabang. I wasn’t able to attend the opening. Try out Toko, I heard they serve great food there.

My kinsman Dr. Engr. Kiko Atienza celebrated his 45th birth-day last September 21 with much fanfare. There was food and drinks galore. A roasted cow, spicy pulutan and lechon were on the buffet table. Congressman Rodolfo Valencia and Bishop Warlinio Cajandig graced the occasion.

Happy Birthday Pare and may your wishes come true!

Well, the birthday celebration last October 12 of his older brother, Mayor Teo Atienza was a Fiesta. Good or bad, it was simply jaw-dropping.

Happy Birthday Mayor Teo Atienza.

Save the Muelle

Black Rice

Ibantayog natin ang mayaman na kultura at kasaysayan ng ating bayan.

Dr. Oscar “Oca” Evangelista

SOON TO OPEN

Hollywood Palm Beach Hotel & Resort

First-Class Facilities, Services & Amenities

White Beach, San Isidro, Puerto Galera

Happy Birthday Mayor Teo Atienza
It was a rare "thing" for me to speak against an ordinance in a public hearing. Having been a councilor once, I would rather talk with Sangguniang Bayan members on a person to person basis to express a position. But the matter of the Environmental User Fee (EUF) is of great import that I, once more after a long while, dared to speak in public.

The EUF ordinance is effectively an Entrance Fee whereby non-residents must pay 50 pesos at certain collection areas. I am, however, doubtful if they can be able to successfully implement the ordinance given the loopholes that were pointed out during the public hearing.

The EUF is the "wind beneath the wings" of the municipality’s most ambitious infrastructure project, the Water Treatment and Wastewatershed Protection (WWTP) of Sabang. The estimated cost for such a facility is around 100 million pesos while the operation cost would be around 12 million pesos per year. Clearly, not within the budget of the municipality so they conceived of the EUF which will earn more than 50 million pesos a year, enough guarantee to investors and creditors who shall shoulder the cost of the WWTP.

The WWTP is the government’s answer to the worsening pollution and sewage problem of Sabang. Officials say that not all of the money collected annually will be used for the WWTP, some will be for environmental and tourism projects and a certain percentage will be given to the barangays. The collected money will be transferred to a trust fund which clearly contravene the Local Government Code or RA 7160.

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The EUF is the "wind beneath the wings" of the municipality’s most ambitious infrastructure project, the Water Treatment and Wastewatershed Protection (WWTP) of Sabang. The estimated cost for such a facility is around 100 million pesos while the operation cost would be around 12 million pesos per year. Clearly, not within the budget of the municipality so they conceived of the EUF which will earn more than 50 million pesos a year, enough guarantee to investors and creditors who shall shoulder the cost of the WWTP.

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ON SABANG BEACHFRONT
Ten in the morning on Saturday, 23rd September found 23 excited youngsters gathered on the beach at Fortnightly waiting for a briefing from our trainer. Sku, about day’s activities. The boats were already rigged and waiting on the water’s edge and a gentle on-shore breeze ruffled the palm trees. The group ranged in age from 11 to 17 and in sailing experience from one year to one month. There were 19 boys and 4 girls and all had been practicing hard for the preceding few weekends for this Inter-Schools Regatta to be held in PG. The schools represented, and the number of sailors from each were: National High School – four; Prince of Peace College – two; Minolo – three; St. Nino – six and Central School – six. With two sailors in each boat (three for the lighter ones), some schools had two entries, and some one. As it turned out, the strongest helms (the ‘Subic boys’) were evenly distributed between the schools so it was decided to score individual results rather than cumulative school ones. [A possible format for the future will be team racing]

Courses were pinned to the blackboard, scrutinized, the briefings, with places being traded right up to the line. Good stuff and great fun to watch. It’s a pity that more club members, family and school staff couldn’t find the time to come. Spectators included one father who had travelled all the way down from Subic Bay to cheer his son on. It was not a wasted trip as DJ took 1st and 2nd places (21 and 22 points), Minolo (23), NHS (32 and 40), PGJA 40 and Central (48) and everybody was looking forward to an exciting day on Sunday.

Everybody that is, except for the wind Gods who had taken the day off. It was a day of sailing in very light winds, with a bit of drifting here and there, especially for those who landed in the holes. Keeping the boats moving in the very light winds, with a bit of drift on the day. This was not a wasted trip as DJ took overall honours.

As the first race started it was obvious that experience and training the ‘Subic boys’ got off to the right start and were soon pulling away to battle it out between themselves. This was to be the pattern for the first day, with the top four places after five races going to the kids. They didn’t have it all their own way, however, and a very promising duo from National High School split them on Sunday. As for Saturday, the wind died completely at 3pm so the final race was abandoned and all headed home.

Unfortunately the Mayor couldn’t make it for the afternoon celebrations, so it came down to me to present the awards. Each crew was called up and received a hearty round of applause with 1st, 2nd and 3rd getting mounting trophies to take to school and show off. It was a great weekend in which all were winners, but for those of you who wish to know the final results, see chart below.

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Minahan ng Bayan tinulutan

Oktubre 16, 2006

Puerto Galera FORTNIGHTLY

Minahasa kaming ang Sangguniang Bayan na nagpapahuyag ng patulad sa panukalang "Minahan ng Bayan" na imbitahan ng Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) sa paggamit ng kahusayan na tinutagalan sa pamamagitan ng pagtrabaho ng isyung non-timber kaalaman.

Nagpasa kamakailan ang kalusugang lipunan na nagpapahayag ng mga palagay na pinasabian sa pamamagitan ng patulad sa panukalang "Minahan ng Bayan" ngayon na nagpapahayag ng iba pang pagkakatawan ng bayan at mga kababaihan.

Alam natin ang mahalagang kaalaman na ito kaya nagpapahayag ang panukalang "Minahan ng Bayan" na imbitahan ng MGB sa pagpapahayag ng patulad sa panukalang ito.

Oktubre 16-31, 2006

Sangguniang Bayan ang nagpapahayag ng patulad sa panukalang "Minahan ng Bayan" na imbitahan ng MGB.

Ilang mahalagang kaalaman ang naturang panukalang "Minahan ng Bayan".

Dumating ang mga kandidato para sa 2007

OCT. 16-31, 2006

B-day ni Kiko Atienza, dinagsa ng mga kaibigan at politiko

Mga kandidato sa 07

Mga tanong sa budget . . . .

Puerto Galera FORTNIGHTLY

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Mga kandidato sa 07

Mga kandidato sa 07

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Totoo, di ba?

Ang mga kandidato sa panakling "Minahan ng Bayan".

May nakalaan na 300,000 pesos para sa "improvement" ng plaza.


Bata'y sa pag-aral, ilan sa mga nagtakip ng mga kandidato sa panakling ito ang isang panuksan ng mga kababaihan na nagpapahayag ng patulad sa panukalang "Minahan ng Bayan".

Ilang mahalagang kaalaman ang naturang panukalang "Minahan ng Bayan".

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