

“Responding to the Challenges of Global Warming and Climate Change”

I. INTRODUCTION

I stand again, before this August body and before everyone who spared time to be present here today. I salute you for your disposition of circumspect towards how our city government is being run and much more for your participation in governance activities as responsible citizens this past year. For while it is the sublime duty of your Chief Executive to report, the city government can only do so much, upon the “ultimate faith and determination” of Bayawanons.

We reckon the year 2008 with profound awareness of the alarming extent of environmental degradation giving rise to global warming and to climate change that resulted to loss of lives and extinction of certain life forms. As we properly consider and comprehend the full impact of what is happening and what is predicted to happen to our earth, the sad reality hits us, that global warming could be “*the mother of all cataclysmic events*” in human history.

We anxiously watched the dawning of the global economic meltdown when the giant American financial institutions collapsed while hoping the crises is remote to us and will not reach our shores sooner. Even so, the city government must be perceptive to the call of time.

II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In response to the urgency to promptly address environmental issues, priority consideration and bias was accorded to programs that support the mitigation of the effects of global warming and adaptation mechanisms to climate change. We are also revisiting and evaluating our development programs in order to align them with the concept of sustainable development. Over and above the routinary concerns the City government machinery have catered to, this report summarizes the milestones of its accomplishments. Our LGU personnel complement is a workforce of 473 males and 267 females, I congratulate everyone who labored and earned their “penny’s worth” to make these accomplishments possible.

A. ON GOVERNANCE

- Bayawan City was listed among the Most Competitive City for Small Cities category in a survey conducted by the Asian Institute of Management’s Policy Center for its 2007 Philippine Cities Competitiveness Ranking Project (PCCRP). Our city is the only city in Negros Oriental given this recognition with two (2) others for the Visayas region. This research

undertaking identified the best cities in the Philippines in which to live, work and operate a business.

- The Institute of Solidarity of Asia (ISA) accredited Bayawan City as INITIATED under the Public Governance System (PGS) pathway. It adheres on the precept of good governance founded on fairness or accountability, participation and transparency. Governance is considered a shared responsibility working for sustainable local development with the involvement of a multi-sectoral coalition committed to responsible citizenship. Our strategic directions focused on Responsible Citizenship, Institution of Public Trust, Enhanced Community Participation, Public Service Excellence and Environmental Conservation. We have plotted our roadmap of development for validation and the City Balance Scorecard, the Department Scorecard cascade to the individual Scorecard of every LGU employee.
- Our Character First! Program, dubbed as the “Mother of all Programs” articulates the Core Values of the City, expressed in the acronym: SECURE which stands for Spirituality; Excellence; Creativity, Unity; Responsible Citizenship, Environment-Friendly and Self-reliance. The program evolved into the Character First!BAYAWANIHAN, our customized version of the Character First! Program. Our bias for environmental rehabilitation programs finds support in the Character First! outreaches which has to date, conducted community awareness and tree planting activities. The CF! Youth sector spearheaded the *Bakhawan Festival*, enjoining all other sectors to participate in the campaign for the protection and expansion of our mangrove sanctuary.
- On Executive Issuances: For the efficient and effective governance, the purpose of which is the general welfare of the city and the inhabitants and as our response to the urgent concern of Climate Change and special need, the City Mayor issued these pertinent Executive Orders among others:

EO No. 2008-11: Created the TWG for Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptations.

EO No. 2008-22: Establishing the Barangay Ecological Solid Waste Management Committee.

EO No. 2008- 29: Creating the Local Organic Certification Task Force.

EO No. 2008-31: Creating the Bayawan City Drinking Water Quality Monitoring Committee.

B. FISCAL MANAGEMENT

1. Our Budget for 2008

The total General Fund operating budget for 2008 reached Php 551,830,840.68. This represents the Approved Annual Budget of Php

463,730,915.58 inclusive of 9 Supplemental budgets and the Continuing Appropriations of Php 88,099,925.10. It is 15.3% lower than that of 2007.

For the Economic Enterprise, the total budget was Php 6,226,303.87 of which Php 5,972,823.00 represents the Current Budget and Php 253,480.87 as Continuing Appropriation. It is 4.2 % higher than the precedent year.

2. Our Revenue Generation Efforts

It is imperative that we increase our revenue base as a strategy to reduce our IRA dependency of over 90% to attain financial soundness. For 2008, our total market values increased by Php 377,510,763 of the Php 1,987,955,589.58 of 2007 market values while the total assessed values also increased by Php 8,663,297.00 of the Php 445,642,223.59 assessed values for 2007. Through the LAMP2-ISF, CLAIMS Project, assessment of taxable real property is expected to significantly increase. The project facilitates systematic adjudication, tax mapping and registration of land titles at a very minimal cost. The project is an LGU - DENR collaboration effort under a fund grant from the Australian government.

Our local Revenue Generation efforts for 2008 registered a total Local Income of PhP 25,711,078.69 or total increase of 25.31% over the precedent year which is indicative of the sustained efforts of the City Treasurer's Office to improve local revenue collection efficiency.

3. Surplus Available For Appropriation For 2009

The amount of FORTY SEVEN MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED NINETY SEVEN THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED TEN & 31/100 (Php 47,797,710.31) representing surplus from operation of CY 2008 is available for re-appropriation. Php 45,065,493.72 is from the General Fund Proper and Php 2,732,216.59 is from the General Fund – EDF.

C. ON BASIC SERVICES

1. The Nutrition Program

Bayawan City was awarded the *Exemplary Pabasa sa Nutrisyon Award* by the Philippine Association of Nutrition, Inc. for outstanding implementation of the Pabasa sa Nutrisyon Program for three (3) consecutive years from 2005, 2006 and 2007.

2. Water Supply System

BAWAD is responsible for the water supply of the City, currently serving Nine (9) barangays out of the city's 28 barangays. It draws its water supply from 2 deep wells and one spring source. Water is provided at 84 liters/cubic/day (lpcd) for an average of 24 hours per day to only

40.7% of our population. The prevailing average tariff is Php 14.21/ cubic meter and is the third highest in Negros Oriental. But need to expand its services to more people within the service area to increase its revenue base to meet operating costs and improve its finances.

The Water Quality Improvement Project financed by the City government in the amount of Php 12,656,154.56 as an interest- free loan is now complete and in service. Most recent test for Total Hardness registered 266.14 where 300 is the PNSDW maximum limit while the Bacteriological Test proved negative.

2. Solid Waste Management

The Sticker System in the collection of garbage is implemented in 7 barangays and earned Php 38,466.00 from September to December 2008. We have extended our garbage collection services to Barangay Maninohon, Malabugas and Pagatban. Also massive IECs were conducted in several secondary and tertiary schools and 11 barangays.

Out of the biodegradable waste collected, fifty (50) tons of compost was produced at the Central Materials Recovery Facility through vermin and windrow composting,

In compliance to Republic Act No. 9003, otherwise known as the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 which prohibits the operation of open dump sites, the city government acquired an area of Twenty-seven (27) hectares at Sitio Omod, Barangay Maninohon to accommodate the City Waste Management and Ecology Center which is an ongoing project. Its unique features having different components, sets it apart from the usual sanitary landfill of other LGUs.

3. Liquid Waste Management

Our Liquid Waste Management Program has three (3) components:

- a) The Urine Diversion Dehydration Toilet (UDDT) - To date, we have 37 acceptors, 4 of which were constructed for schools, the target sector for the second phase implementation to install UDDTs in schools.
- b) The Wastewater Treatment Facility- Our Wetland is servicing more than 600 housing units of the G K Fishermen's Village. We have an expatriate Peace Corp volunteer, Mr Junah Bubbler who is undertaking water quality monitoring and providing updated information to the city regarding the status of our water treatment facility.

Our Wastewater Treatment Facility has been visited by many groups coming from various Local Government Units all over the country.

- c) Septage Management- Two (2) units declogger trucks were procured and actual declogging activities will commence as soon as the septage facility is ready at the Waste Management and Ecology Center or Sanitary Land Fill (SLF) at barangay Maninihon. A resident DED, Mr. Jouke Boorsma is providing technical assistance in the establishment and operationalization of the septage management system of the city.

4. The GK Fishermen's Village Housing Project

For 2008, 311 families were relocated, to make a total of 653 beneficiaries settled and relocated at the Fishermens GK Village Housing Project. It is the only housing project in the country with a waste water treatment facility. Treated waste water is recycled to supply the water garden watering requirement of the vegetable garden of the residents. It also has a Multi-function Hall with a Rain Collector structure

The housing project is accessible to the Coastal Road which is considered a "Wholesome Tourist Destination" and is a favorite promenade for leisure and relaxation.

5. The Maintenance of Peace and Order

The overall peace and order situation in Bayawan is peaceful. To augment our peace keeping manpower, eighty-eight (88) Police Auxiliary were trained and organized with the intention that they will assist in the enforcement of environmental regulations.

We have established PNP Detachments at Barangays Villareal, San Jose, Banga and at the Public Market which has facilitated increased police visibility at strategic areas and this has contributed to reduced crime rate by three percent (3%) compared to year 2007. The crime solution efficiency of local PNP is at ninety-eight percent (98%).

6. Infrastructure Support Services

a. Communal Irrigation Systems

Completed is the Repair and maintenance of the Nangka and Malabugas Communal Irrigation System with an appropriation of Php 500,000.00. The Improvement of the Nangka-Maninihon-Villareal Communal Irrigation System is on-going with an appropriation of Php 4,500,000.00.

b. Road Concreting and Improvement

For 2008, Farm-to-Market Road concreting of 2.195 kms was completed with a total appropriation of Php 10,400,000.00. Road Improvement completed totaled to 2.195 kms with an appropriation of Php 7,000,000.00. These paved and or all-weather roads have facilitated mobility to and fro our watershed areas as we implement our various environmental projects.

D. OUR CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATING AND ADAPTATION MEASURES

We have seen the worldwide devastating effects of global warming and the weather changes that affected our local agriculture and industry. Given the urgency of the matter, environmental programs and projects were considered priority so as to provide local measures to adapt to climate change or to mitigate its effects.

1. FLUP Program Implementation

The LGU acquisition at Danapa, Nangka for watershed management purposes has now reached more than 200 has. These areas are mostly idle lands with varying levels of vegetative cover. We have planted the open areas with fast growing tree species of *acacia mangium* (now 3,460 trees), mahogany (4,610) trees and several native tree species to promote plant diversity. Areas with existing vegetations are being assisted for natural regeneration and enrichment planting. We are developing an area as an Agro-forestry Demonstration Farm to show case agro-forestry technologies.

Within the Water Production Areas, an aggregate of 140 has. is already planted with permanent crops mainly coconut, banana, rubber tree, coffee and other fruit bearing trees.

2. Organic Farming and Production of Organic Fertilizer and Biotechnology

We conducted an Organic Agriculture Forum with the theme: "Advancing Organic Agriculture to Enhance Productivity and Rural Development" which was facilitated under the auspices of the Development of Agriculture Sustainable Initiative for Growth (DASIG) program jointly funded under the National Economic Development Authority KR2 Productivity Enhancement Program and the local government in the amount of Php 1 million.

2,450 bags at 50 kgs/bag of organic fertilizer formulated by the City Agriculture Office and 1,446 cavans of Rice Seeds under a 30:70 scheme per DA-7 assistance worth Php 1.16 M were distributed to the farmers.

The Technology and Institutional Development Section produced and sold 20,508 packs of Bion-N to 4,100 farmers with an earning of Php 1.23 Million. Our Trichogramma program produced 99,630 strips which was distributed to 368 farmers covering 438 has. more or less.

3. Biodiesel Processing

The rocketing of gas prices somehow fired our efforts to locally address the fuel crises with our biodiesel processing project, our alternative and renewable energy resource.

Our pilot biodiesel processing plant at the Government Center has a total outlay for the building and equipment of approximately 1.5 Million Pesos. It is a 100 liter batch processing design, capable of producing 2,000 liters daily. From September to December, 2008, it produced a total of 4,489 liters of Bio-diesel using crude coconut oil as feedstock, in the meantime that our supply of jatropha seeds is not yet sufficient to support the requirement for Biodiesel production.

The Isuzu D-Max service vehicle for the City Mayor is 100% fueled by our very own BB100 biodiesel product since September and as of the end of December, 2008 logged a total of 9,945 Kilometers on a total consumption of 1,322 liters. It's most recent smoke emission test result, registered 0.09% opacity against 0.57% of last year. Regular inspection of this vehicle by our GSO-Light Vehicle Motor Pool Section and by the Isuzu Service Center in Cebu City reported negative adverse findings. Moreover, marked improvement in the performance of vehicle engines fueled by biodiesel of varying mixture were also noted by our drivers.

The Biodiesel Processing Plant has become a favorite venue for learning. It has been visited by dignitaries from the Executive Cabinet and national government officials, by a number of LGU group tours, businessmen and private persons to observe the process. We have also catered to various invitations and requests for talks, lectures or presentations on Biodiesel processing in various symposia, fora and the like.

4. Disaster Management

Bayawan City was awarded the Gawad Kalasag Award as Best Component City Disaster Coordinating Council conferred by the National Disaster Coordinating Council in a ceremony at the Malacañang Palace, Manila. The award speaks for itself and best describe our capability in disaster management at the national level.

III. LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

I take this opportunity to acknowledge my legislative counterpart in "civil servanthood". Our Sangguniang Panlungsod, under the leadership of the Honorable City Vice-Mayor, Rene Gaudiel adopted 794 Resolutions and enacted 64 Ordinances in 52 weeks. Kudos to our legislators, especially for the timely enactment of the following:

Resolution No 171: Enacting Ordinance No. 9, Series of 2008, an ordinance to prohibit and to regulate cutting, harvesting, damaging destroying or burning all kinds of tress in specified areas in the City of Bayawan and providing penalties in violation thereof.

Resolution No. 406: Adoption of the Local Organic Agriculture Certification Standard.

IV. PROGRAM THRUSTS AND PROJECTS FOR 2009

- A. Danapa Eco-Park Development Project
- B. Oil Expeller Project
- C. Completion and Operation of the Bayawan City Waste Management and Ecology Center
- D. Wastewater treatment at the Bayawan District Hospital and at Barangay Suba.
- E. Organic Farming & Organic Fertilizer Production
- F. Improvement of the Communal Irrigation Systems
- G. Farmers Market
- H. Kabankalan- Bayawan Friendship Highway
- I. Establishment of the City Library
- J. Operation of the Integrated Business Center
- K. Essential Oil Processing
- L. The Dita Relocation Site

V. THE CHALLENGE

Greater challenges are forthcoming. Our strategies with which we meet them have to be more innovative. We have launched the BAYAW-ANIHAN 10LB, a component of our CF!BAYAWANIHAN with the hope and belief that little heroic acts we do will ripple to make a big difference. Our success will depend on the values we hold on to. Concurrently, as we struggle to cope with the environmental hazards wrought by global warming and climate change and, as we bear the brunt of the economic recession, we must continue with our journey to attain our goals.

Some say the effects of global warming and climate change will be irreversible in many years, some say it is sooner but the pessimists claim its effect can never be reversed. We cannot subscribe to the latter view, rather our strong faith in the continuity of life, the genius in every Bayawanon, in our dream to make this city the “Agriculture Capital of the Province” will usher us to attain that level of development which we, our children and our children’s children, may be able to enjoy. As we must continue to strive to improve the quality of life of every Bayawanon, as we must work to build strong families to make a strong nation, we must take care of our environment for our benefit and of the benefit of the future generation.

Mabuhay ang Bayawanihan! Ibayaw and Bayawan City!

GERMAN P. SARAÑA, JR.
City Mayor
Bayawan City, Negros Oriental