

## THE MUNICIPALITY OF JAGNA – THREE YEARS AFTER

(State of the Municipal Address (SOMA) delivered on July 5, 2004

at the Capt. Goyo Casenas Session Hall, Municipality of Jagna during the inaugural session of the 5th Sangguniang Bayan)

Three years ago, upon my assumption into office, I outlined the general framework of my platform of government for the duration of my term: STRIKING THE BALANCE BETWEEN IMPACT PRIORITY PROJECTS AND LONG-TERM GOALS. This formula was the best combination for my work plan in the given circumstances. This direction was doable. Looking back, we have started the groundwork of charting the direction of our development. The Sangguniang Bayan and the Barangay Councils' complimentary roles in governance and their steadfast support in my leadership has made this possible. Moreover, the result of our work in the last three years has also been made possible through the combined efforts of the men and women in the different offices and agencies of government in Jagna as well as in the non-government organizations, private sectors and the people in general. We have risen to the challenge of the times and brought dignity and respect to our beloved Jagna. . As we commence with our new mandate, it is incumbent upon us to lead the people as we work towards the realization of our goal for a better Jagna.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND MILESTONES

In my formula of striking the balance between impact priority projects and long term goals what I had in mind was the combination of responding to the immediate and strategic needs of the municipality whose development has not taken off for years.

Good governance goes beyond issues of election and politicking. To achieve this, top priority should be given to the formulation, legislative enactment and implementation of development plans which shall serve as the direction to where the people are heading to.

Understanding such importance, the municipal leadership took no qualms in instituting the bottoms-up approach in the formulation of the Five Year Barangay Development Plan of the 33 barangays through Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) as an important requisite in the development of the respective barangays and in the formulation of the Municipal Development Plan. Presently, the barangays have started their implementation. On the other hand, the workshop result of the Municipal Development Plan is being finalized for presentation to the Municipal Development Council and the Sangguniang Bayan. After approval and enactment, Jagna's program of government shall be based on this framework.

Urgent concerns were being addressed while working with the Development Plans. Impact priority projects have been zeroed to infrastructure development. Equal importance to reforms in the municipal bureaucracy, fiscal and financial management as well as organization and organizational management have been instituted. Immediate concerns

involving agriculture and livelihood, environment, social services, culture and sports have been given attention also.

With limited resources and so many things to do, the top priority project was the market construction at the original site. From the burnt down market in 1999, a new market structure consisting of a wet market and the first floor of the main building is now in place. This feat could not have been possible without the undaunted support of the Sangguniang Bayan who had reviewed and had amended the ordinance approved by the previous legislative body for the transfer of the market site from Carmoli area to the original site. The wet market construction was realized because of funds coming from the municipal, provincial and national government. But for the construction of the main building, the biggest chunk was through loan availment from the Land Bank of the Philippines. These undertakings should be credited to the unified effort of the two branches of the local government working for the common good.

Jagna's waterwork system is old and needs urgent rehabilitation. While the different barangays were working for their respective water facilities, the main concern was how to bring the water from its source to the barangays in Metro Jagna on a 24 hour operation. With the expertise of the concerned municipal agencies, we have witnessed in September 2003 the initial operationalization of the water system in the households of some Metro Jagna barangays while the work in replacing the pipelines continues.

The construction of farm to market roads is a requisite to uplifting the livelihood situation of the people especially those in the far-flung barangays. Combined efforts from the

municipal level for major road networks, as well as barangay and private sector initiatives with the support of the provincial government for heavy equipments saw the emergence of a number of roads and bridges and their continuous repairs and maintenance facilitating accessibility and flow of goods and people. Ongoing infrastructure work of the different offices and physical structures in the municipality as well as in the barangays are addressed as the need arises.

The need to upgrade, capacitate and institute reforms in the municipal bureaucracy is an ongoing process since government employees are in the forefront in the delivery of effective and efficient service to the people. “ Putting the house in order” was my first agenda during my first term of office because the tremendous work of public service demands a workforce who do not only share my vision of good governance but more importantly who will be willing to work with me to make this a reality. Streamlining of office operations to ensure transparency, instituting mechanisms for participatory management in governance, upgrading staff through capability building and giving due recognition to worthy employees are some of the initial steps we had taken towards developing and consolidating the LGU family.

It is noteworthy to recall the scrapping of the Community Based Resource Management Project (CBRMP) mainly because of its loan component. The financial capacity of the municipality cannot absorb to pay many loans and after thorough study of the situation, the market construction was the priority for loan availment. While this decision earned for me the ire of a section of the constituents especially the affected areas and people assigned to the project, environmental concerns were never relegated to the background. Among the significant breakthroughs in this

endeavor are the following : formulation of a long-term plan for Coastal Resource Management and its implementation of which the institution of marine sanctuary in the coastal barangays was a priority ; the reforestration projects especially in the watershed areas with due consideration that Jagna's soil formation is 60% karst ; and the signing of the MOA between EcoGov and LGU-Jagna pertaining to the implementation of the Integrated Solid Waste Management Project which is the first in Region 7.

While significant improvements in agriculture both in crop production and livestock and poultry production has still a long way to go before a breakthrough can be made, the municipality has shown a big potential for agri-business development as showcased in the different fairs initiated and participated in by the LGU and in the piloting of a Cutflower and Vegetable Production in Mayana. Likewise, basic crop productivity particularly in rice production is being attended to as well while the ubi tuber dispersal project is on its second year.

Ongoing programs on health and social services continue to be implemented as the response to improving the conditions of the people. The Botica sa Barangay which provides inexpensive medicines has in a way responded to the needs of over-the –counter medicines especially in far flung barangays. It has also taught self-reliance as the scheme has become an entrepreneurial activity. On the otherhand, Jagna's day care services have been improved and personnel have been capacitated. The recent evaluation conducted by DSWD 7 Regional Office resulted in the accreditation of the 29 DCCs with 14 DCC making it to the 5-star accreditation and 15 DCC with a 4-star accreditation, an achievement which set a historical record in Bohol. The rest

of the 33 DCCs are still complying with requirements for accreditation.

The distinctive accomplishments we had in sports and the culture and the arts are the results of our concern for these areas of work. Our focus in developing boxing and coming up with an annual summer sports clinic for young tennisters have paid off. We have earned the distinctive honor for having produced the first Phil. Boxing Federation Featherweight Champion of Bohol and we had established our boxing coordinators as respected authorities in this field. The religious cultural Sinoog-Estokada festival initiated by the church annually has been adopted by the municipality as we co-organized this activity since then.

Jagna's peace and order situation is generally manageable. While there are occurrences of crimes and offenses, these are categorized as minor. Though the drug problem is not yet considered a grave problem this should be given serious attention as it is existing especially in the Metro barangays. This is a big challenge to the civilian and police authorities as well as to the people. We look forward to a drug-free Jagna but we have to undergo several and difficult steps to reach this goal. We start now. Monitoring and law enforcement of the police force is effective only if the barangay officials and the people in the locality give their utmost cooperation on this matter.

Never in the history of Jagna governance had we experienced varied partnership and network linkages with different NGOs and private institutions. Likewise, we witnessed the full play of the Pos, NGOs and private sectors' participation in the different special bodies of the LGU.

These experiences had showed to us what can be achieved if the various sectors work together as partners in development.

Jagna's sources of income come from the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) and the Locally Generated Sources, both of which have steadily increased during the last three years. In a comparative study of fiscal performance from 1998-2000 and from 2001-2003 we have come up with the following data: The average income from the IRA per year for 2001-2003 is Php25,796,949 while that in 1998-2000 is Php18,322,046 or an increase of 41%. (Fig 1) Our locally generated fund sources has 2 categories: that of economic enterprises and taxes. Between the two, taxes is the higher income earner. The average income per year in 2001-2003 is Php 2,759,810.84 compared to Php 2,687,083.97 in 1998-2000 or a 3% increase. For the economic enterprises 2001-2003 posted a yearly average income of Php 2,258,174.68 compared to Php 1,694,602.84 in 1998-2000 or a 33% increase. Our economic enterprises comprise of the market, slaughterhouse and waterworks. Our taxes come from varied sources whose big earner items have all posted a positive increase except for taxes from real property (a big potential high earning item) which has Php 171,284 yearly average income from 2001-2003 compared to Php 190,556 yearly average income for 1998-2000 or -11%. (Fig 2) Figures from the economic enterprises will show the following: the average income per year of the market for 2001-2003 is Php 1,206,311 while that in 1998-2000 is 676,511 or an increase of 78%. For the slaughterhouse the average income for 2001-2003 is Php 205,275 compared to that of 1998-2000 which is Php185,072 or an increase of 11%. Yearly income from waterworks for 2001-2003 averaged to Php 846,572 as compared to Php 833,020 in 1998-2000. (Fig 3)

The following can be concluded from given data: 1. the IRA remains the biggest single source of income of the municipality which has increased over the years; 2. the two local fund sources have also increased and very remarkable is the income from the market notwithstanding the slowdown in economic activities due to the fire that destroyed the businesses in the old market; 3. While income from taxes have increased , the decrease of the real property tax which is considered a big tax earner is very noticeable.

While the IRA will continue to be our biggest source of income, our experience shows a general trend that the locally generated fund sources are increasing. Better services on the part of the municipality and adoption of proper fiscal measures are two important factors to be considered in the fiscal performance. However, we should bear in mind that while it is our responsibility to generate funds for the local coffers, the people's capacity to pay must be our foremost concern. Therefore, the municipal government as a long term goal should ensure that the financial capacity of the people be increased so that they will be capable to comply with their obligations to the government.

Our achievements in the last three years may not be considered **OUTSTANDING**. Nevertheless, they are indispensably **SIGNIFICANT**. Charting Jagna's framework of development for the next ten years while working on the immediate needs of the constituents was no ordinary undertaking. We should be proud and congratulate ourselves for a work well done!



## TRANSFORMING THE VISION INTO REALITY – THE CHALLENGE TO OUR LEADERSHIP

The Development Vision of Jagna states that

**In Ten Years, Jagna will be the leading center of trade and sustainable Agro-industrial-tourism municipality in southeastern Bohol, with a self-reliant and God-loving people living a better quality of life, preserving their cultural heritage and wisely using their natural resources through good governance.**

The next three years will be very crucial as we are tasked to take the lead in the implementation of the Ten Year Development Plan . We are expected to deliver a third part of this plan for the duration of our term. The vision of Jagna poses a big challenge to the municipal leadership and to the people because it is gigantic and encompasses all aspects of development. The key to realize all these rests primarily on ourselves – developing our manpower and material resources as we creatively combine these with external factors.

1. It is incumbent upon us to improve the economic condition of our people. While Jagna is No.36 among the 47 municipalities in poverty incidence, we should pursue with determination to reduce poverty among our people

especially in the identified first 15 barangays which has the highest poverty incidence in the municipality. By reducing poverty incidence, we do not only improve the factors of health, sanitation, education and water quality but more importantly ensure that the people have jobs to be able to earn income. Presently, local employment is limited but based also on our limited capacity we can facilitate employment outside Jagna as conditions permit. However, we have to develop our internal capacity to absorb our own workforce as there is a big potential for job generation through enterprise, agricultural and eco-tourism development. These will be our focus.

Our main concern should be to uplift the economic condition especially of the marginalized sectors. Jagna's fiscal performance in the past years can very well qualify us to move from a 4<sup>th</sup> class municipality to the 3<sup>rd</sup> class category. But I opted not to move to this category at this point in time. While moving up will increase our IRA, moving up also means our corresponding obligation to increase our taxation. We first need to improve the people's financial capacity to enable them to pay for expenditures other than their basic needs.

2. Pursue and continue the construction of the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the market's main building, rehabilitation of municipal waterworks, farm to market roads and other needed infrastructure projects.

3. Conservation and proper management of our environment and resources is basic. If development is pursued without due consideration to the environment, time will come when all our energies to it will come to nothing. Let us remember that Jagna is not only 62% karst but also 68% of its total

area is highly susceptible to erosion. The best ratio where we can say that there is an ecological balance is 40% forest and 60% others. We might not be able to achieve this but if we consciously balance the need for development and the preservation of the environment we will be able to enjoy the best of both.

4. The need of efficient and effective delivery of services especially basic social and protective services to the people. It is the responsibility primarily of the government to provide the basic services to its constituents. To be able to do so, we do not only procure and improve the necessary facilities and equipments but also improve the capacities and skills of our personnel. But more than that, we should be able to inculcate values of committed service because this spells the difference between paid service and service because we are concern with the welfare of the people.

5. Preserving our values and cultural heritage is an important direction we have to pursue as some of the negative effects of modern technology have taken hold of our people especially the youth even in far-flung areas. Preserving our positive values and cultural heritage must be balanced with our enthusiasm to learn what is new but beneficial and does not corrode our being. Let us shun from conservatism yet refrain from assimilating all what is modern. This is a challenge to all of us especially our educational institutions and the media.

6. As we are about to implement our development plans, we will need funds for our projects and undertakings. We have to be more aggressive in sourcing out funds for the next years. The principles of sustainability and self-reliance

should guide us in our funding strategy. As external funding will continue to support our projects, it is about time that we give importance into locally generated funds be it cash, materials goods and/or services. While there will be projects where external funding will be the main source, local funding can be maximized to support minor projects wholly or partially.

7 .The consolidation of present partnerships and development and establishment of new network and linkages are important in our work at hand. It broadens the arena of participation in the development efforts of the municipality and maximizes manpower and material resources of our partners. Moreover, these linkages broaden and enrich our knowledge and experience.

8.Human Resource Development especially of the men and women in government is important as it is urgent. We need to capacitate our workforce so that they can come at par with the demands of the work. It is necessary to know the present capacities and skills of the LGU family and their capability needs. We will need people who can perform especially in the areas of work we have prioritized.

## MEASURES FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION

The realization of our vision for Jagna needs legislative action. As in the past three years, the Sangguniang Bayan has been an indispensable partner in achieving the accomplishments of the municipality. With my new mandate, I urge the new Sangguniang Bayan to extend the same vigor and enthusiasm in performing their legislative task as we

embark on the more arduous work of transforming our dream for Jagna.

1. Enactment of the Ten Year Development Plan for Jagna ;
2. The immediate enactment of the Market Code. I urgently request that this should be finished within two to three months time from now. Consider this as your priority task;
3. Enactment of ordinances which are necessary to support our other areas of work;
4. Drafting of resolutions to be submitted to the provincial and national government as well as to other sources for funding of projects as deemed necessary by the Executive Office; and
5. Legislation is the responsibility of the Sangguniang Bayan . But as we start with the implementation of the Ten Year Development Plan, I shall be calling on you to assist me in the execution of the Plan especially on concerns in aid of legislation.

## THE CALL FOR UNIFIED ACTION

My fellow Jagnaans and fellow workers in government. We are all called upon to take part in the task of building a better Jagna for ourselves and for the next generation. The historic event starts now and here. The journey will be long and arduous but if we work as one, we work with dedication and enthusiasm, we work with sure steps towards the

direction, we shall be able to overcome the difficulties and will carry through. For the municipal leadership, let this be our commitment to our mandate. For all Jagnaanon, let us forge our unity ,contribute and march in step to fulfilling our responsibility for Jagna.

Kaigsoonang Jagnaanon, Maghiusa ug magtambayayong kita sa pagkab-ot sa usa ka mauswagong Jagna.

Daghang salamat!