



BATANGAS CITY Philippines GREEN CITY

It is an honor for every Batangueno (native tongue for Batangas City resident) in the 105 barangays or communities of Batangas City that the City, yet ever progressing, is maintaining the status of a very livable and happy community. The harmony between the diverse economic activity and the environmental protection that has been a thrust and continuously promoted by the leadership, has always been evident in every efforts of the local government. Urban and rural communities complement each other in way of exchanging products and services unifying them and sustainably developing crafts within their boundaries.

Besides, the presence of multi-national industries has broaden the reach of the City in terms of national and global trading, which makes the City a significant component of the country, thus recognized as a Model Eco-City by the Philippine National Solid Waste Commission, and falls in the First Class City Category of the Philippines.

Batangas City is an epitome of its people who greatly value honor or “dangal”. For the Batanguenos, life is not worth living without honor. Material gain is only a consequence of living a life of honor. From history, the heroes of Batangas City laid their lives not for wealth but for the glory of a country. They have tailored the Philippine flag, driven away invaders, and were last to surrender in order to provide a life of honor for the people. To this day, the tradition continues; the people of Batangas continue to fight. They tackle poverty with industry. They militantly guard their habitat against polluters of the land, air, and sea. They fight ignorance with high-technology. Honor cements their roads, bridges, and infrastructure.

In order to be livable, aspects are considered as parameters to measure greatness of livability of the City:(1) Enhancement of the natural and built landscape, (2)Arts, culture and heritage, (3)Environmental best practice, (4)Community participation and empowerment, (5)Healthy lifestyle, and (6)Strategic planning. Proudly the City has been moving towards development in the context all the aforementioned aspects.

The City is richly endowed with natural God-given balanced terrain which includes mountains, seas, rivers and lands. Because of this order, resources abound and economic activities are diverse. And thus, the challenge to preserve yet maximize the use of these natural sources has become topmost concern of City leaders. Results are: green Mount Banoy and other watershed areas, sound seas reflected by the Verde Island Passage (hailed as the World’s Center of the Center of Marine Biodiversity) rich with corals and tropical fishes and the tourist-spot-class beaches with resorts along the Batangas Bay, maintained rivers such as Calumpang River (strategically located in the urban heart of the City) and other alive

streams/creeks/springs/falls, the cultivated rich agricultural soils of upland communities, and the urbanized lowland communities.

With regards to the built environment, the City has an urban center where generous commerce and trading take place. Buildings were raised with environment-friendly or green design and used eco-friendly materials. Built landscapes like Plaza Mabini was aesthetically filled with trees and plants to serve as carbon sink in the business center. Infrastructure projects such as roads, public/institutional recreational buildings are evidently established.

As to arts, culture and heritage, evidences of the old times are preserved and displayed for reminiscing and inspiration at the City Museum. Aging buildings and ancestral houses in the Poblacion (town proper) are maintained, some are reconstructed, in a manner preserving their original features so as to reflect heritage. In rural barangays, still there are nipa huts and old agricultural technology that can be observed. Traditional crafts and feasts are still in practice.

In the daily lives of the Batanguenos, environmental best practices are instilled. The City Government has been implementing national environmental laws, and through its legislative and executive leaders had formulated and implements the Environment Code of Batangas City which embodies policies, regulation on and protection of the environment. Another medium which encourages best practices is the commemoration and celebration of annual global, national and local environmental festivities always with the end-view of driving Batanguenos to love and uphold their environment with doing their share of acting locally for global impact.

Communities are empowered in the City. From the youth to women's group, to senior citizens, and to all other sectors of the community, assistance from the government and inclusion to all local government endeavors is being observed in the City. The City Mayor with great faith in people's participation, constantly practices democratic consultation with the barangay councils and sectoral leaders.

Batangas City is never an exemption to climate change and its adverse impacts to health and safety of the people. A GHG Accounting and Inventory is conducted to set plans for the city's mitigation and adaptation techniques. Intensive and massive health and safety assistance are given to indigenous families, senior citizens, disabled, pregnant women and children. Healthy lifestyles thru promotion of organic gardening and physical health activities are conducted as a way of life.

Abreast with changes/challenges and addressing problems, the City Government adopts strategic planning in all development programs/projects so as to arrive at best results. Guided by the comprehensive development plan, it starts with the identification of the City's strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats for capacity/capability building, also with baseline trending of data gathered. The techniques and tools are drawn from the analytical framework consisting of investment, financing and operational effectiveness. Principles applied are: direction under local governance, achievable objectives, market-based but socially responsible actions, environmental integrity and consultative process.