

ABSTRACT OF THE ENTRY OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF ROSARIO, PROVINCE OF BATANGAS, REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

✚ INTRODUCTION

The Municipality of Rosario is a 1st class municipality that has a total land area of 27,923.67 hectares and is divided into forty-eight (48) barangays or villages. As per 2007 Census collated by the National Statistics Office, there are no less than 95,785 people in Rosario.

Agricultural production is the backbone of the municipality's economy and development. It is known throughout the province as the Rice Granary of Batangas.

✚ PROJECTS, PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF NATURAL AND BUILT LANDSCAPE

Steps undertaken to achieve the vision for a more ecologically-balanced and attractive town proper:

- LGU Inter-Office Garden Competition
- Cooperation with the Local Church for the maintenance and improvement of the Most Holy Rosario Parish Church
- Continued Improvement of Laurel Park
- Proposed Recreational Center for the Elderly and People with Disability

✚ MANAGEMENT OF CULTURE, ARTS & HERITAGE

Rosario is a vastly Catholic municipality with more than 80% of its constituents actively embracing the religion. This being so, many of the cultural celebrations here have roots from the Catholic faith.

- TOWN FIESTA
- TOMBOL HILL & PENITENSIYAHAN
- SINUKMANI FESTIVAL
- CHRISTMAS FAÇADE COMPETITION
- AETA TRIBE

✚ ENVIRONMENTAL BEST PRACTICES

■ Environmental Literacy Program

Measures undertaken in line with the information and education campaign to promote environmental literacy include but are not limited to the following:

- ❖ Passage of various legislations for the protection of the environment in the municipality
- ❖ Conduct of various Information and Education Campaign activities such as lectures, fora, distribution of pamphlets/handouts on recycling and waste segregation, etc.
- ❖ Conduct of regular Tree-Planting Activities
- ❖ Promotion of composting and the use of organic fertilizer and biodegradable soil conditioner among farmers
- ❖ Promotion of the use of residual wastes as a component in the production of decorative cement tiles/bricks, pillows, ladies' accessories, home decors, among others.

■ Biogas Program

The use of Biogas also yields many other benefits:

- ❖ Animal wastes are put to beneficial use.
- ❖ Methane gas from manure will be minimized.
- ❖ The presence and development of pathogenic bacteria will be controlled.
- ❖ Households utilizing biogas are able to save thousands of Philippine Pesos in cooking gas and electricity expenses.
- ❖ Indirect benefit – because households save much on cooking gas expense, they are able to use this resource in livelihood activities.

To date, there are 77 households that use biogas fuel for cooking, saving more or than PhP600,000.00 or almost US\$14,000.00 annually. The use of charcoal and firewood is also minimized.

✚ COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERMENT

■ LGU DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

The flagship projects being implemented and given priority by the LGU, can be summed up in this acronym: IPEM.

❖ **I mprastraktura (Infrastructure Projects)** -- The provision of infrastructure and other public facilities were undertaken to enhance the accessibility education, social service and livelihood opportunities to all.

❖ **P angkabuhayan (Livelihood)** -- Livelihood opportunities came in the form of employment assistance to different companies, financial and technical assistance to cooperatives and farmers as well as trainings, skills-enhancement activities and livelihood assistance to qualified citizens.

❖ **P angkalusugan (Health)** -- The Office of the Health Services provides health care and basic health services to the people of Rosario, Batangas. Village officials and volunteers, together with Non-Government Organizations also do their share in promoting healthy lifestyle and disease prevention.

❖ **P angkapaligiran (Environment)** -- To ensure community participation, the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO) works closely with the Integrated Partners for Environmental Management which is composed of various sectoral representatives.

❖ **E dukasyon (Education)** -- The newest program implemented by the LCE through Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office is Educational Assistance Program which aims to eradicate the incidence of illiteracy in the municipality.

❖ **M amamayan (For the Citizenry)** -- The Local Government Unit of Rosario conducts Barangay Caravan Program wherein the different agencies of the LGU bring their services directly to the barangay.

❖ **National Award/Citation Received** -- In 2008 Mayor Felipe Africa Marquez was awarded as one of the Most Outstanding Mayor Of Region IV During the Regional Literacy Awards Conducted by the National Literacy Council And in 2010, he was awarded as **One of the Five Most Outstanding Municipal Mayors** and Rosario as **One of the Five Most Outstanding Municipalities in the Philippines** in the implementation of Literacy Programs.

✚ HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

■ The Office for Health Services regularly implements an anti-tuberculosis campaign through information dissemination, distribution of free medicines. Rosario was recently recognized for having the highest cure rate under the Tuberculosis Control Program.

■ The LGU and various volunteer groups also regularly implement a nutrition program that included supplemental feeding programs.

■ Various sports activities have also been initiated such as cycling activities and fun runs.

✚ STRATEGIC PLANNING

■ PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

The following are the development planning tools that the LGU utilizes as bases for the implementation of plans, programs and activities:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| ■ The Executive and Legialative Agenda | ■ Local Development & Investment Plan |
| ■ Comprehensive Land Use Plan | ■ Annual Investment Plan |
| ■ Comprehensive Development Plan | ■ Barangay Development Plan |

Different sectoral representatives also come together annually to formulate the Municipality's 20% Development Plan, thereby ensuring the community's participation in the planning and monitoring of the LGU's development plans, programs, projects and activities.

✚ CONCLUSION

In the last six years, serious efforts have been made to enhance living conditions in the Municipality of Rosario. The inherent resilience, industry, commitment and innate goodness of the people of Rosario, these traits, along with the rich cultural heritage and even richer natural resources, will help us forge closer to our vision of becoming the leading agro-industrial center in this part of the Republic of the Philippines.

The Filipino spirit of *bayanihan* (working together as one) is what keeps us together and will see us through as we strive to be a globally-competitive city in the next decade.